



Colleges aim incentives at state students

Ill. lawmakers tired of losing enrollment to other states

BY DAWN RHODES
Chicago Tribune

For years, Illinois universities have watched as thousands of the state's best and brightest students headed elsewhere for college.

Lured by generous scholarship offers, and spooked by the state's budget stalemate and rising tuition costs, Illinois students have increasingly pursued their higher education in other states. Enrollment has slid, and Illinois is losing far more local students to other states than it is attracting nonresidents to attend college here.

Now, the University of Illinois and a bipartisan group of lawmakers want to change that.

On Monday, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is announcing a free tuition and fees program for admitted Illinoisans whose family income meets or falls below the state median. That follows several bills signed recently by Gov. Bruce Rauner aimed at persuading local students to choose Illinois colleges. One new measure sets aside \$25 million for public universities to match and create a pool of merit-based scholarships not based on financial need.

Education officials have spent years warning that the state's problems with enrollment, infrastructure, tuition and funding — all of which were exacerbated by the yearslong budget impasse — were giving higher education in Illinois a black eye. Universities in other states have, in turn, aggressively courted top

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BOB FILA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Neil Simon's plays dominated Chicago's commercial theater industry in the last decades of the 20th century.

NEIL SIMON
1927-2018

Playwright beloved in Chicago

Broadway's comic master both moved and entertained

BY CHRIS JONES
Chicago Tribune

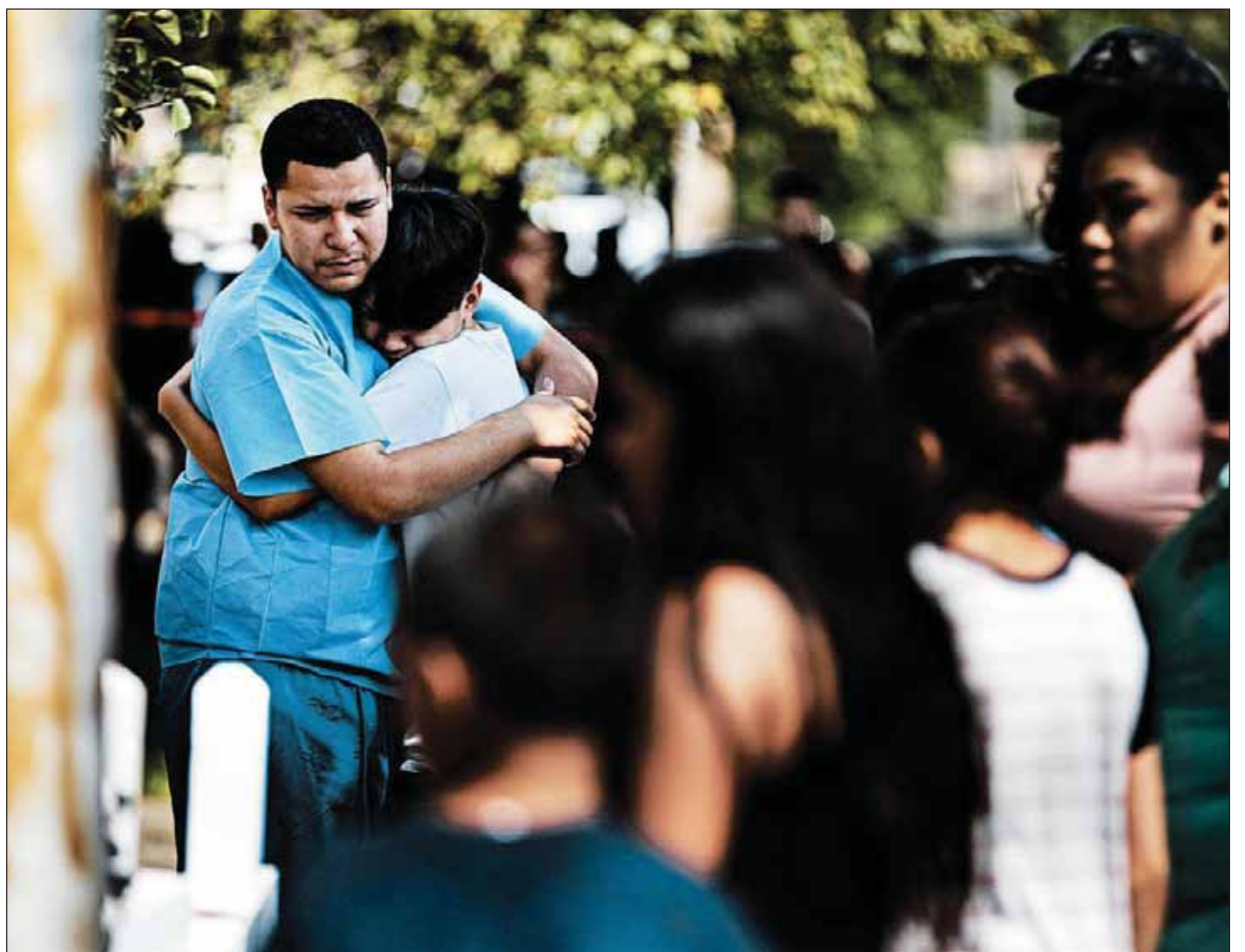
A one-man laugh factory known for one-liners delivered through the romantic gauze of memory, and one of the last human connections to the golden age of American comedy, the playwright Neil Simon died early Sunday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital at the age of 91.

Simon's death was from complications from pneumonia, his publicists said. Simon's wife, Elaine Joyce Simon, was at the writer's bedside, along with Simon's daughters, Ellen and Nancy Simon.

A prolific and beloved playwright, screenwriter and jokesmith, Simon had some 30 Broadway hits spanning four decades — including "Barefoot in the Park" (1963), "The Odd Couple" (1965), "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" (1971), "Brighton Beach Memoirs" (1983) and "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" (1993). Among Simon's most-loved and vividly characterized plays was "The Sunshine Boys," an especially hilarious 1972 tribute to the crusty vaudevillians of the old school, a type known personally to a writer who had paid his dues in the comedic salt mines and somehow remembered everything.

Following a decade of writing (often alongside his brother) for Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows," "The Phil Silvers Show" and other radio and TV assignments, Simon's first play for the theater was "Come Blow Your Horn" in 1961; the final Broadway work of the Bronx-born scribe and denizen of the so-called Polish Tea Room, the now-defunct eatery at New York's now-defunct Edison Hotel, was "45 Seconds From Broadway" in 2001.

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ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

People gather Sunday near the scene of a fire that killed eight people on South Sacramento Avenue in the Little Village neighborhood.

Deadliest blaze in decade kills 6 kids

8 die in W. Side fire early Sunday; smoke detectors weren't in use, officials say

BY MADELINE BUCKLEY, MORGAN GREENE AND ELYSSA CHERNEY
Chicago Tribune

Eight people were killed in Little Village on Sunday morning — including at least six children — in what officials said was the deadliest city fire in a decade.

A teenager and a young adult also were rushed to hospitals in very critical condition, and a firefighter was hospitalized in good condition, according to fire officials.

Marcos Contreras, 15, said the fire struck a home where a group of his siblings and cousins were attending a sleepover. Early in the morning, he said, his sister woke him up and they ran to the blazing house.

"By the time we got here, the whole house was on fire," he said. "They were taking out my cousins and my brothers."

"I don't even got words to explain the pain I'm feeling right now," Marcos said. "It



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Relatives look at photos of their loved ones, mostly children, who died in the West Side fire early Sunday morning.

just feels like my whole world is crashing."

"Our family went through a tragedy today," said Ramonita Reyes, who said she lost several grandchildren in the fire. "We

lost several grandchildren, I've lost several grandchildren, Marcos has lost several brothers and sisters, friends, cousins, and we don't even know what to say. This was a tragedy. Not anything I ever dreamed of."

She said the family was "always together."

"That's why we never have family reunions — because we had them every day," Contreras said. "We stuck together like glue. Nothing could separate us."

Late Sunday, authorities had not released the names and ages of the victims. Krystle Sauseda, 31, who said she was an aunt of many of the victims, said they included four siblings from one family, three siblings from another family and an unrelated teen who was a close friend to the group.

As the sun rose and broke through hazy clouds earlier Sunday morning, a large crowd gathered outside Mount Sinai Hospital, where some of the victims were taken. Those in the crowd were quiet and pacing until they received word of the fatalities.

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Spatial awareness and the bulging bag

As trains get more jammed, manners aren't only problem



MARY WISNIEWSKI
Getting Around

It's a common scenario on a packed "L" — you found a seat, but can't relax because a backpack big enough for a month in the wilderness is an inch from your face.

Bad manners on public transportation have been a problem since stagecoach days.

But in Chicago, the problem of the Giant Backpack is about to get worse, as school is starting again, more development is putting more riders on already busy lines, and professionals are increasingly using backpacks instead of briefcases or purses. There also seems to be lack of awareness — otherwise polite riders who might give a seat to a senior don't realize the impact of their bags.

"I think people are just not aware of how much space that takes up," said Jonathan Cabildo, 39, of Logan Square, who commutes on the jammed Blue Line. "When they pivot or turn, the packs hit everybody around them ... I've been hit a



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jonathan Cabildo, who rides the Blue Line, said he's been hit by backpacks a few times.

few times."

Despite the prevalence of the problem, backpack courtesy is not part of the CTA's audio announcements — which include admonitions about not smoking, littering or radio-playing and watching your step when exiting. There were also no posters about the issue in the CTA's 2015 "Courtesy Campaign," which addresses topics like "Stand right, walk left!" on escalators

and moving to the middle of the car.

CTA spokesman Brian Steele said that taking off a backpack and putting it in front of you, close to your body, almost always takes up less space than wearing it on your back. Having your bag in front of you or between your feet can also make it less vulnerable to theft. But the only place

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Gunman kills 2, self at Florida video game event Sunday

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YANA PASKOVA/GETTY

Michael Cohen, former lawyer to President Donald Trump, pleaded guilty to tax, bank fraud and campaign finance violations.

Trump is obsessed with loyalty. But he's surrounded by traitors.



DAHLEEN GLANTON

The irony of Donald Trump's presidency is that he is obsessed with loyalty. Yet he surrounds himself with traitors.

He is most comfortable with people just like himself. They are people who pretend to be someone they're not — honest and trustworthy. They act as though they are sitting on top of the world when, in fact, they are standing in quicksand.

The problem is that Trump's closest allies are likely to be liars, cheats, spongers and backstabbers who would sell their soul for a nickel and then shove him under the bus to grab a few extra pennies.

They buy \$15,000 ostrich-skin jackets when they are \$17 million in debt. They do Trump's shifty legal work for years, and then create a GoFundMe page so the public can pay for their defense.

His former personal lawyer Michael Cohen; the Trump organization's chief financial officer, Allen Weisselberg; and Trump's close friend, National Enquirer publisher David Pecker, clearly are among the president's most despised group of defectors.

Cohen, who once said he would "do anything to protect Mr. Trump," implicated

the president last week when pleading guilty to breaking campaign finance laws. He told federal prosecutors in New York that then-candidate Trump had directed him to make payments to silence two women who claimed to have had affairs with Trump.

Prosecutors offered Weisselberg and Pecker immunity from prosecution for their cooperation. And they jumped at the opportunity. If he had his way, Trump would send them all to prison for flipping.

These are the guys Trump trusted with all of his skeletons. For some reason, he thought they were loyal enough to lock the closet door and swallow the key if anyone ever tried to make them divulge their secrets.

But the moment federal prosecutors approached them, they reached into their designer shirt pockets and tossed over the key. They could release a trove of information about Trump's financial dealings that might finally do him in.

But Trump has an uncanny way of wiggling out of sticky situations. So we'll just have to wait and see.

Trump has another set of traitors too. These are folks he surrounded himself with in Washington because he thought they would have his back no matter how many crazy things he did at the White House.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, former FBI Director James Comey, former FBI Deputy Director An-

drew McCabe, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and ex-national security adviser H.R. McMaster certainly will go down in Trump's book of betrayers.

Turns out, he had sorely misjudged some of them. They weren't crooked at all.

Then there's Omarosa Manigault Newman, his fired African-American adviser, who falls in a category all to her own. In many ways, he taught her how to be ruthless like him, and she turned around and nearly beat him at his own game.

Sessions isn't someone many of us empathize with, either. His policies regarding immigrants, specifically separating children from their parents, have been atrocious.

He's been hanging on to his job by a string since nearly the beginning. But in the meantime, he's been busy making changes that could set African-Americans and other minorities back for decades.

If Trump's passion for loyalty wasn't already obvious enough, he made it clear last week when he confirmed to "Fox & Friends" that he put Sessions in the job so that he could take over the Justice Department.

"The only reason I gave him the job, because I felt loyalty," Trump said of Sessions.

And what did Sessions do in return? He recused himself from the Russia probe, leaving Trump exposed to special counsel

Robert Mueller's probing eyes.

That's proof that Trump isn't a good judge of character. Maybe he could use a little advice to help him choose better cohorts.

The first thing is to never expect your friends to choose you over their spouse and children. Nobody in their right mind would elect to go to prison in order to keep a self-serving egomaniac from being exposed.

Well, perhaps no one except Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort. But then, he's the one who owns that ostrich-skin jacket. That says a lot about him.

The second thing to remember is that anyone who would agree to work for someone who can't be trusted also is someone who can't be trusted. Chances are they are going to secretly record every conversation so they can stab you in the back before you stick the knife into theirs.

The most important thing is this: What goes around comes around. If you spend your entire life treating everyone like dirt, don't expect your pool of cohorts to be the cream of the crop.

If you are someone who cannot be trusted to tell the truth, there's an excellent chance your friends, indeed, will be people exactly like you — traitors, misfits and liars.

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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGOLAND

A memory from 1968, when history came knocking



RON GROSSMAN

CHICAGO — Half a century ago, I saw history just outside my front door, though I didn't immediately recognize it. What I could all too clearly see was that police were flaying a neighbor's houseguest. He was among a group of us who were getting ready to go see a hippie encampment in Lincoln Park, just across Clark Street from where we lived.

Chicago was hosting a presidential nominating convention, and on Aug. 25, 1968, police were clearing the park of myriad young people protesting the Vietnam War. The stragglers were being chased across Clark Street just as our group was gathering in the foyer. My neighbor's guest, a professional photographer, was carrying a camera, which the police spotted as they ran by. Enraged by the sight, several cops detoured into the foyer and smashed the camera and its bearer with their nightsticks.

The cops took off just as lawyers from the Illinois attorney general's office arrived and called an ambulance for the photographer.

Such was life in Chicago during the notorious 1968 Democratic National Convention: The cops chased hippies, other officials trailed the cops, and unlucky bystanders got hurt.

Since then, the street battles that accompanied the '68 convention have spawned a small library of books, journalism and documentary films. More is appearing during the 50th anniversary of what came to be regarded as a seminal moment in American history.

But those I've seen and read left me feeling that something's missing. I'm similarly disappointed by my testimony before the Kerner Commission that famously labeled the convention fiasco a "police riot."

My testimony has the measured voice of a historian. (I'm identified as "a college professor" in the commission's report.) A scholar's job is to draw logical connections between one piece of data and another. We academics use phrases like "therefore" and "accordingly."

But as I *experienced* them, there wasn't any logic to those August days in 1968. It was like being in a non-Euclidian world where there are no straight lines. Or like watching movie previews — being bombarded with bits and pieces of unconnected stories.

A day or so after our neighbor's guest was roughed up, the ACLU got a court order enjoining the police from interfering with journalists doing their job. But its effect was nil.

The hippies continued to make Lincoln Park their staging ground, and Mayor Richard J. Daley remained adamant that there would be no protest marches while his fellow Democrats were in town.

So skirmishes between cops and protesters continued. More reporters and photographers got bopped with nightsticks, and clouds of tear gas lobbed at protesters hung over the neighborhood.

One evening, all the doorbells in our building rang. Huddled in the foyer were two women and three men. "We're from Esquire," said one woman. "Those gentlemen are writers. Can we come in? The gas is bad out there."

We brought them up to our third-floor apartment and did what you do when unexpected guests show up: A can of bean dip was opened, a neighbor supplied pretzels, and introductions were made.

The women were magazine staffers escorting Terry Southern, William Burroughs and Jean Genet.

I don't recall much about Southern, the novelist and playwright, but you couldn't miss Burroughs, whose novel "Naked Lunch" made him a founding father of the Beat Generation of writers. He swung his head from side to side with the regularity of a pendulum, as if surveying the room for material for his next book. A student later told me that when asked to autograph his copy of "Naked Lunch," Burroughs went one step further: He shot a hole in it.

The French dramatist Genet was a great favorite of mine. "J'adore votre piece 'Le Balcon,'" I said. "I love your play 'The Balcony.'"

The cherubic-looking Genet beamed like a schoolchild seeing his report card posted on the family's refrigerator.

We mutually observed that the play was bizarrely appropriate for the occasion: It is set in a brothel in an unnamed city during some kind of revolution. Then we exchanged rapid-fire literary questions:

"Sartre?" "Mark Twain?" "Camus?"

Sirens of squad cars racing down Clark Street wailed. Police and hippies could be heard shouting and cursing each other, and I said a silent prayer: "Oh, let this wondrous evening never end!"

Alas, one of the Esquire staffers broke in as Genet and I were debating method acting and social realism. The proletarian novel was next on my agenda; I like to think he had issues he wanted to share.

Things had calmed down outside, and the tear gas had dissipated. It was an opportune time to get the writers to their hotel, the magazine's representative insisted.

Our guests took their leave. On the way out, Genet turned and waved a final goodbye.

"Take a good look," I said to a neighbor. "That's history going down our front stairs."

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JAMES MAYO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Demonstrators climbed the statue of General Logan while thousands gathered in Grant Park during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SHOE STING SCRIPT FLIPPED

Rapper Vic Mensa and volunteers with his SaveMoneySaveLife foundation hand out shoes from an "Anti-Bait Truck" on Sunday in West Englewood in response to Chicago and railroad police using a "bait truck" to lure potential thieves in the area earlier in the month.

Mayor's neighborhood fund grows to \$23M

\$8.8M earmarked for 7 businesses on South, West sides

BY BILL RUTHHART
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Rahm Emanuel is set to start giving out larger grants to South and West Side businesses as Chicago's building boom has delivered more money for a city program that sets aside millions of dollars in fees from downtown development for projects in the city's struggling neighborhoods.

Emanuel's Neighborhood Opportunity Fund now has collected more than \$23 million, clearing the way for the mayor to distribute \$8.8 million in grants to seven businesses, the fourth and largest round of the awards the mayor has handed out to date.

The grants have been earmarked for an arts center and a grocery store on the West Side; a nonprofit and a pizzeria on the South-west Side; and a trio of business incubators on the South Side.

Emanuel and Planning Commissioner David Reifman created the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund in February 2016 as part of a new density bonus program for developers. At the same time, the mayor expanded the borders of where developers can seek approval for downtown high-rises to the north and west, paving the way for more high-density projects — many of them in the West Loop — to pay into the new neighborhood fund.

Chicago's zoning classifications limit how much square footage can be built on a site. The density bonus program allows developers to buy additional square footage through a complex formula based on surrounding real estate values that determines how much they must pay for the right to build higher.

Under the program, 80 percent of that money is placed in the neighborhood fund for economically depressed areas on the South and West sides while 10 percent goes to restore city landmarks and another 10 percent to improvements near the site of the development paying the fees.

So far, \$23.5 million has



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Mayor Rahm Emanuel at the Bud Billiken Parade on the South Side earlier this month.

been paid into the fund, with this larger round of grants made possible in large part to the fund's single largest payment to date — \$8.3 million from the developers of a 53-story office tower at 110 N. Wacker Drive along the South Branch of the Chicago River in the Loop. Developers must pay the density bonus fees upon the start of construction.

Previously, Emanuel had awarded 85 grants totaling \$11.4 million, an average of about \$134,000 per grant. This latest round is seven grants totaling \$8.8 million, or an average of \$1.25 million each.

"There is now enough funding that has been generated so we have the ability to give out these larger grants," said Aarti Kotak, Emanuel's deputy chief of staff for neighborhood development. "The first round of grants was \$3 million, and to do large grants at that point would have gutted it for just two or three things instead of the 30 businesses we gave money to. So, we've gotten to a point of scale with enough funding from the real estate downtown to be able to push these larger grants out to the neighborhoods that need it."

With the larger grants also comes an extra layer of scrutiny.

Under the ordinance that created the neighborhood fund, Emanuel can hand out grants of \$250,000 or less without each one being independently approved by aldermen. These latest seven grants will be the first to require individual City Council approval, creating the potential of some aldermen grouching that they haven't seen enough of the money flowing to their wards.

Kotak, though, said aldermen for the most part have been cooperative and these larger grant recipients were chosen in large part based on how prepared they were to move forward with construction. The city ordinance allows the administration to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of a development or 65 percent if the business owner lives in — or employs people from — a "neighborhood of need," Kotak said.

"There is a recognition from aldermen that our goal is to get this money across the city and across all the areas that we have identified as projects get ready to go," Kotak said. "Some just take more time than others. This is really about which projects are ready — projects that only with our money do they get past the finish line."

The neighborhood fund

poses a political benefit for Emanuel, who faced criticism in the 2015 mayoral election — and again this year from some of his 10 opponents in the 2019 race — that he hasn't done enough to drive development in the city's economically depressed neighborhoods. Earlier this year, Reifman, the planning commissioner, estimated developers would pay \$50 million into the neighborhood fund in 2018 alone.

While six of the seven latest grant recipients are independent neighborhood businesses or nonprofits, one is a larger, albeit local, chain — Home Run Inn Pizzeria. Kotak said the pizza chain's \$1.59 million grant would go toward expanding and updating its Little Village location, including the addition of a new banquet room.

"Home Run Inn is that typical neighborhood place where you go to hang out with your family," Kotak said in explaining the grant.

On late Friday, Emanuel's campaign reported the mayor's most recent round of campaign contributions. Included in the batch of money: a \$1,000 contribution dated Friday from Daniel Costello, president of Home Run Inn.

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Rauner vetoes bill to raise teachers' salaries

Minimum would've jumped to \$40K within five years

BY MIKE RIOPELL
Chicago Tribune

Gov. Bruce Rauner on Sunday vetoed legislation that would have raised the minimum salary for an Illinois teacher to \$40,000 within five years, putting the re-election-seeking Re-

publican at odds with teachers unions once again.

The bill approved by lawmakers in the spring would make the minimum teacher salary for next school year \$32,076. The number would rise to \$40,000 for the 2022-23 term and grow with the Consumer Price Index after that.

"Teachers are our greatest asset in ensuring the future of our youth and they deserve to be well-compensated for their hard work," Rauner wrote in his veto message. "However, minimum pay legislation is neither the most efficient nor the most effective way to compensate our teachers.

"Things like pay-for-performance, diversified pay for teachers in hard-to-staff schools or subjects, or pay incentives for teachers with prior work experience are all viable options to provide greater compensation for

teachers," the governor wrote.

The Democrat who sponsored the salary bill said Sunday that he was "disappointed."

"Refusing to guarantee professional educators a livable minimum wage is no way to lure more teachers to Illinois," Democratic state Sen. Andy Manar of Bunker Hill said in a statement. "I'm disappointed in the governor's veto, and I know

thousands of dedicated, hard-working, creative educators throughout the state are too."

