



Blagojevich released from federal prison

TRUMP COMMUTES EX-GOVERNOR'S 14-YEAR SENTENCE



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich arrives at Denver International Airport on Tuesday night en route to Chicago, hours after being freed from a Colorado prison by the president.

Patti's strategy: Fox News, flattery and a wife's fervor

BY STACY ST. CLAIR

For most of her time as Illinois first lady, Patti Blagojevich preferred a behind-the-scenes role, advising her husband on myriad topics while building a real estate career that leaned heavily on the couple's clout.

But since her husband's arrest nearly a dozen years ago, Blagojevich has commanded the spotlight as she has done almost anything — from eating bugs on reality television to courting President Donald Trump — to help win her husband's freedom. She has made scores of public pleas on his behalf over the past decade on television and social media, usually painting her family as the victims of overzealous prosecutors and political enemies.

And in many of her carefully crafted pleas, only President Trump had the brains and the bravado to remedy the perceived injustice.

"They are trying to undo elections and play politics instead of doing what they are supposed to do," she said on Fox News in 2018. "It takes a strong leader like President Trump to right these wrongs."

Her constant flattery proved successful Tuesday, as Trump commuted Rod Blagojevich's 14-year prison sentence and cleared the way for him to leave prison four years early. In a clear acknowledgment that Patti Blagojevich's messages were received, the president complimented her re-

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ALEX BRANDON/AP

"He served eight years in jail, a long time," said President Trump by way of explanation Tuesday.

Prosecutors: Trump made bad decision

A statement from the prosecutors who put Blagojevich behind bars says the president sent the wrong message to politicians and the public. **Page 9**

A man called 'the face of' Ill. corruption is now free

BY JASON MEISNER, RICK PEARSON AND ERIN HOOLEY

After more than one false alarm raised and dashed the hopes of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, President Donald Trump finally answered his pleas and commuted Blagojevich's 14-year prison term Tuesday, springing the Chicago Democrat from prison more than four years early and writing a stunning new chapter to one of the state's most notorious corruption cases.

Before boarding a United Airlines flight in Colorado, after being released from federal custody Tuesday evening, Blagojevich thanked Trump for the commutation, saying he was eager to get home.

"What he did was I think something that deserves a great amount of appreciation on my part personally, and he has from me my deepest, most profound and everlasting gratitude," Blagojevich, donning a dark suit jacket, said to reporters. "I can't wait to get home. I miss my daughters. I miss my wife. I miss home."

Trump's controversial move came more than a year after he first revealed he was considering ending Blagojevich's time behind bars, saying he believed Illinois' 40th governor had been treated unfairly.

"Yes, we commuted the sentence of Rod Blagojevich," Trump said in Maryland on Tuesday. "He served eight years in jail, a long

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Amid abuse claims, Scouts file for bankruptcy

Local groups say they won't be affected; lawyers may eye assets

BY JESSICA VILLAGOMEZ AND ROBERT MCCOPPIN

The clock is ticking for men seeking damages from the Boy Scouts of America over claims of sexual abuse, Chicago attorneys say, now that the national organization has filed for bankruptcy.

After facing hundreds of sexual-abuse lawsuits, the Boy Scouts filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday in what lawyers are calling an effort to limit growing victim compensation claims.

Hundreds of lawyers across

the country are seeking settlement on behalf of thousands of men who say they were molested as scouts by leaders over decades.

"The danger for victims is that now, there will be a clock set by the bankruptcy court where victims will have a certain window of time to bring a claim, or their claims would be barred," attorney Mark McKenna said.

Local Boy Scouts councils stated that they are legally separate from the national organization, did not file for bankruptcy, and will be unaffected by the court case, but victims' attorneys say they will fight over that issue. In order to be freed from liability, attorney Evan Smola said, local

"... It's an effort to limit future exposure to abuse claims."

—Michael Mertz, Chicago lawyer

councils may have to give up some of their assets, the most valuable of which include large campgrounds such as Camp Lakota near Woodstock and Camp Napowan in Wisconsin.

Citing recent changes to make states' statute-of-limitations laws more flexible, more victims of abuse have greater means to

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Limits put on restraints, seclusion for schoolkids

But state board stops short of timeout room bans

BY JENNIFER SMITH RICHARDS AND JODI S. COHEN

This story is a collaboration between the Chicago Tribune and ProPublica Illinois.

The Illinois State Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt permanent rules that prohibit the use of locked seclusion rooms and stop schools from using prone restraints, making Illinois' rules more restrictive than they've ever been.

But under pressure from a

group of special-education schools, the board stopped short of enacting a ban of involuntary, closed-door timeout in the state's schools as it had planned after a Chicago Tribune and ProPublica Illinois investigation in November revealed widespread misuse of isolated timeout and restraint in Illinois schools.

ISBE will allow schools to place students alone in seclusion rooms when they are "engaging in extreme physical aggression" and it

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Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich will emerge from prison triumphant, to praise President Donald Trump's name.



JOHN KASS

Commutation buries Trump's 'draining the swamp' promise

Now that President Donald Trump has commuted the prison sentence of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich — who shook down a children's hospital and tried to sell a U.S. Senate seat — what should Trump do with his big promise?

That promise about “draining the swamp”?

Trump should take his promise, dig a hole, and bury it. It's the least he could do.

This is the worst time for Trump to show mercy to a corrupt Illinois politician, even a tiny swamp weasel like Blagojevich.

The news will make Blagojevich seem important, but in political terms, he was nothing, just an empty suit put in the job by Chicago Democratic machine ward boss Richard Mell, his father-in-law.

The other Democratic bosses went along, and so did their unions, and the Chicago tough guys. But then Blago and Mell fell out over a landfill deal.

Mell broke bad. The feds moved in. Blago was a jester who recited Rudyard Kipling's “If” on his way to federal court, a man who sent his wife on reality TV to eat jungle bugs to win him mercy, a man who himself groveled on Trump's show, “The Celebrity Apprentice.”

And right now, virtually ignored by national media, a federal political corruption investigation rolls through Illinois. Rumors speed along the Chicago Way of top targets cutting deals with federal prosecutors, ready to spill their guts, and panic sets in.

These aren't empty suits like Blagojevich. These are the Democratic Party alpha males. And now Blagojevich will emerge from prison triumphant, to praise Trump's name. It will be a circus.

Presidential mercy is all about politics. Bill Clinton released Puerto Rican terrorists just as his wife Hillary Clinton was carpetbagging her New York Senate run, needing Puerto Rican voter support.

Barack Obama commuted the sentence of traitor Chelsea Manning, who leaked massive amounts of intelligence that put the lives of Americans overseas at risk. He also released the violent and unrepentant terrorist Oscar López Rivera, a darling of the

left. What does Trump win? He won't win Illinois. But this gives him cover to show presidential love to his buddy Roger Stone.

Stone must have been popping Champagne as reporters lined up outside Blagojevich's bungalow in Chicago on Tuesday, waiting for the former governor's glorious return.

Stone was convicted of lying to Congress and interfering with an FBI investigation into Russian interference in the elections. Now, can a pardon for Roger Stone be far behind?

“Oh, give Blagojevich a break,” said Karen the Waitress as I wrote this column in the diner. “I feel sorry for his kids, his family. He did his time. What about the other politicians?”

Fourteen years is longer than other crooked politicians get. But it was fair. Not everyone agrees with me. Illinois Democrats don't.

“I thought the sentence was outrageous, and if there is a way to reduce that sentence for him and his family, I would support it,” said Illinois U.S. Sen. Durbin in 2018 when Trump first floated the Blago balloon.

When asked whether a Trump commutation of Blagojevich's sentence would be acceptable, Durbin opened his mealy mouth just long enough to say: “I'll let President Trump make that decision, but I certainly think 14 years was entirely too long.”

Four Illinois governors have been convicted of corruption in my lifetime. Former Republican Gov. George Ryan served only a little more than five years. But I've argued that Ryan's corruption — involving the selling of truck drivers' licenses — led to the deaths of six Illinois children in a horrific, fiery crash. Ryan should have received more time.

Former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., who may have been the beneficiary of the Obama Senate seat deal had not the Blagojevich investigation been abruptly stopped before it climbed higher, did time for an unrelated case.

Blagojevich never got a dime from his schemes, but Triple J pocketed \$750,000 in campaign cash and blew it on junk. He served a little over a year in federal prison and still collects his juicy federal pension.

“He (Blagojevich) served eight years in jail,” said President Trump on Tuesday. “That's a long time and I watched his wife on television. ... Many people disagree with the sentence. He's a Democrat, not a Republican.”

When it comes to corruption, is there a difference, Mr. President?

Trump should bury his “drain the swamp” promise in that wet sump around corrupt bipartisan Washington politics.

But the earth there has the same sodden consistency as does corruptly bipartisan Illinois.

Dig a hole and sump water rises, in Illinois, in Washington, bringing with it the unmistakable smell of corruption.

The politicians become used to it, they thrive in it, they play in it, the way some of us got used to the smell of Chicago's Union Stock Yards in the old neighborhood.

Blood from a slaughterhouse is foul but honest. It means work and paychecks. This is different. It smells of dangerous infection.

Corruption doesn't much bother the political class. They've become immune. But it does infect the people. And that is the sin of it.

Because the people see the connected walking away, Democrats, Republicans, winning pardons, commutations, some crooks fat with federal pensions, and they wonder: Where's mine? Where's my deal?

How do people hold political crooks to account, when they're forced to find a guy who knows a guy just to get by in a corrupt political environment? They don't.

They lower themselves to the standards of their leadership. And the infection grows.

Trump sends Blagojevich home as a conquering hero. Look upon Illinois, Mr. President, and behold your great work.

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■ A story on the front page of Thursday's Business section about coronavirus fears hurting business at Chinatown restaurants had an incorrect spelling for MingHin Cuisine. The Tribune regrets the error.

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Trump is assembling a Corruption Dream Team



REX W. HUPPKE

People in Illinois who are shaking their heads over President Donald Trump's decision to commute the sentence of disgraced former Gov. Rod Blagojevich are missing our dear leader's brilliant strategy.

It's quite simple, really. Trump cares deeply about battling corruption.

That was the overarching defense used at his impeachment hearings as his lawyers attempted to explain why the president was pushing the Ukrainian government to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son. Trump was merely trying to root out corruption, as all good corruption-rooter-outers do.

So why would a leader so passionate about eradicating sleaze want to spring someone such as Blagojevich, who could effectively be a mascot for the word "corruption"?

And why would that same leader, on the same day, pardon three other malfeasance enthusiasts? We're talking about former 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. (gambling fraud scandal); former New York police Commissioner Bernie Kerik (eight felony charges, including tax fraud and lying to the White House); and Michael Milken (securities violations, known in the 1980s as "the junk bond king").

Connect the dots, people. Trump is preparing to combat corruption by putting together a Corruption Dream Team. (Blagojevich, since he has the best hair, will be captain.)

It's like in "Silence of the Lambs," where a cannibal serial killer is used to track down a human-skin-wearing serial killer, only this time there's less cannibalism and flaying and more securities fraud and trying to sell a U.S. Senate seat.

Some will claim — rudely — that Trump is pardoning Blagojevich and other crooked actors in an attempt to downplay the significance of political and financial corruption, making the president's own abuses of power seem more tolerable.



DOUG MILLS/ THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Donald Trump, the corruption-rooter-outer-in-chief, is prepping to fight corruption by putting together a Corruption Dream Team.

That's poppycock. After all, what did Blagojevich *really* do wrong? Did he try to sell President-elect Barack Obama's Senate seat, saying it was (expletive) "golden"? Yeah, sure, but who among us wouldn't have done the same?

And did he shake down a children's hospital for campaign contributions? I suppose, but c'mon, people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw hospitalized children, am I right?

So the former governor indulged in some light "highly criminal activity" and a smidge of "fully defrauding the public's trust." He was sentenced to 14 years in prison and his appeals were denied all the way up to the

Supreme Court.

Or, as Trump put it Tuesday: "He seems like a very nice person."

The president then added: "Don't know him."

But of course Trump knows Blagojevich. The former governor was on Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" show back before the real estate mogul got into the corruption-fighting business.

And if there's one thing Trump likes, it's people who appear on his television. Like Kerik, the disgraced former police commissioner who is a regular Trump defender on Fox News.

As Trump continues to build his elite Corruption Dream Team, it's likely he'll pardon

every person ever convicted of corruption on "Law & Order." You can never have too many trained corruption experts.

Trump also likes rich white men, such as Milken, whose pardon was pushed by folks such as Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch and big-time GOP donor Sheldon Adelson.

And, of course, Trump likes winning, which explains the DeBartolo pardon. The DeBartolo family is well-known and influential in the swing state of Ohio. Could just be a coincidence. I'm sure the Corruption Dream Team will get to the bottom of it.

For now, we need to focus on this amazing group of people

Trump is rescuing from accountability. And most amazing of them all is our resident corruption superhero, Blagojevich.

We know he has learned his lesson because he wrote in a 2018 Wall Street Journal opinion piece: "I'm in prison for practicing politics. When they can't prove a crime, they create one."

And when you don't want your own crimes to seem like a big deal, you create a Corruption Dream Team to make it seem like crimes aren't really a thing at all.

Brilliant work with these pardons, President Trump. Nobody knows corruption like this group.

CORRUPTERS, ASSEMBLE!

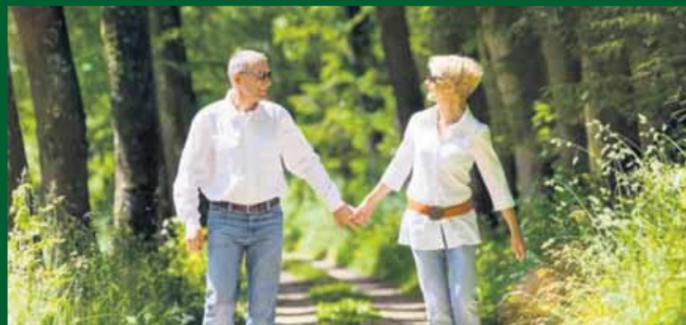
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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGOLAND

Blagojevich and president are kindred spirits



DAHLEEN GLANTON

It should not surprise anyone that Donald Trump would commute former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's prison sentence. Corrupt politicians do favors for other corrupt politicians all the time.

Trump and Blagojevich are kindred spirits. The only difference is that Trump has gotten away with his corruption so far and Blagojevich didn't.

Recently coming off his own impeachment trial, Trump likely was feeling more generous with his commutation powers this time around, compared with the past when he dangled a "get out of jail free" card over Blagojevich's head and snatched it back.

Trump finally realized that the disgraced governor whom he once fired on his reality television show "Celebrity Apprentice" was more like him than he knew. Both had a penchant for suckering enough people to vote them into office and then selfishly using their position to promote their personal agenda.

More importantly, the two of them now share an impeachment legacy. Blagojevich was impeached by the Illinois General Assembly for abusing his power and removed from office by the state Senate in 2009. Eleven years later, Trump faced his own impeachment for doing the same thing and trying to cover it up.

Though Trump didn't know it when Blagojevich appeared on his show in 2010, he would come to see himself in much the same way as the disgraced governor saw himself — a misunderstood and mistreated victim of ambitious, politically motivated accusers seeking to gain prominence by bringing him down.

Like presidents, governors have absolute power, too, in Trump's eyes. So he decided to rectify what he considered to be an unfair attack on this poor governor who, like himself, had the power to do anything he wanted while holding a high office.

It's shameful that Republicans who refused to hold Trump accountable for corruption were adamantly opposed to letting Blagojevich off the hook.

In a letter signed by the entire Illinois Republican delegation in 2018, these hypocritical politicians railed against Blagojevich's "quid pro quo behavior" and warned that "the integrity of our democracy and the core of American values depend on our elected officials being honest in upholding the trust given to them by the American people."

On Tuesday, five of these Republican congressmen issued a statement calling Blagojevich "the face of public corruption in Illinois." Too bad they aren't willing to call Trump "the face of public corruption in America."

Having spent eight years in prison for trying to sell Barack Obama's former Senate seat to the highest bidder, as well as other crimes, Blagojevich is as poisonous as the plague in Illinois. Convicted by a federal jury of 17 counts related to fundraising shakedowns, he has absolutely no political clout and even less empathy from Illinois residents who voted to give him two terms in office.

That's exactly how it should be. We are living in a dangerous time in our country when political corruption can be dismissed like a contested parking ticket. There is no excuse for what Blagojevich did to the residents of Illinois, just as there was no legitimate reason for Trump to get away with what he did to the American people.

There likely are many reasons Trump chose to commute the sentence. He told reporters Tuesday that it was "a tremendously powerful, ridiculous sentence."

By commuting the sentence more than four years early, Trump kicked dirt in the faces of Illinois residents. He sent a strong message that we don't deserve to be compensated for the harm and hardship of being betrayed by our governor.

Trump told us in no uncertain terms that we are not worthy of 14 years' compensation from a governor who had so little regard for our well-being that he would try to sell an important U.S. Senate seat in order to build a war chest for his own reelection. It's no secret that he detests this solidly blue state and rightfully deems it worthless in his reelection.

It is most likely that Trump is looking far ahead of the 2020 election, though. No one knows what could happen once he leaves the safe confines of the White House. Maybe he could find himself in a similar situation as Blagojevich one day, and he'd want some president, perhaps even a Democrat, to return the favor to him.

Blagojevich was lucky to have gotten the ear of a politician who knows what it's like to be so despised that many Americans would like to see him behind bars.

But Trump got something out of it too. He got a chance to flex his political muscle once again and give the people of Illinois the finger at the same time.

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JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

U.S. Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia and Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx were among local politicians speaking out Tuesday against a new immigration enforcement initiative announced by the Trump administration.

City leaders call for end to attacks on immigrants

Foxx, others decry Trump administration efforts to instill fear over census participation

BY ELVIA MALAGÓN

Chicago politicians and immigrant advocates vowed to push back against plans by President Donald Trump's administration to deploy tactical units from the southern border to strengthen immigration enforcement in Chicago and other so-called sanctuary cities.

U.S. Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García contended the timing of the initiative was intended to "instill fear" in immigrants not just about deportation but about participating in the 2020 census.

"The timing is no accident," García said at a news conference Tuesday. "The attempted intimidation has a clear purpose: It is to intimidate our neighbors who are Latino, African American, Asian American communities in particular, not to open their doors. Trump succeeds if we do that. Trump wants us to be undercounted in our communities so that we would lose federal resources and services that are vital to our communities and weaken our political power."

Households across the country will start to receive mail by March 12 from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions on how to fill out the questionnaire by phone, mail or internet. Workers hired by the federal agency will start visiting households that haven't responded on their own by April, according to the bureau. In Chicago, community organizations have already started knocking on doors, trying to inform residents about the decennial count and to figure out how many people need help filling out the questionnaire.

Outreach groups doing work around the 2020 census had already expressed concern about the willingness of immigrants to participate because of Trump's attempt to include a citizenship question. The questionnaire will not ask anyone about their immigration status.

The new enforcement tactic and the response by local officials marked an escalation of the long-running conflict

between the Trump administration and leaders of cities like Chicago, where state and local laws prohibit police from assisting in immigration enforcement or from stopping anyone because of their immigration status.

"We will not be bullied, period, especially by a bully like President Trump who trades in hatred and scare tactics," Mayor Lori Lightfoot said in a video she released following news last week about the new enforcement effort. "To all our neighbors and friends, I want you to know that Chicago stands with you and will always fight to keep you safe. We are a welcoming city and proud of it, and no amount of vitriol will make us think otherwise."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials told The New York Times last week that the agency will divert 100 officers to assist U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in cities around the country "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

In Chicago, ICE officials previously said arrests are down in the area because state and local officials are no longer cooperating with them. An ICE official earlier this year said the agency no longer has access to databases in Illinois that it previously used to track noncitizens, and local jails denied more than 1,000 detainees the agency issued during fiscal 2019.

Federal officials have also argued that the lack of cooperation has led to a greater public risk, leading to collateral arrests or costing residents more if the person gets arrested again.

But García described the administration's latest move as a "radical departure" for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx said the fear of ICE has already deterred victims of violent crime from showing up in court out of fear that immigration enforcement officers could be waiting for them outside the courthouse.

Foxx said that's why her office joined the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights in suing the Trump administration over the "public charge" rule, which could deny green cards to immigrants in

the country legally who receive a form of public aid.

While the U.S. Supreme Court in January allowed the Trump administration to move forward with the new rule, an injunction in Illinois remains in effect. The county's federal lawsuit is still pending as of this week.

"Our office will be going to the Supreme Court once again to fight to make sure that these racist policies don't take hold," Foxx said at the news conference.

At the state level, advocates are pushing for legislators to pass a bill that would further prevent local officials from cooperating with ICE, said Mony Ruiz-Velasco, executive director of the PASO West Suburban Action Project.

As they did last year when Trump warned of a crackdown on those without legal residency, immigrant advocates are also promoting a know-your-rights campaign, advising people not to open their doors or speak to federal agents, to have a safety plan in place and to ask during a traffic stop if the officer is local or federal.

"Chicagoans have heard these threats before from the Trump administration," the National Immigrant Justice Center said in a release. "As a legal service organization committed to defending our Chicago neighbors, NIJC's message to communities remains the same: Everyone in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, has rights under the U.S. Constitution. 'We encourage families to ... prepare for a potential encounter with immigration officers and understand their rights.'"

Emma Lozano, a community activist, called for the community to stand together, pointing out that many people lived in so-called mixed status households, meaning some family members could be living in the country illegally while others are U.S. citizens.

"We must prepare ourselves by knowing our rights," Lozano said, as she urged people to register to vote and participate in the census.

García said Tuesday that he had not heard of any sightings so far of the specialized units in cities like Chicago.

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Sen. Kamala Harris endorses Foxx for 2nd term

BY LOLLY BOWEAN

California Sen. Kamala Harris is endorsing Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx in her push for a second term, the incumbent prosecutor's campaign announced.

Saying Foxx's work is a model for progressive criminal justice reform, the former Democratic presidential candidate announced her endorsement early Tuesday.

Harris was the top prosecutor for San Francisco before pivoting to the U.S. Senate seat she now holds.

"Understanding the emotion, the energy, and the intentional accountability it takes to bring change to the criminal justice system I am proud to endorse my sister," Harris said in a statement.

The praise from Harris comes after Foxx has picked up endorsements in the March 17 primary from other high-profile Democrats in the Senate, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who are both running for president.

It also comes as Foxx is facing a new

round of criticism related to her handling of the Jussie Smollett case.

A year after Foxx's office dropped charges against the actor, a special Cook County grand jury last week indicted Smollett on six counts of disorderly conduct alleging he staged a hate crime against himself in January 2019.

Special prosecutor Dan Webb said further prosecution of Smollett was "in the interest of justice" based on factors that included "the extensive nature" of the actor's alleged falsehoods, the time and money police devoted to the initial investigation and the strength of the original case Foxx's office brought against the actor.

Webb said that his investigation into how Foxx's office handled the case was ongoing but that it did not necessarily mean anyone committed wrongdoing. His office also determined that it "disagrees" with how the state's attorney's office handled the case.

As a result of the new charges against Smollett, two of Foxx's Democratic opponents have called for her resignation.

Foxx has countered by touting her efforts to focus only on violent offenders

and spending fewer resources prosecuting people with lower-level charges such as retail theft and marijuana possession.

Last week, Foxx said that the Smollett case has drawn attention but was just one of the high-profile cases her office has handled during her tenure.

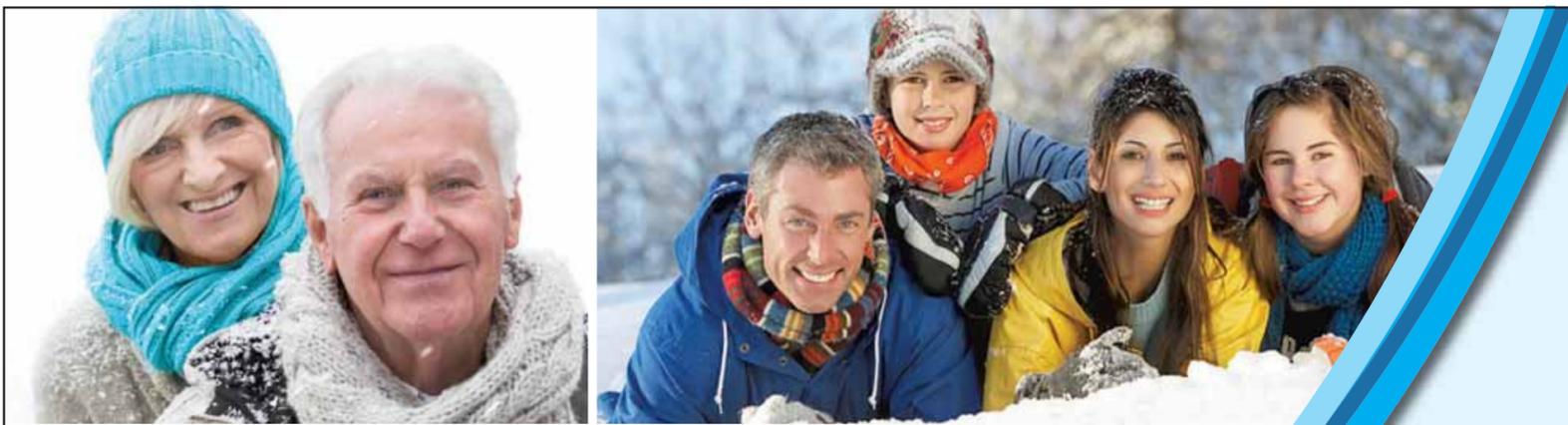
She pointed to her office's work to find potential accusers to come forward against singer R. Kelly, as well as securing convictions against the men responsible for killing 9-year-old Tyshawn Lee and 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton.

Harris dropped out of the presidential race in December after remaining low in the polls, saying she didn't have the money to finance a strong campaign.

In her office's announcement, Foxx called Harris a mentor.

"She championed the need to be smart on crime instead of tough on crime before it was popular and continues to speak the truth, reminding us that justice and equality are always on the ballot," she said.

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Lightfoot pushes casino agenda 'at every stop' during Springfield visit

BY JAMIE MUNKS
AND DAN PETRELLA

SPRINGFIELD — Mayor Lori Lightfoot met with legislators from both parties Tuesday during her first visit to the Capitol since her proposal to tweak tax rates for a Chicago casino failed to advance last fall.

A Chicago casino dominated Lightfoot's discussions with lawmakers, she said, but she offered no specifics.

Lightfoot has been pushing for changes for a proposed Chicago casino ever since a consultant described the tax structure that was part of legislation signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker as "onerous" to the point of making the project financially unworkable.

The casino issue came up "at every stop" Lightfoot made at the Capitol on Tuesday, and she said the feedback from lawmakers will be incorporated into "planning for how to move this bill forward."

The city's share of gambling revenue from a Chicago casino would be dedicated to its underfunded police and fire pension funds.

Many of the challenges in moving Chicago casino legislation forward during the spring legislative session also existed in the fall, when lawmakers adjourned for the year without taking up Lightfoot's plan.

Lightfoot's meetings this week with both House and Senate Republicans follows some frustration from lawmakers in the fall over what they perceived as a lack



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Mayor Lori Lightfoot confers with communications director Michael Crowley at the House Republican offices Tuesday at the state Capitol.

of communication from the mayor's office on the casino, one of her top Springfield asks.

After Lightfoot met with House Republicans in caucus for roughly an hour Tuesday morning, GOP leader Jim Durkin said there was "good progress" on the casino issue.

Republican Sen. Dave Syverson of Rockford said he appreciated Lightfoot taking the time to meet with the Senate GOP to discuss her desired changes for the Chicago casino, but nothing he heard changed his position.

Because the plan Lightfoot floated last year would lower the state's take from the city casino, it would put Illinois' 10 existing casinos and the five others authorized in last year's gambling expansion package at a disadvantage. All the other casinos give the same percentage of their revenue

to the state.

"What do you tell communities that are more economically depressed, like Rockford and Waukegan and Danville?" Syverson said.

While the mayor's plan also would lower the city's share of the revenue, it would still receive a much larger cut than the 5% that goes to other casino towns, some of which have to share a portion with neighboring communities.

Among the issues that surfaced in the fall were objections from suburban Democrats that included concerns that a Chicago casino on the South Side may detract from a newly authorized south suburban casino, as well as questions around a lack of gambling revenue going directly to communities in DuPage County.

The proposal lawmakers were considering in the fall would have

done away with a 33.3% city tax on post-payout revenue approved this summer in favor of graduated tax rates on slot machines and table games. That money would be divided between the state and city, with the state getting the larger share.

Lightfoot's casino push may get lumped in with a number of other gambling-related issues legislators considering this spring, including a proposed ban on sweepstakes gambling machines and a plan to allow a horse racing track and casino to open at Balmoral Park near Crete.

House Speaker Michael Madigan's spokesman, Steve Brown, said Lightfoot met with the speaker in his office on Tuesday. Madigan, who generally recuses himself from gambling-related issues, "did not enumerate the topics" they discussed but said it was a productive meeting, Brown said.

Lightfoot met separately with about 20 House Democrats.

The mayor said she's had "very good conversations" with House Democrats.

"I think we've made some progress," Lightfoot said. "Keep in mind, we were five votes short in veto session. So, we're going to do everything we can to make sure that the support that was there is still solid, and that we get the additional votes that we need."

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Teacher charged with sex assault

Alleged teen victim was CPS 8th grader where woman taught

BY KATHERINE
ROSENBERG-DOUGLAS

A former Chicago Public Schools special education teacher has been charged with sexually assaulting a teenage boy who was in eighth grade at the school where the woman taught, officials said.

Sara Damyan, 33, of the 600 block of West Irving Park Road, was ordered held Tuesday on \$150,000 bond by Cook County Judge Susana Ortiz. Her attorney said she had turned herself in at Belmont Area Police Headquarters



Damyan

about 10 a.m. Monday after learning she was wanted and she was charged with criminal sexual assault of a victim between ages 13 and 17. Prosecutors said he was 14 and in eighth grade, although police said he was 13; he was not a student of Damyan's but attended the school where she taught, according to prosecutors.

The assaults happened at a home in the 2400 block of North Kedzie Avenue between Jan. 15 and March 8, 2019, police said. Prosecutors said the home was where Damyan lived.

Damyan offered to tutor the boy and other students after school and often brought the group snacks and gave her cellphone number to them, prosecutors said. After someone required to report suspected abuse alerted school personnel in March 2019 to the relationship, which included Damyan providing marijuana to the student, the office of the inspector general for the Chicago Board of Education launched an investigation.

The investigation turned up some 12,000 communications between the student and Damyan, most of which were text messages and about 100 of which were phone calls, some made to the student's home, prosecutors said.

When allegations were "brought to the attention of school leadership and district officials in March" 2019 the Board of Education removed Damyan from her position working with students and launched an investigation, said James Gherardi, a spokesman for the Chicago Public Schools.

The teen started to share his feelings with Damyan, who eventually told the boy she liked him, prosecutors said. The boy had reservations about the age difference at first, but later told her he thought they should "go out together," prosecutors said.

She invited him to her home and provided instructions on how to get there by bus, prosecutors said. When he arrived, she gave him tea laced with marijuana and cannabis gummy bears, according to prosecutors. The two watched a movie and she sexually assaulted him and he wanted to leave, so he told her he had to go home, after which she texted him not to tell anyone about what happened, prosecutors said.

The next day, the boy again went to her home and watched a movie and again he was sexually assaulted, prosecutors said. He again felt uncomfortable and left, prosecutors said.

Later, Damyan told a friend that the teen was her boyfriend and told the friend they had sex, according to prosecutors. She brought a teddy bear to the friend's house and said she used a small hole in the stuffed animal to sneak marijuana vape pens onto school property, where she would smoke with the student she'd called her boyfriend, according to prosecutors. The friend, who was in a job that required reporting illegal activity involving minors, shared the information with the school, prompting the investigation.

Damyan had been employed as an elementary-level special education teacher at the Alessandro Volta School, 4950 N. Avers Ave., until September of last year, according to a database of Chicago public schools teachers. She did not appear on a subsequent school teaching roster and Gherardi said her employment ended that month and she had not been in a classroom setting since the investigation was launched in March.

Chicago Tribune's Megan Crepeau and Hannah Leone contributed.

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Seclusion

Continued from Page 1

would be unsafe for an adult to be in the room with them. But seclusion rooms can no longer have locks and employees can't hold the doors shut to keep children inside.

The measures still must be approved by a separate state rule-making agency before they become permanent. To put them in place immediately, ISBE simultaneously submitted them as emergency rules.

ISBE Chair Darren Reisberg acknowledged that disability advocates feel the rules don't go far enough, while some educators think they go too far and could create dangerous situations at school.

"It is not going to be perfect. ... We will have to see how this plays out," he said. He suggested reviewing their effectiveness in six months.

While modified from ISBE's original plan, the new rules are still stricter than the previous law, which was enacted 20 years ago and allowed locks on the doors. The changes were prompted by "The Quiet Rooms" investigation in November, which found that school districts across the state were using the interventions as punishment and in other ways that violated the law.

The investigation prompted Illinois education officials to write emergency rules about seclusion and restraint that schools had to follow while awaiting the permanent ones the ISBE board voted on Tuesday.

In addition to banning locks, the new rules list specific scenarios when timeout and restraint are prohibited. The previous rules directed schools to use seclusion only for "safety" reasons, but the new ones go further, spelling out that seclusion isn't to be used "as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage."

Students also have to be released from isolated timeout "immediately" when they no longer are in "imminent danger" of seriously hurting themselves or others. This is a departure from the prior law that allowed a student to remain in isolation for 30 minutes after the behavior ended.

The permanent rules also set stronger requirements for staff training and parental notification and, for the first time, state monitoring. Schools must notify ISBE within 48 hours of putting students in timeout or restraining them. In the past, schools were required to document the interventions but there was no official oversight.

The rules draw a distinction between isolated time out, which is an involuntary confinement of a student alone, and a student-requested break, which can include time in a sensory room with tools to help a student calm. Schools now must ensure that students have access to food, water and bathrooms, and employees can't take away clothing,



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois State Board of Education Chair Darren Reisberg acknowledged that disability advocates feel the new rules don't go far enough, while some educators think they could fuel dangerous situations at school.

including shoes. "The Quiet Rooms" investigation exposed instances when students urinated or defecated in seclusion rooms and were required to remove their shoes, hooded sweatshirts and other items before being placed inside.

ISBE opted to allow supine, or face-up, floor restraint only in emergencies that present an "imminent danger." The rules also will force schools to conduct a "supine review" when students have been restrained in a supine position twice in a 30-day period. The review is meant to require school workers to consider whether the restraint is effective and whether there's another, less-restrictive way to manage the student's behavior.

Cheryl Jansen, public policy director for the state disabilities watchdog organization Equip for Equality, was not happy with the board's decision to move away from a total ban on isolated timeout.

"We believe the proposed rules have been seriously weakened and that they fail to adequately protect students from these dangerous and traumatic practices," Jansen told board members before they voted.

The rules now go to the state Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for a second notice, then approval. They would be enacted this spring when the emergency rules expire. Separately, state lawmakers are considering a full ban on seclusion, as well as other measures that could override ISBE's rules.

"While the final rules are a step forward from where the state was a year ago, the General Assembly should still act to protect children in this state by banning involuntary isolation," said Kyle Hillman, director of legislative affairs for the National Association of Social Workers.

In November, state schools Superintendent Carmen Ayala and ISBE immediately banned isolated timeout saying they were "appalled and deeply saddened by the horrifying instances" detailed in "The Quiet Rooms" stories.

ISBE then moved to make the ban permanent, as several other states, including Georgia, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Hawaii,

have done. Texas bans seclusion for students with disabilities; in Illinois, students with disabilities are secluded most often, but the rules provide no additional protections for them.

ISBE recently completed its own investigations into seclusion at eight school districts highlighted in the Tribune/ProPublica Illinois series, finding that six of them used it unlawfully. And the state board collected three years' worth of seclusion and restraint incident reports from every school in the state.

Many of the same special-education schools that have relied on seclusion and restraint to control student behavior pushed back on an all-out ban, arguing that the practice is necessary to keep students and employees safe from the most physically aggressive children.

Cynthia Pratt, a special-education teacher at Colene Hoose school in Normal, told ISBE members Tuesday that the new rules take a "step in the right direction," particularly by permitting students to be isolated alone. She asked, however, that locks be allowed on rooms to keep students from running away. She also said ISBE should require all school employees to be trained in de-escalation techniques, not only employees who work most often with students with disabilities.

"If we are serious about helping students, we have to be serious about the training of all the staff," Pratt said.

More than 300 members of the public sent comments to ISBE as part of the rule revision process. Nearly half the comments came from people affiliated with just 10 Illinois schools or districts, a fraction of the more than 900 public and private school entities in the state.

At least 45 of the comments came from a single private school: Giant Steps, based in suburban Lisle, which serves about 160 students with autism.

Giant Steps, which has four seclusion rooms, advocated for what it called "deviations" from the law because employees felt some of their students needed involuntary timeout. Employees there told reporters last week that only about eight students at the

school exhibit behaviors that warrant seclusion.

The school hosted an open house for legislators last month and provided ISBE with proposed rules language, according to the school's director and lawmakers.

Giant Steps employees and supporters said they've pushed hard to keep isolated seclusion legal because the school wouldn't otherwise be able to keep students with the most challenging behavior in school during a crisis.

"We are able to help most students manage their behavior. However, without these tools, helping students who are in an intense crisis becomes very difficult," said the school's director, Sylvia Smith.

Many of the educators who weighed in on the rules during the 45-day comment period agreed that some of their colleagues' seclusion practices had been rightly criticized, but they wanted exceptions to stricter seclusion and restraint rules for themselves.

Commenters from the A.E.R.O. Special Education Cooperative in Burbank spoke out en masse in favor of prone, or face-down, restraint. A.E.R.O. used prone restraint at least 530 times in the 15-month period examined by reporters for "The Quiet Rooms," by far the most often of the 100 school districts analyzed for the investigation.

Kevin Rubenstein, president of the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education, said the latest version of the ISBE rules provides "a good middle ground." He had previously called for a ban on all isolated timeout.

"School districts are in a situation now where we need to do a lot of training," he said. "A bright light has been shined upon a really dark corner and we will do a great amount of work to make sure students are safe in schools and that the practices that were identified in these articles are not continuing in inappropriate ways," he said.

Jennifer Smith Richards is a Chicago Tribune reporter. Jodi S. Cohen is a reporter for ProPublica Illinois.

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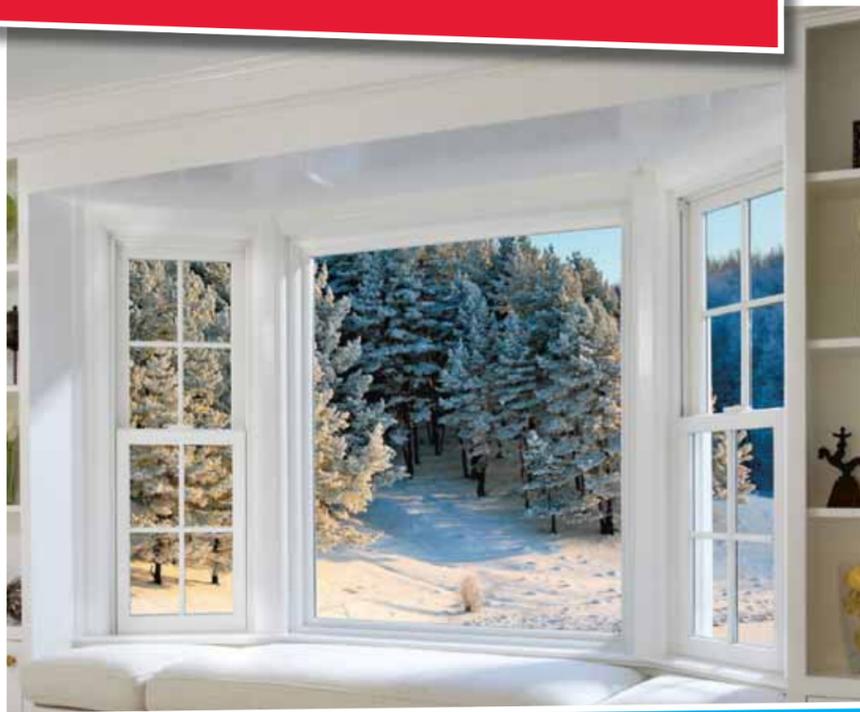
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BLAGOJEVICH RELEASED

Commutated

Continued from Page 1

time. He seems like a very nice person — don't know him."

Trump said Blagojevich's daughters have only seen their father wearing prison garb in recent years, and he thought of them as he made his decision.

"He'll be able to go back home with his family," Trump said. "That was a tremendously powerful, ridiculous sentence in my opinion."

The move disregarded the political concerns of top elected Republicans in Illinois in a critical election year. And it came on a day when Trump also granted a full pardon to former 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr., as well as to financier Michael Milken and former New York City police Commissioner Bernard Kerik.

Chicago now will need to prepare itself for the return of one of its most notorious sons, a politician known for his dense hair and loquaciousness.

Shortly before 4 p.m., Blagojevich's sister-in-law, former Chicago Ald. Deb Mell, briefly spoke to the media before going inside his family's Ravenswood Manor home on the city's Northwest Side.

"I'm shaking. It's crazy," Mell said, adding that her sister Patti Blagojevich was "thrilled." Patti Blagojevich tweeted Tuesday evening that there would be a homecoming news conference at the family's home Wednesday morning.

Throughout his first term, Trump had repeatedly dangled the suggestion of freeing Blagojevich, who appeared briefly on the president's former "Celebrity Apprentice" show. Trump often cited what he characterized as the former governor's harsh sentence while not mentioning the details that sent him to prison — including trying to sell the Senate seat of then-President-elect Barack Obama for personal or political enrichment.

He last raised the prospect in August, when he told reporters aboard Air Force One that he was "very strongly" considering issuing a commutation to Blagojevich, who was scheduled to be released from federal prison in March 2024.

Blagojevich's campaign for commutation

Blagojevich, now 63, served as governor starting in 2003, was reelected in 2006 despite a swirl of federal investigations, and was impeached and removed from office in 2009.

He was convicted in June 2011 and sentenced to 14 years on corruption charges. In addition to the proposed sale of Obama's Senate seat, Blagojevich also was convicted of trying to shake down executives from a children's hospital and the horse-racing industry for campaign contributions in exchange for official acts in office.

It was the Senate seat scheme that produced the most well-known line of his trial, from a conversation secretly recorded by the government: "I've got this thing and it's (expletive) golden...I'm not just giving it up for (expletive) nothing."

In commuting his sentence, Trump added another chapter to one of the state's most notorious corruption cases, one that led to the first impeachment of a governor in Illinois' scandal-tarred history.

Trump essentially became Blagojevich's last hope for any reprieve after the U.S. Supreme Court in April 2018 declined to take up the ex-governor's appeal.

Within weeks, Blagojevich and his legal team embarked on a calculated public relations campaign attacking the ex-governor's conviction as unjust and politically motivated.

On Memorial Day 2018, The Wall Street Journal published an op-ed piece by Blagojevich under the headline, "I'm in Prison for Practicing Politics." It began by saying that the "rule of law is under assault in America."

Blagojevich's legal team filed a formal request for executive clemency with the U.S. Department of Justice in June 2018.

Meanwhile, Patti Blagojevich made repeated appearances on national cable news — most notably Fox News, Trump's favorite — to try to link her husband's prosecution to the investigation by then-special counsel Robert Mueller into whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump's decision to commute Blagojevich's sentence only affected his incarceration, ending his time in prison, but did not absolve him of the underlying convictions, as a full pardon would have done.



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Deb Mell pulls down a heart-shaped balloon as she talks to the media on the stairs of the Blagojevich home on Tuesday.



NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Supporters drape a flag over the shoulders of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his wife Patti as they gathered outside his house on his last full day of freedom on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

Critics decry Trump's decision

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker was among the politicians to issue a statement Tuesday criticizing the move.

"Illinoisans have endured far too much corruption, and we must send a message to politicians that corrupt practices will no longer be tolerated," the statement read. "President Trump has abused his pardon power in inexcusable ways to reward his friends and condone corruption, and I deeply believe this pardon sends the wrong message at the wrong time."

Also issuing a statement were the attorneys who made up the team of prosecutors who handled the Blagojevich trials in U.S. District Court in Chicago. That group included former U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, and his former assistants Reid Schar, Chris Niewoehner and Carrie Hamilton, who is now a judge, who pointed out that both the appellate and Supreme Courts affirmed the conviction and sentence.

"The appellate court described the evidence against him as 'overwhelming,'" the statement read in part. "Extortion by a public official is a very serious crime, routinely prosecuted throughout the United States whenever, as here, it can be detected and proven. That has to be the case in America: a justice system must hold public officials accountable for corruption. It would be unfair to their victims and the public to do otherwise."

Sam Adam Jr., Blagojevich's lead defense lawyer at his first trial, said Tuesday he couldn't be happier for the former governor.

"I'm ecstatic for the family, for those two girls," Adam said. "For President Trump to do this, it unites a family. Fourteen years was simply too long, and it's taken a lot for this to happen."

In a statement following Trump's announcement, the White House noted that Democrats such as Illinois' senior senator, Dick Durbin, and veteran U.S. Reps. Bobby Rush and Danny Davis, along with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, had backed a shortened prison sentence for Blagojevich.

"During his confinement, Mr. Blagojevich has demonstrated exemplary character, devoting himself to improving the lives of his fellow prisoners," the White House said.

Illinois' Republican congress-

sional delegation had twice weighed in strongly against a commutation of Blagojevich's sentence, first in June 2018 and again in August 2019. On Tuesday, the five-member delegation sent out a joint statement saying they were "disappointed" by Trump's decision and calling Blagojevich "the face of public corruption in Illinois."

"As our state continues to grapple with political corruption, we shouldn't let those who breached the public trust off the hook," said the statement from Adam Kinzinger of Channahon, Darin LaHood of Dunlap, John Shimkus of Collinsville, Rodney Davis of Taylorville, Mike Bost of Murphysboro. "History will not judge Rod Blagojevich well."

Tuesday evening, as he boarded the flight back to Chicago, a gray-haired Blagojevich, when asked what he'd learned from his time in prison, spoke once again about what he perceives as an unfair judicial system, prone to oversentencing. He's also gotten closer to God, he said.

"It's a broken criminal justice system and it's an unfair criminal justice system," he said. "It's a criminal justice system with too many people who have too much power who don't have any accountability, and they can railroad people."

"I saw how it affects people of color and how on cases with nonviolent first offender drug offenders that they're made to do decades of prison time, for things, for mistakes that they made, for wrongs they committed that any fair-minded society would not allow," he said.

Trump and the Justice Department

In speaking previously about Blagojevich, Trump sought to tie the former governor to figures in the Justice Department whom the president has sought to criticize for investigations of the administration.

In August, of Blagojevich, Trump said, "And a lot of people thought it was unfair, like a lot of other things — and it was the same gang, the Comey gang and all these sleazebags that did it."

The president was referring to former FBI Director James Comey, a frequent Trump target who he contends sought to politicize the nation's top law enforcement agency in the 2016 election in which Trump faced Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

After taking office, the president fired Comey amid the investigation into Russia's interference in the election and whether the Trump campaign was involved.

The president's comments mirrored what Patti Blagojevich has said in not-so-veiled attempts to link her husband's prosecution to some of Trump's perceived political enemies.

In reality, Comey was in private practice from 2005 to 2013 — virtually the entire time Blagojevich was investigated and prosecuted. And Blagojevich's prosecution was launched by a Justice Department under the George W. Bush White House.

Republicans in the state, already facing a serious disadvantage in Illinois in the 2020 presidential election year, having lost the governor's mansion and the wealth of Bruce Rauner in 2018, had previously warned Trump against acting to free Blagojevich.

Trump lost Illinois to Clinton by 17 percentage points in 2016, and two congressional seats in the traditionally Republican suburban and exurban region shifted to Democrats in 2018. That left Democrats with a 13-5 advantage over Republicans in the state's congressional delegation.

Northwest Side scene

As the day passed Tuesday and word of the commutation spread, the scene in front of Blagojevich's home on the Northwest Side grew more chaotic. News reporters swarmed the house, television trucks and cars crowded the streets, and Chicago police officers routinely circled the neighborhood.

A helicopter hovered overhead. Blagojevich's family dog barked at the reporters outside the home. Some people yelled at the media as they drove by, while others slowed down, trying to take photos on their phones.

Shortly after 2 p.m., one Chicago man came to show his support for Blagojevich. Ziff Sistrunk put a letter in Blagojevich's mailbox after no one answered the door.

He then spoke briefly to the media before hanging a sign on the railing in front of Blagojevich's house that read, "Thank you, Mr. President."

Chicago Tribune's Javonte Anderson, Gregory Pratt, Jamie Munks and Dan Petrella contributed. jmeisner@chicagotribune.com rap30@aol.com

11 big and not-so-big names given clemency by Trump

Associated Press

A look at who was granted clemency Tuesday by President Donald Trump and an overview of their criminal cases:

PARDONS

Edward DeBartolo Jr. was the owner of the San Francisco 49ers when the team won five Super Bowls in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1998, he pleaded guilty to failing to report a felony when he paid \$400,000 to Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards in exchange for a riverboat gambling license.

Michael Milken was a well-known figure on Wall Street as the head of the junk bonds department at the now-defunct firm Drexel Burnham Lambert. He served two years in prison in the early 1990s after pleading guilty to violating U.S. securities laws.

Ari Friedler, the CEO of Virginia-based Synchronicity Corp., pleaded guilty to hacking his competitors' computers in 2014. He served two months in prison.

Bernard Kerik, once New York City's police commissioner, served three years in prison for tax fraud and for making false statements after lying to the White House while being interviewed to serve as Homeland Security secretary.

Paul Pogue, founder of a Texas construction company, was given three years' probation after pleading guilty to filing false income tax statements.

David Safavian, once a high-ranking official at the General Services Administration, was convicted of making false statements and of obstructing an investigation tied to the probe into the activities of disgraced Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Angela Stanton, a bestselling author and television personality, was sentenced to six months of home confinement for her part in a stolen vehicle ring.

COMMUTATIONS

Rod Blagojevich, the former Illinois governor, released Tuesday.

Tynice Nichole Hall served nearly 14 years of an 18-year sentence for allowing her Lubbock, Texas, apartment to be used as a stash house.

Crystal Munoz was convicted in 2007 of conspiring to distribute more than 2,200 pounds of marijuana and later sentenced to nearly 20 years in prison.

Judith Negron had served eight years of a 35-year sentence in a Florida prison for health care fraud, conspiracy and money laundering.

BLAGOJEVICH RELEASED

Patti

Continued from Page 1

solve several months ago.

"I watched his wife, on television, saying that the young girls' father has been in jail for now seven years, and they've never seen him outside of an orange uniform. You know, the whole thing," Trump told reporters in August on Air Force One. "His wife, I think, is fantastic. And I'm thinking about commuting his sentence very strongly. I think he was — I think it's enough: seven years. I'm very impressed with his family. I'm very impressed with his wife. I mean, she has lived for this. She has — she's one hell of a woman. She has lived. She goes on and she makes her case. And it's really very sad."

The president again mentioned the family's struggles Tuesday as he announced the commutation. He spoke about the Blagojevich daughters growing older and missing important time with their father.

"I watched his wife on television. ... They rarely get to see their father outside of an orange uniform," Trump said. "I saw that and I did commute his sentence so he'll be able to go back home with his family."

Patti Blagojevich — a daughter of the Chicago Democratic machine — learned quickly that the best way to reach the Republican president was to lavish praise on him while appearing on Fox News. The offspring and wife of deft politicians, she stroked the president's ego during each appearance, expressing her gratitude to him and recalling how "kind" he was to her family when the former governor appeared on "The Celebrity Apprentice."

"I don't think there's a better way to get a message to (Trump)," Rod Blagojevich's former defense attorney Aaron Goldstein told the Tribune last year. "She's doing what she needs to do to get a message in front of him and she is doing a great job of it."

Patti Blagojevich did not speak to the media camped outside her Ravenswood Manor home Tuesday but tweeted that there would be a news conference at the home Wednesday morning, after her husband was released Tuesday night from a prison in Colorado.

In pleading her position, Patti Blagojevich consistently described her family's plight in terms that would appeal to Trump, specifically criticizing former FBI Director James Comey and special counsel Robert Mueller for their roles in both the Russian election interference probe and her husband's conviction. She also tweeted opinion pieces, including one written by her husband from prison, opposing Trump's impeachment and accusing the U.S. Justice Department of overzealous, politically driven prosecutions.

"I see that these same people that did this to my family, (who) secretly taped us, twisted the facts, perverted the law (and put) my husband in jail — these people are trying to do it on a larger scale (to Trump)," she said in 2018 on "The Story With Martha MacCallum" on Fox News.

Trump repeated the allegation Tuesday, suggesting the Mueller investigation was led by the "same group" that secured the ex-governor's conviction.

Mueller was head of the FBI during the Blagojevich probe, though then-U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey made the decision to tap the governor's phones. Comey was U.S. deputy attorney general when the investigation into Blagojevich's administration began, but he moved to the private sector in 2005 and played no role in Blagojevich's indictment.

"It's inaccurate," Robert Grant, who headed the FBI's Chicago office during the investigation, said of Trump's allegation. "Patti has been very effective in repeating that conspiracy on television. She knows it gets under his skin."

History, however, has mattered little during this unorthodox clemency process, which began in 2018 after Trump told reporters he was considering commuting Blagojevich's sentence and suggested the disgraced governor shouldn't have gone to jail for "being stupid." It was a highly unusual statement for a sitting president to make, in large part because Blagojevich's legal team had not yet requested a pardon and the U.S. Department of Justice had not made a recommendation.

Regardless, Patti Blagojevich already had made several appearances on Fox News by that time to plead for her husband's freedom.

"She knew the right button to push," said former federal prosecutor Jeffrey Cramer, who is now managing director for the Berkeley Research Group. "And in this case, the only button was Fox News. She did what a spouse would do in this case: You go on Fox, you blame Mueller and



Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his wife, Patti, leave the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago after he was convicted June 27, 2011.

Former federal prosecutors, ex-FBI boss say Trump sends the wrong message

BY MEGAN CREPEAU AND STACY ST. CLAIR

Amid the clatter over the news Rod Blagojevich would be released from prison years early, the former feds who first put him behind bars were quick to remind the public: The ex-governor is, and will remain, a felon.

He tried to shake down the CEO of a children's hospital, he attempted to sell a U.S. Senate seat, he put the squeeze on a racetrack, and he lied to the FBI. And while President Donald Trump on Tuesday commuted Blagojevich's sentence, those convictions remain intact, four former federal prosecutors wrote in a statement they made public in the wake of Trump's move.

"That has to be the case in America: a justice system must hold public officials accountable for corruption," reads the statement from Reid Schar, Chris Niewoehner, Carrie Hamilton and ex-U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald.

Blagojevich was impeached and removed from office in 2009, then convicted in 2011 on myriad corruption charges, including shopping Barack Obama's former U.S. Senate seat and attempting to extort officials from the racing industry and even a children's hospital.

He was sentenced to 14 years in prison — a term that remained intact even as his family argued for leniency at a resentencing hearing in 2016.

Like the prosecutors who ensured Blagojevich's conviction, Robert Grant, who headed the FBI's Chicago office during the investigation, does not dispute the president's authority or argue that it hasn't been a difficult eight years for the Blagojevich family. He worries, however, about the message the commutation sends to both Illinois politicians and the public in general.

In giving Blagojevich 14 years in prison — more than double the sentence given to his predecessor, the also-convicted former Gov. George Ryan — U.S. Judge James Zagel suggested the state's relentless history of



Then-U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, center, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Reid Schar were prosecutors in ex-Gov. Rod Blagojevich's trial.

corruption needed a stronger deterrent. Blagojevich was the fourth Illinois governor since the 1970s to be sent to prison and, Zagel reasoned, a tarnished reputation and a few years behind bars were simply not enough to deter politicians from abusing their power.

Grant, who woke Blagojevich on a cold December morning in 2008 with a telephone call informing the governor of his arrest, said it was message that needed to be heard.

"If you want to address systemic corruption in Illinois, until you put people away for a long time and hold them accountable ... it will be the same old, same old," Grant said.

Grant said he dislikes presidential pardons, regardless of which party controls the office, because they largely benefit those with political connections and don't afford everyone the same shot at freedom. There are thousands of prisoners with stiff sentences who are missed by their families, but unlike Rod Blagojevich, they never appeared on reality television or had Patti Blagojevich pleading their case on the president's preferred news channel, Grant said.

"Just because you're a friend of the president or on Fox, it doesn't mean you deserve a commutation," he said.

Other former federal prosecutors agreed, expressing dismay that Trump, with the stroke

of a pen, undercut the complex, high-profile prosecution of a public official.

"At this time in Illinois history, while we're facing continued and constant corruption scandals, the intervention by the president in this case to commute the sentence of someone who has made no amends is inappropriate," said Steven Block, who handled other corruption cases as an assistant U.S. attorney before entering private practice.

While Blagojevich's 14-year sentence is lengthy by any measure, Judge Zagel plainly stated his reasoning for the term, former federal prosecutor Juliet Sorensen said.

"Either President Trump doesn't think that a 14-year sentence is necessary to send a deterring message, or he doesn't think that a deterrent message should be sent at all," Sorensen said. "It does appear somewhat inconsistent for someone whose campaign slogan was 'drain the swamp' to then commute the sentence of someone who was convicted for crimes of corruption."

In deciding eight years was enough time for Blagojevich to be in prison, Trump told reporters, "that was a tremendously powerful, ridiculous sentence in my opinion."

Trump's decision comes even as current federal prosecutors in Chicago are in the midst of a wide-ranging public corruption probe. The investigation has already seen powerful Ald. Edward Burke charged and ex-state Sen. Martin Sandoval plead guilty to bribery.

Sorensen, now a professor at Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law, said potential targets of that probe probably shouldn't rest easy after Tuesday's events.

"I would expect that the same meticulous, persistent agents and assistant U.S. attorneys that have been looking into corruption throughout the state would continue to do so undeterred by today's action by the president," she said.

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Comey and you hope no rational person looks into it."

Patti Blagojevich was never charged with wrongdoing, but her own ambitions and brashness were alleged in a 76-page federal criminal complaint released the day of Rod Blagojevich's arrest: She helped her husband hatch a plan to sell Barack Obama's old U.S. Senate seat, the document said; she angled to trade his power for lucrative spots on corporate boards; and she unleashed an obscenity-filled tirade suggesting that Tribune Co. ownership should "just fire" Chicago Tribune editorial writers if the company wanted the state to help it unload Wrigley Field to ease its crushing debt.

"Hold up that (expletive) Cubs (expletive)," she is quoted as saying in the background as her husband talked on the phone, authorities alleged. "(Expletive) them."

