

BRYANT HITS 100TH HOMER AS CUBS HOPE FOR TURNAROUND

With Kris Bryant's 100th career home run the Cubs had plenty to celebrate Wednesday after completing a three-game sweep of the Marlins with a 13-4 victory. After wallowing in mediocrity through the first 31 games, has the offense finally turned the corner? **Chicago Sports**



BRIAN CASSELLA/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.CO

Pompeo brings U.S. detainees home

Trump to welcome 3 freed men after N. Korea's gesture ahead of planned summit

BY TRACY WILKINSON, NOAH BIERMAN AND MATT STILES
Los Angeles Times

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump scored a diplomatic victory Wednesday as North Korea released three U.S. citizens from prison to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a goodwill gesture

prior to a planned summit between Trump and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

Trump announced the men's freedom Wednesday on Twitter, and two reporters traveling with Pompeo later saw the three Korean-American men boarding the secretary's plane without assistance as it was set to return to Washington. The plane landed Wednesday afternoon in Alaska en route to Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, where Trump said he would meet the plane early Thursday.

"I am pleased to inform you that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in the air

and on his way back from North Korea with the 3 wonderful gentlemen that everyone is looking so forward to meeting," Trump tweeted.

Later, talking to reporters before a Cabinet meeting, Trump thanked Kim in language that was unimaginable just months ago, as the two exchanged threats of nuclear annihilation. "I appreciate Kim for doing this," Trump said.

The president also indulged in some self-congratulation. Asked if he thought he deserved a Nobel Peace Prize, Trump replied, "Everyone thinks so, but I would

never say it."

The administration was eager to win the men's release to provide good diplomatic news after Trump on Tuesday withdrew the United States from the 2015 multinational nuclear agreement with Iran.

Despite the gesture from Kim, Trump acknowledged that his meeting with the North Korean leader — the first between an American president and a leader of the long-isolated country — could still be "scuttled."

Turn to **Detainees, Page 11**

Suburban florist fights extradition to Lithuania

The former judge says she exposed corruption there

BY TED GREGORY
Chicago Tribune

Eighteen-year-old Karolis Venckus and a Yorkie named Bella are living on their own in the gray and white house on a quiet street in the far northwest suburbs.

His single mother, a florist, is 50 miles away in the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center in downtown Chicago. She is fighting extradition to Lithuania, where — depending on who is presenting their argument — she is either a criminal or a victim of political persecution.

"It's very stressful" is all Venckus would say about how his life has gone since his mother, Neringa Venckiene, surrendered to authorities in February. He looked down and stayed silent for a few moments before adding: "Lonely."

His mother says things will be much worse if she's sent back to her homeland. "I will not have a fair trial in Lithuania," Venckiene wrote in an email from the MCC, "but most likely be killed."

On Thursday morning in U.S. District Court in Chicago, Judge Virginia Kendall is scheduled to consider Venckiene's tangled odyssey, which began in 2008.

That year, Venckiene's 4-year-old niece reported that she'd been molested by several men while in the care of her mother, whom she visited through a custody agreement between the girl's parents.

The allegation set in motion events that led to the suspicious deaths of at least four people, including Venckiene's brother. It also led to Venckiene's own rise to political power and, fearing for her life, her later decision to flee Lithuania with her son in 2013. The two landed in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. They sent for Bella a few weeks later.

Turn to **Extradition, Page 8**



FAMILY PHOTO, CIRCA 2012

Neringa Venckiene was a judge and parliamentarian in Lithuania.

Ricketts buying soccer team for river project

The Cubs owner is joining developer Sterling Bay to bring a team to their Lincoln Yards development. **Business**



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Michelle Jeter, 40, center, cries for her niece Jazmyne Jeter, 15, during a vigil Wednesday. Jazmyne was fatally shot Tuesday night.

Despite drop in violence, Englewood remains deadly

15-year-old girl fatally shot while fleeing gunfire; cops try to determine intended target

BY PETER NICKEAS AND JEREMY GORNER
Chicago Tribune

Jazmyne Jeter no longer lived in Englewood, but the streets there would claim her life nonetheless.

The 15-year-old and her older sister were running from gunfire in their old neighborhood when Jazmyne was hit in the chest and collapsed Tuesday night. The sister called their mother, hysterical.

"I couldn't understand her when I picked up the phone," Desiree Jeter said. "Her screaming and crying."

She told her daughter to calm down. "That's when she said Jazmyne got shot. So of course, you know, hard enough, but



FAMILY PHOTO

Jazmyne was walking with her sister to an Englewood bus stop when she was shot.

me thinking, not the worst. I'm not going to think the worst off of this one phone call."

Paramedics tried to save her daughter. Doctors opened her chest and tried to

massage her heart back to life.

"They couldn't save her," her mother said, her eyes heavy from no sleep.

Jazmyne was among 17 people shot over 17 hours in Chicago on Tuesday and early Wednesday. In Englewood, where police have touted a recent decline in violence, four other people were shot, two of them fatally. The shootings happened about a mile from each other.

The Jeter family had lived in Englewood for 25 years before moving last year to South Chicago. Jazmyne grew up near Ogden Park, not far from where she was shot.

Desiree Jeter, 43, had moved from New York in 1992 and gave birth to her first child not long after getting to Chicago.

She fondly remembers summers at Ogden Park. Violence happened in the neighborhood around her — you couldn't

Turn to **Gunfire, Page 8**

At SIU, an intercampus rift reaches boil

Edwardsville says Carbondale gets unjust share of funding

BY DAWN RHODES | Chicago Tribune

For years, there was a natural order to life in the Southern Illinois University system: The flagship campus in Carbondale had the greater prestige, the enrollment, the bigger budget and the storied men's basketball team while Edwardsville, established nearly 90 years after Carbondale, worked to build up its cachet.

That was before enrollment began a long

decline at Carbondale while Edwardsville gradually found its niche in Greater St. Louis, the second-largest metro area in Illinois.

Now enrollment at the two schools is nearly identical, and Edwardsville officials say it is time that the two-campus university system reassess how it divvies up its funding. And some area lawmakers are renewing a push to sever the two campuses.

"To be fair to our great students and their families and to the amazing individuals who make up our faculty and staff, we need to admit that some parts of SIU are doing better than others and we need to make

decisions that maximize the investment we receive from the state," the SIU board's chairwoman, Amy Sholar, wrote in an open letter this month. "If we're going to remain a system, we need to accept that we are continuously evolving and that we can't stay in our silos forever."

This is not the first push to split the campuses, with at least four previous attempts dating to 1975, according to Sholar and SIU President Randy Dunn. It's a reflection of the long-simmering tensions over how the SIU system has weighted state

Turn to **SIU, Page 6**



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MARGARET HOLT, standards editor

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

■ A story Wednesday about congressional reaction to the United States withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal misidentified Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, as being from Illinois. The Tribune regrets the error.

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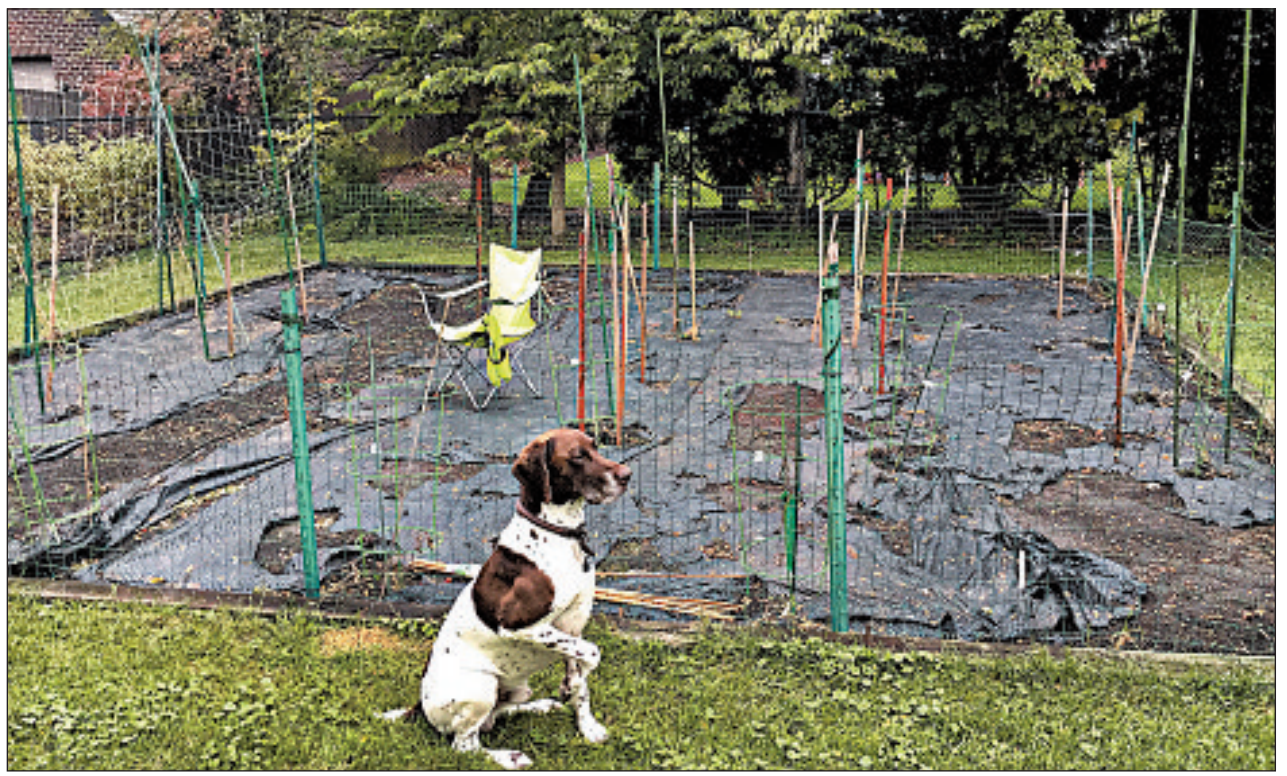
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JOHN KASS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017

A patch of dirt is a blank canvas, full of wonderful possibilities and future plans.



JOHN KASS

First things first for spring: Ponder the dirt

There was a hard rain in the morning, and Zeus the Wonder Dog was frightened by the thunder.

But he looked out the sliding glass door, to the backyard, and proudly surveyed his domain.

At least Zeus thinks it's his domain. It's where the hated rabbits and their evil cousins — those vicious tomato-biting squirrels — fear to tread.

But they really don't fear him. The rabbits don't give two figs about Zeus. They run away and escape through that hole in the fence. And then they sit safely on the other side, and mock him so that he goes crazy.

I haven't fixed the hole in the fence, because the last thing I need is for Betty to find stray chunks of rabbit among the hostas.

The best news I've heard all week in the rabbit wars is that raptors are about. There was an owl hooting up in a tree the other night.

And Jim the neighbor just told me about our new friend, a big, hungry red-tailed hawk in the neighborhood. "It got a rabbit on the other side of my house," said Jim.

I smiled. A herd of ravenous rabbits got my beans last year. Revenge, even by bird, is good.

In the backyard that Zeus thinks belongs to him, there is a fenced-in patch of dirt where the boys' swing set used to sit.

This dirt patch does not belong to Zeus, or to my wife or sons, or to my relatives or friends. It doesn't belong to the feds.

It belongs to me.

Looking out through the glass, I joined Zeus in staring at that sodden mass of mud and loam.

To you it may be nothing but mud. But to me it's a blank canvas, full of wonderful possibilities and future plans. It holds the sweetness of summer and the bitter memories of failures past.

The truth is, I've never seen a blank canvas up close. And I really wouldn't

know what to do with one.

But give me a patch of mud, which will dry and become dirt, and I'm happy. And so are you, if you're like me, and you appreciate the simplicity of dirt.

Good dirt is what vegetables need. And good dirt is what backyard gardeners need.

And we're backyard gardeners, aren't we?

We love our own tomatoes. We love that bite of green onion, the chives, Swiss chard, the baby eggplants, cucumber tea sandwiches and tomatoes, again and again.

We love the tomato, bacon and lettuce sandwich, called by some the BLT. And when you grow your own tomatoes, you bite into that sandwich and the world becomes new again.

"I've just turned my garden over," said a guy who gardens. "I'm ready."

But he's also wise enough to not rush things and take his time. He knows. It's not a sprint.

It's enough to look at the dirt, anticipating what's to come. Quietly looking at dirt is a backyard gardening secret. And I'm the world's expert at just sitting there, alone, and staring at dirt.

Here's the secret. Just light a nice cigar, pour yourself a good three fingers of single malt Scotch, or a stiff martini with garlic/anchovy olives, and sit.

Ponder the dirt for a spell. Go on. Do it.

See? Looking at it, thinking of where things will grow this summer, where I'll put the tomatoes, the cucumbers. I'm not thinking of what I don't want to think about.

I'm in the dirt zone.

"Are you OK?" Betty asks. "You're just sitting there, looking at dirt?"

Honey, it's something that just has to be done. And I'm just the man to do it.

In the Midwest, planting is done after Mother's Day, after the last

threat of frost is gone.

People will mill about the garden centers, eager to put stuff in the ground, and some will brag about how early they planted. In this, they're like those fishermen bragging about the size of that steelhead they caught.

Let them brag. Pity them. But mind your manners and say nothing.

Just wait, and plant at your own pace, when the ground truly begins to warm. A week's delay, even two, won't ruin things. The beans need warm ground. And tomatoes don't like cold ground either.

If you don't believe me, just dig a hole and stick your head in the cold dirt and leave it there for a few hours. Then tell me how happy you feel.

Taking time is important. You need time to get things right, time to amend the soil and add compost and till it in. Just don't fill your wife's car with bags of compost. Yeah. I've been there.

And don't use fresh manure before planting.

Your neighbors won't like it, but worse, it will burn the plants.

Take time to set up proper trellises for cucumbers; and time to place poles for the pole beans; time to get the good tomato cages.

And take the time to put down some black landscape fabric, and cut holes in it to plant your garden. That way, you can join me in Gardening OCD and sweep your garden free of dirt, like some crazed lunatic.

I am going to mend that hole in the fence, eventually. And then those darn rabbits will get the surprise of their lives. They will rue the day they dared mock my noble canine companion.

Right, Zeus?

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Bigotry is planted and reinforced in subtle and unsubtle ways



DAHLEEN GLANTON

Over the weekend, African-American students decided to celebrate years of hard work at the University of Florida by doing a little dance onstage as they received their diplomas.

There was nothing threatening about these young men and women. They were future lawyers, doctors and teachers dressed in graduation caps and gowns. Yet they were treated like thugs.

A faculty member hustled the students off the stage one by one as they paused to joyfully celebrate their accomplishments. Some white students were hurried off the stage as well, but much less aggressively.

The choreographed moves, popularized by African-American sororities and fraternities, were symbolic. But some one deemed the display inappropriate.

So in front of thousands of adoring parents, relatives and friends in the audience, a stunning message was sent: Being black is a stigma that even a college diploma cannot remove.

The message — now being repeated in viral videos on social media — was not intentional. It was so subtle, in fact, that most people likely did not catch it right away. But the image of young African-Americans being shoved around allegedly for misbehaving surely registered with someone who filed it away for future use.

This often is how seeds of bigotry are planted and stereotypes are reinforced, without us even knowing it. If you ask most Americans, we will insist that we harbor no preconceptions about people who are different.

But we do, each and every one of us. Somewhere in the recesses of our minds, a tidbit of information has settled in, waiting to reveal itself whenever the time seems right.

For some, it is a matter of self-survival. America is changing, and a lot of people simply aren't ready for it.

There are too many different faces from cultures they don't understand and traditions they have never heard of being thrust into the mainstream. To them, America is becoming unrecognizable, and they are terrified.

But for others, the bias appears much less sinister. They just feel uncomfortable around certain people. It isn't based on anything concrete; it's just a feeling they can't seem to shake.

But don't be fooled. Both types of bigotry are equally as harmful. It is up to individuals to put their bias in check before it goes too far.



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Some University of Florida graduates were whisked offstage after a celebration.

fore it goes too far.

Consider the woman who recently called the police on two Native American teenagers who were participating in a campus tour at Colorado State University.

The caller, the mother of another prospective student on the tour, decided that the young men who joined the group late were suspicious because they were dressed in black and one of them laughed when she asked what he wanted to study.

"They were lying the whole time," she told the dispatcher, adding that at least one of them was Hispanic "for sure" because he said he's from Mexico.

The teenagers' outfits made them stand out, she said.

"Their clothing has dark stuff on it, like dark things. ... Just weird symbolism or wording on it, and one of them has their left hand in his oversize sweatshirt the whole time."

Though this is how most teenagers dress, the woman surmised that "they're ... definitely not a part of the tour."

But they were part of the tour. The teenagers had gotten lost driving from New Mexico — not Mexico — and arrived late. They had an email confirmation, which they promptly showed to police.

Even the caller began to question her own biases when she was rattling off concerns to the dispatcher. She can be heard on the audiotape raising doubt.

"It's probably nothing. I'm probably being completely paranoid with just everything that's happened," she said.

"I feel completely ridiculous. They're probably fine and just creepy kids," she added later.

In the end, she justified her overreaction by blaming the teenagers for making her feel uncomfortable. Their appearance and lack of communication forced her to make a call she didn't really want to make.

"If it's nothing, I'm sorry, but they ... actually made me feel, like, sick, and I've never felt like that," she told the dispatcher.

With that, she relieved herself of responsibility for her own bigotry. The problem, though, is that bigots think others have an obligation to prove that they are not who the bigots think they are.

These young men weren't required to even say hello to anyone in the group if they didn't feel like it, much less respond to a stranger's obvious interrogation.

Ethnic and racial groups experience this all the time, often with much worse consequences.

Years ago while I was shopping in the suburbs, a security guard from the mall followed me to my car and demanded to see my purchases. As other shoppers looked on, I demanded to know why.

He said he had observed me going in and out of several stores without buying anything. Yet I had bags in hand and he needed to see the receipts.

I told him that I would gladly remove the bags from the trunk of my car and carry them back into the mall so that we could open them in front of his supervisor. We did, and there was nothing unaccounted for.

The supervisor apologized profusely and acknowledged that the employee, who actually was off-duty, had acted inappropriately. He had decided using his own biased criteria that I was a thief.

I demanded that the security guard be reprimanded. The supervisor promised to follow up.

But it was too late. The message had already been sent: Being black is a stigma that even a college degree and a good-paying job cannot remove.

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Chicagoan charged in fraudulent UPS setup

Accused of having mail sent to apartment, cashing checks

By JASON MEISNER
Chicago Tribune

A Rogers Park man has been charged in a scheme that temporarily changed the address for the global headquarters of shipping giant United Parcel Service to his apartment, resulting in thousands of pieces of mail meant for UPS executives and other employees being delivered to his doorstep.

A criminal complaint charging Dushaun Henderson-Spruce, 24, with theft of mail and fraud was unsealed Tuesday, records show. He is in custody pending a detention hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Gilbert next week. Prosecutors have said they will argue he should be held as a flight risk. When confronted Jan. 25, he agreed to talk to federal agents but "terminated the interview" when asked why he submitted the change-of-address form for UPS, according to the complaint.

The Chicago Tribune chronicled the sensational setup last month. According to the charges, Henderson-Spruce, who worked as a package handler for UPS in 2012, submitted a written change-of-address form on Oct. 26 requesting that the company's headquarters address at 55 Glenlake Parkway NE in Atlanta be changed to 6750 N. Ashland Ave. — his one-bedroom apartment in Chicago.

Henderson-Spruce did not identify himself on the form. The initials "HS" were written on the signature line at first but were scratched out and replaced with "UPS," according to the charges.

On Jan. 16, a UPS security coordinator caught on to the setup and notified postal inspectors, court records show. The security coordinator notified investigators that not only had UPS not authorized the change but it also appeared that about 150 corporate American Express cards in various employee names — including the CEO and members of the board of directors — had been issued under the Ashland Avenue address, according to a search warrant affidavit. It was learned that only five cards had been shipped, and none had been misused, the affidavit said.

The day after the alleged fraud was detected, postal inspectors interviewed the carrier who delivers the mail to Henderson-Spruce's timeworn, seven-story building. The carrier said "voluminous" amounts of UPS mail had been coming to the apartment for months, far more than would fit in the small boxes assigned to tenants, the affidavit said.

A week later, postal inspectors began retrieving some 3,000 pieces of first-class and registered mail addressed to UPS at Henderson-Spruce's apartment, according to the criminal complaint. That same day, investigators at Fifth Third Bank notified postal inspectors that more than 10 checks addressed to UPS were deposited to a personal account belonging to Henderson-Spruce. The checks totaled more than \$58,000, according to the charges.

In a brief Tribune interview last month, Henderson-Spruce hinted that he'd received the UPS mail in a mix-up and that his identity may have been stolen. But he declined to elaborate.

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Firehouse argument leads to internal investigation

By TONY BRISCOE
Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Fire Department has launched an internal investigation into allegations that a male firefighter grabbed a female colleague and pushed her during a firehouse argument, according to authorities.

On the evening of April 27, the man grabbed the woman by the arms and shoved her, leaving bruises on her arms, police said. According to a source, the two firefighters worked at the same firehouse at 7974 S.

Chicago Ave. but make runs on different vehicles. The argument was about the performance of their crews, the source said.

"CFD has zero tolerance for violence in the workplace," Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford said. "We are currently investigating a reported incident at a firehouse that involves conduct between two members."

In addition to its own investigation, which could lead to a suspension or firing, the Fire Department filed a police report based on the accounts of several witnesses. The female firefighter, who declined

medical attention, has so far declined to press criminal charges, Chicago police said Wednesday afternoon.

Both firefighters have been transferred from the firehouse where the argument took place.

Earlier this month, five female paramedics filed a federal lawsuit claiming they were groped, stalked and forced to endure repeated sexually explicit remarks from superiors.

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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGOLAND



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Nora Fox, 11, with sign, and friends run a Bake Sale for Justice last month outside Women & Children First bookstore. Each month benefits a different charity. On this day they accepted donations for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Bake Sale for Justice proves to be powerful platform for kids



HEIDI STEVENS
Balancing Act

Once a month, deterred by neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of the latest headlines, a dozen or so kids fill a table with baked goods, festoon it with socially conscious signs and watch with joy in their hearts as the donations pour in.

They call it Bake Sale for Justice, and they've been gathering outside Andersonville's Women & Children First bookstore since November 2016. They offer homemade or bakery-donated items with a "pay what you want, take what you want" policy that, as it turns out, really adds up.

The mostly 11- and 12-year-olds say they've raised \$13,000 so far, which they've donated to such organizations as Refugee One, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Native American Rights Fund.

"After the results of the November 2016 election, my mom and I wanted to do something to help," said Nora Fox, 11. "The original idea was to do a bake sale in somebody's backyard."

Fox and her mom, Anne Fogarty, figured they'd raise \$50 or so. They planned to send it to the ACLU, which promised to fight some of the measures President Donald Trump had pledged to enact during his campaign, namely a travel ban against Muslims, that struck Fox and Fogarty as unjust.

A family friend sug-

gested Fox and her friends set up outside Women & Children First.

The store owners were all for it, and the group raised more than \$800 that first day.

They decided to turn Bake Sale for Justice into a monthly event. They set up a Facebook page to solicit donations (baked goods and money) and share photos. They spread the word among friends. They tracked down recipes. They researched organizations that matched their mission.

"We try to find groups that fit under the umbrella of justice," Fogarty said. "Social justice, environmental justice, racial justice. We want to raise money to support a specific community that feels under attack."

Often the organizations will contact the group after receiving a donation.

"We are so impressed that these young children are getting involved and trying to do something about a situation they see as being very negative and destructive," Donald Ragona, director of development at the Native American Rights Fund, wrote in a thank-you letter. "They could have sat back and accepted what was going on in the world around them, but instead they chose to become involved and do something positive and meaningful to lessen the effects of the negativity and divisiveness."

Union of Concerned Scientists stopped by the bake sale with thank-you tote bags. Habitat for Humanity Puerto Rico shared photos of the kids on its Facebook page. A Human Rights Campaign staffer met with the bakers at the office of Ald. Harry Osterman, 48th.

"It can be hard to make a difference because of our age," said Faelyn McGuire, 11. "If you try to volunteer, it's like '14 and up,' and we're all 11 or 12 or even younger. We can't vote. We're old enough to want to help but not old enough to be considered mature enough to help."

"We don't want to just sit back and watch other people make a difference," added Meredith White, 11. "We want to make a difference too."

The bake sales have proved a perfect conduit. And for the most part, they've been received warmly.

"One time, we had a person who thought we were protesting the bookstore," Fox said. "That was funny."

Two of the older girls — Whitney Young eighth-graders Tova Love Kaplan and Carlotta Harold — said passers-by once engaged them in a gun control debate when they were raising money for March for Our Lives, which advocates for universal background checks and an assault weapons ban.

"You held your own," Fogarty told them.

Harold and Kaplan just got permission from Whitney Young to start a Bake Sale for Justice club next school year.

"It will be a physical bake sale, but also work on educating people," said Kaplan, 14. "What are these organizations, what's going on in the world around us. Because we don't live in a bubble."

I spent a recent afternoon in Harold's North Side living room with 20 or so girls, two boys and a handful of moms who make Bake Sale for Justice happen. I asked them what they say to their inevitable

detractors, the ones who say they're too young to have informed opinions about politics and the world around them. The ones who say their parents must be brainwashing them.

"Nooooooo!" they yelled in unison.

"We watch the news," said Tekla Peterson, 12. "Our parents don't watch the news and tell us about it."

"You hear so many people say, 'You're only a kid — you can't make that much of a difference,'" said Madeline Owens, 12. "Once I joined Bake Sale for Justice, I felt more hopeful that everyone can make a difference."

They see their activism as simply a part of their childhood.

"I'm channeling my aggressive Girl Scouts cookie skills into Bake Sale for Justice," Kaplan said. "If they make eye contact with me, they're going to buy something. It feels good. We've raised a lot of money. We've done a lot of good. We've inspired a lot of people."

That's what Audrey Ringle, 11, wants her generation to be known for.

"I'm really proud that we're educating ourselves and educating others," Ringle said. "I'm really excited to be the generation that will help there be less violence and hate."

The next bake sale is scheduled for May 20. Fogarty is researching organizations that are working to clean up the water in Flint, Mich.

"We want to live in a world that isn't broken," Ringle said. "We want to heal it instead of break it apart further."

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EPA probing soil pollution on SE Side

Feds step in after city finds high levels of toxin in yards near industrial sites

BY MICHAEL HAWTHORNE
Chicago Tribune

Already concerned about high levels of toxic manganese in the air near a Southeast Side company, federal environmental regulators announced Thursday they are significantly escalating their investigation by searching for contaminated yards in a low-income, predominantly Latino neighborhood.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is stepping in after the Chicago Department of Public Health had 27 yards in the East Side neighborhood tested for the potent neurotoxin this year. A city contractor discovered that about 70 percent of the properties were tainted by manganese at levels well above the state standard for cleanups at abandoned industrial sites slated for residential development.

Manganese in three of the yards exceeded a less stringent federal standard that often triggers the excavation of contaminated soil.

A map of the city's testing shows the most contaminated yards found so far were close to the S.H. Bell Co. storage terminal on the Calumet River between 101st and 103rd streets. At least three other facilities on the heavily industrialized river also are under investigation.

About 20,000 people, including 1,730 children age 5 and younger, live within a mile of S.H. Bell, which the EPA cited last year with violations of the federal Clean Air Act after monitoring equipment posted around the site detected worrisome levels of manganese drifting toward the surrounding neighborhood.

Testing residential soil is the latest development in a slowly unfolding probe that began four years ago when investigators stumbled across S.H. Bell while taking a closer look at two nearby sites that stored dusty piles of petroleum coke along the river.

The petcoke piles are gone now — driven away by fierce opposition from community groups and legal pressure from city, state and federal authorities — but activists are pushing for more rigorous oversight of other polluters in southeast Chicago and northwest Indiana.

"This information adds to the backdrop that residents have been subject to past high levels of particulate matter from petroleum coke and diesel truck emissions and a host of other pollutants associated with heavy industrial activity," a coalition of community and environmental groups wrote this week in a letter to Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Julie Morita, the city health commissioner. "The Southeast Side should be a place where families can thrive in a healthy and clean environment."

Recent studies of children living near S.H. Bell's facility in East Liverpool, Ohio, linked manganese to lower IQ scores and problems with learning and remembering. Regular exposure also can cause manganism, a condition with symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease.

University of Illinois at Chicago researchers told community groups this year that they had found higher manganese levels in East Side children com-

pared with kids from other parts of the city. The UIC researchers have not published their results, but the ongoing study heightened concerns among residents increasingly frustrated with chronic pollution problems.

Now the EPA is seeking permission from more homeowners to have their yards tested. Federal and city officials will share more details about their investigations at a community forum from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at The Zone, 11731 S. Ave. O.

In a statement, Pittsburgh-based S.H. Bell said more than two dozen other facilities that handle manganese could be partially responsible for pollution detected by monitors around the company's site. Airborne levels of the heavy metal have dropped since S.H. Bell installed a new dust-collection system and made other improvements required by the city, the company said.

"S.H. Bell has gone above and beyond compliance with every regulation imposed by the EPA and the city of Chicago," the company said. "Focusing on our company while ignoring other known emitters of manganese and other heavy metals will not improve the environment of the city's Southeast Side."

Morita, the city health commissioner, said other companies are being drawn into the investigation as officials learn more about materials handled by storage facilities, metals recyclers and other manganese-handling operations.

For instance, Watco Transloading is expected to be the next in line to install air quality monitors around its riverfront storage terminal south of S.H. Bell. The health department also is pushing for monitors at American Zinc Recycling on the west side of the river and North American Stevedoring off Ewing Avenue near Lake Michigan.

All three companies have unsuccessfully attempted to secure exemptions from the city's bulk storage regulations, which the health department is planning to toughen by requiring any manganese-handling facility in the city to install equipment designed specifically to measure heavy metals in the air.

"We've taken these problems very seriously," Morita said. "We will hold all of these entities to the same standards as S.H. Bell."

The expanded investigation on the Southeast Side is one of three EPA probes into current and former industries in the region that left a toxic legacy officials have only recently begun to address.

Just across the state border in Indiana, the agency is overseeing the long-delayed removal of lead-tainted soil from East Chicago neighborhoods near smelters that closed long ago. Crews are demolishing a housing complex after more than 1,000 low-income residents were forced to evacuate last year.

Soil samples collected since October have identified more than two dozen contaminated yards in Hammond and Whiting near another abandoned smelter. EPA officials told the Tribune this week they expect to find more.

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Chicago State puts Scott at helm

Hire not formal, but starting date said to be July 1

BY DAWN RHODES
Chicago Tribune

A former trustee at Chicago State University who once plotted to oust its president will return to the school, this time as its president. School leaders announced Wednesday night that Zaldwaynaka "Z" Scott was chosen from three finalists to be Chicago State's first permanent leader in almost two years.

Trustees decided at a Tuesday meeting, accord-

ing to the board's vice chairman, Nicholas Gowen, but nothing on the agenda indicated the board planned to make that decision. Illinois' Open Meetings Act requires agendas to "set forth the general subject matter of any resolution or ordinance that will be the subject of final action at the meeting." It also allows the board to discuss employment issues in closed session but requires votes to be public.

Gowen said the board did not need to vote because trustees were not acting to formally hire Scott. "She was the candidate with unanimous support. At this point, there is no agree-

ment, there is no contract." He would not specify when the board would vote on her contract; the next scheduled meeting is in late June.

Scott said in an interview she accepted the job and gave notice to resign as an attorney at Foley & Lardner. "I am humbled and thrilled to have been selected by the board to lead the university," she said. Trustees tapped her over Patricia Ramsey, provost at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and Heidi Anderson, special assistant to the president at Texas A&M in Kingsville. If approved, Scott will start July 1, replacing the interim president, Rachel W. Lind-

sey. Scott would be the fifth president or interim president since December 2015.

Scott was on Chicago State's board of trustees from 2009-13 when it hired a law firm to investigate whether President Wayne Watson was having a relationship with an employee and possible improper benefits. Watson accused board chair Gary Rozier and Scott of targeting him because he would not hire friends. He later admitted that was not true, and a 2016 probe found his actions violated school policy. Board members did not sanction him.

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Experts dismiss cop's claim about euthanizing dogs

Decatur officer had said drug-sniffing animals wouldn't be needed if marijuana is legalized

By ELYSSA CHERNEY
Chicago Tribune

Local and national experts are holding their noses over a central Illinois cop's claim that some drug-sniffing police dogs would have to be euthanized if the state legalizes recreational pot use.

Decatur police Detective Chad Lerner's comment to a local newspaper that the dogs would need to be put down because they can't be retrained had even his police chief boss scratching his head and apologizing. Lerner, in an email exchange with the Tribune, declined to comment on the matter and referred questions to the chief.

"It was a bad choice of words, and it's a statement (Lerner) wishes he didn't make," Decatur police Chief James Getz Jr. told the Tribune on Wednesday. "There are so many uses for these dogs. They are multipurpose dogs. ... We anticipate those dogs are going to work with us for a long long time."

In the wake of Lerner's comments to The Pantagraph in Bloomington, experts on drug-sniffing police dogs have dismissed the assertion that dogs would have to be euthanized if recreational marijuana is legalized



CLAY JACKSON/DECATUR HERALD & REVIEW

Decatur police Detective Chad Lerner and police dog Roy after a simulated traffic stop at a state training facility for police K-9s.

in Illinois.

Even if some dogs cannot be retrained, they still can help officers in many tasks, including searching for evidence and stopping fleeing suspects.

What's more, at most departments — including Decatur's — canines are selected for their sociability and live as family pets with their handlers after their service, according to Getz and other experts.

To be sure, the role of canines — in particular, how much they actually aid in police work — has sometimes been controversial. In 2011, the Tribune reported that suburban police officers located drugs or paraphernalia in vehicles

only about 44 percent of the time after a dog alerted that it was there.

How the role of drug-sniffing police dogs might change is just one of the latest flashpoints in the ongoing debate about whether small amounts of recreational marijuana should be legalized in Illinois.

The majority of Cook County voters cast ballots in favor of legalizing pot in a nonbinding referendum in March.

Supporters say a regulated marijuana market could produce much-needed revenue for the state while opponents worry it could have a detrimental impact on health.

But voters need not be concerned that police dogs will be killed if the measure comes up for a vote and passes, experts say.

In Cook County, the sheriff's 14 canines won't be out of work.

"I don't believe legalizing marijuana would impact their tremendous utility to our office and the public we serve," Cara Smith, a spokeswoman, said in an email.

The sheriff's dogs are dually trained to help with narcotics and other tasks, such as tracking suspects, searching for evidence and apprehending people trying to flee or resist deputies, Smith said.

Included among the K-9s are two bloodhounds that help with searches for missing people and three explosives detection dogs that are not cross-trained in narcotics, Smith said.

At the Chicago Police Department, officers work with about 60 K-9s, which are initially trained at a facility on the Northwest Side, said Officer Patrick McGinnis, a department spokesman.

"Future CPD K-9 training and policy regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana will ultimately depend on the enacted legislation," McGinnis said in an email.

Departments, however, should expect to make some changes to their canine programs if people are allowed to carry and consume small amounts of pot.

The biggest issue crops up when dogs identify an illicit drug or item during a search that also

turns up legal marijuana, experts said. In the nine states and Washington, D.C., where marijuana is legal, courts and local prosecutors are often consulted about whether such a search is legally justified, said Rick Ashabranner, president of the North American Police Work Dog Association.

"It's not an easy answer. It's going to be brought up more and more often," Ashabranner said.

It is difficult and costly, but not impossible, to retrain dogs on marijuana, according to Ashabranner and Brian Dowdy, who runs one of the state's approved academies for narcotics-detection canines.

That can be accomplished by withholding rewards and teaching dogs that marijuana will not yield a positive result, Dowdy said. Currently, dogs in Illinois are trained to identify four scents — marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin.

A dog's career in law enforcement usually spans about six to eight years, Dowdy said, so some departments may opt to retire canines early and start from scratch rather than trying to retrain a dog close to finishing its service.

"There's no reason for any dogs to be euthanized because marijuana is legalized," Dowdy said. "That's extreme, and it's almost like trying to coerce the people who are going to be voting on the law."

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Willow Creek elders apologize to accusers

Women's reports of misconduct by founder not 'all lies'

BY MANYA BRACHEAR PASHMAN
Chicago Tribune

The highest-ranking elder of northwest suburban Willow Creek Community Church told the congregation Wednesday that elders owe apologies to women who made allegations of misconduct against church founder Bill Hybels.

Pam Orr, the outgoing chair of the church's elder board, said it has been the elders' "top priority" to reach out to women who have come forward with allegations of inappropriate behavior.

"We have talked to several of them and are deeply saddened by the experiences they are sharing with us," Orr told the congregation during a midweek worship service. "We do believe that we owe these women some apologies. The tone of our first response had too much emphasis on defending Bill and cast some of the women in an unfair and negative light. We are sorry."

In a reversal, Orr also apologized for initial statements that called the allegations lies and castigated former senior leaders of the church who called for a more robust investigation.

"We do not believe that the stories were all lies," she said.

Hybels stepped down from the helm of the South Barrington megachurch last month following a Chicago Tribune investigation that revealed allegations of misconduct with women — including church employees — that ran afoul of church teachings and spanned decades.

The alleged behavior by Hybels detailed by the Tribune included suggestive comments, extended hugs, an unwanted kiss and invitations to hotel rooms. It also included an allegation of a prolonged consensual affair with a married woman who later said her claim about the affair was not true, the newspaper found.

After interviewing current and former church members, elders and employees, and reviewing



ERIN HOOLEY/TRIBUNE

Accusations against Bill Hybels included prolonged hugs and hotel invites.

hundreds of emails and internal records, the Tribune revealed for the first time that Hybels was the subject of a series of reviews by Willow Creek's elders, including one involving an outside law firm. The Tribune also revealed previously undisclosed claims.

The elders and the outside investigator cleared Hybels of any wrongdoing in the allegations they examined. Hybels also staunchly denied the new accusations the Tribune made public, including one by Vonda Dyer, a former director of the church's vocal ministry. Dyer told the Tribune that Hybels called her to his hotel suite on a trip to Sweden in 1998, unexpectedly kissed her and suggested they could lead Willow Creek together.

"Based on the conversations we've had to date we believe at least some of Bill's choices were inappropriate," Orr said. "We are grieved that this situation has been difficult for so many people."

Orr also told the congregation that her two-year term as chair of the elder board ends this month.

"I will leave this seat with a heart that is broken over the grief this season has brought to so many," she said.

Steve Carter, the church's teaching pastor, choked back tears as he asked the congregation to pray for the church, its elders, the women who came forward and the Hybels family.

"God, we're thankful for the women who shared their stories," he said. "Can I pray that they would feel seen and known and heard by us?"

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NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Timothy Kincaide, who works at Merchandise Mart, called a mural in the building's lobby by Jules Guerin "very offensive."

Petition started to remove Merchandise Mart mural

BY ELVIA MALAGON
Chicago Tribune

For months, Timothy Kincaide has walked daily through the lobby of the Merchandise Mart, but it wasn't until a co-worker told him to look up that he noticed a mural of what appears to be African-American women picking cotton.

"I see oppression, I see pain, you know, I see my people bent over bleeding at the fingers picking up cotton," Kincaide, who is African-American, said of the mural. He's not sure whether the mural is illustrating slavery — someone told him the boats hint that it was 10 to 15 years after emancipation — but Kincaide said the images are demeaning just the same.

That's why he started an online petition this week that calls for the Merchandise Mart to remove or cover the mural of the women. The petition reads, in part: "Concerns have grown about a mural that displays black post slavery ancestors picking cotton on a Mississippi plantation. We feel that this mural is very offensive, and does not represent a part of history that we are proud of."

As of Wednesday, the petition had more than 40 signatures. Merchandise Mart management issued a statement Wednesday say-



The mural depicts black women picking cotton. It has been in Merchandise Mart's lobby since the 1930s.

ing it "just became aware of a petition regarding the mural," but there's no indication any changes may be made as a result.

The petition is the latest thread in an ongoing national debate over, among other things, statues and other public art in America's complicated history with race. In Chicago, a recent memorial service for Confederate soldiers at Oak Woods Cemetery drew a counter service by activists who highlighted prominent African-Americans buried there. Activists have called for a monument in Chicago to honor Ida B. Wells-Barnett, an African-American journalist who was known for her reporting about lynchings. And Chicago students are calling for a local

park to be renamed for former slave and groundbreaking orator Frederick Douglass.

At the Merchandise Mart, the artwork featuring the women is among 17 murals titled "Merchandise Around the World," which have decorated the lobby since the building opened in 1930. The murals were created by artist Jules Guerin and meant to represent a panorama of commerce around the world, according to the book "A Guide to Chicago's Murals."

It's unclear whether Guerin meant to depict the women in the mural as slaves. A biography of Guerin's work provided by the Merchandise Mart only notes that some of the murals — including the one

featuring the women — serve as snapshots of the cotton industry.

"Center panel showing riverboats bringing cotton to transport in ocean steamers to foreign ports," the biography states. "Two small size panels showing culture and picking cotton with railroad trains and ships in background. Two small panels at the other end represent ocean liners distributing commodities over the world."

The murals have generally gone unnoticed.

Kincaide, 32, who has worked in the building since September, had not paid much attention to the artwork. It wasn't until February when one of his co-workers told him about the mural that he started to pay attention. "Tim, they have slaves up there picking cotton in the lobby," he remembers his co-worker telling him. "I'm like, 'What? Let me go check it out.'"

He knows some people will look at the mural and see the image as a representation of history, but he worries it will reinforce racist ideas that African-Americans are inferior.

"Looking at those images — we want to get that out of our mindset so we can elevate and move toward prosperity," Kincaide said.

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At SIU, intercampus rift grows over funding

SIU, from Page 1

funding in favor of Carbondale, which always has been the larger school with more faculty and staff but has foundered recently while Edwardsville has stayed relatively stable.

Consider the most recent budget. SIU's 2017-18 state appropriation was \$182.1 million, according to university budget documents. About \$91.4 million went to Carbondale and \$53.8 million was earmarked for Edwardsville.

Not counting about \$37 million for the medical school in Springfield and central offices, state funding was split 63 percent to 37 percent, in favor of Carbondale.

But while Carbondale still has a larger workforce, its student population has nosedived, from a peak of 24,869 in 1991 to 14,184 as of last fall. At the same time, Edwardsville's enrollment has steadily grown, surpassing 14,000 students in recent years before dipping to 13,796 in 2017.

That new equality is one reason Edwardsville leaders proposed in April — unsuccessfully — that the board of trustees transfer \$5.125 million from the Carbondale campus to Edwardsville for the 2018-19 school year.

School leaders argued in a report that Edwardsville lost out on tens of millions of dollars it should have received had the system's funding formula accurately



BRIAN MUNOZ/DAILY EGYPTIAN

Enrollment at the Carbondale campus has plunged from a peak of nearly 25,000 in 1991 to just shy of 14,200 last fall.

reflected enrollment changes over the years.

"We're just trying to have someone underscore that some kind of support should follow that growth," Edwardsville Chancellor Randy Pembroke said. "The mechanism of how that happens — whether that's an allocation from the state, a reallocation from the system, a rule from Springfield — I just need to advocate for my campus."

Edwardsville employees got in the campaign, arguing at the April board meeting that a university system needed to ensure equal treatment of its campuses. Its faculty senate also endorsed the reallocation.

"If we are to move ahead as a system with a commitment to support the growth and development of all the universities in the organization, then this board needs

to make the hard decision and accept the short-term consequences it entails to ensure a better, more equitable future for the entire system," Collin Van Meter, a member of Edwardsville staff senate, said at the meeting.

Some also pointed to a \$35 million loan that Edwardsville made to Carbondale in 2017 to help the latter through the state budget impasse. Carbondale since has paid back that loan, Pembroke said.

"When this board decided to take money from SIUE and give it Carbondale, it was just until we had a state budget," said Ian Toberman, an academic adviser at Edwardsville. "All these things have come to pass, and here we are again. SIUE has to shoulder the burden so that our other school can find itself or find



MARGIE M. BARNES/TELEGRAPH 2013

SIU Edwardsville has nearly as many students as Carbondale but got about 40 percent less in 2017-18 state funding.

more students."

Carbondale workers resisted shifting the money, saying that siphoning resources would exacerbate the campus' financial problems. Some also argued that Edwardsville's proposal gave too much consideration to enrollment, used inaccurate information and ignored how differences in the programs offered at each campus affect operating costs.

"This reallocation proposal is causing strife and animosity between two institutions that should be united," said Anthony Travlestead, civil service council president at Carbondale. "Carbondale is proud of the success of Edwardsville, but as one system, one institution should not thrive at the expense of another."

The idea divided trustees, as well. The proposal

failed by a 4-3 vote at its April 12 meeting.

Sholar, the board's chairwoman, was among those who supported the funding shift to Edwardsville.

"If Edwardsville is good enough to be asked to support another campus financially and to ultimately keep within the system, as some have supposed, it should also be good enough to be treated equally," Sholar wrote in her May 2 open letter.

The week after the vote, four lawmakers in the Illinois House from the Greater St. Louis area — Jay Hoffman, Katie Stuart, Monica Bristow and LaToya Greenwood — introduced several bills to try to force the legislature to do what the SIU trustees would not.

All the representatives are co-sponsoring the oth-

ers' bills, which range from revamping the board to a complete severing of the two campuses. Any dissolution of a university system must occur at the state legislature, school officials say.

Carbondale Chancellor Carlo Montemagno opposes separation and called the legislators' move "a disappointing response."

"The Carbondale campus has never been opposed to exploring the budget allocation model," Montemagno wrote in his blog. He lamented what he said was a lack of collaboration and rigor in coming up with a new funding formula.

SIU President Dunn and the board of trustees have opted to remain publicly neutral on the issue.

In the end, if there is any agreement, it is in the lingering harm that the state budget impasse has had on the schools, as well as the years of declining funding from the state.

"It's not so much that we're pitting the two universities against each other as much as it is that we're both fighting for funding to try to do important things for our areas of the state," said Pembroke, the Edwardsville chancellor. "It's manifesting itself in a way that looks like it's me versus you, but I think it's actually both of us saying to the folks in Springfield that we just need more funding."

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DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Stormy Daniels' attorney Michael Avenatti revealed a shell company created by Trump's lawyer.

Why pay more? Get your Trump 'insights' here!



REX W. HUPPKE

Are you a large corporation eager to gain "insights" into the Trump administration? Do you have hundreds of thousands of dollars you're willing to pay to a recently created shell company with a nondescript name?

If so, you're going to want to learn more about my newly created company, Absurd

Consultants. My name is Rex Huppke and I founded Absurd Consultants in my head Tuesday night, shortly after learning that President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, created a company that does nothing — Essential Consultants — and miraculously had at least four large corporations come along and fill that company's coffers with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Now I know what you're thinking: Didn't news of Essential Consultants and a \$200,000 payment from AT&T and a \$1.2 million payment from pharmaceutical-maker Novartis come from that pesky lawyer Michael Avenatti, the one representing adult film actress Stormy Daniels?

Sounds like a dodgy source, right? Well, I could see your point, except that AT&T released a statement Tuesday acknowledging it paid Cohen's company the money "in early 2017 to provide insights into understanding the new administration."

And Novartis released a statement Wednesday blaming any payments on its previous management and saying company officials had one meeting with Cohen and found he would be "unable to provide the services that Novartis had anticipated related to U.S. healthcare policy matters."

Essential Consultants LLC was established by Cohen shortly before the 2016 presidential election and used to pay \$130,000 in hush money to Daniels, who claims she had a sexual encounter with Donald Trump while Melania Trump was home with the couple's newborn son.

Doesn't sound like much of a business, am I right? In fact, before Tuesday, everyone assumed the entire point of Essential Consultants was that nobody would know about Essential Consultants or its connection to Daniels, Trump's lawyer or Trump himself.

But clearly Cohen is a savvy businessman because somehow AT&T, Novartis, Korea Aerospace Industries and a U.S. company linked to Viktor Vekselberg, a Russian oligarch with close ties to the Kremlin, found out about Essential Consultants and decided that its essential consulting was worth boatloads of money.

Essential Consultants has no website, no reported employees and generally seems to exist only on paper as a real estate consulting company. So it's a little unclear why, for example, AT&T wanted to give Cohen's company \$200,000 for "insights" into the Trump administration, as opposed to \$200,000 for real estate consulting.

But hey, businesses are going to do whatever it takes to stay afloat!

The main thing I care about is there's clearly nothing whatsoever out of line about the president of the United States' longtime personal attorney forming a shell company, using it to pay off an alleged mistress and then taking in huge amounts of cash from companies or foreign agents with vested interests in decisions our government might make. And there's definitely nothing at all wrong with large corporations spending their hard-earned money on the vague services of a heretofore unheard-of shell company created by an attorney widely known as the president's "fixer."

I have no beef with any of that, folks. But I do think I can offer you, the wealthy corporations and democracy-averse oligarchs of the world, a better deal: With my new company, Absurd Consultants, you can get all the poorly defined services of Michael Cohen's Essential Consultants at a fraction of the cost!

Are you looking for insight into the Trump administration? I've been covering Trump since before he ran for office — and boy, can I tell you some stories! (For a reasonable fee, of course.)

Are you looking to buy a little influence? (Wink, wink!) I have it on good authority that anything someone like me supports, Trump will oppose. So if you hire my not-yet-registered shell company Absurd Consultants, I'll nudge myself to write a column promoting the opposite of what you'd like to see the administration do. Success is guaranteed!

And what makes Absurd Consultants so much better than Essential Consultants is the price. How much would you pay to give the Trump administration a push on a major issue like net neutrality? \$200,000?

How about \$20,000? Because that's what you'll pay if you go with Absurd Consultants.

Looking to score a major defense contract? It cost Korea Aerospace Industries \$150,000 working with our competitor. But we at Absurd Consultants would have gladly done it for a mere \$15,000.

All of this comes with an ironclad promise: Absurd Consultants has not been used to pay off any of President Trump's alleged mistresses. We are all about integrity, and also about discreetly gathering as much money as possible before the inevitable raid by federal agents.

Don't wait another minute. In this world, you've got to pay to play! And if you're a corporation willing to dish out cash to a thrown-together company that lazily attempts to obscure bribes, you might as well go with Absurd Consultants.

Because to get any more reckless than you already are ... you'd have to be absurd!

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Metra to test new fares, 1-day pass

Restructuring aimed at attracting new customers

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI
Chicago Tribune

Metra is tinkering with its fare structure, hoping to attract new riders by reducing some fares and introducing a day pass.

The commuter railroad's board voted at its regular monthly meeting Wednesday to test three fare restructuring proposals.

Metra figures the pilot, which will last a year, will cost about \$500,000, but the agency hopes that in time ridership will grow and revenues will increase.

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained," said board Chairman Norman Carlson.

To examine its fare structure and come up with reforms, in 2016 Metra entered into a \$315,300 contract with the California firm Four Nines Technologies.

After reviewing its proposals, Metra decided to try three of them now, with more possible later, said spokesman Michael Gillis.

"These are things that emerged from the fare study that are easy to do right way," Gillis said. He said other proposals, such



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Changes to Metra's fare zones will start in July. The agency plans to consolidate its most distant zones into one.

as charging less for travel outside of rush hour, will take more time to develop and implement.

The first two changes relate to Metra fare zones, and will start in mid-July, Metra said.

Fares on Metra are set by distance.

Unlike the CTA, which charges the same fare no matter how far you are going, Metra charges by zone, which roughly correlates with how far a rider is from downtown Chicago stations.

Under the proposed restructuring, Metra will consolidate its most distant zones into one, merging zones K, L and M with zone J and capping fares for trips that exceed 45 miles. This would mean, for example,

that a \$10 ride from downtown to Antioch would instead cost \$9.50, the same as a trip to Round Lake Beach.

Other zone changes would provide the same fares for riders who board at stations on different lines, but at similar distances from downtown. For example, the Ashland stop on the Metra Electric District would move from Zone D to Zone C, the same zone as the 119th Street stop on the Rock Island District. This would reduce the one-way fare from Ashland to downtown from \$6.25 to \$5.50.

Metra also intends to create a day pass, available on its mobile app, that would be valid for unlimited travel between desig-

nated zones for an entire service day, according to Metra officials.

The timing of this change is uncertain, as it depends on the rollout of the new Ventra app, which could be this summer or fall, Gillis said.

Also Wednesday, Metra announced changes to its BNSF Railway line schedule, to take effect June 11. The schedule had to be revised because of the implementation of new train safety technology on the route to Aurora.

Metra's busiest line will be the first to have positive train control, a federally mandated technology designed to automatically stop a train to avoid danger if an engineer fails to do so.

But operating with PTC means a train will need a little more time to "flip" or get ready, before it can leave downtown for a return trip to the suburbs, so the schedule had to be changed.

Changes also were made to relieve overcrowding, Metra said.

The final revised schedule can be viewed at www.metra.com, and copies soon will be available on trains and at Chicago Union Station.

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Teen had moved from Englewood last year

Gunfire, from Page 1

not notice it, she said — but she couldn't keep her daughters from the pool at Ogden Park.

On Tuesday morning, she sent her two daughters to school with a 9 p.m. curfew. Both are students at ACE Technical Charter School, she said.

Around 8:30 p.m., Jazmyne and her sister, 18, were walking toward a bus stop when someone started shooting in the 6900 block of South Carpenter Street, their mother said.

Police said the shots were aimed by someone in a gangway toward a group of young men with the girls, and that someone from the group returned fire.

"They were walking, just a little residential block on the way to the bus stop, and somebody just came running out from between some houses and started shooting at some other people," Jeter said.

Jazmyne and her sister ran until the girl fell.

"She turned around, she didn't see Jazmyne behind her no more," Jeter said.

The family was greeted at Advocate Christ Medical Center by a chaplain, who tried to reassure Jeter. Twenty minutes later, a doctor told her that Jazmyne had died.



Desiree Jeter, center, looks at her phone Wednesday after talking about her 15-year-old daughter, Jazmyne Jeter, who was killed the previous day. "Jazmyne was loved by a lot of people. She had a lot of friends," Desiree Jeter said.

"This right here has affected a lot of people," Jazmyne's mother said. "It's like a ripple. Really. Jazmyne was loved by a lot of people. She had a lot of

friends."

No one is in custody, and police have not determined who the intended target was in the shooting.

Just last month, Chicago

police Superintendent Eddie Johnson had singled out Jazmyne's old neighborhood as a "success" of new police strategies.

"Englewood, one of the

most historically violent neighborhoods in Chicago, led our gun violence reductions last year, and so far this year, they're doing the same thing," Johnson told the

City Club of Chicago. "They've been one of the main success stories of our crime strategy for some time now."

The neighborhood has been a battleground of large street gangs like the Gangster Disciples and Black Disciples.

Over time, the leadership has been crippled and the gangs have splintered into feuding factions. When violence reached a near record level in 2016, the Englewood and Harrison police districts accounted for nearly one-fourth of Chicago's homicides and shootings.

So far this year, the district appears to be continuing the drop in violence that Johnson touted. Shootings are down about 52 percent, from 71 last year to 34 as of Sunday, statistics show. Across the city, there has been a 19 percent drop in homicides and 22 percent drop in shootings.

After the district recorded its fewest shootings in over a decade last year, Johnson credited the use of new crime-fighting technology and efforts to improve the department's often-tense relationship with the African-American community.

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Lithuanian native fights extradition

Extradition, from Page 1

She is fighting extradition, she said, for "crimes I have not committed."

Venckiene's attorneys say the charges against her in Lithuania are little more than misdemeanors and may be cooked up. They contend the actual reason authorities there want her to return is to punish her for leading a political movement aimed at rooting out government corruption.

"Governments can hide their political motives behind a veil of largely insignificant or false criminal charges," said attorney Mark Davidson, who's representing Venckiene in her request for political asylum.

Federal prosecutors in Chicago present a more pragmatic response to Lithuania's request to send Venckiene back. They say in legal documents that returning her aligns with an extradition treaty between Lithuania and the U.S.

They also note that the U.S. secretary of state's office determines whether an individual's claims to block extradition are valid. In Venckiene's case, the State Department has approved her extradition, although that decision was issued without explanation.

The U.S. attorney's office and State Department don't comment on pending cases, spokesmen for each office said.

Lithuanian prosecutors did not respond to an email inquiry. The Consulate General of Lithuania in Chicago said in an email it is monitoring the case.

"We have no doubt that in this particular case, cooperation between the U.S. and Lithuanian authorities will proceed in accordance with all existing legal agreements," the email said. "We cannot comment more as not to jeopardize the legal process."

Incendiary allegations

The allegations of molestation are particularly incendiary.

Venckiene's brother, the father of the alleged victim, contended his daughter was sexually abused by an assistant to the speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament, two high-ranking judges and a fourth unidentified person. Documents filed in Venckiene's U.S. case state that a court psychiatrist in Lithuania examined the child and determined her allegations were genuine.

At the time, Venckiene

was a judge. She and her brother, Drasius Kedys, filed complaints with prosecutors but, according to documents her attorneys filed, those allegations were ignored.

Sometime around the summer of 2009, prosecutors said in court documents, Kedys "made his case public and published a video of his daughter giving testimony that she had been sexually molested." He sent copies of the video to "numerous Lithuanian authorities," prosecutors said.

In October of that year, Venckiene's attorneys state, a court concluded sufficient evidence existed to indict the girl's mother, but that indictment never materialized.

"Given the ranking of the individuals accused," attorneys Michael Monico and Carly Chocron wrote, "the matter drew national interest throughout Lithuania."

That same month, one of the judges accused of molesting the girl, and the girl's aunt, were both shot to death. Kedys, who some believed to be a suspect in the deaths, disappeared.

Six months later, his body was found on the bank of a lagoon. A government investigation determined that he'd choked on his own vomit while intoxicated. "But an independent criminologist concluded the death was not accidental," and no alcohol was found in his system, Venckiene's attorneys state in court documents.

In June 2010, the assistant to the speaker of Parliament — one of those implicated in molesting the girl — also was found dead.

During this time, Venckiene had custody of her niece, a right the court rescinded in 2011, ordering the girl returned to her mother. Contending that the girl refused to live with her mother, Venckiene resisted, prompting the police to remove the girl in May 2012 while nearly 100 protesters were present.

That incident is at the center of allegations against Venckiene, who authorities say kicked and punched the girl's mother and a police officer who was removing the girl.

Venckiene contends that the girl clung to Venckiene's neck, and that authorities injured Venckiene while pulling the girl from her.

"I did not kick anyone," Venckiene wrote. "I did not lock the door. The police officer, who I apparently resisted, injured me. I couldn't go to work for 12

days. My right shoulder was injured."

Kedys' death and the high-level pedophilia allegations sparked a political movement and creation of the Way of Courage Party aimed at fighting government corruption. Venckiene became its leader. She ran for Parliament in 2012 and was one of seven party members elected.

She also was the subject of an investigation that yielded several charges, including "humiliating" the court, failing to comply with the order to transfer the girl to her mother's custody, refusing to allow police entry to her home and physically assaulting an officer and the little girl's mother.

"Fearing for her personal safety in Lithuania," her attorneys wrote in court documents, "shortly thereafter Ms. Venckiene came to the United States."

That was in April 2013. Over the next five years, Venckiene enrolled in classes at McHenry County

College, worked as a caretaker for the elderly and cleaned houses, her attorneys said. She finished her paralegal studies, her son said, but instead decided last January to open a floral shop.

One month later, realizing that authorities were seeking her arrest, Venckiene surrendered. Why Lithuanian authorities chose to seek her extradition then remains unclear.

On Feb. 23, U.S. Magistrate Judge Daniel G. Martin ordered the extradition. Late last month, her attorneys filed documents asking for a fuller hearing in civil court, a process that is to begin on Thursday.

Her lawyers argue that the U.S. State Department has failed to provide "any basis" for its ruling to approve the extradition. The State Department "merely absorbed the information provided and without analysis ruled that extradition was appropriate," attorneys wrote in court filings.



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Karolis Venckus and his mother, Neringa Venckiene, fled Lithuania because she reportedly feared for her life.



FAMILY PHOTO 2012

Police enter Venckiene's home in Lithuania to take her niece. The girl years earlier alleged sexual abuse by government workers, which Venckiene and the girl's father reported.

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Skeptics, backers here and abroad

Venckiene's friends say she's honest, kind, humble and hardworking.

"She's just been wonderful to me," said Kathleen Miller, who met Venckiene through a mutual friend about five years ago. Venckiene, an avid gardener, has left plants for Miller at her home. The two have shared meals and studied the Bible together.

Soyun Kim, who met Venckiene in an English language class in 2013, said Venckiene has shared vegetables from her garden and cooks for her parents when they visit from South Korea. "She's always giving what she has," Kim said.

It's unclear how widely her case is being followed in the robust Lithuanian population in and around Chicago, considered the U.S. capital of Lithuania.

Robertas Vitas, board chairman of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Cen-

ter in Chicago, said he's never heard Venckiene's plight being discussed at social gatherings. That silence, he said, may indicate that Lithuanians support her extradition.

"I suspect," Vitas said, "that people have the perception that perhaps the charges ... have some merit." He is skeptical about Venckiene's charges of widespread government corruption and said he believes she would get a fair trial in Lithuania.

'Prison did not scare me'

Venckiene shares a 12th-floor cell at the detention tower with two other women and is able to get on the deck at the top of the 27-story structure, visit the library and gym, and attend Mass, she said.

"The prison did not scare me," she added. "I don't have any problems here."

Every two weeks, her son, Karolis, drives out to visit her. They speak on the phone every few days, he said, and exchange one or two emails a day.

He is attending college, unsure what he wants to study, and also works at the floral shop. His typical day starts with school, then the shop, where he works delivering flowers almost every day, then homework and hanging out with friends.

"In general," he said, "I'm kind of a pessimistic person, but America is very different from Lithuania." He mentioned democracy and freedom of speech.

"I hope that she'll be able to prove that she's right," he said, "here, in America."

In Lithuania, he said in a soft voice, there's no chance for that.