Rauner has feuded with labor since his first campaign, including teachers unions that backed the minimum salary proposal. But he often touts his signature last year on a new school funding formula among his top achievements.

State lawmakers could try to override Rauner's veto

when they go back to Springfield after the November election, but it could be difficult. Supporters would have to find six more supporters of the minimum teacher salary bill than voted for it back in May.

Illinois law currently lists the minimum salary for a teacher at \$9,000, a level that took effect in July 1980.

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Murder charge of Geneva man tossed out

BY CLIFFORD WARD
Chicago Tribune

An appeals court has reversed the conviction of a Geneva man found guilty of killing his wife, ruling that a former FBI profiler's testimony prejudiced jurors by going too far to "plug the holes" in the prosecution's case.

The Illinois 2nd Appellate District ordered a new trial for Shadwick King, 51, who is serving a 30-year sentence for the 2014 murder of his wife, Kathleen King. The appeals court ruled that the Kane County trial court erred when it allowed former FBI profiler Mark Safarik, who testified for the prosecution as a crime scene expert witness, to offer opinions in areas that went beyond his expertise.

"Safarik's opinions ranged from forensic pathology, to botany, to the sartorial," the panel wrote in a 27-page opinion issued Tuesday. "Under the guise of expert 'crime scene analysis,' Safarik basically offered his subjective opinion that the State's evidence was sufficient to convict defendant."

The Kane County state's attorney's office declined to comment Thursday, other than saying that an appeal is planned.

The remains of 32-year-old Kathleen King were discovered July 6, 2014, on railroad tracks not far from the couple's home. Prosecutors said Shadwick King strangled his wife, angry over a relationship she had with a man whom she'd met after enlisting in the U.S. Army earlier that year.

Prosecutors alleged that after killing his wife, King placed her body on the railroad tracks to make it appear as if something had happened to her while she was out jogging. King told police that he had left the home early that day to pick up the couple's three children at their grandmother's house.

Reached Thursday, Safarik said he had not seen the appeals court ruling but that he stood by his opinion that Kathleen King's body had been staged on the railroad tracks in hopes that a passing train would strike it.

"I wrote a thorough, extensive report and (in pre-trial rulings), the judge allowed all the areas of my testimony, but the Appellate Court thought I shouldn't have been allowed to testify about those things," he said.

At Shadwick King's trial, his defense team presented a pathology expert witness who opined that Kathleen King died of a cardiac event. Safarik, who retired from the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit and now works as a consultant, testified that the victim died of strangulation — an opinion he was not qualified to give, the appeals panel said.

"We hold that Safarik's opinion as to the cause of death was so highly prejudicial that we must reverse defendant's conviction," the panel said.

Additionally, the trial court should not have allowed Safarik to testify about Kathleen King's jogging attire, vegetation found near her body or the condition of the remains, the Appellate Court said.

"... The purpose of Safarik's testimony was to 'plug the holes' in the state's case," the appeals court said.

Clifford Ward is a freelance reporter.



Playwright Neil Simon, shown in New York in the mid-1980s, died Sunday at age 91.

Broadway master beloved in Chicago

Simon, from Page 1

Many of Simon's plays were adapted for movies and TV. Simon also penned the books for such musicals as "Little Me," "Sweet Charity" and "They're Playing Our Song." All told, Simon wrote the screenplays for about 25 films. Many, such as "Chapter Two" and "Plaza Suite" were adaptations of his plays; others, including "The Goodbye Girl," were originals. Most were box office hits. The careers of such beloved comedic actors as Nathan Lane, Walter Matthau and Matthew Broderick all rose as those grateful performers spoke Simon's lines.

Simon's works were so successful on Broadway that it was not uncommon for several of them to be running at once (in 1966, there were four). He was a staple of amateur productions, earning him a fortune in royalties. And Simon was beloved in Chicago, where his plays dominated the commercial theater industry in the last decades of the 20th century.

In the 1990s, producer Michael Leavitt and Fox Theatricals staged several productions of Simon's work at Briar Street Theatre on Chicago's North Side. "Lost in Yonkers" ran for 19 months (one of the longest runs of a nonmusical in Chicago theater history) and doubled its investors' money. "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" ran for nine months.

Simon's plays also were staples of the Chicago area's nonprofit houses, with memorable productions staged by Eclipse Theatre (which dedicated its 2003 season to Simon's plays), Northlight Theatre and the Drury Lane Theatre, where a hit 2011 production of "Broadway Bound" starred veteran Chicago actor Mike Nussbaum.

In 2012, Northlight in-

tended to stage a high-profile revival of "The Odd Couple" with Tim Kazurinsky and George Wendt; in the end, the actor Marc Grapey, who had understudied Lane and Broderick on Broadway in a revival of the same show, went on for the ailing Wendt. The show still became one of the best-selling productions in the Skokie-based theater's history.

"Simon really was our comedic Chekhov," said BJ Jones, the artistic director of Northlight Theatre, on Sunday. "He was a titan."

So distinctive was Simon's oeuvre, and so bankable his name for audiences, he was a common comparative and, occasionally, an undeserved pejorative. Simply put, Simon's global brand was laughter and his name below the title of a play was a clear signal to audiences that they would be both moved and entertained in the company of a much-decorated and masterful dramatic craftsman.

Most of the great Simon comedies combined a profound understanding of the striving imperfections and familial love embodied in the lives of most ordinary, working-class Jewish families. But what many people missed in Simon's gift was his singular understanding of the complex relationship between art and personal truth.

Simon's most revealing work was in his trilogy of autobiographical plays, "Brighton Beach Memoirs," "Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound," all of which revealed how the material of a great comedy writer inevitably flowed from personal experience. There was darkness in his memories of his own youth — especially in the superb "Broadway Bound" — but Simon always understood the imperative to entertain his audiences. And in the theater, the trilogy, like so much of Simon's work, revealed itself as a singular

gallery of wacky characters, inextricably bound together by love.

Many of Simon's plays dealt with the difficulty of a marriage with children, but audiences always knew that the writer was on the side of the hard-working parents' success.

Simon also was a master of probing the relationships of opposites, most famously in "The Odd Couple," a beloved comedy that looked at two roommates, the schlubby Oscar Madison (Matthau in the 1968 film) and the fastidious Felix Unger (Jack Lemmon). Eventually both a film and a beloved ABC TV series, "The Odd Couple" also became a reliable template for half a century of derivative American comedies. No single play was more influential on the genre that became widely known as situation comedy.

Simon's critics saw a schematic regularity to his work — a fair criticism, perhaps, albeit often one sourced in jealousy from those who strived but could not match his popularity and easy familiarity with ordinary people.

But in truth, structural excellence merely was Simon's groundwork.

He chronicled life as it was lived in the challenging mid-decades of the 20th century with the accuracy of the most careful but hardly uninvolved observer, especially celebrating the Jewish-American sense of humor and its capacity to push on through unimaginable suffering. And — more than any other single playwright of his generation — he invariably did so to packed Broadway houses and movie theaters, the rooms filled with the laughter of shared American experience.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

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The CTA's 2015 "Courtesy Campaign" addressed topics like "Stand right, walk left!" but not backpack problems.

Jammed trains and bulging backpacks

Wisniewski, from Page 1

where the CTA reminds customers to keep bags on their laps or between their feet is on its website — something hard to point to on a crowded train.

Steele said the agency based its courtesy campaign on customer feedback, and at the time, complaints about people taking up two seats, littering and eating were among the most prevalent. So far in 2018, the agency has only received eight customer comments about backpacks, though the agency has yet not tallied the social media feedback, Steele said.

Steele said the CTA is looking at possible updates to the campaign and a message specifically related to backpacks is one it will consider.

This is a good time to think about it. Backpacks, which are usually more comfortable than briefcases and tote bags, are increasing in popularity among nonstudents. According to The NPD Group, a market research company, sales revenue for backpacks was up 22 percent for the 12 months ending July 2018, while sales of both briefcases and messenger bags were down.

"Large and oversized backpacks helped drive this growth, as more men are using backpacks as their go-to bag for work," NPD said in a statement. The growth in backpack purchases is even bigger among women, at 40 percent.

This backpack surge comes at the same time as massive ridership increases on the Red and Blue lines on the North Side. Ridership on the O'Hare branch of the Blue Line has increased by 5.4 million rides between 2006 and 2016, the second-highest of any rail branch, with new residential high-rises along Milwaukee Avenue helping to bump up the numbers. Adding to the crowding on this line are riders with wheeled suitcases going to and from O'Hare International Airport.

The north branch of the Red Line is the system's busiest, with about 150,000 riders going through the Belmont station every weekday.

The Toronto Transit Commission, which serves a city about the size of Chicago, is less reticent than the CTA about the backpack issue. In an on-board announcement, Canadian actor Seth Rogen warns riders that if they wear their backpacks instead of taking them off, "it very much annoys everyone around you on the subway. Don't be a backpack hunchback! That's not a thing, but it is now. Anyway, don't do it."

Big backpacks knocking into fellow passengers is a top customer complaint on Metra, and the commuter railroad included the issue in its "Ride Nice" poster campaign in 2016.

Cabildo, the Logan Square resident, said announcements advising people to remove their backpacks could help.

"Everyone's a lot less aware of what's happening around them — they're off in their own little worlds," said Cabildo. "And they don't notice when one of those things plugs you in the head."

But even if the CTA does add backpack etiquette to their audio announcements or courtesy posters, it will be up to passengers to enforce it, since conductors don't walk the cars. Riders interviewed say they have different ways of handling the problem.

Tracy Nuno, 52, of Edison Park, said that if she is sitting and someone's backpack is close to her face, she speaks up. "People generally were OK with either moving away or taking it off," Nuno said.

When Nuno is carrying a large bag, she holds it by the strap, balanced on the top of her feet, to keep the bag both off the floor and out of other people's way.

Mazurka Wojciechowska, of Hermosa, said that the backpack issue is a "gripe" of hers, but she won't confront people directly.

"Instead, I bump into their backpacks on purpose," Wojciechowska said.

Sheila O'Connor, 30, of Lincoln Square, said that as a "small human" often carrying a bag bigger than herself, she feels bad about taking up too much space. But she has seen what gets on the floor of an "L" car, even on a good day.

"I would rather not put my stuff on the floor on purpose if it can be avoided," O'Connor said.

Transportation song quiz

Last week's road song references seven U.S. cities, but focuses on a drug raid in one of them. The song is "Truckin'" by the Grateful Dead. "Lately it occurs to me what a long, strange trip it's been." Mary Tomlinson, of Edgewater, was first with the right answer.

This week's song is a maritime number by someone born to rock the boat. That someone is notably not in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and should be. What's the song, and who did it? The winner gets a Tribune pen, and glory.

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It turns out, the secret of enjoying the "golden years" is NOT simply having a giant nest egg for retirement **Why?**

Recent research showed that Baby Boomers and seniors who lead an active lifestyle during retirement, and continue doing the things they truly enjoy, free of pain, ARE happier, regardless of income level or wealth.

And truth be told, people who don't have their mobility to enjoy their favorite activities at that age, all the money in the world won't bring true happiness.

We know this because we hear people say this over and over again at the Joint Relief Institute in Orland Park. Comments like this . . .

"I didn't know how much LIFE and SLEEP I was missing because of my knee pain, until it went away with this wonderful treatment."

— George R.

You know how it is . . .

You start to recognize your knee is hurting, and you try pain medicines, braces, or different over-the-counter arthritis supplements. Soon enough, you realize they either cause lots of side effects, or they fail to live up to their promise of fast, long-lasting relief, and are not worth the price of the bottle they come in.

And BECAUSE you'd prefer NOT to go under the knife . . .

And can't afford to be put in bed for several weeks, and because you know people who still hurt EVEN after surgery . . . you give up, and learn to live with the pain. BUT, you miss out on things you enjoy doing, and lose your golden years one activity at a time.

With less activity, comes weight gain, and depression . . . Yes, you can put up with this ache in your knee, but the cost of doing nothing about it is HUGE. You are not doing yourself a favor by "toughing it out."

"Six months later, I found out the one thing between me and losing 20 lbs, WAS my knee pain"

— Mary T.

"Every day was hard. I couldn't enjoy my favorite activities anymore. But thankfully, now I'm back in full form. I am doing yard work for the first time in years!"

— Phil M.

What are my options if I don't want to undergo surgery?

Today we live in an age with tremendous technology advances, and that's what Joint Relief Institute doctors use to put new life and energy into failing knee joints.

Using precise, advanced imaging, they gently place an all natural joint lubricant directly inside your knee to replace the lost fluid that's causing your pain. This treatment has proven to have a very high rate of success.

However, it HAS to be done right with advanced imaging . . .

A recent study examined trained



Advanced Digital technology is used to eliminate a HUGE percentage of treatment failures. Every treatment at Joint Relief Institute is pin-pointed to the damaged area inside the knee. The doctors see the medication live as it goes to help the troubled joint.

doctors and surgeons who attempted these injections without using advanced imaging. Instead, they simply felt the knee with their fingers and BLINDLY delivered the replacement fluid.

The study revealed that these doctors missed the target most of the time . . . In fact, 30% of the time, they didn't even



Alternative to the knife for your knee pain? Non-Surgical treatment success rate soars after using new digital technology

place the treatment inside the joint. Yes THIRTY percent. It is not a typo.

Even after missing the target, they had no way of knowing they missed, because they are not SEEING it with advanced imaging.

That means these patients went away thinking they had received a life-changing treatment, and, in fact, did not get any benefit at all. Even worse, many of them went on to have surgery they didn't need.

How did Joint Relief Institute find the Antidote to this MISERABLE failure . . .

The doctors at the Joint Relief Institute are trained in using cutting-edge low dose motion digital imaging. These highly skilled, Board Certified doctors are able to see into the knee joint. They actually watch the medicine, live, as it goes where it needs to be. This technology is so precise, so advanced, and so forefront that it was able to make a whole difference in Non-surgical treatments.

"We've had so many patients tell us they RECEIVED treatments like Synvisc or Orthovisc in the past, and it didn't work. So they were considering surgery, and some even had surgery scheduled. Luckily, we were able to save many of those people from the knife." Said Dr Mike Hana at the Joint Relief Institute.

Joint Relief Institute's proven accuracy and effective treatment is why people are traveling hundreds of miles to get knee pain treatment from their Doctors.

Why did Knee treatments from Joint Relief Institute become the talk of the town?

Many seniors walk out feeling better than they have in years! So as you might imagine, when their friends see them move easier, walk further, sleep better and are happier, they want it also.

Only days after this treatment, people usually notice a decrease in: Pain... Stiffness...Muscle weakness... Swelling... Locked joints... Reduced range of motion... and Cracking sounds.

Most patients who receive the treatment are able to live pain free for up to 6 months, and some even get relief for 3-5 years with NO additional treatments.

How does the treatment help relieve your joint pain...

It's pretty simple, really. You see, when you're young, you have a thick, fluid protein inside your knee joints to lubricate them as you move.

This fluid also acts as a cushion and shock absorber inside your knee. It's called synovial fluid, and it works much like the oil in a car's engine to keep all the parts moving freely, without friction.

However, as you age, this fluid dries out, leaving your bones to painfully rub and grind against each other with every step. And unfortunately, there's no way for the joint to make more.

After years of trusted service in moving you everywhere you need to go, you start to feel a subtle ache in your knees with certain activities like kneeling down, or getting out of the car. With time, it becomes a constant ache. If left

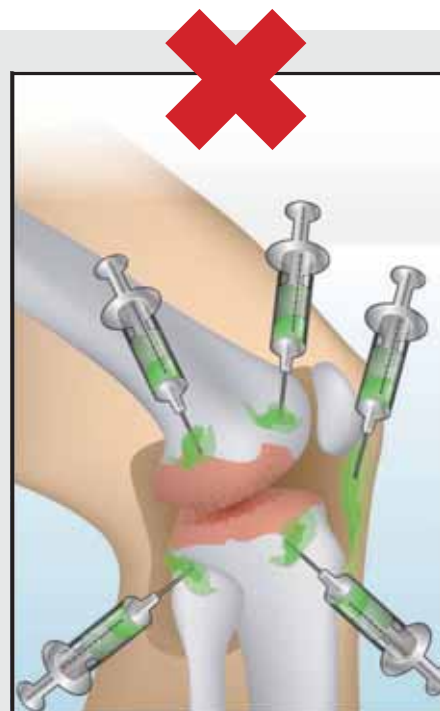
untreated, it can keep you awake at night, and hurt with every step.

The good news is, researchers discovered an almost identical, all natural lubricating fluid called Hyaluronic acid. It has been proven in numerous clinical studies to act as a natural lubricant in your joints.

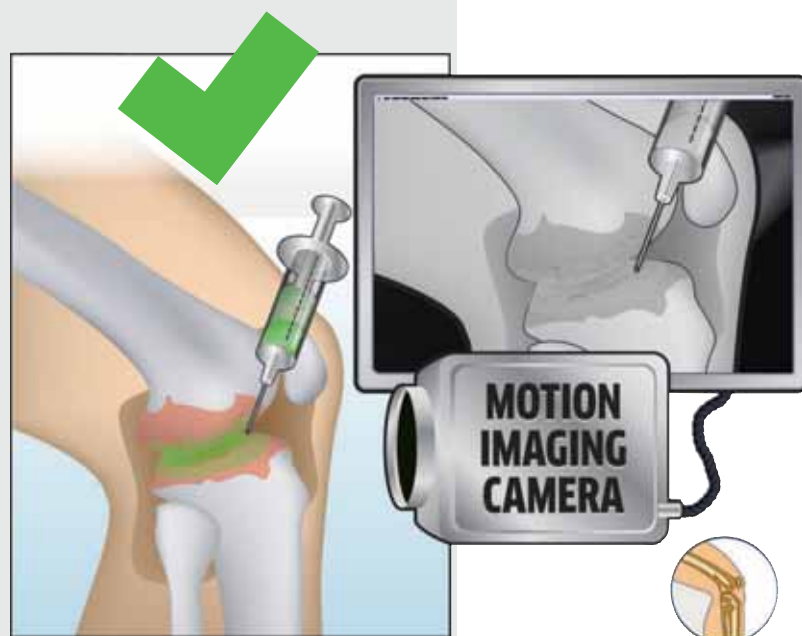
It's FDA approved and is a perfect cushion and shock absorber for your joints. Once it's correctly placed inside your knee, it can make them feel just like new again, eliminate any rubbing and friction, and make your joints glide smoothly.

Are there any side effects to this treatment? Is the treatment painful?

After numbing the skin with a special spray, Joint Relief's imaging technology makes this treatment virtually painless. And because you are getting a supplement for a protein we are all born having, there are NO known after effects.



If you received this kind of treatment in the past, and it didn't relieve your pain, there is a BIG chance the medication landed somewhere around, but not INSIDE, the joint where it can't help you.



JRI Doctors see live into the knee joint. Even you will be able to tell the medicine went where it needs to be. No guess work, no poking around, the medicine cushion lubricate and help heal the damaged knee.

That is right, this is a quick, natural long-lasting, non-invasive, non-surgical treatment with NO known side effects...

Is it true this natural treatment costs NOTHING?...

Yes, more good news, besides the pain relief, is that because this non-surgical program has already proven to help thousands of seniors, Medicare and other insurance plans DO cover the full cost of the treatment.

So there is very likely NO COST to you for this life-changing treatment.

Here is what you need to do if you or a loved one is suffering with knee pain...

Call now for a free screening...

If you or a loved one is suffering with knee pain, this could be the blessed relief you're looking for. You are personally invited to a FREE knee pain screening from the Joint Relief Institute doctors to see if you are a good candidate for this all-natural, highly-precise treatment.

Due to high demand, they can only offer a limited number of FREE screens every month. So if you're interested, Call now (708) 914-5145.

Waiting will not help you feel better...

This ache in your knees could be a sign of serious damage and people who choose to simply "tough it out" will definitely see their knees deteriorate further over time. The one thing we know is: The damage will NEVER undo itself without some help.

Your screening will only take about 20-30 minutes of your time, as one of their doctors sits down with you and answers all the questions you have about your knees.

On the day of your treatment, you'll be able to come in on your own, and be done within 30 minutes or less. No pain. No problem driving yourself home. ■

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NOSOTROS HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Deadliest fire in more than a decade

Fire, from Page 1

The family and friends gripped each other and cried. A little boy crouched on the ground and buried his head in his hands. A woman staggered and grabbed the cement wall of the hospital for support.

"I can't live without my babies," a woman cried.

Hours later, it was still unclear how the fire started in the 2200 block of South Sacramento Avenue on the West Side. Nearby, men cried, women held onto the hands of children, and neighbors watched from across the street as Jessie Cobos said he was close to three of the children who died in the fire.

"We're asking God to protect us, and he'll heal our hearts," Cobos said. "We've got to love each other today because tomorrow is not promised."

The Rev. Clifford Spears of St. Michael Missionary Baptist Church led the crowd in a prayer as candles were lit and lined up along the sidewalk. A man hammered a wooden cross into the ground. Written in marker on its center board were six names: Giovanni, Gialanni, Alanni, Ariel, Xavier and Cesar. The name Victor was added later.

Cobos said he was a caretaker of Giovanni, 10, Gialanni, 5, and Alanni, 3.

"I got a phone call stating that there was a fire on this block and the pastor wanted me to come pray for the family," he said. "I never knew I was going to come pray for my own kids."

Cobos said the trio was "amazing" as he cried and held onto a little Mickey Mouse stuffed animal from the Red Cross. Gio was a happy little kid who loved to play outside and play Fortnite, he said.

"Alanni, she was just a sweet little girl," he said. "And Gia was just a beautiful soul."

"Anything could happen from one minute or the next," he said. "If I could only go back to last night and give my kids one more hug, let them know that they are loved."

Firefighters were called just before 4 a.m. Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Merritt said investigators had not found working smoke detectors.

Fire officials were still working to determine the cause of the fire, aided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, according to spokeswoman Larry Langford. They determined the blaze started in an enclosed porch at the back of the rear building, he said.



Marcos Contreras, 15, and his sister Amber Ayala, look at photos of the siblings they lost in the fire that killed eight people on Sunday.



The fatal fire in the 2200 block of South Sacramento Avenue spread to several nearby homes and buildings.

Langford said the fire was the deadliest in Chicago in more than a decade, but it could have been avoided if smoke detectors had been in use.

"It was not hard to get out. The fire started in the rear, and the entryway to the front was wide open," Langford said. "Had they been awake or if someone had woken them, they

would have gotten out."

At an unrelated event Sunday, Mayor Rahm Emanuel praised firefighters' response. "There's a horrific loss of life. We haven't seen this in a long time in the city of Chicago," he said.

The homes were just south of a main business corridor on Cermak Road populated with restaurants and shops. Emergency

crews staged a massive scene at the corner of Cermak and Sacramento.

On Sunday, city workers boarded up the windows of three homes where the fire had spread. Two were street-facing greystones with multiple apartment units and three stories tall. The third unit, where the children died, was a brown brick cottage set behind the

twin apartment buildings but visible from the street with an outside staircase and a front porch.

As people came to look at the scene, several stopped at a pop-up memorial of candles, balloons and stuffed animals on the lot next door to kneel and say a prayer.

Ald. George Cardenas, 12th, said community organizations were working

in coordination with the Red Cross to assist families.

