



ILLINOIS SENATE PRESIDENT JOHN CULLERTON PREPARES TO STEP DOWN

Career of closing deals is coming to close

As his era ends, he talks Blagojevich, bipartisanship and social media danger

By RICK PEARSON

In more than four decades in the Illinois legislature — the last 10 as Senate president — John Cullerton saw an era of bipartisanship give way to sharply polarized politics and watched as one governor was impeached, two were sent to prison and a third pushed the state into a historic budget impasse.

During his tenure, the state grew more progressive: approving legalized gambling, a repeal of the death penalty, same-sex marriage, adult use of marijuana, two major capital construction programs, a variety of tax hikes and a plan to alter the state Constitution to allow a graduated-rate income tax based on earnings.

He watched a colleague, Barack Obama, become president.



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2016

But ask the veteran Northwest Side lawmaker what he sees as the biggest change, and he replies: the digitalization of democracy — the growing influence of social media to affect policy combined with a decline in the number of media outlets covering state government.

“It’s the difference from a representative democracy to a direct democracy,” Cullerton said.

“So, the old model (for voters) is, ‘I’m busy. I’m hiring you. Go down to Springfield. Listen to testimony. Make your informed decisions. Every two years, I’ll check on you,’” he said. “And

Turn to **Cullerton**, Page 8

“I thought I was checking the box. But I was never really opening up. I don’t think I realized that until I hit rock bottom.”

— Ryan Mains, Woodstock firefighter and paramedic diagnosed with a severe case of PTSD



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ryan Mains trains for an ultra-marathon at Veteran Acres Park in Crystal Lake last month.

RUNNING TO RECOVERY

Ryan Mains served others as an Army medic and Woodstock firefighter. Now grappling with PTSD, he’s still trying to help.

By JOHN KEILMAN

The morning sky was the color of lead, the air was barely above freezing and the only sound was the crunch of dead leaves as Ryan Mains began a 10-mile run through Crystal Lake’s Veteran Acres Park.

He has come here for years to build his stamina on the park’s steep hills, preparing for races that stretch well beyond a marathon. But he also treasures the stillness. When he runs, observed by a few placid deer and the occasional owl, the memories that trouble him vanish like mist.

They always come back, though. He can never run far enough to escape them completely.

Mains, 39, is a veteran of the Iraq War and a longtime Woodstock firefighter and paramedic who has been diagnosed with a severe case of post-traumatic stress disorder. The symptoms built slowly over years, ultimately becoming so pronounced that a few months ago Mains had to leave the job that he loved.

He’s now getting treatment while seeking worker’s compensation and a disability pension, but success is no sure thing;

Unlike other states, Illinois does not treat PTSD as a “presumptive” condition, meaning firefighters must prove that their suffering is indeed the result of

Turn to **Recovery**, Page 7

Legal pot nets \$3.2M on 1st day of Ill. sales

It’s one of strongest showings in history of marijuana legalization

By ALLY MAROTTI

Customers spent almost \$3.2 million on legal weed in Illinois on the first day of recreational marijuana sales Wednesday, marking one of the strongest showings of any state in the history of pot legalization.

Illinois is the 11th state to legalize recreational weed, and only Oregon had a comparable first-day performance. That state also brought in \$3.2 million in sales on day one.

“This is particularly impressive when you consider the long waits, supply shortages and sky-high pricing of products available at the limited number of dispensaries open,” Bethany Gomez, managing director of cannabis research firm Bright-

field Group, said of Illinois in an email.

Thirty-seven dispensaries started selling recreational weed Wednesday in Illinois, including nine in Chicago. As lines stretched around blocks and through neighborhoods, dispensaries handed out free coffee, doughnuts and pizza to people waiting in the cold. The state said customers, many of whom were eager to take part in the end of marijuana prohibition, made more than 77,000 purchases at dispensaries.

Some dispensaries were so busy they had to turn customers away Wednesday, and many were greeted with dozens, and in some cases hundreds, more customers Thursday morning. Many dispensaries are limiting how much customers can buy because of statewide product shortages.

Turn to **Marijuana**, Page 5

■ Latest round of dispensary applicants hopes to capitalize on promised social equity elements of weed law. **Chicagoland**, Page 4

■ Legal weed to help taxpayer’s anger melt away. **John Kass**, Page 2

US airstrike at Baghdad airport kills Iran general

Trump-ordered attack a shift in policy, likely to draw retaliation

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Pentagon said Thursday that the U.S. military has killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran’s elite Quds Force, at the direction of President Donald Trump.

An airstrike killed Soleimani, architect of Iran’s regional security apparatus, at Baghdad’s international airport Friday, Iranian state television and three Iraqi officials said, an attack that’s expected to draw Iranian retaliation against Israel and American interests.

The Defense Department said Soleimani “was actively developing plans to attack American diplomats and service members

in Iraq and throughout the region.” It also accused Soleimani of approving the attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad earlier this week.

A statement released late Thursday by the Pentagon said the strike on Soleimani “was aimed at deterring future Iranian attack plans.”

The strike also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of Iran-backed militias in Iraq known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, or PMF, Iraqi officials said.

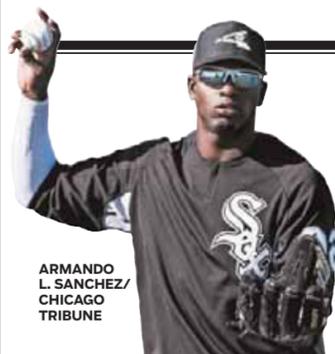
The PMF media arm said the two were killed in an American airstrike that targeted their vehicle on the road to the airport.

Citing a Revolutionary Guard statement, Iranian state television said Soleimani was “martyred” in an attack by U.S.

Turn to **Attack**, Page 12



Soleimani



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SOX LOCK UP TOP PROSPECT

The White Sox take a calculated risk by signing 22-year-old outfielder Luis Robert to a huge six-year, \$50 million deal before his MLB debut. And yes, Sox fans, it’s OK to get excited.

Paul Sullivan, **Chicago Sports**

Tom Skilling’s forecast High 38 Low 28

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

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TRIBUNE ADDS NY TIMES SERVICE

Dear Tribune readers,

You might have noticed stories from The New York Times appearing over the last few days in the print version of the Chicago Tribune and on our website, chicagotribune.com.

We have licensed The New York Times as one of our 2020 wire services. We will no longer carry The Washington Post. Partnering with The Times gives us a broader array of content than the Post could offer and more flexibility to serve our digital audience.

We're excited to add The Times to our deep pool of non-local journalism, which includes the Associated Press, Tribune Content Agency, Tribune News Service, Getty Photos and several other syndicates.

The New York Times provides unparalleled coverage of national and international events, as well as deeply engaging journalism in business, arts, entertainment, lifestyle and opinion.

The Times is a strong complement to the local journalism that remains at the core of our mission. Covering our communities and staying relevant to your lives is how we serve you best. We look forward to delivering on that promise and maintaining your trust in 2020.

Regards,
Bruce Dold
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief

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

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

"Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything" How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these—some highly practical, others wildly funny—make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide. Collected from the Chicago Tribune how-to columns called "Life Skills," this book is filled with often humorous instructions on performing a variety of tasks.

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

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

ACCURACY AND ETHICS

MARGARET HOLT, standards editor

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

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

- A Page 1 story Thursday about Ald. Raymond Lopez incorrectly stated how many siblings he has. He has five.
- An editorial on Thursday misstated one provision of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's proposed ordinance on food trucks. It would not lift the existing rule that they must stay 200 feet away from any bricks-and-mortar restaurant.
- A recipe for Aperol spritz bars in the Jan. 1 edition of Food & Dining was missing several values in the nutrition information. The complete numbers are: Nutrition information per bar: 182 calories, 7 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 46 mg cholesterol, 26 g carbohydrates, 17 g sugar, 2 g protein, 98 mg sodium, 0 g fiber
- A story in the Dec. 31 A+E section misspelled the name of singer Bob Seger. The Tribune regrets the errors.

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INSIDE

Almanac	Business	4	Lottery	Business	4
Bridge	A+E	6	Obituaries	Business	4
Comics	A+E	6-7	Sudoku	A+E	7
Crossword	A+E	7	Television	A+E	5
Horoscopes	A+E	6	Weather	A+E	8



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Gov. J.B. Pritzker speaks in December before signing a measure that clarifies some of the provisions in the marijuana law.



JOHN KASS

Pritzker knows what angry taxpayers need: Legal weed

With economic refugees continuing to flee Illinois — we've lost more residents than any state in the U.S. over the decade — taxpayers have waited in vain for the political ruling class to explain how they'll reverse the Illinois Exodus.

But there were no answers from the ruling Democrats, Gov. J.B. Pritzker, House Speaker Mike Madigan and their Illinois Republican handmaidens.

Until now. They've made weed legal. Logically, it follows that our wise masters want the people of Illinois to get stoned.

Get stoned, Illinois. Thanks, Pritzker. Thanks, Boss Madigan. You've made Illinois into the Land of the Lotus-Eaters.

What this means is that angry Illinois taxpayers can finally stop being angry. We can forget our mental anguish at being left behind in the Illinois Exodus by smarter, luckier people who got out when they could.

All this reminds me of the companions of Odysseus in the land of the lotus-eaters. Once they bit into the lotus fruit, they lost their anger and wrath. They sat down and went to sleep.

And taxpayers who remain in Illinois may legally sit in passive stupor before their video screens, waiting for Grubhub to bring Baja Blast from Taco Bell and playing "Call of Duty" until dawn.

But don't think I'm being critical of pot smokers. And medical marijuana users? I don't mean you. If weed helps soothe your pain, do what's best.

For you others, go ahead. I won't criticize. I was once of your tribe, but that was decades ago. Nobody ever thought then that Mick Jagger one day would be subjected to "OK boomer."

I'm just astounded by the brilliance of weed as the political response to the Illinois Exodus. I never pegged Gov. Pritzker as brilliant. But he is.

Because if there's anything that Illinois taxpayers need right now, with so many of their neighbors leaving them with the tax bills, it's the need to numb their brains and forget what's coming.

What is coming are ever-increasing taxes, or did you really believe Pritzk-

er's new income tax will only hit mega-rich hedge fund kings?

Add to that all the falling home values and ever-growing property tax increases across the state.

And then realize that Democrats continue to refuse to even consider structural changes to the unfunded public worker pension albatross, estimated by Moody's to be a massive \$240 billion, strapped around the necks of taxpayers.

Democrats and even some Republicans don't want to change the pension deals and anger the public worker unions that keep them in power.

Where does this leave other taxpayers, including private sector union workers (i.e., electricians, carpenters, bricklayers, etc.) and all the nonunion workers who don't have great taxpayer-subsidized pensions?

Paying the bill.

The bipartisan Illinois Combine — the ruling class of wheelers and dealers — has spent Illinois into oblivion and their Ponzi scheme is coming to an end.

Taxpayers who understand this have left the state. But what about those of us who are stuck here?

Where's that old bong?

There is only one thing to do. The governor says it's OK. And Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton cut in line at a pot store to get some gummies.

She was so pleased and proud. But I'd rather see Pritzker and Madigan getting out of a state limousine for some Palermo's pizza.

The Chicago media have become cheerleaders. "Reefer Gladness" says the Sun-Times. And not to be outdone, my Chicago Tribune ran a headline that promised to teach us "How to get high."

Really? What is somewhat ridiculous are all those media press agents for the politically powerful pot moguls, telling us that users might be more creative while stoned.

That's patently idiotic, but as a journalist I asked editors at the paper if they wouldn't mind stoned writers turning in copy on deadline.

They weren't all that enthusiastic. I really don't want to argue with those who'll insist they can write novels while high on weed. Perhaps

they can try poetry too.

There are people who insist they can write while drunk and I'm sure they think they're quite creative. But these are demigods, creative giants with great big brains that reach far into the heavens.

By contrast, my mental reach is short and my brain quite small. One glass of wine and the tiny mechanism goes haywire.

But who needs clarity? This is Illinois. Boss Madigan has run things for decades, so it's obvious that here in the Land of the Lotus-Eaters, clarity is overrated.

With local media so excited, I probably shouldn't point out that Mexican drug cartels will undercut the government and flood the street with cheaper stuff.

And the cartels, which don't charge taxes, will compete with Pritzker.

Drug dealers will make a killing. More bullets will fly. More teenage street gang members will hit the ground. But forget what I said. I'd rather not harsh your mellow.

I suppose that now, as our political leaders want us to get high, it is time to admit that weed won't be enough.

In Illinois — as in the rest of America — great numbers of workers will soon be pushed into permanent unemployment by robots and artificial intelligence.

We'll need something stronger than weed to keep permanently unemployed low-skill workers in a passive, nonviolent state. Otherwise, they'll be ripe for revolution.

Pritzker might want to skip all the inevitable hand-wringing and just move on to the next logical step:

Opium dens. Opium worked for the British in China for years.

It should work on the angry taxpayers who've been left behind in the Illinois Exodus. But until then, even though there is no realistic economic plan, at least we have weed.

Thanks, governor.

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

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S. Side couple is first to be wed by Cook clerk in '20

BY MARIE FAZIO

Jasmin Blackman and Demarco Johnson vividly remember the moment they first saw each other more than 15 years ago.

It was in the auditorium of their elementary school where they were practicing for a play. Blackman, then 11 years old, remembers sitting behind Johnson and messing with his hair to get him to pay attention to her.

"From then on, we couldn't split apart, we were like this," Blackman, 26, said, crossing her fingers. "We've been together basically all of our life. We grew up together, we learn new things together, we experience everything together."

The couple has six children, some of whom attend school where they met, she said.

Thursday morning, Blackman and Johnson, now 26 and 27, were the first couple to be married by the Cook County clerk in 2020, a tradition started in 1991 by then newly elected Clerk David Orr. Each year, couples wait in line to be the first married for the year, a title that waives the standard 24-hour waiting period after the license is awarded, allowing the couple to be

married on the spot.

Last year, Cook County issued 31,843 marriage licenses, a decrease from 33,006 marriage licenses in 2018, 35,802 licenses in 2017, 36,198 in 2016 and 35,253 in 2015, according to the clerk's office.

Blackman and Johnson, who live on the South Side, had been waiting outside the clerk's office since midnight. Around 8:30 a.m. they were escorted inside to complete their marriage application and exchange vows.

Standing in front of a "Just Married" backdrop depicting scenic hills and with purple and white balloons scattered around the floor, Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough performed the marriage ceremony. She told the couple about the significance of the rings as Johnson knelt and slipped a sparkling ring over Blackman's finger. As he stood up Blackman told him she loved him and couple kissed.

"Wait, wait no kisses yet, oh my goodness," Yarbrough said laughing, and instructed them to clasp hands before pronouncing the couple husband and wife. "Now, you can salute the bride," she said, and they kissed again.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough reacts as Jasmin Blackman and Demarco Johnson kiss during the brief wedding ceremony at the clerk's office in Chicago on Thursday.

After the ceremony, the couple were presented with gifts from local sponsors, including a gift card from hotels.com, tickets to a Laugh Factory show, dinner for two at Remington's and a gift card for Eli's Cheesecake.

"I feel like it's very special. ... I slept early and woke up and took the necessary steps to be here and we are very grateful," Blackman said, her voice choking up. The couple plans to celebrate with family and friends at a larger reception at some point this month. "We are very happy, we just think that we deserve this moment."

The couple and the clerk raised a sparkling cider toast to health, wealth and happiness.

"I'm feeling very excellent right now," Johnson

said, beaming as he looked at his wife.

Blackman and Johnson weren't the only couple hoping to be the first to be married by the clerk in the new year. Jocelyn Sida and Daniel Montes held hands outside of the clerk's office, where they had been waiting since about 2 a.m., wearing a suit and a white dress. Though they arrived a few hours too late to be the first couple they were still giddy. The couple met in Pilsen 11 years ago at an arts group but didn't start dating until 6 months ago.

"Ten years went by, we were best friends. Both of us lived our lives, got our careers ...," Sida said. "I saw him again after four years and it hit me like a ton of bricks."

Sida proposed to Montes in an art gallery in Pilsen after six months of dating.

Waiting outside the clerk's office she carried six shiny tinfoil roses because "it took six months to realize she was the one for me," Montes said.

About 8 a.m. the couple said they caught a second wind, inspired by coffee "and our love for each other of course," Montes said.

The first wedding of the year is a happy event, Yarbrough said after performing the ceremony.

"You have birth, death is a life event, and marriage, joining two people together to forge ahead in this life," Yarbrough said. "It's important, like buying your first home, all of those things are life events and this is probably one of the most important ones. ... I'm always happy when people get married."

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Man bends handcuff in failed escape outside jail

BY FRANK S. ABDERHOLDEN

A man from unincorporated Barrington who had been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol near a park on New Year's Day tried to escape just outside the Lake County Jail after bending a handcuff to free one hand, but he was quickly captured, according to the Lake County sheriff's office.

Shane B. Zillman, 27, of the 28500 block of Chamberlain Drive in unincorporated Barrington, was shocked during his escape attempt by an electronic control device deployed by the deputy who had arrested him originally for DUI, according to a sheriff's statement released on Thursday.

"Upon arriving at the Lake County Jail, the Sheriff's Deputy began to remove Zillman from the back seat of his squad car," the statement added. "After opening the door, Zillman sprang past the deputy and began running southbound on Martin Luther King Jr. (Avenue) in Waukegan."

"Closer inspection of the handcuffs revealed Zillman was able to bend the handcuffs, while they held his arms behind his back. This compromised the integrity of the handcuffs, allowing him to free himself," according to the statement.

Besides the DUI charge, Zillman was also charged with escape, criminal damage to state supported property, driving on a suspended license and illegal transportation of alcohol, according to the statement.

Zillman is due to appear in court Thursday and is being held in Lake County Jail.



Suburban man sentenced for DUI crash that killed passenger

BY CLIFFORD WARD

A Westmont man was sentenced to more than three years in prison Thursday for aggravated DUI and reckless homicide in a 2018 crash that killed his passenger.

Onecimo Vazquez-Velazquez, 32, was given a 40-month prison term in DuPage County court by Judge Liam Brennan, who found Vazquez-Velazquez

guilty of the felony charges following an October bench trial. The charges were filed following an October 2018 crash in Downers Grove in which Annajeanne Dewey, 31, of Westmont died.

Vazquez-Velazquez, authorities say, was driving at a high rate of speed when his car struck one tree and then another along Fairview Avenue about 1 a.m. Oct. 7, 2018. A witness

at the trial said the vehicle crested a hill and passed another vehicle before Vazquez-Velazquez apparently lost control and ran the vehicle into a parkway, striking the trees. The car, the witness said, essentially split in half from the force of the collision. Dewey was ejected and pronounced dead at the scene, according to trial testimony.

The trial witness said the apparently dazed driver

wandered away from the accident scene, but returned after a few minutes as police and paramedics arrived at the crash site.

Police said that Vazquez-Velazquez and Dewey had gone to a movie earlier that evening and Vazquez-Velazquez consumed wine at the theater. A test taken about 90 minutes after the crash showed he had a blood-alcohol level of .077, just below the legal limit of

.08, according to police.

Under the terms of the sentence, Vazquez-Velazquez must serve 85% of his sentence, which would be 34 months. He was granted credit for his 14 months in DuPage County jail as his case moved to trial and sentencing.

Prosecutors had asked for a 12-year prison term.

Clifford Ward is a freelance reporter.

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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGOLAND

State primary season begins

Sanders only contender to file a full slate of delegates on day 1. But Biden, Warren almost there

BY JAMIE MUNKS
AND RICK PEARSON

Springfield — The campaigns for President Donald Trump and a host of Democratic challengers launched Illinois' 2020 presidential election year Thursday by filing petitions to appear on the state's March 17 primary ballot.

But on the first day of the two-day filing period, only Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders filed a full slate of delegate candidates for the nominating conventions this summer. Trump came close, falling one delegate shy of the maximum 54 GOP elected delegates — three from each of the state's 18 congressional districts.

Former Vice President Joe Biden fell two candidates shy of the 101 national convention delegates at stake statewide on the Democratic primary ballot, according to the state board of elections. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren filed full slates in 17 districts, failing to file any candidates in southwestern Illinois' 12th Congressional District.

Candidates have until 5 p.m. Friday to file additional petitions and to try to fill out their slates.

The petition process is seen as a key sign of the organizational strength of a presidential campaign, which has to deal with a variety of rules for ballot access in states nationwide. Only Trump, Biden, Warren, Sanders, businessman Andrew Yang and former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg filed petitions for delegate candidates.



LaHood

Yang filed in 17 of the 18 districts, with full slates in two and partial slates in 15 others. Buttigieg filed in 11 districts, but with only partial slates in many of them.

Democratic candidates who filed to get on the ballot but did not file delegate candidates on Thursday were Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, businessman Tom Steyer, former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet and former Maryland Rep. John Delaney.

All of the Democrats who filed for the presidential ballot on Thursday, except for Bennet and Delaney, submitted their papers at the opening of filing at 8 a.m. and will be eligible for a lottery to determine the top ballot spot in March.

Among declared Democratic candidates who did not file on Thursday were New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and author Marianne Williamson.

The state's first day of presidential filing also coincided with one Democratic contender exiting the race. Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro announced he was suspending his campaign.

The candidacy petitions from Trump and eight Democratic contenders are required to have at least 3,000 but no more than 5,000 valid signatures from registered voters.

At the elections board on Thursday, Illinois Republican U.S. Reps. Darin LaHood of Peoria and Mike Bost of Murphysboro were first in line with Trump's paperwork. LaHood also is vying to be elected a Trump delegate in March, as is Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar, a longtime supporter of the president.

"We have real results. When people go into the voting booth in November, when they ask are their lives better today than they were four years ago, absolutely they're better," LaHood said. "They're better economically, they're better opportunitywise, they're better for their kids. This country is better because of the president's policies and what he's put in place."

Liz Brown-Reeves, who held a spot in line for Biden's campaign, said she thinks Illinois' primary will be significant because of its size and diversity within the Midwest.

"In the last election, despite how well the governor did, there are some parts of the state that are very red. Illinois is an indicator because of its size and diversity," she said. "I truly believe Vice President Biden is the best chance at beating Donald Trump, hands down."

Gretchen Thomas of Yorkville waited outside the Board of Elections office Thursday with her four young children simply to show support for Yang's campaign.

A Yang campaign volunteer, Thomas, who did not file papers on the candidate's behalf, said she's been making "Yang 2020" buttons at home and sending them out all over the country.

"When I look around my neighborhood and community, he's seeing the same things I'm seeing and he's talking about it," Thomas said. "He's the one I want at the top leading our country."

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STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jasmine Turner, a social equity applicant with The Majority-Minority Group, returns to her seat after submitting her application at the Thompson Center on Thursday.

Chicken in every pot seen in weed

Newest dispensary applicants stress social equity

BY ELVIA MALAGÓN

Neff Kerr knew the day would come when she'd get a chance to try her hand at the blossoming cannabis industry.

"I've been keeping up with the legislation and the bills," Kerr said as she sat at the Thompson Center Thursday waiting for her turn to submit her application to open a dispensary. "I was definitely optimistic in watching the trend in other states. And we are pretty progressive so I always saw it coming."

Thursday was the deadline to apply for one of 75 new recreational marijuana dispensary licenses the state plans to issue by May 1, and Kerr, 38, of Chicago, was among those making a bid.

The state's Department of Financial and Professional Regulation will use a point system to rank each application to decide who will get the new licenses, with scoring based on everything from knowledge and experience in the field to the strength of an environmental plan.

The latest phase of the cannabis rollout will test the social equity measures of the recreational pot law that have been heavily touted by Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration. Of 250 possible points, 50 are based on social equity elements.

Points will be awarded, for example, to applicants who can show that more than 50% of ownership has lived for at least five of the last 10 years in areas where there is a high level of poverty, unemployment or arrest rates tied to cannabis.

Applicants also can get points if the proposed business owner or owners have been arrested, convicted or adjudicated of a marijuana-related crime that is eligible for expungement under the new law. Businesses with at least 10 full-time employees could also qualify for social equity points if at least 51% of those workers live in areas disproportionately impacted by marijuana enforcement, or have been arrested, convicted or adjudicated of a marijuana-related offense.

In the event of a tie between two applicants, the department will look at the applicants' community engagement plans to make a final call, according to the

governor's office.

"What we are doing is trying to take this time to turn an industry around to where it actually looks like the state that we all call home," said Toi Hutchinson, a former Democratic state senator who co-sponsored the legalization bill and is now Pritzker's top adviser on marijuana policy. "That's an exciting thing. We are all waiting to see how this turns out."

The state will conduct a study at a later date to examine any disparities in the cannabis rollout.

Kerr was among 36 minority business owners who submitted an application with the help of Majority-Minority Group and 4thMVMT.

Ron Holmes of the Majority-Minority Group said all of the people his group helped were considered social equity applicants. While many with the group expressed confidence in the process resulting in money going back into minority communities, Holmes said there seems to be an information gap between the government and those who were most impacted by years of marijuana arrests.

Holmes also cautioned it will be critical to see how many dispensary owners are from minority communities.

Pedro Guerra, 33, of Back of the Yards, first learned about the process to apply for a license about five months ago. He met with people with the Majority-Minority Group, and it seemed to him like their values aligned. "It was a no-brainer after that," Guerra said.

While Guerra still thinks work needs to be done to dispel negative connotations marijuana has in the Hispanic community, he thinks a dispensary shop could help neighborhoods like his. He points out that other surrounding neighborhoods like Little Village and Pilsen are already seeing growth.

"Back of the Yards, we are next," Guerra said. "There's culture there, there's history there. ... I could see something like a dispensary really helping and putting funds back in the community where it's very well-needed."

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Prosecutors seek to keep identities of alleged R. Kelly victims secret

BY MEGAN CREPEAU

Two alleged victims in R. Kelly's sweeping racketeering conspiracy indictment in New York should remain anonymous even to the singer and his attorneys, federal prosecutors say, citing concerns that Kelly has a long history of intimidating witnesses.

In a court filing last month, prosecutors said they don't plan to disclose the women's identities to the defense until just two weeks before his scheduled May trial, accusing the jailed Kelly of "a significant egregious history of obstructive conduct."

Kelly filmed his sexual encounters on multiple occasions with one of the alleged victims, identified only as Jane Doe #2, who was underage at the time, according to prosecutors. The other, labeled Jane Doe #3, was a radio station intern in her early 20s when Kelly invited her to Chicago for an apparent interview — then locked her in a bathroom for three days, drugged her and sexually assaulted her while she was unconscious, prosecutors alleged.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Kelly's attorney, Douglas Anton, called prosecutors' concerns baseless and said their attempt to keep the names under wraps violates Kelly's constitutional right to confront his accusers.

"It defeats fundamental fairness to not let us have access to who the alleged victims are," he said. "Their argument that ... Robert is going to reach out somehow

(from) jail and claim that he's going to talk to these people and threaten them is a baloney argument."

Four of the alleged victims in the New York indictment have been disclosed to Kelly's attorneys. Two had publicly spoken out about Kelly, a third is deceased and documentation routinely provided to the defense made clear the identity of the fourth woman.

To support their bid to keep the two other alleged victims' identities secret from Kelly until so close to trial, the federal prosecutors in New York cited a 2018 letter purportedly signed by the singer that threatened to make public explicit photos of a woman who had filed a lawsuit against him.

The typewritten letter contained two photos of the woman "cropped for the sake of not exposing her extremities to the world, yet!!!" it warned.

Prosecutors called it "reasonable to conclude" that the letter had been sent at Kelly's direction in an attempt to convince the woman to abandon the lawsuit.

"This type of conduct is strong evidence that the defendant, or members of his Enterprise, is likely to attempt witness tampering or other obstructive conduct if the identities of Jane Doe #2 and Jane Doe #3 are disclosed well in advance of trial," prosecutors wrote in the filing.

Kelly's attorney denied Thursday that the singer had anything to do with the letter.

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2 kids dead, 2 adults critical in South Shore

Police describe grisly scene as apparent murder-suicide bid

BY KATHERINE ROSENBERG-DOUGLAS,
MADELINE BUCKLEY

Two boys, ages about 1 and 2, were dead, and a 70-year-old man and a woman in her 30s were in critical condition after the woman killed the boys, stabbed the man and tried to kill herself in the South Shore neighborhood early Thursday, police said.

Authorities were called to the 7200 block of South South Shore Drive about 1:45 a.m. Thursday. Officers were called to the building to investigate a "person down," and first found a woman in her 30s and her son, about 1 year old, on the ground.

A security worker at the apartment building then took officers to the 11th floor of what appears to be a 21-story building. Inside an apartment they found the man with cuts to his face and body. They also found another boy, about 2 years old, unresponsive in a bathtub.

The boy also suffered wounds to his head, said Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi.

"The child in the bathtub appeared to be scalded from the water, and he had some lacerations on his head," Guglielmi said.

The other child appeared to have been thrown from the apartment to his death, Guglielmi said.

"Based on the positioning of the bodies and available evidence ... it appears as though the baby was thrown out of the window and the woman followed. We're assuming something broke her fall because she survived, which is unusual after falling from that distance," Guglielmi said.

The medical examiner's office has not released the children's names or ages, or information about their possible cause of death. Without a ruling from that office, Guglielmi said detectives could not determine whether the 1-year-old also had been stabbed.

"It's unclear if the other baby was also stabbed because of the trauma from the impact of the fall," Guglielmi said.

When officers arrived, the man told investigators his adult daughter "began stabbing him and then jumped from the 11th floor with her 1-year-old-son," according to police.

However, Guglielmi said detectives believe the woman in her 30s is the granddaughter of the male victim, not his daughter. He said they also are "operating under the assumption that these are the woman's children but need to confirm that."

Both boys were pronounced dead at Comer Children's Hospital, officials said.

The woman and the man both were taken to the University of Chicago Medical Center, where they were listed in critical condition.

Guglielmi said if the woman survives, police expect to seek charges against her.

Guglielmi said it has been difficult for investigators to piece together what happened because they have not been able to interview the man or the woman.

"Most of this incident occurred inside an apartment without any external witnesses or video that we're aware of," he said.

He said no motive for the children's killings has been determined. A victimology profile might be part of the detective's work.

"I don't yet have that. And it's unclear, again, why she stabbed her grandfather. He was nearly stabbed to death," Guglielmi said. "Hopefully, we'll get some answers, but we also may not, depending on how these individuals turn out."

He said authorities have been reaching out to other members of the family for additional information. The apartment was the man's home, but it was not immediately clear whether the woman and children also lived there or had been visiting, he said.

As of late Thursday morning, crime scene tape, waving in the wind, blocked off the front entrance of the building.

The department is making sure all responding officers and detectives are being offered counseling services in connection with the grisly scenes both outside the building and inside the apartment, Guglielmi said. It has been particularly hard on everyone involved because such young children were killed.

"From what was described to me, it's just been a very difficult scene for detectives having to see children like this. It's hard for anybody — including cops and detectives — they're mothers and fathers too. For anybody to have to see a child lifeless in a bathtub is exceptionally difficult," Guglielmi said.

A number of residents who walked in and out of the building Thursday afternoon said they were surprised and horrified when they heard of what happened. Most said they had only heard the sound of late-night New Year's revelers the night before.

Mary Houston, who has lived in the building for 15 years, looked out her 10th-floor window this morning and saw police officers.

The 84-year-old woman walked downstairs and heard the news from a receptionist.

"Horrible," Houston said. "Satan is busy working overtime."

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BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Long lines continue on the second day of recreational cannabis sales outside Sunnyside in Lakeview Thursday.

Marijuana

Continued from Page 1

"The dispensaries were expecting long lines," said Chris McCloud, spokesman for Illinois Supply and Provisions, which has dispensaries in Collinsville and Springfield. "This is probably even more than what they anticipated in terms of demand."

Illinois Supply and Provisions served about 3,000 people at both of its dispensaries Wednesday. That's a 10-fold increase from what the stores served "on a very good day" when they were medical only, McCloud said.

The Collinsville store was the only dispensary selling recreational marijuana in the St. Louis area. McCloud said he talked to customers there who had come from Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

Consumers are expected to spend \$420 million at Illinois dispensaries this year, Brightfield Group predicts. In 2023, marijuana sales in the state could reach \$1.3 billion, rivaling sales in Colorado. Overall, U.S. cannabis sales are expected to reach \$22.7 billion by 2023, including \$16.8 billion in recreational sales.

In Michigan, the only other Midwestern state that allows legal weed, people spent \$221,000 on the first day of sales. But only three dispensaries were ready to go when sales started there.

Illinois was "a lot more ready to go, open on day one," said Andrew Freedman, co-founder of consulting firm Freedman and Koski.

Illinois' first day of sales fell on New Year's Day, a vacation day for many who may have had more time to wait in the hours-long lines that formed at marijuana shops.

Additionally, Illinois is more populous than some western states. Marijuana sales during the first week in Colorado in 2014 accounted for \$5 million, according to Brightfield Group. Washington's first week brought in \$2 million.

Illinois has not released tax revenue figures for Wednesday.

Marijuana taxes vary by product and by THC content, which is displayed on packaging. Marijuana-infused products will be taxed at 20%. All other marijuana with 35% THC or less will be taxed at 10%, and marijuana with THC content higher than 35% will be taxed at 25%.

That's in addition to standard state and local sales taxes. Municipalities also can collect up to 3% in marijuana taxes, and many, including Deerfield and Buffalo Grove, have decided to do so.

The long lines at marijuana shops are expected to persist well through the weekend.

"I can't imagine they (the lines) are ever going to be as long as they were yesterday," said Kris Krane, president and co-founder of 4Front Ventures, which owns Mission South Shore dispensary in the South Chicago neighborhood. "But I do imagine we're going to have lines just for the foreseeable future."

Before Mission opened Thursday, the line stretched down the side of the building. Other Chicago dispensaries had lines that snaked down blocks and around corners, and downstate, people waited in parking lots and fields.

Five hundred people were lined up at Rise Mundelein at one point

Thursday morning, and hundreds of people flocked to Cresco Lab's Sunnyside Lakeview dispensary.

"Our lines at 10 a.m. this morning rivaled exactly what we saw yesterday, and we're ramped up for day two," said Cresco spokesman Jason Erkes.

Marijuana flower, or the dried bud that can be smoked, is experiencing the greatest shortage. Product shortages have occurred in almost every state that went from medical to recreational cannabis sales. Gomez, from Brightfield Group, said shortages also often cause high prices. She is already seeing that occur in Illinois.

"We have seen prices as high as \$20 for a joint (compared with \$8-\$14 in most mature markets), vape cartridges for \$70 and the most egregious being an 1/8 ounce being sold for \$80 (compared to \$35 in most mature markets or on the street)," Gomez said.

It normally takes about 18 months for recreational supply to start meeting demand and for most licensed dispensaries to open, she said.

In Illinois, marijuana stores are required by law to make sure they have enough product for medical patients. Though some dispensaries have been experiencing certain product shortages since before recreational sales begin, most of the buying limits in place are for recreational customers.

Product shipments will continue to come into the shops around Illinois, but the pickings might remain slim at some dispensaries.

"I've got really just some chocolate bars," said Gorgi Naumovski, principal officer at Thrive dispensaries in downstate Anna and Harrisburg, on Thursday morning. "We've got a delivery coming in today, another one tomorrow, so we're just going to try to see how it goes."

Together, the two dispensaries served almost 1,200 customers Wednesday, and people were lined up again Thursday morning. The wait times were shorter Thursday — maybe 1 1/2 hours instead of three to four, he said. Workers were informing waiting customers about the shortage, but some said they were willing to wait in line just to see the inside of a dispensary.

"They're just happy," Naumovski said. "They say, 'Well, if we can't buy, we'll really just check out your place.'"

NuMed ran out of flower at all three of its locations Wednesday, said principal officer Keith McGinnis. The dispensaries were set to get more products Thursday and Friday, but McGinnis said it will be interesting to see what happens heading into the weekend.

He wondered if people will choose to smoke weed instead of going to a bar on Friday and Saturday night.

Steve Weisman, CEO of Windy City Cannabis, which has dispensaries in Posen, Homewood, Worth and Justice, agreed. The stores were also expecting more product shipments before the weekend, and Weisman thought they would need them.

"I suspect this weekend will be pretty crazy as well," he said. "Based on my experience in other states and what I've seen across the country, my guess is it'll be a little crazy for the next couple of weeks."

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Optometrist accused of killing his girlfriend has bond set at \$3M

BY GEORGE HOUDE

A Cook County judge set bond at \$3 million Thursday for an Algonquin man charged in the stabbing death of his girlfriend after his family and friends testified that he was a "loving, great person" and posed no threat to others.

Judge Steven Goebel cited higher court rulings and other factors in setting the bail for Anthony Prate, 55, who was being held without bail on first-degree murder charges.

Goebel denied a petition by prosecutors to continue the no-bail order set in November and ordered that Prate be electronically monitored and live with his mother and family members in Tinley Park if he is able to post the \$300,000 cash bond.

"The court cannot consider no bail in this case," Goebel said. He also ordered Prate to surrender his passport and any firearms he might own.

Goebel handed down the decision following a hearing in which defense attorney Sam Amirante argued that Prate, an optometrist with no prior criminal record, is not a flight risk and posed no threat to the

public, including witnesses who may testify at his trial.

"He is not a career criminal," Amirante said. "He is presumed innocent, accused of murder. There is nothing else to show that he is a mean, nasty or violent person."

Assistant State's Attorney Denise Loiterstein told Goebel that Prate was charged with a heinous crime and said he remains "extremely dangerous."

"This is a brutal case," Loiterstein said. "This defendant does not deserve a bond."

Loiterstein noted that the victim, 48-year-old Margorzata (Margaret) Daniel, was stabbed more than 20 times, including seven wounds to the back and one to the abdomen. She also suffered defensive wounds to her arms and hands.

The stabbing occurred shortly after midnight on Nov. 23 after Daniel had given a dinner party for Prate and several of her neighbors, authorities said. The two had been dating for about three months but argued following dinner and the argument escalated after the neighbors left, prosecutors said.

Prate called 911 about 1:30 a.m. and told the dis-

patcher the two had a fight involving a knife and that Daniel was "gravely wounded," prosecutors said. Police found Daniel lying on the floor in a pool of blood with a kitchen knife in her hand, prosecutors said.

Police learned that Prate had contacted three family members prior to calling 911 and indicated that he had stabbed Daniel, prosecutors said. Prate was taken into custody at the scene and transported to a hospital for treatment.

The case has led to the reopening of an investigation into a 2011 traffic crash in Lake in the Hills that killed Prate's wife, Bridget Prate, which authorities viewed as suspicious at the time. Anthony Prate was behind the wheel, but was never charged in the crash. Following Prate's arrest on murder charges, the McHenry County state's attorney and Lake in the Hills police announced the renewal of the crash investigation.

Prate appeared at Thursday's hearing in tan jail scrubs with his right hand still bandaged and listened quietly as witnesses called by Amirante testified on his behalf. Amirante also en-

tered a formal plea of not guilty to the murder charges.

Prate's son, Nicholas Prate, 19, said his father was never violent and was supportive of his family. He said he was stunned when he learned of the murder charges. "I was blindsided and shocked," the University of Illinois student testified. "It was completely out of character."

Under questioning by Loiterstein, the younger Prate said his father had sent him a text at 1:09 a.m. about the incident.

"You received a text message that said 'Something bad happened. Margaret stabbed me with a knife and I'm calling 911.' But 20 minutes elapsed before he called?" Loiterstein asked.

"Correct," he answered. Other witnesses, including his daughter, Ava, and his sister, Donna Meyer, testified that Prate was never a violent person and that they would help ensure his appearance at court proceedings.

"He's a role model," Meyer testified. "A loving, great person. He's never done anything wrong."

Prate's next court date is Feb. 5. He faces up to 60 years in prison if convicted.

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PTSD recovery a marathon

Recovery, from Page 1

their work.

It's a complicated and time-consuming process, and the bills don't stop while it's playing out. Though his colleagues at the firehouse have donated vacation days and sick time to keep the family afloat, Mains and his wife, Danielle, have had to cut their household budget to the bone.

"It does get to a point for a lot of injured people where it creates a financial burden," said attorney Barry Ketter, who is representing Mains on his worker's compensation claim. "Some of them never get out of it."

But PTSD carries hazards greater than bankruptcy. Researchers have linked the disorder to an increased risk of suicide, and according to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, 124 firefighters and EMS personnel have taken their own lives so far this year.

That grim statistic is serving as motivation for Mains. On May 30, he plans to run 1 km for every firefighter and paramedic who dies by suicide in 2019. So far, that distance works out to just over 77 miles — more than twice as far as he's ever gone.

The event, which he has dubbed "Run for Our Lives," is being spurred by twin goals: to raise money for an organization that aids Chicago-area firefighters in distress, and to put a face on a condition that is still cloaked in secrecy and shame.

"It's really been cathartic," he said. "People reach out to us all the time. I've had strangers send me messages via social media, sharing their deepest, darkest secrets because I put myself (out there). It makes me feel like I'm helping people while I'm helping myself."

Son of a firefighter

Mains grew up in Burlington, Illinois, a village of a few hundred people halfway between Elgin and DeKalb. His father was a volunteer firefighter there before going full time with the Downers Grove Fire Department, and Mains spent plenty of time in his early years hanging out among engines and ambulances.

In 1999, a year after graduating from high school, he joined the Army to be trained as a medic, thinking it might eventually lead to a career as a first responder. But then came 9/11 and, 18 months later, the invasion of Iraq.

Mains, a member of the 3rd Infantry Division, accompanied troops pushing toward Baghdad, patching up comrades, enemy forces and civilians alike who fell victim to gunfire and other violence. He said he had his own near-misses, from shells that exploded near his convoy to gunmen who took wild potshots from passing pickup trucks.

What affected him most, though, was the suffering of others, especially children.

He recalled one episode in Baghdad when a truck carrying an Iraqi family at high speed ran into the back of a Bradley fighting vehicle. When Mains tried to lift a young girl from the wreckage, he saw that her head was gone.

But there was little time to work through such experiences. He was in a war zone, so like many of his fellow soldiers, he pushed the shock and hurt deep into his mind and carried on.

"There's a lot of pressure and a lot of stress," said Thor Swetnam, who served with Mains in Iraq. "You do what you have to. When you're doing it, you're not going to process anything."

Mains left the Army in late 2003 when his four-year enlistment was up. He took courses to get certified as a paramedic and firefighter, and in 2005, accepted a job with the Woodstock Fire and Rescue District.

It felt like a perfect match. He enjoyed the firehouse camaraderie and the bursts of action, and for years, all was well. The Iraq memories rarely surfaced, and even calls that ended sadly didn't seem to leave a mark. He married Danielle, and they had the first of their two children.

But then, in 2012, came two especially tough calls. First, he responded to a hit-and-run in which a 6-year-old boy was killed. It was the first time a child had died under Mains' care as a civilian paramedic, and it was shattering.

Then, on his next shift, he was called to attend to the 83-year-old woman who had just learned that she had killed the boy (she had thought she hit a tree branch, according to news reports). Witnessing her anguish, he said, was as hard as working on the dying child.

From there, repressed horrors leaked out. His sleep grew troubled. He became snappish over minor irritations and hypersensitive to the slightest possibility of danger.

Mains tried to pull himself out of it. He participated in "critical incident stress debriefings" in which firefighters try to process emotionally taxing calls, and went to counseling sessions on his own.

"I thought I was doing the right things," he said. "I thought I was checking the box. But I was never really opening up. I don't think I realized that until I hit rock bottom."

High risk of trauma

There are no definitive numbers about how many firefighters suffer from PTSD — estimates range from 6% to 37% — but experts agree the rate is far higher than that of the general population.

Brad Schmidt, director of the Anxiety and Behavioral Health Clinic at Florida State University, has researched the phenomenon. He said while it's not clear why trauma hits some especially hard, almost everyone will show symptoms if the events are frequent and intense enough.

"Most of these guys will begin to experience stuff, but they'll try to manage," he said. "Not infrequently, it becomes too terrible to compensate on their own."

Mains' coping mechanism was running.



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ryan Mains shares a laugh with his 4-year-old daughter Lucy as they build gingerbread houses on Thursday, Dec. 19, in Huntley.

He had learned to enjoy it in the Army, and after years of doing 5K and 10K events, became drawn to ultra-marathons — races that exceed the 26.2-mile distance of the marathon.

"You just find out how far you can push yourself," he said. "It gives me time to be out there, just chasing that runner's high. I don't want to sound cheesy, but it's a form of spirituality."

But ultra-marathons also appeal to those grappling with demons. Mains' coach, Denise Smith of Smith Physical Therapy and Running Academy, said Mains' running gradually seemed to become a self-inflicted punishment instead of a pleasure.

By April, what had bubbled for years beneath the surface burst into a crisis. At work, his colleague Jake Biederer noticed that his eyes were sunken and miserable. At home, he was lethargic and despondent, ignoring his family to scroll through his phone for hours on end.

Finally, he couldn't get out of bed. Thoughts of suicide swirled through this mind. He had become a problem, he thought. Wouldn't everyone be better off if he were no longer around?

He said nothing, but his wife knew something was wrong.

"He had called in sick the day before and was still in bed that day," Danielle Mains said. "I couldn't shake a weird feeling that something was going to happen."

She called Illinois Firefighter Peer Support, an organization that assists first responders in turmoil, and a former firefighter got Mains on the phone. Mains denied he was suicidal, fearing his colleagues would find out if he were hospitalized, but agreed to accept help.

Two days later he was on a plane to the East Coast, bound for a treatment program created for people just like him.

Tailor-made help

The International Association of Fire Fighters Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery sits in the woods of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. It opened in 2017 to give firefighters the help they have a hard time finding elsewhere.

Doug Stern, a spokesman for the association, said the setup is meant to mirror life in the firehouse, including sleeping areas that look like a bunkhouse. The idea is to create a sense of fraternity that will help patients engage with their problems.

The program combines psychotherapy with approaches such as meditation and art therapy. Supported by his fellow firefighters, Mains finally was able to admit what he had been going through.

"I fully supported ending the stigma (against PTSD) until it was me," he said. "Once I realized that's what I was doing, it helped me stop doing it."

He was at the center for a month, and when he came back, he returned to work. His first week back was rough, but when he got through it, he thought he was fixed.

He wasn't. As the months went by, things he once shook off festered in his mind. In October, "halfway between having a grip and being a sobbing mess," he went to see a therapist.

She told him it was time to stop. He was no longer fit for duty.

He resumed treatment, this time at AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital in Hoffman Estates. There, patients work through their PTSD with exposure therapy, talking about their traumas with increasing specificity.

"Basically, while the person repeatedly confronts the trigger, they begin to learn different and more healthy ways of coping with the actual experience," said David Ferenciak, a clinical therapist working with Mains.

One recent afternoon, the two sat across from each other in a small office while Mains talked about the first U.S. soldier he saw killed in Iraq — an Army private caught in an ambush. Mains had barely started working on him when an officer told him the man was too far gone to save.

"I kind of felt guilty," he said. "I didn't agree with the decision to not try. I understand now, I probably understood then, why the decision was made. There wasn't anything more we could have done. He'd been bleeding far too long, far too much, that there wasn't anything we were



ALEX VUCHA PHOTO

Ryan Mains works a triple fatal accident on Lily Pond Road last month in Woodstock.



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The tattoos on Ryan Mains' back honor his 17-year-old sister, Caitlin Weese, who was killed by a drunk driver in 2003 and his stepmother who died of a heart attack in 2006.

"I fully supported ending the stigma (against PTSD) until it was me. Once I realized that's what I was doing, it helped me stop doing it." — Ryan Mains

going to do."

Ferenciak asked Mains to put a number on the level of distress he was feeling.

"Probably like an 8."

"Are there any physical sensations of anxiety occurring right now?"

"Uh, yeah, I've kind of got that awful pit in my stomach."

"OK, got it," Ferenciak said. "Obviously it's important to allow that feeling to be there. Don't resist it. Let it run its course."

The exercise lasted about 30 minutes. Mains' distress level slowly decreased, but at the end he was exhausted. Ferenciak said that reflected the hard work Mains has put into his recovery.

"Right off the bat, Ryan displayed this tremendous amount of motivation and determination," Ferenciak said. "He was going to do whatever it took."

Pension worries

Despite his improvement, Mains said he won't be able to return to firefighting; until recently, Danielle Mains said, he couldn't even drive through Woodstock without being triggered. So he is seeking a disability pension that will pay him 65% of his salary and allow him to move on from the fire service.

Tom Radja, his attorney in the pension case, said three doctors will ultimately evaluate whether he is entitled to benefits.

"In a PTSD case, it really comes down to the opinions of the medical providers," he said. "It's really difficult to say at this point how it will go. What I know about Ryan and the incidents he's been involved in, I'm confident he's entitled to a line of duty pension. But I'm not a doctor."

The Woodstock Firefighter's Pension Board referred questions to its attorney, who did not return a message left by the Tribune.

Matt Olson of the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois said the union might ask

the General Assembly for help with the issue, noting that other states, such as Minnesota, have eased the way for first responders seeking benefits for PTSD.

"We need to get our arms around it before it gets much worse," he said. "The truth of the matter is we hire people who care. ... We can't continue to be surprised that they hurt."

Mains said he has accepted that he will never be fully cured of his PTSD, but he sees progress. When anger flares for no reason, he meditates until it subsides. He no longer hides his condition from his children, but talks with them about his emotions and treatment; his 8-year-old son calls the Alexian Brothers program "calm-down school."

Running has been a big part of his recovery. As Mains prepares for his solo ultra-marathon, which will raise money for Illinois Firefighter Peer Support, Smith says he appears to have recaptured the joy of the sport, noting a photo he posted on Instagram last month of a random Christmas ornament he came across during a training session.

"Finally, the Ryan who appreciated the small things about the beauty of running was back," she said.

About halfway into his recent trail run, he paused at a ledge overlooking a broad vista bristling with pines and denuded oaks. The panorama was as pristine as the dawn of time.