While her husband waged losing battles against impeachment

and the criminal charges, Patti Blagojevich mounted a campaign of her own. She agreed to appear on "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here," a reality show on which she ate a tarantula in the Costa Rican jungle, formed an alliance with ex-NBA star John Salley and shed tears about her family's plight.

She continued her public sympathy campaign throughout her husband's trial and incarceration, often using social media to stoke support and sympathy. She often tagged the president in flattering tweets.

"Today is another sad day on this painful journey as it marks 7 years that Rod has been away from home," she tweeted in March 2019. "President Trump was correct when he tweeted 7 years ago today: 'It's outrageous that Blagojevich goes to jail for 14 years when killers and sex offenders are out walking the streets. Is this justice...I don't think so.' We remain hopeful that better days are

ahead, and we are grateful for the President's support and kind words, going back to 2012."

She also tweeted an op-ed piece written by her husband, published on Newsmax, that argued modern-day House Democrats also would have tried to impeach Abraham Lincoln for a number of reasons, including because of the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery. The column became an oft-repeated talking point during the impeachment hearings.

"Rod is a bit of a Lincoln Scholar," she wrote in tweet that linked to the column. "He has at least 30 books on Lincoln alone in his study not counting the dozen more on other Civil War Era figures."

Indeed, Patti Blagojevich is no stranger to rough-and-tumble politics. She grew up the oldest daughter of longtime 33rd Ward boss Richard Mell, bearing witness to the ways of the Chicago machine since grade school. She famously feuded with her father after Mell — then the 33rd Ward alderman — accused the governor of pay-to-play politics in 2005.

The Blagojeviches never moved to Springfield during his tenure, opting instead to raise their two young daughters in their Ravenswood Manor home. While championing such causes as literacy, children's health care and public breastfeeding, the first lady, who has a degree in economics from the University of Illinois, continued to work as a real estate agent until a federal investigation heated up.

A Tribune investigation revealed she earned more than \$700,000 in commissions on deals after her husband began raising money in 2000 for his first gubernatorial campaign.

Of those commissions, the Tribune found that more than

three-quarters came from clients with connections.

As her commissions faded, she briefly took a job as an investment banker.

Since her husband's incarceration, she helped her father start a lobbying firm and has worked as a financial adviser. Her most recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission show she juggles several part-time positions in insurance sales, investment advising and rental property management.

For practical purposes, Patti Blagojevich has been a single mother for the past seven years, raising daughters Amy, now 23, and Annie, now 16, with help from her family.

Amy Blagojevich graduated from Northwestern University in 2018 and earned her master's degree in marketing from the University of Edinburgh in December. Her family had hoped Trump would free Blagojevich in time to attend both ceremonies.

"I can tell you that life without my husband has been very difficult," Patti Blagojevich wrote in an op-ed published in the Washington Examiner in July 2018. "It's hard on me, and it's even harder on our two girls. And every day we wake up thinking this was all a bad dream."

After Trump teased the idea of a pardon again last August, Patti Blagojevich once again expressed hope on social media that her husband wouldn't miss anymore milestones.

"Our President's comments on Air Force One...make us very hopeful that our almost 11 year nightmare might soon be over," she tweeted. "We are very grateful."

Chicago Tribune's Javonte Anderson contributed.
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Patti Blagojevich crosses her fingers as an answer after being asked on May 31, 2018, if she had "hope" regarding her spouse's commutation.

State House panel to review appointment

Committee to hear challenges over Delgado's selection to fill Arroyo seat

By JAMIE MUNKS

An Illinois House committee will look into challenges to the controversial appointment of Democratic state Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado to the seat formerly held by Rep. Luis Arroyo, who resigned after federal authorities charged him with bribery.

Delgado was appointed to the seat by 3rd House District Democratic Party committeemen late last year, after Arroyo stepped down. House Speaker Michael Madigan had warned the chamber would



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado was appointed last year to the seat once held by Rep. Luis Arroyo, now charged with bribery.

challenge the qualifications of anyone chosen with votes from the 36th Ward, where Arroyo remains committeeman.

Arroyo didn't attend the meeting of district commit-

teemen, but he gave his votes to Ald. Ariel Reboyras, which amounted to enough votes to control the selection.

Earlier this month, Illinois House Republican

leader Jim Durkin and Democratic Rep. Anne Stava-Murray of Naperville both filed formal challenges to Delgado's appointment.

State Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch will lead a Qualifications Challenge Committee in evaluating those challenges. In a statement, Welch said the committee will "pursue a fair process that reviews the complaints about the appointment process free of politics and outside influence."

"It's no secret that in recent months, bad actors in government have publicly marred the efforts of all legislators who serve with integrity," Welch said. "Restoring trust and confidence in our General Assembly demands we recommit ourselves to our

fundamental belief in fairness and justice for all, free of bias or partisan influence."

The committee will meet Feb. 25 to establish the rules for the complaint evaluation process. Under House rules, a three-fifths vote of the whole chamber is necessary to remove a member.

If Delgado's appointment is upheld, she would hold the seat until January 2021. Delgado's currently running against Chicago teacher Nidia Carranza in the March 17 Democratic primary.

Arroyo is accused of giving money to a state senator to support sweepstakes gambling legislation that would have benefited one of Arroyo's lobbying clients at Chicago City Hall.

Delgado, an attorney and

former Chicago Police Board member, said the objections to her appointment "do not even attempt to state a legal basis to challenge my selection."

"The only objection to my selection is that former Rep. Arroyo gave a proxy to Ald. Reboyras, who used it to cast his own votes and the proxy votes to fill the vacancy. Former Rep. Arroyo did not support my selection," she said.

"While I remain disheartened that political agendas continue to drive outcomes in the General Assembly, I look forward to working with Rep. Welch and members of the committee to bring this to a resolution."

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Scouts

Continued from Page 1

seek justice, said Michael Mertz, a Chicago lawyer who has resolved several child abuse cases. The Chapter 11 filing in federal bankruptcy court in Wilmington, Delaware, will be an atypical bankruptcy case, he said.

"This isn't a bankruptcy in the traditional sense; it's an effort to limit future exposure to abuse claims," Mertz said.

Mertz, McKenna and Smola work at the same firm, Hurley McKenna & Mertz, which has handled hundreds of sex abuse claims against the scouts.

The Boy Scouts have assets that exceed their liabilities, Mertz added. Companies file for bankruptcy when they have debts greater than their assets or ability to generate assets. According to a statement released by the Boy Scouts, scouting programs will continue throughout the bankruptcy process.

"The BSA cares deeply about all victims of abuse and sincerely apologizes to

anyone who was harmed during their time in Scouting. We are outraged that there have been times when individuals took advantage of our programs to harm innocent children," Roger Mosby, president and chief executive officer, said in the statement. "While we know nothing can undo the tragic abuse that victims suffered, we believe the Chapter 11 process — with the proposed Trust structure — will provide equitable compensation to all victims while maintaining the BSA's important mission."

By going through bankruptcy, the Boy Scouts will reorganize to rid itself of debts, including lawsuits, Mertz said. Mertz estimates the bankruptcy window will close within several months, extinguishing the organization's future liability for abuse cases, and allowing it to continue to operate.

Hurley McKenna & Mertz have been involved in more than 300 legal actions involving scout abuse, and have seven pending cases in Illinois. Last year, according to court records and the Jury Verdict Reporter, the Boy



KYLE TELECHAN/FOR THE POST TRIBUNE 2018

Youths place flags near a veteran's grave as Boy Scout Troop 45 of Crown Point volunteers at a local cemetery.

Scouts paid \$89 million to resolve the firm's 16 cases involving Thomas Hacker, who admitted molesting hundreds of boys over decades before he died in prison in 2018.

Victims with current claims, however, may see

their cases resolved at a faster speed. In Illinois, the statute-of-limitation requires case-by-case decisions. Illinois also has favorable statutes for abuse victims, Mertz said.

"It's well known that abuse victims require dec-

ades before they're able to come forward. There are people who have been abused in the last several years who are not able to speak about their abuse. Those people will be without any legal remedy," he said.

Similar previous cases have shown how such cases can work. Facing numerous claims of sex abuse, both the Congregation of Christian Brothers and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee filed for bankruptcy and paid millions of dollars to settle hundreds of claims of abuse.

In both cases, McKenna said, the judge set a time frame for victims to submit a claim. The court also determined compensation for victims based on factors such as the age of the victim, the length and severity of the abuse, and the extent to which the organization knew about the abuse.

The Pathway to Adventure Council, which is based in Chicago and oversees scouting activities in much of the area, issued a statement on its website Tuesday emphasizing that the council has not filed for

bankruptcy.

"Our Council is legally separate, distinct and financially independent from the national organization," council CEO Jeff Isaac wrote. "In short, we expect no changes to the local Scouting experience in the Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana area."

He also called scouting "safer than ever before."

Nick Roberts, CEO of the Northeast Illinois Council, which covers Chicago's north suburbs, issued a similar statement stressing that the local councils, which provide programs, money and facilities to local scouts, should be unaffected by the bankruptcy.

"Meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures and countless service projects are taking place as usual," Roberts wrote. "In short, there should be no change to the local Scouting experience."

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CHICAGO FORWARD

YOUNG LIVES IN THE BALANCE

Presented by **Chicago Tribune**

Monday, February 24
 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Doors Open: 5:30 pm

Venue Six10
 610 South Michigan Ave.

To purchase tickets visit
chicagotribune.com/chicagoforward

ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION

Chicago Forward brings together key voices and thought leaders to explore the future of our city. Please join us on Monday, February 24 for the first of our three events focused on Chicago Forward: Young Lives in the Balance.

Chicago Tribune Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Bruce Dold will lead a discussion on empowering Chicago's at-risk youth. The program will be followed by a reception for the speakers and audience. Panelists include:

- > **Lori Lightfoot**, Mayor of Chicago
- > **Sandra Abrevaya**, President and Chief Impact Officer, Thrive Chicago
- > **Alex Kotlowitz**, author, *An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago*
- > **Tom Gilardi**, Vice President of Youth Programs, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls
- > **Marcelo Sanchez**, Mercy Home for Boys & Girls alum

Chicago Tribune

NATION & WORLD

Bloomberg to face rivals for 1st time

New poll shows former NYC mayor at 19% nationally

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

Billionaire Mike Bloomberg has qualified for the upcoming Democratic presidential debate, marking the first time he'll stand alongside the rivals he has so far avoided by bypassing the early voting states and using his personal fortune to define himself through television ads.

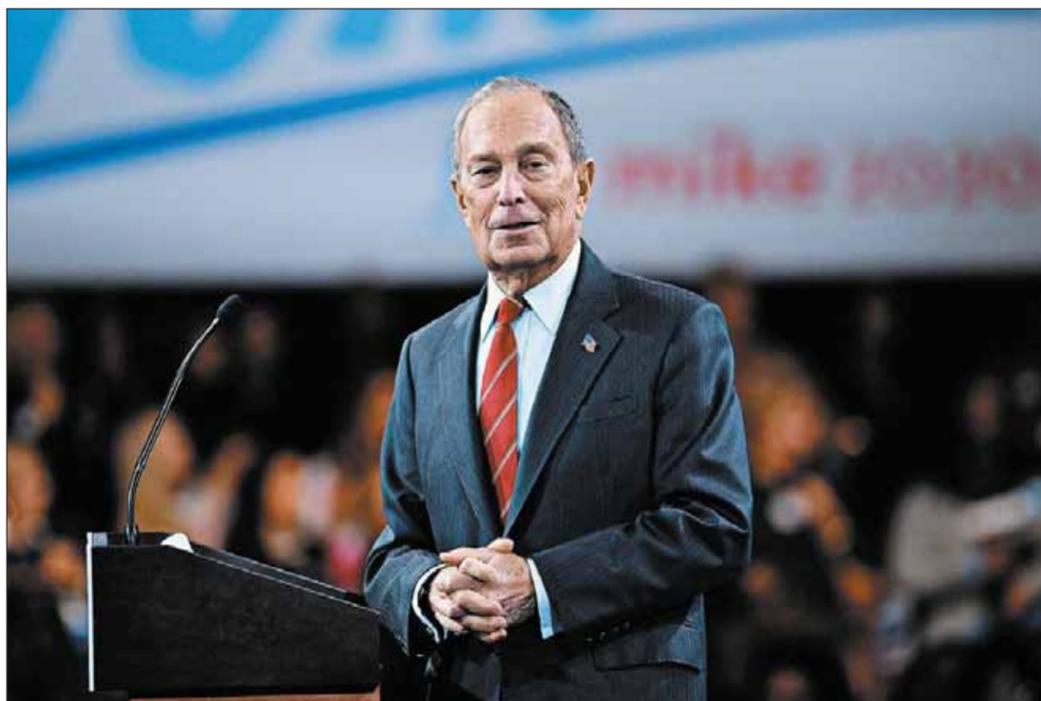
A new NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll published Tuesday shows Bloomberg with 19% support nationally in the Democratic nominating contest.

The former New York City mayor, who launched his presidential campaign in November, will appear in Wednesday's debate in Las Vegas alongside former Vice President Joe Biden, Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar, and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Tom Steyer, the other billionaire seeking the Democratic nomination, has participated in the five most recent debates, but he is unlikely to be onstage in Las Vegas.

He would need to receive 10% support in four national qualifying polls, or 12% in two polls taken in Nevada or South Carolina, before the deadline.

Bloomberg's campaign said that it was seeing "a groundswell of support across the country" and that qualifying for Wednesday's debate "is the latest sign that Mike's plan and ability



ANTHONY BEHAR/SIPA USA

While presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg has campaigned in more than two dozen states, he does not take questions from voters and delivers a standard stump speech.

to defeat Donald Trump is resonating with more Americans."

"Mike is looking forward to joining the other Democratic candidates on stage and making the case for why he's the best candidate to defeat Donald Trump and unite the country," Bloomberg campaign manager Kevin Sheekey said in a statement.

The debate, which will air Wednesday at 9 p.m. Eastern time, will be hosted by NBC News, MSNBC and The Nevada Independent.

The Democratic National Committee recently changed its rules for how a

candidate qualifies for the debate, opening the door for Bloomberg and drawing the ire of some who dropped out of the race for failing to make prior stages.

The candidates were previously required to receive a certain number of campaign contributions to qualify, but Bloomberg, who is worth an estimated \$60 billion, is not taking donations.

The prime-time event will be a stark departure from Bloomberg's highly choreographed campaign. He's poured more than \$300 million into television advertising, a way to define

himself for voters without facing criticism.

While he's campaigned in more than two dozen states, he does not take questions from voters and delivers a standard stump speech that lasts less than 15 minutes, often reading from a teleprompter.

He encounters the occasional protester, including one who jumped on stage recently in Chattanooga, Tennessee, yelling, "This is not democracy. This is a plutocracy!" But his friendly crowds usually quickly overwhelm the protesters with chants of "We like Mike!"

Bloomberg is likely to face far more direct fire in the debate.

His fellow Democratic contenders have stepped up their attacks against him in recent days, decrying him for trying to "buy the election" and criticizing his support of the "stop-and-frisk" tactic while mayor of New York City that led police to target mostly black and Latino men for searches.

Bloomberg has barely crossed paths on the trail with his fellow Democrats. He decided to skip the first four voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada

and South Carolina in favor of focusing on the 14 states that vote on March 3 and the contests that come afterward.

He rarely mentions his rivals by name, though his campaign is centered on the idea that none of them can beat President Donald Trump.

And Bloomberg, more than anyone, has predicated his campaign on a potential Biden collapse.

He's been aggressive in targeting African American voters in the South, a core demographic for Biden's campaign.

Bloomberg, who has emerged in recent years as a leading financial benefactor for Democratic candidates and some liberal causes, such as gun control and environmental protection, entered politics as a Republican when he first ran for mayor in 2001.

He endorsed President George W. Bush and spoke at the 2004 Republican National Convention.

The poll released Tuesday shows Sanders leading in the primary contest, at 31% support nationally.

After Bloomberg at 19%, Biden is at 15%, Warren at 12%, Klobuchar at 9% and Buttigieg at 8%. Steyer is at 2%, and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii is at less than 1%, with 5% undecided.

The telephone survey of 527 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents was conducted by the Marist Poll at the Marist Institute for Public Opinion. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.4 percentage points.

The New York Times contributed.



JAE C. HONG/AP

A guard stands near the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship last week in Yokohama. The Japanese government has defended the effectiveness of the quarantine.

Experts ponder why ship quarantine failed in Japan

BY MARIA CHENG
AND MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — As an extraordinary two-week quarantine of a cruise ship ends Wednesday in Japan, many scientists say it was a failed experiment: The ship seemed to serve as an incubator for the new virus from China instead of an isolation facility meant to prevent the worsening of an outbreak.

Since the virus was identified late last year in central China, it has sickened tens of thousands of people and killed more than 1,800.

As of Tuesday, 542 cases of the virus, known as COVID-19, have been identified among the 3,711 quarantined passengers and crew, making the ship the site of the most infections outside of China. The Diamond Princess cruise ship is also the only place where health officials have seen the disease spread easily among people beyond China.

The Japanese government has repeatedly defended the effectiveness of the quarantine. But some experts suggest it may have been less than rigorous.

In a possible sign of lax quarantine protocols, three Japanese health officials who helped in the quarantine checks on the ship were also infected.

"There are sometimes environments in which disease can spread in a more efficient way," said Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organization's health emergencies program.

Ryan said cruise ships were known to occasionally accelerate spread.

"It's an unfortunate event occurring on the ship, and we trust that the authorities in Japan and the governments who are taking back people will be able to follow up those individuals in the appropriate way," he said.

Japan's health minister, Katsunobu Kato, told reporters that all passengers who remained on the cruise ship have had samples taken and that those who tested negative would start getting off the vessel beginning Wednesday, when their required 14-day quarantine is set to end.

"They all want to go home as early as possible, and we hope to assist them

so that everyone can get home smoothly," Kato said.

The process is expected to take until Friday because of the large number of people involved.

"Obviously, the quarantine hasn't worked, and this ship has now become a source of infection," said Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, an outbreak expert at King's College London.

She said the exact mechanism of the virus' spread was unknown. Although scientists believe the disease is spread mostly by droplets — when people cough or sneeze — it's possible there are other ways of transmission.

"We need to understand how the quarantine measures on board were implemented, what the air filtration on board is like, how the cabins are connected and how waste products are disposed of," MacDermott said.

"There could also be another mode of transmission we're not familiar with," she said, noting the possibility of environmental spread and the importance of "deep-cleaning" the entire ship to prevent people from touching contaminated surfaces.

US sanctions Russian oil giant for role in Venezuela

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration announced sanctions Tuesday on a Russian state-controlled brokerage that has helped the Venezuelan government skirt an American oil embargo and enabled President Nicolas Maduro to keep his grip on power in the South American country.

Administration officials said Rosneft Trading SA and its president, Didier Casimiro, would be added to a financial blacklist in a move that is expected to largely freeze him and the company out of the global financial system.

The action is an unusually aggressive move against a company linked to the Russian state and a substantial escalation of a U.S.-led campaign that has failed to oust Maduro from power.

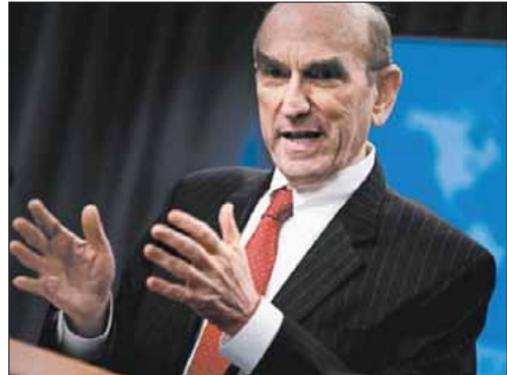
Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Rosneft Trading is the primary broker for the sale and transportation of Venezuelan crude oil, which has been under sweeping U.S. sanctions since January 2019 as part of the pressure campaign against Maduro.

"Rosneft Trading has propped up the dictatorial Maduro, enabling his repression of the Venezuelan people," he said in announcing the sanctions.

Rosneft Trading, based in Switzerland, was created in 2011 to facilitate trades on behalf of the parent company, which has been under U.S. sanctions since 2014, said Elliott Abrams, the special U.S. envoy for Venezuela.

The brokerage has helped arrange sales of Venezuelan crude by deceiving customers, mostly in Asia, about the source of the oil with such tactics as changing the name of the tanker, Abrams said.

Rosneft spokesman



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY-APP

Special U.S. envoy Elliott Abrams announces sanctions Tuesday against a Russian state-controlled oil company.

Mikhail Leontyev called the sanctions "an absolute overreach" in comments to Russia's Kommersant FM radio station. He said Rosneft and its subsidiaries have always acted "in strict accordance with the international law."

Leontyev added that the company would study the sanctions order before deciding how to act.

Russian lawmaker Pavel Zavalny said the country would continue to cooperate with its ally Venezuela in the energy sector despite the U.S. sanctions. "One doesn't abandon friends in need," Zavalny said.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza dismissed the new sanctions as "coercive unilateral measures" that violate the country's rights under international law.

The U.S. and about 60 other countries say Maduro's reelection in 2018 was not legitimate and have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim president. The Venezuelan leader has held on to power despite runaway hyperinflation, a massive exodus and shortages of food and medicine as well as the international pressure that has left his socialist administration isolated.

Venezuelan oil shipments dropped significantly last year because of U.S. sanctions, but the country still managed to ship hundreds of thousands of barrels of crude last year with the help of Rosneft Trading.

Digital census sparks fear of Iowa-style breakdown

Cybersecurity and possibility of tech failure are 2 issues

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The stakes are high when a major civic exercise involves a large population, new technology that has not been thoroughly tested and an entire country waiting on the results.

Just ask the organizers of the Iowa caucuses, which offered a cautionary tale on the technological woes that could befall a big political event. Some observers worry that this year's census carries the same potential for mayhem — except on a larger scale.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to try out a lot of new technology. It's the first once-a-decade census in which most people are being encouraged to answer questions via the internet. Later in the process, census workers who knock on the doors of homes that have not responded will use smartphones and a new mobile app to relay answers.

A government watchdog agency, the Census Bureau's inspector general and some

lawmakers have grown concerned about whether the systems are ready for prime time.

"I must tell you, the Iowa (caucus) debacle comes to mind when I think of the census going digital," Eleanor Holmes Norton, the congressional delegate for the District of Columbia, said last week at a hearing on the census.

Cybersecurity is another worry. Experts consider the census to be an attractive target for anyone seeking to sow chaos and undermine confidence in the U.S. government, as Russia did in the 2016 presidential election.

In a worst-case scenario, vital records could be deleted or polluted with junk data. Even a lesser assault that interfered with online data collection could erode public confidence. In 2016, a denial-of-service attack knocked Australia's online census offline, flooding it with junk data.

The Census Bureau says it's ready. The agency promises that responses to the questionnaire will be kept confidential through encryption, and that it's working with the Department of Homeland Security and private-sector security experts

to thwart cyberattacks. To hinder illegitimate responses, the bureau is blocking foreign IP addresses and stopping bots from filling out fake responses, among other measures.

The bureau says it has developed two secure data-collection systems, so that if one goes down, the other can substitute. Other mechanisms are in place to prevent failure and to back up essential functions.

"All systems are go," bureau director Steven Dillingham said.

For the past three years, the Government Accountability Office has placed the census on its list of high-risk programs, mainly because it is relying on technology that has not been used before.

Most recently, census officials decided to use a backup data-collection system for handling the online responses. That step was taken after officials grew concerned that the primary system — developed by a third-party contractor — would not be able to handle excessive traffic. The primary system experienced performance problems when up to 400,000 people were answering questions at the same time.

The backup system,



ALEX BRANDON/AP

U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham testifies during a hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform on Feb. 12 in Washington.

called Primus, was developed in-house and can handle up to 600,000 users at once. But it was never tested during a test-run for the decennial census in Rhode Island two years ago.

"Late design changes such as a shift from one system to another can introduce new risks during a critical moment," Nick Marinos, the GAO's director of information technology, testified last week at the congressional hearing.

Then there's the mobile app for census takers who will be sent out to visit the homes of residents who have not filled out the forms by May. Bureau officials are still working to find out why the app sometimes needs to

be restarted or reinstalled for it to work properly, according to a GAO report released this week.

In Iowa, a newly developed smartphone app was blamed for delaying the reporting of results from the first-in-the-nation presidential contest.

The Census Bureau has not finalized its backup plans for the online questionnaire system. As of the end of last year, the bureau still had to do 191 corrective actions for cybersecurity that were considered "high risk" or "very high risk," the GAO said.

Last summer, the bureau's Office of Inspector General identified several weaknesses in the agency's

backup planning efforts, including the ability to recover data stored in the cloud in the event of a large-scale attack or disaster.

In the same report, the inspector general said the bureau did not securely use commercial cloud services during census preparations and found many security deficiencies that indicated the agency was "behind schedule and rushed to deploy its systems" for the Rhode Island test-run.

The inspector general currently is conducting another audit of the bureau's information-technology security, but there's no word on when it will be finished, said Robert Johnston, the agency's chief of staff.

US border clampdown forces teen into Mexico alone

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT**
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A Venezuelan teenager has been forced back to Mexico by U.S. government authorities who denied her claims that she was fleeing political repression and violence, even after they accepted the same claims from her father.

The teenager, who is being identified by only her first name, Branyerly, is living alone in Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville. U.S. border agents on Monday denied her request not to be sent back under the Trump administration's "Remain in Mexico" program for migrants.

Branyerly and her father could not request asylum under another Trump policy, a ban on most asylum claims at the southern border for people who came through a "third country."

But in January, an immigration judge allowed her father, Branly, into the U.S. by granting what's called withholding of removal, which requires meeting a higher legal standard.

That same judge denied withholding for Branyerly, who was 17 when she originally arrived at the border. Both she and her father say the judge asked him most of the questions during the hearing and asked her relatively few. The final result came as a shock to both of them.

She tried to request parole Monday at one of the bridges connecting Brownsville and Matamoros. She was taken into an office on the U.S. side briefly, then told to return to Mexico.

"I already lived one nightmare in Venezuela and another here," Branyerly said.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has over-



JODI GOODWIN/AP

A Venezuelan teen named Branyerly stands on a bridge Monday connecting Brownsville, Texas, and Mexico, before she requested parole from U.S. border officers.

seen an economic collapse and political turmoil that's led to hundreds of thou-

sands of people seeking refuge in the United States and elsewhere.

President Donald Trump in his State of the Union address this month called Maduro a "socialist dictator" and said "all Americans are united with the Venezuelan people in their righteous struggle for freedom."

But many Venezuelans seeking refuge in the U.S. have been barred by a series of Trump administration policies clamping down on asylum.

"It's not only ironic but it smacks of speaking out of both sides of your mouth," said Jodi Goodwin, Branyerly's attorney.

Branyerly says his political problems began when he rejected a job that would have required him to support the ruling party. After he turned down the job, Branyerly says, he started receiving threatening calls at his home, saying his wife and daughter would be kidnapped.

He and his wife left Venezuela for the U.S. in

early 2019, leaving their daughter with a family friend.

But she was soon threatened as well.

So Branyerly returned to Venezuela to find Branyerly, then traveled with her through Mexico to the southern U.S. border.

They arrived in July, shortly before her 18th birthday, and were placed into the "Remain in Mexico" program until their January hearing.

Goodwin said Branyerly was in a "particularly vulnerable situation" as the daughter of a known political activist.

"She is vulnerable as a migrant. She is vulnerable as a child. She is vulnerable as a woman," Goodwin wrote in her request to U.S. Customs and Border Protection that Branyerly be allowed into the U.S. while her immigration case continues.



WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY

Roger Stone was convicted in November of a seven-count indictment that accused him of lying to Congress.

Judge refuses to delay sentencing of Stone

By **ASHRAF KHALIL**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Tuesday refused to delay sentencing for Republican political operative Roger Stone, setting up a crossroads moment later this week in an extraordinary case marked by a mini-revolt inside the Justice Department and allegations of interference by President Donald Trump.

Stone was convicted in November of a seven-count indictment that accused

him of lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election.

He is scheduled to be sentenced Thursday.

Stone's defense team has requested a new trial and unsuccessfully lobbied Judge Amy Berman Jackson on Tuesday to delay sentencing until she rules on that motion.

On the government side, a new set of attorneys took

over the case after the prosecution team resigned last week following Attorney General William Barr's decision to overrule their recommendation that Stone serve at least seven years.

Barr's move became public after Trump called the sentencing recommendation "horrible and very unfair." The president added in a tweet: "Cannot allow this miscarriage of justice!"

Barr later said in an ABC News interview that he had not been asked by Trump to look into the case but that

the president's tweets were making it "impossible" for him to do his job.

Trump kept up his Twitter defense of Stone on Tuesday, before Jackson refused to delay sentencing.

"Everything having to do with this fraudulent investigation is badly tainted and, in my opinion, should be thrown out," Trump tweeted Tuesday morning.

The judge did indicate she would delay the execution of the sentence, pending resolution of the motion for a new trial.

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Texas GOP needs new voters in 2020 — fast

As margins of wins shrink, PACs spend big for new blood

By PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

PFLUGERVILLE, Texas — It's normal to target new voters ahead of Super Tuesday. Think volunteers holding clipboards at street festivals, malls or outside grocery stores. Democrats in Texas have made it a perennial focus, hoping they can end decades of losses by rousing more voters to the polls.

Republicans here never really needed to bother — but now that's changing as worries deepen about their grip on the state in 2020.

With their base not expanding and their margins of victory getting thinner, Texas Republicans have begun spending big on finding more conservatives to vote. And they've taken a different approach to it ahead of the Texas primaries on March 3.

They have hired canvassers to stand outside driver's license offices, pushing a petition on gun rights by asking, "Do you have a moment to support the Sec-

ond Amendment?" People who stop are nudged to identify themselves as liberal or conservative.

Finally, they're offered the chance to sign up to vote.

But if a reporter arrives, they scam — sweeping voter registration forms into boxes, taking down signs, and heading for their cars.

"We're instructed to break down whenever press is here," says a man with Engage Texas, the political super PAC coordinating the effort, declining to explain why or provide his name.

The effort is another sign of the intense partisan struggle underway in a state that's been the GOP's largest and most important asset but also is key to Democrats' hopes for future electoral dominance.

Despite the canvassers' nothing-to-see-here retreat, many conservatives acknowledge that the ground seems to be shifting after a generation of lopsided victories on Election Day. Party activists are looking beyond just motivating registered voters who sometimes don't get to the polls. They're spending big, putting up more than \$12

million so far, searching for those who aren't on the rolls at all.

The GOP's electoral base, mostly aging and white, has delivered around 4.5 million votes in every presidential year since 2004, but that number has scarcely budged even as Texas' population has boomed.

In 2018, Democrats surpassed 4 million votes for the first time, and Republican Sen. Ted Cruz survived reelection by a mere 215,000 votes.

The sprawling metropolitan suburbs that have started turning purple have put Democrats in reach of flipping a handful of congressional districts and given them an outside chance at winning a majority in the Texas House. The GOP holds a 23-13 edge in the congressional delegation and are fighting to retain half a dozen districts it narrowly hung on to last cycle.

Sending out clipboard holders — equipped with a line of questions that screens for likely Republicans — shows a willingness to take up even the unglamorous grind of signing up new voters.

"We're buying an insur-



ERIC GAY/AP

Canvassers with Engage Texas, a political super PAC, seek to sign up voters while set up outside a driver's license office in San Antonio late last month.

ance policy," said Steve Munisteri, a former White House adviser under President Donald Trump who now leads a separate campaign to turn up new Republican voters in Texas.

Democrats, who accuse Republicans of waging a decade-long campaign of voter suppression ranging from ID laws to shutting down polling locations, say the irony isn't lost on them.

"If I'm a Republican and my path ahead in Texas is in registering a lot of voters, I've run out of other options," said Cliff Walker, deputy executive director of the Texas Democratic Party.

Texas enters Super Tues-

day having surpassed 16 million voters for the first time, and voter registration in recent years has outpaced population growth.

A core belief among many Democrats is that higher turnout favors their side — but already in 2020, lower-than-expected attendance in the Iowa caucuses and a defeat in a Texas legislative special election are raising warning flags about enthusiasm.

Trump may have a cushion here in the presidential race after winning Texas by nine points in 2016, but there is still no other outfit in the country that compares to Engage Texas. It

has raised nearly \$12 million exclusively from major GOP donors and groups.

Among them are Dallas-based Energy Transfer, whose CEO is billionaire Kelsey Warren, and Dallas oil tycoon Ray Hunt.

Leaders of Engage Texas said unfair news coverage toward Republicans is why their employees packed up and left at two driver's license offices after being approached by an Associated Press reporter.

"Republican-build efforts don't always get a fair shake. They're going to be a bit skeptical," said Chris Young, the executive director of Engage Texas.



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Crossing guard Wendy Behrend lights a candle last year at an anniversary memorial at Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

Secret Service on tour to fight school violence

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI — The U.S. Secret Service is taking its effort to curb school violence on the road to help thousands of educators, law enforcement personnel, mental health professionals and others learn how to identify people who may be threats.

The latest stop in the Secret Service tour is this week in Miami, where officials say about 700 people will attend a session

Wednesday by the agency's National Threat Assessment Center. Similar events have been held in Los Angeles and Chicago since the November 2019 release of the latest analysis of school violence.

The events come just a few days after the second anniversary of the Valentine's Day 2018 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people and wounded 17 others. The fathers of three students killed that day are part of

the effort and spoke Tuesday during a news conference at the Miami Secret Service field office.

"It's all about getting the word out," said Tony Montalto, whose daughter Gina, 14, was slain. "We set out to make America's schools safer."

The Secret Service report is the most comprehensive review of school attacks since the Columbine shootings in 1999. The report looked in depth at 41 school attacks from 2008 through 2017.

Lina Alathari, chief of the National Threat Assessment Center, said the research was launched just after the Parkland mass shooting.

She said the Secret Service wants to spread the message as far as possible so that local officials can identify potential school violence perpetrators before they strike.

The man accused in the Parkland slayings, Nikolas Cruz, had well-documented mental health issues, but little was done.



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Houston blast prompts safety debate

In zoning-free city, industrial accidents take residential toll

By **JUAN A. LOZANO**
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston's lack of zoning restrictions has left many residents with neighbors they don't want: petrochemical facilities and businesses that handle hazardous materials.

That unease was laid bare again last month when a massive explosion leveled a metal fabricating and manufacturing business in the northwest of the city, killing two workers, damaging hundreds of nearby buildings and homes, and terrifying their occupants.

Quan Nguyen, a 49-year-old plumbing, heating and air conditioning technician whose house is a few hundred yards from Watson Grinding and Manufacturing, said the Jan. 24 blast knocked him out of bed and caused his wife to fall and hit her head while she was getting a drink of water. Some of their ceilings collapsed and the explosion shattered the windows in their sleeping son's bedroom, but thankfully none of them were seriously injured.

"I feel like it needs to be separated, businesses from residential areas. If they (have) businesses around here with chemicals, probably they have to be maintained more often, more inspections for them," said Nguyen, voicing a growing sentiment in a city and region that has endured six major industrial accidents in the past year that have killed three people, injured dozens of others, and forced temporary evacuations and school closures.

While the accidents have stoked the debate over zoning, it's highly unlikely that the nation's fourth-largest city is going to embrace major development restrictions. Instead, city leaders have begun discussing



JUAN LOZANO/AP PHOTOS

Quan Nguyen shows damage to his house from a blast at a metal fabricating plant nearby that killed two last month.

other measures, including requiring such businesses to submit to more frequent inspections and to disclose more information about the types of hazardous materials they are handling.

"We just can't have these incidents occur without us looking for ways to mitigate future risk," Mayor Sylvester Turner said recently.

Even modest new local regulations could face pushback from higher up, though, in a state that aggressively bills itself as open for business.

It's unclear why Houston never adopted zoning, making it the largest U.S. city without it. It's not for lack of trying, as there have been five attempts to do so in the self-proclaimed energy capital of the world since 1929, most recently in 1993, when voters declined to embrace zoning.

Lars Lerup, a retired Rice University architecture



A Houston home remains in disrepair after being damaged by the Jan. 24 explosion at a nearby industrial business.

professor who studied Houston, suggested that the lack of zoning could have come about as a reflection of the state's independent spirit, and the self-reliance and drive that many in the oil industry had. The lack of zoning has created a city with a "highly unique" urban environment, he said.

Although Houston has

rejected zoning over the years, it does have various land use rules and other kinds of restrictions that amount to "quasi zoning," said Matthew Festa, a professor who teaches property law and land use at South Texas College of Law Houston. For example, there are rules that regulate construction around the city's

airports, restrict where sexually oriented businesses can open, and set minimum lot sizes, which help restrict density.

Supporters of no zoning say it has helped boost Houston's development and economic growth. But others, including community groups and researchers, say neighborhoods that are poorer or home to more racial minorities are disproportionately negatively affected by the lack of zoning.

In the southeastern Houston neighborhood of Manchester, Guadalupe Ortiz has lived more 32 years across the street from a refinery.

The 68-year-old widow who lives off her monthly Social Security check said her dream of moving is unaffordable.

"I want to sell. But people will continue living here. Where will they go? We are poor," Ortiz said. As she sat in a park next to the refinery

and where she walks daily, white smoke billowed from the sprawling facility, which emits a constant mechanical hum that Ortiz says keeps her up at night.

The explosion at Watson Grinding and Manufacturing seemed to be a tipping point for many.

"It just raises questions about how safe are we in our neighborhoods," Houston City Council member Karla Cisneros said during a recent meeting of a committee that's discussing new regulations on businesses that handle hazardous materials.

It's unclear what, if any, substantial changes could be made, as attempts could be challenged in court or by state officials who have shown an aversion to regulations. When the Environmental Protection Agency in November scaled back chemical plant safety measures put in place after a 2013 fertilizer plant explosion in the town of West, Texas, killed 15 people, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton praised the decision, saying it would "make Texans safer and restore some common sense to the regulatory process."

Festa, the law professor, said he doesn't think adopting formal zoning regulations is the answer because Houston is "pretty well-built" and it would be economically and politically impossible to reconfigure neighborhoods.

Nguyen, whose home was damaged in last month's blast, said that although he wants more protections for people like him, he also wouldn't want to drive away industry or jobs.

Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña, meanwhile, said he is hopeful that the city can come up with changes that will improve safety, adding it will take "being able to sit down and have a conversation as far as what do we want as a community in order to better protect our citizens."

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NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

Jury in Weinstein's rape trial ends 1st day of deliberations

NEW YORK — Jurors in Harvey Weinstein's rape trial ended their first day of deliberations Tuesday with lots of questions and no verdict in the landmark #MeToo case of the once-powerful Hollywood producer.

The panel of seven men and five women is weighing charges that Weinstein raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performed oral sex on another woman, TV and film produc-

tion assistant Mimi Haley, in 2006.

Jurors sent their first questions about 40 minutes into deliberations, asking for the legal definition of terms like consent and forcible compulsion, and seeking clarity on why Weinstein wasn't charged with other crimes stemming from actress Annabella Sciorra's account of an alleged mid-1990s rape.

The jury will resume deliberations Wednesday.

France to end imam, teacher deals to counter extremism

MULHOUSE, France — French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday announced measures to counter Islamic extremism in France by giving the government more authority over the schooling of children, the financing of mosques and the training of imams.

Macron, during a visit to this eastern city, said the government sought to combat "foreign interference" in how Islam is

practiced and the way its institutions are organized in the secular country.

Macron said he plans to end a program from 1977 that allowed nine countries to send teachers to France to provide foreign language and culture classes without supervision from authorities. Four majority-Muslim countries — Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Turkey — were in the program.

Nebraska denies pardon for notorious killer's ex-girlfriend

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's pardons board refused Tuesday to pardon the murder conviction of the ex-girlfriend of Charles Starkweather, the infamous killer who went on a rampage in the 1950s that was later immortalized in movies, books and two hit songs.

The board voted 3-0 to deny the application from Caril Ann Fugate, even though some relatives of Starkweather's victims

lobbied in her favor.

Fugate was 14 when Starkweather, then 19, went on a rampage in 1957-58 that left 11 people dead in Nebraska and Wyoming, including her mother, stepfather and baby half sister.

Fugate spent 17 years in prison on a murder conviction before she was paroled in 1976.

Starkweather was executed in 1959 at the age of 20.



FAREED KHAN/AP

Family members rush a relative to a hospital Tuesday in Karachi, Pakistan, where a gas leak of unknown origin is blamed for killing 14 people and sickening hundreds of others. The leak of apparently odorless gas started Sunday night in a coastal neighborhood.

US agency waives contracting laws for building border wall

SAN DIEGO — The Trump administration said Tuesday that it is waiving federal contracting laws to speed construction of a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, moving the president closer to fulfilling a signature campaign promise in an election year but sparking criticism about potential for fraud, waste and abuse.

The Department of Homeland Security said waiving procurement regulations will allow 177 miles of wall to be built more quickly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The 10 waived laws

include a requirement for open competition and giving losing bidders a chance to protest decisions.

The acting Homeland Security secretary, Chad Wolf, is exercising authority under a 2005 law that gives him sweeping powers to waive laws for building border barriers.

Secretaries under President Donald Trump have issued 16 waivers, and President George W. Bush issued five, but Tuesday's announcement marks the first time that waivers have applied to federal procurement rules. Previously they were used to waive envi-

ronmental impact reviews.

Critics say the waivers do away with key taxpayer safeguards.

Charles Tiefer, a professor at University of Baltimore School of Law who specializes in government contracts, said the government "can just pick the contractor you want and you just ram it through. The sky's the limit on what they bill."

Congress gave the secretary power to waive laws in areas of high illegal activity in 2005 in legislation that included emergency spending for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Soggy areas under flash flood warning in Miss.

RIDGELAND, Miss. — Forecasters expected more heavy rains in parts of the flood-ravaged South on Tuesday, prolonging the misery for worried people who still can't get back in homes surrounded by water.

Some of the hardest-hit areas were under a flash-

flood watch, as the National Weather Service said as much as 2 inches of rain, and even more in some spots — was expected to fall in a short amount of time in central Mississippi.

The national Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland, projected the greatest likeli-

hood of heavy rains from eastern Louisiana across central Mississippi and Alabama and into Georgia.

Authorities around Mississippi's capital city of Jackson warned hundreds of residents not to return home until they get an all-clear following devastating flooding on Monday.

Government in Libya halts talks after attack on port

GENEVA — The U.N.-supported government in Libya said Tuesday it has suspended its participation in talks in Geneva aimed at salvaging a fragile cease-fire in the North African country following an attack on Tripoli's strategic port.

The country's warring sides had resumed their U.N.-brokered military negotiations earlier Tuesday, however the forces of military commander Khalifa Hifter stepped up their attacks on the Libyan capital, hitting its seaport.

It appeared to be the first such attack on Tripoli's port since Hifter's forces began their siege of the city almost a year ago.

The country's National Oil Corp., which dominates Libya's critical oil industry and is based in Tripoli, said projectiles struck yards away from a highly explosive liquefied petroleum gas tanker discharging in the port.

In Syria: The United Nations human rights chief urged Syrian government forces and their allies Tuesday to allow safe corridors in conflict areas in the nation's northwest, where a military offensive has unleashed a wave of fleeing civilians in one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes in the long civil war.

Michelle Bachelet told reporters in Geneva it was "cruel beyond belief" that civilians live under plastic sheeting in freezing conditions while getting bombed.

Her appeal came a day after Syrian President Bashar Assad pledged to press a military campaign that has displaced more than 900,000 people from their homes since the start of December, according to U.N. officials.



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EDITORIALS

Fresh injustice for the 12 million victims of Illinois corruption

Don't forget the serial crimes that put this defrocked governor in prison

"In the United States we don't much govern at gunpoint. We require willing and creative cooperation and participation to prosper as a civil society. This happens most easily when people trust the person at the top to do the right thing most of the time and, more important than that, to try to do it all of the time. ... When it is the governor who goes bad, the fabric of Illinois is torn and disfigured and not easily or quickly repaired. You did that damage."

— U.S. District Judge James Zagel, sentencing former Gov. Rod Blagojevich to 14 years in prison on Dec. 7, 2011.

Rod Blagojevich expressed nothing approaching contrition for his many felonies until the moment in 2011 when he awaited his sentence. Then came what some attorneys call a weasel plea for mercy — a carefully worded non-apology intended to project nobility under duress: "I'm here convicted of crimes," the defrocked governor said. "The jury decided I was guilty. I'm accepting of it. I acknowledge it and of course I'm unbelievably sorry for it."

A lifetime of privilege, squandered

It was too little, too late. Blagojevich's astonishing betrayals of 12 million-plus Illinoisans qualified him for a sentence of 30 years to life. Judge Zagel instead gave him 14 years as U.S. Bureau of Prisons inmate 40892-424. It was a moment of well-earned ignominy and infamy for a man whose privileged life had taken him from Northwestern University to Pepperdine Law, to a job as a Cook County prosecutor, to the Illinois General Assembly, to the United States Congress, to the governorship of Illinois.

Ever since that day, Blagojevich has been exercising his rights to appeal, to wheedle, to hope a president would free him early. In April 2018, justices of the U.S. Supreme Court flicked off his appeal to them much as they might flick lint from black robes.

On Tuesday, Blagojevich's luck improved: President Donald Trump commuted his sentence more than four years early.

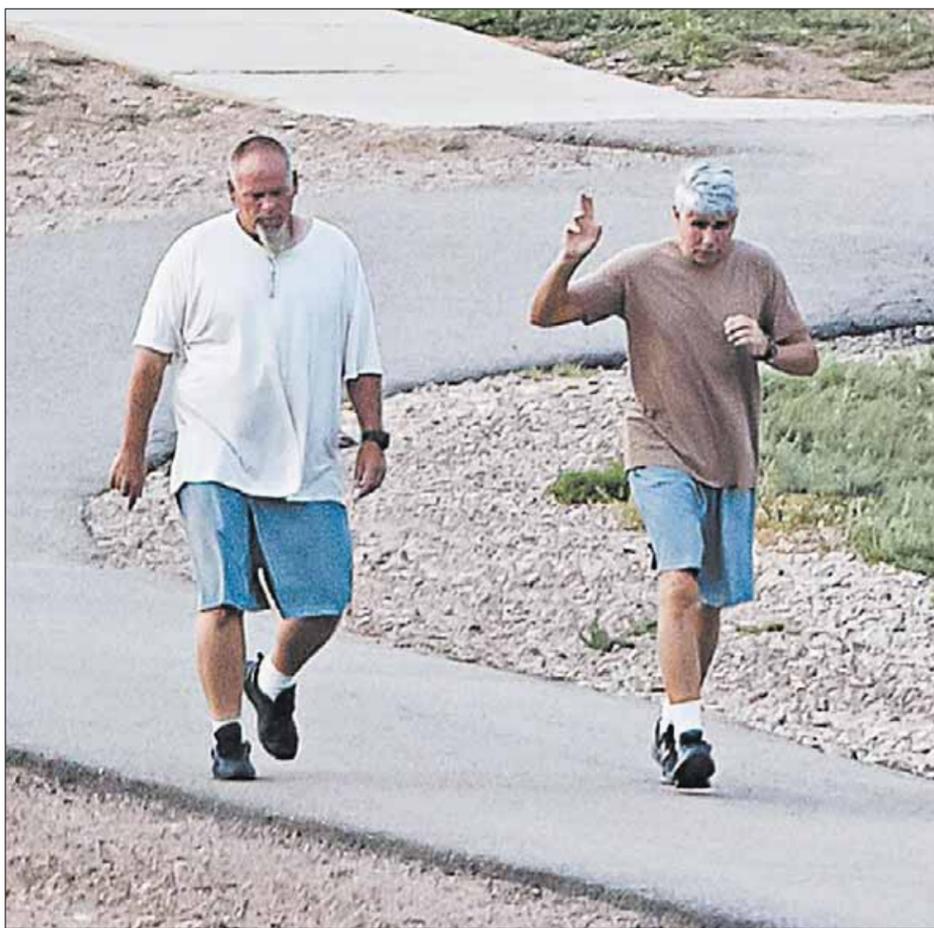
A public corruption crime spree

Soon enough we'll all learn whether the freed convict launches a Revisionist History Tour along the lines of a May 2018 Blagojevich op-ed published by The Wall Street Journal under the headline, "I'm in Prison for Practicing Politics." It began by saying that the "rule of law is under assault in America." Translation: *President Trump, I'm a victim of the feds — just like you!*

Don't believe it. After Trump revealed his wrongheaded commutation Tuesday, former U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald and the three trial lawyers who prosecuted Blagojevich issued a reminder that said in part:

"The criminal conduct for which a jury unanimously convicted Mr. Blagojevich included the following actions:

"(1) extorting the CEO of a children's hospital by withholding important state funding to help sick children until the CEO



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2019

Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich waves as he goes for an evening run outside the minimum-security satellite camp of the Federal Correctional Institution-Englewood in Colorado, where he is an inmate.



SCOTT STANTIS

provided campaign contributions;

"(2) extorting the owners of a racetrack by intentionally holding up the signing of important state legislation until the owners provided campaign contributions in response to an explicit demand for them;

"(3) extortionately demanding funding for a high-paying private sector job, as well as campaign contributions, in exchange for naming a replacement to an open U.S. Senate seat; and

"(4) lying to the FBI to cover up his criminal activity."

Trump's scorn for the victims

Trump's decision spits in the eye of those prosecutors, but also the jurors who found the ex-governor guilty. Remember, too, that we'll never know how many top-notch people were cheated out of careers in government, or how many employers lost chances at state contracts because, during the Blagojevich years, the fix was in. Nor may we again see such a selfish betrayal as Blagojevich's effort to sell that Senate seat, which belonged not to him but to the people of Illinois.

In writing about Blagojevich, we've acknowledged that we aren't uninvolved parties. Fitzgerald's sentencing memorandum to Judge Zagel noted that Blagojevich's offenses included "demanding the firing of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board members in exchange for assistance to the Tribune Company for financing in relation to the sale of Wrigley Field."

Unlike Blagojevich, none of us on the Tribune Editorial Board lost his or her job because of his crimes. We aren't his victims. His victims are those more than 12 million citizens. They've watched

FROM A CHICAGO TRIBUNE EDITORIAL OF APRIL 17, 2018

'Blagojevich, judges and the next corrupt Illinois pols'

Corrupt politicians have made sport of cheating this state's 12 million citizens, and the season never ends. ... At sentencing in 2011, Judge James Zagel explained why Rod Blagojevich's crimes were so destructive, why corruption is a more serious crime than judges in Illinois had previously treated it. He essentially told other judges that prosecutors and courageous jurors can do only so much, that courts must stiffen corruption penalties. ...

Zagel's most important lesson for the political class of Illinois stands unrefuted: If citizens place their trust in you, then you can ruin your life and victimize your loved ones just as this criminal freely chose to do to his. That warning is our focus today, as it was on the day of sentencing:

Corruption doesn't just happen; people who may have fine attributes, impressive resumes and substantial accomplishments make it happen. Exemplary fathers and mothers, career professionals, officials who have done many good things for the people they serve — these otherwise upstanding folks, not just thieving mopes, drive the Illinois culture of political sleaze.

Often, Zagel said, these perps may think their many good deeds more than offset their crimes. Not so. Zagel acknowledged that, yes, as governor Blagojevich had acted for the good of others: "Every governor, even our worst, helps someone. ... Very few criminals are all bad. ... I am more concerned with the occasions when you wanted to use your powers to do things that were only good for yourself."

judges frog-march four of Illinois' last 11 governors to federal prisons.

And now a flurry of warrants, arrests and indictments suggests that the feds are pursuing a fresh cluster of public corruption scandals in Chicago, Springfield and beyond. If Blagojevich's walk to freedom liberates a prison bed, many other Illinois pols evidently have been competing to fill it.

Remember Judge Zagel's resolve

We offer no opinions on the defendants' guilt or innocence. But if any of the new cases lead to convictions, we hope other federal judges here always will remember the example of Judge Zagel when they sentence the next crooked pols, and the next.

Because there's always a cohort of Illinois deniers who think that what happened to Blagojevich won't happen to them.

Hence the perennial parlor game within this state's political class: Who'll be the next corrupt officials to devastate their families, savage their careers and cheat the people of Illinois?

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

The hapless Joe Biden, 2020's clear answer to 2016 establishment Hindenburg Jeb Bush, finished a disastrous fifth in New Hampshire. Joe should drop out. The world knows it. The man shouldn't be driving, much less running for president.

Nonetheless, because Biden is perceived to have a "firewall" in the South — the "firewall" of minority voters enjoyed by this or that corporate-funded candidate is one of the more vile campaign clichés — he will certainly not drop out. ...

As with Republicans in 2016, the defining characteristic of the 2020 Democratic race has been the unwieldy size of the field. The same identity crisis lurking under the Republican clown car afflicted this year's Democratic contest: Because neither donors nor party leaders nor pundits could figure out what they should be pretending to stand for, they couldn't coalesce around any one candidate.

These constant mercurial shifts in "momentum" — It's Pete! It's Amy! Paging Mike Bloomberg! — have eroded the kingmaking power of the Democratic leadership. These

bursts are eating the party from within, and seem poised to continue doing so.

For Bernie Sanders' supporters, the calculation has always been simpler: *Are you bought off, or not?* Just by keeping to the right side of that one principle, Sanders will hold his 20-to-30 percent and keep grinding toward victory, "narrow" wins or not. It's a classic tortoise-and-hare story. When you know where you're going, you tend to get there.

Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone

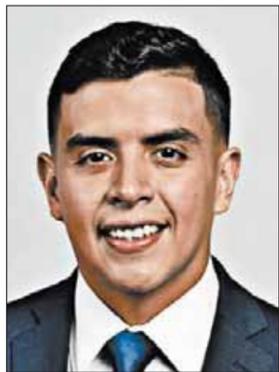
EDITORIALS

For the Illinois House

This is the first installment of the Tribune Editorial Board's endorsements for contested Illinois House races in the March 17 primary election. We start with several Chicago contests:

1st District

Aaron Ortiz upended the old guard in this Southwest Side district when he defeated then-incumbent Democrat Dan Burke, a fixture in the Illinois House for 27 years and younger brother of embattled 14th Ward Ald. Ed Burke. Ortiz is 28 and his challenger, Alicia Martinez, is 23 — a reflection of the mostly Hispanic district's youthfulness. Among House districts, the 1st has one of the state's largest number of Latinos and largest younger-than-18 populations. Many residents fear taking part in the upcoming census, which is why Ortiz has been organizing workshops at district schools to encourage census participation — crucial to maximizing Illinois' share of federal funds and its representation in Washington. Ortiz also backs stronger ethics reforms in Springfield and an end to gerrymandering. Martinez began working in Ed Burke's ward organization when she was a teen and stopped when Burke was re-elected last May. We like her ambition, though the more she can chart a course independent of her former boss, the better. Ortiz is endorsed.



Rep. Aaron Ortiz



Tjjuan Cratic

2nd District

Democrat **Theresa Mah** came to the Illinois House in November 2016 armed with a meaty resume. The former college professor worked as a senior policy adviser for then-Gov. Pat Quinn. Before that, she did community activist work at Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community. She was the first Asian American elected to the state legislature. Now she has more than three years under her belt in Springfield. She sets drawing down Illinois' \$137 billion unfunded pension liabilities as a top-shelf priority. We wish, however, that she would change her opposition to giving citizens a vote on a state constitutional amendment that would permit lasting pension reform. Pension benefits state workers already have earned could be preserved under such an amendment; only unearned, future benefits would be affected. Mah cites the 2015 Illinois Supreme Court ruling

striking down pension reform legislation, but an amendment would render that moot. Why not let voters have their say? One of Mah's opponents, Bobby Martinez Olson, is a 27-year-old lawyer with a nonprofit. He's right when he says rising taxes are driving Illinoisans out of Illinois. He has a bright future in state politics. Mah, however, has earned another term. She is endorsed. Also running is Kenneth M. Kozlar.

3rd District

The ugly backdrop to this race is the saga of this Northwest Side district's former lawmaker, Democrat Luis Arroyo, who now faces trial on charges of attempting to bribe a state senator. Arroyo's successor, **Eva Dina Delgado**, who was appointed with the help of Arroyo's Northwest Side Latino allies, and in defiance of House Speaker Michael Madigan's wishes. Delgado now favors filling vacant legislative seats through special elections, which she says "will be a limit on party leaders using legisla-



Rep. Theresa Mah



Gerard Mooror

tive vacancies as a game of musical chairs." We've made the same argument, but we don't blame Delgado for accepting the appointment. Aside from that imbroglia, Delgado has a strong background that qualifies her for this job. Previous posts include chief of staff for the head of Peoples Gas, vice president of legislative affairs at the CTA and legislative counsel for Mayor Richard M. Daley. She sets drawing down state debt as the best use of new revenue coming into state coffers. And she's right to focus on beefing up training for tech jobs and talent as a way to stem the exodus of people leaving Illinois. Running against Delgado is Nidia Caranza, a CPS bilingual teacher who calls for increased spending for education — particularly state universities — to "give Illinois families a reason to stay in the state." Delgado is the more prepared candidate. She is endorsed.

9th District

Too often it's "All in the Family" in Illinois politics.



Rep. Eva Dina Delgado



Margaret Croke

State Rep. Arthur Turner isn't running for reelection in this district, which wends its way from Lincoln Park into North Lawndale and Homan Square. But Aaron Turner, a former legislative liaison with the Illinois Housing Development Authority, is vying to take over where his brother left off. We're more intrigued with **Tjjuan Cratic**, a former aide to Ald. Jason Ervin, 28th. Cratic says fostering job growth is the best path toward keeping people from leaving Illinois. One way to do that, he says: Repurpose shuttered CPS schools into incubators for small businesses. Other candidates in this race include Trina Mangrum, Ervin's current chief of staff; Lakesia Collins, a union organizer; Nicole Harvey, an aide to U.S. Rep. Danny Davis; consultant Sandra Schneller; and Maurice Edwards. Cratic is endorsed.

10th District

Family ties, Part II. In Chicago politics, they too often mean as much on a candidate's resume as voting record, legis-

lation sponsorship and stances on issues. Maybe more. That certainly is the case in this mostly West Side district, where incumbent Jawaharial "Omar" Williams got appointed to his seat with a major boost from his stepfather, Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th: When Melissa Conyears-Ervin vacated her 10th District seat to become city treasurer last spring, Burnett, who is also a Democratic ward committeeman, led the charge to ensure Williams got the job. Now Williams must defend his seat against two challengers in the primary, **Gerard Mooror** and Gina Zuccaro. Mooror, 37, is all in on sorely needed reforms to the state's broken pension system, and he backs letting voters take up the question of an Illinois constitutional amendment that would preserve pension benefits state workers have already earned, but reduce benefits in the future. Mooror is endorsed.