Throughout the morning, workers from the Red Cross handed out drinks and snacks, and were on-site to provide support.

"Our hearts go out to the families and children impacted by this type of fire," said Celena Roldan, chief executive officer for the Red Cross in Chicago and Northern Illinois.

Roldan said the Red Cross will help those affected by the fire find financial assistance, provide mental health support, and organize community memorials and funerals in the coming weeks.

In the next week, the Red Cross will carry out a "reactive canvas," working with the Fire Department and alderman's office to install smoke alarms in the area.

"We know that seven people die in home fires every day in this country, and it's the No. 1 disaster that we respond to," Roldan said.

On Sunday evening, police closed off the street as about 60 people came to pay their respects and launch white balloons into the air. A group of firefighters also came to join in prayer.

As the balloons floated skyward, the mother of several of the children shouted, "Fly high, my babies. I love you."

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Lawmakers want Illinois students to stay in state for college

Incentives, from Page 1

students from Illinois with generous, merit-based financial aid packages. But in a shift, many now see signs that state politicians are embracing the same urgency to retain local students and are willing to back it up with new public policy.

"We've been making this case as strongly as we could for quite a while, and we're very happy to see the state legislators and the governor and the Higher Education Working Group start to focus on this issue," said Tim Killeen, president of University of Illinois. "It's not just for U. of I. but for the whole state."

Sen. Pat McGuire, D-Crest Hill, is among the legislators who formed that working group last year; its 12 members come from both houses and parties. After months of research and collaboration with university experts, the group listed a half-dozen immediate initiatives.

Rauner signed four bills born out of that group, all of which generated near unanimous support in Springfield.

"Yes, we feel urgency. We have a sense of common purpose," McGuire said. "I hope that it will help students and families gain a sense of confidence about Illinois higher education."

"This is the first we've seen in a long time, a public policy interest in higher education in Illinois," said Joni Finney, director of the

Institute for Research on Higher Education at the University of Pennsylvania. "Now it's about finding the set of public policies that you have to put together to be in place for the long term to turn this ship around."

U. of I.'s new program, Illinois Commitment, launches in fall 2019 for freshmen and new transfer students under 24 years old.

The program pledges to pay tuition and basic fees for in-state residents accepted to U. of I. and whose family income is \$61,000 or less. The family must also have less than \$50,000 in assets to be eligible.

Posted tuition and fees for in-state students this year are between \$16,000 and \$21,000, according to U. of I.'s website. Illinois' truth-in-tuition law requires tuition to remain the same for students for four years.

The funding is good for up to four years of uninterrupted enrollment for new students and three years for transfer students, provided they make satisfactory progress toward a degree.

Illinois Commitment covers tuition for any program — areas like engineering typically charge more — but not room and board, books, course or laboratory fees, all elements that comprise a sizable chunk of the cost to attend college.

U. of I. is spending \$4 million each of the next four years to support the initiative, officials said.

Illinois long has shouldered a reputation for being

too expensive, particularly for low- and middle-income families, Chancellor Robert Jones said in an interview. While the three Illinois campuses have frozen base tuition for four years, first-time undergraduate costs at Urbana-Champaign are higher than many schools of similar enrollment and research activity, according to school officials and federal data.

U. of I. devotes the majority of its financial aid based on need, and the majority of students do not pay the full published price of attendance. But that has not done enough for some prospective students, Jones said.

"We know firsthand there are far too many students who have worked hard that really don't bother about applying because of the optics out there that they can't afford it," Jones said.

Jones said officials want more applicants from underrepresented geographic and socioeconomic groups. But Illinois also loses ground on affordability when admitted students enroll elsewhere for better financial aid.

"It's a key part of the overarching process — accessibility to a world-class education," Jones said. "We have not been in a very competitive position in the two years I've been here, and this will be a course correction that we think is going to have a tremendous impact."

While Illinois invests more heavily in income-

based financial aid, state legislators also focused in on merit-based aid — a tool other states have successfully wielded to lure high-achieving Illinoisans to their institutions. The University of Alabama, for example, has nearly quintupled its merit scholarship pool over the past decade. Illinois students have followed. Alabama awarded 203 full-tuition scholarships, out of 305 total, to freshman Illinoisans in 2017, defraying more than \$100,000 in costs per student.

In response, lawmakers established the AIM HIGH Grant Pilot Program, a merit-based scholarship program for Illinoisans. Starting in 2019, schools can apply to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for a share of \$25 million, which the schools must match with institutional funds.

Universities then may award scholarships covering whatever costs the schools determine for admitted full-time students.

The provision establishing the grant will be repealed in October 2024. It is not clear how much money the state legislature will allocate to it in upcoming years.

"It makes sense, given competition from out-of-state schools, to offer additional merit-based scholarships so that more families see our universities as affordable," Al Bowman, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher

Education, said in a statement.

Another new policy establishes a priority system in 2020 for the Monetary Award Program, which distributes state-funded grants for low-income students. Returning students who previously received MAP grants can jump to the head of the line to receive funding. Students must reapply for MAP each year and submit a federal student aid application by an early deadline to take advantage.

The goal is to provide better year-over-year assurance of grants. It does not guarantee grants because it relies upon the state renewing and timely providing MAP funding. Grants were severely delayed during the budget impasse, and some universities picked up the tab to help students stay enrolled.

Two higher education experts pointed to these issues in evaluating some of Illinois' recent moves.

Finney of UPenn consulted with Illinois legislators on their policy development. She said she was concerned about increasing merit-based aid and said Illinois instead should devote more resources to MAP. State data show MAP is persistently underfunded and can support neither the total number of eligible students nor the full cost of tuition for recipients.

Thomas Harnisch, director of state relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Uni-

versities, had similar reservations.

"Merit-based aid has traditionally benefited wealthier students who would likely go to college anyway," Harnisch said. "The best response would be sufficient and sustained funding of the state's public colleges and universities along with robust financial aid for the state's needy students."

Other new laws endorsed by Rauner allow students to use any state university credits toward a community college associate's degree; set new requirements for academic advising; and establish a statewide task force to collect and analyze high school and college student data.

McGuire, the state senator, said the working group is gearing up again with plans to tackle another Illinois bugaboo: public university funding. State dollars comprised three-quarters of university income as recently as 2002. Now tuition and fees dominate, driving up the prices for families.

Overall, leaders and experts agree the signs are auspicious.

"I think some political leaders are starting to realize the extent of the damage the budget impasse did to Illinois and its higher education system," said Harnisch, of AASCU. "These bills won't undo that damage, but it's a step in the right direction."

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Chicago Tribune NATION & WORLD

Police: Gunman kills 2, self in Fla.

Shooter opens fire during 'Madden NFL' tournament in Jacksonville

BY MATT PEARCE AND MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE
Los Angeles Times

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Multiple people, including a suspected gunman, were killed in a mass shooting during a video game tournament Sunday at a Jacksonville restaurant, according to witnesses and police.

The Jacksonville sheriff said three people were killed, including the gunman, during the tournament at a north Florida mall.

Sheriff Mike Williams said Sunday evening that he believed the shooter is David Katz, 24, of Baltimore. He said the FBI was searching the man's home as part of the investigation.

Williams said nine others were wounded by gunfire and are in stable condition. He said two others were injured while fleeing the attack.

Williams also said that suspect died from a self-inflicted gunshot.

William said the gunman committed the shooting with a handgun.

He said Katz was in Jacksonville for the "Madden NFL 19" video game tournament. The game's maker, EA Sports, lists a David Katz as a 2017 championship winner.

The shooting was partially captured on a livestream of the "Madden NFL" gaming tournament at the Jacksonville Landing, a downtown marketplace.

In video captured from



LAURA HEALD/AP

Police gather after a shooting Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla. At least 11 people were injured, 9 by gunfire, authorities said.

the livestreaming network Twitch and posted on social media, shots can be heard as footage of a kickoff return is replaced by the message "controller disconnected."

Sources told News4Jax, a Jacksonville broadcast station, that at least four people had been fatally shot, with more wounded.

The shooter was a gamer who was competing in the tournament and lost, according to Stephen "Stevej" Javaruski, one of the competitors.

The shooter "targeted a few people" and shot at least five victims before killing himself, Javaruski told the Los Angeles Times in a direct message on Twitter. The gunman killed two or three people "that I saw," Javaruski said.

In a public tweet, he added that he was escorted

out by police after the shooting.

"I am literally so lucky," gamer Drini Gjoka said in a tweet. "The bullet hit my thumb."

A Chicago man said people trampled each other while fleeing the gunfire.

Marquis Williams, 20, said he and his girlfriend, Taylor Poindexter, also of Chicago, were ordering pizza close by when shots erupted. He said Sunday that he didn't think it was gunfire at first.

"Initially we thought it was a balloon popping, but there weren't any balloons in the room," Williams said. "Then we heard repeat shots and we took off running."

Williams had participated earlier Sunday in the gaming tournament. He said he got a view of the

back of the shooter in a green shirt.

He described people running in the panic to escape. He said it was then that he scuffed his leg. Poindexter was treated at a hospital for a sprained ankle. They later returned, hoping to retrieve her cellphone, but the scene was cordoned off by authorities.

Gaming has become increasingly professionalized in recent years, with gamers taking on public personas similar to professional athletes, and such events are often followed on video and via social media.

Brad Kaaya, a former quarterback at Chaminade High School in Los Angeles' West Hills section, identified one of the two gamers seen on the livestream before the shooting began as a

former classmate, Elijah Clayton. He was on the 2012 football team and later played football at nearby Calabasas High School in 2013. He is known as Trueboy on the video game circuit.

Saturday's competition was a regional qualifying round for the Madden NFL Championship series, a prestigious national tournament in which the top players have lucrative sponsorships.

The two-day competition began Saturday morning.

The opening round featured round-robin matchups for as many as 256 players, though it's not clear how many attended. The first- and second-place finishers of the competition qualify to advance and receive \$250 each, plus travel

and lodging for the next round.

The third- and fourth-place finishers receive \$1,000 each but don't advance.

Saturday's shooting appeared to unfold during the second round of play.

By 4:30 p.m., investigators had cleared the shooting scene and were still questioning witnesses, Williams said at a briefing.

Investigators were reviewing video of the shooting posted on social media and encouraged those with access to such footage to contact them, Williams said.

Six victims — ranging in age from 20 to 35 — were taken to University of Florida Health Jacksonville hospital, according to hospital spokesman Dan Leveton, who said that five were in good condition, one in serious condition.

He said that most suffered multiple gunshot wounds and that one who was hit in the chest was expected to stay overnight for surgery.

Three other victims were taken to Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville and were in stable condition, spokesman Peter Moberg said.

The attack came two days after one student was killed and two others were wounded in a shooting at a Jacksonville high school football game that drew a crowd of 4,000. Investigators said the two male victims — including the student who was killed — had gang ties and were targeted, while the female victim was caught in the crossfire.

Associated Press contributed.

Cardinal: Pontiffs knew of allegations

Ex-Vatican ambassador to U.S. says Francis, Benedict were aware of sexual misconduct claims against McCarrick

BY CHICO HARLAN, STEFANO PITRELLI AND MICHELLE BOORSTEIN
The Washington Post

DUBLIN — A former Vatican ambassador to the United States has alleged in an 11-page letter that Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis — among other top Catholic Church officials — had been aware of sexual misconduct allegations against former Washington archbishop Cardinal Theodore McCarrick years before he resigned this summer.

The letter from Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano was first reported by the National Catholic Register and LifeSite News, two conservative Catholic sites. Vigano was recalled from his D.C. post in 2016 amid allegations that he'd become embroiled in the conservative American fight against same-sex marriage. The letter offered no proof, and Vigano on Sunday told The Washington Post he

wouldn't comment further. Asked about what had been published under his name in the Catholic outlets, Vigano said, "I confirm that it is my text and that I wrote it."

The letter sent shock waves through the Catholic world as Francis, finishing a two-day trip in Ireland, was begging forgiveness for the "scandal and betrayal" caused by church-related abuses. Francis and other church leaders are facing a bitterly polarized Catholic Church, and some Francis critics, including Vigano, are calling for the pope to step down.

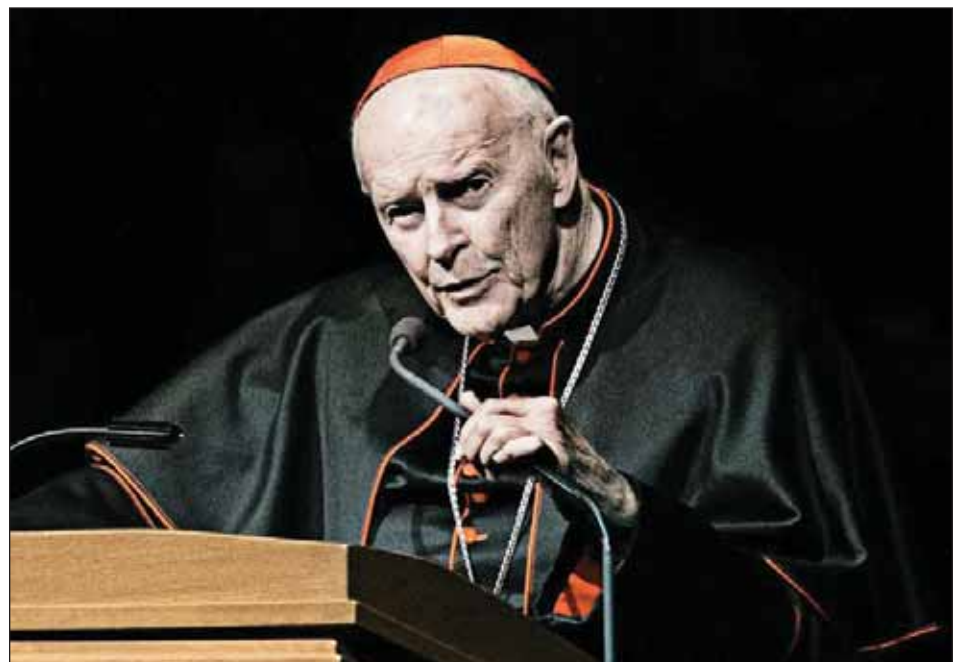
The letter was the latest dramatic development stemming from a fresh wave of allegations related to clergy sex abuse and its cover-up. Rumors that had swirled for decades about McCarrick exploded in June when Pope Francis suspended the cardinal. Last month, McCarrick became the first U.S. cardinal in history to resign.

Vigano, 77, was the Holy See's ambassador in Washington from 2011 until 2016. He has been a lightning rod within the Vatican who lost a power struggle under Benedict, emerged as a Francis critic, and reportedly ordered the halt of an investigation into the alleged sexual relations between an archbishop in Minnesota and seminarians.

Vigano's letter said that McCarrick had been privately sanctioned under Benedict. The warnings that Vigano describes dealt with McCarrick's alleged behavior toward seminarians and young priests. Vigano wrote that the measures banned McCarrick from traveling, holding Mass, or participating in public meetings.

Yet McCarrick appears to have done essentially the opposite. He regularly appeared as a speaker and celebrant at church functions and represented the church in prominent foreign diplomatic efforts.

Vigano's letter also says that in 2013, he met Francis months into his papacy and told him face to face that there was a dossier about



ROBERT FRANKLIN/AP 2015

A cardinal says that Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis were aware of sexual misconduct allegations against former archbishop Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, above, for years.

McCarrick. He says he then told Francis about Benedict's order that McCarrick remove himself from public life.

It was not possible to reach Benedict or his representatives right away. Francis has not commented previously about what he was ever told about McCarrick, and on Sunday Vatican spokesman Greg Burke did not respond to a request seeking comment.

The American Catholic Church is deeply divided over Francis' leadership. Francis' comments and teachings about everything

from immigration to the death penalty are frequently adopted or rejected along partisan lines.

The Vigano document uses American culture-war language, such as "right-wing" and "left-wing," and concludes the letter by blaming "homosexual networks" for sexual abuse and corruption.

In the letter, Vigano described several figures who could corroborate parts of his account. Those people could not be immediately reached.

Vigano arranged a hugely controversial meeting be-

tween Francis and an American woman, Kim Davis, who had lost her job as a municipal clerk for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-gender couples. Allies of Francis alleged Vigano set up the pope during a high-profile U.S. visit, and that Francis didn't intend to affirm Davis' cause.

Victims and Catholics around the world have been demanding more transparency from Pope Francis and the church in general, and that clerics who covered up for priest-abusers be held accountable.

North Korea accuses U.S. of plotting an invasion

BY SIMON DENYER
The Washington Post

TOKYO — North Korea's main newspaper accused the United States on Sunday of staging military drills to prepare an invasion while at the same time pursuing dialogue with a smile on its face.

Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Workers' Party of Korea, cited alleged U.S. troop movements in the region which it called "extremely provocative and dangerous" and

said they threatened to derail the dialogue between the United States and North Korea.

The U.S. military called the accusation "far-fetched."

The opinion piece came two days after President Donald Trump canceled a planned trip to North Korea by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, citing a lack of progress in getting North Korea to surrender its nuclear weapons.

The Rodong Sinmun

piece did not mention Trump by name, nor the decision to cancel Pompeo's trip.

Rodong Sinmun cited a South Korean radio broadcast claiming that U.S. "special units" had recently flown to the Philippines, arguing this was a drill simulating "infiltration into Pyongyang." It also claimed that the USS Michigan nuclear submarine had transported "Green Berets, Delta Force and other special units" from Okinawa, Japan

to the Jinhae naval base in South Korea in late July or early August.

Col. John Huteson, the director of public affairs for U.S. Forces Japan, said he wasn't sure what drills the piece was referring to.

"U.S. aircraft routinely fly from Japan to the Philippines and other nations around the region for a variety of training and operational reasons, so the notion that any single flight is related to North Korea is a bit far fetched," he wrote in

an email.

But Rodong Sinmun argued the acts "prove that the U.S. is hatching a criminal plot to unleash a war against the DPRK" in case Washington fails to achieve denuclearization.

"We cannot but take a serious note of the double-dealing attitudes of the U.S. as it is busy staging secret drills involving man-killing special units while having a dialogue with a smile on its face," the piece continued.

Trump announced the

suspension of the U.S. military's annual exercises with South Korea when he met Kim, calling those exercises "provocative."

Meanwhile, South Korea's President Moon Jae-in convened a meeting of his National Security Council Sunday to discuss the cancellation of Pompeo's trip.

A spokesman said Moon's planned trip to Pyongyang in September — his third summit with Kim this year — now took on added significance.

Pope visits shrine where some believe Virgin Mary appeared

BY WILLIAM BOOTH
The Washington Post

Pope Francis on Sunday visited the Knock Shrine in western Ireland, where villagers claim to have witnessed an apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1879, and begged for forgiveness for the abuse of children carried out by Catholic clergy.

Francis first went into the Apparition Chapel to pray and then emerged to address large crowds gathered to hear his words, despite the heavy rain.

The pope said he prayed for "all the victims of abuse, of whatever kind, committed by members of the Church in Ireland."

"None of us can fail to be moved by the stories of young people who suffered abuse, were robbed of their innocence and left scarred by painful memories," Francis said. "I beg the Lord's forgiveness for these sins and for the scandal and betrayal felt by so many in God's family."

Many Catholics in Ireland are familiar with the story of the vision at Knock, but the site is not as famous as the Marian shrines in Fatima and Lourdes.

According to church belief and testimonies from the time, a woman named Mary Byrne was passing by the village chapel on the dark and rainy night of Aug. 21, 1879, when she saw a vision of the Virgin Mary, beside St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist, on the outside gable wall.

She alerted family and friends, who came to see.

Shortly afterward, Bryne testified before the church's Commission of Enquiry, led by the archbishop of Tuam, "The Virgin stood erect, with eyes raised to heaven, her hands elevated to her shoulders."

There were also angels, an altar, a cross and a lamb, witnesses testified, and Mary appeared in a white cloak, with a golden crown. According to the witnesses, St. Joseph stood to her right with "iron-grey whiskers."

About 20 locals gathered at the gable, according to Grace Mulqueen, curator of the Knock Shrine museum. Fifteen testified, in writing, including Patrick Hill, who said, "Around the lamb, I saw angels hovering during the whole time."

Mulqueen said that word spread quickly and that pilgrims soon began to arrive, seeking help. The first cure was alleged to have occurred 10 days after the visitation.

A young girl named Delia Gordon was cured of deafness, the church believes, after her mother placed a bit of mortar from the church gable wall by her ear.

Gordon immigrated to America. When she died in 1930, her brother wrote that in her hand, as she lay in her coffin and was lowered into the ground, she held "her greatest prize ... the same piece of cement that mother took from the spot where the Blessed Virgin stood."

A year later, a photograph of the shrine showed a row of canes and crutches left behind by those who said they were healed.

The parish priest in Knock began a "Diary of Cures," Mulqueen said. She said it eventually numbered 600 entries.

The diary, letters of cures and miracles, and five original handwritten testimonies of the purported vision were found in a trunk in Washington that once belonged to Sister Francis Clare, known as the "Nun of Kenmare," who spent two years at Knock in the early 1880s.

The miracle at Knock differs from other famous visions; in Ireland, the Virgin Mary and the saints were said to be silent.

At the Fatima Shrine in Portugal, Mary is said to have spoken to those who saw her in 1917, announcing, "Do not be afraid. I will do you no harm!"

At the Lourdes Sanctuary in France in 1858, Mary is said to have appeared before a 14-year-old girl at a grotto outside her village, instructing her, "Go and tell the priests to build a chapel here."

The Knock parish priest, the Rev. Richard Gibbons,

said early skeptics wondered whether the purported visitation might have been a mass hallucination or a hoax.

He said he understood why some had doubts. He also pointed out, as does the Knock museum, that the reports of the apparition came at time of great stress in Ireland, with failing crops and fears that another great famine was coming.

But the priest said many of the testimonies came from well-known and respected members of the community. The witnesses ranged from age 5 to 74.

"I believe them," Gibbons said.

More than a million pilgrims arrive at the Knock Shrine each year, most of them Irish, but a growing number from Africa and Asia.



MAXWELL PHOTOGRAPHY/EPA

An aerial view of the pilgrims during Pope Francis' visit at the Knock Shrine in County Mayo, Ireland. The pontiff is visiting Ireland to attend the World Meeting of Families.

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September 5 at 5:30

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September 11 at 6:30

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September 11 at 6:30

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September 11 at 12:00

September 11 at 6:30

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September 12 at 1:00

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EDITORIALS

Will voters in Illinois and other high-tax states rebel?

For years, politicians in high-tax states like Illinois had a ready answer for irate citizens wielding pitchforks over rising taxes.

The pols would graciously remind wealthier taxpayers that the Internal Revenue Service allowed them to deduct on federal returns their fat payments to local and state governments. Which means that suckers, er, more frugal taxpayers, in low-tax states like Indiana were in effect subsidizing affluent citizens in high-tax states like New York, California and, yes, Illinois.

But under the new tax reform law, the feds have imposed a limit of \$10,000 on those deductions. That prompted politicians in Illinois and other deep-blue, high-tax states to feverishly craft workarounds to allow affluent taxpayers to legally escape the new limit. Why bother with such schemes as creating “charities” to accept tax payments that — just maybe — would be federally deductible as donations?

Because if taxpayers suddenly had to shoulder the full cost of state and local

spending, the lawmakers fretted, then those voters would start asking questions about why taxes in places like Illinois (with last year’s 32 percent hike in the personal income tax rate) are so high.