"It's by far my favorite spot in the county," Mains said. "You can see forever, or at least as far as McHenry County goes. I don't know. There's just something about it. The combination of the trees and the elevation — it's really peaceful."

He lingered for a few minutes and then headed back down the path. The day was still young, and there was still so far to go.

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CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois State Senate President John Cullerton speaks to fellow senators in 2013 in Springfield.

Cullerton

Continued from Page 1

now, you just go directly to the legislator (who says), 'We don't need to listen to any testimony. I got 500 emails and 5,000 tweets retweeted saying I've got to vote for this bill.'"

Cullerton, 71, steps down in mid-January, making way for a yet-to-be named successor to head the chamber and its historic Democratic supermajority of 40 members, compared with just 19 Republicans. First elected to the House in 1979, he moved to the Senate in 1991 and served in the minority from 1993 until Democrats took control in 2003. He succeeded Emil Jones Jr. as Senate president in 2009.

He leaves, he said, as part of an agreement with his wife of 40 years, Pam, to spend more time in Chicago with his family and at his law practice. His departure, he said, is unrelated to a growing federal investigation of Springfield that has ensnared three current or former Senate Democrats, including two who had been in his leadership team, and another who's a distant cousin.

While from a family steeped in Chicago's history, Cullerton grew up in Winfield in DuPage County, until recently the heart of suburban Republicanism. He joked that he was out of place as the "Lakefront" Democrat in the land of former GOP Senate President James "Pate" Philip of Wood Dale, the hulking, blunt-speaking former Marine who defined the area's conservatism.

Cullerton said his family was one of Chicago's original settlers in the 1830s. Cullerton Street, formerly 20th Street, is named after his great-grandfather's brother, Edward Cullerton, a state representative in 1873 before joining the City Council.

After getting his law degree from Loyola University in 1976, John Cullerton served in the Illinois National Guard and went to work as an assistant public defender for the city of Chicago before going into private practice in 1988.

Known for a sense of humor that could border on being snarky — "sarcastic," he calls it — Cullerton leaves the chamber as an older-style politician who worked through an era of bipartisanship. The humor — he used to do an imitation of Mayor Richard J. Daley on the House floor while members awaited bills to vote on — was a disarming mechanism that helped reduce tensions in the chamber, he said.

From his entry into the legislature until 2003, the state was headed by consecutive Republican governors while Democrats for much of that time controlled one or both legislative chambers.

"So you had bipartisanship built in, just built in by necessity, and it worked out very well," he said. "I passed bills even when we were in the minority."

Cullerton's efforts to build bipartisanship as Senate president were recognized by Republican colleagues, including former state Sen. Kirk Dillard of Hinsdale, who now chairs the Regional Transportation Authority.

In an "Illinois Issues" profile of Cullerton as he was stepping in as Senate president, Dillard warned his GOP colleagues that despite being jovial on the Senate floor, Cullerton was still a highly partisan Democrat.

"You can't get lulled by John's charm; I tell our target members, 'because he's a wily, partisan Democrat,'" Dillard said in the profile.

Today, Dillard asked of his description, "Is that wrong?"

Still, Dillard said Cullerton "will go down as one of the best Senate presidents in history."

"He was smart and ran the chamber well and he listened and visited with members any time they wished and, at other times,



MICHAEL TERCHA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Outgoing Senate President Emil Jones hugged John Cullerton, who at the time was the incoming president, as Jones gave his farewell speech in Springfield in 2009.



JOHN LEE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

State Sens. James DeLeo, far left, John Cullerton and Miguel del Valle confer with a fellow Democrat, Sen. Denny Jacobs, right, on the floor of the Senate in 2002.

"I give him a lot of credit for being respectful, not only to me personally but to our members personally. And, also being respectful to the institution. And I can't say that enough about him."

— Christine Radogno

would just show up literally at their front doors," said Dillard, who called Cullerton "one of the best deal-makers in Illinois history."

A key to his success, Dillard said, was that Cullerton "always liked to come to some kind of agreement, even if a bill wasn't perfect. He would spend inordinate amounts of time listening to all sides of an issue. Even if he wasn't with you, you knew he understood where you were coming from and had heard you out."

Dillard also noted a little heralded accomplishment, Cullerton's lead role in a massive yearslong rewrite of the state's archaic criminal code. Both men led the Senate Judiciary Committee, Dillard said, "I only wish things ran that way today — very bipartisan and very friendly."

Perhaps the largest effort toward bipartisanship with Cullerton at the helm was the 2017 attempt to break the state's historic budget impasse under one-term Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner. Known as the

"Grand Bargain," it was a test of wills pitting Rauner's anti-union ideology against Democrats who consider organized labor their closest ally.

The deal failed, and Christine Radogno resigned as Senate Republican leader after Rauner cut her off at the knees with a threat to run primary challengers against GOP lawmakers who backed the proposal. But lawmakers on both sides ultimately rebelled against the governor and approved an income tax hike and a state budget.

"It was Christine's idea to show Rauner and (Democratic House Speaker Michael) Madigan that we could do a deal. They weren't talking, right?" Cullerton said. "I wasn't trying to screw the speaker on that. But had we completed it, it would have shown him, 'Hey, this could be done.'"

"We were going nowhere," Radogno recalled. "This state was really suffering and it was pretty evident to everyone, so I actually approached John and asked him if maybe we could try to do something in the Senate to try to set an example to move us off the very stuck place that we were in."

For Radogno, Rauner's handling of the situation was the final straw.

"It is so incredibly frustrating because it would have changed the dynamic in the whole legislature because if a bipartisan item got passed in the Senate, it really would have put some pressure on the speaker to do something with it," Radogno said.

"As it turns out, (Rauner) got way less and he still got a tax increase. And he lost. It was just a bad decision for him all the way around," she said.

While politics is a partisan game, Radogno said that in serving as minority leader under Cullerton, "I can't imagine it being any less painless than it was." Radogno was chosen Senate GOP leader on the day Cullerton was chosen as president in 2009.

"I give him a lot of credit for being respectful, not only to me personally but to our members personally. And, also being respectful to the institution. And I can't say that enough about him," she said.

When it comes to running the state, Cullerton rates Rauner below Blagojevich. Rauner led a 736-day budget impasse, watched the state's social service fabric tatter, saw colleges and universities on the brink of collapse and did little to cope with billions of dollars of court-ordered spending beyond the state's resources while the state had no spending plan.

"I met with him. I tried to work with him. Madigan wouldn't even talk to him," Cullerton said of the venture capitalist turned politician. "I would say his skills in the private sector didn't translate to be helpful in the public sector."

Rauner's lack of political acumen eventu-

ally forced bipartisanship in the General Assembly, when lawmakers overrode the Republican's veto of an income tax increase "that finally stopped the bleeding on the crisis," Cullerton said.

As for Blagojevich, a neighbor of Cullerton's on the Northwest Side, "my whole goal was to try and bring Madigan and Blagojevich together, to try to be a peacemaker. Then, he got arrested 500 feet from my house."

Blagojevich's arrest on federal corruption charges included trying to profit from the sale of Obama's U.S. Senate appointment as well as to politically benefit from shaking down a children's hospital and the horse racing industry for campaign donations in exchange for official acts.

Cullerton's first official act as Senate president was to call the newly inaugurated chamber together for Blagojevich's impeachment trial. Senators voted 59-0 to remove Blagojevich from office and to prevent him from seeking a state public office ever again. It was the first time a governor was removed from office in a state long known for its corruption.

"He was a guy who was a good campaigner but had no substance who could bypass even the media back then," Cullerton said of Blagojevich. "It was an embarrassment."

Cullerton isn't shy about touting his legislative record, contending he passed more bills in which he was the chief sponsor than anyone else in the history of the state. "And if that's not the case, there's nobody around to refute it," he said.

His personal list deals largely with health and public safety issues. He was an early supporter of seat belt laws and of requiring child car seats when only one state had passed such a measure. He long supported mandatory motorcycle helmet laws but was regularly defeated by grassroots lobbying efforts. He also was a staunch opponent of smoking, to the point that he said he would not support Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker's proposal to increase taxes by 25 cents a pack unless it was jacked up to \$1. It was.

"The tobacco companies are very, very happy with my decision to retire. They told me, and I'm not making this up, that I was by far their worst enemy in any state legislature given my opposition to them plus my ranking as Senate president," Cullerton said.

As some of his Democratic colleagues jockey to replace him as Senate president, Cullerton said he's not picking any favorites. When he was appointed, his predecessor, Emil Jones, was opposed to his candidacy.

Part of the opposition was the belief among some senators that Cullerton was not independent enough from Madigan. Cullerton had served as a Madigan floor leader in the House and is godfather to Madigan's son.

"I'd been in the Senate for quite some time then, and I didn't care about that. Institutionally, you can't pass anything until both chambers agree," Cullerton said.

"My whole goal is to be collaborative with my members. They're senators. They've got four-year terms. They're not waiting for orders. They're waiting for people to convince them," he said. "I just spent a lot of time, it's my style, to bring people together. The speaker does things differently."

To become the next Senate president, Cullerton lists three items those wanting the job should keep in mind: They're dealing with "professional voters" who make multiple decisions each session day; every senator is a peer to others; and don't presume they'll get the backing from people they assume will support them.

"To ask someone to elevate you to this position is chronically presumptuous," Cullerton said. "It's a great experience, it's very humbling and, when you get it, it makes you feel better for it."

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NATION & WORLD

US plans partial ban of vape flavors

Critics blast pair of exemptions seen as retreat for Trump

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials will ban most flavored e-cigarettes popular with underage teenagers, but their plan includes major exceptions that benefit vaping manufacturers, retailers and adults who use the nicotine-emitting devices.

The Trump administration announced Thursday that it will prohibit fruit, candy, mint and dessert flavors from small, cartridge-based e-cigarettes that are popular with high school students. But menthol and tobacco-flavored e-cigarettes will be allowed to remain on the market.

The flavor ban will also entirely exempt large, tank-based vaping devices, which are primarily sold in vape shops that cater to adult smokers. The ban could go into effect as early as February.

Together, the two exemptions represent a significant retreat from President Donald Trump's original plan announced four months ago, which would have banned all vaping flavors — including menthol — from all types of e-cigarettes. The new policy will spare a significant portion of the multibillion-dollar vaping market. And the changes mark a major victory for thousands of vape shop owners who sell the tank-based systems, which allow users to mix customized flavors.

Anti-tobacco advocates condemned the decision to



ROBYN BECK/GETTY-AFP 2019

The ban, which could go into effect next month, represents the government's biggest step yet to combat teen vaping.

permit menthol and exempt tank-based vapes. They have lobbied the Trump administration to follow through on its initial pledge to ban all flavors except tobacco, arguing that teenagers who vape will simply shift to using menthol if it remains on the market.

"Only the elimination of all flavored e-cigarettes can end the worsening youth e-cigarette epidemic and stop e-cigarette companies from luring and addicting kids with flavored products," Matthew Myers, of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said in a statement.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that typically heat a flavored nicotine

"We have to protect our families. At the same time, it's a big industry. We want to protect the industry."

— President Donald Trump

solution into an inhalable aerosol. They have been pitched to adults as a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes, but there is limited data on their ability to help smokers quit.

The Food and Drug Administration has struggled for years to find the appropriate approach to regulate vaping. Under current law, all e-cigarettes are supposed to undergo an FDA review beginning in May.

Only those that can demonstrate a benefit for U.S. public health will be permitted to stay on the market.

"We have to protect our families," Trump said Tuesday, ahead of the announcement. "At the same time, it's a big industry. We want to protect the industry."

The flavor restrictions apply to e-cigarettes that use prefilled nicotine cartridges mainly sold at gas

stations and convenience stores.

Juul Labs is the biggest player in that market, but it previously pulled all of its flavors except menthol and tobacco after coming under intense political scrutiny. Many smaller manufacturers continue to sell sweet, fruity flavors like "grape slushie," "strawberry cotton candy" and "sea salt blueberry."

The flavor restrictions won't affect the larger specialty devices sold at vape shops, which typically don't admit customers under 21. These tank-based systems allow users to fill the device with the flavor of their choice. Sales of these devices represent an estimated

40% of the U.S. vaping business, with sales across about 15,000 to 19,000 shops.

Even with the exemption for products sold at vape shops, industry advocates were not happy with the restrictions. Gregory Conley of the American Vaping Association said narrower flavor options for Juul and similar devices "will result in more adults smoking."

Still, the new policy represents the federal government's biggest step yet to combat a surge in teen vaping that officials fear is hooking a generation of young people on nicotine.

In the latest government survey, more than 1 in 4 high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the previous month, despite federal law banning sales to those under 18. Late last month Trump signed a law raising the minimum age to purchase all tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 nationwide.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said the administration decided to exempt menthol after reviewing new data showing the flavor was not popular with teens.

Survey data published in November reported that less than 6% of teens picked menthol as their top choice for vaping. Mint was the most popular flavor among sophomores and seniors.

When Trump officials first sketched out plans at a White House event in September, they said menthol would be banned. But that effort stalled after vaping proponents and lobbyists pushed back and White House advisers told Trump that a total flavor ban could cost him votes.

Sanders makes big gains in fundraising

Biden, Yang also have impressive numbers in Q4 2019

By **WILL WEISSERT**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bernie Sanders announced Thursday that his campaign had raised an impressive \$34.5 million in the final three months of last year, solidifying him as the quarter's top fundraiser in the crowded Democratic presidential field. Former Vice President Joe Biden rebounded from a summer slump to take in a respectable \$22.7 million over the same period.

And, still looking to play political spoiler, businessman Andrew Yang collected \$16.5 million in 2019's fourth quarter.

Each of the three candidates celebrated his latest fundraising for different reasons. Sanders' shows that a recent heart attack hasn't slowed him as primary voting looms. Biden trails the Vermont senator in the money race but topped his third quarter fundraising total of \$15.2 million by nearly 50%. Yang's haul is enough to prove he remains very

much in the race despite joining it as a political unknown.

The announcements came a day after the strong \$24.7 million that Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, announced raising from October through December.

The amount of money pouring into Democratic campaigns suggests the party's primary may feature a long and protracted fight at a time when some would like to see a clear front-runner emerge. The leadoff Iowa caucuses are barely a month out, and Sanders, Biden and Buttigieg have been among the leaders of the crowded field, along with Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the one top candidate whose latest fundraising may not be as strong.

Like Sanders, Warren has relied heavily on small donations coming primarily online. Her campaign raised \$24.6 million in the third quarter, but it acknowledged in a recent fundraising email collecting only about \$17 million with a few days to go — hoping to persuade supporters to open their wallets and improve the final totals.

Warren hasn't released

her fourth quarter numbers but said while campaigning in New Hampshire on Thursday that they'd be out soon.

All Democrats, meanwhile, may need as much cash as they can get. President Donald Trump's re-election campaign announced Thursday that it had raised \$46 million in the fourth quarter and had a campaign bank account of \$102.7 million.

Biden has generally relied on more traditional fundraising methods than Sanders and Warren have, including frequent events with large donors. But the former vice president's campaign said it invested almost \$5.2 million in tech and digital outreach in recent months, which helped it double the amount of money raised online in the fourth quarter versus the third.

The campaign also said that 57% of Biden's fourth-quarter donors were new and that it saw a bump in fundraising compared to previous weeks while impeachment proceedings against the president were being held in the House.

"Today's announcement is just the latest evidence of Joe Biden's growing



RACHEL MUMMEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. Bernie Sanders raised more than \$34 million in the fourth quarter of 2019.

strength and momentum heading into the early contests of 2020," Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz said in a statement, adding that the haul serves as "a constant reminder to Democratic primary voters that Trump is terrified by the idea of facing Joe Biden in a general election."

Sanders' campaign said its funds came from more than 1.8 million donations, including from 40,000 new donors on the final day of the year alone.

"Bernie Sanders is closing the year with the most donations of any candidate in history at this point in a presidential campaign," his

campaign manager, Faiz Shakir, said in a statement.

Sanders' 2020 bid has now raised more than \$96 million built on 5 million-plus individual donations worth an average of about \$18. That's a testament to the senator's consistent campaign strength, despite facing questions when he started running about whether he could recreate the momentum from his unlikely rise to formidable primary challenger to Hillary Clinton in 2016 — and a serious health scare that might have derailed other candidates.

Sanders' campaign said that more than 99% of his

donors have not reached federal donation limits, meaning they can contribute again. Its overall announced total does not include the \$12.7 million Sanders transferred from other campaign accounts as part of his presidential run.

Sanders' campaign said its best fundraising month came in December, when it took in more than \$18 million from 900,000-plus donations. It said that the most common occupation listed by its donors was teacher and that the five most common employers were Amazon, Starbucks, Walmart, the U.S. Postal Service and Target.

Video edited to falsely suggest Biden made racist remarks

By **BEATRICE DUPUY**
Associated Press

A video of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden that was selectively edited to falsely suggest he made racist remarks during a recent speech was making the rounds Thursday on social media, raking in more than a million views on one tweet alone.

Experts have been warning about the dangers of selectively edited videos being used as a misinformation tactic ahead of the 2020

presidential election. They are easier to make and do not require the sophisticated technology needed to produce deepfake videos, which are fabricated to look realistic.

In the edited clip, which was less than 20 seconds long, Biden says, "Our culture is not imported from some African nation or some Asian nation." Social media users paired the video with comments like "It's almost like Joe Biden is a Racist." Posts with the video surfaced across social

media platforms Wednesday.

The clip was taken from ABC News coverage of Biden speaking for more than an hour in Derry, New Hampshire, on Monday. A review of the full video shows that Biden was commenting on changing the culture around violence against women. In discussing the difficulty victims face reporting sexual assault on college campuses, he said, "Folks, this is about changing the culture, our culture, our culture, it's

not imported from some African nation or some Asian nation. It is our English jurisprudential culture, our European culture that says it is all right."

Earlier in the discussion, Biden, when asked about his work with women and sexual assault victims, talked about the need to change an entrenched "cultural problem" that dates back centuries, noting that in the 1300s many wives were being beaten to death by their husbands without repercussions.

Biden's campaign confirmed that the presentation in the edited video was inaccurate.

It's not the first time Biden has spoken out about how violence against women dates back to English common law.

On March 26, 2019, Biden spoke at a New York event where he honored young people working to fight against sexual assault on college campuses. "It's an English jurisprudential culture, a white man's culture," he said. "It's got to change."



SCOTT EISEN/GETTY

Joe Biden's remarks were taken from a Monday event in New Hampshire.

Brazil's president keeps to far right in 2nd year

Jair Bolsonaro often compared to Trump as agenda fuels feuds

BY MAURICIO SAVARESE AND DIANE JEANTET
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Heading into his second year as Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro has held firm to his combative culture-warrior policies while feuding with critics at home and abroad — an approach that has thrilled supporters but eroded his efforts to win allies and lift the world's 9th-largest economy out of its doldrums.

Bolsonaro's inauguration last year marked a dramatic break from Brazil's previous four elections, all won by the left. He vowed to attack the socialist ideology, stamp out corruption and unleash police against crime. As he did that, many moderates felt pushed away.

In a national address just before Christmas, Bolsonaro said he "took over Brazil in a deep ethical, moral and economic crisis."

"The government has changed. Today we have a president who cherishes families, respects the will of its people, honors its military and believes in God," he said, flanked by his wife, Michelle Bolsonaro, who wore a shirt with JESUS written in large letters.

And he has backed up that stand in deeds — such as stripping some human rights protection from LGBT people and cutting funding for arts projects that challenge "Christian values" — as well as in words, inveighing against flamboyant carnival celebrations.

Marco Feliciano, a conservative lower house lawmaker and evangelical pastor, believes Bolsonaro keeps true to values that were ignored by his predecessors.

"Evangelicals were never as honored by a president," he said.

Long a fringe lawmaker, Bolsonaro became president as an outsider following a deep economic crisis, a sweeping political corruption scandal and amid a wave of populist triumphs around the planet.

But Bolsonaro's focus on a far-right cultural agenda has generated infighting between military appointees and evangelicals in his administration and whittled away his support in Congress.

While President Donald Trump, to whom Bolsonaro is often compared, has cemented authority over his Republican Party, Bolsonaro's spats with his own party's leaders led him to quit it in November. That leaves him effectively isolated until — and if — he can



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro puts his hand over his heart as Cmdr. Edson Leal Pujol salutes during the national anthem at an April 17 ceremony marking Army Day in Brazil.

create his new party Alianza Pelo Brasil (Alliance for Brazil).

"Bolsonaro started 2019, which was supposed to be his honeymoon year, in positive territory, but he will start his second year in the negative," said Carlos Melo, a political-science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo. "He will be under a lot of pressure. And that puts him in fighting mood."

But he'll need allies to

pass some of his cultural agenda through congress. He will also need lawmakers to approve new reforms aimed at slashing costs in efforts to revive an economy that has seen six straight years of negative or stagnant growth.

Bolsonaro's most ambitious legislative win, an overhaul to Brazil's pension system that prior governments failed to achieve, came on a watered-down

version.

Measures still pending include tax reforms and spending caps, some of which will be controversial as the parties head toward a test of strength in October's mayoral elections. Lawmakers will be involved with the vote from June to the beginning of November.

Congress already has felt comfortable blocking presidential decrees to loosen gun controls, allowing exe-

cutive orders to expire without ratification, and watering down his bills like signature anti-crime legislation.

Bolsonaro also has feuded with other international leaders — notably the leaders of France, Germany and the government of Norway over their efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, a region he sees as key to Brazil's future. Deforestation there has accelerated in his first term.

That has caused unease even among agribusiness leaders who voted for Bolsonaro, such as "soy king" Blairo Maggi, who have said the president's handling of the environment jeopardizes Brazil's exports.

Poor economic results and his aggressive rhetoric have turned off many Bolsonaro voters, and only about 30% rate his government good or excellent — the lowest first-year performance for an elected Brazilian president since the country's 1985 return to democracy.

But given the choice to simply approve or disapprove of Bolsonaro, the polls show his popularity runs higher — roughly on a par with that of Trump in the U.S.

"This is not a weak president," said Christopher Garman, managing director for the Americas at Eurasia Group.



Boats are pulled ashore Thursday as smoke and wildfires rage behind Lake Conjola, Australia. Thousands of tourists fled Australia's wildfire-ravaged eastern coast.

Australians jeer PM on visit to zone ravaged by wildfires

BY TRISTAN LAVALETTE
Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Prime Minister Scott Morrison was confronted by angry residents who cursed and insulted him Thursday as he visited a wildfire-ravaged corner of the country.

Locals in Cobargo, in New South Wales, yelled at him, made obscene gestures and called him an "idiot" and worse, criticizing him for the lack of equipment to deal with the fires in town. They jeered as his car left.

In the New South Wales town of Quaama, a firefighter refused to shake hands with him.

"Every single time this area has a flood or a fire, we get nothing. If we were Sydney, if we were north coast, we would be flooded with donations with urgent emergency relief," a resident said in Cobargo.

The outpouring of anger came as authorities said 381 homes had been destroyed on the New South Wales southern coast this week. At least eight people have died this week in New South Wales and the neighboring state of Victoria.

More than 200 fires are



Prime Minister Scott Morrison: "People are feeling very raw at the moment."

burning in Australia's two most-populous states. Blazes have also been burning in Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

"I'm not surprised people are feeling very raw at the moment. And that's why I came today, to be here, to see it for myself, to offer what comfort I could," Morrison said, adding, "There is still, you know, some very dangerous days ahead. And we understand that, and that's why we're going to do everything we can to ensure they have every support they will need."

Morrison, who has also been criticized over his climate change policies and accused of putting the economy ahead of the environment, insisted that Australia is "meeting the challenge better than most

countries" and "exceeding the targets we set out."

Cooler weather since Tuesday has aided fire-fighting and allowed people to replenish supplies, with long lines of cars forming at gas stations and supermarkets. But high temperatures and strong winds are forecast to return Saturday, and thousands of tourists fled the eastern coast Thursday ahead of worsening conditions.

New South Wales authorities ordered tourists to leave a 155-mile zone. State Transport Minister Andrew Constance called it the "largest mass relocation of people out of the region that we've ever seen."

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian declared a seven-day state of emergency starting Friday, which grants fire officials more authority. It's the third state of emergency for New South Wales in the past two months.

The early and devastating start to Australia's summer wildfires has led authorities to rate this season the worst on record. About 12.35 million acres of land have burned, at least 17 people have been killed, and more than 1,400 homes have been destroyed.

Turkish lawmakers authorize deployment of troops to Libya

BY SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey's parliament on Thursday authorized the deployment of troops to Libya to support the U.N.-backed government in Tripoli that is battling forces loyal to a rival government seeking to capture the capital.

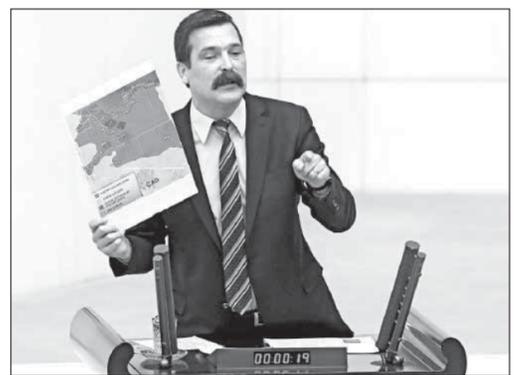
Turkish lawmakers voted 325-184 at an emergency session in favor of a one-year mandate allowing the government to dispatch troops amid concerns that Turkish forces could aggravate the conflict in Libya and destabilize the region.

The Tripoli-based government of Libyan Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj has faced an offensive by the rival regime in the east and forces loyal to commander Gen. Khalifa Hifter. The fighting has threatened to plunge Libya into violent chaos rivaling the 2011 conflict that ousted and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said last month that Sarraj requested the Turkish deployment after he and Sarraj signed a deal that allows Ankara to dispatch military experts and personnel to Libya. That deal, along with a separate agreement on maritime boundaries between Turkey and Libya, has led to anger across the region and beyond.

Ankara says the deployment is vital for Turkey to safeguard its interests in Libya and in the eastern Mediterranean, where it finds itself increasingly isolated as Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and Israel have established exclusive economic zones paving the way for oil and gas exploration.

"A Libya whose legal government is under threat can spread instability to Turkey," ruling party legislator Ismet Yilmaz argued in defense of the motion. "Those who shy away from



Erkan Bas, a member of the opposition Workers' Party, shows a map of divided Libya before the vote Thursday.

taking steps on grounds that there is a risk will throw our children into a greater danger."

The motion allows the government to decide on the scope, amount and timing of any mission.

Erdogan and U.S. President Donald Trump held a telephone conversation and discussed the situation in Syria and in Libya, the Turkish president's office said soon after the vote.

A brief statement said Erdogan and Trump discussed "the importance of diplomacy in solving regional issues."

Egypt's foreign ministry condemned "in the strongest language" the Turkish parliament's authorization to deploy troops, saying Turkey would carry full responsibility for the negative effect it would have on the stability of the Mediterranean region.

Egypt, which neighbors Libya, has backed the regime in the country's east.

The leaders of Greece, Israel and Cyprus denounced the move as a "dangerous threat to regional stability" and a "dangerous escalation" of the Libyan conflict that violates U.N. resolutions and undermines international peace efforts.

"The repercussions of such a reckless move will be dire for the stability and

peace of the entire region," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a joint statement after signing a deal for a pipeline conveying east Mediterranean gas to Europe.

Numan Kurtulmus, deputy chairman of Turkey's ruling party, welcomed parliament's vote, telling CNN-Turk television the mandate "will ensure that the legal government in Libya remains in place and Turkey's natural rights (in the Mediterranean) are maintained."

He added that the mandate does not mean that "troops will be quickly sent tomorrow to conduct operations."

Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay told state-run Anadolu Agency that Turkey would send "the necessary number (of troops) whenever there is a need."

But he also said it would not dispatch forces if Libya's rival government halts its offensive.

Turkey's main opposition party, CHP, had vowed to vote against the motion arguing that the deployment would embroil Turkey in another conflict and make it a party to the further "shedding of Muslim blood."

Texas judge rules hospital can remove infant from life support

BY JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texas judge Thursday sided with a Fort Worth hospital that plans to remove an 11-month-old girl from life support after her mother disagreed with the decision by doctors who say the infant is in pain and that her condition will never improve.

Trinity Lewis had asked Judge Sandee Bryan Marion to issue an injunction in Tarrant County district

court to ensure that Cook Children's Medical Center doesn't end her daughter Tinslee Lewis' treatment.

Texas Right to Life, an anti-abortion group that has been advocating for Tinslee, said the girl's mother will appeal the judge's decision.

Doctors at the hospital had planned to remove Tinslee from life support Nov. 10 after invoking Texas' "10-day rule," which can be employed when a family disagrees with doctors who say life-sustaining treatment should be

stopped. The law stipulates that if the hospital's ethics committee agrees with doctors, treatment can be withdrawn after 10 days if a new provider can't be found to take the patient.

Hospital officials have said they reached out to more than 20 facilities to see if one would take Tinslee, but all agreed that further care is futile. Groups including Texas Right to Life have also been trying to find a facility to take her.

Tinslee has been at Cook Children's since her prema-

ture birth. The hospital said she has a rare heart defect and suffers from chronic lung disease and severe chronic high blood pressure. She hasn't come off a ventilator since going into respiratory arrest in early July and requires full respiratory and cardiac support, deep sedation and to be medically paralyzed. The hospital said doctors believe she's suffering.

But Lewis testified at a hearing last month that despite her daughter's sedation, she has a sense of the

girl's likes and dislikes, describing her as "sassy."

"I want to be the one to make the decision for her," Lewis said about removing her daughter from life support.

At the hearing last month, Dr. Jay Duncan, one of Tinslee's physicians, described the girl's complex conditions and Cook Children's efforts to treat her, which have included about seven surgeries.

Duncan said there came a point when doctors determined they had run out of

surgical and clinical options. Duncan said last month that the girl would likely die within a half-year.

Before Thursday's ruling, both sides agreed that if Marion denied the injunction request, the hospital would wait at least seven days before taking Tinslee off life-support. In her decision, Marion said the seven-day period would give the girl's mother time to file a notice of appeal and a motion for emergency relief with the state court of appeals.

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Conservative law firm presses for purge of 209K Wis. voters

BY SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A conservative law firm Thursday asked a judge to find the Wisconsin Elections Commission in contempt and impose \$12,000 a day in fines until it immediately purges more than 200,000 voters from the rolls, a move Democrats are fighting in the key battleground state.

A judge last month ordered the purge of voters who may have moved and didn't respond within 30 days to notification sent by the elections commission in October.

The bipartisan commission has deadlocked twice on attempts by Republicans to do the purge immediately while an appeal to the court order is pending.

Rick Esenberg, leader of the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty that brought the lawsuit, said the commission must purge the voters now.

The judge in December ruled that the commission was breaking state law by not removing voters who did not respond to the October mailing asking that they confirm their address.



NICKI KOHL/AP 2018

Donald Trump narrowly won the state by fewer than 23,000 votes in the 2016 election.

"Court orders are not suggestions," Esenberg said on WISN-AM. "They are not rendered inoperative by the fact that you filed an appeal."

Esenberg filed a motion Thursday in Ozaukee County Court asking the judge to fine the commission and five of the six commissioners \$2,000 each, or \$12,000 total each

day, for being in contempt of the order.

The motion does not name one of the three Republicans on the commission who was not on the panel when the legal fight began.

Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul, who is representing the elections commission in the case, said it "strongly disagrees" with

arguments in the contempt motion.

"This case should not effectively be ended before the appeals process plays out," Kaul said in a statement.

The affected voters come more heavily from Democratic areas of Wisconsin, a key state in the 2020 presidential election.

President Donald Trump

narrowly won the state in 2016 by fewer than 23,000 votes and Wisconsin is expected to again be one of the most hotly contested states this year.

Democrats fear forcing voters whose registration was nullified to re-register would create a burden on them and hurt turnout. Republicans argue that removing the voters would ensure

that the rolls are not full of people who shouldn't be voting.

Esenberg's group has asked that the conservative-controlled Wisconsin Supreme Court immediately take the state's appeal of the case.

The case is before a state appeals court. The commission has asked the appeals court to put the original ruling on hold, but it has not yet acted.

The state Supreme Court has not said yet whether it will take the case.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin also has filed a federal lawsuit to stop the purge. That lawsuit argues that it would be a violation of constitutional due process rights to deactivate the registrations of the voters without proper notice.

The elections commission in October mailed about 232,500 voters to tell them records indicated they had moved and they needed to verify that the address where they were registered to vote was current. Of those, about 209,000 have not requested continuation at their current address or re-registered at another one.

Attack

Continued from Page 1

helicopters near the airport.

Trump, who was vacationing on his estate in Palm Beach, Florida, sent out a tweet of an American flag.

The Iranian deaths are a potential turning point in the Middle East and if the U.S. carried them out, it represents a drastic change for American policy toward Iran after months of tensions.

Tehran shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone and seized oil tankers.

Meanwhile, the U.S. blames Iran for a series of attacks targeting tankers, as well as a September assault on Saudi Arabia's oil industry that temporarily halved

its production.

The tensions take root in Trump's decision in May 2018 to withdraw the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, struck under his predecessor.

A senior Iraqi politician and a high-level security official confirmed to the AP that Soleimani and al-Muhandis were among those killed in the attack shortly after midnight early Friday.

Two militia leaders loyal to Iran also confirmed the deaths, including an official with the Kataeb Hezbollah faction, which was involved in the New Year's Eve attack by Iran-backed militias on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

The security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said al-Muhandis

had arrived to the airport in a convoy along with others to receive Soleimani, whose plane had arrived from either Lebanon or Syria. The airstrike took place near the cargo area after he left the plane to be greeted by al-Muhandis and others.

A senior politician said Soleimani's body was identified by the ring he wore.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

As the head of the Quds, or Jerusalem, force of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Soleimani led all of its expeditionary forces.

Quds Force members have deployed into Syria's long war to support President Bashar Assad, as well as into Iraq in the wake of

the 2003 U.S. invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, a longtime foe of Tehran.

Soleimani rose to prominence by advising forces fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and in Syria on behalf of the embattled Assad.

U.S. officials say the Guard under Soleimani taught Iraqi militants how to manufacture and use deadly roadside bombs against U.S. troops after the invasion of Iraq. Iran has denied that.

Soleimani himself remains popular among many Iranians, who see him as a selfless hero fighting Iran's enemies abroad.

Soleimani had been rumored dead several times, including in a 2006 airplane crash that killed other mili-

tary officials in northwestern Iran and following a 2012 bombing in Damascus that killed top aides of Assad. Rumors circulated in November 2015 that Soleimani was killed or seriously wounded leading forces loyal to Assad as they fought around Syria's Aleppo.

Earlier Friday, an official with the Popular Mobilization Forces said seven people were killed by a missile fired at Baghdad International Airport, blaming the United States.

The official with the group known as the Popular Mobilization Forces said the dead included its airport protocol officer, identifying him as Mohammed Reda.

A security official confirmed that seven people were killed in the attack on

the airport, describing it as an airstrike.

It was not immediately clear who fired the missile or rockets or who was targeted. There was no immediate comment from the U.S.

U.S. officials have suggested they were prepared to engage in further retaliatory attacks in Iraq.

"The game has changed," Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday, telling reporters that violent acts by Iran-backed Shiite militias in Iraq — including the rocket attack on Dec. 27 that killed one American — will be met with U.S. military force.

He said the Iraqi government has fallen short of its obligation to defend its American partner in the attack on the U.S. embassy.

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Democrat Julian Castro drops out of 2020 presidential race

AUSTIN, Texas — Julian Castro, the only Latino in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary race, on Thursday ended his campaign that had pushed the field on immigration and swung hard at rivals on the debate stage but never found a foothold to climb from the back of the pack.

Castro, who launched his campaign in January 2019, dropped out after failing to garner enough support in polls or dona-

tions to make recent debates. A former San Antonio mayor who became President Barack Obama's secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Castro stalled for most of his campaign at around 1% in polls and never came close to raising money like his better-known rivals.

Castro, 45, was among the youngest in the running at a time when the party's ascendant left wing is demanding generational change.

Israeli high court declines to rule on Netanyahu's eligibility

JERUSALEM — Israel's Supreme Court on Thursday declined to weigh in on whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can return to his post now that he has been indicted, postponing any ruling on his political future until after March elections.

A three-judge panel said the question of whether an indicted parliament member can form a government is impor-

tant, but that it would be premature to decide the issue before the vote.

Netanyahu was indicted in November on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust. Israeli Cabinet members are required to resign if indicted, but the rule does not apply to the prime minister. He has served as caretaker prime minister after failing to form a government after back-to-back elections last year.

US starts sending seekers of asylum across Arizona border

PHOENIX — The U.S. government on Thursday began sending asylum-seekers back to Nogales, Arizona, to El Paso, Mexico, to await court hearings that will be scheduled roughly 350 miles away in Juarez, Mexico.

Authorities are expanding a program known as Remain in Mexico that requires tens of thousands of asylum-seekers to wait out their immigration court hearings in Mexico.

Until this week, the government was driving some asylum-seekers from Nogales, Arizona, to El Paso, Texas, so they could be returned to Juarez.

Now, asylum-seekers will have to find their own way through dangerous Mexican border areas.

Critics say the Remain in Mexico program is one of several Trump administration policies that have all but ended asylum in the U.S.



TATAN SYUFLANA/AP

People wade through a flooded suburb of Jakarta, Indonesia, on Thursday. Monsoon rains and rising rivers submerged many areas in and around the capital, triggering landslides on the city's outskirts. Authorities blamed 30 deaths on the disaster.

3 women under investigation in deadly blaze at German zoo

BERLIN — Three women are under investigation in Germany for launching paper sky lanterns for the new year which apparently ignited a devastating fire that killed more than 30 animals at a zoo, officials said Thursday.

The three local women — a mother and her two daughters, ages 30 to 60 — went to police in the western city of Krefeld on New Year's Day after authorities held a news conference about the blaze, criminal police chief Gerd Hoppmann said.

The women are being investigated on suspicion of

negligent arson, prosecutor Jens Frobeld said.

Many Germans welcome in the new year legally with fireworks at midnight. Sky lanterns, however, are both illegal and unusual in Germany. The mini hot-air balloons made of paper have been used in Asia for centuries.

The zoo near the Dutch border says the 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.

Hoppmann said the

women had ordered five sky lanterns on the internet and told authorities that they had believed they were legal in Germany. He added that there was nothing in the product description showing that they were banned.

Hoppmann described the women as "completely normal people who seemed very sensible, very responsible" and said it was "very courageous" of them to come forward, saving authorities a tricky investigation. He added that they feared reprisals and authorities limited the details given about the suspects.

5 feared dead after Alaska crab fishing boat sinks

JUNEAU, Alaska — Five crew members missing after a crab fishing vessel sank in the frigid waters off Alaska were feared dead after authorities called off a search for those working in the one of the most dangerous industries in the U.S.

Two other crew members were rescued after the disaster Tuesday, telling authorities they were the only ones who made it into a life raft, the Anchorage Daily News reported. They were hypothermic and have been released from a hospital.

The Coast Guard said it used helicopters, planes and a boat to look for the missing crew members for 20 hours before calling off the search late Wednesday because they were not likely to have survived.

The agency didn't release details Thursday on what caused the boat to sink, saying talking to survivors is part of the probe.

In Taiwan: The self-governing island's top military official was among eight people killed in an air force helicopter crash in mountainous terrain outside Taipei on Thursday, the Defense Ministry said. Five others survived.

As chief of the general staff, Gen. Shen Yi-ming, 63, was responsible for overseeing the island's defense against China, which threatens to use military force if necessary to annex what it considers part of its territory.

The UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter was flying from Taipei to the nearby city of Yilan for a New Year's event when it crashed about 10 minutes after takeoff shortly before 8 a.m. The victims included other senior military officials and the two pilots.

Ky. AG asks FBI to probe ex-governor's pardons

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky's new Republican attorney general has asked the FBI to investigate a flurry of pardons by former Gov. Matt Bevin.

The pardons have drawn criticism from both sides of the political aisle after media reports highlighted some that went to convicts

who had wealthy or politically connected families.

Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron wrote in a letter this week that he has sent a formal request to the FBI to "investigate this matter."

Bevin, a Republican, issued hundreds of pardons between his electoral de-

feat on Nov. 5 and his final day in office on Dec. 9.

His issued pardons included clemency for convicted killer Patrick Baker, whose family held a fundraiser for Bevin in 2018, and a convicted sex offender whose mother was married to a millionaire road contractor.

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EDITORIALS

No, we won't shut up about the Illinois Exodus.

Several recent Chicago Tribune stories on tax hikes and population losses may have caught your eye. Against the backdrop of rising taxes in Chicago for 2020, U.S. Census Bureau numbers released Dec. 30 showed Illinois losing population for a sixth straight year.

Then a column published online Thursday described concern from Chicago's most loyal real estate developers, who are increasingly looking at out-of-state opportunities. "We love Chicago but are super nervous about the headwinds Chicago faces," David Carlins, CEO of Magellan Development Group, told the Tribune's Ryan Ori. "I would call it as difficult an environment from a capital standpoint as I've ever seen." Magellan is developing projects in Nashville, Tennessee; Miami; and Austin, Texas.

More Illinois Exodus, this time via investment shyness from Chicago's home-grown superstars. Magellan is poised this year to complete Vista Tower at 345 E. Wacker Drive, an architectural gem that

Latest downside: Chicago's top real estate investors are shopping elsewhere

has drawn international attention and will be Chicago's third-tallest building. But Magellan's executives, in addition to other Chicago-based investors, are worried about property taxes in Cook County, and about state and city pension debts. Imagine all the jobs never realized here when big-time builders pull back.

Exodus is a repetitive theme on this Editorial page, we know. Connecting the dots between high taxes, unsustainable pension costs and slow economic growth is a practice many elected officials in Chicago and Illinois would rather we shut up about.

They don't want to admit the damage caused, in part, by one-party political dominance in Chicago and Springfield. They don't want to hear about collapsing housing markets in places like Peoria. They don't want to let the people vote on a con-

stitutional change to loosen the strictures of unsustainable pension obligations. That would upset the public employees unions.

But our job is to *not* look the other way as so many Illinois politicians have. Our job is to shine a spotlight so Tribune readers can see the debacles — such as these six consecutive years of falling population — that their public officials' mismanagement has aggravated. We won't stop writing about the fragile fiscal conditions across Illinois driven largely by pension obligations and overspending, and how that affects Illinois citizens, their futures and their job opportunities.

Ori's column should serve as another head-turner for elected officials who keep gazing past the five-alarm fire. Will it?

John Diedrich, global chief of investments for Chicago-based CA Ventures, said

most of his firm's traditional investors "have basically redlined Chicago. They're not going to deploy capital here." Cook County's property assessment system is in mid-correction after years of negligence and corruption under a complacent former assessor and his allies. The change has been painful for commercial property owners.

The co-founder and president of Bond Companies, with offices in Chicago and Los Angeles, told Ori the city's development prospects aren't dire. But entrepreneurs like him are keenly aware of the lack of urgency from political leaders to make the structural public finance reforms that would make investing here more attractive.

"Personally, I would like to see a solution to the rapidly rising pension obligations, because it's not sustainable," Rob Bond said. "If it drives business out of the city, state and region, who's gong to be left to pay the piper?"

Sounds familiar. How much will it take for the political class to pay attention? More editorials connecting the dots for readers? Coming right up.

ATTACKING CHICAGO'S VIOLENT CRIME

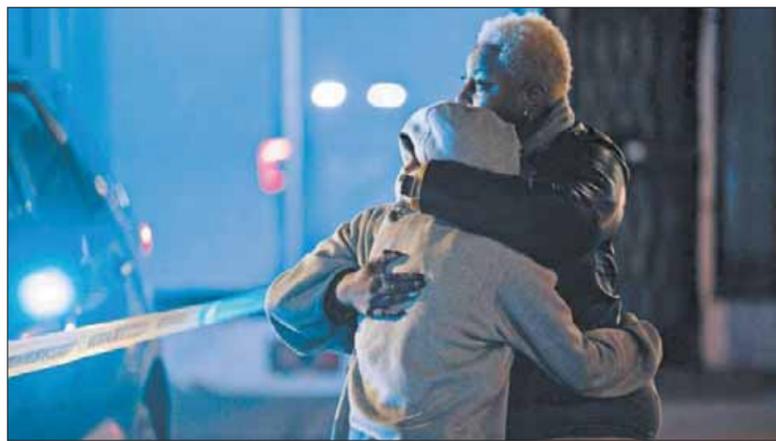
Aldermen, don't be shy battlefield observers

What should Chicagoans make of their city's latest homicide statistics? The Chicago Police Department says 492 people were killed last year. That's the lowest number since 2015, and a 13% drop from 567 homicides in the city in 2018, the Tribune reports.

But 492, being larger than zero, is too many homicide victims and too many families ravaged by bloodshed. It's a number emblematic of the uphill climb Chicago faces in solving the scourge of violent crime. Consider the numbers for America's two most populous cities: New York, 311 homicides as of Dec. 22, and Los Angeles, 252 as of Dec. 21. Try to tell a parent in gang-ridden Little Village or the war zones that dot the South Side that Chicago's getting safer.

In December, Chicago interim police Superintendent Charlie Beck talked to us about his game plan for fighting gang and gun violence. The fulcrum to his plan is rebuilding community trust in Chicago police. His strategy touts redeploying some officers as round-the-clock liaisons for quality of life troubles in crime-ravaged communities, as well as a call for his department to do a better job complying with the federal consent decree — the reform framework overseen by a judge that overhauls police training, accountability and supervision.

There's merit to Beck's approach. But the city must remember that first, Beck is an interim chief, and second, the task of making Chicago streets safe isn't solely on the shoulders of the CPD. Police can do



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

People gather at the scene of a fatal shooting in the Gresham neighborhood last month.

only so much. They're not in front of every house, 24 hours a day. They can't foresee when a gang tough is going to react to a perceived slight and spray gunfire into passersby on a sidewalk.

Who else in government owns the chaos, and has the duty to help stop it? Who howls when a child is felled by gang crossfire, but can't be found when it's time to help detectives elicit information from nervous neighbors? Who should play a far more visible role in making streets safer? Chicago's aldermen.

As much as the beat cops, aldermen know the hot spots in their wards, the

gang rivalries, the level of community inertia in neighborhoods overrun by violence. All too often, aldermen are complicit in that community inertia.

What could they be doing instead? They could encourage citizens fed up with crime to tell police who's doing the shooting, who's recruiting young teens into gangs, who's trafficking guns out of car trunks. They could help parents find out when their children are seen by law enforcement hanging out with gang members. They could urge parents to search their homes for guns.

In other words, the aldermen could own the problem — and encourage their constit-

uents to do the same.

If aldermen need some guidance on this, they can look to one of their own, Ald. Raymond Lopez, 15th, whose ward includes the West Englewood, Back of the Yards and Brighton Park neighborhoods on the Southwest Side. A long profile of Lopez and his tussles with Mayor Lori Lightfoot appeared in Thursday's Tribune. But we're focused on one passage that ought to unite every public official in this city:

When gang warfare swept through Brighton Park and Back of the Yards in 2017, Lopez spoke out bluntly — not just about the gangbangers, but also his community's responsibility to be part of the fix. "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 told the Tribune in the spring of 2017. "We need the people who live here to stand up and help us stop what's going on."

There's a lot of work to be done to make Chicago safe enough for kids to play in their own front yards, for couples to go shopping without having to worry about walking into a burst of gang crossfire. Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Beck and whoever becomes the city's permanent superintendent will do their parts. But many aldermen are shy battlefield observers who talk fervently with constituents about crime, but leave the work of actually helping those constituents to the cops.

The aldermen's role in leading each neighborhood's fight against violent crime ought to be crucial. The 50 of them should own that responsibility.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

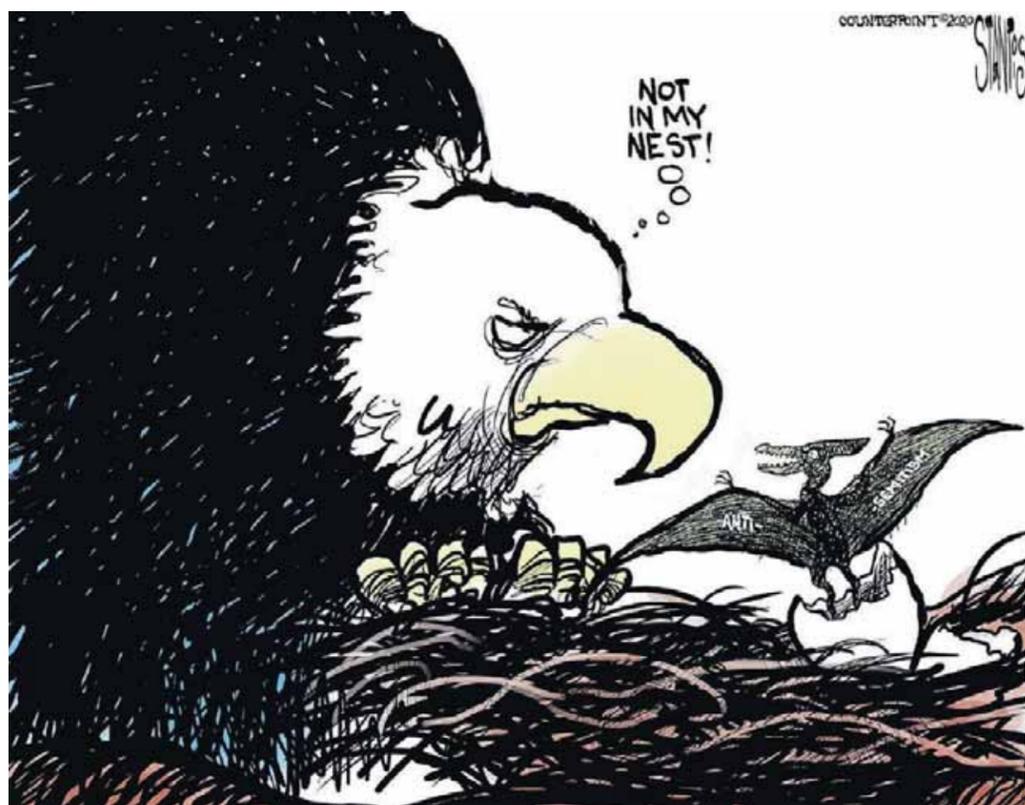
Our minds and lives are skewed by a fundamental imbalance that is just now becoming clear to scientists: the negativity effect. Also known as the negativity bias, it's the universal tendency for bad events and emotions to affect us more strongly than positive ones. ... We focus so much on bad news, especially in a digital world that magnifies its power, that we don't realize how much better life is becoming for people around the world. ...