12th District

This is shaping up as one of the most competitive House primary races. Five candidates are vying for the seat vacated by Democrat Sara Feigenholtz, who will replace John Cullerton in the Illinois Senate. Jonathan "Yoni" Pizer, a community liaison for U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, snagged Mayor Lori Lightfoot's endorsement. He understands the need to embark on meaningful pension reform and provide Illinoisans with property tax relief. But he also talks of ginning up new kinds of sales taxes to create revenue. Cut taxes here, raise them there. Not the right tack. **Margaret Croke** works in Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration as deputy chief of staff for the state's Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. She correctly points out that Illinois will continue to bleed population as long as it cannot convince the next generation to attend college in state, and then stay in Illinois after graduation. "That's where we can make a big change in the exodus," she says. Our endorsement goes to Croke. Also running is Marty Malone, a former aide to Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer; attorney James Garfield; and Ryan Podges, also a lawyer.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Fired educators respond to scandal

We began this school year as the new principals at Lincoln Park High School. As veteran educators, we were excited and energized to improve the lives and education of our 2,200 students.

In a short five months, we made great strides at Lincoln Park. Along with the many incredible students, teachers and staff, we built a great sense of community and culture. There was incredible "Lion Pride."

Then came Friday, Jan. 31. It was a school improvement day for Chicago Public Schools, meaning kids were off while we led our teachers in professional development.

CPS emailed us to tell us to report downtown. Neither of us thought much of it, as it was a hectic day with many meetings. At CPS headquarters, we were abruptly terminated. We were given no notice, no warning and no explanation.

We still have no clear idea why we were terminated. We've heard allegations through the media, but CPS has told us nothing directly. Any suggestion that either of us engaged in, tolerated or minimized any "sexual misconduct" is false, offensive and destructive. So, too, are claims of a cover-up or improper reporting. Any "reporting" or procedural mistakes that may have occurred stem directly from lack of direction by CPS.

This year, CPS entered into a federal consent decree to address its past mishandling of sexual misconduct allegations. We, like you, are all for better protecting our kids. But CPS rolled out its new process and procedures



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Several Lincoln Park High School administrators were dismissed Jan. 31

clumsily. CPS and its new Office of Student Protection provided little to no training to administrators on new procedures and rules, and when it did, its instructions were often contradictory. If we made procedural mistakes, we don't know what they were.

We do know this, however: Every action we took at Lincoln Park High School was with the best interests of the students in mind. When reports of misconduct came to our attention, we treated them with the utmost seriousness and promptly reported them. CPS' claim that our actions "endangered victims" is false. Neither of us ever tried to minimize or conceal misconduct. That would be contrary to our

morals as people and our principles and mission as educators.

Neither one of us has had a single disciplinary incident in our collective 32 years of working for CPS. If we now — after decades — have engaged in such serious misconduct to warrant our immediate termination without notice or explanation, we deserve to know what rules and procedures we violated.

Though we are ready to defend ourselves against any allegations, more important, we want our jobs back. We remain ready to get back where we belong — with the kids and colleagues we love at Lincoln Park High School.

— Michelle Brumfield, former assistant principal, and John

Thuet Jr., former interim principal, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago

Fentanyl and harsh sentencing

A recent Tribune editorial on federal anti-fentanyl legislation ("Deaths? What opioid deaths?," Feb. 6) mistakenly concludes that exposing more people to pros-

ecutions resulting in harsh mandatory minimum sentences is the only way to address concerns about this drug. It was concerns about these harsh sentences that led nine members of the House from Illinois to join together in opposition to this punishment-driven approach.

These representatives collectively rejected the idea that our shared community concerns about fentanyl could be addressed through long sentences for those at the bottom of the distribution chain of any drug. That approach over the past several decades has devastated communities — especially communities of color — in Illinois and across the nation. We need to reduce the harm associated with drug use, including fentanyl, with a holistic community-based approach that provides real access to evidence-based drug treatment and offers meaningful economic opportunities to people in communities harmed by decades of disinvestment and over-criminalization.

We commend the members of the Illinois delegation who opposed this measure. And, we hope that their leadership on this issue serves as an inspiration to Illinois legislators to remove some of our state's harsh sentences for low-level drug offenses. Taking this approach can improve lives in our neighborhoods all across the state.

— Colleen Connell, executive director, and Benjamin Ruddell, criminal justice policy reform director, ACLU of Illinois, Chicago

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PERSPECTIVE

Blagojevich, President Trump and the circle of sleaze



ERIC ZORN

How can anyone be surprised? America's swampy, self-dealing, scofflaw, narcissist president has commuted the prison sentence of Illinois' swampy, self-dealing, scofflaw, narcissist former governor.

I thought President Donald Trump might wait until after the November election to spring Rod Blagojevich from federal prison, which he did Tuesday, given that such a wink to unapologetic political corruption is a bit on the nose given all the accusations that have swirled around Trump. But he's clearly feeling emboldened by how stoutly his party and his political base stayed with him through his impeachment travails and no longer has any qualms at all about whimsically yanking on the levers of federal justice.

Blagojevich was a spectacularly venal public official and an odious hypocrite. He abused his power by holding back state funds for children's health care to try to squeeze a campaign contribution from a hospital CEO, by refusing to sign pending legislation favorable to the horse racing industry unless a track owner gave him a contribution and, most famously, by trying to use his constitutional authority to appoint a U.S. senator as a means to advance his personal interests.

And every time I heard the oily pleas for mercy from Blagojevich and his wife I was reminded that, when he was governor, he routinely ignored such pleas from others. His failure to act on routine requests for commutations and pardons got so bad that the Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic sued him in federal court for ducking his responsibility to act. He won that suit and continued to delay, refusing to spend even a dime of political capital on the issue. And by the time he was removed from office in early 2009, the Illinois Prisoner Review Board estimated the num-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump announces Tuesday to reporters that he'd commuted the sentence of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

ber of petitions piled up on his desk at more than 3,000 — by far the largest such backlog in the nation.

When arrested and put in the dock, Blagojevich insisted he'd done nothing wrong, and that what looked to federal investigators like corruption was just zealous "political horse-trading." On the day he reported to prison nearly eight years ago, he ostentatiously performed his Nelson Mandela of Ravenswood Manor act, telling reporters he had a "clear conscience" because everything he did "was on the right side of the law."

Blagojevich's inability — his failure — to grasp the dimensions of his betrayal of the public trust and his refusal ever to admit to

what he did was positively Trumpian, even before we understood the dimensions of that adjective.

It was no wonder that Trump seemed to identify with Blago, dismissing his scheming caught on wiretap recordings as mere "braggadocio" and describing his crimes as simply "being stupid and saying things that ... many other politicians say."

Trump's lack of familiarity with the case was revealed not only by his glib summaries of the evidence but by how, when talking to reporters he mispronounced the former governor's last name as "Bla-goya-vick" and overstated the length of his prison sentence, saying it was 18 years instead of 14 (he actually

would have been eligible for release after a little more than 12 years).

Was that prison sentence too long? After all, he never got a dime out of his fetid little plots. No one was injured.

I heard that argument a lot, especially after May 2018, when Trump told reporters he was considering a commutation for Blagojevich because "plenty of other politicians have said a lot worse. He shouldn't have been put in jail."

The way I've seen it all along, though, is that even feckless political corruption at that level is a grave offense that must have severe legal consequences if we have any hope of deterring it. And that Blagojevich's failure to show

contrition in effect renewed his offense every day he was in prison. After a while, the justification for keeping him locked up was mostly that he refused to acknowledge that he ever should have been locked up.

Blagojevich's release under these circumstances all but guarantees a nauseating rerun of his pious, pretrial media blitz. Now, a former governor who can never admit he did anything wrong will make the rounds crowing about his innocence based on the judgment of a president who can never admit he did anything wrong.

It's the circle of sleaze.

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A warning from a '60s activist to today's progressives



CLARENCE PAGE

Although I am fully aware of how elections always will surprise us, even I was stunned to hear that Rep. Bobby Rush, a Chicago Democrat, had endorsed Michael Bloomberg's Democratic presidential campaign to be president.

The news came as a surprise because of its timing. As Bloomberg's approval numbers have been rapidly rising, thanks to boxcar-loads of money that he has donated to his own campaign, so have his critics.

Rival candidates, among others, have pounced on the controversial stop-and-frisk policing policy that Bloomberg increased on his watch — and for which he apologized after announcing his presidential run.

He also has faced new scrutiny of old charges alleging discrimination against women and sexual harassment at his company. He denies wrongdoing and none has proceeded to trial.

But as the fast-rising candidate who has been letting TV ads do his talking and campaigning until now, he has only begun to face questions over those matters, among others.

Supporters such as Rush, who has iconic status in the party's progressive wing and among many African American voters, can help Bloomberg, at least by reducing some of the resistance he faces from skeptics among his own supporters.

Which puts him in the center of the big question facing Democrats this year: Can they come together as a winning coalition to unseat President Donald Trump?

Or will they be too divided by differences between their moder-



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is joined by supporters during his campaign's launch of "Mike for Black America," at the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum last week in Houston.

ates such as Bloomberg, former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg, and the committed progressives, Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Questions of unity in the Democratic Party are hardly new. Cue the obligatory quote from Will Rogers: "I am not a member of any organized party. I'm a Democrat."

You can trace a lot of this internal arguing to the party's history, particularly since the mid-1960s, as a coalition of various labor, ethnic, regional, religious, ideological and cultural groups constantly searching for common ground in what often looks like battlefields.

Things became downright

ferocious with the police riot outside the party's Chicago convention in 1968 and the factional feuds in 1972 between the young progressives who backed Sen. George McGovern, the nominee, and the party establishment of Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley.

The failure of those factions to come together after that year's convention greased McGovern's slide into a landslide defeat in every state but Massachusetts and in the District of Columbia.

Nowadays the party's new establishment, including its unofficial leader, former President Barack Obama, fears a replay of that disaster if they don't nominate a Goldilocks candidate: Not too hot to scare off moderate swing voters in November and not too cool to persuade, say, Warren or Sanders supporters to stay on their couches and skip

giving their votes to a moderate nominee.

Yet at a time when polls show the incumbent president to be amazingly vulnerable, considering the currently strong economy, today's progressive activists have a lot of work to do if they're going to build the broadly based working class and middle class coalition that the '60s generation sought.

One member of that generation, author John B. Judis, a veteran journalist and Students for a Democratic Society, or SDS, activist from that period, raised insightful points in a Washington Post essay on how today's activists can learn from yesterday's failures.

First, he notes, today's left has not made such divisive mistakes as the 1967 expulsion from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating

Committee of all of its white members. But many have been too quick to attribute Trump's victory solely to "white supremacy" or "white privilege." Ample evidence shows many white Trump voters also voted twice for Obama.

Indeed, the left should know by now that people are more complicated than their skin tone alone. Focus on the issues, and you'll find other reasons for white working class frustration that your candidate might be able to help relieve.

Second, the left is again fragmenting into identity groups, Judis observes, elevating their own concerns without persuading others. Identity politics is part of politics, in my view. But reasonable demands for equal rights or humane border policy, for example, can quickly become unreasonable demands for, say, slavery reparations or open borders, if you don't build broad-based support first.

And finally, activists who become too insular, cutting themselves off from others, can devolve almost cult-like into special language and gestures that can sound like politics from another planet to those whom you're trying to persuade. Please remember the slogan I learned in journalism school: "KISS: Keep It Simple, Stupid."

Will today's generation of progressive activists listen to the voices of experience? In my experience, it usually has taken two terms out of office for a party to come to its senses about broadening its appeal. I don't think today's Democrats want to wait that long.

Clarence Page, a member of the Tribune Editorial Board, blogs at

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS

Motorola scores win in trade secrets case

Federal jury awards radio company \$765M in damages

BY ALLY MAROTTI

A yearslong court battle over technology trade secrets and copyright infringement came to a head last week when a jury awarded Motorola Solutions \$764.5 million in damages.

But the case the Chicago-based company is waging against a Chinese competitor is not over yet.

"This company stole for years Motorola proprietary technology," said Motorola CEO Greg Brown. "They stole thousands of documents, they stole millions of lines of source code, and to this day, their products are still being sold with stolen technology."



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2014

A mannequin equipped with what Motorola calls "next generation police officer" devices sits at the Motorola campus in Schaumburg.

The lawsuit, filed in 2017, alleged that Shenzhen, China-based Hytera was selling digital radios that used trade secrets and source code stolen from Motorola.

Source code tells a product how to run.

On Friday, a federal jury in Chicago sided with Motorola, awarding the company the maxi-

mum requested amount in damages. Hytera said it plans to appeal the verdict.

Motorola is asking the court to stop Hytera from allegedly selling products around the world that contain its confidential trade secrets and stolen source code, said Mike De Vries, an attorney representing Motorola. A court hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Motorola Solutions makes digital two-way radios, often used by emergency crews and first responders, as well as workers at airports, hotels and construction sites.

Hytera was founded in 1993 and was a distributor for Motorola products until 2001, when it started making analog radios, according to the amended complaint, filed by Motorola in 2018.

In the mid-2000s, it became evident to Hytera that "its analog radio products faced extinction,

and that it could not hope to develop its own digital two-way radios in time to save its ailing business," Motorola alleged in the lawsuit. Hytera "embarked on an unlawful plot to surreptitiously take and copy" Motorola's trade secrets and copyrighted material, and use them to build a competing product, Motorola alleged in the suit.

Motorola also alleged that Hytera hired three former senior Motorola engineers in 2008 who were involved in developing some products.

The jury's verdict, following a trial that began in November, is a win for other American technology companies struggling with intellectual property theft, said Motorola's Brown.

Last year, Motorola invested almost \$700 million into research

Turn to **Motorola, Page 2**



LOIC VENANCE/GETTY 2009

London-based HSBC said it plans to revamp its U.S. and European business and shed \$100 billion in assets to improve its profitability.

HSBC to cut 35,000 positions worldwide

Company spokesman declines to disclose Chicago-area impact

BY DANICA KIRKA AND ELAINE KURTENBACH
Associated Press

LONDON - HSBC will shed some 35,000 jobs as part of a deep overhaul to focus on faster-growing markets in Asia and as it tries to cope with a slew of global uncertainties, from Brexit to the trade wars to the new coronavirus.

The interim chief executive, Noel Quinn, said Tuesday the number of people employed by

the bank would fall from 235,000 to 200,000 in the next three years. Some of the reductions would come from attrition as opposed to outright cuts.

HSBC, which is based in London but does most of its business in Asia, is caught among myriad uncertainties, from Brexit to the Hong Kong protests and trade disputes between the United States and China. Now the new coronavirus is adding further concern as it disrupts business in HSBC's main market.

The bank's net profit fell 53% to \$6 billion in 2019 and, for this year, it warned of "significant disruption" to its business due to the outbreak of the virus in China.

HSBC's business in Europe is also under pressure. It must now also grapple with Britain's departure from the European Union and the uncertainty that will accompany negotiations future trade relations.

"No trade negotiation is ever straightforward," HSBC said in a statement. "It is essential that the eventual agreement protects and fosters the many benefits that financial services provide to both the U.K. and the EU."

The whopping headcount drop comes amid a downsizing in Europe. The restructure involves "consolidating" of some parts of the business and "reorganising the global functions and head

office," Quinn said.

The bank has been carrying out a corporate overhaul designed to boost profitability by focusing on high-growth markets in Asia while shedding businesses and workers in other countries. It plans to revamp its U.S. and European business and shed \$100 billion in assets to improve profitability.

"Our immediate aims are to increase returns, create the capacity to invest in the future, and build a platform for sustainable growth," Quinn said in the statement.

The sharp drop in 2019 profit

Turn to **HSBC, Page 2**

Tech hub 1871 merges with ITA

Illinois Technology Association's CEO stepped down in Dec.

BY ALLY MAROTTI

Chicago's marquee tech hub, 1871, has acquired Illinois Technology Association in an effort to broaden the resources available to its member tech companies.

1871, which was co-founded by J.B. Pritzker in 2012, offers programming and support for startups and helps connect them to corporations, giving those early stage companies exposure to a larger audience. Illinois Technology Association, or ITA, focuses on slightly larger companies that have 25 to 1,000 employees and are trying to grow.

"For us, it's a total complement," said Betsy Ziegler, CEO of 1871. "We've got different memberships and it's an opportunity to connect all the dots."

ITA's members could benefit from connecting with 1871's corporate partners, or tap into some of its programming for founders, said outgoing CEO Julia Kanouse.

"There's a lot that we do for growth-stage companies that could really enhance and accelerate the startup experience as well," she said.

ITA will move out of its home in the Civic Opera Building and into 1871's space at Merchandise Mart. ITA's seven employees will join 1871's team of 25.

Ziegler will be CEO of the combined organization. Kanouse stepped down as ITA's CEO at the end of December.

The deal, which closed Tuesday, was a merger of assets between the two nonprofits, Kanouse said. 1871 assumed the assets and liabilities of ITA.

1871 has about 1,500 members, including corporations, venture capitalists and startup founders. ITA was founded in 2005 and has about 450 members, Kanouse said.

The nonprofits are two among many tech incubators and organizations that offer startup resources in Chicago. Others focus on specific industries and do not necessarily overlap with the resources 1871 and ITA offer.

Still, Kanouse said the acquisition could lessen confusion about where to go for support in Chicago's tech industry.

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TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A common area at 1871, the tech hub and co-working space, is seen Tuesday, at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago.

401(k)s hit records as workers sock away more

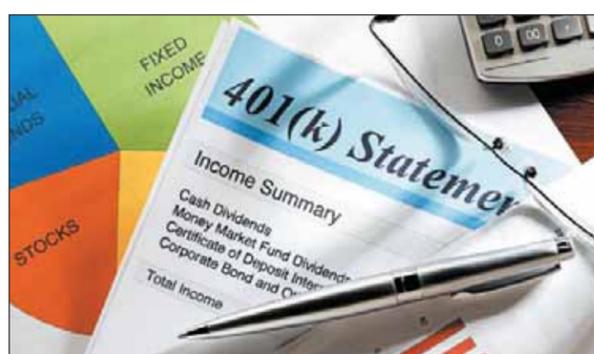
BY STAN CHOE
Associated Press

NEW YORK - How's your 401(k) doing?

President Donald Trump likes to ask that question around the country, sometimes throwing out big gains like 90% or 95%. The average 401(k) did indeed hit a record last year, although its growth was considerably less than that.

The average 401(k) balance rose 17% last year to \$112,300 from the end of 2018, according to a review of 17.3 million accounts by Fidelity Investments. The average individual retirement account, or IRA, balance rose the same percentage to \$115,400.

Those figures are averages,



ISTOCKPHOTO

not medians, and the typical 401(k) might be closer to a quarter of that. The top 1% of 401(k) savers has more than \$1 million in each of their accounts,

which skews the average higher.

Surging markets around the world were a big reason for growth across accounts in 2019: The S&P 500 index had one of its

best years in decades with a 31.5% return. Investments of all types logged gains, from junk bonds to stocks from developing economies.

But workers' better savings habits also played a big role.

Fidelity said the average worker set aside 8.9% of their pay in their 401(k) in the fourth quarter, a record. Combined with employer matches, the average total savings rate was 13.5% in the quarter, tying its record last reached in the spring of 2019.

"Nobody can control the market, so the behaviors of people contributing to their 401(k)s are what get us the most excited," said Katie Taylor, vice president

Turn to **401(k), Page 2**

\$1M gift will help record black women's histories

BY DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A trailblazer among black women in the business world wants to help make sure that the stories of other pioneering women like her are not forgotten.

The HistoryMakers, an oral archive that's recorded the stories of more than 3,300 African Americans, launched The WomenMakers initiative with a \$1 million gift from Ursula Burns, the former head of Xerox.

"We have to value our own stories," Burns said in an interview about the project that will focus on African American women. "We have to teach ourselves to actually value ourselves in our society."

Burns, 61, was chairwoman and CEO of Xerox from 2009 to 2016. She spent her entire career at the company, working her

way up from an internship in 1980 and, upon becoming CEO, was the first black woman to head a Fortune 500 company. Burns left Xerox after the company was split in two.

The initiative was kicked off at a Jan. 31 luncheon in New York City, where Burns presented Julieanna Richardson, a lawyer who founded The HistoryMakers in 1999, with the monetary gift in honor of her late husband, Lloyd Bean.

"We have so much potential to leave a historical record that will not have any chance to being erased, that is what is exceedingly important to me," Richardson said about the initiative.

The launch included a number of women on the advisory committee for The WomenMakers initiative, who will help determine the 180 women whose stories will be re-



MATT SAYLES/AP 2015

Ursula Burns was the first African American woman to lead a Fortune 500 company.

corded thanks to Burns' gift.

Those on the committee are high-profile figures including Anna Deaver Smith, Bethann Hardison,

and Anita Hill.

In the 20 years since its official launch, The HistoryMakers has recorded the stories of black pioneers in a number of fields including Hank Aaron, Maya Angelou and Colin Powell.

But even as an organization founded and led by a black woman, Richardson said there are still more men's stories in the archives than women's — about 800 more.

"When you look at different periods of time, even the modern-day civil rights movement, often the story of women's roles is not well-recorded or told," she said.

Women, Richardson said, were often the ones keeping the archives, but, "we aren't keeping their histories at the same time."

Telling their stories and showcasing their achievements is important, especially in these fraught partisan times, Burns said.

HSBC

Continued from Page 1

reflected slower economic activity but also a \$7.3 billion write-down for HSBC's Global Banking and Markets and Commercial Banking divisions in Europe. Revenue rose 5.9% in 2019 to \$55.4 billion.

The bank said it would shrink its sales and trading and equity research in Europe and shift resources to Asia. In the U.S., HSBC plans to grow its international-client corporate banking business.

HSBC had 10,000 employees in the U.S. as of Dec. 31, according to its 2019 annual report.

The bank, which once based its North American headquarters in north suburban Mettawa, had more than 6,000 employees in the

Chicago area in 2007. It has since consolidated its Chicago footprint and relocated its headquarters to New York.

Rob Sherman, a spokesman for HSBC, declined to say Tuesday how many employees are currently based in the Chicago area, much less how many would be affected by the downsizing.

"We're not sharing specific information on impacted roles by business lines, country or region just yet, as we want to talk to our people first," Sherman said in an emailed statement.

In 2015, HSBC moved a reported 1,500 employees from Mettawa and Elmhurst to a new regional administrative office in Arlington Heights. That office remains open along with a commercial banking center at 227 W. Monroe St., in Chicago, as well as data

centers in Vernon Hills and Northlake, Sherman said.

Sherman said the company will rely, in part, on annual "natural attrition" of about 25,000 people globally to reduce its ranks.

"We will look to manage the achievement of our cost reduction plans in a sensitive and an appropriate manner, balancing hiring with natural attrition," Sherman said.

The restructuring is expected to cost \$6 billion, with another \$1.2 billion for asset sales, mainly in 2020 and 2021, the bank said.

HSBC's troubles reflect those of the wider banking industry, which is under pressure from low interest rates around the world. Banks tend to make less money when rates are low as its squeezes their lending business.

In Europe, many banks are still dealing with prob-

lems left over from the financial crisis. Deutsche Bank posted a loss for 2019 and is also restructuring and cutting thousands of jobs. Banks in Italy are still chipping away at a mountain of bad loans. Banco Santander, based in Spain, relied on profits from Latin American to make up for losses in Europe.

Richard Hunter, head of markets at financial services firm interactive investor, said in a note to clients that there are "few if any signs on the horizon of an uplift" to the profit-squeezing period of low interest rates.

"There remain more questions than answers as HSBC looks to overhaul its business in radical fashion."

Kurtenbach reported from Bangkok. Chicago Tribune's Robert Channick contributed.

401(k)

Continued from Page 1

of thought leadership at Fidelity. "We have people saving 13.5%, which is really close to the 15% that we recommend. That's a great story."

In many cases, workers may not even realize they're saving more. Most employers give the option for workers to automatically increase their contributions each year, without having to do anything. Some employers even automatically sign up their employees for these auto-escalation programs, requiring them to opt out if they don't want their contribution levels to steadily rise.

Such features are on top of programs where employers automatically enroll new hires in the 401(k) plan. They all lean on the power of inertia to help workers build up bigger nest eggs. It's a sharp turnaround from earlier years when workers had to take an extra step to join the 401(k) plan and fill out paperwork whenever they wanted their contribution levels to change.

"There's always a way, if you don't want to do it, where you can unenroll, but these automatic programs have been a game changer," Taylor said.

Consistent contributions — and giving them time to grow — are keys to building bigger portfolios. Among

workers who have been in their 401(k) plan for 10 straight years, the average balance rose to a record \$328,200, according to Fidelity.

That figure is the average, which means big portfolios of just a few savers can skew the number higher. Fidelity said it counts 233,000 people with \$1 million or more in their 401(k) accounts, or 1.3% of all its participants.

The median, which shows the midpoint of what savers have, is much lower. Across all the 401(k) accounts Fidelity surveyed, the median balance was \$27,000. That's also a record and up nearly 18% from a year earlier.

Other investment firms have similar chasms between median and average balances. At Vanguard, the median balance was \$22,217 in 2018, well below the average of \$92,148, for example.

Such figures also, though, count only people who have a 401(k). Many lower-income workers, particularly at smaller employers, could not save in a 401(k) even if they wanted to because their companies don't offer access to one. Legislation passed late last year aims to make it easier for smaller employers to band together and offer plans.

Nearly half of all U.S. households age 55 and over, 48%, had no retirement savings at all as of 2016, according to estimates from the Government Accountability Office.

Motorola

Continued from Page 1

and development, he said. Technology companies need to protect that investment.

"This is a big, big issue," he said. "This was obviously the right thing to do against the bad actor Hytera, and now they're going to pay for it."

Hytera spokesman Dylan Liu said the company disagrees with the jury's decision. "Hytera will appeal the verdict and is prepared for the appeal procedures

ahead, which may take multiple years," he said in a statement. "Hytera maintains its faith that the American justice system will ultimately provide a fair outcome in this matter."

The company has added new policies and procedures regarding intellectual property and hiring employees, Liu said. It is also working to remove source code from "the products at issue" and has been rolling out updated software.

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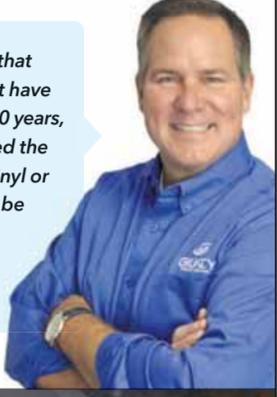
2019

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- Lou Manfredini

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Trump: 'We want to sell product, goods to China'

President's tweets counter own administration's strategy

BY ALAN RAPPEPORT
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump publicly objected Tuesday to efforts within his own administration to restrict the sales of U.S. technology to China because of national security concerns, insisting that such fears are an “excuse” and that the United States is open for business.

The comments, posted on Twitter, appeared to represent a striking reversal of the Trump administration's aspirations to curb China's ascent as a global leader in technology and came as Cabinet officials were scheduled to meet later this month to discuss restrictions on China.

That Feb. 28 meeting was expected to include a discussion about whether to halt sales to China of an aircraft engine produced in part by General Electric by blocking its license to export the technology. Officials were also expected to consider new rules that would further curtail the ability of Huawei, the Chinese telecom giant, to have access to U.S. technology.

But Tuesday, Trump seemed to preemptively scuttle such moves, and two people familiar with the matter said that the meeting was on hold and that the U.S. would not block GE's ability to sell jet engine parts to China.

“The United States cannot, & will not, become such a difficult place to deal with in terms of foreign countries buying our product, including for the always used National Security excuse, that our companies will be forced to leave in order to remain competitive,” Trump wrote. “We want to sell product and goods to China and other countries.”

The president went on to say that if the United States does not sell its products for national security reasons, then other countries will step in and do so. Trump explicitly referenced the jet engine sales.

“As an example, I want China to buy our jet engines, the best in the World,” he said. “I have seen some of the regulations being circulated, including those being contemplated by Congress, and they are ridiculous.”

Trump said he has made this sentiment

clear to everyone in his administration.

The administration's efforts to restrict the flow of U.S. technology to China has triggered objections from companies, who say it undermines their ability to compete on a global scale. Firms say they have already taken steps to limit the U.S. components in their products and may begin to do more research and development outside the United States.

General Electric, in response to media reports Saturday about the administration's review of its export license, said in a statement that it would comply with any requirements imposed by the United States but downplayed concerns about the risks of sales to China.

“We aggressively protect and defend our intellectual property and work closely with the U.S. government to fulfill our responsibilities and shared security and economic interests,” General Electric said in a statement.

Geng Shuang, spokesman for China's foreign ministry, criticized the U.S. proposal to halt the jet engine deliveries during a news conference Tuesday.

Franklin Templeton buying rival for \$4.5B

Associated Press

SAN MATEO, Calif. — Franklin Resources is buying rival investment manager Legg Mason for \$4.5 billion, the latest shake-up in an industry grappling with customers who continue to clamor for lower fees.

Franklin Resources Inc., which operates as Franklin Templeton, said Tuesday that it will pay \$50 in cash for each Legg Mason Inc. share, which is 23% higher than they were trading before the holiday weekend. It will also assume about \$2 billion in outstanding debt.

The deal will create a company with a combined \$1.5 trillion in assets under management across stocks, bonds and alternative investments. Besides significant size, the deal would also provide the combined company with better diversification. Analysts called it a win-win deal.

“This is a landmark acquisition for our organization that unlocks substantial value and growth opportunities driven by greater scale, diversity and balance across investment strategies, distribution channels and geographies,” said Greg Johnson, the executive board chairman at Franklin Resources.

A key share owner of Legg Mason has already given its support of the deal. Nelson Peltz's Triam Fund Management LP, and funds managed by it, own about 4.5% of Legg Mason's outstanding stock after buying into the company last year and adding two members to its board.

The combined company will operate as Franklin Templeton and be headquartered in San Mateo. It anticipates approximately \$200 million in annual cost savings.

Legg Mason, based in Baltimore, has investment affiliates that operate under their own brands, such as Western Asset and ClearBridge Investments.

The deal, which was approved by the boards of both companies, is expected to close no later than the third quarter.



JESSICA RINALDI/THE BOSTON GLOBE

Dallas-based Dean Foods has reached a \$425 million deal to sell 44 of its milk processing facilities to Dairy Farmers of America.

A giant milk industry merger

Dairy Farmers of America to pay \$425M for part of Dean Foods

BY DAVID YAFFE-BELLANY
The New York Times

It's a hard time to be a dairy farmer in America: The nationwide decline in milk consumption and the rippling effects of the trade war with China have pushed thousands of farms out of business.

Now the industry is a step closer to a major consolidation that some struggling farmers fear could cripple them even further.

In a deal that is likely to draw scrutiny from government antitrust regulators, Dairy Farmers of America, the country's largest milk cooperative, announced on Monday that it had reached an agreement to purchase a “substantial portion” of the bankrupt milk company Dean Foods.

Dairy farmers have argued that a merger would reduce competition and suppress the price of raw milk. But the co-op says its deal will help farmers by guaranteeing that there will be buyers for their milk at a time when milk consumption is declining nationwide.

Under the agreement, Dairy Farmers of

America, a farmer-owned co-op, would pay \$425 million to acquire 44 of Dean Food's facilities, as well as the real estate, inventory and equipment necessary to operate them. To move forward, the deal must be approved by the bankruptcy court overseeing Dean Foods as well as by regulators, who have been investigating the potential merger for months.

So far, much of the antitrust scrutiny has focused on the co-op's evolving role in the American milk business. Two decades ago, Dairy Farmers of America was founded to help small farmers market their raw milk to dairy processing companies like Dean Foods, which prepare milk for distribution to retailers.

But over the years, the co-op, which now has more than 14,000 members, has also invested heavily in processing, meaning it buys some of the raw milk that its own marketing branch sells. Those investments have created a conflict of interest, some dairy farmers argue, because processors benefit from lower milk prices, while farmers benefit from higher prices.

Dean Foods, the largest milk processor in the United States with a little under 60 manufacturing facilities and a portfolio of well-known brands like TruMoo and Lehigh Valley, filed for bankruptcy protection in November, hurt by changing consumer habits and a growing market of

milk alternatives.

Dairy Farmers of America's plan to acquire a large portion of Dean Foods' assets would significantly expand its processing operations, heightening the conflict of interest, critics of the merger say.

But not all dairy farmers are opposed. And executives who negotiated the deal argue that bringing together the two milk giants will keep the market stable.

“It is important to ensure continued secure markets for our members' milk and minimal disruption to the U.S. dairy industry,” Rick Smith, chief executive of Dairy Farmers of America, said in a statement Monday.

The chief executive of Dean Foods, Eric Beringause, said in a statement that Dairy Farmers of America would “serve our customers with the same commitment to quality and service they have come to expect.”

The co-op has been discussing a possible acquisition of Dean Foods since shortly before the bankruptcy filing. At the same time, antitrust officials at the Justice Department have been investigating the potential merger.

The bankruptcy court in Texas that has overseen the Dean Foods case is scheduled to hold a hearing March 12 to review the possible acquisition.

MIT to caption online videos after lawsuit

BY ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has agreed to provide captions for more of its publicly available online videos as part of a settlement announced Tuesday in a case that accused the school of discriminating against people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The settlement comes months after a similar deal was reached in a lawsuit brought against Harvard University by the National Association of the Deaf, which said the schools were discriminating against people with hearing disabilities by not adequately or accurately captioning videos of lectures and other programs it posts online.

“Why would you not make your content accessible to everyone?” said Howard Rosenblum, CEO of the association. “We want to make sure that moving forward all the universities and colleges make themselves aware.”

The lawsuits brought against MIT and Harvard in 2015 said people who were deaf or hard of hearing couldn't benefit from the schools' wealth of online educational resources because they had inaccurate captions or none at all.

Harvard and MIT both tried to dismiss the cases, arguing that the law doesn't require them to provide captioning for all their online content. But a judge ruled last year that content produced by and posted by the universities was subject to federal civil rights law.

Under the settlement, MIT has agreed to provide captions for any audio or video content it creates and posts on its website, as well as the school's pages on outlets like YouTube and SoundCloud. It must also provide live captions for certain events that are streamed online, according to the settlement.

Anything posted before Jan. 1, 2019, must be captioned or removed from public view only if someone requests it, according to the consent decree.

The agreement must be approved by a judge before it goes into effect.

The consent decree says MIT “has and continues to deny that it violated any laws related to persons with disabilities or otherwise through posting or making available any online content.”

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Zuckerberg gets an EU tech talk

LONDON — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg met top European Union officials on a visit to Brussels on Monday, days before the bloc is expected to release new proposals on regulating artificial intelligence.

Zuckerberg met with Margrethe Vestager, the EU's powerful executive vice president in charge of making Europe “fit for the digital age.”

Vestager is set on Wednesday to release the first draft of the EU's proposed regulations on artificial intelligence, including facial recognition, and a digital strategy, which could have major implications for tech giants such as Facebook, Google and Apple.

SpaceX expands space tourism

LOS ANGELES — SpaceX is teaming up with a space tourism company to offer a flight aboard its Crew Dragon capsule that could propel customers higher into space than private citizens have ever gone before.

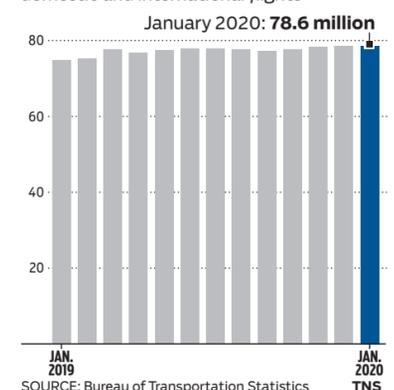
Space Adventures said Tuesday that the four-person mission would enable tourists to “see planet Earth the way no one has since the Gemini program.”

Space Adventures did not announce how much the mission would cost tourists or when it would launch.

In its statement, the Vienna, Va., company hedged on whether enough customers would sign up for the mission, noting that “if interested parties are secured,” it would be the first orbital space tourism experience provided entirely with U.S. technology.

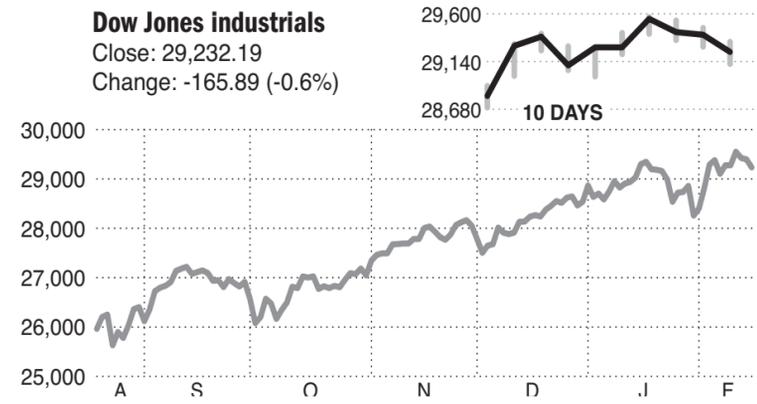
Airline traffic

Passengers on U.S. airlines per month, domestic and international flights



MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow High: 29,330.16 Low: 29,116.81 Previous: 29,398.08



Nasdaq	S&P 500	Russell 2000
↑ +1.57 (+.02%)	↓ -9.87 (-.29%)	↓ -4.06 (-.24%)
Close 9,732.74	Close 3,370.29	Close 1,683.52
High 9,747.68	High 3,375.01	High 1,687.38
Low 9,675.80	Low 3,355.61	Low 1,674.60
Previous 9,731.17	Previous 3,380.16	Previous 1,687.58

10-yr T-note	Gold futures	Yen	Euro	Crude Oil
↓ -.03 to 1.55%	↑ +17.30 to \$1,600.00	↓ -.06 to 109.88/\$1	↑ +.0034 to .9264/\$1	↔ ... to \$52.05

Major market growth and decline

5-day % change			30-day % change			1-year % change		
DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P
-15	+97	+37	+12	+3.86	+1.49	+12.90	+30.00	+21.24

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 20	549.25	570.75	548	566.75	+24
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 20	378.50	383.25	378	383	+5.25
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 20	894.75	898.50	889.25	892.25	-1.50
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	Mar 20	30.71	30.77	30.33	30.48	-0.09
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	Mar 20	291.10	293.20	289.80	292.20	+1.10
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Mar 20	52.23	52.41	50.88	52.05	...
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Mar 20	1.880	1.983	1.874	1.981	+1.44
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Mar 20	1.5888	1.6192	1.5725	1.6148	+0.0315

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	88.88	-.78	Envestnet Inc	N	87.67	+1.07	McDonalds Corp	N	216.15	-.94
AbbVie Inc	N	93.61	-.44	Equity Commonwlt	N	33.28	-.01	Middleby Corp	O	112.29	-1.44
Allstate Corp	N	124.30	-1.27	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	75.72	+4.8	Mondelz Intl	O	59.66	-.02
Aptargroup Inc	N	115.26	-1.41	Equity Residential	N	86.27	-1.9	Morningstar Inc	O	161.84	+3.60
Arch Dan Mid	N	44.45	-.32	Exelon Corp	O	50.38	+6.2	Motorola Solutions	N	184.87	+4.6
Baxter Intl	N	92.22	-.92	First Indl RT	N	45.83	-1.8	Navistar Intl	N	37.49	+2.1
Boeing Co	N	338.88	-1.61	Fortune Brds Hm&Sec	N	72.61	-.38	NiSource Inc	N	30.21	...
Brunswick Corp	N	64.91	-.02	Gallagher AJ	N	108.51	-.65	Nthn Trust Cp	O	100.83	-.37
CBOE Global Markets	N	123.54	-2.09	Grainger WW	N	308.18	+5.3	Old Republic	N	23.38	-1.1
CDK Global Inc	O	52.37	+2.7	GrubHub Inc	N	52.16	+1.77	Packaging Corp Am	N	99.32	+3.8
CDW Corp	O	134.87	-3.42	Hill-Rom Hldgs	N	108.92	-.55	Payloadcity Hldg	O	147.45	-.20
CF Industries	N	38.16	-.14	IAA Inc	N	50.83	+4.9	RLI Corp	N	94.71	-1.26
CME Group	O	213.37	+2.4	IDEX Corp	N	174.95	+1.6	Stericycle Inc	O	64.12	-.36
CNA Financial	N	49.81	-.55	ITW	N	186.48	-1.38	TransUnion	N	98.16	+0.3
Cabot Microelect	O	161.02	-6.18	Ingredion Inc	N	96.34	-1.00	US Foods Holding	N	39.92	-.58
Caterpillar Inc	N	136.58	-1.41	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	170.04	-1.30	Ulta Salon Cosmetics	O	298.71	+4.14
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	30.68	-2.01	Kemper Corp	N	78.99	-.94	United Airlines Hldg	O	80.24	+6.9
Deere Co	N	166.30	-1.77	Kraft Heinz Co	O	27.33	+4.5	Ventas Inc	N	59.79	+0.4
Discover Fin Svcs	N	75.35	-1.07	LKQ Corporation	O	33.25	+0.5	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	51.86	-.53
Dover Corp	N	119.92	+0.6	Littelfuse Inc	O	185.65	+9.2	Zebra Tech	O	236.66	-2.11

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Virgin Galactic Hldg	30.30	+1.62
Chesapeake Energy	.44	-0.01
Ford Motor	8.06	-0.04
Sprint Corp	9.17	+4.8
Gen Electric	12.75	-0.08
Bank of America	34.27	-.58
Aurora Cannabis Inc	1.64	+0.06
Yamana Gold Inc	4.37	+2.7
Snap Inc A	17.17	-.39
Intelsat SA	3.90	+8.0
Barrick Gold	20.58	+8.6
Vale SA	12.02	+1.5
Transocean Ltd	4.41	-1.1
AT&T Inc	38.26	+0.1
Ambev S.A.	3.63	-1.6
Nokia Corp	4.25	-0.8
Wells Fargo & Co	46.99	-1.23
Uber Technologies	40.18	+5.2
Itau Unibanco Hldg	7.68	-1.7
Teva Pharm	12.32	+1.0
CenturyLink Inc	13.34	-.56
Petrobras	14.56	-0.8
Energy Transfer L.P.	12.70	-0.2
Franklin Rescs	26.05	+1.69

LARGEST COMPANIES

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alibaba Group Hldg	220.52	+8.9
Alphabet Inc C	1519.67	-1.07
Alphabet Inc A	1519.44	+7.1
Amazon.com Inc	2155.67	+20.8
Apple Inc	319.00	-.95
Bank of America	34.27	-.58
Berkshire Hath B	226.77	-.03
Facebook Inc	217.80	+3.62
HSBC Holdings pRA	26.88	-.06
Intel Corp	66.14	-1.13
JPMorgan Chase	135.64	-1.82
Johnson & Johnson	149.14	-.99
MasterCard Inc	341.24	+2.9
Microsoft Corp	187.23	+1.88
Procter & Gamble	124.87	-1.27
Taiwan Semicon	56.18	-2.01
UnitedHealth Group	302.14	+3.36
Visa Inc	211.20	+9.1
WalMart Strs	119.63	+1.74

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Based on total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AMCPA m	35.25	-.05	+19.6
American Funds AmrcnBaIA m	29.31	-.04	+15.2
American Funds CptWldGrInCA m	53.06	-.23	+16.8
American Funds CptInclBldrA m	63.95	-1.1	+12.5
American Funds FdmtlInvSA m	64.34	-1.6	+19.7
American Funds GfAmrCA m	54.94	+0.9	+23.3
American Funds IncAmrCA m	23.49	-0.6	+13.5
American Funds InvPmCA m	40.72	-1.0	+3.3
American Funds NwPspctvCA m	49.72	-0.8	+23.7
American Funds WAMtInvSA m	49.42	-1.7	+18.2
Dodge & Cox Inc	14.29	+0.1	+9.9
Dodge & Cox IntlStk	42.64	-3.0	+10.4
Dodge & Cox Stk	196.73	-6.0	+13.8
DoubleLine TtlRetBdl	10.79	+0.1	+7.2
Fidelity 500ldxlmsPrrm	117.14	-.34	+23.8
Fidelity Contrafund	14.76	+0.4	+26.2
Fidelity InvMGradeBd	11.78	+0.2	+10.4
Fidelity TlMktldxlmsPrrm	94.71	-2.2	+22.3
Fidelity USBdlldxlmsPrrm	12.13	+0.2	+9.7
Franklin Templeton IncA1 m	2.33	-0.1	+7.7
Metropolitan West TtlRetBdl	11.12	+0.1	+9.9
PIMCO Inc2	12.11	...	+7.5
PIMCO IncIntl	12.11	...	+7.6
PIMCO TtlRetIns	10.55	+0.1	+9.5
Schwab SP500ldx	51.65	-1.5	+23.3
T. Rowe Price BCGR	135.98	+3.4	+25.3
T. Rowe Price GrStk	80.29	+2.1	+26.5
Vanguard 500ldxAdmrl	311.75	-0.9	+23.8
Vanguard BalldxAdmrl	40.67	-0.3	+17.4
Vanguard DivGrIn	31.74	-1.6	+24.2
Vanguard EqInAdmrl	80.29	-4.2	+15.8
Vanguard GrldxAdmrl	103.05	+0.5	+33.8
Vanguard HCAmrl	90.58	-1.6	+15.4
Vanguard IntlTEAdmrl	14.67	+0.2	+7.4
Vanguard InsldInls	303.48	-.87	+23.8
Vanguard InsldInlsPlus	303.51	-.87	+23.8
Vanguard InsTSMInlPls	71.84	-1.6	+22.3
Vanguard IntlGrAdmrl	106.77	-.45	+24.0
Vanguard MdcpldxAdmrl	229.81	-4.0	+19.0
Vanguard PrrmCpAdmrl	148.73	-5.5	+17.7
Vanguard STInvMGrdAdmrl	10.80	+0.1	+5.8
Vanguard SmpCpldxAdmrl	81.12	-2.1	+14.4
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Inv	33.21	-0.4	+13.4
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Inv	29.29	-0.4	+14.5
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Inv	37.28	-0.8	+15.2
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Inv	23.04	-0.6	+15.8
Vanguard TSBldxAdmrl	11.25	+0.2	+9.8
Vanguard TSBldxInls	11.25	+0.2	+9.8
Vanguard TtmBldxAdmrl	23.04	+0.3	+8.5
Vanguard TtmBldxInls	34.58	+0.5	+8.5
Vanguard TtmSldxAdmrl	29.55	-2.1	+11.2
Vanguard TtmSldxInls	118.19	-.82	+11.2
Vanguard TtmSldxInlsPlus	118.21	-.83	+11.2
Vanguard TtmSldxInv	17.67	-1.2	+11.1
Vanguard TtSMldxAdmrl	83.38	-1.9	+22.3
Vanguard TtSMldxInls	83.39	-2.0	+22.3
Vanguard TtSMldxInv	83.34	-2.0	+22.2
Vanguard WngtAdmrl	76.85	-1.3	+17.9
Vanguard WislyIncAdmrl	67.74	-0.3	+14.1
Vanguard WndsrldAdmrl	66.10	-3.9	+19.1

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month disc	1.545	1.53
6-month disc	1.51	1.51
2-year	1.39	1.43
10-year	1.55	1.58
30-year	2.00	2.05

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	\$1600.00	\$1582.70
Silver	\$18.131	\$17.715
Platinum	\$993.90	\$968.80

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	4.75
Discount Rate Primary	2.25
Fed Funds Target	1.50-1.75
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.50

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys ...

Argentina (Peso)	61.5915
Australia (Dollar)	1.4957
Brazil (Real)	4.3574
Britain (Pound)	.7693
Canada (Dollar)	1.3254
China (Yuan)	6.9973
Euro	.9264
India (Rupee)	71.567
Israel (Shekel)	3.4199
Japan (Yen)	109.88
Mexico (Peso)	18.5822
Poland (Zloty)	3.96
So. Korea (Won)	1191.25
Taiwan (Dollar)	30.12
Thailand (Baht)	31.18

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Adv Micro Dev	56.89	+1.58
FuelCell Energy	2.46	+3.38
Apple Inc	319.00	-0.95
Plug Power Inc	4.85	+4.3
Microsoft Corp	187.23	+1.88
genprex Inc	4.90	+6.2
Bellerophon Therap	9.21	+5.78
Zynga Inc	7.09	+1.6
Micron Tech	57.75	-.75
Roku Inc	127.15	-3.10
VEON Ltd	2.36	-.08
Cisco Syst	46.59	-.38
Kraft Heinz Co	27.33	+4.5
Zosano Pharma Corp	.82	+0.1
Tesla Inc	858.40	+58.37
Facebook Inc	217.80	+3.62
Bed Bath & Beyond	11.78	+6.0
Nvidia Corporation	296.57	+6.78
eBay Inc	37.87	-.27
Inovio Pharmaceut	4.22	+0.7
Luckin Coffee Inc	40.34	+2.32
Onconova Therapeut	.50	-0.4
Comcast Corp A	46.15	+0.6
Sirius XM Hldgs Inc	7.24	+0.3

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	2984.97	+1.4/+1
Stoxx600	430.33	-1.7/-4
Nikkei	23193.80	-493.8/-2.1
MSCI-EAFE	2026.91	-6.8/-3.3
Bovespa		

OBITUARIES

CHARLES HAYES 1931-2020

Reporter was longtime suburban press, Tribune real estate editor

BY BOB GOLDSBOROUGH

Charles E. Hayes was a veteran reporter and editor of newspapers in Chicago's suburbs before working for many years as a Tribune real estate editor and writer.

"His writing was just awesome. He was a lovely, lovely writer and as his real estate editor, I appreciated him not just because he was an excellent writer who did not require much editing on my part, but because he also knew his subject matter so well and so deeply," said Sallie Gaines, a retired Tribune editor and reporter who for a time oversaw Hayes' work. "He was able to explain it clearly and in a manner that was interesting."

Hayes, 88, died of natural causes Feb. 4 at his home, said a longtime friend, Steve Novick. Hayes, who had lived in Palatine for the past 27 years and before that had resided in Arlington Heights, had been battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure.

Born in Evanston, Hayes grew up in Park Ridge and graduated from Maine Township High School. He received a bachelor's degree in education from Wittenberg College in 1953 and a master's degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism in 1955.

Hayes' journalism career started in 1954 when Arlington Heights-based Paddock Publications hired him as a reporter for a group of weekly newspapers that were the predecessors to the Daily Herald. Hayes was promoted to news editor and then to managing editor in 1957. He later became executive editor and editor-in-chief of Paddock's chain of weekly newspapers, which eventually increased their publishing frequency to tri-weekly and then to daily.

As Chicago's suburbs continued to grow, Hayes was at the forefront of increasingly serious journalism covering the suburbs. In 1958, Hayes coauthored an award-winning series, "Shame of the Suburbs," which focused on Mexican Americans in Chicago's northwest suburbs and won an Illinois Press Association community service award.

In 1962, Hayes and a Paddock photographer



Charles Hayes, former Tribune real estate editor and reporter.

spent almost five months examining living conditions for the elderly in Illinois for a series titled "These Lonely Rooms." The series entailed visits to farms, cities, nursing homes and boarding houses.

"That's where the action is today," Hayes told Illinois Issues magazine in October 1978, referring to suburban areas. "People no longer buy a newspaper to get the hot spot news. From their newspaper they want local news, local information, local service and local leadership."

In 1975, the Tribune hired Hayes to oversee its Suburban Trib news supplements, which included 31 editions a week in nine editorial zones. Based in Hinsdale, Hayes was the Suburban Trib's editor from 1975 until 1982. In the role, Hayes tapped Bill Geist, who would go on to be a New York Times columnist and CBS News correspondent, as the Suburban Trib's main news columnist.

"Chuck Hayes was way ahead of his time in understanding the complexity of suburbia and giving it the deep and nuanced journalistic coverage it deserved," said former Suburban Trib reporter Sam Freedman, now a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. "In his years leading (the) Suburban Trib, Chuck set such a high standard that newspapers such as the Miami Herald and the New York Times took note of his model in improving their own suburban coverage."

Former Tribune financial editor and editorial board member Pat Widder, who worked for Hayes on the Suburban Trib for six years, recalled Hayes' willingness to advocate for her

when she was eager for a promotion.

"He stood by his people and certainly went to bat for me," Widder said. "He was quirky and unapologetic about it. I always respected that."

In 1982, Hayes joined the Tribune's editorial board, writing about suburban governmental and political issues. The following year, he was tapped to fill the Tribune's newly created position of real estate editor.

"We spent quite a few hours in those real estate years touring suburban housing developments and I came to know him as a thoughtful person with an oftentimes sharp wit who could converse on virtually any topic," said former Tribune real estate editor Steve Kerch, who also worked with Hayes on the Suburban Trib. "(And) he had a knack for spotting talent — making Bill Geist the Suburban Trib's main columnist is Exhibit A there — and unleashing it to the benefit of readers across the metropolitan area."

Retired Tribune real estate reporter John Handley worked closely with Hayes for a decade.

"Much of downtown Chicago was exploding with high-rise condos and massive suburban residential developments seemed to be announced every week," Handley said. "We had more than enough to write about. He always communicated his special insights about the real estate industry. Chuck was incisive at analyzing the pros and cons of all the new model homes he toured."

After retiring from the Tribune in 1994, Hayes wrote a column on new homes for the suburban Copley Newspapers chain from 1994 until 2008.

Hayes served a stint as the president of the Chicago Headline Club and from 1975 until 1982 was an appointee to the Illinois Health Facilities Authority, which issued tax-exempt bonds for nonprofit health care institutions.

Hayes was a volunteer with the Salvation Army for 46 years.

He is survived by two nieces, Diane Zajac and Lisa Pozzi.

Services were held.

Bob Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON FEBRUARY 19 ...

In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution. (However, Congress did not formally ratify Ohio statehood until 1953.)

In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin.

In 1864, the Knights of Pythias was founded in Washington.

In 1878, Thomas Edison received a patent for his phonograph.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order giving the military the authority to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans as well as Japanese nationals living in the United States.

In 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines landed on Iwo Jima, where they began a month-long battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.

In 1963, the Soviet Union informed President John Kennedy that it would withdraw "several thousand" of an estimated 17,000 Soviet troops in Cuba.

In 1979, Iran's new Islamic government severed all relations with Israel and pledged support for the Palestinian war against the Jewish state.

In 1986, the U.S. Senate

approved a treaty outlawing genocide, 37 years after the pact had first been submitted for ratification.

In 1995, a day after being named the new chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams outlined her plans for revitalizing the civil rights organization, saying she intended to take the group back to its grass roots.

In 2002, in Salt Lake City, a win by bobsledders Jill Bakken and Vionetta Flowers gave the United States 21 medals in the Winter Games; Flowers became the first black athlete ever to strike gold at the Winter Olympics.

In 2004, former Enron Corp. chief executive Jeffrey Skilling was charged with fraud, insider trading and other crimes in connection with the energy trader's colossal collapse.

In 2006, Israel halted the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax money to the Palestinians after Hamas took control of the Palestinian parliament.

In 2017, software engineer Susan Fowler posted on her website a lengthy account of the sexual harassment and company hostility she said she experienced during her time at Uber; CEO Travis Kalanick responded the next day with a supportive tweet, but by June, after a string of other scandals and missteps, he was forced out of the company.

WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS
Feb. 18
Mega Millions 463 / 2
Daily 3 midday 0761 / 2
Daily 4 midday 312 / 2
Daily 3 evening 9083 / 2
Daily 4 evening 05 14 31 39 40
Cash 5 08 21 23 28 33
Pick 3 evening 760 / 7
Pick 4 evening 2541 / 4
Lucky Day Lotto evening 13 20 31 37 38

Feb. 19 Powerball: \$50M
Feb. 20 Lotto: \$2.75M

WISCONSIN
Feb. 18
Pick 3 913
Pick 4 4584
Badger 5 06 10 22 24 27
SuperCash 06 12 20 22 26 32

INDIANA
Feb. 18
Daily 3 midday 463 / 2
Daily 4 midday 0761 / 2
Daily 3 evening 312 / 2
Daily 4 evening 9083 / 2
Cash 5 05 14 31 39 40

MICHIGAN
Feb. 18
Daily 3 midday 583
Daily 4 midday 8899
Daily 3 evening 488
Daily 4 evening 9726
Fantasy 5 01 12 22 27 39
Keno 03 07 09 16 31 32
35 36 37 43 48 55 56 57
58 59 68 69 73 75 77 80

More winning numbers at chicagotribune.com/lottery

Chicago Tribune Death Notices
Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.
chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

In Memoriam



Albert E. Maday
06/12/1938 - 02/19/2015

Dearest Al,
On the 5th Anniversary of your passing, please know you are in our hearts, today and always.
Your loving family,
Carol, Sherry, Matt, Alex and Chris.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Death Notices

Belokon, Lorraine
9/8/1926-2/13/2020

Lorraine Belokon, nee Bednarz, age 93 of Chicago; Beloved wife of the late Walter; Loving mother of Walter (Randi), William (Martha), Lawrence (Scharlet) and Carol (Pete) Heinzl; Cherished grandmother of 7 and great grandmother of 2; Dear sister of Joseph (Diane) Bednarz; Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews; Life-long CUBS fan; Proud member of St. Priscilla Church; Long time employee of Dominick's Foods in Norridge; Visitation Thursday 3-9 p.m. at **Belmont Funeral Home**, 7120 W. Belmont Ave. Funeral services beginning Friday 11 a.m. at **Belmont Funeral Home** followed by interment at Elmwood Cemetery; Info: 773-286-2500 or www.belmontfuneralhome.com

BELMONT
FUNERAL HOME

Family Owned & Operated

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Boehm, Joanne M.

Joanne M. Boehm, 86, of Lincolnshire, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2020. Joanne was born in Libertyville in 1933. Upon completion of her Masters in Education at the University of Illinois, she dedicated 37 years as an early childhood educator in the Decatur and Lincolnwood school districts and as an administrator in Cicero. Joanne also authored a textbook for primary school children. She loved being with her friends whether travelling the world or just having a chat. She was a lifelong Cubs fan and particularly enjoyed a family outing at Wrigley Field in honor of her 75th birthday. Her greatest joy in life was her family, she was the ultimate Aunt. Joanne never forgot a birthday or special event and played a major role in the lives of all of her nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Joanne had that rare combination of a clever wit coupled with a kind heart and she will be dearly missed by family and friends.