And maybe, mercy sakes, Democratic leaders in such places as Springfield and Chicago wouldn’t be able to hike taxes endlessly to keep payrollers, public employee union leaders and other cronies well-fed.

On Thursday, the IRS and Treasury Department rightly moved to squash those legislative ploys. A proposed federal rule — likely to become formal policy — would block California and other states from gaming the system to help residents avoid the new limit. The feds called out those efforts for what they are — tax dodges. One such scheme already had gotten stuck in the Illinois General Assembly, with some lawmakers aware that the IRS could put the kibosh on loopy strategies.

That’s the second time the IRS has frowned on these schemes. Last May, the

agency essentially warned that a state can label a tax payment a charitable contribution, but that doesn’t make it so.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Thursday reminded lawmakers from high-tax states that Congress limited deductions on high-earners to pay for tax cuts for American families of more modest means. Middle-income households are largely unaffected because, with a near-doubling of the standard deduction and lower federal tax rates, fewer of them will even itemize deductions.

Democratic New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and some other blue state leaders aren’t surrendering. Cuomo is leading a lawsuit against the Trump administration to strike down this so-called SALT (state and local taxes) cap. On Thursday, he said in response to the proposed IRS rule: “We will use every tool at our disposal, including litigation, to fight back.”

Meanwhile, taxpayers in Illinois and elsewhere should be squeezing politicians. We imagine many state and local

pols tremble at the prospect of curbing their enthusiasm for more taxes to prop up the state’s 7,000 units of government. Not to mention all those generous public pension and other promises that can’t be kept without digging deeper into citizens’ wallets.

We imagine that school districts, municipalities, counties, special service districts, libraries and other of the notorious 7,000 will face rising taxpayer ire. They can’t mollify all those citizens with the old reassurance that, *Sure, we’re gouging you, but you can write those taxes off on your federal return.*

Now what? Well, how about addressing Illinois governments’ core problem instead of frantically trying to build an escape hatch for wealthier taxpayers?

All those officials in governments that gorge on taxes had better get used to withering scrutiny of the taxes they impose.

We hope the new limits awaken affluent taxpayers to what they’re paying to sustain Illinois pols’ spendy habits. Voters, ready the pitchforks.

John McCain, American patriot

Over the course of American history, a handful of U.S. senators have been so consequential that they are remembered better than some presidents. Among them are Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Robert La Follette, Everett Dirksen and Ted Kennedy. John McCain, who died Saturday, deserves to be the most recent addition to this exclusive company.

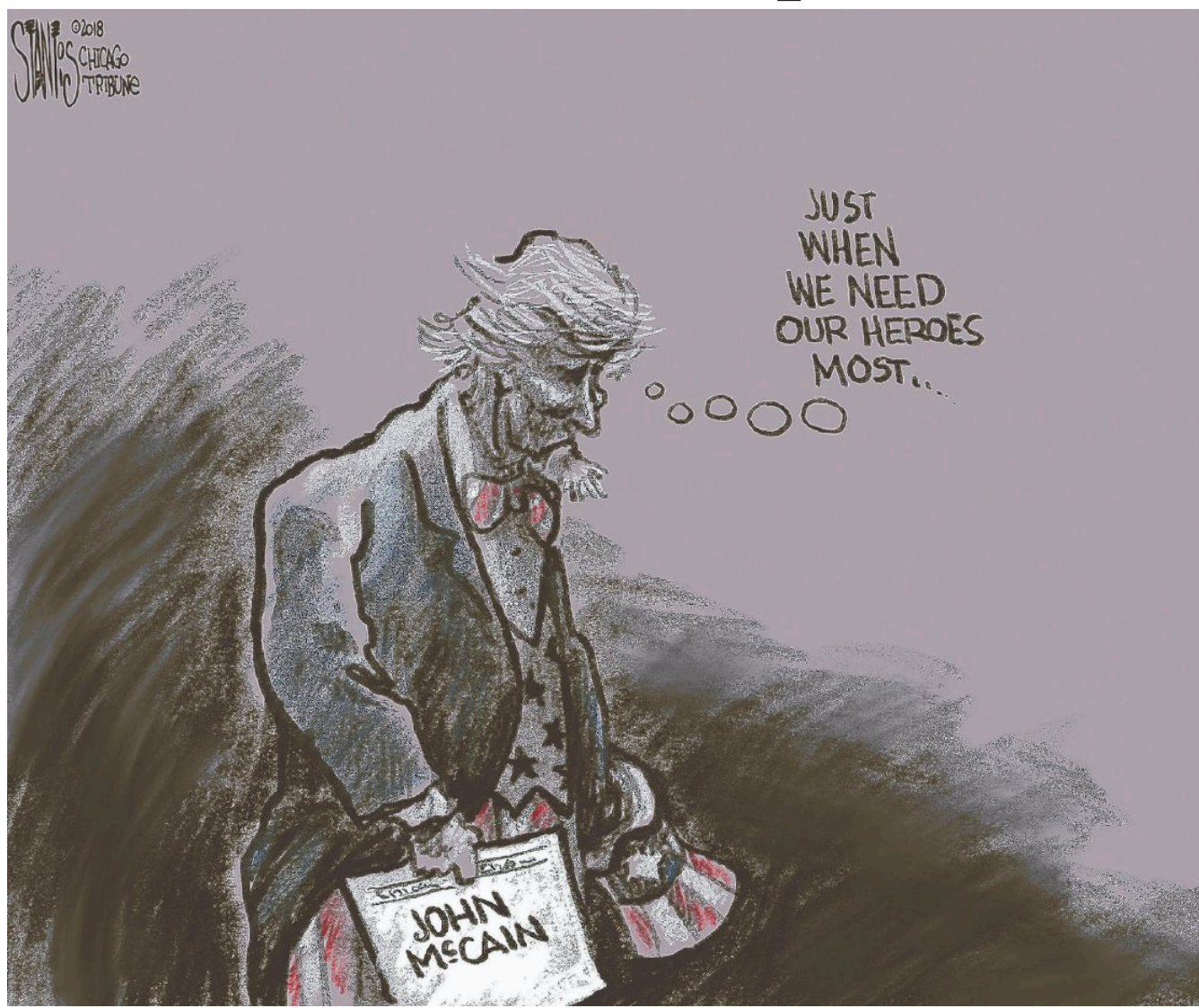
He was one of a kind — a blunt-spoken legislator with a sense of humor who followed a sometimes unpredictable course, often clashed with his own party and exercised an outsized influence on policy debates. After losing to Barack Obama in his 2008 race for the presidency, he absorbed the defeat and resumed his Senate work with unflagging zeal.

McCain graduated near the bottom of his class at the Naval Academy, where he was infamous for his large number of demerits. As a Navy pilot, he was shot down over Hanoi in 1967, captured and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp. There he spent more than five years, enduring torture and solitary confinement but refusing offers to be released before fellow POWs who had been held longer. During a 2007 Republican presidential debate, he mentioned that Hillary Clinton had earmarked \$1 million in the Senate for a cultural museum in Woodstock, in upstate New York. McCain hadn’t attended the festival in 1969: “I was tied up at the time.”

He eventually found his way into politics, winning a U.S. House seat in Arizona in 1982 before moving to the Senate four years later. Investigated for his role in a savings and loan scandal, McCain was cleared of breaking any laws but was cited for bad judgment. Afterward, he gained attention crusading for campaign finance reform and against pork barrel projects.

He lost a bid for the 2000 GOP presidential nomination to George W. Bush, but became a staunch supporter of the Iraq invasion and the military surge that Bush mounted in 2007 to counter a spreading insurgency. He was one of Washington’s foremost experts on military and national security matters, advocating tough policies against Iran, Syria, Libya, Russia and other unfriendly governments.

His signature legislative achievement, a campaign finance reform package known as McCain-Feingold, became law in 2002, but a provision restricting corporations and unions from spending money on electioneering



SCOTT STANTIS

communications was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2010.

Joining with Democratic Sen. Edward “Ted” Kennedy in 2005, he made a valiant effort to enact comprehensive immigration reform — a crucial need that Congress has still not met. He proposed a “cap-and-trade” system to curb greenhouse gas emissions, defying Republicans who scorned climate change as a hoax.

The 2008 presidential campaign was not his finest hour. McCain, who had criticized Bush’s tax cuts, came around to supporting them, and his commitment to fiscal restraint went missing. He chose a running mate, Sarah Palin, who was exposed as terribly unprepared for a national campaign, much

less the vice presidency. When a huge financial crisis threatened to throw the economy into a full-fledged depression, McCain failed in a confusing, oddly passive effort to unite his party behind a solution.

But in the following years, he proved he could still play an important role in the Senate. He was a critic of Obama’s health care plan, the president’s refusal to provide lethal military aid to Ukraine after Russia’s invasion and his signing of a nuclear deal with Iran. But McCain was never one to spare Republicans: In June, he said American leadership in the world was stronger under Obama than it has been under President Donald Trump. When the Senate took up a measure to repeal the Affordable Care

Act, McCain cast the decisive vote that saved it.

Unlike many of his GOP colleagues, he didn’t shrink from criticizing Trump. The president’s July news conference with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, McCain charged, was “one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory.” He took Trump’s many fulminations against him as a badge of honor.

McCain was sometimes wrong, but he was fearless in fighting for the principles he held dearest. He will be remembered in many ways — as a war hero, a political maverick, a reformer and a staunch advocate for an assertive American role in world affairs. But he will be remembered most as a patriot.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Donald Trump is “not thrilled” with Jerome Powell, the man he hand selected last year to chair the Federal Reserve. Those are the words he used during an interview with CNBC in July. And they’re the words he used again in an interview with Reuters. ... Trump also carped about his Fed chair at a recent fundraiser in Long Island where, according to The Wall Street Journal, he told attendees that he’d been assured by advisers that Powell would back “cheap money,” and that he was chagrined to see the central bank hiking rates instead. “That can only happen to Trump,” he reportedly said.

For once in his life, the president is even more right than he realizes. It would have been trivially easy for Trump to nominate a more dovish Fed chair better aligned with his own instincts on monetary policy. (“Hawkish” central bankers are apt to raise interest rates, while “dovish” ones prefer to keep them low.) But Trump blew the call because ... (he) fails to do a modicum of basic homework before making major decisions, and is thus at the mercy of his advisers.

While all presidents get advice from their advisers, and most presidents choose at least some officials who later go on to do things they don’t agree with, flubbing the Fed nomination in this way is indeed the kind of thing that could only happen to Trump.

Jordan Weissmann, Slate

Eagerly speculating over who will make up the roster of controversial public intellectuals, students at the University of California at Berkeley told reporters Thursday they were excited to see the slate of notable speakers who will be disinvited to campus this year. ... (One student said that) “One of the best benefits of attending college is being exposed to a diversity of methods for shutting down debate.”

The Onion

Chicago Tribune

PERSPECTIVE

If first lady were like Hillary Clinton, president would be in better shape

BY LAUREN A. WRIGHT

Michael Cohen's statement Tuesday that he arranged hush payments to two women with whom Trump allegedly had affairs was a news-cycle-breaking revelation. But it's also not entirely unprecedented, given that it calls up memories of Bill Clinton's indiscretions decades before. Regardless of whether Cohen's claims set Trump on the path to impeachment, the parallels between the two men's troubles are striking, not least of all because both could have avoided them with some old-fashioned, do-not-have-sex-with-someone-who-is-not-your-wife self-control.

Yet the Clinton administration had a major weapon in its arsenal that the Trump administration does not: a first lady who was willing to fall on a sword for her husband, no matter what.

Unlike Hillary Clinton, who defended her husband throughout the Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky scandals, Melania Trump has stayed publicly silent in the face of multiple allegations against her husband. That may be a good thing for future political spouses, who unfairly are expected to salve their partners' public wounds even when they are the ones being betrayed most. But it could not be more costly for Donald Trump, who faces a real risk of being removed from office.

Like the Russia investigation — which is not, at present, directly related to Cohen's guilty plea — the Whitewater investigation, and the Lewinsky scandal that eventually arose from it, played out in the court of public opinion. It's there that presidential spouses are the most effective, and there that Hillary Clinton painstakingly buoyed and resurrected Bill Clinton's reputation.

Trump and his allies have taken many pages directly out of the Clinton administration crisis-management playbook, continuing to lob accusations of partisan bias and corruption at special counsel Robert Mueller and Justice Department officials. Whereas Trump tweets his rage at the investigation, even as his allies defend him on television, Hillary Clinton herself was a crucial and active part of the efforts to discredit her husband's detractors. She took to the airwaves on numerous occasions to deny vehemently the accusations against her husband, even famously alleging that the president was the victim of "a vast right-wing conspiracy."

After Bill Clinton publicly admitted the affair and lying to his wife about it, Hillary Clinton was angry, but she defended her husband nonetheless. In an interview with *Talk* magazine in 1999, the first lady said President Clinton was "a very, very good man" and that his infidelity was the result of abuse he suffered as a child. "You don't walk away if you love someone," she said. "You help them."

And help her husband she probably did. Although research on first lady and presidential favorability ratings suggests that these measures are not interdependent (first ladies often become more popular in



AL DRAGO/GETTY

Melania Trump has been publicly silent about allegations of infidelity against her husband.

years presidential and vice presidential popularity sinks, for instance), evidence in my book demonstrates that when first ladies vouch for their husbands, particularly on issues of character and integrity, they can have a profound effect on public evaluations of them.

Melania Trump, like Hillary Clinton, was a staunch defender of her husband on the presidential campaign trail. While Trump was teasing a run for president in 2012, Melania Trump propagated Trump's birther conspiracy on Joy Behar's show and gushed about his patriotism, intelligence and negotiating skills. Later, in the

wake of the "Access Hollywood" tape release that many thought would end Trump's campaign altogether, Melania Trump made a critical appearance on CNN to dismiss her husband's comments about groping women as "boy talk" and to blame the media for the scandals plaguing her husband's campaign.

But as first lady, she has defied pressure placed on her to conform to the role of conciliatory spouse. She stays clear of the president's public relations disasters, ignores accusations of his infidelity and shuns opportunities to boost his image.

In the last few months alone, Melania

Trump, through her communications office, has announced a solo trip to Africa, a continent her husband continues to disparage; praised and encouraged LeBron James after the president attacked him on Twitter; rejected Rudy Giuliani's assertion that she believes her husband's denial of the Stormy Daniels affair; and declared that her controversial "I Don't Care" jacket, which overshadowed an otherwise positive trip to a border detention facility in Texas, was "just a jacket." (The president later said the jacket was a deliberate message to the "fake" news media).

It is not an exaggeration to say that Melania Trump may be the only person who can hoist her husband out of the hole he is in. Survey experiments I conducted in 2016 and 2017 suggest that she is a more effective advocate for her husband than other Trump surrogates such as Chris Christie, Ivanka Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, especially among independents, and is even better at boosting opinions about the president than Trump himself on average.

Melania Trump remains the most popular member of the Trump family, steers clear of partisan debates (which is one reason first ladies are often perceived to be more credible and trustworthy than politicians), and rarely interacts with the media despite the public's utter fascination with her. It is actually plausible that Melania Trump could be an even more effective advocate for her husband than Hillary Clinton, who was a polarizing public figure at times and faced substantial backlash for her involvement in the administration's health care reform efforts.

If Melania Trump were to give a high-profile interview denying the allegations against her husband, it would probably crowd out many negative headlines with some positive soft news. That's just the sort of thing that could improve perceptions of her embattled husband and help lift the shadow of impeachment that hangs over his presidency.

But she probably won't.

Buried in all of the esoteric debates about whether a president can be indicted, what exactly constitutes high crimes and misdemeanors and whether presidents can pardon themselves and their political allies might be an uncomfortably familiar story. A powerful man cheats on his wife. He tries to cover it up to preserve or amass more power. He gets burned. He turns to the very person he wronged to save him.

Maybe the question is not whether Melania Trump will ultimately come to her husband's rescue, as countless political spouses have before, but why we can't find leaders who don't require rescuing.

The Washington Post

Lauren A. Wright is a lecturer in politics and public affairs at Princeton University and the author of "On Behalf of the President: Presidential Spouses and White House Communications Strategy Today."

The grilling of Brett Kavanaugh



GEORGE WILL

Senate Republicans and Democrats are at daggers drawn over confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. Instead, they should unsheathe some questions designed to illuminate the excitement of constitutional reasoning.

■ The Constitution vests in Congress the power to tax. Presidents, however, unilaterally impose taxes (tariffs) because Congress has delegated to presidents vast discretion in imposing protectionism. Should the court protect the separation of powers by enforcing on Congress a nondelegation doctrine?

■ In the 1905 *Lochner* case, the court struck down a state law limiting bakers' work hours because it infringed workers' and employers' liberty interest in making consensual contracts. Assuming, as is patent, that this law was rent-seeking by unionized bakers and bakeries — that it was written to protect their interests, not public health and safety — was *Lochner* correctly decided?

■ Dissenting in *Lochner*, Oliver Wendell Holmes said the Constitution "does not enact Mr. Herbert Spencer's 'Social Statics,'" a book advocating laissez faire economic policies. However, because laissez faire is what freedom looks like in economic life, is there some sense in which the Constitution, the purpose of which is to enable a free society, does foster it?

■ In 1958, the court invalidated, as an infringement of freedom of association, an Alabama law targeting the NAACP by requiring disclosure of organizations' membership lists. The court said anonymity was necessary to shield NAACP sup-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is expected to face some tough questions.

porters from dangers. Given today's instances of individuals injured because of their political affiliations, are mandatory disclosure laws problematic?

■ Are there constitutional limits on the admissions policies that public colleges and universities can use to ensure "diverse" student bodies?

The 1978 *Bakke* case involving racial preferences in admissions said that race can be a "plus" factor for certain government-preferred minorities. Are there constitutional principles controlling decisions about which groups are to be preferred and about tailoring preferences?

In 2003, when the court affirmed the constitutionality of racial preferences in university admissions, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the majority, hoped such preferences would be unnecessary in 25 years. So, do they become unconstitutional in 2028?

■ William Rehnquist was an early and vehement critic of the court's 1966 *Miranda* decision that created the right of arrested persons to be notified of their right to counsel and their right to remain silent. He said the Constitution does not require this, which impedes effective policing. But when a 2000 case gave the court an opportunity to reverse *Miranda*, Rehnquist wrote for the majority in upholding it, 7-2: "Miranda has become embedded in routine police practice to the point where the warnings have become part of our national culture. While we have overruled our precedents when subsequent cases have undermined their doctrinal underpinnings, we do not believe that this has happened to the *Miranda* decision." Does similar reasoning apply to *Roe v. Wade*?

In *Roe*, the court distinguished different degrees of abortion rights in the three trimesters of pregnancy. What would the

constitutional law of abortion be if the number of months in the gestation of a human infant were a prime number (e.g., 7 or 11)?

■ What principles should limit stare decisis ("to stand by things decided") — respect for precedents? In its 2005 *Kelo* decision concerning the Takings Clause ("nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation"), the court said government can seize property for the "public use" of transferring it to wealthier private interests who will pay more taxes to the government. Does this precedent merit much respect? Is it pertinent that *Kelo* was decided 5-4?

■ In 1995, the court ruled, 5-4, that a state cannot limit by statute the number of terms members of the U.S. House of Representatives or Senate from the state can serve because such term limits create "additional qualifications" for such offices beyond those enumerated in the Constitution. Justice Clarence Thomas, dissenting, said: The Constitution, which only sets *minimum* eligibility requirements, is silent about the state's power to set term limits, and its silence is no bar to actions by the states or people.

Given the states' reserved powers affirmed by the 10th Amendment, they "can exercise all powers that the Constitution does not withhold from them." Was Thomas correct?

■ Finally, to serve the government's interest in a healthy workforce, and its interest in minimizing the substantial effect of health care costs on the nation's commercial vitality, could Congress, under its power to regulate interstate commerce, require Americans to eat their broccoli? If not, what principle limits Congress' Commerce Clause power?

Washington Post Writers Group

George Will is a *Washington Post* columnist.



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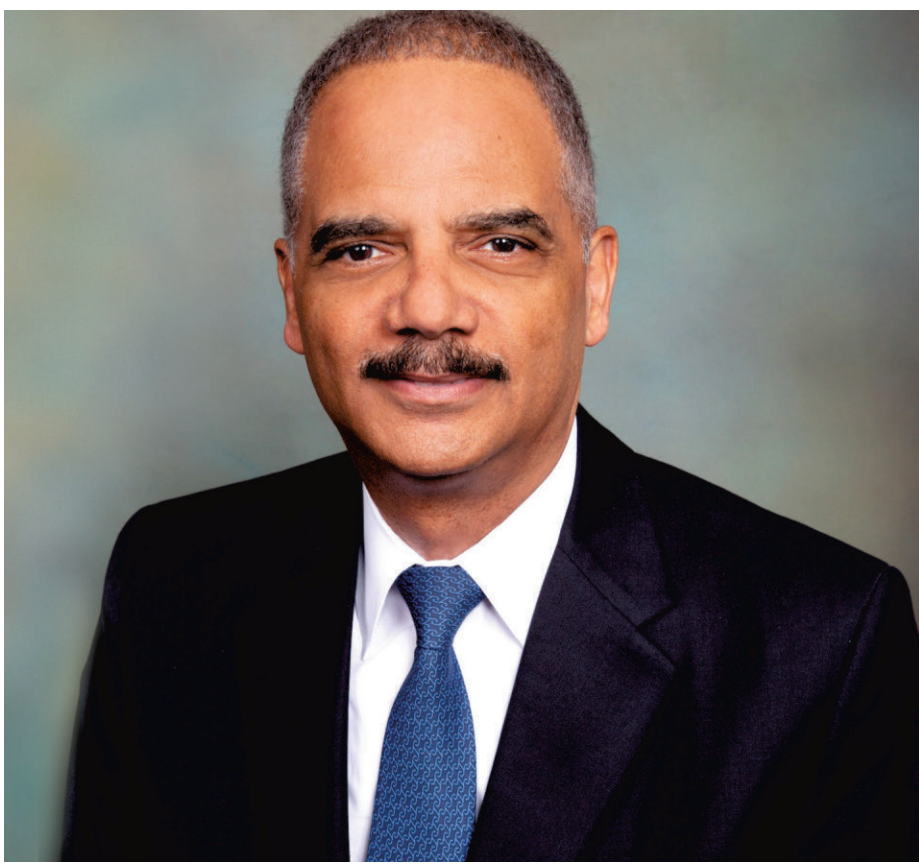


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A CONVERSATION WITH ERIC HOLDER: PUBLIC SERVICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 12 | 7 P.M. | THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., 82nd Attorney General of the United States (2009-2015); partner, Covington & Burling LLP, discusses the pressing issue of voting rights in America. With his unique insights from the front lines of this fight, and his recent work on the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, Mr. Holder will share his appraisal of the past and his vision for the future.

Moderator: Judge Ann Claire Williams, retired Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals judge

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A CONVERSATION WITH COMMON: ACTIVISM IN AN AGE OF POLARIZATION

SEPTEMBER 13 | 7 P.M. | THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE

Common, Academy Award, Golden Globe, Emmy and Grammy-winning actor and musician; founder, The Common Ground Foundation, leads this timely conversation about the need to inspire our young students to enact positive change in our communities. Through his years of experience as an activist and philanthropist, Common will share his thoughts on how we can continue to produce generations of dreamers and leaders who make a difference in a polarized society.