Because negative events had stronger effects, these phenomena were easier to distinguish and measure than positive ones, so psychology journals and textbooks had devoted more than twice as much space to analyzing problems than to identifying sources of happiness and well-being. The research was further distorted when it reached the public, because it was filtered through journalists eager for news with the most immediate impact — which, of course, meant bad news.

So the public learned lots about psychoses and depression but precious little about the mind's resilience and capacity for happiness. Post-traumatic stress disorder became common knowledge but not the concept of post-traumatic growth, which is actually far more common. ...

By rationally looking at long-term trends instead of viscerally reacting to the horror story of the day, you'll see that there's much more to celebrate than to mourn. No matter what disasters occur in 2020, no matter who wins the presidential election, the average person in America and the rest of the world will in all likelihood become healthier and wealthier.

John Tierney and Roy F. Baumeister,
The Wall Street Journal



SCOTT STANTIS

Chicago Tribune PERSPECTIVE

3 easy ways to preserve your serenity during the toxic political year ahead



ERIC ZORN

Over the years, I've changed a number of minds arguing politics with readers over email.

That number is zero.

Not that I'm a lousy debater or am usually wrong — far from it! But that, in my experience, no one ever admits defeat at the conclusion of email squabbles.

Cultural psychologists could tell us why it's so rare for anyone to back down and confess ideological error. Altering your views can look and even feel like weakness. The wrong sorts of people take advantage of it.

But that's beside the point today.

The point today is that it's worse than a waste of time to argue with aggressive, angry people online. Not only does it get you nowhere, it also risks throwing more kerosene on the raging partisan fires certain to burn hotter than ever in 2020. It can make you part of the problem.

Presidential election years understandably bring out the worst in us. As the stakes increase, so does the vehemence of our rhetoric. In the last few cycles, social media and email have made our exchanges louder, more rapid and more toxic.

And adding extra sulfur to the mix this year is the potential reelection of Donald Trump, the most polarizing president in

history, according to the American Political Science Association and Gallup polling data.

So here's my three-word prescription, adapted from my own New Year's resolution to reduce the number of hours I spend on fruitless online wrangles to zero, the same number as above:

IGNORE. The rhetorical bomb throwers with their pejoratives and profanities crave attention more than anything else. Your response — reasonable or rash, it doesn't matter — validates them. Deny them that and ruin their day.

I had fun for a time last year responding

to pure hate mail with a form letter that began, "Well, it doesn't happen often, but I have to admit that your letter changed my mind on this issue. I hadn't given enough weight to your argument and, in thinking it through, I can see where you make an excellent point."

But sarcasm is wasted on the dimwitted. Too many recipients mistook my jab for actual encouragement, so I stopped.

DELETE. It's not strictly necessary to consign unpleasant messages to the trash folder — archiving them serves the same practical purpose — but quick deletion is a cleansing ritual, a symbolic spitting out of the poison that makes it difficult for you to give in to the undeniable temptation to counterpunch.

When attacks appear in your social media feeds, delete them from the thread and then ...

BLOCK. Build that wall. Unfriend, mute or otherwise erect an electronic barrier against snide provocateurs who are trying to yank your chain. Autodirect all further correspondence from them to your spam folder. Use the "mute" feature on Twitter if you'd like the additional satisfaction of

imagining them continuing to holler at you into a void. One strike and they're out.

Ignore. Delete. Block.

Make these your watchwords of the year ahead.

But at the same time, don't stop listening. Don't mistake all expressions of disagreement with trolly and retreat into a comforting silo where only like-minded people cluster in orgies of self-congratulation.

When those with other views offer reasonable disagreements, engage them on the field of ideas. It's a long shot, but maybe you're not absolutely right about absolutely everything. Maybe there are arguments you haven't fully considered, data you haven't seen, lessons from history that somehow eluded you.

For your own sanity if nothing else, think discussion, not debate in the months ahead.

Hope to understand, not to persuade. Listen more and react less.

And when worse comes to worst, as you know it will, ignore, delete and block. Repeat as necessary.

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Twitter @EricZorn

Don't stop listening. Don't mistake all expressions of disagreement with trolly and retreat into a comforting silo where only like-minded people cluster in orgies of self-congratulation.

PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WILL DEMAND CHANGE IN 2020.



ISAAC LAWRENCE/GETTY-AFP

A man faces down police during a pro-democracy march in Hong Kong on New Year's Day as protesters look to carry the momentum of their movement into 2020.

Will global leaders be up to the challenge?

BY IVO DAALDER

Foreign policy wasn't taking a back seat as the year ended and we started the third decade of this turbulent century. In Iraq, the U.S. killed Iran's Gen. Qassem Soleimani after Iran-backed demonstrators chanting "Death to America" ransacked parts of the U.S. embassy compound. In North Korea, Kim Jong Un announced he would no longer abide by a testing moratorium that President Donald Trump had long trumpeted as a great diplomatic achievement.

But while Iran, Iraq, Korea and other crises are sure to demand Washington's immediate and focused attention, the coming year is likely to be dominated by two major realities in global affairs: the deepening antagonism between China and the United States and the growing conflict between authoritarianism and liberalism.

Although 2020 is starting off well for Washington and Beijing, with the announced signing of a phase-one trade agreement in mid-January, relations between the world's two largest powers will become increasingly competitive in the coming year for both domestic and geopolitical reasons.

In Washington, China hawks are gaining strength, not only in the White House but also in Capitol Hill and in both political parties. Congress is looking to legislate an ever harder line against China — both to punish Beijing for its gross human rights violations in Xinjiang and Hong Kong and to guard against Chinese commercial and military spying and the growing threat many now believe Beijing poses to

national security. In Beijing, meanwhile, President Xi Jinping has also taken a hard line against domestic critics to ensure the Communist Party's unquestioned preeminence in Chinese society and pursued an increasingly nationalistic foreign policy that frequently paints the United States and the West as adversaries.

The domestic politics in both countries is feeding increasing sentiment to separate the Chinese and American economies and societies. One indication of this decoupling is the attempt to erect a technological iron curtain between advanced communications systems like 5G and even the internet. The urge to decouple also reflects a growing geopolitical competition for power and influence around the globe, with China using its newfound might to undermine a U.S.-led global order that has served America and its many allies so well for more than 75 years.

Increased competition between the United States and China is also apparent in the growing conflict between authoritarianism and liberalism more generally. China is increasingly promoting its own brand of state capitalism and authoritarian control as the best path for national development, pushing it as an alternative to Western views that increased economic and political openness best fosters such development. And it is having some success, as countries around the world opt to align with China and its large investments to promote their economic development. Even in the West, China's deep pockets and strong authoritarianism are gaining increasing support and some admirers.



NICOLAS ASFOURI/GETTY-AFP

President Donald Trump, left, and China's President Xi Jinping during a news conference in Beijing in 2017.

Yet, the competition between a new authoritarianism and the old liberalism is hardly over. Even as the White House has muted its traditional criticism of human rights abuses and authoritarian rule around the world, last year saw the emergence of a powerful counterforce to both as millions of people all over the world took to the streets to protest the corruption of power and the failure of governments to meet the people's essential needs.

This confrontation between the people and those in power will very likely deepen in 2020. Even as Beijing has sought to tighten its grip, millions in Hong Kong took to the streets and the ballot box to declare their deep desire to decide their own future. They're unlikely to give up on their demands for more democracy and the

big question is whether China will agree or, instead, respond with more repression and violence.

That same question now confronts leaders around the world — for in Baghdad, Beirut and Tehran, in Caracas, La Paz and Santiago, in Paris, Rome and Warsaw, in Algiers, Johannesburg and Khartoum, and in so many other global cities, people in the millions have taken to the streets to demand change and a government that serves the people rather than the powerful. Even as authoritarians have strengthened their hold on power across the world, it would be foolish to dismiss the force that people can bring to bear in support of real change. Whether they will prevail in these confrontations is impossible to know, but they're bound to continue pushing their demands for change in the coming year.

We enter the '20s at a time when American power and influence continues to wane, China's is increasing and people all around the world are making clear that their voices need to be heard. It's times like these that call for far-sighted leadership — for leaders with clear visions on where to take their countries, who can see problems and forge strategies and build coalitions ready to solve them, and who can bring along the people without whose consent and support they are bound to fail. The big unknown for 2020 and beyond is whether the major powers in the world will have the right caliber of leaders to help all of us succeed.

Ivo Daalder is president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to NATO.

PERSPECTIVE



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Byron Nuclear Generating Station, which produces electricity, near Rockford in 2012.

Federal setbacks to nuclear energy will harm climate and raise costs in Illinois

BY CAROL BROWNER

There is no time to lose in the fight against climate change. We cannot afford to take a single step backward. Yet while we should be running headlong into smart, collaborative and long-term solutions that help mitigate the immediate climate crisis, our federal regulators have instead jeopardized the good progress made toward transitioning our energy systems to zero-carbon sources.

Donald Trump appointees at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission just adopted a new rule that requires energy sources receiving state subsidies — for example, renewables and nuclear power — to bid at a higher price in the wholesale electricity market. Ostensibly, the rule was meant to preserve competition. But instead, it will become more difficult and expensive for Illinois and other states in the region to pursue policies that support zero-carbon energy sources such as nuclear, wind, solar and other renewables. Ignoring decisions by the Illinois legislature to manage its own energy portfolio, the decision forces clean, carbon-free energy off the grid. That clean energy will mostly be replaced by highly polluting sources such as coal and natural gas that are cheaper and can bid at a lower cost.

The result of this new rule will be an

inherent favoring of fossil fuels over cleaner forms of electricity generation. And as we know, increasing production from these sources will lead to an immediate increase in carbon emissions, harmful pollutants and particulate matter, which directly impacts environmental and public health — putting lives at risk.

The rule also undermines Illinois' largest source of carbon-free energy — nuclear power. Illinois ranks first in the nation in net electricity production from nuclear power, with facilities providing more than half of the state's total electricity. In 2018, nuclear energy production in Illinois avoided adding tens of millions of tons of carbon pollution into the air. If Illinois' six nuclear facilities become at risk for closure, the result would most likely be a dramatic increase in the burning of fossil fuels. The state also enjoys growing production from numerous renewable sources such as wind and solar. However, that growth will quickly be stifled and ultimately undone by the new order because of a dramatic decrease in revenue from these sources.

Not only is the environment affected, so too are Illinoisans' pocketbooks. In his dissent to the decision, Commissioner Richard Glick estimated the total cost to consumers of this policy change could be as much as \$2.4 billion per year. According

to a recent study, the new rule could cost Illinoisans more than \$800 million per year, increasing electricity costs by 60% compared to today's prices.

The good news is the Illinois General Assembly has the opportunity to step in to ensure the state can meet the goal of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration to use 100% clean energy by 2030 and protect Illinois consumers and the state's environment. Legislators in the state must choose: Will they take action to move the state forward on clean and affordable energy? Or will they allow federal and out-of-state regulators to decide how Illinois' energy future will work?

Interference from the commission is picking winners and losers in electricity production and will cost consumers money and endanger public health. Now is the time for action. Allowing the commission to undermine Illinois' clean energy sources would set the state back years in its fight against climate change. This is a mistake that Illinois — much less any other state — cannot afford.

Carol Browner is a member of the Nuclear Matters Advocacy Council, a former director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy and former administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

America needs Rep. Lewis more than ever, and both sides seem to know it

BY PATRICIA MURPHY

When Rep. John Lewis announced that he had been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer, you could almost hear the country cry. Democrats and Republicans, Hollywood actors and people who had simply met the congressman in an airport, all went to Twitter to ask the 17-term Georgia Democrat to fight one more time.

"You are loved. You are respected. You are magnificent," Ava DuVernay wrote. "Praying for you, my friend," former President Barack Obama tweeted. "The Late Show" host Stephen Colbert called Lewis "a leader, a teacher, an example for us all," while Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Lewis' longtime friend who counts Lewis as a hero as he mounts his own fight against Parkinson's disease, wrote, "They don't make them stronger or braver."

From Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Kellyanne Conway and everyone in between, the outpouring of emotion tells you almost everything you need to know both about the civil rights icon and the moment we're living in today. Americans have always found our heroes at the darkest times in our history, but it's rare that our history is still living alongside us, as Lewis is. After a weekend when a man stabbed five people at a Hanukkah party and another man shot two in a Texas church, we look for leaders to tell us we'll get through this era of hate, with Americans killing Americans because of their religion or skin color or for no reason at all. Without Lewis, who would tell us they've seen worse and believe this will get better, too, if we fight to make it happen?

Lewis was born in Troy, Alabama, when the South segregated blacks and whites so thoroughly that Lewis was unable to vote, to enroll in his local college and even to get a public library card. Young Lewis sent a letter to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., already a civil rights leader, and joined the Freedom Riders, insisting on integration of the South through nonviolent protest.

That led Lewis on a journey to speak alongside King, who called Lewis "the boy



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., stands near a bust of Martin Luther King Jr. at the Capitol in Washington in October.

from Troy," as the youngest leader at the 1963 March on Washington. He stood in front of Alabama state troopers in Selma in 1965 before they beat him trying to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge; and stood next to President Lyndon Johnson when he signed the Voting Rights Act later that year. Lewis was arrested 40 times before he was elected to Congress and five times since in what he calls his "mission to help redeem the soul of America." It's a mission he continues today.

I first met Lewis in his Capitol Hill office in 1989 — two years after he was first elected to represent the 5th District of Georgia. I was just a high school student from the district stopping by with my mother to sign the guest book while we were in Washington.

"Come in and visit," the congressman said with a smile. "Have you been to the Capitol? I'll take you there." Lewis walked us through the Capitol tunnels past the state student art exhibits — "This one is from Atlanta!" — and over to the House floor. He asked the clerk to turn on the electronic voting board and told me to give it a try. I voted yes.

I have never forgotten the thrill of that day, the kindness John Lewis offered my mother and me, or the similar stories I've heard from other Atlantans from all walks of life — inspired by their member of Congress and proud, always, of the man

he is. How many Americans can say the same?

Throughout his career, those who know Lewis have described him as a man of fame without pretense, often walking alone in an airport and without an entourage at events. He stands tall, even at 5 feet, 6 inches, and can command a room with just a whisper of wisdom on fairness or justice or the requirement to act for what we know is right.

He has joyfully taken his fight to young people with graphic novels about the civil rights movement and a mobbed appearance at ComicCon. But he's kept his fight for equality alive by expanding it to immigration and health care and criminal justice reform. Lewis led the sit-in on the House floor in 2016 to push for gun safety legislation and, earlier this year, added his voice to the call for the president's impeachment, which started the momentum to make it a reality. When John Lewis says something is not right, Democrats always listen. Many Republicans do too.

One voice that was absent in the chorus of well-wishes for Lewis after his announcement Sunday was the president's. But that's certainly not a surprise in light of Lewis' impeachment vote and Trump's 2017 tweet that Lewis was, "All talk, talk, talk — no action or results. Sad!" Trump added that Lewis' district is "in horrible shape and falling apart (not to mention crime infested)." Speaking from experience, neither is true.

But if we know anything of Lewis, it's that he has already forgiven the truly unforgivable in the past and likely will again. He's seen the very worst that our country can be and stayed faithful that someday it would get better. That, in essence, seems to be what the grief over Lewis' news has been about.

John Lewis is living proof, still, that America's darkest days can see the dawn, that hate can subside and that there is still a place for dignity, character and truth in our country and our capital. Don't go yet, John Lewis. We need you.

Tribune News Service

Patricia Murphy covers national politics for The Daily Beast.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

State should take steps to stop exodus

Losing 51,250 residents in 2019 is a cold fact that does not seem to raise much alarm or outrage. Maybe some simple facts from daily street life will. Illinois is losing its income, estate and real estate tax base while its expenses are unsustainable and rising. I share office space with six professionals who have high incomes and significant net worths. Over the past two years, three have relocated to lower tax states, with one more planning his move.

With the exodus, property values on the North Shore have cratered. If you bought a home in Winnetka for \$3.5 million six years ago, you would be lucky to get \$2 million today. Lake Forest is even worse. New buyers cannot afford a \$2 million home with \$60,000 real estate taxes and no certainty of achieving a tax reduction with the complex and arbitrary tax assessment system. The result is a complete lack of trust in our elected officials to confront the fiscal reality that Illinois is going broke. Both young and old financially sound families are leaving. Shared sacrifice is essential for Illinois to survive. Constitutional pension reform, a graduated tax and responsible spending are required. Addressing our fiscal situation provides confidence to our residents to remain in the state and not be the last person holding the bag. Without addressing the pension catastrophe, Illinois will be bankrupt, deserted and extinct in a few years.

— Jim King, Northbrook

What's our state's loss in wealth?

It is no surprise that Illinois' population continues to decline. The statistic that I haven't seen is the net loss of wealth and income. My guess is that those who have higher incomes and net worth are leaving in greater numbers than those with fewer resources. On the other side, those who are migrating in most likely have lower incomes and net worth. If true, the impact of loss of population is even more dramatic than mere numbers indicate. Many residents want to leave but can't for a variety of reasons. Everyone I talk to wants to get out before total collapse due to pension debt and irresponsible government. Indeed, state government should be reclassified as a criminal enterprise.

— Tom Stephani, Crystal Lake

Senior break for ride-share tax

The new tax on ride-share services gives no consideration to the needs of older and handicapped users. We are octogenarians; one of us is partially handicapped. CTA has been our primary transportation source for decades. Recently, we sold a 5-year-old car with 4,000 miles on it. We now find that CTA routes do not always get us within practical walking distance of many destinations, including medical appointments. We are forced to use ride-share service on a regular basis when the CTA is inconvenient. The new tax means we will have to pay an extra \$4 to \$5 for each physician visit. Why does the new tax not have an exception for the elderly or disabled, just like the disabled parking permit we had for our car?

— John C. and Dawn Palmer, Chicago

Hospitals committed to communities

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association commends the Tribune Editorial Board for recognizing and celebrating Mount Sinai Hospital's century of service to the city's West Side ("What if Mount Sinai had abandoned the West Side?," Dec. 24).

Mount Sinai and nearly 40 other mission-driven hospitals across Chicago treat all who come through their doors, regardless of ability to pay, serving the city's uninsured and low-income populations. Chicago's hospitals are now reaching outside their traditional "four walls" to address social influencers of health and further improve the health of their communities. They are engaged in community partnerships, such as HEAL (Hospital Engagement, Action and Leadership), Southland RISE and West Side United, with goals to reduce economic hardship, provide good nutrition and safe shelter, and reduce gun violence.

Like Mount Sinai, many Illinois hospitals have been steadfastly serving their communities, caring for and improving the lives of Chicagoans and people throughout our state. Thankfully, we do not need to face questions such as "What would the state of care in Lawndale be like if Mount Sinai didn't exist?" or "What would the state of care in Chicago be without its hospitals?" Instead, as we enter a new decade, our hospitals are as strongly committed as ever to meeting the health care needs of their communities and ensuring that all Illinoisans receive the quality health care they deserve.

— A.J. Wilhelmi, president and CEO, Illinois Health and Hospital Association, Naperville

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FACT #341
 The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.



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

- FACT #84**
A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.
- FACT #147**
When someone uses chitchat, noises, or mannerisms to distract or mislead an opponent during poker or another game, it's called "coffeehousing."
- FACT #178**
Genophobia is the fear of knees.
- FACT #238**
Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.
- FACT #279**
Before Sir Thomas More was beheaded in 1535, he moved his lengthy beard aside, saying it "had never committed any treason."
- FACT #302**
Tweety Bird, the animated Looney Tunes character, was originally pink. But censors complained that Tweety looked naked, so animators gave the bird yellow feathers.
- FACT #408**
Joe Charbonneau, a Belvedere, Ill., native, who played outfield for the Cleveland Indians in the early '80s, used to open beer bottles with his eye socket and drink beer through a straw in his nose.
- FACT #459**
When actor Clint Eastwood ran for mayor of Carmel, California, in 1986, a major issue was ice cream. Town leaders had banned the sale of ice cream cones, incensing Eastwood and his supporters. They won and overturned the ordinance.

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS

Auction marks finale for Johnson Publishing

Collection features works from 75 African American artists

BY ROBERT CHANNICK

The dismantling of Johnson Publishing, the bankrupt former publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, will be nearly completed with a Jan. 30 auction of the last remaining assets of value — an artwork collection that once adorned the walls of its Chicago headquarters.

The art auction, set to take place in a New York gallery, will feature a collection of paintings, sculptures and other works from 75 African American artists, most of which was assembled after the 1971 opening of Johnson Publishing's lavish former headquarters at 820 S. Michigan Avenue.

"It was very much part of the



CARRIE MAE WEEMS

A piece by Carrie Mae Weems, comprising seven panels of framed chromogenic prints and sandblasted text on glass, is included in the auction.

fabric of the building and the culture there," said Nigel Freeman, director of African-American Fine Art for Swann Auction Galleries in New York, which is holding the auction. "It's a significant art collection."

Freeman said adding an art collection to the new headquarters represented the apex of Johnson Publishing's influence on African American culture, and its promi-

nence in the Chicago business community.

"It was a sign of the stature of the company that it would have a fine art collection," Freeman said.

The collection, which includes works by both famous and lesser-known African American artists, is valued at upwards of \$1.2 million. The auction proceeds will be used to pay back former CEO Desiree Rogers for \$2.7 million in loans she

made to Johnson Publishing and other secured claims against the company, pending approval next week from a Chicago federal bankruptcy judge.

"Desiree will have the first cut at the art auction proceeds," said Neville Reid, a Chicago bankruptcy attorney representing the trustee.

Started in 1945 by John Johnson as a monthly lifestyle magazine, *Ebony* was the centerpiece of a

thriving family business, documenting the African American experience for more than 70 years. Its success gave rise to its sister publication, *Jet*, as well as peripheral profit centers such as Fashion Fair Cosmetics, which launched in 1973.

But the company struggled in the digital age, taking on debt before

Turn to **Auction, Page 2**



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A view of the Loop from tenant office space on the sixth floor of the Old Post Office on Sept. 18, 2019.

Building up 2020

From expansions to the opening of Chicago's third tallest skyscraper, here's what to watch for in real estate this year



RYAN ORI
On Real Estate

Some of Chicago's biggest and most complicated real estate projects took flight in 2019. By comparison, 2020 is shaping up to be the year of the unknown.

Rebirth of the long-dormant Old Post Office, zoning approval of Lincoln Yards and The 78, two multibillion-dollar megadevelopments on the river, completion of NEMA, the city's tallest all-residential tower and the opening of the world's largest Starbucks on North Michigan Avenue punctuated a year to remember in Chicago development.

Left for 2020 — and perhaps beyond — are the fates of the James R. Thompson

Center in the Loop, the Obama Presidential Center, and massive development parcels including the former South Works and Michael Reese Hospital sites south of downtown. The location for a proposed Chicago casino also could be determined this year, if questions over its viability are resolved.

Meanwhile, investors are bracing for expected large property tax increases, as well as potential policy changes that could decrease real estate values.

Here's what to watch for in Chicago's real estate and development scene in 2020:

Tech company expansions

After more than two decades of dormancy, the redeveloped Old Post Office welcomed its first office tenants in the fall. The project by New York-based 601W Cos. is one of the biggest transformations of an existing U.S. building in years, with an expected 15,000-plus employees headed to the 2.8 million-square-foot structure at 433 W.

Van Buren St.

The largest lease in the ultrawide building is a two-floor, 463,000-square-foot deal by Uber, which said it plans to move there in late 2020 with space for 2,000 Chicago employees. The Old Post Office space will include the company's Uber Freight headquarters.

Uber is among a growing list of technology companies driving an expansion of the downtown office market in recent years.

Construction is set to begin in March on Salesforce Tower, the third and final building on the Wolf Point site that Hines and the Kennedy family are developing on the river near the Merchandise Mart. Salesforce has leased 500,000 square feet, with plans to add at least 1,000 Chicago employees in the next few years. The new skyscraper is expected to open in 2023.

Also likely to start construction this year are two new buildings for Google in the Fulton Market district near its existing Midwest headquarters. Sterling Bay will develop the buildings, totaling about 800,000 square feet.

Turn to **Ori, Page 2**

Dixon lands morning anchor job at WBEZ

Host named to station two weeks after being let go from WXRT

BY ROBERT CHANNICK

It didn't take long for news anchor Mary Dixon to find a new Chicago radio home.

Two weeks after she was ousted as morning co-anchor at WXRT-FM, Dixon has landed in a similar role at public radio WBEZ-FM.

Dixon was named Thursday as WBEZ's new morning anchor and local host of NPR's "Morning Edition," which airs weekdays from 5 to 10 a.m. She starts training next week and is expected to hit the airwaves in February.

"It is a dream come true," said Dixon, 54. "The timing worked out better than I could have possibly hoped."

A longtime Chicago radio news anchor, Dixon co-hosted the morning show with Lin Brehmer for more than 20

years at rock station WXRT before her position was eliminated on Dec. 18.

At WBEZ-FM 91.5, Dixon will succeed Lisa Labuz, who is shifting to midday anchor at the news/talk station in a previously announced move.

WBEZ, which is owned by Chicago Public Media, has grown in recent years into a radio powerhouse, and is tied for 7th among Chicago stations with a 3.5 share in the Nielsen listenership survey for December. WXRT is ranked 6th with a 3.8 share.

Entercom, the Philadelphia-based chain that acquired WXRT and a half dozen other Chicago radio stations through the 2017 megamerger with CBS Radio, shook up the local airwaves last month when it eliminated Dixon's position, breaking up a familiar morning team at the legacy alternative rock station. As part of the change, Brehmer is shifting to middays at WXRT.

Dixon began her radio career as a disc jockey at WIXN-AM/FM in Dixon in northwestern Illinois. She joined WXRT in November 1991 as a general assignment reporter, and was paired with Brehmer on the morning show in 1993, where they established a strong on-air rapport and loyal following. She left radio briefly in 1995 for TV gigs with WGN-Ch. 9 and CNN, but returned to WXRT in 1997, rejoining Brehmer the following year. Beyond an extended maternity leave in 2003, she was a morning mainstay at the station for 25 years.

However, Dixon said Thursday it became clear to her soon after Entercom's acquisition of WXRT that the station was no longer a "good fit," and that it was time for her to explore other options.

While she has had previous discussions with WBEZ, the deal to join the station was struck after her departure from WXRT, Dixon said.

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Clearcover looking to take on insurance giants

Tech company grew last year, wants to hire 70 to 80 in 2020

BY ALLY MAROTTI

Chicago startup Clearcover expanded its auto insurance business to Illinois last year, going up against insurance behemoths in their home state. With \$50 million in financing as fuel, the tech company wants to hire 70 to 80 people in Chicago in 2020.

Clearcover is betting its policies are cheaper than those of traditional insurance companies, like Bloomington-based State Farm and Northbrook-based Allstate, and its online platform more efficient.

Handling claims digitally cuts costs, and most policies are sold

online, which reduces overhead, said Kyle Nakatsuji, co-founder and CEO.

"There's not a magic trick involved here," he said. "We think people ought to be able to pay less for insurance ... so we're building that company."

The people Clearcover plans to hire this year are mainly product managers, software engineers and data scientists, Nakatsuji said.

"Anybody that can help make sure we're offering the best possible product to our end customer at the lowest possible cost to offer it," he said.

The three-year-old company employs about 130 people, up from 44 at the end of 2018.

The startup moved to a larger



Nakatsuji

office in the same Loop building to accommodate growth last year, and will likely need to find more space once hiring gets underway, Nakatsuji said.

The \$50 million in financing marks the company's third round of funding, bringing its total amount of investments to \$104.5 million.

OMERS Ventures, the venture capital arm of Canadian pension fund OMERS, led the round. Other investors included Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises, which owns Kelly Blue Book, New York-based IA Capital Group, and American Family Ventures, the venture capital arm of American Family Insurance, Nakatsuji's former employer.

The startup sells policies through its website and partners with other companies to reach customers when they might need to buy car insurance. For example, users might see a Clearcover quote while they're perusing credit score site Credit Karma.

Clearcover also recently started partnering with insurance agents to sell policies, and plans to expand those relationships this year.

The company started selling its policies in Illinois last spring and has thousands of customers in the state, Nakatsuji said. It also operates in California, Arizona, Ohio and Utah, and plans to expand to eight to 12 more states in 2020.

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Ori

Continued from Page 1

That would increase Google's footprint in Chicago to about 1.3 million square feet — enough room for thousands of workers.

Finished projects

Notable buildings expected to be completed in 2020 include the 101-story Vista Tower hotel and condo building along the south side of the Chicago River near Lake Michigan. When it opens in September, Vista Tower will become Chicago's third tallest skyscraper at 1,191 feet — trailing only Willis Tower (1,451 feet tall) and Trump International Hotel & Tower (1,389 feet).

The Jeanne Gang-designed building is being developed by Chicago's Magellan Development Group and Chinese investment partner Dalian Wanda Group.

Other anticipated completions include the \$500 million expansion of the lower floors of Willis Tower to include new restaurants, retail and entertainment space by New York-based Blackstone Group, set to wrap up in the third quarter; and Bank of America Tower, the 55-story, 815-foot-tall structure at 110 N. Wacker Drive that this fall will become the tallest office building completed downtown in 30 years. It is being developed by Chicago's Riverside Investment & Development and Dallas-based Howard Hughes Corp., anchored by the namesake bank.

Up next?

Two of the biggest developments ever proposed along the river, Related Midwest's The 78 between the South Loop and Chinatown and Sterling Bay's Lincoln Yards along Bucktown and Lincoln Park on the North Side, won city zoning approval in 2019.

Now the heavy lifting begins, as the developers seek office tenants large

enough to get construction started this year on the massive mixed-use projects. The 78, a \$7 billion project, is zoned for up to 13 million square feet of buildings, while the \$6 billion Lincoln Yards is zoned for as much as 14.5 million square feet.

Other projects remain conceptual as they seek city approval.

Lightfoot's newly appointed planning director, Maurice Cox, formerly of Detroit, has expressed interest in the city helping kickstart the redevelopment of the former Michael Reese Hospital site along Lake Shore Drive in Bronzeville.

A group of developers led by Farpoint Development and Draper and Kramer plans a multi-billion-dollar mixed-use project on the 49-acre site and adjacent land, in a development called the Burnham Lakefront.

Just north of there, along the sprawling McCormick Place convention center and Soldier Field, Wisconsin-based developer Bob Dunn has floated a complex plan to create a row of skyscrapers atop a proposed new transit center serving CTA, Metra and Amtrak trains.

Dunn's firm, Landmark Development, wants the state to help fund, and eventually own, the \$3.8 billion transit center that would include a large block of revenue-generating retail and entertainment space. The developer would make its profit by constructing mixed-use high-rises on the site, which would be a 34-acre platform built over existing train tracks.

Ald. Pat Dowell, 3rd, has spoken out against the plan.

Other projects that could have a major impact on the South Side include the Obama Presidential Center, which has been delayed by a debate about its placement within Jackson Park; and a proposal to redevelop the massive former U.S. Steel plant along with south lakefront, a promising but challenged site where several previous

development efforts have failed.

In the latest plan for U.S. Steel's former South Works site, Chicago rapper Common and a group of real estate developers envision an audacious, 415-acre plan to bring a movie production campus, residential buildings, hotels, retail, entertainment and other attractions to the job-starved area on the southeast side. Soon after the Tribune reported the plan, Pritzker in August signed legislation extending state tax credits for film production, saying the move could boost the South Works proposal.

The Michael Reese and South Works sites are among several that have been discussed for a Chicago casino.

Skyscraper watch

As Vista Tower's opening approaches, there are yet to be any visible signs of two other skyline-altering developments proposed nearby. Their developers seek the blessing of 42nd Ward Ald. Brendan Reilly.

Chicago's Golub & Co. and Los Angeles-based CIM Group in November made a second public presentation for what would become the city's second-tallest building, behind Mag Mile landmark Tribune Tower.

The revised plan is a key step toward gaining zoning approval to build the 1,422-foot-tall residential and hotel skyscraper, which would be just 29 feet shorter than Willis Tower.

Tweaks to the 96-story plan have addressed issues such as traffic flow, loading and public space, but the design by Chicago-based supertall architects Adrian Smith and Gordon Gill does not appear to face strong opposition to its height.

Just east of there, Related Midwest seeks the alderman's backing for a bold plan of its own.

The firm early next year is expected to unveil its revisions to a two-tower plan for the Chicago Spire

site, where a previous developer — Ireland's Garrett Kelleher — once envisioned a 2,000-foot-tall, Santiago Calatrava-designed condo building that would have been the tallest in the Western Hemisphere.

Related in May 2018 unveiled plans for a two-tower residential and hotel development on the 2.2-acre site at 400 N. Lake Shore Drive, atop a shared podium, designed by One World Trade Center architect David Childs of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

A few months later, citing concerns from neighbors about issues such as traffic, the height of the podium on which the towers would be built and security along the river, Reilly sent Related back to the drawing board.

The city last year granted Related another year to begin construction on the project, preventing the planned development from expiring. Related could make its next public presentation as soon as the first quarter of the New Year.

Another potential skyscraper site downtown is Thompson Center, which the state is in the process of trying to sell.

Preservationists want to see Helmut Jahn's glassy, futuristic design repurposed. But the opportunity to demolish and replace the inefficient structure, or perhaps even connect a new high-rise onto one side of it, could generate a larger sale price for the cash-strapped state.

Either way, a Thompson Center redevelopment is an opportunity to launch a broader revitalization of the city center on and around the LaSalle Street canyon, which once was the go-to address for big business.

The Central Loop faces a wave of large office vacancies, though, as older buildings struggle to keep pace with new towers along the river and in the Fulton Market district.

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Auction

Continued from Page 1

selling its magazines for an undisclosed price in 2016 to Clear View Group, an Austin, Texas-based private equity firm.

The magazines have been on print hiatus since the spring of 2019.

Johnson Publishing, which retained its Fashion Fair Cosmetics business and its historic Ebony photo archives, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in April, citing failure of the media purchaser to make required payments, increasing cosmetics competition and unsuccessful attempts to restructure or sell the company.

In a July bankruptcy auction, Johnson Publishing sold its Ebony photo archives to a consortium of foundations for \$30 million. The proceeds were used, in large part, to pay back \$13.6 million owed to secured creditors George Lucas and Melody Hobson, whose company, Capital V Holdings, issued a \$12 million loan to a struggling Johnson Publishing in 2015.

Linda Johnson Rice, daughter of company founder John Johnson, filed a secured claim for more than \$5 million, mostly for loans made to Johnson Publishing beginning in 2013. She has agreed to let Rogers take priority for the art auction proceeds, but is in line to receive a portion of the \$1.85 million sale of Fashion Fair in December, as well as other liquidated assets.

Rogers, the former social secretary for President Barack Obama who was CEO of Johnson Publishing from 2010 to 2017, is part of an investment group that bought Fashion Fair.

Mark Fisher, a Chicago attorney representing Rice in the Johnson Publishing bankruptcy case, declined to comment, while an attorney for Rogers did not respond to a request for comment Thursday.

The artwork in the collection was displayed in offices, hallways and other areas of the Johnson Publishing building, which served as the

media company's headquarters for nearly 40 years. Johnson Publishing sold the building in 2010 amid financial difficulties, and relocated to rental offices up the street at 200 South Michigan Avenue.

The Johnson building, which was designed by African American architect John Moutoussamy, has recently been converted to rental apartments.

Freeman is confident the artwork will find new homes, drawing interest from both private collectors and museums.

The fact that the artwork was once featured in a photo spread in Ebony won't hurt either, Freeman said.

The collection features contemporary art from the 1970s, but also includes older pieces assembled by Johnson to represent the best of African American culture, Freeman said.

Works of note include a piece valued at up to \$250,000 from early in the career of Henry Ossawa Tanner, who's viewed as the "grandfather of modern African American art," Freeman said.

Among the Chicago artists in the collection is William Edouard Scott, who rose to prominence in the 1920s and 1930s. A bronze bust by Chicago artist Richmond Barthé, "The Negro Looks Ahead," which was on loan to the Art Institute of Chicago in 2013, is valued at up to \$75,000.

A seven-piece photo panel by Carrie Mae Weems is among the more well-known works up for auction, with an estimated value of up to \$150,000. Commissioned by the City of Chicago, it is one of three editions in circulation, with one displayed in the Bee Branch of the Chicago Public Library. Another one was bought by a foundation that donated it to a school in New York.

"The whole theme of her work is about the Northern Migration and the history of African Americans moving from the South to the North, to Chicago," Freeman said. "That's an exciting piece and very much about Chicago."

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Turkish officials question seven in Ghosn's escape

By ELIAN PELTIER
The New York Times

Authorities in Turkey on Thursday were questioning seven people, including four pilots, about the role they may have played helping Carlos Ghosn make his escape from Tokyo to Beirut, offering new clues to his mysterious flight.

Elsewhere, prosecutors raided Ghosn's home in Tokyo, a Lebanese government minister said the public prosecutor had received a "red notice" from Interpol, and a French official said authorities there wouldn't extradite Ghosn if he were to travel to the country.

Four days after Ghosn triumphantly announced his arrival in Beirut, law enforcement officials and authorities were left grappling with the legal implications of the former automotive executive's stunning escape, whose details remain shrouded in mystery.

Ghosn, the former chief executive of Nissan and Renault, left Japan on Sunday to avoid trial on financial misconduct charges there, though his movements were supposed to be strictly limited while he

was free on bail. He turned up in Lebanon, saying he had escaped the "rigged Japanese justice system."

The Lebanese justice minister, Albert Serhan, said Thursday that the public prosecutor had received a "red notice" from Interpol related to Ghosn's case, according to the state-run National News Agency. The red notice akin to a "wanted" poster, and not an arrest warrant, is issued for individuals wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence. It is up to each individual country to decide how to respond.

Ghosn, who has not appeared in public since he announced he was in Lebanon, issued a statement Thursday that seemed aimed to protect his family from any legal jeopardy.

"There has been speculation in the media that my wife Carole, and other members of my family played a role in my departure from Japan," the statement said. "All such speculation is inaccurate and false. I alone arranged for my departure. My family had no role whatsoever."

Hours earlier, a French government minister said authorities there would not

extradite Ghosn if he arrived there, "because France never extradites its nationals."

"That's a rule of the game," junior economy minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher told the news channel BFM.

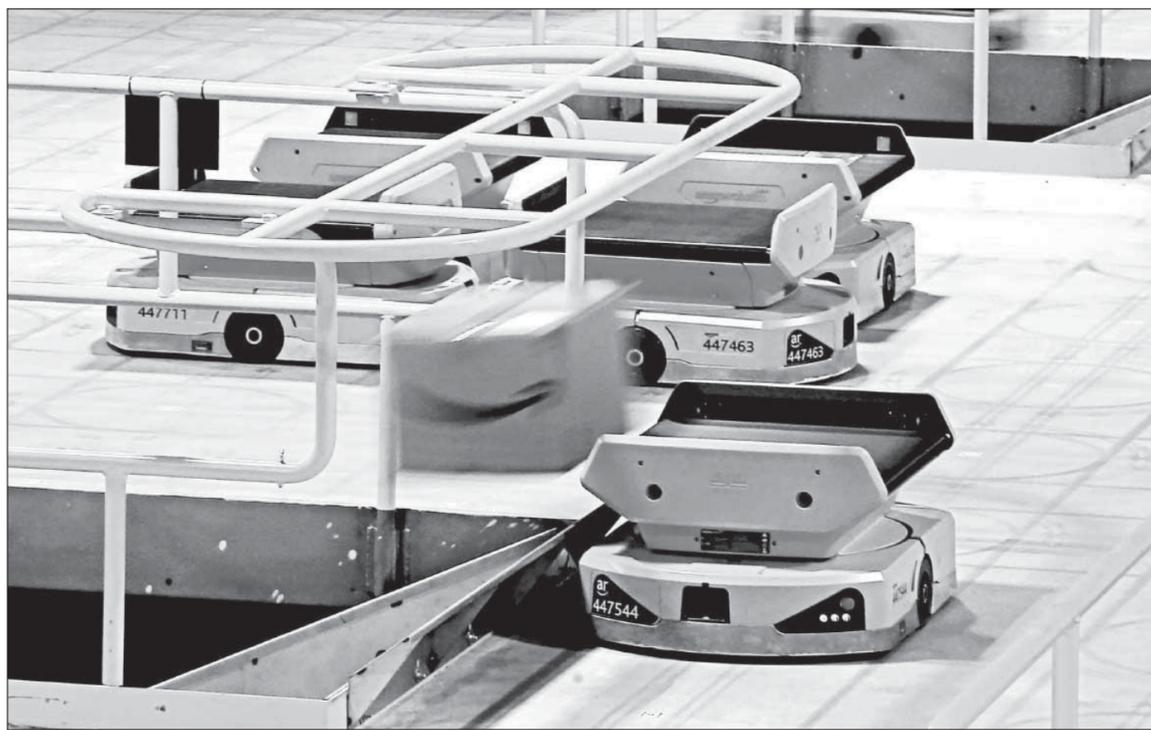
In Turkey, authorities detained seven people suspected of helping Ghosn escape, according to news outlets there. He reportedly left Japan late Sunday aboard a business jet from Osaka to Istanbul Ataturk Airport, where he quickly switched to another plane and flew to Beirut.

Much about his cinematic flight remains unknown, including how he was able to escape surveillance in Japan, how he arranged his flights to Lebanon and whether he was helped by any other countries. The French foreign ministry declined to comment on allegations that Ghosn had used a French passport to leave Japan.

Ghosn, who has been charged in Japan with an array of financial crimes, was born in Brazil to a Lebanese family, grew up mostly in Lebanon and has lived most of his adult life in France. He has passports from all three countries, though his lawyers in Japan have said that they held the documents.



Ghosn



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

An Amazon robot sends a package down a chute, transporting packages from workers to chutes organized by zip code.

Workers learn, adapt to robots

Warehouse workers find adjusting to half-ton cohorts 'nerve-racking'

By MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

NORTH HAVEN, Conn. — Robots haven't replaced warehouse workers yet, but they're here — and they need some human supervision.

Doing your job side-by-side with robots isn't easy. According to their makers, the machines should take on the most mundane and physically strenuous tasks. In reality, they're also creating new forms of stress and strain in the form of injuries and the unease of working in close quarters with mobile half-ton devices that direct themselves.

"They weigh a lot," Amazon worker Amanda Taillon said during the pre-Christmas rush at a company warehouse in Connecticut. Nearby, a fleet of 6-foot-tall roving robot shelves zipped around behind a chain-link fence.

Taillon's job is to enter a cage and tame Amazon's wheeled warehouse robots for long enough to pick up a fallen toy or relieve a traffic jam. She straps on a light-up utility belt that works like a

superhero's force field, commanding the nearest robots to abruptly halt and the others to slow down or adjust their routes.

"When you're out there, and you can hear them moving around, but you can't see them, it's like, 'Where are they going to come from?'" she said. "It's a little nerve-racking at first."

Taillon says she's gotten used to working with robots — something Amazon and its rivals are increasingly requiring warehouse employees to do. Amazon now has more than 200,000 robotic vehicles it calls "drives" that are moving goods through its delivery-fulfillment centers around the U.S. That's double the number it had last year and up from 15,000 units in 2014.

Its rivals have taken notice. Many are adding their own robots in a race to speed up productivity and bring down costs.

Without these fast-moving pods, robotic arms and other forms of warehouse automation, retailers say they wouldn't be able to fulfill consumer demand for packages that can land on doorsteps the day after you order them online.

But while fears of fully automated warehouses haven't come to fruition, there are growing concerns that keeping up with the pace of the latest technology is taking a toll on human workers' health, safety and morale.

Warehouses powered by robotics and

artificial intelligence software are leading to human burnout by adding more work and upping the pressure on workers to speed up their performance, said Beth Gutelius, who studies urban economic development at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has interviewed warehouse operators around the U.S.

A rush of venture capital and private sector investment in warehouse robotics spiked to \$1.5 billion a year in 2015 and has remained high ever since, said Rian Whitton, a robotics analyst at ABI Research.

"The efficiencies we gain from our associates and robotics working together harmoniously — what I like to call a symphony of humans and machines working together — allows us to pass along a lower cost to our customer," said Tye Brady, Amazon Robotics' chief technologist.

Brady said worker safety remains the top priority and ergonomic design is engineered into the systems at the beginning of the design stage. Gutelius, the University of Illinois researcher, said that the aspiration for symphonic human-machine operations is not always working out in practice.

"It sounds quite lovely, but I rarely hear from a worker's perspective that that's what it feels like," she said.

Amazon's letter makes a job threat, workers say

By JOSEPH PISANI
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon employees say the company is threatening to fire workers for publicly pushing the company to do more to combat climate change.

Amazon Employees For Climate Justice, a climate change advocacy group founded by Amazon workers, said Thursday that the company sent letters to members telling them that they could be fired if they continued to speak to the media.

"This is not the time to shoot the messengers," Amazon employee Maren Costa said in a statement. "This is not the time to silence those who are speaking out."

Amazon, which relies on fossil fuels to power the planes, trucks and vans that ship packages all over the world, has an enormous carbon footprint. And Amazon workers have been vocal in criticizing some of the company's practices.

Last year, more than 8,000 staffers signed an open letter to CEO and founder Jeff Bezos, demanding that Amazon cut its carbon emissions, end its use of fossil fuels and to stop its work with oil companies that use Amazon's technology to locate fossil fuel deposits.

The online shopping giant said Thursday that employees can suggest improvements to how it operates within the company.

"Our policy regarding external communications is not new and we believe is similar to other large companies," Amazon said.

The company in September released details on its carbon footprint for the first time after a campaign by employees. It rivals the emissions of a small country.

Major tech companies have been grappling with how to deal with employees who increasingly are speaking publicly about corporate policies and practices.

Amazon has pushed recently to reduce its carbon footprint.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

French rail strikes reach a milestone

PARIS — With 29 straight days of walkouts, French rail strikes against government plans to revise France's retirement system marked a new milestone Thursday, surpassing even the lengths of strikes in the 1980s.

The nationwide walkouts against the government's pension plans started Dec. 5. On Thursday, they surpassed a 1986-1987 rail strike in longevity, a walkout that lasted 28 days at the SNCF national rail company.

The current strikes have crippled train and metro services in Paris and across the country over the Christmas holidays.

Unions are gearing up for further walkouts next week, when French schools reopen and negotiations are set to resume with the government.

VW in talks over emissions scandal

BERLIN — Volkswagen and a German consumer group said Thursday they will conduct talks on a possible settlement in a landmark case in which hundreds of thousands of people aim to establish a right of compensation for cars affected by the automaker's diesel emissions scandal.

A court in Braunschweig, Germany, opened proceedings in September in the case. At the time, the presiding judge suggested that the two sides could consider a settlement, which he said would be possible though very difficult.

The case was brought by the Federation of German Consumer Organizations on behalf of more than 400,000 diesel owners. It uses rules enacted in Germany in 2018 that allow a form of class action suit.

Monopoly over for overdose antidote spray

Associated Press

NEW YORK — More companies could begin making an easy-to-use version of an opioid overdose antidote under a deal announced Thursday by New York's attorney general.

Under the agreement, Emergent Bio-Solutions will no longer enforce a contract that had allowed it to be the only company to sell naloxone in a spray called Narcan, a popular form for police, firefighters and others to use to try to revive people who are overdosing.

The attorney general's office said the new agreement came after it found that Adapt Pharma, which has since been bought by Rockville, Maryland-based Emergent, had the exclusive rights to sell

naloxone using Apta Pharma's nasal spray technology.

"Given the tragic, devastating effects of the opioid crisis, and the urgent need for additional drugs for the emergency treatment of opioid overdoses, my office will do whatever possible to ensure that there are no unnecessary impediments to the development of additional lifesaving opioid overdose reversal drugs," Attorney General Letitia James said in a written statement.

New York and most other states allow naloxone to be sold without prescriptions. But the price of Narcan — currently averaging about \$140 for two doses — has been a drain on governments' budgets and a barrier to saving some people from overdoses.

Naloxone costs about \$20 to \$40 a dose in the U.S. in syringes.

More than 400,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000 have been linked to opioids, a class of drugs that includes heroin, fentanyl, and prescription painkillers such as Vicodin and OxyContin.

It's not clear how quickly — or whether — opening the market could lower the price of naloxone for individuals, insurers or governments.

Companies would still need Food and Drug Administration approval before their products could be on the market.

There is at least one effort to introduce a generic version of a naloxone nasal spray. Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, announced a grant in 2018 for a nonprofit drug company to develop one.