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Chicago Tribune

NATION & WORLD

Haspel: CIA won't resume torture

She tells senators she will follow her 'moral compass'

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — In a contentious confirmation hearing that reopened the fraught debate over CIA abuse of terrorism suspects, Gina Haspel pledged Wednesday she would not revive the use of secret prisons and harsh interrogations if she is confirmed to lead the nation's premier intelligence agency.

The Senate intelligence committee hearing served as an uncomfortable public debut for Haspel, a veteran but controversial CIA officer who spent nearly all of her 33-year career recruiting and managing spies as an undercover operative in Africa, Europe and Central Asia as well as at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.

She came under fire from Democrats and some Republicans clearly nervous about whether endorsing Haspel would amount to whitewashing what the CIA called enhanced interrogation tactics — and what critics called torture — after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The practices are now banned.

In 2002, Haspel briefly ran the CIA's then-secret prison in Thailand, where detainees were waterboarded and subjected to sleep deprivation, body slamming and other abuses. Her role there is still mostly classified, and protesters interrupted the hearing by chanting "Bloody Gina" and "Don't reward torture."

"I want to be clear," Haspel told the committee.



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY-AFP
Gina Haspel waits for her hearing to begin before the Senate intelligence committee.

"Having served in that tumultuous time, I can offer you my personal commitment, clearly and without reservation, that under my leadership CIA will not restart such a detention and interrogation program."

Her testimony helped tip one crucial Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, to offer support, a sign that her confirmation in the full Senate appears more likely.

Haspel tried to assure skeptical senators that she wants to leave the discredited program in the past even as she defended her career in the shadows and sought to protect other intelligence professionals who might face legal jeopardy after participating in authorized operations.

The balancing act meant her answers sometimes grew tangled under pointed questioning. She pledged to follow her "moral compass"

in the future, but declined to say whether she believed previous CIA practices were immoral. She said she supports laws that outlaw torture, but said the harsh interrogations were permitted under legal guidance at the time.

"I'm not going to sit here, with the benefit of hindsight, and judge the very good people who made hard decisions in extraordinary circumstances," she said.

She also pushed back at times, calling it a "tragedy" that the interrogation controversy had cast a shadow on the CIA's efforts to prevent another mass casualty terrorist event while the nation was still reeling from the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Haspel has drawn unusual support from current and former members of the intelligence community — dozens have publicly endorsed her — as she seeks

confirmation in the full Senate.

After the hearing, Manchin said he will vote for Haspel, saying he has "the utmost respect for the sacrifices she has made for our country."

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., has said he will oppose her confirmation, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is being treated for brain cancer in Arizona, potentially eliminating Republicans' slim 51-49 majority. Manchin's vote could be enough to win approval in the narrowly divided chamber.

Questions about CIA interrogations dominated the hearing almost to the exclusion of other major concerns.

Haspel was not asked how the CIA should respond to Trump's decision Tuesday to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal, for example. Nor was she asked about Trump's efforts to

stage a nuclear summit with North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un, even though she has played a role in planning.

Supportive Republicans said the focus on a few episodes from Haspel's long career was regrettable.

"Many want to make your nomination about one small piece of the agency's past," said Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., the committee chairman. He praised Haspel as perhaps "the most qualified nominee ever nominated for this role."

Democrats said they targeted her role in the interrogations because Trump said last year that he would "bring back" waterboarding, a painful process that involves pouring water on a prisoner's face to simulate drowning.

"You should consider carefully how you might deal with morally questionable results in the future," warned Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., the committee vice chairman. "If confirmed you will face a White House, frankly, in my view, a president who does not always seem interested in hearing, much less speaking, the truth."

The Senate hearing was marked by sharp exchanges with two Democrats.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., asked Haspel whether she had advocated for destroying videotapes of interrogations at the CIA site in Thailand. Haspel helped draft a memo in 2005 for a supervisor who then ordered officers to feed dozens of tapes into an industrial shredder. Subsequent internal and criminal investigations resulted in no charges.

"I absolutely was an advocate," Haspel responded. She said she was motivated to protect the CIA officers who participated in the interrogations. "I never watched the tapes. But I understood that our officers' faces were on them."

Sen. Kamala Harris pushed her further. "The president has asserted that torture works. Do you agree with that statement?" she asked.

"I don't believe that torture works," Haspel said. But she added a caveat. "We got valuable information from debriefing of al-Qaida detainees, and I don't think it's knowable whether interrogation techniques played a role in that."

At another point, Haspel sidestepped repeated questions from Harris about the morality of waterboarding and other now-banned tactics. "Do you believe in hindsight that those techniques were immoral?" Harris asked.

"I think I've answered the question," Haspel responded.

"No, you have not," Harris said.

Haspel joined the CIA in 1985 and served undercover, mostly overseas, until February 2017, when she became the deputy director. She has been acting director since Mike Pompeo was confirmed as secretary of State last month.

If confirmed, she would be the first operations officer in five decades to rise through the ranks to lead the agency.

She also would be the first woman to head the CIA, as she pointed out in her opening remarks.

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Trump lawyer sold pricey 'insight' into president

Novartis says it paid Cohen \$1.2M to help it understand Trump

BY JEFF HORWITZ,
CATHERINE LUCEY
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Already under investigation for a payment to a porn star, President Donald Trump's longtime personal attorney is facing intensifying legal and ethical scrutiny for selling his Trump experience and views to companies that sought "insight" into the new president.

One company, pharmaceutical giant Novartis, acknowledged Wednesday it paid Michael Cohen \$1.2 million for services, though they ended after a single meeting. Others, including some with major regulatory matters before the new administration, acknowledged payments totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars over at least several months.

The corporate ties could suggest Cohen was peddling his influence and profiting from his relationship with the president. They also raise questions about whether Trump knew about the arrangement.

Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said Wednesday that the president didn't know about the payments Cohen had received.

"The president was unaware of this," Giuliani said, referring to the revelations about Cohen's income that surfaced late Tuesday. "The president is not involved in any respect."

Cohen's corporate ties were first revealed in a detailed report released by an attorney for pornographic film actress Stormy Daniels. The report alleged that Cohen used a company he established weeks before the 2016 election to receive the payments from a variety of businesses — including \$500,000 from one associated with a Russian billionaire. Financial documents reviewed by The Associated Press appear to back up much of attorney Michael Avenatti's report. Cohen has called it inaccurate.

Lawyers for Cohen on Wednesday accused Avenatti of distributing false information about their client and asked a federal judge to deny his request to participate in litigation in New York about the federal criminal investigation.

The request to bar Avenatti, filed in federal court in Manhattan late Wednes-

day, alleges he may have improperly obtained Cohen's private banking records and breached legal canon by arguing his case publicly rather than through the courts.

Three companies confirmed payments to Cohen. Novartis and AT&T both said Cohen's Essential Consultants was hired to help them understand the new president during the early days of the Trump administration. Novartis said in a statement that it paid Cohen \$100,000 a month for a year-long contract, thinking the longtime New York legal "fixer" with few Washington ties could advise on health care matters. After a single meeting they decided "not to engage further."

AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson met with Trump during the transition and has visited the White House as the company has sought approval to absorb Time Warner. The current CEO of Novartis attended a dinner with Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, this year, though the company stressed that the agreement with Cohen's company predated the CEO's time at the company and he was not involved with the deal.



HECTOR RETAMAL/GETTY-AFP
Michael Cohen got \$100,000 a month in a year-long deal with Novartis, the company said.

Meanwhile, The Washington Post reported that Columbus Nova, another company at the center of questions involving Cohen, is listed as the registrant behind a handful of domains for websites named after the so-called alt-right movement that were created during the 2016 election. It is unclear if any of the websites were launched or hosted content. Its U.S. chief executive, Andrew Intrater, and Russian investment partner Viktor Vekselberg have reportedly been interviewed by special counsel Robert Mueller's team.

The report that Avenatti circulated purported to show that Columbus Nova

gave \$500,000 to Cohen in the first half of 2017.

Just what Cohen was selling was a key question Wednesday, particularly given that public records show he is not a registered lobbyist. Cohen could enter these relationships without violating federal lobbying laws if he did not seek to influence Trump on the companies' behalf.

A spokesman for Novartis said the company was contacted in November by Mueller's office regarding the company's agreement with Essential Consultants, which expired this year.

Cohen also used the company to pay \$130,000 to Daniels just before the 2016 election in exchange for her

sexual encounter with the future president.

On Wednesday, Cohen said of Avenatti, "His document is inaccurate," according to NBC News.

Cohen has told associates that Avenatti's claims are overheated, and he has maintained that he has not done anything wrong, according to a person familiar with the attorney's views.

The Treasury Department's Office of the Inspector General said Wednesday it was investigating how allegations about Cohen's banking records became public.

Bloomberg News and Washington Post contributed.

Schneiderman's 'role-playing' remarks draw 'kink community' backlash

BY DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Many members of what's widely known as the kink community are outraged that Eric Schneiderman, in resigning as New York's attorney general, depicted his alleged violence toward several women as "role-playing and other consensual sexual activity."

Aficionados of kinky sex noted that Schneiderman's accusers insisted they had given no consent — which is

considered obligatory among most practitioners of kink.

The story brought new attention to the world of kink that's often known as BDSM — which stands for variations of bondage, dominance, submission and masochism.

The practice — though still a taboo topic in some respects — has made incursions into the cultural main-

stream in recent years, in part because of the popularity of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" novels and films.

However, some of Schneiderman's critics noted that "Fifty Shades" hero Christian Grey meticulously negotiates a contract with Anastasia Steele before she agrees to submit to his demands.

The Schneiderman story was the topic of conversa-

tion on various online communities on social media and blogs devoted to the subculture of BDSM.

A Seattle dominatrix named Mistress Matisse called any non-negotiated encounter "ABUSE. End of story."

Others expressed hope that it would increase public understanding of BDSM and help highlight the distinction between its traditions and non-consensual violence.

Roman Farrow, co-author of the New Yorker story that

first revealed the allegations against Schneiderman, told CNN that the accusers made clear "that this was not role-playing, that this was not 'Fifty Shades of Grey.' It wasn't in a gray area at all."

Ej Dickson, an editor with MensHealth.com who writes often about dating and sex, wrote Tuesday that the kink community "puts a premium on consent."

"It is one of the very basic tenets of BDSM," she wrote. "Often, sex acts will be negotiated beforehand in

the form of contracts, and either way, anyone practicing BDSM responsibly will implement a 'safe word' to make it clear if they are uncomfortable with anything happening."

In an email reflecting on the Schneiderman case, Jillian Keenan, author of the BDSM memoir "Sex with Shakespeare," summed up the position of the community:

"Just as sex without consent is rape, kink without consent doesn't exist — that's assault."



Schneiderman

ANALYSIS

Will breaking Iran deal be deal-breaker for Kim?

Pullout from nuke pact may make N. Korea nervous

BY DAVID S. CLOUD AND TRACY WILKINSON
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration says scrapping a nuclear agreement with Iran strengthens its hand in negotiations with North Korea, signaling that President Donald Trump will only accept a “real deal” that eliminates Pyongyang’s nuclear arsenal.

But Trump’s exit from the Iran deal may make reaching its goal with North Korea more difficult, leaving U.S. credibility in doubt as it embarks on an even tougher negotiation.

Unlike with Iran, which halted its nuclear program before testing a weapon, Trump is asking North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to give up hundreds of weapons and missiles that already exist, while demanding intrusive inspections in a closed country with a long history of cheating on international agreements.

“Pyongyang likely sees the decision as proof the United States cannot be trusted — that any deal reached with one president can be discarded by the next,” said Ivo Daalder, president of Chicago Council on Global Affairs. “That will make reaching any agreement with North Korea that much more difficult.”

Trump, speaking to reporters Wednesday, sought to rebut such criticism, portraying his strategies toward Iran and North Korea as parts of the same policy.

“We have a chance at something really great for

the world and great for North Korea, and great for everyone,” Trump said. Within minutes, he was also lambasting the Iranians.

Asked about Iran’s potential response, Trump warned Tehran against resuming its nuclear weapons program, saying: “I would advise them very strongly. If they do there will be very severe consequence.”

The dual nuclear crises, confronted by Trump so differently, will test a president inexperienced in diplomacy and allergic to detail who prefers an ad-hoc “govern by gut” approach. Yet the stakes could not be higher.

Administration officials say they do not believe Kim is necessarily watching the Iran episode. U.S. officials, however, have little direct insight into what the North Koreans think. An equally plausible case is that Kim would be reluctant to agree to a pact without assurances the U.S. would stick to it, or that he’d be willing to agree to provisions for which he does not think the U.S. could verify his country’s compliance.

Trump’s criticism of the Iran deal as a weak compromise could make it harder for him to accept anything short of “permanent, verifiable and irreversible” nuclear disarmament, the goal U.S. officials have set.

Kim has said his goal is denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but it remains unclear whether he is willing to give up his entire stockpile in a way that meets the U.S. demands — and what he will demand in return.

“Trump wants an all-or-nothing deal,” Daalder said. “Anything like the Iran agreement — no weapons, but allowing lim-

ited, verifiable production of some nuclear materials — would be unacceptable.”

Yet reaching “an Iran-like deal with Pyongyang” — one requiring Kim to give up his entire arsenal of nuclear warheads, destroy his large uranium and plutonium production facilities, and permit inspectors on the ground — would be “a miraculously grand achievement” which “seems beyond reach,” Daalder said.

Other analysts, however, minimized the risk for Trump.

If the talks collapse, Kim “can blame the U.S. as untrustworthy,” said Patrick McEachern, a North Korea expert at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a Washington think tank.

“But the fact of the matter is that the U.S. and North Korea fundamentally lack trust anyway, so I don’t see the Iran deal affecting North Korea in terms of how much they trust the U.S.”

Whether deliberately timed or just fortuitous, Trump is leaving the Iran agreement, and being blasted by allies for doing so, at the same time he can point to successes involving North Korea.

On Wednesday, Trump was able to announce the release of three U.S. citizens imprisoned for months by Pyongyang whom he said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was bringing home.

“I think our diplomacy in North Korea speaks for itself,” a senior State Department official traveling with Pompeo said. Trump is “now showing what we’ve said all along: We are committed to a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis.”

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Iran’s top leader, lawmakers seethe over Trump decision

BY NASSER KARIMI AND AMIR VAHDAT
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s supreme leader chastised President Donald Trump on Wednesday over his decision to pull the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal, while lawmakers lit a paper U.S. flag on fire inside parliament, shouting, “Death to America!”

The government backlash reflected broad public anger in Iran over Trump’s decision, which threatens to destroy the landmark agreement. While Iranian officials, including the parliament speaker, say they hope Europe will work with them to preserve the deal, many are pessimistic.

In comments before school teachers, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addressed Trump directly, saying: “You cannot do a damn thing!”

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, described Trump’s speech Tuesday announcing his decision as having “over 10 lies,” without elaborating on them. He also said Trump’s remarks threatened both Iran’s people and its theocratic government.

“The body of this man, Trump, will turn to ashes and become the food of the worms and ants, while the Islamic Republic continues to stand,” Khamenei said.

Earlier Wednesday, the lawmakers, including a Shiite cleric, held the flaming flag alight as their colleagues joined their chants. They also burned a piece of paper representing the nuclear deal and stomped on the ashes.

Later, dozens of hardliners set fire to a U.S. flag during a protest in front of



ATTA KENARE/GETTY-AFP

Iranians set U.S. flags aflame Wednesday during a demonstration in Tehran, the capital.

the former U.S. embassy and called for a retaliatory response.

The 2015 agreement imposed restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program in return for the lifting of most U.S. and international sanctions. However, the deal came with time limits and did not address Iran’s ballistic missile program or its support for militant groups across the region branded as terrorists by the West. Trump has repeatedly pointed to those omissions in referring to the accord as the “worst deal ever.”

Late Tuesday night, President Hassan Rouhani said he’d be sending Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to the countries still in the deal — China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom. Iran hopes the European Union will pass laws to protect European firms from any potential

U.S. sanctions. EU officials have suggested they’ll do what they can to salvage the agreement.

Still, Rouhani made a point of stressing that Iran, at any time, could resume its nuclear program.

“If necessary, we can begin our industrial enrichment without any limitations,” the Iranian leader said. “Until implementation of this decision, we will wait for some weeks and will talk with our friends and allies and other signatories of the nuclear deal, who signed it and who will remain loyal to it. Everything depends on our national interests.”

After the flag burning, parliament speaker Ali Larijani said responsibility for saving the deal fell on the EU and other world powers still in the accord. Larijani urged preparation for “resumption of all aspects of nuclear activities.”

Tensions rise as Israel claims Iran fired rockets from Syria

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS
The Washington Post

TIBERIAS, Israel — Confrontation between Israel and Iranian forces in Syria sharply escalated in the early hours of Thursday as Israel said Iran launched a barrage of 20 missiles toward its positions on the Golan Heights.

Heavy military jet activity, explosions and air-defense fire could be heard throughout the night in the area. An Israeli military spokesman said the rockets were fired by Iran’s Quds force, a special forces unit affiliated with Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, marking the first time that Iranian forces have ever fired directly on the Israeli troops.

The Israeli military said several of the rockets had been intercepted by Israel’s missile defense system. Sparks could be seen as they broke up in the sky.

No one was injured on the Israeli side, the military said.

The Syrian state news agency, however, reported that it was Israel that had

fired on targets near the town of Quneitra, located just east of the Golan Heights. Syrian air defenses had responded, it said. It later reported a “new wave” of attacks.

The Israeli military said it “views this event with great severity and remains prepared for a wide variety of scenarios.”

Air-raid sirens sounded in the Golan Heights shortly after midnight. In nearby Tiberias, on the edge of the Sea of Galilee, explosions could be heard above the music of bars entertaining busloads of tourists. The explosions were followed by sporadic fire into the early-morning hours.

With Syria’s civil war raging just across the border, Israeli residents of the Golan Heights have become used to the air-raid sirens and errant fire. But recent days have been different, and war jitters have spread across Israel.

On Wednesday, it had seemed like business as usual on the Golan, a plateau that rises dramatically

behind the Sea of Galilee, captured from Syria by Israel in the 1967 war. Children went to school and wineries welcomed groups of tourists.

But Israel trucked in tanks and additional air defense batteries, and the military chief of staff touched down in a helicopter to tour the area to assess the army’s readiness.

On Tuesday, an airstrike widely attributed to Israel reportedly killed eight Iranian soldiers after Israel said it had detected unusual Iranian troop movements across the border and had intelligence about a possible attack from Syrian soil.

Iran had threatened to retaliate against Israel after an airstrike in April that killed seven Iranian soldiers at a base in Syria.

President Donald Trump’s decision on Tuesday to pull the United States out of the nuclear deal with Iran has given Tehran less reason to exercise caution in confronting Israel, analysts said.

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Trump planning to welcome trio

Detainees, from Page 1

The U.S. is demanding that North Korea give up its nuclear arsenal and building program, something Kim is expected to resist.

"Everything can be scuttled," Trump said.

Kim's overture on the prisoners, two of whom were detained last year and one late in former President Barack Obama's tenure, came after he and Pompeo met for 90 minutes in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, to finish plans for Kim's meeting with Trump.

Trump told reporters that the two sides had agreed to a place and time. It would not be held in the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea, he said, though more details weren't available.

The trip this week by Pompeo — his second visit to Pyongyang in just over a month — came a day after Kim traveled by plane to confer with President Xi Jinping of China, North Korea's closest ally. It was Kim's second meeting with Xi in recent months.

The administration had faced questions for weeks about whether it would demand the imprisoned men be freed as a precondition for the summit.

The three citizens, ethnic Koreans, are Kim Dong Chul, a businessman arrested in 2015 and serving 10 years on espionage charges; and Tony Kim and Kim Hak Song, professors associated with Pyongyang University of Science and Technology who were captured last year.

Trump and Pompeo said the men appeared to be in good health.

"Doctors are with them now," Pompeo told the two reporters aboard his plane once it took off. "All indications are that their health is as good as could be, given what they have been through."

Their release comes just under a year after the death of Otto Warmbier, an American college student detained on theft charges in Pyongyang in 2016. North Korea released Warmbier in a coma, and he died a week after returning to the United States.

For Pompeo, just two weeks into his job as the nation's top diplomat, the release of the three men — together with planning what could be a historic summit meeting — has made for a heady start. His previous visit with Kim was over Easter weekend, when Pompeo was still CIA direc-



MATTHEW LEE/GETTY-AFP

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets a North Korean general and other officials after arriving Wednesday at the airport in Pyongyang, the capital. He left with three detainees.



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

South Koreans in Seoul view a recent TV report about the detainees: Kim Dong Chul, Tony Kim and Kim Hak Song.

tor, awaiting Senate confirmation to become secretary of state.

The release was not without last-minute drama. After his 90-minute dis-

cussion with Kim earlier Wednesday, Pompeo returned to his hotel, and when reporters asked if there was good news on the detainees, he crossed his fingers.

A North Korean official later sought out Pompeo at his hotel and informed him that Kim had granted the men "amnesty."

Pompeo replied: "That's great," according to the official.

All three men were accused by Pyongyang of subversion and "anti-state" activities. That is a catchall phrase that the North Koreans use to incarcerate people for a range of alleged

crimes, big and small.

Yoon Young-chan, a spokesman for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, welcomed the decision as a positive step toward a successful summit between Kim and Trump.

He also noted that the North's decision to release the three ethnic Koreans could signal that Pyongyang might consider releasing six South Koreans who remain detained there, as Moon recently requested during a summit with Kim.

"We hope that the South Koreans be released soon to expand reconciliation between the two Koreas and to extend the peaceful mood on the Korean Peninsula," Yoon said.

On Wednesday, officials at the South Korean president's office, known as the Blue House, said privately that they expected Pompeo to discuss the prisoners and obtain their freedom. But they said it would be more appropriate for the United States to discuss the issue publicly.

According to reports by pool reporters traveling with Pompeo, the secretary met with Kim Yong Chol, the North's former military intelligence chief, and Ri Su Yong, its former foreign minister, on Wednesday.

Bierman and Wilkinson reported from Washington. Stiles is a special correspondent from South Korea.

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A look at trio of U.S. detainees freed from North Korea's grip

Los Angeles Times

SEOUL, South Korea — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left North Korea on Wednesday with three U.S. detainees who were released ahead of an upcoming meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Here is a look at the three Americans, who were held by North Korea for alleged subversion, espionage and other unspecified hostile acts.

Tony Kim, 59, an academic who also goes by Kim Sang-duk, was detained April 22, 2017, at the Pyongyang airport on suspicion of committing "criminal acts of hostility aimed to overturn" North Korea, according to the North's Korean Central News Agency.

Kim taught accounting at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology and previously taught at the University of Science and Technology in China's Yanji province, which borders North Korea. Kim graduated

from the University of California at Riverside with a master's degree in business administration in 1990.

He made at least seven trips to North Korea to teach. His wife accompanied him on the visit when he was arrested, though she was allowed to leave the country.

Kim Hak Song worked in agricultural development at an experimental farm run by the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology. He was de-

tained May 6, 2017, and accused of engaging in unspecified "hostile acts" against North Korea, the news agency reported. It didn't say whether his case was related to Tony Kim's.

The university also said his detention wasn't related to his work at the school.

Kim Dong Chul, 64, is a South-Korean-born U.S. citizen and the longest-serving detainee among the three Americans.

Kim was arrested Oct. 2, 2015, at a hotel in the capital

city of Pyongyang on suspicion of spying. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labor in April 2016. He had lived in Fairfax, Va., before moving to China's Yanji province near the North Korean border. From there, he commuted daily to a special economic zone in the North Korean city of Rason, where he established a company dealing in international trade and hotel services.

Before his sentencing, Kim apologized for slandering North Korea's leader-

ship, collecting and passing confidential information to South Korea, and joining a smear campaign against the North's human rights situation. Other foreigners have been presented at news conferences in North Korea and admitted crimes against the North, but many said after they were released that their confessions were given involuntarily and under duress.

"I'm asking the U.S. or South Korean government to rescue me," he told CNN in 2016.

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To relief of some, president's action falls short of rhetoric

By **NOAH BIERMAN**
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — He tweets about “fire and fury” and threatens “an event the likes of which nobody’s seen before.”

But after 15 months in the White House, Donald Trump has shown that his use of military force may be the most conventional aspect of his presidency.

Trump has ordered two military strikes against Syria and increased the use of airstrikes and special operations raids in Somalia and Yemen to kill Islamic extremists — and civilians. He has equivocated over pulling troops from Syria and reversed President Barack Obama’s reduction of American forces from Afghanistan.

It adds up to a shift from Obama’s military strategy, but more incrementally than by the 180 degrees that Trump’s rhetoric has suggested since his days on the campaign trail.

“The president is erratic, but he does also seem to be pretty risk-averse where the use of military force is concerned,” said Kori Schake, who held several security roles in George W. Bush’s administration and wrote a book with Trump’s secretary of defense, Jim Mattis.

“He doesn’t appear to want to spend his presidency on the wars.”

Trump is at a key juncture in defining his national security policy. John Bolton, his third national security adviser in little more than a year, began his job in April with a history of advocating aggressive use of force and a reputation from his Bush-era service as a bruising fighter to get his way in the federal bureaucracy.

Administration officials would not grant interviews



HASSAN AMMAR/AP

President Donald Trump’s April strike on Syria was dramatic but sharply dialed back by military advisers.

with security staffers during Bolton’s transition and the ongoing shakeup in the National Security Council. Several top aides have resigned or been fired as Bolton forms his own team.

In the same week that Bolton arrived in the West Wing, Trump ordered the latest airstrikes against Syria — a dramatic act, but one that was sharply dialed back by military advisers to minimize tensions with the Russians, who are backing Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Meanwhile, after months of warnings that he might use force to halt North Korea’s nuclear program, Trump is seeking to win his biggest bet yet, on a summit with the isolated country’s autocratic leader, Kim Jong Un.

Security experts from across the spectrum — many of whom opposed Trump’s election — have significant concerns about his temperament, his willingness to risk a fatal mis-

communication with global rivals and his impatience with detailed policy analyses. Some, particularly on the left, worry that Bolton will push him toward perilous military interventions.

Yet, so far, the biggest surprise has been the gulf between Trump’s talk and his military actions.

“A lot of this, Hillary Clinton would have done,” said Derek Chollet, an assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs under Obama and an adviser to Clinton when she was secretary of state.

In some ways, Trump is discovering what Obama and other predecessors learned about the limits of presidential power in the face of global conflicts and of the options from military advisers to confront them.

He initially hoped to withdraw from Afghanistan but was persuaded by advisers to raise troop levels instead. Syria may follow a similar course.

Trump recently called for

an abrupt withdrawal of the roughly 2,000 U.S. troops from Syria, yet the next week felt compelled to retaliate against Assad’s suspected use of chemical weapons. That episode only reinforced the arguments of Trump’s national security advisers that he shouldn’t leave Syria to Russia and Iran, Assad’s protectors.

During the campaign, Trump vowed to enlarge the military for the sake of deterrence, to avoid unnecessary wars or nation-building adventures. Yet he also promised to “bomb the hell out of ISIS,” an acronym for Islamic State. And as president, he has threatened “fire and fury like the world has never seen” against North Korea.

Supporters say Trump’s doctrine is modeled after President Ronald Reagan’s “peace through strength” dogma. “Extravagance is his personality” but it also serves a purpose in projecting strength, said Matt Schlapp, chairman of the

American Conservative Union.

Trump made a similar point during an interview on Fox News last week, recounting his threatening tweets toward Kim months ago, which have given way to a softer tone as Kim has moved toward diplomacy. He even called the autocrat “very honorable.”

Many security analysts outside Trump’s circle are unwilling to ascribe any doctrine to his record, calling it more a loose collection of gut instincts, machismo and military deference than coherent strategy.

“President Trump is a lot about looking tough, being dramatic and not being his predecessor,” said Michael Hayden, a retired general and former CIA director who served in both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Yet, Hayden said: “What President Trump did in Syria was simply what President Obama was doing. He

just amped it up a little bit. There weren’t any sharp turns there.”

Hayden defined Bush by his willingness to commit large numbers of troops to two wars for long periods. Though Obama campaigned against those policies, Hayden noted, he nonetheless left many troops deployed, if at a lower profile, for extended periods.

Trump, in contrast to both of them, seems “comfortable with high levels of violence but only for short periods of time,” Hayden said.

The April 14 missile strikes in Syria were intended to send a message that Trump, in contrast to Obama, was willing to employ force against the use of chemical weapons. Yet they were limited, like the previous one in April 2017.

Although Trump declared “Mission Accomplished!” the next day, the strikes may not prevent future chemical attacks and didn’t stop Assad’s forces from continuing to kill civilians.

“He wants to be seen as decisive. He wants to be seen as hitting back. But he doesn’t want to own Syria,” Chollet said. “He doesn’t want this to be seen as a fight against Assad, but neither does the U.S. military.”

Trump allies say the president is not given enough credit for thinking through military strategy. Jim Hanson, who is president of the conservative think tank Security Studies Group and in frequent contact with administration officials, said Trump asks basic questions about the implications of security decisions, with an emphasis on U.S. interests.

Other advisers, however, have said that the president continues to resist lengthy policy discussions.

Staff writer David Cloud contributed.

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Senate Dems to push net neutrality

Even if effort fails, they see it as political victory

By **JIM PUZZANGHERA**
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — One after another, 15 Democratic senators — nearly a third of their caucus — stepped to a microphone on Capitol Hill on Wednesday to call for tough rules to protect net neutrality.

The turnout, which included Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., showed they believe that they could win politically on the issue even if they ultimately fail in their long-shot attempt to reinstate the rules.

“We’re now one step away from allowing the American public to see where their elected officials stand on protecting their internet service,” said Schumer, as the Democrats formally launched an effort to restore the regulations scrapped last year by the Federal Communications Commission.

“Are they protecting average consumers and middle-class families, or are they protecting the big corporate special interests?” he asked.

Democrats collected enough signatures on a petition that forced a Senate vote to employ the Congressional Review Act, which if passed would be the first step toward overturning the FCC’s action and reinstating the rules that were designed to ensure the uninhibited flow of data online.

The 1996 act allows Congress to overturn a federal agency rule by a simple majority vote in each chamber. Signatures from 30 senators require the Senate to hold a vote that



ZACH GIBSON/GETTY

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., right, talks to reporters about a petition to force a vote on net neutrality.

can’t be filibustered or blocked by the majority leader.

The Senate vote is expected next week and must be held by June 12 due to a time limit triggered by the publication of the FCC’s new rule in the Federal Register.

If Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., continues to be absent because of his cancer treatment, Democrats have already secured the 50 votes needed to pass the measure with the public support of Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

But supporters of net neutrality regulations, including online activists and large technology companies such as Amazon, Facebook, Google and Netflix, are making a push to secure one more vote from some undecided Republicans to ensure passage even if McCain returns.

Other Republicans and conservative activists who oppose the net neutrality regulations as heavy-handed government oversight have branded the effort a political stunt.

They said Democrats might be able to sneak the reinstatement measure through the Senate because of McCain’s absence, but it will never pass the Republican-controlled House and get signed by President Donald Trump.

“Instead of crafting forward-looking solutions that protect internet users and promote innovation, Congress will spend the upcoming days on more political theater,” Sen. John

Thune, R-S.D., wrote in an opinion article on CNBC’s website Wednesday.

The rules, put in place in 2015 when the FCC was controlled by Democrats, prohibited internet service providers from selling faster delivery of certain data, slowing speeds for specific content and blocking or otherwise discriminating against any legal material.

Republicans and telecommunications companies opposed the rules.

A legal challenge was turned back by federal judges. But Trump’s election swung the FCC to Republican control and it voted 3-2 along party lines in December to eliminate the rules.

Democrats said that was a mistake and are trying to take advantage of what they said is net neutrality’s broad public support to make Republicans pay at the polls in November’s midterm elections.

Senate Democrats cited a poll by the University of Maryland’s Program for Public Consultation that found 86 percent of respondents opposed repealing net neutrality rules after a short briefing on them.

“I cannot think of an issue that polls so decisively on one side,” said Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii. “People underestimate the passion of internet voters at their peril. They are mad and they want to know what they can do, and this vote will make things crystal clear.”

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GOP immigration moderates seek to force House votes

Defying leaders, members push for action on DACA

By **ALAN FRAM**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans with moderate views on immigration defied party leaders and took steps Wednesday toward forcing campaign-season House votes on the issue. One top maverick said they had enough support to succeed.

The effort meant that a congressional drive to help young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children that seemed to have lost steam earlier this year could be resurrected in the run-up to November’s elections for House and Senate control.

That could spell fresh headaches for GOP leaders, whose party is divided between backing President Donald Trump’s hard-line views on the issue and more pragmatic Republicans.

The rebellious lawmakers are pushing the House to vote in June on four bills, including a bipartisan compromise, a conservative proposal and a liberal plan. Many of the legislators demanding action face potentially competitive re-election races in congressional districts with large numbers of Latino, suburban or agriculture-industry voters with pro-immigration views.

“We feel very importantly that this has got to happen now, and we’re willing to drive that vote,” said one of the leading proponents, Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif.

Denham and another leader of the effort, Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., met with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who has opposed their effort.

“The speaker is a very respectful person,” Curbelo said. “He just told us that he didn’t think this was the



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., talks to reporters as Reps. David Valadao, R-Calif., and Will Hurd, R-Texas, look on.

best way to proceed.”

Earlier this year, competing bills aimed at protecting young immigrants and toughening border security collapsed in the Senate, including one backed by Trump. The measures never received votes in the House.

Both parties had seemed ready to turn the battle into a campaign issue, with Democrats accusing GOP candidates of being anti-immigrant and Republicans accusing Democrats of being soft on illegal immigration.

But Republican immigration moderates wary of being politically exposed if the House abandons the issue have continued pushing leaders for votes and on Wednesday seemed to have momentum in their favor.

A group of them filed a petition that would force votes on four immigration bills if they gained the signatures of 218 House members, a majority of the chamber’s full membership.

Of the four measures, the bipartisan compromise is considered likeliest to prevail.

Ryan has tried unsuccessfully to round up enough support for the conservative alternative and has said he doesn’t want votes on immigration legislation that Trump won’t sign.

By early Wednesday

afternoon, 15 Republicans had signed on and virtually all 193 Democrats were expected to add their names.

The sponsors would need to get to 218 votes to prevail. Under House rules, the earliest the chamber would vote on the group’s proposal is late June.

Asked about the moderates’ effort, Ryan spokeswoman AshLee Strong said, “We continue to work with our members to find a solution that can both pass the House and get the president’s signature.”

Denham introduced his proposal in March and has 248 co-sponsors, including more than 50 Republicans. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 House Democrat, said he expected Democrats to sign on.

Democrats have pushed this year to protect from deportation hundreds of thousands of the young immigrants who have been shielded by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. That program lets immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children stay in the country for two-year, renewable periods.

Trump ended DACA, created under President Barack Obama, in March, though federal judges have kept it functioning during legal battles expected to last months.



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NRA's new darling is a pistol in a ponytail

'Alpha Addy,' 9, a hit at Dallas convention — and on YouTube

By **MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE**
Los Angeles Times

DALLAS — The gap-toothed 9-year-old girl walked the floor of her first National Rifle Association convention, her blond ponytail bobbing above earrings fashioned from bullet casings.

When Addyson "Addy" Soltau arrived at the Smith & Wesson booth, she gravitated to a sleek silver .22 semi-automatic victory pistol, a James Bond-style gun with a silencer attached.

It was just out of reach. So her godfather lifted it from the wall and handed it to Addy, who gripped and sighted along the gun like a pro. She already shoots an M&P 1522 rifle hanging nearby.

"That's actually your next gun," her godfather, Johnny Campos, said of the pistol. Addy gaped, overjoyed.

"Alpha Addy" became a YouTube sensation and NRA darling after she started shooting three years ago, one of many competitive girl shooters who buck not only gun culture stereotypes, but also the youth-driven gun-control movement that sprung up this year after the mass shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

The NRA doesn't track the number of young female shooters, a spokesman said, but as the number of women with guns has grown, they are inspiring their daughters. The National Shooting Sports Foundation says there's been a 77 percent increase in female gun ownership since 2005, with 5.4 million women participating in target shooting.

All the youth celebrities at last weekend's annual NRA convention in Dallas were female.

Keystone Sporting Arms, which sold the Crickett and Chipmunk starter rifles at the convention under the banner "Never too young to understand freedom," sells as many pink and turquoise guns as the traditional col-



William Baylor of Keystone Sporting Arms poses for a photo with Addyson "Alpha Addy" Soltau, 9, at the NRA convention.

ors, staff said.

On Sunday, families with children flocked to the Dallas convention center for NRA Youth Day.

Many who stopped at the JM4 Tactical booth where Addy was greeting fans Sunday were parents and girl shooters who recognized her from her videos.

A video of her rapidly reloading at home has more than 30 million views; she has 14,000 Facebook followers, 5,600 on Instagram and nearly 300 subscribers on YouTube, where the lead video shows her target shooting to the tune of Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball."

Addy was inspired by 17-year-old Katelyn Francis, a female competitive shooter she saw on NRATV while her godfather was babysitting her in San Antonio.

Then she found the YouTube channel of Faith and Jenna Collier, sisters in nearby Austin who were about her age, and asked if she could shoot too.

Campos, 28, a retired Marine, agreed to coach her. "She had never been around firearms. I didn't own any. Her parents didn't. This all started because she showed an interest," he said.

Addy's parents, who work at an education com-



Addy tries out a pistol Saturday at the Dallas convention center.

pany, had their doubts.

"Her mom was kind of not for the whole firearms thing when we first started," because of safety concerns, Campos said, noting that out of all the sports Addy does, "shooting is the one sport where she's never gotten hurt. There's just so many checks and balances in terms of safety."

Campos shot competitively when he was younger, so he knew how to teach Addy Olympic precision-shooting positions. They worked on a different position each week: prone, stationary, sitting.

Addy learned to draw a pistol from her holster and tuck the butt of a rifle into her cheek well. Two years

ago, Campos decided she was ready for competition.

When Addy was disqualified from a match last June for "unsafe firearm usage" (she left the stage with the gun pointed incorrectly), Campos posted about it on Instagram and Facebook.

"It was a good teachable moment for other competitive junior shooters," he said. "Every match she's getting better, she gets more confident."

Last year, they joined the Colliers on the Austin Sure Shots women's gun club youth team. The Sure Shots started eight years ago as a women's shooting club, and has grown to include 400 women and a youth league.

There are a dozen spots

for girls ages 5 to 12 on the team, with a waiting list, said founder Niki Jones.

"It was daughters of our current members coming and saying 'Can I shoot with you?'" she said. "They train like adults, all day. One showed up in a tutu. We were OK with that."

Jones, who started shooting at 5 with her father on Long Island, beamed as Addy fielded questions from fans at the convention, posing for photos and signing autographs.

"She's atypical," Jones said of Addy. "She trains constantly."

Firearms instructor Kevin Dixie, of St. Louis, quizzed Addy about her favorite guns.

His 12-year-old son shoots and his 6-year-old daughter wants to, but is busy with school and ballet, he said.

Addy also does karate, cheerleading and horseback riding. Karate is her favorite, followed by shooting. For other girls, like the Colliers, activities such as dance have eclipsed shooting.

Eddie Wise was excited to pose for a photo with Addy because he said his 8-year-old daughter at home north of Houston is itching to shoot and has yet

to see Addy's videos.

"My little girl wants me to show her as soon as I get home," said Wise, who works in the oil industry.

His wife, who started shooting as an adult, said their daughter can't get a gun until she's 10. But the girl already has a gun picked out — a .22 caliber rifle that Wise said he plans to give her for her birthday.

Addy's sponsors hovered as she sat on a stool surrounded by leather holsters, greeting passers-by.

Chad Myers, who was keeping an eye on his 8-year-old son, said he had been to the range with Addy and was impressed.

"She has a keen eye," he said, pointing to his son, who is not a competitive shooter. "He can break down a Glock, but he can't do that."

Sarah Ott also stopped to snap a photo with Addy and her 11-year-old daughter, who she called an "amateur shooter."

"Aren't we all compared to her though? She's amazing," Ott said.

A girl from east Texas in a Minions T-shirt and cutoffs approached Addy with her family in tow.

"I like your earrings," said Gracie Priest, all smiling cheeks sprinkled with freckles. The two started chatting.

Gracie said she also shoots, a .22 Ruger Mark IV. "I shoot arrows too," she told Addy, saying she uses a longbow.

Both of Gracie's parents shoot. She said her younger brothers are too little — ages 4 and 1.

"I started really young with my dad," said her mother, Stephanie Priest, 26.

They have rules, Gracie's father said. Gracie shoots at the range, but at home, her gun stays in the family gun safe.

"When they get older, guns aren't taboo," said Tim Priest, who designs metal buildings for a living. Instead of warning children to stay away from guns, he and others at the convention said they prefer to teach them how to handle guns safely.

"You live it day by day. If you tell them don't do this, they're going to want to do it," he said.

molly.hennessy-fiske@latimes.com

Some Swiss reject stricter EU gun rule

Rejection risks ease of travel between union nations

By **HUGO MILLER**
Bloomberg News

Swiss gun-rights activists, whose logo is a muscular William Tell clanking a crossbow, are taking aim at European Union firearm reform, just as President Donald Trump says armed Parisians could have stopped terror attacks in 2015.

Seven hundred years after Switzerland's defiant hero was forced by Habsburg oppressors to shoot an apple off his son's head, a gun-advocacy group plans to trigger a referendum to block the implementation of tighter EU restrictions on semi-automatic firearms like the AR-15 assault rifle used in February to kill 17 classmates at his Florida high school.

Protell and its supporters in the nationalist Swiss People's Party bridle at Brussels laying down laws they say are unnecessary in Switzerland, where gun crime is rare.

Backers of the EU proposal say that ignores concessions to Switzerland's tradition of military service. Snubbing the EU also risks Swiss membership of Schengen, according to Pierre-Alain Fridez, councilor with the Social Democratic Party. Being ejected from Schengen — which allows passport-free movement for more than 400 million people across 26 European countries — would cost the Swiss economy as much as \$10.8 billion a year, according to official estimates.

"We'd be out of Schengen," said Fridez. "We'd lose the freedom of move-



Swiss Army personnel are allowed to keep their semi-automatic Sig Sauer rifles when they rejoin civilian life.

ment."

Switzerland is legally obliged to implement the directive and a failure to do so "would drive a wedge between the EU and Switzerland and could lead to sanction measures," said Bodil Valero, a member of European Parliament who advised on the new law.

The law is aimed at preventing a repeat of the 2015 Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris in which al-Qaida-affiliated terrorists killed 12 people using weapons that hadn't been correctly deactivated and were then legally repurchased, said Valero.

"If one country at the heart of Europe refuses to follow the rules, it could undermine the purpose and effect of these new rules," she said.

Trump said the terror attacks 10 months later that killed 130 people at the Bataclan concert hall and on the streets of Paris could have been stopped if Parisians had been armed. The comments by Trump at the National Rifle Association's annual meeting were labeled "shameful" by former French President Francois Hollande.

The Swiss variant of the law "upholds Switzerland's shooting tradition," while improving "the traceability of arms ownership," said Thomas Dayer, a spokesman for the Federal Police, which will oversee implementation of the new regulations.

The Swiss government supports the tougher EU rules, highlighting concessions that mean ex-soldiers can still get permits to own and use their semi-automatic rifles, which are already converted to eliminate rapid-fire shooting.

Gun-rights activists Protell said the new directive will make it more expensive and complicated to retain an army issue semi-automatic rifle, which is insulting for those who have served their country, according to General Secretary Robin Udry.

"It would mean that the day you leave the army, you're no longer trusted with your SIG 550 and treated like a potential terrorist or criminal," he said, referring to the semi-automatic assault rifle issued to Swiss army conscripts.

Protell, based in the capital Bern, is ready to

gather the 50,000 signatures required to trigger a referendum should the EU proposal become law. The issue will be debated next month in Parliament. Udry points to a 50 percent increase in Protell's membership to 12,500 over the past eight months as evidence of public concern.

"It's a clear sign people don't want their rights taken away and are ready to fight," said Udry, a former chief of police training for the canton of Valais, who is also a major in the Swiss Army reserves. "In Switzerland, these kind of guns are all very well-controlled, so why should we now accept legislation from the EU when we don't have this problem?"

David Zuberbuehler, a councilor in the Swiss People's Party, the largest in the lower house of Parliament, dismissed the EU directive as "more bureaucracy for less security."

In February 2014, the far-right party sponsored a referendum against mass immigration, which passed with a 50.3 percent majority. With that vote threatening economically vital Swiss-EU treaties, Parliament sidestepped implementing any substantive measures to block migration.

With guns an emotive issue in Switzerland, another crisis with Brussels looms. In 2011, Swiss voters rejected a plan requiring the registration of all firearms as well as a motion to change the nation's tradition of letting citizens keep army-issue weapons at home.

Gun massacres in Switzerland are rare. The last mass shooting was in 2001 when a man armed with an assault rifle killed 14 people.



The Boy Scouts and the Mormon Church announced that their century-old relationship would end in 2019.

Scouts, Mormons part ways after 105 years

By **SAMANTHA SCHMIDT**
The Washington Post

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said it will sever all ties with the Boy Scouts of America, ending a century-old tradition ingrained in the religious life of Mormon boys.

The Mormon Church, as it is more commonly known, said in its announcement that it has "increasingly felt the need to create and implement a uniform youth leadership and development program that serves its members globally." The two organizations "jointly determined" that as of December 31, 2019, the church will no longer be a chartered partner of the Scouts, it said in a joint statement with the Boy Scouts.

The change announced Tuesday will affect hundreds of thousands of Mormon boys in 30,500 congregations worldwide.

For 105 years, the relationship between the Boy Scouts and the Mormon Church has been important to both groups. Any boy who is part of a Mormon congregation automatically

becomes part of the Boy Scouts. The Mormon Church has been the largest participant of the Boy Scouts in the United States, making up nearly 20 percent of all of the Boy Scouts' 2.3 million youth members.

Church officials did not cite specific Scouts policy changes that spurred the split, but the two groups have increasingly clashed over values in recent years, particularly following the Boy Scouts' move to include openly gay troop leaders. The announcement also came less than a week after the Boy Scouts announced it would be changing its flagship name to Scouts BSA, promoting its decision last year to welcome girls into the program for the first time.

The church began scaling back its participation last year, when it announced it would be cutting ties with teen programs for high-school-age Scouts, while continuing to enroll 8 to 13-year-old boys in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. The church said the teen programs had been "historically difficult to implement within the Church."

NEWS BRIEFING

Staff and news services

3 bikers indicted on murder charges in 2015 Waco shooting

FORT WORTH, Texas — Three members of the Bandidos motorcycle club were indicted on murder charges Wednesday stemming from a chaotic 2015 shooting that involved police and members of another biker club outside a restaurant in Waco, Texas.

The indictments mark the first murder charges in the case, and more than 20 other bikers were re-indicted on new charges ranging from rioting to tampering with evidence.

The lesser charges come eight days before the statute of limitations on such crimes runs out.

Police arrested nearly 200 bikers following the shooting at a Twin Peaks restaurant that left nine people dead and 20 injured. Investigators say the incident was sparked by rivalries between the Bandidos and Cossacks motorcycle clubs. Waco police officers monitoring the gathering also fired on the bikers.

Study finds little bang for the buck in blood testing for Zika

NEW YORK — Screening blood donations for the Zika virus netted only a few infections at a cost of over \$5 million for each positive test result, according to research.

The study was the first large look at the impact of guidelines set two years ago, when the Zika epidemic was an unfolding menace in the U.S. and health officials were scrambling to prevent new infections.

The study, published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine, found that the blood donation testing requirements offered little bang for the buck. It also raised questions about whether a cheaper testing method should be used.

In over 4 million blood donations checked in the U.S., nine tested positive for the Zika virus. Of those, three were considered an infection threat.

Aide: Civil rights activist Young being moved to Ga. after illness

ATLANTA — Civil rights activist Andrew Young is being transferred to a hospital in Atlanta after falling ill over the weekend in Tennessee.

Young's executive assistant, Patra Marsden, said in an email Wednesday that Young, 86, was hospitalized Sunday. He was in Nashville at the time for the baccalaureate service at Fisk University.

Marsden said Young would move to Emory

University Hospital on Wednesday or Thursday. Young's daughter, Andrea Young, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution her father "had a minor infection and ran a fever" and "is recovering well."

Young was a confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and went on to become a congressman, United Nations ambassador, Atlanta mayor and international businessman.



ALEXANDER NEMENOV/GETTY-AFP

Russians carry portraits of relatives from World War II during the Immortal Regiment march Wednesday in Moscow to mark the 73rd anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. More than 20 million Soviets, civilians and military, died in the war.

Opposition win ends Malaysia party's 60-year hold on power

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — An alliance of Malaysian opposition parties led by the country's 92-year-old former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad won a fiercely contested general election, ending the 60-year rule of the Malay-dominated National Front.

The result is a political earthquake for Muslim-majority Malaysia, sweeping aside the government of Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose reputation was

tarnished by a corruption scandal and the imposition of a sales tax that hurt many of his coalition's rural supporters.

It is also a surprising exception to backsliding on democratic values in Southeast Asia, a region of more than 600 million people where governments of countries including Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand have swung toward authoritarian rule.

Official results show the opposition parties, which

banded together as the Alliance of Hope, surpassed the 112 seats needed for a majority in Parliament.

Mahathir in a televised address said a representative of Malaysia's constitutional monarchy had contacted the opposition to acknowledge its win. A prime minister would be sworn in within a day, he said, which would make Mahathir the world's oldest elected leader.

He said Thursday and Friday would be public holidays, another slap at Najib, who had promised holidays if his coalition won.



Mahathir

Spanish court blocks election of ex-Catalan chief

MADRID — Plans by Catalan separatists to re-elect their region's former president in absentia were blocked Wednesday by Spain's Constitutional Court.

The court agreed to consider Spain's challenge of a legal change approved by Catalonia's Parliament that

paved the way for Carles Puigdemont's election while he fights extradition from Germany to Spain.

By accepting the case, the court effectively ended Puigdemont's chances of being re-elected. A ruling will take months, but pro-independence parties in Catalonia need to elect a

new chief by May 22 or risk a new election.

In a separate development, a judge upheld Puigdemont's indictment on rebellion and misuse of public funds, the charges for which Spain wants the former politician to be extradited from Germany.

Paraguay takes step to move its embassy to Jerusalem

ASUNCION, Paraguay — Paraguay's Foreign Ministry confirmed Wednesday that the country will shift its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, following the U.S. and Guatemala in a change long sought by Israel's government.

The ministry said it "has begun the process" of carrying out the order by President Horacio Cartes.

A spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry said this week that Cartes would attend the opening ceremony, which would occur by the end of May. However, a Paraguay spokeswoman said no date has been determined.

Cartes is expected to resign within weeks so that he can be sworn into a seat to which he was elected in Paraguay's Senate. His presidential term ends Aug. 15.

The U.S. opens its embassy Monday in Jerusalem.

Yehiyeh Sinwar, the Gaza leader of the Hamas militant group, said Wednesday that protests along the Israeli border next week will be "decisive." He said the protests will climax Monday, when the U.S. moves its embassy to Jerusalem and Palestinians mark 70 years of displacement from homes in what is now Israel.

Yemen's Shiite rebels fired ballistic missiles at the Saudi capital, according to the Saudi military, which said its air defenses intercepted missiles over Riyadh and the city of Jizan. The attack by the Iran-allied rebels came amid regional tensions after the U.S. withdrew from the 2015 nuclear agreement with Tehran.

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EDITORIALS

The case for Gina Haspel as CIA director

Nothing about the Central Intelligence Agency is easy for outsiders to comprehend — not the dangers faced by employees, the secrecy of the profession or even its cultural norms. Gina Haspel, who describes herself as a typical middle-class American with a strong moral compass, is also a career spy whose CIA duties, she notes, included “brush passes, dead drops (and) meetings in dusty alleys of Third World capitals.”

Haspel would have remained in the shadows, except she was extremely good at her job. She rose to become CIA deputy director and is now President Donald Trump's nominee to run the agency. Haspel gets rave reviews from former national security officials from Democratic and Republican administrations, and is said to be strongly supported by agency employees. That might have given her an easy path to Senate confirmation as the CIA's first female director. The question facing the Senate isn't whether she's qualified, but whether one part of her record should disqualify her.

The potential roadblock is some of Haspel's work in the shadows during the perilous period after 9/11 when the United States was desperate to prevent more terrorist attacks. In 2002, Haspel oversaw a secret CIA detention site in Thailand when at least one suspected al-Qaida terrorist was waterboarded. In 2005 she drafted a memo advocating that videotapes of such incidents be destroyed to protect the identities of the interrogators.

To some senators and other critics, Haspel's work in Thailand and her



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY

Gina Haspel is sworn in before her confirmation hearing Monday in front of the Senate intelligence committee. She would be the first woman to lead the CIA.

drafting of that memo are reasons to vote against confirmation. Torture is not only illegal and immoral, it's also ineffective. That's all true, as the American government, including the CIA, looks at the situation today. President Barack Obama banned the CIA's use of enhanced interrogation in 2009.

But it was different in the uncertain aftermath of the 2001 attacks on America. With the country vulnerable,

President George W. Bush's administration crafted legal memos that permitted harsh interrogation techniques including waterboarding. Members of Congress were briefed. A repugnant but approved form of torture was practiced by Americans in locations around the world. In 2005, Haspel drafted the cable instructing the Thailand tapes to be shredded. But it was her boss, Jose Rodriguez, former

director of the National Clandestine Service, who gave the actual order.

In 2011, Obama's deputy CIA director, Michael Morell, concluded from his investigation: “I have found no fault with the performance of Ms. Haspel. ... She drafted the cable on the direct orders of Mr. Rodriguez; she did not release that cable. It was not her decision to destroy the tapes; it was Mr. Rodriguez's.”

As part of the nomination process, Haspel does have to answer for her actions. On Wednesday, she testified publicly before the Senate intelligence committee and addressed key questions about the CIA and torture. The hearing produced no startling revelations about her. Haspel stated that if confirmed, she would not restart the now-repudiated detention and interrogation program. “I would not allow the CIA to undertake activity that I thought was immoral, even if it was technically legal,” she said.

And what if Haspel were ordered to waterboard a terrorism suspect? We ask because, at various times, Trump has sounded like a fan of “tough” interrogations. But Haspel made clear to the panel she wouldn't allow the CIA to again embrace what was a desperation tactic.

Spycraft is exotic, at least as portrayed in paperbacks. It's a cold-blooded business that exists to help keep America safe. There are untidy aspects to the profession.

Haspel, who would be the first CIA director in five decades to come into the job after a career in clandestine operations, is also a proven administrator. The Senate should confirm her.

Police drones and privacy

Drones are a wonder to behold. Speedy, mobile and inexpensive, they open up all sorts of promising uses, from delivering packages to finding lost children to inspecting damage from natural disasters. But there's a potential downside. The same technology that can be so useful carries the risk of eroding privacy to the vanishing point — particularly when government agencies are flying the drones.

A bill moving through the Illinois General Assembly, and supported by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, would allow police to use drones to monitor large groups of people, whether they're watching a football game, attending a concert, or, well, protesting police abuses. But a bill that raises concerns isn't necessarily a bill lawmakers should reject. Let us explain.

Chicagoans have some experience with illegitimate spying on citizens for political reasons. For decades, the Chicago Police Department operated a unit that monitored radicals and other dissidents, violent or not. It compiled files on hun-

dreds of thousands of people and thousands of organizations, including the NAACP. It's scary to think what it could have done with the help of drones.

That said, bill sponsor Sen. Martin Sandoval, D-Cicero, thinks drones could be invaluable in protecting public safety. “I don't want Chicago to be the next Vegas-style outdoor terrorist attack,” he says. This sort of surveillance could deter not only terrorism and mass shootings but identify individuals who commit those or other crimes. And, in contrast to police officers and helicopters, drones can be deployed routinely without much expense.

If the bill becomes law, consequences would be mixed. Drones probably wouldn't keep people away from the Fourth of July fireworks or Taste of Chicago. But they might discourage uninhibited partying at Lollapalooza. And they could intimidate citizens — or people living in the country illegally — from taking part in rallies for political causes that might offend authorities. Karen Sheley, director of police practices for the American Civil Liberties

Union of Illinois, argues that “if there are drones hovering above First Amendment activities in Chicago, people will stay home.” Would-be participants could be especially nervous if the drones were equipped with advanced facial recognition technology.

Those who turn out for marches understand that they may be recognized by passersby or police or caught on the many surveillance cameras operating in the city. But there is a certain anonymity in being part of a crowd — something drones equipped with video equipment could eliminate. Imagine police departments having such recordings available, with the capacity to identify every individual by name. The bill would, though, require police to destroy footage after 30 days unless a recording includes information relevant to a criminal trial or investigation.

The ACLU wants lawmakers to exclude First Amendment activities from this sort of surveillance. If police want to use drones to watch a protest they fear will turn vi-

olent, Sheley argues, they should be required to persuade a judge to issue a search warrant to do so.

The challenge in regulating new gadgets is finding the right balance. Requiring probable cause that a specific crime will be committed could make it overly difficult for police to use drones for gatherings by extremists (of the right or the left) that carry a significant chance of bloodshed. As facial recognition software improves, it might make sense, instead, to limit when and where cops can use that capability.

The bill in Springfield, which was approved by the Senate and could clear the House as well, is an effort to balance existing technology with law enforcement priorities. We would vote for it. But we would do so with the realization that other legislation may have to follow if new technologies enable drones to aggressively pry or intimidate.

This bill, lawmakers, should be merely the start of your debate on how technology can enhance public safety without chilling freedom of speech and assembly.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

At present, seven of the nation's 100 U.S. senators are octogenarians (in the Senate's first 100 years, not a single member served into his 80s). Ten were born before the attack on Pearl Harbor, which was 77 years ago this December. Twenty-two U.S. senators were born before Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier 71 years ago. Forty-three U.S. senators — nearly half of the chamber — are eligible for Medicare Part A (Missouri's Claire McCaskill and West Virginia's Shelley Moore Capito will make it 45 by year's end). ...

Absent volunteers willing to step aside, the Senate could start a conversation about forced retirement. In Canada, senators cannot serve beyond the age of 75 (curiously, the Canadian government is under attack for not having enough young senators). Apply that age-75 cutoff to the U.S. Senate and 15 members couldn't come back to Washington next year.

Bill Whalen, RealClearPolitics

Devised by University of Utah student and visual artist Nemo Miller, the “cry closet” is pretty self-explanatory. The closet, outfitted with black felt, stuffed animals and a strict 10-minute cry-policy, is a self-described “safe space for stressed-out students” to have a breakdown in the privacy of a large wooden box. ...

I happen to think the cry closet is a great idea. It should be celebrated and replicated across the country. There's an unfortunately popular misconception that being a mature adult means taking all of life's gut punches with stoic silence and a stiff upper lip. For those of us who aren't emotionally repressed, that's neither realistic or healthy. Life is *hard* and crying is both a completely natural reaction to stress and a way to reduce it.

Rachelle Hampton, Slate

SCOTT STANTIS



ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER HAT IN THE RING...

Chicago Tribune PERSPECTIVE

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

IN DEFENSE OF MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY

BY WILLIAM M. DALEY

Government and politics are rough-and-tumble, especially in Chicago. But even by those standards, Tribune columnist Eric Zorn's recent attack on former Mayor Richard M. Daley's record was unfair and misleading.

Rich is my brother, and while I love him as a sibling should, I'm clear-eyed about human frailties and the inevitability of making mistakes during 22 years of governing a big city. My brother wasn't perfect, and our family has thick skins. But it's not right to leave inaccurate charges hanging in the air, confusing the public and distorting the record.

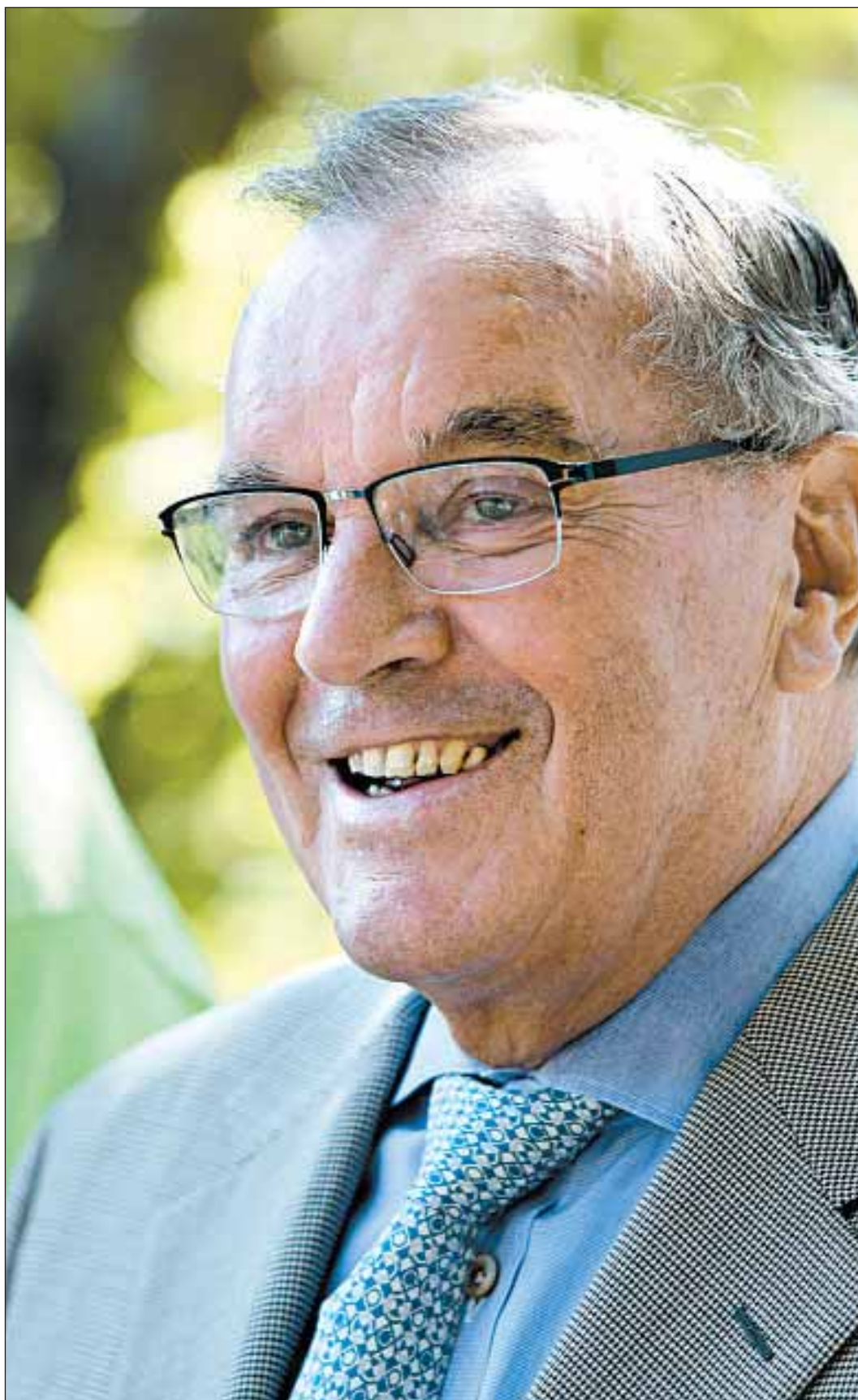
Most of Zorn's attacks dealt with a huge challenge that municipalities everywhere face: adequately funding public pension plans. It's a legitimate issue, but it's not OK to ignore the historical calendar.