Panelists: Mary Ellen Caron, PhD, chief executive officer, After School Matters; Janice Jackson, PhD, chief executive officer of Chicago Public Schools

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Chicago Tribune BUSINESS

SUCCESS

Your Monday guide to managing money, work and the business of life



JILL SCHLESINGER
Jill on Money

Your Social Security questions answered

In honor of the 83rd anniversary of the Social Security Act, here are some questions that I have received from you about the nation's main retirement program.

Q: I turned 70 early this year but still work. I have two different 403(b) accounts with this employer and still contribute to one of them. Am I still required to take my Required Minimum Distributions?

A: The IRS rules are clear about traditional IRAs, as well as SEPs, SIMPLEs and SARSEP plans: you have to start taking RMDs by April 1 of the year following the year in which you turn 70 1/2, regardless of whether or not you are working. But if you're age 70 1/2 or older and still working, you may be able to delay taking RMDs from the 401(k) or 403(b) sponsored by the company for which you're still working. The IRS calls this the still working exception. For this exception to apply you must:

- Be considered employed throughout the entire year
- Own no more than 5 percent of the company
- Participate in a plan that allows you to delay RMDs

Q: I claimed Social Security benefits at age 62, after I took an early retirement offer from my employer. After three months, the company asked if I wanted to work part time. How much money can I earn, before the government reduces my monthly benefit?

A: Because you are under your full retirement age for all of this year, the Social Security Administration will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit. For 2018, that limit is \$17,040. In the year you reach full retirement age, they will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit. In 2018, the limit on your earnings is \$45,360. Starting the month you hit your full retirement age, your benefits will no longer take a hit.

Q: I called Social Security twice and got two different answers to the same question. Where can I get more information, in writing?

A: The Social Security web site, ssa.gov is searchable and has many examples of situations that could be helpful. AARP has a SS Benefits Calculator as well as an online SS Question and Answer tool and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau helps pre-retirees plan with an easy to use tool.

Q: My 35-year old son does not believe that Social Security will be there for him, when he retires. Will it?

A: Your son is not alone. In the 18th annual Transamerica Retirement Survey, 76 percent of American workers said they feared that Social Security will not be there for them when they're ready to retire. That said, "This fear that Social Security is going broke is misplaced," says my friend and retirement/longevity expert, Steve Vernon. He is an actuary, so when he drills through the numbers, he knows his stuff.

Maybe your son saw a scary headline or two after the release of the 2018 Annual Report of the Board of the Social Security Trustees, which said that the program's trust fund would be exhausted by 2034. But Steve notes "retirees wouldn't see their benefits go to zero. As long as current workers are paying taxes into the system, current retirees will receive at least a large portion (about 75 percent) of their expected benefits."

And that reduction in benefits would only occur if Congress did not act to shore up the system, which most experts believe is unlikely.

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at askjill@jillonmoney.com.



MICROVONE/DREAMSTIME

OUT OF OFFICE (really)

Steps to make it easier to leave your business for a week or two

BY CARRIE MCKEEGAN
Inc.

Summer is nearing its end and you haven't taken a vacation.

For many of us who run businesses, this time of year can be riddled with anxiety at the thought of leaving work behind. But most of the time, there is no basis in reality for this fear.

Usually, the issue is about letting go of control-freak tendencies and allowing yourself to rest, relax and trust your team. Your business is not likely to fall apart without constant observation.

Time away from the office also can improve your mental state and can even spark creativity. The ideas for major businesses such as Instagram and the musical "Hamilton" were inspired on vacation, CNBC reports. If you can't let go, here are some tips to make it easier to take time off and stay that way while you are on vacation.

1. Book two transition days

Have you ever sent a final work email from the airplane as you were about to take off for a big trip? That last-minute racing around is brutal.

To ensure that doesn't happen, use a buffer day. The day before your vacation, block out an open day with no meetings on your calendar and no big priorities.

Use this day to hand off any last-minute items on your to-do list, clear out your email inbox and get super organized for your return. Inevitably, a few last-minute tasks will pop up, but you will have time allotted to handle them.

Similarly, do not book any big meetings for your first day back in the office. Allow a transition day after your return. It will give you time to get back up to speed, catch up on emails and ease back

into things.

Explain this approach to your team, so they understand the concept. Encourage them to do the same thing when they have vacation time.

2. Appoint a deputy for anything that arises that doesn't have a natural owner

For most of us, assigning one deputy for everything is impractical and unnecessary. However, it's good to have a point person who is the team's go-to for any unexpected needs that arise while you are away.

You can relax knowing that this person will field anything unusual.

3. Set up an ironclad out-of-office message

This sounds obvious, but some people don't do it. Many of us believe that always being available is a sign of devotion, and that writing an out-of-office message signals to the world that we are not serious about our business. This is nonsense.

For one thing, setting up an out-of-office message alerts people that you are gone and should not be bothered. It also means you don't have to send those annoying "I am sorry I didn't reply to your email right away" messages when you return.

Setting an out-of-office message also indicates that you are organized, value work/life balance and trust your team. It's a simple, but powerful, way to unplug.

4. Give your deputy a way to contact you if there's a true emergency

The first step to giving yourself permission to step away entirely is to feel confident that if something does come up while you are away, your team

knows how to contact you. Ideally, you want this to be through an alternate channel, otherwise you will need to check your inbox and needlessly be stressed by the number of messages coming in.

I give my deputy my personal email address and tell her to use it if anything crucial arises. And then I put an out-of-office message on my business email with my deputy as the point of contact, and let her determine if anything needs to be brought to my attention.

5. Stack the deck in your favor

About two weeks before you leave, send a reminder to your team about your upcoming vacation and ask them to consider where they may need your input in advance. Send a similar note a few days before you will be gone. Put the responsibility on your team to get questions answered before you leave.

Devote some time to outlining what projects will likely need work while you are off and identify those that need your involvement. In most cases, your team is capable of handling everything, but if there's a genuine exception, work ahead as much as possible and push back the timeframe for things you can't handle before you leave.

6. Don't work — no cheating!

If you can't let work go for at least a week for your own sanity, do it for your team's sake. If you work while you are on holiday, that's a direct message to your team that they should, too. It also sends the message that you don't trust the people you hired.

All of us need time to rest and recharge; CEOs are no different.

Carrie McKeegan is the CEO and co-founder of Greenback Expat Tax Services.

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Pension problems

When companies overpay, participants may get a bill



ELLIOT RAPHAELSON
The Savings Game

Recent news reports indicate that AT&T made erroneously large payments to many of its pension holders. Now those retirees have to pay the company back.

Unfortunately, under current U.S. law, when a corporation, or even a government entity such as the Social Security Administration, overpays participants, these entities can demand repayment — even if the employee/retiree did nothing wrong.

In the example of AT&T, the company has asked hundreds of pension holders to repay the overpayments, but many of these people have spent the payments and are no longer working. They're simply unable to pay the money back.

AT&T is now using collection firms to recoup the overpayments. In my opinion, this is outrageous, and AT&T is out of line. These employees have done nothing wrong, and the company management and/or their plan administrators are at fault, not these retirees.

IRS guidance specifies that there are other options for recoupment. For example, AT&T can repay this overpayment from current earnings. AT&T in the 2nd quarter of 2018 reported a net profit of \$5.1 billion. According to IRS guidance, another option is repayment by the plan administrators.

If the mistake is made by the plan administrators, why should the only solution for AT&T be the retiree? Why should retirees, who did nothing wrong by facing a loss in credit standing, be unable to borrow money, possibly be facing bankruptcy and losing their home in retirement?

Do the plan administrators have insurance? If so, they should collect on that insurance. If they don't have insurance, why not? Did the AT&T board of directors ask the plan administrators to carry insurance?

If not, are they negligent? Perhaps all AT&T retirees should be asking these questions to all of the AT&T board members. I am sure these board members are in a better financial position than the retirees who are being singled out.

The Pension Rights Center has a great deal of valuable information on its website (pensionrights.org) that will assist individuals who have been told they are responsible for recoupment payments. (Recoupment is the process of taking back overpayments.) Type "What is recoupment?" in the website's search field to find an



AYELETKESHET/DREAMSTIME

informative fact sheet. The Pension Rights Center recommends the following steps:

- Ask for an explanation of how the mistake occurred.
- Ask for both new and old calculations of your benefits.
- Compare the plan's new figures with benefit statements you have received.

If the mistake was not made by the employee/retiree, you should let the plan administrator know that, according to IRS guidance, there is no requirement that the only option for recoupment is repayment by the employee/retiree. Apparently, not all administrators know that recoupment can be made through corporate profits, plan administrators, and insurance obtained by plan administrators.

The fact sheet pointed out that federal rules permit a waiver of all or part of recoupments if they will cause financial hardship to retirees.

Help is available. Pension counseling projects, legal services/providers, and/or government agencies can help. Pension

counseling projects provide free legal assistance in 30 states. You can call the Pension Rights Center at 202-296-3776, or send an email to pensionhelp@pensionrights.org to determine your options.

Pension counseling and information programs only specialize in employment benefits. Help is available whether you were employed by a corporation or a governmental entity.

Although I have focused on the case of AT&T, the problem is much wider. I have received many complaints from readers who have been asked for recoupment of overpayments made by SSA when mistakes were made by SSA employees.

The existing regulations should be changed. AT&T should not be able to use a collection agency to collect overpayments made by its own or its plan administrator's errors.

Elliot Raphaelson welcomes your questions and comments at raphelliot@gmail.com.



TERRY SAVAGE
The Savage Truth

Do your homework on estate planning

It's important to be prepared for the unexpected. And in that spirit, here's a brief reminder that the last lazy days of summer might be a good time to update your estate plan.

Don't be intimidated by the term "estate planning." You might not think you have much of an estate, but this is simply a generic term that covers what you own or care about. It is not just for the wealthy. If you're a renter, you likely have some prized possessions to distribute, or maybe a cat that will need care. And you might have funeral wishes.

Let me start by saying that the legalities of your planning must be done by an attorney in your state of residence, one who specializes in estate planning. Forget the online documents and do-it-yourself kits in an attempt to make money. If you make a mistake, by the time it is discovered you won't be around to fix it. Ask your bank or local bar association for a referral. Or do a search at www.search-attorneys.com.

Your responsibility is to figure out who gets what and who takes care of your children, pets or anything else that currently depends on your presence. That means you must do some thinking well before you consult an attorney. To guide those decisions, it helps to have a basic understanding of estate planning terms:

Will

A will is the document everyone thinks about in terms of estate planning. It gives your instructions about distribution of your stuff. It binds the person you name as executor to carry out your wishes. It also gives you a chance to contribute to charities, plan your funeral and express your thoughts about custody of children and pets.

But a will has two drawbacks. First, it must go through the court process called probate. That can take time and cost money. And it makes your assets part of the public record. Second, it doesn't cover the possibility that you may be alive but incapacitated. For that reason, many people consider a more all-encompassing directive.

Revocable living trust

This kind of trust is one you create while you are alive and able to serve as the trustee. You re-title all of your major assets, such as your home, investment accounts (not your retirement accounts) and property, in the name of your trust. You can still buy and sell those assets, reporting gains or losses on your personal tax return. There are no tax consequences or benefits from taking this action.

As part of the trust documents, you name a successor trustee to act after your death, or if you become incapacitated. The trustee does not have to go through the court probate process to carry out your instructions. A RLT is better than owning your home in joint name, because your spouse doesn't have to get court permission to sell property if you can't sign.

Other documents

You'll still need a healthcare power of attorney, giving a trusted loved one the ability to make medical decisions on your behalf. And you should prepare a living will, detailing your feelings about prolonging end-of-life care.

Beneficiaries

Some of your assets are distributed directly to your named beneficiary regardless of your will or trust. Retirement plan accounts and life insurance policies fall in this category. Be sure you have updated the beneficiaries to reflect your current wishes. You don't need a lawyer to do that.

For everything there is a season. No matter what your age, this is the season to plan for the inevitable and the unexpected. That's the Savage Truth.

Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and the author of four best-selling books, including "The Savage Truth on Money." She responds to questions on her blog at TerrySavage.com.

Diversification mind trap

By ANNE KATES SMITH
Kiplinger

Having a variety of investments has always been considered a sound portfolio practice because it ensures that when one investment declines, you've at least got a chance of having something else that gains. But blindly following even a good rule of thumb can do more harm than good.

That's what behavioral finance researchers at Morningstar and the University of Chicago found in a recent experiment. They asked a sample of 3,622 people to allocate a hypothetical \$10,000 among three actual exchange-traded funds that tracked Standard & Poor's 500-stock index.

The three funds were essentially identical, except for fees: One ETF had an expense ratio of 0.40 percent, one charged 0.09 percent of assets, and the third charged 0.04 percent. Participants had all the information they needed to evaluate the funds. Half of them were told they could choose just one fund; half were told they could allocate the money freely among all three funds.

The researchers discovered that when it comes to investment fees, diversification efforts can backfire. About 47 percent of the first group chose the cheapest fund option — the correct choice, given the

identical makeup of the funds and similar performance records. But only 14 percent of investors with access to all three funds chose to put all of their money in the cheapest version.

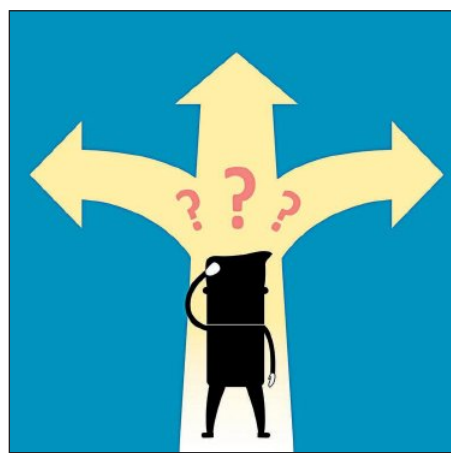
On average, those who could allocate freely put 27 percent of their money in the most expensive ETF, 31 percent of their money in the middle-cost ETF and 42 percent in the cheapest.

The results show that when given the option, investors put a sizable portion of their money into high-cost investments when nearly identical low-cost options are available.

"Investors are sensitive to fees, but an overreliance on diversification overrides that sensitivity," says Morningstar behavioral scientist Ray Sin.

Diversification snafus can be triggered by too many choices within a complex decision, say the researchers. The researchers recommend that investment advisers take a cue from Costco and curate the choices they offer investors, similar to the way the retailer offers a limited selection of high-quality goods at reasonable prices.

Investors can curate their portfolios on their own by remembering that diversification is meant to give you exposure to different asset classes, such as stocks or bonds, or different sectors, industries or investment styles within those categories.



MRHIGHISKY/DREAMSTIME

Start by determining what's appropriate for your goals and ignoring the rest; a 30-year-old focused on growth does not have to sort through a lot of bond funds, for example. And be discriminating within each category. For example, if you have more than one small-company growth stock fund, you've probably got too many.

Finally, if you're choosing among substantially similar funds — nearly identical in the case of index funds — lower expenses should be the most important factor in your decision.

Anne Kates Smith is executive editor at Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine. Send your questions and comments to moneypower@kiplinger.com.

Two easy ways to save

Putting your finances in order doesn't have to take a lot of time. Here are two quick ways to improve your financial life.

Check your withholding

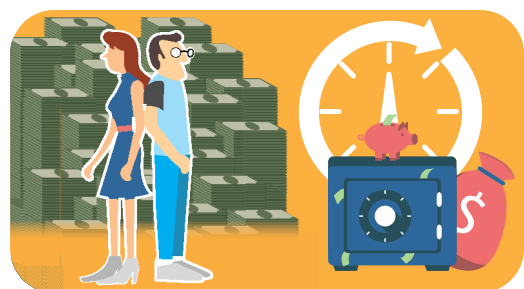
Because of the new tax law, the amount of money your employer withholds from your paycheck may no longer line up with how much you owe the IRS. You could be paying more than you should now, or you could be paying too little and end up with an unexpected tax bill next spring.

Access your most recent pay stub and your 2017 tax return and run your numbers through the withholding calculator at www.irs.gov. If you need to make adjustments to your withholding, file a new W-4 form with your employer.



Set up a household budget

Couples can budget as a team using You Need a Budget (\$84 per year). Start by syncing your bank and credit accounts (or entering the balances manually) and deciding how to allocate your dollars over the course of the month using YNAB's categories or your own. YNAB aims to distribute all of your income between monthly expenses and longer-term goals (including savings), so you can handle large, unexpected expenses more easily. Or link all your financial accounts to Mint (free) to track your budget and bills.



SOURCE: Kiplinger

SUCCESS

Change up your work chats

Meeting a colleague?
Don't head for
the coffee shop

BY JOHN BOITNOTT
Inc.

"Let's grab coffee sometime."

It's one of the most common things I hear when someone wants to network, do business and/or find out what's going on with work. The coffee talk tends to be a bit more casual than a regular meeting, but business typically gets done.

It is pleasant to meet a colleague at a local coffee shop and have a chat over coffee or tea, but it's become a cliché. Instead of simply defaulting to a coffee date, why not engage in some other interesting, engaging activity with your colleague, friend or employee? You can create an authentic, high-quality connection with the other person. Here are some ideas.

1. Go for a walk

Steve Jobs was famous for preferring walking chats over the sitting-down kind. In his biography of the legendary tech giant, Walter Isaacson wrote, "Taking a long walk was his preferred way to have a serious conversation."

Jobs wasn't alone, either. Other famous walk-and-talkers include Harry Truman and Charles Dickens. In Aaron Sorkin dramas, the main characters often do a walk and talk during which important matters get hashed out.

Going for a walk is a solid way to counteract the well-documented health risks that come from sitting behind a desk at a computer all day long. Moreover, stretching the legs, getting the heart pumping faster and being outside are inherently pleasurable activities to many folks.

Additionally, some studies show that people think more clearly when they're mobile compared to when they're sitting still.

I've found that strolling makes



LEAF/DREAMSTIME

talking about work easier because I'm in a more relaxed mood. I'm able to listen more deeply and think more creatively and consciously about what I'm saying to someone. It's ideal for brainstorming.

2. Relax in a park

Another constructive way to disrupt the coffee chat is to simply relocate it outdoors. Maybe you don't want to walk, or you aren't physically able to engage in

movement while you talk, or maybe you just like being outside and surrounded by nature.

Being outside in natural light not only promotes well-being and improves your mood, it can also put you in the company of others who are in good spirits and engaging in high-energy recreation. People walking dogs, kids playing, a beautiful natural setting — all of this together creates a vibe that's great for conversation.

Unsurprisingly, studies show that spending time in parks and

other natural settings reduces anxiety. Green space is restorative, and talking in that kind of environment helps keep you both centered and focused.

3. Get really active

If sitting in a park (or a coffee shop) doesn't really interest you, why not get more active? Going for an easy jog or playing a sport like racquetball or golf still allows for conversation to take place, while also promoting fitness.

A shared experience like this will also help you build a deeper, more authentic connection together. I remember going for a long run with a new connection I'd made only a few days before, and it helped form a genuine bond with this person in a way I'd never experienced before in such a short period of time.

4. Have a group event

Before grabbing coffee with someone, ask yourself one simple question: Do you really want to chat with this person one on one? Sometimes the answer is no. Maybe you just need to get on the same page about a work project, then move on.

Host some kind of social event. Happy hour comes to mind. Any kind of group event that allows for a free flow of mingling and conversation will work.

When you grab coffee, you tend to be locked into one long conversation with one person. When you invite more people to a laid-back bar for happy hour, your individual conversation with each guest is shorter, but usually people don't feel left out. You also build camaraderie, which is usually a plus in any office.

5. Play a video or board game

Video or board games are another good alternative to grabbing coffee. It's an indoor activity, which helps when the weather is bad, but you're still engaged in a mutual activity to create a shared fun experience.

At one of my last jobs, a colleague and I played Rocket League together, as a way to catch up and wind down. We could get competitive in a low-stakes way, laugh and reconnect. It deepened the friendship, which is still there today. And, like many of the activities I've mentioned, it's more easygoing and original than a coffee meeting.

John Boitnott is a journalist and digital consultant.

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Chicago Tribune CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

David Bote (13) celebrates his two-run homer with Jason Heyward in the third inning of Sunday's win over the Reds. Bote also singled home a run.

**WHITE SOX 7,
TIGERS 2**

Kopecch right on target in first win

Rookie is spot-on, throwing 71 percent of pitches for strikes

By PHIL THOMPSON
Chicago Tribune

DETROIT — If his big-league debut last week felt tense, Michael Kopecch faced a few more nail-biting moments — including a couple of bases-loaded situations — during his second start Sunday against the Tigers.

But when the dust settled on a 7-2 White Sox victory, the pitching phenom had earned his first major-league victory.

“I really don’t think it’s sank in for me yet,” Kopecch said of the milestone. “We’re playing well and we have been since I got here. And right now, winning feels normal.”

Manager Rick Renteria called it a solid outing.

“Got into a little traffic in the second and the sixth, worked out of that bases-loaded jam. Fastball looked good, think he mixed in five changeups,” Renteria said.

Kopecch talked Saturday about improving his command, and as evidenced Sunday, when his location’s on, it’s really on. He threw 86 pitches, 61 for strikes, in six innings.

But when he was off, he was way off. His velocity was down. He missed his spots at times on his slider and curve. And he nailed Nicholas Castellanos and Mikie Mahtook in the back in the fourth inning.

“It sounds silly to say that in my second start in the big leagues I didn’t have my best stuff, but I didn’t have my best stuff,” Kopecch said. “Had to grind through it and fortunate to know that when I do have to get through it, I have the stuff to get big-league hitters out.”

Turn to **White Sox**, Page 3

UP NEXT

White Sox (Carlos Rodon 5-3, 2.71) at **Yankees** (Masahiro Tanaka 9-4, 3.90), 6:05 p.m. Monday, WGN-9.

■ ‘No doubt’ Jose Abreu will return this season. **Page 3**

CUBS 9, REDS 0

Tide rolls for Cubs

Hendricks, hitters help dominate both sides of ball

By TEDDY GREENSTEIN | Chicago Tribune

College football season is upon us, and Sunday’s Cubs-Reds game was akin to Alabama-Mercer.

It was decided shortly after kickoff. Sorry, first pitch.

The Cubs scored three against an outfit that appeared to need shelter on a day with the heat index of 101 degrees. Playing behind a starter who entered at 1-11, the Reds booted a grounder, misplayed a Jason Heyward smash into a triple and made a weak attempt at a foul pop down the

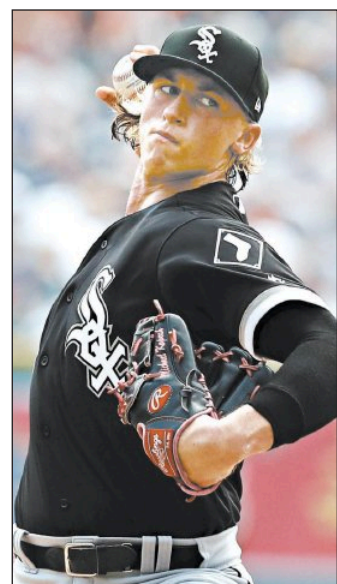
third-base line.