Jobless claims

Initial unemployment claims, in thousands per week



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

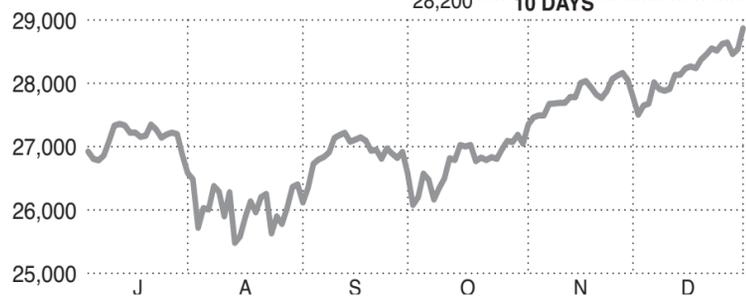
TNS

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow High: 28,872.80 Low: 28,627.77 Previous: 28,538.44

Dow Jones industrials

Close: 28,868.80
Change: 330.36 (1.2%)



Nasdaq
+119.58 (+1.33%)

Close 9,092.19
High 9,093.43
Low 9,010.89
Previous 8,972.61

S&P 500
+27.07 (+.84%)

Close 3,257.85
High 3,258.14
Low 3,212.03
Previous 3,230.78

Russell 2000
-1.70 (-.10%)

Close 1,666.77
High 1,678.14
Low 1,653.52
Previous 1,668.47

10-yr T-note
-0.03 to 1.88%

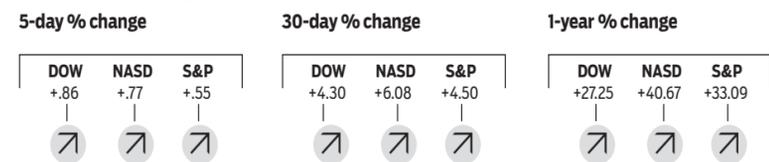
Gold futures
+5.00 to \$1,524.50

Yen
-0.17 to 108.55/\$1

Euro
+0.0076 to 89.56/\$1

Crude Oil
+1.12 to \$61.18

Major market growth and decline



FUTURES	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 20	559.50	567.50	558.25	560.25	+1.50
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 20	387.75	392	387.25	391.50	+3.75
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Jan 20	943.25	949	941.75	944.25	+1.25
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	Jan 20	34.90	35.36	34.88	34.97	+4.8
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	Jan 20	299.20	302.40	298.10	300.60	+7.0
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Feb 20	61.60	61.60	60.64	61.18	+1.2
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Feb 20	2.184	2.188	2.116	2.122	-0.067
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Feb 20	1.6960	1.7159	1.6940	1.7042	+0.137

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization. Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	86.95	+0.9	Envestnet Inc	N	70.91	+1.28	McDonalds Corp	N	200.79	+3.18
AbbVie Inc	N	89.55	+1.01	Equity Commonwlt	N	32.15	-.68	Middleby Corp	O	108.98	-.54
Allstate Corp	N	112.82	+0.37	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	69.09	-1.30	Mondelez Intl	O	54.33	-.75
Aptargroup Inc	N	113.68	-1.94	Equity Residential	N	79.77	-1.15	Morningstar Inc	O	151.30	+2.9
Arch Dan Mid	N	46.11	-.24	Exelon Corp	O	45.43	-.16	Motorola Solutions	N	161.63	+4.9
Baxter Intl	N	85.87	+2.25	First Indl RT	N	41.23	-.28	NiSource Inc	N	27.18	-.66
Boeing Co	N	333.32	+7.56	Fortune Brds Hm&SecN	N	65.81	+4.7	Nthn Trust Cp	O	107.58	+1.34
Brunswick Corp	N	60.00	+0.2	Gallagher AJ	N	95.51	+2.8	Old Republic	N	22.33	-.04
CBOE Global Markets	N	119.52	-.48	Grainger WW	N	344.71	+6.19	Packaging Corp Am	N	110.72	-1.27
CDK Global Inc	O	55.41	+7.3	GrubHub Inc	N	47.24	-1.40	Paylocity Hldg	O	126.78	+5.96
CDW Corp	O	143.88	+1.04	Hill-Rom Hldgs	N	113.74	+2.1	RLI Corp	N	90.11	+0.9
CF Industries	N	46.40	-1.34	IAA Inc	N	48.10	+1.04	Stericycle Inc	O	62.66	-1.15
CME Group	O	201.85	+1.13	IDEX Corp	N	173.30	+1.30	TransUnion	N	87.81	+2.20
CNA Financial	N	44.95	+1.14	ITW	N	181.68	+2.05	US Foods Holding	N	40.98	-.91
Cabot Microelect	O	146.86	+2.54	Ingredion Inc	N	92.95	...	Ulta Salon Cosmetics	O	254.55	+1.41
Caterpillar Inc	N	150.53	+2.85	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	175.32	+1.23	United Airlines Hldg	O	89.74	+1.65
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	33.63	-.61	Kemper Corp	N	77.69	+1.9	Ventas Inc	N	56.39	-1.35
Deere Co	N	176.86	+3.60	Kraft Heinz Co	O	31.61	-.52	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	59.08	+1.2
Discover Fin Svcs	N	85.30	+4.8	LKQ Corporation	O	35.80	+1.0	Wintrust Financial	O	71.07	+1.7
Dover Corp	N	116.87	+1.61	Littelfuse Inc	O	193.48	+2.18	Zebra Tech	O	259.14	+3.70

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Gen Electric	119.3	+7.7
Chesapck Engy	.86	+0.3
Ford Motor	9.42	+1.2
Bank of America	35.64	+4.2
Nokia Corp	3.87	+1.6
Aurora Cannabis Inc	2.02	-.14
AT&T Inc	38.86	-.22
Macy's Inc	16.52	-.48
Snap Inc A	16.78	+4.5
Sthwstn Energy	2.31	-.11
Freeport McMoran	13.20	+0.8
Rite Aid Corp	14.52	-.95
Uber Technologies	30.99	+1.25
Avon Products	5.65	+0.1
Vale SA	13.45	+2.5
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc	7.84	-.50
US Steel Corp	10.82	-.59
Teva Pharm	9.56	-.24
McDermott Intl	.67	-.01
Tallgrass Engy LP	22.10	-.02
Energy Transfer L.P.	13.34	+5.1
EnCana Corp	4.74	+0.5
Wells Fargo & Co	53.75	-.05
Yamana Gold Inc	3.91	-.04

LARGEST COMPANIES

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
AT&T Inc	38.86	-.22
Alibaba Group Hldg	219.77	+7.67
Alphabet Inc C	1367.37	+30.35
Alphabet Inc A	1368.68	+29.29
Amazon.com Inc	1898.01	+50.17
Apple Inc	300.35	+6.70
Bank of America	35.64	+4.2
Berkshire Hath B	228.39	+1.89
Exxon Mobil Corp	70.90	+1.12
Facebook Inc	209.78	+4.53
HSBC Holdings prA	26.87	-.01
JPMorgan Chase	141.09	+1.69
Johnson & Johnson	145.97	+1.0
MasterCard Inc	303.39	+4.80
Microsoft Corp	160.62	+2.92
Procter & Gamble	123.41	-1.49
Taiwan Semicon	60.04	+1.94
Visa Inc	191.12	+3.22
WalMart Strs	118.94	+1.0

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

FUND	NAV	CHG	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AMCPA m	33.81	+2.4	+27.5
American Funds AmrcnBala m	28.67	+1.7	+19.8
American Funds CptWldGrncA m	52.70	+4.2	+26.9
American Funds CptlncBldrA m	63.52	+2.0	+18.1
American Funds FdmTlnvsA m	62.61	+5.9	+28.5
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	51.67	+5.4	+29.3
American Funds IncAmrcA m	23.32	+0.8	+19.0
American Funds InvAmrcA m	39.83	+2.6	+24.9
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	47.78	+5.2	+31.8
American Funds WAMTlnvsA m	48.51	+3.6	+26.5
Dodge & Cox Inc	14.05	+0.2	+9.8
Dodge & Cox IntlStk	44.11	+5.1	+24.0
Dodge & Cox Stk	195.60	+1.84	+25.3
DoubleLine TtlRetBdl	10.66	+0.3	+6.0
Fidelity 500IdxInPrm	112.98	+9.6	+32.4
Fidelity Contrafund	13.90	+1.9	+31.5
Fidelity InvMktGrdBd	11.60	+0.3	+9.9
Fidelity TtlMktIdxInPrm	91.27	+6.8	+31.8
Fidelity USBDIdxInPrm	11.95	+0.4	+8.7
Franklin Templeton IncA1 m	2.36	+0.1	+16.2
Metropolitan West TtlRetBdl	10.95	+0.2	+10.1
PIMCO Incl2	12.06	+0.2	+7.9
PIMCO Inclnstl	12.06	+0.2	+8.1
PIMCO TtlRetIn	10.37	+0.3	+8.5
Schwab SP500Idx	49.81	+4.2	+32.4
T. Rowe Price BCGr	126.49	+2.14	+32.3
T. Rowe Price GrStk	74.62	+1.27	+33.0
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	300.68	+2.54	+32.4
Vanguard BallIdxAdmrl	39.46	+2.3	+22.4
Vanguard DivGrIn	30.74	+1.8	+32.5
Vanguard EqInAdmrl	79.89	+3.3	+25.8
Vanguard GrIdxAdmrl	95.08	+1.24	+38.9
Vanguard HCAAdmrl	87.85	+0.5	+23.9
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	14.48	+0.1	+6.9
Vanguard InslIdxIn	292.70	+2.47	+32.4
Vanguard InslIdxInPlus	292.72	+2.47	+32.4
Vanguard InslTSMInPls	69.18	+5.2	+31.7
Vanguard IntlGrAdmrl	104.66	+1.87	+34.8
Vanguard MdcpldxAdmrl	221.43	+7.7	+31.8
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	145.80	+1.63	+29.1
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	10.73	...	+5.7
Vanguard SmCpldxAdmrl	79.47	+1.0	+27.6
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Inv	32.70	+1.7	+18.2
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Inv	19.97	+1.3	+20.4
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Inv	36.69	+2.4	+21.9
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Inv	22.68	+1.6	+23.4
Vanguard TlBIdxAdmrl	11.08	+0.3	+8.9
Vanguard TlBIdxIn	11.08	+0.3	+8.9
Vanguard TlBIdxAdmrl	22.66	+0.4	+7.7
Vanguard TlInBIdxIn	34.00	+0.6	+7.8
Vanguard TlInSidxAdmrl	30.16	+2.9	+23.1
Vanguard TlInSidxIn	120.60	+1.13	+23.1
Vanguard TlInSidxInPlus	120.62	+1.13	+23.1
Vanguard TlSMIdxAdmrl	18.03	+1.7	+23.0
Vanguard TlSMIdxIn	80.29	+6.0	+31.7
Vanguard TlSMIdxIn	80.31	+6.1	+31.7
Vanguard TlSMIdxIn	80.27	+6.1	+31.5
Vanguard WtngAdmrl	75.35	+4.4	+23.3
Vanguard WlslInAdmrl	66.43	+2.5	+16.8
Vanguard WndsrllAdmrl	65.19	+5.9	+29.7

d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee.
m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee.
Source: Morningstar and The Associated Press.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON JANUARY 3 ...

In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, N.J.

In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as "shoguns."

In 1938, the "March of Dimes" campaign to fight polio was organized.

In 1947, congressional proceedings were televised for the first time as viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York got to see some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress.

In 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union as the 49th state.

In 1961, the United States severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.

In 1980, conservationist Joy Adamson, author of "Born Free," was killed in northern Kenya by a servant; she was 69.

In 1984, Navy Lt. Robert O. Goodman Jr., who was shot down during a U.S. raid against Syrian positions in Lebanon, was freed after a month's captivity in Syria following an appeal by Jesse Jackson.

In 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

In 1993, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a historic

nuclear missile-reduction treaty in Moscow.

In 1995, the Postal Service raised the price of a first-class stamp to 32 cents.

In 2000, the last new daily "Peanuts" strip by Charles Schulz ran in 2,600 newspapers.

In 2001, Oklahoma defeated Florida State, 13-2, to win the Orange Bowl and capture college football's Bowl Championship Series title game.

In 2002, a three-year federal investigation into the political and personal finances of Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., ended with no criminal charges.

In 2003, Hall of Fame pro football coach Sid Gillman, who is credited with creating the foundation for the "West Coast offense" while coaching in Los Angeles and San Diego, died in Century City, Calif.; he was 91.

In 2004, a Boeing 737 owned by Egyptian charter tour operator Flash Airlines crashed into the Red Sea, killing all 148 people aboard, most of them French tourists. **Also in 2004** NASA's Mars rover Spirit touched down on the Red Planet.

In 2005, President George W. Bush tapped his father, former President George

H.W. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton to help raise tsunami relief funds.

In 2006, lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty to providing gifts to officials in exchange for their help; he agreed to cooperate in investigations of corruption in Congress.

In 2012, Chicago Bears President Ted Phillips fired general manager Jerry Angelo, and offensive coordinator Mike Martz parted ways with the team, two days after the 2011 season ended.

In 2013, GOP Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois returned on the first day of the 113th Congress in Washington after suffering a stroke nearly a year earlier. (There also were 20 female senators, a record.) **Also in 2013** Transocean, the offshore oil and gas drilling company, agreed to a \$1.4 billion settlement with the Justice Department to resolve claims against the company for its role in the April 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

In 2016, Saudi Arabia announced it was severing diplomatic relations with regional Shiite power Iran amid escalating tensions over the Sunni kingdom's execution of prominent Shiite cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS	INDIANA
Jan. 2	Jan. 2
Lotto 17 21 23 33 36 50 / 13	Daily 3 midday 849 / 8
Lotto jackpot: \$2M	Daily 4 midday 7417 / 8
Pick 3 midday 328 / 8	Daily 3 evening 638 / 8
Pick 4 midday 9607 / 1	Daily 4 evening 7282 / 9
Lucky Day Lotto midday 14 15 32 39 42	Cash 5 07 12 16 21 27
Pick 3 evening 308 / 0	MICHIGAN
Pick 4 evening 3556 / 9	Jan. 2
Lucky Day Lotto evening 05 11 28 40 43	Daily 3 midday 385
Jan. 3 Mega Millions: \$60M	Daily 4 midday 5926
Jan. 4 Powerball: \$237M	Daily 3 evening 051
WISCONSIN	Daily 4

OBITUARIES

LEE MENDELSON 1933-2019

Producer brought 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' to television

BY ANDREW DALTON
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Lee Mendelson, the producer who changed the face of the holidays when he brought "A Charlie Brown Christmas" to television in 1965 and wrote the lyrics to its signature song, "Christmas Time Is Here," died on Christmas day, his son said.

Mendelson, who won a dozen Emmys in his long career, died at his home in Hillsborough, California, of congestive heart failure at age 86 after a long struggle with lung cancer, son Jason Mendelson told The Associated Press.

Lee Mendelson headed a team that included "Peanuts" author Charles Schulz, director Bill Melendez, and pianist and composer Vince Guaraldi, whose music for the show, including the opening "Christmas Time Is Here," has become as much a Christmas staple as the show itself.

Mendelson told The Cincinnati Enquirer in 2000 that he was short on time in finding a lyricist for the song, so he sketched out the six verses himself in "about 15 minutes on the backside of an envelope."

He found a choir from a church in his native Northern California to sing the song that sets the show's unforgettable tone, beginning with Mendelson's words:

"Christmas time is here, happiness and cheer, fun for all that children call, their favorite time of year."

The show won an Emmy and a Peabody Award and has aired on TV annually ever since. The team that made it would go on to create more than 50 network specials, four feature films and many other "Peanuts" projects.



JASON MENDELSON/AP

Lee Mendelson, the producer who changed the face of the holidays when he brought "A Charlie Brown Christmas" to television in 1965.

Mendelson also took other comic strips from newspapers to animated TV, including "Garfield," for which he produced a dozen television specials.

His death was first reported by The Daily Post of Palo Alto.

Born in San Francisco in 1933, Mendelson's family moved to nearby San Mateo when he was a boy, and later to nearby Hillsborough, where he went to high school.

He graduated from Stanford in 1954, served in the Air Force and worked for his father's fruit-and-vegetable company before going into TV for the Bay Area's KPIX-TV.

In 1963 he started his own production company and made a documentary on San Francisco Giants legend Willie Mays, "A Man Named Mays," that became a hit television special on NBC.

Mendelson liked to say that he decided to turn from the world's greatest baseball player to the world's worst: Charlie Brown.

He and Schulz originally

worked on a "Peanuts" documentary that proved a hard sell for TV, but midway through 1965 a sponsor asked them if they could create the first comic strip's first animated special in time for Christmas.

Schulz wrote the now-familiar story of a depressed Charlie Brown seeking the meaning of Christmas, a school Christmas play with intractable actors including his dog Snoopy, a limp and unappreciated Christmas tree, and a recitation of the nativity story from his best friend Linus.

Mendelson hired Guaraldi to provide the music after hearing the jazz artist's song "Cast Your Fate to the Wind" while driving across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Mendelson said the team showed the special to executives at CBS a week before it was slated to air, and they hated it, with its hyper-simplicity, dour tone, biblical themes, lack of laugh track and actual children's voices instead of adults mimicking them, as was common.

"I really believed, if it hadn't been scheduled for the following week, there's no way they were gonna broadcast that show," Mendelson said on a 2004 documentary for the DVD of the special.

Instead, it went on to become perhaps the biggest holiday classic in television.

"It became part of everybody's Christmas holidays," Mendelson told The Los Angeles Times in 2015. "It was just passed on from generation to generation. We got this huge initial audience and never lost them."

Mendelson is survived by his wife, Ploenta, his children Lynda, Glenn, Jason and Sean, his stepson Ken and eight grandchildren.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

DeRoo, Frank

Frank DeRoo, 88, of Bartlett for 60 years, passed away Tuesday, December 31. An avid Cubs fan, Frank was an Army Veteran of the Korean war, a 50 year usher at St. Peter Damian Church in Bartlett where he was a member of the Men's Club, and former President of the Bartlett Lions Club. Beloved husband of Dorothy (nee Wolf) for 65 years; loving father of Susan (Joseph) Baker, Debra DeRoo, Michael (Susan) Williams, David DeRoo, Kathleen (Randy Rasner) DeRoo, Kevin (Cheryl Lamont), Timothy (Patricia Coughlin), Mary (Cameron) Lowdon, and Mark (Michelle Anderson); dear grandfather of Christopher (Megan) DeRoo, Kayce (Jeremy) Piepenbrink, Kyle (Lisa) DeRoo, Samantha (Seth) Engdahl, Alexa DeRoo, Brittney DeRoo, Jacob DeRoo, William DeRoo, and George Lowdon; proud great grandfather of Colin, Henry, Jack, Nora-Ellen, and Amelia; fond brother of Jeanette DeRoo. Visitation Friday, January 3 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at **Countryside Funeral Home and Crematory** 950 South Bartlett Rd. (at Stearns Rd.), Bartlett. Funeral Saturday 10:45am at **Countryside Funeral Home and Crematory** to St. Peter Damian Church. Mass 11:30am. Interment Bartlett Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial to St. Jude at www.stjude.org, appreciated. Info (630)289-7575 or www.countrysidefuneralhomes.com



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Doyle, William T.

William T. Doyle, 82, United States Marine Corps veteran and Retired Chicago Police Department Sergeant, of Norwood Park and formerly of the Grand Crossing neighborhood on Chicago's South Side at rest January 1, 2020. Longtime companion of Mary Curley and family. Loving father of Patrick (Kimberly O'Connell), Brian (Katherine), and Michael (Denise). Cherished grandpa of Jack W., Keara V. (Andrew) Champigny, Connor P., and Finn M. Dear brother of Mary Jane (the late Edward) Kyle, the late Richard (Jeanne) and Shirley (the late Herb) Albion. Fond uncle, cousin, and friend to many. Founding member of Chicago Police Marines. Visitation on Saturday, January 4, 2020 from 10:30am to 3:30pm at Cooney Funeral Home, 625 Busse Hwy, Park Ridge, IL 60068. (847-685-1002)

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Dressler, Wayne L.

Wayne L. Dressler, age 80, of Skokie. Beloved husband of Betty A., nee Johnson; loving father of Linda (Steven) Greenspan, Wayne A. (Linda) and Bill (Joy) Dressler, and Pamela (Frank) Rolla; dear grandfather of Rachel, David, Kyle, Connor, Jeffrey, Joshua, Zachary, Andrew, Aaron, Nicole, Kenneth, and Nathan; cherished great-grandfather of Evangeline. Visitation, Sunday, January 5, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with Memory Sharing at 1:30 p.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK, 73123. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com to sign guestbook.



Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Dust, Kenneth William

Kenneth William Dust, age 92, of the East Side of Chicago. Beloved son of the late Richard Sr. and late Rose (nee Zweig) Dust; loving brother to the late Dorothy Dust, late Richard (late Bernice) Dust, late Eugene Dust; loving friend of George E. Manning II, help-mate Maria Fonseca and many others; dear uncle to Jonathan Dust, Susan Dust Tower, Patrick Tower, Mary Martha Dust, Kathleen (Allen) Dust Unruh, Timothy Dust; other relatives also include, Max Dust, Nancy (Leon) Bland and family, Darlene McDonald, Carol Conway, the Kerber family, and the Dietrich family. Also survived by many great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces, great-great nephews, cousins, and relatives.

He was a former member of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church and current member of First Immanuel Lutheran Church of Chicago. Kenneth was a tobacco sales representative for General Cigar for over 25 years. He will always be remembered for his smile, his love for his sister, Dorothy, and his generous acts of kindness. His pet dogs brought him pure joy; he enjoyed making friends, and was a friend to many. Kenneth was an avid collector of fine antiques. He could find any diamond in the rough at any estate sale or flea market sale. His license on the red truck said "Junkin."

He will lie in state on Saturday, January 4, 2020 from 10:00-11:00 until time of his funeral services at 11:00 a.m. at First Immanuel Lutheran Church (1124 S. Ashland Ave. Chicago, IL 60607). He will be laid to rest in Wunder's Cemetery of Chicago along with his sister, Dorothy Rose Dust.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Ellicson, Mary C.

Mary C. Ellicson (nee Anderson), age 60, of Hainesville, passed away suddenly on January 1, 2020 and grew up in Des Plaines. Mary is survived by her loving husband Roger Ellicson and married for 36 years.

Mary is preceded death by the late Elmer and Kathleen (Brennan) Anderson and four siblings the Therese (Terry), John, Bill and Mike Anderson. She is survived by two brothers: Joseph Anderson (Gavin Duffy), Martin Anderson (Tina), sister in laws Debbie Jurs, Sharon Ellicson, Mary Lou Anderson and Sandra Martins. She is also survived by 11 nieces and nephews and 7 great nieces and nephews.

Mary had a great love of family and friends. She cherished family get together and was often the glue that held the family together. Mary had a number of employments of the years, but the one she was most passionate about was CASA. She had a tremendous love for children and it was her desire that every child had a safe and loving family environment. Mary had a love for reading, politics, the Chicago White Sox and her Irish heritage. Visitation arrangements are on Sunday, January 5th from 2:00pm-8:00pm at **McMurrough Funeral Chapel**, 101 Park Pl (Rt 176, 1 Blk E of Rt 21) Libertyville. Mass of Resurrection will be held on Monday, January 6th at 10:30am St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, 121 E Maple Ave, Libertyville. Interment immediately following at Ascension Catholic Cemetery in Libertyville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: CASA Lake County, 700 Forest Edge Drive Vernon Hills, IL 60061. Funeral info (847) 362-2626. Guestbook at libertyvillefuneralhome.com

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Enerson, Herbert C

Herbert C. Enerson, of Bartlett, Beloved husband of Cathryn J. (nee:Miller); loving father of Kristi Enerson and Beth (Andrew) Thomson; dear brother of Wayne and brother in law of Cynthia (Scott) Palluth, Mary Ellen (Joseph) DiPadova; caring uncle of Jaime (Steven), Jackie (Jaymin), Cindy (John), Joey (Jamie), Rachel, Addison, Lincoln, Kennedy, Kellie and Matt.

Herb was an Army veteran. Visitation Saturday January 4, 2020 from 12 noon until time of service 3:00pm at The Countryside Funeral Homes and Crematory, 950 South Bartlett Rd., Bartlett. Following services, cremation will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Carol Stream Parks Foundation, c/o Veterans Memorial Plaza (www.csparks.org/foundation) appreciated. Info www.countrysidefuneralhomes.com or (630)289-7575

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Ferrecki, Evelyn Mary

Evelyn M. Ferrecki, age 96, passed away on January 2, 2020; preceded in death by her husband Frank; loving mother of Marilyn (Anthony) Uzemack and Frank J. (Joyce) Ferrecki; cherished grandma of Annika (Jon) Heriford, Alexandra (Chad) Meade, Anthony Jr. (Shannon) Uzemack, Aaron Ferrecki; great-grandmother of Reese,



Madelyn and Jack Heriford, Charlotte and Julian Meade, Anthony J. III and Lucille Uzemack.

Visitation Saturday, January 4, 2020 at COLONIAL-WOJCIECHOWSKI FUNERAL HOME, 6250 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, 9:00a.m. until time of prayers at 11:45 a.m., proceeding to St. Paul of the Cross Church for 12:30 p.m. Mass. Interment will follow at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles. Arrangements entrusted to Green Burials of Love, Ltd, Marion O'Connor Friel - Funeral Director. Info (773) 774-0366 or www.colonialfuneral.com



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Freund, Janet W.

Janet W. Freund, nee Wolf, beloved wife of the late Gustav, loving mother of James and the late Erwin and the late Arthur Freund, and devoted long time friend of Martha Jo Mathews (Kansas, Fry family) died December 8, 2019 at age 105 after suffering a debilitating stroke in March of 2006. She is survived by her son, James, and his wife Donna, her grandchildren Joshua (wife Rose, great grandchildren Penelope Peach and Memphis James), Jessica (of Green Bay), Jillian Freund (of Madison, WI), and Andrea Freund (Santa Cruz, CA) and great-grandson Forest Arthur James Boffemmyer and her late daughter-in-law Emily Freund. Contributions can be made to Makom Solel Lakeside or to the charity of your choice. Private interment at Rosehill Cemetery. Memorial service will be held Sunday, January 5 at 10:30AM at Makom Solel Lakeside, 1301 Clavey Road, Highland Park, IL 60035. Light refreshments will be provided. Info at **Mitzvah Memorial Funerals**, 630-MITZVAH/630-648-9824 or www.MitzvahFunerals.com.



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Gasner, Earl Leroy

Dr. Earl Gasner, 84, passed in his sleep on January 1, 2020. Born in 1935 in Chicago, he received his degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Chicago, and worked for a time at Argon National Labs. Earl was a long-time resident of Waukegan, IL. Loving husband to Barbara (nee Davis); loving father to David (Corinne); loving step-father to Drew L'Esperance (Marlene), Michelle Skrypek (Michael), and Paul L'Esperance (Kim); loving grandfather to Toni, Crystal, Paul, Michael Jr., Natasha, Alex, Connor, Christopher, and Amanda. Services will be private, but donations in memoriam to Arthritis National Research Foundation or Alzheimer's Foundation of America would be thoughtful and appreciated.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Heintz, Helen

Helen Francis Heintz, 90, died Monday, December 30, 2019 at the Spring City Care and Rehabilitation Center. Born in Hinsdale, Illinois, Helen was the daughter of the late Nicholas and Mary Konopka. She previously worked in building maintenance for Village of Downer Grove in Illinois. Helen moved



from Naperville, Illinois to the Spring City community in 2019. She was of the Catholic faith. Helen was preceded in death by her husband Lavern Heintz.

Survivors include her children Marion Heintz of Crossville, Tennessee, Lavern (Holly) Heintz of Geneva, Illinois, Joyce (Joseph) Steiner of Spring City and Jack Heintz of Elgin, Illinois and grandchildren Zachary Heintz, Scott Heintz Garrett Heintz and Trisha Johnson, great grandchildren Michael Neuberg, Kasandra Neuberg and Miranda Neuberg. There will be no visitation or services.

Vaughn Funeral Home, Spring City, Tennessee, is in charge of arrangements. Please share your condolences and memories of Helen Heintz on our website www.vaughn-funeral-home.com.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Heniff, John E. 'Jack'

Of Saxeville, WI, formerly of Chicago, age 86, passed away on Monday, December 30, 2019. The Funeral Service will be on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 12 p.m. at the **Maple Crest Funeral Home**, N2620 Hwy 22, Waupaca, WI 54981. The visitation will be on Friday at the funeral home from 11 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be in Crystal Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials are appreciated to Waupaca Humane Association.

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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Death Notices

Adamonis, Raymond A.

Raymond A. Adamonis, beloved husband, for 63 years, of Gloria Adamonis. Loving father of David and Lynn (Spindola) Adamonis, Diane Adamonis, Paul and Maria (Floramo) Adamonis, Steven Adamonis, and James and Laura (Miller) Adamonis. Proud grandfather of Erika and Jaclyn Adamonis, Tess (Tyler) McLean, Kathryn (Robert) Marach, Lauren Adamonis, Daniel (Nathalie) Adamonis, and Renee and Mark Adamonis. Great-grandfather of Matthew Jonathan Marach. He was a proud brother, uncle, and friend to many. Visitation will be held Saturday, January 4, 2020 at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church 10621 South Kedvale, Oak Lawn, from 9:00am until time of Mass 10:00am. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations to Little Company of Mary Hospice would be appreciated. Arrangements were entrusted to **The Original Lamb Family Funeral & Cremation Service**, Rose Lamb, Director. 708-710-9549

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Calvillo, Ruben

Ruben Calvillo, 92 of Villa Park IL, loving husband to the late Anne (Robles), passed away peacefully on December 30, 2019. Cherished father of Annette Weishman (late Michael) and the late Ruanne Vasquez (John). His strong spirit will be carried forever in the hearts of his grandchildren, Anthony Moreno and Alyssa Vasquez (Jason Nichols). Beloved great grandfather to Mikayla, Olivia, AJ, and Shelby Moreno.

Fond brother, godfather, uncle, and friend to many. Ruben (Papa) loved family, church, music and fostered a sense of pride in his heritage. Ruben spent his final days in the care of Clarendale of Addison and Heartland Hospice. The family wishes to thank both organizations for going above and beyond in their services. For donations please go to the American Heart Association website at www.heart.org

Visitation Friday Jan.3, 2020 at Steuerrle Funeral Home 350 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181 Funeral Saturday beginning at St. Alexander Church 300 S. Cornell Ave. Villa Park, IL. Friends and family may visit from 9:30 A.M. until time of Mass 10:15 A.M. Interment St. Mary Cemetery Evergreen Pk. IL (where family and friends will meet at 12:30 P.M. for further info. 1-630-832-4161

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Chaput, Mary T.

Mary T. Chaput, age 62, passed away on December 31, 2019, with family by her side. Mary was loving, patient, loyal, generous, joyful, one of a kind, and oh so cool. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ann and John McDonagh. Mary was the wife of Dennis Rybarczyk, mother of John (Maggie) Chaput, mamo of John Thomas and Joseph Patrick. Sister of Agnes (Frank) Ruscello, Ann Marie McDonagh, Nora McDonagh and Barbara (Tommy) O'Toole. Aunt of many. Sister in law of Bernice (Dale) Stein. Visitation Sunday, January 5th, from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. at **Cooney Funeral Home**, 625 Busse Hwy in Park Ridge. Funeral Monday, family and friends are asked to meet at St. Benedict Church, 2215 W Irving Park Rd. in Chicago, for Mass on Monday, January 6 at 11:00 a.m. Interment private. For information please call 847-685-1002 or visit www.cooneyfuneralhome.com

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Daeschler, Frederick James

Frederick James Daeschler, 75, of Barrington, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2019. He was born March 13, 1944 in Chicago, the son of the late Frederick and Florence (nee Lessick) Daeschler. Frederick is survived by his brother, John (Mary Ann) Daeschler and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy (Richard) Schweils and brother, George (Lenore) Desher. Visitation will be held Saturday, January 4, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Anne Catholic Church, 120 Ela St. Barrington, IL 60010. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery, Barrington. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Frederick's memory to the Foundation Fighting Blindness at <https://give.fightingblindness.org/fundraiser/2545266>. Arrangements were entrusted with **Davenport Family Funeral Home**, Barrington. For online condolences visit www.davenportfamily.com or call 847-381-3411 for information.



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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

Holzer, Edwin Howard

Edwin Howard Holzer of Barrington Hills, IL, long-time president of Grey-North Advertising, died on December 16 at age 86.

Holzer was born in New York City on June 22, 1933, to the late Leo D. Holzer, the artist who founded Holzer Displays, and the late Claire G. Holzer of Scarsdale, NY. A violin prodigy, he studied with Ivan Galamian in New York and at his Meadowmount School of Music, graduated from the High School of Music and Art, and earned a BA in Music (1954) and an MA in English Literature (1955) at Yale. He did postgraduate work and taught music at the University of Indiana at Bloomington.

He served in the Special Services branch of the US Army as concertmaster of the Seventh Army Symphony, touring Europe for three years. Back in New York, he began his advertising career at Benton & Bowles, William Esty, and Grey Advertising, which sent him to Chicago in 1970 as CEO of newly acquired and renamed Grey-North Advertising. He led the agency in various roles – President, Chairman/CEO – through various name changes – Grey-North, Grey Chicago, LOIS/GGK, LOIS/EJL, LOIS/USA – until its parent company filed for bankruptcy in October 1999 and closed all its agencies. Prominent clients included US NIH (an education campaign regarding alcohol abuse), Procter & Gamble (Tide), Gillette, Alberto Culver (Jewel-Osco), American Home Products (Irish Spring), and Huffy.

In 1962, he married Josephine Earnest, a pianist from Virginia whom he met in Bloomington. Together they raced Porsches, rode bicycles through the Outer Hebrides, and raised three daughters – Elisabeth Howard Holzer, Katharine Earnest Holzer, and Margaret Talley Holzer – in Manhattan, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, NY, and Barrington Hills, IL.

A lifelong hobbyist, he raced sailboats, restored vintage cars and motorcycles, and collected guns and cameras. He loved photography, Ealing Studios' comedies, mysteries, the Maine coast, and bird hunting with his dogs. In his later years, Holzer was an active member and sponsor in AA, roles of which he was very proud. His intelligence, good will and humor will be missed.

He is survived by his wife and daughters, granddaughter Sara C.S. Holzer, daughter-in-law Leveck Mas, and the Earnests of Houston.

In lieu of flowers, please consider helping find a cure for fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva via IFOPA.org. Memorial service information: (847) 381-3411

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Judeh, Nader Michael

Nader Michael Judeh, age 47, beloved husband of Nancy (nee Tronnes); loving father of Jackson, Bella, Joey and Ben; devoted son of Janice and Mike Judeh; dearest son-in-law of Marie and Ron Tronnes; dear brother-in-law of Ron Jr., Tim (Allison) and Ted (Martine) Tronnes; cherished nephew, cousin, uncle and friend to many. Proud 1990 graduate and devoted Crusader of Brother Rice High School. Visitation Sunday 2-8 P.M. Funeral Monday 10:00 A.M. from **Lawn Funeral Home** 7732 W. 159th St. Orland Park to St. Michael Church Mass 10:45 A.M. In lieu of flowers, donations to Nader's Knights, this is a fund established for Nader's children, would be appreciated. Funeral Info: 708 429-3200.



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Kauffmann, LeRoy J.

LeRoy J. Kauffmann, Jr, age 90, at rest December 24th in Sun City West, AZ, formerly of Chicago; Korean Conflict Army Veteran; beloved husband and best friend of over 66 years of Cecilia nee Stoffey; loving father of Leann Kauffmann of Schaumburg, IL and Susanne (Kevin) Morris of Pulteney, NY; grandfather of Samantha (Jon) Inendino, Hannah Niederman, Shaun (Wendy) Morris, Jessica (Michael) Douglas, Leandra (Micha) Moore; great-grandfather of six; brother of Bernie (Cathy) Kauffmann; also survived by many nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends. Lee was a 40 year employee of Central Steel & Wire in Chicago. Visitation Friday, January 3rd, 3-9 pm. Funeral Saturday, 8:15 am at the **CURLY FUNERAL HOME (KUBINA-TYBOR DIRECTORS)**, 6116 W. 111th St, Chicago Ridge to St. Linus Church, 10300 S. Lawler, Oak Lawn for 9:30 am Mass of Christian Burial. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital preferred and appreciated. 708-422-2700 or curlyfuneralhome.com

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Kerrigan, Kathleen E.

Kathleen Elinor Kerrigan, age 82, of Wilmette. Loving daughter of the late Francis and the late Elinor nee Udelhofen, Kerrigan. Dear sister of Bob (the late Mary) Kerrigan, Mary Pat Kerrigan, the late Bill (Nancy) Kerrigan and the late Jerry (Patricia) Kerrigan. Fun loving aunt of Sheila (Lane) Wheeler, Theresa Kerrigan, Cindy Warnecke, Patrick (Mariclaire) Kerrigan, Peggy (Chris) McNulty, Mike (Ely) Kerrigan, Dan Kerrigan, Tim (Kathy) Kerrigan, Maureen Kerrigan, Jerry (Dawn) Kerrigan, Andrew (Heidi) Kerrigan, Tricia (Kaj) Gartz and the late Bill Kerrigan, Jr. Fond great-aunt of many grandnieces and grandnephews. Visitation Saturday, January 4, 2020, 12:15 p.m. until time of Funeral Mass 1:00 p.m. at **Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Church**, 524 9th Street, Wilmette, Illinois 60091. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be made to Saint Joseph Catholic School, 1747 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091. Info: www.donnellanfuneral.com or (847)675-1990.



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Laskonis, James M.

James M. Laskonis, age 77, of McHenry, at rest January 1, 2020, on his beloved farm. Dear father of Debra Laskonis, Laura (Paul) Laskonis Severin, Michele Chiaro; cherished grandfather of eight. Visitation held from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2020 at **Justen Funeral Home & Crematory**, 3700 W. Charles J. Miller Rd, McHenry. Service to follow at 2 p.m. in the funeral home. Memorials to the American Heart Association at Heart.org. INFO: 815-385-2400 or www.justenf.com.



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Lipowicz, Adam

Adam Lipowicz, age 90, of Chicago. Beloved husband of Emilia nee Toczycki Lipowicz. Loving father of Mark (Ruth Friedlander) Lipowicz, Alice (Paul Rosenberg) Lipowicz, Catherine Sinturel, and the late Peter (Rachel Baker Lipowicz) Lipowicz. Dear grandfather of Adam, Ilana, Arden, Hana, Nissa, and Camille. Adoring great grandfather of Eli and Remy. Adam and Emilia have been residents of Evanston for over 50 years. Visitation Friday, January 3, 2020, 10:00 a.m. until time of Funeral Service 11:00 a.m. at **Donnellan Family Funeral Home**, 10045 Skokie Boulevard, at Old Orchard Road, Skokie, Illinois 60077. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery. Info: www.donnellanfuneral.com or (847)675-1990.



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Long, Judith W. 'Judy'

Judith W. "Judy" Long (nee Kindness), 76, of Hampshire formerly of Franklin Park and Lakewood, at rest Dec. 29, 2019. She was a member of the Luther North Class of 1961. Loving daughter of the late John and Florence (nee O'Connor) Kindness; beloved wife of Charles; loving mother of Judy, the late Kathleen, and the late Michael Long; cherished grandmother of Samantha Long; dear sister-in-law of Ralph (Mary Rose) Seranac and dear friend, Julie Cieszlak, and many extended family and friends. Mass at 11 AM Sat. Jan. 4 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 297 E. Jefferson Ave., Hampshire. Burial in church cemetery. Visitation on Sat. 9:30 - 10:30 AM at **Fredrick Funeral Home**, 284 Park St., Hampshire. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Vincent de Paul Society or Hampshire-Burlington food pantry. Info (847)683-2711 or www.fredrickfuneralhome.com

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Mandel, Rose

Beloved Diva Gurl, Chicago fashion producer and director of the catwalk. Sister to Harvey Mandel. Daughter of the late Marty and Mildred. Loved by hundreds of friends. Many celebrations of life will take place to honor Rosie. Memorial service, Sunday 2:30 PM at **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**. For information, www.shalom2.com.



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Marion, Laura M.

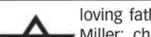
Laura M. Marion, age 59, of Glen Ellyn. Loving daughter of Gloria and the late Frederick. Sister of Michael (Tamara) Marion and fond aunt of Sloan and Sean Marion. Visitation is Saturday, January 4th from 9AM until Mass time at 10 AM at St. James the Apostle Church, 480 S. Park Blvd. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation at sjogrens.org/donate. Funeral arrangements handled by **Leonard Memorial Funeral Home** of Glen Ellyn, IL (for detailed obituary visit www.leonardmemorialhome.com)



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Miller, Bernard R.

Bernard R. Miller, age 98, long-time resident of Lake Shore Drive; 3rd generation real estate investor and President of Southtown Management and Miller Management; graduate of Von Steuben High School and Class of 1942 at Northwestern University; beloved husband of the late Judith Miller, nee Raphaelson and the late Claire Blumenthal Miller, nee Stone; loving father of Anthony (Cecilia Melin) Miller; cherished stepfather of Marcia (Dr. Stanley Selinger) Blumenthal Fields, Sidney (Jacqueline) Blumenthal and the late Edward Blumenthal; adored grandfather of Magda and Olivia Miller; dear step-grandfather of Leslie (Seth) Katz, Alexander and Benjamin Fields, Bruce, Max, and Paul (Alison Kim) Blumenthal; proud great grandfather of Ruthie and Hugo Katz and Olympia Claire Fields; devoted son of the late Morris and Sylvia Miller; fond brother of the late Dorothy Miller and the late Cecile (late Bernard) Goldblatt; intimate brother-in-law of Jeanie (Dr. Sanford) Gaynor and Ralph Raphaelson; treasured uncle of Eric (Jennifer) Gaynor, Michael (Anne) Goldblatt and the late Andrea Gaynor. Graveside service Friday, 10:30 a.m. at Westlawn Cemetery, Section Violet, 7801 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge. Immediately following the graveside service there will be a memorial service at 12:30 p.m. at Am Shalom, 840 Vernon Ave., Glencoe. There will be a reception following the memorial service in the Crown Room. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Habitat for Humanity, www.habitatchicago.org. Info: **The Goldman Funeral Group**, www.goldmanfuneralgroup.com (847) 478-1600.



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Miller, Kathleen

Kathleen Miller (Zahorik) passed away at home on Tuesday, December 31, 2019. She was born on November 20, 1956 at St. Francis hospital in Evanston, IL. She attended Deerfield High School and graduated from Seton Hall with a degree in education. Her children were the center of her world and she cherished her role as 'GG' to her three grandchildren. She had just returned from fulfilling a life-long dream of visiting Italy with her family. Her life was full of travel, spending time with a fierce group of friends, and weekends in Lake Geneva. She was a devoted volunteer at the Reading Power program, where she improved the literacy of her North Chicago kindergarteners. She was preceded in death by her sister, Joni Zahorik, and her mother, Marijln Zahorik (Baer). She leaves behind her children Lauren and Ben Anderson, Max Miller, and Mike and Katie Miller from her marriage to Kirk Miller, and three grandchildren Pearl, Marshall and Alice Anderson. She is remembered by her father Robert Zahorik, brother Bob and Amy Zahorik, and six nieces and nephews: Mike Zahorik, Megan Zahorik, Sammy Zahorik, Chris Horvath, Andy Horvath and Rachel Horvath. A visitation will be held on Sunday, January 5th from 1:00pm-5:00pm at **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home**, 1787 Deerfield Rd, Highland Park, IL 60035. A mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, January 6th at 11:00am at Holy Cross Church, 724 Elder Ln, Deerfield, IL 60015. A luncheon will follow immediately after mass; the interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of Kathy's favorite organizations: Reading Power <https://www.reading-powerinc.org/donate.html> or Misericordia <https://www.misericordia.com/giving/donate-online/>. For info or directions, please contact **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home** at 847-831-4260 or www.kelleyspaldingfuneralhome.com.



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Mitch, Susanne 'Sue'

Mitch, Susanne F. 'Sue' Susanne F. Mitch (nee Jedlicka) passed away peacefully with family by her side December 30, 2019. Loving wife of the late George 'Larry' Mitch for 50 years. Proud mother of Kim (Tom) Murphy, Kathy (Carl) Hahn and Karen (Mike) Crofoot. Cherished grandmother of Amanda & Mitchell Murphy, Carl Jr., Grace & Nathan Hahn and puppies Madison & the late Mulligan Crofoot. Beloved daughter of Frank & Rita Jedlicka. Dear sister of Janet Huber. A passionate Realtor in the Hinsdale area for 40+ years. Longtime supporter of the Wellness House and leader of team "Believers." Devout in her Catholic faith.

Funeral Mass is Saturday, January 4, 2020, 10:00 am at St. Isaac Jogues Church in Hinsdale. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Visitation is Friday, January 3rd, 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm at **Adolf Funeral Home, Ltd.**, 7000 S. Madison St., Willowbrook. Info at 630-325-2300 or <http://www.adolfsservices.com>. In lieu of flowers, donations in Sue's memory can be made to The Wellness House (<https://wellness-house.org>).



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Mlady, David R.

David R. Mlady, age 57, a longtime resident of Naperville, IL, formerly of Lemont, IL, passed away on Thursday, January 2, 2020. He was born November 23, 1962 in LaGrange, IL. David owned and operated Mlady Commercial Cleaning (formerly Mlady Maintenance) in Naperville, with his wife, Linda, since 1990. Arrangements by **Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Naperville, IL**. For service times and a complete obituary, please visit www.friedrich-jones.com or call (630) 355-0213 for more information.



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Monroe, Helen Liberty

Helen L. Monroe, 89, of Chicago, IL, passed away on Dec.29,2019 at her home in Northlake, IL. She was born in Chicago,IL to Gus Niecekas and Liberty Panagatoros on July 16th, 1930. She married the late Marion "Jeff" Monroe. She is preceded in death by her husband, Marion "Jeff" Monroe, daughter Regina Romero, sister Bessie Botton and brother Pete Niecekas. She is survived by her 3 children: Herb Bradley, Gary Monroe (Cathy), and Dean Monroe: 5 Grandchildren, Gilbert Romero (Emma), Gary Monroe Jr., Dean Monroe Jr., Michelle Marsiglio (Scott) and Kristy Nikodem: Sister, Kathlene Nolan. Wake service will be held Friday Jan. 3rd, 2020 3-9 PM. Funeral service will be held Saturday Jan. 4th,2020 at Cuneo Funeral Home,10300 W. Grand Ave, Franklin Park, IL (Time to be announced) Interment Mount Emblem Cemetery Elmhurst, IL. Arrangements are by Gerard Morgan Jr. 773-456-2095.

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Nekola, Helen A.

Nekola, Helen A., nee Braun. Loving wife of the late Norman. Devoted mother of Cheryl (Robert) Causey, Susan Nekola, the late Robert Nekola and Sandra Novak. Proud grandmother of Matthew. Dear sister of Howard (Evelyn) Braun. Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Lying in state Saturday, 10:00 a.m. until time of Service 11:00 a.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1006 Gillicst St. Park Ridge. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Interment St. Luke Cemetery. (847)823-5122 or nelsonfunerals.com



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Newman, Scott R.

Scott R Newman, 71, Geneva, died January 1, 2020. Arrangements being made by Yurs Funeral Home Geneva. For information please call 630-232-7337 or www.yursfuneralhomes.com

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Palczynski, Patrick J.

Patrick J. Palczynski, suddenly; Loving husband of Kimberly nee Doyle; Devoted father of Emily, Sara and Patrick Jr.; Beloved son of Josephine and the late Julius; Dear brother of Darlene (Abe) Garza, April (Donald) Andras, Joseph (Mary), Julianna (Nicholas) Lavalle and the late Adrienne (the late Joseph) Majewski. Fond uncle of many. Visitation Saturday 3:00 - 8:00 pm with Service, 7:00 pm at **The Oaks Funeral Home** 1201 E. Irving Park Road (at Prospect), Itasca. Interment private. For funeral info: 630-250-8588 or www.oaksfh.com

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Peterson, Philip C.

On December 29, 2019, Philip C. Peterson, loving husband and father, passed away at age 88. Philip was born March 10, 1931 in Topeka, KS to Ward Ephraim Peterson and Marguerite Lucretia Helms Peterson. He received his Engineering Bachelor's Degree from Kansas University, his law degree from Washburn University in Topeka, KS and his MBA from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Philip served in the United States Air Force for 22 years as a pilot in South Korea, Japan and was called up in the Cuban Missile Crisis. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He worked as a patent attorney for 36 years with the firm of Mason, Kohlmainen, Rathburn and Weiss in Chicago, IL.

Philip's passions were flying and music. He owned and flew two different bi-planes competitively in his early retirement. He was an accomplished pianist, guitarist, ukulele and banjo player. His most recent music activity was with the Gulf Coast Banjo Society in Venice, FL where his signature song was "Roll the Patrol".

During his working years, he formed the Peterson Boat Company and designed and built the Water Bronco, which was the precursor to today's jet skis. Philip was preceded in death by his first wife, Julie, a son, Roger and two sisters, Margaret and Alice. He is survived by his current wife, Patricia and his son, Philip C. Peterson, Jr. He is also survived by three grandsons, Carlos Peterson, Chris Peterson, Collin Peterson and three step-grandchildren, Taylor Rhodes, Dustin Rhodes and Cassie Rhodes.

The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 pm Sunday, January 5, 2020 at The McDougald Funeral Home. The funeral service, to include military honors, will be held at Fair Play Presbyterian Church, Monday, January 6, 2020 at 11:00 am with Rev. Mel Davis officiating. A reception will follow in the church social hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Fair Play Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 191, Fair Play, SC 29643 or Tidewell Hospice of Venice, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238. WWW.MCDOUGALDFUNERALHOME.COM

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Quaid, Mary Lu (née Hance)

Mary was born in Freeport, Illinois on September 12, 1936. She died peacefully on September 23, 2019 in Evanston, IL due to complications from a stroke. She is survived by three sons, Shawn, Ted, and O'Brien.

She and her older sister, Sally Jo, grew up on the family's dairy farm where they loved to help with the animals.

Mary graduated from Freeport High School, attended Stephens College (Columbia, MO) for one year and then received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

After college, Mary moved to Chicago, where she worked in the art department of Life Magazine. She married Francis (Duke) Quaid on April 23, 1965. Although Mary and Duke eventually divorced, they remained close friends and companions until Duke's death in 2008.

Mary was a life-long artist. She loved photography and was a gifted floral arranger. Her home was full of treasures from her travels around the world, as well as many beautiful works of art, some of them her own.

To commemorate Mary's love of animals, her family is asking for any gifts to be sent to Old Dog Haven, an organization founded by a relative that is dedicated to helping dogs in their golden years.