Mayor Daley confronted this dilemma during our nation's worst economic crisis in decades: the Great Recession of 2007-09. People were losing jobs and homes at record rates. Vacant houses haunted neighborhoods in every city, including Chicago. Unemployment topped 10 percent. Banks could barely keep pace with foreclosures, and home values plummeted.

Not since the Great Depression of the 1930s did people need government more. And not since that decade did governments face a worse financial climate for meeting those needs.

Daley's administration always paid the annual pension contributions required by state law. But when it became clear the state formula wasn't keeping pace, he convened a Commission to Strengthen Chicago's Pension Funds, consisting of professionals from business, labor and government to examine the issue and recommend solutions. They concluded that fixing the pension gap would require careful negotiations with labor to reduce benefits, and a bigger contribution from taxpayers to provide more funds.

By the time the commission finished its work, however, the Great Recession was in full swing, and those solutions couldn't be imposed promptly. Higher property taxes would have devastated already-struggling homeowners. And Chicago, like many cities, was negotiating layoffs and other concessions from city workers. These were a far greater priority than adjusting pension



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2016

Richard M. Daley served as mayor of Chicago from 1989 to 2011.

benefits. Today's economy is far stronger, and the commission's findings can serve as a road map going forward.

Zorn's column also decried "the generous and unusually long 10-year union contracts Daley OK'd in 2007 in order to assure labor peace."

The 10-year labor contracts negotiated by the city were well-advised. They weren't

overly generous, yet they provided order and stability. To be clear, the city always pays the "prevailing wage." It's ridiculous to think Chicago would do otherwise.

Zorn attacked "Richard Daley's grotesquely irresponsible 2008 sale of 75 years' worth of parking meter revenue for a paltry \$1.15 billion."

Here are the facts: The meter

system was generating only \$19 million a year before the lease was made. The city simply did not have the resources to adequately invest in the antiquated system. The private operator, however, completed a wholesale modernization ahead of schedule.

The deal also preserved the City Council's decision-making authority over the meters'

placement, numbers, hours of operation and fees. The transaction enabled the city to deposit an additional \$400 million into its long-term reserve.

Zorn's column also criticized "selling a 99-year lease on four Grant Park-area parking garages to help pay off the cost of building Millennium Park." Without that sale, it is questionable whether Millennium Park could have been finished.

As with the parking meters, it made good business sense to let an expert operate the parking system under the parks. Millennium Park has proved to be a "great work of civic art, a robust generator of jobs and construction and the latest demonstration of Chicago's audacious ability to invent the urban future," according to a 2014 article in, yes, the Tribune.

Next, Zorn trained his sights on Mayor Daley's "feckless Olympics fantasy" and "the \$91 million purchase of the former Michael Reese Hospital site for housing athletes who ended up competing in Rio de Janeiro" in 2016.

That's a cheap shot. Major cities worldwide compete hard for the Summer Olympics, knowing that only one can win every four years. It's easy to smirk at the "fantasies" of the runners-up. Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympics was well-planned and implemented.

As for the hospital site, it will benefit the city. Planning Commissioner David Reifman says development plans are moving forward and expected to create 24,000 permanent jobs and 12,000 construction jobs.

Finally, Zorn accused the former mayor of leaving the Chicago Transit Authority a \$277 million deficit. In fact, the CTA balanced its budget each year Daley was in office, in spite of state funds being cut, and the agency provided affordable transit while improving and adding services.

"Fair is fair." Zorn's column began. I agree. Attacking a former mayor's record while ignoring the context of the times and changing circumstances is not fair.

Every mayor faces challenges, some recurring, some new. How well or poorly they are addressed by a public servant is what people decide in every election. Rich faced that question six times as mayor, and it is one that all candidates must face on Election Day.

William M. Daley, a Chicago lawyer, is a former White House chief of staff to President Barack Obama and former U.S. secretary of commerce.

The two faces of Eric Schneiderman

BY MARK CHIUSANO

One part of Monday's bombshell New Yorker article that led to the resignation of New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman involved choking.

"He was cutting off my ability to breathe," Tanya Selvaratnam, one of Schneiderman's alleged victims, told The New Yorker magazine. Eventually, "we could rarely have sex without him beating me," she said.

"The choking was very hard," said Manning Barish, another on-the-record victim, describing a night not long after she became involved with Schneiderman. "It was really bad. I kicked. In every fiber, I felt I was being beaten by a man."

Here's a separate description of choking: "My ex-husband strangled me into unconsciousness. The police were called by my neighbor who had heard me screaming." That one comes from Orchid Ghebryal, who stood alongside Schneiderman in March 2010, supporting the then-New York state senator and the legislation he had introduced. It was the Strangulation Prevention Act.

It's surreal to look back on that legislation now, given Schneiderman's alleged behavior with the two women interviewed on the record by The New Yorker. (In a statement, the now-former attorney



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Former New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman resigned Monday, just hours after accounts of abuse by four women.

general said he has "engaged in role-playing and other consensual sexual activity" but denied nonconsensual sex.)

Many liberal New Yorkers might be forgiven for putting Schneiderman in one box, characterizing him as an avenger fighting for their interests, against all those arrayed in their way. Fighting for good things like gun control and the rule of law, against alleged bad actors like Exxon on the environment, and the people who abuse their partners with psychological games or fingers encircling necks.

That lauded strangulation legislation, for example, came in the wake of disgraced then-state Sen. Hiram Monserrate's 2009 conviction for assaulting his girlfriend. And just before Schneiderman held his anti-strangulation news conference with domestic violence victims' advocates, news broke about an Albany, N.Y., aide's assault of a girlfriend, which included choking. Schneiderman was a politico on the right side: See The New York Times' op-ed from leaders of the Sanctuary for Families' Center for Battered Women's Legal Services and the

New York City chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Schneiderman's legislation, praised in the op-ed, would close what advocates called a loophole that allowed choking of various kinds to happen without resulting in serious penalties like felonies or even misdemeanors.

So Schneiderman moved the anti-choking bill forward, noting in a statement the grave danger of strangulation in domestic violence incidents. If an attacker applies 11 pounds of pressure for 10 seconds, victims can fall unconscious. This should be a serious crime. His bill would make it so. "It sends a strong message that we must do everything in our power to ensure that no one is immune from accountability for committing such a heinous crime," his statement said.

Later that day Schneiderman chaired a Codes Committee meeting, and the strangulation bill was on the agenda. Such meetings tend to move briskly — this one was over in half an hour — and there was little discussion of the strangulation bill by Schneiderman or anyone else. A recording available on the state Senate website shows Schneiderman briskly running through agenda items, dressed in a neat suit and tie, sipping coffee and often smiling. Strange to see his

choking legislation go through the normal processes of government now that we know the accusations he would later face. But mostly he and his colleagues banter lightly about other issues, like legislation regarding the use of live fish in pedicures.

In June, the strangling legislation passes, and in August then-Gov. David Paterson signs it into law.

When two people in Monroe County faced charges under the new law months later, Monroe County District Attorney Michael C. Green described the profile of some of the people upon whom the law would be used, according to the Daily Record of Rochester: "It's conduct that's been associated with situations where you have someone trying to dominate or control someone."

Perhaps that was the case for Schneiderman. Perhaps he believed himself synonymous with "the law" he wielded on behalf of New Yorkers from Staten Island to the Canadian border, and acted with impunity. But he was never above that law. And now it's possible even his own laws could apply to him.

Tribune Content Agency

Mark Chiusano is a member of the Newsday and amNew York Editorial Board.

PERSPECTIVE



JOEBETH TERRIQUEZ/EPA

Migrants cross into the United States at the border with Tijuana, Mexico. They are legally allowed to arrive at immigration checkpoints and apply for sanctuary.

Immigrants in the U.S. illegally make us safer



STEVE CHAPMAN

From the beginning of his campaign for president, Donald Trump portrayed illegal immigration as a forest fire that threatens to spread rapidly and engulf us all. Mexicans, he charged, are “bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.” He thought Americans should be afraid.

He’s still blaring that message. Last month, he tweeted angrily that a “caravan” of Hondurans was marching northward through Mexico to pour across the Rio Grande. “Getting more dangerous,” he warned.

In San Diego on Monday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions echoed the alarm. Raising the specter that we could be “overwhelmed” by a “stampede” of invaders, he vowed to “finally secure this border so that we can get the American people the safety and peace of mind that they deserve.”

When these two are done in Washington, they can go into the business of making horror movies — which, like these claims, are not rooted in reality. The “caravan” is more scared than scary, consisting of a bedraggled, footsore group of unfortunates who fled violence and poverty in the hope of gaining asylum in the United States. Irineo Mujica, who works for an

advocacy group that is helping them, told *The New York Times*: “There are 300 kids and 400 women. Babies with bibs and milk bottles, not armaments. How much of a threat can they be?” Besides, they don’t have to stampede over the border. They are legally allowed to arrive at immigration checkpoints and apply for sanctuary.

But for Trump and Sessions, anyone who comes here without a visa evokes fear and hatred. The president and his attorney general ignore the real dangers posed by most foreigners here illegally: They will fill jobs that Americans don’t want, learn English, pay taxes and stay out of trouble. Chilling, huh?

The president relishes lurid tales of the criminal gang MS-13. Last year, he said: “They stomp on their victims. They beat them with clubs. They slash them with machetes, and they stab them with knives. They have transformed peaceful parks and beautiful quiet neighborhoods into bloodstained killing fields.”

No one disputes that MS-13 is a violent gang, but it’s just one of many that plague American cities. All that distinguishes this one is that many of its members came from Central America, some without documents —

allowing Trump to blame its villainy on illegal immigration. He thinks immigrants in the U.S. illegally are criminals by definition and therefore a hellish danger.

But he’s railing against a threat that exists largely in his mind. Trump failed to notice that the big wave of illegal immigration that came in the 1990s coincided with a plunge in crime and violence.

In 1990, there were about 3.5 million foreigners living in this country illegally, and the national murder rate was 94 per 100,000 people. When the population of immigrants here illegally peaked at 12.2 million in 2007, the murder rate was 5.6 per 100,000 — a decline of 40 percent — and it has fallen more since then.

Far from generating crime, this group appears to suppress it. A groundbreaking new state-by-state study covering 1990 to 2014 by sociologists Michael Light of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Ty Miller of Purdue in the journal *Criminology* concludes that “undocumented immigration over this period is generally associated with decreasing violence.”

In another study, Light, Miller and Brian Kelly (also of Purdue) found that “increased undocumented immigra-

tion was significantly associated with reductions in drug arrests, drug overdose deaths, and DUI arrests.”

The question Light and his colleagues examined, he told me, is: “Does undocumented immigration make us less safe?” The answer: “No.” If anything, he says, the evidence “suggests the opposite.”

Policy analyst Alex Nowrasteh of the libertarian Cato Institute examined the evidence on crime from Texas. He found that foreigners living in the U.S. illegally were about half as likely as native-born Americans to be convicted of a crime and one-quarter less likely to be convicted of murder. Their overall arrest rate was 40 percent below that of people born in this country.

What this all shows is that Trump and Sessions are peddling myths. Central American refugees are not about to mount a mass assault on the border. And on the whole, far from posing a danger to public safety, the presence of foreigners here illegally enhances public safety. MS-13 is as representative of them as John Wayne Gacy is of Illinoisans.

This alleged menace is much like the monsters that small children fear. It’s scary until you turn on the light and look under the bed.

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The “caravan” is more scared than scary, consisting of a bedraggled, footsore group of unfortunates who fled violence and poverty.

OP-ART JOE FOURNIER

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS BY JOE “EIGHT AND COUNTING” FOURNIER



PERSPECTIVE

Dating after cancer means showing up with 'Fill,' the bag that collects my waste

BY ALLISON ROSEN

In our era of swipe-left, swipe-right dating, there's no perfect time to reveal your personal baggage. I'm talking about revealing long-buried secrets, like the failed marriage to your high school sweetheart or the mind-bending ex who messed up your view on relationships.

My baggage? I show up to every date with the other man in my life. One I've struggled for years to live with, but ultimately can't live without. Someone close to my heart, but closer to other parts of my body. His name is "Fill."

"Fill" is my ileostomy bag, a permanent bag, attached to my abdomen, collecting waste. It's tricky enough to tell a prospective boyfriend you had cancer. It's another thing entirely to explain that, after battling colorectal cancer, you live with a permanent ileostomy bag. How's that for a can't-resist dating profile post?

Yet, after multiple surgeries, therapy sessions and support groups, I proclaim myself a survivor.

I can't distract from my bag like other types of personal baggage. Sure, there are ways to hide it. At first, I wore a special wrap to help conceal it. I realize now that no one notices it's there, even under a little black dress, unless I tell them. Still, it's always right there, right up against my skin. It's physical. It's permanent. And, for some people, I suppose, it's gross.

I get it. You just don't see "bowel movements" up there with a hair toss and a come-hither whisper. But, as many couples eventually realize, awkward milestones like passing gas in front of one another are oddly relieving (pun fully intended). It implies a relationship has reached a state of shared intimacy and mutual comfort. But to deal with that on a second date? Not always fun or easy. And yet, it's what I have chosen to do because, if you want me, you get Fill. We're a package deal.

Trying to laugh

Humor helps. That's why some friends encouraged me, years ago, to give my bag a name. At first, it was difficult to tell my dates about it. I felt embarrassed and insecure. However, I have been pleasantly surprised how accepting some of them have been. One guy jokingly made noises of his own when Fill started making his characteristic gurgling noises.

Before cancer, when it came to love, I had already come to the realization that serial dating was a waste of time, that I wanted to find a serious relationship and settle down. Almost at the same time as I had this epiphany, I got a phone call from my doctor after my annual colonoscopy; as a longtime Crohn's disease patient, this was part of my routine care. Only this time, the doctor asked if I could come to her office to discuss the results in person. She had never done that before.

When I got to her office, across the street from my lab, my eyes were already filled with tears. She gently but straightforwardly told me the bad news and I panicked,



ALLISON ROSEN PHOTO

While on a surfing adventure trip with a group called First Descents, Allison Rosen spent time with young people who understood what she had gone through, a trip she calls life-changing.

seeing my life flash before my eyes. At 32 years old, I had colorectal cancer.

For the next five years, I kept a razor-sharp focus on simply surviving. Dating? Forget about it. Of course, I got lonely. I thought back to the few dates I'd had with a promising guy right before my diagnosis. I told him about my diagnosis via text, and got an abrupt "Well, good luck with life" farewell, along with a cancellation of our upcoming date. The words devastated me. They made me think that no one would ever love me after cancer.

After my first major surgery, I had a temporary ileostomy. Fill, though he wasn't yet named, was supposed to be a fling, not a mate for life. The bag was uncomfortable in every way. It took me months to find one that didn't irritate my already-sensitive skin. Many nights I cried, thinking I would never learn how to live with this new part of me. My team of nurses at MD Anderson Cancer Center finally helped me find a bag that worked, and with my mom's help, I got to the point where I could put the bag on

myself. A small but significant victory.

I was so relieved when I traded my bag in for an internal J-pouch, which is a surgically created pouch that would now act as my removed colon. With the bag gone, I didn't look terribly sick to the outside world, but I felt lousy and had other changes related to treatment. To my surprise, my body image challenges were still there, which I later learned is quite a common problem for cancer survivors.

Back in the pool

I saw myself go from a fit woman who (more or less) liked her body before cancer to one who didn't recognize herself anymore. I lost a lot of weight. I couldn't fit into any of my clothes. My hair was falling out. Not anyone's idea of a dream date. I was physically cancer-free, my bag was gone, but I was still saddled with insecurity.

Nonetheless, after watching friend after friend get married, I found the confidence to dive into dating again. My first date after I was declared cancer-free was

exactly what I needed at the time. Following a few enjoyable movie and dinner outings, I began acting awkward. I was struggling to find the right way to tell him about my cancer. When I finally and tearfully confessed my past, I was relieved at his acceptance. At that moment, I realized that everyone has baggage. Mine just might be a little bit different.

Not long after this realization, intense stomach pains brought me to the emergency room, where my internal pouch was accidentally punctured during a colonoscopy, causing a life-threatening abdominal abscess. After this, I immediately returned to MD Anderson and my trusted colorectal surgeon. It was decided I needed emergency surgery, including creation of yet another ileostomy. My external bag was back, but I was alive. And my dating life was, once again, on hold.

It wasn't until I went on a surfing adventure trip with a nonprofit group called First Descents that I was surrounded by inspiring and amazing survivors who, like me, had physical and

emotional scars. Though my longtime friends were incredibly supportive as I was fighting the disease, this trip was the first time that I spent extended time with young people who understood exactly what I had gone through. They gave me the confidence to wear a bikini and to go surfing with the top of my bag showing, my scars on full display. The trip was life-changing in so many ways. It was there, among my cancer peers, that a new friend suggested the "Fill" nickname for my bag. It has stuck to this day. It is crazy to think, after just one week, these people who started as strangers could help me become more secure with my body image and bag.

This trip and my interactions with other cancer survivors gave me the strength to put myself back out there and date again. Despite my ileostomy. Despite my scars. Despite my bag. Now when I date, if I like a guy, I tell him about Fill.

Dream job

I now work for the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine, where I get to tell my story and encourage others not to wait to see a doctor if they feel something might be wrong. I am also on the Young Adult Advisory Council at MD Anderson and help plan the center's Cancer Survivorship Conference. I have even participated in its annual body-positivity fashion show, to demonstrate to others that you can be fashionable and confident, even with an ileostomy bag attached to your body. Working with the public to help prevent cancer or helping those recently diagnosed, especially young adults, is like living a dream.

I've come to realize my views on appearance have evolved. Prior to my cancer, I would look at a guy online and be attracted solely based on outward appearance. I also wasn't spared from my own critical gaze. While generally happy with my appearance, I used to pick apart my hourglass shape. Now, I think my curves are beautiful.

I want my future partner to think so, too, as well as love the other less-than-beautiful baggage I carry. I need someone who will be supportive, someone who would be there for me if I ever get sick again. I know there are good guys out there who will accept me for who I am. That now includes the bag and ileostomy, which was made permanent in December 2016.

I never expected to still be single at 37. I didn't have a choice in developing colon cancer, but I did have a choice in how I decided to manage complicated and painful treatments, as well as the countless side effects that followed. Despite the cliché, I believe everything happens for a reason, and cancer certainly changed my definition of love. Love is being vulnerable and unconditionally honest to yourself and the partner who complements your life.

And that's baggage I am proud to carry.

The Washington Post

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Malicious intent

I see three major reasons President Donald Trump had to get out of the Iran deal, to his way of thinking.

1. It keeps a promise to his voters (although I doubt it's one they care much about).

2. It undoes something President Barack Obama had achieved.

3. It gives him a reason to go to war against Iran when that country returns to its nuclear program.

This is also, I think, why Israel pushed so hard for getting out of the agreement; its regime wants the U.S. to get into a war against Iran and sees a good chance of this happening with Trump.

We will have to work for and hope that the U.S. House and Senate will eventually stop our president's atrocious designs.

— Vreni Naess, Chicago

Erasing Obama

There is only one reason that President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Iran deal, no matter how he tries to spin it. The sole reason is that President Barack Obama was instrumental in the Iran nuclear deal.

Trump wants to pretend that Obama was never president of the United States.

The Paris climate accord, the Iran nuclear agreement, Obamacare — anything that he had a hand in bringing into reality, Trump wants erased from our consciousness.

Well, sorry, but I will never forget the good that President Obama did and will also never forget the harm that President Trump is, and will be, causing in the world.

— Marsha Lieberman, Chicago

Flyover country

I strongly disagree with Leonard Pitts' piece, "Do we really need to 'understand' Trump supporters?"

First, I do not support the president. At the same time, there are lessons to be learned for the Democratic Party and about why the president's message resonated so well with rural America.

To a large extent I see it as a failure of the Democratic Party. The left has become increasingly urban-centric with little consideration for the situation in the rural states.

Hillary Clinton's comments regarding coal miners were inexcusable. Trump made promises that cannot be delivered, but my expectation for the Democratic Party would be to have a plan for these working Americans who are looking at a dim future as coal declines.

Likewise, the farmers of the U.S. need leaders who hear them. The Environmental Protection Agency's water rules are seen by farmers as overly complex and burdensome. And remember,

farmers tend to pass their land generation to generation, meaning someone who is against the estate tax sounds like a friend.

At one point in time the Democratic Party was the voice of all working Americans. It has become increasingly the voice of urban America. And with the Electoral College (a sound device to guard against tyranny of the majority), a party that ignores large swaths of the U.S. will struggle.

— Greg Pronger, Naperville

The sad truth

Leonard Pitts' column in the May 8 issue of the Tribune pinpoints so succinctly and eloquently one of the many major flaws of the Trump administration and its supporters. America is and always has been, at its core, a nation of immigrants. The demographics have changed often over the centuries, and they are changing again.

For the first time, perhaps, white, Christian America will not be in the majority. Pitts states emphatically that Trump followers are

angry and fearful about this change while progressives are energized by it. I couldn't agree more. I'm not sure what there is to be afraid of.

Diversity strengthens us and makes us a better place. America has always been a country others wanted to migrate to. That makes me proud — to live in a country where everyone is welcome. The sad truth is, it is Trump supporters who make me angry and fearful.

— Judy Weik, Oak Park

Critical moment

Leonard Pitts, in his May 8 column, states that "these are not normal times." I believe that "normal times" are never recognized as such in the present tense, only in retrospect. And then only rarely. Perhaps the closest we have come in the last century was during the "Roaring '20s," ending with the Great Depression.

As a rule, any time, in the present, is usually thought of as one of our most critical.

— Philip Schwimmer, Chicago

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS



DANIEL ACKER/BLOOMBERG NEWS 2016

EpiPens, sold by Mylan, are in short supply due to manufacturing delays from a Pfizer-owned company that makes the devices.

EpiPen shortage hits Illinois

Low supply expected to be short-term but still alarms severe allergy patients

By LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune

A shortage of EpiPens is alarming patients in Illinois and across the country. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration added EpiPens and a similar epinephrine autoinjector made by Impax Laboratories to its drug shortage list on Wednesday, after weeks of complaints from patients who say they've had a tough time getting them. It's a shortage the FDA expects will be short-

term but one that has patients scrambling and doctors turning to alternatives. Aimee Weiss, of Highland Park, said her doctor wrote a prescription for multiple packages of EpiPens for her 12-year-old daughter, who's allergic to tree nuts. But a couple of weeks ago, her CVS pharmacy told her she could only have one pack. She called a Walgreens store, which told her that her name could be added to a waiting list for the device. She finally got a second pack after spending hours on the

phone with her pharmacy and insurer. However, she usually likes to have four packs, one for her daughter's backpack, one for school, one for her home and another for her daughter's dad's house. "I'm almost speechless about it," Weiss said. "It's not like, 'Oh, we're short on a medicine for a headache.' This is a life-threatening issue." EpiPens, sold by Mylan and often used to

Turn to *EpiPen*, Page 4

CUBS OWNER BUYING NEW CHICAGO SOCCER CLUB, TEAMING UP WITH DEVELOPER STERLING BAY



A FRANCHISE FAMILY

Two years after bringing a long-awaited World Series to the North Side, Chicago Cubs owner Tom Ricketts is ready to give soccer a try. The baseball team owner and Chicago developer Sterling Bay said they are forming a joint venture to bring a United Soccer League expansion team to the planned Lincoln Yards commercial real estate development along the Chicago River. Sterling Bay will develop the stadium, and will keep an ownership stake in the USL franchise it bought last year. Ricketts will be the team's majority owner. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.



RYAN ORI
On Real Estate

Ricketts' involvement brings credibility to the upstart soccer league as well as to Sterling Bay, which is established as a top real estate developer but does not have expertise running a sports franchise. "We couldn't be more excited to be working with the Ricketts family to bring this project to life," Andy Gloor, Sterling Bay's managing principal, said in a news release announcing the joint venture. "With their deep expertise in sports franchising, the ... (Rickettses) are an ideal partner for us to collaborate with and energize Chicago sports fans with a new local team to rally around." The Ricketts family has owned the

"With their deep expertise in sports franchising, the ... (Rickettses) are an ideal partner for us to collaborate with and energize Chicago sports fans with a new local team to rally around."

— Andy Gloor, Sterling Bay's managing principal

Sterling Bay first proposed the stadium as part of its effort to bring Amazon or another large company to the Lincoln Yards project.
SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL RENDERING

Cubs since 2009, and has invested in major renovations to Wrigley Field as well as developments near the ballpark, including a hotel and offices for the team. "My family is very excited at the prospect of bringing professional USL soccer to Chicago at this terrific new development," Ricketts said in the news release. "Sterling Bay is a tremendous partner and the USL has

Turn to *Ricketts*, Page 4

Sears, Amazon strike deal on tire installation

By SAMANTHA BOMKAMP
Chicago Tribune

Sears is embracing an "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" strategy with one of its largest competitors. The struggling retailer said at its annual shareholders meeting Wednesday that it has partnered with Amazon.com to install all tires bought through the e-commerce giant. The service will roll out in coming weeks. Sears shares, which had been trading lower before the announcement, surged on the news and closed Wednesday at \$3.20, up almost 16 percent. The partnership with Amazon.com — which allows customers who buy tires online to ship them to a Sears Auto Center to be installed — is a first for a bricks-and-mortar retailer, Sears said. At the time of the purchase, customers can select an appointment time to have the tires installed, including Sears' DieHard brand. Sears charges \$17 per tire for installation, a price that includes balancing and a broader car examination. In Illinois, the auto centers where installation will be available are in North Riverside, Schaumburg, Niles, Chicago Ridge and Vernon Hills.



JEFF GREENBERG/GETTY 2005

The deal allows customers who buy tires on Amazon to have them installed at Sears. Sears first partnered with Amazon.com to sell Kenmore appliances on the site in July of last year. The Hoffman Estates-based retailer made the announcement during its annual presentation to shareholders, which lasted more than two hours and emphasized technology, ranging from the tire partnership to developments in online shopping, as a way to reverse declining sales. But some shareholders expressed frustration over the lack of clarity in details about the performance of the retailer, which has been selling assets and closing stores in an attempt to improve its financial health.

Turn to *Tires*, Page 4

Boeing, Airbus to lose deals with Trump's Iran sanctions

By STEVEN MUFSON
AND DAMIAN PALETTA
The Washington Post

Boeing and Airbus will lose contracts worth roughly \$39 billion to replenish Iran's aging fleet of commercial planes as part of the Trump administration's reimposition of sanctions. "The Boeing and Airbus licenses will be revoked," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told a group of reporters Tuesday. "The existing licenses will be revoked." The aircraft sales were among the most-sought-after contracts for Iran. In December 2016, Airbus Group signed a deal to supply national carrier Iran Air with 100 airplanes for around \$19 billion at list prices. It has delivered three planes so far, the first new aircraft acquired by Iran in 23 years. Boeing later inked a deal with Iran for 80 aircraft with a list price of about \$17 billion, promising deliveries would begin in 2017 and run until 2025. The company separately struck a 30-airplane deal with Iran's Aseman Airlines for \$3 billion at list prices. No deliveries have been made yet. In a statement, Gordon Johndroe, a Boeing vice president, said in a statement: "We will consult with the U.S. Government on next steps. As we have through-

out this process, we'll continue to follow the U.S. Government's lead." Analysts said the impact on Boeing would be modest thanks to a backlog of orders for 737 aircraft. Boeing's stock fell 0.6 percent and closed at \$338.37 a share. Airbus, based in Toulouse, France, is subject to U.S. export restrictions because more than 10 percent of its jet parts originate with U.S. companies such as United Technologies, Rockwell Collins and General Electric. Mnuchin also said the Trump administration would cancel waivers that allowed the sale of commercial aircrafts parts and services. "These sanctions do impact all of the major industries," he added. "These are very very strong sanctions; they worked last time. That's why Iran came to the table." He said there might be some exclusions, but he did not elaborate. One company hoping for a reprieve is the French oil giant Total, which last year signed a \$2 billion contract to develop the South Pars natural gas field. The company said that it hoped the deal would be left alone since it was signed according to rules in place at that time. The administration said it was giving most international companies 90-day and 180-day "wind down periods" to exit contracts and ventures in Iran.

ComEd names new CEO as former moves up to Exelon

ComEd will get a new CEO for the first time in six years, now that Anne Pramaggiore has been tapped by parent company Exelon for a larger role at the corporation.

Pramaggiore, who has worked at the utility for 20 years and has served as ComEd president and CEO since 2012, on Tuesday was named senior executive vice president and CEO of Exelon Utilities, effective June 1. In her new role, she will oversee the company's six local electric and gas utilities.

Succeeding her as CEO of ComEd will be Joseph Dominguez, who currently serves as executive vice president for govern-



ALYSSA POINTER/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017

Anne Pramaggiore worked at ComEd for 20 years and served as president and CEO since 2012.

mental and regulatory affairs and public policy. Dominguez, who starts his new role Aug. 1, joined Exelon in 2002 as associate general counsel.

Terence Donnelly, ComEd's executive vice president and chief operating officer, was named president of ComEd.

— Chicago Tribune

Watchdog agency signals less focus on student loan abuses

BY KEN SWEET
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Trump administration signaled Wednesday that it intends to pull back on investigating potential abuses by companies in the \$1.5 trillion student loan market.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will shutter its student lending office, according to a bureau-wide memo written by its acting director, Mick Mulvaney. The student loan office at the CFPB had been responsible for returning \$750 million in relief.

Its responsibilities are being moved under the broad umbrella of "financial education."

The office had been primarily responsible for an investigation into the troubled student lender Navient, which the CFPB sued last year for unfair and abusive practices. The company also investigated and sued for-profit education company Corinthian Colleges.

A bureau spokesman did not respond to multiple requests for comment on whether the bureau plans to maintain the number of investigators at the bureau looking at student loans, or whether it plans to move forward with the lawsuit against Navient.

This isn't the first time Mulvaney has reshuffled the bureau to change the CFPB's priorities. He took similar action with the bu-

reau's Office of Fair Lending earlier this year, moving the entire department under the bureau's education department. That office had been focused on discrimination issues, particularly in the auto lending industry.

Mulvaney has said repeatedly that he planned to curtail the bureau's operations to only what it is required by law. He had been a long-time critic of the bureau while he was a Congressman from South Carolina, and while acting director has pleaded with Congress to trim the bureau's mandate and make it more subject to Congressional oversight.

While the housing and stock market have recovered from the 2008 financial

crisis, the problems in the student loan market have only become more exacerbated. Roughly 4.6 million Americans are in default on their student loans as of December 31, 2017, according to the Department of Education, more than double what it was four years ago. That's more than 10 percent of the total 42.8 million Americans who currently have a student loan outstanding backed by the Department of Education.

Consumer advocates immediately denounced the change, saying the CFPB should be conducting tough oversight of the student loan industry, given its size and number of borrowers impacted, particularly young people.



VICTOR J. BLUE/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Tiffany's big push to revitalize its brand includes a new line of less-formal jewelry.

Ex-Coach designer trades bags for Tiffany baubles

New less-formal line aimed at younger shoppers

BY KIM BHASIN
Bloomberg News

Reed Krakoff, the designer who catapulted Coach to fashion prominence, and made it a \$5 billion handbag Goliath, has officially traded in his leather for diamonds.

Hired by Tiffany & Co. last year as chief artistic director, he was brought in to overhaul the iconic jewelry brand's design, attract younger shoppers and reverse an extended sales slump. On Tuesday, Krakoff released his debut collection, dubbed "Paper Flowers," a line that serves as a vital piece of Tiffany's strategy to introduce more items

and more often. By shaking things up and keeping product lines fresh, the jeweler's executives hope to inject some excitement into a dusty brand in serious need of a revamp.

Chief Executive Alessandro Bogliolo, a former executive at Italian luxury jeweler Bulgari, took over Tiffany last year. In March, he outlined his plan to revitalize the company by tweaking marketing and dramatically altering its stores to draw more customers. At the same time, he sought to shore up Tiffany's procurement and IT operations while enhancing its capability to sell jewelry online. The initial signs are promising: same-store sales, a key retail metric,



Krakoff

turned positive on a currency-constant basis last quarter.

Now comes the new product. The platinum bracelets, pendants and earrings in the "Paper Flowers" collection have a floral motif with asymmetrical petals covered in diamonds and pops of blue tanzanite. The centerpiece is a diamond bib necklace dressed in 68 carats of round and pear-shaped diamonds. It takes five months to make.

Krakoff's whimsical designs are meant to eschew formality, despite the extravagant materials used to create them. As the designer puts it, it's "about stripping away all of the rules associated with fine jewelry." The prices? \$2,500

to \$790,000.

The 181-year-old luxury house has long relied on hit products to lure shoppers, so each new line is closely watched in the hope that it'll be the next headliner. Yet the company has had trouble developing new stars of late. Old styles of necklaces and pendants, designed decades ago by such names as Elsa Peretti and Paloma Picasso, remained its top draws as new items failed to catch on. Tiffany seeks to help remedy that with a new 17,000-square-foot workshop near its New York headquarters, a design playground for its most skilled craftspeople.

Bogliolo said what's most important is that a woman would want to wear the glitzy jewelry. He's betting Krakoff will make that happen.

Tronc still 'weeks away' from finalizing sale of LA Times, execs say

BY ROBERT CHANNICK
Chicago Tribune

Tronc's \$500 million sale of the Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union-Tribune to biotech billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong is still weeks away, at best, executives said Wednesday.

Citing the complexity of extricating the Los Angeles Times from 18 years of Chicago-based corporate ownership, Tronc CEO Justin Dearborn said both sides were still working on arrangements to provide administrative services to the California newspapers over the next year.

"I think we're close and still remain very positive on the transaction ... weeks to a month, I'm hopeful," Dearborn said during an earnings call.

The deal to sell the California newspapers to Soon-Shiong was announced in February, with federal regulators signing off in March, leading Tronc executives at the time to say closing was imminent. When pressed Wednesday, Dearborn was somewhat less confident of the timetable.

"There is a back-end date of closing of Aug. 7," he said. "I don't envision it taking that long, but it is complex."

Tronc also owns the Chicago Tribune, New York Daily News and other publications.

Michael Ferro's final quarter as chairman of Tronc proved costly for the Chicago-based newspaper company's bottom line.

Following Ferro's resignation from the board on March 18, Tronc expensed his entire three-year, \$15 million consulting agreement, contributing to a \$14.8 million net loss for the quarter, versus a \$3 million loss during the same quarter in 2017.

"The quarter was negatively impacted by a charge related to the ac-

celeration of the accounting for the consulting agreement with our former nonexecutive chairman," said Terry Jimenez, Tronc's chief financial officer.

The \$5 million per year consulting agreement, which took effect in January, was to have run through December 2020.

Ferro, Tronc's largest shareholder, stepped down from the board just hours before a published report accused him of inappropriate sexual behavior toward two women while in his previous role as head of a Chicago investment firm.

In April, Ferro struck a deal to sell his entire 25 percent stake in Tronc for \$208.6 million to McCormick Media, a newly formed company headed by a distant relative of the family that built the Tribune media empire nearly a century ago.

The deal, which priced Ferro's more than 9 million shares of Tronc at \$23 each, was expected to close by May 15, according to the purchase agreement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

On Wednesday, Dearborn offered little guidance as to the closing date of the McCormick Media sale, or the investor group's plans for the company.

"I haven't had any discussion with anyone representing the buyer, so I assume they will reach out to us when they obtain the shares," Dearborn said. "It truly was done as a private transaction — they did not contact the company in advance."

Tronc saw revenue decline in the first quarter to \$355.6 million, down from \$366.1 million during the first quarter of 2017, as print advertising continued to decline.

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Walmart bets \$16B on Indian economy

Retailer looks to future with online firm in hot market

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Walmart will soon reach shoppers in India's massive consumer market directly, as it takes control of the online retailer Flipkart that's known for its ubiquitous delivery drivers on motorcycles with oversized backpacks.

The \$16 billion controlling stake, announced Wednesday, is the largest acquisition yet by the world's largest retailer.

India's hot economy makes it attractive to companies eager to sell goods to its massive population. Walmart and Amazon have pushed hard to catch up to Flipkart and to establish a foothold in the country.

But instead of competing with Flipkart, Walmart has essentially taken over the



AJAZ RAHI/AP

Walmart's purchase of online retailer Flipkart gives the retailer a foothold in India's fast-growing economy.

company. It's a move that might have near-term losses but is part of a larger shift by Walmart to look toward the future. That includes its decision last month to sell its British unit, Asda, which primarily operated a chain of traditional supermarkets. Amazon, which operates an online marketplace in India, was reportedly in talks with Flipkart as well — but Wal-

mart won it.

Flipkart had net sales of \$4.6 billion in its latest fiscal year. That's a fraction of Walmart's latest annual revenue of \$485.8 billion. But Walmart believes India, which has 1.3 billion people, could be among the world's top five e-commerce markets within the next five years.

"We are actively working

to shape the portfolio of geographies and businesses we're in, in order to set the company up for success for another generation," Walmart CEO Doug McMillon said in a conference call Wednesday.

Shares of Walmart Inc. dropped more than 3 percent Wednesday as investors worried about the investment hurting profits.

Flipkart is, in some ways, an echo of Amazon. Founded in 2007 by two college friends and former Amazon employees, Flipkart began life as an online bookseller.

In a country where many still see paying online with credit or debit cards as risky, Flipkart earned millions of customers in its early years by allowing buyers to pay cash on delivery. It now allows for a variety of payments, from credit cards to direct bank transfers.

Flipkart also focused early on mobile phones, and in 2016 became the first app in India to reach 50 million

users.

The Bangalore-based company has acquired a string of other companies in recent years, from fashion e-commerce company Myntra to mobile payment firm PhonePe. Flipkart now has over 100 million registered users and more than 100,000 registered sellers. Flipkart's supply chain arm, eKart, serves more than 800 cities and makes 500,000 deliveries daily.

Foreign retailers, including Walmart, have faced years of political resistance to opening outlets in India, where mom-and-pop store owners wield enormous influence.

Walmart's business in India was previously focused only on selling items directly to small businesses through its Best Price stores.

The Flipkart purchase gives Walmart far more influence in India — both politically and economically — and positions it to shift quicker into retail outlets if the regulatory landscape

changes.

Walmart will own about 77 percent of Flipkart, with the rest held by some existing shareholders, including co-founder Binny Bansal, Tencent Holdings, Tiger Global Management and Microsoft Corp. The acquisition surpasses Walmart's \$10.8 billion deal to buy Britain's Asda in 1999 and its acquisition two years ago of online retailer Jet.com for more than \$3 billion.

The deal hasn't gone down well with the tens of millions of small store owners who for years used political muscle to slow the arrival of international retailers.

It is "a clear attempt to control and dominate the retail trade of India by Walmart," the Confederation of All India Traders said, adding that the deal would encourage predatory pricing, hurt Indian businesses and create an uneven playing field. The group says it represents 60 million businesses.

Iran sanctions bring risks for U.S.

Analysts: Trump's action will fuel oil price volatility

BY DON LEE
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — For American consumers, the effect of President Donald Trump's announcement Tuesday that the U.S. would pull out of the Iran nuclear deal was already apparent at their local service stations days ago.

Gas prices nationally have climbed about 11 percent since March, to an average of \$2.85 a gallon last week, reflecting higher global petroleum costs partly in anticipation of Trump's withdrawal and move to reimpose sanctions against the world's fifth-largest oil producer.

But just how much is already baked into fuel prices today is uncertain — and risks abound.

The resumption of what Trump called the "highest level of economic sanctions" against Iran will take place over the next several months. But regulatory uncertainty could cause some importers of Iranian oil to cut shipments immediately, particularly allies such as Japan and South Korea, said Paul Sheldon, chief geopolitical adviser at S&P Global Platts Analytics, an energy research firm.

Iran's share of global oil output is less than 5 percent, but crude prices typically move on the margins. And any sizable cut in Iranian oil production could exacerbate what has been a tightening global oil supply.

Recently, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has curtailed output, which has been a factor in the run-up in crude prices. And it's unclear how the petroleum cartel will respond to the renewed sanctions. Meanwhile, Venezuela, another big oil country, is in an economic depression.

It also remains to be seen how European countries and their companies will comply with Trump's exit from the 2015 multilateral agreement that lifted the sanctions in exchange for



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY

U.S. gas prices have risen about 11 percent since March to an average of \$2.85 a gallon, reflecting higher petroleum costs.

Tehran agreeing to limit its nuclear program and allow regular inspections from international officials.

"Given disagreement with Trump's decision in much of the international community," Sheldon said, "firms with little or no U.S. exposure could choose to ignore the sanctions, while some governments could test the appetite of the Trump administration to sanction its companies and banks."

Then there are concerns of heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East from the unilateral U.S. withdrawal.

"What's hard to gauge is

whether or not there would be some sort of broader reaction in financial markets, some sort of tightening in financial conditions because investors became more concerned about risk," said Lewis Alexander, chief U.S. economist at Nomura Securities in New York. "It's going to depend on how other countries respond to all of this. More shoes could drop."

With the reinstatement of sanctions, the trickling of U.S. business activities and involvement in Iran will come to a halt. European companies such as French car maker Renault had been more aggressive in investing

or signing deals there since the restrictions were lifted, whereas even American firms that were hopeful of doing business in Iran had largely put their plans on hold, given the uncertainty that came with Trump's election.

Boeing Co. agreed to sell dozens of planes at a price of almost \$20 billion, but had not delivered any aircraft yet. Richard Aboulafia, aviation analyst at Teal Group, said there probably would be no effect on Boeing's business since the company never booked orders.

"They played it very conservatively," Aboulafia said of Boeing.

As analysts see it today, there's as much a chance that U.S. gas prices could go down from here as up. That reflects the strong U.S. oil production capability, thanks to advances in fracking, as well as the expected gradual reimposition of sanctions.

"Saudi Arabia will probably rev up production and exports," said Brenda Shaffer, senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center.

The benchmark Brent crude futures moved little Tuesday on the news, steadying at about \$76 a barrel. It was about \$50 a year ago.

So far, financial markets have taken the jump in oil prices largely in stride, as the U.S. economy has been performing well behind solid job gains and strong consumer confidence. But rising pump prices have pinched consumer spending, and some analysts argue that the Iranian sanctions could spoil much of the expected gains from the Republican tax cuts.

"In an environment of increased global supply tightness, this will put further upward pressure on prices," said Gregory Daco, head U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

Hours before Trump's announcement, Democratic lawmakers warned that gas prices, which have risen almost 50 cents a gallon in the last 12 months, were poised to climb higher with Trump's withdrawal.

"With Memorial Day and the beginning of the summer driving season just a few weeks away, higher prices could limit travel and dampen tourism," said the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee, in a blog post.

Economists point out, however, that higher crude prices should spur greater investment in the domestic energy industry, just as depressed oil prices in 2014 resulted in a sharp pullback in fracking states such as North Dakota and Texas.

On net, analysts figure the recent jump in oil prices are likely to be a wash for the U.S. economy, or modestly negative.

But taken together with increasing tensions on trade, with large tariffs possibly coming against China, there is growing wariness among some investors. Analysts expect that will be reflected in commodities and financial markets.

"I think we're going to have a lot of volatility," said Brenda Shaffer, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center. "It's going to be a roller coaster in coming months."

Staff writer Samantha Masunaga in Los Angeles contributed.

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STEVE RUARK/AP 2004

To appease regulators amid its bid to buy Tribune Media, Sinclair has agreed to sell seven TV stations to Fox.

Sinclair to sell 7 Tribune stations to Fox

BY STEPHEN BATTAGLIO
Los Angeles Times

Sinclair Broadcast Group — seeking government approval to acquire Tribune Media and its 42 television stations — has agreed to sell seven of those Tribune-owned stations to 21st Century Fox's TV ownership group, the companies announced Wednesday.

Fox agreed to pay \$910 million for the stations, five of which are in markets with NFL teams. Fox recently expanded its deal

with NFL to carry Thursday night prime-time games.

Fox is depending on live sports to be the centerpiece of its broadcast TV operations after it sells its entertainment production studios and cable networks. It has agreed to make that sale to Walt Disney Co. for \$52.4 billion, although Comcast has been exploring a bid that would eclipse Disney's offer, according to two people close to the situation who were not authorized to comment.

Sinclair, based in Maryland, is awaiting government approval for its \$3.9-billion deal to acquire Tribune Media. But the purchase would cause Sinclair to own stations that reach more than 39 percent of U.S. households — putting it over the government's limit. So it has to sell some.

"This announcement should set the stage for (the Federal Communications Commission's) regulatory review to move forward," Tribune Media's interim chief executive, Peter Kern,

said in a memo to his staff.

The stations in the deal are KSWB in San Diego, KTXL in Sacramento, KCPQ in Seattle, KDVR in Denver, KSTU in Salt Lake City, WJW in Cleveland and WWSL in Miami.

The deal also gives Sinclair the option to buy Fox-owned stations in Chicago and in Austin, Texas. Sinclair also has renewed its affiliate agreements to carry the Fox network on 34 of its stations.

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CONTACT US

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MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow High: 24,586.48 Low: 24,323.87 Previous: 24,360.21

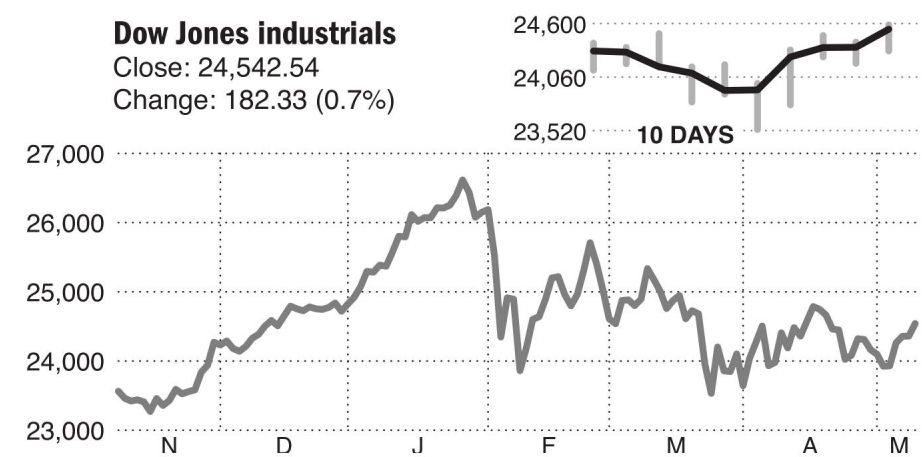


Table with 3 columns: Nasdaq (+73.00), S&P 500 (+25.87), Russell 2000 (+9.66). Includes Close, High, Low, and Previous values for each index.

Table with 5 columns: 10-yr T-note (+0.02), Gold futures (-0.70), Yen (+0.70), Euro (-0.0002), Crude Oil (+2.08). Includes percentage changes and price levels.

Major market growth and decline

Table showing 5-day, 30-day, and 1-year percentage changes for Dow, Nasdaq, and S&P indices.

FUTURES table with columns: COMMODITY, AMOUNT-PRICE, MO., OPEN, HIGH, LOW, SETTLE, CHG. Lists WHEAT, CORN, SOYBEANS, etc.

LOCAL STOCKS

Table of local stocks with columns: STOCK, XCHG., CLOSE, CHG. Lists companies like Abbott Labs, AbbVie Inc, Allstate Corp, etc.

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Table of most active stocks with columns: STOCK, CLOSE, CHG. Lists McDermott Intl, Bank of America, Weatherford Intl Ltd, etc.

LARGEST COMPANIES

Table of largest companies based on market capitalization with columns: STOCK, CLOSE, CHG. Lists Alibaba Group Hldg, Alphabet Inc C, Alphabet Inc A, etc.

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of largest mutual funds based on total assets with columns: FUND, NAV, CHG, 1-YR %RTN. Lists American Funds AMCPA m, American Funds AmronBala m, etc.

TREASURY YIELDS

Table of treasury yields with columns: DURATION, CLOSE, PREV. Lists 3-month disc, 6-month disc, 2-year, etc.

SPOT METALS

Table of spot metals with columns: COMMODITY, CLOSE, PREV. Lists Gold, Silver, Platinum.

INTEREST RATES

Table of interest rates with columns: INSTRUMENT, RATE. Lists Prime Rate, Discount Rate Primary, Fed Funds Target, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Table of foreign exchange rates with columns: CURRENCY, RATE. Lists A U.S. Dollar buys, Argentina (Peso), Australia (Dollar), etc.

FOREIGN MARKETS

Table of foreign market indices with columns: INDEX, CLOSE, CHG./%. Lists Shanghai, Stoxx600, Nikkei, etc.



MARK ZALESKI/AP 2013 Mylan is encouraging patients to call 800-796-9526 to find pharmacies with the device.

EpiPen shortage hits Illinois

EpiPen, from Page 1

save the lives of people with severe allergies, are in shorter supply than normal due to manufacturing delays from a Pfizer-owned company that makes the devices for Mylan, according to the FDA's website. Mylan said it told the FDA about the issue months ago and remains in contact with the FDA about the status of its inventory. The company is encouraging patients to call its customer relations number at 800-796-9526 to find pharmacies that have the device.

of stores have EpiPens available, Walgreens spokesman Scott Goldberg said in an email. "If a particular store is currently out of stock, other locations may have it available," he said. CVS is not experiencing a widespread shortage of epinephrine autoinjectors, though some stores may be temporarily out of stock, CVS Health spokeswoman Amy Lanctot said in an email. However, James Baker, CEO of the nonprofit Food Allergy Research & Education, said the shortage is far-reaching. Since May 2, more than 400 people in 45 states, including Illinois, have filled out a survey developed by the nonprofit indicating that they've had trouble getting EpiPens at their local pharmacies. There's also a shortage in Canada and the United Kingdom. The nonprofit is calling on the FDA to demand Mylan release a timeline showing how it plans to make more supplies available; explore importing a different, similar product made by another company; and work with Mylan and Pfizer to expedite the approval of new production lines or raw materials, among other things. Baker recommends patients seek alternatives to

EpiPens if they can't get the devices, though patients should make sure to familiarize themselves with how the different devices work. Also, patients may use expired EpiPens if absolutely necessary, he said, though he added that they may be less effective. His nonprofit said patients also should be sure to call 911 and receive medical treatment. Illinois Allergy and Asthma Specialists in Evanston and Lakeview started noticing a shortage about two weeks ago and has been helping patients who can't find EpiPens get a different autoinjector, the Auvi-Q, said Dr. Vivian Chou. The device performs the same function. Stephanie Blumberg, of Deerfield, said her children's EpiPens don't expire for months, but she wonders if she should try to get refills now in case the shortage gets worse. Her 9-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter have nut allergies. "What is going to happen when I need to go refill my EpiPen (prescriptions) and they don't have them?" Blumberg said. "For kids who do have a severe reaction, they need them on them at all times."

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Cubs owner buying soccer team

Ricketts, from Page 1

a great vision for meeting the demands of passionate fans and growing soccer's fan base." Ricketts' interest in the soccer team likely goes well beyond buying into a league whose expansion franchise fee is \$5 million. He's gained expertise in combining sporting events with entertainment and surrounding real estate. Ricketts, who previously owned a minority stake in English soccer team Derby County, could take on a role in the development of Lincoln Yards. Broadcasts of the new soccer team also could create content for the Cubs' planned television network, according to someone familiar with Ricketts' plans. The Tribune in October reported that Sterling Bay was proposing a stadium on the site as part of its effort to bring Amazon or another large corporation to the mixed-use development as an office tenant. In November, Sterling Bay confirmed plans to bring a USL team to an approximately 20,000-seat stadium that it said is likely to have a retractable roof. The USL, based in Tampa, Fla., is considered a developmental league to the Chicago Fire's Major League Soccer. The USL's existing and planned teams are in locations that range from big-league sports cities such as New York and Los Angeles

to minor-league markets such as Fresno, Calif.; Charleston, S.C.; and Bethlehem, Pa. "It speaks volumes about the growth of the USL when you continue to see interest and investment from proven sports business executives like Tom Ricketts," USL CEO Alec Papadakis said in the release. "Over the last several years, we have assembled one of the most sophisticated and knowledgeable ownership groups in professional sports, drawn by our focus on building a sustainable, stable and professional organization with significant room for future growth. We welcome Tom and the entire Ricketts family to the USL. They bring a proven record of success to the team, and combined with the excellent group at Sterling Bay, we look forward to their contributions to the future of professional soccer in Chicago." Sterling Bay also has said it wants to bring other sporting events, such as international soccer and college football games, and entertainment to the venue surrounded by densely populated neighborhoods. Chicago's USL team is expected to begin playing in 2021. The stadium and training facility will be available to youth and professional athletes, and also will have community and cultural events, according to the news release. The stadium is planned

along the west side of the river. Lincoln Yards, which stretches from Webster to North avenues, was one of five Chicago sites that Seattle-based Amazon visited in March as it looks to choose a home for its planned second headquarters, or HQ2. The Seattle-based online retailer says it will add as many as 50,000 highly paid employees in the North American city it chooses. The more than 70-acre site along Lincoln Park and Bucktown includes the former A. Finkl & Sons steel plant site and other previously industrial land. Sterling Bay has made a name for itself in recent years by bringing high-profile office tenants to its Chicago developments, including McDonald's headquarters and Google's Midwest headquarters. The firm this year has acquired two huge office properties, the two-tower Prudential Plaza complex along Millennium Park and Groupon's sprawling headquarters building along the river at 600 W. Chicago Ave. Sterling Bay principals Gloor and Matt Menna have previously done business with Ricketts. Their bar and restaurant group, Four Corners, operates Brickhouse Tavern in the plaza next to Wrigley Field that was developed by Ricketts.

rori@chicagotribune.com Twitter @Ryan_Ori

Sears, Amazon strike installation deal

Tires, from Page 1

CEO Eddie Lampert addressed the company's missteps, and said executives are focused on returning the brand to profitability. That effort includes everything from relinquishing real estate to pushing digital coupons or loyalty points to lure customers in the door and away from competitors like Target, Walmart, Lowes, Home Depot and of course, Amazon.com. Lampert suggested the company doesn't get enough credit for the positive moves it has made, but

acknowledged that Sears has lagged competitors with technology innovation and struggled more financially, in part due to burdensome pension obligations. Competing against Amazon.com "is like racing against Jordanian or playing Michael Jordan," he said. "A lot of things we were trying to do, they have done better." After years of attempting to maintain the retailer's massive scale, Lampert said Sears recent years has sold buildings, closed stores and cut thousands of employees, steps that have shrunk the company closer

to "a core it can grow from." "We took a lot of actions to improve our capital structure," he added. "But we all know the results are not where they need to be. We need to do a lot more." Shareholders continued to press the billionaire CEO for details on those plans, and asked for more disclosure on the progress being made. "I believe our vision has been right but we haven't really gotten over the hump as far as making that vision a reality," Lampert told the audience. sbomkamp@chicagotribune.com

Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Rosenthal, Harvey Eugene

Harvey Eugene Rosenthal, age 83, beloved husband of Beverly, nee Americus, cherished father of Howie Rosenthal and Francine (Jason) Brodsky, devoted son of the late Sidney and Rose (nee Schwartz) Rosenthal, loving grandfather of Sydney and Myles Brodsky and Jack Rosenthal, dear brother of Sharma (Mike) Hoffman, loved by many others. Memorial Service Friday, 1:30 PM at Lakeside Congregation, 1221 County Line Rd (aka Lake Cook Rd), Highland Park, IL. Contributions in Harvey's name to Make-A-Wish Foundation Illinois, 640 N. LaSalle Drive, Suite 280, Chicago, IL, 60654 would be appreciated. Info **Mitzvah Memorial Funerals**, 630-MITZVAH (630-648-9824) or www.mitzvahfunerals.com



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Savilonis, Edward Joseph

Edward Joseph Savilonis, 74 of Lansing, passed away May 3, 2018; loving companion in life of Marilyn Reppa for 20 years; beloved father of Christine (Tim) Warren; cherished grandfather of 3; dear brother of 6; fond uncle to many nieces and nephews. Memorial Visitation is Friday May 11, 2018 from 3-9 PM at **Blake-Lamb Funeral Home**, 4727 W. 103rd St, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. A chapel funeral service will be at 6:30 PM the night of visitation. For more info please call 708-636-1193 or visit www.blakelamboaklawn.com



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Schmitt, Sylvia Zastrow

Sylvia Zastrow Schmitt, PhD., age 93, at rest May 8, 2018. Sylvia was born in St Louis on December 10, 1924 to Frank and Theodosia nee Cain Horning. Beloved wife of the late Robert John Zastrow, Sr. and the late Elmer W. Schmitt; loving mother of Robert (fiancée Courtney Shepatin), James (Ann) and the late Frank Zastrow; devoted and de-

lighted grandmother of Emma Zastrow. Sylvia possessed a bright and curious mind, earning her MFA from the University of Utah in 1966 and PhD from Northwestern University in 1975; her teaching posts included Winona State University, Loyola University, Cal State Chico and Cal State Fullerton. Sylvia was a passionate traveler, and she saw the world with her second husband, Elmer. Her favorite role may have been that of grandmother, and nothing gave her more joy than spending time with Emma. Visitation Saturday, May 12, 2018, 9:00 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 9:30 a.m. at Saint Nicholas Church, 806 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202; Interment Private, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Webster University Office of Advancement, Loretto Hall, 4th Floor, 470 E. Lockwood Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63119 are appreciated. Info. (847) 675-1990 or www.donnellanfuneral.com



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Scourletos, Denise

Denise Scourletos, nee Mavritsakis, age 94, formerly of Westchester, IL and Berwyn, IL; Beloved Wife of the late Nick Scourletos; Loving mother of the late Konstantinos. Denise was a Loving Sister, Aunt and Godmother. Visitation Friday, May 11, 2018 from 10 a.m. until time of Funeral Service at 10:30 a.m. at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 601 S. Central Ave., Chicago, IL (Please meet at church) Interment Elmwood Cemetery. "May Her Memory Be Eternal". Arrangements entrusted to **Pedersen Ryberg Mortuary**. 630-834-1133 or pedersenryberg.com

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Shaughnessy, Patricia Mary

Patricia Mary Shaughnessy, nee Lyman; Beloved wife of the late Bernard "Bud"; Loving mother of Patti Alex, Michael, Dennis (Laura), and Lisa (Russell) Griffin; Proud grandmother of Michelle, Kristi, Matthew, Lauren, Mary Kate, Caylin, Patrick, and Elouise; Great-grandmother of Olivia and Teddy; Dear sister of Jack (Bonnie) Lyman, Bob (Kate) Lyman, Beverly (late Phil) McEntee, late LaVerne (late Ken) Clark, late Florence (late Chuck) Dougherty, and the late Jeri (late Joe) Mikutis; Fond aunt of many nieces and nephews; Visitation Friday, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Funeral Saturday, 9:15 a.m. from **Curley Funeral Home**, 6116 W. 111th Street, Chicago Ridge to Our Lady of the Ridge Church, 10820 S. Oxford Ave., Chicago Ridge. Mass 10:00 a.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. For funeral info 708-422-2700, or www.curleyfuneralhome.com



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Shollenberger, Richard

Richard Charles Shollenberger, Jr., born on July 21, 1964, in Schuylkill Haven, PA, to the late Barbara and Richard Shollenberger passed away on May 7, 2018 in Elmhurst, IL. Richard was the loving husband of Christine and is survived by his sons, Victor and Calvin; brother, Jack; and sisters, Cassandra and Kim. Friends and family can pay their respects at the visitation from 2-4 pm and celebration of life from 4-5 pm on Saturday, May 12 at **Ahlgim Funeral Home**, 567 South Spring Road, Elmhurst, IL.

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Slater, James H.