But let’s not go all negative here. Give the Crimson Cubs credit for taking full advantage during a 9-0 romp that represented their fifth straight victory.

“As a group,” manager Joe Maddon said, “it was pretty complete.”

The Cubs earned the four-game series sweep at Wrigley Field thanks to a near-perfect effort by Kyle Hendricks, who allowed just two hits and a walk over seven innings, improving to 10-10 with a 3.86 ERA.

Turn to **Cubs**, Page 3



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

White Sox rookie Michael Kopecch is in command Sunday against the Tigers as he earns his first major-league victory.

NL CENTRAL RACE

THE CONTENDERS				
	W	L	GB	WC
Cubs	76	53	—	
Cardinals	73	58	4	+1.5
Brewers	73	59	4.5	—

UP NEXT
Mets (Noah Syndergaard 9-3, 3.38) at **Cubs** (Jon Lester 14-5, 3.64), 7:05 p.m. Monday, NBCSCH
■ Kris Bryant to begin rehab with Iowa. **Page 3**

White’s TD a welcome sight

Receiver makes long-anticipated return to familiar territory — the end zone

Kevin White reached the end zone for the first time in a long time Saturday in the Bears’ 27-20 preseason victory over the Chiefs, hauling in a 29-yard pass from Chase Daniel late in the first quarter.



BRAD BIGGS
On the Bears

Virginia in a 45-37 loss to Texas A&M in the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 29, 2014. Some will remember that as the day the Bears fired general manager Phil Emery and coach Marc Trestman. That gives you an idea of how far back

we’re talking. White caught seven passes for 129 yards that day in what was his ninth 100-yard game of the season.

On Saturday, White ran a double move — a stutter and go from a bunch formation — and veteran cornerback Orlando Scandrick bit on it. White was wildly open, and

PRESEASON FINALE Bills at Bears
7 p.m. Thursday, FOX-32

MORE COVERAGE
Daniel shows Bears his value as backup quarterback. **Back Page**

Daniel really underthrew the ball, but White caught it and went into the end zone.

White caught one other pass for 4 yards, and it was notable he was playing — and playing significantly — because when coach

Turn to **Biggs**, Page 8



JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY

Bears wide receiver Kevin White reacts after catching a touchdown pass against the Chiefs in a preseason game Saturday at Soldier Field.

TOP OF THE SECOND



SHANNON RYAN

Winning saves Meyer's hide

I can imagine this scenario: It's late November. Ohio State is undefeated. The Buckeyes are ranked at the top. The Horseshoe has been rocking all season.

What I don't want to imagine are the headlines.

"Urban Meyer triumphs through season of adversity?" "Buckeyes shut out distractions for victory?"

On Wednesday, Ohio State announced it would slap Meyer on the wrist for what amounted to blatantly lying to his employers and enabling an employee whom Meyer knew was accused of abusing his wife. He will serve a three-game suspension.

He should have been fired. He wasn't. Now what?

Some suggest Meyer's reputation will be forever tarnished.

Unfortunately, that won't be the case if he keeps winning. Why would anyone assume otherwise?

A long list of coaches have been on the hot seat for scandals yet maintained their jobs — or found new positions at other schools. The list of coaches who faced serious, long-lasting repercussions is considerably shorter.

Ohio State let Meyer off the hook. That doesn't mean fans and media have to.

But I'm cynical. Fans and media can be disturbingly eager to forgive or forget athletic heroes' transgressions. When we talk about Meyer this season, this blight should be mentioned.

Reporters can't fall back into a familiar narrative used for decades to hurry along the forgiveness process.

The media should resist defining any of Meyer's success this season as a metaphorical triumph of his character. They should not suggest he has learned a lesson simply because he is back to winning football games.

Reporters must insist they'll follow up on questions they couldn't ask Meyer on Wednesday night because Ohio State conveniently did not release a full report until after his news conference.

More sports reporters and columnists recognized that Meyer's statements Wednesday night omitted Courtney Smith, Zach Smith's ex-wife, who accused him of domestic abuse. Gerry DiNardo, a former Big Ten coach and now Big Ten Network analyst, strongly condemned Meyer for this omission.



SAM RICHE/INDIANAPOLIS STAR

Despite reprehensible behavior, Urban Meyer's winning record will likely earn him a pass.

For the record, Meyer apologized Friday to Courtney Smith.

Meyer has done nothing to receive the benefit of the doubt that he will likely receive this season — from lying at Big Ten media day about knowing of Zach Smith's 2015 arrest to failing to tell his employers his knowledge of Smith's 2009 arrest to refusing to express empathy to Courtney Smith when given an opportunity.

But that's not how we treat people who are good at sports.

It's not like Meyer lost too many games. Now that would be a fireable offense, right?

He brought a national championship to Ohio State. He has won 73 games and lost only eight in Columbus.

And if that keeps up, as shameful as it is, this supposed stain on Meyer's legacy will likely dissolve with each win this season.

I hope I'm wrong.

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MEDIA

Signing off: Hill's ESPN run to end



After 12 years at ESPN, **Jemele Hill's** time with the sports media giant is coming to a close, according to multiple reports.

James Miller, a longtime ESPN chronicler, reported that Hill met with network President Jimmy Pitaro and that her buyout/departure was "amicable." The New York Post's Andrew Marchand added that Hill's last day with ESPN will be Aug. 31.

Hill made news last year when she called President Donald Trump a "white supremacist" in the wake of the deadly rally in Charlottesville, Va. The comment led White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders to call the remarks "a fireable offense."

In October 2017, ESPN suspended Hill for two weeks after she suggested fans could boycott Cowboys advertisers after team owner Jerry Jones threatened to bench his players if they did not stand for the national anthem.

Trump responded the day after her suspension with a tweet stating: "With Jemele Hill at the mike (sic), it is no wonder ESPN ratings have 'tank[ed]'; in fact, tanked so badly it is the talk of the industry!"

Hill left the coveted 6 p.m. "SportsCenter" slot in February to pursue her "true love" of "writing, reporting and commentary" at The Undeafed, ESPN's subsite devoted to sports, race and culture.

Pitaro, who took over for John Skipper in March, made clear earlier this month that he does not want ESPN to be associated with politics and is trying to change the narrative that has surrounded the company and its personalities.

"I have been very, very clear with employees here that it is not our jobs to cover politics, purely," Pitaro said.

The Athletic reported that Hill will work with friend and fellow Undeafed writer Kelley Carter on their production company called Lodge Freeway Media, which will provide more freedom with content development.

— Washington Post

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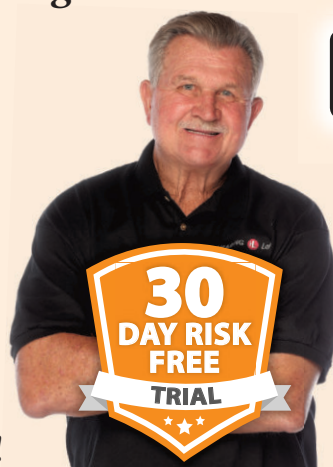


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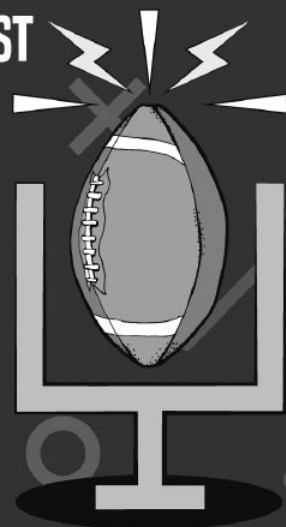
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Chicago Tribune

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BULLS

Markkanen thanks McCain for visa aid

Late senator helped Finland native enter U.S. to play ball

By K.C. JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

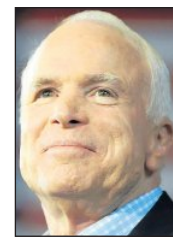
John McCain touched many lives during his decades of public service. Even, eventually, a Chicago Bull's.

One day after McCain died of brain cancer at 81, Lauri Markkanen thanked the longtime Arizona senator for his help securing a student visa for his lone season at the University of Arizona.

Markkanen posted the following to his Twitter account Sunday morning: "Rest In peace @senJohnMcCain, I will forever be grateful for you helping a kid from Finland get a visa to live out my dream of playing basketball in the States."

Markkanen experienced visa problems as he prepared to leave Finland in 2016 to begin his freshman season with the Wildcats. Markkanen eventually met McCain that season and thanked him in person.

In a March 2017 interview with ABC News' Rick Klein and ESPN's Andy Katz, McCain joked that he would take full credit should Arizona win that year's NCAA tournament.



McCain

"We've got a young guy from Finland named Markkanen, as you know, Lauri Markkanen. He is fantastic," McCain said in the interview. "You know how politicians are, they like credit, you know? He was having trouble with his visa. And they went to our office and we helped out with the visa. So therefore, any success, I will take full credit for."

That's classic, huh?"

McCain and the hosts chuckled at McCain's tongue-in-cheek crack. Then he turned serious as Katz presciently said Markkanen would be a lottery pick should he turn pro after his freshman season.

"He's an amazing talent," McCain said in the interview. "The young man is a really attractive young man. By the way, he's very happy down at the University of Arizona, which is a little bit different climate than he's got in Helsinki."

In an interview in Finland last summer when news of McCain's illness broke, Markkanen called McCain a "pleasant man" and expressed his condolences.

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Twitter @kcjhoop



AL BELLO/GETTY

Roger Federer last won the U.S. Open in 2008 — his fifth straight. "For a long period ... when I came to the Open I had all the answers," he said.

U.S. OPEN PREVIEW

Federer looking to end 9-year Open drought

After winning titles from 2004-08, his luck suddenly ran dry in Flushing Meadows

By BRIAN MAHONEY | Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even with all the times Roger Federer has held the U.S. Open trophy, he still can't forget the time it slipped through his fingers.

He had won five consecutive titles in Flushing Meadows and was a game away from a sixth in 2009 when Juan Martin del Potro pulled out a fourth-set tiebreaker and then won the fifth set.

"I still wish I could have played that match again," Federer said Friday.

He never has been that close to winning the U.S. Open since, reaching the final just once.

That would have been hard to imagine then, when Federer would steamroll into New York at the tail end of some of the greatest seasons in tennis history. He was 24-15 from 2004 to '06 and knew he would figure things out across seven matches on the hard courts in a city where he is so comfortable.

"For a long period I was not losing much," Federer said, "and when I came to the Open I had all the answers for all the guys, all my opponents (and) all conditions — wind, night, day, I really embraced everything about New York."

He still does, which is why — at 37 and a full decade removed from his last title here — Federer believes he can succeed again at the year's final Grand Slam tournament and collect a male-record 21st major when main-draw play begins Monday. A sixth U.S. Open title would break a tie with Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras for the most in the professional era.

"It would mean the world to me," Federer said.

Novak Djokovic just beat Federer in the final in Cincinnati, and the Wimbledon champion might be the favorite in New York. Defending champion Rafael Nadal is the top seed after taking back the No. 1 ranking that Federer had regained earlier this season for the first time in five years, and del Potro is up to a career-best No. 3 in the world and proved again last year that he could handle Federer at the U.S. Open when he stopped him in the quarterfinals.

Yet few would count out No. 2 seed Federer, even as erratic as his gifted game looked against Djokovic last weekend in Ohio.

U.S. OPEN

Monday-Sept. 9 in New York

Women's final: Sept. 8.

Men's final: Sept. 9.

Top women's seeds

- 1. Simona Halep
- 2. Caroline Wozniacki
- 3. Sloane Stephens*
- 4. Angelique Kerber
- 5. Petra Kvitova

Top men's seeds

- 1. Rafael Nadal*
- 2. Roger Federer
- 3. Juan Martin del Potro
- 4. Alexander Zverev
- 5. Kevin Anderson

* — defending champion

Purse: \$53 million.

The men's and women's champions receive \$3.8 million each.

"If you are playing well before, (it's) easier to play well in the Grand Slam," Nadal said. "No doubt of that. At the same time it's true a few players are able to increase the level of concentration, level of tennis, level of intensity in some places. If you have to do it, this is one of the places."

Federer hasn't done it in the biggest moments over the last decade.

The 2009 loss to del Potro was followed by semifinal defeats against Djokovic in 2010 and 2011, when Federer blew two match points in both. He finally got back to the final in 2015 but was beaten by Djokovic. He missed the 2016 tournament because of a knee injury.

Federer won the Australian Open and Wimbledon in a resurgent 2017, but he tweaked his back while reaching the Montreal final and knew his body and game weren't in shape by the time he got to New York.

"I knew from the get-go it was not going to be possible for me to win," Federer said.

So he was even more cautious in monitoring his schedule this year, sitting out the clay-court season again and pulling out of Toronto, making Cincinnati his only hard-court warmup.

Federer won't second-guess his scheduling, believing he has made the right decisions for his preparation. Nor will he kick himself over the U.S. Opens lost over the last decade.

"I won the U.S. Open five times, so I'm pretty happy," Federer said. "It's not like, 'God, the Open never worked out for me.' It hasn't the last couple years, but it's all good."

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

Calendar grid showing dates from Monday to Sunday with various event icons and times.

MONDAY ON TV/RADIO

Table of Monday TV and radio programs including MLB (White Sox at Yankees), NFL Preseason, and Tennis (U.S. Open).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

College football schedule for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, listing matchups between various teams.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer Eastern and Western conference standings.

NFL PRESEASON

NFL preseason game results for NFC North, East, South, West, AFC North, East, South, and West.

WNBFA PLAYOFFS

WNBA playoff results for Semifinals and Finals, including Seattle Storm vs Phoenix Mercury.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Minor League Baseball Midwest League Eastern and Western conference standings.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

American Association baseball standings and results.

TRANSACTIONS

Baseball transactions including acquisitions, releases, and trades for various teams.

GOLF

PGA Northern Trust tournament results, including scores and statistics for the top finishers.

CP WOMEN'S OPEN

CP Women's Open tournament results, including scores and statistics for the top finishers.

WEB.COM NATIONWIDE

Web.com Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship golf tournament results.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Little League Baseball World Series results and tournament details.

LATEST LINE

Latest line betting odds for various sports events.

Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Crossword puzzle solutions, including Across and Down answers.

FEDEX CUP THE NORTHERN TRUST

Solid DeChambeau a winner

By Doug Ferguson | Associated Press
DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship.

DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. Furyk makes three of his four captain's picks a week from Tuesday, and it will be tough to ignore a 24-year-old Californian with victories at the Memorial and a FedEx Cup playoff event.

IN BRIEF LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Hawaii blanks S. Korea to win title

Tribune news services
Mana Lau Kong homered to center field on the first pitch his team saw and Ka'olu Holt pitched a complete game Sunday to lead Hawaii to a 3-0 victory over South Korea in the Little League World Series championship in South Williamsport, Pa.

DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. Furyk makes three of his four captain's picks a week from Tuesday, and it will be tough to ignore a 24-year-old Californian with victories at the Memorial and a FedEx Cup playoff event.

It's the first Little League World Series title for Hawaii since 2008. Hawaii is one of seven U.S. states with at least three LLWS championships.

DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. Furyk makes three of his four captain's picks a week from Tuesday, and it will be tough to ignore a 24-year-old Californian with victories at the Memorial and a FedEx Cup playoff event.

College Football: Michigan WR Tarik Black is out indefinitely with an injured right foot. Black was hurt during practice Saturday.

DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. Furyk makes three of his four captain's picks a week from Tuesday, and it will be tough to ignore a 24-year-old Californian with victories at the Memorial and a FedEx Cup playoff event.

Auto Racing: Sebastian Vettel won the Formula 1 Belgian Grand Prix in Spa-Francorchamps and trimmed rival Lewis Hamilton's lead to 17 points heading into next weekend's Italian Grand Prix.

DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. Furyk makes three of his four captain's picks a week from Tuesday, and it will be tough to ignore a 24-year-old Californian with victories at the Memorial and a FedEx Cup playoff event.

Golf: Brooke Henderson, 20, became the first Canadian to win the country's national championship in 45 years, closing with a 7-under 65 for a four-stroke victory in the CP Women's Open in Regina, Saskatchewan.

DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. Furyk makes three of his four captain's picks a week from Tuesday, and it will be tough to ignore a 24-year-old Californian with victories at the Memorial and a FedEx Cup playoff event.

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— eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE —



JAHÍ CHIKWENDU/WASHINGTON POST PHOTOS

Edna Karr High coach Brice Brown speaks to his team after practice two weeks ago. Brown spends considerable time keeping track of his players even when they are not on the field.

‘Our call is to save them’

New Orleans coach frets more over players’ lives than football prowess

By **KENT BABB** | Washington Post

NEW ORLEANS — Tall clouds gather in the distance, and Brice Brown turns right to point his truck toward the worst of it.

“Summertime in New Orleans,” he says, though on steamy weekend evenings there’s more to worry about than some here-and-gone storm.

It’s the last Friday before school starts at Edna Karr High, where Brown has led the football team to the last two Class 4A state championships, and he has been here long enough and immersed himself in enough players’ lives to learn this much: These are the times when bad things happen.

Last weekend, one of Brown’s wide receivers ran away from home. An offensive lineman spent a night on his front porch after a fight with his father. A sophomore disappeared for 48 hours.

But that’s not why he’s out here an hour after practice ended, patrolling the streets with the steering wheel in one hand and his iPhone in the other. Last year there were 589 shootings in New Orleans, and six days ago — on a night just like this — two people fired into a crowd: three dead, seven wounded. Eight days from now, a 15-year-old boy will be fatally shot two miles from Edna Karr.

“Every time we get an update: shooting in Central City,” Brown, 33, says. “Shooting in Uptown. Shooting in New Orleans East. Shooting in Algiers.”

As the sun sets, he dials a player to ask about his weekend plans. Then another to ask if he ate dinner. Another to ask what size shirt he wears. Brown is really calling to hear each player’s voice, to make sure he made it home, to find out if he’s alive or dead.

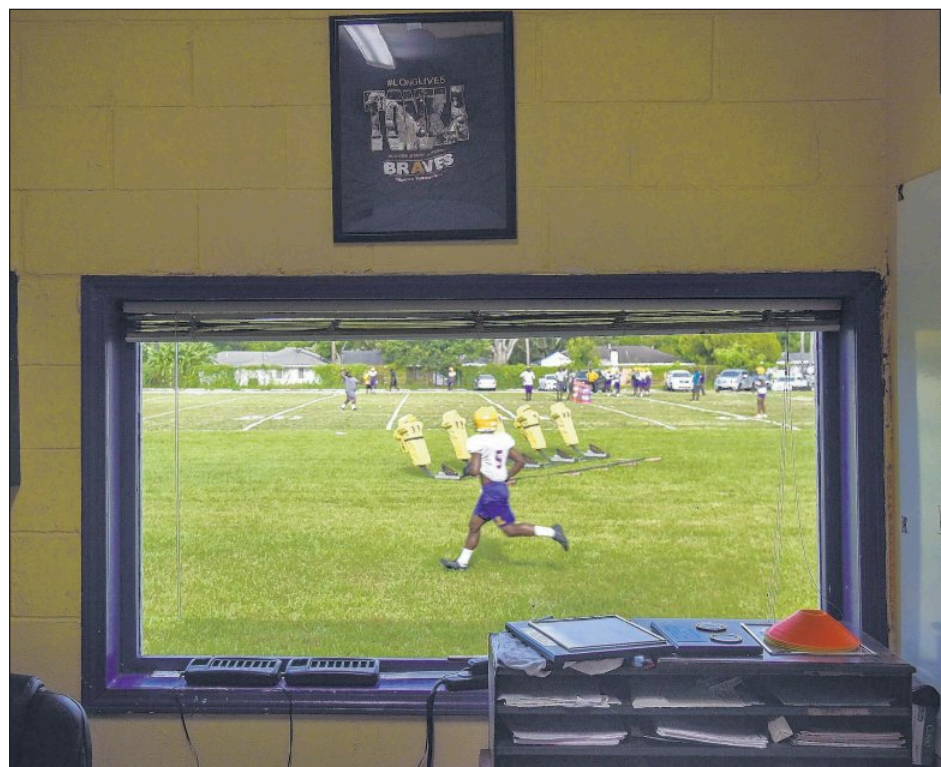
“We’ve got kids who live in these areas,” Brown says, “who are trying to make it.”

He opens the contact for Ronnie Jackson, the Cougars’ 18-year-old running back and perhaps the greatest challenge of the coach’s life, and a moment later the phone is ringing, ringing, ringing. When it goes to voicemail, Brown can’t help but think the worst.

By the end of 2016, there had been 486 shootings in New Orleans, and victims ranged from largely anonymous to well-known.

Former NFL running back Joe McKnight was shot to death in December at a nondescript intersection in the Terrytown neighborhood. Will Smith, the retired defensive end for the Saints, died in April after being shot in the ritzy Lower Garden District.

The final seven months of 2016 were especially bloody, with 390 people being shot, according to data collected by New



A T-shirt honoring Tollette “Tonka” George hangs in Brice Brown’s office. “Tonka,” who wore No. 5 when he played quarterback for the school, was shot to death in New Orleans.

Orleans-based crime analyst Jeff Asher. Particularly alarming is the consistency of shootings in the nation’s 49th-largest city — New Orleans is one of nine U.S. cities with at least 100 murders in each of the last 49 years, though it’s the only one of those with fewer than 600,000 residents — and that shots can ring out seemingly at any time, in any part of town.

On a steamy Friday in June 2016, a 23-year-old played pickup basketball with friends, told his mother he loved her and made his way to a gas station in Algiers.

Tollette George, whom most everyone called “Tonka,” had returned home after graduating from Alcorn State seven weeks earlier. Tonka had played wide receiver for the Braves, and during ambitious moments he would vow to someday suit up for the Saints. When he was being realistic, he’d tell friends he wanted to coach at Edna Karr, his alma mater, and be a symbol for young people: If Tonka could make it, they could, too.

But that Friday in Algiers, the sound of gunfire filled the air, and so eventually did ringing phones. Brown picked up to hear a voice urging him to get to the gas station because Tonka, the quarterback who had led Edna Karr to the 2010 state title game, was dead.

Brown arrived around midnight, police tape holding back onlookers, including Tonka’s shell-shocked mother and uncle. Rhonda George knew it was her son behind the partition, but she kept calling his phone anyway, praying he would answer.

The coach tried to console them, and in time they’d come back to the same question:

Why? Like 65 percent of murders in New Orleans between 2010 and 2017, Tonka’s has not resulted in an arrest.

He was bright, talented and ambitious, and Rhonda would come to believe that’s partly why her only son died. Tonka’s uncle, Brannon Gettridge, believed his nephew made one mistake: He returned to a place where life has seemingly been devalued amid a wave of gunfire.

“I tried telling Tonka,” Gettridge says, “Don’t come back to this city.”

Tonka’s death “changed the way I view football,” Brown says now, and it wound up being the young man’s death, not his life, that made him a symbol at Edna Karr.

As the months and seasons passed, Brown pondered his own future. Even if he spent decades winning championships, would he be a success? No, he decided, and so he made a promise to himself: Whatever it took, no matter the financial or personal cost, he would not allow another bullet to take one of his players.

“I wasn’t called for X’s and O’s,” Brown says. “Where you at?” Brown asks.

A phone rings in a bedroom in Algiers, and a young man issues an annoyed smile when he sees the display: “Coach Brice.” He knows he’d better answer.