Joanne is preceded in death by parents Otto and Alice Boehm, brother John (Jack), sister-in-law Joanne, and niece Nancy. Joanne is survived by brother George along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, a great-great nephew and her prince of a cat, Bentley, who remains in the family. She was adored by all.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10 am Saturday February 22 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 991 S Waukegan Rd, Lake Forest where there will be a visitation beginning at 9 am. Interment Ascension Cemetery, Libertyville. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Misericordia, 6300 N Ridge Ave, Chicago, IL 60660 would be greatly appreciated. Funeral arrangements by **McMurrough Funeral Chapel** (847) 362-2626 & Libertyvillefuneralhome.com

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Bures, Ann Marie

Ann Marie Bures, age 92. Beloved wife of the late Robert; loving mother of Gary. A long-time resident of LaGrange, Ann had been retired for 30 years after a successful career in bookkeeping and accounting. In recent years, she most enjoyed fine arts, puzzle books, and weekend rides away from the city. Visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 21 from 9am until time of chapel service, 11am at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 1025 W. 55th St., Countryside. Entombment to follow at St. Joseph Cemetery, River Grove. Funeral Info: 708-352-6500 or hjfunerals.com

Hallowell & James
Funeral Home

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Cozzi, Antoinette V. 'Toni'

Antoinette V. "Toni" Cozzi nee Pouloupoulos beloved wife of the late John; loving mother of John (Kimberly), Joseph (Laura), Valerie O'Bryan, Frank (Paul Rauch) and the late Anthony Cozzi; dear grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of 11; fond sister of Anna "Babe" Sackelson, George (Beverly "Cookie") Poulos, and the late Peter, Angelina "Dolly", John & Nicholas Pouloupoulos, Christine Cozzi & Emily "Toots" Pleasant; aunt of many. Visitation Tuesday and Wednesday 3-9 p.m. with funeral services Thursday 10 a.m. at **Hursen Funeral Home & Crematory**, SW corner of Mannheim & Roosevelt Rds, Hillside/Westchester. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Funeral Info: 800-562-0082 or www.hursen.com

Hursen
Since 1882

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Croker, Donald H.

Donald H. Croker 86, Feb. 15. Air Force Veteran. Beloved husband of Barbara M. (nee Murphy). Loving father of Don Jr., Monica (Loren) Fong, Douglas (Regina), Maureen Croker (Bob), and David Croker and Melissa (Jeff) Grice. Proud grandfather of Evan Pudil, Amanda (John) Klinger, Brooke Pudil (David Pena), Shannon and Sasha Fong, Katie, Annie, Lex, and Brittany Croker, Jackson, J.J. and Rogan Grice. Great-grandfather of Kai and Aurora Pena. Brother of the late George "Dick" Croker. Uncle of many nieces and nephews. Funeral Saturday 9:00 a.m. from **Donnellan Funeral Home** 10525 S. Western Ave. Chicago to St. Barnabas Church 10134 S. Longwood Dr. for Mass 10:00 a.m. Int. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Visitation Friday 3-9 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (Memorial I.D. 11938426). For info (773) 238-0075 or sign guestbook at www.donnellanfuneralhome.com.

DONNELLAN
FUNERAL HOME Since 1913

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DiSilvestro, Anthony 'Tony'

Anthony "Tony" DiSilvestro, age 90. Devoted husband of the late Matilde nee Colantonio; beloved father of Dino DiSilvestro and Mary (Antonio) Iannotta; loving grandfather of Gaetano Iannotta; dear brother of Elisa (the late Joe) Forte and Ray (the late Mary Ann) DiSilvestro; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday, February 20, 2020, from 3:00 until 9:00 p.m. at **Cumberland Chapels**, 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge, IL. Funeral services begin Friday at 9:00 a.m. at the funeral home and will proceed to Mary Seat of Wisdom Church in Park Ridge, IL for Mass at 10:00 a.m. Entombment St. Joseph Cemetery, Crucifixion Garden Mausoleum. Lifetime member of Local 150 IUOE; St. Stephen St. Vincent Society, Moisanini Nel Mondo. Info 708-456-8300 or www.cumberlandchapels.com.

CUMBERLAND
CHAPELS

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Dudley, James F.

James F. Dudley of Lisle, formerly of La Grange Park and Westchester, age 95. U.S. Navy Veteran WWII. Beloved husband of the late Hanoria C.; loving father of Catherine M. Dudley, M.D.; dear brother of Dorothy Dudley and the late Florence Dudley and Mary Byrne; fond uncle of many. Retired Supervisor of Safety from the Chicago Transit Authority. Family and friends will be received at the **Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home**, 10501 W. Cermak Rd., Westchester (2 blks West of Mannheim Rd.) on Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral Friday 9:30 a.m. from the funeral home to Divine Infant Church for 10:00 a.m. Mass. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. For info 708-F-U-N-E-R-A-L.

Conboy - Westchester
Funeral Home

www.ConboyWestchesterfh.com

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Guerino, Mary Ann Nancy

Mary Ann Nancy (DeMaria) Guerino, 81, born in Chicago on July 22, 1938 first born to Nick and Tina DeMaria, passed away after a valiant battle with COPD on February 15, 2020. A visitation will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm at **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home**, 1787 Deerfield Rd. Highland Park, IL 60035. A funeral mass will be held on Friday, February 21, 2020 10:00 am at Holy Cross Church, 724 Elder Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015. Interment All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines, IL. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her name to St. Jude's Children Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For full obituary or directions please contact **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home** at 847-831-4260 or www.kelleyspaldingfuneralhome.com

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Haedike, Corrine D.

Corrine D. Haedike (nee Torchia), 78, passed away February 13, 2020. Beloved daughter of the late Frank and the late Madeline Torchia. Loving sister of the late Robert (Angela) Torchia. Fond aunt of Andrea Lesko, Daniel Torchia, Christine Simoneau and the late Robert Torchia Jr. Godmother of Beth Galvin. Memorial Visitation will be Friday, February 21, from 9:30 a.m. until time of Memorial Service at 11:30 a.m. at **Cumberland Chapels**, 8300 W. Lawrence Ave, Norridge. Private interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Info: 708-456-8300

CUMBERLAND
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Hirsch, Jan Matz

Jan Matz Hirsch, nee Keefer, age 86, of Chicago, beloved wife of the late Edward Matz, Jr. and the late Robert Hirsch; loving mother of Jennifer (Tony) Bowker, Mary (Donald) Rosenstein, and Elizabeth (Daniel) Weil; adored "Honey" of Caroline and Kate Bowker, Koby and Emma Rosenstein, Benjamin and Ella Weil; devoted daughter of the late Edward and the late Gladys Keefer; dear sister of the late Ann (late Harry) Noble; treasured friend to many. Jan will be remembered for her grace, determination, compassion, and kindness. Service Friday, 10:30 a.m. at Chicago Sinai Congregation, 15 W. Delaware Place, Chicago, IL 60610. Interment Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago. In lieu of flowers, Jan desired donations be made in honor of her grandson, Koby, to Residential Services, Inc. (RSI) 111 Providence Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27514 www.rsi-nc.org/giving. Info: The **Goldman Funeral Group**, www.goldmanfuneralgroup.com (847) 478-1600.

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Jerding Sr., John M.

John M. Jerding Sr. Korean War Army Veteran, beloved husband of the late Shirley nee Saunche; loving father of Julie Jerding, Kathleen (Brian) Stern and the late John M. Jerding Jr.; devoted grandfather of Jessica, John and Michael (Erin); cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews. John was a Police Commissioner for the city of Orland Hills and Retired Civil Engineer for the City of Chicago. Visitation Thursday 3-8 P.M. with a Funeral Service at 6:00 P.M. at lawn Funeral Home 17909 S 94th Ave Tinley Park IL 60487 Funeral Prayers Friday 10:00 A.M. from **Lawn Funeral Home** to Mt Hope Cemetery with Military Honors Funeral info (708) 532-3100.

Lawn
Funeral Home

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Johanns, Linda Agnes

Linda Agnes Johanns, 59, a long time Naperville resident, died February 13 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Michael Risley, sons James (Britney), and Andrew, daughter Elizabeth, grandson Otto, parents Charles and Gloria, brother Fred (Linda D.), all of Naperville, and brother Charles (Carol) of Western Springs, as well as numerous aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Linda loved spending time in nature, walking the Morton Arboretum or sitting in the shade at the family lake house, and she enjoyed it even more when surrounded by her family. She also spent hours on her front porch, chatting with neighbors or just reading a good book, maybe with a beer in hand. She was a 1978 graduate of Naperville North High School and a 1982 graduate of the business school at Washington University, St. Louis. Working her entire career in market research, at the time of her death she was director of consumer analytics at the Nielsen Company. A visitation and memorial service is planned for Saturday, February 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the **Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Homes & Crematory**, 516 S. Washington St., Naperville, IL. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Edward Hospital Foundation or a charity of your choosing.

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Johnson, Richard H. 'Dick or Rich'

Richard H. Johnson, 82 of Allentown, Pennsylvania passed away on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at Phoebe Homes of Allentown. Born in Chicago to the late Minnie Melzer Johnson and Harry O. Johnson, Richard was a resident of the Chicago area for 40 years. A graduate of Hirsch High School and Northwestern University, he held a number of positions in the graphic arts industry including R.R. Donnelley and Sons. During his retirement he enjoyed travel, gardening, cooking and music. He is survived by his wife of 30 years Marianne; his loving daughters Pamela Johnson Obst and son-in-law Steven Obst of Mercerville, NJ; Karen Johnson and son-in-law Guy Goldthorpe of Upper Saddle River, NJ; and his beloved cat Luna. Memorial contributions can be made to the ASPCA.

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Kelly, Margaret "Meg"

Margaret "Meg" Kelly 65 of Norwood Park. At rest Friday, February 14th. Beloved wife of George, Loving mother of Debbie (Chris) Panagakos. Beloved daughter of the late Tom and Alyce Kearney. Cherished grandmother of A.J. and Ella. Dear sister of Fay (Brian) Darby, Cathy (Ed) Benfield and Mary Kearney. Fond aunt, great aunt and friend to many. Visitation Friday, Feb 21st from 3 to 8 P.M. at Cumberland Chapels (FRIEL FUNERAL DIRECTORS) 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. Funeral Service Friday 7:30 P.M. Interment Private, All Saints Cemetery. www.cumberlandchapels.com or 708/456-8300

FRIEL
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Knakmuhs, Ronald 'Ron'

Ronald "Ron" Knakmuhs, 80, of Evanston. Beloved husband of Ursulla G. Knakmuhs Nee Muszynski; loving father of Heath (Sarah) Knakmuhs; proud grandfather of Riley and Sloane Knakmuhs; dear brother of Roxanne and the late Pamela Knakmuhs. Visitation, Friday February 21, 2020 10:00 a.m. until time of funeral service 12 Noon at **Donnellan Family Funeral Home**, 10045 Skokie Boulevard, at Old Orchard Road, Skokie, Illinois. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to American Heart Association, 3816 Payscale Circle, Chicago, IL 60674. Funeral info: www.donnellanfuneral.com or (847) 675-1990

Donnellan
FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICES

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Kornaus, Daniel E.

Daniel E. Kornaus, beloved husband of Pamela, nee Domrese; devoted father of Daniel C., Robert and Matthew; loving brother of Terrence (Diane), Michael (Loree), Nancy (the late Philip) Klases, the late Kathleen (Philip) Clark and Dennis (Nancy Kruse); also survived by many loving nieces and nephews; loving son of the late Alex and Wanda Kornaus. Dan loved American History, woodworking and the Cubs. Visitation Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, 9:30 AM until time of Funeral Service at 11:30 AM at Chapel Hill Gardens West Funeral Home, 17W201 Roosevelt Rd., Oak Brook Terrace, IL 60181. Entombment Chapel Hill Gardens West Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. John Lutheran Church, 2650 Plainfield Rd., Joliet, IL 60435 will be appreciated. Info. 630.941.5860 or www.chapelhillgardenswest.com.

Dignity Chapel Hill Gardens West
Oakbrook Terrace

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Kron, Gary S.

Gary S. Kron, age 63; unexpectedly; beloved father of Eric and Emma Kron; devoted son of the late Paul and Emily Kron; dear son of Annette Kron; and, a loving brother, uncle, and friend. Graveside service Thursday 12 noon Westlawn Cemetery and Mausoleum, 7801 W. Montrose Avenue, Norridge. Arrangements entrusted to **Lakeshore Jewish Funerals**, 773-625-8621

Lakeshore
Jewish Funerals

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Kuenn, Neil J.

Neil J. Kuenn, age 73. Beloved husband of Karen (nee Kaleckas). Devoted father of Kathleen (Tim) Stoeckel and Kevin Kuenn. Loving grandfather of Timmy and Kaitlyn. Dear brother of Barbara (Michael) Hudson and Bob (Julie) Kuenn. Brother-in-law of Richard (the late Ann) Kaleckas, Lynn (Ken) Setlak and the late James Kaleckas. Also remembered by his nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends. Will be sorely missed by his faithful companion Charlie. Corporate attorney and partner, Keeley Kuenn & Reid law firm. Proud alumnus of Mount Carmel High School (1964), College of St. Thomas (1968) and DePaul University Law School (1972). Named Mount Carmel Man of the Year in 2004, and inducted into the Mount Carmel Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 2011. Past president of Catholic Charities Adoptive Parents' Guild and Consolidated High School District 230. Visitation Friday 3-9 PM at the Palos-Gaidas Funeral Home, 11028 Southwest Hwy. (7700W) Palos Hills. Funeral Saturday, 10:30 AM from funeral home to Sacred Heart Church, 8245 W. 111th St. (Palos Hills) for 11:30 AM Mass. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Catholic Charities of Chicago: <https://www.catholiccharities.net/DonateNow/GeneralDonations.aspx> or Mount Carmel Educational Foundation: <https://www.mchs.org/advancement/make-your-investment-today> Express your thoughts and memories in the online Guest Book at www.palosgaidasfh.com (708) 974 4410

Palos-Gaidas
FUNERAL HOME

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Lacivita, Jr., James

James Lacivita, Jr. of Glenview passed away February 17 after a lengthy decline in health. Visitation will be held Thursday, February 20 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at N.H. Scott & Hanekamp Funeral Home, 1240 Waukegan Road, Glenview. A funeral mass will be held Friday, February 21 at 10:00 am at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 1775 Grove St., Glenview. Private burial at St. Mary's Cemetery, Evergreen Park. Jim was born August 27, 1938 in Chicago to Vincenzo and Francesca Lacivita, and was known as "Sonny" in the East Side neighborhood where he graduated from Bowen High School before attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. At U of I he studied Mathematics and was an active participant in Army ROTC. Upon graduation, he served full time in the army in Texas, and later served as a special forces (airborne) Captain in the reserves.

He moved to Glenview in 1965 where he began his career in education teaching Mathematics and coaching wrestling at Glenbrook South High School. He joined the GBS administration as Director of Student Activities, and later worked for almost twenty years as an Assistant Superintendent for the Glenbrook School District. He earned his Master's in educational administration from Northwestern, and was a member of a number of professional educational organizations becoming well known and respected by his peers in school districts throughout the North Shore.

Mr. Lacivita was a leader in a number of local civic organizations including serving terms as president of both Kiwanis Club and the Navy League. He volunteered regularly at Our Lady of Perpetual Help church.

A lifelong Chicagoan, he enjoyed attending Cubs games and watching the Bears on TV, and led frequent family visits to many cultural and intellectual attractions in the city. Summer walks along Navy Pier were a particular favorite. He was a regular patron of the Ravinia Music Festival, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Marriott Lincolnshire Theater.

Preceding him in death are his brother Roland, sister Doris and brother-in-law Dan Gordon, and former wife Karen Dahlen-Lacivita. Surviving are his son Jamie (Eve), daughter Kristine, nephew Jim Gordon (Sibby), niece Anne Gemmill Black and close friend Caryl Eckhart and her family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church's Sr. Paulanne's Needy Family Fund, 1775 Grove St., Glenview, IL 60025. Funeral information 847-998-1020.

N.H. Scott & Hanekamp
FUNERAL HOME

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Langowski, Beverly

Beverly Langowski (nee Grabowski) age 89 of Des Plaines, Illinois passed away on February 17, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Walter. Loving mother of Dr. Brian (Patti) Langowski, David Langowski and Kim (Tom) Langner. Cherished grandmother of Matthew and Rachel Langner. Visitation on Friday, February 21, 2020 beginning at 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Zachary Catholic Church, 567 W. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018. Entombment in All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines, Illinois. In lieu of flowers donations to your favorite animal shelter appreciated. For info please call (847) 699-9003 or gllhillsfuneralhome.com

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Lewis, Inga

Inga B. Lewis, 21, suddenly. Adored mother of Josiah. Dear daughter of Julie, nee Halpert, and Greg Lewis. Loving sister of Nikolai Zhmikov, Elena Movchan, Irina Zhmikova and Svetlana Zhmikova. Loving companion of her four-legged friend Yuki. Niece, cousin, and friend of many. Inga was adopted from Russia at one year old, and was very proud of her Russian heritage. She was a spark of life and people gravitated toward her. Her compassion was immeasurable. She was kind, soft hearted, and very musically talented. She was a devoted mother and daughter and will truly be missed by her friends and family. Visitation Friday, February 21, 4 PM to 9 PM, **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home**, 6150 N Cicero Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646. A memorial service on Inga's behalf will be held on March 7, 2:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, 1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Inga's family for care and schooling of her son Josiah. Funeral Info 773-736-3833 or visit www.smithcorcoran.com.

Smith-Corcoran
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Madaj, Bernice

Bernice Rosemary Madaj, 75 of Des Plaines, IL passed unexpectedly on Saturday, February 8th, 2020. She is preceded in death by her parents John and Angeline Madaj. Gathering at St. Mary Church, 794 Pearson St. Des Plaines, IL 60016 will begin at 9 AM on Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 proceeded by mass at 10 AM. Interment will be at St. Adalbert Catholic Cemetery, 6800 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles, IL 60714. For more information go to OehlerFuneralHome.com or call (847) 824-5155.

Dignity Oehler Funeral Home
Des Plaines

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Mirza, Mary

Mary Mirza (nee Bookie) came into her earthly home on February 3, 1930 and went to her home in heaven on Saturday, February 15, 2020. She leaves behind her loving husband Sam (or "SHMOOAL" as she always called him), together in marriage for 68 years; three loving sons Alan (Ruth), David (Jacqueline), and Matthew, five grandchildren, Michael (Anne), Valerie, Jeffrey, Madeleine, and Christian, plus her great-granddaughter, Phoebe. She is also survived by sisters, Mabel (Eugene) Badal and Irene (Richard) Modert, and many beloved cousins and nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her parents Solomon and Nabat Bookie, her brother Isaac (Elizabeth), and sisters Martha (John) Yonan and Mae (Arthur) Khano. After graduating from Waller High School and some college, Mary went to work for the American Medical Association before she met Sam, and after a two year courtship, were married on June 14, 1952. Ever the faithful wife, after Sam's induction into the Army in September of 1952, she joined him in Lawton, Oklahoma for three months while he was at Fort Sill in Oklahoma and then spent 16 months with him in Fairbanks, Alaska, while Sam was stationed at Ladd Air Force Base in Fairbanks. Mary loved Alaska and the cold weather, had her first son Alan there, and wanted to stay there and homestead, but in September 1954 Mary, Sam, and Alan moved back to Chicago. Mary became a full time housewife and mother, not going back to work until all three sons had entered high school. She then worked part-time at A.C. Nielsen Company, and then worked full time at WGN-TV, starting on the switchboard, and eventually into administration, overseeing the mailroom, all purchasing activities, and in charge of the company's entire phone system, retiring after 23 years at the station. After retirement, she went back to her love of cooking and doting on her grandchildren and great-granddaughter willing to watch them whenever she could. She also loved telling stories, and loved to write. Some of her poems were published in the 1972 and 1973 editions of "New Voices in American Poetry." Mary was very generous to family and even strangers, a fun-loving person, a practical joker, and loved to host luncheon and dinner parties for family and friends. She and Sam hosted many dinners for family and friends, with usually 30 to 35 people in their home for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day dinners. Mary was also very active in her church, was a Deacon for several years, and had charge of the church's "Soup Kitchen" project. While a Deacon, she became known to some "Shut-in" members as the "chicken lady" as she would buy and deliver whole roasted chickens and salads to some shut-in church members on a monthly basis. For several years, she hosted a "Choir Dinner Party" for all Choir members and their spouses to show her appreciation for their singing. Mary loved her God, her church, and her church family and would attend worship every Sunday until her illness prevented her from attending on a regular basis. The funeral for Mary will be on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020 at 11 AM at Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church, 4950 Pratt Skokie, IL preceded by visitation at the church from 9:30 to time of funeral. Interment will be at Elmwood Cemetery in River Grove, Illinois following the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church, ATTN: "Psalm 150 Fund". For more information please call 773-736-3833.

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Mochel

See Helen Myers notice.

Montesano, Rose

Rose Montesano, age 100, passed away peacefully at home February 15, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Nick for 49 years; loving mother of Kathie (the late Dave) Newsted, the late Nick (Kathy), John (the late Brenda), the late Bill, Joan (Bill) Nee and Mary Rose (Ron) Zapart; devoted grandmother of 12, great-grandmother of 19; caring aunt of many nieces and nephews; dear friend to many. Visitation Thursday, February 20th, 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Gibbons Funeral Home, 134 South York Road, (1/2 mile North of Saint Charles Road), Elmhurst. Family and friends will meet directly at church for the Funeral Mass, Friday, February 21st, 10:00 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, 145 Grand Ave, Bensenville. Interment Queen of Heaven. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Mercy Home For Boys and Girls would be appreciated, mercyhome.org. For funeral info please call 630-832-0018 or www.gibbonsfuneralhome.com

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MYERS, HELEN S.

HELEN S. MOCHEL MYERS NEE SMITH age 89 of Downers Grove, IL. Loving wife of the late Harry Myers and the late E. Leonard Mochel; beloved mother of Diane (Brian) Schuth and Linda (Derek) Ellis; cherished grandmother of 3, Brianne and Adam Schuth also Maureen (Josh) Doornbos; 2 step-granddaughters; 3 great-granddaughters and 4 step-great-grandsons; 1 brother Gerald E. Smith and 1 sister Judith S. Bergum also several nieces and nephews. Helen received her bachelor's degree in economics from Benedictine College, she applied at AT&T, hired on the spot and her career lasted 36 years. She retired as Marketing Manager. There is an informative article that highlights much of Helen's life. <https://www.mysuburbanlife.com/2019/08/20/historical-society-names-myers-the-historian-of-the-year/a9wf8e2/> Private Funeral Services. For additional information www.toonfuneralhome.com OR 630-968-0408

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Peters, Stanley Panagiotaros

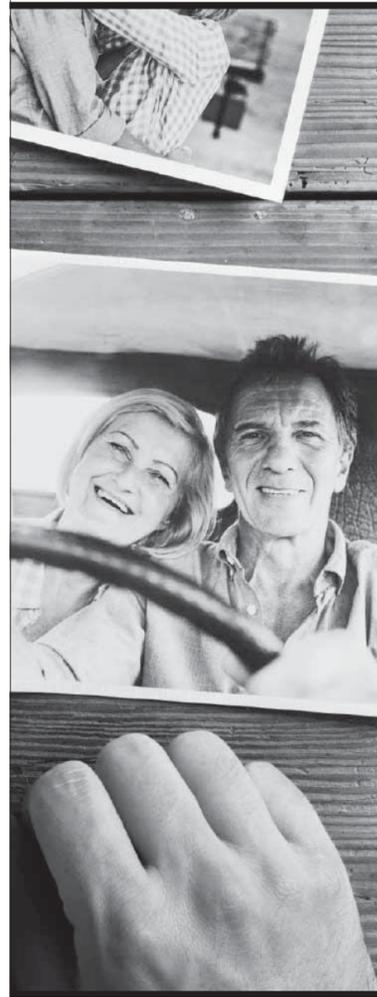
Beloved husband of Toula Peters, nee Alexandropoulos. Adored father of Peter (Lana) Panagiotaros and the late Kristina (Frank) Werner. Loving Papou of Stelios, Peter, Kristina Panagiotaros and John Werner. Dear great-grandfather of Charlotte. Uncle of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday, February 20th, 9:45 AM, St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, IL 60714, until the time of the Funeral Service at 10:30 AM. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Stanley's name may be made to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Foundation, 3634 W. Market Street, Suite 110, Akron, OH 44333, <http://cjdfoundation.org/donate>. Funeral info 773-736-3833 or visit www.smithcorcoran.com

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Chicago Tribune

Prebis, Geraldine Rita 'Jere'

Geraldine R. "Jere" Prebis nee Bigott, age 82. Beloved wife of the late Philip. Loving mother of Larry (Liz). Cherished Grandma of Britney and Brendan. Dearest sister of Marian (the late Jim) Sidor and the late Lenore. Many other relatives and friends. Funeral prayers Friday 9:45 am From Brust Funeral Home 415 N. Gary Ave. Carol Stream to Corpus Christi Catholic Church 1415 Lies Rd. Carol Stream For Mass 10:30 am. Visitation Thursday 3-9 PM at Brust. Entombment Assumption Cemetery Wheaton, IL 630-510-0044

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Ruder, David S.

David Sturtevant Ruder, died on February 15, 2020. Ruder is survived by his wife, Susan; daughter, Julia Ruder San Fratello (Charles San Fratello); sons, David S. Ruder II and John C. Ruder (Kate Ruder); stepchildren, Elizabeth Frankel (Charles Steinhorn) and Rebecca Wilkinson; and grandchildren, Jack and Ashley Ruder, Nathalie San Fratello, Wes and Quinn Ruder, Sarah and Maureen Steinhorn, and Travis and Aurora Wilkinson. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Victoria "Tory" Ruder (Peter Phillips) and sister, Josephine Stone. The visitation will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2020 1:00 - 5:00 pm at **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home**, 1787 Deerfield Rd., Highland Park, IL, 60035. For Ruder's complete obituary, visit Kelley & Spalding's website at www.kelleyspaldingfuneralhome.com

**KELLEY & SPALDING
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Ruoff, Gene William

Gene William Ruoff (b. July 23, 1939) died on January 4, 2020. He was buried privately on January 8 in Mound Cemetery, Charleston, Illinois. A scholar of English Romantic literature, Gene was an emeritus faculty member and former administrator at the University of Illinois, Chicago. The son of Robert G. Ruoff and Thelma L. O'Hara Ruoff, Gene was raised in Paducah, Kentucky. In 1967, he married A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, now professor emerita of English, UIC, who survives him. Because the University of Illinois did not permit married couples to be in the same department, Gene and LaVonne had to obtain an exception to this rule from the central administration of the University of Illinois. Gene adopted her children: Stephen Charles (1958-2018) and Sharon Louise (1959-2002). During their marriage, the couple primarily lived in Oak Park and Glen Ellyn. Survivors include his brothers, Robert A. Ruoff, and Charles O. Ruoff; sister-in-law, Suzanne Brown; and daughter-in-law, Cheryl Moffitt Ruoff.

After receiving his B.A. in 1961 from Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, Gene entered the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he completed his MS in English in 1963 and his PhD in English in 1970. He wrote "Wordsworth and Coleridge: The Making of the Major Lyrics, 1801-04" (1989), and Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" (1991). He edited "Romantic Poetry: Recent Revisionary Criticism, with Karl Kroeber" (1993); "The Romantics and Us: Essays on Literature and Culture" (1990); and "The Age of William Wordsworth: Critical Essays on the Romantic Tradition", with Kenneth R. Johnston (1987).

From 1986 to 1996, Gene directed the UIC Institute for the Humanities, where he mentored the fellows and organized programs. Gene was a leader in offering summer institutes for high-school teachers. The National Endowment for the Humanities funded seven of these: "Jane Austin: The Society and the Self," "Jane Addams's Hull House Humanities Program," "The Romantics and Us," and "Literature in an Age of Revolutions." The Illinois Humanities Council supported "The Multicultural Debate American Literature and the Schools."

In 1994, Gene became associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. From 1996 to his retirement in 2009, he was associate provost and special assistant to the chancellor for Information and Management Systems. He coordinated UIC's collaboration with the Urbana-Champaign and Springfield campuses to create a unified computer system as well as supervised that of UIC.

Gene and LaVonne dedicated thirty-one years to restoring their 1893, three-story Victorian home, known as the Charles A. Purcell House. They received a State of Illinois Restoration Grant and were among Oak Park's first homeowners to paint the exterior of their house in Victorian colors. They and Stephen decorated the walls and ceilings with Bradbury & Bradbury's Victorian reproduction wall papers. Their home was featured in "Wallpaper with Style: Bradbury & Bradbury," Victorian Sampler (Christmas 1993). In 1997, the Historical Society of Oak Park awarded the couple its prize for interior decoration and in 1998, the Frank Lloyd Wright Plus Tour included the home.

Gifts in memory of Gene may be sent to the University of Illinois Foundation and designated for the University of Illinois, Chicago, for either the Institute for the Humanities or the Richard J. Daley Library. Gifts may be made online at <http://give.uic.edu> by pasting in either of the fund titles in the Search Box provided. Checks should be made payable to the University of Illinois Foundation and sent to 1305 West Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801.

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Scherer, Ethel Margaret

Ethel Margaret Scherer (nee Inselberger), age 98 of Aurora, passed away Tuesday, February 18, 2020. She was born December 14, 1921 in Chicago Illinois. She is survived by her children: Patricia Scherer, Mark (Molly) Scherer, Joan (Steven) Biswell; cherished grandmother of Peter (Sarah) Janeczko, Erik (Laurie) Janeczko, Corinne Biswell, Samantha Biswell, Megan Scherer and Matthew Scherer. She is preceded in death by loving husband of 65 years Mathias E. Scherer, her parents Henry and Vera Inselberger, her brother Hank (Ann) Inselberger and sister Dolly (Bob) Anderson. Ethel and her husband Mathias were founding members of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Aurora. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, February 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 701 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL. Visitation will be at the church from 9:00 a.m. until time of Mass. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Special Olympics of Illinois Region F, P.O. Box 104, Monmouth, IL., 61462. Arrangements by **Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Homes & Crematory**. Info www.beidelmankunschfh.com. 630-355-0264.

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Schutter, Richard J

Richard J. Schutter, loving son of the late Joseph and Rose Schutter; devoted brother of the late Robert Schutter, the late Florence (Paul) Harvey, and Elaine (the late William) Fitzpatrick; cherished uncle to Michael Fitzpatrick, Rosanne Fitzpatrick (Ed) Motto, Eileen (the late Joseph) Salamone, William (Julie) Fitzpatrick, Thomas (Arlene Rodriguez) Fitzpatrick, Joseph (Brenda) Fitzpatrick, Richard (Linda) Fitzpatrick, Susan (Bruce) Peterson, Paul Richard (Linda) Harvey, the late Barbara Harvey; and fond great uncle to 17 nieces and nephews. Funeral Friday, 9:00 a.m. from **Salerno's Galewood Chapels, Sciaraffa Funeral Directors**, 1857 N. Harlem Ave., Chicago, 60707 to St. Giles Church, 1045 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, 60302 for Mass at 10:00 a.m. Visitation Thursday, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Richard J. Schutter to St. Giles Catholic Church, 1045 Columbian Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302. For information please call (773) 889-1700.

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Shlaes, Jared Brill

On Thanksgiving morning Jared Brill Shlaes passed away peacefully at the age of 89. Jared is survived by children, Amity (Seth), Noah (Lynda Jo) and Jane, as well as eight grandchildren: Eli, Oliver, Jonah, Theo, Flora, Alexander, Eliza, and Helen. A ground-breaking developer of housing across the Chicago area, Jared teamed with leading architects to build developments such as Kenwood Gardens, Lake Village East, and Eugenie Lane. A pioneering appraiser and counselor, Jared defined the valuation of transferable development rights, easement donations, and air rights, trained a generation of counselors and appraisers, and was an authoritative and sought-after expert witness. In lieu of flowers, Jared's family welcomes donations to either the Smile Train or Planned Parenthood.

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Sowa (nee Crnogorac), Rose A.

Age 91, late of Hegewisch, passed away Monday, February 17, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Richard Sowa. Loving mother of Richard (Wanda) Sowa, Linda Sowa, Marilyn (Bob) Peterson, Marko Sowa and Nicholas (Helvi) Sowa. Proud grandmother of Jennifer, David, Keith, Robert, Joseph, Andrew and Luke. Devoted great grandmother of Marija, Frano, Ava, Richard and Nikola. Dear aunt of many nieces and nephews. Rose was an avid baker, gardener, seamstress, crafter, reader and cook. She also enjoyed playing pinochle and bunco. Rose was a proud member of the St. Columba Altar and Rosary Society and the St. Columba School Board. Funeral Services 9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 22, 2020 at **Opyt Funeral Home**, 13350 S. Baltimore Ave., Chicago, IL 60633 to St. Columba Church for 10:00 a.m. Mass. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, IL. Visitation 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, February 21, 2020. (773) 646-1133 or www.opytfh.com

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Villari, Frank K

Frank K. Villari, age 88, of Oak Park; beloved husband of Jean nee Salerno; loving father of Frank (Sherry) and the late Julianne Villari; cherished Papa of Emma and Francesca Villari; dear brother of the late Joseph (the late Antoinette), Genevieve (the late Louis) DeRose and Julie (the late George) Seitz; fond uncle and great-uncle of many. Frank was a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign and was an engineer for over 50 years in the research and development of plastics for which he was granted multiple patents. Visitation Friday 3 to 9 p.m. at **Drechsler, Brown & Williams Funeral Home**, 203 S. Marion St., Oak Park. Prayers Saturday 9:30 a.m. to St. Bernardine Church for Mass at 10 a.m. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Funeral info: drechslerbrownwilliams.com or 708-383-3191.

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Zimmermann, Frederick Norman

Frederick Norman Zimmermann, 91, Bannockburn, IL, August 3, 1928 - February 13, 2020. He was one of the co-founders of March Mfg., Inc., Glenview, IL in 1954. He became President in 1970 and Chairman of the Board in 1975. March Mfg., Inc. is a family owned and operated manufacturer of water and chemical pumps. He held

17 patents on the various seal-less magnetically coupled centrifugal pumps developed and produced by the company. He was a strong family man whose values were reflected in both his personal and professional life. Born in Chicago, educated in the public school system, graduated from The University of Illinois with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. Served in the US Army during the Korean War. He was an avid snow skier with the Windy City Ski Club in the winter and enjoyed fishing and sailing in the summer. Besides the outdoor sports, he loved maintaining the 5 acres around his home. He is preceded in death by his parents Willy Ernest and Elsie Marie Kressler-Zimmermann and his brother Willy Karl (Esther Roney) Zimmermann. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Kathryn Peterson-Zimmermann, son Karl Norman Zimmermann, daughter Elzan Kathryn (Karl Edward) Ohlwein, grandchildren Preston Kressler Ohlwein, Mason Kent Ohlwein, Teagun Juanita Ohlwein, step daughter Hilary Lynn Ohlwein, nephews Fritz (Diana) Zimmermann, Hans (Jill) Zimmermann, nieces Kristine Kaatz, Jennifer (Sean) Corbin, Jerry Peterson, great nephews Otto Zimmermann, Travis Zimmermann, Jack Corbin, William Kaatz, James Kaatz, great nieces Brittany Zimmermann, Emily Corbin, Clarissa Corbin, Gabriella Zimmermann, Tabitha Zimmermann, Mary Jane Zimmermann, Helena Zimmermann. Saturday, August 1st, 2020 will be a Memorial Service on his property, casual attire. For info or directions please contact **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home** at 847-831-4260 or www.kelleyspaldingfuneralhome.com

**KELLEY & SPALDING
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**

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Goldendoodles 765-337-2011 Rossville, IN 1000 M/F F1B, Standard size, vet chk/shots. Rdy 2/19

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

***** LOCATION CHANGE ***** Chicago Camera Show & Sale Sunday Feb 23, 2020. 10am - 2:30pm, \$6/\$5 Holiday hrs Itasca 860 W Irving Park Rd. Itasca, IL 60143 www.photorama.com 248-252-8934/abrahamsn@yahoo.com

Dr. Dina Kanner's office (3385 N Arlington Heights Rd. Ste A, Arlington Heights, IL 60004) is CLOSING on March 22, 2020. Request for Referrals: 312-432-0604 email: dina.kanner@gmail.com, regular mail: For more info call 847-632-0600 or go to www.dinakanner.com

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

COUNTY OF COOK OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR DEPARTMENT OF RISK MANAGEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR GENERAL LIABILITY AND AUTOMOBILE CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR/ THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR SERVICES RFP NO. 1950-18016

RFP Document: The RFP document is available for download at: https://legacy.cookcountylt.gov/purchasing/bids/listAllBids.php

Contact Person: If you are able to download the RFP or if you have any other questions, please contact Halyna Shuruk, Contract Negotiator, at (312) 603-6827 or halyna.shuruk@cookcountylt.gov

Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 11:30 AM (CST)

Office of the Chief Procurement Officer Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark Street, Room 1018 Chicago, Illinois 60602

Questions: Questions can be submitted in writing to the contact person above until 3:00 PM (CST), Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Proposal Due Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 3:00 PM (CST) Office of the Chief Procurement Officer Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark Street, Room 1018 Chicago, Illinois 60602

Toni Preckwinkle President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

Raffi Sarrafian Chief Procurement Officer

Late Proposals Will Not Be Accepted 2/19/2020 6602204

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF NAPERVILLE Bid and Requests for Proposals Available Online

All City of Naperville solicitations will be advertised on our web site: http://www.naperville.il.us/bidfrps.aspx

You are invited to review all bid or proposal requests for any upcoming projects. All projects are available for download or pick-up. Please contact the Procurement Services Team office at 630.420.6644 if you have any questions.



TAKE NOTICES

TO: Mila Milenkovich; JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. S/I/I to Bank One, N.A. S/I/I to The First National Bank of Chicago S/I/I NBD Bank S/I/I NBD Woodfield Bank; JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. S/I/I Bank One, N.A. S/I/I The First National Bank of Chicago S/I/I NBD Bank S/I/I NBD Woodfield Bank F/K/A USAmerican/Woodfield F/K/A Woodfield Bank; Schaumburg Family Dental; Dr. Mike P. Milenkovich; Dr. Petar Milenkovich; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000023 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/7/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0002759 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 1101 S. CHASELUNT AVE., ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60012 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 07-14-302-013-1008 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604118

TAKE NOTICES

TO: Western Construction Management, Inc., c/o James Nick Zografos; Western Construction Management, Inc., c/o Jesse White, IL Secretary of State; Western Construction Management Inc.; Hamstra Enterprises, L.L.C., c/o Richard D. Boonstra; Heartland Recycling, L.L.C., c/o Ronald K. Szopa; Normandy Group Ltd. Inc., a/k/a Normandy Group Ltd. Inc.; Heartland Recycling, L.L.C.; c/o M's Registered Agent Services, Reg. Agt.; Occupant; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000021 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001198 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF MAGNOLIA STREET AND MITCHELL AVENUE, HAVING 48.32 FEET OF FRONTAGE ON MITCHELL AVENUE AND 267.79 FEET OF FRONTAGE IN MAGNOLIA STREET IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 08-09-209-001-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604106

TO: Amelia Hudak; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Amelia Hudak; Anna Hudak, a/k/a A Hudak; City of Chicago, c/o Anna M. Valencia, City Clerk; Occupant; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000012 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/8/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0006142 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 5804 N. ORIOLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 12-31-01338-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604048

TO: Western Construction Management, Inc., c/o James Nick Zografos; Western Construction Management, Inc., c/o Jesse White, IL Secretary of State; Western Construction Management Inc.; Hamstra Enterprises, Inc., c/o Richard D. Boonstra; Heartland Recycling, L.L.C., c/o Ronald K. Szopa; Heartland Recycling, L.L.C., c/o Jesse White, IL Secretary of State; Normandy Group Ltd. Inc., a/k/a Normandy Group Ltd. Inc.; Heartland Recycling, L.L.C.; c/o M's Registered Agent Services, Reg. Agt.; Occupant; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000022 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001199 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF MAGNOLIA STREET AND MITCHELL AVENUE, HAVING 33.1 FEET OF FRONTAGE ON MITCHELL AVENUE AND 267.79 FEET OF FRONTAGE ON MAGNOLIA STREET IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 08-09-210-001-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604108

TO: Normandy Group LTD, Inc.; Normandy Group LTD, Inc., c/o Lorraine Zografos, Reg. Agt.; Occupant; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000023 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/7/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001040 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 4210 W. MADISON STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60624 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 13-10-315-038-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604070

TO: 5835 Touhy Building Corp.; 5835 Touhy Building Corp., c/o Francis A. Beninati, Reg. Agt.; City of Chicago, c/o Anna M. Valencia, City Clerk; Occupant; 5835 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000088 FILED: 1/9/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/8/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0006138 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 5835 W. TOUHY AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60646 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 10-32-302-033-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/6/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/6/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/15/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/6/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604190

TO: Amelia Hudak; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Amelia Hudak; Anna Hudak, a/k/a A Hudak; City of Chicago, c/o Anna M. Valencia, City Clerk; Occupant; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000012 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/8/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0006142 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 5804 N. ORIOLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 12-31-01338-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604048

TO: Sullage Realty Corp.; Sullage Realty Corp., c/o William W. Nagel, Reg. Agt.; Sullage Realty Corp., c/o Jesse White, IL Secretary of State; Illinois Dept. of Revenue; Illinois Attorney General; Occupant, 4875 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60630; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000016 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/7/2019 Certificate No.: 17-0006962 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2019 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 4875 N. ELSTON AVE., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60630 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 13-10-315-038-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6605026

TO: Chicago Title Land Trust Co. Suctr to North Star Trust Co. Suctr to Pioneer Bank & Trust Company A/UT/A/D 10/17/95 A/K/A/T/N 66083, c/o CT CORP SYSTEM; Chicago Title Land Trust Co. Suctr to North Star Trust Co. Suctr to Pioneer Bank & Trust Company A/UT/A/D 10/17/95 A/K/A/T/N 26083; Peter Boulahians; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Peter Boulahians; 4212 Building Corp., c/o Christopher Perikoulakis, Reg. Agt.; Occupant; City of Chicago, c/o Jesse White, IL Secretary of State; Luigi's Pizza; Occupant, 4210 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL 60624; Michael Gluck; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000029 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/9/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0010140 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 4210 W. MADISON STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60624 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 16-10-423-027-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604162

TO: F.S. Property Management, Inc. and F.S. Property Management, Inc. c/o Secretary of State; Occupant; BCL-M&E LLC and BCL-M&E LLC c/o LP Agents, LLC; County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois; spouses, heirs at law, devisees, if any, of the above mentioned persons, described as Unknown Owners; Occupants or persons in actual possession of real estate herein described; claimants, decree creditors, judgment creditors, if any, of the above, described as Unknown Owners; Unknown Owners and Parties interested in said real estate; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000527 FILED February 10, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: May 9, 2018 Certificate No. 16-0010179 & 16-0010178 Sold for General Taxes of 2016; 2015, 2014 & 2016; 2015, 2014 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality and special assessment no.) None Warrant No. [Not Applicable] Installment No. [Not Applicable] THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 2118-2120 S. 51ST AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60604; Riveria; Vivar; Mark Miller, Jr.; Matthew Miller; Laura Blackburn; Tania Marie Pica; Joseph Valerio; Betty Driskel; J. Medrano; K. Medrano; J. Medrano; S. Thomas; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Luis Rodriguez, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000027 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001110 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 2118-2120 S. 51ST AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60604. Riveria; Vivar; Mark Miller, Jr.; Matthew Miller; Laura Blackburn; Tania Marie Pica; Joseph Valerio; Betty Driskel; J. Medrano; K. Medrano; J. Medrano; S. Thomas; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Luis Rodriguez, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000027 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001110 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 2118-2120 S. 51ST AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60604. Riveria; Vivar; Mark Miller, Jr.; Matthew Miller; Laura Blackburn; Tania Marie Pica; Joseph Valerio; Betty Driskel; J. Medrano; K. Medrano; J. Medrano; S. Thomas; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Luis Rodriguez, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000027 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001110 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 2118-2120 S. 51ST AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60604. Riveria; Vivar; Mark Miller, Jr.; Matthew Miller; Laura Blackburn; Tania Marie Pica; Joseph Valerio; Betty Driskel; J. Medrano; K. Medrano; J. Medrano; S. Thomas; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Luis Rodriguez, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000027 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001110 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 2118-2120 S. 51ST AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60604. Riveria; Vivar; Mark Miller, Jr.; Matthew Miller; Laura Blackburn; Tania Marie Pica; Joseph Valerio; Betty Driskel; J. Medrano; K. Medrano; J. Medrano; S. Thomas; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Luis Rodriguez, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000027 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001110 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 2118-2120 S. 51ST AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60604. Riveria; Vivar; Mark Miller, Jr.; Matthew Miller; Laura Blackburn; Tania Marie Pica; Joseph Valerio; Betty Driskel; J. Medrano; K. Medrano; J. Medrano; S. Thomas; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Luis Rodriguez, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property; Tax DEED No. 2020COTD000027 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0001110 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 2118-2120 S. 51ST AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60604. Riveria; Vivar; Mark Miller, Jr.; Matthew Miller; Laura Blackburn; Tania Marie Pica; Joseph Valerio; Betty Driskel; J. Medrano; K. Medrano; J. Medrano; S. Thomas; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2118 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 1st Fl., Cicero, IL 60804; Occupant, 2120 S. 51st Ave., 2nd Fl., Cic

TAKE NOTICES

TO: Gregory W. Haase; 14647 Greenwood Condominium Association, c/o Clear Property Management Services, Inc., Occupant of Unit A301, 14647 Greenwood Avenue; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; David D. Orr, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2020 COTD 000237 FILED: January 17, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: July 17, 2017 Certificate No. 175-0003623 Sold For General Taxes of: 2017 Scavenger Sale (2010-2015) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: Unit A301 in 14647 Greenwood Condominium located at 14647 Greenwood Road, in Dolton, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No. 29-10-209-027-1025 Vol. 202 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 1, 2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 1, 2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on July 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 1, 2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 IDRIS OMOSANYA, purchaser or assignee Dated: February 13, 2020 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren, Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6605121

TAKE NOTICES

TO: Chicago Title Land Trust Co., as successor trustee to MB Financial Bank w/l/a 11159; Heris Estate of Larry Dean Hunter; Colleen Hunter; Occupant of Unit 55; Holiday Terrace Condominium Building #3 Condominium Association, c/o BOGS Management Inc.; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; David D. Orr, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2020 COTD 000238 FILED: January 17, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: July 18, 2017 Certificate No. 175-0004236 Sold For General Taxes of: 2017 Scavenger Sale (2006-2015) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: Unit 55 in Condominium located at 2303 Holiday Terrace, in Lansing, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No. 29-25-405-021-1025 Vol. 215 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 1, 2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 1, 2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on July 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 1, 2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 IDRIS OMOSANYA, purchaser or assignee Dated: February 12, 2020 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren, Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604424

TAKE NOTICES

TO: Berrymann & Berrymann Enterprises, Inc., c/o Wayne E. Berrymann, President; Berrymann & Berrymann Enterprises, Inc.; Berrymann & Berrymann Enterprises, Inc., c/o Jack G Bainbridge; Berrymann & Berrymann Enterprises, Inc., c/o Jesse White, IL Secretary of State; Fisch Real Estate Partnership; Fisch Real Estate Partnership, c/o Markus Fisch, Member, Coldwell Banker Commercial Chicago, c/o George Chandler; Richton Park Carwash; Occupant, 3605 Sauk Trl, Richton Park, IL 60471; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property. TAX DEED NO. 2020COTD000025 FILED: 1/2/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/7/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0002634 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 3605 SAUK TRAIL, RICHTON PARK, ILLINOIS 60471 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 31-29-104-030-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604117

TO: Keith D. Tolen; Occupant of 28 E. 157th St.; Citizens Bank, National Association (successor to Charter One Bank, N.A.); RBS Citizens, N.A.; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; David D. Orr, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2020 COTD 000361 FILED: January 28, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: July 17, 2017 Certificate No. 175-0003979 Sold For General Taxes of: 2017 Scavenger Sale (2012-2015) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 28 E. 157th Street, in Harvey, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No. 29-17-312-027-0000 Vol. 209 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 1, 2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 1, 2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on July 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 1, 2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 MATTHEW DAMPIER, purchaser or assignee Dated: February 12, 2020 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren, Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604433

TO: William Barbee a/k/a Bill Barbee; Kendrick Robinson; Occupant of 2340 186th St.; The Forest Glen Condominium Association, Inc., c/o Rachel Kestenbaum; BOGS Management, Inc., c/o Robert Bogs Jr.; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; David D. Orr, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2020 COTD 000233 FILED: January 17, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: July 18, 2017 Certificate No. 175-0004372 Sold For General Taxes of: 2017 Scavenger Sale (2005-2014) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: Unit 220 in Condominium located at 2340 186th Street, in Lansing, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No. 29-36-410-003-1049 Vol. 219 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 1, 2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 1, 2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on July 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 1, 2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 IDRIS OMOSANYA, purchaser or assignee Dated: February 12, 2020 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren, Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604401

TO: Erez Radal Occupants of City of Chicago Heights c/o City Clerk Cook County of Cook County, Illinois Unknown Occupants; spouses, heirs at law, devisees, if any, of the above mentioned persons, described as Unknown Owners; claimants, decree creditors, judgment creditors, if any, of the above mentioned persons or parties interested in said land or lots. NOTICE TO OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS TAX DEED NO. 2020COTD000334 FILED: January 27, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold May 4, 2018 Certificate No. 16-0000202 16-0000203 Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2016 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number Not Applicable Warrant No. None Installment No.: None THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at 345 W. 14th St., Chicago Heights, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No. 32-19-212-014-0000 32-19-212-015-0000, Volume 014 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 10, 2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 10, 2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m.. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 10, 2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 TELEPHONE: 312-603-5645 Orit Cohen Purchaser or Assignee Dated January 27, 2020 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6603034

TO: Chicago Title Land Trust Company as trustee w/l/a 1090901, dated 4-1-1988; Heirs to the Estate of Florida Cresswell, Sr., c/o Florida Cresswell; Occupant of Unit 432; Florida Cresswell; The Park of River Oaks Condominium No. 2, c/o KSN Registered Agent; The Park of River Oaks Condominium No. 2, c/o Reginald Whitely; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; David D. Orr, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2020 COTD 000242 FILED: January 17, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: July 18, 2017 Certificate No. 175-0004226 Sold For General Taxes of: 2017 Scavenger Sale (2006-2015) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: Unit 432 in Park of River Oaks Condominium No. 2 located at 500 Park Avenue, in Calumet City, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No. 29-24-100-022-1135 Vol. 215 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 1, 2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 1, 2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on July 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 1, 2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 IDRIS OMOSANYA, purchaser or assignee Dated: February 12, 2020 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren, Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604443

TO: Frederick Watts; Frederick W. Watts; Frederick L. Watts; Occupant of 3127-2 Bernice Rd.; Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC; Bernice Terrace Condominium Association; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS); Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2020 COTD 00023 FILED: January 17, 2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: July 18, 2017 Certificate No. 175-0004215 Sold For General Taxes of: 2017 Scavenger Sale (2008-2015) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: Unit 31272 (A/K/A Unit 2) in Bernice Terrace Condominium, located at 3127 Bernice Road, in Lansing, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No. 30-30-408-057-1020 Vol. 228 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 1, 2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 1, 2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on July 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 1, 2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 IDRIS OMOSANYA, purchaser or assignee Dated: February 13, 2020 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren, Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6605131

TO: South Suburban Community Development Corporation NFP; South Suburban Community Development Corporation NFP, c/o Hank Roberts, Reg. Agt.; The Chicago Community Loan Fund, c/o Calvin L. Holmes; The Chicago Community Loan Fund; Property Manager; Occupant, 205 W. 14th Place, Chicago Heights, IL 60411; Occupant, 205 W. 14th Place, Chicago Heights, IL 60411; Occupant, 1415 Campbell Ave., Chicago Heights, IL 60411; Occupant, 1417 Campbell Ave., Chicago Heights, IL 60411; Jorge Lugo Rodriguez; Reven A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Persons or tenants in actual occupancy or possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said property. TAX DEED NO. 2020COTD000035 FILED: 1/3/2020 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 5/4/2018 Certificate No.: 16-0000254 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2016 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality): N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 205-207 W. 14TH PLACE & 1415-1417 CAMPBELL AVENUE, CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60411 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 32-20-302-010-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/16/2020. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/16/2020. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/8/2020 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/16/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 LIEN GROUP LLC Purchaser or Assignee Dated: February 10, 2020 Balin Law, P.C. Attorneys at Law 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 345-1111 Firm #58864 2/18, 19, 20/2020 6604195

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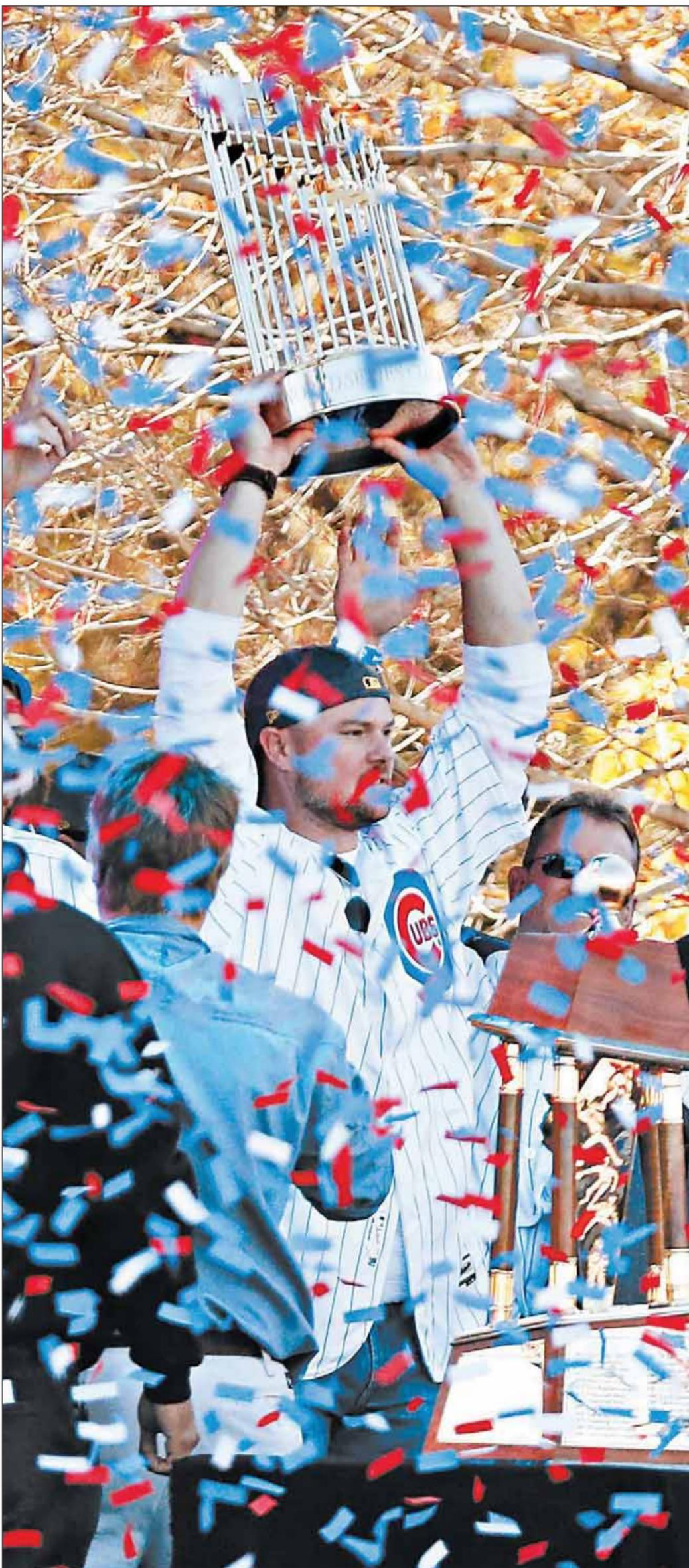
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JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BASEBALL

'You play for that piece of metal'

Cubs' Lester says Manfred 'should take his name off' the World Series trophy after commissioner's comments

By **MARK GONZALES**

MESA, Ariz. — One of the first stops for visitors to Jon Lester's home in Georgia is a room displaying replicas of the three World Series trophies Lester has helped win during a 14-year career.

So it's no surprise Lester was taken aback by MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred's reference to baseball's ultimate team award as a "piece of metal."

"That's somebody who has never played our game," Lester said Tuesday when asked about Manfred, who played tennis at Le Moyne College in New York. "You play for a reason. You play for that piece of metal. I'm very proud of the three I have. If that's the way he feels, he needs to take his name off the trophy."

"I'm proud of (the trophies). A lot of years. A lot of hard work. Just to bring it down like that, I'm sure it hurt a lot of guys when they saw that, especially guys who haven't won it that have been striving for years to try to get to it."

"I'm sure Adam Dunn heard that. He's played one playoff game his whole career. He'd be probably pretty upset. It's a very special thing that (Manfred) brought down."



MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

Jon Lester celebrates his third World Series title and first with the Cubs in 2016. Above, Rob Manfred's signature on the trophy.

Turn to **Lester, Page 5**

Manfred popular target after cheating scandal



PAUL SULLIVAN
In the Wake of the News

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — It's open season on Commissioner Rob Manfred, everyone's favorite pinata in the Astros cheating scandal.

The embattled commissioner has been criticized by fans, players, media and even LeBron James for his handling of the situation, and the piling on grows more each day as more players report to camp and speak their minds.

On Tuesday Manfred defended his investigation and the decision to offer Astros players immunity to speak candidly about the scheme. He also apologized for calling the World Series trophy "a piece of metal" two days earlier when trying to explain why it was unnecessary to vacate the Astros' 2017 title.

"I have to say I made one mistake at least, during that long day," he said at a news conference at the Omni Resort. "That was in an effort to make a rhetorical point. I referred to the World Series trophy in a disrespectful way. And I apologize for that. There's no excuse for that."

The trophy remark was widely ripped by players, including the Cubs' Jon Lester, who said Manfred's name should be removed from the trophy. Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner told ESPN that Manfred's remark was inappropriate.

"For him to devalue it the way he did yesterday just tells me how out of touch he is with the players in this game," Turner said. "At this point the only thing devaluing that trophy is that it says 'commissioner' on it."

Turn to **Sullivan, Page 5**

BULLS

Carter, Porter pushing toward return before end of season

Injured big men back practicing in hopes of making Bulls' future better

By **DAN WIEDERER**

With 27 games left in a frustrating season, the Bulls are pushing to squeeze as much meaning and value out of the stretch run as they possibly can. So when second-year big man Wendell Carter Jr. returned from the All-Star break and returned to practice Tuesday afternoon, he did so with purpose and optimism.

While Carter acknowledged that the Bulls' playoff hopes are slim, he emphasized a need to finish strong and with the right mentality.

"All it's going to do is help us set the tone for next year," he said. "So I think these last (27) games we should take very, very seriously. And no matter what the fans (say) and no matter what people outside this organization are saying, we still have a shot. So I feel like it's very important to play hard."

Carter has been out since the first week of January, rehabilitating a severe sprain of his right ankle. And while he didn't practice in full Tuesday and expressed doubt as to his potential availability for Thursday night's game against the Hornets at the United Center, Carter feels himself progressing and is eager to get back in the mix as soon as possible.

Turn to **Injuries, Page 4**



GARY M. BARANEC/AP

ILLINOIS 62, PENN STATE 56

Illini top No. 9 Penn State in Happy Valley

Illinois takeaways, **Page 3**

TOP OF THE SECOND



PHIL ROSENTHAL

'Miracle on Ice' turns 40

It is, quite simply, the greatest call in sportscasting history and one of the greatest games.