James H. Slater, age 76, of Elgin, passed away peacefully at Presence St. Joseph with his family at his side on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. He is survived by his sons; Thomas (Traci) Slater, James C. (Amber) Slater, daughter; Nina (Andy) Cenkush, sister; Barbara (Ron) Fessler, grandchildren; Matthew, Kayla and James T. Slater, Tristan and Ryenne Balmer, Edward Cenkush, one nephew, four nieces and many great nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; Harvey and Mary Slater. Jim served in the United States Army from 1963-1967 during the Vietnam War. Jim worked with GAT Guns in East Dundee for 19 years, retiring only one month before his death. He was a member of American Legion Post 57 in Elgin, receiving a 15 years membership pin. Visitation for James will be Friday, May 11, 2018 from 10:00 AM until the time of service at 1:00 PM at **Forsythe Gould Funeral Home**, Manhattan. Interment immediately following service with full military honors will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's name to www.honorflight.org would be greatly appreciated. **Forsythe Gould Funeral Home**, 507 S. State St., Manhattan, IL 60442, 815-478-3321, www.forsythegouldfh.com

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Vigon, Clara Patricia 'Karen'

Clara "Karen" Patricia Vigon nee Kirchen, age 75, a longtime resident of Chicago, and restaurant proprietor passed away May 5, 2018. Born October 27, 1942 in Indianapolis, IN to the late Charles and the late Clara Kirchen. Wife of Sheldon Vigon; fond mother of Daniel (Irene) and Anthony (Jennifer) Vigon, cherished grandmother of Nicole, Kristy and Connor Vigon, greatly loved sister to her twelve siblings, and significantly adored to several nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions may be made to Swedish Covenant Hospital. Visitation from 11 AM until 5 PM on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at **Lakeview Funeral Home**, 1458 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago. Interment private. Info - 773-472-6300 or www.LakeviewFuneralHome.com



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Wolper, Clifford

Clifford Wolper, 89. Beloved husband of the late Lois R. Wolper nee Siegel. Loving father of Gail Wolper and Gregg Wolper. Devoted grandfather of Casey M. Neville and Corey R. and Cameron A. Gutierrez.

Dear brother of the late Lorraine (the late Irving) Goode and brother-in-law of Ethel Shoul. Fold uncle of Steve (Judi) Goode and Mark B. (the late Caryn) Goode and dear friend to many. The family would like to acknowledge the exceptional care provided by Alberta Otoo and Lungile Plaatjie. Service Friday, 12 noon at **Chicago Jewish Funerals**, 8851 Skokie Blvd., (at Niles Center Road) Skokie. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to The National Audubon Society, 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014 www.audubon.org and The Nature Conservancy, Attn: Treasury, 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203 www.support.nature.org would be appreciated. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Skokie Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjinfo.com



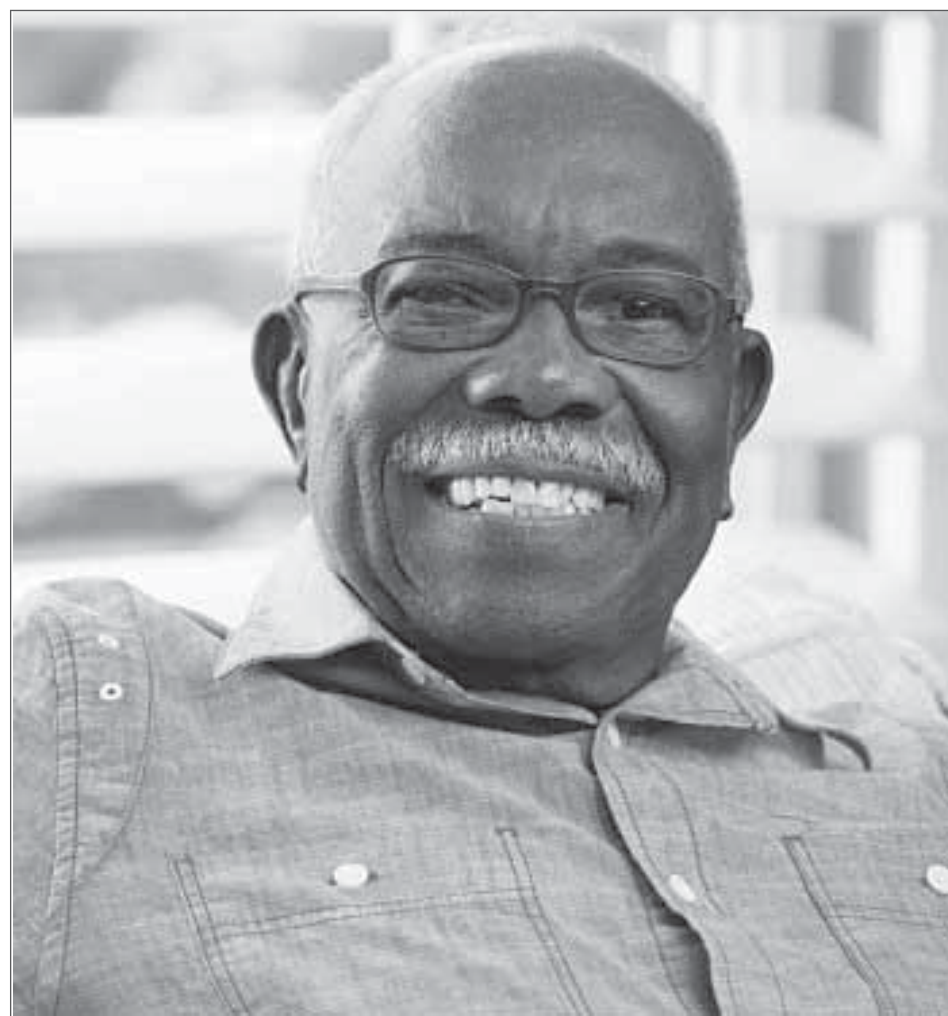
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Yesnick, Aaron Charles

Aaron Charles Yesnick age 67. Beloved Husband of Susane Yesnick. Loving father of Carol Yesnick. Devoted son of Marion Yesnick. Service Thursday 12:00 PM at **Chicago Jewish Funerals**, 195 N. Buffalo Grove Road (One block north of Lake Cook Road) Buffalo Grove. Interment Westlawn. In lieu of flowers, memorials in his memory to Chicago Mitzvah Campaign, 2939 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645 <https://chicagomitzvahcampaign.org/>. Arrangements by: **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Buffalo Grove Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjinfo.com



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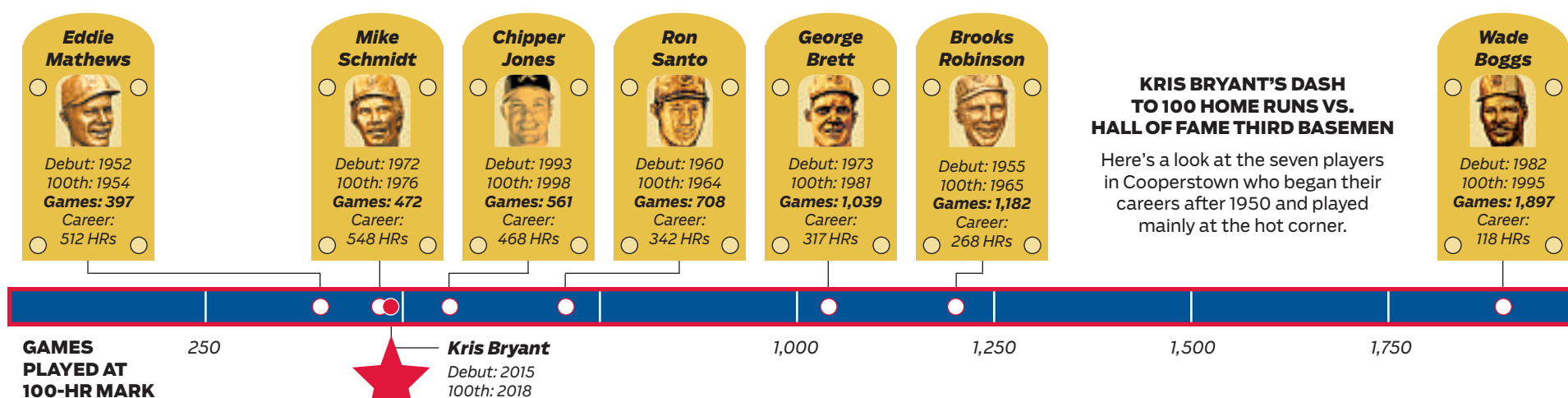
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Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

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KRIS BRYANT'S DASH TO 100 HOME RUNS VS. HALL OF FAME THIRD BASEMEN

Here's a look at the seven players in Cooperstown who began their careers after 1950 and played mainly at the hot corner.

0 to 100 in 3.2 seasons

Kris Bryant hits triple digits in home runs faster than you can say 'Hall of Fame'

CUBS 13, MARLINS 4

Bats look alive, well after sweep

BY MARK GONZALES
Chicago Tribune

From Kris Bryant's 100th career home run to season firsts in Anthony Rizzo's double and Addison Russell's homer, the Cubs had plenty to celebrate Wednesday after completing a three-game sweep of the Marlins with a 13-4 victory.

After wallowing in mediocrity through the first 31 games, has the offense finally turned the corner?

"This can be the start," Russell said after reaching base safely in all five plate appearances, with his two-run homer capping an eight-run third. "That's all it really takes is one hit, one swing, and the whole team is rolling. That's just the atmosphere we have. The guys in this clubhouse believe that."

After scoring three runs or fewer in 10 of their previous 11 games, the Cubs had 31 (14, 4, 13) in the sweep.

Manager Joe Maddon's often-scrutinized lineup produced 17 hits — one shy of its season high — with Rizzo and Russell making long-awaited contributions.

Rizzo has raised his batting average from .149 to .210 over his last seven games, hitting four homers during that span. He has struck out only once in his last 25 plate appearances, and he absorbed some good-natured ribbing from Bryant as he hit his first two doubles of the season.

"Nothing feels as good as a homer, but my business partner (Bryant) had let me know a few times I was on pace for zero doubles this year," Rizzo said.

Said Bryant: "It was so fun joking around. He didn't have a double the whole first month, but he's going to have a great year. We're going to look back on it, and he's going to have 30 homers and 100 RBIs like he always does."

Turn to **Cubs**, Page 3

OPENING SHOT

Steve Rosenbloom
The Cubs hit for the cycle. In the third inning. By four straight batters. More Marlins, please. More Rosenbloom, Page 2



THE MILESTONE HOMER

Kris Bryant celebrates in the dugout after slugging the 100th home run of his career. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



PIRATES 6, WHITE SOX 5

Great day turns sour late for Sox

BY TEDDY GREENSTEIN
Chicago Tribune

When a team loses nearly three-quarters of its games, the defeats tend to blend together.

But not this one. This 6-5 loss to the Pirates was a kick to the groin.

The White Sox played eight strong innings Wednesday, getting premium starting pitching and setup work. They hit home runs and played nearly perfect defense. Manager Rick Renteria pulled starter Reynaldo Lopez at the perfect time.

"(I) couldn't have scripted it any better, to be honest," Renteria said.

And yet it all added up to another loss.

The Sox are 9-25, losers of five straight and nine of their last 10. They fell to 3-15 at home, their worst start in franchise history.

No one expected the Sox to contend for anything this season, but to be one of just two big-league teams not to crack 10 victories? Ouch.

The Sox took a 5-2 lead into the ninth, trusting closer Nate Jones to finish the job.

"Our best guy," Renteria said.

But Jones gave up two quick singles and a double that tucked inside the right-field line before he hung a 1-0 slider to third baseman Colin Moran. Moran hammered the ball 416 feet to right-center, causing the Sox's Jenga blocks to come crashing down.

Jones, perhaps the nicest guy in the clubhouse, felt awful.

"Just didn't execute right there," he said, "and I paid for it. When you can't do your job, it's a tough pill to swallow."

Lopez certainly did his job. He has pitched well enough to earn a "W" in all seven starts this season but drew another blank Wednesday. He's 0-2 with a 2.44 ERA.

Turn to **White Sox**, Page 3

UP NEXT: CITY SERIES
Wrigley Field

Game 1: Sox (Fulmer) at Cubs (Chatwood), 1:20 p.m. Friday, WGN-9, NBCSCH.
Game 2: Sox (Shields) at Cubs (Lester), 1:20 p.m. Saturday, NBCSCH, ABC-7.
Game 3: Sox (Giolito) at Cubs (Hendricks), 1:20 p.m. Sunday, NBCSCH, WGN-9.

Rookies must learn: NFL all business, all the time



DAVID HAUGH
In the Wake of the News

Of all the details involving the theft of items from Bears first-round draft pick Roquan Smith last weekend in Georgia, the most eye-opening included

Smith acknowledging to police he might have left his team-issued iPad in an unlocked new BMW in the parking garage overnight.

Life comes at you fast as an NFL rookie.

Stuff happens. Responsibilities grow. Scrutiny increases. The hardest part about pro football for the 256 players drafted last month can be all the new professional expectations. The tenor of every conversation becomes more serious. The business aspect of the sport sets in.

Smith, who couldn't have made a better impression in Chicago, turned 21 only 18 days before the Bears drafted him. But even the most mature 21-year-old NFL players can benefit from the perspective of somebody who can relate to what they are experiencing — which made Thomas Jones' recent words resonate loudly as the Bears prepare for this weekend's rookie minicamp.

Jones spent three seasons as a Bears running back from 2004-06 that felt much longer based on

MORE INSIDE

Items stolen from Roquan Smith's car recovered — except for his Bears-issued iPad. Page 6

the impact he made. Of all the players I have encountered in 15 years covering the Bears, none understood the tireless commitment required better than Jones, a soft-spoken guy with a hard edge.

Turn to **Haugh**, Page 6



TONY DEJAK/AP

LBJ-MJ debate misses the point

G.O.A.T. or not, LeBron James is in a class by himself. Back Page

TOP OF THE SECOND



STEVE ROSENBLIOM

Rookie mistake for top pick

When Ryan Pace was given a contract extension earlier this year, it signaled a reset for the Bears' young, mistake-prone general manager.

He was getting a do-over, a new start to create a new era. And it's possible the Bears' new era includes new embarrassments from draft choices.

In case you missed the story, first-round pick Roquan Smith had items of great value stolen from his 2018 BMW X5 over the weekend while it was parked near his apartment in Athens, Ga.

According to Athens-Clarke police, Smith claimed a thief or thieves made off with jerseys from his final season at Georgia, his 2017 regular-season helmet, his University of Georgia Athlete of the Year trophy, a Michael Kors watch and Kyobe watch, Costa sunglasses, Nike shoes, four pairs of Bose headphones and a Bose Bluetooth speaker.

Oh, and one more thing was ripped off: Smith's Bears-issued iPad with the team's playbook on it.

Is this the earliest the Bears have been embarrassed over their choice in the first round? I'll hang up and listen for Cade McNown's history. Or Cedric Benson's sideline actions. Or Shea McClellin's being drafted in the first round at all.

Listen, rook, you can't lose your playbook. You just can't, especially when you haven't run a single play yet.

The playbook must be protected at all times. The playbook is the team's bible. You don't put the bible at risk in a car overnight.

Now, it's entirely possible Smith did everything right and packed his car in preparation to drive from Athens to Lake Forest this week for his first minicamp with the Bears after becoming their first-round pick several weeks ago.

That would be the best possible scenario. That would be the scenario Smith and the Bears need to be true to minimize this laughable episode.

Or it's possible we're looking at a new and exciting turn in pratfalls for Bears draft picks because it doesn't sound as if Smith, the man the team and player himself describe as a leader, did everything right. Like making sure the car with the team-issued iPad playbook and all those valuables actually was locked.

Smith told police he believed the items were taken from his car between 5 p.m.



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Roquan Smith posted a video thanking those who helped locate some of his stolen items.

Friday and 11:30 a.m. Saturday. According to the police report, an officer reported to the scene at about 11:46 a.m. Saturday. Smith told the officer he left his vehicle in The Mark Athens apartment parking garage on Oconee Street at about 5 p.m. Friday, and "he was certain that he locked the doors because that is his usual habit."

However, Smith said it was possible that when he accompanied a friend to a vehicle parked nearby at 2:30 a.m. Saturday, he might have accidentally unlocked his car, according to the report.

There were no signs of forced entry, Athens-Clarke public information officer Epifanio Rodriguez told the Tribune on Monday.

On Wednesday morning, Smith posted a video on his Twitter account in which he thanked Athens-Clarke police and his followers for helping nab a suspect and getting some of the possessions back.

Smith did not specify whether his team-issued iPad playbook was among the items recovered, but no matter. The Bears were able to wipe the information from it. They were not, however, able to wipe the impression that their top pick was sloppy and unreliable.

To think, Smith was considered the "safe" pick.

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ASK THE REPORTER BRAD BIGGS

Lineup speculation is already starting



How many rookies do you expect to start Week 1 vs. Week 17 (not due to injury)? @wagher11

That's a difficult question to answer before they've even put on a helmet in rookie minicamp. Start with the idea that Roquan Smith is a Week 1 starter at inside linebacker. I'd imagine James Daniels will have an opportunity to claim the left guard spot, but he'll have to battle for it. To me, it's not as important if Anthony Miller is starting in Week 1 (or Week 17 for that matter) as it is for him to be a regular contributor in the offense. There will be so many personnel groupings that playing time is more important than being on the field for the first snap. Miller will have to perform well too. Remember, the Bears paid Taylor Gabriel some real money in free agency, and he's not a gadget player. It's hard to forecast a Day 3 pick starting as a rookie, but until you see them compete with veterans, it's impossible to say.

With Roquan Smith able to help in coverage, is there a chance we could see Leonard Floyd in a three-point stance more this season? The team needs to help generate pressures for him, and that could augment his explosiveness. @bergsthezombie

First we have to see who is on the field in the sub package. Typically, the Bears removed the inside linebacker opposite Danny Trevathan, but coordinator Vic Fangio had a lot of personnel groupings for different situations. While I think Smith will be good in coverage, let's be realistic. You don't want him covering wide receivers regularly, and top tight ends could be a lot to ask of him as well. I agree the Bears need to get more out of Floyd as a pass rusher, but the team believes he was very close to becoming a dominant edge rusher before he was injured last season. This is a huge year for Floyd. No question about that.

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Huddle up with the Tribune's Rich Campbell and Dan Wiederer as they take you inside the Bears beat with a weekly podcast. From the practice field to gameday, they're your eyes and ears for all things Bears.



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CUBS

Stepping up to plate in cancer fight

Rizzo's cook-off aids pediatric research via auction, donations

By PHIL THOMPSON
Chicago Tribune

Anthony Rizzo is known for two signature Chicago fundraisers, but when asked his preference between the Laugh-Off for Cancer and Wednesday night's Cook-Off for Cancer, he didn't have to think long before choosing.

"I like this one better. I like to eat," said Rizzo, who hosted the sixth annual mixer and Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation charity auction at Morgan Manufacturing in the Fulton Market neighborhood.

"The laugh-off's fun; it's just different. It's in the offseason; this is during the year. Guys come, and they generally like it."

The "guys" would be the Cubs first baseman's teammates, who served food and drinks for tip money that goes to the charity. Kyle Schwarber earned the most in tips last year, but Rizzo was betting on Kris Bryant this time.

"He's always the hot ticket," Rizzo said.

Rizzo also was joined by club board member Laura Ricketts, manager Joe Maddon and several players.

Maddon, Joe Namath and Yu Darvish donated jerseys for the auction, and Luke Bryan and Pearl Jam gave guitars. An autographed World Series ball and a "W" flag signed by players had starting bids of \$2,500.

The money goes toward pediatric cancer research and financial support for families.

"We're growing this foundation. ... We never want a family to choose between paying a medical bill and saving a kid's life," said Rizzo, a cancer survivor himself after being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2008.

Last year's Cook-Off event raised \$1.1 million.



Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo, above, talks to a group of children as he hosts the Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation's sixth annual Cook-Off for Cancer fundraiser Wednesday at Morgan Manufacturing. Left, the Cubs' Ian Happ tastes a dish at the cook-off.

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

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Chicago Tribune

BEARS

Rookies' lesson: NFL all business, all the time

Haugh, from Page 1

The son of coal miners from Big Stone Gap, Va., Jones brought an unmatched work ethic to town. That same relentless mindset has served Jones well in his post-NFL acting career — Thomas Q. Jones the actor has appeared in the movie “Straight Outta Compton” and various TV shows, with an upcoming role in the Marvel series “Luke Cage” on Netflix.

In a recent interview with WSCR-AM 670's Laurence Holmes, Jones articulated everything Smith and his fellow Bears rookies arriving Thursday need to hear. Holmes simply asked Jones what advice he would offer the newest Bears. The Bears should invite Jones to Bourbonnais in July to repeat his answer, for emphasis.

“Take this very seriously,” Jones began. “Stay in your playbook. Stay in the film room. Stay in the weight room. Those are the three things that keep you in the NFL.”

Over a 12-year NFL career with five teams, Jones gained 10,591 yards, good for 25th place in league history. But his start was inauspicious. When the Cardinals drafted Jones at No. 7 out of Virginia in 2000, he admitted his heart wasn't in Arizona despite the big contract and high praise. He needed to grow up, and this was a guy born serious.

“It was tough,” Jones said. “I wasn't too excited about being in Phoenix too far away from home. I didn't stay in the film room enough, the weight room enough or my playbook enough. I wasn't as prepared as I should have been.”

Three disappointing seasons later, Jones had amassed only 1,264 yards. His face could have appeared next to the definition

Items stolen from Smith recovered

By PHIL THOMPSON | Chicago Tribune

Bears rookie Roquan Smith tweeted Wednesday morning that several University of Georgia jerseys and other items stolen from his apartment complex's parking garage near campus have been recovered.

That is, all but his Bears-issued iPad containing the team playbook, an Athens-Clarke County Police spokesman told the Tribune.

The Bears said Monday they remotely wiped the password-protected tablet.

“A fingerprint lifted from the car identified the suspect, and our detectives were able to recover some of the property from the suspect's residence and the rest from a family member of the suspect,” Rodriguez said via email.

He said Smith was “ecstatic” when notified by detectives.

“I would personally like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers as Athens-Clarke County Police Depart-

ment worked very hard to identify the individual responsible for this,” Smith said on the video posted to Twitter.

“Due to the prompt attention by the Athens-Clarke County Police Department, I was able to recover most of my items as well as the individual being identified.”

Rodriguez said authorities expect to obtain arrest warrants soon and plan to charge the suspect with “entering auto,” which is a felony. The Summerville (Ga.) News said that city's police traced the items to a Summerville teen who attends the University of Georgia.

Smith told police that sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning, several of his jerseys were stolen from his 2018 BMW X5, along with watches, headphones, a speaker, a Bulldogs helmet and his university athlete of the year trophy.

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of “bust” in the Cardinals' glossary. He suffered concentration lapses and made mistakes.

“Unfortunately, rookies come in and they don't understand,” Jones said. “In college, you're not getting paid. Yeah, there's pressure, but there's pressure for you to win or get to the NFL. There's no pressure like signing a contract, and now you have a whole city expecting you to

come in and help that organization get to the Super Bowl immediately. They don't care that you are a 21-year-old kid who just got done eating pizza in a dorm or playing PlayStation or Xbox.”

A reminder of the bottom-line business of the NFL came June 17, 2003, when the Cardinals gave up on Jones and traded him to the Buccaneers. If Jones' three seasons with the Bears were his most memorable

in the NFL, his lone year with the Bucs and coach Jon Gruden was the most pivotal. The winning structure reinvigorated Jones' workmanlike approach and, finally, he thought, “This is what I thought the NFL was.”

“The standard of preparation wasn't as high in Arizona as in Tampa,” Jones said.

By the time Jones signed with the Bears as a free agent after the 2003 season, his personal standards had been reset, his professional goals refocused. Everything that complicated Jones' ascent to stardom as a young NFL player learning about the league became simplified by remembering three steps. From Tampa to Chicago to New York to Kansas City, Jones practiced what he still preaches.

Stay in the playbook.

Stay in the film room.

Stay in the weight room.

“If you don't know your plays, you can't play — they will not put you on the field,” Jones said. “If you don't know anybody's tendencies that you're playing against, then you can't make the plays. Everybody is too good. ... And if you can't keep your weight up or your strength up, then physically you're going to get hurt and you can't play, and that will keep you off the field.”

“I know that sounds like a lot, but that's what keeps you in the NFL.”

Welcome to Halas Hall, Bears rookies. If the walls could talk, they would tell instructive tales of greatness such as Dick Butkus and Walter Payton and Mike Singletary — and Thomas Jones. Listen up. They call it a profession for a reason.

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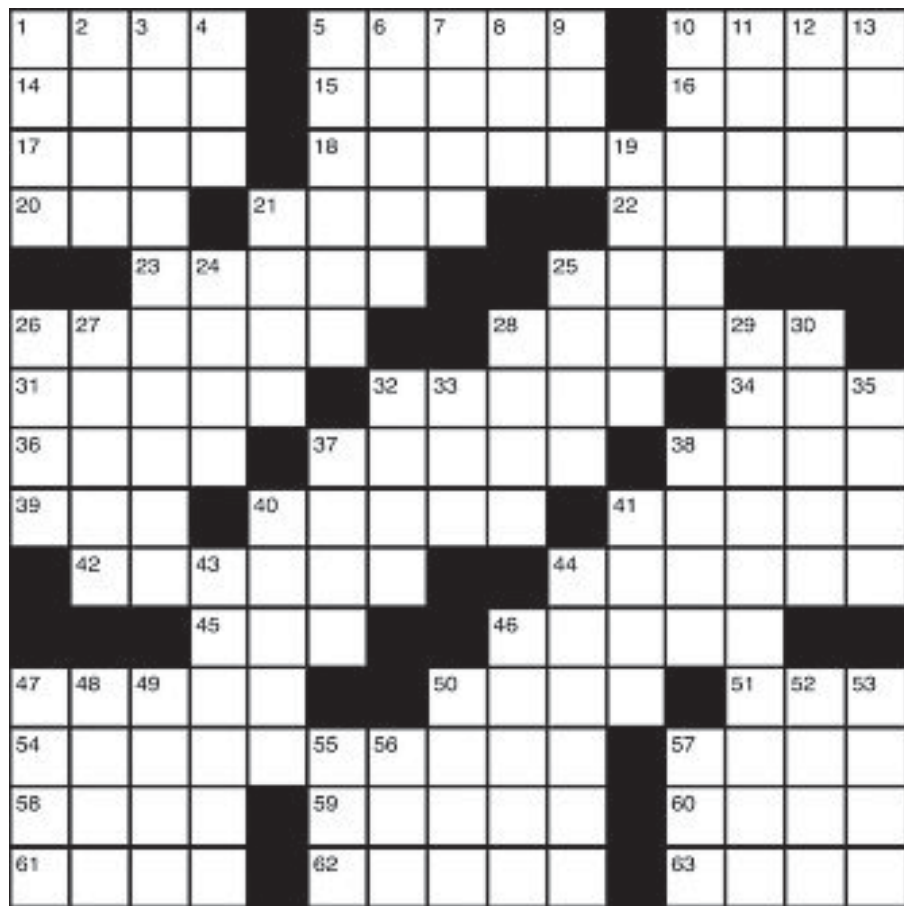
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Crossword



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5/10/18

ACROSS

- 1 Jack's love in "Titanic"
- 5 Under way
- 10 Illegal way to make money
- 14 Thousand __, California
- 15 Stingless bee
- 16 Toothpaste container
- 17 " __ Land Is Your Land"
- 18 Trustworthy
- 20 Source of light and heat
- 21 Rock band
- 22 First phase
- 23 Actor Peter __
- 25 Show __; entertainment industry
- 26 Dance form
- 28 Neighbor of Costa Rica
- 31 Identical
- 32 Soviet labor camp
- 34 Rainbow
- 36 Canisters
- 37 Punctures
- 38 Threesome
- 39 Clean up one's __; reform
- 40 Bread from heaven
- 41 Abyss

DOWN

- 2 Flee
- 44 Facial hair
- 45 __ and hers
- 46 __ Carolina
- 47 Used oars
- 50 Actress Sela
- 51 One __ kind; unique thing
- 54 On a __; with barely enough money
- 57 As strong as __
- 58 Competes
- 59 Small weight
- 60 In this place
- 61 Sit for an artist
- 62 Griffith & Gibb
- 63 __ and crafts
- 1 Decays
- 2 Pearl Harbor's island
- 3 Cheapskates
- 4 Curvy letter
- 5 Rehab resident
- 6 Sassy
- 7 Klutz's word
- 8 Half and half
- 9 Morning hour
- 10 Verse
- 11 Chicago team
- 12 Ready, willing and __
- 13 Bump into
- 19 "Nothing __!"; firm refusal

Solutions



- 21 Part of the leg
- 24 Types; varieties
- 25 Pasture cries
- 26 "Ali __ and the Forty Thieves"
- 27 Linda Lavin role
- 28 "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- 29 Serious runner
- 30 Get up
- 32 No longer here
- 33 "Ode on a Grecian __"
- 35 __ across; find
- 37 Spaces
- 38 "All __ Jazz"; song from "Chicago"
- 40 Motel workers
- 41 Drape puller
- 43 Gouda or feta
- 44 Pigs out
- 46 Grace or Travis
- 47 Invitation letters
- 48 Dayton's state
- 49 Miseries
- 50 Breeze
- 52 Knox or Worth
- 53 Chopping tools
- 55 __ T; exactly
- 56 Trot
- 57 "Caughtcha!"

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NBA



GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY

LeBron James, celebrating a win over the Raptors with Kevin Love, has kept the Cavaliers elite after the team underwent a big makeover.

COMMENTARY

On his own terms

Despite comparisons, James has never sought to emulate Jordan

BY JERRY BREWER
Washington Post

Every time the NBA playoffs make us want to yawn, LeBron James swoops in and changes our reaction to mouths agape.

We're in awe of the best player in basketball doing best-player-in-basketball things, stretching his powers beyond perceived limitations and transforming the flawed Cavaliers into the finals contender they shouldn't be.

James isn't merely living up to his kingly standard; the dude is acting out a script from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In 11 postseason games, we've seen him bloodied, exhausted and nearly eliminated. And then we've seen him reattach his cape, make two game-winning shots, inspire spooked teammates and torment the top-seeded Raptors (again).

All the while, he has demonstrated his knack for captivating a social media-obsessed audience, turning NBA Twitter into his playground and reigniting the endless Greatest Of All Time debate.

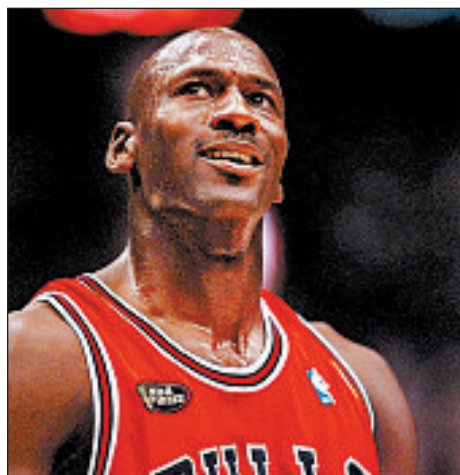
LeBron James or Michael Jordan? As someone who grew up watching Jordan and grew wise (I hope) watching James, I still think it's easier, at this point, to laud Jordan as basketball's invincible hero. He came first, and he possesses irrefutable accomplishments as the sport's most deadly perimeter scorer, a six-time champion and a game-changing cultural phenomenon and celebrity endorser.

And his playing career can be evaluated in totality; James probably has four or five good years left. It has been 20 years since Jordan pushed aside Bryon Russell and won the 1998 NBA Finals and 15 years since his two-year comeback with the Wizards ended.

Time has provided the opportunity to digest Jordan and understand all layers of his significance.

James is still writing his story. He was drafted in 2003, just months after Jordan retired for the final time, and has grown to be the game's most important figure, even though legends such as Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan and Shaquille O'Neal had prime years left during his era.

Fifteen years later, James is 33 and still ascending. He has improved as a shooter and clutch player. And as a leader he knows how to inspire a struggling team.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Twenty years after his last title with the Bulls, Michael Jordan remains the player against whom others measure themselves.

As he showed in outlasting the Pacers over seven tough first-round games, James can say, "Enough!" and lift his team out of situations that would be too difficult for most stars.

Unless a Celtics squad missing Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward can stop him, James will carry the Cavaliers to their fourth straight finals appearance and make his ridiculous eighth straight trip to the championship round. And he has done it with a team that management basically blew up at the trade deadline.

In the MJ-LeBron debate, many try to compare them in oversimplified ways: Jordan has six titles, James has three; Jordan won all six of his finals appearances, James is 3-for-8; Jordan's killer instinct was always on display, James likes being the nice guy; Jordan won all of his championships in Chicago, James joined Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami to win his first two.

Such comparisons go on and on, but they miss an essential point: LeBron never really wanted to be like Mike.

He wears No. 23 and makes a lot of money off the court. But James didn't strive to be the Air Apparent the way Bryant did. James did his own thing, and he is his own thing: the most skilled, athletic and powerful big man ever to play a little man's game.

That's why it is unfair to James to foist him into a G.O.A.T. debate with Jordan and make it seem as if James' entire legacy is tied to leaping over MJ. It doesn't allow one to fully appreciate his historical significance.

James probably has four or five good years left. It has been 20 years since Jordan pushed aside Bryon Russell and won the 1998 NBA Finals.

There are few mold-breaking talents who redefine how we look at basketball players; the most prominent examples are James, O'Neal, Magic Johnson and Wilt Chamberlain. They carved out a niche even among the best ever. It might not make them the greatest ever, but they are incomparable basketball mysteries.

Just as people have spent decades verifying that O'Neal, Johnson and Chamberlain were real and explaining how wild it was to watch them operate, we will talk the same about James. And though this era is producing plenty of stunningly tall men with abnormal skills, no one has James' combination of height (6-foot-8), weight (currently 250 pounds but has been more), speed, strength, leaping ability, scoring instincts, court vision, grace and basketball intelligence.

Because he was such a great scorer, Jordan was an underrated all-around player. But his superpower was his competitive drive, and in his own, smooth way, James has that too. How else could he have the Cavaliers four victories from another Finals berth?

Yet for all of James' greatness, he just might will his way to more heartache. Even if the Cavaliers follow up their sweep of the Raptors with another one in the Eastern Conference finals, they will be heavy underdogs to the Warriors or Rockets in the championship round. James could fall to 3-6 in the finals, and as a free agent this summer he might leave Cleveland again for a younger, more formidable team.

James will never be like Mike. Some might say that to denigrate him. He once talked about Jordan as "this ghost I'm chasing," but there are many ways to run after a ghost. Clearly, James is in pursuit from a different angle.

And even if he doesn't do enough to catch Jordan — at least in the eyes of Jordan's most ardent supporters — James will look up at the end of the chase and realize he did something just as meaningful: He took his own path.

GOLF

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Together, Woods, Lefty in spotlight

Now friends, aging rivals in same group for Rounds 1, 2

BY EDGAR THOMPSON
Orlando Sentinel

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — It felt a little like a warmup for a WWE cage match instead of the lead-up to the PGA Tour's showcase event.

Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods, mano-a-mano for 18 holes, two aging legends battling for supremacy.

The idea came from Mickelson, who suggested he and Woods — along with the deepest field in golf — simply bypass the first three rounds at this week's Players Championship and go straight to Sunday for a winner-take-all extravaganza.

"Now, I don't know if he wants a piece of me," Mickelson said.

Woods, speaking later, played along with the good-natured trash talk between the longtime rivals who have evolved into friends. Still true to his alpha-dog nature, he made sure Mickelson realized his place in the game.

"How many times have we won on tour?" Woods, who has 79 victories to Mickelson's 43, asked with a smile.

Fans, television networks, advertisers and the tour certainly would welcome an all-too-rare, final-day duel between Woods and Mickelson. For now, everyone will have to settle for a Thursday-Friday pairing and hope each remains in contention come Sunday.

Few first-round groups in memory will generate the buzz or crowds Woods, Mickelson and Rickie Fowler should at 12:52 p.m. Thursday at the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

Rarely has Fowler, one of the game's most popular players, been a third wheel. But even the 29-year-old is excited to see the matchup.

"I've got the best seat in the house," Fowler said. "It'll be fun. ... I know it's going to be crazy out there."

The golf could be electric, too, even though Mickelson's recent win in Mexico is the only victory between them since 2013.

Mickelson is coming off a tie for fifth at Quail Hollow, his fourth top-five finish in eight starts. Woods had two top-fives during the Florida Swing in March, is healthy for the first time in years and ranks inside the top 20 in scoring and strokes gained tee to green.

"I don't know how it's going to play out, but we seem to be bringing out the best in each other," Mickelson said. "We've been playing some really good golf lately, and I'm hoping we have a great week. I think everybody here wants to see us play well."

Woods and Mickelson have put on a show a few times before.

Their 2005 duel at Doral was golf at its best. Woods' 30-foot birdie on the 17th hole moved him to 24 under par and proved the difference, but not before Mickelson's chip shot on the final hole singled the edge of the cup in a one-shot loss.

At the 2009 Masters, Mickelson got the better of Woods with a front-nine 30 that caddie Steve Williams later called the best golf he had witnessed first hand, despite being on the bag for 13 of Woods' 14 major wins.

Mickelson has no illusion about who was better during Woods' peak in the early 2000s.

"I don't think anybody ... will ever see that level of play again," Mickelson said. "It was the most remarkable golf in the history of the game."

"And it sucked to have to play against him. You look at it and you say, 'How am I going to beat this?'"

Mickelson eventually closed the gap. During 35 pairings, Woods has posted a better score 16 times and Mickelson 15.

But during their highest-profile pairing, as partners in the 2004 Ryder Cup, both ended up losers, dropping their two matches together and creating the sense a deep-seated animosity existed.

Each has denied it. Whatever the case, the relationship has never been better.

The two surprised many by teeing it up during a Tuesday practice round at the Masters. Woods said they grew closer at the 2016 Ryder Cup and 2017 Presidents Cup, where the injured Woods was a vice captain and Mickelson a competitor.

The two were last paired a year earlier, during the first two rounds of the 2014 PGA Championship. Woods' back surgeries have limited the opportunities lately, but putting the two biggest draws in the same group simply never seemed to be good for business.

"That's what the tour wanted," Woods said. "They wanted to get fans in here on Thursday and then Friday, so they had one of us in the afternoon either day."

These days the pairing makes more sense than ever. Never have the one-time adversaries been closer.

On the golf course, though, they are blood rivals, bent on beating each other.

"I enjoy either competing with him on the first or second day or if it's the last day," Woods said. "It's always been a blast, and he's one hell of a competitor."

"And it's always going to be a challenge to try to beat him."

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NBA PLAYOFFS

Tatum hits late layup as Celtics win series

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum caught a pass underneath the basket, shook off a hit and went up for the go-ahead layup with 23 seconds left and the Celtics beat the 76ers 114-112 on Wednesday night to advance to the Eastern Conference finals.

Tatum scored 25 points, Jaylen Brown had 24 and Terry Rozier 17, sinking a pair of free throws after forcing Joel Embiid's turnover in the final seconds. Al Horford added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Celtics, who will play the Cavaliers for the second straight year for a spot in the NBA Finals.

Game 1 is Sunday in Boston. Embiid had 27 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers, who roared back into the playoffs

for the first time since 2012, winning 20 out of 21 games before the Celtics beat them three straight times to open the conference semifinals. Dario Saric had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Ben Simmons added 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Embiid had a chance to tie it after Tatum made it 111-109 with 18.8 seconds left. But he missed a heavily contested layup, failed to tip it back in and then grabbed that rebound, too. Rozier knocked the ball out of his hands, off his leg and out of bounds with 10.8 seconds left.

"Just a championship play, that's all," said Rozier, who made a pair of free throws to make it 113-109 — eight straight points for the Celtics.

J.J. Reddick's 3 cut the deficit to one.

Marcus Smart missed his first free-throw attempt and appeared to try to miss the second, too — to force the 76ers to bring the ball up the court with the clock running — but the ball went in. The 76ers' full-court inbound pass was intercepted by Smart, and he threw the ball in the air to run out the clock.

The Celtics and Cavaliers both have undergone overhauls since the Cavaliers won the East finals in five games last year. Only four players on each side remain from that series.

The Celtics scored the last eight points of the first half, including 3-pointers by Baynes and one by Rozier at the buzzer, to open a 61-52 lead. The 76ers closed the third quarter on a 21-5 run to make it a one-point game.

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Penn State running back Saquon Barkley poses with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell after being selected No. 2 overall by the Giants on the first day of the draft last month.

Barkley heading to N.Y., but fans are found everywhere

BY ART STAPLETON
Hackensack (N.J.) Record

COPLAY, Pa. — At 10 years old, Jade Alvarez follows select celebrities on Instagram, which seems to be a social media must for many of her fifth-grade classmates at Zephyr Elementary School.

Selena Gomez. Justin Bieber. All the Kardashians.

The most famous of them all in these parts is someone Alvarez considers a friend: Saquon Barkley, star running back from Penn State and most recently the No. 2 overall pick in the NFL draft by the Giants.

"I mean, well, he's verified, so — he's got that check," Alvarez said with a wry smile. "He's pretty high" on the list.

So has it hit Alvarez yet that there are going to be a lot of people her age and older who view Barkley as a celebrity like those she mentioned and believe he has the potential to become that kind of star?

"No, not really," she said without hesitation. "When I see him, I think, 'He's just a guy from Whitehall!'"

Make no mistake: Saquon Barkley is their guy from Whitehall, and we spent a day last week in his hometown talking to friends, former teachers and coaches, administrators and family as they told pride-filled memories of "Say-Say."

We toured the hallways at Whitehall High School, walked the football field where he earned his scholarship to Penn State and visited his home on the invite of his parents, Alibay Barkley and Tonya Johnson, who shared memories as Saquon prepares for the next chapter in his life with the Giants.

Here are those stories from the place where Barkley developed his game and made the name they love.

Alibay Barkley will never forget what he considers the football awakening for his son.

Saquon's eyes widened when Alibay and his family drove past the football field on Front Street for the first time on the way to their newly-purchased house more than a decade ago in this 3,000-plus-person town nestled just north of Allentown.

"When he saw the kids out there playing," Alibay said, "that's when the excitement (for football) came, so we put him in there (and

signed up for the Hokendauqua Eagles Athletic Association). And the rest — you know what I'm saying — is history."

An estimated 5,000 people spilled into this town for Saquon Barkley Day in March.

His face on a wall inside Whitehall High School celebrating the Class of 2015 is hard to miss — especially with Barkley's autograph and a message of "We Are" scribbled in the lower-right corner.

His middle school No. 21 jersey hangs on a pipe in the locker room.

There are reminders of Barkley's varsity excellence all over the place, and the love is certainly mutual.

On draft night, the Whitehall logo and his No. 21 was stitched into the right side of Barkley's tuxedo jacket, the Penn State logo and his No. 26 from the Nittany Lions on the left.

"If he was on his last breath and I needed a breath, he would give me his last breath," said Kayla Cunningham, Barkley's good friend who attended the draft along with his family and others who are close to Barkley.

"He cares so much about his family and friends, and he has such a good heart."

The week that changed Barkley's life began Tuesday with the birth of his daughter, Jada Clare, and continued 48 hours later when he walked onto the stage inside AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, after NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell officially welcomed him to the Giants.

"As much as he excels on the field and he's this bigger-than-life personality, now going to New York City that's not going to diminish," Whitehall athletic director Bob Hartman said of Barkley, who was born in the Bronx. "But when he comes back here, it's (as if) he never left."

"He doesn't have that ego to do selfish, rude things. His jacket had our logo with his number in it, so that tells you how he feels about this place. That's not contrived, it's not made up. He likes being here."

A sign on the opposite corner from Barkley's home declares Coplay as "the little town that could." Inside that home, the spoils of his remarkable athletic career up to this point are on full display.

"This is all Saquon," Alibay said with a smile, offering a rundown of trophies, photos and medals tucked into a corner. "It's all part

of the journey.

"Some people ask how he's going to handle the big market like New York, and I think he'll do great. If he makes mistakes, he'll man up for his mistakes. If he does something good, he'll praise everybody and not himself."

"He's a different kind of kid and it's amazing that the universe blessed us with that."

Mike Yadush teaches social studies at Whitehall, where he has also served as the defensive coordinator with the varsity football team for the last 23 years. Barkley started for Yadush and the Zephyrs at outside linebacker as a sophomore, not at running back.

"He missed some tackles, got beat sometimes," Yadush said. "And then going into his junior year he hit the weights so hard — he was so into this. They should write the book on him on how to be a star because he's not faking it."

"When you're a star in high school, college and now going into the NFL, behave like him. Work hard, respect other people, respect your coaches. Right now, if he came in here, he would go, 'Yes sir, no sir,' to a coach."

For nearly three decades, Yadush has also been an Eagles season ticket holder.

"At Whitehall, he was mine, he was ours," Yadush said with a laugh. "At Penn State, I'm a Penn State fan (and) he was ours. And it's so weird now having him with (the Giants) when (I'm a) Eagles season ticket holder."

"I mean, for Saquon this is the best. The big lights, New York City, the biggest market — that's where he belongs."

Alicia Knauff is the assistant principal at Whitehall, and she has become the go-to person within the school for all things Barkley.

Her oldest daughter, Shadimon Navarro, was classmates with him, while Knauff's two youngest — Jade and Amaya Alvarez, 13 — are at the front of the line when it comes to the Saquon Barkley Fan Club.

"I didn't think when he was at Penn State that my kids really realized how big this was," Knauff said. "But I think it's gotten to the point where I can't even wrap my head around it. Everywhere I look, he's there. I can't even go on social media because he's blowing up my news feed. Whether it's Twitter (or) Instagram — I'm at the gym at 4:30 this morning and

who's on the TV as soon as I walk in and who's everyone talking about?"

"It's interesting to hear all the conversation about him regardless of where I go — the gym, the grocery store, everywhere you're at he's either on a magazine cover (or) on the TV. At the doctor's office, there's a magazine and he's on it. I don't even think I, as an adult, can appreciate how big this has gotten so quickly."

When Amaya Alvarez arrives for an interview for this story, she barely can contain her glee. Her classmates had just spent study hall debating the celebrity of Barkley and his new teammate, Giants star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.

"To be honest with you, it's Saquon and it's Odell," Amaya said, blushing. "Those are the two guys everyone talks about."

Saquon Barkley, environmental scientist.

Well, not quite, but had someone walked into Justin Kondikoff's classroom back when Barkley was a senior, the star athlete incessantly raising his hand was not feigning interest by any stretch.

"In class, there were times I had to put limits on the number of questions he would ask because he would take up the whole class," said Kondikoff, who coaches wide receivers and special teams at Whitehall. "He would literally filibuster the entire class because he was so inquisitive. He inquired about everything."

"Now, this was environmental science class, so that's not his thing. But he was in the class, so he would take advantage of it: 'What is a carbon footprint?' He would ask about any topic we discussed, and he genuinely wanted to know. He would kind of take over the class, and not on purpose (but) just (because) he wanted to know. If you had information, he wanted to know about it."

"And he would ask the same questions in football — if the D-tackle is in this technique versus this technique, how should I make this step? The same thing he did in class, he did on the football field. And that's what makes him special: He's not afraid to open himself up and ask those questions a lot of athletes don't want to ask. It's important to him, whether it's something in environmental science class or how to take the proper step carrying the

ball."

Aliyah and Ali Barkley were back at school last Monday morning, and all the buzz from the big brother-to-Big Blue news from late last week had yet to wear off.

The 15-year-old twins — Aliyah is a track star and Ali will be the last one to wear Saquon's No. 21 on the football team — admit their reality has changed as well.

"I'm still shocked," Aliyah said. "I'm like, 'This is my brother' and 'Whoa.' I still don't think I realize the full extent of all this."

"It's funny, at track meets I wear a Whitehall track and field sweatshirt with my last name on it, and I'll walk past somebody, hear the whispering and I know they're talking about me. Yeah, I'm the sister of that Barkley. It doesn't bother me, but it's really something I notice."

Ali jokes that Saquon still checks in about his grades — well, he's not joking — and Aliyah reveals that her older brother offers motivation by saying she can achieve everything he has and more, and he believes in her ability and drive.

"With Saquon, there is no finish line," Aliyah said.

The culmination of a whirlwind week for Saquon Barkley and those closest to him happened here last Monday night.

Alibay returned Sunday to his job as a cook at Chili's and worked a full shift again Monday. Barkley's parents did not meet Jada Clare until Monday night, when Saquon and girlfriend Anna Congdon arrived for the planned introduction.

"This is about finishing a chapter," Johnson said. "Once you read one chapter, you've got to go on to the next chapter and then the next. You write your own book, you write your own story."

The next chapter for Saquon will begin in East Rutherford soon enough.

He'll return to the Giants for the start of rookie minicamp this week.

At the end of an emotional experience in which he realized not one but two of the greatest moments in his 21 years, Saquon was finally able to exhale.

Shortly after receiving the draft call from the Giants four days earlier, he whispered with a nod to his parents, almost as if his new reality was finally sinking in: "I'm going back home."

— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —



CURTIS COMPTON/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Tiger Woods, left, and Phil Mickelson laugh during a practice round before this year's Masters. They'll be in the same group at the Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Tiger, Phil renew friendship — and the Players benefits

BY GARRY SMITS
Florida Times-Union

For the first time since 2015, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson will be in the Players Championship at the same time.

For the first time since 2013, they're both relevant at the same time.

For only the fourth time this season, they're in the same PGA Tour field (Woods has finished ahead of Mickelson twice in those three events), and both are playing well, combining for seven top-10s this season.

For the first time since 2014, they will play in the same group. Woods and Mickelson — and Rickie Fowler too — are grouped for the first two rounds.

To top it all off, they're now pals — at least on far better terms than in the past.

It should add even more sizzle to the final Players held in May, which will end Sunday with the winner picking up a check for \$1.89 million and 600 FedEx Cup points.

Woods, 42, and Mickelson, 47, have gone from somewhat contentious rivals to friends, an evolution both date to the 2016 Ryder Cup when Woods was a vice captain to Davis Love III and Mickelson played for the 11th time.

"When you're part of a team that's coming together to try and achieve a common goal, you develop a certain emotional unity and closeness," Mickelson said. "Experiencing those emotions trying to accomplish that goal is something that brought us all closer together."

They partnered together in a practice round at the Masters, and while they're not BFFs, their relationship seems to have reached a new level.

"Our friendship has gotten stronger over the years," Woods said. "It certainly has gotten a lot better."

Mickelson said Woods' historic career, which has produced 79 victories and 14 major championships to Mickelson's 43 wins and four majors, and more worldwide

interest in the game since his professional debut in 1996 has benefited every player — including him.

"Nobody respects and appreciates what he's done for the game more because nobody's benefited from what he's done for the game of golf more than I have," Mickelson said. "I've always had that respect and appreciation for him. To see him back out playing is incredible."

That certainly sounds like a mutual-admiration society. But it was Rory McIlroy who spoke for almost everyone in the golf world at Augusta when he said, "I never thought I'd see the day, Tiger and Phil playing a practice round at Augusta."

Ratings, crowds increase

Woods and Mickelson will be teeing it up together for competitive rounds beginning Thursday, no doubt boosting interest on the ground and on TV by golf fans who are yearning for some late-career heroics by golf's two biggest drawing cards since Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

Players Championship Executive Director Jared Rice, while noting the tournament has experienced record attendance in recent years, said Woods and Mickelson will only add to local and international attention.

"Anytime you're talking about one Hall of Famer (Mickelson), one who will be (Woods) and both past champions here participating and playing well, it's better for our sport and further enhances an already strong field," Rice said. "It will be fantastic for the community and the property."

When Woods and Mickelson have been in contention this year, TV ratings and attendance have soared.

The final round of the Palmer Invitational, when Woods was one shot off the lead until he hit his tee shot at No. 16 out of bounds, increased 136 percent over the previous year. The third round was a 92 percent ratings boost.

At the Valspar Championship,

where Woods tied for second, the 5.1 rating for the final round was a whopping 192 percent over a whopping 192 percent over the previous year and was the highest final round rating for a non-major since the 2015 Wyndham Championship — not coincidentally, the last time Woods had logged a top-10 when he was trying to qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Mickelson's victory in Mexico City boosted ratings 21 percent over the previous year.

At the Masters, the first-round ratings with Mickelson in the afternoon wave were up 40 percent and the second-round ratings, with Woods playing late, were up 50 percent.

Both on a roll

They're entering the tournament on their best extended streak of good play since 2013, when Woods had already posted victories at the Farmers Insurance Open, the WGC at Doral and the Arnold Palmer Invitational while Mickelson had won the Waste Management Open and posted two third-place finishes, including one behind Woods at Doral.

Woods went on to win the Players that year to become the first man to win the tournament in March and May. He added a title at the WGC Bridgestone Invitational and was voted PGA Tour player of the year. Mickelson won his fourth major title later that year at the British Open.

Since then, Woods has gone through several back surgeries and a stint in rehabilitation after a DUI arrest last summer. In six PGA Tour starts since recovering from his last back operation, he's posted two top-five finishes, four among the top 25 and made five cuts.

Mickelson broke the longest victory drought of his career when he beat Justin Thomas in a playoff at the WGC Mexico Championship in February and has five top-10 finishes. He has made 10 of 11 cuts.

Length not a factor

It may have been unrealistic to hope Woods and Mickelson could

contend at the same time in the Masters, which usually rewards the longest hitters off the tee.

The reality is that the two who made "bomb and gouge" a common phrase on the PGA Tour have been victims of their own brand of ball.

For much of their careers, Woods and Mickelson were the two leading practitioners of the notion that a wedge from the rough was better than a 7-iron from the fairway — and 122 combined victories shows their strategy worked.

But today's younger tour stars paid close attention, and now the two are mired behind a younger and stronger pack of long hitters.

Woods is averaging 302.3 yards per measured drive this season, which is 36th on the tour. Mickelson is at 298.0, ranked 60th. In their prime, those figures would have been among the top five behind only players such as John Daly and Bubba Watson.

Woods is still delighted by his clubhead speed of a bit more than 120 mph, not far from the high 120s in his prime.

"I didn't think I'd ever reach north of 120, and I'm cruising at 120," he said. "So that part is very exciting."

But the Stadium Course isn't Augusta National. It's 200 yards shorter, with tighter fairways and smaller greens, and Woods and Mickelson won't have to worry about getting outslugged by anyone.

Their experience at the Stadium may also come into play: Mickelson will be making his 25th start in the Players, the most of anyone eligible for this year's tournament. Woods' 17th start is exceeded only by Steve Stricker and Sergio Garcia.

Their savvy also is reflected in the tour's strokes-gained indices. Woods is second on the tour in strokes gained putting, seventh in strokes gained around the green and 10th in strokes gained approaching the green.

Mickelson, while lagging behind at 51st in shots gained approaching the green, is third in putting and eighth around the green.

Mickelson said he has so much confidence in his putting since what he called a breakthrough with coach Dave Pelz four years ago that he can afford some lapses in other areas.

"I really need to become a consistent great putter who is able to achieve what I want to achieve," he said. "I've been able to put it together and implement it to where I'm either No. 1 or 2 in all of the statistical categories in putting that matter, so I'm very excited about what that means."

Younger players inspired

Watching their rejuvenations are the Tour's young stars who were inspired to play golf by Woods and Mickelson but had few, if any chances to go head-to-head.

Now, they just might, especially when it comes to Woods.

"Anybody that played against him said you don't want that," said Thomas, the 2017 PGA Tour player of the year and FedEx Cup champion who was beaten by Mickelson in Mexico City. "I know he wants to make another run at us young guns. It's great for golf. It's great for him. I cherish the opportunity to potentially be going down the stretch with him to win a golf tournament. All I've done is watch it and enjoyed it. Maybe I wouldn't enjoy it so much if I was on the other end."

McIlroy said the game is better with Woods and Mickelson summing their talent to make what might be one last run at the game's Generation Next.

"As a fan of golf I think golf is in a great place right now," he said.

The place this week is the Stadium Course, where Fred Funk won in 2005 at the age of 48 and Si Woo Kim won last year at age 21. Where unknown Craig Perks chipped and putted his way into history in 2002 and world No. 1-ranked Jason Day won wire-to-wire in 2016.

And it's where Woods won in 2001 and 2013, and Mickelson in 2007. Who would bet against a repeat act for either one?

Chicago Tribune
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ROBERT GAUTHIER/LOS ANGELES TIMES

"The Big Bang Theory" cast features Mayim Bialik, from left, Kunal Nayyar, Melissa Rauch, Johnny Galecki, Simon Helberg, Jim Parsons and Kaley Cuoco.

COMEDIC SCIENCE

Remarkable run of 'Big Bang Theory' has done wonders for cast, crew and CBS

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL | Los Angeles Times

There's the Big Bang theory in science that explains how the universe began from a staggeringly hot, dense point roughly 13.7 billion years ago. But millions are more familiar with the other "Big Bang Theory" — the one that's been on CBS for 11 years. And in the cosmos of modern-day television, it stands out like a shining star.

True, this multicamera series is not the most buzzed-about comedy on the small screen, and its broad, safe humor doesn't exactly make it a spark plug in the critical think-piece culture. And, yes, its awards success may lag far behind other comedies such as "Modern Family" or "Veep."

But against all odds, "The Big Bang Theory" has established itself as one of the pillars of the prime-time scene. It's one of CBS' most reliable hits — the Thursday show is currently averaging

14 million total viewers (a number that rises to nearly 19 million when delayed viewing over a week is factored in), making it a force on one of television's most popular nights. It's launched a successful spinoff, made millionaires out of its previously unknown cast, employed hundreds of actors and crew members, and served as a potent springboard for other new CBS comedies.

"We've made more than 250 episodes," said veteran TV producer



RICARDO DEARATANHA/LOS ANGELES TIMES
 Chuck Lorre, shown in 2014, and Bill Prady are co-creators of the show.

Chuck Lorre, who co-created the show with Bill Prady. "We didn't expect this, you know? We just wanted to make a show about extraordinary minds." It's the kind of long-running main-

stream broadcast show that pours hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy. The show's steadfast heights are a rare achievement at a time of declining ratings and this glutinous age of TV that, quite frankly, could benefit from a scientific formula to help viewers get a handle on all the TV shows vying for their attention. It remains one of the top 10 most-watched shows in the country, with far more viewers than even the most popular streaming and cable series.

And it has accomplished this largely without resorting to stunts, gimmicks, or flashy guest stars while continuing to mine gold out of its premise and no-frills formula of young genius grappling with the fast-evolving real world. A fact that is not lost on executive producer Steven Molaro, who served as a

Turn to *Theory*, Page 3



WARNER BROS.

The 50th anniversary rerelease of "2001: A Space Odyssey" was overseen by "Dunkirk" director Christopher Nolan.

Nolan on a mission with 'unrestored' '2001'

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS
 Chicago Tribune

If you're in or near a major U.S. city, you've probably had the chance to see Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" on a big screen sometime in the last few years, projected either digitally or on film. The most unlikely smash hit of 1968, Kubrick's vision imagined our technological future and

humankind's cosmic destiny. That destiny was guided by what the film's original trailers called "a shrieking monolith deliberately buried by an alien intelligence."

Here in Chicago, at the annual Music Box 70 Millimeter Film Festival, "2001" has proved a consistently strong draw for cinemaphiles, many born long after

Turn to *2001*, Page 5

Dynamic voices on race, racism

Why Childish Gambino and Kanye West rise above the shouting



GREG KOT

It's the week that Childish Gambino blew up social media with a video dubbed "This is America," a meta commentary on the way pop culture and real-life violence collide and go boom, virally. It follows a week in which Kanye West took over the digital conversation with a handful of political Molotov cocktails about President Donald Trump and black slavery.

At their core, these rappers are not just star entertainers — they are artists whose pop cultural hegemony allows their voices to be heard above the shouting about race and institutional racism in this country. In black America, entertainment itself is often a political act, in large measure because of the way black art forms — the blues, jazz, gospel, rock 'n' roll, hip-hop — have been appropriated and



YOUTUBE

"This is America" is the latest video from Childish Gambino.

commercialized by mainstream (white) culture.

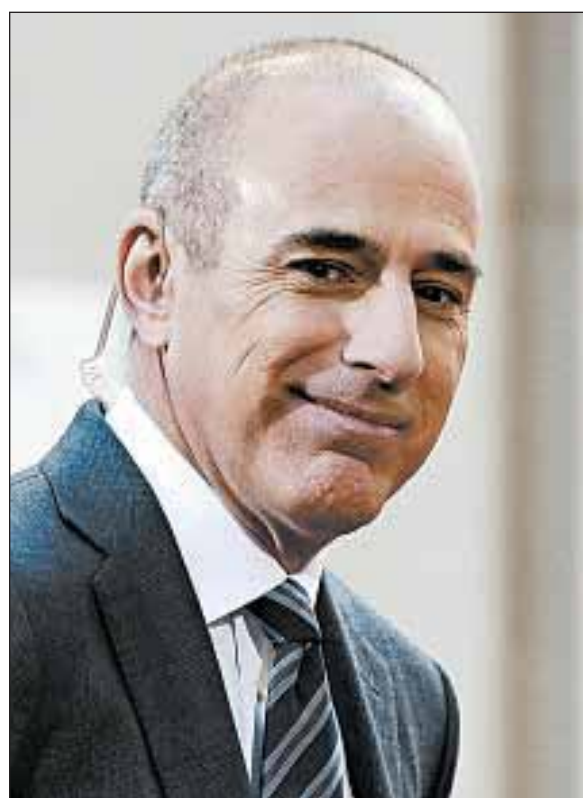
West has been releasing brilliant albums for more than a decade. Whatever anyone thinks of him as a personality, his music has transcended genres and generations. Gambino (Donald Glover) only recently raised his game from just being a guy in a lot of media nobody really cared all that passionately about. With the TV series "Atlanta" and his 2016 album "Awaken My Love!," Gambino's broader ambitions began to emerge, though nothing quite prepared his followers for "This is America," which has drawn more than 50 million views on YouTube.

The video shocks even as it dazzles. Gambino dominates the foreground, striking poses and dancing with rubbery fluidity, a parody of a minstrel rapping and singing about money and partying. The dancing distracts from the chaos in the background — rioting and looting, a body dragged off, a car vandalized, and the specter of death riding in on a pale horse. As Gambino satirizes the subject matter of most mainstream pop songs, he casually executes a musician hooded like a prisoner of war and guns down a joyous gospel choir, an allusion to the Charles-

Turn to *Kot*, Page 5

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



RICHARD DREW/AP 2016

NBC was unaware of Lauer allegations, internal review says

NBC News management was unaware of any incidents involving former "Today" co-anchor Matt Lauer, above, before four women came forward with accusations of sexual harassment against him in November, according to an internal review whose findings were released Wednesday.

Lauer was fired Nov. 29 after a female employee complained to NBC's human resources department that the NBC News star had engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace with her on several occasions in 2014.

After his firing, three other women came forward with allegations involving Lauer that they said occurred between 2000 and 2007.