Old Dog Haven
P.O. Box 1409
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
olddoghaven.org

A celebration of Mary's life will be held in the Spring of 2020. To be informed of the date and location, please contact Shawn Quaid at shawnquaid@gmail.com

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Rose, Ralph H.

Ralph Rose, beloved husband of the late Bette (nee Auerbach). Loving father of Linda (Paul) Finnell, Dana (Randall) Harland and the late Vicki Rose. Cherished grandfather of Matthew David (Mallory) Rose, Robert Marc Finegold, Jill Rose Finegold, Jory Rose Harland, and Marc Jason (Laura) Harland. Proud great-grandfather of Jeffrey Cooper Rose and Rachel Hannah Rose. Caring son of the late Reeva and Ralph Rose. Fond brother of the late Lillian Shelton and brother-in-law of Dede (Pat) Bosco. His family summed it up this way: "Ralph was the most loving and caring person ever. His family always came first. He was kind to everyone he met. He would pass out his Werther's, white papers and fake bills to family and friends, waiters, toll booth personnel, doormen, salespersons, doctors, lawyers and with whomever he came in contact. Over the years and on travels he would be remembered on cruise ships, in restaurants, on planes, in stores and offices by everyone as 'the Candyman', with his white papers still on display. His joy in life was to make others happy and he did that!" He was a Bears season ticket holder since childhood. He graduated from the University of Michigan, where he was a member of ZBT. He served in the Air Force and spent 60 years in the Furniture Industry. Memorial donations: Rolfe Pancreatic Cancer Foundation or the charity of your choice. Memorial service will be Sunday, Jan. 5th at 11am at Congregation BJBE, 1201 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015, 847-940-7575, BJBE@BJBE.org. Family will host lunch following the service until 3pm at BJBE. For info: 847-256-5700.



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Schechter, Betty

Betty Schechter, nee Caragher, age 91, of Morton Grove. Wife of the late Jack; dear mother of Janice (Carl) Moore, Andrea Eichler, and Daniel (Christine); loving grandmother of Karen, Stephanie, Benjamin, and Jeffrey; cherished great-grandmother of Alex; fond sister of Mary Michalak. Visitation, Saturday, January 4, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Service, 11 a.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Interment, Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Chicago Botanic Garden (www.chicagobotanic.org), 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL, 60022. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com to sign guestbook.



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Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

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



RICK HAHN'S BIG OFFSEASON
CF **Luis Robert** agreed to a 6-year, \$50M contract Thursday

SOX 'PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS'

Signed
LHP **Dallas
Keuchel** on
Dec. 30

Signed
LHP **Gio
Gonzalez**
on Dec. 20

Rick Hahn takes a calculated risk by signing 22-year-old **Luis Robert** to a long-term contract before his MLB debut. Yes, Sox fans, it's OK to get excited.



PAUL SULLIVAN
On the White Sox

Back at the general managers meetings in November, White Sox GM Rick Hahn said he hoped prized prospect Luis Robert could win a roster spot out of spring training.

"This will be, knock on wood, hopefully his first full healthy, extended camp with something on the line in terms of making the club," Hahn said. "And we'll go from there."

But before we got "there," the Sox signed Robert to a six-year, \$50 million contract Thursday with a pair of options through 2027, continuing Hahn's spending spree and the busiest offseason in recent Sox history.

If all goes according to plan, Robert will be the Sox's \$88 million man. And a franchise that hasn't been to the postseason since 2008 will become an annual October participant, knock on wood.

We don't really know, of course, whether Robert, who is only 22, will indeed be the next big thing in a series of next big things on the South Side. Hahn said Thursday that Robert has "made the game look really easy, which we all know it isn't."

Robert's numbers in the minors suggest he's capable of dominance, and now Hahn and the Sox are betting on it. Robert will wear the No. 88 he wore back in spring training, a daily reminder of his potential earnings.

Traded for
RF **Nomar
Mazara** on
Dec. 10

Signed
C **Yasmani
Grandal** on
Nov. 21

Signed
1B **Jose
Abreu** to
a qualifying
offer on
Nov. 14 and
an extension
on Nov. 22

Turn to **Sullivan, Page 7**

UP NEXT
Expected to announce a deal for DH **Edwin Encarnacion** any day

INSIDE | How the Sox rotation is shaping up, **Back Page**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE ILLUSTRATION USING A 2017 PHOTO OF HAHN AND ROBERT



The Bears must win in 2020

And that sets up a bold offseason from GM Pace



BRAD BIGGS
On the Bears

George McCaskey likes to joke that while he's not a patient person, he has found a way to see the big picture and the value of continuity as a key to success at the highest levels of a football organization.

The Bears chairman cited as much in announcing an extension for Ryan Pace after the 2017 season on the same day coach John Fox was fired. The franchise wanted to present a stable front office to potential coaching candidates and knew having a general manager who was on the hot seat would make Halas Hall an unattractive destination.

The Bears stumbled to a 14-34 record in Pace's first three years as he worked endlessly to reshape the roster, a labor that paid off a year ago in a breakthrough 12-4 season, creating massive expectations that made the 8-8 campaign that ended Sunday so incredibly frustrating.

McCaskey reminded everyone Tuesday that while he's not patient, he values the steady approach Pace brings to the organization. But with a 34-46 record in five seasons, Pace might be at the point where the Bears need to win in 2020 to protect his future.

It seems counterintuitive that a GM wouldn't have to show on-field success until Year 6 in order to keep his job, but Pace bought himself time before his third season by trading up to draft Mitch Trubisky at No. 2 in 2017. That selection presented a situation in which it could be argued Pace deserved the opportunity to hire a coach to develop the quarterback, especially after hitting on some draft picks who became core players such as nose tackle Eddie Goldman, free safety Eddie Jackson and offensive lineman Cody Whitehair, among others.

Turn to **Biggs, Page 2**

BLACKHAWKS

Coach is back from suspension

Crawford returns after allegations of abuse

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Moments after assistant coach Marc Crawford stepped on the ice Thursday before the Blackhawks' morning skate at Rogers Arena, the stick taps began.

Hawks players kept it up for several seconds, a signal to Crawford that they welcomed him back with open arms from a one-month suspension for incidents of physically and verbally abusing players that occurred more than a decade ago.

Then, after reaching a crescendo, the taps ended and practice started like normal, which was just what Crawford wanted.

"It was great to be out with the guys today," Crawford said. "They gave me a nice reception, and they did in the (locker) room as well. That certainly was good. I want the team to get to normal as quick as they possibly can, and that's a big part of why I'm even speaking today."

The allegations against Crawford became public in 2016 in former NHL player Patrick O'Sullivan's book, "Breaking Away: A Harrowing True Story of Resilience, Courage, and Triumph." In the book, Sullivan said Crawford verbally and physically abused him and other players while they were with the Kings from 2006-08.

Brent Sopel, a former Hawk, alleged in a November 2018 podcast that Crawford "kicked me, he choked me, he grabbed the back of my jersey and pulled me back." Crawford coached Sopel with the Canucks from 1998-2004.

Turn to **Crawford, Page 4**

TOP OF THE SECOND

JIM LITKE

Under further review: Refs not bad

Save the outrage for something else. NFL officiating won't get any better this weekend, or anytime soon — because it can't.

We shouldn't have to remind people at this late date that nobody is perfect, but there you are. Besides, officials are a lot closer to that standard than the players and coaches. Look it up.

So consider this a public service announcement — or a cry for help — for the guys dressed up like zebras. Because they're barred from speaking out in public and the league's higher-ups are too tight-fisted and conflicted to do it themselves.

"The officiating community feels like it's under attack," said Dean Blandino, a Fox Sports rules analyst who was NFL vice president of officiating from 2013-17.

"They were under intense scrutiny before. I know that firsthand. But with the advent of social media, all the other platforms and all the talking heads on TV — myself included — this season feels a little more ... intense.

"And frankly, I didn't think it was possible."

Referees know going in they'll never get their due, but there's some consolation. In the league's 100th anniversary season, despite a glitzy ad campaign, game plans as detailed as an MRI and players so swift and strong they take your breath away, all anybody wants to talk about is officiating.

"Let's say you volunteered to be a ref because you think it's noble or maybe just to help out in your kid's league," said Mike Pereira, another Fox rules analyst and one of Blandino's predecessors as VP of officiating.

"On day one, you're berated by parents from the sideline or chased off the field, and then asking yourself 'Who needs this?'" he sighed. "And people wonder why there's a shortage of officials."

Try thumbing through the NFL rulebook to determine what constitutes a catch. After several controversial "was-it-or-wasn't-it" calls — alternatively known as "the Dez Bryant play," "the Calvin Johnson play" or "the Jesse James play" — the NFL competition committee overhauled the rule in 2017, but the debate still simmers.

That hardly stopped the league from dipping a toe into even murkier waters last offseason and tackling the even more subjective question of what constitutes pass interference. The impetus was a blown call in the NFC championship game last Janu-



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

"The officiating community feels like it's under attack," said Fox Sports' Dean Blandino.

ary, when Rams cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman mugged Saints receiver Tom-mylee Lewis before the ball arrived and got off scot-free.

Except the committee didn't bother changing the wording of the pass-interference rule; it simply tacked on a layer of instant replay. Unfortunately, no matter how much technology you insert between the two, it's still a judgment call.

"Instant replay was already there when I got the job in 2001," Pereira said, "and I was a big proponent. But now I think it's actually hurt the game. ...

"It was brought in to determine facts and locate the ball — what we called 'lines, ground and planes.' ... The league took one big step into judgment when it allowed replay to decide what's a catch. Now there's another, and that's blown up too."

Blandino agrees the latest brouhaha wasn't hard to see coming.

"I hate to even reference that (NFC championship game) play, but the new rule seemed like a knee-jerk response, like they

never got around to vetting the unintended consequences."

For the first two-thirds of the season, coaches burned challenges, broadcast crews shrugged and fans raged when more pass-interference calls weren't forthcoming. Meanwhile, league officials — on the field and in the replay booth — struggled to defend what was always going to be a judgment call. And not just once but often twice, and sometimes differing judgments.

Then, even as the furor died down, Seahawks tight end Jacob Hollister and 49ers linebacker Fred Warner got tangled up in the end zone in the final regular-season game — on the second-to-last play — with the seeding order of the NFC hanging in the balance. It was exactly the kind of play the new rule was put in to decide.

But there was no call on the field, and Al Riveron, the league's third officiating chief in the last eight years, looked at it on a screen in New York and deemed it not worth a formal review. Twitter erupted again.

LET'S PLAY 2

	Sunday Red Wings 6:30 p.m. NBCSN	Tuesday Flames 7:30 p.m. NBCSCH
	Saturday Celtics 7 p.m. NBCSCH	Monday @Mavericks 7:30 p.m. NBCSCH

FRIDAY ON TV/RADIO

NBA	7 p.m. 76ers at Rockets	ESPN
	9:30 p.m. Pelicans at Lakers	ESPN
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
	6 p.m. UCF at Houston	ESPN2
	6 p.m. Wright State at Oakland	ESPNU
	6 p.m. Wisconsin at Ohio State	FS1
	6 p.m. Toledo at Ball State	CBSSN
	7 p.m. Rutgers at Nebraska	BTN
	8 p.m. Temple at Tulsa	ESPNU
	8 p.m. Georgetown at Seton Hall	FS1
	8 p.m. Kent St. at Bowling Green	CBSSN
COLLEGE FOOTBALL		
	2:30 p.m. Ohio vs. Nevada	ESPN
GOLF		
	5 p.m. Tournament of Champions	Golf
NHL		
	6:30 p.m. Capitals at Hurricanes	NHL
TENNIS		
	2 a.m. (Sat.) ATP Cup	Tennis

BEARS' SUPER BOWL WIN IN GREAT DEBATE

From the Steelers' immaculate reception, already voted the best play in NFL history, to the 1972 Dolphins' perfect season, the NFL is searching for its greatest moment. As part of its celebration of the 100th season, the league is conducting balloting for its most iconic moment at NFL.com/greatestmoment and is encouraging fans to vote for one of the 32 team nominations. The 1985 Bears' Super Bowl XX victory is among the candidates. Voting through Jan. 9 will determine the top eight AFC and NFC moments. That will leave 16 contenders that will be cut to eight in voting from Jan. 9-16. Those eight moments will be reduced to four in balloting from Jan. 16-23. From the final four, fans will choose the No. 1 moment in voting from Jan. 23 until Feb. 2 — Super Bowl Sunday. AP

Bears create some cap relief

BY BRAD BIGGS

The Bears added two voidable years to the contract of cornerback Kyle Fuller, creating some salary-cap relief for the team next season.

Fuller's original contract, which ran through 2021, was renegotiated Saturday, just before the end of the regular season. The Bears tacked on what are considered two "dummy" years to the deal, meaning if Fuller is with the organization beyond the 2021 season, it will not be with the terms of the current contract.

Fuller originally was set to earn \$13 million in 2020 and have a salary-cap hit of \$17.5 million. He was due to have a \$7 million base salary with a \$5 million roster

bonus, \$500,000 roster bonus tied to his health (\$31,250 per game if he's on the 46-man game-day roster) and a \$500,000 offseason workout bonus.

In the reworked deal, he received a \$7.5 million option bonus, which is prorated over five years — from the 2019 season that just ended through 2023. He has a base salary of \$4.5 million for 2020, which lowers his cap hit to \$11.5 million, creating \$6 million in cap savings for the coming season. He'll earn the same amount — \$13 million — for the season.

The reworked deal raised his cap hit in 2021 from \$18.5 million to \$20 million.

Using spotrac.com's current estimate for 2020, the Bears now have roughly \$16 million in cap space.

Biggs

Continued from Page 1

After what Pace admitted was a regression in 2019, he's smart enough to know the Bears need to be better in 2020 with his contract running through 2021. The Bears usually don't command a playoffs-or-bust mandate, but Pace's predecessor, Phil Emery, used just that as a reason for firing Lovie Smith after a 10-6 finish in 2012 that saw the Bears miss the playoffs for the fifth time in six seasons.

"I've told you folks before, I'm not a patient person," McCaskey said Tuesday. "That's where it's really helpful to have Ryan. He talks about not getting too high or too low, trying to keep an even keel. That's important for me to remember because I react like a fan. That's no way to run a football team."

As a fan, McCaskey is at ease with Pace's firm belief in Trubisky as the unquestioned starter in 2020.

"Bears fans should be relieved that I don't get involved in the football decisions," McCaskey said. "That's all Ryan and Matt (Nagy). And we're confident in them making the right decisions for the Bears."

Much work lies ahead in order to breathe life into one of the NFL's worst offenses, and Nagy started the transformation by reshaping half of his offensive coaching staff. The Bears need to consider adding some skill-position help for Trubisky while creating a more competitive depth chart behind the quarterback. The offensive line will get a close inspection. And while holding out hope that Trey Burton can return from a second surgery and Adam Shaheen suddenly will become durable in his fourth season, the tight end position needs help.

But how much work can be done to improve Trubisky, who has been grossly outperformed by fellow 2017 first-round picks Patrick Mahomes and Deshaun Watson?

"Hey, we're all fans," team President Ted Phillips said, "so we try not to get into that

comparison game. We believe in Mitch. Patrick Mahomes is an anomaly. I mean, nobody expected that kind of performance, right? So as fans, we want the best for Mitch, and we've got to get back on that championship path."

Nagy, who was the Chiefs offensive coordinator at the time of the draft, might argue Mahomes is not an anomaly. The Chiefs didn't take a flier on him. They effectively deemed Alex Smith, who was 41-20 as a starter from 2013-16, wasn't the quarterback to guide them to a championship level, trading up from No. 27 to No. 10 to choose Mahomes — eight spots after Trubisky and two before Watson went to the Texans. That wasn't a stab in the dark.

The Bears have made it clear: They are not at the point at which they're going to hold the Trubisky pick over Pace. Instead, they're going to do everything possible to make it work, a hint that after a likely contract extension for Jackson, they will pour the bulk of their resources into the offensive side of the ball.

None of this is surprising. The Bears were not going to part ways with Pace with Nagy having three years remaining on his contract. But the Bears are under pressure to do some heavy lifting on offense to bring out consistency in Trubisky.

Jerry Angelo had the second-longest tenure — 11 seasons — of any general manager in Bears history behind Hall of Fame founder George Halas. The Bears reached Super Bowl XLI at the end of Angelo's sixth year in 2006, which also is the last time the team had consecutive winning seasons.

That sustained success has eluded the Bears, and entering his sixth season, Pace is under pressure to get the team back to the playoffs. That's why it's expected to be an action-filled offseason for a general manager who has proved to be bold.

"We should be able to turn it around next year," Phillips said.

"I mean, we were 12-4 just a year ago. We had the coach of the year, the executive of the year. They haven't lost their abilities, and we haven't lost the talent level. We've just got to be able to maximize it better."



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NFL

Finally, Eagles' Wentz to make playoff debut

QB 'grateful' to play after 2 postseasons as spectator

By **ROB MAADI**
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz was forced to watch from the sideline as Nick Foles became a local legend, leading the Eagles to the franchise's first Super Bowl title two years ago.

Wentz was a spectator again last season when Foles rallied the Eagles to three straight wins, an unlikely playoff berth and a wild-card victory.

It's Wentz's time now.

Wentz avoided injuries while seemingly everyone around him went down, set franchise passing records and led the Eagles (9-7) to four consecutive wins down the stretch and their second NFC East title in three seasons.

He'll make his first career playoff start Sunday when the Eagles host the Seahawks (11-5).

"I'm grateful to be healthy and be in this moment with these guys, to be on the field," Wentz said. "I'm just excited for the challenge. I've been on the sidelines the last few years for these games, so I'm pretty pumped for the opportunity."

Wentz started all 16 games for the second time in his four seasons. He set single-season team records with 4,039 yards passing and 388 completions.

Wentz became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 4,000 yards without a single wide receiver reaching 500.

Tight end Zach Ertz led the team with 916.

The Eagles lost starting receivers DeSean Jackson, Alshon Jeffery and Nelson Agholor, released Mack Hollins, signed and released Jordan Matthews and finished with five players off the practice squad making valuable contributions at the skill positions.

The constant was Wentz, who silenced most critics with his clutch performance in must-win games.

The Eagles had to win their last four games to secure a playoff berth. Wentz led them to consecutive comeback victories to start the winning streak and completed 67.6% of his passes for 1,199 yards, seven TDs and no interceptions in those four games.

"I think he's grown up as a leader of this team," coach Doug Pederson said. "He's really just put the team on his back and said, 'Hey, follow me,' and I think that's a sign of growth and a sign of maturity. I spent eight years in Green Bay with Brett Favre and that's what Brett did. Brett just put the team on his back when the chips were against us and he said, 'Hey, follow me,' and that's what Carson can do."

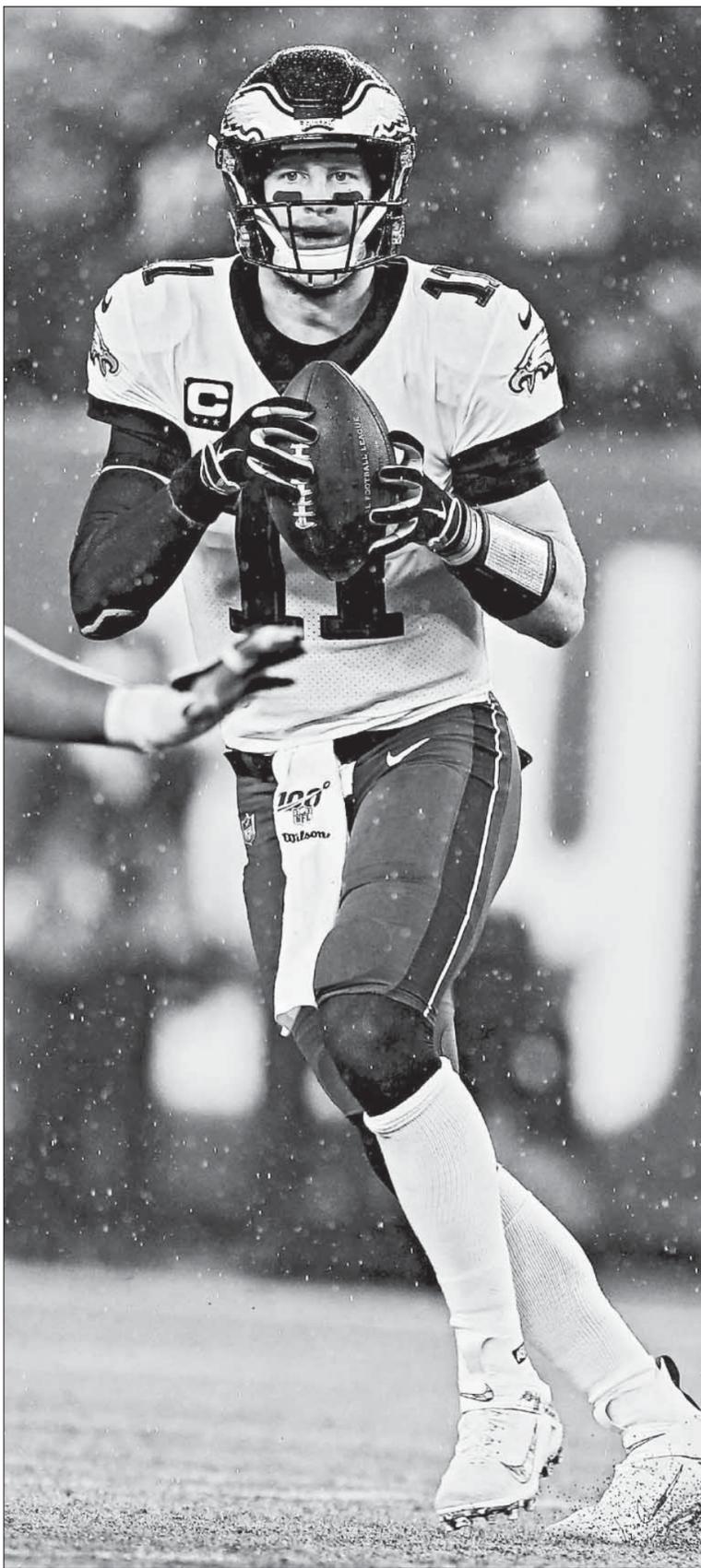
"The guys really, and I have so much faith and trust in him that I can call almost any play and he's either going to make that one work or he's going to get us into a better play, and so he's really grown up that way and really matured that way in this league and just really turned into a pro."

Wentz, the No. 2 overall pick in 2016, had a breakout sophomore season when he finished third in NFL MVP voting. He led the Eagles to an 11-2 record and set a franchise record with 33 touchdown passes that season, including his final one after he tore two ligaments in his knee.

He missed the rest of the season while Foles stepped in and led the Eagles to a 41-33 victory over the Patriots in the Super Bowl, earning game MVP honors.

Foles got a statue outside the stadium and will forever be revered in the city. His popularity only grew last season when he went 4-1 in December and January.

But Wentz is the franchise quarterback and Foles went off to Jacksonville. Wentz got a huge contract extension in the offseason and heard plenty of criticism from doubters throughout the season.



VERA NIEUWENHUIS/AP

"We know what we have to do," said Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz.

He played his worst game in a 17-9 loss to the Seahawks on Nov. 24 in Philadelphia. He threw two picks and lost two fumbles in that one.

"That can't happen this time around. "Everyone kind of feels the sense of urgency, but I don't think anyone presses or feels they need to do anything different," Wentz said. "We know what we have to do. Offensively, we know we've got to take care of the football, we have to stay on the field, we have to put some points up on the board, and we're excited for the challenge."

WILD-CARD ROUND



Saturday's games

#5 Bills at #4 Texans
3:35 p.m. | ESPN
#6 Titans at #3 Patriots
7:15 p.m. | CBS-2



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

NFL NOTES

Cowboys, Garrett finally go their separate ways

News services

Jerry Jones and Stephen Jones decided that Jason Garrett will not return as coach of the Cowboys, ESPN reported Thursday night.

The Joneses and Garrett didn't have their scheduled meeting Thursday after meeting on Monday and Tuesday without any resolution on the coach's status. Garrett's contract was set to expire Jan. 14. The Cowboys opted not to offer him an extension in February.

The Cowboys missed the playoffs in 2019 and finished 8-8 for the fourth time in Garrett's nine seasons as coach. He will finish as the second-longest tenured and second-most winningest coach in team history with a record of 85-67, but he won just two playoff games and never got past the divisional round.

Wyche dies at 74: Sam Wyche, who pushed the boundaries as an offensive innovator with the Bengals and challenged the NFL's protocols along the way, died. He was 74.

Wyche, who had a history of blood clots in his lungs and had a heart transplant in 2016 in Charlotte, N.C., died Thursday of melanoma, the Bengals confirmed.

"Sam was a wonderful guy. We got to know him as both a player and a coach," Bengals president Mike Brown said.

"As our coach, he had great success and took us to the Super Bowl. He was friends with everyone here, both during his tenure as coach and afterwards. We not only liked him, we admired him."

One of the Bengals' original QBs, Wyche was known for his offensive innovations as a coach. He led the Bengals to their second Super Bowl during the 1988 season by using a no-huddle offense that forced the league to change its substitution rules.

And that wasn't the only way he made waves throughout the NFL. A nonconformist in a button-down league, Wyche refused to comply with the NFL's locker room policy for media, ran up the score to settle a personal grudge, and belittled the city of rival Cleveland during his eight seasons in Cincinnati. He later coached the Buccaneers for four seasons.

During his eight seasons with the Bengals, Wyche's teams went 61-66.

Watt back for Texans: J.J. Watt will return to the field Saturday, a little more than two months after surgery to repair a torn pectoral muscle when the Texans host the Bills in the first round of the playoffs.

After sitting out since October, it's unclear how much impact Watt will have on the game. But coach Bill O'Brien said that Watt would play "quite a bit."



Garrett

Finalists for Hall: Former Colts receiver Reggie Wayne and Steelers safety Troy Polamalu are among 15 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2020 class.

Joining Wayne and Polamalu are joined by five others who have never been finalists: Packers safety LeRoy Butler; Rams receiver Torry Holt; Panthers linebacker Sam Mills; Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas; and 49ers defensive tackle Bryant Young.

They are joined by past finalists Broncos/Jets safety Steve Atwater; Jaguars tackle Tony Boselli; Rams/49ers receiver Isaac Bruce; Steelers/Jets/Cardinals guard Alan Faneca; Seahawks/Vikings/Titans guard Steve Hutchinson; Colts/Cardinals/Seahawks running back Edgerrin James; Buccaneers/Broncos safety John Lynch; and Patriots/Raiders defensive lineman Richard Seymour.

These 15 will be considered for selection Feb. 1.

Extra points: CB Adoree' Jackson will play in the Titans' wild-card round game against the Patriots on Saturday night after missing the last four games with a foot injury. ... Lions coach Matt Patricia announced that defensive coordinator Paul Pasqualoni is leaving the team to be closer to his family in Connecticut.

COLLEGES



CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Wildcats wide receiver Bennett Skowronek makes a one-handed catch in 2018.

Skowronek chooses ND over NU

Will be remembered for his iconic catch to clinch West

By **TEDDY GREENSTEIN**

Pat Fitzgerald has a saying: We're not going to recruit you twice.

The Northwestern coach mentioned that in 2016, when linebacker Anthony Walker mulled whether to return for a fifth season or enter the NFL draft, as he did.

That also applied when Fitzgerald met with Ben Skowronek to discuss his three options — return to Evanston as a graduate student, turn pro or enter the transfer portal.

Skowronek entered the portal and announced Wednesday night on social media that he selected Notre Dame, a two-hour drive from his hometown of Fort Wayne, Ind.

"These past four years have been nothing short of incredible," Skowronek wrote. "Northwestern University will always hold a special place in my heart. I'm honored to have had the opportunity to represent Northwestern on the biggest of stages, giving everything I had."

Case in point: Nov. 10, 2018.

Skowronek made the play in the game that locked up the Big Ten West. Trailing 10-7 in the fourth quarter at Iowa, Clayton Thorson lofted a pass down the sideline that everyone at Kinnick Stadium thought was overthrown.

Skowronek extended his 6-4 frame to make a diving catch, getting his left forearm under the ball to survive the fall.

"A legendary catch," play-by-play announcer Joe Davis said on the Fox Sports broadcast.

Told it would go down as the most memorable play in one of the greatest days in program history, Skowronek replied: "I don't want it to be remembered as my play. I want it to be remembered as a great team win because that's truly what it was."

Skowronek began 2019 as the top target for Hunter Johnson and TJ Green, his cousin. As kids they dreamed of hooking up on touchdown passes in college.

But Green broke his foot in the opener at Stanford, and Skowronek went down in the Sept. 21 loss at Michigan State with an ankle injury that was originally deemed week-to-week. Instead he'd need surgery that ended his season with 12 catches for 141 yards. But because he played in just three games, it could count as a redshirt season.

Northwestern would have loved him to return to an offense desperate for playmakers. The Wildcats had six touchdown passes all last season, fewer than Joe Burrow had in the first half of LSU's playoff game against Oklahoma.

Last month Fitzgerald said he had an "awesome" relationship with Skowronek and his family.

But Skowronek believes he's a better fit at Notre Dame, which had the nation's No. 48-rated passing offense in 2019. Ian Book will return for essentially his third season as the starting quarterback. The Irish lose their top three pass-catchers in Chase Claypool, tight end Cole Kmet and Chris Finke. Kmet, a Lake Barrington native and St. Viator graduate, announced Thursday that he's declaring for the NFL draft.

Skowronek will be featured along with Javon McKinley, Braden Lenzy and tight end Tommy Tremble.

The acquisition — and that's what it is in this age of college free agency — makes perfect sense for Notre Dame. And for Skowronek, who has serious NFL ambitions.

He did not grow up a Notre Dame fan. Older brother Matt walked on as a safety at Indiana.

Skowronek has trained in Indiana with former Irish standouts such as Jaylon Smith, Drue Tranquill and Tyler Eifert.

And, hey, he shares some bloodlines with Johnny Lujack, the school's 1947 Heisman Trophy winner. Lujack's mother was Skowronek's great-grandfather's sister. (Don't worry; this won't be on the test.)

In his tweet, Skowronek thanked Fitzgerald and receivers coach Dennis Springer for their "dedication and mentorship ... and to the Northwestern fans: Your support was amazing."

Notre Dame opens next season in Dublin for an Aug. 29 matchup against Navy. Northwestern has a dicey opener — at Michigan State on Sept. 5.

Who will play quarterback for the Wildcats? Will carry a surprise addition, late-season starter Andrew Marty will try to hold off Johnson and Aidan Smith. New offensive coordinator Mike Bajakian will call the plays.

And with Skowronek leaving, Northwestern has only one receiver, Riley Lees, with at least 20 catches in a season.

COLLEGES



DUANE BURLESON/GETTY

MICHIGAN STATE 76, ILLINOIS 56

New Year's Sparty

Illinois was shut down by Michigan State's stifling defense Thursday night in the No. 14 Spartans' 76-56 win in East Lansing, Mich. The Illini shot 3-for-28 (10.7%) on 3-pointers, 22-for-75 (29.3%) from the field and 9-for-15 (60%) on free throws. They managed to keep the game within reach in the first half, but Michigan State pushed its six-point halftime lead to as many as 23 as Illinois (9-5, 1-2 Big Ten) missed shot after shot. Cassius Winston scored a game-high 21 points for the Spartans (11-3, 3-0), and Xavier Tillman added 19. Ayo Dosunmu, above, scored 18 to lead Illinois, with Alan Griffin adding 17 off the bench. For more, go to chicagotribune.com/sports

BLACKHAWKS

Crawford

Continued from Page 1

In an interview with the New York Post in November, retired NHL player Sean Avery said Crawford kicked him so hard that it left a mark when both were with the Kings.

The Hawks suspended Crawford on Dec. 2 to investigate the allegations. They announced two weeks later he would be reinstated Jan. 2.

Crawford on Thursday didn't reveal with whom he communicated over the last month but said he spoke with many of his former players, and many others reached out to him.

"This is an ongoing process, and as I said in my statement (last month when the suspension was announced), I'm all about making sure I do the right thing and that I listen and that I understand," Crawford said. "That's really what I hope comes from this — that I understand ... how any of those players are feeling and ... if that happens, then I hopefully can become better for it, they become better for it and in the long run the game becomes better for it."

When the Hawks announced Crawford's suspension last month, he admitted to the allegations and said he had been undergoing therapy for the last decade to help him change his behavior. The Hawks said Crawford would be required to continue counseling as part of his reinstatement.

Crawford on Thursday said his decision to seek counseling stemmed from wanting to better understand why he had lost three head coaching jobs — with the Kings, Canucks and Stars — in a five-year span from 2006-11.

"To be truthful, I just felt I was apologizing too much and I didn't like that," Crawford said. "I didn't like that feeling. I still don't like that feeling — it's very uncomfortable for me to feel that way. And finding out why I am like I am takes a lot of introspection. I feel good about the things I've done to improve my game. It's obviously allowed me to have some longevity in the league."

"It's been good and will continue to be good as you keep putting the work in, you keep doing the things that are important. Good things can happen because of that, and you become a more complete person, and if you're more complete, then hopefully chances are you're going to be a little more successful and have maybe good things happen for you and your team."

Hawks coach Jeremy Colliton has stead-



SEAN KILPATRICK/AP

"I want the team to get to normal as quick as they possibly can, and that's a big part of why I'm even speaking today."

— Hawks assistant coach Marc Crawford

fastly supported Crawford since the investigation was announced.

"It needed to be done, and I understand that," Colliton said Thursday before the game against the Canucks. "But my experience with Marc has been great. He's carried himself in a way that's been an example of how to act. Happy to have him here."

Crawford, 61, and Colliton, 34, both became first-time NHL head coaches at 33.

"One of the things that amazes me is he never, ever loses his cool," Crawford said. "I admire that trait in him so much. You have to have passion, you have to have emotion. Those things are important in the game, but staying on the right side of it is also important."

The incidents involving Crawford took place more than 10 years ago, but he said he doesn't have a problem with being judged based on things well in the past.

"I feel badly for them that they had to rehash some of these things," Crawford said. "I hope that everybody can understand that the best course of action for probably all involved is to continue to listen, continue to try to understand where people are coming from, and if you do that, then hopefully something good can happen from it."

"And that's what my belief is: I hope I'm part of the solution. I hope that episodes like I've been involved with don't happen again, because I don't think they have to. You look at all the great things that have been said this past month or so, there's been a really good dialogue, so maybe that's the good thing that's come out of this."



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BULLS



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JAZZ 102, BULLS 98

Familiar finish to open year

Down two with less than 25 seconds to play, the Bulls had the ball in Zach LaVine's hands. He took it straight at imposing Jazz center Rudy Gobert and got off a layup, but it missed off the rim. After Donovan Mitchell made two free throws to put the Jazz up by four, LaVine and Lauri Markkanen took two more cracks at it from 3-point range, but their shots and the Bulls fell short in a 102-98 loss Thursday night at the United Center. LaVine, above, led all scorers with 26 points, Markkanen added 18 and Wendell Carter Jr. had 18 points and 13 rebounds, but five Jazz players scored in double figures. Bojan Bogdanovic led the way with 19 points, Mitchell scored 17 and Gobert added 17 points and 12 rebounds. For more coverage, go to chicagotribune.com/sports

Rookies making rookie mistakes

Gafford, White have hit a wall at a tough time for the Bulls

BY PHIL THOMPSON

No one needed to remind Coby White that Thursday night against the Jazz marks the 35th game of his Bulls career — the same number he played in college. His body already is fully aware.

"I heard about the rookie wall — I feel like I hit mine in December," White said after the morning shootaround at the Advocate Center. "That December stretch was hard for me. It was something I wasn't used to."

White and fellow rookie Daniel Gafford have been getting acquainted with "the wall" lately and how to manage that NBA rite of passage in which young but tired legs tend to tap out.

"Yeah, the season hits you hard," White said. "I started to take recovery a lot more seriously when I first got to the league. ... For me I'm just trying to maintain and keep going."

Gafford, who marks game No. 25 against the Jazz, agreed that the physical strain of playing up to 47 more games than a rookie is accustomed to is tougher than the mental hurdle of enduring a long NBA season.

"Playing throughout all these games, I'm trying not to hit that rookie wall like everybody's saying," Gafford said. "I want to make sure my body is to where I can get over the hump whenever that wall comes toward me."

"But mentally I prepare myself for it all the time. ... As I watch film, as I'm just at the house watching a movie or something like that, I always think about it where I can be ready for the next day."

Gafford and White face different circum-

stances, however. Gafford averages 11.4 minutes and played 10 and 13 games, respectively, in November and December. White averages 24.2 minutes and played in 29 games over the last two months.

White's points went down from November to December, from 13.1 per game to 9.4. He averaged 3½ fewer minutes too.

"It was just every day my body was sore. I felt like I ain't have no legs," White said about his December struggles. "It was hard. That's my first time experiencing this. Hopefully that was my rookie wall and I don't hit nothing else the rest of the season."

Coach Jim Boylen said the Bulls watched how White coped with the workload, going so far as to compare the schedule to what White would have played with North Carolina during the same stretch.

"I think we had 28 or 29 (games), and Carolina had played 10," Boylen said. "We look at those things and study those things. And then (there is) his recovery data, his practice data. Again, we study that stuff to see where they're at and how they're feeling."

"And there's also just the eye test, the visual piece to it, and it was concerning, to put it fairly. But he loves to play, he's a tough kid. He likes to work."

White is learning how to manage work and rest.

"Right now my body feels pretty good," he said. "We got a couple days off during Christmas, and that really helped a lot. Before that my body was kind of going through it and whatnot."

White has shown a penchant for staying after practice to work on his shot and other skills — until coaches pushed back against it.



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bulls forward Daniel Gafford, left, and guard Coby White chat during media day.

"A lot of times (assistant) coach (Chris) Fleming kicks me out the gym and tells me, 'I don't want to see you in here,'" White said. "He knows what's best for me so whenever he tells me I need to sit down or I need to go home, I listen."

He'll need to pay even closer attention this month.

As the NBA All-Star Weekend in February draws nearer, the Bulls' January schedule is packed with 17 games, including three straight weekends of back-to-backs.

Gafford said his trainers at Arkansas helped him take care of his body but "now it's on me. I've just got to make sure I get in and get my time in, the stuff that helps me make sure my body's in the right shape."

"It's just the responsibility it takes to be in the league, you've just got to make sure you do everything right."

LaVine still has shot to be All-Star

Bulls guard is fifth among conference guards in voting

BY PHIL THOMPSON

Bulls leading scorer Zach LaVine wants to play in the NBA All-Star Game on Feb. 16 at the United Center, and the first returns among fan voting shows he has a puncher's chance.

The starting shooting guard, who listed the All-Star Game as a goal during training camp, earned 174,991 votes, which places him fifth among Eastern Conference guards behind Trae Young (Hawks), Kyrie Irving (Nets), Kemba Walker (Celtics) and Derrick Rose (Pistons).

LaVine is 10th overall in the East, topped by the Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo, whose 1,073,358 votes trail only the Mavericks' Luka Dončić.

Rounding out the East's top 10 guards are Ben Simmons (Sixers), Jaylen Brown (Celtics), Kyle Lowry (Raptors), Bradley Beal (Wizards) and Spencer Dinwiddie (Nets).

LaVine, a two-time dunk-contest winner, mulled the idea of participating in All-Star Weekend before Saturday's win against the Hawks.

"I've still been thinking about it. My girlfriend just asked me the same thing," LaVine said. "Obviously, I feel like I'd be more inclined to do it if I'm playing in the game. But I feel like I should do something during All-Star Weekend, if it's the game, 3-point contest, dunk contest, something."

"I know I've still got some dunks left. My legs have been feeling good."

He then said he would consider practicing but added he would have to inform the NBA soon.

"Me and my good friend (and Windy City Bulls guard) Perrion (Callandret), we're in the gym ... (and) he was helping me out on a couple of dunks probably a month ago," LaVine said.

"Didn't go very well, but you know there's always a second try."

Entering Thursday's home game against the Jazz, LaVine averages 23.4 points, 4.6 rebounds and 3.9 assists.

According to NBA statistics, he's second to Chris Paul (91) in total "clutch" points with 78. NBA.com defines "clutch" time as the final five minutes of a game with neither team ahead by more than five points.

LaVine has gone on a tear since his 49-point outburst against the Hornets on Nov. 23, posting 10 games of at least 25 points — including six with 30 or more.

Fans make up 50% of the voting pool that picks the 10 starters (five from each conference) for the All-Star Game. Current players and a media panel each account for 25%. Voting ends at 10:59 p.m. Jan. 20.

The starters will be revealed Jan. 23 during the "TNT NBA Tip-Off" pregame show. Coaches pick the reserves, who will be announced Jan. 30.

Fan voting — spoiler alert — can turn into a bit of a popularity contest and veer into the absurd as team loyalties prevail over actual statistics.

G-Leagueur Tacko Fall, popular more for his unique name and 7-foot-5 stature, is on a two-way contract and has totaled all of 13 points in 11 minutes over three games, yet he's sixth in voting for frontcourt players ahead of Heat sensation Bam Adebayo and the Pistons' Andre Drummond.

Alex Caruso (think the Lakers' answer to former Bull Brian "White Mamba" Scalabrine but with better defense) is eighth among West guards and ahead of Devin Booker (Suns) and Ja Morant (Grizzlies).

MIKE ROYKO TELLS IT LIKE IT IS IN "THE BEST OF ROYKO"

"The Tribune Years" is a collection of over 175 columns written during his 14 years with the Chicago Tribune. Royko's colorful commentary and insightful humor touch on every aspect of Chicago life, from politicians corrupting the hot dog to senior citizen car thieves.

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LIST PRICE

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	23	8	.742	—
Toronto	23	12	.657	2
Philadelphia	23	13	.639	2½
Brooklyn	16	17	.485	8
New York	10	24	.294	14½

SOUTHEAST

Miami	25	9	.735	—
Orlando	15	19	.441	10
Charlotte	14	23	.378	12½
Washington	10	23	.303	14½
Atlanta	7	27	.206	18

CENTRAL

Milwaukee	31	5	.861	—
Indiana	22	13	.629	8½
Chicago	13	22	.371	17½
Detroit	12	23	.343	18½
Cleveland	10	24	.294	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	23	11	.676	—
Dallas	22	12	.647	1
San Antonio	14	19	.424	8½
Memphis	13	22	.371	10½
New Orleans	11	23	.324	12

NORTHWEST

Denver	24	10	.706	—
Utah	22	12	.647	2
Oklahoma City	19	15	.559	5
Portland	14	21	.400	10½
Minnesota	13	21	.382	11

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Lakers	27	7	.794	—
L.A. Clippers	25	11	.694	3
Phoenix	13	21	.382	14
Sacramento	13	22	.371	14½
Golden State	9	27	.250	19

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Charlotte 109, Cleveland 106
Denver 124, Indiana 116
Miami 84, Toronto 76
Minnesota 99, Golden State 84
Utah 102, Chicago 98
Oklahoma City 109, San Antonio 103
Dallas 123, Brooklyn 111
Sacramento 128, Memphis 123
L.A. Clippers 126, Detroit 112

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.

JAZZ 102, BULLS 98

UTAH: Bogdanovic 5-13 9-9 19, O'Neale 2-4 0-0 5, Gobert 8-11 2-17, Ingles 3-9 0-0 8, Mitchell 6-14 3-3 17, Bradley 3-5 0-2 6, Niang 4-7 0-11, Clarkson 3-8 3-4 12, Mudiay 3-5 1-2 7. Totals 37-76 17-22 102.
CHICAGO: Dunn 2-7 0-0 5, Markkanen 6-16 2-2 18, Carter Jr. 7-12 3-4 18, LaVine 9-26 5-6 26, Satoransky 3-7 2-8, Young 2-5 0-0 5, Gafford 2-5 1-2 5, Harrison 1-2 0-0 3, Valentine 2-3 0-0 4, White 3-11 0-1 6. Totals 37-90 13-17 98.

Utah 25 22 29 26 — 102

Chicago 22 29 19 28 — 98

3-Point Goals—Utah 11-30 (Niang 3-5, Clarkson 3-7, Ingles 2-5, Mitchell 2-5, O'Neale 1-3, Bogdanovic 0-5), Chicago 11-35 (Markkanen 4-10, LaVine 3-11, Carter Jr. 1-2, Dunn 1-2, Young 1-2, Satoransky 0-3, White 0-4). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—Utah 42 (Gobert 12), Chicago 45 (Carter Jr. 13). **Assists**—Utah 24 (Ingles 10), Chicago 23 (LaVine 5). **Total Fouls**—Utah 17, Chicago 15. **A**—19,398 (20,917)

CANUCKS 7, BLACKHAWKS 5

Chicago 1 3 1 — 5
Vancouver 1 3 3 — 7

1ST: 1, Van, Miller 15 (Horvat, Petterson), 5:04. **2,** Chi, Murphy 4 (Kubalik, Toews), 14:00. **Penalties:** Chicago bench, served by Strome (Too Many Men on the Ice), 3:02; Horvat, Van (Hooking), 6:08; Myers, Van (Elbowing), 19:05.

2ND: 3, Van, Pearson 12 (Edler, Virtanen), 2:48. **4,** Chi, Kampf 6 (Smith, Gustafsson), 4:15. **5,** Chi, Kane 23 (Boqvist), 6:25 (pp). **6,** Chi, Toews 10 (Kubalik, Maatta), 8:17. **7,** Van, Hughes 4 (Petterson, Miller), 10:20 (pp). **8,** Van, Petterson 19 (Miller, Boeser), 11:45. **Penalties:** Gaudette, Van (Tripping), 6:00; Smith, Chi (Delay of Game), 9:11; Gustafsson, Chi (Holding), 14:37; Stecher, Van (Holding), 14:37.

3RD: 9, Van, Horvat 11 (Edler, Pearson), 8:10. **10,** Chi, Kane 24 (Keith, Kubalik), 13:44. **11,** Van, Gaudette 8 (Miller), 15:49. **12,** Van, Horvat 12 (Pearson), 19:51 (en). **Penalties:** Motte, Van (Tripping), 17:19.

SOG: Chi 12-13-33. Van 7-18-12-37.

POWER PLAYS: Chi 1 of 4; Van 1 of 2.

GOALIES: Chicago, Lehner 12-7-4 (36 shots-30 saves). Vancouver, Markstrom 14-11-3 (33-28). **A:** 18,871 (18,910). **T:** 2:29.