“At the house,” says Ronnie Jackson, Edna Karr’s talented running back, who will play college football if Brown can keep him on track — and alive — for 10 more months.

“Is your phone on silent again?” Ronnie sighs. Every day with this. A while earlier, Brown called and Ronnie was

making dinner or was taking a shower or ... whatever it was, he wasn’t tethered to his phone, and so it went to voicemail.

“You’re still — you’re bad with this phone,” Brown says, and he asks about Ronnie’s grandmother. What if she calls? How about his girlfriend? Brown bets Ronnie answers then.

The young man squirms before barking, finally, into his phone.

“You think you’re the only one, Coach?” “Mm-hmm,” Brown says, the outburst apparently what he was going for.

In a few minutes, the coach will deliver chicken fingers to Ronnie so there’s one fewer reason to leave Grandma Darlene’s house. It’s also a way to check on him, to remind him Big Brother Brice is watching. While Ronnie will spend the evening playing video games with a teammate, his free hours weren’t always spent so innocently.

A few miles from where he now lives stands the first house Ronnie ever broke into. He was 8 years old then, his friends feeding him through a window because he was small enough to fit. He opened the locked door, and he and his friends grabbed as many electronic devices as possible, Ronnie says, and the older boys would use part of their bounty to buy him a new outfit.

He laughs at the memory now: the fear he felt in those first moments inside, the excitement when they finished, the relief when he ran away and the sirens faded.

“It’s crazy how I can remember all this,” he says, and as he grew, so did the memories and the stakes.

Two cousins would be shot to death, their names now tattooed on Ronnie’s back, and he can picture the way an uncle’s midsection looked after two bullets were removed from it. At family reunions, Ronnie noticed how few males attended; he’d describe a departed relative by how many Christmases he’d missed.

His mother would sometimes suggest the males in their family had a curse on them, though to her Ronnie was different. “I didn’t have no problems,” Lisa Jackson now says, and this is comical to Ronnie, too, because of how little his mother knows about his childhood.

He’d skip school to start fights or smoke marijuana, and when a youth coach told him he was destined for prison or an early grave, Ronnie figured the man was probably right. He stormed off the field that day, the first of many times he quit a team, and back then coaches just let him keep walking.

“I ain’t never had coaches,” he says now, “that really hold on.”

When he reached Edna Karr, Ronnie brought his helmet to Brown’s office and announced he had better things to do than ride the bench. So the coach ordered him into the lineup just to watch him fail. Later, when Ronnie blew off practice to smoke with old friends, Brown sent an assistant coach to drag him back to practice. When Ronnie told Brown he was quitting the team

eNEWSPAPER BONUS COVERAGE



JAHÍ CHIKWENDIU/WASHINGTON POST

Edna Karr coach Brice Brown, supervising a recent practice, has mixed feelings on his fate in New Orleans: "I'm pushing (the players) out to save their life, and I keep staying."

to enroll in trucking school, the coach ordered him out of his office.

When he came back, meekly asking for another chance, Brown again told him to get out. This went on for a while, and one day Brown told him to leave and Ronnie refused. This, he told his coach, was his team too. He wasn't going anywhere.

Brown's face relaxed. Finally, the kid got it.

"He was testing me," Ronnie says. "I used to always fail the test."

It has taken all this, Brown says, for the young player to learn to stand his ground rather than run away.

"He has become a fighter," the coach says, "not a quitter."

Brown knows how to mix it up, too, and in his lifelong war against the streets, he has learned to fight dirty.

After a recent practice, he told players that leaving a mess in the locker room might compel coaches to present them with dirty jerseys for their first game. Maybe they'd forget to clean the water bottles. Last year, after players complained about spaghetti for a pregame meal, Brown served them ham sandwiches and water. Sometimes he'll burst into a team meeting, drop five boxes of drug tests on a table and then walk out.

"Sometimes I'm full of it," he says. "But you've got to make them uncomfortable."

Brown says that's just the language here, and when he met Ronnie years ago during an in-school suspension, the coach couldn't get him to stop talking. So he threw a dictionary at him. Only a paperback, Brown points out.

They eventually talked, forming a fateful but volatile bond, and occasionally traded threats. Other times they found commonality in being the only sons of single mothers or in complexities they usually kept buried. Brown was an admitted control freak, the only person capable of saving these kids, and if Ronnie was a natural leader — on the field or organizing his eighth-grade class to cheat on an assessment test — he was a terrible follower.

Brown recognized that, so last year he elevated Ronnie to team captain. At practices, he leads stretches, adjusts teammates' positioning, is the fastest to drills when they need an example and the slowest when they need to be herded. Brown, a mad social scientist with a scraggly beard and a whistle, issues jersey numbers based on his ranking of players' importance to the program. Ronnie wears No. 2, and if it drives him crazy that he'll never be No. 1, that's precisely the point.

"I worry about Ronnie more than others because he's been to the dark side before," Brown says. "And all it takes is a little push."

He is, for better or worse, Brown's defining project: frustrating and charming, a past that makes you want to give up and a free-spirited charisma that won't let you — and in those ways, isn't he just like Guy Henderson?

Nearly two decades ago, Brown and Henderson grew up on these streets and found themselves playing together at Edna Karr. Henderson was the Cougars' quarter-

back, Brown the offensive lineman who protected him. They forged a friendship based not only on similarities — among them is that both of their fathers were murdered — but their differences.

Brown was the responsible one, his focus always on the future; Henderson preferred to take risks. They were teammates again at Grambling, and if Brown was determined to stay gone, Henderson knew he'd make his way back to New Orleans.

Eventually they both did, and Brown shelved his dreams of coaching the Saints when he accepted an internship at Edna Karr. The months turned to years, and Brown climbed the coaching ladder while Henderson was drawn to the shadows. They still spoke often, and Brown learned that if Henderson didn't answer the first time he called, he'd always pick up the second time.

Three years ago, the men texted about Henderson joining the team's coaching staff. Brown's old friend knew the game and could speak the players' language, but the truth is the coach was trying to throw one more block for his old quarterback. They agreed to grab lunch and discuss the future, but Henderson — typical — never called to confirm.

Brown was in his truck when the text arrived: Henderson was dead, shot in his car at 4 in the afternoon. Brown couldn't believe it. He called Henderson not once but twice, their longtime code, but it just rang and rang.

Another funeral, another casket to carry, another symbol for his players at Edna Karr. But as time passed, the coach's grief hardened into regret.

"If we had met," he says now, "would that still have happened?"

He pauses and then sighs.

"We probably could've done more."

Another pause. Another sigh.

"Ronnie reminds me so much of him."

They filter into Ronnie's room, four generations of relatives and, because his sister Jasmine is six months' pregnant, a fifth on the way.

Sunday is about shrimp pasta and conversation, and nearly 20 family members have found their way to Grandma Darlene's. Ronnie has been pushed to the edge of his bed as they discuss their favorite topic: his future.

"You have come a long way, baby," Lisa, his mother, says.

"You're going to be really something," great-grandmother Suzie says.

"He's the only one that made it," sister Kijha says.

Ronnie smiles at the attention, but he is the keeper of many secrets. As far as he has come, occasionally the old muscle memory still fires. Ronnie again quit the football team last year, peeling off his jersey and pads after a disappointing game, and he has wondered aloud whether he's cut out for college. He knows he's supposed to answer the phone when Brown calls — the coach has explained, time after time, what an unanswered call means to him — but Ronnie is a teenager, and sometimes he's in no mood for a lecture.

"So it's kind of like you want to be bothered when you want to be bothered?" Brown asked him recently.

"Basically."

"See, that's not how the real world works."

Ronnie doesn't get into much of that with his family, and it's easier for them to focus unimpeded on him somehow altering the family's trajectory. So he didn't tell them about the man who recently brandished a gun at Ronnie and a friend. Or how often Brown has to lock the gates surrounding the Edna Karr practice field because of a nearby active shooter. He certainly didn't tell them about the block party last year near Tulane. That was the night, Brown now says, about 30 Edna Karr players were gathered and someone sprayed bullets into the crowd. "They're shooting," was the text message Brown recalls getting, and of course when he called Ronnie it went straight to voicemail.

Brown didn't learn Ronnie was still alive until hours later. After becoming separated from his teammates, Ronnie says, he ran into a hallway and through a door, and in the median he saw a body. He ran again, lying on the ground behind a vehicle until the shooting stopped and he heard the voice of an Edna Karr assistant coach, who was working security at the party, urging him into his car.

That night, Ronnie decided parties were no longer a good idea. Neither was walking most anywhere, accepting rides from anyone but close friends, talking to fans at road games, celebrating after touchdowns, lingering on the field after wins, going anywhere after dark.

"You got to hide," he says, and it is around this time that Grandma Darlene, back and forth from the kitchen, enters the room.

Though she knows some of her grandson's secrets, she nonetheless believes this is a time for honesty.

"These little boys are so jealous of him because he's doing good, they'll kill him," she says.

"Just to see him not make it?" Jasmine asks.

"Because they don't want to see him make it," Darlene says.

Still at the foot of his bed, Ronnie nods.

"In New Orleans," he says, "they don't care if you run the ball good. They don't care nothing about that."

The conversation pivots to what should come next. As his senior year begins, Ronnie has scholarship offers to play football from four colleges, as far away as Kentucky and Kansas.

If Ronnie is a success, his mother says, he'll have a responsibility to return and offer inspiration to the neighborhood, the school, the city. But Ronnie says that was Tonka's plan, too, and look what happened.

"Everybody down here is so prideful," Jasmine says.

"Crabs in a bucket," Darlene says.

Brown is back in his truck, returning from a weekend trip. The miles pass, and faster than Brown ever imagined, so have the years.

Nearly a decade ago, he gave up his goal

of coaching in the NFL. But after going 38-6 in his first three seasons as a head coach, more and more he asks himself the same question: Could he coach college football? Last year, he says, the coach of a Power Five school asked him to consider joining his staff — something of a liaison to high schools in the Southeast, Brown says. He gathered players to share his decision: He would be leaving Edna Karr.

One by one, the hands went up. Who's going to bring me something to eat? Who's going to buy my school shirts? Who's going to be here when I need somebody to talk to?

Then Ronnie spoke up. "You can't (freaking) leave," he told Brown, and for once it was Ronnie who wouldn't let him quit.

And so, guilt prevailing over ambition, Brown stayed. The Cougars went 14-1, won another state title, and for one more year, no players died. Brown spent another series of months calling them, worrying when they didn't answer that he'll be summoned to another crime scene, trying to convince them the only path to survival and happiness is to not just leave New Orleans but to stay away. And it's not lost on him that the coach saying that was once a young man who got out, then came back. Now he can't leave.

"I'm pushing them out to save their life, and I keep staying," says Brown, who lives less than three miles from the house where he grew up.

This is no badge of honor, not to him, but he has realized that after the deaths of Guy Henderson and Tonka George, he is motivated not by what he hopes will happen but instead what he hopes will not. Maybe he has just lived here too long.

Just because Brown kept his players alive last year doesn't mean he will this year. Just because one challenge ends doesn't mean there won't be another behind it. Just because Ronnie answered the phone yesterday doesn't mean he will today.

"I don't think my job can ever be done with him," Brown says. "I think he's one of those kids that he's attached to me probably for life."

He keeps driving, the New Orleans skyline cutting into the horizon.

"There'll be a new Ronnie. It's always the next kid," he says. "The next one and the next one and the next one."

Brown is ruminating now, going a long time without speaking.

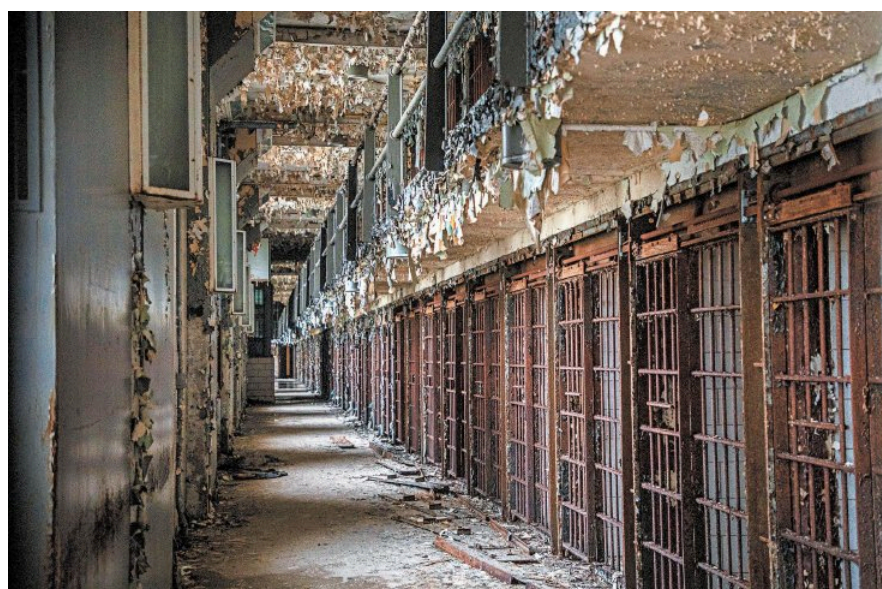
"I'm damned," he eventually says, "and that's just the truth."

He directs the truck up the highway, his destination somewhere ahead, and with the sun setting he passes the area of town where shots interrupted last year's block party. It reminds Brown there's something he needs to do, and the momentary feeling of purpose has brightened his mood.

"We've just got to keep striving for the now," he says, reaching into the center console for his phone.

He glances at the display, his thumb scrolling and pressing the contact labeled "Ronnie 2," and he rests his arm on the steering wheel and takes a breath as the phone begins to ring.

Chicago Tribune
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The castlelike administration building, above; a crest that reads "It's Never Too Late to Mend," top left; and a cell house, top right, at the ghostly Old Joliet Prison in Joliet. **ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

The Alcatraz of the Midwest?

Tours to start at Old Joliet Prison, a ruin of busted glass and the stuff of nightmares

Have you ever seen a place with less color? The Joliet Correctional Center, which opens for public tours on Tuesday, is surrounded by a 25-foot-tall limestone wall that looks like it was dipped into a cauldron of bile. The administration building, the castle-looking centerpiece of the facility, is a matching hue of awful. Built 160 years ago, and designed by architect William Boyington (who created the stony old Chicago Water Tower), it was never intended to appear pleasant, but rather, consciously impervious, intimidating and scary.

A kingdom, more medieval than magic. If you're traveling south from Chicago, that wall, that Great Wall of Joliet, rises up first, long and solid and saffron and pixelated, its bricks so gigantic — the wall is 6 feet thick at its widest point — you could stand there and count the individual chunks and you wouldn't be standing all day. Even the sky above — it seems indelibly gloomy and colorless, as if the Old Joliet Prison (what the locals call it



CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI

now) generates its own climate. And for 160 years, it has. You need to know what waits behind that wall. The prison, one of the largest in the nation at the onset of the 20th century, has been a tourist preoccupation as early as the 1880s, when local civic leaders first worried their home was fast becoming known as "The Prison City." Indeed, the archives of the Joliet Area Historical Museum hold more than a few good

reasons for their concern: Deep in the stacks are century-old keepsakes, spoons and humidors, coin trays and marble cheese plates, all imprinted with the gothic skyline of the Joliet prison, morbid souvenirs sold to the flood of tourists who would travel from near and far to visit the city's already iconic monument to incarceration. Meanwhile, inside those walls, men were kept in stockades, and doubled into cells not much larger than farm wagons, with little ventilation, scant sunlight and no toilets (until the 1950s).

Turn to **Borrelli, Page 4**

'Black Panther' is on the hunt for an Oscar

By **GLENN WHIPP**
 Los Angeles Times

When the Academy Awards were held the first weekend of March, "Black Panther" was dominating both the box office and cultural conversation in its third week in theaters. The Marvel movie loomed large at the Oscars as well — cast members were greeted with cheers on the red carpet and host Jimmy Kimmel mentioned it twice during his opening monologue. ("Imagine a country with a black leader. Wouldn't that be swell?") "Black Panther" wouldn't be eligible for the Oscars for another year, but many in Hollywood already believed it could capitalize on that remarkable reception to become the first superhero movie ever

nominated for best picture. The title became a prime "get" for awards consultants. Disney ended up hiring veteran Oscar strategist Cynthia Swartz to orchestrate a campaign, with Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige backing the move with a significant awards season budget, a commitment Marvel has never before made. Since then, the motion picture academy has complicated matters, adding a new Oscar for best popular film earlier this month. The academy has yet to reveal any details about the criteria for the category, but, safe to say, it appears designed to reward blockbusters like "Black Panther," which became the third highest grossing movie ever in the U.S.

Turn to **Oscar, Page 3**

IN PERFORMANCE 'Vietgone' ★★★

Looking back at a lost war

By **CHRIS JONES**
 Chicago Tribune

How did my parents arrive at the moment of my birth? Some of us seek and find the answer to that question as small children. The rest of us, especially if our folks' trajectories through life involved tragedy, war and displacement, if they were the collateral damage in a war of economics or ideology, realize that the conversation for them is painful, that their self-protection runs counter to the dredging of their memories. That question — and its ethical dilemmas — are at the core of Qui Nguyen's "Vietgone," a raucous, telling and irreverent family memoir, now in a flawed but worthwhile first Chicago-area production at



MICHAEL BROSILOW PHOTO
 Aurora Adachi-Winter in "Vietgone" at Writers Theatre.

Writers Theatre in Glencoe, that explores the meeting of Nguyen's parents in a Vietnamese refugee camp in Arkansas following the traumatizing fall of Saigon in 1975. So this is a very personal play

— not unlike, say, Quiara Alegria Hughes' Pulitzer-finalist "Elliot, a Soldier's Fugue," or Lauren Yee's "King of the Yees," both of which deal with writers' questions about the secrets of their own families. But Nguyen's work is so personal, in fact, that he actually wrote into its structure his own nervousness at daring to ask. That part of the overlong work — which I otherwise like a great deal — strikes me as an understandable but unnecessary bit of throat-clearing, given that all artists find their material at home. It is almost disingenuous to "apologize" for the telling of the meeting of Quang and Tong, the fictional versions of Nguyen's parents, who meet through what might best be described as a casual hookup in

Turn to **Vietgone, Page 3**

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



SANJA BUCKO/WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Constance Wu and Henry Golding in "Crazy Rich Asians."

'Crazy Rich Asians' shows staying power

The opening weekend for "Crazy Rich Asians" was historic. Its second weekend was even more impressive.

The romantic comedy sensation slid just 6 percent from its chart-topping debut to again lead the box office with \$25 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. Almost as many people turned out over the weekend for "Crazy Rich Asians" as they did for its opening Friday-to-Sunday bow — an unheard-of hold for a nonholiday release. Drops of close to 50 percent are common for wide releases.

But propelled by enthusiastic reviews and an eagerness for a major Hollywood film led by Asian stars, "Crazy Rich Asians" is showing almost unprecedented legs. After opening last weekend with \$35.3 million from Wednesday to Sunday and \$26.5 million over the weekend, the Warner Bros. release — the first Hollywood studio movie in 25 years with an all-Asian cast — has already grossed \$76.8 million.

The remarkable hold left many in Hollywood searching for comparisons. While such slim drops or second-week increases regularly happen over holiday weekends, you have to go back to the likes of "The Sixth Sense" (minus 3.4 percent in August 1999) and "The Fugitive" (minus 5.6 percent in August 1993) to find something similar.

"There's no greater indicator of the enthusiasm of an audience than a minimal drop in a second weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "This isn't the product of opening-weekend hype. This is the product of a great movie resonating very strongly with all audiences. The movie has become a cultural phenomenon."

— Associated Press

Box office

1. "Crazy Rich Asians," \$25 million
2. "The Meg," \$13 million
3. "The Happytime Murders," \$10 million
4. "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," \$8 million
5. "Christopher Robin," \$6.3 million
6. "Mile 22," \$6 million
7. "Alpha," \$5.6 million
8. "BlackKKlansman," \$5.3 million
9. "A.X.L.," \$2.9 million
10. "Slender Man," \$2.8 million

Source: Associated Press
Estimated sales, Friday-Sunday



MARK RALSTON/AFP-GETTY

Remembering Aretha Franklin: Former President Bill Clinton, Smokey Robinson, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Cicely Tyson will be among the speakers at Aretha Franklin's funeral this week. Franklin's rep, Gwendolyn Quinn, says other speakers will include former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, music mogul Clive Davis, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and Bishop T.D. Jakes. Clinton and the Queen of Soul were longtime friends. She sang at both of his inaugurations. Robinson and Franklin grew up together in Detroit. Franklin died Aug. 16 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76. Her funeral will be held in Detroit at Greater Grace Temple on Friday.



ASK AMY

By AMY DICKINSON

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter @askingamy

Ex-boyfriend has become colleague

Dear Amy: I've worked at a medium-size company for 13 years. I attended an office lunch for new employees last week and was totally shocked to see my ex-boyfriend, "Kieran," among them! He had started at the company the week before.

We acknowledged each other at the lunch, but I was so shocked that I didn't say much to him and left as soon as I could.

We dated for almost two years and called it quits about three years ago. At the time, I'd caught him lying about where he was and what he was doing. I didn't trust him anymore, so I ended it. It was a bad breakup. We haven't talked since. We don't follow each other on social media.

I am dating a great guy now. I'm pretty sure that Kieran is still single.

Kieran reached out to me over email, apologized for the awkward workplace encounter and asked if I wanted to grab coffee. I told him I'm not ready. I want to be fair to my boyfriend's feelings, too. (I haven't told my boyfriend about this yet.)

Shouldn't Kieran have contacted me before he accepted a job at my company? Isn't that selfish on his part? How should I deal with this situation now?

— Upset

Dear Upset: How strange — that the lying, selfish guy you broke up with three years ago isn't behaving the way you want him to now.

Given that you have no contact, he does not owe you a heads-up about his employment, however (I'm assuming that neither of you supervises the other).

Behave professionally and cordially if you encounter him. Otherwise, ignore him. If you don't want to have coffee, don't; you don't need to explain yourself. Tell your current boyfriend that "Kieran" is working at your company. Keeping this a secret only ups the ante.

Dear Amy: How do I tell my cheap girlfriend that she needs to pitch in?

We've been dating for over a year. On the rare occasions she takes me out, I have to pay for at least part of it. She's even gone as far as saying that she's taking me out, but then (miraculously) I end up paying!

For example, she recently "treated" me to a "free" comedy show. I ended up buying dinner for both of us. One show she took me to cost me \$120 in souvenirs and booze.

If she buys dinner, I pay tax and tip. When I take her out, I end up paying for everything — ticket costs, dinner, transportation.

Her cost of living is much higher than mine, so I always used this as an excuse, but I recently lost my job, and she has managed to pay for two solo vacations this year.

Do I speak up when the bill comes? Before we go out? Sit down now and have a serious talk?

I just don't know how to address this without coming off as resentful.

— Feeling Used

Dear Feeling Used: Relationships operate using their own sort of currency. And, just as with money, you and your girlfriend each needs to invest in the relationship, with a goal of long-term gain.

In your case, you tolerate behavior you don't want to tolerate, feel resentful about it and then wonder how you can fix the dynamic without being honest about it.

If you had started this process when your relationship was in its earlier stages, either it would have been fixed by now or you might be in a different relationship with someone who shares these values. Although you should never have to justify being honest about your feelings, you recently lost your job, and this presents the perfect reason to have "the talk."