But the review, conducted by legal counsel at NBCUniversal with the assistance of two outside law firms, determined that before November, there had never been a complaint to management or human resources regarding the former anchor, who had worked at the network for 27 years.

Two of the four women who complained about Lauer said his former bosses at NBC News were aware of his behavior. Those executives and producers, who are not named in the investigation, denied any such knowledge, and investigators were unable to substantiate the claims, the report said.

— Los Angeles Times



INVISION

Olive branch: Taylor Swift and Katy Perry, above, have called "End Game" on their long, drawn-out feud. After years of rumored bad blood between the pop stars and dramatic airings of grievances via song, Swift revealed Tuesday that Perry had extended a literal olive branch via snail mail. "Thank you Katy," Swift wrote on Instagram, where she shared a video of the symbolic package. The "Chained to the Rhythm" singer, 33, also included a note that appears to mention wanting to clear the air with her longtime foe. "Hey old friend, I've been doing some reflecting on past miscommunications," Perry's letter began. The makeup marks the apparent end to a feud years in the making, one that kicked off after Perry was rumored to have swiped Swift's backup dancers in 2013.

New Gervais series: Netflix has ordered a new comedy series from Ricky Gervais, Variety has learned. Titled "After Life," the series follows Tony (Gervais), who had a perfect life. But after his wife, Lisa, suddenly dies, Tony changes. After contemplating taking his own life, he decides instead to live long enough to punish the world by saying and doing whatever he likes from now on. He thinks it's like a super power — not caring about himself or anyone else — but it turns out to be tricky when everyone is trying to save the nice guy they used to know.

May 10 birthdays: Singer Donovan is 72. Singer Bono is 58. Rapper Young MC is 51. Actor-comedian Kenan Thompson is 40.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Dad might skip graduation over fight

Dear Amy: I raised my daughter as a single father. She's graduating soon with a master's degree. Even though I'm proud of her academic success, I'm disappointed in her other life choices, such as who she lives with, as well as her bad financial decisions. Two years ago, she got upset because I expressed my disappointment in her bad life choices — mainly the financial ones. I didn't teach her about finances growing up but recently learned a lot about how to handle money. As I tried to tell her what to do, she got loud and cursed at me. We both said a few choice words. I hung up, and we haven't spoken since.

I got an invitation to her graduation. My mother and other family members want me to go, but I'm unsure. As a father I feel like I should honor her achievement, but I don't feel she appreciates what I went through to get full custody and to raise her by myself.

I don't want to reward her disrespect, but I don't want to send her on a guilt trip, either. What do you think?

— Upset Father

Dear Father: Parenting does not end at the college door. Nor should parenting end after an argument.

By hanging up and not speaking to your daughter for two years (!), you are demonstrating the following: Disputes cannot be resolved. The consequence for losing your temper is estrangement.

Parents occasionally have to suck it up and love their children through their immature and disrespectful displays.

Your response should have been: "I'm sorry we got so angry with each other. When you cursed at me, I was shocked and disappointed. But I'm ashamed of my own reaction, and I hope you will forgive me for that. I want you to know that I'm proud of your accomplishments. I also hope you will understand that as your father, I do want to weigh in on choices you make that worry me. All the same, you are an adult now, and I want you to know that I am in your corner. Don't ever forget that."

So far, your reaction to her is upside down. You basically walked away from her bad behavior, letting her off the hook, and now you aren't rewarding her good behavior.

Of course you should attend this ceremony! To miss it would be needlessly punishing, so long after the fact. It also would put the focus on you, your needs and your wounded feelings, when it should be on her and her accomplishment.

Dear Amy: My boyfriend and I have been dating for four years. His mother dislikes me. I feel like she is a little upset that I "took her son away."

Every time we speak, she has an attitude toward me. I don't want to disrespect her because she is my boyfriend's mother. When I address the situation, she gets even more upset. Now I have stopped coming around because I do not want to be where I'm not welcomed.

My boyfriend and I live together and he stops by his parents' house from time to time. I have spoken

with him about these issues and he says not to worry: "They like you."

He wants me to come around, but how can I? I believe actions speak louder than words. I haven't spoken to them in months. I'm not sure what to do.

— Worried Girlfriend

Dear Worried: You are correct: Actions do speak louder than words. So let's look at your actions. You have withdrawn from your boyfriend's family, and then you blame them for not accepting you.

You should behave the way you would like them to behave: with maturity and respect. This doesn't mean you have to force yourself on them every time your boyfriend goes to see them, but you should make an effort to let them know you are his partner.

He has an important part to play in this family drama. Liking you isn't as important as respecting you and accepting your role in his life.

Dear Amy: I usually agree with you, but you blew it in your response to "Loving and Blessed," who was worried about her kids' stepmother overstepping her boundaries.

You said if she was in the grandchildren's lives from birth, she should be granted "full grandmother status." NO! She is a STEP! — Faithful Reader

Dear Faithful: Every reader who responded to this question agrees with you.

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'Get Out' playing Millennium Park

By ESE OLUMHENSE
Chicago Tribune

Missed your chance to catch "Coco" or "Get Out" in theaters? You're in luck: Both movies will screen free at Millennium Park this summer as part of the city's summer film series, Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announced Wednesday.

What's new this year is that each screening will be presented in collaboration with a local independent film festival. Films will run on a 40-foot LED screen at Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays from June 5-Aug. 21, beginning with "Hair-spray," screened in conjunction with the Chicago Underground Film Festival. "Groundhog Day" will run June 26 in collaboration with the Chicago Comedy Film Festival and Second City, and

UNIVERSAL PICTURES
Daniel Kaluuya

"WALL-E" and "Crash" will play July 31, collaborations with the One Earth and Peace on Earth film festivals, respectively. "Mad Max: Fury Road," "Coco," "Kinky Boots" and "Slumdog Millionaire" are also screening during the summer.

The Midwest Independent Film Festival, Gene Siskel Film Center's Black

Harvest Film Festival and the Chicago International Film Festival will also collaborate with the Millennium Park summer series. Organizers say the collaborative approach to the series was a way to promote the many different festivals that take place in the city year-round.

"We were recognizing just how large the film festival community had grown in recent years," said Rich Moskal, director of the Chicago Film Office, which put together the lineup. "What better opportunity to highlight those festivals than to bring in as collaborators film festivals that our audiences are already familiar with?"

More than 70 public concerts and programs are scheduled for Millennium Park this summer.

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CHICAGOLAND THEATRE DIRECTORY

<p style="font-size: x-small;">"A BIG AND JUICY HIT" ★★★★★ Chicago Tribune</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">MEMPHIS</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">porchlight 773.777.9884</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">COMPANY</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">IT'S A PARTY AND YOU'RE INVITED! 773.325.1700 MercuryTheaterChicago.com</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">MACBETH</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">TODAY 7:30, FRI 7:30, SAT 3 & 8, SUN 2 312.595.5600 • www.chicagoshakes.com</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Enjoy the Theater Tonight</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">CHICAGO PREMIERE!</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">THE ORIGINALIST</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">BY JOHN STRAND MAY 10–JUNE 10 COURTTHEATRE.ORG</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Enjoy the Theater Tonight</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Enjoy the Theater Tonight</p>	

CHICAGOLAND THEATRE DIRECTORY

Show rebounded from rough start

Theory, from Page 1

longtime showrunner on the series until last year when he left to shepherd the comedy's prequel spinoff, "Young Sheldon."

"There's so many TV shows out there — so many," Molaro said. "I get it. It's always exciting to be like, 'Oh, this is something new and buzzy that people are talking about, I wanna see that.' But that people still care enough about these characters after 11 years — they don't care that it's broad, they don't care that it's multicamera, it's so crazy and gratifying."

The show's longevity has helped maintain the sitcom's status as a valued property for CBS and Warner Bros. Television, which produces the series.

"The value is incalculable," said Kelly Kahl, president of CBS Entertainment who had been the head of scheduling when "The Big Bang Theory" launched. "Every scheduler, every network president, anybody who works at a network, you live for a show like this. The interesting thing to me is it's as dominant as it's ever been."

In addition to contributing to CBS' standing as the most-watched network, the show's enviable ratings have made it a key profit-maker for the broadcaster — the series alone brought in \$224 million in profits for CBS for the 2016-17 season, according to Kantar Media, which tracks ad spending. And its syndication revenue has reportedly generated more than \$1 billion for Warner Bros. Television.

"The financial reward has been extraordinary," said Peter Roth, president of Warner Bros. Television. "But as importantly, it's a defining series for our studio. We are only as good as the product we make, when you have a show that resonates globally as much as this series does, it's a source of tremendous pride."

Quite the evolution when you consider the show, which launched in 2007 on the precipice of television's modernization, ranked No. 68 in its first season.

Conceived by Prady and Lorre, who was riding high on the success of "Two and a Half Men," "The Big Bang Theory" was inspired by the personalities Prady encountered during his pre-Hollywood career as a computer programmer.

The original pilot was developed for the 2006-07 television season and featured the characters Leonard and Sheldon — played by Johnny Galecki and Jim Parsons, respectively — who were socially challenged physicists working at Caltech. The original female lead was a street-smart character, Katie, played by Amanda Walsh.

When the pilot didn't get picked up, Lorre and Prady retooled it. Katie became Penny, an across-the-hall neighbor who is a waitress with Hollywood ambitions (with a less-manipulative demeanor), played by Kaley Cuoco. And friends were added: aerospace engineer Howard Wolowitz, played by Simon Helberg, and astrophysicist Raj Koothrappali, played by Kunal Nayyar.

The overhaul got the pilot picked up. The show premiered in the fall of 2007, to so-so ratings. Its fate grew grim when just half of its initial 13-episode order aired before the 2007-08 Writers Guild strike halted production and brought Hollywood to a standstill.

"My biggest concern was, I was on a TV show and I had just bought a new car," Nayyar recalls. "I had bought an Audi and I was like, oh my God, I have to make the payments on my Audi. I called my dad and was like, Dad, I don't know if I can afford this if we don't come back to work."

Galecki, too, recalled the anxiety: "We left the stage when that writers strike hit, very depressed. It felt like we hadn't gotten a foothold. We didn't think we had enough time for word-of-mouth to catch on."

But it did. Instead of becoming a casualty, "The Big Bang Theory" thrived, steadily building an audience who caught up on the reruns CBS ran during the strike — the luck of a pre-Netflix era.

"At some point you read the numbers and you can kind of read the audience's passion," Kahl said. "That's something we saw over the strike, the repeats were doing almost as well as the originals. That's something that, as a scheduler, tells you something's happening and that people are discovering the show."

The show continued on an upward trajectory from there, eventually reaching a point where it was earning multiple season renewals. American viewers were fully geeking out over the series — undeterred by its smarty-pants leads and references to the Doppler effect and projectile motion.

"It just got bigger and bigger," Helberg said. "For the first six or



MICHAEL YARISH/WARNER BROS. 2016

The original "Big Bang Theory" pilot, starring Johnny Galecki and Jim Parsons, didn't get picked up and was reworked by Chuck Lorre and Bill Prady.



RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/CBS 2011

Galecki and Mayim Bialik on the comedy, which debuted in 2007.



MONTY BRINTON/CBS 2012

Jim Parsons, left, with "Star Trek" legend Leonard Nimoy.



GREG GAYNE/CBS 2011

Simon Helberg, from left, Kaley Cuoco, Galecki and Parsons on set in Burbank, Calif.

seven years, it was like every episode was bigger than the last."

Further proof of its power came in its fourth season when, after airing Monday nights its first three years, CBS made the bold decision to move the comedy to the competitive 8 p.m. slot on Thursdays — where the comedy proved itself as a mighty competitor to "American Idol." Not long after, in 2011, the show entered syndication, with heavy local repeats on local broadcast stations and cable's TBS fueling the fandom by introducing the series to new viewers.

All this from a multicamera sitcom, a format whose obituary has been written many times, on a broadcast network.

On a recent Tuesday on Stage 25 on the Warner Bros. lot in Burbank, taping of the show's milestone 250th episode is underway. Lorre and Prady are in the wings observing as the 200-plus audience members, who include Cuoco's dad (a regular visitor each week), laugh it up while a back-and-forth unfolds in Sheldon and Amy's apartment about the origins of the sandwich during the gang's regular Friday night gathering for Chinese take-out. A simple windup, sure, but that's part of the charm, the cast and producers say.

"We are a broadcast show and I think doing this show and seeing the response it's gotten has brought meaning to that word for me in a way that I never understood before," said Parsons, the series' biggest breakout star. "The goal here is to attract as broad an

audience as possible and there's a cynical way of looking at that, which is, 'Well, of course you do, it's a business model and you want the most money.' Well, sure, but I think the more pure way of looking at something like this is that as an artist, as a creator, as a performer, as an entertainer, it's not an uncommon thing to want to entertain as many people as possible."

Of course, being one of the most popular shows doesn't necessarily translate to award show gold. "The Big Bang Theory" didn't receive an Emmy nomination for comedy series until its fourth season. And though it was nominated for the subsequent three years, it hasn't been nominated since. Parsons, however, has become a four-time Emmy winner for his role as Sheldon. "I don't think the show gets enough credit — and I mean that in the sense of the writers don't," Cuoco said. "I don't think people understand having to write something funny 24 weeks out of the year is so unbelievably difficult. It's almost impossible to keep something this funny up for so long."

Keeping viewers engaged to the levels "The Big Bang Theory" commands over a long haul is no easy task. The producers behind "The Big Bang Theory" admit it's a challenge to come up with real, relatable and funny stories. But not impossible. Allowing for character development, which comes at a molasses pace for this group of social misfits, and introducing new characters to expand

the world has been key.

"You want these characters to grow and change," said Steve Holland, a longtime executive producer and writer on the series who, this year, became its showrunner. "But you don't want to lose who they are."

Two female characters were added as series regulars in the show's fourth season. Microbiologist Bernadette Rostenkowski, played by Melissa Rauch, became a love interest for wannabe womanizer Howard — they eventually got married and, this season, are expecting another child. And neurobiologist Amy Farrah Fowler, played by Mayim Bialik, through her relationship with Sheldon, became an opportunity to explore two socially awkward people developing a relationship and learning to be vulnerable — they've had sex and took things to the next level by moving in together.

Molaro pointed to the decision to have Sheldon and Amy move in together as a development that resulted in a lot of debate.

"We thought a lot about — is that a good idea? Is that a bad idea? If Sheldon is not in the apartment," Molaro said, "did we break the show? It's a lot of those moments and trying to find what feels real and right."

Holland added: "And it opened up a whole new world of stories and growth for the characters." "It's such a simple thing," Molaro continued, "He moves 50 feet away and it gave birth to 100 stories."

Now, this week's season finale

on Thursday will feature the wedding of Sheldon and Amy — in what would seem to be a logical winding down of the series.

So how much bang is left in the series — especially since, after so many years on the air, its production price tag has escalated with producer fees and cast salaries. (The five main actors who have been with the series since its beginnings — Parsons, Galecki, Cuoco, Nayyar and Helberg — make just under \$1 million an episode.) The show has already been renewed for a 12th season, but CBS and Warner Bros. Television have not yet announced plans to keep the show going beyond that.

"Obviously it will be dependent on the actors, the network's need for it," Roth said. "I believe that everyone will be happy to have it continue as long as possible, but I think the actors will have to determine whether or not they want to continue."

In an industry where sustainability is the hardest act to pull off, the sitcom's longevity — as Nayyar puts it, "Kids who were born 11 years ago are now watching the show" — has made it a dependable employer. The series has a crew of roughly 200. (In 2016, according to FilmLA, there were about 150,000 direct jobs in film and television in Los Angeles County, largely driven by television. Those jobs totaled about \$14 billion in wages in the county.)

Mark Cendrowski, who directs most of the episodes of the sitcom, says finding stability in the unpredictable entertainment industry has been a windfall.

"I've been on shows throughout my career that get canceled the week before Christmas," Cendrowski said. "And I've been out of work at times waiting because when a show gets canceled, other shows have already been staffed and you have to wait until something else comes along. That's an anxiety-filled time. But here, we don't have that. We know we're coming back. And it makes life easier."

With likely more seasons behind it than ahead, though, it's only natural to think of the looming end.

"I look at the end of the show much like I think a devout Christian looks at death — not afraid but hopeful to see the thing that they believe in," Parsons said. "I know whenever the day comes I will be very emotional about it. It will be the natural death of something wonderful. Even though it's not a tragedy, it's one of those things where you're still going to be, I would think, very moved to see the end of an era of your own life."

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BOOK REVIEW

Robin Williams like a planet unto himself

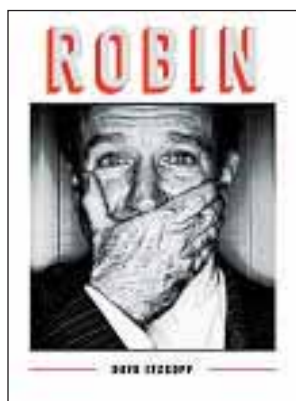
BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune

In early 1981, midway through the third season of ABC-TV's hit series "Mork & Mindy," an episode titled "Mork Meets Robin Williams" revealed its newly, drastically famous co-star's conflicted feelings about being famous.

Williams, then 29, played a resident of the planet Ork, confounded by the ways, means and hang-ups of earthlings. In this episode, he also played himself. The show was like a therapy session. Williams as Williams spoke of the appeal of pretending to be someone else; "characters could say and do things," he said, regarding his younger self, "that I was afraid to do myself." Williams as Mork closed the show with a report back to his home planet. He puzzled over how "everybody wants a piece of you" if you're famous and marveled pityingly at the "responsibilities, anxieties" and the "very heavy price" paid by everyone from Marilyn Monroe to Jimi Hendrix to John Lennon, a recent casualty. He didn't add "Robin Williams" to that list, but the episode, in effect, wrote the star's name in invisible ink.

Williams went from mad, whirling stand-up comic to TV star to movie star in what seemed like a flash. Stardom, its rises and falls and demands, intertwined with Williams' struggles with alcohol and drug addiction. His family lives and marriages were overlapping, fairly complicated, often difficult matters. His interior life remained a partially closed door to even his closest friends and relations.

And then, in Tiburon, Calif., in 2014, at age 63, he hanged himself. The brain disorder plaguing Williams



'Robin'

By Dave Itzkoff, Holt, 544 pages, \$30

at the end went misdiagnosed for years. His life was one of compulsive creativity and genuine kindness and perpetual insecurity and frequent infidelity and uniquely electric imagination.

Dave Itzkoff's biography "Robin" gets its hands around as much of that life as possible. It's an incisive, comprehensive, very fine book about a star who was a planet, an Ork, unto himself, forever orbiting his own complicated fame.

Born in Chicago, Robin McLaurin Williams spent a childhood zigzagging around Illinois and Michigan. His father, Rob, worked for Ford; his mother, Laurie, met Rob when she was modeling for the Marshall Field's department store. Rob had sons from a previous marriage. Laurie had a son from her own, brief first union. Later, his half-brothers became part of young Robin Williams' life, inconsistently but fondly.

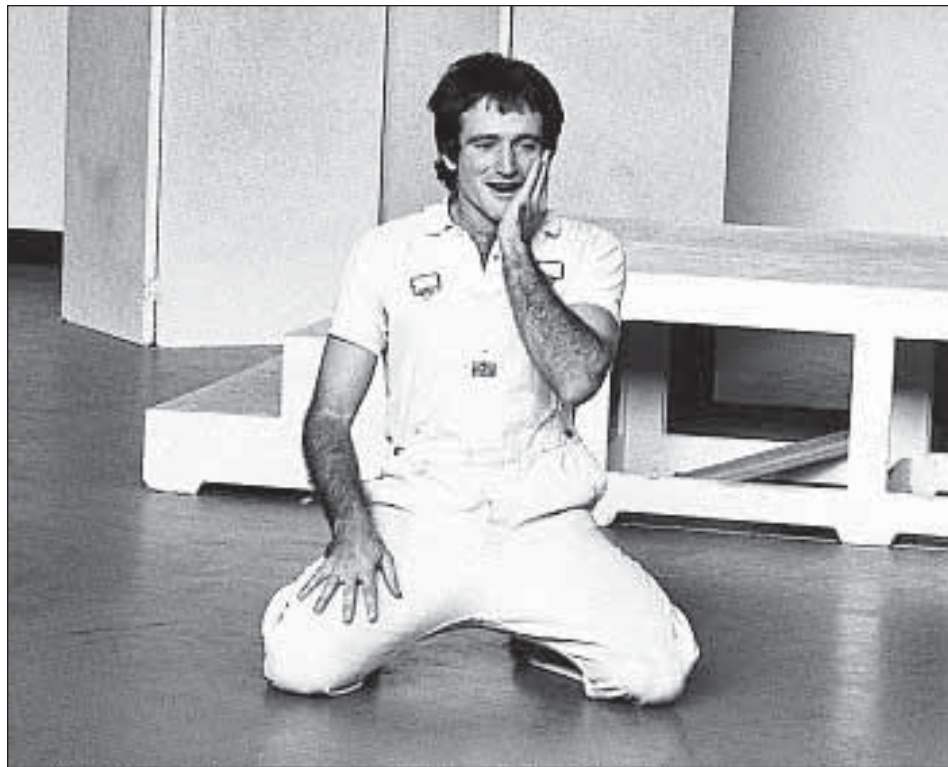
He spent a lot of time alone. Itzkoff, a longtime New York Times culture reporter, writes cogently and well about young Williams' years in the posh northern Detroit suburb of

Bloomfield Hills, in a mansion. The attic was his playground. He played with battalions of toy soldiers; he practiced his TV idols' stand-up routines. If Jonathan Winters came on "The Tonight Show," then hosted by Jack Paar, Williams and his father stayed up late to watch. "Seeing my father laugh like that," Williams later said, "made me think, 'Who is this guy, and what's he on?'" He spent the rest of his life trying to answer those questions, by way of his own blinding talent and in the grip of his own compulsions.

Relocating to the Bay Area, the Williams family adjusted to Tiburon, Calif. Williams attended Redwood High, and for an awkward time, among the tie-dye and hippie holdovers, he dressed the same way he did back at tony, stuffy Detroit Country Day. At Claremont Men's College east of Los Angeles, Williams took an improv class taught by Dale Morse, formerly of San Francisco's influential comedy troupe The Committee. His first troupe was called Karma Pie. He did summer theater, from Shakespeare to "The Music Man" (he played Marcellus, the "Shipooi" guy). He also did Brecht and Ionesco.

Williams was accepted into Juilliard in 1973 in New York City, where he met Christopher Reeve, who became a good friend. He did mime in Central Park, and anyone who did needed all the friends he could get. An early performance partner, Todd Oppenheimer, is quoted in Itzkoff's book as appreciating the eager, malleable Williams: "(W)e could at least commiserate with each other when people walked away," he says.

Then, after honing his stand-up and ingesting a lot



ESTATE OF DIANE GOROD

Robin Williams, shown at Juilliard in this undated photo, got his big break when he was cast in the TV series "Mork & Mindy." He later won an Oscar for "Good Will Hunting."

of cocaine in San Francisco, Williams hit LA in 1976. It didn't take long for word to get around. Stand-up led to "Mork & Mindy" (though creator Garry Marshall initially envisioned John Byner or Dom DeLuise or Williams' idol, Winters, in the Mork role). Fame and its discontents pulled him along. "Pop-eye," that bizarre folly, gave Williams his first starring role on screen, though he really didn't pop until seven years later, when director Barry Levinson shaped "Good Morning, Vietnam" around his prodigious skill set.

Between his best-selling comedy albums and his biggest early film successes, Williams' fans grew to expect a certain kind of funny, the kind nobody can sustain or grow older doing without becoming a Robin Williams impersonator. He scored three Oscar nominations, prior to his supporting actor win for "Good Will Hunting," with material that allowed him some interpretive leeway: "Good Morning, Vietnam," followed by "Dead Poets Society," followed by the more manic Terry Gilliam fantasy "The Fisher King"

He had his most popular top-line showcase in "Mrs. Doubtfire" and killed as the voice of the genie in "Aladdin."

But he had a well-known and oft-derided treacle problem. Mechanical heartwarmers, such as "Jakob the Liar" and "Patch Adams" and, much later, miserable comic vehicles, such as "Old Dogs" and "License to Wed," were just asking for it. He lived with various demons; when Jim Carrey burst on the scene, Williams found himself thinking about him a little too much and too competitively. He fell off the wagon after nearly two decades of sobriety. He reconfigured his domestic life frequently.

It's a fascinating life, and the author captures it with grace and evenhanded perception. Through the lens of the post-Weinstein #MeToo era, some of Williams' antics look pretty sleazy; without rancor, Williams' "Mork & Mindy" co-star Pam Dawber recalls putting up with a fair amount of butt-grabbing for laughs. Already, these hit-and-run harassments have stolen some

attention away from everything else in the book.

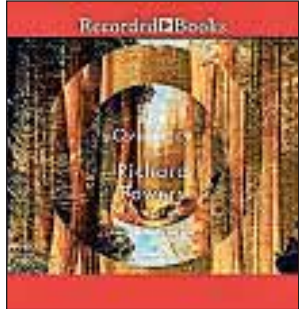
The end, of course, is crushingly sad. Misdiagnosed with Parkinson's, Williams was in fact suffering from Lewy body dementia. The symptoms include Parkinson's-like tremors, depression and hallucinations. When Williams was finishing up work as Teddy Roosevelt in the third and final "Night at the Museum" picture in Vancouver, a colleague suggested he stop in at a comedy club and try some stand-up. "I don't know how to be funny," he answered.

"Robin" reads smoothly and eloquently, though you wouldn't mind a few more passages where Itzkoff's critical intelligence takes off and leaves the organized, orderly reporter behind for a while. Biographies of famous funny people are funny that way. They require both kinds of writers. At his best, Itzkoff is both, and "Robin" is all the better for it.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

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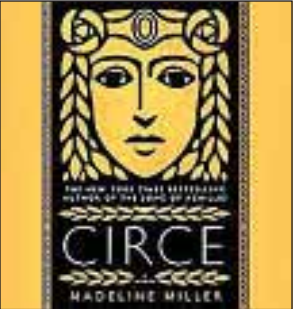
Audiobooks roundup



"The Overstory" by Richard Powers, narrated by Suzanne Toren, Recorded, 22:58

Suzanne Toren's narration dazzles as it conveys the voice of a Hui Chinese man who speaks English with a British accent as well as the uncertain croak of his son, who barely speaks English at all; in the tones of Dr. Patricia Westerford, who has a hearing loss; and in the long passages of "The Overstory" in which National Book Award winner Richard Powers spins a world of trees as compelling characters. These are mystical, restless, quiet conversationalists. Toren, with several awards for narration, can sound like a prophetess of trees. In an otherwise perfect narration, she stumbles only briefly when characters converse with voices that are indistinguishable from one another.

The book begins like a short story collection and then branches out in the complex way of its main preoccupation. Characters are introduced by the trees in their lives. Nicholas Hoel's forefathers plant an American chestnut in Iowa. Mimi Ma's father plants a tree like the one in a jade ring from his father. A tree in Vietnam saves Douglas Pavlicek's life. Dr. Westerford, aka "Plant Patty," grows up in love with trees but nearly loses her way when her scientific discoveries about communication among trees are ridiculed. This wildly ranging tale covers centuries. Powers never gets preachy as he keeps returning to its single theme: the importance of trees.



"Circe" by Madeline Miller, narrated by Perdita Weeks, Hachette, 12:08

British actress Perdita Weeks makes a fine goddess in her first audiobook narration, "Circe," by Madeline Miller. "Circe" is Miller's second novel, and she makes these ancient stories come alive until the obsidian halls of the titan Helios seems like a particularly cruel high school that, unfortunately for the immortal Circe, goes on forever. Circe's story feels familiar, not just because we've heard the Greek tale before: She's the poor little rich girl, the unattractive and unpopular one who doesn't understand the social conventions of her surroundings. And like every high school outcast, she is beginning to realize she's not like all those other gods and the pretty nymphs. She pities others, even humans. And she can do magic. It is this witchcraft that leads to her exile on the island Aiaia. Out of love, she turned a mortal into a god. Then, out of jealousy, she turned the object of the new god's affection, Scylla, into a six-headed beast.

If Circe is tested by her new island solitude, so is the narrator. There's no conversation or action here, just discovery. And neither Weeks nor Circe falters. Weeks imbues even the small moments with the sense of wonder they deserve. It is no surprise when, later, the narrator is every bit as effective when Circe must face Scylla again, this time hoping to protect a ship full of mortals from the sword-long teeth of the monster she made.

BY JENNI LAIDMAN
Chicago Tribune



"Almost Love" by Louise O'Neill, narrated by Aoife McMahon, Riverrun, 7:12

There's a literary tradition in which a main character does one foolish and predictable thing after another until his life is chaos. Theodore Dreiser's "An American Tragedy," Thomas Hardy's "Mayor of Casterbridge" and Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" all feature the inevitable weight of bad judgment upon bad judgment. In "Almost Love," Louise O'Neill's third novel — her first for adults — the short-sighted character is Sarah Fitzgerald, a recent art school graduate. Aoife McMahon, the narrator of two dozen audiobooks, voices Sarah unflinchingly, which made me wonder if she found herself annoyed while embodying this self-involved, self-pitying young woman.

Beautiful Sarah has an affair with a wealthy man 20 years her senior. Why she likes him is puzzling. He won't see her in public. The sex is unsatisfying, even demeaning. And when her friends try to help her, she treats them with casual cruelty. Sarah isn't evil, which might have made her interesting. She's just blind. Her behavior only worsens as the minutes tick by, and I was often tempted to stop listening. Yet I pressed on, anticipating the flaming mess surely awaiting her. And then — here's the spoiler — O'Neill's book. All that bad behavior ends with warmth and hope, and "Almost Love" is only almost a novel for adults.

Jenni Laidman is a freelancer.

BOOK REVIEW

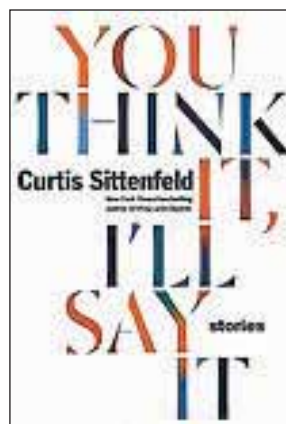
Curtis Sittenfeld can dish an entertaining short story

BY KATHLEEN ROONEY
Chicago Tribune

As its title "You Think, I'll Say It" suggests, Curtis Sittenfeld's debut collection of short stories has a dishy feel, and that's a compliment. Good fiction needs to be at least as interesting as good gossip, which itself is interesting because it unerringly serves up the crucial or conflict-ridden morsels of a story and doesn't worry about bringing the dull bits to the table.

Just take the first sentence of the first story, "Gender Studies": "Nell and Henry always said that they would wait until marriage was legal for everyone in America, and now this is the case — it's August 2015 — but earlier in the week Henry eloped with his graduate student Bridget." Talk about cutting to the chase.

Or the first sentence of the second story, "The World Has Many Butterflies": "Julie and Graham had known each other for eight years before they ever played I'll Think It, You Say It, then they played I'll Think It, You Say It for a year before Julie decided — decided, really, idiotically fabricated the belief that — she was in love with Graham." Over and over, Sittenfeld zeros in on the fascinating aspects of each narrative, recounting the juicy and often unflattering parts in a colloquial and conversational voice, as when she has Julie think of both Graham and her husband, Keith, "But neither of them was, like, hot." The game in this particular piece — which provides the title of the book — involves Julie expressing out loud the unkind judgments she believes Graham might be making about their fellow acquaintances, and the collection overall operates



'You Think It, I'll Say It'

By Curtis Sittenfeld, Random House, 240 pages, \$27

by way of establishing a similar intimacy through acute observation.

The 10 stories here — several of them previously published in such venues as The New Yorker and Washington Post Magazine — also understand that gossip, when it's fun, is entertaining because the listener feels a stake in the people being talked about. Sittenfeld proves adept at quickly establishing characters in whom the reader feels inclined to invest immediately.

The best-selling author of five novels, including most recently "Sisterland" in 2013 and "Eligible: A Modern Retelling of Pride and Prejudice" in 2016, Sittenfeld makes writing lively and diverting fiction look easy, though each deceptively simple and breezy story is masterfully paced and crafted. Witty and buoyant, Sittenfeld delivers her characters to her audience with bemused perspicacity and above all affection.

Not unlike Jane Austen, to whom her last novel paid homage, Sittenfeld

offers a perceptive, light and tasty depiction of human scandal and embarrassment. Sometimes her takes are droll, as when a character thinks of her new husband, "Jason himself seemed perfectly relaxed — he pretty much always does, which is one of his best qualities except when it's infuriating." And sometimes they're melancholy, as when the confirmed bachelor protagonist of "Plausible Deniability" thinks: "Oh, our private habits, our private selves — how strange we all are, how full of feelings and essentially alone."

No matter her tone, Sittenfeld remains humane in her treatment of her characters and their foibles. One could almost say of her skills as a narrator what Dana, the university student heroine of "Vox Clamantis in Deserto," says of her friend Isaac: "Isaac was so much more articulate than I was that I might have found him intimidating if not for the fact that he was nice; though he'd make damning observations about people, he seemed to be simply stating facts rather than relishing their weaknesses."

Sittenfeld has written an entertaining book about basically decent (albeit flawed), mostly middle-aged people doing the best they can in a confusing, disappointing and touching world; it's a funny and moving comfort (albeit a comfort with an edge) to encounter the sometimes salacious and always most salient parts of their lives. The reader leaves the book delighted to have gotten to hear Sittenfeld say just what she really thinks.

Kathleen Rooney is a freelancer and the author, most recently, of "The Listening Room: A Novel of Georgette and Loulou Magritte."

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (May 10): Partnership is your secret strength this year. Discipline with higher education, travels and academics pays off. Stay flexible to take advantage of spontaneous opportunities. A summer communications buzz reveals a professional obstacle and new directions, including a blossoming domestic and family phase. Support each other.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 6. Patiently imagine. Small, regular actions add up. Dream and articulate how you'd like things to be. Take actions consistent with that vision.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 8. A challenge excites your crew. Teamwork and collaborative efforts go further than expected. A dream seems within reach. Believe it can be done. Pull together.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Keep practicing your routine. Polish your presentation, and go over your moves. A career opportunity is worth going for. Soon enough the spotlight shines.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. Visualize your ideal destination. Self-discipline feeds your studies and travels. Avoid controversy and fuss. Patiently advance. You're discovering a diamond in the rough.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. Keep things practical with shared money. Figure out what you need now and what can wait. Avoid stepping on toes. Use charm and grace.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Spend time with someone who makes your heart skip. Offer support and accept it. Pull together for a shared dream. Discover hidden beauty.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 9. Self-discipline serves you well with your health, fitness and work. Take small steady steps to further a vision. Imagine perfection.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. The more you practice, the better your game. Push your own personal record. Play with talented companions. Relax, and savor a matter of the heart.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 7. Get creative to solve a household problem without great expense or fuss. A little color goes a long way. Cut clutter, and open space.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. Study, research and express your views. Take notes, and keep organized files. Grasp the practical implications of your discoveries. Words flow with ease.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 9. A profitable opportunity arises to follow a dream. Maintain an advantage. Keep your objective in mind. Apply finishing touches to your creative work.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 9. Keep stretching your talents, skills and powers. Do the homework, and put in the practice. A personal dream is within reach.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater

More CLASSIC CHEESE SHOWS FROM YESTERYEAR

5/10

THERE'S MOLDY CHEESE ON THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

THE ROQUEFORT FILES

Noooo!

HILL STREET BLEU DE FLAME! DE FLAME!

CHICO & THE MANCHEGO

WHHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

FONDUE SEA ISLAND

SAVED BY THE BABYBEL

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Bliss



"That photograph was taken last July in the Adirondack Mountains by your uncle, Leon. He was a great guy."

Bridge

North-South vulnerable, South deals

North		
♠ Q		
♥ QJ9		
♦ KQ82		
♣ A8765		
South		
♠ A972		
♥ AK7654		
♦ 64		
♣ 10		
West		East
♠ J1054	♠ K863	
♥ 3	♥ 1082	
♦ AJ1095	♦ 73	
♣ J42	♣ KQ93	

There are many great players coming from Norway these days. One of the best is Boye Brogeland, South in today's deal. We don't have enough asterisks on our keyboard to give you the actual auction, so we have substituted the much simpler one above. No need to thank us.

Brogeland won the opening club lead in dummy and

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣**	Pass	6♥	All pass

*Splinter bid, heart raise with shortness in spades
**0 or 3 key cards, among the 4 aces and the king of hearts

Opening lead: Two of ♣

ruffed a club — an important move. He led a low diamond, won by West with the ace, and then won the jack of diamonds continuation with dummy's king. A spade or a trump seems normal at this point, but either would lead to down one. Brogeland led dummy's queen of diamonds instead, ruffed by East with

the eight and over-ruffed with the king. South cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade with dummy's nine of hearts. A club was ruffed and a spade was ruffed with the jack of hearts. Another club ruff led to this position:

North		
♠ Void		
♥ Q		
♦ 8		
♣ 8		
South		
♠ A5		
♥ Void		
♦ Void		
♣ Void		
West		East
♠ J	♠ K	
♥ 3	♥ 102	
♦ 10	♦ Void	
♣ Void	♣ Void	

Brogeland ruffed his spade with dummy's queen of hearts and led a diamond, scoring both of his trumps on a trump coup. A beauty!

— Bob Jones, tcaeditors@tribpub.com

Dilbert

OUR CUSTOMERS ARE COMPLAINING BECAUSE WE LET HACKERS GET THEIR PERSONAL DATA.

SO WE'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE COMPANY AND WEAR DISGUISES UNTIL IT ALL BLOWS OVER.

TAKE A MUSTACHE FROM THE BAG AND PASS IT AROUND.

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Baby Blues

WANDA, DO YOU WANT TO GO FISHING WITH US?

NO, YOU GUYS GO AHEAD.

I'M JUST GOING TO RELAX HERE WITH MY BOOK, A CUP OF COFFEE...

...AND THREE MILLION BUGS THAT HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO BITE ME YET.

I'LL GET THE PEPELLENT.

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Zits

HOW'S YOUR STOMACH FEELING JEREMY?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN "ALIEN"?

IT'S THAT BAD?

NO I'M THINKING ABOUT WATCHING A MOVIE AND ORDERING A PIZZA. YOU IN?

HOW IS HE?

THE ALERT LEVEL HAS BEEN LOWERED FROM "SEVERE" TO "PEPPERONI."

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Mr. Boffo

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF MISTER LONELY

NO ONE CALLS ME... NO ONE RETURNS MY CALLS...

NO ONE EVEN ANSWERS MY KNOCK-KNOCK JOKES

©2018 Joe Martin. Dist. by NeatlyChiseledFeatures

Frazz

YOU HAVE A POINT ABOUT WHEN THEY MUST PHOTOGRAPH TINY HOUSES.

BEFORE THE MAIL COMES!

SO RIGHT.

AND NEVER AFTER BURRITO DINNER.

NOT THE SORT OF AURA THAT SHOWS UP IN A PHOTOGRAPH ANYWAY.

MAYBE A SHOT OF A VENT FAN THAT SHOWS UP IN A PHOTOGRAPH ANYWAY.

MAAYBE A SHOT OF A VENT FAN THAT SHOWS UP IN A PHOTOGRAPH ANYWAY.

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Classic Peanuts

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE

BOOT

I SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY TO DICTATE A LOVE LETTER...

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Pickles

DID YOU GET THE MILK AND FLOUR?

YUP.

OH?

AND I THINK THE CASHIER WAS FLIRTING WITH ME.

SHE SAID I LOOK JUST LIKE HER LATE HUSBAND.

DID SHE MEAN NOW OR WHEN HE WAS STILL ALIVE?

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Dick Tracy

MY CONTACT IS AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE FROM CENTRAL CITY. HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING TOPPER'S MOVEMENTS, AND HIS OFFER TO HELP WAS A NICE SURPRISE.

DICK TRACY, MEET LAFAYETTE AUSTIN.

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Animal Crackers

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE THAT ON BUGS, NOT ON PEOPLE THAT BLIG YOU!

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Prickly City

PEACE IS BETTER THAN WAR.

MOSTLY.

MOSTLY?

YES.

WHEN IS WAR BETTER THAN PEACE, CARMEN?

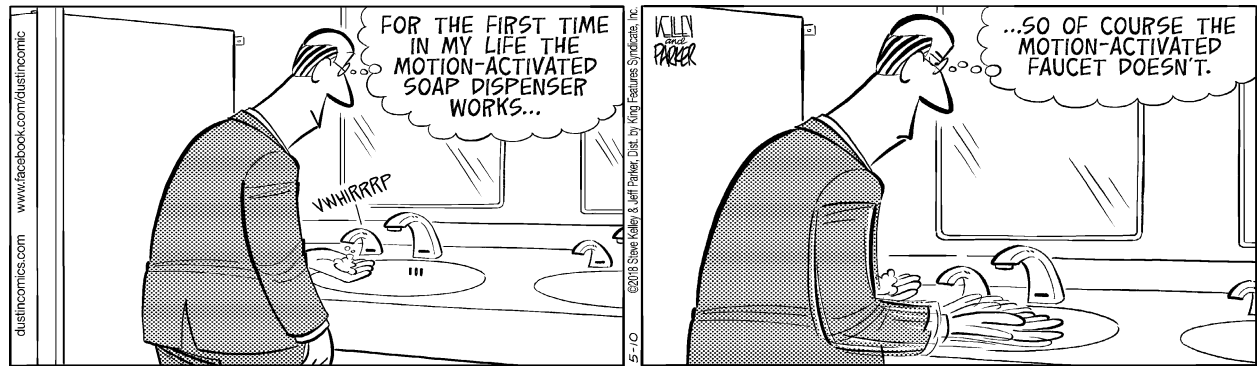
WHEN IT'S ONE WE CAN WIN!

I GIVE UP...

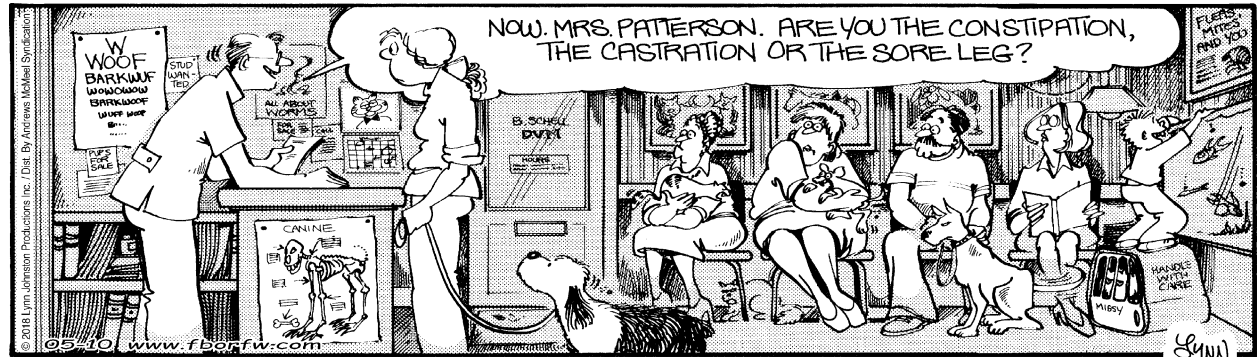
YEAH, LIKE THAT!

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Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



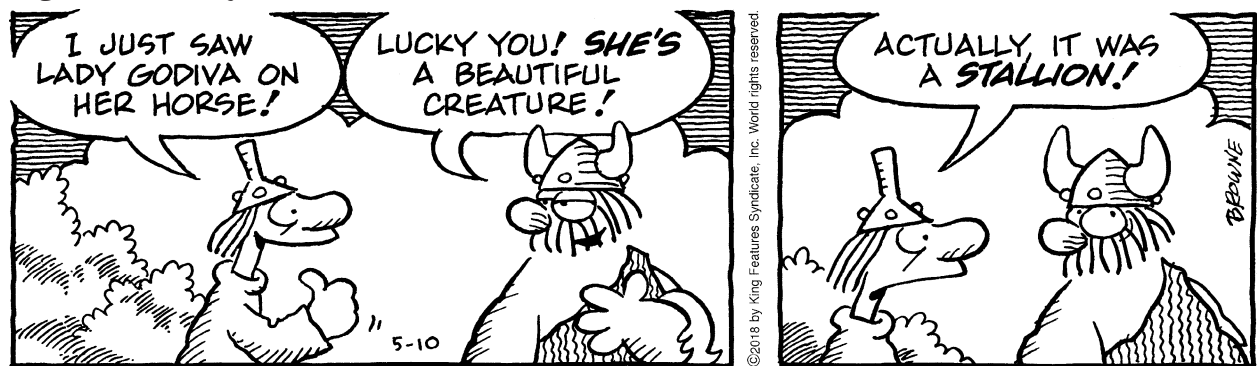
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



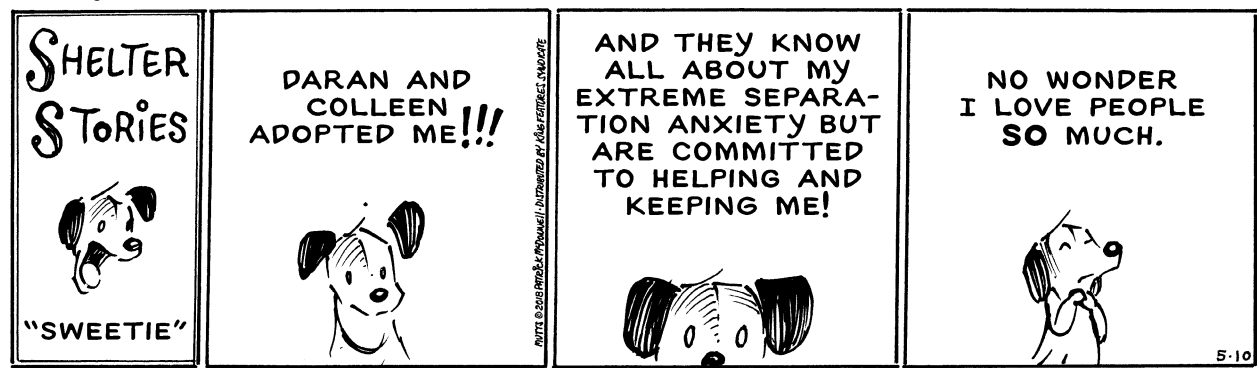
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



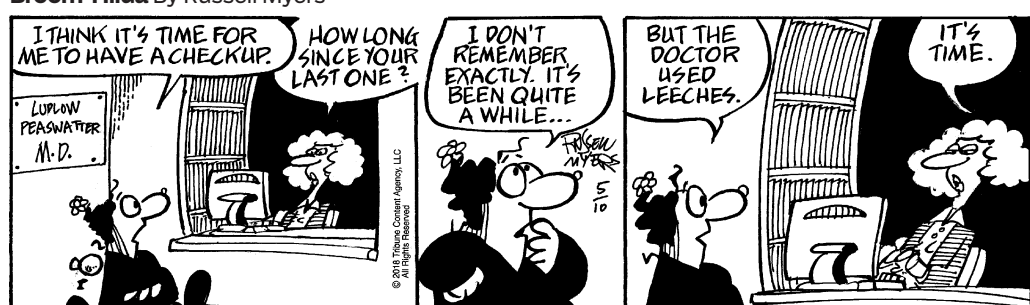
Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers

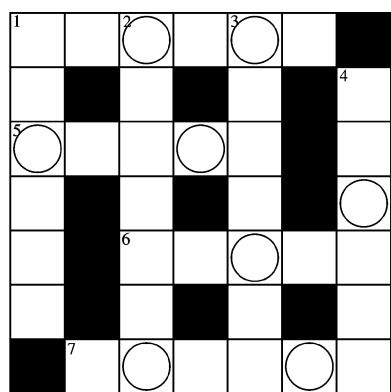


Trivia Bits

In 1949, Sam Snead became the first winner of the PGA Masters tournament presented with what piece of attire?
 A) Gold gloves
 B) Green jacket
 C) Red scarf
 D) White shoes

Wednesday's answer: Eric Clapton's nickname is "Slowhand."

Jumble Crossword



5-10-18

CLUE: Construction of the _____ began on Sept. 11, 1941.

BONUS: _____

CLUE ACROSS

- Fancy
- Summoned
- European river
- Mom or dad

CLUE DOWN

- Type of bird
- African country
- Frog beginning
- Summary

ANSWER

NETROA
 EDPGA
 OHENR
 APTNRE

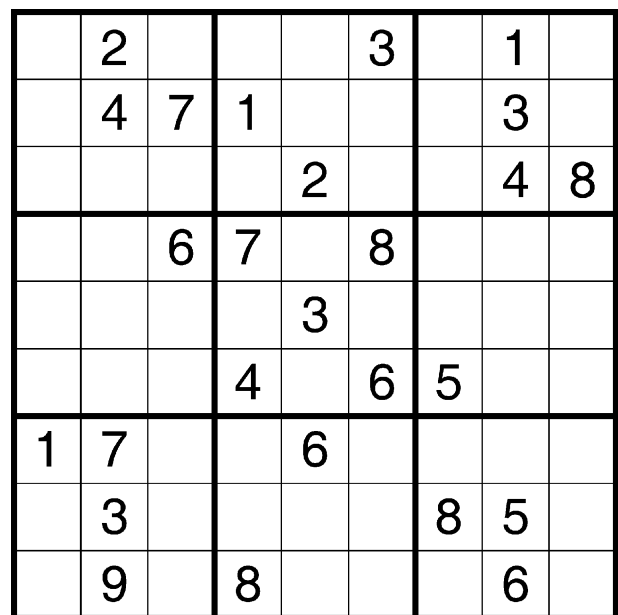
ANSWER

IAEORP
 IYRNGE
 ALTPDEO
 EISDTG

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

Sudoku 1 2 3 4

5/10



7	4	6	2	3	8	9	1	5
1	3	5	4	7	9	2	8	6
2	8	9	6	5	1	4	3	7
4	5	7	9	6	3	1	2	8
6	2	1	8	4	7	3	5	9
8	9	3	1	2	5	7	6	4
5	1	4	3	9	6	8	7	2
9	7	8	5	1	2	6	4	3
3	6	2	7	8	4	5	9	1

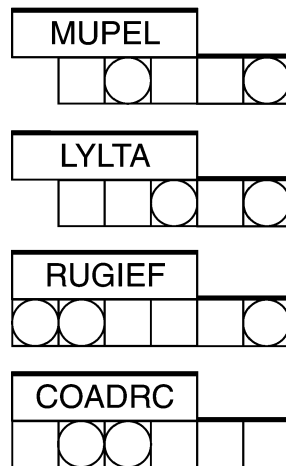
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Wednesday's solutions

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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.



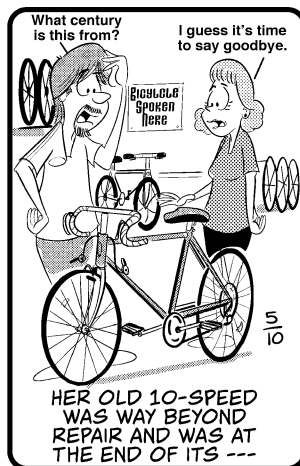
Answer here



Wednesday's answers

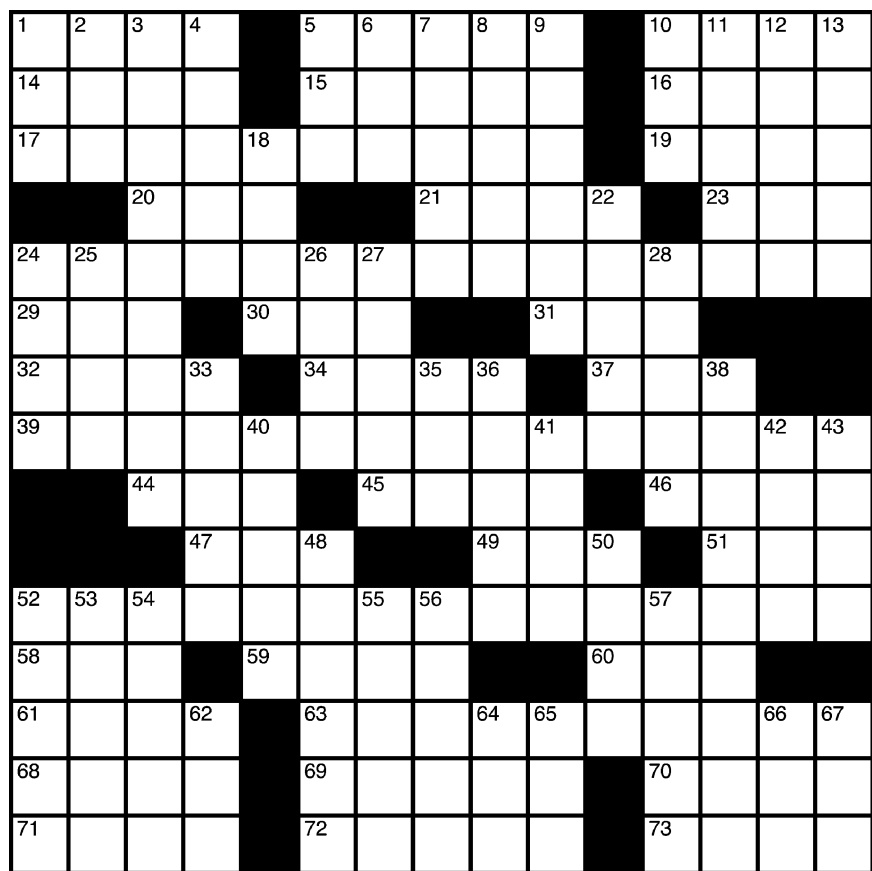
Jumbles: SWEPT WAFER BUSHEL DETECT
 Answer: To see where the biggest waves could be ridden, they — SURFED THE WEB

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.



Crossword

5/10



Across

- Bookie's concern
- Wedge-shaped bones
- Elite Eight org.
- Bygone depilatory brand
- Cantilevered window
- Panhandler's income
- Start of a business journey
- Watery defense, perhaps
- Hustle
- First name in bike stunts
- Phased-out Secret Service weapon
- Way to get from 17- to 39-Across
- Doce meses
- Roll of bills
- Woolly mammal
- Seasonal song ender
- Proceed tediously

- Like pals who go way back
- Pinnacle of the journey
- Three Gorges project
- Wail
- Former autocrat
- Stat for Miguel Cabrera
- Menu phrase
- Letter before omega
- Way to get from 39- to 63-Across
- Bygone greeting
- Site with digging
- Witty remark
- Word with work or play
- End of the journey
- Field of work
- Food poisoning cause
- Times past
- Place of bliss
- Summer Triangle star
- WWI battle river

- Cry of pain
- gravity
- Wholesale quantity
- Figurine material
- Mesmerized
- Wing it
- Dutch earthenware city
- High-tech greeting
- Fertility clinic specimens
- Big name in whisky
- Naysayers
- Darker-than-ocher pigment
- Cantina cooker
- Threw
- Pelee Island's lake
- Toughened
- Top of the heap
- Triangular part of a house
- Roundish
- Sierra —
- Pizza slice, say
- Playwright Chekhov
- Comfortably familiar
- Understanding
- Seine site
- Corduroy feature
- "Dream on, Luddie"
- Original, Dangle's & Dragons co.

Down

- Top 40 title for Metallica or U2
- Resting place
- Overthrow
- Las Vegas feature
- Peruvian currency
- Occur
- Catlike carnivore
- "Deathtrap" actor
- Gene variant
- '60s hot spot
- Data storage medium
- Render speechless
- On the move

Wednesday's solution



By Jeff Stillman. Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Want more puzzles?

Go to chicagotribune.com/games

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CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9



THURSDAY, MAY 10 NORMAL HIGH: 68° NORMAL LOW: 47° RECORD HIGH: 90° (2011) RECORD LOW: 28° (1983)

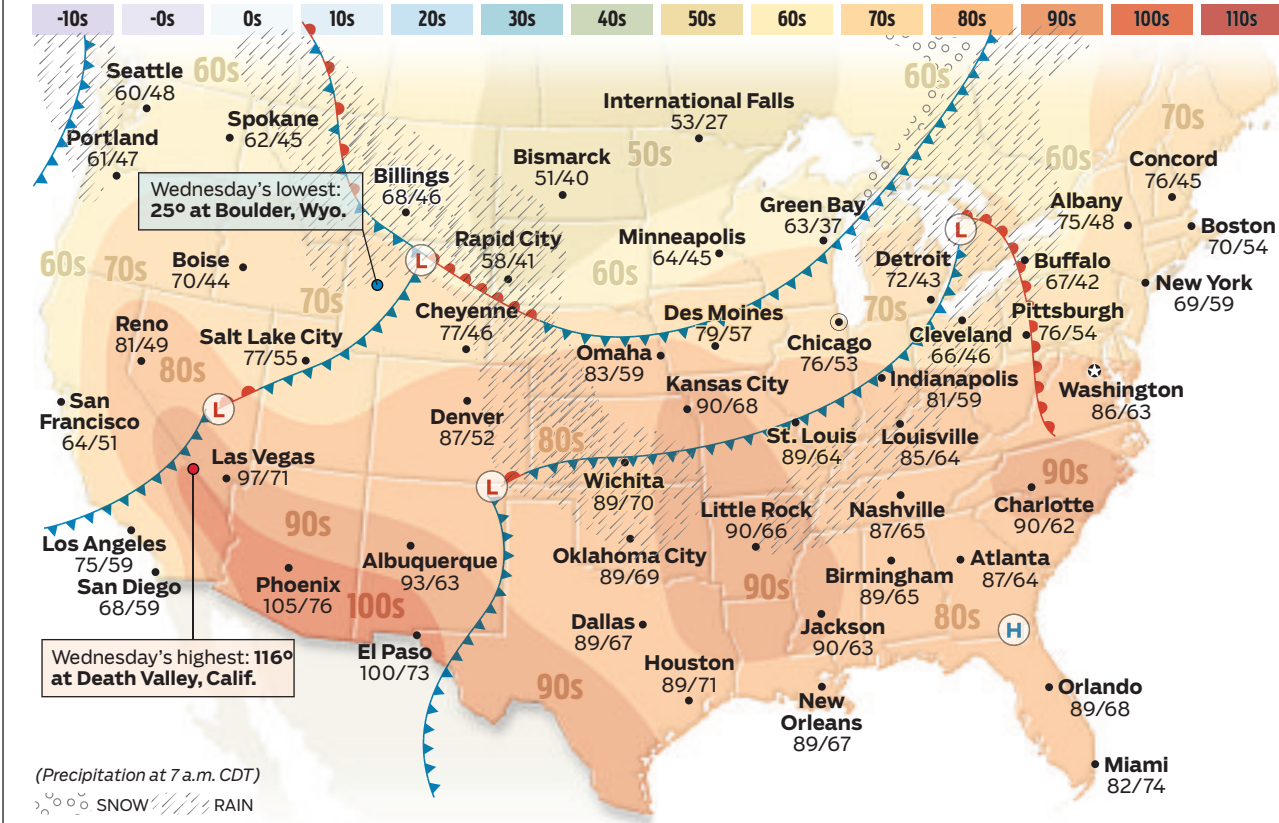
Another mild day, then weather turns cool, wet

LOCAL FORECAST

HIGH 76 **LOW** 53

■ String of mild days continues in the wake of Wednesday evening's cold front.
 ■ Patchy early morning clouds give way to sunshine. Daybreak temps most areas hover in the upper 50s.
 ■ Scattered fair weather cumulus develop midday, but ample sun is able to send afternoon temps to the mid and upper 70s.
 ■ NW winds 10-20 mph diminish, allowing a light onshore breeze to develop in the afternoon. Temps lower to the 60s lakeside.
 ■ Becoming cloudy again overnight. Showers possible by morning.

NATIONAL FORECAST



Scattered thunderstorms accompanied a cold front across the area Wednesday evening, bringing heavy downpours and nickel-size hail. Storm intensity peaked across the far south suburbs and northwest Indiana, where 70 mph winds toppled trees in Crown Point, and in Grant Park in eastern Kankakee County. Mild weather is expected in the wake of this front, with Thursday's temperatures forecast to peak in the middle and upper 70s. This will mark the 11th-straight day of above-normal readings. Officially, at O'Hare airport, the first nine days of May have averaged more than 11 degrees above normal. The warm spell will end Friday as east-to-northeast winds lock in, accompanied by clouds and occasional rain. Weekend rain totals may be significant, with thunderstorms also possible through Saturday.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

HIGH 58 **LOW** 48

Front south of the area becomes the focus for periodic t-storm development. Heavy downpours possible city and N. Temps low 70s far S-50's city and N. Winds E 15-20 mph.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

HIGH 57 **LOW** 49

Clouds and E-NE winds of 10-15 mph make for a cool, damp day. Area remains in a corridor of periodic t-storm clusters. Heavy downpours possible area-wide.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

HIGH 67 **LOW** 51

Showers diminish in coverage as a frontal boundary shifts southward. Cloudiness remains, limiting daytime warming. E-NE winds persist at 10-15 mph.

MONDAY, MAY 14

HIGH 76 **LOW** 58

Peeks of sunshine emerge, allowing temps to rebound to the mid and upper 70s. Scattered afternoon/evening t-storms possible. Light, variable winds.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

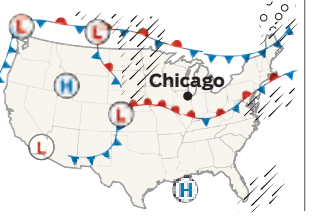
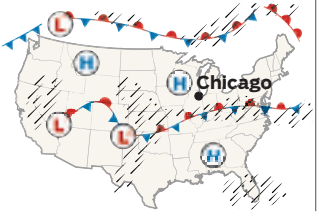
HIGH 82 **LOW** 61

More sun emerges amidst scattered clouds. Warmer, with temps most areas reaching the low 80s. Light winds are likely to turn onshore, cooling lakeside areas.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

HIGH 79 **LOW** 60

Little change. Partly sunny skies allow inland temps to again climb to the low 80s. Light E winds limit beach area readings to the mid and upper 60s.