NFL

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Buffalo (10-6) at Houston (10-6), 3:35 p.m. (ESPN/ABC)
Tennessee (9-7) at New England (12-4), 7:15 p.m. (CBS)

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Minnesota (10-6) at New Orleans (13-3), 12:05 p.m. (FOX)
Seattle (11-5) at Philadelphia (9-7), 3:40 p.m. (NBC)

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY, JAN. 11
Philadelphia, Seattle or Minnesota at San Francisco (13-3), 3:35 p.m. (NBC)
Houston, Buffalo or Tennessee at Baltimore (14-2), 7:15 p.m. (CBS)

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

New England, Houston or Buffalo at Kansas City (12-4), 2:05 p.m. (CBS)
New Orleans, Philadelphia or Seattle at Green Bay (13-3), 5:40 p.m. (FOX)

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY, JAN. 19
AFC, 2:05 p.m. (CBS)
NFC, 5:40 p.m. (FOX)

PRO BOWL

Sunday, Jan. 26 in Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 2 p.m. (ESPN)
SUPER BOWL
Sunday, Feb. 2 in Miami Gardens, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC champs, 5:30 p.m. (FOX)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

BOWL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Birmingham: Cincinnati 38, Bos. Coll. 6
Gator: Tennessee 23, Indiana 22

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 am (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

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

Bahamas: Buffalo 31, Charlotte 9
Frisco: Kent State 51, Utah State 41

SATURDAY, 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 State 34, FIU 26
Las Vegas: Washington 38, Boise St. 7
New Orleans: Appalachian St. 31, UAB 17

MONDAY, DEC. 23

Gasparilla: UCF 48, Marshall 25
TUESDAY, DEC. 24
Hawaii: Hawaii 38, BYU 34
THURSDAY, DEC. 26
Independence: Louisiana 14, Miami 0
Quick Lane: Pitt 34, E. Michigan 30

THURSDAY, DEC. 27

Military: North Carolina 55, Temple 13
Pinstrip: Michigan State 27, Wake 21
Texas: Texas A&M 24, Oklahoma St. 21
Holiday: Iowa 49, USC 24
Cheez-It: Air Force 31, Washington St. 21

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

Camping World: Notre Dame 33, Iowa St. 9
Cotton: Penn State 53, Memphis 39
Peach (CFP): LSU 63, Oklahoma 28
Fiesta (CFP): Clemson 29, Ohio St. 23

MONDAY, DEC. 30

SERVPRO: W. Kentucky 23, W. Mich. 20
Music City: Louisville 38, Miss. St. 28
Redbox: California 35, Illinois 20
Orange: Florida 36, Virginia 28

TUESDAY, DEC. 31

Belk: Kentucky 37, Virginia Tech 30
Sun: Arizona St. 20, Florida St. 14
Liberty: Navy 20, Kansas State 17
Arizona: Wyoming 38, Georgia St. 17
Alamo: Texas 38, Utah 10

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1

Citrus: Alabama 35, Michigan 16
Outback: Minnesota 31, Auburn 24
Rose: Oregon 28, Wisconsin 27
Sugar: Georgia 26, Baylor 14

Saturday, Jan. 11

At Toyota Stadium: Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (15-0) vs. James Madison (14-1), noon

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	24	7	11	59	139	107
Toronto	23	14	4	51	152	135
Tampa Bay	22	13	4	48	139	121
Florida	21	14	5	47	145	137
Buffalo	18	17	7	43	124	133
Montreal	18	17	6	42	132	133
Ottawa	16	20	5	37	114	138
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	11	3	53	115	102
Pittsburgh	24	11	5	53	138	107
Carolina	24	14	5	50	136	112
Philadelphia	22	14	5	49	131	123
Columbus	19	14	8	46	107	113
N.Y. Rangers	19	17	4	42	132	136
New Jersey	15	19	6	36	104	139

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	26	10	6	58	131	114
Colorado	24	13	4	52	151	122
Dallas	23	14	4	50	111	103
Winnipeg	22	16	3	47	128	126
Minnesota	19	17	5	43	126	137
Nashville	18	15	6	42	134	131
Chicago	18	18	6	42	123	139

PACIFIC

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	23	15	6	52	139	129
Arizona	23	16	4	50	122	110
Vancouver	22	15	4	48	139	124
Edmonton	21	17	5	47	127	137
Calgary	21	17	5	47	118	130
San Jose	18	21	3	39	112	141
Los Angeles	17	21	4	38	109	132
Anaheim	16	20	5	37	105	128

2 pts for win, 1 pt for shootout/OT loss

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Columbus 2, Boston 1, OT
Buffalo 3, Edmonton 2, OT
Tampa Bay 2, Montreal 1
New Jersey 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
San Jose 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
Florida 6, Ottawa 3
Toronto 6, Winnipeg 3
Arizona 4, Anaheim 2
Calgary 4, N.Y. Rangers 3
Colorado 7, St. Louis 3
Vancouver 7, Chicago 5
Vegas 5, Philadelphia 4

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Washington at Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY'S SCORES

EAST
Boston U. 73, Lafayette 72
Brown 85, Rhode Island 75
Bryant 67, St. Francis (Pa.) 63
Bucknell 67, Army 65
Colgate 65, American U. 51
Dayton 84, La Salle 58
Duquesne 73, Saint Louis 59
Loyola (Md.) 80, Holy Cross 53
Maine 75, Columbia 72
Marshall 89, Rice 69
Merrimack 65, Sacred Heart 57
Navy 64, Lehigh 58
Northeastern 77, Elon 68
Robert Morris 89, CCSU 78
St. Francis Brooklyn 79, Fairleigh Dickinson 63
Vermont 177, Dartmouth 68
Wagner 66, Mt. St. Mary's 47
William & Mary 88, Hofstra 61

SOUTH

Charleston S. 89, SC-Upstate 75
Charlotte 51, UAB 44
Coll. of Charleston 81, Towson 69
E. Kentucky 74, Tennessee Tech 59
FAU 79, UTSA 64
FIU 69, UTEP 67
Gardner-Webb 67, Campbell 65
Georgia S. 70, Coastal Carolina 67
Georgia St. 69, Appalachian St. 60
James Madison 64, UNC-Wilmington 60
Lamar 74, New Orleans 67
Liberty 59, Florida Gulf Coast 46
Lipscomb 66, Stetson 63
Louisiana-Monroe 79, Troy 63
Murray St. 89, UT Martin 76
Nicholls 76, Incarnate Word 60
N. Alabama 62, Jacksonville 57
N. Florida 76, Kennesaw St. 57
Old Dominion 70, Middle Tenn. 60
Presbyterian 79, UNC-Asheville 77
Richmond 84, Saint Joseph's 52
SIU-Edwardsville 79, Belmont 69
Stephen F. Austin 82, SE Louisiana 71
Tennessee St. 84, E. Illinois 79
VCU 64, Fordham 46
Winthrop 91, Longwood 67

MIDWEST

Michigan St. 76, Illinois 56
N. Dakota St. 94, W. Illinois 74
Purdue 83, Minnesota 78
Utah Vall. 94, Chicago State 73

WEST

UALR 72, Texas St. 68
N. Colorado 68, Montana St. 59
Utah 81, Oregon St. 69

HOW WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. UConn (11-0) beat Wichita State 83-55. Next: at SMU, Sunday.
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 (13-1) beat No. 13 Kentucky 99-72. Next: at Alabama, Sun. 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 (13-1) beat Clemson 75-50. Next: vs. Duke, Sunday.
8. Florida State (13-1) lost to Syracuse 90-89, OT. Next: at No. 23 Miami, Sun. 9.
N.C. State (13-0) beat Virginia Tech 76-69. Next: vs. Virginia, Sunday.
10. UCLA (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Friday.

11. Texas A&M (13-1) beat No. 20 Arkansas 84-77. Next: vs. Mississippi, Monday.
12. Maryland (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Monday.
13. Kentucky (11-2) lost to No. 4 South Carolina 99-72. Next: vs. No. 22 Tennessee, Sunday.
14. Indiana (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Monday.

15. Mississippi State (13-2) beat Florida 93-47. Next: at Georgia, Sunday.
16. DePaul (11-2) did not play. Next: at Providence, Friday.
17. Gonzaga (13-1) beat BYU 55-43. Next: at San Diego, Saturday.
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 (12-2) lost to No. 11 Texas A&M 84-77. Next: at Auburn, Sunday.
21. Missouri State (10-2) did not play. Next: at Loyola of Chicago, Friday.
22. Tennessee (11-2) beat Missouri 77-66. Next: at No. 13 Kentucky, Sun. 23.
23. Miami (9-4) lost to Georgia Tech 61-54. Next: vs. No. 8 Florida State, Sun. 24.
24. Minnesota (11-2) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Saturday.

25. Texas (8-4) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Friday.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. Gonzaga (15-1) beat Portland 85-72. Next: vs. Pepperdine, Saturday.
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 (11-3) lost to Colorado 74-65. Next: at Utah, Saturday.
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

WHITE SOX

Robert agrees to 6-year deal

Sox will most likely have top prospect starting Opening Day

BY LAMOND POPE

It was apparent top prospect Luis Robert would spend a bulk of the 2020 season with the White Sox.

The only question was whether he would join the team out of spring training or spend a short time back in the minors.

The Sox likely provided an answer Thursday, agreeing to terms with Robert on a 6-year, \$50 million deal. The contract includes two club options that could extend the deal through the 2027 season.

The deal puts Robert in position to be the team's opening-day center fielder.

"It definitely helped me to be more calm, or relaxed, because I know what I need to do and I already know where I'm going to start the season," Robert said through an interpreter during a conference call Thursday. "But at the same time it gives me an extra motivation because, I mean, that was my dream, and I know this year I'm going to be able to make my dream come true."

Robert, 22, will receive \$1.5 million in

2020, \$3.5 million in 2021, \$6 million in 2022, \$9.5 million in 2023, \$12.5 million in 2024 and \$15 million in 2025. The Sox hold \$20 million options for 2026 and 2027, with \$2 million buyouts for both seasons.

Sox general manager Rick Hahn is looking beyond the March 26 opener against the Royals at Guaranteed Rate Field.

"People are understandably focused on what this potentially means for our opening-day roster, but ... the motivation for a deal like this is to put us in position for the long term," Hahn said. "We think the world of Luis and his upside and are willing to invest in that prior to seeing him at the big-league level, just like we did (last spring) with Eloy (Jimenez)."

"Both of those deals are about trying to keep this core in place for the long term, put us in position to extend what we anticipate to be a window opening here for as long as possible."

USA Today's Bob Nightengale first reported the deal. Hahn said conversations started in September.

Robert showcased his power and speed with Class A Winston-Salem, Double-A Birmingham and Triple-A Charlotte in 2019. In 122 games at the three levels, he hit

.328 with 32 home runs and 92 RBIs. He also stole 36 bases, becoming the first Sox minor-leaguer since at least 1988 to join the 30-30 club.

"There will be growing pains. It's going to be a learning process," Hahn said. "We saw (it with) Eloy in the early part of the season, the way big-league pitchers treated him, and we're going to see a similar treatment with Luis and a similar evolution of the skill set over his time at the big-league level."

"That said, so far in the minor-league system, he has made the game look extremely easy, which we all know it isn't. And it can be humbling at times. One of the reasons we were comfortable making this size of a commitment this early in his career is his work ethic and ability to do everything in his power to put himself in the best position to succeed."

Robert is the top-ranked prospect in the organization, according to MLB.com, and No. 3 overall. He knows there's plenty of room for growth.

"You always need to work on all the aspects of the game," Robert said.

A native of Ciego de Avila, Cuba, Robert has a career .312/.381/.551 slash line in three minor-league seasons in the organization.

The Sox signed him as an international free agent on May 27, 2017. Robert will wear No. 88.

He will be part of an outfield that includes Jimenez, who hit 31 home runs as a rookie last season. Jimenez, 23, agreed to a long-term deal leading up to the 2019 season.

Jimenez received a \$5 million signing bonus in addition to the six year, \$43 million deal. The maximum value of Jimenez's deal, should the Sox exercise options in 2025 and 2026, is \$75 million.

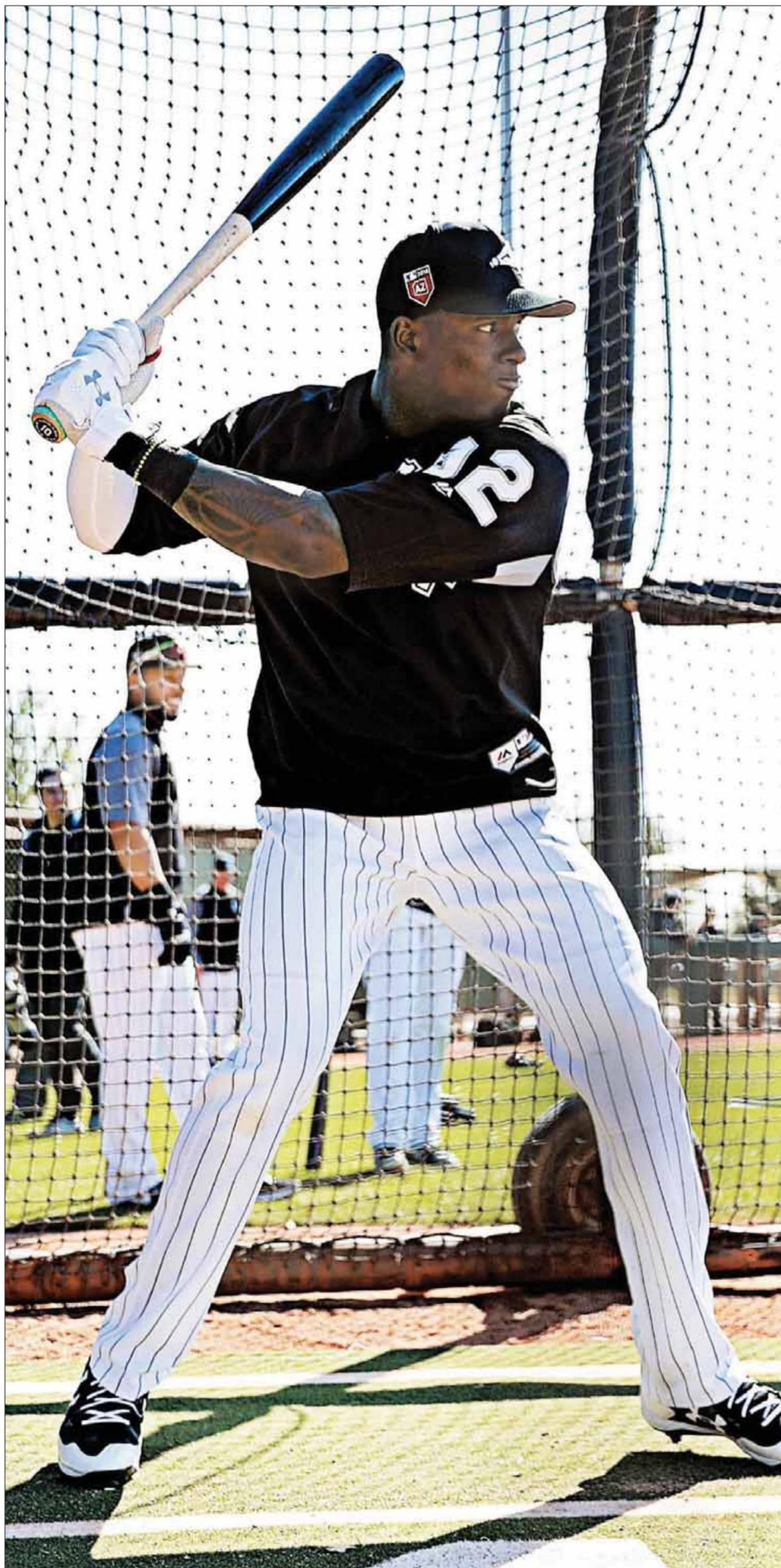
The Sox recently landed right fielder Nomar Mazara in a trade with the Rangers. Mazara, 24, had 19 home runs and 66 RBIs in 116 games in 2019.

Jimenez, Jose Abreu and Yoan Moncada were among the players to text Robert.

"We're going to have a lot of fun, and I'm going to enjoy that," Robert said. "All those good wishes that people are sending me, it's motivating me more for what is coming in the future. I'm going to work harder and I'm going to do all my best to help this team win multiple championships."

"I know we're going to be able to do it because we have very good players."

■ The Sox designated right-handed reliever Tayron Guerrero for assignment.



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Luis Robert bats during White Sox spring training at Camelback Ranch on Feb. 21 in Glendale, Ariz.

Sullivan

Continued from Page 1

Hahn said the Sox "put our money where our mouth is in terms of our level of excitement about this player," then in his next breath tried to temper expectations for Robert's rookie season.

Good luck with that. This is the wrong time to try to convince Sox fans to be a little more patient, and Hahn has no one else to blame but himself after owning the off-season in Chicago.

The Robert contract surprised no one. The Sox made a similar deal last spring with their last core prospect, Eloy Jimenez, who also got paid like a star before proving himself at the major-league level.

Hahn said he views the two as "unique talents," though if this kind of deal becomes the norm in baseball, he'll certainly be remembered as a pioneer among execs for taking a major leap of faith on players based completely on their potential. Robert also must stay healthy, of course, to make this pay off for the Sox, which isn't guaranteed.

Whether he would've started the 2020 season with the Sox without the megadeal is anyone's guess. The Sox would've added another year of team control had they opted to start him at Triple-A Charlotte for a few weeks, which economically made sense, even if he were to prove himself ready for the majors.

A top talent in Cuba when he signed a \$26 million deal with the Sox in 2017, Robert seemingly was on a fast track to stardom in 2018 when he sprained his left thumb while hitting a grand slam during a Cactus League game in Arizona. He hurt the thumb again later in the season with Class-A Winston-Salem, slowing his development.

Hahn called them "fluke injuries" and pointed to the fact Robert put together a monster year on three levels in '19, "blowing through our minor-league system." Even that wasn't enough to earn a promotion to the Sox last September, but Hahn said Thursday "after seeing him for only one full healthy pro season, I think it was fairly clear ... that he has a chance to be a very special talent" for years.

So the big "service time" decision is now a moot point. Robert can begin spring training without the distraction of constantly being asked if he thinks he's ready for the majors.

He's expected to hit in the middle of the lineup and be a significant upgrade in center field, where Sox center fielders ranked 29th of 30 teams in 2019 with 14 home runs and 25th with a .379 slugging percentage.

Including new catcher Yasmani Grandal and yet-to-be announced designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion, the 2020 lineup could resemble the "South Side Hit Men" crew of 1977, which hit a ton of home runs, made a ton of errors and became the most beloved third-place team in Sox history.

Putting Robert's contract in team perspective, Hall of Famer Frank Thomas agreed to a seven-year extension after the 1997 season worth about \$85 million with the option years picked up. Reinsdorf knew he was getting a bargain. Thomas, already an established player, wanted to be a Sox for life and end his career on the South Side.

But stuff happens, and by spring training of 2001, when Alex Rodriguez was making \$25 million a year, Thomas complained he was underpaid and wanted to be rewarded like his peers.

"You can't have an A-Rod making \$25 million and we're coming in at \$7, 8, 9 million," Thomas said. "It's a business. It's just like Hollywood. You can't have the top actor making \$25 million and the rest (of the stars) making \$10 million."

Perhaps one day down the road Robert will wonder why he is making "only" \$15 million while some of his peers are making \$30 million. That's the kind of problem most of us in the real world would love to have. Hopefully Robert will enjoy a lot of success in the meantime, and the Sox will win so much the money won't matter.

As for the present, Hahn referred to this period as the "middle stage" of the rebuild, taking some pressure off manager Rick Renteria to win right now. Hahn also confirmed it was OK for Sox fans to get excited. Sort of.

"That's certainly their prerogative," he said. "I think that's good to hear and we certainly want our fans excited. At the same time ..."

Go ahead and do it, Sox fans. You've waited long enough.

WHITE SOX

South side up in arms



Although Keuchel is an instant upgrade to the Sox rotation, questions remain

BY LAMOND POPE

The White Sox instantly upgraded their starting rotation with the addition of Dallas Keuchel.

The 2015 American League Cy Young Award winner officially signed a three-year, \$55.5 million deal with the Sox on Monday. The deal includes a club option for 2023.

Under terms of the agreement, Keuchel will receive \$18 million each season from 2020-22. The Sox hold a \$20 million option for 2023 with a \$1.5 million buyout.

"We viewed Dallas as one of the premier free-agent pitchers available this winter and so are thrilled to add him to this team and to our starting rotation," Sox general manager Rick Hahn said in a statement.

Keuchel will slot near the top of a staff that returns Lucas Giolito, Reynaldo Lopez and Dylan Cease. The Sox also signed veteran left-hander Gio Gonzalez on Friday. More help could be on the way with Michael Kopech and Carlos Rodon returning from Tommy John surgery.

Sox starters ranked 11th in the AL with a 5.30 ERA in 2019. Here's how the 2020 rotation could initially stack up.

1. Lucas Giolito

He emerged as the staff's ace, making tremendous progress from 2018 to finish tied for sixth in AL Cy Young Award voting. Giolito went 14-9 with a 3.41 ERA and 228 strikeouts.

His 2.72 ERA improvement is the third best in major-league history behind the Cubs' Dick Ellsworth (2.98 from 1962-63) and the Sox's Dennis Lamp (2.79 from 1980-81), according to STATS.

Giolito's season ended in mid-September because of a mild right lat strain.

He was named the AL Pitcher of the Month for May after going 5-0 with a 1.74 ERA. While those numbers would be tough for anyone to duplicate, Giolito said in September that his overall next step is to "become more consistent."

"There were a few starts where I let a few little things distract me from the goal," Giolito said on Sept. 17. "Letting my focus not be there to its fullest capability. So I really want to become more consistent. This offseason (leading to the 2019 season), I had to make a lot of changes and I was still working on those changes in spring training and in April. Now they're all there.

"It's not like I'm going into this offseason having to rewrite anything or starting over from scratch. The baseline is now there. I get to focus on those little improvements."

2. Dallas Keuchel

Keuchel signed with the Braves in June and aided them in their push to the playoffs. He joins the Sox with the same goal in mind.

The left-hander went 8-8 with a 3.75 ERA in 19 starts in 2019.

Keuchel has plenty of big-game experience with 12 career postseason appearances (11 starts). He's 4-2 with a 3.47 ERA in the playoffs and was a member of the 2017 World Series champion Astros.

Keuchel is known as a ground-ball pitcher, so the Sox defense will have to be sharp.

He'll also be a good resource for the younger members of the staff.

3. Reynaldo Lopez

At times in 2019, Lopez was very good, such as his complete-game one-hitter Sept. 5 against the Indians. And at times, Lopez struggled, like when he allowed six runs in two-thirds of an inning Aug. 31 against the Braves.

Lopez went 10-15 with the second-highest ERA among qualifying pitchers in the AL (5.38) in 2019.

Lopez ended the inconsistent season on a positive note, allowing one run on five hits in eight innings on Sept. 28 in a 7-1 win against the Tigers.

"It's all about the focus," Lopez through an interpreter after that game. "That's going to be my main goal during the offseason: have a better focus and being able to keep that focus throughout the whole game."

4. Dylan Cease

Cease said he learned a lot after joining the team on July 3, including a physical adjustment with his front side.

"But a lot of it was just continuing to battle when you don't necessarily feel good and continuing to prepare and treat every start like you're supposed to," Cease said on Sept. 26.

Cease went 4-7 with a 5.79 ERA, 81 strikeouts and 35 walks in 14 starts as a rookie.

A key for Cease in 2020 will be figuring out how to avoid the big inning, for example July 21 against the Rays (four runs in the second inning) and July 26 against the Twins (five runs in the second inning).

He had a nice September, going 1-0 with a 3.00 ERA in his final four starts of the season.

5. Gio Gonzalez

Gonzalez, a two-time All-Star, has pitched at least 170 innings in eight of his last 10 seasons. He had 87²/₃ innings in 2019 with the Brewers, missing time in June and July because of left arm fatigue.

Gonzalez had a strong September, going 1-0 with a 1.17 ERA in six outings (four starts).

Overall, Gonzalez went 3-2 with a 3.50 ERA in 19 outings (17 starts) after signing as a free agent on April 27.

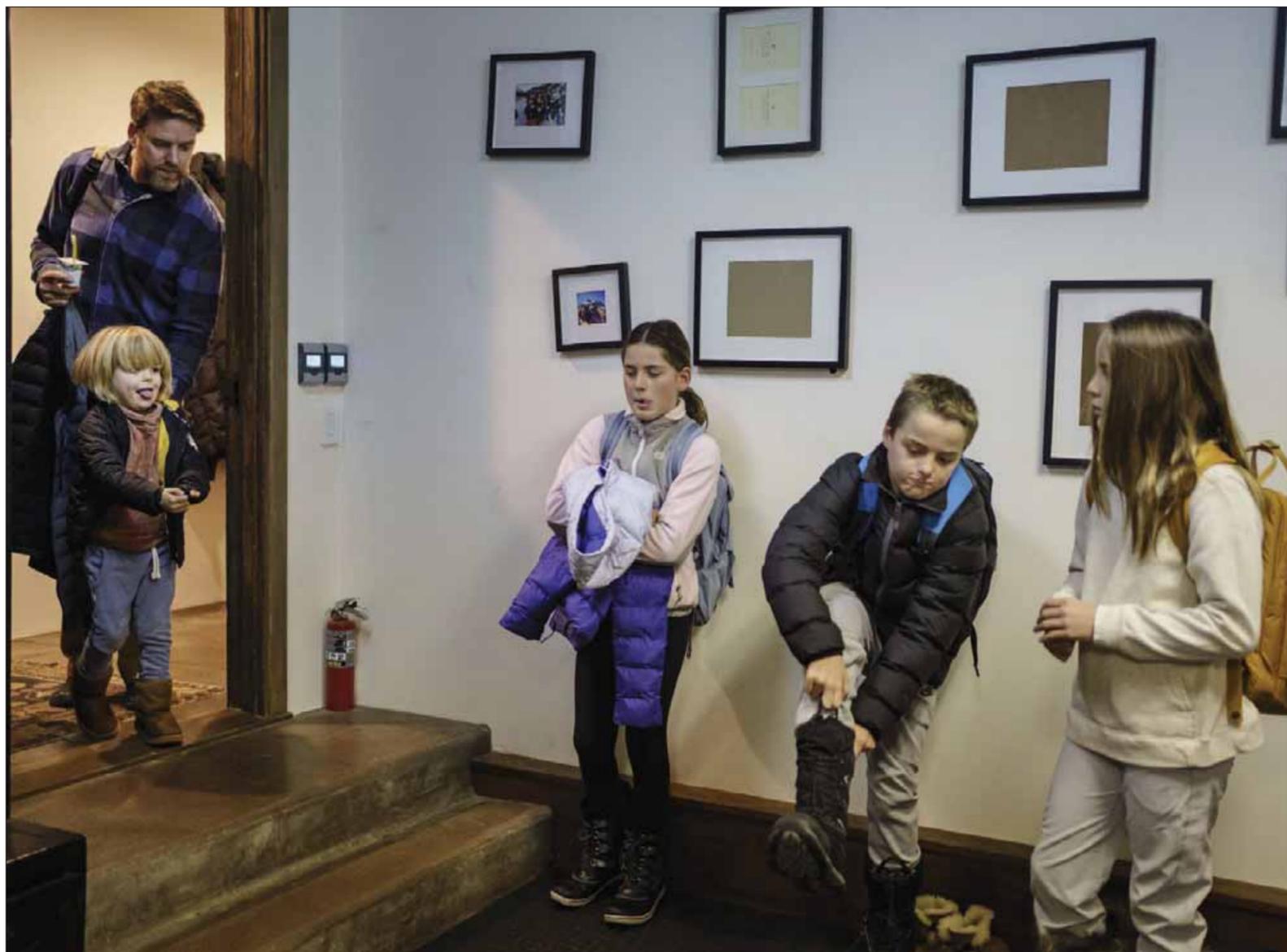
The back end of the Sox rotation was anything but stable in 2019, with Dylan Covey, Ervin Santana and Odrisamer Despaigne among the pitchers receiving an opportunity.

The Sox hope they've found an answer in Gonzalez.

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE (GIOLITO)
BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE (LOPEZ)
JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE (CEASE)
TRIBUNE PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS (KEUCHEL, GONZALEZ)

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE

FOOTBALL



MARCUS YAM/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Former NFL and Heisman Trophy-winning QB Carson Palmer shepherds his children to school as they load up in their vehicle at home last month in Ketchum, Idaho.

Palmer savors role of being a dad

By SAM FARMER
Los Angeles Times

KETCHUM, Idaho — Just as he did as a Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback at USC, as a No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft, and in 15 years as a pro, Carson Palmer still keeps his throwing arm in shape. He does light lifting to strengthen his shoulder joint and maintain his flexibility, all to prepare for the season.

Snowball season. “If I miss you, I’m trying to miss,” said Palmer, 40, who threw 299 touchdown passes in his career with the Cincinnati Bengals, Oakland Raiders and Arizona Cardinals. “I’m deadly with a snowball.”

After Palmer retired at the end of the 2017 season, he and his wife, Shaelyn, moved their four children to this picturesque resort town of 2,800 people, where being a fan of the three major sports means you like to hunt, fish and ski.

To the bewilderment of many of his old teammates, Mr. Throw’em is now Mr. Ketchum.

“I have buddies who say, ‘Where are you living? Wyoming or something? Don’t you still have a house in California?’” said Palmer, sitting on the kitchen counter of the family’s sprawling home on four snow-covered acres. “I tell them we live in Idaho, and you can see it on their face and sense it in their voice: ‘Um . . . O . K.’”

Palmer turned down a job to be a color analyst on Fox and has decided not to pursue coaching opportunities, even though football is stitched like laces through his DNA. He is intensely private, especially when it comes to his family, so when he walked off the gridiron, he was determined to step off the grid.

That means fly fishing for rainbow trout in the morning and skiing Sun Valley in the afternoon. It means helping get his kids ready for school — twins Fletch and Elle, 10; daughter Bries, 8; and son Carter, 3 — then tag-teaming with Shaelyn to shuttle them to ski team, ice skating and guitar lessons. Palmer happily has gone from one of the most celebrated and glamorous jobs around, one of 32 starting quarterbacks in a league watched by tens of millions, to the routine of a quieter life.

“This is who Carson is and has always been,” Shaelyn said. “He never wanted to be famous. He always turned away from anything having to do with that. For those who know Carson, this is his most natural environment. Being outside. Just being a normal guy. Being a dad.”

Born in Fresno, Calif., and raised in Orange County, Palmer fell in love with Ketchum and the outdoors during his teens, when he regularly made summer trips to Idaho with family friends. He and his close pal, Jake Rohe, would spend their days working out on the playground at nearby Hemingway Elementary, only stopping when one of them would get sick. When they weren’t exercising to the brink of collapse, they were fishing.

“I fell in love with having my feet in the water and a fly rod in my hands,” Palmer said.

That’s a common sentiment in this community, where locals are accustomed to living among celebrities. Tom Hanks, Clint Eastwood, Arnold Schwarzenegger and



NORM HALL/GETTY

Since retiring from the NFL at the end of the 2017 season, Palmer turned down a job to be color analyst on Fox and decided not to pursue coaching opportunities. Instead his focus is firmly set on his family.

Robin Williams all had homes in the area at one point or another. Bruce Willis and Demi Moore once called Ketchum home. Just down the road from the Palmers is the grave of Ernest Hemingway, who spent his final years in Ketchum.

Before buying a place of their own, the Palmers rented from golfer Davis Love III, who has a home directly across the street from a ski lift. That house became available when Love took a spill on the slopes and broke a collarbone.

“This community treats celebrities just like they treat everyone else,” said Guy Robbins, who has multiple jobs in town, among them a fishing guide for Silver Creek Outfitters. “It’s not, ‘Oh my god, can I get a selfie?’ That doesn’t happen in this town with the people who live here.”

That’s not always the case. The 6-foot-5 Palmer can’t always blend into the background. Recently, while he and Robbins were at a remote fishing spot an hour outside town, they happened upon a fellow traveler in a Pittsburgh Steelers jersey.

“Take off your glasses,” the man asked of Palmer, barely able to utter the words. Palmer complied, to which the stranger said: “I knew it was you!”

With his wife out of town recently, a rare occurrence, Palmer handled solo parenting duties and finished the day by taking his children to dinner at the Pioneer Saloon, a Ketchum institution. Twenty minutes into the meal, a man at the next table did a triple-take, went away for a few minutes and reappeared with a bottle of wine as a gift for Palmer. It turned out the man was a fellow USC graduate, ecstatic to be sharing

the same restaurant as the quarterback who launched the Pete Carroll era.

“I’ve got a signed football from you,” the flabbergasted fan said.

“Good job,” chirped preschooler Carter, drawing laughs from both tables.

Palmer has a satellite dish at home and watches about 75% of the games involving the Cardinals and USC. He keeps up on what’s happening in the NFL because he still does a handful of weekly interviews for radio and podcasts and does brand representation for Kadenwood properties and FedEx. He’s looking into property-development opportunities in Ketchum and is considering a role in local government; he has been appointed to a seat for the Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency.

The Palmers have yet to decide how long they might stay in Ketchum. They love the town and the one school all their children attend. Both parents grew up playing ball sports — Shaelyn was a soccer player at USC — but those are an afterthought when it comes to youth sports here.

Fletch, a fifth-grader, wants to play quarterback, but his parents won’t let him start playing tackle football until eighth grade and the community doesn’t offer a flag-football alternative. The family still owns a farm in Ohio and a home in Del Mar.

“We wanted to raise our kids away from the hustle,” Shaelyn said. “We also didn’t want them having pressures because of Carson’s career. Especially Fletch. He was getting that really hard-core in Arizona. Everyone thought he was going to be the best quarterback. You just want them to be who they are. This took the pressure off

him.”

Carson and Shaelyn point to their own parents as role models who spent as much time with them as they could. But Palmer said he missed “a ton of stuff, almost everything” when he was traveling and consumed by game preparation as an NFL quarterback. That wasn’t just when he was traveling but also while he was studying video, meeting with teammates and getting physical therapy.

“It’s an all-consuming job,” he said.

To the Palmers now, that feels like a lifetime ago.

“He’s had a million opportunities since he retired,” Shaelyn said. “Job offers, travel. There’s a lot of guys who would say, ‘Awesome. I’m going to go travel three days a week and make X amount of money.’ But he chose our family.”

Some things haven’t changed: For several years, Palmer has agonized watching USC’s football team struggle on the field.

“It’s hard to engage when you’re very prideful about something,” he said. “It’s frustrating, like anybody with their alma mater, when you just disagree with some of the things that are going on. You know how good it can be, and how easy — not that it’s easy — but, man, we should be a top-five recruiting class every year. How are we not?”

Palmer won the Heisman as a Trojan in 2002, but the trophy is not in his possession. He used to keep it in his garage but recently honored the request of sports media personality Dan Patrick and loaned it to him to adorn a studio in Connecticut.

“I have a lot of interesting things in my man cave,” Patrick said. “But the Heisman shows up, and the base of it is beat up. It looks like it’s played in a game, like the Bengals’ offensive line has pass protected for it.”

That Palmer would part ways, if only temporarily, with such a revered piece of sports hardware is not particularly surprising to Patrick.

“I always thought there was something a little more unique with him,” Patrick said. “I go back to his days with the Bengals, and when he decided that he’d rather not play football than play for the Bengals. I think he was understanding of the joy in life, or how do I get that satisfaction?”

A pivotal moment in Palmer’s career came during a playoff game against Pittsburgh at the end of 2005 season, when he suffered a gruesome knee injury on his opening pass.

“Sometimes there’s that first real shock of, this could end tomorrow,” Patrick said. “I think he always had perspective on that. What is quality of life? I won the trophy. Why not let others see it and share it with them to give them some kind of joy?”

Roughly 2,500 miles to the west, Palmer is enjoying a different kind of reward: time with his family.

“Playing quarterback is a glamorous job. It’s awesome. It’s everything I dreamed it would be,” Palmer said. “But after a while, it loses its glamour. Somewhere along those 15 years, it becomes a job. Especially at the end, it became work. Game day was awesome, but all the rest of it was work.”

So would he trade the life he has now for more NFL glory?
Snowball’s chance.

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE



Replay dominated in 2019. Expect much of the play in 2020 to be...

Under review

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — From the moment two officials failed to throw a flag for obvious pass interference on a play that helped decide the NFC championship — stunning the players, coaches and millions of fans — officiating and replay became a constant theme in 2019.

No matter the sport, fans and competitors were frustrated by inconsistent standards and rules that prevent some obvious mistakes from being changed. But those same fans and competitors also complain about long delays to determine something as mundane as whose fingernail last touched a basketball before it went out of bounds, even in a regular-season blowout.

"I don't want any instant replay in my life personally, but if we are going to have it, let's use it properly," Oakland Raiders coach Jon Gruden said after getting an apology for a blown call that led to a loss. "I don't think it's that hard."

But no one agrees on the proper way to implement video review. Some argue the technology takes away the human element and is too intrusive, and others counter that all wrong calls should be overturned. Some even want to let technology call balls and strikes in baseball.

From that no-call at the Superdome that helped send the Rams to the Super Bowl instead of the Saints, to the Final Four where Virginia was helped to a title by some calls that couldn't be reviewed to another that was, to the Kentucky Derby where for the first time ever the apparent winner was disqualified for interference on video review, to controversy from the Video Assistant Review system at the Women's World Cup and across Europe's biggest soccer leagues, replay has confounded nearly everyone.

The only constant seems to be more of it.

"I don't think you can go backward anymore," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said when his league expanded the use of replay following a series of mistakes in the playoffs that changed the outcome of some games.

"I think that ship has sailed. Frankly, we want to get it right."

Figuring out how to do that is the challenge.

There was nearly unanimous agreement that there should have been pass interference called against the Rams' Nickell Robey-Coleman on New Orleans' Tommy Lee Lewis in the NFC title game. The no-call gave Los Angeles enough time to drive for a game-tying field goal before eventually winning in overtime to go to the Super Bowl.

There has been no such unanimity when it comes to the solution. The NFL acceded to the wishes of

the coaches led by New Orleans' Sean Payton to allow challenges of pass interference calls, but that has only added more ambiguity, with no consistent standard of what warrants an overturn.

Throw in weekly disputes on what constitutes roughing the passer, premature whistles that negate touchdowns, botched calls that aren't reviewed because a team is out of challenges, and the complaints have only grown louder.

"It seems like week in and week out, there are three or four games that have impact calls that continue to make the headlines," said former NFL referee and ESPN officiating analyst John Parry. "They have to find a way to get off of the headlines. There will be a holding call missed here and there. But it's the game changers, the two or three impact plays where quality officiating is needed. We're just not there."

Parry blames inexperienced officiating crews and the lack of a lower league training program like NFL Europe.

He's now open to more radical changes, including putting an extra official upstairs to communicate obvious misses to the field officials and allowing challenges on more types of calls.

But that won't solve all the missed calls, which have become more evident thanks to new camera angles and high-definition TV.

"I think slow-mo replay is the biggest problem with replay," Gruden said. "When you're looking at 'is it a catch or isn't it a catch?' at that speed it's hard to tell. It really is hard to tell. So I think if you threw that slow-mo out, I think you'd get back to common sense."

There are issues in almost every sport, from the pass interference debate in the NFL to balls and strikes in baseball to the block or charge in the NBA to the standard for penalties in the NHL to fans reporting infractions seen on TV in golf.

Perhaps the only sport that has implemented replay in a nearly controversy-free method is tennis. The only major complaints are whether replay should be added to clay court tournaments like the French Open, where linesmen use the old-fashioned method of checking marks.

Tournament director Guy Forget said this past year that's not about to change.

"Historically, we've been judging the course of a ball and where it lands on the court by the mark it leaves on the clay," he said. "Would you like to have a court with no chair umpire, no linesmen, just electronic line-calling? Is that something we really want in the future? I think we'd miss something."

That's exactly the debate going on in baseball, where many replay advocates are pushing for balls and strikes to be called electronically.

Those complaints reached a

crescendo in Game 5 of the World Series, when a couple of apparent bad calls hurt the Washington Nationals.

Baseball has experimented with "robots" calling balls and strikes and communicating to an umpire in the Arizona Fall League and in the independent Atlantic League.

That could come to the big leagues soon. Umpires agreed to cooperate with Major League Baseball in the development and testing of an automated ball-strike system as part of a five-year labor contract announced in December, two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because those details of the deal, which is subject to ratification by both sides, had not been announced.

"It would change the game for the good. It would continue the effort to eliminate human deficiency," Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt wrote in a story for The Associated Press in October. "We have replay everywhere else in the game. Like it or not, replay gets the call right."

In soccer, the increased use of video assistant refereeing in 2019 collided with wider changes. Confusion was fueled as referees had to get used to a new way to interpret handballs and the movement of goalkeepers on their line when facing penalty kicks.

The arrival of VAR in the Premier League sowed fresh confusion. Fans and players alike had gotten used to referees going over to assess replays for themselves on field-side screens in other competitions. In England, referees have been relying heavily on the VAR system feeding their verdicts through the radio.

Fans have also grumbled about a new level of scrutiny, with VARs using forensic geometry to rule if a player is offside. At times, an attacker has been ruled offside because of the position of his armpit in relation to a defender.

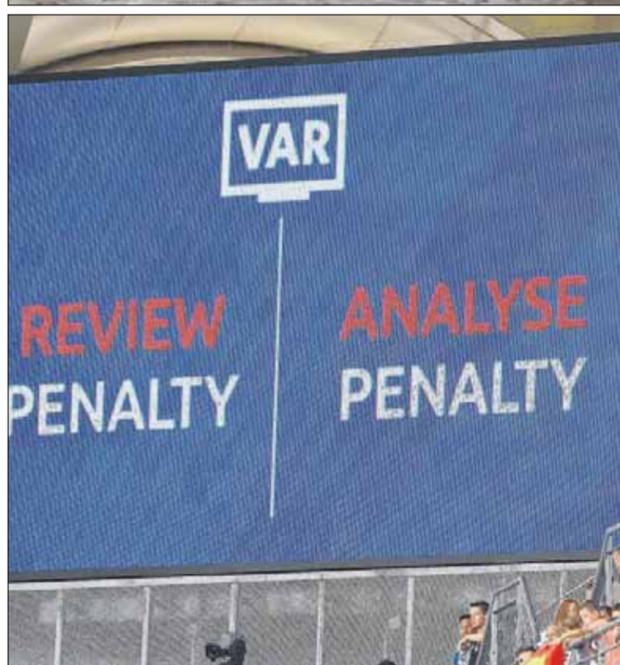
The NBA also added a challenge system this season, but that didn't help correct one glaring mistake when Houston's James Harden had what appeared to be a clear dunk wrongly disallowed in a double-overtime loss to San Antonio.

The Rockets protested but the result held even though the officials in question were suspended.

Complaints about officiating are as old as sports and won't change no matter what kind of technology is used.

"At the end of the day, there's no perfect system," Parry said. "It is sports. It is humans making calls. We're just trying to interject technology into the human element to make it a little better."

AP sports writers Ronald Blum, Howard Fendrich, Rob Harris and Ben Walker contributed to this report.



AP, GETTY-AFP PHOTOS

From the NFL to major league baseball and from horse racing to soccer, video review played a big role in sports throughout 2019.

Chicago Tribune
A+E
 MOVIES

What are 2020's most anticipated movies?



CLAY ENOS/WARNER BROS

Gal Gadot returns as the Amazing Amazon in "Wonder Woman 1984."

Fandango survey says filmgoers eager to see 'Wonder Woman 1984'

BY NARDINE SAAD
 Los Angeles Times

The future is female ... at least when it comes to the cineplex. For the first time, four films starring and directed by women — "Wonder Woman 1984," Marvel's "Black Widow" and "Eternals" and Disney's live-action "Mulan" — topped a Fandango audience survey of the most anticipated movies of the new year, the film hub announced.

The movies, helmed by Patty Jenkins, Cate Shortland, Chloe Zhao and Niki Caro, respectively, were selected in an online survey conducted in the last weeks of December. More than 2,000 millennial film fans cast their

votes for the top movies and performances they were most looking forward to seeing on the big screen in 2020.

Rounding out the top 10 are a bevy of sequels, spin-offs and adaptations, including the next James Bond installment ("No Time to Die"), John Krasinski's "A Quiet Place II," the female superhero team-up flick "Birds of Prey," the musical "In the Heights," Pixar's animated film "Soul" and the ninth chapter of the "Fast & Furious" franchise. "Soul," about a middle-school music teacher who dreams of playing at a New York jazz club, appears to be the only original fare.

But it's the "Wonder Woman" sequel that fans seem particularly stoked about, topping the most anticipated actress (Gal Gadot), actor (Chris Pine) and villain (Kristen Wiig)

categories as well.

Here's how those four films fared and the other releases moviegoers can expect in the new year:

Most anticipated movie

- "Wonder Woman 1984" (directed by Patty Jenkins; release date: June 5)
- "Black Widow" (Cate Shortland, May 1)
- Marvel's "Eternals" (Chloe Zhao, Nov. 6)
- "Mulan" (Niki Caro, March 27)
- "No Time to Die" (Cary Joji Fukunaga, April 10)
- "A Quiet Place Part II" (John Krasinski, March 20)
- "Birds of Prey" (Cathy Yan, Feb. 7)

Turn to **Movies**, Page 2

Netflix takes aim at Oscar

Company has doubled output of Hollywood's biggest studios

BY LUCAS SHAW
 Bloomberg

LOS ANGELES — Netflix Inc. has been making its own movies for years, but 2019 may be remembered as the year it truly became a film studio.

The company began the year by joining the Motion Picture Association of America, the Hollywood trade group that represents movie studios. It went on to release nearly 60 English-language feature films over the course of 2019, including Oscar contenders "The Irishman" and "Marriage Story."

With a slate that includes its first animated feature "Klaus," a Michael Bay action thriller and comedies like Eddie Murphy's "Dolemite Is My Name," Netflix has doubled or even tripled the output of Hollywood's biggest studios. And for the first time, the company's top executives are saying that movies will determine whether Netflix hits its financial targets in 2019.

"This fall was a nice culmination," Scott Stuber, Netflix's film chief, said in an interview. "I'm very proud of this slate. I can look you in the eye and say we've made as good movies this fall as anybody."

Stuber, 51, joined Netflix in 2017 after more than two decades working in the film business — first as an executive and then a producer. Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos asked Stuber to build a movie studio from scratch, one that would rival any in Hollywood.

At the time, Netflix had only released a couple dozen original movies, most of them forgettable — like the sequel to "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and Adam Sandler's comedy western "The Ridiculous 6." The company had to fill its slate with projects that had been cast aside by other studios.

Netflix's one movie that delighted critics, "Beasts of No Nation," earned no nominations at the 2016 Academy Awards — an outcome that many experts interpreted as a rebuke of the streaming company. It had resisted demands to release its movies in theaters before they appear on its service, angering cinephiles and movie-theater owners.

"It was a company built on television — that was first and foremost," said Stuber, a 6-foot-4 executive who brought a fat Rolodex to Netflix from producing movies such as "Ted," "The Break-Up" and "Central Intelligence." Many of his past collaborators, including Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and director Peter Berg, have since signed on to make movies for Netflix.

In the 2½ years since Stuber took the job, Netflix has morphed into the largest movie studio in

Turn to **Netflix**, Page 4



LUCASFILM/DISNEY

After decades of loving Boba Fett, fans of the "Star Wars" franchise's new show "The Mandalorian" found a new fave in Baby Yoda.

Baby Yoda's best scene partners

Good or bad, here's how they rate from Season 1 of 'The Mandalorian'

BY TRACY BROWN
 Los Angeles Times

(Warning: This story contains spoilers from "The Mandalorian.")

Baby Yoda: Mysterious child, strong in the Force and an internet darling since he first appeared in the final moments of the series premiere of "The Mandalorian."

The season finale saw Baby Yoda in a precarious situation after he was snatched by a couple of Scout Troopers who planned to deliver him to Moff Gideon. Luckily, the newly reprogrammed IG-11 is there to save the day.

Among the episode's many reveals are new details about Mando's backstory, including his name (Din Djarin); that Cara Dune is from a famous planet (Alderaan); and that Gideon appears to possess a legendary weapon forged by a Mandalorian Jedi (the darksaber). But most of the questions fans have had about Baby Yoda remain unanswered.

Officially known as the Child, the character dubbed "Baby Yoda" took the "Star Wars" fandom by storm for his cuteness, his resemblance to a legendary Jedi master and his obscure origins. But mostly for his cuteness, enhanced by his diminutive size and expressive eyes and ears.

Baby Yoda and Mando's adventures will continue in the second season of the first live-action "Star Wars" series. Until



LUCASFILM

Werner Herzog portrayed The Client in "The Mandalorian."

then, here's a look back at everyone who spent some time in Baby Yoda's presence in Season 1 of "The Mandalorian." We ranked his scene partners from worst to best based on their motivations and how memorable we found their interactions with Baby Yoda.

14. The Client

The Client (Werner Herzog) paid a lot of beskar to get his hands on Baby Yoda, aka "the Asset." While Herzog is clearly a fan of the mysterious baby, the Client's nefarious interest in Baby Yoda puts him at the bottom of this list.

13. Scout Troopers

If the Bike Scout Troopers' (Jason Sudeikis and Adam Pally) plan to deliver Baby Yoda to Gideon wasn't bad enough, they both hit the kid whenever he did something they didn't like. Just no.

12. Toro Calican

The aspiring bounty hunter's only interest in Baby Yoda was in turning him and Mando over to the Guild to launch his career. We were not sad to see Toro

Turn to **Yoda**, Page 2

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



RODIN ECKENROTH/GETTY

Matthew Morgan is executive chef for the Golden Globes.

Feeding the stars: Golden Globes goes meatless

LOS ANGELES — The Golden Globes, known as the “party of the year,” is going with a meatless menu for its 77th annual awards show.

Guests will be served a 100% plant-based meal just ahead of showtime Sunday. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association said it wants to raise environmental awareness about food consumption and waste.

“If there’s a way we can, not change the world but save the planet, maybe we can get the Golden Globes to send a signal and draw attention to the issue about climate change,” HFPA president Lorenzo Soria said. “The food we eat, the way we grow the food we eat, the way we dispose of the food is one of the large contributors to the climate crisis.”

Executive chef Matthew Morgan called the menu change initially surprising. But he ultimately understood it would send a positive message.

“Once we thought about it and the message that it sent, we were really excited about it,” he said. “That’s something I stand behind myself.”

Items on the menu include king oyster mushrooms and wild mushroom risotto, along with roasted baby purple and green Brussels sprouts and carrots. A chilled golden beet soup will be served as an appetizer. Also, water will be served in glass bottles to eliminate plastic waste in the ballroom and red carpet.

Presenting ... Charlize Theron, Octavia Spencer, Daniel Craig, Tiffany Haddish, Glenn Close, Will Ferrell and Kate McKinnon are among the presenters announced for Sunday’s award show, hosted by Ricky Gervais. Tom Hanks will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award, and Ellen DeGeneres will be honored with the Carol Burnett Award, a counterpart to the DeMille Award for life achievement in television.



Hanks

— Associated Press



DANIEL ZUCHNIK/GETTY

Jagged little bleep: Alanis Morissette, Lauren Patten (above) and the cast of Broadway’s “Jagged Little Pill” caused a bit of a stir during “Dick Clark’s Rockin’ New Years Eve with Ryan Seacrest” Tuesday night when Patten dropped an f-bomb while singing the ‘90s hit “You Oughta Know.” The famous line, “are you thinking of me when you (bleep) her?” isn’t family-friendly, but Patten (“Blue Bloods”) went for it at Morissette’s urging. “She told me to,” Patten said. “She said, ‘say it.’ She said she always (sings) that, and ‘you are going to say it, too.’” The censors bleeped it.

Voice of ‘Schoolhouse Rock’: Jack Sheldon, the iconic voice behind many “Schoolhouse Rock!” episodes, including “Conjunction Junction” and “I’m Just a Bill,” is dead at 88. The prolific musician and singer died Dec. 27 of undisclosed causes, according to a Facebook post by Sheldon’s biographer Doug McIntyre. He had also served as music director and sidekick on Merv Griffin’s long-running talk show, according to The Hollywood Reporter. “Schoolhouse Rock” was a series of animated educational shorts that ran during ABC’s Saturday morning lineup from 1973-84. It was revived from 1994-96, and again in 2009.

Jan. 3 birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 88. Singer Stephen Stills is 75. Bassist John Paul Jones is 74. Actress Victoria Principal is 70. Actor Mel Gibson is 64. Jazz saxophonist James Carter is 51. Actor Jason Marsden is 47. Actress Danica McKellar is 45. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 44. Singer Kimberley Locke is 42. R&B singer Lloyd is 34.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

FaceTime romance faces travel trial

Dear Amy: My 18-year-old daughter has had a romantic relationship for over two years with another young woman she met online.

They have never met in person, but communicate daily via FaceTime.

They would both very much like to meet, and we support this idea, but there are a few wrinkles.

First, we live on different continents (North America and Europe).

Second, the other teen is not out to her parents about the nature of their relationship or about being gay, which makes it difficult for us to visit her without being deceptive and potentially creating an unsafe situation for her and us.

The apparent solution is for her to visit us, but ... the third wrinkle is that the girlfriend doesn’t have enough money to visit without my daughter helping to foot more than half the airfare.