Al Michaels' perfect coda to the U.S. Olympic men's hockey team's stunning 4-3 triumph over the Soviet Union — "Do you believe in miracles? Yes!" — entered the national consciousness 40 years ago Saturday at the Lake Placid Games.

"I'll think back upon (that game) always, as it galvanized the country," Michaels said recently on a call with reporters. "It was an event that brought people together."

Mike Eruzione, the U.S. captain who scored the winning goal to defeat the Soviets, said people often approach to tell him, "I remember where I was when we won," or something similar.

"And I always say: 'We? I didn't know you were on the team,'" Eruzione said. "But people felt a part of it."

It was a massive upset that stirred the nation's sagging psyche amid heightened Cold War tensions and the Iranian hostage crisis.

"For some it was a hockey victory, and for some (there) was a political meaning ... a shot in the arm," said Eruzione, 65. "Realizing what we did 40 years ago, I guess we brought a lot of pride back to a country that was looking for something — and it happened to be us."

Michaels, 75, said he never tires of talking about the 1980 Winter Olympics because "it brings so much joy to so many people to this day."

NBCSN will air a special at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday about what came to be known as the "Miracle on Ice."

Here are five memories that might enhance your own of that gold-medal run for Team USA, as unforgettable as it was unlikely and cherished even by those who weren't yet born.

1. Al Michaels got to call hockey at the 1980 Winter Olympics because none of ABC's other sportscasters had announced the sport.

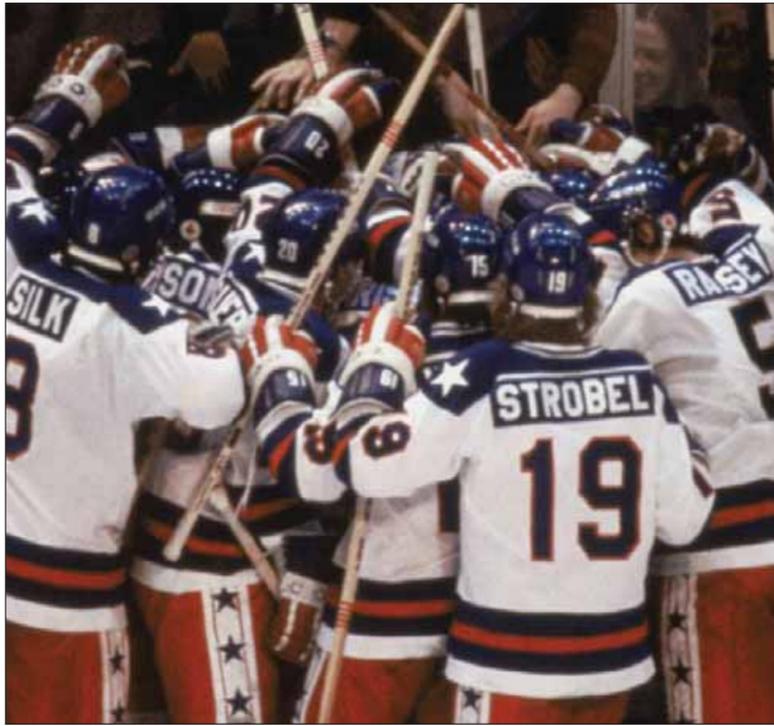
Michaels had called the gold-medal game at the Sapporo Games four years earlier for NBC.

"We had on that staff ... the Mount Rushmore of announcers: Howard Cosell, Jim McKay, Chris Schenkel, Frank Gifford, Keith Jackson, Bill Fleming, you name it," Michaels said. "I was the only guy who had done a hockey game. I had done one. Nobody else had done any."

"On top of it, when I was growing up in Brooklyn, my father would take me to Madison Square Garden. ... I knew what icing and offside were. So this is 40 years ago (and) you didn't need to know much more than icing and offside and just do the rudimentary play-by-play."

Expectations were not great for hockey as an audience draw. Michaels said the assignment everyone wanted was to cover U.S. speedskater Eric Heiden, who was vying for five gold medals. Jackson called those races, but Michaels' disappointment was tempered by pragmatism.

"When you're doing a Winter Olympic sport, you want to be inside," Michaels said. "So I was staying nice and toasty and warm. ... But you talk about getting fortunate. As I tell people to this day, there were not a lot of miracles on the biathlon course. I could have been assigned to that, so it all worked out."



STEVE POWELL/GETTY

Team USA celebrates its semifinal win over the Soviet Union at the 1980 Winter Olympics.

2. As memorable as the 'Do you believe in miracles?' call was, Mike Eruzione preferred Al Michaels' less-remembered capper on the gold-medal victory over Finland.

"I never thought it was a miracle," Eruzione said of the semifinal win over the Soviets, "but it was a catchy phrase and it sounded right."

"I thought Al's best call, which got lost in this whole thing, was 'This impossible dream comes true,' when we beat Finland because it was an impossible dream. ... I thought that was spectacular as well."

3. ABC tried to move the game into a later time slot.

Michaels said a contingent from ABC, which included a young staffer destined for bigger things, unsuccessfully tried to cut a deal with the Soviets to move the game from its 5 p.m. Eastern start into the 8 p.m. prime-time slot.

"I remember very distinctly, Roone Arledge and a young programming executive by the name of John Martin and another young programming executive by the name of Bob Iger — who you may have heard of (he's now Disney's chairman and chief executive) — they went into meetings with the Russian hockey federation," Michaels said.

Essentially ABC offered to write a check to the Soviet federation but couldn't close the deal.

"The hockey federation kept saying no, no, no, no, no," Michaels said. "Maybe they wanted more, and at a certain point, ABC finally had to stop. ... They couldn't get the game changed, and the Soviet federation announced that ... the game couldn't be played at 4 in the morning in Moscow, it would have to be at 1 in the morning. But that was a bogus, false narrative they were creating."

4. Showing the U.S.-Soviet Union game live at what would have been 4 p.m. in Chicago was dismissed as impractical.

"The feeling was 5 in those years, nobody is home," Michaels said. "It's 2 on the West Coast. There was a little bit of discussion about it, but at the end of the day, they wanted to go prime time."

"Now, could you pull this off now? Not a chance in 18 million years. But if you go back to what happened 40 years ago, cable TV in its infancy, no internet, no national newspaper, USA Today was not even being published at that point, no social media, none of what we have today. So you could truly keep a lot of people in the dark as to what the result was. Now? Impossible. But then it was possible."

5. Al Michaels had to battle noise interference from multiple sources as he called the final minutes.

Not only was Michaels dealing with deafening crowd noise, but someone in the production truck left the intercom channel open, so he had the sound of his crew whooping it up in his headphones.

"I've got a building that's shaking, a crowd that's going crazy and I've got to hear all this craziness going on in the truck, so all I did was work in an intense state of concentration," Michaels said. "To think about what would be said at the end of the game or how it would be said never could enter my mind. ... I've got to call it pass by pass, shot by shot."

"Then (it was) just serendipitous that with six or seven seconds to go, the puck comes out to center ice, and now the game is going to be over. The Soviets have no time to mount a last rush. The puck is in the neutral zone, and the word that popped into my head was 'miraculous.' That's just the word that popped in, and it got morphed into a question and quick answer, and away we went."

LET'S PLAY 2

	Wednesday Rangers 7 p.m. NBCSN	Friday Predators 7:30 p.m. NBCSCH
	Thursday Hornets 7 p.m. NBCSCH	Saturday Suns 7 p.m. NBCSCH
	Saturday Athletics 2:05 p.m. Marquee	Sunday @Dodgers 2:05 p.m. Marquee
	Saturday Angels 2:05 p.m.	Sunday @Reds 2:05 p.m.

WEDNESDAY ON TV/RADIO

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
5:30 p.m.	Butler at Seton Hall	FS1
6 p.m.	Michigan at Rutgers	BTN
6 p.m.	Syracuse at Louisville	ESPN
6 p.m.	Auburn at Georgia	ESPN2
6 p.m.	UCF at Cincinnati	ESPNU
6 p.m.	East Carolina at Memphis	CBSSN
7 p.m.	Missouri State at Bradley	NBCSCH
7:30 p.m.	Providence at Georgetown	FS1
8 p.m.	Villanova at DePaul	CBSSN
		WSCR-AM 670
8 p.m.	Indiana at Minnesota	BTN
8 p.m.	Duke at N.C. State	ESPN
8 p.m.	Kansas State at Texas Tech	ESPN2
8 p.m.	Tulsa at Houston	ESPNU

NHL		
7 p.m.	Rangers at Blackhawks	NBCSN
		WGN-AM 720

SOCCER		
1:30 p.m.	Man. City vs. West Ham	NBCSN
2 p.m.	Tottenham vs. RB Leipzig	TNT

TENNIS		
4 p.m.	Delray, Rio	Tennis
4 a.m. (Thu.)	Delray, Rio, Marseille, Dubai	Tennis

ASK THE REPORTER BRAD BIGGS

Could the Bears trade for Nick Foles if Jacksonville gave them the extra first-round pick acquired in the Jalen Ramsey trade? Foles would be legitimate competition for Mitch Trubisky, a high-upside backup, and the drawback of a \$15 million cap hit would be offset by the addition of a first-round talent.

— Sanjay A.

I like the creative thinking you've applied here, and Foles would certainly have a good base of knowledge in the offense based on his background. But let's be real: Where is the upside for the Jaguars in packaging a first-round pick to get rid of Foles? They would carry a large amount of dead cap space whether they trade Foles or cut him, so why give away a valuable asset? The Jaguars clearly have buyer's remorse less than 12 months after adding the former Super Bowl hero, but I'm not convinced they're completely sold on Gardner Minshew as the answer either. With general manager Dave Caldwell and coach Doug Marrone under pressure to win this season, it might make more sense for the Jaguars to keep both quarterbacks and see how the position sorts itself out during the summer.

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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SPORTS



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

NASCAR

Safety still relative

Crash reminder that despite advances, no recent deaths, danger lurks at every turn

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Dale Earnhardt's death on the final lap of the Daytona 500 may have saved Ryan Newman's life.

Earnhardt died 19 years ago Tuesday, the same day Roush Fenway Racing said Newman was awake and talking to doctors and family following his own harrowing accident on the last lap of the biggest race of the year.

Earnhardt died instantly when he hit the wall at Daytona International Speedway in what is considered the darkest day in NASCAR history. It triggered a chain reaction of safety improvements as the sanctioning body put a massive emphasis on protecting its drivers.

So it was jarring when Newman went airborne on the final lap of Monday night's rain-rescheduled Daytona 500 — a grim reminder that racing cars at 200 mph inches away from other drivers will never be safe.

Newman had just taken the lead when fellow Ford driver Ryan Blaney received a huge push from Denny Hamlin that put Blaney on Newman's bumper. At that point, Blaney said his only goal was to push Newman across the finish line so a Ford driver would beat Hamlin in a Toyota. Instead, their bumpers never locked correctly and the shove Blaney gave Newman caused him to turn right and hit a wall. His car flipped, went airborne, and was drilled again in the door by another driver. That second hit sent the car further into the air before it finally landed on its hood and slid toward the finish line at Daytona International Speedway.

His spotter pleaded with Newman on the in-car radio "Talk to me when you can, buddy," but no words came from the driver.

An industry so accustomed over the last two decades to seeing drivers climb from crumpled cars with hardly a scratch held its breath as it took nearly 20 minutes for the 42-year-old to be removed from the car. It was another two hours before NASCAR said Newman was in serious condition at a hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Roush Fenway Racing said Tuesday that Newman "is awake and speaking with family and doctors. Ryan and his family have expressed their appreciation for the concern and heartfelt messages from across the country. They are grateful for the unwavering support of the NASCAR community and beyond."

No information was given on specific injuries.

This was a scare NASCAR has dodged for 19 years. Carl Edwards sailed into a fence at Talladega in 2009, climbed from the burning wreckage and then jogged across the finish line to complete the race. Kyle Larson in a 2009 Xfinity Series race flew into the Daytona fence and walked away unscathed even though the front half of his car had been completely torn away.

Kyle Busch crashed into a concrete wall at Daytona the day before the 500 in 2015. He broke both his legs and still was able to get himself out of the car. Five months later, Austin Dillon ripped out a section of Daytona fencing, landed upside down in a destroyed race car, and after he was pulled to safety by team members, he flapped both hands in the air for the crowd in a tribute to the signature celebration of the late bull-rider Lane Frost.

Perhaps it has created a false sense of security in today's cars because so many drivers have walked away from so many accidents.

"The number one thing that NASCAR always does is put safety before competition, you've got to have a car that's safe," said Hamlin, who went on to win his third Daytona 500 in the last five years. "You've got to have all your equipment that's safe, and the sport has been very fortunate to not



CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY

Ryan Newman's hauler remained in the garage area at Daytona International Speedway on Monday night after the driver was taken to the hospital following a horrific crash.

"I thank my lucky stars every day that I came in the sport when I did."

— Denny Hamlin, who won the Daytona 500 on Monday, on all of the safety rules put in place since Dale Earnhardt's death

have anything freak or weird happen for many, many years. But a lot of that is because of the development and the constant strive to make things better and safer.

"I thank my lucky stars every day that I came in the sport when I did."

Just five years before Hamlin arrived on the scene, Earnhardt was the fourth driver to die of a basilar skull fracture in an eight-month span. Adam Petty was killed in a 2000 crash at New Hampshire, a mere hundred or so yards from where Kenny Irwin had a fatal impact two months later. Tony Roper was killed in October in a crash at Texas.

But Earnhardt's death shook the sport to its core. The seven-time champion was the toughest man anyone knew and no crash was going to claim The Intimidator.

Only Earnhardt was an old-school racer still using his preferred routines. He wore customized open-faced helmets, sat low in his seat in a position that almost looked as if he was reclined, and, allegedly adjusted his seatbelts from the recommended installation settings to a position that suited his comfort level.

NASCAR acted quickly and speculation over Earnhardt's seat belts led teams to move from traditional five to six-point safety harnesses.

NASCAR also encouraged its drivers to begin wearing a head-and-neck restraint system, and by August of that year 41 of the 43 drivers in the field at Michigan were using them. The device was not made mandatory until 2001, after Blaise Alexander was killed in an ARCA race at Charlotte. Tony Stewart resisted the device because he argued it made him feel claustrophobic in the car, but NASCAR refused to let him on track until he put on the restraint.

The HANS device is now mandatory in nearly every professional racing series, from Formula One to IndyCar and even dirt racing.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway had already been developing softer walls, and NASCAR finally got on board with the process after Earnhardt's death. Although the SAFER Barriers are credited to IndyCar's development, NASCAR contributed to the research costs and began installation in the corners at its tracks. The softer walls slowly evolved to more areas of tracks following hard hits by Jeff Gordon, Elliott Sadler, and other top stars. After Busch

broke his legs at Daytona by hitting a part of the wall not protected with energy-absorbing foam, NASCAR increased installation of the safety measure across the entire series.

NASCAR also began requiring containment seats — more of an amusement park ride-style setup than a traditional car seat. Development was done to improve helmets, restraint systems and cockpit safety.

Then came in 2006 the Car of Tomorrow, built specifically as the safest stock car ever run in NASCAR. The car had energy-absorbing foam in the doors and tougher crush zones. The car was a tank, designed to keep drivers alive.

The car was replaced by the "Gen 6" in 2014 with a new chassis aesthetic changes, and it will be replaced next year by the "Next-Gen" car designed to cut costs, improve competition and give manufacturers wider access to personalized identification. It will be as safe as NASCAR can build it, but no innovation can guarantee the safety of any driver.

"We know the risks," Juan Pablo Montoya told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Montoya in 2012 slammed into a jet dryer at Daytona in a collision that caused an immediate fireball and had the tough Colombian gingerly walking away from the scene.

But Montoya did walk away, as did Corey LaJoie on Monday night after hitting Newman's flying car directly on the driver's side. LaJoie's car caught fire but he was able to get out onto the track, where he dropped to his knees and waited for medical personnel.

That's what everyone waited for with Newman, too, but the length of time it was taking the safety crew to attend to his overturned car and his silence on the radio was ominous. Hamlin's team was widely criticized for celebrating the victory, but team owner Joe Gibbs insisted they had no idea Newman's situation was serious.

"If you think about all the wrecks that we've had over the last, I don't know, how many number of years, and some of them looked real serious, we've been so fortunate," Gibbs said. "Participating in sports and being in things where there's some risk ... in a way, that's what (drivers) get excited about. We know what can happen. You just don't dream that it would happen."

Newman appears to be improving, a welcome relief the day after NASCAR's showcase event ended in horror. Newman was lucky; Justin Wilson was not in a fatal 2015 IndyCar fluke when a broken part from the leader bounced on the track and hit him in the head nearly 18 positions back in traffic.

Newman's accident is part of the thrill that draws fans to the sport, and an adrenaline rush that fuels the drivers. That he survived is because of nonstop work on safety for nearly two decades. That work will never end.

ILLINOIS 62,
PENN STATE 56

Dosunmu drives key victory

Guard's clutch play puts Illini on track for Big Dance

By SHANNON RYAN

A week ago, Illinois fans fretted about whether their star player would be lost to injury after Ayo Dosunmu took an awkward, nasty fall that legitimized their fear in the final seconds of a one-point loss to Michigan State in Champaign. On Tuesday night at Penn State, Dosunmu returned to the starting lineup after a one-game absence and cemented his legacy.

Dosunmu scored a game-high 24 points, including a victory-clinching runner with 16 seconds left for a marquee 62-56 victory for Illinois against No. 9 Penn State.

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for the Illini while ending the surging Nittany Lions' eight-game victory run. It also marked the first time since 2014 that the Illini (17-9, 9-6 Big Ten) won a road game against a Top 25 team, breaking a streak of 18 such losses.

Here are three takeaways from Illinois' victory.

1. Ayo Dosunmu's legend continues.

Already beloved since committing to Illinois out of Morgan Park in 2017, Dosunmu cemented his legacy in Champaign with his performance.

He showed no signs of wear or fatigue from his left leg injury. He looked as aggressive and determined as ever in Happy Valley.

Dosunmu already had wowed college basketball fans with his clutch shooting to beat Michigan, Wisconsin and Rutgers. Coming back from an injury to beat a top-10 opponent on the road might top them all.

Dosunmu, who made 9 of 15 shots, paced Illinois throughout the game and was the most important difference-maker on the court. He scored 16 of his points in the second half.

"When you lose your alpha, it throws things off," coach Brad Underwood said on the FS1 broadcast. "And how good was he today?"

The answer: Great.

2. A few other stars showed up, too.

Andres Feliz also had a clutch play against Penn State (20-6, 10-5). The guard grabbed an offensive rebound with less than 30 seconds to play that forced the Nittany Lions to foul.

He scored only five points but grabbed seven rebounds.

Center Kofi Cockburn looked destined for a frustrating game after picking up two early fouls and playing only five minutes before halftime. But he looked strong in the post when he returned, finishing with 14 points and seven rebounds.

Alan Griffin helped keep Illinois afloat in the first half, when he scored all nine of his points off the bench. Da'Monte Williams' defense helped frustrate Penn State's Lamar Stevens, who worked hard for his 13 points while shooting 3-for-11 from the field.

3. The Illini look bound for the NCAA Tournament.

The victory seems as if it could be the one to solidify Illinois' tournament resume, barring a bizarre late-season collapse.

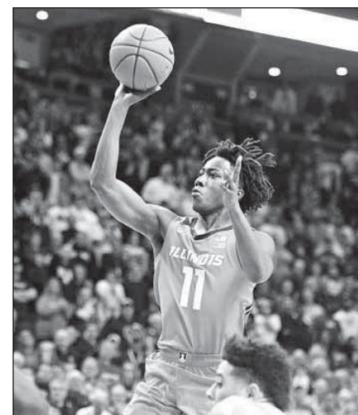
The Illini are sure to rise from No. 38 in the NET ratings. The victory marked their fourth road win in the Big Ten, one of the nation's toughest leagues. Illinois owns six "Quad 1" wins.

The Illini completed a brutal stretch of eight games, five on the road, at 4-4. Ken Pomeroy's analytics predict four victories in the Illini's final five regular-season games.

"That's a big win," Underwood told players Tuesday in the locker room.

They certainly have an impressive resume. A NCAA Tournament appearance would be the first for Illinois since 2013.

The Illini are also playing for Big Ten Tournament seeding. They moved into a five-way tie for third place in the conference standings, a game behind second-place Penn State.



GARY M. BARANEC/AP

Illinois' Ayo Dosunmu hits a key basket in the final minute Tuesday night.

BASKETBALL



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

MARYLAND 76, NORTHWESTERN 67

10-poor: Skid hits double digits

Ryan Young led Northwestern with 17 points and eight rebounds, but the Wildcats suffered their 10th consecutive loss Tuesday night, 76-67 to No. 7 Maryland in College Park, Md. Jalen Smith had 22 points and 19 rebounds for the Terrapins (22-4, 12-3), who won their ninth straight and opened a two-game lead in the Big Ten. Boo Buie scored 15 points for the Wildcats (6-19, 1-14), and Miller Kopp added 13. Anthony Cowan Jr. scored 19 points for Maryland, which made 18 of 22 free throws. For more, go to chicagotribune.com/sports

Injuries

Continued from Page 1

Carter isn't the only injured Bull under the spotlight. Otto Porter Jr., who has been out for the past 3½ months with a fractured left foot, also was back on the practice floor Tuesday and continues easing his way toward a potential return.

Porter, too, didn't promise a specific date for his return to game action but was encouraged with the on-floor work he was able to squeeze out of Tuesday's 80-minute practice.

"I'll continue this a day at a time," he said, "making sure I'm pain free. Just trying to get back out there with the guys. ... If I'm 100 percent, that's when I'll know."

Bulls coach Jim Boylen didn't have status updates on Lauri Markkanen (injured pelvis) or Kris Dunn (knee). But Boylen shared Carter's sentiments that these final 27 games need to be attacked with a sense of purpose and was impressed by his young big man's mentality.

"He has always been a team guy," Boylen said. "He takes great pride in his work and he cares about the team. When we lose games and he's not playing, it hurts him. It bothers him. So he's (eager) to get back."

Boylen felt Carter's energy Tuesday and was encouraged by Porter's participation as well.

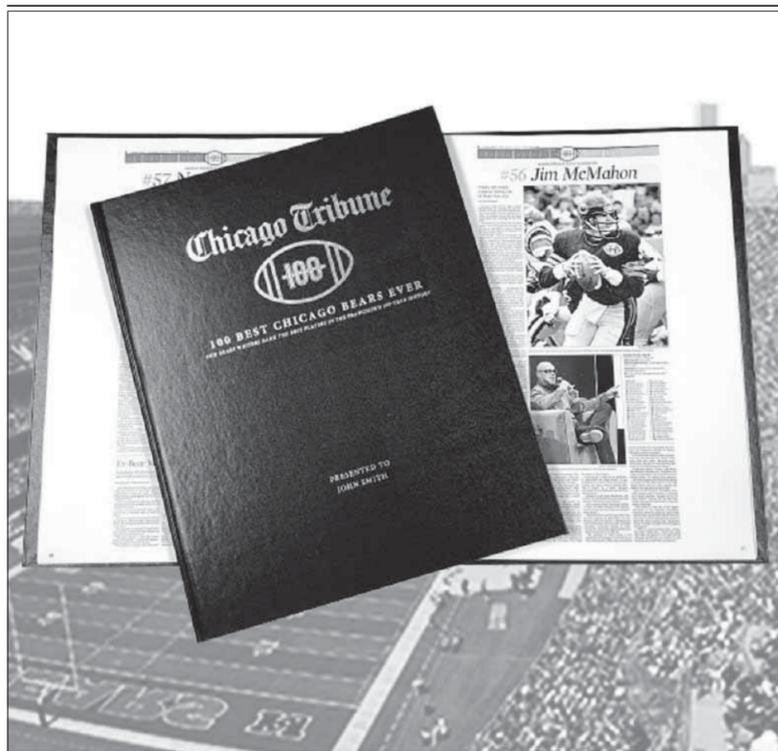
"I think it's always good when a guy can get back on the floor," Boylen said. "I think it does something to his healing mentality where it's, 'Hey, I can do this. Hey, I'm back a little bit.' So we're not out of the woods yet. But we have some guys coming over the hill."

Carter is one of those guys and expressed his enthusiasm for being able to experience All-Star Weekend in Chicago.

"It gave me some motivation as far as where I want to be in the future," he said. "I want to be on that big stage in front of everybody, and that's something I'm definitely looking forward to accomplishing in my career."

First, though, Carter will eye a return to game action in the near future with hopes of giving the Bulls defense a lift. In 37 games this season, Carter has averaged 11.7 points and 9.9 rebounds.

Said Boylen: "We'll get him back when we get him back, and I'm sure he'll play his butt off."



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Crossword

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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2/19/20

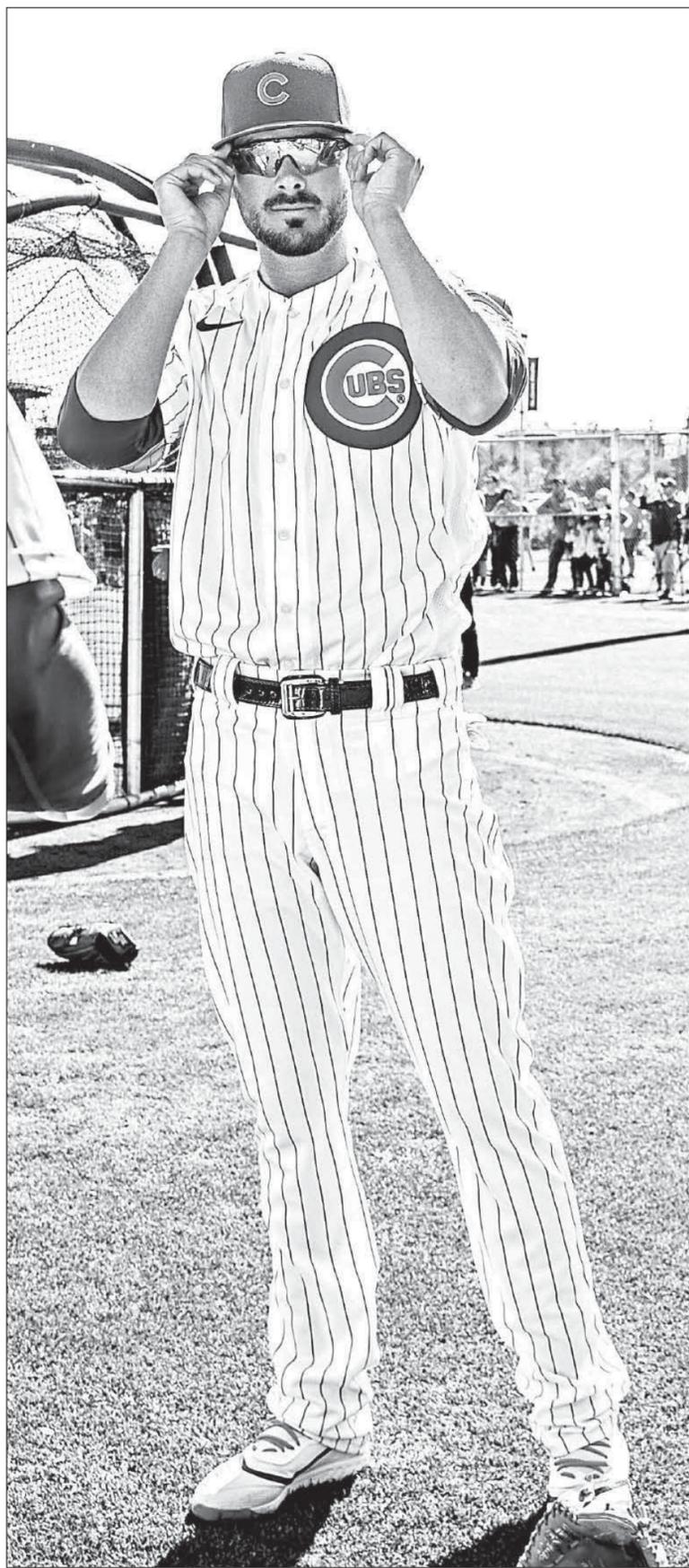
- ACROSS**
- 1 "Jack Sprat could eat no ..."
 - 4 Blaze residue
 - 9 Misfortunes
 - 13 Game cubes
 - 14 Dismal
 - 15 Hawaiian island
 - 16 ___ in a while; occasionally
 - 17 U.S. state capital
 - 19 Mediocre grade
 - 20 Leo XIII & Pius X
 - 21 Expand
 - 22 Hideaways
 - 24 White lie
 - 25 Builds
 - 27 Game loss
 - 30 Aneurysm site
 - 31 Say hello to
 - 33 Pigeon's cry
 - 35 ___ the night before Christmas...
 - 36 Hair color
 - 37 Read over quickly
 - 38 All ___; fully prepared
 - 39 Deviousness
 - 40 Piece of playground equipment
 - 41 Partial refund to a buyer
 - 43 ___ Knight and the Pips
 - 44 "That's What Friends ___ For"
 - 45 Goopy mud
 - 46 Wading bird
 - 49 Blossom
 - 51 Org. for Bulls & Bucks
 - 54 Brave
 - 56 Go no further
 - 57 Wood-shaping tool
 - 58 Tales
 - 59 Okla.-to-Ark. direction
 - 60 Night light
 - 61 Like a garden after the rain
 - 62 Unser & Roker
- DOWN**
- 1 "Well, you're a ___ one to talk!"
 - 2 Speed up
 - 3 ___ time; start of a golf round
 - 4 Hates
 - 5 Smacks
 - 6 Roll call response
 - 7 Dumbo's "wings"
 - 8 ___ mask; winter facial protector
 - 9 Drink
 - 10 Praise
 - 11 Entice; draw in
 - 12 Write one's name on
 - 13 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 - 18 Speedy

Solutions

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- 20 Middle East bread
- 23 Play divisions
- 24 Shiny
- 25 Dines
- 26 Crew member
- 27 Declare untrue
- 28 Unintended
- 29 Flatterer
- 31 Delight
- 32 Go bad
- 34 Singles
- 36 "Don't ___ off more than you can chew"
- 37 Close noisily
- 39 Hooded jacket
- 40 Slender
- 42 Like a desolate stretch of land
- 43 Shiny
- 45 Noise
- 46 Rip-off
- 47 Fuss and bother
- 48 Greek liqueur
- 49 Boyfriend
- 50 Tolkien's "The ___ of the Rings"
- 52 Supervisor
- 53 Isn't ___ to; probably won't
- 55 P.E. class building
- 56 Baltic or Black

CUBS



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Amid speculation, Kris Bryant expects to be with the Cubs on opening day.

CUBS TAKEAWAYS

Bryant isn't expecting trade

BY MARK GONZALES

MESA, Ariz. — Here are four takeaways from Cubs spring training Tuesday.

1. Kris Bryant expects to be with the Cubs on opening day.

Kris Bryant continued to rave about his meeting Sunday with Cubs President Theo Epstein to the point Bryant believes the trade speculation might subside somewhat.

Asked directly Tuesday whether he expects to wear a Cubs uniform on opening day March 26 against the Brewers at Miller Park, Bryant replied with a firm “yes.”

That’s no guarantee, of course, but Bryant said Epstein gave him some insight as to “what kind of happened in the offseason.”

After being asked if Epstein would grant his request to be kept in the loop about any developments, Bryant paused for six seconds before saying no, then waited another eight seconds before elaborating.

“The conversation I had is all that I needed for the questions that were asked in the press conference,” Bryant said. “We cleared up things about what I was feeling, what he was feeling about the offseason. It was good. I’m not telling you anymore.”

2. The Cubs are expanding Javier Baez’s defensive skills.

The Cubs practiced bunt coverage as part of their defensive work, and one wrinkle featured Javier Baez charging from shortstop and Kris Bryant holding at third base.

“That’s top secret,” Bryant deadpanned. “You guys aren’t scouts for the other team.”

This likely will be a new feature under manager David Ross, who also was tight-lipped about the coverage.

“I don’t know how often that play would be used this year,” said Bryant, whose 6-foot-5 frame provides a big target at third. “But we have the talent to do it.”

3. Jon Lester doesn’t want ball-strike calls during live batting practice.

The Cubs have been using umpires to bring intensity to batting practice, but Jon Lester asked not to have his pitches called. He believes removing the batting cage provides enough of a game-type atmosphere.

“Right now my main focus is having a good, solid tempo,” Lester said. “Feeling like you’re aggressive is a good way to describe it.”

Lester said his delivery already feels more athletic than mechanical.

4. Kris Bryant broke his favorite bat in batting practice.

Jon Lester faced a group of hitters that included Anthony Rizzo, Jason Kipnis and Kris Bryant, who didn’t fare well.

“I was in the bat room looking for bats and I picked that one up,” Bryant said of the first bat he used. “It felt really good, and when you do that, you usually break it.”

Sure enough, Lester threw a cutter up and in that jammed Bryant and broke his bat.

But all was not lost. “I got my walk,” Bryant quipped.

Lester

Continued from Page 1

Manfred’s comments Sunday, which some believe devalued the Commissioner’s Trophy, came in defense of his perceived soft punishment against the Astros for their electronic sign-stealing tactics during their 2017 World Series championship season. MLB granted some players immunity from penalties for participating in its investigation.

“Guys were more or less disappointed that players didn’t get punished,” Lester said. “Regardless of what the manager, coach or whoever else did or (was) a part of it, there’s some punishment that needed to be handed down. And for whatever reason, (Manfred) chose not to do it.

“He’s the bossman. He makes those decisions. In those situations that played against that team in important games, you saw their emotions and gut reaction come out about it. It’s just a hard thing right now.

“That’s putting our game in a not-so-good place, but I’m hoping the other 29 teams go around that and (will) be better for the fans going forward.”

At a news conference in Scottsdale three hours after Lester criticized Manfred for referring to the trophy as a “piece of metal,” the commissioner issued an apology.

“I referred to the World Series trophy in a disrespectful way,” Manfred said. “I want to apologize for it.”

Manfred said the decision to grant immunity to players who cooperated in the investigation was negotiated with the Major League Baseball Players Association.

Lester hopes the attention on the scandal will subside as exhibition games begin this weekend. But he didn’t seem to believe the other 29 teams would follow Manfred’s edict that they don’t retaliate by intentionally throwing at Astros batters.

“That’s each individual club’s personal decision,” Lester said. “I’m sure it’s going to happen. I’m sure something is going to happen. I don’t think this is going to be brushed under the rug and guys are going to turn the other cheek and keep playing.”

The 2017 Dodgers, which included current Cubs pitchers Yu Darvish and Brandon Morrow, might have been deprived of a World Series title because of the Astros’ tactics.

“I’d imagine if they ever played again, that would be an interesting series,” Lester said of a Dodgers-Astros matchup, which isn’t scheduled for 2020. “I’m sure the New York (Yankees) series would be interesting. I’m not in those clubhouses. I don’t know how those guys are going to handle it.

“I’d love to have the seven runs I gave up (last May) back, let alone just a fair playing field. But you can’t get them back. You can’t get the World Series trophy back. What do you do? How do you handle this the right way? Express your feelings, but at the same time do it the right way.”

Lester was asked how he would handle the situation if he were victimized by the cheating.

“You’re asking kind of the impossible question,” Lester said. “I think if I was (playing for an American League West) team, I’d handle it differently than if I was (playing for the Yankees) or somebody out of the division.”

Lester envisioned that AL West foes will be “pretty harried” the first couple of times they face the Astros, and he emphasized the importance of winning each game and how one game can determine whether a team advances to the playoffs.

“Do you chance that by drilling the first three guys you face and get thrown out?” Lester said.

“Then you screw your bullpen for the next week. It’s a hard question to answer, but I wouldn’t be surprised if something happened in the division.”



CURTIS COMPTON/AP

Many think Rob Manfred was too lenient in punishing players in the sign-stealing scandal.

Sullivan

Continued from Page 1

Turner’s manager, Dave Roberts, gave Manfred credit for apologizing.

“Listen, we’ve all said things that we’d like to have back,” Roberts said. “He’s not exempt. And for him to circle back a couple days later and apologize, I think it says a lot.”

As the de facto judge and jury of baseball discipline, Manfred was responsible for issuing a \$5 million fine to the Astros and levying suspensions to general manager Jeff Luhnow and manager A.J. Hinch, who subsequently were fired. But his decision not to penalize the actual players who cheated is a move that’s been greeted with almost universal derision.

Manfred said the investigation, which began after a report in *The Athletic* in which former Astros pitcher Mike Fiers revealed a sign-stealing scheme with video cameras and a trash can, would’ve been more difficult to complete without the cooperation of players. He said MLB originally asked the MLBPA to have the Astros players submit to interviews, which prompted the union to ask if there would be any “disciplinary intention.”

“I think the response was we couldn’t rule that out,” Manfred said. “The union indicated to us that that would be a problem. We went back and suggested to them we’d give them an initial list of players that we would grant immunity to, preserving our ability to discipline other players. And the union came back and said that players would cooperate only if there was blanket immunity.

“And because we were at a bit of a stalemate and we needed player witnesses, we agreed to that immunity agreement.”

Manfred added they wouldn’t have discovered all the facts without granting those players immunity.

Dodgers outfielder Cody Bellinger’s harsh comments about the Astros and the lack of punishment ignited a volley of shots from his peers. From Kris Bryant to Mike Trout to Aaron Judge, many of baseball’s biggest stars have made it a point to issue harsh criticism of the cheating Astros players and the commissioner they blamed for letting them off the hook.

Braves outfielder Nick Markakis told reporters Tuesday Manfred “handled it the wrong way,” and “should be embarrassed of himself,” while saying the proper

response to the Astros is to incite violence.

“Every single guy over there needs a beating,” Markakis said.

Even James, the NBA’s biggest star, gave the Astros and Manfred a kick in the teeth for the scandal.

“Listen I know I don’t play baseball but I am in Sports and I know if someone cheated me out of winning the title and I found out about it I would be (expletive) irate!” James tweeted. “I mean like uncontrollable about what I would/could do! Listen here baseball commissioner listen to your players speaking today about how disgusted, mad, hurt, broken, etc etc about this. Literally the ball is in your court (or should I say field) and you need to fix this for the sake of Sports!”

While Astros manager Dusty Baker asked MLB to request that players tone down the rhetoric, the flames have only been fanned as spring training goes into high gear.

Roberts, whose team lost to the Astros in the ’17 Series, said he wouldn’t tell any of his players what or what not to say about it.

“I think as long as our players are informed, I’ve got no problem with them kind of speaking their minds,” Roberts said. “There is a point where you speak your piece and then you move forward. Right now I think we’re just getting going in spring training and guys have an opportunity to speak, and they’re doing that.

“But I think our guys are ready to move forward. I don’t think I need to (say anything). I just trust that our guys can handle themselves in a professional way. Once they’re educated on the situation and say their piece, I think we’ll have a good handle on things.”

Still, the repercussions from the cheating scandal are likely to be felt all season, and perhaps longer, as players continue to speak their minds. Manfred said he’s surprised by some of the comments.

“I’ve been around a long time, and I’ve never seen the kind of commentary from players about other players in the entire time that I’ve been involved,” he said.

Manfred reiterated the immunity he granted Astros players was “negotiated with the union that represents players.”

Whether the game can regain the trust of fans is a question no one can answer. Manfred insisted it’s a “joint obligation” between the players and MLB to make sure this kind of occurrence never happens again.

Cubs minor-leaguers’ salaries to rise by at least 50% this year

BY MARK GONZALES

The Cubs are raising the minimum salaries for minor-league players throughout the organization by at least 50% this year, a source confirmed Tuesday.

The move follows the trend of the Blue Jays, who last year raised the minimum salaries of their minor-leaguers by 50%.

The raises also would alleviate some of the criticism Major League Baseball has received for not giving minor-leaguers livable wages.

Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts took the initiative to authorize the salary increases, the source said. Those raises will kick in ahead of MLB’s plan to increase minor-league salaries for the 2021 season, accord-

ing to a report Friday by the Associated Press.

All Cubs minor-leaguers playing under the terms of their first-year contracts will receive a raise ranging from \$112 to \$295 a week, depending on their level and year of professional ball.

The average player will receive a raise of about \$200 a week, which equates to an

average increase of about 50%, with players at the lower-minor-league levels (below Double A) receiving an average increase of about 75%.

AP reported that weekly salaries for the 2021 season will jump from \$290 to \$400 for short-season and rookie leagues, \$290 to \$500 in Class A, \$350 to \$600 in Double A and \$502 to \$700 in Triple A.



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SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	40	15	.727	—
Sacramento	38	16	.704	1½
Philadelphia	34	21	.618	6
Brooklyn	25	28	.472	14
New York	17	38	.309	23

SOUTHEAST

Miami	35	19	.648	—
Orlando	24	31	.436	11½
Washington	20	33	.377	14½
Charlotte	18	36	.333	17
Atlanta	15	41	.268	21

CENTRAL

Milwaukee	46	8	.852	—
Indiana	32	23	.582	14½
Chicago	19	36	.345	27½
Detroit	19	38	.333	28½
Cleveland	14	40	.259	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	34	20	.630	—
Dallas	33	22	.600	1½
Memphis	28	26	.519	6
San Antonio	21	33	.389	11
New Orleans	23	32	.418	11½

NORTHWEST

Denver	38	17	.691	—
Utah	36	18	.667	1½
Oklahoma City	33	22	.600	5
Portland	25	31	.446	13½
Minnesota	16	37	.302	21

PACIFIC

L.A. Lakers	41	12	.774	—
L.A. Clippers	37	18	.673	5
Phoenix	22	33	.400	20
Sacramento	21	33	.389	20½
Golden State	12	43	.218	30

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Detroit, 6 p.m.
Miami at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Houston at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

RECORDS AT 2018-19 BREAK

EAST	W	L	GB	PPG	PA/G
Atlantic Division					
Toronto	43	16	—	114.3	108.7
Philadelphia	37	21	5.5	115.9	112.2
Boston	37	21	5.5	113.0	106.6
Brooklyn	30	29	13.0	112.3	112.7
New York	11	47	31.5	105.3	114.0
Central Division					
Milwaukee	43	14	—	116.9	107.1
Indiana	38	20	5.5	108.1	102.9
Detroit	26	30	16.5	106.5	108.1
Chicago	14	44	29.5	103.2	111.6
Cleveland	12	46	31.5	103.0	113.5
Southeast Division					
Charlotte	27	30	—	110.8	111.3
Orlando	27	32	1.0	105.8	106.9
Miami	26	30	0.5	105.1	105.7
Washington	24	34	3.5	113.9	116.9
Atlanta	19	39	8.5	110.6	118.2
WEST	W	L	GB	PPG	PA/G
Northwest Division					
Denver	39	18	—	112.0	107.1
Oklahoma City	37	20	2.0	115.4	110.2
Portland	34	23	5.0	113.3	110.3
Utah	32	25	7.0	109.2	105.9
Minnesota	27	30	12.0	111.9	111.7
Pacific Division					
Golden State	41	16	—	118.8	111.7
L.A. Clippers	37	27	10.0	114.3	113.8
Sacramento	30	27	11.0	113.4	114.6
L.A. Lakers	28	29	13.0	112.2	113.4
Phoenix	11	48	31.0	105.9	116.1
Southwest Division					
Houston	33	24	—	113.1	111.1
San Antonio	33	26	1.0	112.3	111.4
Dallas	26	31	7.0	108.7	108.7
New Orleans	26	33	8.0	115.6	114.8
Memphis	23	36	11.0	100.6	103.8

through Feb. 20, 2019

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	37	11	12	86	199	146
Tampa Bay	40	15	5	85	215	159
Toronto	31	22	8	70	213	204
Florida	31	22	6	68	206	201
Buffalo	27	25	8	62	175	190
Montreal	27	27	8	62	187	192
Ottawa	21	28	11	53	163	204
Detroit	15	43	4	34	127	232

METRO.

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Pittsburgh	37	15	6	80	196	154
Washington	37	17	5	79	208	180
Philadelphia	33	20	7	73	198	178
N.Y. Islanders	33	19	6	72	167	159
Carolina	34	21	4	72	193	164
Columbus	30	19	12	72	156	155
N.Y. Rangers	30	24	4	64	189	181
New Jersey	22	27	14	54	162	207

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	33	17	10	76	190	172
Dallas	34	19	7	74	161	151
Colorado	33	18	7	73	206	164
Winnipeg	31	25	5	67	185	184
Nashville	29	23	7	65	190	191
Minnesota	27	24	7	61	176	187
Chicago	26	25	8	60	176	188

PACIFIC

Edmonton	32	21	6	70	190	183
Vegas	31	22	8	70	192	185
Vancouver	32	22	5	69	191	180
Calgary	30	24	6	68	180	190
Arizona	31	24	6	68	180	190
San Jose	30	24	6	68	172	167
San Jose	26	29	4	56	155	194
Anaheim	24	28	7	55	155	186
Los Angeles	21	34	5	47	148	193

2 pts for win, 1 pt for shootout/OT loss

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia 5, Columbus 1
Pittsburgh 5, Toronto 2
Detroit 4, Montreal 3
Winnipeg 6, Los Angeles 3
Ottawa 7, Buffalo 4
St. Louis 3, New Jersey 0

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Rangers at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Arizona at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Edmonton, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Anaheim, 9 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Vancouver, 9:30 p.m.

BLUES 3, DEVILS 0

New Jersey	0	0	0	0	—
St. Louis	0	1	2	—	3

FIRST PERIOD: None.

Penalties: Subban, NJ (roughing), 6:42; Steen, STL (illegal equipment), 6:42; New Jersey bench, served by Merkle (too many men on the ice), 18:47.

SECOND PERIOD: 1, St. Louis, Barbashev 8 (Gunnarsson), 9:21.

Penalties: Merkle, NJ (High Sticking), 3:28; Thomas, STL (hooking), 11:50; Simmonds, NJ (tripping), 11:55.

THIRD PERIOD: 2, St. Louis, Barbashev 9 (Sundqvist, Blais), 5:27; 3, St. Louis, Schwartz 19 (Schenn, O'Reilly), 14:45.

Penalty: Thomas, STL (high stick), 5:45.

SHOTS ON GOAL: New Jersey 6-5-6-17.

ST. LOUIS 13-11-39.

POWER PLAYS: New Jersey 0 of 3; St. Louis 0 of 3.

GOALIES: New Jersey, Domingue 3-7-2 (39 shots-36 saves). St. Louis, Binnington 24-11-7 (17-17). A: 19,150. T: 2:23.

Referees: Marc Joannette, Michael Markovic.

Linesmen: Matt MacPherson, Mark Shewchuk.

SCORING LEADERS

TOTAL POINTS	GP	G	A	PT
Leon Draisaitl, Edm	59	34	61	95
Nathan MacKinnon, Col	58	33	49	82
David Pastrnak, Bos	60	42	40	82
Connor McDavid, Edm	55	30	51	81
Artemi Panarin, NYR	57	29	49	78
Brad Marchand, Bos	60	23	51	74
Patrick Kane, Chi	59	27	47	74
Jack Eichel, Buf	58	33	41	74
Nikita Kucherov, TB	58	29	44	73
Jonathan Huberdeau, Fla	59	21	50	71
Auston Matthews, Tor	60	42	29	71
John Carlson, Was	59	15	55	70
Steven Stamkos, TB	54	27	35	62

POINTS/GAME

Leon Draisaitl, Edm	59	1.5	1.61
Connor McDavid, Edm	55	1.1	1.47
Nathan MacKinnon, Col	58	0.82	1.41
Artemi Panarin, NYR	57	0.82	1.37
David Pastrnak, Bos	60	0.82	1.37

through Monday

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. Baylor (24-1) beat Oklahoma 65-54. Next: vs. No. 3 Kansas, Saturday.
2. Gonzaga (26-1) did not play. Next: vs. San Francisco, Thursday.
3. Kansas (23-3) did not play. Next: at No. 1 Baylor, Saturday.
4. San Diego State (26-0) did not play. Next: vs. UNLV, Saturday.
5. Dayton (24-2) beat VCU 66-61. Next: vs. Duquesne, Saturday.
6. Duke (22-3) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Wednesday.
7. Maryland (22-4) beat Northwestern 76-67. Next: at No. 25 Ohio State, Sun.
8. Florida State (22-4) beat Pittsburgh 82-67. Next: at N.C. State, Saturday.
9. Penn State (20-6) lost to Illinois 62-56. Next: at Indiana, Sunday.
10. Kentucky (21-5) beat LSU 79-76. Next: vs. Florida, Saturday.
11. Louisville (21-5) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Wednesday.
12. Villanova (19-6) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Wednesday.
13. Auburn (22-3) did not play. Next: at Georgia, Wednesday.
14. Oregon (20-6) did not play. Next: at Arizona State, Thursday.
15. Creighton (21-6) beat No. 19 Marquette 73-65. Next: vs. No. 21 Butler, Sun.
16. Seton Hall (18-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Butler, Wednesday.
17. West Virginia (19-7) beat Oklahoma State 65-47. Next: at TCU, Saturday.
18. Colorado (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Thursday.
19. Marquette (17-8) lost to No. 15 Creighton 73-65. Next: at Providence, Sat.
20. Iowa (18-8) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25 Ohio State, Thursday.
21. Butler (19-7) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Seton Hall, Wednesday.
22. Houston (20-6) did not play. Next: vs. Tulsa, Wednesday.
23. BYU (21-7) did not play. Next: vs. Santa Clara, Thursday.
24. Arizona (18-7) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon State, Thursday.
25. Ohio State (17-8) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Iowa, Thursday.

TUESDAY'S SCORES

EAST
Brooklyn 108, Medgar Evers 77
Bryant 61, Merrimack 52
Buffalo 72, Ball St. 59
CCSU 76, Fairleigh Dickinson 75
Eastern 80, DeSales 71
Hood 93, Stevenson 73
Messiah 84, Lebanon Valley 78
Misericordia 89, Kings (Pa.) 73
Morrisville 87, Kutztown 71
Penn College 92, Gallaudet 70
Saint Joseph's (Pa.), Davidson 62
St. Francis (NY) 87, LIU 77
St. Francis (Pa.) 86, Robert Morris 71
UMass 67, Saint Louis 63
Wagner 67, Mount St. Mary's 61
SOUTH
Berea 66, Covenant 60
Florida 73, Arkansas 59
NC Wesleyan 76, Greensboro 70
Tennessee 65, Vanderbilt 61
MIDWEST
Akron 71, W. Michigan 67
Aurora 81, Edgewood 77
Cornell (Iowa) 76, Monmouth (Ill.) 72, OT
E. Michigan 70, Kent St. 49
GLCC 107, Finlandia 75
Grinnell 107, Beloit 94
Nyaack 74, Concordia (Neb.) 61
Ohio 77, Cent. Michigan 69
Ripon 88, Lake Forest 71
Wisconsin 69, Purdue 65
UTRGV93, Texas-Permian Basin 80

HOW WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. South Carolina (25-1) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Thursday.
2. Baylor (24-1) beat Texas Tech 77-62. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Saturday.
3. Oregon (24-2) did not play. Next: at California, Friday.
4. Stanford (23-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 Oregon State, Friday.
5. Louisville (23-3) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Thursday.
6. UConn (21-3) did not play. Next: vs. Tulane, Wednesday.
7. Maryland (22-4) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Wednesday.
8. UCLA (22-3) did not play. Next: at Washington State, Friday.
9. Mississippi State (22-4) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Thursday.
10. N.C. State (22-3) did not play. Next: at Miami, Thursday.
11. Arizona (21-4) did not play. Next: at Utah, Friday.
12. DePaul (24-3) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Friday.
13. Gonzaga (25-2) did not play. Next: at Loyola Marymount, Thursday.

WHITE SOX



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The White Sox's Lucas Giolito, left, talks with fellow pitcher Zack Burdi, experienced a career breakthrough during the 2019 season.

Total transformation

Giolito credits change in his mechanics, mental makeover in breakout '19

BY PAUL SULLIVAN

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Can Chicago become a White Sox town again, or is that wishful thinking?

Sox ace Lucas Giolito didn't hesitate when answering the question, though he admitted it would take an extended run of success to make it happen.

"Yeah, it's possible," he said. "There's a lot of history there, a lot more history than I know about. But the way things are going, if we play real good baseball and we do it for an extended period of time, playoff appearance after playoff appearance, World Series championships, then absolutely it's possible. "It's got to start now. That's the vibe around the room. That's what we're talking about. It begins now. We're turning the page right now. There is no more developmental years. It's all about coming together and making things happen now."

Despite general manager Rick Hahn's free-agent spending binge, great expectations for rookie center fielder Luis Robert and huge leaps forward from Giolito, Yoan Moncada and Tim Anderson in 2019, the Sox have significant ground to make up to compete with the Twins. They finished 28½ games ahead of the Sox en route to winning the American League Central, then added slugger Josh Donaldson to an already scary lineup.

Filling the gap in only one season won't be easy, but Giolito insisted it can be done.

"I believe so," Giolito said. "We have a stronger core group now than the past couple years. ... It was almost, to a certain extent, like midseason tryouts (last season) — guys getting called up and having some time, then getting sent down."

"Now we have that better core and we all have a pretty good idea of which guys will be called up from the minor leagues this year. More players hopefully will surprise and take some big steps forward, and that will just add to the winning culture we're trying to build."

Giolito, 25, took the biggest step forward

last year after ending 2018 as the worst starter in the majors, statistically speaking, with a 6.13 ERA and a 5.56 FIP (Fielding Independent Pitching). He rebounded in 2019, finishing 19th in ERA (3.41) and 13th in FIP (3.43) while earning an All-Star nod.

He serves as a fitting example for any young athlete having a difficult time figuring things out at the start of his or her professional career. Yes, you can go from being one of the worst to one of the best — if you put your mind to it and do the right things. For Giolito, it was a change in mechanics — a more compact delivery — and neuro-feedback training in the offseason to help his mental approach.

"If you have enough talent to make it to Double A or Triple A, you've got enough talent to make it to the big leagues," he said. "The separators, most of the time, are between the ears. How consistent are you? What kind of routine do you have? What are you doing on a daily basis to make yourself a better player."

"It took years of struggle for me to really take a step back and look at myself in the mirror and say, 'Is what I am doing conducive to being successful?' The answer was no, so I made those changes and committed to them."

Giolito realized he was like most players making the transition to the big leagues. Other than a few — superstars such as Mike Trout — there is generally an adjustment period. It just took Giolito a little longer to figure things out. But he never lost his confidence to "take that next step."

"I just needed to find the right way to get that," he said. "This is why baseball is such a good sport to compare to life in general. You have to step out of your comfort zone. If you keep doing the same thing over and over that's not working, you're not going to see better results. And when you find that thing that seems like it may work, commit to it."

"For me, it was shortening my arm path, fixing my lower-half mechanics. I have tools now to do that. Years before, it was: 'What am I trying to adjust? I want to do this, but it's hard.' Getting rid of those doubts and questions and committing to change on a daily basis, that's the key to making adjustments you know will benefit you."

I asked Giolito if he remembered the start of Greg Maddux's career, which also was

shaky, to say the least. Giolito quickly reminded me he was "a little too young." In fact Giolito hadn't been born in 1987, when Maddux went 6-14 with a 5.61 ERA in his first full season with the Cubs. He went on to win 355 games in a 23-year Hall of Fame career.

"He threw super hard originally, right?" Giolito said. "You look at a lot of guys — Justin Verlander, Max Scherzer — they didn't set the league on fire when they got up here. Usually it's a hitter that can do that because it's the pitchers that have to adjust to the hitters' approach."

The Sox kept Giolito in the rotation throughout 2018 despite his struggles, just as they did last season with Reynaldo Lopez, who finished with the second-worst ERA (5.38) and second-worst FIP (5.04) in MLB. Lopez spent the offseason training at the Mamba Academy in Los Angeles, where Giolito, Noah Syndergaard and others worked out.

"I was struggling almost every five days in '18, and I was learning from each and every one," Giolito said. "It was very valuable information for me going into that next offseason when I did make all those changes. I'm very thankful to the White Sox organization for allowing me that opportunity."

"And Reynaldo, in my opinion, looks the best I've ever seen him right now. He came down to L.A., saw him there a bunch. He took the bull by the horns, and I could see he kind of flipped the switch mentally to where he was committed to making changes that he knows will put him in a better place."

Listening to Giolito, you get the impression he never lost faith in his abilities. But it's impossible to go through what he did in 2018 and not wonder how he was going to escape the prolonged slump. Sox fans love him now, but they weren't always so kind. Giolito said his wife, Ariana, saved some of the nasty comments posted on his Instagram account in 2018 to remind him of how far he has come.

"I got some good ones," he said with a laugh. "When you're going through something like that, you turn the DMs off."

The journey isn't over, and he still might have obstacles to overcome.

But for Giolito, the path is much clearer, and that's all you can really ask.

WHITE SOX TAKEAWAYS

Cease receives advice from Lopez

BY LAMOND POPE

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Here are three takeaways from White Sox spring training Tuesday.

1. Reynaldo Lopez gave some advice to Dylan Cease.

White Sox starting pitcher Dylan Cease hopes a tip from fellow pitcher Reynaldo Lopez will pay off in 2020.

"The biggest thing I've really been working on is not getting too rotational on my front side," Cease said. "That's the main thing that's going to be different."

"I think that's one of the big reasons I was having cutting issues with my fastball. So right now, I haven't been having any of those issues."

Cease said Lopez brought the issue to his attention.

"I was getting too far on my front side, whereas I need to be more directly in line with the plate," Cease said. "Over rotating and twisting into myself as opposed to staying more symmetrical and driving down."

Cease continued the discussion with pitching coach Don Cooper and assistant pitching coach Curt Hasler.

"We all kind of agreed I was getting a little too rotational," Cease said. "So it's something that I started working on toward the end of last season. You take a couple months off, and as I started throwing, it was basically my main focus."

Cease went 4-7 with a 5.79 ERA in 14 starts as a rookie after joining the Sox from Triple-A Charlotte on July 3. He had 81 strikeouts and 35 walks in 73 innings.

"The biggest thing that we wanted for Dylan to continue to improve would have to be the command, to be able to be as efficient as possible," Sox manager Rick Renteria said.

"We've seen tremendous growth in a lot of the guys. And I think he's not far from being able to get himself in a position where he's efficient and keeps himself out there for an extended period of time during a ballgame. (He has) great stuff."

Cease said a benefit from last season was "getting comfortable with the whole process."

The outings gave Cease the sense that "I can do it."

"I don't necessarily want to say I belong or I deserve this or whatever," Cease said. "But just the fact that I can do it shows me that I can do it."

Cease is focused on going deeper into games and throwing as many innings as possible. He pitched at least six innings six times, including a career-high seven on Aug. 1 against the Mets. He went five innings six times and fewer than five innings twice.

Cease said the key to having longer outings will be "being efficient, not wasting pitches."

"If you're having 40-pitch innings," Cease said, "it's hard to go more than five."