ASK TOM

Dear Tom,
 When you report the average high temperature on a given day, are you reporting the actual average of all highs on that date?
 — PJ Perry

Dear PJ,
 No. The high temperature on a given day is the highest temperature recorded in the 24-hour period, midnight to midnight, standard time, rounded to the nearest degree. The average high temperature on a given day is the average of all highs recorded on that day in the 30-year period 1981-2010, smoothed so that the value is either the same from one day to the next or changes by only 1 degree (upward from its winter minimum to its summer peak or downward from its summer peak to its winter minimum). Similarly for low temperatures.

The averages at a location are recalculated every 10 years; the next calculation will be for 1991-2020.

Write to: ASK TOM
 2501 W. Bradley Place
 Chicago, IL 60618
 asktomwhy@wgnv.com

WGN-TV meteorologists Steve Kahn, Richard Koeneman, Paul Merzlock and Paul Dailey, plus Bill Snyder, contribute to this page.

Hear Tom Skilling's weather updates weekdays 3 to 6 p.m. on WGN-AM 720 Chicago.



Winds to bring chill Friday; milder pattern next week

LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Storms rake parts of the area!

STRONGEST GUSTS

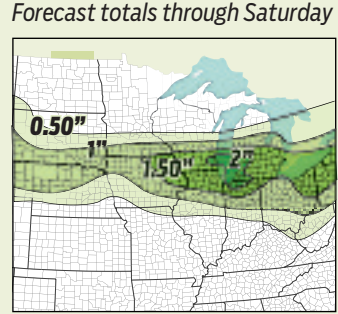
Crown Point, Ind.	70 mph
River Grove	64 mph
Belding School-Chi	61 mph
Grant Park	60 mph
Lowell, Ind.	54 mph
Bolingbrook	50 mph
Glen Ellyn	48 mph

HEAVIEST RAINFALL

Lombard	0.69"
Glen Ellyn	0.60"
West Chicago	0.46"
DeKalb	0.45"
River Grove	0.43"
Lake Geneva, Wis.	0.43"
Wheeling	0.39"

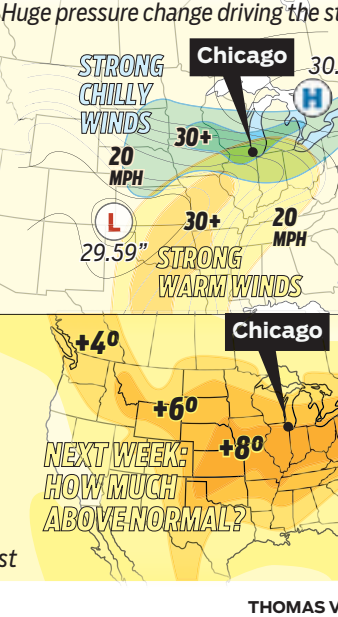
CHICAGO AREA IN FOR A SOAK

Estimated multiday rainfall



LUNCHTIME FRIDAY SNAPSHOT

Chilly "easterly" winds to blow into Chicago



CHICAGO RAINFALL PROBABILITY

NIGHT:	NIGHT:	NIGHT:
3%	58%	42%
33%	65%	60%
25%		

CHICAGO RAINFALL PROBABILITY

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3%	58%	42%	33%
33%	65%	60%	25%

SOURCES: Frank Wachowski, National Weather Service archives

CHICAGO DIGEST

WEDNESDAY TEMPERATURES

LOCATION	HI	LO	LOCATION	HI	LO
Aurora	81	57	Midway	83	60
Gary	82	61	O'Hare	81	57
Kankakee	80	55	Romeoville	82	56
Lakefront	82	56	Valparaiso	82	59
Lansing	85	58	Waukegan	79	52

CHICAGO PRECIPITATION

PERIOD	2018	NORMAL
Wed. (through 7 p.m.)	0.24"	0.12"
May to date	2.13"	1.04"
Year to date	12.77"	10.44"

THURSDAY SUNBURN FORECAST

TIME OF EXPOSURE BEFORE SUNBURN BEGINS	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7 a.m.	2 hours, 35 minutes	
1 p.m.*	23 minutes	
4 p.m.	1 hour, 04 minutes	

SOURCE: Dr. Bryan Schultz *Peak intensity

LAKE MICHIGAN CONDITIONS

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Wind NW/NE	5-15 kts.	ENE 15-25 kts.
Waves	1 foot	4-8 feet
Wed. shore/crib water temps	56°/50°	

WEDNESDAY PEAK POLLEN LEVEL

POLLEN	LEVEL
Tree	High
Grass	0
Mold	Low
Ragweed	0
Weed	0

SOURCE: The Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Allergy Count, Dr. Joseph Leija

CHICAGO AIR QUALITY

Wednesday's reading: Good
 Thursday's forecast: Good
 Critical pollutant: Particulates

THURSDAY RISE/SET TIMES

Sun	5:36 a.m.	7:59 p.m.
Moon	3:19 a.m.	2:44 p.m.

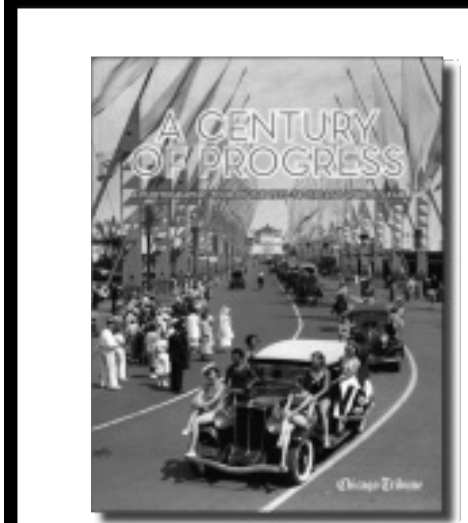
THURSDAY PLANET WATCH

PLANET	RISE	SET
Mercury	4:48 a.m.	5:47 p.m.
Venus	7:11 a.m.	10:30 p.m.
Mars	1:01 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Jupiter	7:36 p.m.	5:46 a.m.
Saturn	11:35 p.m.	8:52 a.m.

BEST VIEWING TIME DIRECTION

Mercury	Not visible	
Venus	8:45 p.m.	17° WNW
Mars	4:45 a.m.	24° SSE
Jupiter	12:45 a.m.	32° S
Saturn	4:15 a.m.	26° S

SOURCE: Dan Joyce, Triton College



TribBooks LIBRARY

Travel back in time to 1930s Chicago with *A Century of Progress: A Photographic Tour of the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair*. This historical collection features more than 100 rare – and in some cases, unpublished – photographs documenting the fair's construction, demolition and everything in between. Readers will glimpse the technological feats and futuristic exhibits that characterized the fair, as well as elements of lasciviousness and insensitivity that, while clearly on display during the exposition, may prove shocking to modern readers.

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Chicago Tribune

5 renovation projects to help boost home's value PAGE 2

Tips for choosing and safely using a fire feature PAGE 5

Rising construction costs driving up home prices PAGE 8

Chicago Tribune
HOMES



Color tiptoes into kitchens

White and gray kitchens are still favorites, but more people are adding bold hues for warmth and comfort PAGE 4



NEW HOMES MARKETPLACE INSIDE



TIP
of the
DAY

Create a contract for landscaping:

A garden is composed of living things that must adapt. Sometimes plants can't take the transition, transplanting can shatter the root ball or soil may not drain. When it's a \$500 boxed tree or a pricey succulent, losses can be expensive.

For this reason, your landscaping contract should include a designated maintenance period for an insurance policy. This period can be 30, 60 or 90 days long, depending on the contract. During this time, the contractor should guarantee the success of every plant in the project. Those ailing or dead must be replaced within the maintenance period.

— Tribune News Service

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COVER PHOTO BY CORIAN DESIGN

5 projects that can boost value of your home

BY LAUREN WHITE
HomeAdvisor

When the time comes to decide on renovations, it can be difficult to prioritize your options. And chances are, there are a lot of projects on your wish list. To help you narrow it down, we've put together a list of five popular, cost-effective home renovations. From a whole new roof to a simple coat of paint, these projects will have great returns — whether you want to sell your home or settle in.

1. Roof replacement

If your roof is more than 20 years old — or if you're itching to update it for style and curb appeal — a total replacement may be in order. It's a big project, but it's one that will pay off. A roof replacement can yield returns as high as 68.4 percent, according to Remodeling magazine's 2018 Cost vs. Value Report, making a new roof a good investment for future resale. According to HomeAdvisor's True Cost Guide, a new asphalt shingle roof will cost \$1,700 to \$8,400, while a tile roof will range from \$8,000 to \$60,000. Consult with a roofing pro to review your options.

2. Kitchen remodel

A kitchen can make a big difference in the livability of your home. And it can also make or break a sale. Clunky old appliances and "well-loved" countertops might keep buyers from seeing any potential to make the space their own. And these same details can



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Updated lighting and new appliances can help spruce up a tired kitchen. Small remodels start at about \$5,000.

take the joy out of your own morning routine. If you're tired of dealing with the same-old, same-old, consider a few small upgrades, like updated lighting and appliances to breathe life back into the space. A small remodel will likely cost around \$5,000-\$15,000, according to HomeAdvisor's True Cost Guide. And a more substantial kitchen renovation will cost around \$21,000-\$22,000. The good news is that big-ticket kitchen remodels offer returns averaging 53 percent to 81 percent, according to the 2018 Cost vs. Value Report.

3. Painting

Don't be afraid to take a small risk in sprucing up interior paint

— and exterior paint, if needed. But consider the atmosphere of the rooms you're painting, and be careful about entering into tacky territory with bright primary colors and mood-altering shades. A red dining room, for example, may be too exciting for an environment that is supposed to be relaxed. And it may also deter future homebuyers should you ever decide to sell. There are lots of neutral colors you can use to enhance your walls without reducing your chances in a future resale. Zillow reports that the most appealing colors for homebuyers are light blue, taupe, grey and greige. Most homeowners report paying just under \$2,000 to paint a home

interior, according to HomeAdvisor's True Cost Guide, and just under \$3,000 to paint a home exterior.

4. Bathroom remodel

Upgraded bathrooms are one of the most sought-after elements in a home, both for buyers and homeowners renovating for themselves. The options for remodeling this space have grown to meet all varieties of budgets, which means that a sleek new bathroom is possible no matter how much you want to spend. Even better: Bathroom remodels offer a return on investment as high as 56 to 70 percent, according to the 2018 Cost vs. Value Report. The typical bathroom remodel costs between \$6,000-\$14,000, but even small upgrades of around \$2,500 can make a big difference.

5. Windows

Windows aren't just for ventilation anymore. If you still have standard, single-pane windows, you're probably spending too much on your energy bill. Single-pane styles allow for excessive heat transfer and UV radiation. You can upgrade to double-pane, triple-pane and reinforced or tempered glass windows for optimal efficiency and a 70 to 75 percent return on investment, according to the 2018 Cost vs. Value Report. And HomeAdvisor's True Cost Guide reports that the average cost to install windows is \$2,500-\$7,500.

FINDS

Sweeter sleep for kids

BY GREGG ELLMAN | Tribune News Service

For kids who don't drift off to dreamland at the drop of a hat, there's help.

The palm-sized LectorFan Kinder, by Adaptive Sound Technologies, is a smartphone-controlled sleeping device that produces sounds to help children doze off.

Setup is simple. Just plug the device into an AC wall outlet and download the free app (iOS and Android), which grants you access to and control of 75 sounds, soft night lights, volume and fan settings.

The available sounds include expected and unexpected noises, such as rain, ballgame, coffee shop and ocean cruise. And you can choose the night light shade from a rainbow of colors. Leave on serene sounds and light all night, or use the timer to turn them off after the little one starts snoozing.

There's no need for Wi-Fi to operate the device; smartphone pairing occurs when you open up the app and allows for a 50-foot range.

www.soundofsleep.com, \$59.95



The LectorFan Kinder's sounds include noises such as rain, ballgame, coffee shop and ocean cruise. And you can choose the night light shade from a rainbow of colors.

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Sick of all-white kitchen design?

Here are 4 ways to spice things up

BY JURA KONCIUS

The Washington Post

The all-white kitchen, the reigning trophy room of the American home, is not going away anytime soon.

But change is afoot: Color is tiptoeing back into the kitchen. A growing number of consumers are looking to add some friendliness and warmth to the often cold, clinical white-and-gray cooking spaces that have dominated the past decade. Cobalt blue, pale pink and pumpkin are among the colors that are seeping into cabinets, islands, and even sinks and faucets.

“White is people’s comfort zone,” says Elle H-Millard, industry relations manager for the National Kitchen and Bath Association. “White is all about safety and cleanliness. It’s the feeling of purity we all want in the kitchen. White offers uncluttered, visual simplicity in a room where many of us spend a lot of our time.”

Color, she adds, provides emotion and personality.

“We are seeing more color confidence as the economy does better,” says Wendy Mushow Werner, a Corian Design spokeswoman. “People are choosing more color, and the brighter and bolder colors are trending upwards.”

Aqua turned up in the Clive Christian luxury kitchen in the Kips Bay Decorator Show House that opened last week in New York. The color was used in the marquetry on the range hood, on the leather lining of the cabinets and in the Le Creuset tea kettle.

According to a 2018 National Kitchen and Bath Association trends report, white and gray continue their dominance in kitchen color schemes, with 90 percent and 89 percent of respondents selecting them as “hot” choices, but today, “more people are willing to take a risk,” says H-Millard, “especially millennials.”

Manufacturers are dishing up kitchen options in a new rainbow

of hues. Here are some of our favorites.

Appliances

Want to make one big color statement? Get a major appliance in an unexpected hue, something fans of Aga and Lacanche luxury ranges have been doing for decades. The Italian company Smeg popularized Italian retro style in the 1990s with its pastel and candy-colored fridges, which are still sold today for about \$2,000.

And appliance manufacturer Big Chill has been offering color in the kitchen for 15 years. The color palette for the Retro line, which includes turquoise, Jadite Green and Pink Lemonade, is inspired by 1950s cars and kitchens. The starting price for a fridge is about \$2,400.

“We typically see our appliances as a jolt of color in an otherwise fairly neutral kitchen,” says Orion Creamer, Big Chill co-founder. “People are nervous about putting an entire red kitchen in their house, but they may get a red refrigerator.”

For a kitchen using one color in multiple elements, he suggests sticking to green, blue or yellow. There are also 200 custom colors; you can even get a chartreuse dishwasher.

Cabinets

French blue lower cabinets anchor the white upper cabinets in the kitchen of a 1950s Maryland ranch house recently renovated by Washington architect Chris Snowber of Hamilton Snowber. Designer Christie Leu of Christie Leu Interiors in Chevy Chase, Md., worked with Snowber’s clients to pick a main kitchen color other than white.”

She liked orange and he liked green, but they both liked blue,” Leu says. They selected Greenfield cabinets in Juniper blue and a backsplash in a similar shade: Glazzio glass tile in Morning Mist.

If you want to paint your own cabinets, you’ll want a hard, durable finish, says Leu. She suggests Advance by Benjamin Moore or Emerald Urethane Trim Enamel by Sherwin-Williams.



STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG PHOTO

French blue lower cabinets with white uppers highlight the kitchen of a recently renovated ranch house in Maryland. The kitchen also features a glass tile backsplash in a similar shade of blue.



BRAND VIVA

Bright orange appliances (microwave, stove and range hood) contrast with neutral cabinets at a home in Evergreen, Colo.

“Paint can transform a kitchen for a very small cost,” Leu says. Her advice to clients who want different colors on upper and lower cabinets is to always put the darker color on the bottom; otherwise, she says, it looks “top-heavy.”

Furniture

Washington designer Caryn

Benjamin Moore).

“An island is a good way to bring color into a kitchen, as it’s easy to change out or repaint,” Cramer says.

Sinks

Farmhouse sinks with their big apron fronts are one of the hottest looks at the moment, H-Millard says.

“We’ve been doing color in Europe for our sinks for about 20 years now,” says Akgun Seckiner, president of Bocchi USA. “Americans used to be only interested in biscuit and white.”

But now fireclay farmhouse kitchen sinks by Bocchi (\$650-\$2,188) are available here in nine colors that include Sapphire Blue (but not yet the red and purple that are available in the brand’s European line). The apron-front style lets the color show through more in the room.

The Elkay brand recently rolled out stainless farmhouse sinks with interchangeable apron fronts in several colors (\$750-\$1,149; aprons \$250-\$449). Using color on a sink, says H-Millard, gives it the ability to become a design element instead of just a fixture.

Cramer was delighted that her Bethesda, Md., client did not want an all-white kitchen remodel. They decided to channel the look of a charming French country kitchen with Old World maple cabinets and an oak floor. The centerpiece of the space is a marble-topped oval wooden table that serves as a free-standing island. Its base is painted a traditional Provencal green (Parsley Snips by

Beware Scots pines in Chicago

BY TIM JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

My 25-year-old Scots pines are not looking good this spring and have lots of brown branches. What might be wrong, and is there anything that I can do to improve their health?
— Beth Appleton, Woodstock

Older Scots pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) like your trees as well as Austrian pines (*Pinus nigra*) generally will have developed a lot of character at the age of 25 but commonly begin to decline in health around that age in the Chicago area. Sometimes they will fail much earlier. Some gardeners recommend avoiding their use here, while I think of them as more of an intermediate-term tree that needs good siting (full sun and good air circulation) and is OK to use in small numbers.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is working to eliminate them, for the most part, from its collection as the Scots pines fail, replacing them with other evergreens. It is best to use a variety of evergreens if the design parameters permit you to do so.

As these trees age, they are more susceptible to environmental, insect and disease stresses. The trees could be declining because of changes in the site, such as increasing shade from adjacent shade trees that have grown larger or changes in drainage that have made the area more consistently wet.

Many trees are planted too deeply, which will add stress over time as the trees age. Tree that are planted too deeply do not have a visible trunk flare at ground level. The trunk



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

As Scots pines and Austrian pines age, they are more susceptible to environmental, insect and disease stresses. The Chicago Botanic Garden is using other evergreens.

flare is the point where the trunk widens out to transition to the root system. Consult an arborist to see whether an air spade can be used to remove soil from around the base to help the trees if they are planted too deeply. I have been seeing more winter burn on evergreens this year, too, so if that is the case for your trees, they may grow out of it.

Scots and Austrian pines have problems with Zimmerman pine moth, an insect, and two primary diseases, *Diplodia* tip blight and *Dothistroma* needle cast. A symptom of *Diplodia* blight is brown, stunted new shoots. Entire branches and eventually the entire tree can be killed by repeated infections. New shoots are most susceptible during a two-week period in spring when buds begin to open and continue to be susceptible until approximately mid-June. Start spraying with a fungicide once a week for three to four weeks when the new growth emerges to prevent infection. The sprays will not cure an existing infection. Prune off infected branches and rake up needles at the base of the tree to minimize sources of infection.

For signs of *Dothistroma* needle cast, look for yellow to tan spots that enlarge to form reddish bands on the needles in the fall. The

ends of the needles past the bands will die while the bases remain green — you may be seeing this now. You may also see black spots in the dead areas, the fruiting bodies of the fungus. The needles will drop prematurely, with the infection generally worse in the lower half of the tree. Successive years of infection can result in decreased growth and death. New growth on the trees will need to be protected with properly timed fungicide sprays at seven- to ten-day intervals starting in mid-June. It will be best to work with an arborist to choose the proper fungicide.

A symptom of Zimmerman pine moth infestation is groups of dead branches toward the tree's top. Some of the branches may break off near the trunk. Larvae burrow into the trunk near where branches are attached and damage the tree with their feeding. There is a time in spring and fall to spray with insecticides to control this insect.

It may be best to remove your pines and focus on getting a different type of tree that will be better suited to your garden's growing conditions.

Tim Johnson is director of horticulture for the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

ctc-realestate@chicagotribune.com

HOME REMEDIES

What to know about installing a fire pit

BY PAUL F. P. POGUE
Angie's List

As warmer weather arrives, you may be thinking of installing a fire pit or other fire feature. The perfect complement to your outdoor entertaining space, a fire feature creates a cozy ambience and invites the gathering of family and friends.

By the numbers

The ideal fire pit is between 3 and 4 feet wide and about 18 inches tall. If it's taller, you won't feel its warmth; if it's shorter, it will present a safety hazard.

Keep your local climate in mind. If the wind tends to blow in a particular direction, consider how you can position your fire feature to avoid sending smoke in the direction of your neighbors.

A pit should be lined with a noncombustible stone. Fire brick and fire clay mortar are designed to handle high temperatures. You don't want to build your fixture purely out of concrete, as direct exposure to fire can damage concrete over time.

You can purchase a DIY fire pit from a retail store for a few hundred dollars. A permanent professional installation starts at about \$1,000 and can go up to \$5,000, depending on features.

What kind of fire feature can I install?

When it comes to fire features, there's a style and material to fit every space and budget. You can purchase a ready-made, gas-powered fire pit; build a traditional stone circle; or install an outdoor fireplace complete with elaborate masonry. And a clever installer can build a fire pillar, a fire table or an



DREAMSTIME

A fire feature creates a cozy ambience and invites family and friends to gather in an outdoor entertaining space.

installation fixed directly into your deck — even a fire pit surrounded by water features. Instead of relying on folding chairs, you can install a sitting wall around the pit for permanent seating.

Fire pits present a variety of design options. The base lining materials are more than a physical foundation; they establish the aesthetic. Noncombustible pebbles come in a wide array of colors. Glass crystals present a sophisticated look, and colored rocks offer an earthy feel.

Should I install a wood or gas fire pit?

Wood and gas have their own pros and cons. The smell and crackling of wood give it a traditional appeal, but wood fires need to be watched and restocked regularly. Gas fires require less labor, and you have the option to raise and lower the flame with the twist of a valve. Gas fire features also create fewer sparks and require less frequent cleaning than wood features. The downside to gas is a licensed professional needs to run and install a gas line to the

feature, which adds to the cost of installation.

Staying safe

Fire pits can provide delightful entertainment for family and friends, but exercise caution to keep the flames where they belong.

■ Trim the limbs of nearby trees and bushes.

■ Keep a minimum safe distance between your fire pit and any structures. You should put at least 10 feet between your pit and garage, house or shed. Local laws and homeowner association codes may dictate specific lengths.

■ Prevent children from getting too close to the fire.

■ A fire pit screen provides some protection from falling in, and it keeps sparks from flying out.

■ Never leave your fire pit unattended.

■ Be sure you have a fire extinguisher on hand and ready to use. The extinguisher should be rated for the type of fuel source: A-rated extinguishers work on trash, wood and paper; B-rated extinguishers fight liquid fires, including gas and kerosene; C-rated put out electrical fires.

Low-voltage deck lights are a DIY project

BY TIM CARTER
Tribune Content Agency

Q: I'm going to tackle rebuilding my deck soon and have seen lots of photos of low-voltage deck lighting. I'm afraid of electricity and don't feel I have the skills to do this part of the project. Can you impart any wisdom that will instill the courage in me to try to do this wiring? Have you worked with an easy DIY system?

A: Not a week goes by that I don't get a question about electricity from a person visiting my website. Many fear lots of things, and having respect for invisible electricity is quite understandable.

You may want to try to work with electricity but need someone like me to tell you to be brave. The good news is all the wiring needed for a typical low-voltage deck project can be done with no power connected to the circuit.

That's how I wired up my enormous outdoor deck last year. I've got soft LED lights on all four sides of each post cap along the 100-plus-feet of my deck railing, and I've got down-facing safety lights at each stair riser.

All of the lights and wiring were installed with no electricity at all in the thin, low-voltage wires.

I happened to use the low-voltage lighting system manufactured by Trex. The engineers who devised the system made it caveman simple. It's all plug-and-



TIM CARTER PHOTO

All the wiring needed for a typical low-voltage deck project can be done with no power connected to the circuit.

play. It's impossible to make an incorrect connection.

All you have to do is connect the lights in a series. There are tiny splice-block connectors that the wires plug into as you daisy-chain all the lights together. Trex provides a handy illustrated manual that helps you make all the right connections.

A transformer converts the normal household 120-volt AC current to low-voltage DC current. After you have all of the

low-voltage wires connected to the lights, you plug this transformer into a photo-voltaic timer just as you'd plug a toaster into a wall outlet. It's completely safe. The timer plugs into a regular ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) exterior outlet that you might hire an electrician to install for you under the deck.

Be sure you use special rustproof tiny cable staples to attach the low-voltage wires to the underside of your decking.

You can do it, and I can't wait for you to reach out to me with your success story.

To help you visualize how simple it is to install the low-voltage lights, see photos of low-voltage connections and parts on my own deck. Go to go.askthebuilder.com/lowvoltage.

Q: Last weekend I was involved in a spirited debate with my husband about building a privacy pergola that would make our small backyard more attractive and private. He

insists the pergola needs to have four posts spaced like a table to be stable, but I feel it can be more like a fence with just two or three posts in a row. Pick a side and join the fray!

A: Every time I get a message like this, I have flashbacks of the back-and-forth building and remodeling discussions with She Who Must Be Obeyed, my wife. The memories are so vivid I have to shake my head to clear them away. I discovered many moons

ago it was in my best interest to find a way to make her dreams come true. Maybe that's one reason we'll be celebrating our 44th anniversary in September.

Congratulations on making the connection between a privacy fence and a smaller pergola. Not only can you build a small pergola with two or three posts in a row, but it can also be moored to the ground so it won't fall over.

The pergola cross members that are connected to the top beam can be up to 6 feet long. It's important to realize they should be centered on the beams that are going to be connected to each side of the vertical posts for the greatest stability. However, you can cantilever the pergola cross members using a 2-to-1 ratio for more shade on one side of this privacy structure.

To ensure the pergola will not tip over, the posts need to be embedded in the soil no less than 30 inches deep if the height of the pergola is above 8 feet. The higher you go in the air, the deeper the posts should be embedded in the ground.

You don't have to surround the posts with concrete. Concrete becomes a liability in the future if you have to replace a post. I've had great success using crushed angular gravel. I surround the post on all sides with at least 4 inches of the gravel. The gravel ranges in size from sand up to pieces not much larger than a big grape.

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KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP

Along with accelerating home prices and rising mortgage rates, the costs of lumber and other building materials are soaring. Builders indicate they are passing along those costs.

Home prices getting another jolt — from construction costs

BY VINCE GOLLE
Bloomberg News

The U.S. housing market's storyline for the last several years has been one of steady demand and limited supply, pushing prices ever higher. Now, a new chapter has opened up for the industry and its customers: soaring costs for building materials.

Recent reports underscored both resilient purchase activity and accelerating home prices. The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller index showed property values in 20 major U.S. cities climbed 6.8 percent in February, the biggest year-over-year gain since June 2014. Government data revealed a faster-than-projected rate of new-home sales in March and huge upward revisions to the prior two months.

Inventories of previously owned homes are plumbing the lowest levels in at least 19 years, a key reason why resilient demand by itself has fueled price appreciation that's extending to the new-homes market. Now with the costs of lumber and other building materials soaring together, buyers

are unlikely to see any relief for some time.

In fact, builders such as PulteGroup, Lennar Corp. and KB Home have indicated they are having success passing along construction costs and signaled margins will remain in good shape going forward.

The cost of materials is important because everything from laying the foundation to framing to painting represents the largest share of a typical single-family home purchase, according to an annual survey by the National Association of Home Builders.

The framing of homes, or putting up roofs and walls, accounts for 15 percent of the cost of construction. A composite measure of the cost of lumber for framing rose 16 percent from December to March, according to data from Random Lengths, a publisher of information on wood products.

And it's not just lumber. A Labor Department gauge of prices paid at the producer level for construction inputs — everything from particleboard and plumbing to concrete and

insulation — was up 5.1 percent in March from a year earlier, the biggest annual advance in nearly eight years.

So far, neither higher home prices or a four-year high in mortgage costs have been enough to dissuade buyers. Results of the Conference Board's consumer confidence index on April 24 showed 1.7 percent of the group's respondents in April planned to purchase a new home in the next six months, matching the highest share in this expansion.

Helping shape that pickup is a larger share of Americans who say now is a good time to buy because prices aren't going to fall soon. Sixteen percent of consumers surveyed by the University of Michigan in March said homebuying conditions were "good," considering asking prices won't get any better.

At some point, affordability will become a bigger issue for those wanting to own a home. So far though, consumers are taking higher home prices in stride and builders remain relatively upbeat about the market's prospects.

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NEW HOMES MARKETPLACE

The right choice

Millenniums and downsizers share many priorities when purchasing a new home

It may seem surprising, but homebuilders cite many similarities among millennial buyers who may be purchasing a first home and those who are shedding large family homes for dwellings that better meet their needs and priorities.

"Both of these demographic groups are looking for security, value and convenience," says Jeremy Lund, sales manager for Shodeen Homes. "Millenniums are busy building careers, while downsizing active adults may want freedom from a large property as their children leave home and they explore new lifestyle options. In addition, both groups are looking for a lower tax burden, and want a home that is the right size and floor plan for their needs.

"The attraction of having a brand new home with an open concept design and state-of-the-art interior features appeals to these buyers. Downsizers enjoy having floor plans and features that they may not have had in their older homes. Millennials are looking for commuter-friendly locations, good school districts and other amenities that ensure good resale value," he says.

The Village Homes at Elburn Station are innovative designs in a Shodeen master-planned community that includes several types of homes, and is named for its location surrounding the Elburn Metra Station. The Village Homes offer the privacy of detached single-family homes with freedom from exterior lawn maintenance and snow removal. Attractive exteriors feature large front porches and garages in the rear.

With prices starting from the \$210s, five floor plans, including a ranch plan and four two-story homes, range in size from 1,097 to 2,300 square feet of space, with two or three bedrooms, one or two baths, full basements and two or 2½-car garages. Optional finished basements are available, and the setting features several ponds, parks and walking and biking trails. Elburn Station has the distinction of being an AT&T Fiber™ community which makes it

ideal for telecommuting with high speed internet and the ability to use multiple devices simultaneously. The highly respected Kaneland District 302 schools serve the community. Two other series of single-family homes are The Settlement Series, priced from the \$260s, and the Crossings, priced from the \$270s.

The Townes at Ashcroft Walk in southwest suburban Oswego are proving popular with first-time buyers and active adults. Being built by widely respected West Point Builders, The Townes are part of a master-planned community within walking distance of excellent Oswego District 308 schools, and West Point Builders also offers single-family homes in the community. Prices range from \$194,990 to \$237,990.

"Even before the grand opening of our model, sales have been brisk with our pre-construction incentives," says Pat Curran, president of West Point Builders. "Because the townhomes include a ranch plan, two-story plan with the master bedroom on the main floor as well as two traditional two-story designs, they are appealing to both first-time buyers, singles, active adults and even families, who are drawn by the outstanding schools. We are also seeing some cross-over sales by those who may have visited to look at the single-family homes and then decide on a townhome and vice-versa. The single-family homes also offer a variety of plans, including two ranch plans, priced from \$304,990 to \$359,990."

Limited-time grand opening incentives are still in effect for all of the homes. They include \$10,000 in free options for single-family homes and \$5,000 for townhomes, free full basement and no site premiums for sites with pond views.

Both millennials and empty-nesters



Both millennials and empty-nesters appreciate the townhome designs and amenities offered by Toll Brothers at Bowes Creek in Elgin.

who desire a carefree country club lifestyle have an outstanding opportunity at Toll Brothers' "The Townhome Collection" at Bowes Creek Country Club on the west side of Elgin. The elegant townhomes, priced from the mid-to-upper \$200s, enjoy a resort setting provided by the award-winning 18-hole public golf course designed by renowned golf course architect Rick Jacobson.

"These townhomes appeal to millennial buyers as well as empty-nester buyers with college age children," says Holly Sulayman, Community Sales manager. "Empty-nesters may be transitioning to a more carefree lifestyle with less home maintenance, where they can set their own recreational priorities. The Townhome Collection provides them with space for living graciously with freedom from lawn mowing and snow shoveling.

"Millennials desire an excellent investment as well as an attractive home where they can entertain friends and enjoy community amenities. Because Bowes Creek Country Club offers natural beauty and a variety of upscale homes, the homes have the solid resale value many millennials are looking for. In addition, all of our buyers are delighted by the opportunity to customize their homes through our exciting Design Studio," Sulayman says.

Five townhome designs range in size



Shodeen's low maintenance Village Homes at Elburn Station are a popular choice with empty-nesters and millennials.

from 1,848 to 2,222 square feet, including a choice of main level or second-floor master bedrooms. The homes include two or three bedrooms, 2 to 3½ baths, basements and two-car attached garages. Light and sunny open concept living areas, volume ceilings, master sitting rooms, lofts and other architectural highlights enhance the custom look.

"Presently, we have opened up sites on a cul-de-sac that are suitable for walk-out and look-out basements," Sulayman says. "Buyers of homes on these sites can have a 3,000-square-foot townhome, with a lower level ideal for a game room, home theater, party room or other uses. These townhomes can expand buyers' expectations of how convenient and enjoyable townhome living can be."

For more information about these builders, visit ShodeenHomes.com, WestPointBuilders.com and TollBrothers.com.

NEW HOMES MARKETPLACE

New homeowners find lively lifestyle at Parkside of Libertyville

Living close to a vibrant downtown was paramount for Eileen and Kris Ericksen. It was no surprise, then, that when they visited Parkside of Libertyville from K. Hovnanian® Homes they immediately fell in love with the location — and the homes.

The couple knew they wanted to downsize to a maintenance-free townhome once their children were out on their own so they casually started looking at new homes. The second — and ultimately final — property they toured was Parkside of Libertyville. It offered everything the Ericksens desired.

"We really wanted to be close to town," says Eileen Ericksen. "We love that by living at Parkside we can easily walk down to the main street for our coffee, to shop or to go out to dinner. The location is perfect."

One of the best in Lake County, Libertyville's historic downtown district has more than 30 restaurants including a microbrewery, boutiques and antique shops, and its own theater. In addition, it is home



An open floor plan is one of the hallmarks of Parkside of Libertyville's luxury townhomes.

to a weekly farmer's market in the summer and a variety of festivals and community events.

"My husband lived in Libertyville for 18 years before we were married so he was familiar with all the village has to offer," she says, noting that the couple relocated from Vernon Hills.

Parkside of Libertyville being only one

mile from the Metra train station was an added benefit for the Ericksens since four of their seven children live in Chicago.

In addition to the convenient location, the open-concept townhome designs attracted the Ericksens to Parkside of Libertyville. Even though the homes are attached, they live large and are ideal for entertaining.

"With the Superior's open floor plan, everyone can interact with each other — even when prepping meals in the kitchen," Ericksen says.

All everyday living areas are on the second floor of the Superior. The Great Room flows into the kitchen where the long center island unites the space with the adjacent dining area that then leads to a covered patio.

The Superior is one of four floor plans K. Hovnanian® Homes offers at Parkside of Libertyville. Base prices, which are subject to change without notice, range from \$454,995 to \$534,995. Only 56 three-story townhomes will be built at the new-home neighborhood, so inventory is limited.

Parkside of Libertyville is located just west of Milwaukee Avenue (Ill. Hyw. 21) in the northwest suburb. From Milwaukee Avenue, turn west onto Winchester Road, continue approximately one half mile then turn south into the community. The sales center is at 611 Parkside Court and is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information, call 331-701-7858 or visit khov.com/Parkside.

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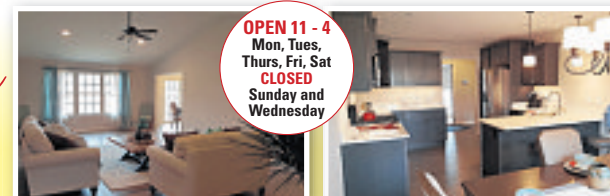
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NEW HOMES MARKETPLACE



The Toll Brothers' Duke Lexington is available for summer move-in at prestigious Tanglewood Hills in Batavia.

Toll Brothers offers pair of luxury homes at Tanglewood Hills

Homebuyers who are seeking the epitome of luxury can choose from a pair of Toll Brothers' single-family homes for 2018 move-ins at Tanglewood Hills, a prestigious pool and clubhouse community in the rolling countryside of Batavia.

Award-winning Toll Brothers, a national homebuilder for more than 50 years, is building 63 homes on one-third acre sites in the community. Tanglewood Hills offers an ideal setting for these estate homes in an outstanding location near every convenience. In addition, the community offers the important advantage of the acclaimed Batavia District 101 schools, including the Grace McWayne elementary school in the neighborhood.

In addition, resort-style living will appeal to every member of the family, with a clubhouse, two pools, sports courts as well as sparkling ponds, scenic parks and walking trails. In contrast to the pastoral setting, Tanglewood Hills is just minutes from Int. 88, and is convenient to the Randall Road Corridor, downtown Batavia and Geneva and the Geneva Metra commuter station.

"The two-story Duke Lexington will be available for summer delivery and the Audubon ranch will be ready in late fall of 2018," says Jennifer Mencias, sales manager for Tanglewood Hills. "Because Toll Brothers offers extensive customization of our homes, the earlier buyers make their purchasing decisions, the more choices they can make. Our online program enables buyers to "Design your own Home," and provides a great way to consider and select every luxury feature. In addition, our interior design experts can assist with selections from thousands of interior finishes.

"Many Batavia and other area residents have family, friends and other affiliations or

want to remain in the outstanding school district," Mencias says. "Tanglewood Hills is a great choice for those who are ready to purchase a larger or more luxurious home or downsize to a more convenient floor plan while enjoying new levels of luxury. Buyers will also enjoy the latest design innovations and materials plus our 10-year warranty," she says.

Toll Brothers offers six ranch, two-story and first-floor master plans, ranging from 3,200 to over 3,600 square feet in size, with prices starting from the low \$500s. Additional bedrooms, solariums, greenhouses, sunrooms, morning rooms, au pair suites, playrooms and room extensions are available, and the homes include full basements, woodburning fireplaces and other popular features.

The award-winning Duke Lexington is a two-story home with 3,915 square feet of living space, five bedrooms including a second-floor master, five baths, full basement and three-car attached garage, priced at \$675,995. This home has many of the sought-after features buyers are looking for, including a first-floor guest bedroom with full bath, stunning two-story foyer and family room, open kitchen with center island and walk-in pantry plus a spacious mudroom.

The professionally decorated model and sales center are located at 425 Brady Way in Batavia. The sales center is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. To learn more, call 630-454-4988 or visit Tanglewood-Hills.com.

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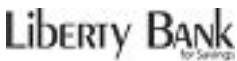


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		Points: 0.000	15 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$999	20%	3.941		
		Fees: \$999	10 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$999	20%	4.027		
		% Down: 20%	7 yr fixed	3.500	0.000	\$999	20%	3.885		
			5/1 ARM	3.250	0.000	\$999	20%	4.472		
			7/1 ARM	3.750	0.000	\$999	20%	4.509		
			30 yr jumbo	4.375	0.000	\$999	20%	4.417		
	5/1 jumbo ARM	3.250	0.000	\$999	20%	4.700				
 Central Federal Savings and Loan Association	4.610%	Rate: 4.500	20 yr fixed	4.250	0.000	\$755	20%	4.399	708-416-3661 www.centrafederalsavings.com	NMLS# 458026
		Points: 0.000	15 yr fixed	4.000	0.000	\$755	20%	4.188		
		Fees: \$755	10 yr fixed	3.750	0.000	\$755	20%	4.018		
		% Down: 20%	7/1 ARM (30yr)	4.000	0.000	\$755	20%	4.561		
			30 yr jumbo	4.500	0.000	\$755	20%	4.550		
			20 yr jumbo	4.250	0.000	\$755	20%	4.317		
			15 yr jumbo	4.000	0.000	\$755	20%	4.084		
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		Points: 0.000	3/1 ARM	4.000	0.000	\$75	5%	4.001		
		Fees: \$895	5/1 ARM	4.000	0.000	\$25	5%	4.001		
		% Down: 5%	7/1 ARM	4.125	0.000	\$55	5%	4.126		
			30 yr jumbo	4.500	0.000	\$50	20%	4.566		
			5/1 jumbo ARM	4.500	0.000	\$50	20%	4.566		
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WEEK OF
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NOT FOR RESALE

The cool mom's guide to Chicago

EXPLORE THE CITY WITH A TOT IN TOW. PAGES 6-8



Mama Fresh blog
creator Jenny LeFlore
with her son, Obie.



HANNAH STEINKOPF-FRANK/REDEYE

Bronzeville resident and Mama Fresh creator Jenny LeFlore and her son, Obie.

NOT LIKE A REGULAR MOM » PAGE 6

Being a mom in Chicago doesn't mean your city girl days are over. There are plenty of spots worth exploring that also happen to be kid-friendly. We talked to Jenny LeFlore, creator of blog Mama Fresh, about starting a diverse community of motherhood in Chicago and her favorite places to go with her son.



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Roast chicken at Mordecai.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME » PAGE 12

The White Sox and Cubs play in the Crosstown Classic this weekend, and we've got tips from Cubs fan and dining critic Phil Vettel on the best new eats in and around Wrigley.

WHAT WOULD CHICAGO PARTY AUNT DO? » PAGE 14

We channel the city's favorite boozy Twitter aunt for a list of Chicago spots that will put you in her shoes — or shot glasses, whatever.



BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE

'Race: Are We So Different?'

EXPLORING RACE » PAGE 16

The Chicago History Museum offers an exhibit entitled "Race: Are We So Different?" until mid July. Though it's been around for over a decade, it feels as timely as ever.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOUR PANCAKES » PAGE 18

Denny's has a "Star Wars"-themed menu. We investigated if it's in league with the Jedis or the dark side of the Force.



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55-59	111.00	92.25	45.00	37.50	23.00	19.25	14.20	11.95
60-64	136.00	103.50	55.00	42.00	28.00	21.50	17.20	13.30
65-69	163.50	126.00	66.00	51.00	33.50	26.00	20.50	16.00
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do THIS now

By Adam Lukach | REDEYE



METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES

Reese Witherspoon in 'Legally Blonde.'

Mother's Day mimosas and a matinee

If you're looking for something fun and casual to do with mom for Mother's Day weekend, why not kill a cocktail at the Music Box Theatre's lounge and catch a special matinee showing of "Legally Blonde"? Not only does it hold up as a charming, subliminally feminist comedy, it also features a timeless performance from Reese Witherspoon. Matinees begin at 11:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at MBT (3733 N. Southport Ave.). Tickets: \$8. musicboxtheatre.com

'Killer' double feature

Do you like serial killer content? Many people do, for whatever reason, so here's a movie screening for all you sick weirdos. At 7 p.m. Friday, Bucket O' Blood Books and Records (3182 N. Elston Ave.) will show a pair of flicks full of murder: 1997's "Bloodletting" — about a serial killer-obsessed girl who tracks one down and becomes his apprentice — and 2017's "My Friend Dahmer," a biographical drama about Jeffrey Dahmer in high school. A \$5 suggested donation supports the Windy City Horrorama and Horror Society.



A woman walks by a mural in Pilsen.

ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE FILE

Take a walk on the historical side

No other neighborhood in Chicago has a collection of murals like Pilsen's, which makes sense given the public art form's strong Mexican roots. The community is filled with these vibrant creations, depicting stories of success and struggles both past and present for the Mexican community. You can take in these towering creations and learn about them thanks to the Chicago History Museum, which offers ongoing **walking tours of the Pilsen murals**, including 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday beginning at the Mexican Fine Arts Museum (1852 W. 19th St.). Tickets: \$20. chicagohistory.org

Love is in the Square

Lovers of Logan Square, here's the perfect party for you. It's called the **I Love Logan Square Party**, and this year is its 10th anniversary. The party raises funds for the Logan Square Neighborhood Association, which bills itself "as (an) unabashedly, 100 percent pro-immigrant, pro-equity, pro-justice neighborhood association." Expect food, drink and live music, plus both live and silent auctions. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. Friday at Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center (4046 W. Armitage Ave.). Tickets: \$30-\$200. Tickets: eventbrite.com

Subway showdown

Here's what you need to know for this year's **Cubs vs. Sox Crosstown Classic**: The Cubs are good again, but still trying to get completely back on track after last year's World Series hangover. Meanwhile, the White Sox are bad again, but their prospects are in the low expectations, lots of intrigue stage of the rebuild, so games are usually, uh, interesting! Crack open a beer, pull up a chair: it finally feels like baseball season in Chicago. Games are at 1:20 p.m. Friday through Sunday.



JEFF CURRY/GETTY

Jose Abreu of the Chicago White Sox.

happy hour

Here's where to drink on a budget this week.

THURSDAY

Bar94 at 360 Chicago Observation Deck (875 N. Michigan Ave., 312-751-3681) offers \$6.50 cocktails and glasses of house wine and \$5.50 Revolution Brewing beers from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Sunda (110 W. Illinois St., 312-644-0500) offers a glass of rosé paired with house-made ceviche for \$20 in the lounge, bar or patio from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Kurah Mediterranean (1355 S. Michigan Ave., 312-624-8611) offers select glasses of wine and draft beers, house sangria, hummus, falafel and cheese flatbread for \$5 in the bar area from 4 to 6 p.m.

SUNDAY

Artango Bar & Steakhouse (4767 N. Lincoln Ave., 872-208-7441) offers \$7 glasses of wine, \$7 select cocktails, \$4 domestic beer and \$9 empanadas or grilled pizza from 5 to 7 p.m.

MONDAY

Cactus Bar & Grill (404 S. Wells St., 312-922-3830) offers \$6 margaritas from 4 to 6 p.m.

TUESDAY

Sushi and bottles of wine are half price from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at **The Madison Bar & Kitchen** (1027 W. Madison St., 312-566-4121).

WEDNESDAY

Fort Willow (1721 N. Elston Ave., 773-687-8898) offers \$5 cocktails from 5 to 6 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

By Samantha Nelson | FOR REDEYE

	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
6 may						 <p>FRANK DUNCAN</p>	<p>MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA TRUFFLE PARTY AT KATHERINE ANNE CONFECTIONS 2745 W. Armitage Ave., 773-245-1630 Make classic truffles from scratch while having mimosas, scones with house-made jam and tea sandwiches. You'll take home samples of your work. 11 a.m. \$70. Tickets: katherine-anne.com</p>
		<p>CHEF PADDLE BATTLE AT SPIN CHICAGO 344 N. State St., 773-635-9999 Watch 20 chefs compete in the second annual table tennis tournament benefiting Foundations of Music. Admission includes a Tsingtao beer and complimentary Ping-Pong games. 7-9 p.m. \$15. Tickets: eventbrite.com</p>	<p>PINOT IN THE CITY AT MORGAN MANUFACTURING 401 N. Morgan St. Meet 70 winemakers from Oregon's Willamette Valley and try their current and past releases paired with bites meant to complement pinot noir, the region's signature varietal. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$75. Tickets: eventbrite.com</p>	 <p>WILLAMETTE VALLEY WINERIES ASSOCIATION</p>		<p>LINCOLN PARK WINE FEST AT JONQUIL PARK 1001 W. Wrightwood Ave., 773-868-3010 The fourth annual fest kicks off a day early this year with a lineup of 50 sparkling and rosé wines from around the world plus food vendors and a DJ. 6-10 p.m. \$40. Tickets: lincolnparkwinefest.com</p>	<p>CHICAGO NERD COMEDY FESTIVAL AT STAGE 773 1225 W. Belmont Ave., 773-327-5252 Catch performances by WGN Radio's Patti Vasquez (10 p.m.) and Plan 9 Burlesque (11 p.m.) at the sixth annual fest. \$15 per show, \$60 for a full-day pass. Dress in costume for \$3 off a ticket. Tickets: stage773.com</p>
	<p>BATTLE OF THE BREWERIES AT GOOSE ISLAND BARREL WAREHOUSE 603 N. Sacramento Blvd. Sip six varieties of Bourbon County Stout while you watch 36 teams compete in the fifth annual dodgeball tournament benefiting the Illinois Craft Brewers Guild. 2 p.m. \$25. Tickets: brownpapertickets.com</p>	 <p>GOOSE ISLAND</p>	 <p>MADELINE SPANIER</p>	<p>COUP/3 GOALS AT CENTER ON HALSTED 3656 N. Halsted St., 773-472-6469 "The Ethical Slut" author Janet W. Hardy discusses the foundations of nontraditional lifestyles as part of a series on relationships and sexual exploration. 7-10 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. RSVP: couplegoals.club</p>	<p>'BULL IN A CHINA SHOP' AT THEATER WIT 1229 W. Belmont Ave., 773-975-8150 Catch the Midwest premiere of Bryna Turner's comedy about the romance between women's suffrage leaders Mary Woolley and Jeannette Marks. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Tickets: aboutfacetheatre.com</p>	<p>GARDEN PARTY SUMMER SEASON OPENER AT RANDOLPH STREET MARKET 1341 W. Randolph St., 312-666-1200 Shop for outdoor furniture, gardening tools and more from 300 vendors. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5-\$10. Tickets: randolphstreetmarket.com</p>	
	<p>MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CRAWFISH BOIL AT COUNTRY CLUB 3462 N. Clark St., 773-975-2010 Feast on all-you-can-eat seafood and draft beers at the Wrigleyville bar's second annual bash. 1-4 p.m. \$40. Tickets: thecountryclubchicago.com</p>	 <p>TRAVELLE KITCHEN & BAR</p>	<p>GREEN CITY MARKET DINNER SERIES AT TRAVELLE KITCHEN & BAR 330 N. Wabash Ave., 312-923-7705 The River North spot's team visits the farmers market every Wednesday morning and then preps a menu using local produce. 5-10 p.m. \$55. Wine pairings available for an additional \$20.</p>	 <p>RANDOLPH STREET MARKET</p>			

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Bronzeville resident and Mama Fresh creator Jenny LeFlore and her son, Obie.

HANNAH STEINKOPF-FRANK/REDEYE

Mom about town

JENNY LEFLORE IS CREATING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF MOTHERHOOD IN CHICAGO

By Lauren Chval | REDEYE

Before Jenny LeFlore had her son, Obie, in 2016, she was a self-described woman about town. She worked in fashion and enjoyed brunching and exploring everything Chicago had to offer on the weekends.

Mom life required her to switch gears, but she didn't want to lose her ability to venture out into the city. Thus, her blog, *Mama Fresh* (mamafreshchicago.com) was born. Every week, LeFlore researches kid-friendly goings on in Chicago and posts them on her site. She also partners with organizations throughout Chicago to host mommy play dates, workshops and events. RedEye sat down with the 37-year-old Bronzeville resident to talk the evolution of *Mama Fresh* and the best places to take kids in Chicago.

Q: Why did you start *Mama Fresh*?

A: When I was a new mom, I would want to do stuff with my kid on the weekends. RedEye is a weekend guide, but I needed that for kids. But the thing is that there was no place I could go where I could just look to see everything. I would do research myself. One week, I just decided to make an Instagram video of three places you can go with your kid. They might not be specifically for kids, but it'll be a street fest where I know they have a family stage. Or it might be the antique market on Randolph where if you're baby wearing, it's perfect for you to walk around. Or it might be the farmers market where you walk around and point out different fruits or vegetables to your kid. So it's just three things, and that first Instagram video got over 500 views. So then I started doing it all the time.

Q: How did you get into hosting

events?

A: I was taking the cutest classes, and everyone asked me how I found out about them. My son was often the only black boy in the class. I was the only black mom in class. I was over 35. I was a lot of “other.” There was this one time we were in a music class, and he was 9 months, just sitting there. She played a modern song and then she looked at my son and was like, “Are you going to rap the verse for us in the middle?” And I didn’t want any mom to feel the way I felt right then. And I was new. I didn’t know anyone else. There wasn’t another mom for me to look at to be like, “Am I weird? Was that weird?”

Moms tell me, “We want to do stuff, but we don’t want to travel 40 minutes to Lincoln Park all the time. I don’t want to be the only black mom there. I don’t want to be the only mom over 35. I don’t want to be the only mom whose leggings came from Target instead of Lululemon.” Yoga was a big one. People wanted mommy and me yoga to do with their babies. So I hosted a mommy and me yoga class. We sold out within days. We did it on a rooftop. It was beautiful. It was a moment.

Q: What do you see as the mission of Mama Fresh going forward?

A: So, the vision of Mama Fresh is to create and to ignite a community of motherhood where diversity is celebrated. Not only tolerated, but celebrated. I empower mamas to pack up their little ones and to explore their community, city and the world. Everything I do comes back to that. That’s all I want to do.

If you’re the first one to have a kid in your friend group — or the last — you might not have a partner to roll with. So I’m telling you, come to my events, and I’ll be your partner. You don’t need a mama friend to come; I’m your mama friend.

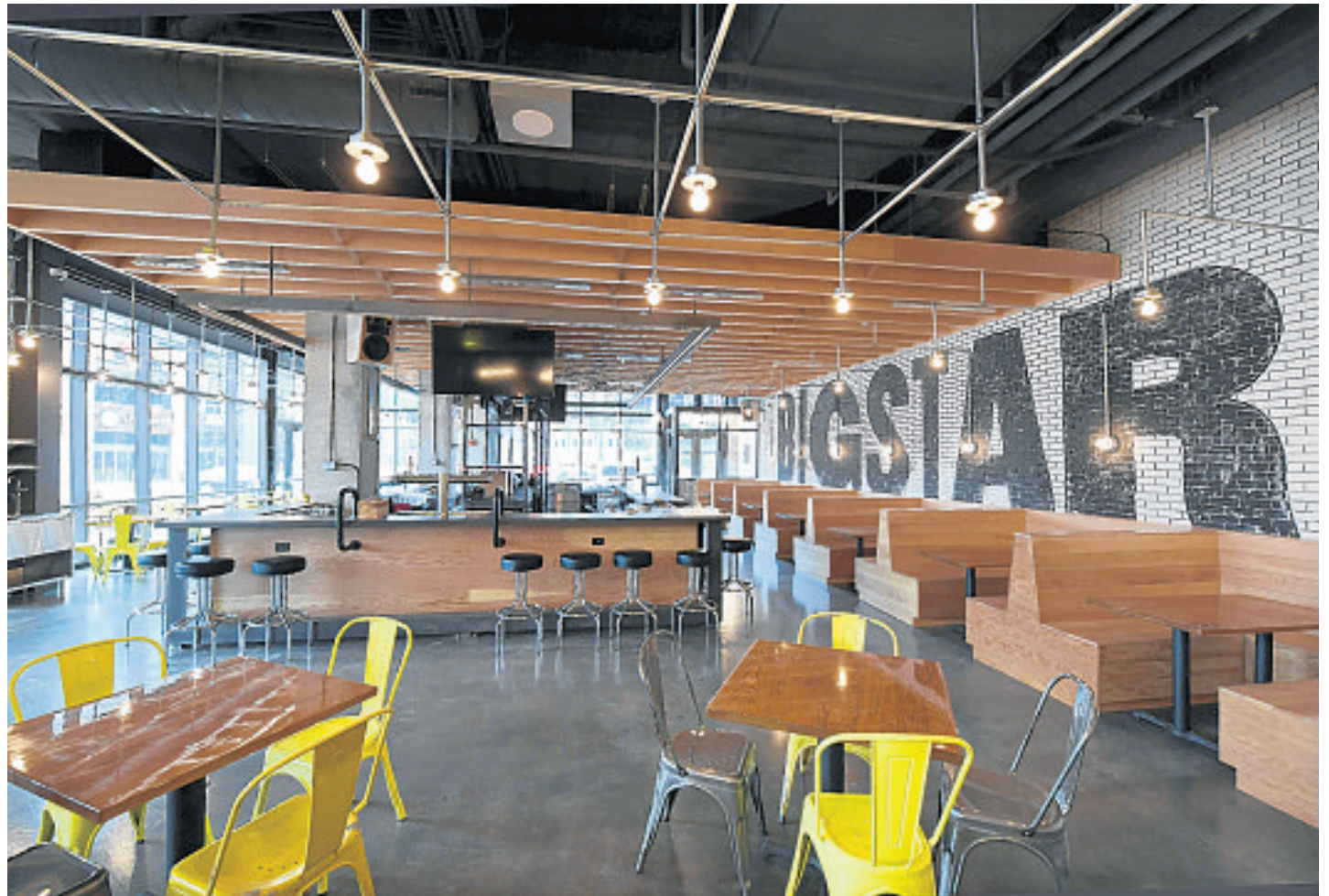
Q: What’s coming up?

A: Our kickoff this year is going to be at the Museum of Science and Industry, which is a community partner. We do a lot. We do breastfeeding workshops, and we did that on the South Side because black moms are significantly less likely to breastfeed. So we partnered with the University of Chicago and hosted a workshop.

When I talk about going back to work my mom jokes, “You don’t have time to work.” It went from my hobby to a full-time job because I’ve been really lucky to partner with brands and community builders that are like, “This is awesome. How can I help?” It’s a lot of work, but it’s a lot of fun.

Q-and-A’s are edited for length and clarity.

@lchval | laurenchval@redeyechicago.com



Wrigleyville Big Star.

PAUL BEATY/TRIBUNE FILE

26 places to get out and about with your kid

By **Lauren Chval** | REDEYE

Just because you had a baby or two doesn’t mean you want to give up the greatness that is exploring Chicago.

“When I had my kid, I thought, ‘Oh my God, I have to give up happy hour and all these cool things,’” said LeFlore. “So when I find a place that’s welcoming to me and my child, I’m like, ‘OK, we’ll be here all the time.’”

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS AND COFFEE SHOPS

Big Star

1531 N. Damen Ave., 773-235-4039
3640 N. Clark St., 773-857-7120

The beloved Chicago staple now has two locations for parents to enjoy tacos, whiskey and a honky-tonk atmosphere. But with its spacious patio and delicious food

you can eat with your hands, Big Star is child-friendly too.

Crosby’s Kitchen

3455 N. Southport Ave., 773-883-2525

For parents, you’d think stroller parking and stepstools in the bathrooms would be the most appealing part of this comfort food spot. But then you realize that kids eat free between 4 and 6 p.m.

Dos Urban Cantina

2829 W. Armitage Ave., 773-661-6452

The biggest draw for kids here: Servers will bring a toy box to the table for entertainment. So give that iPad you’re toting around a break and enjoy the food.

The Promontory

5311 S. Lake Park Ave. W., 312-801-2100

This family-centric restaurant is plenty welcoming to children. You won’t be the only one needing a high chair on the weekends when the Hyde Park spot fills up with

families and still maintains a chill vibe.

Roots Handmade Pizza

1924 W. Chicago Ave., 773-645-4949
2200 W. Lawrence Ave., 773-433-5959

With pizza served on wooden slabs, it’s hard for your kid to knock a plate off the table and break something. Bonus: They’ll give little ones “play dough” to keep them entertained.

Vanille Patisseries

131 N. Clinton St., 2108 N. Clark St., 3243 N. Broadway, 5229 S. Harper Ct., 773-868-4574

These authentic French bakeries are so pretty that you might fear it’s not a good place for your little terror — err, angel. But they have story times and toys and books about Paris, so snag some macarons and settle in.

Warm Belly Bakery

1148 W. Monroe St., 312-265-0780

While you get your coffee fix, this West

Loop spot will keep your kiddo happy with dozens of delicious cookie flavors. If you're feeling lax about their sugar intake, the milkshake is a favorite, too.

BEST PLACES TO LET YOUR KID RUN AROUND

Bubbles Academy

2184 N. Elston Ave., 312-944-7677

A playroom, yes, but Bubbles Academy is all about child development and really highlights that focus. Every class or workshop the facility offers explains how it helps kids learn, and they also offer parent seminars and mom groups.

Little Beans Cafe

1809 W. Webster Ave., 773-251-1025

Relax in a cafe while your kids run around in the play space area, dubbed an "imaginative village." The toys and activities are appropriate for children 0 through 6, so let them play and make some friends while you take a breath and get a cup of coffee. The cafe also offers classes.

Purple Monkey Playroom

2040 N. Western Ave., 773-772-8411

Another indoor playroom that offers open play, story time, camps and special events like light therapy. The coffee and Wi-Fi are both included for parents with the price of admission.

Wonder Works

6445 W. North Ave., Oak Park, 708-383-4815

Technically just outside Chicago in Oak Park, this children's museum offers six "experience zones" for kids to learn in a hands-on environment. Whether your kids are into art, building things, gardening or the theater, there's something at Wonder Works that will expand their minds.

BEST KID CLASSES

Buddha Belly Kids Yoga

Various locations

This organization holds yoga classes all across the city. Babes as young as 1 can participate in parent-child yoga that includes poses, singing and games.

buddhabellykidsyoga.com

Chicago Juicebox Series

Various locations

These programs are held the first and third Friday and Saturday of every month at the Chicago Cultural Center and Garfield Park Conservatory. The series presents a range of diverse cultural performers focused on music and dance.

cityofchicago.org

Easel Art Studio

1911 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-360-1720

Foster a love of art in your little with this studio's classes. Different creativity stations let kids explore different mediums, and they'll always leave with a project to show off their efforts.

easelartstudio.com



Bridgeport-based Yin He Dance performs at the Chicago Juicebox Series.

NATHAN LEE



ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE FILE

Arsenio White helps his son Yandel climb a ladder as they spend the afternoon in the Play Garden at Maggie Daley Park.

Foss Swim School

3026 N. Ashland Ave., 773-248-3677

You can enroll your babe in swim lessons as young as 6 months, when they can start getting used to the water (heated to 91 degrees) with songs and games. As they get more comfortable in the water, they'll graduate to more advanced levels.

fossswimschool.com

Goldfish Swim School

1930 W. Hubbard St., 312-281-7946
2630 W. Bradley Place, 773-588-7946

Get your kid swimming as young as 4 months at this school where the pools are built specifically for swim lessons. No matter their age or level, siblings can take classes at the same time. Extra endorsement from Jenny LeFlore: "I love the diversity of the staff there. That's something that was a big deal to me, especially with swimming."

goldfishswimschool.com



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Nineteen-month-old Charlotte Bowen at the Wonder Works Children's Museum in Oak Park.