The lack of money also means that she would plan on staying with us, but we as parents don’t really know her, so it’s a little concerning to host her in our home. The visit could go south somehow, which could put us in the position of having to pay for her hotel and still generally look out for her — until her return flight back.

We’d really like to help facilitate a visit so these two could spend time together in real life, but we are struggling to figure out how best to do that.

Any thoughts?
— Parenting in the Modern Age

Dear Modern Age: If you are able (and want) to give

your daughter the money to help finance her friend’s trip, then do so. It’s far less expensive to kick in for this girl’s flight than for all of you to take a trip to Europe in order for these two to finally meet in person.

However, it’s wisest for your daughter and her girlfriend to work out the finances on their own, with you generously offering to host in your home.

You should plan for a short visit. If things go so badly between these two that you feel compelled to remove this girl from your household and install her elsewhere until her return flight, then that’s a bridge you’ll have to cross if you get to it (I think this is unlikely).

Your 18-year-old daughter should overall be in charge of her own romantic life, including the complications of falling for someone who lives in another country.

Dear Amy: My father was physically abusive to me when I was a child, and emotionally abusive when I was a teenager.

I’ve been depressed for most of my life, with no sense of self-worth. I confronted him when I was an adult. He tried to explain, but he never apologized.

Now he is 93, and in a nursing home. I would like to get closure by telling him how much his behavior damaged my life, but I know it would hurt him at the end of his life. Should I get the closure I have needed all of my life, or should I keep it to myself to spare his feelings?
— Still Hurting

Dear Hurting: I think the

movies have trained all of us to seek closure and to expect satisfying endings.

But life doesn’t really work that way. Your father does not know how to apologize. I would venture a guess that he himself was wounded, damaged and emotionally stunted.

It takes a brave person to confront their abuser. You could try to do this again and likely receive a similar, unsatisfying result.

Do not hope for closure. Work toward personal reconciliation. Acknowledge what happened to you. Choose to release yourself from the blame and shame. And, as you sit by your bad old dad’s bedside, ask yourself if forgiveness is possible.

Forgiving him might liberate you. Also, see a counselor. Working this out with professional guidance will change your life.

Dear Amy: When did name-calling get so popular? Oh, someone leading our country made it so. Rocket Man, Sleepy Joe, Crooked Hillary, to name a few. Please do not condone “Boomer.”

It is sounding as bad as the aforementioned monikers. You should stop this condescending and mean trend.

— Upset

Dear Upset: “Boomer” is the name of the generation to which I belong. It doesn’t strike me as being particularly “mean.” Nor can I make it go away.

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Yoda

Continued from Page 1

Calican (Jake Cannavale) taken down.

11. Dr. Pershing

The nature of the procedure Dr. Pershing (Omid Abtahi) had planned for Baby Yoda remains unknown. The only reason the mysterious scientist is not ranked lower is because he at least seemed to care about keeping Baby Yoda alive.

10. Mayfeld and his band of mercenaries

Mayfeld (Bill Burr) and his crew (Natalia Tena, Clancy Brown and Richard Ayoade) were definitely no friends to Mando and Baby Yoda. But seeing Baby Yoda engage a droid in a game of hide-and-seek aboard the Razor Crest was amusing enough.

9. Greef Karga

The head of the Bounty Hunters Guild, Greef Karga’s (Carl Weathers) priority appeared to be getting the Client what he wanted, regardless of what



MELINDA SUE GORDON/LUCASFILM

Gina Carano portrays Cara Dune in Lucasfilm’s “The Mandalorian.”

harm would come to Baby Yoda’s wrinkled little head. He had a change of heart after Baby Yoda saved his life, which let the kid show off his Force abilities again.

8. Cara Dune

Rebel Shock Trooper-turned-mercenary Cara Dune (Gina Carano) is clearly more comfortable handling deadly projectile weapons than holding a

baby. (It probably doesn’t help that Baby Yoda has used the Force to choke her.) But that hasn’t stopped her from being a great ally to Mando and the kid.

7. Razor Crest

Watching Mando try to stop Baby Yoda from pushing buttons he shouldn’t on a spaceship will never get old.

6. The children of planet Sorgan

During their brief stop on the remote forest planet Sorgan, Mando and Baby Yoda spend time with some villagers who’ve been having trouble with raiders. Seeing the kids in the village coo over the adorable child and Baby Yoda’s joy as they all played together was a precious sight.

5. IG-11

An assassin droid bounty hunter originally sent to capture Baby Yoda, IG-11 (voiced by Taika Waititi) was later reprogrammed to be the kid’s nurse droid. He was a deadly and dedicated protector with robotic charm.

4. Kuilil

The capable Ugnaught handyman helped Mando out a number of times over the course of Season 1. Kuilil (voiced by Nick Nolte) built Baby Yoda a better space pram, handed the youngster, reprogrammed IG-11 and was willing to protect the child with his life. He’s clearly the best surrogate uncle Baby Yoda could ask for.

3. Cup of soup

It doesn’t matter that “cup of soup” is not an actual character: The image of Baby Yoda sipping on a mug of bone broth as he observes Mando and Cara duking it out changed the internet forever.

2. The Mandalorian

The series’ hero, a lone, blaster-slinging bounty hunter, gave up his steady

(but dangerous) job in order to save Baby Yoda. Mando (Pedro Pascal) has since taken on plenty of Stormtroopers and other foes in order to protect his charge and is set to explore the galaxy to reunite Baby Yoda with his people. Mando’s best space dad moments are when he says things familiar to anyone who’s spent time with small children, like “Spit that out,” “Stop touching things” and “That’s not a toy.”

1. Peli Motto

As a mechanic in Mos Eisley, Peli Motto (Amy Sedaris) was guaranteed to earn points with “Star Wars” fans who fondly remember Tatooine as the planet where it all started. But she cemented her place as Baby Yoda’s top scene partner after she scooped him up as he toddled out of the Razor Crest. Yes, she was very much motivated by the possibility of making some quick babysitting cash. She also tugged on Baby Yoda’s ear, engaged in a bit of baby talk and held him until he fell asleep — all things Baby Yoda fans have been dying to do since he first appeared onscreen.

Movies

Continued from Page 1

- “In the Heights” (Jon M. Chu, June 26)
- Pixar’s “Soul” (Pete Docter and Kemp Powers, June 19)
- “Fast & Furious 9” (Justin Lin, May 22)

Most anticipated actress

- Gal Gadot (“Wonder Woman 1984”)
- Scarlett Johansson (“Black Widow”)
- Emily Blunt (“A Quiet Place Part II,” “Jungle Cruise”)

- Margot Robbie (“Birds of Prey”)
- Zendaya (“Dune”)

Most anticipated actor

- Chris Pine (“Wonder Woman 1984”)
- Paul Rudd (“Ghostbusters: Afterlife”)
- Ryan Reynolds (“Free Guy”)
- Daniel Craig (“No Time to Die”)
- Robert Downey Jr. (“Dolittle”)

Most anticipated villain

- Kristen Wiig as Cheetah

- (“Wonder Woman 1984”)
- Rami Malek as Safin (“No Time to Die”)
- Ewan McGregor as Black Mask (“Birds of Prey”)
- Jim Carrey as Dr. Ivo Robotnik (“Sonic the Hedgehog”)
- Charlize Theron as Cipher (“Fast & Furious 9”)

Most anticipated family film

- “Mulan”
- Pixar’s “Soul”
- “Sonic the Hedgehog”
- “Dolittle”
- “Jungle Cruise”

Most anticipated horror film

- “A Quiet Place Part II”
- “Halloween Kills”
- “The Invisible Man”
- “The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It”
- “The Grudge”

Most anticipated live action comedy

- “Ghostbusters: Afterlife”
- “Bill & Ted Face the Music”
- “Bad Boys For Life”
- “Legally Blonde 3”
- “The Lovebirds”



JONNY COURNOYER

Millicent Simmonds, from left, Noah Jupe and Emily Blunt return for director John Krasinski’s “A Quiet Place Part II.”

Hollywood disses female music journalists

These problematic portrayals give industry a bad rap

By **JAMES PATRICK HERMAN**
Variety

As controversy builds around “Richard Jewell” and its depiction of female journalists, it’s nothing new for women music writers on the silver screen.

Although “Crazy Heart,” which premiered 10 years ago this month, was basically 2009’s equivalent of Bradley Cooper’s remake of “A Star Is Born,” it hasn’t had quite the staying power of some other archetypal music-based films. Jeff Bridges won his first Oscar for his portrayal of a washed-up, alcoholic country singer, and Maggie Gyllenhaal was nominated for her performance as the much younger love interest who tries to save him from self-destruction. The main difference in this film written and directed by Scott Cooper (no relation to Bradley) is that Gyllenhaal’s character is not a fellow singer-songwriter ripe for mentoring, but rather an aspiring journalist in search of a story.

Before long, however, business and pleasure intermingle and Bridges and Gyllenhaal wake up in bed together (where she reflexively reaches for her tape recorder). While their relationship proves to be as sad and tragic as a country song, Gyllenhaal’s character at least achieves career success — a star reporter is born — which is arguably the craziest part of “Crazy Heart.”

But then, it’s fairly typical as far as Hollywood’s depictions of female music journalists go. (Spoiler alert: They all stink.)

“The lamest aspect of these depictions of journalists is how cliched they are,” says Evelyn McDonnell, Director of Loyola Marymount University’s Journalism Program and Associate Professor of English and a veteran journalist herself. She’s also the editor of “Women Who Rock: Bessie to Beyoncé, Girl Groups to Riot Grrrl!” and the “Music Matters” series. “It’s such a facile, formulaic plot device: Female writer plus male musician equals sex. It’s also an insult to the integrity and professionalism of the hundreds of writers who have worked hard to be taken seriously for their reporting and craft.”

And that’s not all. “These movies perform the classic sexist act of negating women’s brains and reducing them to bodies, to adjuncts and worshippers of men — to groupies,” she continues. “But really, they insult groupies, too. Also, the fact is, it’s male rock critics who have most famously hooked up with female rock stars. Think Cameron Crowe and (Heart’s) Nancy Wilson,” who were married for nearly 15 years before divorcing in 2010.

“I think the biggest misconception about female music journalists — a stereotype perpetuated through their portrayal in film — is that they all got into the business as a way to meet, and of course sleep with, sexy male rock stars,” says Lyndsey Parker, music editor for Yahoo Entertainment. “Another common media trope is that they use their feminine wiles to get a scoop or gain access.”

Fortunately, Parker says some of those stereotypes may be fading, at least a bit. “Thankfully, I don’t have too many horror stories about being treated disrespectfully or dismissively by male interview subjects — or colleagues — which I think has to do with the fact that there are now many real-life women music writers these days,” she says. “While ‘Crazy Heart’ only came out 10 years ago, I already feel like those sorts of depictions would not fly in current cinema.

“However,” she concludes, “we probably do still have a ways to go.”

Rolling Stone contributing editor and Sirius XM radio host Jenny Eliscu suggests this trend is emblematic of a larger issue in



SARAH SHATZ/AP

Gina Rodriguez plays a music critic who pines over her ex-boyfriend, Lakeith Stanfield, in a scene from “Someone Great.”



DAVID JAMES/MCT

Malin Akerman as Constance Sack and Tom Cruise as Stacee Jaxx in “Rock of Ages.”



LOREY SEBASTIAN/AP

Jeff Bridges and Maggie Gyllenhaal in a scene from “Crazy Heart.”

the film industry — the lack of women directors. “File under: Hollywood is dumb,” she says. “If more films were made by women, female characters would be written more accurately.”

Since we are not exactly holding our breath for positive depictions, we’ve put together a top 10 list of the most problematic portrayals.

“A Star is Born” (1976)

A magazine writer would do “anything” to get an exclusive interview with Esther (Barbra Streisand). So she stalks the singer’s boyfriend (Kris Kristofferson), skinny dips in his pool and seduces him. But when Esther walks in on them in bed together, the writer instantly goes into reporter

mode and tries to conduct an interview. Needless to say, she walks away without that exclusive ...

“Annie Hall” (1977)

Shelley Duvall plays a Rolling Stone reporter on a blind date with Woody Allen’s character. She makes it clear that she’s on a first name basis with “Mick,” which implies intimacy with the Rolling Stones frontman. She also talks rapturously about Bob Dylan and mentions that for her, sex is a “Kafkaesque” experience. Woody doesn’t ask her out on a second date.

“The Idolmaker” (1980)

This film is actually based on the life of rock

producer Bob Marcucci, who discovered Frankie Avalon and Fabian. “Brady Bunch” star Maureen McCormick plays a young writer for Teen Scene magazine who is profiling a pop star played by Peter Gallagher. Naturally, they have an affair, but once the singer’s controlling manager finds out about it, he gets the writer fired from her job.

“The Doors” (1991)

Patricia Kennealy, who is a real-life rock critic played by Kathleen Quinlan in this Oliver Stone biopic, not only takes drugs and has sex with Jim Morrison (Val Kilmer) but they also drink blood together as an aphrodisiac.

“Wet Hot American Summer” (2001)

A twenty-something reporter (Elizabeth Banks) for Rock & Roll World magazine goes undercover — as a camp counselor! — after she pitches a story about discovering the “real” teenage experience. She constantly reminds her colleagues that she has a masters degree from the Columbia School of Journalism, and her hard work is later rewarded in the sequel with a job as a newscaster.

“Control” (2007)

An employee of the Belgian embassy (Alexandra Maria Lara, who also works as a journalist) welcomes Joy Division frontman Ian Curtis (Sam Riley) to her country by sleeping with him after interviewing

the band. They have a long-distance love affair, which somehow culminates in the singer’s eventual suicide — possibly because Curtis’ widow produced this biopic, which is based on her memoir.

“Hot Tub Time Machine” (2010)

Lizzy Caplan plays a Spin magazine journalist covering Poison, and she bravely rides along on their tour bus. But unlike Kate Hudson’s character in “Almost Famous,” she doesn’t sleep with any of the guys in the band. However, she does pick up some random guy (John Cusack) at the bar and tries to get him drunk by forcing him to suck down a “beer luge.” She also engages in illegal behavior — breaking and entering into a ski lodge — so that she can spend some alone time with Cusack’s character.

“Rock of Ages” (2012)

A journalist (Malin Akerman) scores a revealing interview with a rock star (Tom Cruise) who effortlessly seduces her during the song “Wanted Dead or Alive.” Not surprisingly, the role of the writer was turned down by both Amy Adams and Anne Hathaway.

“Someone Great” (2019)

Gina Rodriguez plays a music critic who gets hired by Rolling Stone but she spends most of the movie hanging out with her two best girlfriends and pining over her ex-boyfriend (Lakeith Stanfield), who is not a musician. This journalist may have a healthy work/life balance but she also has a drug dealer and a problem with alcohol (cue the scene of Jane the Virgin throwing up in a fountain). To wit: Taylor Swift recently told Ellen DeGeneres that this is her favorite movie.

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'CUNNINGHAM' ★★★

Documentary explores work of choreographer

BY KENNETH TURAN
Los Angeles Times

Exceptional dance, of all things, has turned out to be a splendid subject for 3-D filmmaking. In 2011, Wim Wenders took on the work of dancer-choreographer Pina Bausch in the memorable "Pina" and now, from a very different filmmaker, comes "Cunningham," a visual wonder that involves from start to finish.

The subject, as the title points out, is Merce Cunningham, the revolutionary American choreographer whose decades of work changed the very nature of dance before he died a decade ago at age 90.

Though two-thirds of the film is made up of 3-D excerpts from 14 of the 180 dances he created, "Cunningham" aims to be not only stunning, which it is, but also to serve as a kind of crash course in the man and his work.

More than that, by using all manner of visual pizzazz to creatively include archival material, including photographs, home movies and excerpts from letters and books, "Cunningham" makes good on its stated goal of doing justice to the man's spirit of inventiveness.

Written, directed and edited by Russian-born Alla Kovgan, experienced in working with dance and cinema, this film was made with the collaboration of two longtime Cunningham associates — Robert Swinston and Jennifer Goggans — in choreography roles



MAGNOLIA PICTURES

A scene from the documentary "Cunningham," which explores the philosophy of choreographer Merce Cunningham.

and was able to feature the last generation of dancers that Cunningham personally trained.

Kovgan understood that the 3-D medium, with its reliance on "multiple layers of action in relation to the setting," would be especially good at capturing the choreographer's work.

"Cunningham's" range of settings, including an urban rooftop, a wooded area, an empty auditorium and a glistening subway station, so suit the works featured in Mko Malkhasyan's cine-

matography that you feel immersed not distanced, totally inside what you're watching.

The film's best weapon, however, is Cunningham himself. Intense, committed, fearfully intelligent and persuasively articulate, saying things like "dance does not refer, it is what it is" and "I don't describe it, I do it," Cunningham commands the film whenever he speaks.

Kovgan has chosen to chronicle Cunningham during the first 30 hard-

scramble years of his career, from its 1942 beginnings to 1972, when Carolyn Brown, the last remaining member of his original company, left the troupe.

The key event of Cunningham's life was his meeting with the composer John Cage, who became his lifelong creative and romantic partner. The pair promulgated the notion music and dance, though performed together, should be created separately.

Heard frequently and to good effect on the sound-

track, Cage said that while most music was a balm for the ills of the world, he intended his to be "an art so bewildering you return to everyday life with great pleasure."

Cunningham started teaching in order to have dancers who understood how his work was to be performed, and when he and Cage met the artist Robert Rauschenberg at North Carolina's Black Mountain College in 1953, they became a creative trio. Heard in voiceover,

Rated: PG (for some smoking)

Running time: 1:33

Opens: Friday

Rauschenberg said his work on sets and costumes was difficult because "Merce hated sets and costumes." He also expressed an amused jealousy of Cage, because "you can't trip on a note."

One of the most striking works Kovgan has chosen to film is 1958's "Summerspace," performed against a Rauschenberg-designed pointillist backdrop that effective green-screen technology makes especially immersive.

A believer in touring, Cunningham in the early days would cram a total of nine people, including himself and Cage, into a Volkswagen bus. Once, when they stopped in a rural outpost for gas and began to stretch, they were mistaken for comedians. No, Cage replied, we're from New York.

A turning point for the Merce Cunningham Dance company came in 1964, when they toured Europe for the first time. Though there were dissenters — Cunningham remembers wishing a thrown tomato was an apple because he was hungry — the response by audiences, especially in Britain, was overwhelmingly positive.

"Merce screwed up and they liked us," Cage reports deadpan. "It almost ruined our reputation."

'America's Top Dog' is 'Ninja Warriors' contest for canines

BY LUAINEE LEE
Tribune News Service

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Police Sgt. Mark Tappan and his partner were in pursuit of a criminal when they were confronted by a 10-foot wall. Tappan didn't scale the wall, but his partner did and injured himself badly, though he continued the chase until a second perpetrator was caught. Then Tappan's partner collapsed.

What's surprising about the story is Tappan's partner is his police dog, Mattis. "The bad guy jumped off a retaining wall, and I thought the retaining wall was about 10 feet high, so I started to jump as well," Tappan said.

"Mattis was off-leash, running next to me, and I realized that the bad guy was still falling when I started to make the jump, and I caught myself. And my heart stopped because I saw my partner, in slow



NICO THERIN/A&E

Police Sgt. Mark Tappan and his German shepherd K-9 partner Mattis compete in "America's Top Dog."

motion, floating through the air downward towards the bad guy. He landed on top of the bad guy, and he wasn't on a bite-command, so he just guarded the bad guy. We were able to take that guy into custody.

"I went down and did a quick check of Mattis to see if he was OK," Tappan said. "From the initial fall, he had sustained a lacerated liver,

and I had to rush him to get emergency surgery. ... I love this dog so much. They were able to get him in and patch him up, and he was back to work within a month."

That kind of devotion and training will be highlighted in A&E's new competition show, "America's Top Dog," premiering Jan. 8.

Both K-9 police dogs and "civilians" will compete in a series of "Ninja Warrior"-type challenges.

"They're highly trained dogs and teams," said showrunner Holly Wofford. "They compete on three different rounds of competition, three different obstacle courses each hour. ... Five teams in each episode. We lose one or two in every round. And so ultimately we have our one winner. And they're deemed our 'Top Dog.' And in our final episode we bring back the top competitors, and they're competing for the title of 'America's Top Dog,'" she said.

The teams are tested on their speed, agility, ability to recognize scents and human-dog teamwork.

The relationship between the trainer and his canine companion is unique, said trainer Amanda Caldron, who entered the race with her Shorty Bulldog, Minion.

"There's no doubt about it that dogs have this intuition with us," she said. "You see it in every field that they work in, especially service dogs. But when we have all this adrenaline going, they know and they eat it up, and they work that much harder when they feel those stakes at hand."

Dog trainer Mark White said canine coaching is a perpetual endeavor.

"There's a lot of correlations between dogs and people," he said, explaining that it's a continual process for both parties. "There's in-service training. There's firearms qualifications. So it's an ongoing process to get better and fine-tuned, and it's the same exact thing for the dogs as well."

Tappan found Mattis, a German shepherd, in a kennel in Alabama.

"And it was kind of funny, too, because I'm a small guy. And so I wanted a small dog. I started testing all the dogs and this beautiful guy

gets out of the car, and I'm like, 'Nope, nope. No way. He's huge. He's too big for me.'

"And then he blew the test out of the water. And then the final thing we do is just to see how they are in an engagement in the bite-suit. And so I put on a (suit) and I caught out all these different dogs and then I caught him — and 'caught' means just get bit by him. And he absolutely crushed me. I was like, 'Oh, my gosh, I have to have this dog.' And then I just saw his control — control is like obedience and how he wants to please you.

Tappan thinks "America's Top Dog" reveals more than the athletic abilities of the team; it also reveals the heart.

"What I love about this show is it does highlight the relationship that everyone is talking about," he said. "This dog is with me all the time, 24/7. He's my best friend on the planet."

Netflix

Continued from Page 1

Hollywood, at least in terms of volume. The company plans to release 50 to 60 films a year, and that doesn't include projects born out of other divisions, such as "El Camino," a spinoff from the TV show "Breaking Bad."

The company has scored both critical and commercial hits. "Bird Box" and "Murder Mystery" were viewed by more than 70 million people apiece in their first month on the service, according to the company, while "Triple Frontier" and "The Highwaymen" both eclipsed 40 million viewers. Six of the 10 most-watched new titles on the service in the U.S. in 2019 were original films.

Still, it's hard to measure Netflix's success. The company is selective in what viewer information it releases and there's no reliable third-party data source. So it's all but impossible to verify how any one Netflix project fared. The company points to its continued subscriber growth as evidence of success, but critics note that Netflix still borrows money to fund its productions.

Two facts seem clear. First, Netflix found a sweet



ED ARAQUEL/NETFLIX

Randall Park and Ali Wong in a scene from the movie "Always Be My Maybe."

spot making the kinds of movies other studios have abandoned: adult dramas, romantic comedies and action movies without superheroes. Rom-coms like "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" and "Always Be My Maybe" don't have the global appeal of "The Avengers," but they are infinitely rewatchable at home.

The sequel to "All the Boys" is on the slate in 2020, along with movies from George Clooney, Spike Lee and Ryan Murphy, creator of "American Horror Story."

Second, the industry no longer views Netflix as an outsider. Filmmakers Alfonso Cuarón, Martin Scorsese and Noah Baumbach — all staunch defenders of classic cinema — have turned to Netflix to get their movies made.

And the voters for the Academy Awards have come around, nominating Netflix for 15 Oscars last year, including its first for best picture, best director, best actress and best screenplay. The company didn't win the best-picture statuette, but took home its

first prizes for something other than a documentary.

"When I saw Ted Sarandos after the Oscars, I said, 'You did it, you got over the hump,'" said John Sloss, who produced "Green Book," last year's best picture winner. So, the Academy is ready — when the film is right — to give Netflix its top prize.

That could be as soon as 2020. Netflix has two of the five movies with the best odds, according to Gold Derby, a site devoted to predicting entertainment awards. They include the



FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/NETFLIX

Eddie Murphy in "Dolemite Is My Name."

current front-runner, Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman." The nominations will be announced Jan. 13.

The New York film critics named that movie the year's best, and Netflix earned the most Golden Globe nominations of any studio in both film and television.

But this year has been a particularly strong one for movies, and there is no one leader. Los Angeles film critics named Bong Joon-ho's "Parasite" the year's best, while Sam Mendes's "1917" has earned ecstatic reviews. Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" could finally earn the filmmaker his first Oscar for best director.

The only group that hasn't embraced Netflix yet

is theater owners. Though Netflix has relaxed its policy on theaters — allowing movies to appear on the big screen for as long as a month before they migrate to the streaming service — that hasn't appeased the world's largest cinema chains. They still refuse to show the service's movies.

But many movie studios, including Warner Bros. and Universal Pictures, want to get their movies online sooner, too. And many companies, including Walt Disney Co., are making movies that won't appear in theaters at all.

"It's not a Netflix-versus-theater thing," Stuber said. "The entire film business has to figure out the right distribution model that helps everyone."

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (Jan. 3): Imagine your dream home, job and life this year. Generate long-lasting personal results with focused, steady action. You're on top of the world this winter, before jumping a partnership hurdle. Summer introspection and a roadblock redirects you toward a fine romance. Follow your heart's desire.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is an 8. Educational discovery beckons. You have itchy feet for about six weeks, with Mars in Sagittarius. Travel delights. Explore, learn and pursue a personal passion.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 7. Consider a mystery from another perspective. Mars enters Sagittarius, favoring action to generate shared financial benefits. Create budgets, concepts and outlines. Organize and plot.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 7. Collaboration is key for this next phase. With action-oriented Mars in Sagittarius for six weeks, a partnership gets more accomplished for less. Create together.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. The pace picks up over the next six weeks, with Mars in Sagittarius. Prioritize, rather than panicking. Postpone what you can.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. Follow a passion. Explore with childish curiosity. You're especially romantic and charming with Mars in Sagittarius. Take action for love.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Put physical energy into home renovation, organization and beautification, with Mars in Sagittarius. This next phase favors family connection and comfort.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. Write, broadcast and post. Energize your communications over the next six weeks, with Mars in Sagittarius. Share what you're learning with your partner.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 9. Physical action pays off. There's money coming in, and plenty to spend it on with Mars in Sagittarius. Get into a six-week income surge.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 9. Push past old barriers. Discover new power and decisiveness. For about six weeks, with Mars in your sign, take action for a personal dream.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 6. Revise plans, visions and strategies, with Mars in Sagittarius. Clean closets, garages and attics. Enjoy nostalgia and old photos. The action is behind the scenes.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 8. Teamwork is the name of the game for the next six weeks, with Mars in Sagittarius. Anything's possible together. You can accomplish miracles with friends.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 9. Move forward boldly. Advance your career, with Mars in Sagittarius. Step into new professional leadership and authority over about six weeks.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater



Bliss



Bridge

Both vulnerable, South deals

North
 ♠ QJ7
 ♥ A652
 ♦ J
 ♣ K9865

West
 ♠ 1092
 ♥ 104
 ♦ K1075
 ♣ AQJ7

East
 ♠ 84
 ♥ KQJ3
 ♦ Q863
 ♣ 432

South
 ♠ AK653
 ♥ 987
 ♦ A942
 ♣ 10

Modern tournament players would no doubt have a fancy auction for the North-South hands in today's deal. The given auction is the likely way my grandmother would have bid it 50 years ago. Same result either way. As it was then and as it is now, the play's the thing.

The enterprising trump lead by West prevented more than one diamond ruff in dummy, so the only chance was to establish some club tricks. This would require a 3-2 trump split, a 4-3 club split, and the ace of clubs with West. Despite having such a clear view of the

The bidding:

	South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	
2♦	Pass	4♣	All pass	

Opening lead: 10 of ♠

layout needed for success, the deal still required careful timing. Declarer won the opening lead with dummy's queen, crossed to his hand with the ace of diamonds, and led his club toward dummy. West rose with his ace and continued with a low spade to dummy's jack.

South ruffed a club in his hand, ruffed a diamond with dummy's last trump, and ruffed another club in his hand, this time with a high trump, the king. South was relieved to see that the clubs had split 4-3. The ace of trumps drew the last enemy trump and the ace of hearts was an entry to the established clubs. The king of clubs and the established nine of clubs were declarer's ninth and tenth tricks. Nicely played, Grandma!

— Bob Jones
 tcaeditors@tribpub.com

Dilbert



Baby Blues



Zits



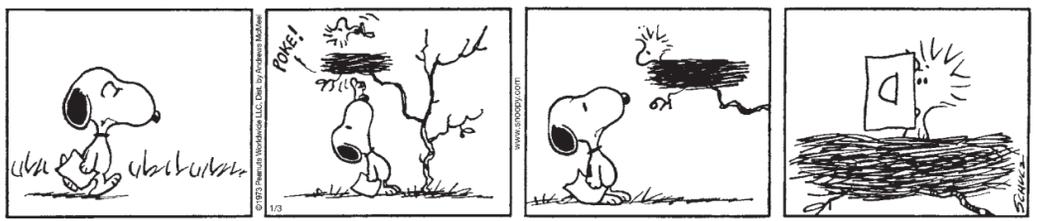
Mr. Boffo



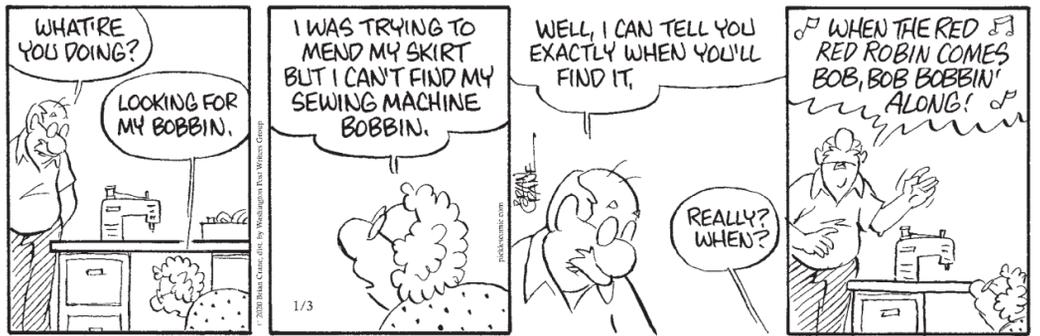
Frazz



Classic Peanuts



Pickles



Dick Tracy



Animal Crackers



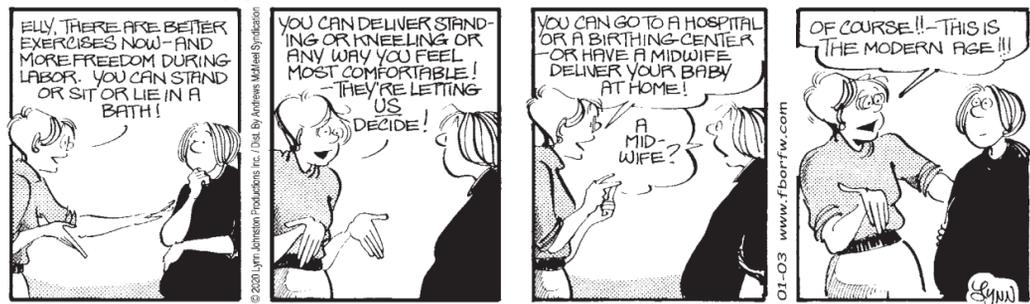
Prickly City



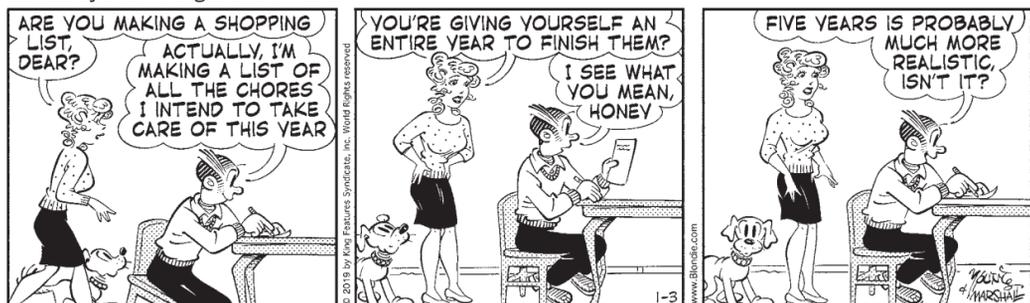
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



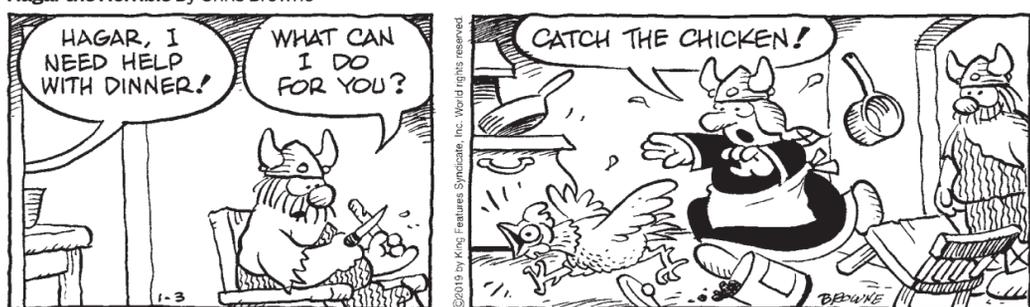
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



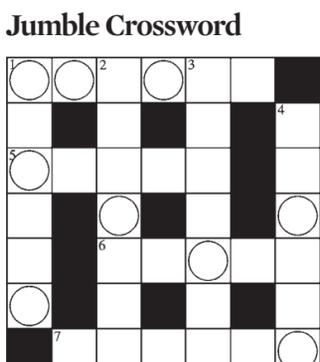
Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers



Trivia Bits

Which chemical element contributes to making human blood red?
A) Aluminum
B) Copper
C) Iron
D) Selenium
Thursday's answer: Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 prison years on Robben Island.

Jumble Crossword



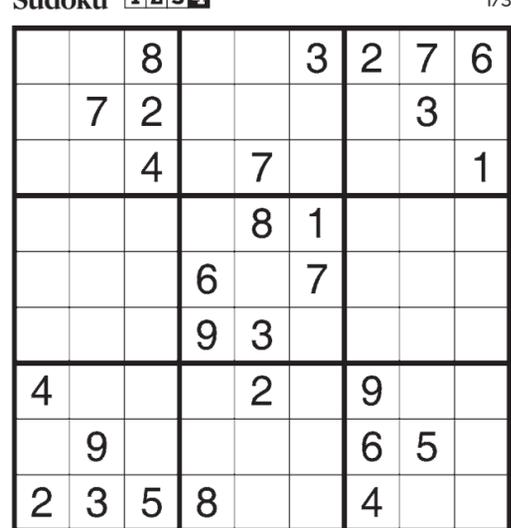
CLUE ACROSS
1. Strong
5. ___ beam
6. Bring together
7. Disclose
ANSWER
GHMTYI
ALERS
ETIUN
EEVRL

CLUE DOWN
1. Mold, blight
2. Motion, indication
3. Wind ___
4. Break open
ANSWER
LDEMWI
GRUEEJ
BRIENUT
LSNEUA

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

CLUE: This actor's middle name is Carroll.
BONUS ○○○○ ○○○○○

Sudoku 1 2 3 4



9	6	3	8	7	1	2	5	4
1	2	5	9	6	4	3	8	7
7	8	4	2	5	3	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	9	5	4	3	8
5	4	9	6	3	8	1	7	2
3	7	8	4	1	2	5	6	9
6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3
8	9	1	3	2	6	7	4	5
4	3	2	5	8	7	9	1	6

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Thursday's solutions
By The Mephram Group © 2020. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

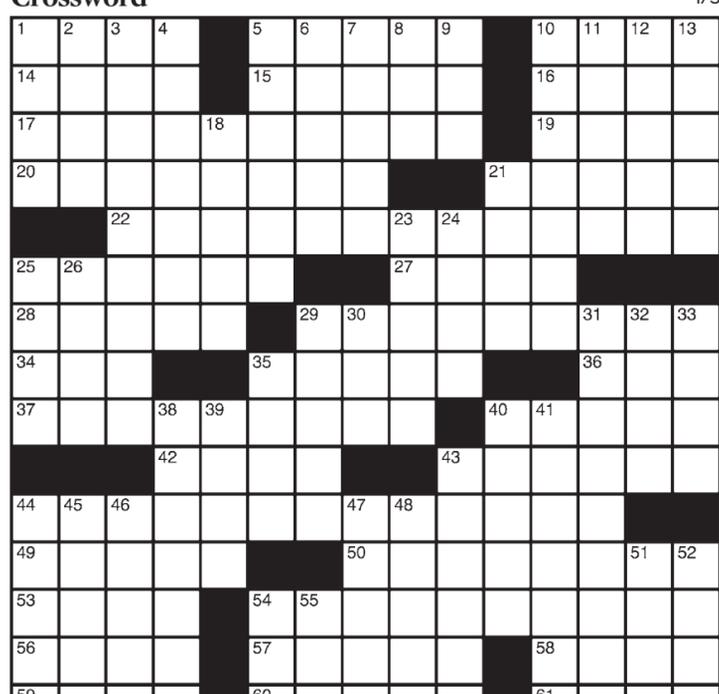
RYOWR
NOYHE
GLEPTI
STARGI

Answer here
○○○○○○ ○○○○○○

Thursday's answers
Jumbles: SORRY HEAVY ZODIAC TIRADE
Answer: He refused to wear his seat belt when behind the wheel, and that — DROVE HER CRAZY

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Crossword



Across
1 Sports headwear retailer
5 Joplin's "Me and Bobby ___"
10 Charlie Brown's "Darn!"
14 Comic strip dog
15 Variety
16 Poetic black
17 Lawyer's missing text?
19 Prepare to fly, maybe
20 Type of battery
21 Coherent
22 Offer from one unwilling to negotiate?
25 Chicago Outfit gangster
27 One for the road
28 Be flexible
29 Saves up
34 Hot ___
35 Calendar period that 17-, 22-, 44- and 54-Across are celebrating?
36 Wooden shoe sailor

Down
37 Create opportunities
40 First owner of the expansion Los Angeles Angels
42 Travel prefix with México and Perú
43 Monks' homes
44 Military directive?
49 Spring time
50 Support
53 Makeshift blade
54 Another name for the five-second rule of dropped food?
56 Group of online pages
57 Of past times
58 Garage sale term
59 Tributes in verse
60 Greet with howls, as the moon
61 Restaurant menu heading

Thursday's solution
P D F S AMPED I P A D
A R L O T A R R Y D E L I
S E A M S T R E S S U R L S
T A K E P I T Y T E N S E S
E M E R I L C O N N I V E
S T A N D U P C O M I C
L I E S E E R I E M A T
J E S T E X C I A C O T S
O A R A N T O N C O N E
B R A I N S U R G E O N
S N E A K U P N O L O S E
D E L M A R T E M P E S T S
A D I N I N S T I T C H E S
T O T O N I P A T H E P A
A F E W G A S S Y E A S Y

By Kevin Conway. Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis. © 2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

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Chicago Tribune

ON THE TOWN

The atmosphere around country singer Yola is all about big voice, big sound and big buzz, and she's loving the freedom to be herself

MAKING NOISE

BY DAN HYMAN

You wouldn't know it from her effervescent presence, and certainly not from the way it springs forth via her radiant brand of soul-infected country music, but for much of her career Yola felt she needed to tamp down her personality.

"I used to edit myself down, make myself smaller, less *me* in some way," said the breakout singer of all the years that led to this current breakthrough moment. This year, that's all changed. With "Walk Through Fire," the singer's stunning debut album, produced by the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach and released on his Easy Eye label, the 36-year-old Brit — who has been championed by everyone

Turn to **Yola**, Page 5

For years Yola edited down her personality and musical choices. Then the artist leaned into her country roots. The rest is Grammy-nominated history.

ALYSSE GAFKJEN

Take 10

BY ADAM LUKACH

1. Move it or lose it: The Afro Fusion dance party will keep the New Year's swing going this weekend with its first event of 2020, featuring DJ Dee Money, DJ 3k and DJ Matrix. 10 p.m. Saturday-3 a.m. Sunday, *The Promontory*, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West, \$15-\$20; eventbrite.com

2. Bye lights: If you wanted to see Zoo-Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo during this holiday season, you'd better go this weekend, because it's the last one. 4:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Sunday, *Lincoln Park Zoo*, N. Cannon Drive at W. Fullerton Parkway, free; lpzoo.org

3. Fab-ish Four: American English is a Beatles tribute band and a favorite around Chicago. (Free Beatles tribute band name: 'Ello Submarine.) 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. show Sunday, *Space*, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$35; eventbrite.com

4. Three straight: The Disco Biscuits are not humans. They are a grooving cyborg jam band that just keeps playing, and playing, and playing — including three nights in Chicago this weekend. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show Friday through Sunday, *Riviera Theatre*, 4746 N. Racine Ave., \$44.50-\$117; rivieratheatre.com

5. No RSVP required: The annual music festival Ian's Party — a showcase of Chicago artists — returns to kick off 2020. 7 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m. Sunday,

venues vary near the CTA Damen Blue Line stop, \$15-\$20 single-day, \$45 three-day ticket; iansparty.com/tickets

6. Dance lesson: The Academy of Mexican Dance celebrates Mexican folkloric dance history and culture with its "Viva Mexico" party. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. show Sunday, *Thalia Hall*, 1807 S. Allport St., \$18; eventbrite.com

7. Snowed in: Watch out for stampedes of small children — Elsa is in the vicinity (as part of North Riverside Park's "Frozen" party). 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, *North Riverside Parks & Recreation*, 2401 Desplaines Ave., North Riverside, \$25; facebook.com

8. Sliced and shuffled: Pizza and shuffleboard sounds like a combination for

warmer weather, but why not winter as well? Detroit-style Five Squared Pizza and Royal Palms can help you stay loose. 6 p.m. Friday-1 a.m. Saturday, *Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club Chicago*, 1750 N. Milwaukee Ave., no cover; facebook.com

9. Wiener fans: The giant mobile sausage pulls up in Arlington Heights this weekend. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, *Mariano's*, 802 E. Northwest Highway, Arlington Heights, free; facebook.com

10. Sunday jazz: The Hyde Park Jazz Society presents something for your sonic pleasure, a Herbie Hancock tribute show led by Chicago-born pianists Alexis Lombre and Jahari Stampley. 7-10 p.m. Sunday, *The Promontory*, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West, \$10; eventbrite.com



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—Michael Schulman, *The New Yorker*

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TURN IT UP

Been everywhere, done everything

BY CHRISSE DICKINSON

Peter Asher knew the Beatles, roomed with Paul McCartney, discovered James Taylor and managed Linda Ronstadt. As half of the duo Peter and Gordon, he was a bona fide member of the British Invasion.

A witty and soft-spoken Englishman, Asher, 75, seems to have been nearly everywhere that mattered in the 1960s and '70s rock and pop culture.

"People say that a lot, as if I'm a cross somewhere between Forrest Gump and Zelig," he says with a laugh, calling from his home in Malibu, California. "I don't feel that way, but I lucked out to have gotten involved in some interesting stuff."

Asher will share much of that "interesting stuff" when he brings his multimedia show to City Winery on Friday. "Peter Asher: A Musical Memoir of the '60s and Beyond" will feature live acoustic music performed by Asher on vocals and guitar. He'll be backed by pianist Jeff Alan Ross and bassist Jennifer Oberle. Asher will also share anecdotes from his storied career accompanied by film footage and photos from his own private collection.

The rock Renaissance man called recently to talk about his musical memories. This is an edited transcript.

Q. You've worn many different hats in your professional life as a musician, record executive, producer and manager. How did you manage moving successfully from one career area in the music business to the next without missing a beat?

A. If I give myself credit for anything, it's that if I see an opportunity, I grab it with both hands. I'm quite good at figuring out what to do next. I'm very excited to be far past retirement age and still working every day. So far it keeps miraculously working.

Q. You were among the British Invasion acts. What was it like being a part of such an extraordinary musical movement?

A. In my view, the British Invasion was 90% the Beatles and 10% all the rest of us put together. Not to downplay in any way the Rolling Stones, the Kinks and other important bands. But the Beatles opened the door, no question. Up until then there was zero interest in British music. What the Beatles accomplished changed everything for all of us. Being English was suddenly a giant advantage instead of being the kiss of death.



JAY GILBERT

Peter Asher, center, joined by Jeff Alan Ross, left, and Jennifer Oberle, brings his multimedia show "A Musical Memoir of the '60s and Beyond" to City Winery on Friday.

When: 8 p.m. Friday

Where: City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St.

Tickets: \$28-\$38; 312-733-9463 or www.citywinery.com

Q. How did you first meet the members of the Beatles?

A. My sister (the actress Jane Asher) was invited to review the Beatles for the Radio Times magazine the first time the band came to London. She met them all and liked them. They liked her. She ended up going with Paul McCartney for a number of years. He was hanging out at our house all the time so I met him soon after she did. Paul was there so much that our parents offered him the guest room and he moved in to the top floor with me. We shared that floor for a couple of years. We obviously got to know each other quite well. In the course of that, I met the other Beatles and got to know them too.

Q. Peter and Gordon was a hit out of the gate. Your first single was "A World Without Love," written by Paul McCartney and released in 1964. It went to No. 1 on several charts, including the Billboard Hot 100. Your success guaranteed the duo a tour in the United States. What did playing in America mean to

you at that time?

A. We'd never been to America before. I had posters of New York on my wall. I had copies of DownBeat magazine with all the jazz clubs I would go to. America was the land of opportunity. Everything in America looked Technicolor; huge, shiny and plentiful. On top of that, America had the greatest music, its greatest invention by a gazillion miles. Rhythm & blues, rock 'n' roll, jazz — it had the whole gamut of music that had changed the world.

Q. How do you recall the phenomenon of the Beatles?

A. The thing about the Beatles is that it was a perfect storm. The band members were the exact four right people with the exact right musical talent and the exact combination of the four different personalities. They got together for that short period of time and created a body of work that is unequaled in the history of music, I would dare say — certainly in the history of popular music. It's so funny, considering that back then, in every single interview without fail, we were all asked, "What are you going to do when this is all over?" There was an absolute certainty that a rock 'n' roll career was going to be a couple of years and then you'd go back to whatever you were doing before. The idea that music would be purchased and discussed the way it is today was unthinkable. In the same

way we listen to Handel and Mozart now, in 250 years, people will be still listening to the Beatles.

Q. You first met James Taylor when a mutual friend suggested he contact you when he went to England. At that time, you were the head of A&R (artist & repertoire) at the Beatles' label Apple Records. Did you realize his talent from the first meeting?

A. James came over to my London flat with a demo tape and played me some songs. I went crazy. I could wax on why I think James is a genius. I said, "I have a new job at Apple and I will sign you." That was the beginning of our relationship. When that label fell apart, we agreed that not only would I continue on as his producer, but his manager as well. I moved with him to America to get his career off the ground there.

Q. You gave the introduction when the Beatles' late manager Brian Epstein was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. You knew Epstein from the early days. What do you remember most about him?

A. I met Brian through Paul and really quite liked him. I admired the way he managed the Beatles. That was based on knowing him, but also based on what Paul was telling me. I could see how Brian was handling things. His devotion was absolute. He loved the band to death. Brian was the guy going around London saying, "I've got a band that's going to be bigger than Elvis," and being laughed out of everyone's offices. I felt the same way about James Taylor as Brian did about the Beatles.

Q. You began working with Linda Ronstadt in the mid-1970s. What was your first impression of her?

A. I was in New York and someone said, "You have to go see this girl singing at the Bitter End. She's amazing." They also mentioned she was incredibly attractive and sang in very short shorts and bare feet. So I went down there and every word was completely true. She was astounding. Then I got to know her and discovered she's incredibly smart, well-read and extraordinary in every way. We became friends. Initially I started working with her as a producer. Eventually she asked me to be her manager. We worked together 30 years.

Chrissie Dickinson is a freelance writer. ct-arts@chicagotribune.com

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LOCAL SOUNDS

Bad Ambassadors finally find that timing is right

BY BRITT JULIOUS

Bad Ambassadors have been a long work in progress.

And for band members Rich Jones and Joe Sepka, they wouldn't have had it any other way.

It's not that the duo was laboring over the finer details of the project, but more that the timing was never quite right.

Both Jones and Sepka (who produces for himself and other artists as "Walkingshoe") have prolific solo careers. Most recently, Jones, who makes a warm, relatable hip-hop blend of music, even embarked on a national tour.

Now, nearly five years after they first began crafting the songs, the debut EP will drop Jan. 10 on Shoebbox Records. The duo will also play a release show the same day at the Hideout to celebrate.

Jones and Sepka met how many young artists of today meet: online, Twitter specifically. Coming together to work on music made for an easy match.

"It was pretty quick in terms of jumping into some sort of workflow," said Jones. "I already had some loose ideas, so I was like, let me apply this to what you're doing and it just worked really well."

Like many musicians in the city, the two had no expectations for the project. They were more interested in merely working together, seeing if anything sparked. And thankfully, it did, but they decided to shelve the tracks for a bit while working on other projects.

Coming back to the music within the last year allowed Jones and Sepka to refine and perfect those same tunes while adding a bit of the skill and spirit they'd picked up over the last few years working on their own.

"You're working with yourself from a long time ago, and you can kind of get the best parts while also seeing how you've grown," Sepka said.

To describe Bad Ambassadors' music as straight up hip-hop would be inaccurate. Although both Jones and Sepka have traditionally made music within the genre, Bad Ambassadors incorporate other unique, even off-kilter influences from surf rock to dance in the sound.

Part of those stylistic influences stems from years of personal and creative growth. Jones said the same sonic experimentation he is often praised for in his solo music can be heard in these earlier tunes.

"For me as a writer and a vocalist, I was really experimenting with blending of styles a lot earlier than a lot of people



ALEXUS MCLANE

The Bad Ambassadors are, from left, Joe Sepka (Walkingshoe) and Rich Jones.

When: 9 p.m. Jan. 10

Where: The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

Tickets: \$10-\$12 (21+); Eventbrite.com

might have thought," Jones began. "Now that (the EP is) coming out, I think I've reached a fuller form of self as a performer and as a writer."