2. Rick Renteria provided a brief update on Lucas Giolito's status.

Dylan Cease, Reynaldo Lopez and Michael Kopech were among the pitchers to take the mound during Tuesday's workout.

Ace Lucas Giolito's spring has been slowed because of a muscle strain near his rib cage.

Renteria did not want to disclose a timetable for Giolito.

"He's doing very, very well," Renteria said.

"I don't want to give you a date certain. It's nearing where he'll be at some point, getting back out there and throwing."

Giolito is expected to miss the first week of Cactus League games. Last week, general manager Rick Hahn referred to the injury as a "minor issue" and anticipates Giolito will be fine by opening day.

3. Non-roster invitee Hunter Schryver will undergo Tommy John surgery.

Left-handed pitcher Hunter Schryver, a non-roster invitee, is scheduled to undergo Tommy John surgery Thursday in Chicago, the Sox announced Tuesday.

Schryver went 3-2 with a 4.04 ERA in 41 outings between Double-A Birmingham and Triple-A Charlotte in 2019. He had 62 strikeouts and 29 walks in 62⅓ innings.

The Sox also announced the signing of outfielder Gorkys Hernandez to a minor-league contract. Hernandez, 32, will not be at big-league camp. He hit .143 in 20 games with the Red Sox last season.

Hernandez has spent time with the Pirates (2012, '15), Marlins (12), Giants (16-18) and Red Sox (19). He is a career .230 hitter with 20 home runs and 81 RBIs in 394 games.

ONLINE

White Sox and Cubs updates from Arizona throughout spring training at chicagotribune.com/sports

Encarnacion providing leadership, talent

BY LAMOND POPE

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Edwin Encarnacion has played in the postseason the last five years with three teams.

The veteran slugger sees similar traits forming with the White Sox.

"This team makes me remember what we had in Toronto (in 2015)," Encarnacion said Tuesday. "Nobody counted on us because of Boston, the Yankees. But we know what we have in the clubhouse and we stay together and we have the talent. This team has the talent to compete in the division and win."

That Blue Jays team won the American League East with a 93-69 record. He's hoping for more success with the Sox.

Encarnacion, 37, signed a one-year, \$12 million contract with the Sox on Jan. 9. The Sox hold a \$12 million option for 2021 that does not include a buyout.

The designated hitter/first baseman has hit at least 32 home runs in each of the last eight seasons and has 414 homers in a 15-year career that includes three All-Star selections.

"He's a huge impact player for us in terms of offense," Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "And that combined with (Jose Abreu) and Eloy (Jimenez) and (Nomar) Mazara, all these guys, Timmy (Anderson), (Yoan) Moncada, and I can continue to go on ... he's going to obviously play a huge role for us and is a big piece for us."

Encarnacion had a .244/.344/.531 slash line with 18 doubles, 34 homers and 86 RBIs



GREGORY BULL/AP

in 109 games with the Mariners and Yankees in 2019. He was out from Aug. 3 to Sept. 3 because of a broken right wrist.

Sixteen of his homers came as a designated hitter. Sox DHs hit a combined 17 home runs in 2019.

Encarnacion spent some time Tuesday fielding grounders at first base with Abreu. Renteria primarily sees Encarnacion as the DH, though he's willing to aid the team in any role.

"Whatever they need me to do, I'm here for whatever they want," Encarnacion said. "I have no problem to play DH or play first base."

The Sox also anticipate Encarnacion will make an impact in the clubhouse.

His message this spring: "Just play the game right, don't put pressure on yourself."

"Don't try to do too much. Don't think you've got to do everything in order to win."

— Advice from Edwin Encarnacion, left, to his new teammates

Don't try to do too much. Don't think you've got to do everything in order to win. It's going to be a team effort. You can't think about just yourself. You've got to stay together and play the game right and hard."

Encarnacion already had a connection with Sox left fielder Eloy Jimenez. Both are from the Dominican Republic.

"He gave me a lot of advice before I signed," Jimenez said. "The first advice I'll always have with me: 'Don't get crazy and don't change because you have money.'"

"Before I got to the majors, he said, 'Don't try to do too much and just show what you do always: I appreciate him because he's always treated me as a kid he loves. It's good to have a veteran who takes care of me.'"

Encarnacion said that type of camaraderie is crucial to a winning formula.

"That's the main thing, the team has to be together," he said. "Pick up your teammates. If your teammate does something wrong, you're going to feel it and you're going to want to do something to help them out."

"It's going to be a fun year with the White Sox. It's going to be a great lineup from the first to the bottom."

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE



With steady play, Scheffler going places in a hurry

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Most satisfying to Scottie Scheffler in his rookie season on the PGA Tour is his steady, consistent play.

It has him going places in a hurry.

One year ago, Scheffler missed the cut in a Korn Ferry Tour event in Florida and was No. 830 in the world. Now he is in his first World Golf Championships event in Mexico City and not the least bit fazed.

“I’m not really a long-term goal guy,” Scheffler said Tuesday. “I don’t overthink things. If I set long-term goals, I focus too much on the future. Being in the present is the better way to go.”

He didn’t reach No. 51 in the world by accident.

Scheffler, who earned a business degree from Texas in four years, had a pair of runner-up finishes on the Korn Ferry Tour and then won twice, including the postseason. He won the points list, was named player of the year and rose to No. 87.

Moving straight to the PGA Tour, he had four top-10 finishes in 11 starts,

and three good chances at winning. He was two shots out of the lead going into the final round in Bermuda, one shot behind at Sea Island and tied in the California desert.

“I felt like it’s been consistent,” he said. “I missed those two cuts (Torrey Pines and Phoenix) and had one other start I was unhappy with (tie for 74th in Las Vegas). There’s been a lot of decent finishes.”

He needed a little help to get to the Mexico Championship. Eight eligible players chose not to come to Mexico this year. To fill the field of 72, officials went down the world ranking beyond No. 50. Scheffler was next in line at No. 51. Tony Finau then withdrew, opening the last spot to Sung Kang.

Scheffler is virtually a lock to stay among the top 64 and get into the next World Golf Championship, the Match Play at Austin Country Club where his Texas Longhorns occasionally practiced. And if he can nudge his way into the top 50, he would get into the Masters. That’s rare for a PGA Tour rookie without winning a tournament.

None of this is occupying too many of his thoughts.

“I just keep going,” Scheffler said. “It’s nice playing through the season. There’s not much time to sit around and think about this stuff.”

KATHARINE LOTZ/GETTY

Scottie Scheffler plays a shot on the 11th hole during the final round of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club on Sunday in Los Angeles.

USGA family policy

The USGA has updated its family policy to allow players eligible for its championships to defer playing because of maternity or paternity leave.

Stacy Lewis, who had her first child in 2018, was among those offered input on the updated policy. It gives players who are exempt from qualifying or who have qualified by other criteria a one-year deferral. Players also can ask for a one-year extension of the deferral if the USGA agrees to the exceptional circumstances of the request.

“Updating our family policy was an opportunity to support players as they welcome new family members and also to go a few steps further,” said John Bodenhamer, senior managing director of championships. “We are pleased to have a policy that affords players more balance between parenthood and competing at the highest levels.”

Under the policy, players can now freeze their world ranking before going on leave. The policy applies to all 14 professional and amateur events run by the USGA.

Confidence builder

Martin Trainer returns to the Puerto Rico Open to defend his title with a lot more confidence than he had. Trainer tied for 47th in the Genesis Invitational, which doesn’t sound like much until compared with the previous year.

“Making the cut. That’s a good way to go into it,” Trainer said after he finished up at Riviera.

It was the first 36-hole cut Trainer made

since he finished 66th in the Valero Texas Open a week before the Masters. He then went 17 straight events without making the cut. In fact, the only cuts he made since winning the Puerto Rico Open last year were Bay Hill (tie for 66th), The Players Championship (tie for 41st), the Texas Open and the Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua, where he finished 34th in a 34-man field.

Trainer started working with swing coach Jeff Smith and feels he’s finally turning the corner.

“You just keep going. Keep hitting it. That’s all you can do,” he said. “I just kept going, trying to figure it out, week to week.”

Rankin and Wright

Mickey Wright, who died Monday at age 85, preferred a private life after her retirement from competition. But she stayed involved through keeping statistics, reading and watching. She also kept in touch out of the blue.

Judy Rankin, who joined the LPGA Tour during Wright’s greatest years, said the last time she talked to Wright was a year ago Tuesday. Wright called to wish her a happy birthday.

That wasn’t the only time. Rankin said Wright called her when her husband, Yippy, died of cancer. She called when Rankin was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she sent Rankin a message when she was the Memorial honoree last year at Muirfield Village.

“She always called on the big times in life,” Rankin said.

Cantlay out

Patrick Cantlay found the right doctor and created a spot in his schedule. He is missing the Mexico Championship this week to have elective surgery on a deviated septum that has been causing him trouble sleeping.

Why now?

“I didn’t meet a doctor that I thought could do a better job until recently,” Cantlay said.

He first had the procedure in the fall of 2018. Cantlay said another surgery is required to “clean it up a little bit.” The septum divides the nostrils, and surgery promotes better air flow and helps with falling asleep and staying asleep.

Doing the surgery now should allow Cantlay, the No. 6 player in the world, to return for The Players Championship or the weeks leading to the Masters.

Rory third at being No. 1

Rory McIlroy extended his lead at No. 1 in the world and is likely to stay there another week because he is playing the Mexico Championship and Brooks Koepka is not.

That would give McIlroy the third-longest tenure atop the ranking since it began in 1986.

This is McIlroy’s 97th week at No. 1, tying him with Nick Faldo. That includes eight stints at No. 1, with the longest stretch being 54 weeks, from his victory in the 2014 Bridgestone Invitational until the 2015 PGA Championship. Faldo was No. 1 on four occasions, with his longest stretch 81 weeks, from his 1992 British Open victory until February 1994.

But there’s still a long way to go for

McIlroy to reach Greg Norman, who was No. 1 for a total of 331 weeks. Leading the list is Tiger Woods, who was No. 1 for 683 weeks. That would require McIlroy to be at No. 1 for at least 11 more years.

And that’s assuming Woods doesn’t reach No. 1 again.

Divots

Volvik has agreed to become title sponsor of the Founders Cup in Arizona next month on the LPGA Tour. Adam Scott has 14 victories on the PGA Tour, tied with Bruce Crampton among Australians. He’s still behind the 20 titles won by Greg Norman. Ryan Palmer made a 9 on the par-3 14th hole at Riviera on Saturday, when it took him six shots to get out of a bunker. On Sunday, he made a 2. Charley Hoffman was elected chairman of the Players Advisory Council, meaning he will serve a three-year term on the policy board starting next year. Hoffman won over Justin Thomas and Peter Malnati. The R&A and the Annika Foundation have announced the Women’s Amateur Latin America to be played Sept. 3-6 in Argentina. The winner receives an exemption to the Women’s British Open.

Stat of the week

Australians have won three times in the last six weeks on the PGA Tour, matching the total from the two previous seasons.

Final word

“They can throw away that distance report thing now because that’s a great test of golf out there.” — Harold Varner III on Riviera Country Club.

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE



AL GOLDIS/AP

Mel Tucker was a graduate assistant at Michigan State under Nick Saban from 1997-98. A little more than two decades later, Tucker was named the program's 25th head coach.

What Mel Tucker learned from mentors

BY MATT WENZEL
Mlive.com

Mel Tucker was 25 years old when he began his coaching career.

He was a graduate assistant who would occasionally grab a towel from the locker room to use as a pillow when he slept under the desk in his office.

That was when Tucker was a graduate assistant at Michigan State under Nick Saban from 1997-98. A little more than two decades later, Tucker returned to East Lansing on Wednesday when he was named the program's 25th head coach, which he called the fulfillment of a dream.

From his playing days as a defensive back at Wisconsin under Barry Alvarez to succeeding Mark Dantonio at Michigan State, Tucker won a pair of national championships. His stops include LSU, Ohio State, Alabama and Georgia before making his debut as a head coach at Colorado last year while posting a 5-7 record. He also spent a decade in the NFL.

"You know we hear a lot about what coaches might have a secret sauce to win — who they worked for, what coaching tree they came from. Well, to me, there's no secret sauce," Tucker said. "There's just the people who taught me the responsibilities that we have as coaches."

"I've had the privilege of being mentored by some of the very best coaches in the profession, some of the very best."

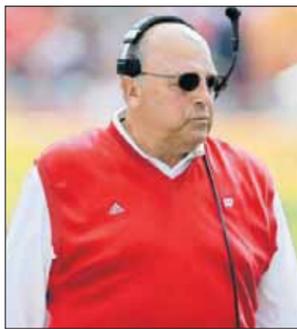
Between his introductory press conference Feb. 12 and an appearance on "The Drive With Jack," an online radio show, on Friday, Tucker touched on what he learned from some of his biggest mentors in the game. That group includes Alvarez, Saban, Dantonio and Jim Tressel.

Barry Alvarez

Alvarez revived a losing Wisconsin program and won a trio of Big Ten titles while also becoming the program's all-time winningest coach. Tucker, a defensive back from Cleveland Heights High School, was a member of Alvarez's first recruiting class.

"He always talked to us about what's important now," Tucker said. "It was W.I.N. — it was all over the locker room. I use it every day — what's important now. Whether that's something with the coaching or something that's personal, prioritizing, being where your feet are."

Alvarez, who coached the Badgers for 16 seasons, is now in his 17th year as Wisconsin's ath-



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Barry Alvarez

letic director.

"Mel was a part of my first recruiting class at Wisconsin and helped us turn the program around," Alvarez said in a released statement. "He is an outstanding individual and a really good football person. His background, the people and the programs he has worked for and the success he's been a part of is very impressive. He's been successful at both the NFL and college level. He is truly a quality individual and it is great to have Mel back in the Big Ten."

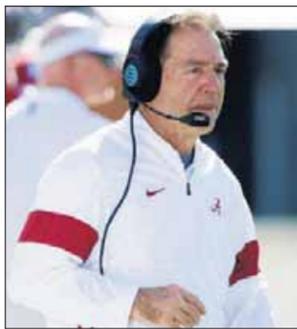
Nick Saban

Tucker was selling steaks door-to-door before Saban gave him his start as a coach with the Spartans. While serving as a graduate assistant at Michigan State, Tucker said Saban would enter the football building and shake change in his pocket while walking down the hall. Tucker, eager to make a good impression, made sure he was always in the office to be seen when Saban showed up and when he left.

"At that time, I was just trying to make Coach Saban happy," Tucker said. "I was just trying to do whatever he needed me to do or whatever the coaching staff needed me to do. Whether that was in the weight room, in video breaking down tape, taking cars to the car wash, picking up kids from school and shoveling driveways and coaching players and all of that — that's all that I was really focused on. I'll tell you what, I was happy to be doing it too."

Tucker did more than enough to impress Saban. After spending one year at Miami (Ohio), Tucker was hired as Saban's defensive backs coach at LSU in 2000. He was also Saban's defensive backs coach at Alabama in 2015 when the Crimson Tide won a national championship.

"Coach Saban gave me my start, he helped lay the foundation for



JOE ROBBINS/GETTY-APF

Nick Saban

me in terms of football philosophy for offense, defense and special teams, strength and conditioning, recruiting was really big," Tucker said. "I tried to soak it all in. Coach Saban, as you know, he's an excellent communicator, he's a very good coach and he's always coaching his coaches. So, I was very fortunate to have spent that time with Coach Saban."

Michigan State athletic director Bill Beekman said the search committee reached out to a number of former and current players and coaches. One was Saban, who spent five years leading the Spartans before cementing himself as one of the greatest coaches in the history of the sport.

"I've known Mel Tucker since my days coaching at Michigan State when he was a graduate assistant on our staff," Saban said in a released statement. "Since then, Mel has made a name for himself as one of the best and brightest coaches in our profession. I believe he will do a tremendous job as the head coach of the Spartans. MSU is getting a guy with infinite class and a great personality, who is smart, works hard, and does it with an incredible amount of enthusiasm and positive energy. Mel is a tireless recruiter who knows the game of college football and understands what it will take to be successful in East Lansing."

Jim Tressel

Following one season at LSU, Tucker was hired by Jim Tressel as Ohio State's defensive backs coach. He spent four seasons with the Buckeyes, which included the 2002 national championship team, and also served as the co-defensive coordinator in 2004 after Dantonio left to become the head coach at Cincinnati.

"Coach Tress, he's a very special man," Tucker said. "I was very privileged and blessed to be able



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY

Jim Tressel

to work with him. He would talk to us about being servant leaders and we were there at Ohio State to serve that state and that university and that university community. And that was our purpose, to serve the players, everyone involved in the program, the fans, the alumni, the supporters, promote the game of football. He had a servant heart. He taught us that and we bought into it. That's been part of my philosophy and what I believe in ever since then."

Mark Dantonio

Tucker worked with Dantonio twice during his career. When he served as a graduate assistant from 1997-98, Dantonio was Michigan State's secondary coach. Tucker's first three seasons at Ohio State came when Dantonio was the defensive coordinator.

"Obviously, he is one of those great mentors that I've learned a lot from and he's helped shape some of my football philosophies and things like that," Tucker said. "I've always considered him a friend and just a tremendous football coach and an outstanding person. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with him."

Tucker later elaborated on his experience coaching with Dantonio in his interview on "The Drive with Jack."

"Coach Dantonio was very highly competitive, ultra-competitive, a hard worker and very loyal. He's a good teacher, he's a family man, he cared about his coaches and he was always looking to help," Tucker said. "That was his thing, he was always looking to help any way he could, whoever he could and he was a pleasure to work with."

Tucker on Feb. 12 said he hadn't talked with Dantonio since taking the job. Dantonio wasn't at his introductory press conference but the university released a state-



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Mark Dantonio

ment from him.

"I first came in contact with Mel when he was the graduate assistant here at Michigan State for Coach Saban," Dantonio said. "He did an outstanding job with the defensive backs. When I went to Ohio State to work for Coach Tressel, he asked me who should coach the secondary, and I immediately thought of Mel. He was a part of the national championship staff and has gone on to coach at the highest levels of football."

"Mel is charismatic, brings good energy, and is a very forward thinker. He's also an outstanding recruiter who connects with his players, but also holds them accountable. He's from the Midwest and has a Spartan background with knowledge of the Big Ten."

"I'm extremely excited for Mel and his family. I'm looking to support him in any way possible."

Tucker went from making \$400 a month as a do-it-all graduate assistant at Michigan State to signing a six-year contract last week for an annual salary of \$5.5 million. Along the way, he collected a pair of national championship rings, spent a decade in the NFL and worked for Hall of Fame coaches.

Tucker has painted broad strokes so far about the Spartans' future, citing relentlessness, toughness, integrity and fundamentals — a lot of the same traits most coaches preach. What Michigan State football will look like in 2020 is unclear but the product will be a result of learning from some of the best in the business.

"These men shaped me, they shaped my coaching path," Tucker said of his mentors. "They not only taught me the X's and the O's, but they taught me the intangibles of creating a winning mindset and a winning culture, the responsibility and importance of hard work, humility, accountability and having a serving mindset and to love the game, to love the game."



A scene from the CBS drama "FBI," from left: Jeremy Sisto, John Boyd and Ebonée Noel.

MARK SCHAFER/AP

MY WORST MOMENT

Sisto not right to play own character type

'Dazed and Confused' role was designed for him, but 'FBI' star didn't get chosen to fill it

BY NINA METZ

On the CBS drama "FBI," Jeremy Sisto plays Jubal Valentine, the special agent in charge who isn't out pounding the pavement — as he did when he played a cop on "Law & Order" — but is the guy back at the office supervising his team's efforts and making sure all the pieces of an investigation are coming together. Sisto's career as an actor started early. When he was 7, he

began performing in professional theater in Chicago, including two productions at the Goodman. "The only reason I was doing plays was because I was raised by a single mom who was pursuing an acting career," Sisto said. "She would go on these auditions and she would go around from agent to agent, and we were just always there with her. And I think at one point they were like, 'Would you like your kids to audition?'"

Sisto landed his first movie at 16 in the 1991 Lawrence Kasdan drama "Grand Canyon," starring Danny Glover, Kevin Kline and Steve Martin. It was an experience that would shape his future. "At the time, I wasn't college material — I wasn't a big fan of homework and stuff — and I didn't have the ability to think ahead a week, let alone a lifetime," he said. "So I was just looking for something to do." Acting it was, and he would

pursue it full time after moving to Los Angeles after high school. But he was still living in Chicago when he was asked to audition for a movie that would become famous. That's the story he told when asked to share a worst moment from his career. "I've got a whole ton of them, but this is the one I thought would be pretty fun to tell," Sisto said. "I think I was 18. I had done that one movie and then I'd

Turn to **Moment**, Page 2

'Art on theMart' will display Monet

BY STEVE JOHNSON

Claude Monet painted on a lot of big canvases in his life but never one whose dimensions are measured in acres. A selection of Monet's works from the Art Institute of Chicago, featured in an upcoming spring exhibition at the museum, will be part of the programming kicking off the third (and second full) season of "Art on theMart." The nightly video art projections fill the 2.5-acre south facade of theMart, the massive building formerly known as the Merchandise Mart and located across from the Chicago River Riverwalk. In addition to announcing its spring programming, which will also feature space visualizations from the Adler Planetarium, Art on theMart is tweaking its hours

for 2020, said Cynthia Noble, the project's executive director. Instead of two hours nightly, at a time determined by sunset, the program will run at a set time for one-hour per night, aiming to play two 30-minute content loops. In April and May and from September through December, the video will run from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. From June through August, it starts half an hour later, beginning at 9. In surveying audience members since the art display's debut in September 2018, Noble said, organizers have learned that a set start time and run time make sense so that people can treat it as a destination. Art on theMart tallied its audience at more than 7,000 a month in warmer months last

Turn to **Mart**, Page 4



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Images of a tree and an elephant are projected on the Merchandise Mart facade during the launch of Art on theMart on Sept. 29, 2018.

TV, movie crews spent \$560M in Ill. in 2019

BY NINA METZ

The amount of money spent in Illinois by film and TV projects increased in 2019, according to estimates jointly released by the state and the City of Chicago. Thanks to a steady roster of television shows, \$560 million was spent on cast and crew wages as well as other related expenditures, compared with \$473 million in 2018. While the Illinois film incentive (recently extended through 2026) with its 30% tax credit is a consistent factor in attracting new projects to the state each year, the three NBC shows from Dick Wolf — "Chicago Fire," "Chicago P.D." and "Chicago Med" — remain the bedrock of the local filming industry. The shows shoot 10 months out of the year and employ large crews. "Chicago Fire" has been around the longest and is midway through its eighth season.

Other TV series that shot in Chicago last year include "Empire" on Fox (now in its final season) as well as "The Chi" and "Work in Progress" on Showtime. On the streaming side, there was the recently canceled Jenna Dewan musical drama series "Soundtrack" on Netflix (originally called "Mixtape" when it filmed in Chicago) and "Utopia," the forthcoming Amazon series from "Gone Girl" author Gillian Flynn. Additionally, Season 4 of the FX series "Fargo" (which premieres in the spring and stars Chris Rock) has been filming in and around Chicago since the fall.

A number of other series that primarily filmed elsewhere also logged a few days (or weeks) in town, including Showtime's "Shameless," which films exteriors locally two weeks out of every season, CW's "Batwoman" and the one-and-done Gina Torres "Suits" spinoff "Pearson." The new HBO series "Run" from executive producer Phoebe Waller-Bridge and premiering in April, shot in Chicago for a day or two last fall as well.

On the feature film side was Aaron Sorkin's "The Trial of the Chicago 7" (which was shot in Toronto but filmed at Grant Park for a few days), the "Candyman" sequel from director Nia DaCosta and producer Jordan Peele (set in neighborhood of the original 1992 movie, where the Cabrini-Green towers once stood), and the rom-com "The Thing About Harry," which aired earlier this month on the TV network Freeform.

Looking ahead, Showtime renewed "Work in Progress" for a second season; it is expected to begin filming later this year. The comedy comes from local improv veterans Abby McEnany and Tim Mason working with Lilly Wachowski, the latter of whom is best known for creating "The Matrix" franchise. Comedy Central's "South Side," which filmed its first season in 2018, was also picked up for a second season and is expected to begin work on that this spring or summer. That show also has Chicago bona fides in co-creators (and brothers) Bashir and Sultan Salahuddin.

Showtime recently announced the next season of "Shameless" (its 11th) will be its last. "The Chi" premieres on the network this summer, and it is unclear whether there will be additional seasons going forward. nmetz@chicagotribune.com

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CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION

"Saturday Night Live's" Kenan Thompson will be host at this year's White House Correspondents' Dinner.

White House dinner back to comic roots

WASHINGTON — Comedians are making their return to the White House Correspondents' Dinner after last year's hiatus.

Kenan Thompson of "Saturday Night Live" and Hasan Minhaj of Netflix's "Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj" will headline this year's dinner on April 25.

Presidents and first ladies have traditionally attended the dinner, which serves as a celebration of the First Amendment as well as a fundraiser for college scholarships.

But President Donald Trump has skipped the dinner throughout his presidency and instead has elected to hold campaign rallies. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment about whether the president would attend this year.

Last year's dinner featured Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow after some complained that an anti-Trump performance by comedian Michelle Wolf in 2018 was too pointed and unfairly targeted then-White House press secretary Sarah Sanders.

Thompson will serve as this year's host. Minhaj will be the featured entertainer.

Thompson is currently in his 17th season on "Saturday Night Live" where he has set a record for the most celebrity impressions performed on the show. Minhaj won a Peabody award in 2019 for his humorous examination of issues of domestic and global import. He was the entertainer at the 2017 correspondents' dinner when he was a senior correspondent on "The Daily Show."

— Associated Press



Minhaj



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Castle makeover: Even Cinderella needs an "Extreme Makeover." Disney officials said the iconic Cinderella Castle at Walt Disney World in Florida would be renovated over the next several months. The most noticeable changes will be the addition of gold trim and the darkening of the blue hue on the castle's turrets. Despite the work, which will last through summer, shows at the castle will continue as usual.

More shows canceled: Elton John canceled his two remaining New Zealand shows late Tuesday as he continued to suffer from pneumonia. The shows have been rescheduled for next year. Earlier this week, John needed to cut short a performance in Auckland after he lost his voice and needed medical help on stage. John said in a statement he was "incredibly disappointed" and sent his sincerest apologies to his fans.

He was 'Spartacus': Not to mention Vincent van Gogh. Those are just two of the memorable characters played by Kirk Douglas, the Hollywood he-man who died Feb. 5 at 103. To honor his legacy, Turner Classic Movies will present a 25-hour marathon of Douglas' movies on March 5. A bonus feature will be Ben Mankiewicz's 2018 interview with Michael Douglas, in which he discusses his famous dad.

Feb. 19 birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 80. Guitarist Tony Iommi is 72. Actor Jeff Daniels is 65. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 53. Actress Millie Bobby Brown is 16.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Abuse survivor afraid to tell parents

Dear Amy: I am a woman in my mid-20s.

In junior high school, I was sexually abused by a classmate. When I went to a teacher for help, my concerns were dismissed as "boys being boys." I was told that this abuse just meant that the boy in question liked me.

After my teacher failed to help me, I tried to reach out to my parents. I was terrified to tell them, because they are devout Christians and had always taught that premarital sex was not acceptable. I was afraid that they would blame me, and my abuser used this fear against me by threatening to tell others that I was "easy."

I tried to talk to my dad about it, but I hinted around it to see how he would take it. He was agitated and talked about how whatever I did now with someone would take away from my future spouse's relationship with me. My takeaway was: "You are ruined by what has happened to you, and no one else will want you."

This began a long path of self-hatred and blaming myself. I began to withdraw, I began to self-harm, I developed disordered eating, and my parents often fought with me about my "moodiness" or "being difficult."

I never told them about the abuse. I have been going to therapy, and one thing that I keep coming back to is telling my parents about what happened.

I have been afraid that they will react poorly, or blame me or view me differently. I want them to understand that I wasn't a bad kid, but that I was a kid who was hurting and

didn't know how to ask for help.

I worry that if I tell my dad about my past, I will break his heart, and he will blame himself.

Best-case scenario, this would help me find closure. Worst-case scenario, it could damage my relationship with my parents.

I am at a loss. Should I keep this as a secret from my parents?

— Old Wounds

Dear Old Wounds: No, I don't think you should keep this a secret. You should work this through with your therapist's help. You might ask your parents to meet with you in your therapist's office so you will have guided coaching to handle your disclosure.

As a parent, I can tell you that a child's pain cuts a parent very, very deep. Your parents might not immediately react in any expected or anticipated way. Yes, they might feel heartbroken, confused and guilty. They may lash out — or try to deny this episode or diminish its impact on you.

They might need time to figure out how to be appropriately supportive. But you should give them the opportunity to love you through this. This will be a challenging process for all of you, but it is one you should initiate — when you are ready.

Dear Amy: My husband and I have been divorced for over 15 years and see each frequently at our family gatherings. Neither of us has a significant other.

Our youngest daughter eloped in November and wants to have a reception

this summer. My ex-husband is very financially stable and owns his home, vehicles and a boat. I, on the other hand, live paycheck to paycheck. I just started collecting Social Security and still struggle.

He told me he would pay \$5,000 (or whatever the reception if I paid \$1,000.

I cannot afford to pay anything toward this wedding and told him so. What do you suggest?

— Broke Bride's Mom

Dear Mom: I suggest that your daughter enjoy her \$5,000 (or whatever her father decides to donate) reception. You can be helpful by finding ways to help your daughter stretch this money the furthest.

Dear Amy: I'm responding to the touching note from "My Son's Mom." Her son had been in trouble, and she wondered about contacting various counselors to let them know that he was graduating from high school.

As a legal services attorney serving justice-involved youth, I want to encourage this mom to share the good news. I feel such joy when I receive notes about the progress and milestones of the youth I have worked with.

Thank you to the parents and youth who let us know their achievements. We love making a difference.

— Patti

Dear Patti: Thank you for doing good work.

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Moment

Continued from Page 1

done a movie-of-the-week called 'Desperate Choices: To Save My Child.' And then I was up for 'Dazed and Confused.'

My worst moment ...

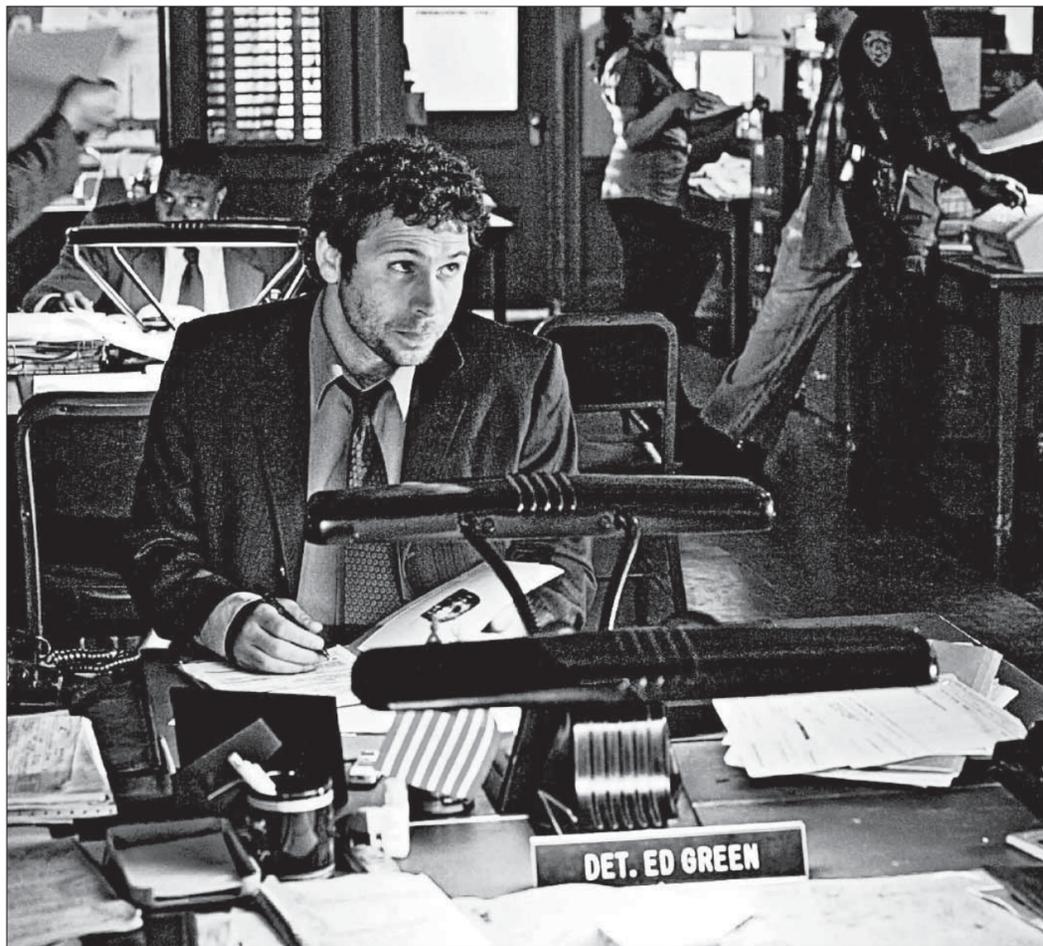
"I went out to Los Angeles for the audition, and they had this long, all-day mix-and-match screen test, where they would pair you up with different actors. Richard Linklater (the movie's writer and director) was there, the producers were there. All the actors that were in that movie were there, plus some that didn't end up in the movie, like myself.

"It was a pretty unique experience — just a lot of young actors trying to shoot for some big dreams, that kind of energy, so it was a really fun day. The role I was reading for was the role Jason London got (the stoner football player Randall 'Pink' Floyd) and it was a really cool role. The character was friends with everybody — friends with the popular jocks but also with the nerds.

"He was a really nice guy, like the best version of a kid in high school, and I was always a sweet kid in my teenage years — that role I played in 'Grand Canyon' was sort of that version of myself.

"So I read with all these different people, and it seemed like it was coming down between me and Jason. But as the day progressed, it started to become clear that I wasn't the dude. Jason seemed like the one who was going to get it.

"I started feeling down about it and I kind of sneaked off from the group and was just wandering through the offices. I found myself in one of the casting offices and I looked up at the wall and there were all the character names. And there was a picture of me next to the role of Randall 'Pink' Floyd. I was like,



Jeremy Sisto portrays Det. Cyrus Lupo on the NBC drama "Law & Order."

"Wait a minute, it doesn't seem like it's going to be me."

"And sitting there was also a piece of paper with the casting breakdown, which describes the characters — that's what they had been sending out to the casting agents for the last month-and-a-half. Sometimes a breakdown will say something like, 'This character is like a young Ray Liotta,' or whatever.

"I looked at the breakdown for the character that I was up for and it said, 'A Jeremy Sisto type.' And I was like (*laughs*), 'Wow, I just lost out on a role for a character that was based on me!'

"I guess Jason London was just more of what Richard Linklater thought

I must have been from what he saw in 'Grand Canyon.' Or maybe I just bombed those auditions. "Either way, it was a pretty low moment."

Did Jason London know Sisto was originally envisioned for the role?

"I was staying with Jason at the time; he was a buddy of mine and my sister was dating him. So I went back to his place and we were hanging out and he was super excited. And I was trying to be super excited for him — I think I

was doing a pretty good job of it. Somebody was smoking a joint, and I remember taking a hit and then I just started getting in my head.

"Jason was talking about how excited he was, and I was like, 'I just have to say, this is kind of crazy. I feel pretty bad about myself,' and I told him the role was supposed to be a Jeremy Sisto type.

"And my other friend who was there was like, 'Well that sucks, but I think you're taking away from Jason's moment here.' And I was like, 'You're right! You're totally right, I'm sorry. I'm just going to go over here in the corner and think about how I didn't get a role that was based on me.'"

some expectation that my other work had created.

"It wasn't an experience that caused a great depression. But I will say that for the first four or five years of my career, like a lot of people, I felt like a fraud.

"Even when I got roles, it felt like I had fooled them into thinking I'm something I'm not and now I'm going to disappoint them with who I really am."

The takeaway ...

"It's a funny story, but it wasn't a story I even remembered that well until recently it came up and I was telling a friend for some reason — like, 'Oh, this thing happened,' and they thought it was so funny. They were like, 'Bruh, how did you get through that?' And I was like, *oh yeah* — I didn't even remember it as this horrible thing.

"It was embarrassing at the time, but what I know now is that casting is a difficult thing and you're trying to fit pieces into a puzzle. Jason was great in the role. He was perfect for the role.

"A lot of it is age, and how I look at everything in this business is just so different now. To think that there were years that I was embarrassed by 'Clueless' because I thought, *If I don't have a career later on, then it will be this one bit of success that will represent my failure because I didn't make anything of it.* (Though Sisto worked consistently after 1995's "Clueless," his next breakout role wasn't until 2001 with "Six Feet Under.")

"It's a pitfall that you can find yourself in if you don't try to look forward and realize, 'This will pass.' That was kind of typical of me at the time and I think maybe of other young people.

"Back then I was like, *This is on me and I did something to screw it up.* But that's not how life works. And I don't take it personally anymore."

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How buildings tell a story

Architecture critic returns to the New England college that launched him on a journey to Chicago



BLAIR KAMIN
Cityscapes

Today's column isn't about Chicago. It's about the college that launched me on a journey to Chicago — a storybook slice of New England, its simple red-brick buildings and white-towered chapel set high on a hill that overlooks green, softly sculpted ridges in almost every direction.

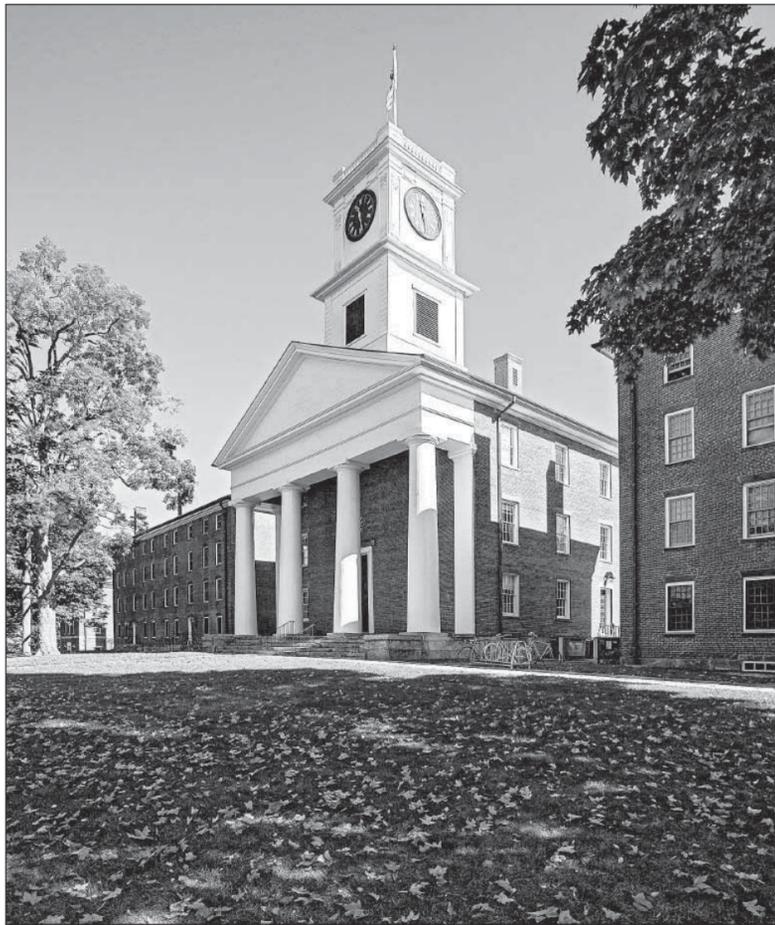
The graduates of that college, Amherst, a private liberal arts institution about 90 miles west of Boston and home to about 1,800 students, include a president (Calvin Coolidge) and a prince (Albert II of Monaco). Robert Frost taught at Amherst. The lexicographer Noah Webster was among the founders.

I still can't believe the admissions office let me in, but in the spring of 1975, a spot opened for those relegated to the waiting list, so off I went from the little town of Fair Haven, New Jersey, with nary a clue that Amherst would change my life.

It did.

During my sophomore year, a charismatic professor named Joel Upton dazzled students like me with his lectures on French Gothic cathedrals. Upton didn't just teach us to appreciate the rose windows and flying buttresses of Notre Dame and Chartres. He urged us to look deeper and see the great cathedrals as cultural artifacts — large-scale Rosetta stones that revealed the values and visions of the people who built and paid for them.

It's a lesson I've taken to heart, not only in my 27 years as the Tribune's architecture critic, but also in a guidebook to the 1,000-acre Amherst campus that



RALPH LIEBERMAN/PRINCETON ARCHITECTURAL PRESS

The exterior of Amherst College's Johnson Chapel, built in 1827 and renovated in the 1930s.

Princeton Architectural Press published Tuesday. In the guidebook, which is timed to coincide with Amherst's bicentennial next year, I take the view that there's a story behind every structure — and that the spiel you get on scripted campus tours is rarely the whole story.

Consider Amherst's most prominent building, Johnson Chapel, a robust Greek Revival edifice built in 1827 and renovated in the 1930s by New York architects McKim, Mead & White. Powerfully austere on the outside, the building contains classrooms, faculty offices and, on its highest

floors, an elegant chapel where stylized ears of corn grace column capitals — a reference to the agricultural bounty of the valley around Amherst.

But who was the "Johnson" for whom the building is named?

A little digging in the college's archives revealed that Adam Johnson was an aging, wealthy and (crucially) childless farmer who lived in a nearby town. As Johnson neared death, one of Amherst's founders — the lawyer Samuel Fowler Dickinson, grandfather of the poet Emily — promised him a measure of immortality: a new chapel, en-

dowed by Johnson, would forever bear his name.

As you might expect, Johnson's brother Thomas was none too pleased when he learned that he would inherit a mere \$12. He contested the will in court, but Amherst won and got the \$4,000 that enabled the chapel to be finished — a pretty unseemly way for a college dedicated to training ministers to pay its construction bill.

You won't hear that one on the campus tour.

Such stories lurk beneath the gloss of many campus buildings, including some in Chicago.

In 2018, a routine main-



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Workers found flooring materials of the Mecca Flats at 34th and State streets, which was torn down by IIT in 1951.

tenance project at the Illinois Institute of Technology's S.R. Crown Hall, a masterful steel-and-glass pavilion designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, turned up long-buried pieces of colorful floor tile from a building that once occupied the site. Built in advance of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, that building, the Mecca Flats, became synonymous with the glamour and grandeur of Chicago's "Black Metropolis." Its soaring, skylit interior courts formed an indoor extension of "The Stroll," the vibrant entertainment strip along State Street.

To know that the Mecca Flats eventually became decayed and overcrowded, and that IIT tore it down in 1951 to clear the way for Crown Hall doesn't compromise Mies' achievement, but it does complicate the building's back story. The seemingly benign "urban renewal" ideal behind the IIT campus already had become synonymous with the racially tainted practice of "Negro removal."

The point here is that buildings are much more than the brick and mortar (or steel and glass) of which they're made. Memory is one of their materials, even if it's intangible. Buildings are repositories of tales — some innocently forgotten, others willfully ignored —

that have the capacity to illuminate our past, inform our present and shape our future. That's why you often hear historic preservationists say they're fighting to save a building because it "tells a story."

Skeptics invariably argue: "You want to tell a story? Put up a plaque and tear the building down."

Indeed, in a dynamic society like ours, the old sometimes needs to give way to the new, not just for "progress" but to make way for new landmarks and new stories.

Still, when we seek to convey the power of the past, it's hard to compete with the arresting, three-dimensional reality of architecture, whether it takes the form of the over-the-top Tiffany dome at the Chicago Cultural Center or the restrained purity of Johnson Chapel.

In the latter, students ascending to the chapel climb granite interior stairs whose treads have been worn into scalloped hollows by the footfalls of myriad generations. That reminds the students that they're walking in someone else's footsteps — and that someone else will walk in theirs.

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Internet criticism gets 'Sonic' director to retool

By RYAN FAUGHNDER
Los Angeles Times

After Paramount Pictures released the first trailer for its "Sonic the Hedgehog" movie last April, the film seemed doomed to an increasingly common fate in Hollywood — death by internet backlash.

Footage from the live-action/computer-animation hybrid, based on Sega's flagship video game franchise, drew fury from fans who described the famed blue speed demon's design as "nightmare fuel," with many citing his unnervingly humanoid teeth.

For Jeff Fowler, the first-time feature director tasked with bringing Sonic to life, the rebuke stung. But the 41-year-old visual effects veteran quickly rallied his team in Culver City, California, to take the unusual step of redesigning the character to more closely resemble the hedgehog first introduced in 1991.

"I allowed myself an hour or two where I was feeling pretty sorry for myself," Fowler told The Times. "But then it was like, 'You know what? You've got to get everybody excited about doing the revision, as crazy as that sounds.' There was definitely a bit of a pep talk, but it was all genuine because I really believed it was a problem that could be solved."

Social media can be unforgiving for studios trying to bring nostalgic intellectual properties to the big screen. In a business dominated by titles based on already-beloved characters and stories, studios must often grapple with how much to cater to any given franchise's most vocal fan base.

Universal Pictures' "Cats," based on the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, never recovered from its first trailer, which was widely jeered for its jarring digital effects that turned its actors into CGI human-feline hybrids. After months of serving as the butt of online gags, the film flopped at the box office.

On the other hand, Walt Disney Studios refused to cave to online snark directed at Will Smith's blue-skinned genie in the initial marketing for last year's



JON KOPALOFF/GETTY

Director Jeff Fowler attends the LA special screening of Paramount's "Sonic The Hedgehog" in February at Regency Village Theatre.

"Aladdin" remake. That movie grossed more than \$1 billion.

Reshoots have become commonplace on big-budget studio movies, but rarely are they done in response to such a public outcry over marketing materials. For Fowler and ViacomCBS-owned Paramount, however, it was obvious "Sonic" needed a makeover.

Fowler tweeted several days after the backlash, promising changes were coming. After that, Paramount and Sega kicked in an estimated \$5 million for the revisions and delayed the release by about three months so fixes could be made.

The problem with the first design was "too much realism," Fowler said. On the next attempt, the filmmakers embraced the "cartooniness" of the character, making the eyes bigger and the

teeth less visible.

"It's a 'Sonic the Hedgehog' movie, and the fans who've been loving this character for 30 years are the ones we needed in our corner," Fowler said. "It was definitely a challenge but a very exciting one once it all clicked."

The PG-rated movie succeeds when its release could generate a much-needed new family-friendly franchise for Paramount, which is looking to recover from years of box-office struggles.

For Tokyo-based Sega Sammy Holdings, a winning adaptation would breathe new life into an aging video game series by expanding it to new audiences, much in the same way mobile game maker Rovio and Sony Pictures did with the "Angry Birds" movies.

"We wanted to create an experience that would allow for the

younger generation to experience what their parents had experienced almost 30 years ago," said Los Angeles-based Sega executive Toru Nakahara, who represented the company as a producer on "Sonic the Hedgehog."

"Sonic the Hedgehog," co-produced and co-financed by Paramount and Sega, is expected to gross \$40 million to \$45 million through Monday. That would represent a solid four-day performance for a production that cost \$87.5 million, split between Paramount and Sega, including added expenses to redo the title character. Much of the animation compositing work was done by Technicolor's MPC office in Vancouver, which closed in December, citing "external market pressures in Vancouver and more attractive opportunities in other locations."

In the film, Sonic is portrayed as an alien creature (voiced by Ben Schwartz) who befriends a small-town cop (James Marsden) and must evade the mad genius Dr. Robotnik, played by a mustache-twirling Jim Carrey.

Sega has been trying to bring the lightning-quick hero to the big screen for years. Sonic games have shipped 920 million copies since the early 1990s, when Sega was still considered the chief rival of Nintendo.

Sega struggled to compete with Nintendo and Sony's Corp.'s PlayStation, and stopped making its own consoles in 2001 following poor sales of its Dreamcast. Sega has continued to produce Sonic games as a third-party publisher. The character has also appeared in animated TV shows, comic books and even an insurance commercial over the years, but it has never anchored a theatrical film.

Video game adaptations are notoriously risky at the box office, with flops including the most recent "Tomb Raider," "Assassin's Creed" and "Warcraft," though last year's "Pokemon: Detective Pikachu" performed solidly for Legendary Pictures and Warner Bros. A big-screen version of Nintendo's flagship franchise "Super Mario Bros." was a massive flop in 1993 and continues to serve as a cautionary tale for studios.

"If 'Sonic' works, it looks like Sega at least beat Nintendo to the punch in terms of having a successful movie," said Jeff Bock, a box-office analyst at Exhibitor Relations.

The movie was originally set up at Sony Pictures with producer Neal Moritz, known for the "Fast & Furious" franchise, who began developing the project in 2014. Tim Miller, director of the hit Marvel comedy "Deadpool," later joined as executive producer.

To direct, the producers in 2016 recruited Fowler, a veteran of Miller's company Blur Studio. Fowler, who was 13 when the first Sonic game came out, had joined Blur as a character animator in 2003 and shortly after directed the Oscar-nominated animated short "Gopher Broke," based on an idea he submitted for a contest at Blur.

Since then, he worked on commercials and did visual effects for movies such as Spike Jonze's "Where the Wild Things Are," but he had yet to helm a feature-length movie.

The project languished in development at Sony, and Moritz took it to Paramount in late 2017 after he signed a broader production deal with the Los Angeles-based studio. Paramount, under the new leadership of Jim Gianopulos, was hungry for potential franchises.

One key step was figuring how to portray the hedgehog's personality, a common problem with video game characters making the jump to Hollywood. Fowler and the writers found inspiration in the early games, which presented Sonic as a youthful smart aleck, despite a lack of dialog.

In the game, if the player stopped pushing buttons, Sonic would impatiently tap his feet or stare at his wrist. That, plus the later TV shows and comic books, gave the filmmakers a foundation from which to work.

"Most times, a video game character is just there to go left, go right or jump," Fowler said. "Even in the simple 16-bit introduction to the character in 1991, there was still some real attitude that came through. It felt very teenager-like and relatable."

IN PERFORMANCE

Virtuoso pianist Yuja Wang keeps her audience guessing

By HOWARD REICH

On paper, pianist Yuja Wang's recital Sunday afternoon in Orchestra Hall looked perilously close to a collection of miniatures lacking a substantial center.

In concert, it amounted to something far greater than that: a guided tour through several historical epochs, each benefitting from Wang's distinct perspective — plus, of course, her wizardly technique.

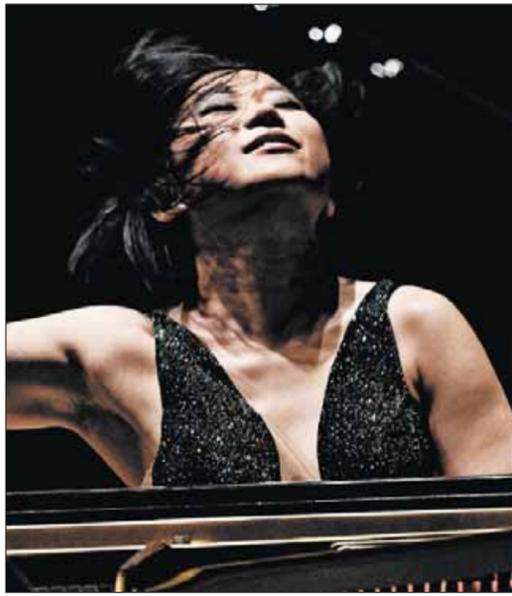
But that journey from baroque to classicism, from romanticism to Impressionism and beyond, was neither chronological nor predictable. Indeed, an insert in the concert's program book advised that: "The order of the works performed during this afternoon's recital is at the discretion of the artist and may not match the order listed in your program."

It also included a quote from Wang: "I believe that every program is a living organism, so it should be in sync with how I'm feeling in that moment, so it is truly alive. I want the music to surprise me and to surprise the audience."

That it did, for at least one listener would have bet against Wang opening with one of the two Scriabin sonatas listed for the program's second half. But her first notes instantly shattered that presumption, making clear that she was starting with Scriabin's Sonata No. 4 in F-sharp Major, Op. 30.

Few other pianists would dare such a feat, for the gossamer touch the sonata requires in its opening passages and the technical demands it makes soon after are not easily achieved when fingers aren't fully warmed up. Wang's surely were, the pianist conjuring delicate tonal shades, urgently singing lines and mercurial bursts of sound. She also captured the implicit push-pull of Scriabin's phrasings, an element of his style lost on many otherwise fine pianists.

From here Wang ventured into Ravel's "Une



FRANCINE ORR/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Yuja Wang, shown in Los Angeles in 2017, played a charismatic recital Sunday afternoon in Orchestra Hall.

Barque sur l'Océan," from "Miroirs," her touch and tone having shifted from Scriabin's hyper-romanticism to Ravel's lush waves of sound and sensuality.

The concert's high point, not surprisingly, came with Scriabin's Sonata No. 5 in F-sharp Major, Op. 53, a treacherously difficult work even a pianist of Wang's keyboard acuity and self-composure was wise to save for the end. Beyond its monstrous technical demands, the piece is built on nervous energy, stop-start rhythm, quicksilver changes of texture and a demonic finale. Wang made sense of these eruptions, or perhaps it's more accurate to say that she captured Scriabin's neurotic mood changes with welcome insight.

The only major work on the program that didn't fare quite as well was a landmark of early 20th-century pianism, Berg's Sonata, Op. 1. Though Wang brought unmistakable surface beauty to the work, its darkly brooding undercurrents and profoundly longing qualities eluded her. This is a piece that stretches traditional Western tonality practically to the breaking

point, as if the 19th century were giving way to the 20th within its pages.

The rest of the program, however, proved quite illuminating. By alternating a series of Brahms intermezzos and Chopin mazurkas, Wang brought into high relief not their similarities but their differences. We heard profoundly introspective statements in Brahms, beguiling lyricism in Chopin.

Wang's approach to Bach's Toccata in C Minor, BWV 911, made no concessions to early-music dictates, instead reveling in the colors and poetry of the modern grand piano. And her reading of Mompou's "Secreto" from "Impressions Intimes" was a melancholy whisper, sweetly delivered.

For encores, Wang offered a stunning — and fast — account of Vladimir Horowitz's "Carmen" Variations, based on Bizet, and a hauntingly subtle performance of Schubert's "Gretchen am Spinnrade," in Liszt's transcription.

In all, a pianistic tour de force. *Howard Reich is a Tribune critic. hreich@chicagotribune.com*



CARLOS GARCÍA SERVÍN PHOTO

Marcela Muñoz and Israel Balza in "Kiev" at Aguijón Theater.

IN PERFORMANCE 'Kiev' ★★★

In 'Kiev' at Aguijón Theater

By JERALD PIERCE

When: Through March 15

Where: Aguijón Theater, 2707 N. Laramie Ave., Chicago

Running time: 90 minutes

Tickets: \$15-\$30 at 773-637-5899 and www.aguijontheater.org

"Kiev" is about a family drowning — in grief, in denial, in alcohol. Written by the French-Uruguayan playwright Sergio Blanco and receiving its United States premiere from Aguijón Theater, "Kiev" examines the dark path one family took after tragedy struck.

Much like Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard," upon which "Kiev" is loosely based, a family comes together to say goodbye to a home that has meant so much for them. Matriarch Eiren Badenweiler and her children, Dafne and Alden, reunite with Eiren's brother Esvald to sign their family summer home over to a company whose bulldozers loom in the distance.

Blanco's script is incredibly enjoyable. It balances perilously on the edge of being overdramatic without ever tipping over. He's crafted this family with so many secrets and buried traumas that it's natural to hang on every twist, turn and revelation in the script.

Like the disgusting dark crust that has formed atop the water of this family's pool, a cloud hangs over the Badenweilers. It's an ominous feeling at first, one easily attributable to the fact that this is a family returning to the location

where Eiren's other son, Mika, drowned in their

pool. In fact, the entire play takes place poolside. It's a constant reminder of that tragedy that also turns the mere presence of a diving board at the front of Augusto Yanacopulos' set into an object that feels as perilous as someone walking the plank whenever a character gets near it.

Oh, and the house is also where Eiren's husband committed suicide. What makes Blanco's play so captivating is that, despite balancing his story with levity and hope, things only get darker from there.

The production hinges on the creepy performance by Sándor Menéndez, whose Esvald flits between charming and menacing with ease. Not knowing how deep the horrors of his character goes is crucial to this play. Then, once those horrors are known, it's watching a monster and master manipulator at work that sends chills.

The biggest issue with this production was its unaffection ending. Without giving anything away, it was the one moment

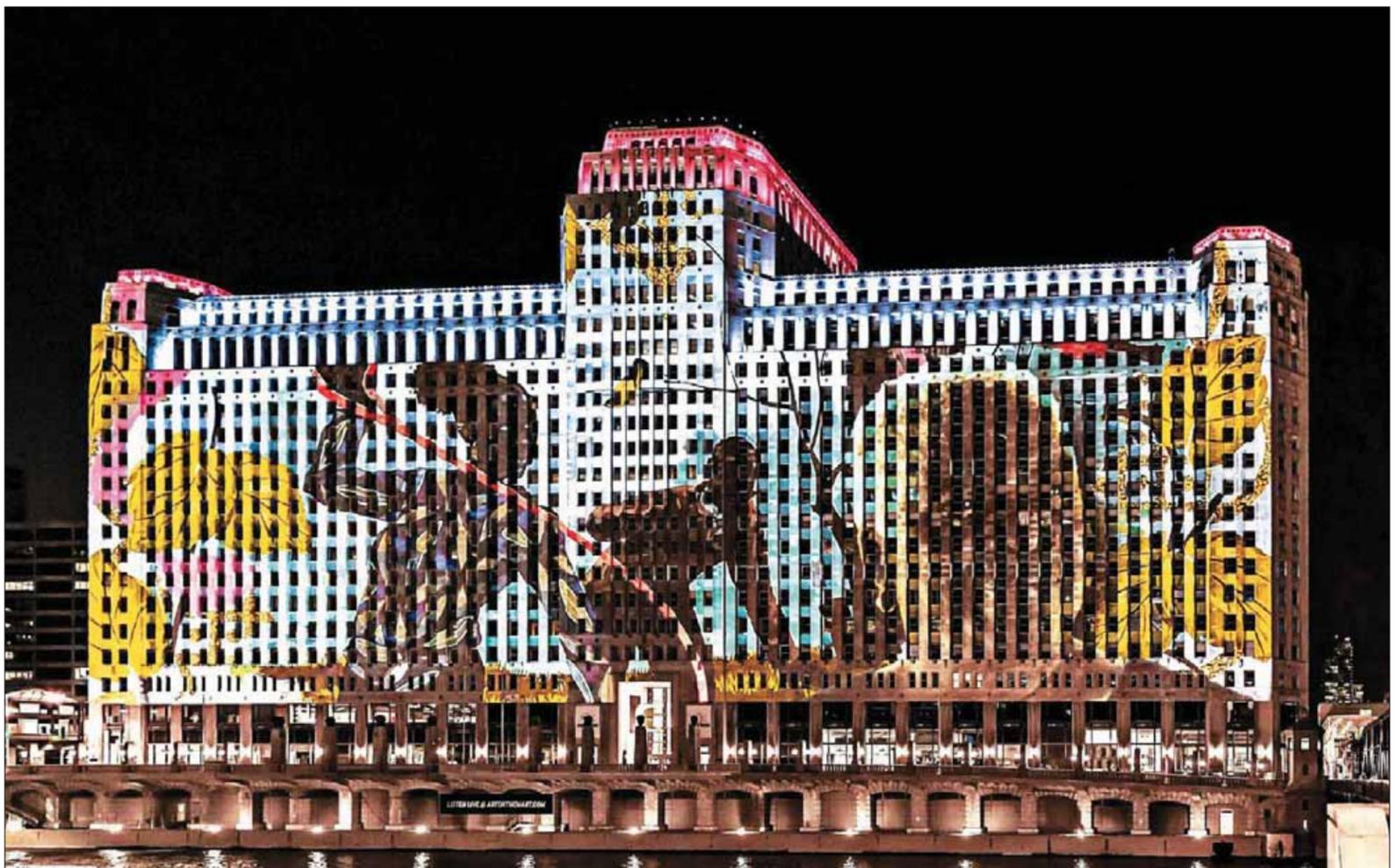
where the production got away from director Abel González Melo. With the entire production performed in Spanish, there are supertitles for those in the audience who (like me) do not speak Spanish. It can feel like playing catch up at times, but it's all together easy to follow.