The Kids' Table

2864 N. Lincoln Ave., 2337 W. North Ave., 773-235-2665

Take your budding chefs as young as 2 to these cooking classes, where they'll learn culinary skills and recipes. It might even be a way to expand the palate of your exceptionally picky eater.

kids-table.com

Lil' Kickers

1911 W. Lake St., 1535 N. Dayton St., 2640 W. Bradley Place, 877-545-5457

Think you have to wait until your kid is 4 or 5 to get them into sports? Think again. Lil' Kickers has soccer classes for babes as young as 18 months. That might seem ridiculous, but just wait until you see how cute they look in their soccer jerseys. Classes also include bubbles, parachutes and other toddler-friendly things.

lksoccer.com

Marsha's Music

5480 S. Kenwood Ave., 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., 1127 N. Oakley Blvd., 773-288-3815

Music classes build on kids' natural enthusiasm for music and movement. Though some music riles children up, Marsha's music is meant to calm them down, which means you can play it at home to achieve the same effect.

marshamusic.com

Mr. Dave Music

1935 W. Division St., 312-458-5887

If your little one is under 4, he or she can enjoy music classes that employ both original and classic children's songs to inspire dancing, singing and clapping. Or take them to a "baby rave," complete with glow sticks and light shows. Never too early to get them ready for live shows.

mrdavemusic.com

Morning Glories

300 N. Central Park Ave., 312-746-5100

This class at the Garfield Park Conservatory gives little ones a chance to do some outdoor exploration whether it's summer or winter. Sensory activities and story time encourage curiosity of the natural world.

garfieldconservatory.org

BEST PLACES TO TAKE ADORABLE INSTAGRAMS

Antique Taco Bridgeport

1000 W. 35th St., 773-823-9410

This spot would have been right at home in our kid-friendly restaurants section, but it's the photo potential you want to know about. The giant outdoor games and authentic steamer both offer backdrops for an outdoor photo shoot.

Greetings From Chicago

2226 N. Milwaukee Ave.

A classic spot to show off how much you and your mini-me love your hometown.

Heart Emoji Wall

Webster Avenue between Elston and Damen avenues

A bubblegum pink wall with a big red heart painted on it is a simple but eye-catching backdrop for a sweet photo showcasing some mom love.

Maggie Daley Park

337 E. Randolph St.

It's two-for-one in the park's play garden: Kiddos get to run around, and mom gets some adorable pics for the 'gram.

Peoples Gas Education Pavilion (Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo)

2001 N. Clark St.

The honeycomb structure right outside the Lincoln Park Zoo is immediately recognizable in photos. Especially with that gorgeous skyline in the background.

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ChicagoAthleticClubs.com



The Prince Edward Island mussels at Sable Kitchen & Bar.

JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Just getting re-established

2 COCKTAIL-FORWARD RESTAURANTS WORK TO PUT THEMSELVES BACK ON THE MAP

By Phil Vettel | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Today we look at two cocktail-forward restaurants seeking to reclaim former glory: Sable Kitchen & Bar, a drink destination in search of a food identity, and Gideon Sweet, which is another makeover of Graham Elliot Bistro.

Sable Kitchen & Bar

Under opening chef Heather Terhune and head bartender Mike Ryan, Sable Kitchen & Bar (in the Hotel Palomar in River North) quickly established itself in 2010 as a fine dinner option and one of the best cocktail destinations in the city. But both left Sable in early 2015 (for bigger opportunities within the Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant Group), and Sable has struggled with its identity since, going through two

additional chefs in three years.

With luck, Amber Lancaster, who came aboard in mid-2017, will stick around awhile. The French-trained chef has worked at Alinea and Moto, then as a private chef for a family that shuttled among its five homes.

"I took the job to see some other states," she said, "to be sure I wanted to be here."

Lancaster is making gradual progress in turning the ship around. "I'm slowly picking and choosing, without pushing the staff too hard, too soon," she said. Her first full menu launched in January and is an appealing, though short, mix of Mediterranean influences — safe dishes that easily match Sable's still-excellent cocktail program (overseen ably by head bartender Mike Jones).

Lancaster's deviled eggs are kind of fun, perked up carbonara-style with Parmesan crisps and crumbled pancetta; a little hot



The Sable burger.

sauce in the filling gives the eggs a nice accent. Meat and cheese combos are available a couple of ways. There's a cheese and charcuterie platter of country ham and wild boar meats against cheeses from France, California and Wisconsin; and a jambon et fromage duet of burrata cheese, tomatoes and speck on pieces of toasted ciabatta. (Sloppy timing marred the latter preparation; by the time it reached my table, the ciabatta was already soggy from

Sable Kitchen & Bar
505 N. State St., 312-755-9704
sablechicago.com

Tribune rating: ★

Open: Breakfast and dinner daily; brunch Saturday and Sunday

Prices: Large plates \$14-\$38

Noise: Conversation-friendly

Other: Valet parking

the tomatoes.)

Larger plates include very good mussels in chorizo broth and more of that excellent ciabatta toast. (I swear, Publican Quality Bread's ciabatta is going to take over the world.) Roast chicken with cannellini beans and glazed carrots is a keeper, though undoubtedly the cassouletlike presentation will change when the weather does. Ricotta gnudi are as pillowy as you'd want, aided by a soothing onion

broth and chanterelle mushrooms.

Sable's entry into the double-patty burger realm is capable, dressed with pickles, aioli and an optional fried egg, but it needs a more robust companion than the pallid American cheese used now. (How about some of that Red Rock cheddar from the charcuterie plate?) The accompanying fries were bottom-of-the-bag tiny, though nicely crispy.

What was once Sable's back dining room has been relegated to private-party space; now there's just the bar, though it's a handsome, gently lit space ideal for a quick drop-in.

Sable Kitchen remains a good neighborhood spot, but if it's to become anything more, Lancaster's menu is going to have to take some chances.

Gideon Sweet

G.E.B. opened in 2013, the monogram alternately standing for Graham Elliot Bistro and the celebrity chef's full name, which is Graham Elliot Bowles. It started like a hit single, delighting diners with its rock 'n' roll atmosphere (devotional candles to rock-star "saints," a Marshall-amplifier host stand, a cocktail named for Ghostface Killah), but the early success proved difficult to maintain.

In April 2016, Elliot partnered with DMK Restaurants to revamp the restaurant, at the time officially called Graham Elliot Bistro, but four months later, the restaurant closed. Then last year, Elliot united with former mentor Matthias Merges (who had been chef de cuisine at Charlie Trotter's during Elliot's time there) to create Gideon Sweet (named for an apple variety), which opened in November.

Gone are such dishes as the GE Caesar and its Twinkie crouton (though a version of that dish lives on at Booth One, where it's called the Sir Graham Caesar). Instead, there are about 20 small bites (ranging from \$5 to \$16), ideal go-withs for a glass of wine or one of Gideon Sweet's cocktails. And cocktail matching is something Matthias Merges (Billy Sunday, A10, Mordecai) understands well.

But to the food. Start with the bone-marrow croquette, a crunchy package topped with crab mayonnaise and bonito flakes, a very satisfying one- or two-bite experience. A tempura-fried oyster sits in a puddle of chile soy (in the curl of the oyster's shell), topped with salmon roe and dashi foam; the soy and roe restore the salinity that frying took from the oyster.

Roasted heirloom cauliflower, with smoked dates and Marcona almonds, is a triumph of crunchy textures; warm king crab with sea urchin and smoked trout roe excites with soft textures. A crispy potato spiral, doused with sour cream, green-onion threads and micro-shredded botarga, was inspired by street food but strikes me as elevated-beyond-belief ball-park food.

Specials, always a good bet, might in-



Warm king crab comes with sea urchin and smoked trout roe at Gideon Sweet.

ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS



Florida citrus parfait with coconut marshmallow and angel food cake at Gideon Sweet.

clude squid-ink cannelloni with a scallop mousseline center, in a Thai red-curry sauce, or charred and smoked Spanish octopus with chorizo and smoked potato puree.

For those with late-night cravings, Gideon Sweet's kitchen is open until 1 a.m. Thursday to Saturday; the bar closes 2 a.m. most days, 3 a.m. Saturday.

Desserts are Gideon Sweet's secret weapon; the pastry chef is the highly regarded Mari Katsumura (daughter of the late Yoshi). She offers just four desserts, but each is extraordinary. A quartet of beignets, filled with parsnip cream, arrives in a double-rocks glass with slivers of cinnamon-sugar-fried parsnip, alongside a dipping sauce of fleur de cacao dark choco-

Gideon Sweet

841 W. Randolph St., 312-888-2258
gideonsweet.com

Tribune rating: ★★

Open: Dinner Tuesday to Sunday

Prices: Small plates \$5-\$16

Noise: Conversation-challenged

Other: Valet parking

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.

late. The architectural citrus parfait is a vertical composition of angel-food cake, Meyer-lemon sherbet, ruby grapefruit segments and coconut meringue.

Caramel-apple tart with cheddar ice cream is like the comfort food of my youth; her version of halo halo, the classic Filipino sweet, is a you-mix-it parfait of shaved ice, condensed milk, fresh fruit and purple sweet-potato ice cream. I don't know how long Katsumura will be found at this address, so I urge you not to waste any time.

pvettel@chicagotribune.com
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CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

The first-floor bar/restaurant at Mordecai, in Hotel Zachary, is sophisticated and inviting. Upstairs, an open-air deck overlooks Gallagher Way outside Wrigley Field.

A Sox fan's guide to Wrigley eats

WELCOME TO CITY SERIES — YOU'LL SEE A LOT HAS CHANGED

By Phil Vettel | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Welcome to Wrigley, Sox fans, and pardon the dust.

You'll notice during the City Series on Friday, Saturday and Sunday that quite a bit has changed since you were here last July. That collection of support beams just west of the ballpark is now Hotel Zachary. The

Park at Wrigley sold its naming rights to a risk-management company; the newly rechristened Gallagher Way will, in due time, merge as seamlessly into the Chicago lexicon as has Willis Tower.

All three Cubs-Sox games start at 1:20 p.m., giving fans the option of grabbing early lunch, postgame dinner or possibly both. That's easier than ever, thanks to an influx of new restaurants, three of them copies of already popular concepts. Not to be outdone, the ballpark itself has upgraded its menu with new options and brought in a few big guns to ramp up the name-recognition factor. (When the name on the kiosk is Garrett Popcorn, there are

no follow-up questions.)

Yes, we know you believe that the concessions at Guaranteed Rate Field are far superior. But we're not there this weekend, so let's take a look at the options we have:

Wrigley Field

In addition to bringing Garrett Popcorn into the fold, Wrigley added Jeff Mauro's Pork & Mindy's to the ballpark; you'll see P&M products at various places in the park. (Fair warning: The Pig Candy is addictive.) Returning vendors include Buona Beef (Italian beef and Italian sausage), Giordano's (stuffed pizza) and Hot Doug's (encased-meat sandwiches), though Hot

Doug's still is strictly a bleachers option.

The chef's series booth, featuring a rotating lineup of top chefs (Bayless, Izard, etc.) doesn't return to Wrigley until June. Sorry.

New items among the no-name concessions: Bone-in short rib (smoked for 12 hours, meaning that when it's gone, it's gone); Chick-Ago sandwich (groaner name, but brined thighs with tempura sport peppers sound promising), chicken tinga tacos and beef barbacoa tacos.

Hotel Zachary

Mordecai. Operated by Folkart Restaurant Management (i.e., Matthias Merges) and



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Garrett Popcorn is one of the big names now available inside the ballpark.



The Daddy-O brisket sandwich is one of the menu items at the new Smoke Daddy in Hotel Zachary.

featuring Michelin-starred Jared Wentworth in the kitchen, Mordecai meets all the ballpark-restaurant expectations and then exceeds them. Yep, you can get a very good double-patty burger and a first-rate fish-and-chips, but the menu goes way deeper than that (grilled octopus, spiced romanesco, porchetta), augmented by a serious cocktail program and a wealth of aged spirits. The main floor is sophisticated and inviting, and the upstairs open-air deck overlooks the Park at — sorry, Gallagher Way — for that I'm-at-the-ballpark vibe.

Big Star. Take the wildly popular Wicker Park taco restaurant and basically double — no, triple — its size. The interior can seat 300, and the sidewalk cafe can hold 80. Tacos, margaritas, whiskey and beer. What's not to love?

Smoke Daddy. Still one of my favorite

places for ribs and other smoked meats, Smoke Daddy feels right at home in Wrigleyville (the original is on Division Street), offering basically the same menu in spacious surroundings, including a second-floor outdoor terrace. If you've got tickets for the Saturday or Sunday game, arrive extra early for Smoke Daddy's family-style brunch (\$19).

West Town Bakery + Tap

I see this adjunct to the West Town original as having mostly pregame appeal, given its remarkable pastries (doughnuts, croissants, chef Chris Teixeira's signature cruffies) and superior coffees. (Try the Goat's Blood, made for WTB by Dark Matter Coffee.) But you'll also find local beers on tap, cocktails and boozy shakes.

pvetel@chicagotribune.com
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Gale Street Inn.

PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE FILE

Sorry, not sorry

HOW TO LIVE CHICAGO PARTY AUNT'S BEST LIFE

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

Chicago Party Aunt (CPA) — or **@chipartyaunt** — the local Twitter sensation, counts beloved weatherman Tom Skilling, Smashing Pumpkin Billy Corgan and both former frontmen of Van Halen — David Lee Roth and Sammy Hagar — as alleged sexual conquests. She is devoted to the bottle (Malort) and her current husband, Kurt (For now. She may have “lost count” as to which number husband he is). She loves a good Italian beef and a Chicago dog, but also consumes the finer things in Chicago. Due to a supreme bawdiness, she has also been kicked out of almost every nice place in the city.

We haven't seen a machine this powerful since the Daley clan ran things. The only kryptonite she seems to have is quinoa — and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, who she alleges once drank her under the table. Chicago Bagel Authority has a sandwich named after her.

We tapped into our own catalog of Chicago classics to channel a CPA/restaurant critic fever dream of a Chicago to-do list, full of places you can go to capture that boozy, give-no-effs feeling.

Gale Street Inn

4914 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-725-1300

After CPA hustles a bunch of dudes down the street at Chris's Billiards, she refuels here on the baked, sauce-lacquered baby back ribs. They have free wine corkage on Wednesdays, which CPA loves, because it gives her an excuse to work her

guns by toting two boxes of Franzia from Jewel to the Inn's dining room.

Twin Anchors

1655 N. Sedgwick St., 312-266-1616

While Gale Street is her favorite baked pork, CPA blacks out in the back of the Old Town Ale House up the road a lot. The only way to revive her is usually to waft a Twin Anchors rib under her nose.

Sabatino's

4441 W. Irving Park Road, 773-283-8331

In case you couldn't tell from the last two spots, CPA has never heard of Smoque, which is weird because she spends a lot of time in Irving Park sucking down the Oysters Rockefeller and baked clams at Sabatino's. She doesn't even like shellfish, but she appreciates their aphrodisiac qualities. Legend has it she did her first shot of Mal-



NICK KINDELSPERGER/TRIBUNE FILE

Ribs at Twin Anchors.

ort at the bar during her first communion party.

Laschet's Inn

2119 W. Irving Park Road, 773-478-7915

CPA used to be a Berghoff gal, but when they announced they were closing in 2006, she might have spent her retirement savings on beer steins at the liquidation auction to preserve the restaurant's memory. Then a few months later, the Berghoff reopened. Cash was so tight for CPA, she couldn't afford her usual monthly liquor allotment and has never forgiven the Berghoff. CPA still loves sausage and potato pancakes, so now Laschet's is her spot to procure them.

Ricobene's

252 W. 26th St., 312-225-5555

CPA watches her waistline like most of

the drunk fans in the bleachers at Wrigley watch baseball, which is to say, never. One of her poisons of choice is Rico's legendary deep fried breaded steak sandwich.

R.J. Grunts

2056 N. Lincoln Park W., 773-929-5363

Even though CPA loves carbs and has flirted with the life choice of hooking up to an IV of Old Style lager, she does like to eat a vegetable once every 20 years. This happened when her buddy Harry Caray passed away and she became slightly aware of her own mortality. She's still only eaten one salad in the last 20 years, but it was from the R.J. Grunts salad bar.

Garrett Popcorn

Various locations

CPA doesn't wait in the line with the rest of Chicago tourists for this popcorn. She has a backdoor plan. It involves butter, cheese, caramel, her hands and an unwholesome act called The Windy City Mix.

Geja's Cafe

340 W. Armitage Ave., 773-281-9101

CPA doesn't actually go here anymore, but her first four husbands took her here for fondue on the first date, so she still has a soft spot for it.

Aurelio's

18162 Harwood Ave., 708-798-8050

CPA is a stuffed crust gal, but when she wants something thinner — and the liquor store at Marie's doesn't have the right Chianti, and Vito and Nick's is out of sausage — she heads down to the Homewood location of Aurelio's for a thinner pie. Like everyone who grew up in this town, she knows you ask for the pizza to be baked in the "old ovens."

Al's Italian Beef & Mario's Italian Lemonade

1079 W. Taylor St. and 1068 W. Taylor St.

CPA is into convenience, which is why she gets her daily breakfast Italian beef at Portillo's. But when she wants to celebrate a special occasion, like when one of her sons has been released from prison, she brings the family down to the original Al's for the spicy giardinara-flecked combo beef and a scoop of tutti frutti at Mario's across the street, a move known as the Taylor Twosome.

Italian Village

71 W. Monroe St., 312-332-7005

CPA doesn't like to talk about her age, but she's been around so long, she remembers when the owners were thinking about calling this spot Italian Settlement. She told them they had to think bigger, like maybe a township or a whole village.

Jim's Original

1250 S. Union Ave., 312-733-7820

CPA digs the Maxwell Street Polish sausages with extra grilled onion. But she really comes for the bone-in pork chop



TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE FILE

Interior of Italian Village, a 90-year-old restaurant in downtown Chicago.



CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE FILE

An employee fills bags of caramel and cheese Garrett popcorn.

sandwich, because she really loves a good bone.

Bartoli's Pizzeria

1955 W. Addison St., 773-248-0455

You'd think CPA was a Giordano's or Gino's girl or at least an Uno gal, but ever since an alleged orgy mishap with the Malnati brothers and the original owner of Gino's East, she goes to Bartoli's. While not old school, it is one of the best deep dish pies in the city. Also, she might be the owner's real mom, but she isn't saying.

Calumet Fisheries

3259 E. 95th St., 773-933-9855

They may have filmed the bridge jump scene in "The Blues Brothers" here because CPA and John Belushi used to get

the smoked shrimp "crack" together when they were best friends. Belushi thought the location looked appropriately scenic.

Rainbow Cone

9233 S. Western Ave., 773-238-7075

Margie's is the obvious choice for ice cream, but CPA has a low hipster tolerance, so she tries to avoid anything near Bucktown. She's much more comfortable on the South Side taking down this classic cake cone stuffed with slices (not scoops) of orange sherbet, pistachio, strawberry, chocolate and Palmer House (vanilla with cherries and walnut) ice creams.

Much of this story is satire. But you knew that, right? Michael Nagrant (@MichaelNagrant) is a RedEye freelancer.



Chicago Party Aunt
@ChiPartyAunt

TWITTER

An interview with the elusive Chicago Party Aunt herself

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

Because Chicago Party Aunt is the ultimate in local tastemakers, we caught up with her (via Twitter — where else?) for some local eating and drinking advice.

Q: If someone wants to mimic your best eating and drinking life, what do they have to do?

A: They gotta be willing to go high and low class. You gotta be able to take down a Tomahawk steak at Gibson's with Mark Giangreco at 8 p.m. and then take down an El Burrito Mexicano with Ronnie Woo Woo at 4 a.m.

Q: Any tips on what to look for in a Chicago dining establishment to know it's really @chipartyaunt approved?

A: You gotta look for a "C" rating in the window. I don't trust these "A" rating joints. Feels like they're hiding something. "C" rating joints? They're being honest.

Q: What is your favorite Chicago restaurant, and what do you order?

A: That's like asking me who's your favorite son. Mikey, Matty, Jonny, Ronny, Donny or Kevin? But I will say I'm a Billy Goat girl: Cheezborger, chips, Pepsi.

Q: What is your favorite Chicago drinking spot?

A: Toss up between Old Town Ale House, Mothers, Mothers Too, The Lodge, Streeters, Redhead Piano Bar, Pippens, Green Door Tavern, Kingston Mines, Cubby Bear, John Barleycorn, Cork & Kerry, L&L, Nisei Lounge, Burton Place and Richard's Bar.

Q-and-As are edited for length and clarity. Michael Nagrant (@MichaelNagrant) is a RedEye freelancer.

Let's talk about race

'RACE' EXHIBITION AT CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM CHALLENGES WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW

By Steve Johnson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The provocative "Race" exhibition at the Chicago History Museum has been around for a decade now.

But it's a pretty safe bet that this nation will keep such a show, which aims to explain what race is (a social construct) and isn't (scientifically valid), forever relevant.

The exhibition — fully titled "Race: Are We So Different?" — debuted at the Science Museum of Minnesota in 2007, just ahead of the country electing its first black president. Since then the United States has witnessed the systematic disparagement of that president, the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement and the successor president finding moral equivalency between white supremacists and those who protested their presence in Charlottesville, Va.

In other words, even if some of the show's timelines stop in 2005 or '06, the exhibition feels fresh. The facts may be old-school, but the truths are au courant.

"For some people, it will be new information that race is not a real thing," said Joy Bivins, the museum's director of curatorial affairs. "We are invested in it, and it's how we talk.

"As a society," she added, "we often think we're done with race, but then things will happen that show we're really not."

Indeed, the concept of "race" is woven into the very fabric of the country, the exhibition shows, a system devised to justify the mistreatment of darker-skinned Africans brought here as slaves and Native Americas moved off of their land.

A hint of ire occasionally seeps through. "All men are created equal" was written into the Declaration of Independence by a slaveholder, Thomas Jefferson," the introductory video points out.

The presentation, though, is mostly dispassionate, as it must be when you are trying to persuade. This makes for some dry moments. Although a generous selection of video lets people hear from scholars on the subject of race, there's a lot of sitting down and reading to be done, a lot of bullet points and timelines.

And even allowing that it's a decade-old exhibition, the look and feel is dated. "Race: Are We So Different?" doesn't



Exhibit from 'Race: Are We So Different?' The exhibit runs at the Chicago History Museum until July 15.

BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE

CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM
1601 N. Clark St., 312-642-4600
chicagohistorymuseum.org

dazzle with its graphics or surprise with its packaging. But it has a hole card: fascinating and relevant information.

Did you know, for instance, that "the nonscientific term 'Caucasian,'" which those of us of a certain generation were taught was the proper term for "white" people, derived from a German scientist in 1795? He used the skull of a woman from the Caucasus Mountains, in western Asia, "to exemplify the 'white' race," the show explains.

The central theme is that what we know — and, in a sense, revere — in this country as race is merely a matter of sunlight and vitamins. We are one species with variations in skin color, and that color has been determined by proximity to the equator and our bodies' need for vitamin D.

Moreover, it says, if you were to walk from a part of the world where people are darker-skinned to one where they are fair — from Nairobi to Norway is the example — you wouldn't really notice a change in the homo sapiens you meet because the shift is gradual.

"We all come from Africa, and we've been moving and mixing ever since," says the giant floor map display in the exhibit's first room, the one devoted to the science.

The first divisions among people were religious, not "racial," and it wasn't until 1691 that "whiteness" had its first legal use, in a Virginia law prohibiting intermarriage, which it called "that abominable mixture." (Another panel in the show turns to popular culture for a slightly different take on intermarriage. It references the Cole Porter lyric, "the urge to merge.")

The exhibit goes on to detail the lived experience of race in the United States, how it has affected subjects ranging from health to economic status to education.

The exhibit, which has traveled previously to institutions including the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, was developed by the American Anthropological Association with the Minnesota museum, and it is, in a sense, penance.

"A lot of this is coming to terms with their own history," Bivins said. "They certainly provided the scientific justifications" for racial classification. The AAA adopted a much more enlightened statement on race in 1998, a document you can find on the exhibit's website, understandingrace.org.

That history in which official science helps to construct race is a key part of the show. One section in the show details the attempts to prove the concept with such now-discredited methodology as head measurement and hair color classification.

Some of the instruments so used and on

display were borrowed from the Field Museum, Bivins said, and it's fitting because two current exhibitions at the Field relate to the history museum's exhibition. The new "Ancient Mediterranean Cultures in Contact" details the way humans have always bumped against their neighbors, in trade, in love, in cultural appropriation.

And more directly, the superb but easily overlooked "Looking at Ourselves: Rethinking the Sculptures of Malvina Hoffman" explores a 1930s attempt by the Field to codify what it called "The Races of Mankind" in a set of sculptures. Hoffman's statues of people from around the world are beautiful objects, but the science behind them fell back on the belief that people existed on a spectrum from savage to civilized essentially as their skin tone grew lighter.

What "Race" wants visitors to understand is that, genetically, we are one race. And there is more genetic variation within humans in Africa than there is within people in the rest of the world.

At show's end, there's a terrific photograph: People of differing skin tones wear T-shirts showing the different labels the U.S. Census Bureau has affixed to them through the years. It's a potent demonstration that what many of us think of as "race" is malleable and inexact.

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Denny's 'Star Wars' menu crackles, pops ... fizzles

By Christopher Borrelli | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The other night, as I sat in a booth at Denny's and plowed my way through the diner's new "Star Wars" meals, the wisdom of Yoda came to mind:

How you get so big, eating food of this kind?

After Luke crashes his X-Wing fighter on the swamp planet of Dagobah in "The Empire Strikes Back," the tiny green Jedi scavenges through his trainee's soggy luggage and locates an interstellar granola bar, takes a bite and spits it out. As I worked my way through Denny's Two Moons Skillet — essentially a scramble, with a couple of eggs — I felt a somewhat similar sense of bewilderment and despair at the alien delicacy inside my mouth: *How you NOT get so big, eating food of this kind?* And shouldn't the Two Moons Skillet — pictured on the menu with dueling sunny-side-up eggs — be renamed for the twin *suns* of Tatooine? And the ultra-rich, nacho-cheese-like Gouda sauce swimming between slimy spinach and mushrooms and diced cubes of pale ham — maybe we just rename this thing the Death Star Trash Compactor Skillet?

I still would have ordered it.

The menu says "Star Wars," doesn't it?

Besides, I was curious: The new "Star Wars" meals at Denny's are a three-month promotion tied to "Solo: A Star Wars Story," the upcoming Han Solo flick, and this is a universe with a surprisingly strong, and strange, relationship to eating. For instance, after Yoda welcomes Luke to Dagobah, he gives his young Padawan a swamp-to-table stew, which Luke slurps from small miso bowls. Within the vast, decades-long "Star Wars" mythology — meaning the books, TV series, toys, whatnots — there are actually two recipes for Yoda's dish: The official "Star Wars" website offers a split-peas-and-carrots Rootleaf Stew from food writer Jenn Fujikawa; and in 1983, former New York Times restaurant critic Craig Claiborne invented a Yoda-themed root stew featuring ginger, turmeric and lamb.

In fact, there is so much food in the "Star Wars" universe that the online Wookieepedia — yes, this is a real thing — offers sub-categories not only for soups and stews but sandwiches, baked goods and vegetarian options. Did you know that Stormtroopers eat a "grayish goopy" ration from self-heating tins? (Did you know Stormtroopers eat?)

The best known "Star Wars" food is the blue Bantha milk from the original 1977 film, served on the farm owned by Luke's Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru. It looks suspiciously like Boo Berry cereal milk, and yet Bantha milk has a very long shelf life as the go-to comfort food in almost 40 years of "Star Wars" stories. In fact, most recently, in "The Last Jedi," Luke switched, controversially, to a greenish dairy — he lives alone on an island, catches space fish for dinner and, whenever thirsty, he milks giant space sea cows.

I'm sure there is a proper name and species for these animals, but I don't think I want to know it. After my "Star Wars" dinner at Denny's, I may relate a little too closely to those giant space sea cows.

Consider the Co-Reactor Pancake Breakfast. It looks, in theory, like buttermilk pancakes, topped with fresh strawberries, strawberry sauce and whipped cream. It offers, in actuality, an additional sweet citrus sauce (on top of the strawberry sauce) and — Darth Vader himself wouldn't have been so heartless — a small mountain of crackling Pop Rock-like hard candies. As culinary adaptations of science fiction go, it's certainly otherworldly. As taste goes, it offers all the joy of rubbery pancakes combined with the off-putting sensation of having gaseous porgs snap their fingers inside your stomach. I believe the Co-Reactor pancakes were named after the metal guts of the Death Star, which tended to explode when pummeled with the right combination of ingredients.

The name is appropriate.

Among the four "Star Wars" dishes, it is the biggest pile of Sith on the menu, however the Lightspeed Slam — egg whites, hard melon, wizened strips of turkey bacon, barely toasted English muffins — may be too appropriately named: Remember how the lightspeed function on the Millennium Falcon, much-touted by Han Solo, promising to catapult its heroes in a rush of stars, generally fizzled out? Exactly.

The only true roguish, Solo-esque twist on the menu is the Blaster Fire Burger: It's handsome, rough at the edges, and at its core (via ghost-pepper sauce and chipotle-flavored Gouda), there's a kick. (For 49 cents more, it also comes with bacon cheese tots — craggy, gooey brown rocks that occupy the plate, and stomach, like asteroids.)

If I sound harsh, it's because there was a lot of inspiration here: Jabba the Hutt slurped live, screaming frog sushi from a bowl that sloshed with brandy; in "Last Jedi," Chewbacca, by a campfire, barbecued



CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

The new 'Star Wars' menu at Denny's is a three-month promotion tied to the upcoming 'Solo: A Star Wars Story.'



The Blaster Fire Burger with optional bacon cheese tots.



The Co-Reactor Pancake Breakfast has crackling candies.



The Lightspeed Slam has egg whites and turkey bacon.

a porg on a spit (only to stop eating in mid-chomp, at the sight of another porg, whimpering with large doleful eyes); and in "The Force Awakens," Rey makes an instant-rising green bread (which Fujikawa replicates on the "Star Wars" website, using matcha powder and a microwave set at 45 seconds).

Then again, the only real-world "Star Wars" food experience I recall fondly is digging for trading cards at the bottom of Wonder Bread bags, an act that invariably left every slice in the bag smushed. Perhaps adapting fiction into food is folly, a task that is best left not to chefs but licensing people

— after all, the true attraction of Denny's "Star Wars" menu is the trading cards and Millennium Falcon drinking cups, each sold separately.

But there is lost opportunity here. I have not yet seen "Solo," so I can't say for certain if Han Solo and Chewbacca swing the Falcon by Denny's at 2 in the morning, but if they do, I imagine there's also a scene where they go hunting for antacids at 3 in the morning. And nobody wants to watch that.

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eat this

DIG IN AT SUNDA'S MONTHLY KAMAYAN FEAST

By **Joseph Hernandez** | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

This is one of the few times when getting handsy is OK: At Sunda's monthly kamayan feast, you're allowed, nay, encouraged to dive into the tables-long spread with your hands.

"Kamayan" means "with hands" in Tagalog, one of a number of Filipino languages, but at its heart, it is a communal meal meant to be shared with loved ones and strangers alike. It is literally connecting one's hands directly with the food placed in front of you and, in turn, symbolically connecting you to its warmth, its texture, its color.

Growing up in California, I didn't experience traditional kamayan until I visited the Philippines for my grandfather's funeral. Memories of that day are clear. Bright, sturdy banana leaves covered a table heaving with mountains of rice, which was studded with giant hunks of roasted lechon (pork), mangoes, fish and

skewered meats. The smells were heady, with nearby bowls of vinegar-soaked vegetables providing a balancing acidity to the savory glut in front of us.

After a few words of thanks and remembrance for our Lolo, we started eating, a cacophony of laughter and messy hands connecting us all to that moment, that feast.

It was chaotic. It was glorious. It was human.

It's hard to imagine experiencing that same kind of revelry in a restaurant setting, but River North's Sunda manages to surprise. On the first Thursday of every month, the Southeast Asian concept hosts its own kamayan, a popular communal table with all the makings of a traditional feast. (The next feast, at 6 p.m. May 24, was added because of high demand. The following one, on June 7, will be back on the regular monthly schedule.)

Dive right into the giant piles of fragrant white rice, soft-shell crab, whole deep-fried fish. You'll also find cigar-size lumpia (Filipino egg rolls), sweet-and-savory longanisa sausage, discs of watermelon radish, bright cubes of mango and



Indulge in the colorful, boisterous kamayan feast at Sunda. JOSEPH HERNANDEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

charred green onions. Tiny bowls of pickled tomatoes and onions can be found, too, allowing one's palate a break from the rich flavors.

Yes, you'll have an Instagram-worthy moment of oohing and aahing with the

other guests, but it's also about experiencing this primal, essential meal together. Always together.

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Chance the Rapper performed at Manifest, held at Columbia College, in 2013.

fest planner

4 CHICAGO FESTIVALS TO HIT THIS WEEK

By Hannah Steinkopf-Frank | REDEYE

As the spring warms up, check out an annual college arts festival, as well as markets showing off a variety of creative handiworks.

Chicago Science Festival

When: May 8-16

Where: Various locations

How much: Free-\$50

The skinny: The Illinois Science Council (ISC) has expanded its annual Chicago Science Festival to a full week with events around the city focused on science, technology, food, art and more. Check out the May 12 "Science Expo," a day of science speakers and hands-on demos at 1871 and MATTER Chicago in the Merchandise Mart.

Columbia College Manifest

When: May 11

Where: Loop

How much: Free

The skinny: Head to this annual showcase to celebrate the work of Columbia College students. According to Manifest, "you'll encounter thought-provoking gallery exhibitions, live performances, fashion shows, original game design, literary readings and more — all curated by the talent that defines our campus." Also stick around for concerts by student bands and DJs on three outdoor stages plus a headlining performance.

MORE FESTS

Find our complete interactive guide online at chicagotribune.com/redeye.

Friday Art Markets at Daley Plaza

When: Select Fridays May 11-Aug. 10

Where: Loop

How much: Free

The skinny: On select Fridays in Daley Plaza, around 40-50 artists will be exhibiting their work, including jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, paintings, glass, wearables, wood and mixed media.

Renegade Chicago Pop-Up

When: May 12-13

Where: Pilsen

How much: Free

The skinny: Looking for the newest art piece to decorate your office or home? Get your hands on the goods at this outdoor celebration of all things handmade. Festivities include food trucks, DJ sets, craft brews, DIY workshops, photo ops and shopping.

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Alana Haim of Haim performs at Coachella.

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show up

4 MUST-SEE CONCERTS IN CHICAGO THIS WEEK

By **Hannah Steinkopf-Frank** | REDEYE

Female artists are front and center in the Chicago concert scene this week, with performances by all-sister group Haim, Minnesota star Lizzo and indie group Speedy Ortiz.

THURSDAY

Flatbush Zombies Vic Theatre

3145 N. Sheffield Ave., 773-472-0449

Brooklyn hip-hop group Flatbush Zombies has been on the scene since 2010 and released its second studio album "Vacation in Hell" April 6. Kirk Knight and Nyck Caution, who are members of fellow New York rap collective Pro Era, are opening. \$26-\$99. 7 p.m. Tickets: victheatre.com

FRIDAY

Haim Aragon Ballroom

1106 W. Lawrence Ave., 773-561-9500

Want to catch some of the best female L.A. rockers and a rising Minnesota powerhouse? Haim and Lizzo (AKA Melissa Viviane Jefferson) are taking over the Aragon Ballroom for two shows, May 11 and 12. The Haim sisters are on the aptly-named "Sister Sister Sister" tour and traveling the country on the release of their sophomore album "Something To Tell You." Lizzo puts self-love at the front of her danceable tunes, with tracks like "Good as Hell" and "Worship." \$42-\$125. May 11 and 12, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: aragonballroom.org

SATURDAY

Iman Omari AMFM

2151 W. 21st St., 312-971-7502

Inglewood singer and producer Iman Omari hit the mainstream when Kendrick Lamar opened his 2016 Grammy Awards performance with the track "Omari's Mood" (from Omari's 2015 instrumental "High-Loops & Higher-Loops"). Although Omari took a two-year break, he's back with the new album "IHY." The release highlights his maturity and growth as an artist without losing any of his signature cool style. Jon Content and Chicago singer-producer Schenay are opening. \$20-\$30. 8:30 p.m. 18+ Tickets: eventbrite.com

Speedy Ortiz Subterranean

2011 W. North Ave., 773-278-6600

Indie rock act Speedy Ortiz is hot off the release of its third full-length album "Twerp Verse." The band began as the solo project of singer Sadie Dupuis, who named the group after a comic book character. On "Twerp Verse," the melodies are as sharp as the honest lyrics that explore themes ranging from the excitement of budding romance to anxiety and depression. Chicago multi-instrumentalist Nnamdi Ogonnaya and Ohio noisy pop group Didi are opening. \$15. 9 p.m. 17+ Tickets: subt.net

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Rashida Jones and Andy Samberg in 'Celeste & Jesse Forever.' SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Is it possible to remain friends with my ex?



ASK ANNA

Anna Pulley

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» @annapulley

Dear Anna,

My recent ex and I have the same friends. Is it possible to be friends with an ex? We're currently not talking at all — relationship wasn't working. — *Ex-Factor*

Dear EF,

It's entirely possible. But not, usually, without some time, separation and reflection,

which you are currently taking, so you're on your way. The biggest barriers in the transition from ex to friend, and their remedies, are as follows:

You don't give yourself enough time or space to heal

Because of your shared history and (presumably) mutual fondness for each other, it's tempting to want to jump right into being friends. This can work, particularly if you weren't together for very long, but more often than not, we need some distance in order to heal our heartaches, adjust to the new reality of the situation and reflect on what we truly want. This is much harder to do when you're still seeing your ex all the time or sending each other funny GIFs. The antidote is to take a complete hiatus for a period of time — no texting, no hangouts and no sex (more on this to come). The amount of time you need will depend on a variety of factors. I've found it helpful to set a deadline to "check in" and see how both of you feel. If, for instance, you choose 30 days, but after that period is up you still need more time, then you can tell them so and extend the hiatus.

You want to get back together (or

turn them into a booty call)

AKA, you don't really want to be "friends." You want to be friends-plus or you want them to see the error of their ways and come back to you. Not saying this never happens — it totally does! — but while you're taking the necessary time and space for you, it's helpful to reflect on why you want this person in your life. Do you want their emotional care-taking or validation? Do you really enjoy their company? What does this person add to your life as a friend? And also ask yourself what about the relationship wasn't working for you. Clarifying your thoughts and feelings will help you determine whether a friendship is a good idea or not.

It's perfectly normal to want or hope for a reconciliation — just don't let it cripple you or make you stuck in denial. You can harbor those desires and, after a specified break, inquire about them with your ex. But only one time. If they say no, then respect it and shut it down.

Also: When you do get together the first few times in a friendly way, avoid drinking. The more sober you are, the less likely you will fight (or have sloppy sex). Or both.

You have "bad" feelings at the thought of them moving on

How do you know you're ready to try to be friends? A good rule of thumb I've found is to ask myself, "Will I be happy for them when they find someone else?" If the answer is, "No" or "Blech!" or "I'd rather pour Malort on an open wound!" then you need more time. If the bad feeling doesn't go away for a long time, then that is probably indicative of a deeper wound, and one you might consider exploring with a therapist.

Anna Pulley is a RedEye contributor. Want to ask Anna an anonymous question about love, sex or dating? Email redyedating@gmail.com.

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Restaurant reviews

Restaurant reviews and profiles from Tribune food critic Phil Vettel, staff reporters and freelance writers. No stars indicates a restaurant has been profiled but not reviewed, and does not reflect on quality of dining.

Ratings key: ★★★★★ outstanding; ★★★★ excellent; ★★★ very good; ★ good.

GOLD COAST

Booth One ★★★ Helmed by veteran chef Doug Psaltis, Booth One is something of a resurrection of the famed Pump Room. Scan through the menu, and you'll find such nods to the past as steak Diane, seven-vegetable salad, salmon asiatique and curried chicken brochette. But you'll also spot dishes the old Pump Room never would have touched — snapper ceviche and tuna sashimi, for instance — and modern updates (the crab Louie salad is now a lobster Louie and comes with jalapeno crema) that might have been viewed as sacrilege years ago. *Open: Dinner daily, lunch Monday through Friday. Prices: Entrees \$22-\$43. 1301 N. State Parkway, 312-649-0535. — Phil Vettel*

Margeaux Brasserie ★★ Chef/restaurateur Michael Mina has landed in Chicago at last with this glamorous, 1920s-inspired brasserie inside the Waldorf Astoria. It's as pricey as the Gold Coast address would have you expect, but superb quality and generous portions ease the sting, as do the more casual bar menu and its bargain happy-hour specials. Look to cooked seafood appetizers (roasted oysters, moules frites) to start, and make room in the budget for the splendid lobster bouillabaisse. *Open: Breakfast and dinner daily. Prices: Entrees \$28-\$59. 11 E. Walton St., 312-646-1300. — P.V.*

Somerset ★★★ Lee Wolen gives his seasonal American cooking a less formal, more rustic touch in this Gold Coast newcomer in the Viceroy Chicago (nee Cedar Hotel). Fans of Wolen's work at Boka know to look for signature ingredients such as octopus and whole-roasted chicken (the latter served Sunday-supper style, with two side dishes), but keep an eye out also for beef tartare, tossed in a mayo mixed with its rendered fat. The ever-reliable Meg Galus contributes stellar desserts, such as caramel-apple tart with burnt-cinnamon ice cream. *Open: Breakfast, lunch/brunch, dinner daily. Entrees \$23-\$55. 1112 N. State*



Chicken saltimbocca served up at Sal's Trattoria.

ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE FILE

St., 312-586-2150. — P.V.

HUMBOLDT PARK

Café Marie-Jeanne ★★ Run by husband-wife partners Michael Simmons (chef) and Val Szafranski (front-of-house), Café Marie-Jeanne is an intensely personal operation, one whose easygoing attitude and excellent kitchen work make the Humboldt Park spot a neighborhood treasure. Don't miss the duck frites dish, which mixes sliced duck breast and roasted leg pieces with duck pate and plenty of duck-fat fries. *Open: Breakfast, lunch and dinner Wednesday-Monday. Prices: Main courses \$12-\$35. 1001 N. California Ave., 773-904-7660. — P.V.*

HYDE PARK

A10 ★★★ Named for a motorway that connects Italy to France, A10 offers traditional-with-a-twist Italian and French

dishes from Yusho chef Matthias Merges. Small plates include bar-food riffs; large plates shine with interesting accompaniments. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday, brunch Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$14-\$30. 1462 E. 53rd St., 773-288-1010. — P.V.*

LAKEVIEW

Ella Elli ★★ This restaurant is a sexy space filled with curvy pendant lamps and handsome couches, but it's not all looks: Chef Nolan Narut is putting out some destination-worthy plates, including ricotta gnocchi, sourdough slathered with avocado and everything seasoning, and baby carrots drizzled with harissa-spiked lemon vinaigrette. *Open: Dinner daily. Prices: Main dishes \$14-\$27. 1349 W. Cornelia Ave., 773-935-3552. — Michael Nagrant*

Sal's Trattoria ★ Allen Sternweiler (Butcher & the Burger) is the chef behind this Lakeview charmer, so popular with

young families in the neighborhood it will need a stroller valet long before it needs one for cars. A single-page, budget-conscious menu offers the usual suspects, plus efforts such as calamari under a profusion of tomatoes, lemon and capers; offbeat daily crostini (blueberry-sage jam with goat cheese, for instance); and a gorgeous spinach-arugula salad with pear, pancetta and gorgonzola. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Sunday. Prices: Pasta and main courses \$15-\$25. 2834 N. Southport Ave., 773-857-1401. — P.V.*

LINCOLN PARK

Chopo Chicken Chopo Chicken in Lincoln Park looks similar to dozens of other quick-service joints popping up around town that hope to mimic the success of Chipotle (at least before all the health scares). The shtick: a short, Peruvian menu of four or five proteins that you can end-

lessly customize with toppings to your liking. *Open: Lunch and dinner daily. Prices: \$11-\$13. 2460 N. Clark St., 773-666-5925. — Nick Kindelsperger*

De Quay ★ Chef and owner David de Quay dips into his heritage for this 42-seater; the menu is principally Dutch-inspired, with the occasional nod to Indonesia. The hearty foods are particularly good; Indonesian representations are mild, occasionally to a fault. Very affordable wines and interesting, genever-heavy cocktails highlight the beverage program. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$18-\$28. 2470 N. Lincoln Ave., 872-206-8820. — P.V.*

Naoki Sushi ★ Chef Naoki Nakashima, who for years has overseen the sushi at Shaw's Crab House, is helming a small spot. The menu provides the sushi basics, all well-executed, but the specials, often including a whole-fish presentation, are where you'll get the true measure of the chef's talent. *Open: Dinner Wednesday-Sunday. Prices: Main dishes \$16-\$29. 2300 N. Lincoln Park West, 773-868-0002. — P.V.*

LOGAN SQUARE

Daisies ★★½ Chef Joe Frillman has succeeded in creating simple, satisfying fare from local produce. You will want to order all the pastas, including stracci, tiny napkin-like noodle shreds strewn with perfectly toothsome peas and tender lamb. There is also a cornflake chicken, which is sort of like a Japanese chicken katsu or a German schnitzel, where the cornflake crust acts like a panko breading and makes for a superior and epic chicken nugget. Daisies is the ultimate in dad food — simple dishes made great. *Open: Dinner Wednesday-Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$15-\$19. 2523 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-661-1671. — M.N.*

Giant ★★★ Jason Vincent (ex-Nightwood) is operating an eclectic 44-seater with co-chef Ben Lustbader and partner Josh Perlman (beverage honcho). The only common element in a menu that embraces liquefied sea urchin in fried pasta, sweet-and-sour eggplant and pecan-smoked ribs is that everything's delicious. The dining room is cheerfully noisy and unpretentious. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. Prices: Main courses \$16-\$19. 3209 W. Armitage Ave., 773-252-0997. — P.V.*

THE LOOP

Acanto ★★ A redesign gives Acanto a more casual look than its former life as Henri, and the pasta-heavy menu is more budget-friendly, though pricier dishes, such as veal breast, are worth the money. A heavily Italian wine list and good cocktails make this a fine place to bend an elbow. *Open: Dinner and lunch daily. Prices: Entrees \$14-\$38. 18 S. Michigan Ave., 312-578-0763. — P.V.*

Cherry Circle Room ★★ A quiet alternative to the Chicago Athletic Association hotel's relentlessly crowded rooftop bar, Cherry Circle Room is also one of the most



Nasi goreng at de Quay.

CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

handsome dining spaces in the city, with leather, wood and clubby good looks. Executive chef Peter Coenen's menu recalls steakhouse classics in his refined takes on Caesar salad and tuna tartare, even though there's just one steak on the menu. *Open: Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Prices: Entrees \$16-\$38. 12 S. Michigan Ave., 312-792-3515. — P.V.*

Revival Food Hall Featuring 14 impressive food stalls and a cocktail bar, Revival is easily the best place to eat lunch in the Loop. Try hot chicken sandwiches at The Budlong, poke bowls at Aloha and more. *Open: Lunch and early dinner Monday-Friday; bar until 9 p.m. Monday-Friday. Prices: Entrees \$8-\$15. 125 S. Clark St., 773-999-9411. — N.K.*

Steadfast ★★ The most ambitious restaurant to hit the Loop in a long time is a small-plates American spot. There's a lot to love: the complex cooking of chef Chris Davies, the superb bread and dessert from pastry chef Chris Teixeira, and impressive charcuterie. *Open: Dinner Monday-Saturday, lunch Monday-Friday. Entrees \$24-\$39. 120 W. Monroe St., 312-801-8899. — P.V.*

MAGNIFICENT MILE

The Albert ★ Just off the lobby of the Hotel EMC2, the Albert has yet to achieve the genius of Einstein, but is a worthy addition to the dining scene. The arts-meets-science decor is highlighted by a collection of thousands of science books in high-mounted bookcases. Similarly drama-

tic are the plates from chef Brandon Brumback's kitchen (look for the aguachile-style kampachi crudo, quinoa-coated octopus and dry-aged duck), and Vanarin Kuch's gorgeous desserts. *Open: Dinner daily, brunch Saturday-Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$24-\$44. 228 E. Ontario St., 312-471-3883. — P.V.*

NEAR NORTH SIDE

Blue Door Kitchen ★★ Art Smith's Table Fifty-Two has been transformed with a revamped decor and a remade menu under chef Rey Villalobos. You'll still find such T52 staples as fried chicken and hummingbird cake, but new dishes, including an excellent Brussels-kale salad, reflect a Midwestern slant (and are a little more health-focused). *Open: Lunch and dinner daily. Prices: Entrees \$16-\$44. 52 W. Elm St., 312-573-4000. — P.V.*

Il Porcellino ★ Take Italian-American food, make it with top-notch ingredients and finish with bargain prices (for the neighborhood, at least). That's the recipe for the latest from Melman siblings RJ, Jerrod and Molly, overseen by chef Doug Psaltis. Housemade pastas, \$17 or less, are the stars, particularly the gnocchi Bolognese. *Open: Dinner daily. Prices: Pastas \$15-\$17, entrees \$22-\$30. 59 W. Hubbard St., 312-595-0800. — P.V.*

Sable ★ Sable has struggled with its identity, with a number of staff shuffles in recent years. Amber Lancaster, a French-trained chef who has worked at Alinea and

Moto, then as a private chef, is here to turn it around. Her first full menu launched in January and is an appealing mix of Mediterranean influences — dishes that easily match Sable's still-excellent cocktail program. She's making gradual progress, like with her pillowy ricotta gnudi, aided by a soothing onion broth and chanterelle mushrooms. *Open: Breakfast and dinner daily; brunch Saturday and Sunday. Prices: Large plates \$14-\$38. 505 N. State St. 312-755-9704. — P.V.*

NOBLE SQUARE

Bar Biscay ★★ Simply put, Bar Biscay is a party — with all the noise that term suggests — with straightforward, delicious, ingredient-driven bites called pintxos. Executive chef Johnny Anderes helms the kitchen, cooking unaffected, simple food from the Spanish coast, centered on the Basque region and spreading north and south. The menu is dotted with bites from land and sea, like large pieces of smoked mackerel, crunchy cauliflower, frisee and remoulade, combining in a protein-rich salad. A couple of the vegetable-focused dishes are real stars, like spring peas mixed with bits of squid sausage and served with piperade on toast. *Open: Dinner Tuesday to Saturday. Prices: Small plates \$9-\$16; entrees \$18-\$30. 1450 W. Chicago Ave., 312-455-8900. — P.V.*

Temporis ★★★ Two young veterans of Les Nomades run this 20-seat dining room in Noble Square. From the outside, it's barely noticeable as a restaurant; inside,



Wood-grilled carrots and fennel at Bad Hunter.

JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE FILE

you'll be delighted by courses like rabbit three ways (rack, tandoori-spiced loin, confit leg) and foie gras ice cream domes sprinkled with guava salt, all part of a 10-course, \$125 menu. Hidden downstairs, a hydroponic garden supplies chefs with microgreens and other basement-to-table goodies. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. 933 N. Ashland Ave., 773-697-4961. — P.V.*

NORTH CENTER

Kitsune ★★★ This latest effort from Elizabeth chef/owner Iliana Regan is, like every other concept she's opened, intimate, highly personal and as adorably precious as the cartoon-y figurines she employs as decoration. The 24-seat spot offers dishes rooted in Japanese flavors, but incorporating the local, foraged ingredients Regan is known for. For example, chawanmushi, a savory Japanese custard, comes with shredded Jonah crabmeat and overlapping coins of local radish. Don't miss the thickly sliced porridge bread served with house-cultured butter. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday, brunch Sunday. Prices: Large plates \$16-\$26. 4229 N. Lincoln Ave., no phone. — P.V.*

PILSEN

HaiSous ★★★ It may seem odd to travel to Pilsen to experience Chicago's best Vietnamese restaurant. You'll get over it. At the brilliant HaiSous, Thai and Danielle Dang offer a pleasant (if occasionally noisy) 115-seat dining room with excellent service and price-conscious drinks, all in service to Thai Dang's skillful cooking and appealing, cliché-free menu. *Open: Dinner daily. Prices: Large plates \$16-\$25. 1800 S. Car-*

penter St., 312-702-1303. — P.V.

S.K.Y. ★★★ At S.K.Y. in Pilsen, out-of-towner chef Stephen Gillanders (formerly of Lettuce Entertain You's Intro) wows with fine-dining finesse. Gillanders shows a deft hand with heat, which he employs the way other chefs use acidity. The highlight of his fried chicken (a boneless, skinless thigh), is the twice-fermented hot sauce (habanero-based, but deeply nuanced) poured tableside against a levee of creamed corn. *Open: Dinner Wednesday to Sunday; brunch Saturday and Sunday. Prices: Main courses \$19-\$28. 1239 W. 18th St., 312-846-1077. — P.V.*

RAVENSWOOD

Band of Bohemia ★★★ In a sprawling brewery loaded with offbeat furnishings, find a menu so focused on suds that appetizers are listed by beer match. Yet there is also a great wine list to browse, not to mention forward-thinking dishes (vegetables get exceptionally good care here). This place does a lot of things well. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. 4710 N. Ravenswood Ave., 773-271-4710. — P.V.*

RIVER NORTH

Arbella Drinks reign at the latest project from the team behind Peruvian powerhouse Tanta. The menu is divided by country or region; mezcal plays heavily into drinks in the Mexico section, while you'll find pisco and rum in Cuba. The short list of food hops around the globe, too. But beware: Cobbling together enough small plates for a meal can be deceptively expensive. *Open: Dinner and late night daily.*

Prices: \$8-\$15. 112 W. Grand Ave., 312-846-6654. — N.K.

Katana ★★★ A concept that originated on LA's Sunset Strip, Katana combines nightclubby visuals with ambitious, high-level cooking, highlighted by the dishes emerging from the sushi and robata bars. The a la carte menu offers a dizzying array of choices, and one can opt for an omakase (chef's choice) menu for \$175. Beverage options are long and deep, including an impressive sake selection curated by manager (and "sake sommelier") Dila Lee. General manager and veteran Chicago restaurateur Jason Chan puts a local face on what might otherwise seem like an imported operation. *Open: Dinner daily. 339 N. Dearborn St., 312-877-5544. — P.V.*

Portsmouth ★★★ The Dana Hotel in River North has been home to a few shrug-worthy restaurants over the years, but in Portsmouth, a restaurant operated by the Fifty/50 group (Homestead on the Roof, Steadfast, more), the Dana has a restaurant worthy of attention. New England native Nate Henssler offers seafood dishes that are thoughtful and delicious, skirting the usual clichés; there's no lobster roll on the menu, for instance, but there's a crabmeat-stuffed bao with herbed mayo. Pastry chef Chris Teixeira follows the fishy theme with desserts inspired by coastal cities worldwide, and a bread program that offers nori ciabatta and bonito-flake sourdough. *Open: Breakfast, lunch, dinner daily. Entrees \$29-\$62. 660 N. State St., 312-202-6050. — P.V.*

SOUTH LOOP

Acadia ★★★ Chef Ryan McCaskey has

quietly turned his South Loop restaurant into one of the finest in Chicago. The five- and 10-course tasting menus include homages to McCaskey's beloved Maine; in the front lounge, a bar menu includes oysters, chicken wings and a seriously good burger. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Sunday. Prices: Five-course menu \$115, 10-course \$175. 1639 S. Wabash Ave., 312-360-9500. — P.V.*

UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

Jade Court ★★★ The restaurant is home to arguably the best Chinese food in town. The owners are Eddy Cheung and his daughter, Carol, who owned and operated Phoenix restaurant for 20 years. The menu is typical of most Chinese menus — dozens of poultry, pork, beef, seafood and noodle dishes — but the way to order, as it was for in-the-know Phoenix regulars, is to ask what the kitchen is up to that evening. Typhoon lobster, one of many Hong Kong specials available here, is stir-fried and briefly deep-fried, the seafood redolent of garlic, aromatic chiles and fish flakes. *Open: Lunch and dinner Wednesday to Monday. Prices: Main courses \$13.95-\$26.95. 626 S. Racine Ave., 312-929-4828. — P.V.*

WEST LOOP

Bad Hunter ★★ Greens and grains rule at this almost-vegetarian restaurant, though skewers of chicken thigh or charred sirloin will keep any carnivore companions happy. The drink list is notable for its clever cocktails and painstakingly sourced wines. *Open: Lunch and dinner daily; brunch weekends. Prices: Main courses \$14-\$20. 802 W. Randolph St., 312-265-1745. — P.V.*

IF THESE SHOES COULD TALK, THEY'D NEVER STOP TALKING.

These aren't just any ordinary boxing shoes. These are Muhammad Ali's boxing shoes. These are the greatest shoes in the history of the world. The greatest shoes of all time. These shoes are original. They're one of a kind. The world has never seen shoes like these before. And never will again. These are the shoes that are too slick for those tricks. These are the shoes of a man who can predict what round he'll knock you down, and then do it.

These are the shoes of the man who claimed he could whup every single man in America. Every man in Russia. Every man in China. Every man in Japan. Every man in Europe. And then he did. These shoes say a lot about the man who wore them. And the man who wore them also said a lot about the man who wore them. And he could back up everything he said. These shoes never wanted to be laced up by an underdog. They would only be worn by the single greatest. The most confident. The one you couldn't lay a glove on. The boldest, the prettiest, the most superior, scientific, skillfullest fighter in the ring.

Not only are they the best-looking shoes. They're the best-smelling shoes. Other shoes should be arrested for air pollution. These shoes move like a dancer. Hit with power. And when you take them off, they smell like a flower. Oh yeah, that's right. These shoes aren't just pretty, they're poetic. They have the class of an oxford. The style of a wing-tip. And just like their owner, they'll give you a fat lip. They're strong like a boot. Flexible like a sneaker. And when the bell rings, they'll move like a streaker. Ali's shoes had personality. They had class. Occasionally, they had tassels. Sometimes they were black. Sometimes white. But they never had marks on them. No scuffs on these shoes. Because, like the boxer himself, no one could touch them. You think there are better shoes than these? Don't be ridiculous.

The shoes that can defeat these shoes haven't even been born yet. Muhammad Ali's shoes were brash and provoking. They'd step into the ring, and Ali would start a-pecking and a-poking. That's the honest-to-goodness truth. And I ain't joking. These shoes supported the legs of the great Muhammad Ali. All other boxers' legs should sue their shoes for non-support. These shoes helped Ali win the heavyweight championship of the world. Then they helped him win it again. And win it a third time. These are the shoes that foretold the bold would win the gold. They fought the fight of the century. Twice. They rumbled in the jungle. They fought a Thrilla in Manila. They threw a whammy in Miami. They got plucky in Kentucky. They got a boost in Houston. Made opponents get trembly at Wembley. They extended his reign in Lewiston, Maine. They hit 'em hard in the Garden. They were definitely a-bubblin' in a-Dublin. They fought a winning scenario in Toronto, Ontario. The quorum at the Forum. The Ultimadium at the Stadium. They fought like Sparta in Jakarta. And then, they brought the championship back home at the Superdome. They were and are The Greatest of All Time.

Muhammad Ali used these shoes, and other great shoes like them, to take huge steps. Steps that had never been taken by anyone before. Steps that have never been duplicated. And steps that are still marveled at today.



Muhammad Ali

Boxing shoes, size 13 (1959)

They moved, shuffled and never stopped fighting.



GREATNESS STARTS WITH A FIRST STEP



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around town



Bonci pizza.

ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE FILE

Blackbird ★★★★★ Paul Kahan's masterpiece offers both an a la carte menu and a tasting menu (9 or 10 courses). The latter, which is built around a single animal and changes monthly, offers the best insight into the chef's art. Pastry chef Nicole Guini's sweets follow seamlessly. *Open: Dinner daily, lunch Monday-Friday. Prices: Entrees \$30-\$42, tasting menu about \$115. 619 W. Randolph St., 312-715-0708. — P.V.*

Bonci ★★★ This Roman import serves pizza with a light-as-air crust that's topped with hundreds of different high quality toppings, from traditional tomato sauce and cheese to 'nduja, burrata, potato and fresh mint. While serving some of the best pizza in Chicago, this is mostly a to-go operation, with no tables and only a few counter seats. *Open: Lunch and dinner seven days a week. 161 N. Sangamon St., 312-243-4016. — N.K.*

City Mouse ★★ From the team that created Giant, in Logan Square, comes this casual, brunch and dinner restaurant in the Ace Hotel in the Fulton Market District. Executive chef Patrick Sheerin oversees the eclectic menu, ranging from seriously good pastas to offbeat dishes such as fried artichokes buried under pork ragu and fried cheddar bites topped with caviar. During daytime hours, the brunch menu features griddle cakes, a double-patty burger and a "gas station" breakfast sandwich. The open-to-the-lobby is lively and loud, and there's a delightful outdoor patio equipped with fire pits. *Open: Brunch and dinner daily. 311 N. Morgan St., 312-764-1908. — P.V.*

La Josie ★★ The kitchen is led by executive Saul Chavez, a Mercadito vet. He and his crew follow up supple, house-made tortillas that waft splendid corn perfume. The fillings include a silky veal cheek barbacoa and tender cochinita pibil, featuring a sinus-clearing habanero salsa that gives you a serious chile high. The carbon-flecked al pastor is crispy, juicy and riddled with smoky pineapple. It has a serious case for best al pastor in Chicago. Guacamole, too, is inspired. Chef/owner Pepe Barajas is not yet a big star just yet, but his vision and execution of a gourmet Mexican experience on Randolph means he's about to be a household name. *Open: Lunch and dinner Tuesday-Sunday, weekend brunch. Prices: Entrees \$14-\$35. 740 W. Randolph St., 312-929-2900. — M.N.*

The Loyalist ★★ One flight below the acclaimed Smyth restaurant lurks John and Karen Shields' more casual spot. It's dark enough to work as a lounge and offers a menu deep enough to entertain serious diners. Start with biscuits with 'nduja butter, and know that the cheeseburger might be the best of its kind in Chicago. *Open: Dinner Tuesday-Saturday. Prices: Entrees \$16-\$27. 177 N. Ada St., 773-913-3774. — P.V.*

WEST TOWN

Arami ★★★ The reverence with which sushi chefs handle rice here is reason enough to visit, but this is one of the rare Japanese restaurants in which the hot dishes are even better than the sushi. Pay attention to the cocktail list, and don't skip

WHO SAID ANGELS DIDN'T WEAR SHOES?