"But a lot of that came from these sessions."

And the thing about the Bad Ambassadors project was that Jones and Sepka knew it would always come together at the right time.

"Now that we're converging, I feel like it's the best version of ourselves to do this versus if we did this two years ago," said Jones.

"It would have been good (two years ago), but we're better than where we were when we started — professionally, spiritually, all that stuff."

The Bad Ambassadors you hear today are not the Bad Ambassadors you might have heard a few years ago. And that's just how the two like it.

"It's been joyful revisiting all of these," Sepka said. "It's a special project. It just took us a while to get around to these and do them in the right way."

Britt Julious is a freelance writer. ct-arts@chicagotribune.com

New year gets off to a brisk musical start



HOWARD REICH
On Music

It didn't take long for the new season to take flight.

Among the musical highlights of 2020's first nights:

Victor Goines

Chicago listeners lucked out when reedist Goines was named director of jazz studies and professor of music at Northwestern University in 2007. Though he tours prolifically with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by his childhood friend and longtime colleague Wynton Marsalis, Goines makes a point of appearing in Chicago clubs whenever he's in town.

He'll kick off the new year leading his quartet in a themed program titled "Selections from Blue Note." Also on the bandstand: pianist Jo Ann Daugherty, bassist Christian Dillingham and drummer Alvin Cobb. 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Winter's Jazz Club, 465 N. McClurg Court (promenade); \$20-\$25 plus one-drink minimum; 312-344-1270 or www.wintersjazzclub.com

Jerry Bergonzi

When the tenor saxophone master played the Green Mill last year at this time, the packed house included several of the city's most accomplished musicians. For good reason. "This guy hasn't been here since 1979" club owner Dave Jemilo told the

opening-night crowd. "Every saxophone player in Chicago has been saying for years: 'Go get Jerry Bergonzi.'"

Jemilo did, and the result was a powerhouse set. Bergonzi "produced a hard-hitting, hold-nothing-back performance that nevertheless steered clear of histrionics," I wrote in my review. "This was the hard truth, rooted in the language of bebop and hard bop but also pushing out toward edgier, more rarefied terrain."

Jemilo has brought Bergonzi back to the club, and he'll be joined by pianist John Campbell, bassist Billy Peterson and drummer Adam Nussbaum. 9 p.m. Friday and 8 p.m. Saturday at the Green Mill Jazz Club, 4802 N. Broadway; \$15; 773-878-5552 or www.greenmilljazz.com

Pharez Whitted

Many listeners admire Chicago trumpeter Whitted for the sheer size and breadth of his sound, but there's much more to his art than just its athletic prowess. Whitted also happens to be an intensely creative improviser of considerable harmonic invention and a composer whose works show remarkable melodic craft.

He'll lead a sextet, so this stands to be muscular, full-throated music-making, albeit with a lyrical core. 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St.; \$15; 312-642-6805 or www.andysjazzclub.com

Wolfone; Katet

The Sunday night contemporary music tradition at Constellation continues with an eclectic double bill.



BRIAN JACKSON/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2016

Reedist Victor Goines will help kick off the new year with weekend sets at Winter's Jazz Club.

Wolfone features violinist William Overcash and bassoonist Ben Roidl-Ward playing new music for a decidedly unconventional pairing. Katet spotlights singer-songwriter Katherine Jimoh in tandem with guitarist Jesse Langen and drummer Tim Mulvenna. 8:30 p.m. Sunday at Constellation, 3111 N. Western Ave.; \$10-\$15; www.constellation-chicago.com

Late Night Jazz Party

Veteran Chicago saxophonist Pat Mallinger, an uncommonly versatile improviser, leads the festivities as Saturday night turns into Sunday morning. Midnight to 5 a.m. Sunday at the Green Mill Jazz Club, 4802 N. Broadway; \$5 from mid-

night to 2 a.m.; no cover from 2 to 5 a.m.; 773-878-5552 or www.greenmilljazz.com

Heritage Jazz Orchestra

Musicians in their 20s and 30s didn't grow up immersed in the big band tradition, which had waned long before they arrived on the scene. That makes Lukasz Malewicz's Heritage Jazz Orchestra a fascinating experiment in cross-generational music-making. For this performance, the musicians will reprise Count Basie's "Straight Ahead" album, trombonist Malewicz leading the charge. There's something viscerally exciting about hearing this propulsive music in a room as intimate

as Winter's. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Winter's Jazz Club, 465 N. McClurg Court (promenade); \$15-20 and one-drink minimum; 312-344-1270 or www.wintersjazzclub.com

Thaddeus Tukes

One of the most promising of Chicago jazz soloists, vibraphonist Tukes recently celebrated the release of his third album, "Let's Vibe," its music by turns robust and introspective but consistently elegant. He begins an intriguing new venture by playing a series of duets during a weekly engagement.

Could this be the start of a future recording? 7 and 9 p.m. Wednesdays (except Jan. 22), at Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St.; \$10;

312-642-6805 or www.andysjazzclub.com

Ted Sirota's Pure Cane Trio

Veteran Chicago drummer Sirota, perhaps best known for his Rebel Souls band, launches a new project that will be in residence at Andy's Jazz Club throughout the month.

The Pure Cane Trio is a guitar-organ-drums unit that will intertwine jazz, funk, calypso, reggae, Latin and other idioms, according to its advance billing. 7 and 9 p.m. Mondays at Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St.; \$10; 312-642-6805 or www.andysjazzclub.com

Howard Reich is a Tribune critic. hreich@chicagotribune.com

Chicago Tribune

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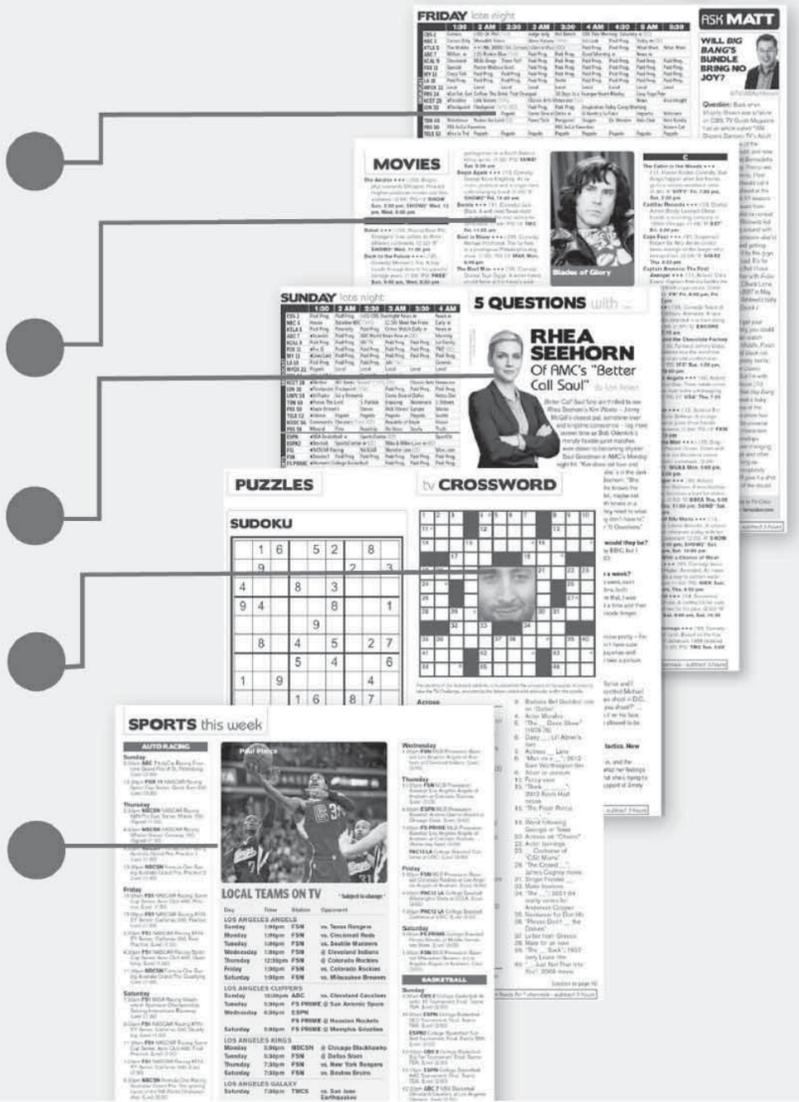
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COUNTRY MUSIC PREVIEW

Green's bumpy road to fame

Singer-songwriter talks about that 'Dixie' uproar

BY ALLISON STEWART

Rising country star Riley Green used to work construction during the week and play bar gigs for extra cash on the weekends. He'd funnel his earnings into whatever studio time he could afford and post the songs online.

Green figured that would be the extent of it — no one from his hometown of Jacksonville, Alabama, had ever gotten much further than that. But the songs kept getting better and the crowds bigger, and Green, now 31, was soon fielding offers from four record labels (he eventually signed to Big Machine, until recently the home of Taylor Swift).

In September, Green released his full-length debut, "Different 'Round Here," but it's an old track, "Bury Me in Dixie," that recently made headlines. The song was removed from streaming services for reasons that have been unclear, though it has since been returned. Rolling Stone claims the lyric "I wish Robert E. Lee could come back and take a bow" led to its removal; Green blames the track's sound quality.

In a phone call from the road, Green, who plays a sold-out show at Joe's on Weed St. on Friday night, talked about growing up, getting famous and why "Dixie" got buried.

The following are excerpts from that conversation:

He hates listening to the sound of his own voice

I don't like to hear it. Everybody might be like that, I don't know. I'm not gonna get onstage and blow anybody away with my vocals, like Chris Stapleton or something. I think I realized I was just good enough that people weren't booing me. That gave me the confidence I needed, I guess. Some of my favorite artists were guys like Robert Earl Keen or Chris Knight. They weren't the best vocalists in the world, but they told really great stories.

He learned how to play at his grandfather Bufford's Golden Saw Music Hall

My granddaddy Bufford and me were real close. He was probably the reason I got into country music, he was a big country music fan. He had an old guitar, and we'd sit on the porch of (his) old house and play. ... A bunch of old



CONNOR DWYER/BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP

Riley Green released his full-length debut, "Different 'Round Here," in September.

guys started gathering around and playing. They started doing it once a week, people started coming to watch. Eventually we sawed some lumber at the sawmill and tore the floor out and built a stage, and it kept growing. I think that was one place I got a lot of confidence, because I got up there and played. I learned how to play the three chords you need to play every country music song there ever was by watching those old guys. It definitely helped me get a start.

He sounds bemused that a line in his hit song "I Wish Grandpas Never Died" ("I wish country music still got played on country radio") was edited out for country radio play

All I can tell you is, I wrote the song for my two granddaddies. I wasn't planning on it being on the record — the album was done. I

When: 7 p.m. Friday

Where: Joe's on Weed Street, 940 W. Weed

Tickets: Sold out; joesbar.com

played it at a show somewhere and somebody videoed it and put it on YouTube, and the next month people are singing it at my shows. It got millions of views, and that line was the loudest one they sing, so what it told me was that people felt like I did.

On the "Bury Me in Dixie" controversy

To explain that something with the Confederacy or with Robert E. Lee is not a racist thought to somebody that's not from where I'm from is something that probably sounds stupid. ... I wish I could remember what I was thinking when I wrote the song,

but it certainly wasn't a racial thing. It was really a pride and heritage in what I grew up around. It wasn't until recently that there was ever any talk about that. For me, if it was a thought of something racial, I wouldn't feel as bad about it as I do it getting brought up now and something thinking that, because I wasn't raised like that. I think it's tough for people outside the state of Alabama to understand that you can be prideful in a heritage that is special to that place, and not necessarily be prejudiced to other places or other beliefs or other things you don't understand.

On the real reason the track was removed from streaming services

We took it down for a separate reason, because it was horrible quality, but that was like, my fourth most streamed song. They

sing it as loud as any other song in my show. I recorded it so long ago that the production quality is horrible. ... We do live in a time that's a lot different now than when I wrote the song. Seven years ago, it wasn't even a thought. There is a sensitivity level in this country that's spiked, I guess, so that is something to keep in consideration. I'm the type of person that, I'm not here to offend anybody. That's not what I'm about. But I think it's wrong to say that somebody can't have their beliefs and their heritage, and to question somebody else in a way that says, "Well, you said this, it's gotta mean this," without giving them a chance to explain what it actually does mean to them.

Allison Stewart is a freelance writer. ct-arts@chicagotribune.com

Yola

Continued from Page 1

from Elton John to Brandi Carlile and Kendall Jenner, as well as snagged a Best New Artist Grammy nomination — isn't holding anything back. "I've found the more I was true to myself, every little baby step in that direction, it yielded results that I'd always wanted," she said. Now, with so many fans gravitating to her, "it appears I have full license to Yola," she added with a laugh. "I just can't believe how many years I allowed myself to be talked out of doing exactly what I'm doing now."

What's she doing is letting her myriad tastes shine through via her music. Yola admitted that being a black British woman like her is a rarity in the Nashville country scene. But that's exactly why she leaned in extra hard to her unbridled love for the genre. "A number of times I was told my influences weren't what people of color would ordinarily do, therefore I shouldn't pursue them," she explained of her album, which barrels from Phil Spector-era pop to R&B and back to country in as many songs. "So, for example, my leanings toward soul would be almost immediately enveloped and accepted. Whereas my leanings toward country might need a little explanation. So I felt it made sense to lean into some genres harder, get them taken care of now, because I want to explore music in a broad sense." She paused before adding, "I'm not as free as somebody else. So I have to make career-related contingencies so that I can sew my freedom."

Yola went on to explain that for so long women like her were taught to blend into the background rather than assert their full-throated presence. "The programming to do so is insidious and it is ubiquitous," she said. "And what I had to do growing up was very much this deprogramming of myself, of the messaging

When: 7 p.m. Jan. 14

Where: Thalia Hall, 1807 S. Allport St.

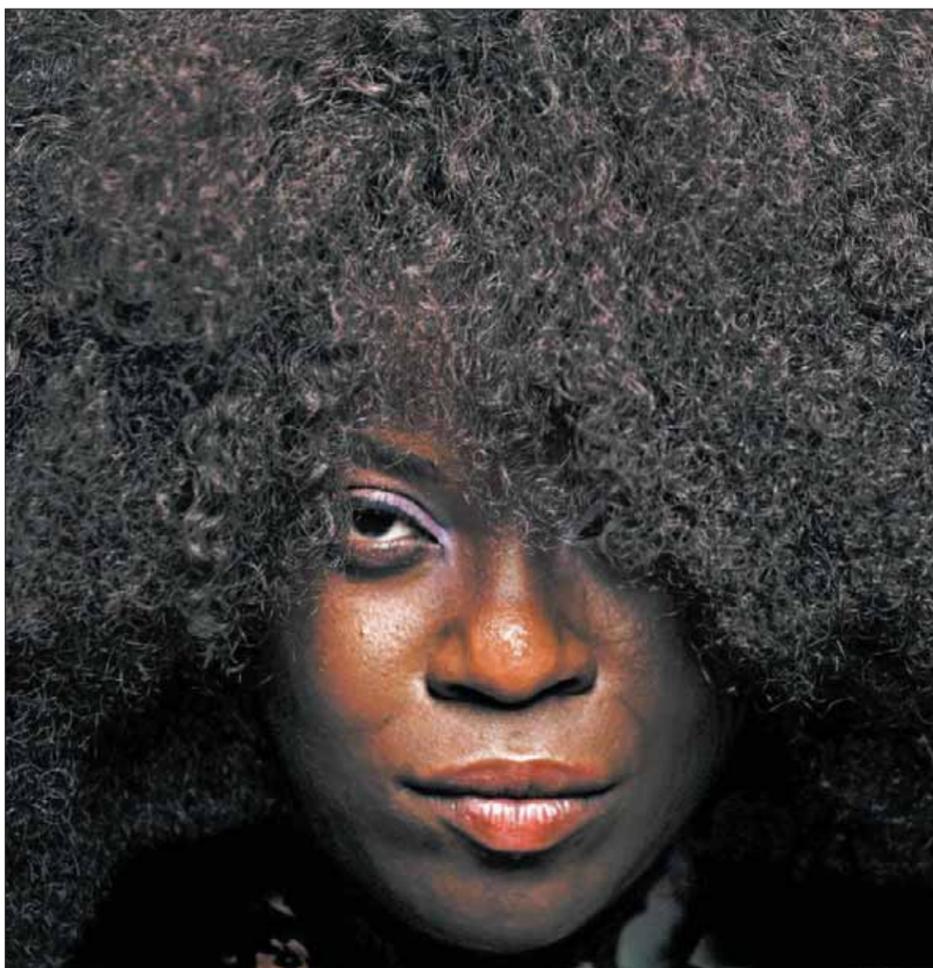
Tickets: \$20-\$30; 312-526-3851 or www.thaliahallchicago.com

both overt and covert, to assimilate."

Yola is the first to admit she's received massive support this year via the aforementioned celebrity endorsements. "And they didn't receive a red penny from me to do (it) mostly because I couldn't afford them," she clarified with a laugh of being championed so widely, even becoming an honorary member of the Carlile-featuring country supergroup the Highwomen, which includes Maren Morris, Amanda Shires and Natalie Hemby, by singing on the group's acclaimed debut LP.

"These people have championed me, I think, because they feel that the songs are speaking to them. And that's the only reason I want anyone to push this thing forward," she offered. "Because they heard it and are like, 'I feel like you speak and connect to me.' If anyone was looking for an ulterior motive by championing me, like they wanted a back scratch, I'd be like, 'Shut your mouth. I don't need you.'"

But her arriving at this name-making moment has come just as much come from fans discovering Yola's massive voice on their own and falling in love with the way it so effortlessly dovetails between genres. Despite having previously been a member of the seminal British trip-hop outfit, Massive Attack, as well as spending several years as the singer for the band Phantom Limb, Yola acknowledged her current position as a heralded solo artist is on a decidedly different plane. Not that she ever has a sense of impostor syndrome "Oh no! Never!" she replied. "Since age 4 I've been mentally focused on exactly this moment. Given how old I am that's more than enough time to get your head around the possible eventuality of it. Normally I



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Singer Yola Carter grew up on a steady diet of Dolly Parton, Etta James, Tina Turner and the Everly Brothers.

would be like, "This is so intense" but I've done the work 10 times over. It's just that no one cared until now.

"This is only one record in," Yola, who was raised on a varied musical diet of Dolly Parton, Etta James, Tina Turner and the Everly Brothers, continued. "Some of the best things I've written haven't seen the light of day."

That hasn't stopped a trove of new fans from coming out in droves to see her perform materi-

al off her debut LP. In fact, Yola said the response to "Walk Through Fire" was almost immediate. Where she'd previously been playing pubs or even small clubs, and often to audiences that only on rare occasion knew the words to songs from her earlier works, these days she's playing to capacity crowds in venues around the globe.

"The thing that is the most uplifting and also surprising is just how many places I can go

where people know the words to my songs regardless of what language they're speaking," Yola said. "It's actually quite surprising to go to a place where English is not the first language, and it's not maybe even one of those countries where people ubiquitously speak English anyway, but still people know the words. That's pretty big."

Dan Hyman is a freelance writer. t-arts@chicagotribune.com

WEEKEND DINING

JUST OPENED



JYOTISHKA BORA PHOTOS

Don't miss the loaded chili cheese fries, left, and Coney dog.

Coney dogs land in Irving Park

BY GRACE WONG

After a three-year break from the culinary world to be a stay-at-home dad, Chris Cunningham is back in the game with JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop, serving regional Midwestern favorites like breaded pork tenderloin sandwiches, Coney dogs and chili cheese fries.

"It's always been a dream to open a shop or a restaurant for our family," Cunningham said. "With my cooking background, I didn't want to bring in deli meats. I wanted to be roasting our own meats and doing something a little more special."

Cunningham worked at McCormick & Schmick's, Gibsons, Luxbar and a few wine bars in the suburbs before deciding to spend some time at home with his two boys, Johnny and Tyler, after whom the restaurant is named.

The inspiration for the Irving Park restaurant was Cunningham's own childhood growing up in Moline and eating pork



The breaded pork tenderloin sandwich.

tenderloin sandwiches, which he's had a hard time finding since he moved to the city. He missed the regional favorite and said that if he opened a sandwich shop, having it on the menu would be essential. He takes a whole pork loin, trims the fat and pounds it with a mallet to tenderize it before submerging it in a buttermilk

brine and coating it in a house breadcrumb mix. After frying, it's served on a buttery bun with mayo, mustard, lettuce, shaved onion and a dill pickle.

His wife is from Michigan, so you'll find a Detroit-style Coney dog, modeled after Lafayette Coney Island's, topped with ground beef seasoned with savory spices, clove and cinna-

mon, and thickened with saltine crackers. There's also a Chicago dog, on a classic poppy seed bun and dragged through the garden. And for those who love corn dogs, Cunningham is making one of his own, with a pancake-cornbread hybrid coating and skinless Vienna Beef franks.

There are also fried chicken sandwiches, chicken salad sandwiches, chili cheese fries, salads and a pork and greens sandwich, with roasted pork shaved super thin and topped with grilled rapini. The kids menu is similar to the adult one, with smaller portions accompanied by a side of fruit, fries, organic milk or juice, and a scoop of ice cream at the end.

"We want to offer a real, honest product, but we're not trying to fluff it up," Cunningham said. "We just want to offer genuine food, genuine service and a genuine experience at our restaurant."

3970 N. Elston Ave., 773-754-7729, jtgenuine.com



BELEN AQUINO

Smashed Radish

EAT

In our professional opinion, brunch is never a bad idea, particularly on the opening weekend of a new year. And, like every year in Chicago, 2020 offers no shortage of good options. Politan Row, one of the West Loop's 2019 food-hall openings, cracks its doors open early for weekend brunch, with special options or offers from each of the seven vendors, including truffle BLT avocado toast sandwich from Smashed Radish (above), biscuits and gravy from Bumbu Roux and more. Don't fret beverages either; there's also a full bar. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Politan Row, 111 N. Aberdeen St., chicago.politanrow.com



BONUS ROUND GAME CAFE

The Bonus Round Game Cafe

DRINK

Try a paint and sip, Dungeons and Dragons-style, at Bonus Round Game Cafe this weekend. The game library invites players to purchase a D&D figurine (\$7-\$17) on-site, then use complimentary painting supplies to design the character to their liking. Have a drink while you create, choosing from several options each of wine, beer and cider available for purchase. 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Bonus Round Cafe, 3230 N. Clark St., bonusroundcafe.com

WHERE TO EAT NOW

Restaurant reviews and profiles from Tribune food critic Phil Vettel, staff reporters and freelance writers. Reviewers make every effort to remain anonymous. Meals are paid for by the Tribune.

Good Fortune Combine hand-some good looks with a neighborhood vibe, and that's Good Fortune in Logan Square. The latest effort from executive chef Charles Welch and business partner Andrew Miller is not a quiet place, but the noise level is manageable. There's a liquid amuse bouche that leads one happily to the menu, which abounds with Welch's favored Mediterranean influences and love of vegetables. Tops in that category is a melange of marinated beets with orange segments, gordal olives, fennel and pine-nut crumble, bound by a burnt-orange vinaigrette. The black rigatoni employs a bit of culinary sleight-of-hand; to keep the dish vegetarian (i.e., forswearing squid ink), Welch adds color using black garlic and activated charcoal, then tosses the noodles with smoked maitake and chanterelle mushrooms. It's fun to be fooled. Good Fortune offers so many things I like about dining out — a stylish setting, good cocktails, excellent food and serious wine. Open: Dinner Wednesday-Monday. Prices: Large plates \$24-\$32. 2528 N. California Ave., 773-666-5238. — Phil Vettel

Jeong David Park and Jennifer Tran, known for the now-closed Hanbun, are practicing their modern-Korean culinary wizardry in Noble Square. Taking over the space that was home to Green Zebra, Jeong's 40-seat dining room is done in dark wood and soft overhead lighting. The optional tasting menu, \$87 for seven courses, is a conspicuous bargain compared with menus of similar size and skill. But there's no drop-off in quality among the a la carte options, where starters are priced in the midteens and no entree tops \$32. Begin with curls of cured-mackerel sashimi, lightly

sprinkled with genmaicha and curved, atoll-like, around a puddle of vivid-red chojang dipping sauce. The four entrees are all terrific, but the must-have is the pressed duck confit; Park takes cured leg meat and presses it into a boneless brick; aggressive searing gives the meat a two-tone effect. A fine beverage program includes food-friendly, reasonably priced wines and a handful of inventive cocktails. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. Prices: Entrees \$26-\$32. 1460 W. Chicago Ave., 312-877-5016. — Phil Vettel

Joe's Imports Francesca Restaurants' Scott Harris has converted his Glazed & Infused doughnut shop in Fulton Market into a wine bar where every bottle has a story, and wine director Joe Fiely is happy to relate them to customers. Joe's Imports' affordable vino list is matched by an eclectic, price-conscious small-plates menu — Italian leaning, but not totally — by Peter DeRuvo. Keep an eye out for the day's midnight pasta, so named as a salute to late-arriving industry workers. Joe's also serves weekend brunch (where the mimosas are made with genuine Champagne), where you'll find some dinner items augmented by breakfast-style dishes — including the bacon-maple-chocolate long john from Glazed & Infused. Open: Dinner daily; brunch Saturday and Sunday. Prices: \$5-\$30. 813 W. Fulton Market, 312-736-1750. — Phil Vettel

Kikko Kikko calls a Fulton Market basement space its home, a 10-seat counter that serves a multicourse menu with novel beverages. Unlike its upstairs sister bar, Kumiko, where the cocktails are the star, the talented chef de cuisine Mariya Russell (Senza, Oriole) is front and center with her 12-course omakase meal, which began at this particular visit with butter-poached scallop with caviar, finger lime and puffed rice. There's a nigiri trio of aged madai, grilled Spanish prawn and glazed uni, followed



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bread cooling off at Le Sud.

Le Sud Given the general decline in the number of French restaurants in the city — particularly the dearth of new openings — the unapologetic Chicago-meets-Provence decor of this Roscoe Village space carry a certain bravado. With a name that translates to "the south," Le Sud owner Sandy Chen took her inspiration from her travels in Southern France. But the menu also dips its toes into the Mediterranean, respecting tradition but not overly bound by it. Add an interesting and highly affordable wine list, and bright, attentive service, and Le Sud looks like a hit. Open: Dinner daily. Prices: Main courses \$18-\$44. 2301 W. Roscoe St., 773-857-1985. — Phil Vettel

by poached and seared mackerel with kombu sabayon. End your meal with thick slices of toasted Japanese milk bread, blow-torched right in front of you and topped with fermented-honey ice cream and garnished with fresh truffle. Dinner Wednesday-Sunday. Prices: Omakase menu \$130. 630 W. Lake St., 312-285-2912. — Phil Vettel

Kumiko In Kumiko's Fulton Market dining room, upstairs from omakase bar Kikko, you can choose among a dozen bites while enjoying the cocktail wizardry of creative director Julia Momose, who previously worked at The Aviary and developed the cocktail program for the late GreenRiver. The dining room is pretty, minimalist yet warm, and the natural-wood tables are roomy. The Japan-born Momose focuses the bar program on Japanese spirits; thus, her Old-Fashioned is made

with Japanese whiskey, shochu and French Banyuls, and her Sea Flower combines Japanese gin, vermouth and yuzu kosho in a glass rimmed with nori powder, salt and sugar. Alongside Momose's alchemy is a list of about a dozen a la carte bites from chef de cuisine Mariya Russell, priced from \$3 (for chicken-liver mousse with fermented kumquat) to \$13 (for a uni handroll with smoked-soy glaze). Definitely go for the king salmon sashimi, rolled with torched lardo and topped with toasted genmai, and kampachi nigiri crowned with white-sturgeon caviar. Steamed buns are filled with short rib, pork belly or braised shiitakes; if you have only one, make it the shiitake, but I'd get all three. Dinner Wednesday-Sunday. Prices: Bites \$3-\$13. 630 W. Lake St., 312-285-2912. — Phil Vettel

Kyoten Otto Phan's omakase

restaurant does not lack for showmanship. You'll pay close attention to sushi rice from the day you try the imported, large-grain rice Phan uses; it's almost meaty. The menu changes frequently, and thus, there is no signature bite to anticipate. That said, when I visited, the octopus, sliced immediately off the boil and tossed with torched avocado and ponzu, was a revelation, as was the Alabama red shrimp, formed into a nigiri so delicate the chef places them directly into each guest's hand. This is the best sushi experience in Chicago. Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. Reservations through www.tock.com. Tasting menu \$220. 2507 W. Armitage Ave., 312-678-0800. — Phil Vettel

La Sardine Executive chef Oliver Poilevey is quick to credit his late father, Jean-Claude, for creating La Sardine's vision. At this French bistro, salads are delicious, but no place for dieters: The frisee salad is piled high with pan-crisped shredded duck, and the lyonnaise salad is generous with its thick, meaty lardons. La Sardine features \$1 oysters and discounted bites and drinks at the bar 5-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays. Lunch Monday-Friday, dinner Monday-Saturday. Main courses \$21-\$31. 111 N. Carpenter St., 312-421-2800. — Phil Vettel

Le Bouchon Utterly authentic French bistro Le Bouchon recently celebrated its 25th birthday; executive chef Oliver Poilevey carries on the legacy of his late father, chef Jean-Claude Poilevey, offering fist-sized gougeres stuffed with raclette, pecorino and Gruyere cheeses, as well as an Alsatian onion tart. Maple-glazed sweetbreads are remarkable. In addition to the fine steak frites, the lamb shank, served over couscous with pomegranate, carrots and Moroccan spices, is another menu strength. For dessert, Le Bouchon offers ice-cream-stuffed profiteroles with chocolate sauce. Take advantage of the half-off bottles of wine on Mondays. Main courses \$20-\$37. Lunch and dinner Monday-Saturday. 1958 N. Damen Ave., 773-862-6600. — Phil Vettel

THE THEATER LOOP

By CHRIS JONES



Our Chicago theater resolutions for 2020

Happy New Year! Good health to you and yours! Still here, still kicking. I traditionally offer some New Year's resolutions for Chicago theater in my first column of the year. But wait. What's the point in throwing out new ideas if the old ones didn't actually go anywhere?

So what about last year's resolutions? Did anyone take any notice?

Let's review, with a few 2019 wishes and what happened — or what could happen in 2020.

1 Hard hats appear at the Uptown Theatre:

Nothing much has happened yet in terms of serious construction. So let's put that back at the top of the 2020 list. To finally take care of Chicago's most gorgeous unrestored building will take civic will and yet more resources, ideally from the private sector that will benefit from an expanded Uptown district. But I feel good about the Uptown in 2020. Let's get it done!

2 That the new mayor of Chicago cares about the arts:

I believe Lori Lightfoot absolutely does care, even if the Chicago Bears are more her comfort zone. And, luckily, Chicago's first lady, Amy Eshleman, is proving herself to be a formidable ally of culture in the city.

3 The Pritzker administration revives the arts across Illinois:

JB Pritzker announced major new arts capital



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The lobby of the Uptown Theatre in Chicago stands empty in December 2018. A \$75 million plan to restore the theater to its 1925 glory has been held up by financing.

funding in 2019 to the tune of \$60 million, an investment likely to have a game-changing impact on the city in 2020 and help several non-profit entities build and develop important new venues. But in terms of visibility, focus and awareness of the assets of Chicago theater beyond the borders of the Midwestern region, there clearly is more to do. And once you get past the Chicago city limits, the arts need far more visibility and support. A lot of people are facing formidable disruption in their lives, thanks to technological change. And our national deficiency of empathy is proving more and more problematic.

4 That "Hamilton: The Exhibition" is a quality experience:

It was but nobody came. Looking back, that was the wrong resolution. I should have wished that it be a quality experience, and that lots of people would care.

5 That Steppenwolf Theatre Company gets its expansion:

If you've driven down Halsted Street in Lincoln Park, you will have seen the workers and the busy construction site. This one worked out. But, overall, Steppenwolf's fall season was an artistic disappointment: the more salient wish now is that Steppenwolf figures out how to use this

new asset to strengthen its relationship to its loyal, long-standing audience.

6 That the audience diversifies: My evidence purely is observational, but there is still a lot more work to be done. It's time to worry as much — or more — about the composition of the audience as the performers on the stage.

7 That Chicago's officially designated Year of Chicago Theatre in 2019 has real and lasting impact:

In terms of marketing dollars, advertisements showed up at O'Hare for the first time and the tourism-promotion

entity called Choose Chicago had some success attracting national media attention. Also on the positive front, several Chicago companies received an injection of new city funding. On the other hand, challenges remain, as evidenced by the late-in-the-year demise of the Emerald City Theatre Company. But there only is so much a city agency can do. Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Mark Kelly pushed and shoved this idea through. He should be proud of what he achieved and Chicago's theaters should be grateful.

So. What about some new wishes, you say?

My pleasure.

1 That we have more and better shows for regular Chicagoans of all stripes who want nothing more than a good night out after a hard week's work.

2 That the city's theaters make an effort to find plays by writers who don't necessarily come with an Ivy League MFA, but maybe from the school of ordinary living.

3 That our city's activist-moralist artists understand that some people take time to become enlightened and that attacking them on social media achieves nothing. Generosity and tolerance are under-appreciated qualities in theater artists.

4 That Chicago theater better embraces its most loyal and appreciative audience: retirees. These are the folks who buy the most theater tickets, write the most checks at end-of-year donation time, and care the most about this city's cultural institutions. They volunteer, usher and support wholeheartedly and their views and tastes deserve far more respect than they often enjoy. Without them, the Chicago theater simply would not exist in this, or any other, year.

May 2020 be filled with great theater for us all!

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.
cjones5@chicago.tribune.com

CHRIS JONES RECOMMENDS

"Always ... Patsy Cline" ★★

By many accounts, singer Patsy Cline was as nice a person as she was a successful crossover artist. So there is something apropos about "Always ... Patsy Cline," the simple biographical revue by Ted Swindley that's now being revived by Firebrand Theatre Company in an intimate setting at the Den Theatre. Unlike many jukebox shows, this one dispenses with the record company suits and needs just two performers: one to play Patsy Cline and the other to essay the role of a real-life fan who becomes her pal. This work is sincere, rich, heartfelt and, well, an ideal gift for anybody who loves these songs. *Through Jan. 25 at the Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.; \$40-50 at www.firebrandtheatre.org*

"Beauty and the Beast" ★★ 1/2

You really have to see director Amber Mak's spectacular new production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" with the mindset that this homegrown Paramount musical is giving families just what they desire for the holidays, a big night out. It's nothing revelatory, but I was surrounded by young theatergoers whose mouths fell open at Jeffrey D. Kmiec's fairytale set design. This is far and away the best local staging of "Beauty and the Beast" to date, thanks also to some very experienced artists in its cast. It is beautifully sung, and Beth Stafford Laird all-in as Belle, all night long. *Through Jan. 19 at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora; \$36-\$77 at 630-896-6666 and www.paramountaurora.com*

"Blue Man Group" ★★ 1/2

"Blue Man Group" has been playing at Briar Street since 1997, a remarkable run of 20-plus years. This remains a fine gateway for the young into the arts. If you've never had the pleasure, go. *Open run at the Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted St.; \$49-\$69 at www.ticketmaster.com*

"Do You Believe in Madness?" ★★

Tired of Brexit? The Second City's 108th mainstage revue brings you Flexit, a divorce plan for Florida. See ya! You certainly sense that the young, activist cast of "Do You Believe in Madness?" would be happy to live in a world apart from the Sunshine State. And from Republicans. In one joyous hoedown, the name of every exiting member of the Trump administration is read out. There are a lot of names. These fresh-faced cast members will only improve with experience, so keep an eye on Andrew Knox, the anchor of the show and a guy with a lovely shirt from UNTUCKit. *Open run at the Second City mainstage, 1616 N. Wells St.; \$31-\$108 at 312-337-3992 and www.secondcity.com*

"Grinning From Fear to Fear" ★★ 1/2

Despite the title — or maybe because of the title — there's a real warmth to "Grinning From Fear to Fear," the revue from Second City's e.c. company and director Anneliese Toft. This show is both funny and forgiving, understanding the delicate art of optimistic comedy and the political power of empathy. *Open run at Second City e.t.c. Stage, 1608 N. Wells St. in Piper's Alley; \$21-\$58 at 312-337-3992 and www.secondcity.com*

"Hamilton" ★★

This heartland "Hamilton" is performed by players mostly younger and less experienced than the original New York cast. But it is more in touch with the fundamental scrappiness of the early years of a rebel colony turned into a spectacular democratic experiment. And in Chicago, a city where theater is founded on truth, it is very much more human and vulnerable. That Chicago-style sensibility is led by Miguel Cervantes, the superb actor in the title role. *Through Jan. 5, 2020 at CIBC Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St.; \$65-\$400 at 800-775-2000 and www.broadwayinchicago.com*



MATTHEW MURPHY

Derrick Davis and Emma Grimsley in "The Phantom of the Opera."

HOT TICKET

"The Phantom of the Opera" ★★

Chicago's Loop theaters are filled with shows, including the standard bearer of the mega-musical, Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera." Box office demand for the masked one remains exceptionally brisk. As a big night out at the theater, there remains a frisson of excitement in the audience as Christine and the Phantom descend to the basement lair of the Paris Opera House, where they will compete for who can sing the highest note. This is the only authorized tour, as last seen here in 2016, and as produced by the legendary impresario Cameron Mackintosh and directed by Laurence Connor. The current long-serving Phantom, Derrick Davis, is right up there with the best of them; his work is richly toned, respectful of the material and the time-proven blend of sensual and macabre. I doubt you'll be disappointed. *Through Jan. 5 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St.; \$46-\$136 at 800-775-2000 or www.broadwayinchicago.com*

"I Am Not a Comedian ... I'm Lenny Bruce" ★★ 1/2

The comedian Lenny Bruce once wisely observed, "the truth is what is, and what should be is a fantasy." Good advice. The truth of Bruce, of course, is that he was found dead on a bathroom floor in 1966. In Ronnie Marmo's solo show, Bruce's demise is the uncensored start of the evening and has the effect of turning Bruce into a sacrificial figure. Marmo and his celebrity director Joe Mantegna clearly are arguing here that without Bruce's work, there would be no Richard Pryor. But Marmo's great achievement is his ability to replicate not just Bruce's essential vulnerability but his furious mind, forever fated to rail about the lack of intellectual honesty in America. *Through Feb. 16 at the Royal George Cabaret Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted St.; \$69-\$79 at 312-988-9000 and lennybruceonstage.com*

"Love, Chaos and Dinner" ★★

Teatro ZinZanni has opened "Love, Chaos and Dinner" in the heart of Chicago's theater district, delivering an inclusive, approachable, PG-13 rated Big Loop Night Out as it has been understood for decades by suburbanites and tourists. You eat a bit, talk a bit, eat a bit more, watch some circus acts up-close. *Open run at the Cambria Hotel, 32 W. Randolph St.; \$99-\$189 (includes dinner) at 312-488-0900 and www.zinzanni.com*

"Mary Poppins" ★★

You can't do a decent "Mary Poppins" without a tip-top chief nanny and Drury Lane has found an immaculate lead in Emilie Lynn. She not only sings the role as well as you will ever hear, she excels as the complicated role of family therapist and dances, as Mary must, on the edge of Eros with Bert (James T.

Lane). Not everything works in director Marcia Milgrom Dodge's sometimes clunky production, and be aware if you have young kids that "Mary Poppins" is a long musical. But this is still a fine choice for a family holiday outing. *Through Jan. 19 at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace; \$60-\$75 at 800-530-0111 or www.drurylanetheatre.com*

"Mean Girls" ★★

Tina Fey's "Mean Girls" is a comic dissection of the tribal doings in her lightly fictional North Shore high school and walks many of the same streets as the great John Hughes films. But "Mean Girls," first the movie and now the musical, comes with a moral message. Fey wanted to tell girls not to pretend to fail math to get a boy, to not sell your insecure sisters down the river for a seat among the Plastics at lunch. And when you first see the lead

performer in this new touring cast, Danielle Wade, you'd swear the casting directors were told to find a young Fey type, as close as possible to the real thing. Wade also has a fabulously supple voice and a potent emotional presence — she actually sounds a lot like a young Jessie Mueller, and that deepens the musical element of this show. *Through Jan. 26 at the Nederlander Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St.; \$30-\$131.50 at 800-775-2000 or www.broadwayinchicago.com*

"The Steadfast Tin Soldier" ★★

The tin hero of this gorgeous holiday show, back for another season at Lookingglass Theatre, is tormented by a big baby, chased by a rat and incinerated. Mary Zimmerman's adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" is barely more than an hour long and does not use a lick of human speech. But this is a major new work, with the message that we don't die, we merely change shape. It's one holiday experience you don't want to miss. *Through Jan. 26 at Lookingglass Theatre in the Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave.; \$35-\$85 at 312-337-0665 or www.lookingglasstheatre.org*

"Working" ★★

"This is Howard, as far as this train goes." So sayeth the CTA prophet at the top of Theo Ubique's new production of "Working," the musical celebration of Studs Terkel's book about everyday folks, from housewives to venture capitalists to industrial cleaners. In this show, directed by Christopher Chase Carter, "Working" is very much a Chicago story. Carter has put tables for his audience all around the space with different staging areas for his working actors. Kiersten Frumkin does a lovely job with "Just a Housewife," the most famous song in the show, and I especially liked Stephen Blu Allen's treatment of "A Very Good Day," written by Lin-Manuel Miranda. *Through Jan. 26 at Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, 721 Howard St., Evanston; \$42-\$57 (dinner optional) at 773-347-1109 or www.theo-u.com*



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11:55 AM

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Kia: Telluride-looking Seltos small SUV a bargain-price hit

Kia will add a feature-laden subcompact SUV to its lineup early in 2020. Called the Seltos, the SUV slots into the brand's lineup between the funky little Soul and the Sportage, which no one has ever accused of being overburdened with personality.

The 2021 Seltos — there's no word yet on what, if anything, the name means, so don't ask — builds on the looks of the large Kia Telluride SUV that's been one of 2019's runaway hits. The Seltos will cost about half as much — all-wheel-drive models will start under \$22,000, FWD lower — but Kia plans to offer unaccustomed features in entry-level SUVs.

The Seltos will offer a pair of four-cylinder engines: a base 146-horsepower 2.0L and 176-hp 1.6L turbo. The engine will shut off automatically if it's left idling for 10 minutes, a safety feature to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.

The AWD system will have a locking center differential that can split torque between the front and rear wheels for traction in severe conditions.

With 7.2 inches of ground clearance, the Seltos should be immediately recognizable as an SUV, unlike some small utilities.

Available features will include:

- 10.25-inch touchscreen
- 8-speaker Bose audio
- Music-linked mood lighting
- Apple CarPlay
- Android Auto
- Wireless charging
- Blind spot alert and assist
- 17- or 18-inch alloy wheels
- Drowsy driver alert
- Forward collision alert and pedestrian detection
- Lane departure alert and assist
- Rear occupant alert
- Adaptive cruise control with lane following assist

Kia also showed a pair of concepts to show how lift kits, light bars and other modifications could boost the Seltos's appeal. Kia says it has no plan to build either of them, but it'd be a surprise if aftermarket customizers don't take the hint.

— Mark Phelan, Detroit Free Press

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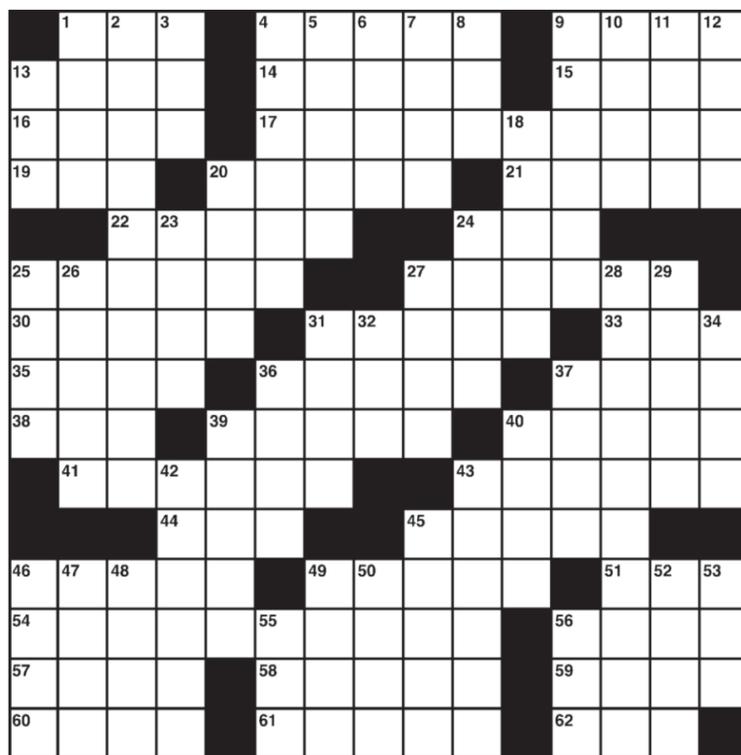
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Crossword



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1/3/20

ACROSS

- 1 Distress signal
- 4 Vital artery
- 9 Eve's man
- 13 "___ obliged!"; words of gratitude
- 14 Bawler
- 15 Brass instrument
- 16 Prefix for enemy or angel
- 17 Disastrous
- 19 Split ___ soup
- 20 Soothes; rocks to sleep
- 21 Naps
- 22 Cheese variety
- 24 Relatives
- 25 Evening party
- 27 Good judgment
- 30 Go nowhere near
- 31 Cone-bearing tree
- 33 Johnson or Morrison
- 35 Torn in two
- 36 Big name in cameras
- 37 Trait transmitter
- 38 ___ New York minute; instantly
- 39 Nosy person
- 40 Actress & singer Day
- 41 Zigzag skiing
- 43 Cuddly-looking marsupials
- 44 Floor pad
- 45 Splotchy-coated horse

- 46 Frequently
- 49 Wading bird
- 51 "Son ___ gun!"
- 54 Misdeed
- 56 Lose traction on ice
- 57 Geeky fellow
- 58 California athlete
- 59 Flea collar wearers
- 60 Candy store chain
- 61 Unkempt
- 62 Linear measures: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Certain
- 2 Sporadic
- 3 Request for silence
- 4 Point the finger at
- 5 Some grad exams
- 6 Small brook
- 7 Drinks served hot or cold
- 8 Phonograph part
- 9 Be present at
- 10 Singing couples
- 11 Border on
- 12 Church service
- 13 Traveler's diagram
- 18 ___ setter; reddish dog
- 20 Wasn't honest
- 23 Judge's order

Solutions



- 24 ___ the bucket; die
- 25 Mumbai dress
- 26 Microwaves
- 27 Envelop
- 28 Failed to notice
- 29 Excessive enthusiasm
- 31 Weaving device
- 32 Hubbub
- 34 Suffix for cold or bold
- 36 Shoelace problem
- 37 Ibex or Angora
- 39 Street talk
- 40 "Been there, ___ that"
- 42 Makes right
- 43 Regal
- 45 Rectangular pieces of glass
- 46 ___ up; confesses
- 47 On the house
- 48 ___ off; left suddenly
- 49 Dunce cap's shape
- 50 Big ___; 18-wheeler
- 52 Is just the right size
- 53 Commercials
- 55 Water barrier
- 56 007, for one

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— TO —
REMEMBER
— SALES EVENT —



2019 ES 350
LEASE

\$359 per mo. **36** mos.

\$4,000 due at signing

Stock # L19013. 2019 ES 350. MSRP \$47,512. 36 months, 10,000 miles per year. \$4,000 due at lease signing. \$359/month + tax. Offer End Date: 1/6/20

2020 RX 350 AWD
LEASE

\$419 per mo. **27** mos.

\$3,499 due at signing

Stock # L20087. 2020 RX 350 AWD. MSRP \$53,190. 27 months, 10,000 miles per year. \$3,499 due at lease signing. \$419/month + tax. Offer End Date: 1/6/20

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NEW
2020
JEEP

Renegade

Latitude 4x4 #192635

MSRP: \$28,855[†]

Save:

\$8,766
Off MSRP!



MOTORTREND
SUV OF THE YEAR 2019

NEW
2020
JEEP

Wrangler

Unlimited Sport S

4x4 #200744 MSRP: \$39,185[†]

Lease:

\$219 PER MO. |
39 MOS.[^]



NEW
2020
JEEP

Journey

SE AWD #191949

Save:

\$7,787
Off MSRP!



NEW
2020
JEEP

Compass

Limited 4x4 #200243

MSRP: \$29,990[†]

Lease:

\$169 PER MO. |
36 MOS.[^]



MOTORTREND
TRUCK OF THE YEAR 2019

NEW
2019
RAM

1500 Big Horn/
Lone Star

Crew Cab 4x4 5'7" Box

#191782 MSRP: \$52,490[†]

Lease:

\$329 PER MO. |
42 MOS.[^]



NEW
2020
JEEP

Gladiator

Sport #200018

MSRP: \$43,965[†]

Lease:

\$259 PER MO. |
36 MOS.[^]



NEW
2020
JEEP

Cherokee

Latitude PLUS 4x4 #200327

MSRP: \$31,285[†]

Lease:

\$199 PER MO. |
39 MOS.[^]



NEW
2020
JEEP

Grand Cherokee

Limited 4x4 #200534

MSRP: \$43,350[†]

Lease:

\$289 PER MO. |
42 MOS.[^]



NEW
2019
RAM

2500 Big Horn

Crew Cab 4x4 6'4" Box

#191705 MSRP: \$66,770[†]

Sale: \$55,972

\$10,798
Off MSRP!



NEW
2020
CHRYSLER

Pacifica

#200471

0% APR x 60
MONTHS[†]



NEW
2019
RAM

1500 Tradesman

Crew Cab 4x4 6'4" Box

#190741 MSRP: \$44,830[†]

Sale: \$31,874

\$12,956
Off MSRP!



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