But the end shifts. Melo stops relying on the actors who had done a solid job up to that point carrying the tone of the play and instead projects the stage directions from the final moments of the play for the audience to read as Israel Balza (Tavio, the former tutor to Eiren's dead son) partially acts out what the text says.

Admittedly, some things are difficult to actually put on stage. But this felt like the equivalent of a production of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" where, rather than being pursued by a person in a bear suit or some conceptually designed bear, Antigonus sort of awkwardly walks off stage as a projection reads "exit (pursued by a bear)."

It's not an issue that ruins the entire production or anything, but it was a disappointment after the previous 80 or so minutes of high stakes. Blanco has created a dark play that deserved an equally devastating ending.

Jerald Pierce is a freelance writer. ct-arts@chicagotribune.com



BOB GROSSE/THE MART

During the 2019 season, the "Art on theMart" video projection featured "To Be In Love" by John Boesche, with performance by Cheryl Lynn Bruce and artwork by Kerry James Marshall.

Mart

Continued from Page 1

year along the Riverwalk alone, she said. That does not count the many more who watched from elsewhere, such as the Wacker Drive sidewalk above the Riverwalk, said Noble.

Also new for 2020, the program will run seven

nights per week throughout the April-December season, instead of going dark two nights a week in the colder months of the year.

As it has evolved, the effort billed as the "largest permanent art projection in the world" toward the end of last year added speakers along the Riverwalk jetty across from the display. Initially, viewers were required to call up the

audio that went with the projections via the web for personal listening.

"People wanted it to be a fully immersive experience," Noble said. "That's just an expectation nowadays. Artists have been really excited about that too."

Beginning April 1 and running through Sept. 20, the Art Institute Monet program will turn six

Monet works into a projection piece. In its Michigan Avenue home, the museum debuts "Monet and Chicago" May 10, but the Art on theMart program will not make overt reference to the museum exhibition, Noble said.

Art Institute classics were featured in Art on theMart last year.

Opening at the same time, and running through

May 12, will be a program developed by Arts of Life, which works with artists who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. "City Circle Heart" features the work of five Arts of Life artists in a projection meant to be "calm and soothing," a counterpoint to the sensory processing disorder often experienced by people with learning disabilities.

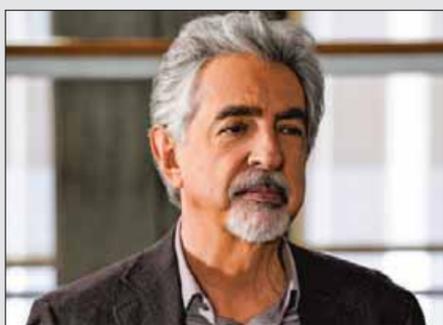
Adler Planetarium's

"Astrographics," developed by its in-house space visualization team, will explore progressively further regions of space to an accompaniment of the music of experimental jazz composer Sun Ra. That projection debuts May 16.

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WATCH THIS: WEDNESDAY



Joe Mantegna

“Criminal Minds” (8 p.m., CBS): The hit procedural, which frequently pushed the network envelope for intensity during its 15-season run, wraps things up tonight in two back-to-back episodes. First, in “Face Off,” Rossi (Joe Mantegna) leads his BAU team in an epic hunt for Everett Lynch (guest star Michael Mosley), inspired by insights from his former partner, Jason Gideon (Ben Savage).

“The Goldbergs” (7 p.m., ABC): Pops (George Segal) makes it his personal mission to make grandson Adam (Sean Giambrone) really cool for a big blowout that’s taking place at a friend’s house in the new episode “Dave Kim’s Party.” Meanwhile, Beverly’s (Wendi McLendon-Covey) cookbook has turned her into a minor league celebrity of sorts, which only feeds her appetite for fame, a desire that leads to an important lesson for her. Kenny Ridwan and Chris Parnell guest star.

“Howie Mandel’s 5th Annual All-Star Comedy Gala” (7 p.m., CW): Howie Mandel (“America’s Got Talent”) hosts this 90-minute comedy special, which was recorded at the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal. The program spotlights stand-up performances from some of today’s hottest comics, including Ronny Chieng, Cameron Esposito, Alonzo Bodden, Anjelah Johnson, Rachel Bloom (“Crazy Ex-Girlfriend”) and Fortune Feimster, among several others.

“Party of Five” (8 p.m., FREE): In the new episode “Dos y dos,” Lucia (Emily Tosta) continues going out of her way to impress Sully (recurring guest star Elizabeth Grullon,) her activism mentor. After Natalia (Sol Rodriguez) shares Val’s (Elle Paris Legaspi) secret with Emilio (Brandon Larracuente), Val tries to reconnect somehow with her parents.

“Good Trouble” (9 p.m., FREE): In a new episode called “Fragility,” Davia (Emma Hunton) struggles to come up with a way to make amends to Andre (Terrell Ransom Jr.), while Mariana (Cierra Ramirez) is compelled to face her true feelings for Evan (T.J. Linnard). Elsewhere, Callie (Maia Mitchell) discovers something about Jamie (Beau Mirchoff) that could change everything.

“Year of the Rabbit” (9:30 p.m., 2:48 a.m., IFC): Matt Berry stars in this new Brit-com as booze-soaked Detective Inspector Eli Rabbit, who brings a world-weary perspective to investigations with his eager and somewhat hapless younger partner, Detective Sgt. Wilbur Strauss (Freddie Fox). The series premiere finds Rabbit and Strauss pursuing a killer targeting young females.

TALK SHOWS

“Conan” (10 p.m. 11:30 p.m., TBS): Actress Lizzy Caplan and comedian D.J. Demers.*

“The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” (10:34 p.m., NBC): Jimmy Fallon brings A-list guests, signature comedy bits and chart-topping music to late night.*

“The Late Show With Stephen Colbert” (10:35 p.m., CBS): Actress Laura Dern; Kesha talks and performs.*

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

* Subject to change

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

CHARLES PORTIS 1933-2020

‘True Grit’ novelist captured ‘spoken idioms of the South’

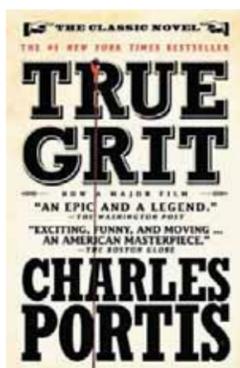
BY HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Novelist Charles Portis, a favorite among critics and writers for such shaggy dog stories as “Norwood” and “Gringos” and a bounty for Hollywood whose droll, bloody Western “True Grit” was a bestseller twice adapted into Oscar-nominated films, died Monday at age 86.

Portis, a former newspaper reporter who apparently learned enough to swear off talking to the media, had been suffering from Alzheimer’s in recent years. His brother, Jonathan Portis, told The Associated Press that he died in a hospice in Little Rock, Arkansas, his longtime residence.

Charles Portis was among the most admired authors to nearly vanish from public consciousness in his own lifetime. His fans included Tom Wolfe, Roy Blount Jr. and Larry McMurtry, and he was often compared to Mark Twain for his plain-spoken humor and wry perspective. Portis saw the world from the ground up, from bars and shacks and trailer homes, and few spun wilder and funnier stories. In a Portis novel, usually set in the South and south of the border, characters embarked on journeys that took the most unpredictable detours.

In “Norwood,” an ex-Marine from Texas heads East in a suspicious car to collect a suspicious debt, but winds up on a bus with a circus dwarf, a chicken and a girl he just met. “The Dog of the South” finds one Ray Midge driving from Arkansas to Honduras in search of his wife, his credit cards and his Ford Torino. In “Gringos,” an expatriate in Mexico with a taste for order finds



himself amid hippies, end-of-the-world cultists and disappearing friends.

The public knew Portis best for “True Grit,” the quest of Arkansas teen Mattie Ross to avenge her father’s murder. The novel was serialized in the Saturday Evening Post in 1968 and was soon adapted (and softened) as a film showcase for John Wayne, who starred as Rooster Cogburn, the drunken, one-eyed marshal Mattie enlists to find the killer.

The role brought Wayne his first Academy Award and was revived by the actor, much less successfully, in the sequel “Rooster Cogburn.”

Rooster was so strong a character that a new generation of filmgoers and Oscar voters welcomed him back. In 2010, the Coen brothers worked up a less glossy, more faithful “True Grit,” featuring Jeff Bridges as Rooster and newcomer Hallie Steinfeld as Mattie. The film received 10 nominations, including best actor for Bridges, and brought new attention to Portis and his novel, which topped the trade paperback list of The New York Times.

“No living Southern writer captures the spoken idioms of the South as artfully as Portis does,” Mississippi native Donna Tartt wrote in an after-

word for a 2005 reissue of the novel.

Portis was a natural raconteur who credited his stint in the Marines with giving him time to read. After leaving the service, he graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1958 with a degree in journalism and for the next few years was a newspaperman, starting as a night police reporter for the Memphis Commercial Appeal and finishing as London bureau chief for the New York Herald Tribune.

Anxious to write novels, Portis left the paper in 1964 and from Arkansas completed “Norwood,” published two years later and adapted for a 1970 movie of the same name starring Glen Campbell and Joe Namath.

Portis eventually settled in Little Rock, where he reportedly spent years working on a novel that was never released. “Gringos,” his fifth and last novel, came out in 1991.

Portis published short fiction in The Atlantic during the 1990s, but was mostly forgotten before admiring essays in Esquire and the New York Observer by Ron Rosenbaum were noticed by publishing director Tracy Carns of the Overlook Press, which reissued all of Portis’ novels. Some of his journalism, short stories and travel writings were published in the 2012 anthology “Escape Velocity.”

In recent years, the author lived in open seclusion, a regular around Little Rock who drove a pickup truck, enjoyed an occasional beer and stepped away from reporters. He did turn up to collect the Oxford American’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in Southern Literature and was known to answer the occasional letter from a reader.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 19

	PM	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00
BROADCAST	CBS 2	Survivor: “It’s Like a Survivor Economy.” (N) ©	Criminal Minds: “Face Off.” (N) ©	Criminal Minds: “And in the End.” (Series Finale) (N) ©				News (N) ♦
	NBC 5	Chicago Med ©		Democratic Candidates Debate (N) (Live) ©				NBC 5 News (N) ♦
	ABC 7	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N) ©	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Stumptown (N) ©		News at 10pm (N) ♦
	WGN 9	black-ish ©	black-ish ©	Last Man Standing ©	Last Man Standing ©	WGN News at Nine (N) ©		WGN News at Ten (N) ♦
	Antenna 9.2	It’s a Living	3’s Comp.	Family Ties	Growing	Designing	Murphy	Carson ♦
	Court 9.3	♦ Closing Arguments (N)		Closing Arguments with Vinnie Politan ©				
	PBS 11	Chicago Tonight (N)		Nature: “The Mighty Weather.” (N) ©		NOVA: “Cat Tales.” (N) ©		Steve Backshall (N) ♦
	CW 26.1	5th Annual All-Star Comedy Gala (N)		Whose Line		Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Seinfeld ©
	The U 26.2	Dr. Phil ©		Tamron Hall (N) ©		Steve Wilkos Show (N)		Cops ©
	MeTV 26.3	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Green Acres	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
H&I 26.4	Star Trek © (Part 2 of 2)		Star Trek: Next		Star Trek: Deep Space 9		Star Trek ♦	
Bounce 26.5	Daddy Day Care (PG,03) ♦♦		Eddie Murphy. ©		Their Eyes Were Watching God ♦♦♦			
FOX 32	The Masked Singer (N)		(8:01) LEGO Masters: “Cut in Half.” (N) ©		Fox 32 News at Nine (N)		Modern Family ©	
Ion 38	Blue Bloods ©		Blue Bloods ©		Blue Bloods: “Your Six.”		Blue Blood ♦	
TeleM 44	♦ Exatlón EE. UU. (N)		La Doña (N) ©		Operación Pacifico (N) ©		Chicago (N)	
MNT 50	Chicago P.D. ©		Dateline: “Buried Secrets.”		Dateline ©		Chicago ♦	
UniMas 60	Enamorádonos				Noticiero (N)	Sin miedo a la verdad		
WJVS 62	Salem Baptist Church		Joyce Meyer	Robison	Coach’s Cor.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	
Univ 66	Ringo (N)		Amor eterno		Rubi (N)		Noticias (N)	
CABLE	AE	PD Cam (N)	PD Cam (N)	America’s Top Dog (N)		PD Cam	PD Cam	PD Cam ♦
	AMC	Rocky III (PG,82) ♦♦♦		Sylvester Stallone, Mr. T. ©		Rocky IV (PG,85) ♦♦♦		
	ANIM	I Was Prey: Under Attack (N)				I Was Prey ©		I Was Prey ♦
	BBCA	The Green Mile (R,99) ♦♦♦		Tom Hanks, David Morse. © ♦				
	BET	♦ Tyler-Single Moms Club		Tyler Perry’s Sistas (N)		Miss Virginia (NR,19) © ♦		
	BIGTEN	♦ College Basketball (N)		College Basketball: Indiana at Minnesota. (N) (Live) ©				Postgame
	BRAVO	Housewives/NJ (N)		Summer House (N) ©		Watch (N)	Housewives/NJ	
	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		Cuomo Prime Time (N)		CNN Tonight (N)		Debate ♦
	COM	South Park	South Park	South Park		South Park	Nora (N)	South Park
	DISC	Expedition Unknown ©						Expedition ♦
	DISN	Zombies 2 (NR,20) Meg Donnelly. ©		Gabby		Sydney-Max	Bunk’d ©	Gabby ♦
	E!	♦ (6:30) Wedding Crashers (NR,05) ♦♦♦ ©				The Soup (N)	Nightly (N)	Knocked ♦
	ESPN	♦ College Basketball (N)		College Basketball: Duke at NC State. (N) (Live)				SportCtr (N)
	ESPN2	♦ College Basketball (N)		College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)				Basketball
	FNC	Tucker Carlson (N)		Hannity (N) ©		The Ingraham Angle (N)		Fox News
	FOOD	Guy’s Grocery Games		Guy’s Grocery Games (N)		Guy’s Grocery Games		Grocery ♦
	FREE	♦ Twil: Eclipse		Party of Five (N) © (SAP)		Good Trouble (N) ©		700 Club ♦
	FX	The Hangover Part III (R,13) ♦♦		Bradley Cooper. ©		The Hangover Part III (R,13) ♦♦ © ♦		
	HALL	Love Unleashed (NR,19) Jen Lilley. ©				The Secret Ingredient (NR,20) © ♦		
	HGTV	Extreme Makeover (N)		100 Day Dream Home (N)		Property Brothers (N)		Caribbean
	HIST	Forged in Fire: Cutting Deeper (N) ©				Black Patriots: Heroes (N)		Forged ♦
	HLN	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
	IFC	(7:15) This Means War (PG-13,12) ♦		Reese Witherspoon. ©		Year (Series)		This War ♦
	LIFE	Married at First Sight (N) ©				(9:03) Married at First Sight (N) © ♦		
	MSNBC	♦ (6) To be announced		Democratic Candidates Debate (N) (Live) ©				TBA ♦
	MTV	Catfish: The TV Show (N)		True Life Crime (N) ©		Ridic. (N)	Ridiculous. (N)	Ridiculous.
	NATGEO	Locked Up Abroad ©		Locked Up Abroad (N) ©		To Catch a Smuggler (N)		Smuggler ♦
NBCSCH	College Basketball: Missouri State at Bradley. (N) (Live)				Adamles	Blackhawks	Postgame (N)	
NICK	♦ (6) Paddington (14) ♦♦♦		Substitute	Friends ©	Friends ©	Friends ©	Friends ♦	
OVATION	♦ (6) The Natural (PG,84) ♦♦♦		Robert Redford.		To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything ♦			
OWN	Cherish the Day (N)		Cherish the Day		Cherish the Day		Cherish ♦	
OXY	Snapped ©		Snapped: “Melissa Cole.”		Snapped ©		Snapped ♦	
PARMT	♦ (6) The Shawshank Redemption (R,94) ♦♦♦ ♦				68 Whiskey (N) ©		Shaw ♦	
SYFY	♦ (6:30) The Hitman’s Bodyguard (R,17) ♦♦ ©				The Magicians (N) ©		Skyfall ♦	
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Full Frontal	Conan ©	
TCM	Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned				(8:45) The Pink Panther (NR,63) ♦♦♦ ♦			
TLC	My 600-Lb. Life: “Carlton & Shantel’s Story.” (N)				My Feet Are Killing Me		Hoarding ♦	
TLN	Baptist	King	Focus on	The Three	Life Today	Exalted	Answers ♦	
TNT	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (N) (Live) ©				Hercules: The Thracian Wars ♦♦♦			
TOON	Home Movie	Burgers	Burgers	Rick, Morty	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Family Guy	
TRAV	Paranormal Ca.		Paranormal Ca. (N)		Paranormal Ca. (N)		Paranorm. ♦	
TVL	Raymond	Everybody Raymond		Raymond	King	King	King	
USA	WWE NXT (N) (Live) ©				Miz & Mrs	Miz & Mrs	Mod Fam ♦	
VH1	Black Ink: Chicago (N)		Wild ‘n Out	Wild ‘n Out	Wild ‘n Out	Wild ‘n Out	Wild/Out ♦	
WE	Law & Order: “Shotgun.”		Law & Order: “Fed.” ©		Law & Order: “Blackmail.”		Law ♦	
WGN America	Cops ©	Cops ©	Cops ©	Cops ©	Cops ©	Cops ©	Cops ©	
PREMIUM	HBO	The Outsider ©		Shaft (R,00) ♦♦	Samuel L. Jackson. ©			Avenue 5
	HBO2	We Are the Dream		(8:15) The New Pope		Last Week	The Shop: Uninterrupted	
	MAX	Savages (R,12) ♦♦		Taylor Kitsch. ©		(9:15) The Pledge (R,01) ♦♦♦ ♦		
	SHO	Total Recall (R,90) ♦♦♦		Arnold Schwarzenegger.		The Terminator (R,84) ♦♦♦ ♦		
	STARZ	♦ (5:43) Waterworld ♦♦ ©		Repo Men (R,10) ♦	Jude Law. ©			Equalizer ♦
	STZNC	♦ (5:39) Hulk (03) ♦♦		Identity (R,03) ♦♦♦	John Cusack.		(9:33) Fallen (98) ♦♦♦	

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CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19 NORMAL HIGH: 37° NORMAL LOW: 21° RECORD HIGH: 69° (2017) RECORD LOW: -8° (2015)

Briefly cold and then a much warmer weekend

LOCAL FORECAST

HIGH	LOW
27	11

■ Cold Canadian high pressure moves into the plains bringing mostly sunny skies and breezy northwest winds. Considerably colder with a high in the mid to upper 20s.

■ Scattered morning clouds become more numerous in afternoon.

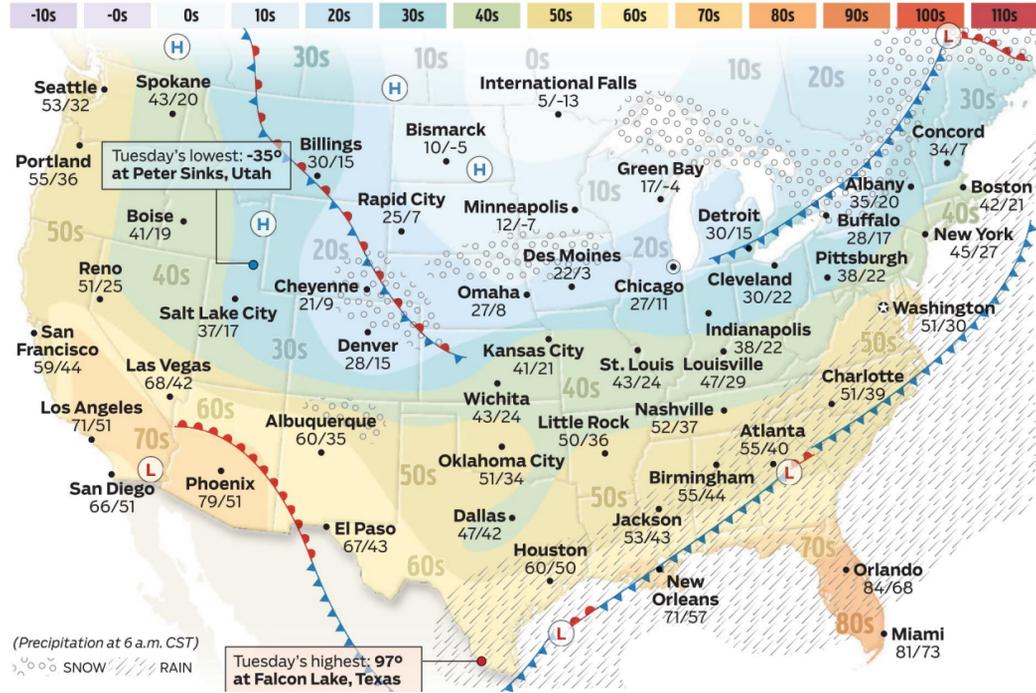
■ Northwest winds 10-15 mph diminish in afternoon.

■ Partly cloudy and cold overnight.

■ Low near 10 in the city but colder, near 0, in the outlying areas.

■ NW nighttime winds 6-10 mph increase to 10-15 mph by sunrise.

NATIONAL FORECAST



Sharply colder temperatures will be in place Wednesday and Thursday as high pressure moves into the plains bringing Arctic air and chilly northwest winds. High temperatures in the 20s today and tomorrow will be 10 or more degrees below normal. Nighttime lows will be near 10 degrees, also about 10 degrees below normal. Milder Pacific air will begin to make its way to the Great Lakes on Friday, warming temperatures to the 30s for Friday and 40s over the weekend and into the beginning of the following work week.

Portions of the southeast continue to deal with flooding with additional rain in the forecast for today and Thursday. Dry conditions are forecast to be in place here until Saturday night. The next chance for accumulating snow may be late Tuesday with the possible inflow of colder air.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

HIGH	LOW
24	12

High pressure to west brings mostly sunny skies, cold Canadian air. High in mid 20s, 10+ degrees below normal. NW winds 10-15 mph diminish, turn W after sunset. Cold overnight. Low near 10. Light W winds.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

HIGH	LOW
36	26

Sunny, breezy and much warmer. High in mid 30s. SW winds increase to 12-18 mph. Gusts to 25 mph in the afternoon. Scattered overnight clouds. SW winds 8-16 mph. Warmer nighttime low in mid 20s.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

HIGH	LOW
45	31

Increasing clouds, mild and breezy. SW winds 10-15 mph. Afternoon gusts to 25 mph. High in the mid 40s, about 7 degrees above normal. Becoming mostly cloudy overnight. Slight chance for rain. Low in the low 30s.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

HIGH	LOW
43	36

Mostly cloudy. Slight chance for morning rain with a better chance in afternoon. SSW winds 8-15 mph diminish overnight. Chance for rain continues overnight, mixing with then changing to snow. Low in the mid 30s.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

HIGH	LOW
43	31

Partly sunny and continued mild. Chance for a light morning rain/snow mix, becoming all rain. High in the low 40s. NE winds 8-12 mph. Chance for light rain or snow overnight. Low in the low 30s.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

HIGH	LOW
42	30

Becoming cloudy, windy. Continued mild with a high in the low 40s. Chance of rain, wet snow or a wintry mix. Snow likely overnight with breezy east winds. Low in the low 30s, 10 or more degrees above normal.



NOTE: Predicted high/low temps on Tribune weather page are chronological—the "high" refers to maximum reading expected during day and "low" is the minimum reading expected the following night.

ASK TOM

Dear Tom,
 Has Chicago ever had a February with no snow at all?
 Ian George

Dear Ian,
 Chicago's snowfall records for February began with 1885 and in the 136 Februaries (including 2020) since then, snow has been observed in all of them. However, three Februaries had no measurable snow: February of 1987, 1998 and 2017. February of 1987 and 2017 each recorded two days with traces of snow, and in 1998 the month experienced only one day with a trace of snow, on the 3rd. All other Februaries from 1885 onward recorded measurable snow (0.1 inch or more on at least one day). Two Februaries, in 1931 and 2003, recorded only one day with measurable snow: 0.4 inch on Feb. 11, 1931, and 1.5 inch on Feb. 24, 2003. Both of those months registered several days with traces of snow.

Write to: ASK TOM
 2501 W. Bradley Place
 Chicago, IL 60618
 asktomwhy@wgn9.com

WGN-TV meteorologists Mark Carroll, Steve Kahn, Richard Koeneman, Paul Merzlock and Paul Dailey, plus Bill Snyder, contribute to this page.

Hear Demetrius
 Ivory's weather updates weekdays 3 to 6 p.m. on WGN-AM 720 Chicago.

Brief arctic blast to interrupt 4th mildest winter since 1942

MEAN AVERAGE TEMP FROM 12/1 THROUGH 2/17

Since 1942 when the official recording station for Chicago moved inland through 2/17/20, this is the fourth warmest meteorological winter

Year	Temp
2012	32.6°
2002	32.2°
1998	31.8°
2020	31.6°

WINTER SEASON SNOWFALL AT O'HARE FROM 12/1 THROUGH 2/18

16.9" 2020 total
 8.3" below normal
 NORMAL: 25.2"

WINTER SEASON PRECIPITATION AT O'HARE FROM 12/1 THROUGH 2/18

4.96" 2020 total
 0.06" below normal
 NORMAL: 5.02"

SOURCES: Frank Wachowski, NWS archives

ARCTIC AIR'S BACK

Wind chill forecast Day #1 6 AM Wednesday morning forecast

Wind chill forecast Day #2 6 AM Thursday morning forecast

ARROWS DEPICT PREDICTED SURFACE WINDS

FEBRUARY 2020: 5° MILDER THAN LAST YEAR

Chicago O'Hare average February temps to date

Year	Temp
2020	24.9°
2019	29.9°

Forecast this weekend: three jet streams sweep across the country

TRACKING Milder Air's MOVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Recipe for "warming"—westerly upper winds

WEDNESDAY EVENING
 THURSDAY EVENING
 FRIDAY EVENING
 SATURDAY EVENING

TOM SKILLING, MARK CARROLL, BILL SNYDER, KRISTIE KAMINSKI, JENNIFER M. KOHNKE / WGN-TV

CHICAGO DIGEST

TUESDAY TEMPERATURES

LOCATION	HI	LO	LOCATION	HI	LO
Aurora	37	30	Midway	39	34
Gary	40	36	O'Hare	39	33
Kankakee	38	32	Romeoville	38	30
Lakefront	39	34	Valparaiso	39	32
Lansing	38	33	Waukegan	37	31

CHICAGO SNOWFALL

PERIOD	O'HARE	MIDWAY
Tue. (through 4 p.m.)	0.0"	0.0"
Season to date	25.2"	23.9"
Normal to date	26.6"	27.7"

SOURCE: Frank Wachowski

LAKE MICHIGAN CONDITIONS

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Wind NW 10-20 kts.	NW 10-20 kts.
Waves 2-4 feet	2-4 feet
Tue. shore/crib water temps	37°/36°

U.S. SNOW COVER

FEB. 18	2020	2019
Area covered by snow	33.5%	53.9%
Average snow depth	4.7"	7.0"

TRACKING THE COLD

SINCE OCT. 15	O'HARE	MIDWAY
Sub-32° highs	20 days	17 days
Subzero lows	1 days	1 days

CHICAGO AIR QUALITY

Tuesday's reading	Moderate
Wednesday's forecast	Moderate
Critical pollutant	Particulates

WEDNESDAY RISE/SET TIMES

Sun	6:41 a.m.	5:28 p.m.
Moon	4:21 a.m.	1:38 p.m.

WEDNESDAY PLANET WATCH

PLANET	RISE	SET
Mercury	6:57 a.m.	6:30 p.m.
Venus	8:21 a.m.	9:09 p.m.
Mars	3:33 a.m.	12:35 p.m.
Jupiter	4:34 a.m.	1:47 p.m.
Saturn	5:08 a.m.	2:34 p.m.

BEST VIEWING TIME DIRECTION

Mercury	6:15 p.m.	31° WSW
Venus	Not visible	
Mars	5:30 a.m.	15.5° SE
Jupiter	6:00 a.m.	12° SE
Saturn	5:45 a.m.	5.5° SE

Source: Dan Joyce, Chicago Astronomical Society

MIDWEST CITIES				OTHER U.S. CITIES				WORLD CITIES																	
WED./THURS.	FC	HI	LO	WED./THURS.	FC	HI	LO	WED./THURS.	FC	HI	LO	WEDNESDAY	FC	HI	LO										
Illinois	pc	46	28	pc	35	28	10	Fairbanks	ss	18	9	cl	28	7	Palm Beach	pc	84	71	pc	86	67	Kyiv	pc	45	32
Carbondale	pc	34	18	pc	25	13	10	Fargo	pc	41	22	su	19	13	Palm Springs	pc	80	55	su	80	54	Algiers	pc	65	42
Champaign	pc	34	18	pc	25	13	10	Flagstaff	su	52	22	su	52	26	Philadelphia	pc	46	26	pc	38	21	Amsterdam	pc	46	42
Decatur	pc	35	19	pc	26	14	10	Fort Myers	pc	86	68	pc	85	62	Phoenix	su	79	51	su	82	59	Ankara	pc	30	12
Moline	pc	27	8	su	24	11	10	Fort Smith	cl	54	38	pc	48	24	Pittsburgh	pc	38	22	pc	29	16	Athens	pc	62	47
Peoria	pc	33	14	su	22	14	10	Fresno	su	70	42	su	74	46	Portland, ME	pc	38	19	pc	25	2	Auckland	pc	80	59
Quincy	pc	36	17	pc	28	14	10	Grand Junc.	pc	47	19	su	45	23	Portland, OR	su	55	36	pc	55	32	Baghdad	sh	75	53
Rockford	pc	24	3	su	20	7	10	Great Falls	su	37	16	pc	42	26	Providence	pc	42	20	pc	34	13	Bangkok	sh	53	36
Springfield	pc	35	18	pc	28	13	10	Harrisburg	pc	46	27	pc	37	21	Raleigh	sh	53	36	rs	41	25	Barbados	sh	83	76
Stirling	pc	26	6	su	22	9	10	Hartford	pc	41	21	pc	33	15	Rapid City	pc	25	7	su	43	17	Barcelona	pc	57	42
Indianapolis	pc	42	24	pc	33	16	10	Helena	su	52	12	su	40	18	Reno	pc	51	25	pc	55	32	Beijing	cl	45	27
Evansville	pc	46	28	pc	33	16	10	Honolulu	pc	80	70	su	80	70	Richmond	pc	52	30	sh	38	22	Beirut	sh	61	56
Fort Wayne	pc	33	19	pc	27	14	10	Houston	sh	60	50	sh	52	41	Rochester	sh	52	30	sh	21	14	Berlin	sh	45	33
Indianapolis	pc	38	22	pc	29	15	10	Int'l Falls	pc	51	31	su	22	12	Sacramento	pc	67	38	cl	67	44	Bermuda	pc	71	67
Lafayette	pc	34	19	pc	27	13	10	Jackson	sh	63	43	su	45	30	Salem, Ore.	su	56	29	pc	53	30	Bogota	pc	73	49
South Bend	pc	28	19	pc	23	14	10	Jacksonville	pc	82	61	sh	65	46	Salt Lake City	su	37	17	su	40	23	Brussels	pc	46	41
Wisconsin								Juneau	rs	38	34	su	36	34	San Antonio	sh	53	46	sh	51	40	Bucharest	sh	55	43
Green Bay	su	17	-4	su	16	5	10	Kansas City	cl	41	21	pc	32	16	San Diego	pc	66	51	su	71	53	Budapest	cl	51	34
Kenosha	pc	23	5	su	19	9	10	Las Vegas	su	68	42	su	68	43	San Francisco	pc	59	44	cl	60	46	Buenos Aires	su	85	56
La Crosse	pc	18	-7	su	19	4	10	Lincoln	sh	29	10	su	33	19	San Juan	pc	83	74	pc	84	72	Cairo	pc	67	49
Madison	pc	19	-4	su	16	3	10	Little Rock	cl	50	36	pc	47	24	Santa Fe	pc	48	29	pc	40	23	Cancun	pc	86	74
Milwaukee	pc	20	1	su	17	7	10	Louisville	pc	47	29	pc	38	19	Savannah	sh	71	47	su	49	36	Caracas	pc	80	65
Wausau	pc	13	-9	su	15	4	10	Macon	pc	52	38	cl	44	34	Seattle	su	53	32	pc	54	32	Casablanca	pc	66	51
Michigan								Memphis	pc	52	38	cl	44	34	Shreveport	sh	46	41	sh	49	31	Copenhagen	sh	42	37
Detroit	su	30	15	pc	24	12	10	Montgomery	sh	61	50	su	52	34	Sioux Falls	pc	13	-8	su	27	19	Dublin	sh	51	40
Grand Rapids	pc	24	14	pc	21	14	10	Nashville	pc	52	37	pc	45	23	Spokane	pc	43	20	pc	45	23	Edmonton	su	28	9
Marquette	sh	14	3	su	22	14	10	New Orleans	su	71	57	su	70	53	Tampa	sh	83	67	pc	83	54	Helsinki	sh	40	29
St. Ste. Marie	ss	16	0	pc	12	10	10	Omaha	su	52	37	su	45	23	Topeka	cl	42	13	pc	33	16	Hong Kong	su	70	61
Traverse City	sh	19	13	pc	20	15	10	Orlando	cl	84	68	su	83	55	Tulsa	pc	77	46	su	81	63	Istanbul	cl	53	41
Iowa								El Paso	pc	67	43	pc	58	39	Tallahassee	su	79	59	su	82	60	Gualaajara	su	88	53
Ames	ss	18	0	su	23	11	10	El Paso	pc	67	43	pc	58	39	Tampa	sh	83	67	pc	83	54	Havana	pc	89	68
Cedar Rapids	cl	18	-1	su	16	3	10	El Paso	pc	67	43	pc	58	39	Tallahassee	su	79	59	su						

Chicago Tribune

HEALTH & FAMILY



ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ken Zurek, 63, self-quarantines at his home in Highland, Indiana. He and wife, Annie, cut their recent China trip short and decided to quarantine themselves for 15 days as a precaution.

Abundance of caution

Northwest Indiana couple quarantine themselves over fears of coronavirus after trip to China. 'What I just experienced? I never want to experience it here'

BY KATE THAYER

In China, Ken Zurek of Northwest Indiana saw the disruption of the novel coronavirus — bustling cities turned to ghost towns, businesses shuttered, citizens confined to their homes, a world on pause in fear of a quickly-spreading virus.

"What I just experienced? I never want to experience it here," said Zurek, 63, a concrete business owner who traveled last month to China with his wife, Annie, 60, to visit her family and meet their new baby granddaughter. After learning of the virus and cutting their visit short to return home after 10 days, the Zureks decided to quarantine themselves in their Highland, Indiana, home for about two weeks even though they haven't shown any signs of the virus, like fever and cough.

The self-quarantine — not ordered by health professionals — is winding down and the Zureks, as well as their family back in China, all have remained healthy, he said.

Ken Zurek said he took the precaution to be



ANNIE ZUREK

Ken and Annie Zurek in the airport in Chongqing, China, before they returned to the United States, via Taiwan.

extra careful after he saw the devastation of the virus in China. He said he didn't want to be the cause of any illness in the United States. "I didn't want to be the start of that domino effect."

The couple planned to spend about four weeks in China, mostly in Chongqing, where Annie Zurek's family lives and is about 500 miles from Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. News of the coronavirus had just begun to break in the United States when the couple arrived in China on Jan. 19, Ken Zurek said, so they didn't know a virus similar to SARS and MERS had started to spread.

Soon after they arrived, they learned of the virus and noticed its effect, he said. At first they saw fewer people on the streets than normal, some wearing face masks. Within a couple days, nearly everyone donned masks and streets that would normally be packed with people shoulder to shoulder, were empty, Zurek said.

"Usually it's like New York City ... people are everywhere," he said. "When you take bus ... you never have a seat on the bus. It's always packed. But we got to see a ghost town, no doubt about it."

Soon the only open businesses in the city were grocery stores and pharmacies, and everyone stayed indoors, Zurek said. Masks

Turn to **Caution, Page 2**

'Taking Sexy Back' a fantastic and timely book



HEIDI STEVENS
Balancing Act

If I didn't know better, I would think Alexandra Solomon wrote her new book, "Taking Sexy Back," in response to the Super Bowl halftime show and its scathing reception.

"As women, we're expected to be sexy, but not sexual," Solomon writes. "We're bombarded with conflicting, shame-inducing and disempowering messages about sex instead of being encouraged to connect with our true sexual selves."

But Solomon has been doing this work for years — more than 20 — as a relationship therapist and professor. She's a licensed clinical psychologist at the Family Institute at Northwestern University and a faculty member in Northwestern's School of Educa-

tion and Social Policy.

"Taking Sexy Back" is the result of years of research, plus thousands of hours of conversations with students and therapy clients. It's fantastic. (It's also a lovely Valentine's Day gift if you still need one.)

"Women are taught to be sexually appealing but not demanding, to be sexually available but not hungry, to bring our partners to orgasm but to fake our own pleasure for their benefit and protection," she writes. "Many of us cannot name our sexual anatomy

or describe what those parts long for. The sad truth is that although women are more empowered than ever, the agency doesn't necessarily follow us into the bedroom."

Her book, she hopes, will change that.

It takes an intersectional approach. ("Heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, cisgender, gender queer, transgender, non-monogamous, monogamous and/or asexual, you belong on these pages.")

It doesn't focus on *should* or

how to. ("This book is about your relationship with your sexual self. Where you go from there is frankly none of my business!")

It does encourage readers to let go of messages they may have grown up with. ("I am passionate about reclamation and integration of the sexual self," Solomon writes. "I am passionate about creating opportunities for people to shed shame and claim authenticity.")

And it does, quite beautifully,

Turn to **Stevens, Page 2**

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High on the menu

15 heart-healthy foods to boost your good cholesterol

BY MARYGRACE TAYLOR
Greatist.com

You've probably heard that HDL cholesterol is good and LDL cholesterol is bad. So if you're trying to improve your heart health, you might be wondering what to eat to keep your HDL levels up.

The lowdown on HDL

Cholesterol is a waxy, fatlike substance found in your cells. Your liver makes some cholesterol, and you get more from animal food sources like meat and dairy.

Some cholesterol is essential to helping your body function properly, but too-high levels of cholesterol in your blood can up your risk for heart problems.

Cholesterol moves through your blood on special proteins called lipoproteins. High-density lipoprotein (HDL) is a helpful lipoprotein that mops up cholesterol in your blood and brings it back to your liver, where it can be flushed from your body.

Having a lot of HDL can promote healthier cholesterol levels and help protect your heart. (Low-density lipoprotein, or LDL, doesn't do this — it just builds up in your blood, leading to high blood cholesterol.)

Eating the right foods and limiting your saturated fat intake can help lower your levels of LDL. That can improve your overall ratio of HDL to LDL and reduce your risk for heart problems.

A simple blood test can tell you what your cholesterol levels are and whether

you need to make changes to the way you're eating. (The American Heart Association recommends all adults get their cholesterol checked every four to six years.) Healthy HDL levels are between 40 and 60 mg/dL, but if you want to be a heart health superstar, aim to get your number over 60.

What does a cholesterol-friendly diet look like? One key to improving your HDL-to-LDL ratio is limiting your intake of unhealthy fats, like saturated and trans fats. But eating the right foods can help too.

15 foods to add to your diet

Oatmeal: Oats are loaded with soluble fiber, which can help keep bad cholesterol from being absorbed into your bloodstream. Even better? Some of that soluble fiber comes in the form of beta glucan, a type of fiber tied to lower LDL cholesterol. Getting 3 grams of beta glucan daily has been shown to improve heart health — and you can get about half that amount from 3/4 cup of dry oats.

Beans and legumes: Lentils and black beans and chickpeas — oh, my! Beans and legumes are another great source of cholesterol-friendly soluble fiber. In fact, a review of 26 studies found that eating just 1/2 cup daily could help lower LDL cholesterol by an average of 6.6 mg/dL, improving your LDL-to-HDL ratio.

Olive oil: Consider using it as your go-to for cooking.



SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY/GETTY

Olive oil is packed with heart-healthy monounsaturated fats. Research has shown that a Mediterranean-style diet rich in olive oil can boost important HDL cholesterol functions like sweeping excess cholesterol out of the heart's blood vessels, keeping them open.

Apples: An apple a day ... you know the rest. The crunchy fruit is a top source of pectin, which can lower LDL cholesterol to improve your LDL-to-HDL ratio. Apples are also loaded with polyphenols. And according to a 2013 study, those polyphenols could help keep your arteries from becoming clogged or inflamed by stopping LDL cholesterol from oxidizing.

Fatty fish: Fish like salmon, tuna, mackerel and herring are brimming with omega-3 fatty acids. These fats don't directly raise HDL, but they can help lower your triglycerides, a type of unhealthy fat in your blood. They improve your heart health in other ways, too, like lowering blood pressure and reducing the risk for dangerous blood clots.

Avocado: The fruit serves up plenty of monounsaturated fats and fiber, both of which are keys for keeping your cholesterol levels healthy. One study found that adults with higher

body weights who ate an avocado each day lowered their LDL cholesterol levels more than those who skipped the creamy green fruit. More guac, anyone?

Berries: Strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and cranberries are chock-full of antioxidant compounds like anthocyanins, phenolic acids, stilbenes, tannins and carotenoids, which are linked to lower inflammation and healthier cholesterol levels.

Walnuts: Nuts like walnuts are a good source of polyunsaturated fats — heart-healthy fats that play a key role in improving your total cholesterol ratio. And if you're not a fan of fish, good news: Walnuts offer omega-3 fatty acids too. Help yourself to two or three handfuls a day. According to a 2010 review of 25 studies, eating that amount could help lower your LDL cholesterol by as much as 10 points.

Almonds: Like avocado and olive oil, almonds (and other nuts) are a good source of heart-healthy monounsaturated fats that can improve your total cholesterol ratio. They're also high in phytosterols, plant compounds that are structurally similar to cholesterol and help block cholesterol from being absorbed in your gut. You'll

reap the same benefits whether you nosh on whole almonds or almond butter.

Barley: The chewy whole grain is another great way to get your fill of beta glucan, the soluble fiber that can lower your LDL cholesterol. Try it as an alternative to oats for a hearty breakfast porridge, throw it into a salad or use it to give extra body to bean and veggie soups.

Grapes: These juicy little fruits pack a one-two punch for heart health. They contain antioxidant compounds and the heart-healthy fiber pectin, which help bring HDL cholesterol up and LDL cholesterol down.

Cocoa and dark chocolate: Both cocoa and dark chocolate contain compounds that can lower bad cholesterol and help you get to a healthier total cholesterol level overall. How? It seems that both foods help prevent LDL cholesterol from oxidizing, which can up the risk for heart disease. The key to reaping the benefits is enjoying cocoa and dark chocolate in a healthy context. Stir cocoa powder into your morning oatmeal or yogurt. If opting for dark chocolate, make sure the cocoa content is at least 75% and stick to a 1-ounce portion.

Soy foods: According to a

recent review of 46 studies, eating about 25 grams of soy protein per day can lower LDL cholesterol levels by 3% to 4%. Just remember that not all soy foods are created equal. You'll do the most good for your heart by choosing minimally processed soy products — choose tofu, tempeh or miso over packaged soy burgers or deli slices. Love sipping soy milk? Choose one that's unsweetened.

Leafy greens: You already knew kale was a superfood, but here's one more reason it's worth adding to your shopping list: Dark leafies can bind to bile acids, which could help your body flush out more bad cholesterol (and get your HDL-to-LDL ratio in a healthier place). This benefit might come from lutein, an antioxidant that's been shown to prevent cholesterol from sticking to artery walls.

Green tea: It's loaded with catechins, a family of antioxidants that have been shown to reduce LDL cholesterol and overall cholesterol concentration. And the more you drink, the greater the benefits seem to be. A large, long-term study found that adults who sipped five cups of green tea daily were 26% less likely than non-tea drinkers to die of a heart attack or stroke.

Caution

Continued from Page 1

were hard to find, but their family had a supply.

While inside, Zurek said he and his wife felt safe, and were happy to spend time with family and their new granddaughter. But they also constantly sought out news sources to read the tally of those infected, as well as those dead from the virus.

"My biggest fear was leaving my safe zone," he said, especially being in the Chongqing airport, which he said could be a route for those headed to or leaving Wuhan, where the virus started.

The couple decided they should leave China while they could, anticipating the United States would eventually restrict or halt flights coming from the country. But the only flight Zurek could find was for early February, which he thought might be too late. And when he'd try to call the airlines, he couldn't get through and the websites would crash, jammed with traffic.

"Every day my wife would tell me, 'We've got to leave early. This is going to get bad,'" he said. Because Annie Zurek is not an American citizen and instead has a green card, she wasn't able to get a flight arranged by the State Department to return to the U.S., Ken Zurek said, and he didn't want to go home without her.

When they woke up the morning of Jan. 29, Zurek said his wife told him to leave while he could, and she would stay behind. "I said, 'No. We came here together; we'll leave together.'"

"This was the only time I was really scared," Zurek added. "At that point I really realized I could die here."

Zurek called his sister,

who was staying at the couple's home, watching their cat, and she was able to get through to the airlines and then called him back with the airline representative also on the phone.

The airline representative told him "if you can get to the airport in two hours, you have the last two seats," Zurek said. "We packed so fast."

At the airport, everyone wore masks, he said. Inside the plane, flight attendants and the pilot also donned masks.

Zurek said he didn't see any screening for fever or symptoms once they arrived at O'Hare. "We walked right out the airport exit."

At that point, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had already begun screening passengers at several airports, including O'Hare, but only for travelers from areas closer to the epicenter of the outbreak in China.

Zurek said he and his wife continued to wear masks, including during their Uber ride, until they arrived home, and haven't left their home since their return.

He said he contacted state and local health departments in Indiana, and reported where they were in China, and that they have shown no symptoms. Officials told him they didn't need to remain home, but the couple decided to be "overly cautious," Zurek said.

While the CDC has quarantined Americans returning from the epicenter of the outbreak, travelers who have returned from other parts of mainland China and do not show symptoms are advised only to self-monitor and try to limit their contact for 14 days, the virus' incubation period.

Zurek said he and his wife remain healthy but are vigilant about monitor-

ing each other, including their temperature. "Any time one of us do cough, we run up to each other." Thursday marked the 14th day home, but the Zureks added an extra day, just to be "proactive and cautious," he said.

"I read a lot about this virus. I know how it's transmitted. This is just the proper way of doing things, of being safe," Zurek said. "Not only for ourselves, but for the Chicagoland area."

As of Friday, there are 15 confirmed cases of the virus in the United States, according to public health officials. That includes a Chicago woman who had traveled to Wuhan, and her husband. The couple was hospitalized and isolated. Health officials have said they are doing well, and the risk locally and to most Americans remains low.

Worldwide, the illness has sickened more than 46,000 people, and killed at least 1,300, mostly in China, according to the World Health Organization, which has dubbed it a global health emergency.

Zurek said the perspective of being in China during the outbreak has inspired him and his wife to be more proactive about their health, and now they're even more grateful for their overall good health.

"The one good thing I got out of this is that I feel fortunate," he said. "Our new goal is just to make sure we check ourselves out periodically."

And while the self-quarantine has made him stir-crazy, Zurek said he was also forced to make some more short-term goals: Completing his 2019 taxes and cleaning out his e-mail inbox.

While the taxes are done, Zurek said his inbox remains a work in progress.

ktaylor@chicagotribune.com



COURTNEY KEATING/GETTY

Alexandra Solomon's new book is a refreshing, important read.

Stevens

Continued from Page 1

put the entire topic in a broader, societal context.

"Our culture approaches sex in an incredibly fragmented way — obsessive and avoidant at the very same time," she writes. "Hypersexualized images sell everything from cheeseburgers to eye shadow, while at the same time parents and teachers, religious leaders and others in positions of authority avoid talking about sex altogether or talk about it in fear-loaded and judgmental ways."

My favorite chapter is Chapter 7: "It's Time to Be Sweet to All of You." It follows a discussion in Chapter 6 about the internal dialogue we use to self-narrate our days.

"Because we are inherently relational, we talk to ourselves the way we were talked to," she writes. "For better or worse, the voice inside your head was forged in part by the relationships you had when you were young."

Sometimes that voice meets up with the voices swirling around us about appearance, weight, personal grooming, aging and conventional beauty norms, and our internal



NEW HARBINGER PUBLICATIONS

dialogue devolves into an internal shouting match.

Chapter 7 is part anatomy lesson ("where your wild things are" is a subchapter heading) and part plea to reject most of the lessons we've been taught about the appearance and appeal of our body and its individual parts.

"As women, we live in a world that feels fully justified in judging and assessing our physical appearance and are encouraged to place much of our self-worth in how favorably we are scored on a set of criteria we didn't create," Solomon writes. "Entire industries have been built upon the story that women need to be beautiful in order to be worthy."

And that story can follow us into every relationship and room,

messing with our ability to listen to what our own minds and bodies crave and to what they respond.

"Feeling at peace in your skin is the foundation for experiencing pleasure of all kinds," Solomon writes, "including sexual pleasure."

It's a brave and bold book, and it couldn't arrive at a more opportune time — two years into the #MeToo movement, a week or so removed from that halftime show, smack dab in the middle of our ongoing conversations about gender and power and sexuality.

I'm grateful to have Solomon's wise and wonderful voice in the mix.

Alexandra Solomon will discuss "Taking Sexy Back" with Eli Finkel, author of "The All-or-Nothing Marriage," at 7 p.m. March 5 at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave. More information at familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/.

Join the Heidi Stevens Balancing Act Facebook group, where she continues the conversation around her columns and hosts occasional live chats.

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Study: Muscle mass key to men's heart health

Exercise, active lifestyle beneficial as males get older

BY GRETCHEN REYNOLDS
The New York Times

How much muscle you have now could indicate how healthy your heart will be later, according to an interesting new study of muscle mass and cardiovascular disease. The study finds that, for men at least, entering middle age with plenty of muscle lowers the subsequent risk of developing heart disease by as much as 81%, compared with the risks for other men.

These results add to the growing evidence that building and maintaining muscle is essential for healthy aging, while also underscoring that the effects may be different for women and men.

Skeletal muscle is, of course, one of the body's most versatile and active tissues, providing the strength and power we need to grasp, reach, lift and stride. Muscle is also critical for our metabolic health, slurping and storing blood sugar and producing specialized hormones that move to other tissues, like the brain and fat cells, where they jump-start various biochemical processes.

But our muscle mass almost invariably declines as we grow older, with the loss often starting when we are in our 30s or early 40s and accelerating as we pass through midlife. Severe muscle loss, known as sarcopenia, is associated with frailty and other medical conditions in the elderly, along with loss of independence and premature death.

But even relatively moderate declines in muscle mass are linked with worse outcomes in older people. Some past studies have found that, particularly in older men, low muscle



ULI SEIT/THE NEW YORK TIMES

For men at least, entering middle age with plenty of muscle may lower the later risk of developing heart disease by more than 80 percent.

mass tends often to be associated with concurrent cardiovascular disease.

Those studies, however, did not look at which condition might have come first, and so cannot indicate whether there are links between diminished muscle at one age and heart disease later — or vice versa.

So, for the new study, which was published in the January issue of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, an international group of scientists interested in muscle health and sarcopenia decided to track people's muscles and heart health as they moved through middle age.

They began by turning to data from the ongoing ATTICA study in Greece, a large-scale look at the underpinnings of cardio-

vascular disease in a group of Mediterranean men and women. The study, at this point, had enrolled several thousand adults in and around Athens and brought them in to a clinic for extensive medical exams and to fill out lifestyle questionnaires. None of the participants, who ranged in age from early adulthood to retirement age, had cardiovascular disease when they entered the study.

About 10 years after joining the study, each man and woman returned to the lab for another round of testing, focused on their cardiovascular health.

The authors of the new study now zeroed in on the men and women who were at least 45 years old at that second check-in. They wound up with records for 1,019 people, most of them past the age of 55, meaning

they had been in their 40s when they joined the study.

Using information from these participants' original medical tests, the scientists calculated each person's overall muscle mass and then looked at whether he or she had developed heart disease by the time of the second clinic visit, about 10 years later.

It turned out that more than a quarter of them had. Almost 27% of the participants, in fact, now had heart disease, with the incidence about six times higher among the men than the women.

And people's muscle mass at the study's start was linked to their chances of heart disease now. Those people with the most muscle then were the least likely to have heart disease now.

That association re-

mained significant when the scientists controlled for people's diet, education and physical activity, but not when they looked at gender. Women's muscle mass was not associated with later risks for heart disease, in large part because so few of the women had developed heart disease. In general, women tend to get heart disease about 10 years later than men.

But for men, having relatively large amounts of muscle early in middle age dropped the risk of heart disease later by 81%, the researchers determined.

"The association was that strong," said Stefanos Tyrovolas, the study's lead author, member of CIBER-SAM and principal investigator at the Sant Joan de Deu Research Institute.

This study does not

show, though, that having plenty of muscle directly staves off heart disease, only that the two are related. It also cannot tell us just how muscle helps to protect the heart, but Tyrovolas suspects that the metabolic effects of the tissue, which include better blood-sugar control and less bodily inflammation, are likely to contribute.

Well-muscled people also tend to be more active than others, he said, which helps to protect the heart.

But the overall message of the findings, he said, is that "muscle-mass preservation, through physical exercise and an active lifestyle," is probably key to protecting middle-aged hearts, especially for men, and provides another compelling reason to visit the gym or fit in a push-up or 10 today.



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A collection of line-art icons representing various media and technology concepts, including a video player, a radio tower, a smartphone, a camera, a laptop, a microphone, a megaphone, and a person in a suit. These icons are scattered around the central text, with some overlapping it.

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PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Aspirin, NSAIDs can lead to perforated ulcers

BY JOE GRAEDON
AND TERESA GRAEDON
King Features Syndicate

Q. For most of my life I took aspirin with no ill effects. A few years ago, I felt extremely weak and my heart was pounding. I went to the emergency room and was admitted to the hospital. As it turned out, I had severe stomach bleeding due to aspirin and needed two blood transfusions. I was sent home with instructions to never take aspirin in any form whatsoever.

A. A bleeding ulcer can be life-threatening. There may be no warning symptoms prior to a full-blown emergency. In addition to aspirin, other NSAIDs such as ibuprofen and naproxen can irritate the lining of the digestive tract and cause perforated ulcers. Even though they are available over the counter, these drugs demand respect and vigilance.

Q. I was having regular nighttime leg and ankle cramps for years until I started taking magnesium glycinate. I had cramps that made me cry at night and even sometimes during the day. Something had to change, so I searched till I found magnesium.

I'm not saying it's a cure-all, but I think it's better to preempt cramping rather than react to it. After starting my magnesium glycinate regimen, I got immediate relief.

At first, I thought it was just a fluke. But I have been using magnesium glycinate for two months now and I've only had one bad cramp. Other people might want to know about this.

A. We have heard from many readers who report



PATRICK SISON/AP

that magnesium supplements help prevent nighttime leg cramps. Unfortunately, a systemic review of the medical literature did not find that magnesium was more effective than placebo (Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Sept. 12, 2012).

Q. My doctor says I need blood pressure medication. I'm looking for natural alternatives because I already have joint problems. Do you know anything about the efficacy of tart cherries?

A. Scientists report that 60 milliliters of Montmorency (tart) cherry concentrate daily lowers systolic blood pressure in men with early hypertension (American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, June 2016). Studies of tart cherry supplements have also found them helpful for easing arthritis pain (Nutrients, March 17, 2018).

Q. I read your answer to a reader complaining about hemorrhoids, but you left out one of the most important solutions for pain and itching: a bidet.

I have found long-term relief with a bidet toilet. No toilet paper aggravating the sensitive tissues and no residue to cause itch. The bidet seat has an air dryer. It won't cure hemorrhoids, but it certainly helps relieve symptoms.

A. We have not been able to locate scientific studies demonstrating that bidet use helps relieve hemorrhoids or anal itching (pruritus ani). That said, many of our readers are enthusiastic about the bidet. They join people in France, Japan and other countries who consider this bathroom fixture a more sanitary approach to cleansing than using toilet paper. Here is one of the many other stories we have received from readers:

"I too have pruritus ani. I am in my 30s and have had it for several years along with chronic constipation. I've tried every cream and natural remedy under the sun. Toilet paper makes it worse, as even the softest types are scratchy. Last year, I went on vacation and used the bidet that was in the hotel bathroom. I was amazed at the relief I got. The skin around my bum was able to heal. I purchased a travel-size hand bidet and use it daily at home and work. There are also bidet attachments for toilets. For my constipation, I try to drink lots of water, sprinkle ground chia seeds in my food and sometimes use milk of magnesia to soften the stool. All this helps, but it is inconsistent."

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.

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Recounting calories

Changing numbers on nutrition labels reveal inexact science



R.TSUBIN/GETTY

BY CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Almonds used to have about 170 calories per serving. Then researchers said it was really more like 130. A little later, they said the nuts may have even less.

Calorie counting can be a simple way to help maintain a healthy weight — don't eat and drink more than you burn. And the calorie labels on food packaging seem like an immutable guide to help you track what you eat.