Florence Nightingale grew up with a determination to fill no one's shoes but her own.

As a girl, Florence was fascinated with numbers, statistics and math. Such passions were usually relegated to men in her day, but she was no ordinary person. She found comfort in graphs and numbers while her dolls, we presume, sat unnoticed in the closet.

Her family had rather subdued hopes for her — to become a wife and mother. They were outraged with Florence's intentions to instead serve humanity as a nurse, especially since, at the time, nursing was considered a low-class profession.

But Florence was stubborn. She ended a nine-year courtship with a suitor and followed what she believed to be her calling by God — she became a nurse.

During the Crimean War, Florence's footsteps took her to a field hospital in Scutari, and she was horrified by what she found there.

It was not one of the clean hospitals we see today, with shining floors and shiny instruments. It was a place of bugs, lice, fleas and rats. There were no towels, basins or soap. The death rate was 40 percent. Ever the child of data, Florence was mortified by this statistic. She and her friend William Farr, the country's leading

statistician, discovered that most of the soldiers weren't dying from their wounds. They were dying from a more pernicious enemy: the filth around them.

Under the Florence regime, vermin were exiled. Dirt was banished. Germs were annihilated. Death rates fell. The wounded soldiers called Florence Nightingale "The Lady with the Lamp" as she made her rounds at night with bandages and words of care, her feet coming down very softly on the newly sterile floors.

When soldiers heard her footsteps, they knew they were in great hands.

When other nurses heard her footsteps, they knew they'd be held to the highest possible standards.

When doctors heard her footsteps, it was the sound of a new era of nursing being ushered in.

Maybe somewhere back home, her poor,

defeated suitor was thinking if he'd just washed behind his ears more often... but really, Florence Nightingale belonged to the world.

Soon after the war, she established her nursing school at St. Thomas Hospital in London. Though Florence no longer wandered around with her lamp, and her footsteps no longer echoed through the corridors of makeshift hospitals, she didn't let grass grow underneath those war-weary shoes.

Florence spent the rest of her life improving health care for all, advocating better hunger relief, abolishing harsh anti-prostitution laws, expanding female participation in the workplace, loving numbers and generally meddling in everything for the greater good. Many women would later carry on her pioneering spirit in nursing care and her passion for reform, but no one would ever fill those moccasins quite like she did.



Florence Nightingale

Moccasins, size 5 (1855)

The most famous pair of nurse shoes were not nurse shoes.



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around town



Q X 2 salad at Tempesta Market.

CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

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the black-sesame shortbread and salted-miso ice cream sandwich. *Open: Dinner daily. Prices: Maki rolls and entrees \$15-\$17. 1829 W. Chicago Ave., 312-243-1535. — P.V.*

Boeufhaus ★★ Five of the seven entrees involve slab beef cooked in cast iron pans, but calling Boeufhaus a mere steakhouse might be an oversimplification. Chef Brian Ahern takes French and German influences to create a variety of dishes with finesse. Yet the steaks are indeed the stand-outs, in particular the 55-day dry-aged rib-eye. *Open: Lunch Tuesday-Saturday, dinner Tuesday-Sunday. Prices: Entrees \$26-\$60. 1012 N. Western Ave., 773-661-2116. — Kevin Pang*

Gideon Sweet ★★ In 2017, chef Graham Elliot united with former mentor Matthias Merges (who had been chef de cuisine at Charlie Trotter's during Elliot's time there) to create Gideon Sweet, a cocktail-focused small plates spot in the West Loop. Food is meant to go with the thoughtful cocktail menu, so start with the bone-marrow croquette, a crunchy package topped with crab mayonnaise and bonito flakes, a very satisfying one- or two-bite experience. *Open: Dinner Tuesday to Sunday. Prices: Small plates \$5-\$16. 841 W. Randolph St., 312-888-2258. — P.V.*

Heritage Restaurant & Caviar Bar ★★ Chef Guy Meikle is out to take the mystery, and sticker shock, away from caviar in this Humboldt Park spot. More than a half-dozen roes are available each day,

costing as little as \$10 for an a la carte nibble to \$145 for a full-blown platter of osetra, whitefish and tobikko caviars with accompaniments. Elsewhere on the menu you'll find odes to Eastern Europe fare, including pierogi and pelmeni dumplings, pork goulash and roast duck with Czech bread dumplings. Partner Jan Henrichsen created the fascinating wine list (which sources from Croatia, Slovenia and the Republic of Georgia, among other regions) and the whimsical, seasonal cocktail menu. Pastry chef Alan Krueger veers from rustic (hand pies) to creative (popcorn semifreddo) to classic (souffles). *Open: Dinner daily, brunch weekends; entrees \$16-\$35. 2700 W. Chicago Ave., 773-661-9577. — P.V.*

Tempesta ★★ Everything about Tempesta Market in West Town packs a punch. The shop has room for only a deli counter, a couple of refrigerated cases of food and a few tables, but the owners have stuffed it to the breaking point with a staggering amount of meat, cheese, gelato and other goods. Tempesta is taking 'nduja — a spreadable spicy sausage made by the other family business, 'Nduja Artisans in Franklin Park — along with other fine cured meats at its disposal, and crafting some of the best sandwiches in Chicago, like the Dante, which features six different kinds of meat. *Open: Daily, lunch and dinner. Prices: Sandwiches \$10-\$13. 1372 W. Grand Ave., 312-929-2551. — N.K.*

THESE BOOTS CARRIED THE WEIGHT OF A NATION.

He walked pigeon-toed across the muddy and blood-soaked fields just outside Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He had come to take part in the dedication of a national cemetery that entombed the bodies of more than 15,000 brave soldiers who — just four short months earlier — had fought and died on this very

spot in one of the bloodiest and most decisive battles in the war. To the people of a young nation, however, these were not soldiers in some faceless army; these were their sons, brothers and husbands. Men from almost every farm and town in the Union. Men who had rallied to fight for a cause they knew was much bigger than all of them.

Six feet above the bodies of these fallen

heroes, a crowd of equal size had squeezed around a wooden platform to hear this man speak.

He wore a large wool overcoat, a black silk stovepipe hat and finely polished, thin leather boots as he worked his way through the crowd.

His eyes were very distant and it was plain to see the weight this man carried upon his shoulders. He had watched as the fields of Maryland rushed past, and he wondered if there was anything he could possibly do to keep his country from splitting in two and destroying itself in the

process. As he took his half-finished speech from his pocket and scratched away with his pen, he knew that General Lee's army was still desperately fighting and the battles and bloodshed would not soon be over.

Exhausted and trembling, the president made his way up the steps to the dais, and stood before a crowd. He paused and drew a deep breath of the crisp November air, knowing he was about to walk down a path from which there was no return. He unfolded his text and began to read, "Four score and seven years ago... ."

In his speech, Lincoln put forth a radical assertion. He maintained that it was the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution, that was the Founding Fathers' original blueprint for our nation. A blueprint that maintained that all men are created equal. Today, this might seem downright conventional, but in 1863, it was seen as a brazen attack on the rule of law. A rule that the Confederate states used to justify their secession from the Union.

In the 1800s, it was not uncommon for political orators to speak for over two hours. People would pack a lunch and make a day of it. Edward Everett preceded Lincoln with a two-hour lecture. But when Lincoln spoke, he took less than two minutes. He spoke a mere 272 words. But because of the nature of its content and its brevity, the message hit home. His message was both a salute to those brave soldiers who had fallen and a challenge to those who stood with him that day to carry out the vision of our forefathers and ensure that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."



Abraham Lincoln

Leather boots, size 14 (1863)
Many men could wear these boots,
but only one man could fill them.



EQUALITY STARTS WITH A FIRST STEP

What to do this week in Chicago

Listings are subject to change. Please call the venue in advance.

THURSDAY

No Age 8:30 p.m., *Empty Bottle*, 1035 N. Western Ave., \$15, 773-276-3600

MPAACT's Blood Mural Art, history and identity politics clash as a renowned muralist Dr. E.J. Lockhart struggles with an "up-and-coming" former student assisting her on her latest project. 8 p.m., *The Greenhouse Theater Center*, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., \$22-\$40, 773-404-7336

International Voices Project Festival 2018 This series is presented in collaboration with consulates and other cultural institutions throughout Chicago and this year's engagement features plays from Spain, Serbia, Poland, Syria, Finland, French Canada, India and Germany. 7:45 p.m., *Instituto Cervantes of Chicago*, 31 W. Ohio St., free, 312-335-1996

Flatbush Zombies 6:30 p.m., *Vic Theatre/Brew & View*, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., \$26, 773-472-0449

Rat Pack Comedy Rat Pack Comedy is a free stand-up show where five of the city's best comics, from Laugh Factory, Zanies and the Comedy Bar, come to put on an incredible one of a kind show, headlined by Calvin Evans. 8 p.m., *Holiday Club*, 4000 N. Sheridan Road, free, 773-348-9600

Messing With a Friend A collection of self-edited improvised scenes based on a single suggestion. 10:30 p.m., *The Annoyance Theatre*, 851 W. Belmont Ave., \$5, 773-697-9693

Fishbowl This event features a rotating selection of independent groups to open the show. Then, Annoyance students will get a chance to enter their IDs into a fishbowl. Five students selected will perform in an improv jam with five Annoyance veterans, including teachers and current performers. 9:30 p.m., *The Annoyance Theatre*, 851 W. Belmont Ave., \$8; \$5 (students), 773-697-9693

FRIDAY

Dwayne Gretzky Does the '90s 9 p.m., *Cubby Bear Wrigleyville*, 1059 W. Addison St., \$7, 773-327-1662

Haim 7:30 p.m., *Aragon Ballroom*, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., \$42, 773-561-9500

Sam Bush 8 p.m., *City Winery Chicago*, 1200 W. Randolph St., \$35-\$55, 312-733-9463

Funny Ha-Ha: Oh, Mother This event features readings and performances from Lily Be, Julia Sweeney Blum, Cassie Walker Burke, Elizabeth Gomez and Jen-non Bell Hoffman. 6:30 p.m., *Hideout*, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave., \$10, 773-227-4433

Damascus Bennet Fisher's play is a claustrophobic thriller about privilege, paranoia



MPAACT's 'Blood Mural.'

SHEPSU AAKHU

and the assumptions we make about one another. This moving play centers on Hassan, a Somali-American airport shuttle driver in Minneapolis, struggling to make ends meet as more and more of his customers switch to Uber and Lyft. When a stranded teenager at the airport pays Hassan to take him to Chicago, it seems like the service is worth the risk and the fare. 8 p.m., *Strawdog Theatre*, 1802 W. Berenice Ave., \$35-\$45, 773-528-9696

The California Honeydrops 8 p.m., *Concord Music Hall*, 2047 N. Milwaukee Ave., \$20

Magic Tree House: Showtime with Shakespeare Climb into a musical time machine with Jack and Annie and travel back to Shakespearean England. This is a hit with kids and grown-ups alike and is based on the book series by Mary Pope Osborne. Discover how history is shaped by those who learn to overcome their fears. 10:15 a.m., *Apollo Theater Chicago*, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave., \$19 plus, 773-935-6100

The Fratellis 8:45 p.m., *Metro*, 3730 N. Clark St., \$26, 773-549-4140

Karrin Allyson 9 p.m., *The Green Mill*, 4802 N. Broadway, \$15, 773-878-5552

Wanted Dead or Alive The Experts in



Flatbush Zombies performs on the first day Coachella in 2014.

BETHANY MOLLENKOFF/MCT

Mystery Entertainment are now performing live public and private interactive murder mystery dinner shows in Chicago and surrounding areas throughout Illinois. Join us for a night of intrigue, deception and delicious food in this comedic thriller. 7 p.m., *Salvatore's Ristorante*, 525 W. Arlington Place, \$60, 888-643-2583

Suddenly Last Summer by Tennessee Williams Directed by Jason Gerace.

Wealthy New Orleans widow Violet Venable is trying to silence her niece Catherine, the only witness to the death of Violet's son Sebastian. Catherine has been giving a horrifying description of the circumstances under which Sebastian was killed and Mrs. Venable is unwilling to accept that account as well as other assertions about her son's life. She pursues extraordinary measures to keep Catherine quiet in this stark, haunting and poetic one-act. 7:30 p.m., *Raven Thea-*

EVERY STORY HE WROTE STARTED WITH A MAN STANDING AT A TYPEWRITER, WEARING LOAFERS.

As they began to sort through Ernest Hemingway's belongings, they discovered a collection of short stories, his typewriter perched on top of a dresser in front of the bedroom window, an array of leather hunting bags, a collection of traveling trunks with scratches and worn-out stickers from faraway places, and a closet full of shoes. They say you can tell a lot about a man from what he leaves behind. That you can get a glimpse into his soul by looking at the soles of his shoes. And his shoes were well worn. Over the course of his life, he traveled extensively and walked a path that few men ever dared. For his life was about adventure. About finding the edge of the human experience and jumping in with both feet.

When he turned age 18, he volunteered to drive an ambulance on the Italian front line during World War I. Returning from duty one day, he was struck by mortar fire and suffered severe shrapnel wounds in both legs. Yet even with his wounds, he continued to help Italian soldiers to safety. For his efforts, he received six months in a hospital and the Italian Silver Medal of Military Valor.

While trying to gaff a large shark on a fishing expedition off the coast of Cuba, Hemingway

produced his revolver and fired shots at the struggling beast. Unfortunately, the bullets missed and penetrated both his calves.

On two separate occasions, Hemingway survived airplane crashes in Africa. The first one came when he had chartered a plane to see the Congo. The plane struck an abandoned utility pole and crashed in the heavy bush. His injuries included a large head wound, a ruptured kidney and liver, and a severely wounded shoulder. The next day, on a flight to seek medical help, Hemingway's plane exploded on takeoff, and he suffered burns and a concussion that caused leaking cerebral fluid.

All this, however, was part and parcel to who he was: a man of action, a thrill-seeker and a writer. Had any of these events happened to anyone else, we might never have

learned of them. But this man was Ernest Hemingway, and he used his dangerous adventures as fuel in his writing. The stories and books that came from his adventures make up a list of some of the greatest literature ever: *Death in the Afternoon*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Dangerous Summer*.

In 1954, Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Instead of delivering a long-winded acceptance speech, which was customary at the time, he chose to send a simple 32-word sentence paying tribute to the writers of the past. Writers who paved the way for Hemingway, and future writers, to push the boundaries of literature. Which was exactly how he lived his own life.

A decade after his death, an apocryphal tale arose that lunch companions had bet Hemingway that he could not tell a story in six words. He won the wager when he

wrote on a napkin, "For Sale. Baby Shoes. Never worn."

This story is surely a myth, but the fact that it is still told today is yet another example of the sway Hemingway continues to have on the world of literature.



Ernest Hemingway

Penny loafers, size 12 (1954)

He liked to write first thing in the morning, standing up, wearing these loafers.



STORYTELLING STARTS WITH A FIRST STEP

tre, 6157 N. Clark St., \$29-\$46, 773-338-2177

SATURDAY

Praise and Punk One of the most diverse classical music organizations in the nation, Chicago Sinfonietta, is closing their 30th anniversary season with Praise + Punk in a smashing battle of the bands against Mucca Pazza, an absurdist marching band, with special guest Apostolic Church of God Sanctuary Choir. 8 p.m., *Symphony Center*, 220 S. Michigan Ave., \$10-\$62, 312-294-3000

Parampampan: Second Saturdays Enjoy a night of boogaloo, heavy salsa, Latin soul, Nuyorican boogie and salsa gorda delivered every second Saturday of the month in the heart of Logan Square. 10 p.m., *Crown Liquors and Taproom*, 2821 N. Milwaukee Ave., free, 773-252-9741

Chicago River Day Annual Friends of the Chicago River's Chicago River Day cleanup attracts thousands of volunteers to some 75 locations along the river. See chicagoriver.org for more details. 9 a.m., *Clark Park*, 3400 N. Rockwell, free, 312-939-0490

Women's Ensemble 2 p.m., *Rockefeller Chapel at University of Chicago*, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave., free, 773-702-8068

SUNDAY

Glen Phillips with special guest Heather Lynn Horton 8 p.m., *City Winery Chicago*, 1200 W. Randolph St., \$22-\$30, 312-733-9463

Grand Hotel Kokandy Productions presents this musical based on the 1928 play and novel about an eclectic group of hotel guests. 3 p.m., *Theater Wit*, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., \$40, 773-975-8150

9 to 5 the Musical Firebrand Theatre presents this musical comedy with Dolly Parton tunes based on the 1980 film about three unlikely friends who prove there's nothing they can't handle in a man's world. 3 p.m., *The Den*, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., \$45

Third Coast Percussion Grammy-winning quartet Third Coast Percussion performs their most recent work, "Paddle to the Sea," an original soundtrack accompanying the Academy Award-nominated short film of the same name. This multimedia concert experience explores our relationship to the bodies of water that connect our lives. The concert also features works by American composers Jacob Druckman and Philip Glass and traditional Zimbabwean music. 7:30 p.m., *Thalia Hall*, 1807 S. Allport St., \$23-\$40, 312-526-3851

Obituary 6 p.m., *Metro*, 3730 N. Clark St., \$25, 773-549-0203

The Glitter Girls Chicagoland premiere of Mark Dunn's comedy about a northern Georgia ladies' social club, the Glitter Girls. When members hear the club's rich founder is dying, they compete to be the one to whom she'll leave her money. Performances are in the lower level theater. Chris-



Third Coast Percussion.

BARBARA JOHNSTON

topher Kidder-Mostrom directs. Email jamesdowningtheatre@gmail.com. 1:30 p.m., *The James Downing Theatre*, Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., \$20 general; \$15 seniors and students, 224-725-3696

Big Boy / Jon Matteson: A Solo Show by Jon Matteson An exhibition of masculinity through drag king performance, "Big Boy" remixes the gender-binary through music, camp and boob-binding in an original sketch revue. Celebrate the local stable boy, hang with that weird uncle with a penchant for pearling and affinity for ABBA, and finally find out where Richard Simmons has been hiding. NOTE: This show has minor nudity and major privates. Written & performed by Shelby Quinn. Double billed with "Jon Matteson: A Solo Show by Jon Matteson" 7:30 p.m., *The Annoyance Theatre*, 851 W. Belmont Ave., \$8, 773-697-9693

MONDAY

Brendan James with special guest Pete Muller 8 p.m., *City Winery Chicago*, 1200 W. Randolph St., \$15-\$25, 312-733-9463

Wizard of Oz at the Chicago Theater The Madison Square Garden Company brings one of the most beloved family musicals, "The Wizard of Oz," to Chicago. Tickets are on sale now, ranging from \$39-\$129. Tickets are available online at www.chicagotheatre.com and are also available at The Chicago Theatre box office, all Ticketmaster outlets and Ticketmaster phone charge. 7 p.m., *The Chicago Theatre*, 175 N. State St., \$39-\$129, 312-462-6300

Mutoid Man 7 p.m., *Beat Kitchen*, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., \$18, 773-281-4444

Student Jam A night for Annoyance students to jam. 9:30 p.m., *The Annoyance Theatre*, 851 W. Belmont Ave., free, 773-697-9693

TUESDAY

Kat Edmonson 8 p.m., *City Winery Chicago*, 1200 W. Randolph St., \$20-\$28, 312-733-9463

Lake Street Dive with Mikaela 7 p.m., *Thalia Hall*, 1807 South Allport St., Sold out, 312-526-3851

George Fitzgerald 8 p.m., *Subterranean*, 2011 W. North Ave., \$15, 773-278-6600

Hinds 8 p.m., *Lincoln Hall*, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., \$16, 773-525-2501

Identity Flip Identity Flip hopes to artistically explore the idea of identity through personal stories that reveal both how identity matters and how it is completely irrelevant. 8 p.m., *The Gman Tavern*, 3740 N. Clark St., \$10

MINT: Music Improv Night Four ensembles of improvisers, together for four months, doing weekly music improv sets. If you want to throw your hat in, they have auditions every four months. There are no restrictions for trying out. 7:30 p.m., *The Annoyance Theatre*, 851 W. Belmont Ave., \$10, 773-697-9693

WEDNESDAY

SYML 8 p.m., *Beat Kitchen*, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., \$10, 773-281-4444

SGA Youth and Family Services' Building on Promise 2018 This annual benefit raises critical funds to provide life-chang-

ing services in Chicago's most challenged and underserved neighborhoods. The evening includes: cocktail reception, dinner, performance from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a silent auction, awards presentation and a keynote address with Dr. Kyle Pruett, an international authority on child and parent development. 6 p.m., Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago, 221 N. Columbus Drive, \$500 individual; \$5,000 table host; \$7,500 table sponsor, 312-447-4334

Story Lab Chicago Every month, six new Chicagoans from all walks of life take the stage to share their personal stories in a cozy neighborhood pub. See it and sign up to share at a future event. 7:30 p.m., Black Rock, 3614 N. Damen Ave., free, 773-348-4044

Honesty Is the Best Fallacy: This hour-long, original sketch revue explores the idea of finding and expressing truth, warts and all. From the far-reaching and political to the deeply personal, these characters proclaim their truth loudly and boldly through a microphone. Scenes vary from an artist who expresses themselves through an unconventional medium to a contestant with revolutionary ideas on "The Great Russian Bake Off" to a more tender examination of what you would say if you could talk to your 13-year-old self. 8 p.m., The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., \$10 (advance); \$12 (day of), 773-697-9693

Pilsen Stand Up: The Pilsen Stand Up Comedy Show hosts the most diverse and talented line-up of Chicagoland comedians every third Wednesday. 8:30 p.m., Simone's Bar, 960 W. 18th St., \$5, 312-666-8601

Movie listings

Want to catch something on the big screen this weekend? Here's what's in theaters from blockbusters to independent films.

Ratings key: ★★★★★ excellent; ★★★ good; ★★ fair; ★ poor.

OPENING

Breaking In After burglars break into her house, a mother (Gabrielle Union) battles to protect her children.

Life of the Party A woman (Melissa McCarthy) is dumped by her longtime husband and decides to join her daughter at college. Chaos ensues!

NOW PLAYING

A Quiet Place ★★½ Mother Evelyn (Emily Blunt) has ventured into a decimated town with her husband, Lee (John Krasinski) and their three children. Minutes later, in a flash, one is gone. As we learn, the monsters lurking around the family have insectlike legs and crablike pinchers. They're blind but blessed with an acute sense of hearing. A year and a half into the storyline, Lee and Evelyn live in virtual



Melissa McCarthy in 'Life of the Party,' in theaters on May 11.

HOPPER STONE/WARNER BROS. PICTURES

silence, as does their hearing son Marcus (Noah Jupe) and their deaf daughter, Regan (Millicent Simmonds). I don't know if I'd call "A Quiet Place" enjoyable; it's more grueling than cathartic. But the upbeat, can-do shotgun-blasting climax gets the crowd going. — *Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune*

Acrimony ★★½ In "Acrimony," Taraji P. Henson stars as Melinda, whose anger is her super power, giving her outlandish strength and skill. Melinda supports her husband, Robert, (Lyriq Bent) for two decades as he works on his "rechargeable battery" invention that he envisions will save the environment and make him billions. She endures him, even when their home is foreclosed upon. But the one thing that sparks Melinda's rage is the suggestion of infidelity. When her sisters convince her to divorce him, he takes up with his old flame, who reaps the rewards when his battery finally hits. This is the film that the boring "Proud Mary" should have been, giving us the ferocious Taraji P. Henson performance we are owed. — *Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service*

Avengers: Infinity War ★★ Titan Thanos (Josh Brolin) is after all six of the precious infinity stones, which will grant

him control over the universe. Our favorite superheroes from all over the universe must join together to put an end to Thanos' evil plan. All of the Marvel heroes make an appearance in this film, including Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), Spider-Man (Tom Holland), Star-Lord (Chris Pratt), Dr. Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and so many more. — *M.P.*

Black Panther ★★½ "Black Panther" in brief: Wakanda was blessed by a magical substance called vibranium. The metal provides superhuman ability, and turns the king of the moment into Black Panther. King T'Chaka expires and his son, T'Challa, is crowned. There are two antagonists: Andy Serkis is vibranium fanatic Ulysses Klaue, and Michael B. Jordan is the American black ops ace known as Killmonger. He's got ambitions for the throne, and a belief in getting stunningly advanced weaponry in the hands of oppressed people of color throughout the world. May Marvel learn its lesson from "Black Panther": When a movie like this ends up feeling both personal and vital, you've done something right. — *M.P.*

Blockers ★★ Leslie Mann, Ike Barinholtz and John Cena play the blockers of the title, friends since their daughters bonded in elementary school. Now they're graduating seniors. One day at lunch the girls make a pact to lose their virginities on prom night. Some casual digital monitoring reveals the plan to their parents. From there "Blockers" becomes a tracking device of a sex comedy. The middle-age killjoys follow the girls from prom to lake-side after-party to hotel bash. Some of the gags are centuries old; other scenes redirect the movie to a fresher place. The girls' friendship, however, is what makes "Blockers" more than an elevator pitch. One trio gets 'em in the door; the other trio keeps 'em there. — *M.P.*

I Feel Pretty ★★ Amy Schumer plays Renee Bennett, who works in a ratty Manhattan Chinatown satellite office of a fashionable cosmetics firm. She has friends (played by Aidy Bryant of "Saturday Night Live" and Busy Philipps of "Vice Principals") and plenty of smarts, but zero confidence and a barren dating life. And then it happens: After conking her head in spin class, in a harsh slapstick sequence, Renee wakes up delusional and seeing an entirely new woman in the



Tye Sheridan in 'Ready Player One.'

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

mirror. Before the inevitable, wince-worthy moment of reckoning, "I Feel Pretty" follows Renee 2.0 as she revels in her newfound swagger, acing a job promotion and finding a nice, presentable, affable man (Rory Scovel, "The House") while being tempted by a hunky Lothario (Tom Hooper, "Game of Thrones"). — *M.P.*

Overboard This remake of the 1987 Goldie Hawn Kurt Russell rom-com gender-swaps the two main characters, making Hawn's sun-kissed elitist into wealthy party boy Eugenio Derbez and Russell's rugged father into overstretched single mom Anna Faris. Like the original, Derbez loses his memory and Faris takes her revenge. The whole endeavor is an exercise in trying to do too many things — rehash a nostalgic property, propel Mexican film star Derbez to mainstream stardom, revive Faris' film career — but it never actually manages to be a good movie. — *K.W.*

Rampage ★½ After a space lab carrying experimental pathogens crash-lands at various points on the U.S. map, animals become infected and mutate. Naomie

Harris takes the role of a geneticist whose former employer, Energyne. The Energyne headquarters is at the top of Willis Tower in Chicago, where it controls the creatures' movements by way of bio-sonar. The digital effects are solid, but there's no pleasure in the film's climactic three-way clash involving Dwayne Johnson, Harris and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. Johnson and Harris will survive it. But if it's a hit, it'll only encourage studios and audiences to settle for more of the same joyless, indecisive noise. — *M.P.*

Ready Player One ★★ It's the year 2045 in Columbus, Ohio. Wade, played by Tye Sheridan, is hooked on his virtual-reality devices, stretching into the OASIS (Ontologically Anthropocentric Sensory Immersive Simulation), created by a late genius played by Mark Rylance. The inventor has hidden clues to three keys inside the OASIS, and whoever secures them becomes heir to a fortune. Much of "Ready Player One," concerns the ever-shifting environments within the OASIS. Wade's gaming avatar, Parzival, longs to know Art3mis in the real world, where she

is plain ol' supercool Samantha. The forces of corporate evil conspire against Wade and, eventually, his OASIS posse. — *M.P.*

Super Troopers 2 ★★ Super Troopers 2," like the first "Super Troopers," is about a hapless crew of khaki-clad law enforcers who are supposed to be straight-arrows in uniform but are actually — wait, don't laugh yet — low-life druggies and idiots and wastrels with terrible mustaches who face off against another group of law enforcers who happen to be ... Canadian. It's an aggressively lame and slobby comedy full of cardboard characters and in-your-face naughty jokes that feel about as dangerous as old vaudeville routines. Yet if you watch it and think, "Wow, this sure is cheesy and dumb," you've just paid the people who made it a compliment. — *Owen Gleiberman, Variety*

Traffik ★ After an ominous intro in which a young woman is abducted from a nightclub and chained up in a flatbed truck, the film zeroes in on Sacramento newspaper reporter Brea (Paula Patton) on the eve of what seems a less than

promising birthday weekend. Noble intentions are derailed by deeply confused execution in writer-director Deon Taylor's "Traffik," which attempts to marry cheap genre thrills with an unflinching depiction of the horrors of international sex trafficking, only to cheapen the latter and cast a grimy pall over the former. — *Andrew Barker, Variety*

Tully ★★½ Marlo (Charlize Theron) is in a marital rut coinciding with a heavy parental load. Husband Drew (Ron Livingston) is affable and casually supportive and moderately present as a domestic partner, but he comes and goes, and when he's home in bed, he's usually gaming. Marlo's wealthy brother (Mark Duplass) gifts her a "night nanny," a part-time nocturnal caregiver affording the weary mother some peace, rest and occasional marital sex. The minute Tully (Mackenzie Davis) shows up at Marlo's door, it's like they've known each other for years. Tully is intuitive, sage beyond mid-20s. And fun. "Tully" takes this newfound friendship in increasingly surprising directions. — *M.P.*

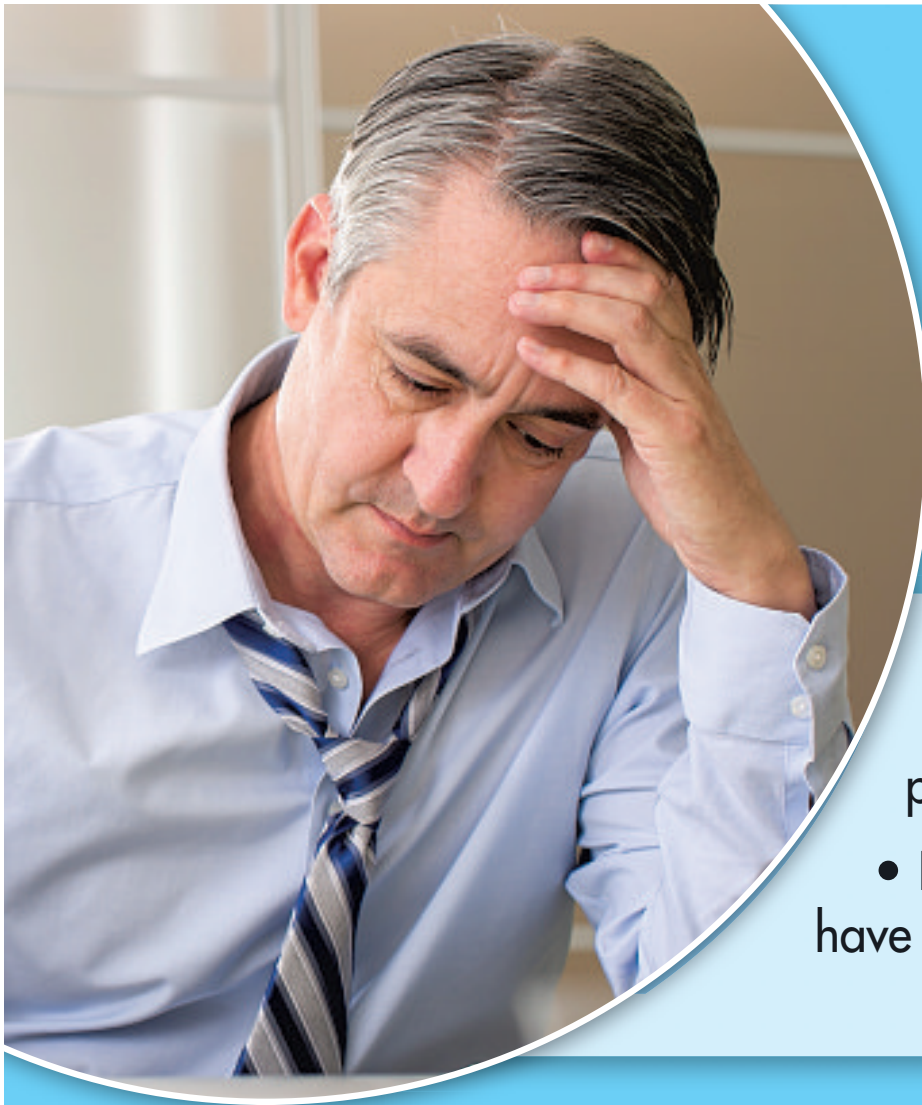
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dating

horoscopes

WEEK OF MAY 10 | TAROT.COM

**Aries** March 21-April 19

You're tired of the deception, illusion and lies of omission that might be coming from someone you love. You might not even be with this person in a relationship but yearn for them and hope to be. The brutal truth is that this week you might find out that you've been putting yourself in a position of unrequited love and now, finally, you're waking up.

**Taurus** April 20-May 20

Look Taurus, we all know that when it comes to finances you tend to be rock solid. In fact, you've got it going on. This week, however, you might make a very foolish decision with your money, all in the name of love. Come on, don't do it! You don't want to allow a moment of weakness to lead to a decision you'll only regret.

**Gemini** May 21-June 20

Your sweetheart might have the best intentions in the world, but he or she should be the last person you ask for career advice. The problem is that your love happens to have you on a pedestal and thinks you're the greatest thing since sliced bread. Why is this a problem? Because as a result of this very subjective viewpoint, he or she might not realistically assess what you're best suited to pursue.

**Cancer** June 21-July 22

Blind faith won't get you very far this week when it comes to matters of the heart. If you're pining away for someone who is out of reach, it's time to stop fooling yourself. The harsh reality is that this person simply might not be as into you as you are him or her.

**Leo** July 23-Aug. 22

Oh, the webs we weave! A friends-with-benefits situation you've had that you tried keeping casual might turn into a hot mess. All of a sudden, this person might be convinced that you're the love of his or her life, or vice versa. Originally, you both agreed to keep things casual but somehow, one of you no longer sees this as an option.

**Virgo** Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your love life might be getting in the way of your career. You might be distracted by a situation that you're dealing with in your relationship. It's possible that your partner is going through a difficult time emotionally, and you find it draining. You're doing your best to support your sweetheart, but it might be impossible for you to handle on your own. This might be a good week to seek outside help such as a counselor for your partner.

**Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 22

You might be going against your moral compass this week in the name of love. If someone you're dating or have a crush on is doing something that you know is just plain wrong, you might find yourself trying to justify it, or even worse, turning a blind eye to it. Understand that love is not about overlooking another person's flaws.

**Scorpio** Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If you are in a committed partnership, beware of temptation! This week it's possible that someone will show a romantic or sexual interest in you and that you'll be tempted to stray. Take a step back and consider why you're even entertaining the possibility. This seems to be more of a fantasy situation rather than anything that you're chasing because you're unhappy with your mate.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You and your partner are enjoying a stretch of beautiful harmony in your relationship. This week, however, there might be a slight disappointment that comes from your domestic situation. You might not have any time to devote to each other the way you'd like due to a relative who might be going through a difficult time. Remember: you can never go wrong with compassion.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you're in a relationship, this week you and your love might send each other mixed signals regarding the mundane daily life you live together. These aren't disasters, but they will be situations where one or both of you feel disappointed in the other, as if you can't count on your partner. You can. It's just a week of confusion.

**Aquarius** Jan. 20-Feb. 18

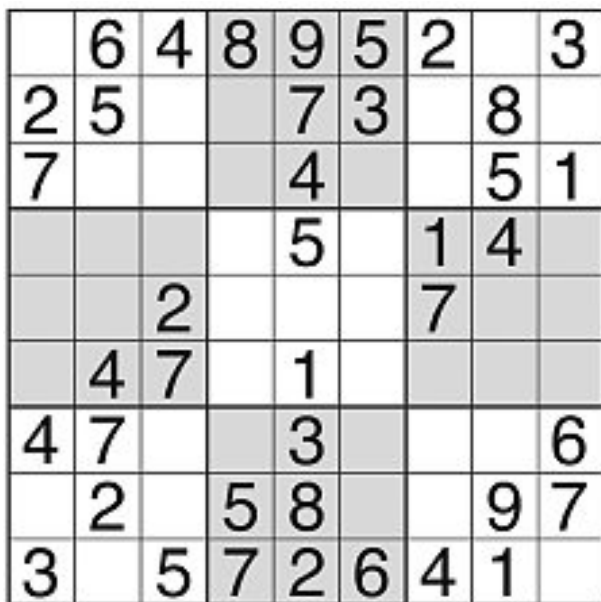
Whoever said that love doesn't cost a thing was wrong. Aquarius, you might feel that you're paying way more than you should for romance... literally. Your sweetheart might attempt to drain your bank account by asking you to foot his or her bills if they are going through a rough patch. Proceed with caution.

**Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20

You might feel more confusion than usual about a romantic situation. In particular if you have been dating someone for a while, it's possible that you are discussing whether or not to take your relationship to the next level. You might consider moving in together, but as you try to plan for this to happen you find yourself hit with all sorts of roadblocks.

PUZZLES FOR THE WEEK

PUZZLES FOR MONDAY, MAY 7



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS



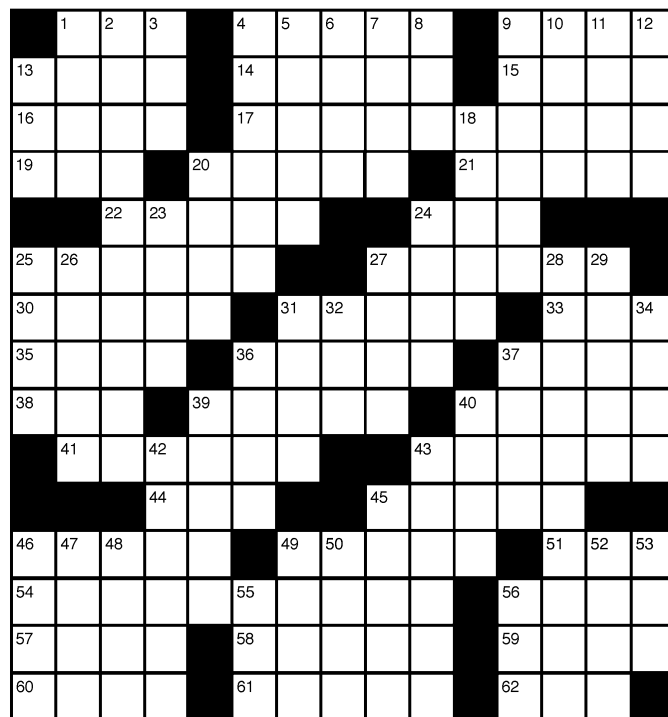
TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1789: America's first inaugural ball was held in New York in honor of President George Washington, who had taken the oath of office a week earlier.

1915: A German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner RMS Lusitania off the southern coast of Ireland, killing 1,198 people, including 128 Americans, out of the nearly 2,000 on board.

ACROSS

- 1 Monogram for inventor Bell
- 4 Pile up
- 9 Potato
- 13 Mrs. Joe Biden
- 14 Motherless calf
- 15 Group dance
- 16 Leave out
- 17 Surgeries
- 19 Feminine suffix
- 20 Lock of hair
- 21 Language heard in Cardiff
- 22 Attempts
- 24 Prefix for print or pronunciation
- 25 Beer mugs
- 27 Patchy-colored horses
- 30 Reagan or Sinatra
- 31 At _ , being risked
- 33 Refuse to allow
- 35 Only U.S. state whose flag is not rectangular
- 36 Part of an ice skate
- 37 Chimney pipe
- 38 Came in first
- 39 Gathers crops
- 40 Unites
- 41 Haughtiness
- 43 Candy bar filling, perhaps
- 44 Yellow Brick & others: abbr.
- 45 Gray marsupial
- 46 Get in contact with
- 49 European nation
- 51 Afternoon hour
- 54 Mississippi steamers
- 56 Fuel for some
- 57 Think _ ; contemplate
- 58 TV's "Kate & _"
- 59 Egg on
- 60 Declare false
- 61 Mother's Day gift, perhaps
- 62 Storm center



- 9 Most bashful
- 10 Swimming spot
- 11 Footed vases
- 12 Punctuation mark
- 13 Louis or Pesci
- 3 Sandwhich letters
- 4 Venerates
- 5 Pouts
- 6 Eras
- 7 Gentlemen
- 8 Yellow or Caribbean
- 27 Cushions
- 28 Required
- 29 Steam bath
- 31 Grand _ ; four-run homer
- 32 Faucet
- 34 Cozy home
- 36 Mrs. Truman
- 37 Loathsome
- 39 Passenger
- 40 St. _ of Arc
- 42 Cranky
- 43 Bangs & clangs
- 45 TV's Couric
- 46 Nudge
- 47 Bee colony
- 48 Jenn-Air appliance
- 49 Fly alone
- 50 Chums
- 52 Salary
- 53 Spanish cheer
- 55 Tavern
- 56 Actor's signal

DOWN

- 1 Ambitions
- 2 Shining
- 3 Sandwich letters
- 4 Venerates
- 5 Pouts
- 6 Eras
- 7 Gentlemen
- 8 Yellow or Caribbean

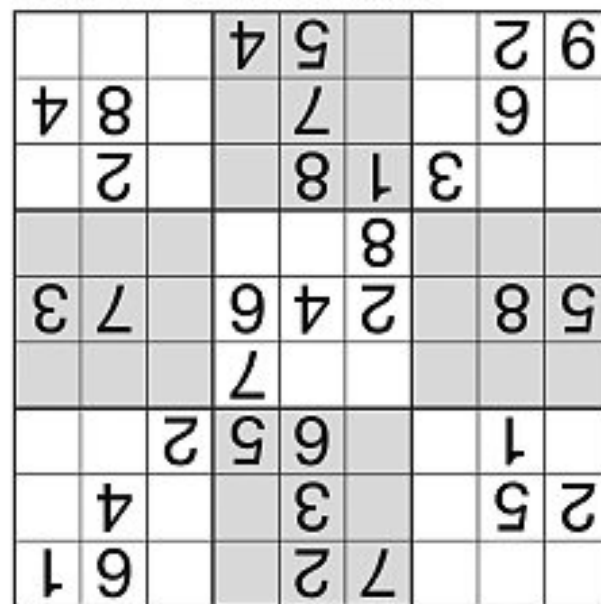
1978: David R. Berkowitz pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn courtroom to murder, attempted murder and assault in connection with the "Son of Sam" shootings that claimed six lives and terrified New Yorkers.

1984: The Soviet Union announced it would boycott the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

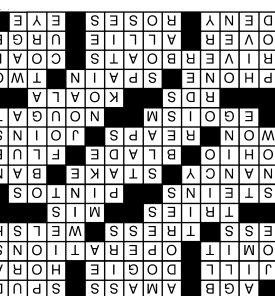
1996: South Africa took another step from apartheid to democracy by adopting a constitution that guaranteed equal rights for blacks and whites.

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



PUZZLES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8



MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS



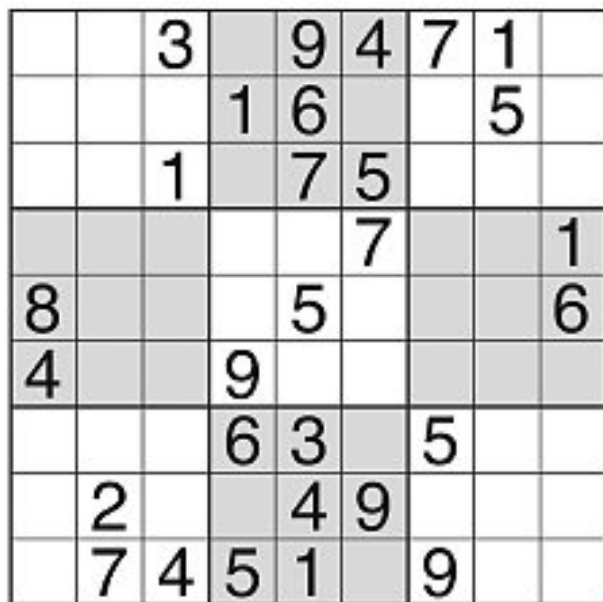
ACROSS

- 1 "It's a Long _ to Tipperary"
- 4 Beverages made with ice cream
- 9 Read over quickly
- 13 Frothy drinks
- 15 Hatred
- 16 Colossal
- 17 In the face; insult
- 18 Ballroom dance
- 19 Wild goat
- 20 Lazy
- 22 Wind direction
- 23 Layer of paint
- 24 Actor Linden
- 26 Like jacuzzi water
- 29 Lively parties
- 34 RPM or MPH
- 35 Mingle
- 36 Traitor
- 37 Listen
- 38 Informal jargon
- 39 _ to; wake up after surgery
- 40 Cochlea's place
- 41 Limas & favas
- 42 Dawn
- 43 Ceiling window
- 44 Swivels
- 45 Kippur
- 46 Popple veggies
- 48 Long dress
- 49 Necessary
- 50 Pinnacle
- 51 Famous
- 52 TV crime series
- 53 Actor Hackman
- 54 Treasure chest
- 55 White _; termite
- 56 Behold

DOWN

- 2 "How Green _ My Valley"
- 3 "Well that ends well"
- 4 Stangy reply
- 5 Human being
- 6 Sooty residue
- 7 Citrus fruit
- 8 Vats
- 9 Protective plate
- 10 Havana's land
- 11 Grows older
- 12 Bank teller's cry
- 14 Tangier
- 15 Tarus maker
- 21 Most common conjunction
- 25 Bribe like sketch
- 26 Specialized police unit
- 27 Say something
- 28 Wildcats
- 29 Like a good steak
- 30 Egg layers
- 31 Presses
- 32 Entire range
- 33 Staircase parts
- 35 Feeling _; in a funk
- 38 Portions
- 39 Lean _; frozen meal
- 40 brand
- 41 Uicer or blister
- 42 of the Apostles; bible
- 43 Store away
- 44 cal book
- 45 Scalp problem
- 46 TV's "Murder, _ Wrote"
- 47 Lady _ of the music
- 48 Irritate
- 49 Like a good steak
- 50 Wildcats
- 51 Specialized police unit
- 52 Uicer or blister
- 53 Store away
- 54 of the Apostles; bible
- 55 Scalp problem
- 56 TV's "Murder, _ Wrote"

PUZZLES FOR FRIDAY, MAY 11



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS



TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1973: The espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

1998: A French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

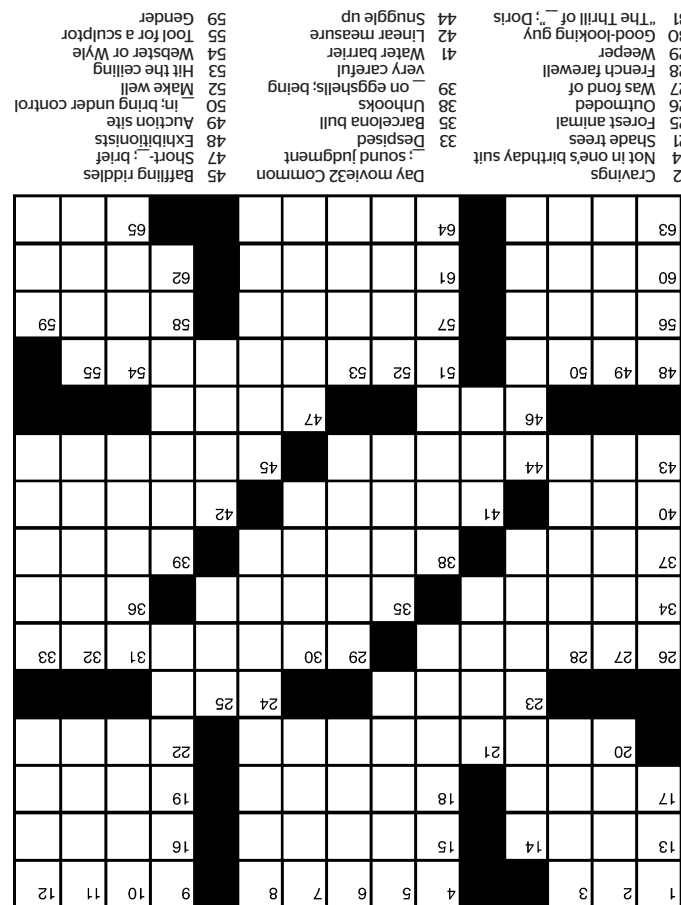
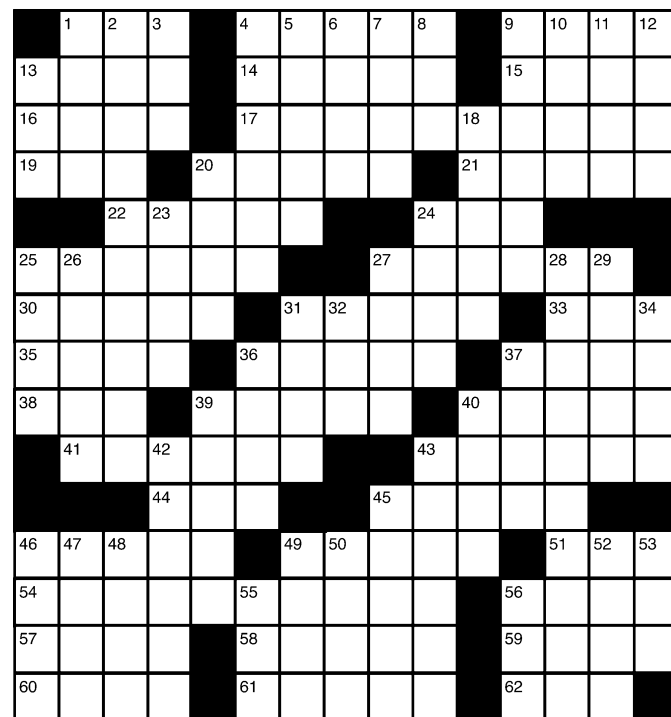
2017: President Donald Trump signed an executive order launching a commission to review alleged voter fraud and voter suppression, building upon his unsubstantiated claims that millions of people voted illegally in the 2016 election.

ACROSS

- 1 Pres. Arthur's monogram
- 4 "hand; advantage"
- 9 "Beehive State"
- 13 Lofty range
- 14 Fang
- 15 Prefix for legal or medic
- 16 Tenth-grader, for short
- 17 Bad behavior
- 19 Years lived
- 20 June, for one
- 21 Sworn promises
- 22 Distort
- 24 However
- 25 Symptom of dehydration
- 27 Rejuvenates
- 30 Leaks out
- 31 Supplications
- 33 Take _; delete
- 35 Bed size
- 36 Lose vital fluid
- 37 The Bee Gees, for example
- 38 Sermon topic
- 39 Thin porridge
- 40 Hurls
- 41 Holiday drink
- 43 Wall recesses
- 44 Ordinance
- 45 _-frutti
- 46 _away; discard
- 49 A, B, C, D or F
- 51 Burst
- 54 Comforting
- 56 On the _ of the moment; suddenly
- 57 Circle portions
- 58 Burn slightly
- 59 Roll call response
- 60 on; victimize
- 61 Williams and Rooney
- 62 Three-ft. measures

DOWN

- 1 Drain problem
- 2 Mouthwatering
- 3 Hardwood tree
- 4 Maximum
- 5 the finger at; blame
- 6 Biggest Denver newspaper
- 7 Carve in glass
- 8 Fraternity letter
- 9 Modernize
- 10 Tight, as a rope
- 11 Curved beam overhead
- 12 Stetsons and sombreros
- 13 As busy _ bee
- 18 Parts of speech
- 20 Feel the loss of
- 23 Songbird
- 24 Rosary piece
- 25 Tricycle riders
- 26 TV's Mandel
- 27 Virginia _; group dance
- 28 Adored
- 29 Pricey hotel booking
- 31 Sink stopper
- 32 Mr. Iacocca
- 34 Fling
- 36 Forehead
- 37 Diplomacy
- 39 Chews like a beaver
- 40 Refer to
- 42 Shiny photo
- 43 Elbows
- 45 Not bland
- 46 Snare
- 47 German mister
- 48 Run fast
- 49 Big smile
- 50 Orange peel
- 52 " _ is not to reason why..."
- 53 Prefix for view or occupied
- 55 Neighbor of Canada: abbr.
- 56 Quiet and timid



- 1 June honoree
- 4 Not rural
- 9 Broadway production
- 13 Was in the red
- 15 Theater section
- 16 Nigh
- 17 Falls to include
- 18 Out in the _; not concealed
- 19 Most likely to drift off
- 20 Ties the knot
- 22 Narrow cut
- 23 Actress Jamie _ Curtis
- 24 Fluid part of the blood
- 26 Elephant's nose
- 29 Soothing drink
- 35 Fail to grip the roadway
- 37 double duty; filling
- 38 two roles
- 39 red; become irate
- 40 Inaccurate _
- 41 Teacher
- 42 Took a survey of
- 45 Ms. Thunman
- 46 -alkies; twins
- 47 Group of bison
- 48 Applegate or Aguilera
- 51 Not up yet
- 56 Got the old _-ho; was fired
- 57 off; dozes
- 58 USPS delivery
- 60 encouragement
- 61 Stare
- 62 Witch's spell
- 64 Toboggans
- 65 Actor Knotts
- 1 Actor Knotts
- 2 Blows away
- 3 Pass out cards
- 4 Perfect place
- 5 Send in payment
- 6 Address Larson
- 7 Linletter and Garfunkel
- 8 Baby bird
- 9 Did a farmer's job
- 10 Easy gait
- 11 Over-the-hill
- 12 Cravings
- 14 Not in one's birthday suit
- 15 Day movie
- 16 Common
- 17 Baffling riddles
- 18 Short _; brief
- 19 Exhibitionists
- 20 Auction site
- 21 Unhooks
- 22 in; bring under control
- 23 Make well
- 24 Hit the ceiling
- 25 Webster or Wyle
- 26 Tool for a sculptor
- 27 Gender
- 28 Snuggle up
- 29 Linear measure
- 30 Water barrier
- 31 Very careful
- 32 French farewell
- 33 Was fond of
- 34 _ on eggshells; being
- 35 Despised
- 36 Barcelona bull
- 37 Forest animal
- 38 Shade trees
- 39 Not in one's birthday suit
- 40 _; sound judgment
- 41 Short _; brief
- 42 Exhibitionists
- 43 Auction site
- 44 Unhooks
- 45 in; bring under control
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- 69 Make well
- 70 Hit the ceiling
- 71 Webster or Wyle
- 72 Tool for a sculptor
- 73 Gender

1958: The United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD).

1978: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said that hurricanes would no longer be given only female names.

1997: Australian Susie Maroney became the first woman to swim from Cuba to Florida, covering the 118-mile distance in 24 1/2 hours.

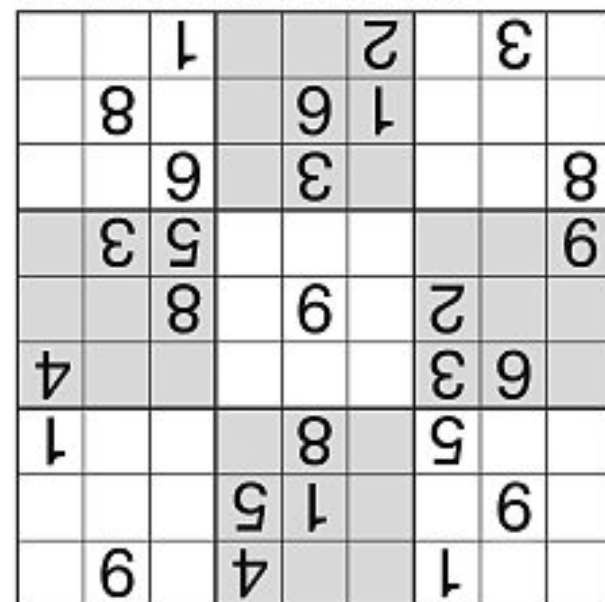
2008: NBC announced that Jimmy Fallon would succeed Conan O'Brien as host of "Late Night."

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...



FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



PUZZLES FOR SATURDAY, MAY 12

cheat sheet

By Ben Meyerson | FOR REDEYE

Quick! Think of something interesting to say at dinner Friday night. If nothing's coming to you, here are your conversation starters for the weekend.

The digit: \$119

That's how much an annual **Amazon Prime membership** will cost for new members as of May 11, and renewing members as of June 16. It's a \$20 increase from the current \$99 price, which it's been since 2014. We feel you though, Jeff Bezos: Building a dystopia ain't cheap.



JIMMY MORRISON/EPA-EFE/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

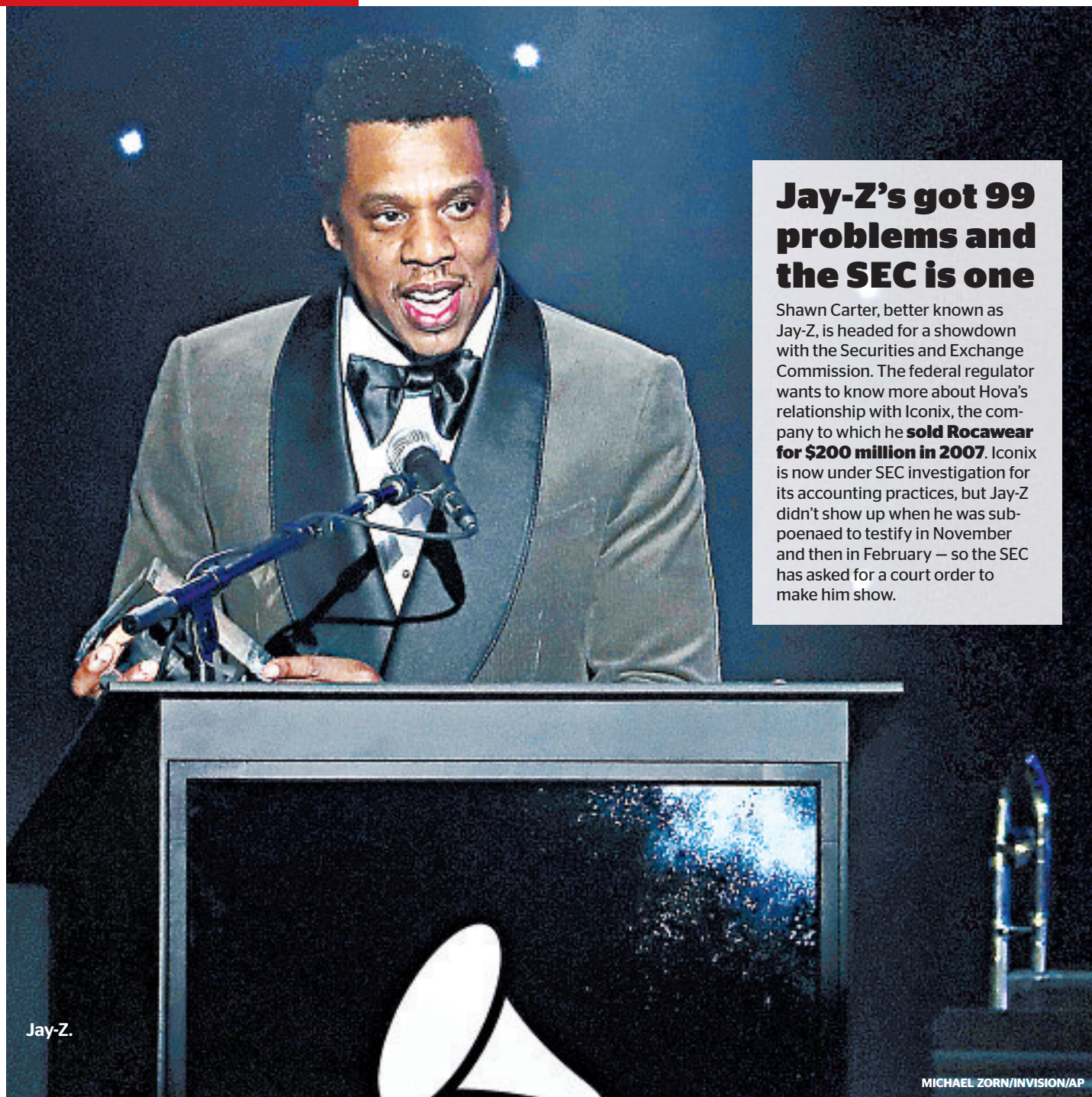
Scarlett Johansson and Colin Jost.

Scarlett Johansson + Colin Jost = weird name combinations

The superstar actress is dating Saturday Night Live's co-head-writer, and it's terrible. How are we supposed to 'ship this? Their last names are too similar. ScarJost? They're not married. Scarlin? Sounds menacing. Scolin? Sounds a little too warm. Meanwhile, Johansson is getting ready for another star turn: Marvel is working on a standalone film based on her **"Avengers" character Black Widow**.

Blockbuster deal for Russell Crowe's jockstrap

Cheat Sheet stans may remember the wild list of items Russell Crowe recently put up for sale at auction as part of his divorce. Well, perhaps the weirdest item — the leather jockstrap Crowe wore in "Cinderella Man" now has a very weird home: A **Blockbuster in Alaska**. Yes, Blockbuster still exists, but only in Alaska; no, the store didn't pay for it — late night host John Oliver ponied up and sent it there.



Jay-Z.

MICHAEL ZORN/INVISION/AP

Jay-Z's got 99 problems and the SEC is one

Shawn Carter, better known as Jay-Z, is headed for a showdown with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The federal regulator wants to know more about Hova's relationship with Iconix, the company to which he **sold Rocawear for \$200 million in 2007**. Iconix is now under SEC investigation for its accounting practices, but Jay-Z didn't show up when he was subpoenaed to testify in November and then in February — so the SEC has asked for a court order to make him show.



City Mouse patio.

TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE FILE

Year-round Chicago patios?

Patio season has finally returned in Chicago, much to the delight of restaurant owners and patrons alike. But **what if patios were a thing all year 'round?** The city is considering it, the Tribune reports. Right now, sidewalk cafes are only allowed to run from March through December, but the city is considering changing that — and thankfully, might allow heated enclosures, too.