But the shifting numbers for almonds show how the figures printed on nutrition labels may not be as precise as they seem.

Last month, Kind said it was lowering the calorie counts for its snack bars, even though the ingredients weren't changing. The company cited studies that indicate nuts have fewer digestible calories than previously believed.

Conducted by government researchers with funding from nut producers, the studies show

the inexact method of determining calorie counts established more than a century ago. The widely used system says a gram of carbohydrates and a gram of protein each have 4 calories, while a gram of fat has around 9. Companies can also subtract some calories based on past estimates of how much of different foods are not digested.

But based on anecdotal comments, researchers suspected more of the nutrients in nuts may be expelled in the bathroom than previously estimated.

"If they're not digested, then maybe the calorie content is not correct," said David Baer, a co-author of the nut studies at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which funded the research along with nut producers like the Almond Board of California.

To test the hunch, Baer and colleagues gave 18 people meals with and without raw almonds and instructed them to return daily with their urine and stool packed in dry ice. The contents

were analyzed to calculate that a serving of almonds has about 130 digestible calories, rather than the widely used figure of 170.

A few years later, in 2016, another study by Baer and colleagues also looked at the effects of food processing. They found cooking and grinding helped break down cell walls in almonds, freeing more calories for digestion. Roasted almonds had slightly more digestible calories than raw almonds. When the nuts were ground up into almond butter, nearly all the calories were digested.

Notably, the second study also found raw almonds had even fewer digestible calories than suggested by the first study. Baer attributed the discrepancy to variations in how people digest foods and natural differences in almonds themselves.

"It's unlikely you're going to get the exact same number every time you repeat the experiment," he said.

The almond studies are among

several Baer has co-authored on the digestibility of nuts. Another last year was funded by the Global Cashew Council and found cashews had fewer calories than estimated.

Despite his findings, Baer said he thinks the calorie counts used for most other foods are fairly accurate. And even though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration lets companies use different methods to determine calorie counts, the agency says products aren't supposed to have more than 20% more calories than what's stated on labels.

That's why health experts said the calorie counts on nutrition labels are still valuable: They offer general guidance for people trying to keep their weight in check. But it's even more important to pay attention to overall diet and not get hung up on small caloric differences, experts said.

"That's not what's going to make or break someone's attempt at weight management," said Elizabeth Mayer-Davis, a Uni-

versity of North Carolina nutrition professor.

Mayer-Davis said the studies on the calories in nuts wouldn't affect her general advice that they can be part of a healthy diet. She said it's more important to pay attention to how they're prepared, such as whether sweeteners are added.

Kind's founder, Daniel Lubetzky, said he hopes the studies will help overcome the reluctance some might have about eating nuts because of their relatively higher calorie counts. The studies also mean the company's most popular bar can now drop from 200 to 180 calories, which could be a marketing advantage that sways decisions at the grocery store.

"It can't hurt," Lubetzky said Mars, which took a minority stake in Kind in 2017, said it doesn't have plans to update the calorie counts for M&M's with almonds. The Almond Board says it's not aware of other companies yet using the lower numbers.



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Chicago Tribune
FOOD & DINING

REVIEW The Purple Pig ★★★

PURPLE REIGN

Jimmy Bannos has turned The Purple Pig into one of the city's essential restaurants

By PHIL VETTEL

I find it difficult to believe that The Purple Pig has been around for a decade; it seems so much fresher to me. Nevertheless, it's true: Jimmy Bannos Jr.'s lively, pork-centric restaurant opened in 2009, and the place has been packed ever since.

"They still come, thank God," he said. "It's been a pretty phenomenal 10 years. We've been pretty lucky with our clientele."

The little-told secret is that Bannos did it all — chef awards, Best New this and that, 10 con-

secutive Bib Gourmand designations, repeated inclusions in my Phil's 50 list — with an electric kitchen. Not to mention a prep area that was an elevator ride away from the dining room.

Bannos can laugh about that now. Six months ago, he moved Purple Pig to the building immediately south of his original address. His dining capacity is about the same (125 or so seats), but without the elbow-to-elbow um, *intimacy*, of the old place. The kitchen is larger, the prep

Turn to **Purple**, Page 2



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Pork tripe sausage is served with mung beans, lentils and sweet-and-sour cabbage.



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE; SHANNON KINSELLA/FOOD STYLING

Baked polenta with pork ragu is similar to a rustic lasagna with a layer of cheese, topped with a meat sauce.

The secret to heavenly polenta

It's the cornmeal itself, stone-ground for the best flavor

By DOMENICA MARCHETTI

As someone who writes about Italian food, I pride myself in knowing, and understanding, Italian ingredients. But when it comes to polenta, I've been remiss.

I did not grow up eating polenta; my Italian mother did not care for it, even though hot polenta topped with ragu is a popular winter dish in her native

region of Abruzzo. My own interest in it as a cook was halfhearted. How much appeal, after all, could there be in a bowl of cooked cornmeal? Mostly, the word "polenta" conjured unappetizing images of that vacuum-packed yellow sausage of solid, sliceable corn mush sold at the supermarket.

It was a visit to Valle d'Aosta during Christmas 2018 that changed my mind about this quintessential cold weather

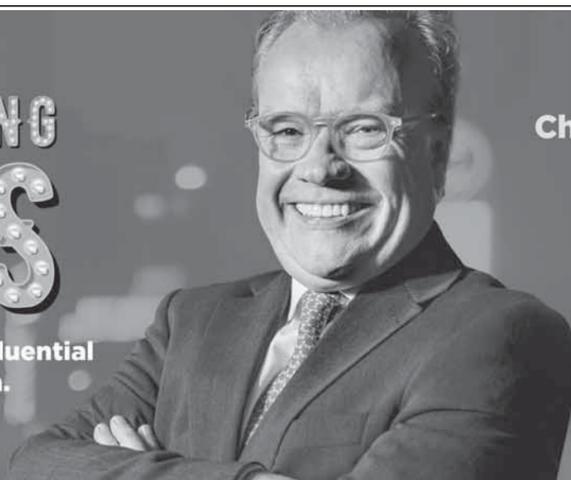
comfort food. In Italy's smallest region, tucked up in the northwest corner of the peninsula, polenta is not just a pantry staple; it is a daily ritual, the way a dish of pasta remains a daily ritual for many people in southern Italy. In Aosta itself, a cozy alpine city ringed with mountains, polenta is featured on every restaurant and osteria menu. Even the town's mini Christmas market had two polenta stands,

both of which almost always had customers lined up, no matter the time of day or night. The offerings were various: polenta drizzled with hot melted butter; polenta "concia," with lots of Fontina cheese stirred in; polenta topped with smoky grilled sausages; polenta with beef stew called carbonade. In the four days my family and I spent there, we tasted them all, wrapping our hands around warm bowls and feeling the heat of the porridge

Turn to **Polenta**, Page 5

SHOWSTOPPING
 NEWS

From one of the most influential theater critics in America.



Chicago's own Chris Jones, covering theater news and reviews from Chicago to Broadway:

chicagotribune.com/theaterloop

Chicago Tribune
 the Theater Loop
 WITH CHRIS JONES

Purple

Continued from Page 1

area is just steps away and, these days, Bannos is literally cooking with gas.

"The new place is way less stressful," he said. "We can focus on the food, and our level of efficiency is that much higher."

Efficiency is crucial with a menu like this. On any given day, Purple Pig's menu lists 40 savory dishes, all of them small to medium plates. Proteins dominate the offering, naturally — my wife, on our last visit, dubbed the place (admirably) as a "temple of meat" — but there are plenty of seafood choices, and I counted more than a dozen vegetable dishes on the menu.

Though managing such a massive menu is no doubt daunting, the upside is that Bannos can experiment with new dishes (which he does constantly) while keeping fan favorites around. On my last visit, I ordered the chicken-thigh kebabs with fried "smashed" potatoes and tzatziki sauce (a menu mainstay since the beginning of Bannos' purple reign), along with a just-added dish of beef cheeks with parsley-root, goat cheese and piquillo peppers. The two concepts are a decade apart, yet mirror Bannos' fondness for rustic, flavor-intense cooking.

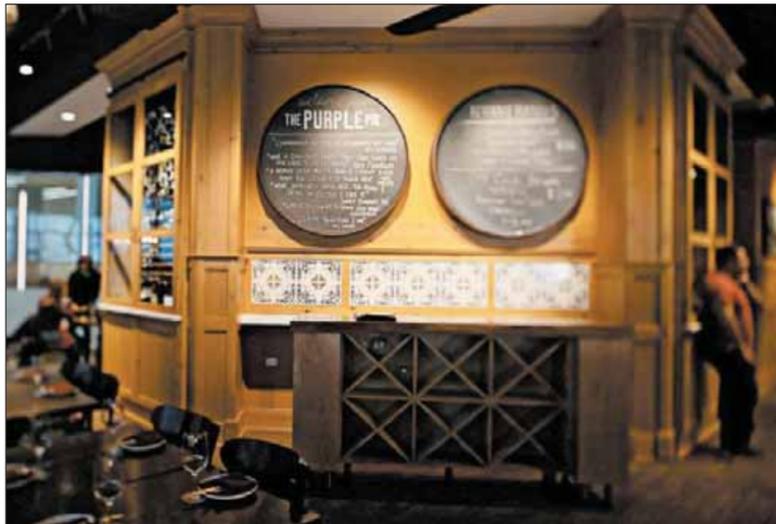
Though he doesn't make much mention of it, Bannos has been a farm-to-table proponent his entire career, and he applies an everything-but-the-squeal approach to all things porcine. One could easily fashion a snout-to-tail menu progression of crispy pig's ear (a popular snack enlivened by pickled cherry peppers), smoked pork tongue (done in the matter of veal tonnato), ginger-glazed pork belly with pork tenderloin and mushroom ravioli in pork-tail brodo.

You'll want to start, however, with the house platter, a groaning board of a charcuterie platter. You'll find more than a dozen salumis and sausages here, typically including coppa, pancetta, guanciale, 'nduja and more, all made in-house.

Or you could order individual items, such as a terrine of pheasant, veal sweetbreads and truffle, dotted with bits of pistachio, or the I-dare-you sausage of pork tripe, served over mung beans, lentils and sweet-and-sour cabbage. Tripe is a tough sell for a lot of people, but this mild, soft-textured sausage is a revelation, not to mention an ideal introduction.

"I did pork spleen a month ago," Bannos said, and he wasn't joking. "Our guests don't flinch."

The less-adventurous will find plenty of other options. Among vegetables, the artichoke composition, presenting grilled, fried and cream-poached arti-



The dining room at The Purple Pig has about 125 seats, approximately the same number as the original location — but with lots more elbow room.

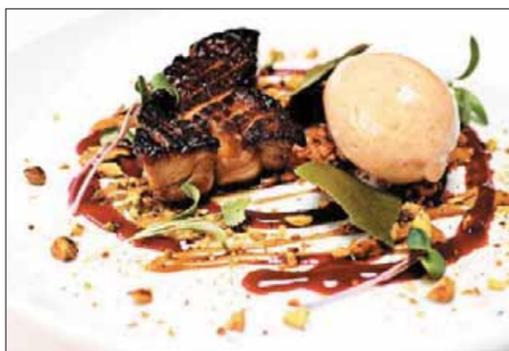


"The new place is way less stressful," says chef and partner Jimmy Bannos Jr. "We can focus on the food, and our level of efficiency is that much higher."



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

The house platter features more than a dozen salumis and sausages, typically including coppa, pancetta, guanciale, 'nduja and more.



Foie gras is seared, then served with brioche ice cream accented with pistachio butter and raspberry jelly.

chokes tossed with Greek-style potatoes, is a keeper, though I tend to prefer the aggressive flavors of Bannos' grilled broccoli with garlic and anchovy vinaigrette.

Pastas are a strength, though they be few in number; one can always find the ricotta gnocchi in neckbone gravy, and the recently added bucatini, with pecorino cheese, black pepper and guanciale, is pure, creamy indulgence.

On the seafood side, grilled Portuguese sardines pick up sweet and tart

accents from raisins and preserved lemon; octopus a la plancha, with fingerlings, green beans and salsa verde, is a Spanish classic.

Bannos gets cheffy with his foie gras dish, pairing the seared liver with brioche ice cream, on a plate striped with thick lines of pistachio butter and raspberry jelly — a PB&J riff with a great flavor payoff. (For more along those lines, try the hot dog with foie gras butter, pear mustard and black truffle, a dish I first had two years ago and, I'm glad to see, is still on the menu.)



The wine list by sommelier Alan Beasey is a formidable collection of about 800 bottles.

Desserts range from simple sorbets and classic Italian affogato to more elegantly composed dishes, such as a pink guava and fromage blanc mousse set alongside raspberry meringue, white chocolate and caramelized honeybee pollen. Even the chocolate brownie gets the magazine-cover treatment, the brownie cubes separated by coconut sorbet, blood-orange-Campari sorbet and puffs of coffee foam.

With so many dishes flying about, it's easy to overlook Purple Pig's immense, impressive wine

list. Sommelier Alan Beasey has assembled a formidable, food-friendly document, clocking at about 800 bottles (working its way to an even thousand) and more than 100 by-the-glass pours. You could spend hours contemplating your options; happily, Beasey and the servers can offer excellent, budget-friendly suggestions, and every menu item is listed with a suggested pour.

The only thing missing from the new Purple Pig is outdoor space. The old space had a patio; although it was so shielded from the

The Purple Pig

444 N. Michigan Ave.
312-464-1744
thepurplepigchicago.com

Tribune rating: ★★★

Open: Lunch and dinner daily

Prices: Small plates \$13-\$32

Noise: Conversation challenged

Other: No reservations

Ratings key: ★★★★★ outstanding; ★★★★ excellent; ★★★ very good; ★★ good; ★ no stars: unsatisfactory. The reviewer makes every effort to remain anonymous. Meals are paid for by the Tribune.

elements it was only slightly different than eating indoors.

"People miss the patio," Bannos said. "They ask all the time. The building has told us it might build out a patio on the side, which would be a game changer. If it happens, it happens."

pvettel@chicago.tribune.com

DRINK

Book offers some fun facts about tonic water

BY LISA FUTTERMAN
Chicago Tribune

When you think of quinine water do you think of stout, pink-faced British sea captains being revived by gin and tonics? "Just the Tonic, A Natural History of Tonic Water" (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, \$25) turns that image on its ear.

Written by Kim Walker, a medical herbalist who is working on her Ph.D. on cinchona (the South American tree from which the bitter compound quinine is derived) and Mark Nesbitt, a botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the book tells the engaging and multifaceted story of the popular beverage.

They collaborated on this tonic tale, says Nesbitt, because "there are loads of books about gin but nothing on its essential counterpart, tonic, even though quinine (key ingredient of tonic) is a big botanical story."

Richly illustrated with botanical drawings, posters and

advertisements touting the benefits of the numerous tonics made from cinchona throughout the decades, the book winds its way through the natural history and horticulture of the "fever tree," dips into malarial medicine, pharmacology and chemistry, traces the invention of "aerated" soda water and the rise of the soft drink industry, and discusses the roots of mixology, with a quick detour to the use and production of ice in beverage culture.

After several decades of popularity in India and China, gin finally comes into play as tonic's partner in Britain in the 1920s — before that the cocktail was considered a refresher in those Asian tropic climes rather than a standard drink order.

Says Nesbitt in an email, "the gin and tonic did not evolve as an anti-malarial (we were always suspicious of that story), nonetheless the G&T is so clearly of Indian origin. I hadn't quite appreciated that the word 'tonic' in tonic water has a specific

medical meaning about boosting the body's systems."

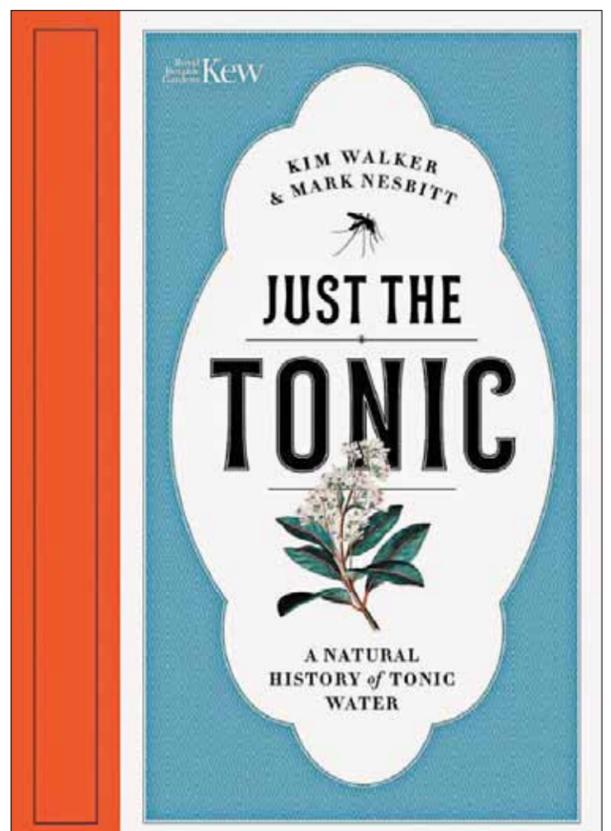
The minuscule amount of quinine in a glass of tonic water, it seems, would have no effect on preventing or curing the disease.

"Tonics were a category of medicine that helped to strengthen and tone body systems, nerve tonics, digestive tonics, etc.," Walker said. "The important thing is that the first 'tonic waters' were not aimed at treating malaria — they were general digestives."

The book's last chapter is devoted to historically significant cocktail recipes (grog and tonic, anyone?), included so that readers can put to use their newly gained diverse knowledge of all things tonic.

Though Walker and Nesbitt hail from academia, their book moves briskly and enjoyably across all these disciplines, blithely bursting myth bubbles along the way.

Lisa Futterman is a freelance writer.



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

"There are loads of books about gin but nothing on its essential counterpart, tonic, even though quinine (key ingredient of tonic) is a big botanical story," says "Just the Tonic" co-author Mark Nesbitt.

He's in a cab franc state of mind

BY ERIC ASIMOV
The New York Times

Tasting one particular sort of wine over the course of many vintages is like reading a series of books by the same author. Their quality may vary, but they will all enlighten.

Such a deep dive, known in the wine world as a vertical tasting, helps to convey how a wine expresses the different conditions of each vintage, and shows whether it articulates a consistent sense of place despite the yearly variations.

Recently, however, I attended a tasting that examined neither a particular wine through the years nor a specific site. Instead, it was a vertical of one man's journey through the wine business, making cabernet francs in New York state over 25 years, both on the North Fork of Long Island and in the Finger Lakes.

The man, Bruce Schneider, is not particularly well known, but he has done a lot in wine, from farming to production to marketing and sales to innovation, foreseeing more ecologically sustainable methods of selling and transporting wine.

Schneider and I met in mid-December in Manhattan, where we tasted 25 cabernet francs he had produced from 1994 through 2018.

The wines included his first efforts for Schneider Vineyards on the North Fork, perhaps grandiosely named by Schneider and his wife-to-be in 1994, Christiane Baker, as they owned no vines at the time.

They included bottles from Onabay Vineyards, also on the North Fork,

where he is the consulting winemaker; from Gotham Project, in which he and his partner, Charles Bieler, have pioneered selling wine in reusable steel kegs, now in more than 40 states; from Schneider & Bieler, their label for Finger Lakes cabernet franc; and from Empire Builder Return & Reuse, a forthcoming project involving reusable bottles.

Why the focus on cabernet franc? It was an early sign of Schneider's confidence in his talent for identifying what might not be an obvious winner but one that could pay off in the long run. Such assurance comes from a family background in wine.

Schneider, a boyish-looking 50, grew up in Springfield, New Jersey, the grandson of a bootlegger and the son of a wine-and-spirits distributor.

Something clicked, and for a high school work-study program, with help from his family, he interned in Burgundy, where he learned from Becky Wasserman, the noted American wine broker; Chartron & Trebuchet, a producer; and François Mikulski, then a recent wine school graduate who has gone on to establish his own Burgundy domaine.

In 1994, Schneider was determined to make his own wine. He and Baker scraped together \$20,000, bought a few tons of grapes, which they picked by hand, and persuaded a Long Island producer, Kip Bedell of Bedell Cellars in Cutchogue, to help them make the wine, using the Bedell facilities.

"Kip did all the work," Schneider said, "but we knew we wanted to learn,



MICHELLE V. AGINS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Winemaker Bruce Schneider at Onabay Vineyards in Southold, New York.

and we did, hands on."

They continued to work with Bedell through 1999, and while the vintage characters differ, the wines all seemed to me a little rustic, perhaps because of a touch of brettanomyces, a nettlesome yeast that can add flavors that range from barnyard to Band-Aid. In small quantities it can add complexity; too much, and it can be overbearing.

In 2000, they started working with Sean Capiaux, a California winemaker who also consulted on Long Island. And they started to make their wines at Premium Wine Group, which provides equipment to small producers who do not have their own facilities.

Another change came in 2001 when Schneider decided to make a Loire-style 100% cabernet franc. He called it Le Breton, a Loire synonym for cabernet franc, and, unlike his blended cab francs, which received prolonged barrel age, the Breton was bottled before the next harvest.

The 2001 was delightful

18 years later, lively, energetic and joyous, with pretty flavors of dark fruits. With this wine, Schneider was ahead of his time, anticipating the American stylistic swing a decade later toward lighter wines based on acidic liveliness rather than on the power of fruit and oak.

In 1998, Schneider and Baker, who by then had married, bought a potato farm in Riverhead and planted it with numerous clones of cabernet franc, as well as some cuttings of cab franc and merlot that had originally come from Vieux Château Certan, a famed Pomerol estate.

The 2003 Breton was the first wine I tasted made entirely from fruit grown in their vineyard. It was earthy, mineral and savory, not concentrated but lasting on the palate. The '04 Breton was cool, breezy and delicious. Then came 2005, a landmark Long Island vintage.

"It was the most crazy, freaky, incredible vintage I've ever experienced," Schneider said. At one point

that October, it rained 17 inches in eight days, leaving the grapes swollen with water. Then, miraculously came 10 clear, dry days, which dried them out. Schneider, who at this point had taken over most of the winemaking, made several unusual cuvees that year.

La Bouchet, his Bordeaux-style wine, was complex, rich and earthy, with fine tannins and lovely red fruit flavors. He also made a one-off, La Cloche, exclusively from the Vieux Château cuttings, a floral, pretty, high-toned wine that was structured yet delicate.

By 2005, however, Schneider and Baker had already decided to sell the vineyard. With a daughter, Chloe, they preferred to live in New York City. As good as the vineyard had turned out to be, it was also too much for them to manage.

The 2007 Breton, balanced and pleasing, was the last wine in the tasting made from estate fruit and the last vintage sold under the Schneider Vineyards label.

Schneider then took a job

with Onabay, which had bought a vineyard on Peconic Bay in 2006 and replanted 7 acres using Schneider's research on cabernet franc.

In 2010, Schneider began Gotham Project with Bieler, selling wine in reusable kegs to restaurants.

Gotham originally emphasized New York state wines, but it now includes wines from around the world. The partners also began bottling cabernet franc from the Finger Lakes in 2015, a move west that came as the Finger Lakes were becoming the most exciting place in New York for wine.

Cabernet franc is now a leading red grape on Long Island and in the Finger Lakes. It cannot be attributed to Schneider alone, but he has been among those who have demonstrated the grape's potential.

As for the future, Schneider will continue to make wine from both areas.

I've already tasted a sample of the 2018 Finger Lakes cabernet franc: Be assured, it's a good one.

Chicago Tribune

CHEWING

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CRAVING Spicy foods

Hot sauce tasting

Ultimate guide to America's most popular brands

BY NICK KINDELSPERGER

Hot sauces are there when you need them most. Thanks to the natural preservative properties of chiles, vinegar, and salt — three ingredients nearly all hot sauces contain — hot sauces are usually shelf stable, and thus ready for action at any time. Lunch looking pallid and sad? Leftover pizza in need of some excitement? Just grab the closest hot sauce bottle and begin drizzling.

But you want to know a great secret about most hot sauces? The bestsellers aren't that spicy. That's what I found after sampling eight of the most popular hot sauce bottles in the U.S. I picked the group based on Instacart's recent list of the company's most frequently purchased hot sauces, numbers from Datassential, a Chicago-based food industry market research firm, and from what I could easily find on Chicago grocery shelves. (Sorry, Texas Pete. I couldn't track you down.)

We measure the spiciness of a chile using Scoville heat units (SHU). According to "The Chile Pepper Bible" by Judith Finlayson, Scoville levels used to be measured by seeing how much sugar water it took to dilute a chile's extract before tasters failed to detect any heat. These days, "chemists use high-performance liquid chromatography to analyze capsaicin concentration." Even with the fancy new equipment, the data is still presented in Scoville heat units.

Turns out most of the bestselling hot sauces are milder than a jalapeno. Cholula only has 1,000 SHU and Tabasco is slightly hotter at 2,500 SHU, while the jalapeno, which "The Chile Pepper Bible" claims is only a "mildly hot" chile, has 3,500 to 10,000 SHU. And that's nothing close to the mighty habanero, which regularly scores over 300,000 SHU!

Unfortunately, finding reliable SHU scores for all of the hot sauces I tasted was harder than I imagined. A number of websites claim to have the scores for all the hot sauces, but I couldn't confirm where they got that information. Only a few companies, such as Tabasco and Cholula, display Scoville numbers on their websites. Representatives from Valentina Salsa Picante claimed they have never measured the Scoville ranking of their hot sauce. Both Frank's RedHot and Huy Fong Foods, the maker of the country's bestselling Sriracha, knew the Scoville numbers for the chiles used in the sauce, but not for the finished sauce.

But hot sauces bring more than just heat to the table. In particular, vinegar plays a huge role, adding a bracing element that makes a hot sauce seem more forceful and incisive on the tongue. Hot sauces with a lot of salt also seem extra assertive at first, though this sensation vanishes after a few seconds.

It's also important to understand that hot sauces are not all the same. For example, Louisiana-style hot sauce brands, such as Tabasco and Crystal, feature few ingredients and loads of vinegar, while Mexican-style hot sauces, for example Tapatio and Valentina, are usually hotter, thicker and often have a number of spices mixed in. And then there's Sriracha, which is in a class by itself.

What follows is not a ranking of which ones I think are best, but a breakdown of

what you can expect from each, because they all have different roles to play, and I think it's important to point those out. Some have vinegar-forward profiles, while others prefer to hang back and let the chile heat build slowly.

How did I taste them? I spent a few days carefully pouring hot sauces on to spoons and then slurping, which I wouldn't recommend to an outsider. But I believe it's time to better understand our hot sauces.

Tabasco

Type: Louisiana-style hot sauce
Ingredients: Distilled vinegar, tabasco chiles, salt

Edmund McIlhenny founded this classic American hot sauce company in 1868. Unlike most Louisiana-style hot sauces that use cayenne chiles, Tabasco uses tabasco chiles. These are mixed with salt and vinegar before being aged in oak barrels for "up to three years," according to Tabasco's website. I was surprised by how much spicier Tabasco was than its competitors. It has an official count of 2,500 to 5,000 SHU. The thin sauce has a heat that lingers on the tongue for a long time. I also picked up on a slightly smoky background, perhaps from the wood barrel aging. Tabasco only has 35 milligrams of salt per teaspoon, which is the second least of the sample group.

'Louisiana' Hot Sauce

Type: Louisiana-style hot sauce
Ingredients: Aged cayenne peppers, vinegar, salt

First created in 1928, "Louisiana" Hot Sauce is much milder than Tabasco, with a heat that pops up for a second before dissipating. But it has a strong initial rush of flavor thanks to a lot of salt. In fact, at 200 milligrams per teaspoon, it takes the prize as the saltiest hot sauce I sampled. If you pour it on something very bland, "Louisiana" Hot Sauce could add a lot of flavor. But if the dish is already salty, it might be overkill.

Frank's RedHot

Type: Louisiana-style hot sauce
Ingredients: Aged cayenne chiles, distilled vinegar, water, salt and garlic powder
Frank's RedHot originated in 1920 in Louisiana, but it's probably best known as the base of the original Buffalo wings recipe from the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, New York. It has a stronger vinegar kick than Louisiana, and seems slightly milder even though several websites claim that the Scoville rating is about the same. This is probably due to the addition of garlic powder, which provides a rounder, sweeter base. It's easy to see why this sauce plays so well with chicken wings.

Crystal Hot Sauce

Type: Louisiana-style hot sauce
Ingredients: Aged cayenne chiles, distilled vinegar, salt
Because it uses cayenne chiles, Crystal Hot Sauce has a flavor profile close to Louisiana, albeit with a much bigger cayenne kick. The heat lingers confidently on your tongue for quite a while. Crystal also has a more prominent dark chile flavor, and a slightly subdued vinegar profile compared to Tabasco. This can oddly make it seem less spicy at first, before the chile heat begins its ascent.

Valentina Salsa Picante

Type: Mexican-style hot sauce
Ingredients: water, puya chiles, vinegar, salt, spices, sodium benzoate
Valentina is thick and complex, with an intriguing citrus note that comes at the end. According to a number of online sources, its SHU is almost twice as high as Frank's or Louisiana, yet the heat never overwhelms the other flavors. This is what I drizzle on my avocado toast at home.

Cholula Hot Sauce

Type: Mexican-style hot sauce
Ingredients: water, chiles (arbol and

piquin), salt, vinegar, garlic powder, spices and xanthan gum

Known for its distinctive wood top, Cholula is thinner and slightly spicier than Valentina, with an official rating of 1,000 SHU. It also has a complex chile profile, thanks to the use of two kinds — arbol and piquin. With 110 milligrams of salt per teaspoon, it's nearly twice as salty as Valentina.

Tapatio

Type: Mexican-style hot sauce
Ingredients: water, red peppers, salt, spices, garlic, acetic acid, xanthan gum, sodium benzoate as a preservative.

In 1971 Jose-Luis Saavedra Sr. created a Mexican-style hot sauce in California called Cuervo. Four years later, it was renamed Tapatio, which is a term for someone from Guadalajara. Tapatio is thick like Valentina, but no one would ever confuse the two. After a few seconds, a genuine heat floods your tongue that eclipses even Cholula. This is the hot sauce you want if you really need to spice something up.

Huy Fong Foods Sriracha

Type: Asian-style hot sauce
Ingredients: fresh red jalapenos, sugar, salt, garlic, acetic acid, potassium sorbate and sodium bisulfite as preservatives, xanthan gum

Sriracha has exploded in popularity over the past several years. While the condiment originated in Thailand, the most popular brand here comes from Huy Fong Foods in California, where it's been marketed for use in Vietnamese restaurants. You'll recognize it as the bottle with the large rooster on it. Unlike the hot sauces mentioned above, it has a prominent sweetness that helps to temper the chile heat. So even though some claim it has a higher Scoville rating than many, it doesn't taste like it.

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ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE; SHANNON KINSELLA/FOOD STYLING

DRINK

Brancamenta is a mintier answer to Fernet-Branca

BY LISA FUTTERMAN
Chicago Tribune

Perhaps you've tried Fernet-Branca, the super-bitter, piney, kinda medicinal Italian digestive that is a staple bottle for bartenders the world over. But Fernet-Branca's younger sibling, Brancamenta, is much easier to take.

Also made in Milan, the Menta is based on the same recipe of more than 27 herbs and botanicals, but tastes sweeter, and is way heavier on the peppermint. The company created it in response to drinkers adding mint syrup to their fernet-and-colas back in the '60s. Still classified as an amaro like its elder, it can be taken neat or in highballs, but is very friendly over crushed ice, as a minty, mentholated, 60-proof adult snow cone.

Its sweet minty goodness easily translates to drinks for dessert. A shot of Brancamenta in hot cocoa takes the classic peppermint chocolate combo to a different place. Keep things Italian-style by adding a shot of Brancamenta to your affogato (a dessert featuring espresso poured over vanilla gelato.) Play with the classic mint-forward grasshopper recipe — just don't expect your drink to turn out

Black Branca

Makes: 1 drink
2 ounces rye whiskey
1 ounce Brancamenta
1 dash Angostura bitters
Brandied cherry
Mint leaf

In a mixing glass, stir the rye, Brancamenta, and bitters with ice until well chilled. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass; serve garnished with a brandied cherry and a mint leaf.

quite so leafy green.

Archie Powell, bar manager at Bar Biscay in Chicago really digs it. "I mean, Rumpel Minze (peppermint liqueur) is a guilty pleasure but Brancamenta delivers that minty flavor but not so sugary or sticky. It works great in a Black Manhattan — the mint pairs great with the vanilla-y flavor of the brown liquor. It also works wonders in a mint julep for an extra layer of amaro flavor, which bolsters the mint vibes."

Grace Bernotavicius, bar manager at Ludlow Liquors in Chicago recommends the Davidson, a stirred cocktail composed of



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE; SHANNON KINSELLA/FOOD STYLING

The peppermint heavy Brancamenta offers a lot of sweetness.

light rum, Cynar (artichoke liqueur), genepy (herbal liqueur), Brancamenta and a couple dashes of Peychaud's bitters. The cocktail is one of many I've come across that uses the Brancamenta to deliver most of the sweetness in the drink.

"The varied herbal qualities of

the Cynar and Brancamenta blend nicely with the sweetness of the rum and the sharpness of the genepy," Bernotavicius says, "and the acidity of just a small amount of lime juice rounds the cocktail out perfectly."

Brancamenta wants to be taken seriously — its base, after

all, is one of the most badass amari around. Try our recipe for a Black Branca, a quirky but simple variation on the modern classic Black Manhattan, to visit the darker side of the drink.

Lisa Futterman is a freelance writer.

Polenta

Continued from Page 1

radiate within us as we ate. All versions were good; but really it was the cornmeal itself, made from local stone-ground field corn, golden in color and toasty in flavor, and cooked at length to bring out the grain's natural sweetness, that won me over.

Polenta is an ancient food in Italy, dating to the Etruscans. Early versions were made from millet, rye and barley flour. It wasn't until the 17th century, when field corn, a New World ingredient, was introduced to Europe, that polenta became a corn-based dish. It has always been a humble dish, food to fill the stomachs of the poor; but like so much of Italy's "cucina povera" (cooking of the poor), it is now appreciated for its flavor, its versatility and the way it lifts up other ingredients. There are many regional variations: in Lombardy and the Veneto, a dish called "polenta e osei" pairs polenta with small roasted game birds. In Liguria, polenta, hearty winter vegetables and beans are slowly cooked down into a dense, nourishing porridge. And in the Apennine Mountains of Abruzzo, polenta is poured

Basic polenta

Prep: 5 minutes **Cook:** 45 minutes **Makes:** 6 servings

A bowl of polenta is winter comfort food at its simplest and finest. Keep in mind that if you start with high-quality, stone-ground cornmeal, you will end up with better-tasting polenta. And be sure to give it the time it needs to cook to properly develop that appealing sweet corn flavor.

- 6 cups water, plus more as needed
- 2 teaspoons fine salt, plus more as needed
- 1 cup finely ground polenta (cornmeal)
- ½ cup medium-ground polenta
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted and still hot

Measure the water and 2 teaspoons salt into a medium heavy-bottomed, high-sided saucepan or Dutch oven; bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add the polenta in a slow stream, stirring all the while to prevent lumps from forming. Bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat to low. Cook, stirring often to prevent the polenta from sticking to the bottom of the pot, until the grains are fully cooked, about 45 minutes. The polenta should be thick and creamy but still pourable. If you find it is too thick toward the end of cooking, stir in a little more water. When the polenta is done, taste and season with more salt if needed. Remove the pot from the heat; stir in butter.

Nutrition information per serving: 231 calories, 6 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 15 mg cholesterol, 40 g carbohydrates, 0 g sugar, 4 g protein, 785 mg sodium, 3 g fiber

out onto a large wooden board called a "spianatoia," topped with sausages and ragu, and served as a communal dish.

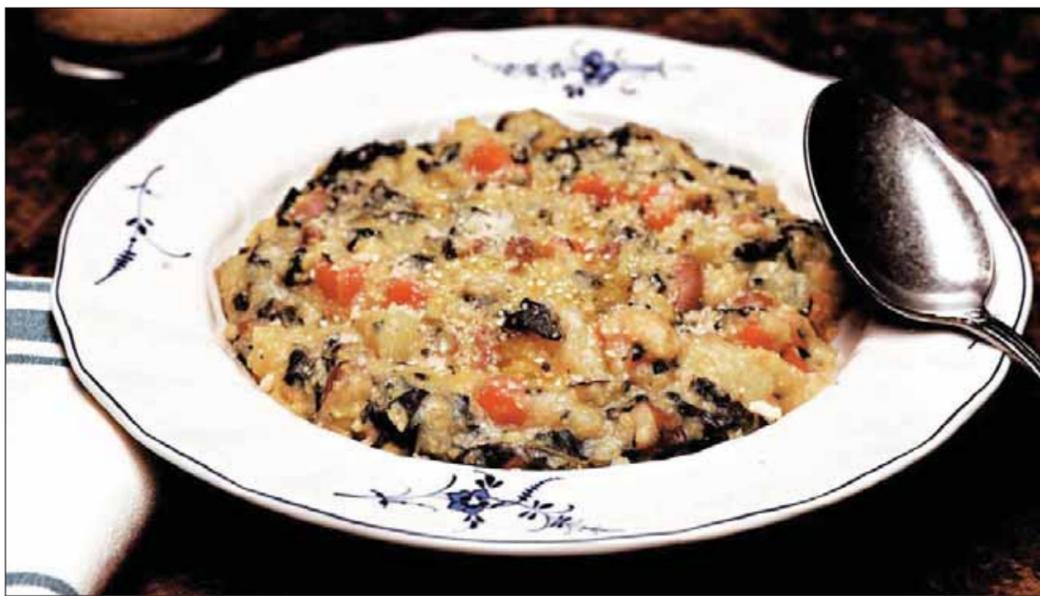
Top it however you like; just be sure to start with good-quality cornmeal, preferably stone-ground. Stone-ground cornmeal retains the hull and germ of the grain, which gives it a

pleasing texture and corn flavor when cooked. Many recipes call for coarsely ground cornmeal when making polenta, but you can use coarse, medium or fine. I like a mix of fine and medium, which is what I had in Aosta. This combination produces polenta that has some texture but is still creamy. Polenta can also be

soft or sturdy, depending on the liquid-to-grain ratio, and when you serve it. A 1-4 ratio (one part polenta to four parts liquid) is a good rule of thumb to achieve thick but spoonable polenta. For me, polenta is most enjoyable immediately after it's cooked, while it is still hot and pourable. Left to sit, it solidifies quickly, at which point it can be sliced and fried, grilled or baked.

Cooking polenta is often made out to be a chore for the modern cook — so much time, all that stirring. Shortcuts have been devised, from soaking the grains overnight to baking the polenta in the oven. I sometimes use these shortcuts myself, but when I have the time I prefer the old-fashioned method of stirring the cornmeal on the stovetop, so I can watch as the mixture bubbles and transforms, slowly, from a coarse slurry into a soft, golden porridge. That transformation is essential, as it removes any bitterness and unlocks the polenta's natural sweetness. On a cold night in the middle of winter, it hardly seems a chore.

Domenica Marchetti is the author of seven Italian cookbooks, including the most recent, "Preserving Italy."



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE; SHANNON KINSELLA/FOOD STYLING

Polenta incatenata

Prep: 30 minutes, plus overnight soaking of beans **Cook:** 1 hour, 20 minutes **Makes:** 8 to 10 servings

If there is snow or icy rain in your forecast, this is the dish to make. It comes from the northwestern region of Liguria, known for its vegetable-centric cuisine and damp, chilly winters. It has everything — a mix of hearty vegetables, protein-rich beans and an abundance of cheese. The word "incatenata" translates to "chained," and refers to the way the vegetables, beans, polenta and cheese all gradually meld together during cooking. Serve it as a one-dish meal, with Chianti to drink.

- 1 rounded cup (7 ounces) dried borlotti (cranberry) beans
- Pinch of baking soda
- Salt to taste

- 1 bunch (8 ounces) Tuscan kale (aka lacinato or dinosaur kale)
- 2 large yellow potatoes
- 2 medium carrots

- 1 medium yellow onion
- 2 small cloves garlic
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving
- 2 cups finely ground polenta (cornmeal)

- 1 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

- 1. Rinse** the beans; put them in a large bowl with water to cover by 2 inches and a pinch of baking soda. Let them soak overnight. Drain and rinse; put them in a high-sided saucepan with water to cover by 2 inches and a generous pinch of salt. Bring to a boil. Lower to a simmer and cook until the beans are almost tender but still a bit al dente, 20 minutes. Drain and set aside.
- 2. Remove** and discard the tough stem ends from the kale; cut the leaves crosswise into thin strips (chiffonade). Peel the potatoes; cut them into bite-size cubes. Coarsely chop the carrots, onion and garlic. Combine all the vegetables and the drained beans in a large heavy-bottomed pot; add 2 ½ quarts cold water. Pour in ½ cup olive oil. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat; skim any foam that forms on the surface. Lower the heat to medium or medium-low; simmer gently until the vegetables are tender, 30 minutes.

3. Add the polenta in a slow stream, stirring all the while to prevent lumps from forming. Bring to a simmer and cook, stirring often to prevent the polenta from sticking to the bottom of the pot, until the polenta is cooked, 35 to 45 minutes. At this point, the polenta should be thickened but still pourable. Much of the vegetable and bean mixture will have turned creamy and become one with the polenta, though some pieces and texture will remain.

4. Ladle the polenta into individual bowls; sprinkle each serving generously with the grated cheese. Finish with a drizzle of really good olive oil, preferably new harvest.

Nutrition information per serving (for 8 servings): 388 calories, 18 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 12 mg cholesterol, 46 g carbohydrates, 2 g sugar, 12 g protein, 410 mg sodium, 10 g fiber

Polenta al forno with pork rib ragu

Prep: 30 minutes **Cook:** 2 hours, 45 minutes **Makes:** 6 to 8 servings

Think of this baked polenta ("forno" means oven) as a rustic lasagna, sandwiched with a layer of cheese and topped with a rich meat sauce.

Ragu:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 rack (3 pounds) meaty pork spare ribs, cut into individual ribs
- Fine salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 medium carrot, finely chopped
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 rib celery, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, lightly crushed
- ½ cup dry red wine
- 1 can (28 ounces) tomatoes, passed through a food mill to remove seeds; or 1 can (28 ounces) tomato puree
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 batch basic polenta, see recipe
- 1 tablespoon softened butter
- 4 ounces Asiago fresco or Fontina, shredded
- 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, plus more for serving

1. In a large Dutch oven or other heavy-bottomed pot, heat the oil over medium heat. Season the ribs with salt and pepper. Add as many ribs as will fit into the pot without crowding. Brown the ribs, about 4 minutes. Using tongs, turn them and brown the other side, 3 to 4 minutes longer. Transfer to a plate; repeat with the remaining ribs.

2. Add the carrot, onion, celery and garlic to the pot; stir to coat. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook until the vegetables are softened, about 7 minutes. Remove the garlic. Raise the heat to medium-high and pour in the wine. Simmer, 1 minute. Add the tomatoes and bay leaf. Return the ribs to the pot, along with any juices from the plate. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat to maintain a low simmer. Cover the pot and braise, stirring from time to time, until the meat is tender, about 2 hours. Taste and add more salt and pepper, if needed. Uncover and cook until the sauce has thickened, about 30 minutes more.

3. While the sauce is braising, cook the polenta according to the basic polenta recipe.

4. Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Lightly butter a round or rectangular ovenproof baking dish large enough to hold the polenta. Spread half the polenta into the dish and sprinkle the shredded cheese over it. Pour the remaining polenta on top and spread it evenly over the cheese. Sprinkle the Parmigiano cheese on top. Bake, uncovered, until the polenta is firm and bubbly, 20 to 30 minutes. (If you would like to brown the top more, briefly place the baking dish under the broiler.)

5. To serve, cut the polenta into wedges or squares and place in shallow rimmed bowls. Spoon some ragu over each portion and top with a couple of ribs and a sprinkle of Parmigiano cheese.

Nutrition information per serving (for 8 servings): 608 calories, 39 g fat, 14 g saturated fat, 112 mg cholesterol, 42 g carbohydrates, 6 g sugar, 25 g protein, 1,034 mg sodium, 5 g fiber

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MICHAEL GRAYDON & NIKOLE HERRIOT/THE NEW YORK TIMES; KALEN KAMINSKI/FOOD STYLING

Creamy farro, crispy mushrooms, lots of dill and sour cream combine for a meaty-without-meat dish.

The essence of dumplings

Bowl of creamy farro, mushrooms hits the spot

BY ALISON ROMAN
The New York Times

NEW YORK — A few years ago, I made the Russian baths a regular part of my New York life. The ritual of the shvitz — steaming, sweating and rinsing — is why I go (health!), but if I'm being honest, I also am very much there for the food (pleasure!).

I eat there not out of necessity, but because it's low-key and one of my favorite restaurants in town. My order changes every time — pickles, cabbage, soup, pickled cabbage soup — but I always get the pelmeni, tortellini-size dumplings filled with pork, served in a squat ramekin, coated in melted butter and a splash of the cooking liquid. Finished with caramelized onions, lots of dill and a generous portion of

sour cream alongside, they are kind of the opposite of a healthy trip to the spa — unless you consider mental health a part of that journey. (I do.)

Every time I eat those little miracles, I can't stop thinking about how I could write a recipe that approximates them without asking someone to make dumplings. (I'd never do that to you.)

I thought about the chewiness of the dumpling wrapper, the delicately meaty taste of the filling and slight brothiness of the liquid they come in. I thought about how necessary the dill is, and about how I always wanted a squeeze of lemon but wouldn't dare ask.

And that's how I got here: creamy farro with crispy mushrooms, sour cream and lots of dill. Yes, there is also a side of lemon.

OK, so, no: A bowl of farro and mushrooms isn't exactly a plate of dumplings, but hear me out. The way the mushrooms are cooked and crisped alongside the thinly sliced, caramelizing leeks gives them such a delightfully meaty flavor that they're almost better than meat itself. The farro, toasted in the pot before it's cooked, reinforces that vague meatiness. (Chicken broth helps, but you can use vegetable broth or even water to keep it vegetarian.) In the end, the squeaky chew of each grain coupled with the porridge-y consistency reminds me of the dumplings swimming in that buttery broth.

Topped with sour cream and a sprinkle of a lemony dill mixture, made better with the addition of chives, it hits the spot, even without the shvitz.

Creamy farro with crispy mushrooms and sour cream

Makes: 4 servings **Total time:** 1 hour

¼ cup olive oil, plus more as needed

4 medium leeks, white and light green parts, thinly sliced

1 pound mix of mushrooms, such as maitake, oyster, cremini or chanterelle, torn into bite-size pieces (about 5 cups)

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1¾ cups pearled or semi-pearled farro or barley

4 cups vegetable broth, chicken broth or water

½ cup finely chopped chives (from about 1 bunch)

1 cup fresh dill leaves, coarsely chopped

1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest, plus lemon wedges for squeezing

Sour cream, for serving

1. Heat olive oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add half the leeks and half the mushrooms, and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms are browned and crisped, 12 to 15 minutes. (They will start giving off moisture and steaming a little before this happens, so be patient.)

2. Using a slotted spoon, transfer them to a medium bowl leaving any olive oil behind. (They will have absorbed the oil as they cook, and released it back as they crisp.) Add a bit more olive oil so there's another ¼ cup or so in the pot. Cook the remaining leeks and mushrooms, adding them to the bowl with the other mushrooms.

3. Without wiping the pot, add farro and season with salt and pepper. Cook over that same medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until farro is toasted on the outside (it will go from pale golden brown to a toasty golden brown), about 5 minutes. Add vegetable broth and 2 cups water; season with salt and pepper.

4. Bring to a strong simmer and reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer gently, stirring occasionally, until farro is fully cooked and most (but not all) of the liquid has been absorbed, 20 to 25 minutes. It should still look a bit loose, like risotto or a porridge. Remove from heat and add half the chives.

5. Toss dill, remaining chives and lemon zest together in a small bowl. To serve, season farro with salt and pepper and ladle into bowls. Top with sour cream, mushrooms and leeks, and dill mixture. Serve lemon wedges alongside for squeezing.

Simple roast chicken with even more crispy bits

BY MELISSA CLARK
The New York Times

The meat of a roast chicken is all well and good, but it's the skin that I really adore. Getting it as crisp and burnished as possible is my goal for every bird; if I can hear it crackle like a potato chip, I know I've gotten close.

Strategies for achieving this abound. You can leave the bird uncovered in the fridge overnight, or blast it with a hair dryer. You can rub it down with salt or baking powder or both. Some cooks recommend separating the skin from the flesh, poking holes as you go to release the fat. All of these methods work, to varying degrees.

But the fastest, simplest and perhaps most delicious way to get chicken skin as crunchy as a strip of fried bacon is to turn it into a giant frico — that is, to coat the bird with enough grated Parmesan so that, as it roasts, the skin turns into one big, salty, schmaltz-infused cheese wafer.

However, it did take a few tries to get it right. Its ultimate success depends on when you apply the cheese. Add it too early, and it burns a little, imbuing the meat with a scorched flavor. Sprinkle it on too late, and the skin gets more leathery than crisp. I found that adding the cheese halfway through roasting was perfect, with the Parmesan melting and bubbling into a crackerlike coating that wraps the bird in a



JOHNNY MILLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The fastest and simplest way to get crunchy chicken skin is to coat the bird with enough grated Parmesan so that, as it roasts, the skin turns into one big, salty cheese wafer.

crisp, umami embrace. There's nothing quite like it.

With skin this good, I took the less-is-more approach with the other flavors. I mixed some fresh rosemary into the salt rub because it seemed like a natural fit for the chicken and Parmesan, and used some lemon zest for its citrus perfume. Then I added plenty of freshly ground black pep-

per and a big pinch of red-pepper flakes, to lend the heat and astringency necessary to cut some of the richness.

Finally, instead of making a sauce, I squeezed juice from the zested lemon into the pan drippings, and called it a day. It was as fine a dinner as I'd ever cooked, and for an easy roast chicken recipe made from simple ingredients, that's saying a lot.

Crispy Parmesan roast chicken with lemon

Makes: 4 to 6 servings

Total time: 1¼ hours, plus marinating

1 small lemon

2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more to taste

1 teaspoon black pepper

1 teaspoon chopped rosemary, plus 4 sprigs

Large pinch of red-pepper flakes, plus more for serving (optional)

1 (3½- to 4-pound) whole chicken, patted dry

Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling

⅓ cup finely grated Parmesan

1. Finely grate 1 teaspoon zest from the lemon and place it in a small bowl. (Save the zested lemon for the drippings.) Stir in 2 teaspoons salt, pepper, chopped rosemary and red-pepper flakes, if using. Season the chicken inside and out with salt mixture. Let sit at room temperature for 20 minutes or refrigerate uncovered for up to overnight.

2. Heat oven to 425 degrees. Place chicken, breast-side up, in a large skillet, sheet pan or roasting pan. Stuff cavity of chicken with rosemary sprigs. Drizzle breast with a little olive oil.

3. Roast chicken for 30 minutes. Sprinkle chicken all over with Parmesan, then continue roasting until bird's juices run clear when skin is pierced with a knife and the skin is golden, 25 to 30 minutes longer.

4. Let chicken rest for 10 minutes. Squeeze juice from the zested lemon, to taste, into the pan drippings and season with more salt and red-pepper flakes if you like. Carve and serve with drippings spooned over the meat.

Under the spell of Hexe Coffee Co.



INA PINKNEY
Breakfast With Ina

While the weather outside was frightful some days — and gray for 10 straight — I found sunshine in every bite I had at this month's roundup of breakfast spots.

Two are new, and one has been awaiting my visit for almost 60 years.

All three are worth a visit to lift your end-of-winter spirits. They did mine!

Hexe Coffee Co.

I found out that hexe means witch in German. Suffice to say that Hexe has put a hex on me.

Yes, it has a goth vibe in its design, but the black walls have beautiful wall sconces, artwork and good lighting.

Several things sold me when I entered: the quiet and the bakery case. It was filled with elegant, inviting and unusual offerings that made us go a little crazy and order more than we could possibly eat. I did it for you, dear reader.

The talented Dina Cimarusti is the on-staff baker and pastry chef, and we sampled the delicious offerings from her oven.

Yes to the soothing latte and then the pesto knot roll.

The bagel sandwich with egg, sausage and cheese was a surprise, because most bagels are impossible to bite into. This wasn't one of those.

The galette was buttery phyllo with spinach; the strata was filled with sausage, ham and herbs; and the corn pudding was otherworldly! I can't stop thinking about it. It was creamy with just the right amount of sweetness and



MICHELLE KANAAR/PHOTOS FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Hexe Coffee Co.'s bakery case features a number of attractions, including corn pudding at the top right.



The strata with sausage, ham and herbs



The bagel sandwich with egg, sausage and cheese

lots of corn.

I've decided not to have an exorcism. I can live happily ever after with this hex.

Of note: parking on street and behind the store, accessible

Find it: 2000 W. Diversey Parkway, 312-525-2099, hexecoffee.com

Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday; 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday

S&G Restaurant

I admit it: I gave up on Greek diners in the '90s. I'd pass one and wonder if it served good food. And I'd keep driving. For the almost 43 years that I've lived here and drove past S&G Restaurant on the corner of Wellington and Lincoln, I wondered the same thing.

Well, I'm sad to say: For all those years, I've missed

out on "JUST GOOD FOOD," as it says on their menu, not to mention kind and caring service. It's a great way to start the day.

Be prepared to spend a lot of time going over the menu. There are 29 skillets, for starters, and lots more choices. My dining companion, chef Michael Fidler, and I had a really hard time deciding on the best choices.

He had the Porky Pig

skillet with hash browns, sauteed onions, mushrooms and fresh sliced sausage links, topped with melted cheddar and eggs. He added spinach. It was huge and all gone in a flash!

I'm not sure why I chose the lox, eggs and onions, which we call LEO in New York, because I had no idea if the quality of the lox would hold up. It was perfect. I mean really perfect. I asked them to go easy on

the onions and to saute them first, please. Done.

This family-run gem, open since 1957, is exactly what it's supposed to be — and what I'd been missing.

Of note: Metered street parking, one step up (ask for the ramp), outdoor seating spring to fall

Find it: 3000 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-935-4025, sand-chicago.com

Hours: 5 a.m.-8 p.m., daily

OJ

Two delightful sisters have taken over a former taco restaurant and transformed it into a bright and inviting place to sit and enjoy the quiet and good food.

After a warm greeting and coffee, we settled in to study the menu, which features traditional American and Mexican favorites.

I rarely order French toast, but my instincts gave me the go-ahead and was I glad I did. Jazmin and Anel Pichardo, who both began working in the restaurant business in their early teens, had the good sense to use the same challah they have eaten for years from the North Shore Bakery. It makes the perfect French toast. I haven't had such a comforting preparation in years.

We also shared steak and eggs with a side of well-seasoned rice and beans — and we joined the clean-plate club! My grandmother would be so proud!

Since the former space was known for Taco Tuesday, they decided to continue the tradition, so now you have another reason to go!

Good food and warm hospitality is guaranteed here.

Of note: metered street parking, accessible

Find it: 1924 W. Irving Park Road, 872-206-2602

Hours: Monday closed; 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday; 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday



1 in 7 children faces hunger.

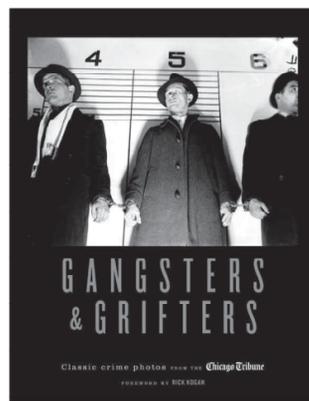
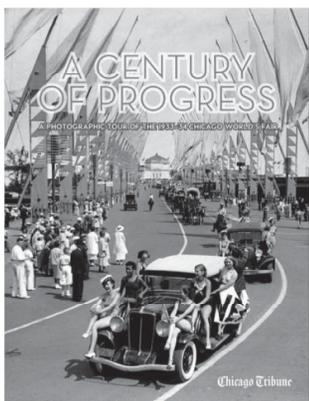
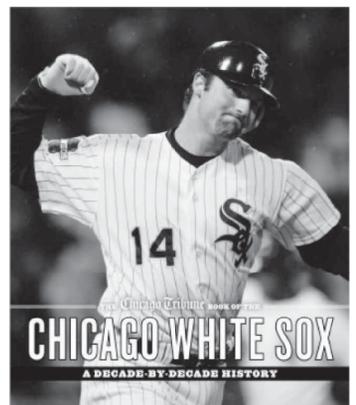
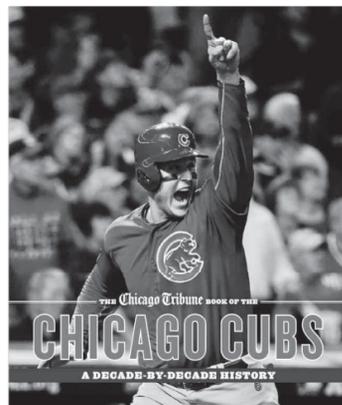
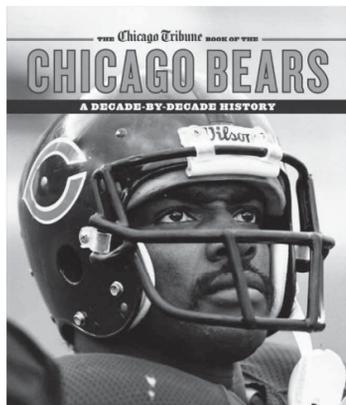
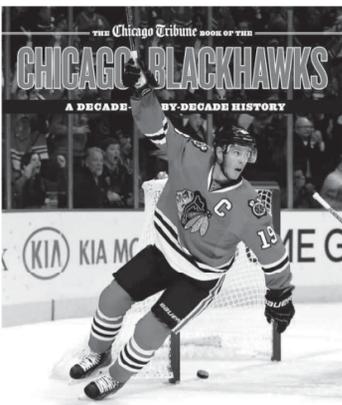
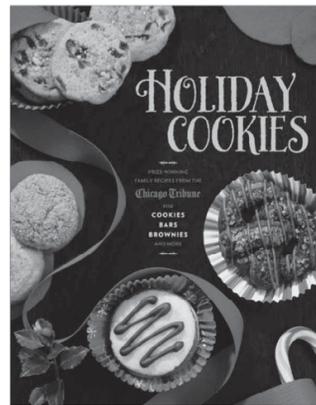
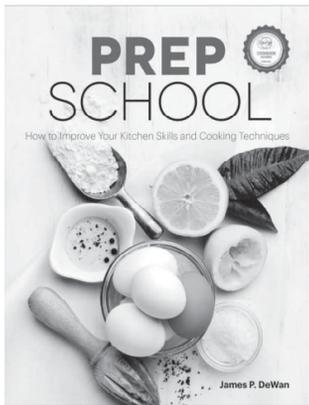
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