Say, "I know we never spelled this out, but I really need to talk about how we divide our spending when we go out. I've always spent far more than you on our relationship, and honestly, I've resented it but I haven't said anything. Now that my situation has changed, I can't afford to keep quiet. Can we work together to make our spending more balanced?"

Dear Amy: Thank you for highlighting the issue raised by "Baseball Mom," who witnessed a gifted young player being berated by his parents on the sideline. I have spent the last 20 years in the bleachers as my children play sports at various levels and have witnessed some absolutely appalling behavior.

— Sports Dad

Dear Dad: Youth coaches and parents responded similarly.

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Issa Rae talks about Season 3 of 'Insecure,' applying to Lyft

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

Issa Rae's character on the hit series "Insecure" who works for a nonprofit, does what most people in need of extra cash do: She becomes a Lyft driver.

But the idea of making the show's lead character a part-time driver came from Rae's own experience: The actress said she applied to become a Lyft driver and was rejected.

"I did the application, went to go get my stickers and (stuff) but then got denied because I had one traffic infraction in 2014, so I didn't get to do it. I told the writers room (and) they were so tickled at the idea that I would be a Lyft driver," she said. "In thinking about just the ride-share phenomenon and



TAYLOR JEWELL/INVISION

how so many regular people are using it to make extra money, just the stories that come from that, it just made sense for Issa to have that as a side gig and all the awkward situations that could arise from being a Lyft driver."

Season 3, which returned Sunday on HBO, picks up with Rae moving in with her ex, Daniel, and

dealing with not being in the field for her full-time job because of a mistake she made.

Heading into the third season of "Insecure," Rae had a goal: She didn't want her show to feel predictable or stale. So she dug deep to write eight new episodes, calling the process challenging — but "in an exciting way."

"This season was harder — just because we closed so many doors last season. It felt like we were starting from scratch in a way," Rae said.

"It is scary," she said of adding new elements to the show and switching it up, "because you're like, 'People are used to what they're used to.'"

"But knowing where we took it overall, I'm very proud of it."

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CHICAGOLAND THEATRE DIRECTORY

Looking back through his refugee parents' eyes

Vietgone, from Page 1

cataclysmic circumstances. And even though Nguyen — known for his fast-paced, comic book-influenced coolness — has been justly praised for his distinctive style, “Vietgone” is at its best when it infuses its central characters with the breath of vulnerable reality.

The same could be said of Lavina Jadhvani’s ambitious multimedia production, which doesn’t always achieve a consistent style but deserves to be judged by its best moments.

The rigorous deconstruction of his creators’ sexual prime is one of the aspects of “Vietgone” that feels fresh and gutsy: Most of us would rather not know about what went on in the parental sack. But Nguyen clearly understood that he had been handed the artistic gift of parents whose trajectory could function as a microcosm of broader geopolitical issues. Quang, who is zestily played at Writers Theatre by Matthew C. Yee, was what you might call an involuntary refugee. Trained by the Americans to fly helicopters, he evacuated many of his own South Vietnamese people in the face of the invading Viet Cong, only to find that his American benefactors had, when it suited



MICHAEL BROSILOW PHOTO

Matthew C. Yee and Aurora Adachi-Winter in “Vietgone.”

their interests, cut off his own route home to a family whose fate he could not know.

So the lack of commitment in the sexual rhetoric of Tong (the similarly powerful Aurora Adachi-Winter) is most appealing to the pained Quang until, well, eventually we all have to embrace the present. Even at the cost of our past.

“Vietgone” is no simple condemnation of the muddled war in Vietnam, even though it mercifully lampoons American motivations. Quang hates the Viet Cong,

and the play implies — to some degree — that the anti-Vietnam protesters of the 1970s were guilty of the ignorance of privilege. That’s one of the most interesting themes of a progressive piece that looks at the war in Vietnam not from the ubiquitous point of view of the American G.I. (as in “Platoon” or “Born on the Fourth of July” or even “Miss Saigon”) but from the perspective of those whom the Americans ostensibly were helping. As Nguyen recounts it, the Vietnamese come to see the dream-rhetoric of

When: Through Sept. 23

Where: Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe

Running time: 2 hours, 20 minutes

Tickets: \$35-\$80 at 847-242-6000 and www.writerstheatre.org

the self-described savior nation as a mixed bag. In Tong’s mind, its racist ambivalence still is better than the devastating reality of home; Quang just wants to return to those he loves.

“Vietgone” is almost a musical. Both Quang and Tong rap (this production uses original music by Gabriel Ruiz). Those sequences are among the highlights of the show; the musicality of the piece actually needs expanding. The solos are partly a political act of form: The piece is rightly arguing that leading Asian characters are rare in the American theater, and even rarer when it comes to first-person self-actualization with non-clichéd complexity.

The tricky part, though, is in embracing the digressive and eclectic Nguyen style, which is constantly deconstructing stereotype and having some caustic fun while telling the story of real human lives with tension, pace

and scale (especially with only three other hard-working actors, Rammel Chan, Emjoy Gavino and Ian Michael Minh, playing all the remaining roles).

Jadhvani has cast her leads superbly well, and these two fine performances really drive this production — all these actors needed was the chance to move faster, range yet deeper and morph before our eyes. Their relationship changes enormously over the trajectory of the play; those successive revelations are what matter the most and sometimes have to be rescued from the inevitably busy structure created by a young writing talent.

This is, in the end, the story of love triumphing over despair — and “Vietgone” has a lot of heart, something well understood by Chan, who treats every character he plays like someone with a beating heart. To her great credit, Jadhvani (and the projections designer, Rasean Davonte Johnson) makes all the epic implications of this story clear. What needs more work is making sure that everything feels live, true, in the moment and never, ever assured.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.

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‘Black Panther’ is on the hunt for an Oscar

Oscar, from Page 1

and brought in \$1.35 billion worldwide.

If the bonus popular film category ends up being awarded in 2019, “Black Panther” could find itself nominated for two types of best picture Oscars — or none at all.

“Right now, I think [academy Chief Executive] Dawn Hudson would crawl in a hole if ‘Black Panther’ gets snubbed for best picture and winds up landing in the popular film category,” notes one Oscar consultant. “The funny thing is that Dawn would be way more disappointed than anyone at Marvel.”

But the surprise addition of a new Oscar category has not changed Disney’s best picture plans for “Black Panther” in any way, a studio spokesperson confirmed to The Times.

The Oscar campaign strategy, as illuminated by Feige in an interview, remains focused on the film’s creative accomplishments and the global impact it made.

“I would like to see the hard work and the effort and the vision and the belief of the talented filmmaker Ryan Coogler, who sat across the table from us a few years ago and said, ‘I have been wrestling with questions about my past and my heritage and I think I really want to tell a story within this movie,’” Feige said. “And that he did it so unbelievably well and with so much impact ... seeing that potentially being recognized is what excites me the most.”

Feige mentioned the “personal” nature of Coogler’s work as a director and co-writer for “Black Panther” again later in the conversation and also reiterated a pride in “seeing the work of a young filmmaker whose third film has had this kind of impact around the world.”

Therein likely lies the blue-

print for “Black Panther’s” best picture campaign — communicate to Oscar voters that this is an auteur-driven superhero movie possessing a deep significance both to its director and to people historically underrepresented in Hollywood films.

“The response to the movie, the energy, the level of thought in the reactions ... that was intense, just on another level than anything I’ve ever experienced,” cast member Michael B. Jordan told The Times earlier this year. “Do I think it merits a best picture nomination? That’s not for me to say. But I’m OK listening to others saying it.”

Swartz declined to comment for this story, but several other awards consultants, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of conflicts with other clients, believe there are multiple ways for “Black Panther” to win favor with Oscar voters.

In telling the story of T’Challa, the heir to the throne of Wakanda, a fictional African nation, “Black Panther” was a superhero movie that put black women and men at the center of the story, portraying dynamic, intelligent characters with agency — leaders, scientists, spies — residing in a dream homeland, prosperous, advanced, independent and free.

Opening in theaters in mid-February, the film won rave reviews, attracting moviegoers from every demographic. But its celebration of black culture resonated particularly deeply with African American audiences. Screenings became cultural events with moviegoers reveling in the spirit of Wakanda by donning traditional African-inspired dashikis and colorful prints as well as daring, custom-made designs that paid tribute to the movie’s Afrofuturism.

“You want to remind voters that this wasn’t just a movie, it was a phenomenon,” one veteran



MARCUS YAM/LOS ANGELES TIMES

“Black Panther” cast members Lupita Nyong’o, left, Winston Duke and Danai Gurira at the 2018 Oscars.

Oscar campaigner says. “The depth of that impact, what it meant to people, what it stood for — if academy members didn’t get it then, they need to understand it now.”

“People in the academy want to reward good movies,” adds another consultant, “and they also want to reward movies that say something significant and make the industry look good. ‘Black Panther’ ticks off those boxes.”

Another path “Black Panther” could take toward a best picture nomination, consultants say, is to court various crafts branches, piling up nominations that would boost the movie’s best picture base. Ten years ago, Christopher Nolan’s “The Dark Knight” earned eight nominations, ultimately winning five Oscars, including awards for cinematographer Wally Pfister and a post-humous honor for actor Heath Ledger.

Its omission in the best picture category is widely considered the impetus for the academy to expand the category from the traditional five nominees, theoretically opening the door for “popcorn” movies. (Though, in practice, the academy has generally nominated

even more art house and prestige titles, with a few crowd-pleasers — “The Blind Side,” “Toy Story 3,” “Hidden Figures” — occasionally in the mix.)

Like “The Dark Knight,” “Black Panther” possesses standout, across-the-board work that has earned high praise from critics. Cinematographer Rachel Morrison, who became the first woman to earn an Oscar nomination in the category this year for “Mudbound,” could repeat for her dazzling visualization of Wakanda. Nods for production designer Hannah Beachler, Ruth E. Carter’s costume design and Camille Friend and Joel Harlow’s specific, terrific hair and makeup seem likely. The prospect of Kendrick Lamar and SZA performing the closing credits song “All the Stars” on the telecast (or Lamar and the Weeknd offering the punchy “Pray for Me”) might also prod the music branch into action.

“Those are the kinds of nominations that pave the way to a best picture nomination,” says one campaigner. “‘Wonder Woman’ didn’t have them last year. ‘Black Panther’ has a stronger case.”

The wild card in all this re-

mains the fledgling popular film Oscar. After announcing its creation earlier this month, the academy weathered an immediate backlash, with critics deriding the new award as an act of cynical pandering that creates a needless division between “popular” filmmaking and artistic achievement. Several academy members say they wouldn’t be surprised if the academy backtracks and delays presenting the award this year or scraps it altogether.

Academy leadership has been largely silent on the issue, although one governor told The Times in a message that the group’s intentions have been “radically misunderstood.”

Nevertheless, when it comes to best picture, Marvel’s Feige remains hopeful.

“I think it would be wonderful,” he says of a potential nomination in the Oscars’ top category. “The people behind the camera, the people on screen that acted in the movie, any of them being recognized would bring us great joy because they did tremendous work. And it’s always nice when tremendous work is recognized.”

glenn.whipp@latimes.com

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Greg Peerbolte opens the prison's East Gate with a crank. Peerbolte, head of the Joliet Area Historical Museum, spearheaded an effort to conduct guided public tours and restore parts of the Old Joliet Prison that was built in 1858. Above left, the warden's apartment in the administration building. Above right, a cell in the west cell house.

The Alcatraz of the Midwest?

Borrelli, from Page 1

In its first decades, even as it was operating, the prison charged 25 cents for a tour, handing each visitor a card instructing them to please not talk to or point at the criminals.

After the facility was abandoned in 2002 (and many of the prisoners transferred to the slightly newer, nearby Stateville Correctional Center), its spooky, neglected grounds still attracted the curious — mostly teenagers and vandals, who broke through fencing, tagged walls with graffiti, wrote “Bite me” and bad poetry on blackboards standing in classrooms once intended for reform. They also set fires, leveling buildings as recently as last summer.

The other day, as volunteers from the Joliet Area Historical Museum (which is operating the new tours) readied a handful of the two dozen structures on the prison's 25 acres, preparing for the first regular (legal) visitors in years, museum Executive Director Greg Peerbolte stood in the foyer of the administration building, discussing with a Joliet police officer those years of prolific vandalism.

“The kids, they take videos of themselves breaking in and walking around,” the officer said. “Then put it on YouTube.”

“Now,” Peerbolte replied, “we just want to charge them.”

“Hopefully it works.”

Tours will begin modestly, one or two a day, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only. Tickets are \$20 a head; each tour lasts about 90 minutes (reservations are made on the museum's website). Docents will include local amateur historians — and a few former prison guards. Peerbolte, however, is quick to add this is a work in progress. Meaning, no museumlike displays, no prison shanks and rusty manacles behind glass. The tours are, instead, a study in ruin porn, with a mild dose of urban spelunking. To even take the tour, you are asked to sign a waiver acknowledging, basically, what you see will be a mess, with glass shards on the ground and dust in the air (harmless, the museum says). There is a general aura of decay. So, for the time being, tours will be largely outside, with peeks at interiors.

It's wise — the place looks like an advertisement for tetanus.

But don't let those legal caveats dissuade you: Last week, I was given a preview — and a peek at what's planned for later — and this is a solid, fascinating local history trip. You begin at the enormous, darkly rusted (and still workable)

gate on Collins Street, the one that “Joliet” Jake Blues exited in “The Blues Brothers,” which was shot here and remains Joliet's sunniest legacy. But hold on to that goodwill, because what waits just beyond that gate is grim.

“Looks like the state just up and ... left,” Peerbolte said.

He stared at a landfill of file cabinets.

“Maybe,” he added, “everyone here was *raptured?*”

You find yourself staring down a long street into a vast green courtyard flanked by stone buildings with toppled walls and smashed windows and collapsed roofs. It could double as a war prison, postwar, post-apocalypse. Old typewriters sit crumpled on desks caked in sheaths of dirt. Tall stacks of medical paperwork for prisoners are strewn.

“We call it the ‘Burnt District,’” Peerbolte said, walking past a former garage where prisoners were taught auto repair. The roof had crashed down into a crisscross of charred slats. Beside it, a torched, chaotic shell of a factory, where the inmates made mattresses for the Illinois prison system.

Peerbolte, who studied history at Illinois State University, said he wants the tours to be frank and challenging. So, for instance, that mattress factory. He stopped to tell the prison's long history with forced labor — an ugly chapter in which inmates created goods for free, until the campus was legislated into becoming a self-sufficient ecosystem. (After that, anything made by prisoners was used by prisoners.)

We stopped by the chapel, and the school, and a long row of cells that look torn from B-movie nightmares — dark, claustrophobic places where the dripping water pings like an unnerving metronome and the paint is peeling away from the ceiling in sheets, like streamers at hell's prom.

“You really don't have to exaggerate here,” Peerbolte said.

Much of the limestone for the buildings was mined by inmates — in fact, the prison was built on a foundation of limestone to discourage tunneling out. At its peak, there were 1,800 inmates (and about 1,300 when it closed); with no nearby juvenile facility for a long time, the inmates were occasionally as young as 10. For a while, larceny was the most common crime of its residents. But that mix changed.

At a building in the center of the courtyard, beside an overgrown baseball diamond and large cafeteria, the worst of the worst were held. Executions were conducted on the second floor — generally by electric chair, but according to Joliet historian Robert E. Sterling, the prison also used a form of hanging where seated prisoners were tugged upward, not dropped. On the ground floor of the cellblock, there is solitary confinement, narrow cells behind solid blocks of doors with mailbox-size slits for communication.

At the threshold, faded into the floor (but readable), is a crest, sadly promising: “It's Never Too Late To Mend.”

Before the prison closed, and long after it did, tourists — many of them international, many at the beginning (or end) of a Route 66 road trip — arrived daily, if only to take selfies with its ominous walls. The prison's history has preceded itself. For decades “Joliet” was

like “San Quentin” or “Rikers,” shorthand for doing hard time. Bob Dylan name-dropped it in “Percy's Song”; it appeared in Edgar Lee Masters' “Spoon River Anthology” and Jack Kerouac's “On the Road.” “Empire” just shot scenes here. Netflix's “Mindhunter,” too. Civil War prisoners were held here. Leopold and Loeb, James Earl Ray, John Wayne Gacy — all did some of their long sentences here. Still, the most famous inmate was fictional, John Belushi's

Jake Blues.

History like that invites dreaming. Since the prison closed, proposals for what to do with the frightening space have come and gone — a concert venue, a brewery, a nature preserve. But Peerbolte, 34, a native of Kankakee, suggested a more modest historical site, then set out to appeal to the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, environmental groups. Earlier this summer, he approached the Joliet City Council and requested \$50,000 in “seed” money to get the tours started. And he got it. The most recent assessment of what it would cost to entirely restore the prison was roughly \$4 million. Which sounds (and looks) *way, way off*. So the path ahead will be cautious: Give tours, put those proceeds into cleaning more of the prison, and gradually, open up the rest of the site, a bit at a time.

Mayor Bob O'Dekirk was won over: “I've had a lot of people come forward. And I envision other uses for the (sur-

rounding) land. But Greg's right about the prison itself — we should be taking small, measured steps forward.”

Toward eventually, “the Alcatraz of the Midwest.”

That's Peerbolte's vision.

Partly for pragmatic, historical and aesthetic reasons, that plan also includes leaving some of the prison's dystopian beauty (and a bit of its creative graffiti) untouched — “in a state of suspended decay” is Peerbolte's favorite phrase.

“That neglect is a part of the prison's story,” he said.

The deeper you go into the jail (into spaces where tours will not be allowed yet), the more you feel a palpable desolation. Sound and light cut off alarmingly in places, a prisoner's boots wait on a shelf, overhead lights crane awkwardly in the half-light of old operating rooms. A mountain of inmate records spills out across a floor like an art installation about abandonment. In the chapel, instructions are taped up inside a confessional, explaining the steps a pastor should take if someone confesses a bomb threat (apparently common enough that it warned a cheat sheet). Even that 19th-century Gothic castle looming above all — over time, its interior, which served as the living quarters for the warden, was a victim of institutional thoughtlessness itself, the wooden floors replaced with linoleum, the walls of the warden's bedroom covered in rumpus-room wood paneling.

Peerbolte wants all of that.

Plus a gift shop.

The idea is ambitious, touching on both the ambivalence and pride that the city feels for its biggest attraction. For years, the prison had its own streetcar stop. The downtown high school remains, perversely, a dead ringer for the prison. Heather Bigeck, the museum's collections and exhibitions manager, told me that during the Depression, when parents couldn't afford new toys for their kids, broken toys were brought to the prison, repaired by inmates at no cost. “It's all part of a history we can't deny,” she said. And yet, she adds, some people in Joliet would prefer to deny it.

Peerbolte said he recently got in an argument with an older member of the museum board who was uncomfortable with regular tours of the prison — it would only continue Joliet's 160-year old reputation as the Prison City. Peerbolte, frustrated, said he blurted back: “Do you want to be known as The Prison City? Or The Abandoned Prison City?”

After all, it's never too late to mend.

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (Aug. 27): Weave a stronger web of networks and connections this year. Practice to strengthen your game. Travel and research unveil new frontiers. Friends pull together this summer before changes affect your health and work, inspiring bold new dreams and visions. Winter passion flowers.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is an 8. Your professional stature and influence rise, with Mars direct in Capricorn. Pour energy into moving your career forward. Advance toward an exciting project.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 8. Get out and explore your world. Travel, study, and investigate new frontiers with Mars direct in Capricorn. Words and efforts go farther now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Cash flows in with renewed vigor, now that Mars is direct. Wipe out debt, and build up savings with this surge. Contribute to grow family fortunes.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. Your partnership feels supercharged, with Mars direct in Capricorn. Collaborative actions have greater power. Take on big goals and dreams. Together, you can do anything.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 9. Power into physical activities and practices, with Mars direct in Capricorn. Nurture your health with high-quality foods and medicine. Steady action gets fabulous results.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Put your action and energy where your heart is. Your passion is on the rise, with Mars stationing direct in Capricorn. Romance builds to a crescendo.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 7. Put your back into home renovation, beautification and repairs. Your energy builds for domestic projects, with Mars direct. A little paint goes a long way.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. Communication lines flow freely, with Mars direct. Get the word out to promote an inspiring possibility. Polish and edit public statements. Creative projects flower.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 9. Get a turbo boost for your income, with Mars direct. Your career surges ahead. Find efficiencies, and apply them for increased ease.

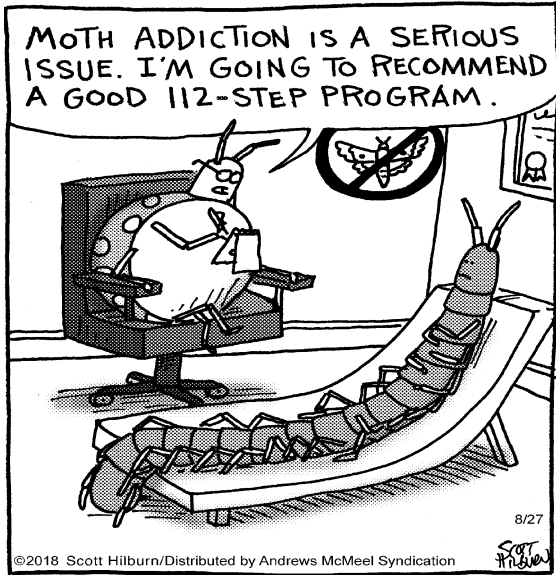
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 9. A personal ambition flowers, with Mars direct in your sign. Use your superpowers for good. Pour energy into realizing a dream. Dress the part.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Plan your moves in detail. Clean, sort and organize, with Mars direct in Capricorn. Pursue reflection, introspection and peace.

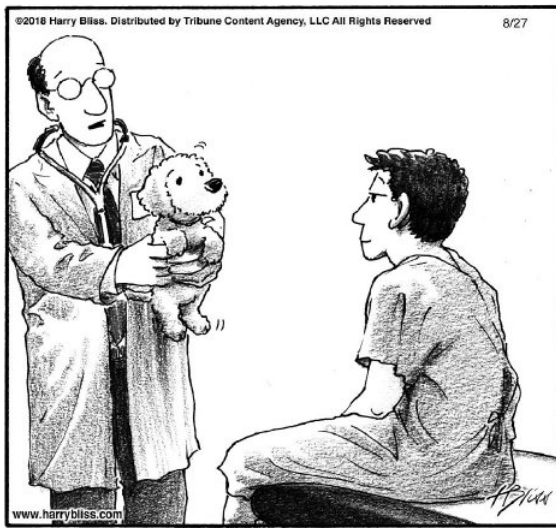
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Coordination amplifies your reach, with Mars direct. Teamwork fans a spark into flame. Act for a community cause. Direct energy toward a matter of heart.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn



Bliss By Harry Bliss



"You won't find a more effective antidepressant."

Bridge

Here are the answers to the weekly quiz:

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ KQ9842 ♥ AK109 ♦ 82 ♣ 10

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass

?

What call would you make?

A.1—Should you bid 2S, you are destined to find partner with one spade and five hearts. Please, bid 2H.

Q.2—North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ AKQ2 ♥ A97 ♦ 643 ♣ A93

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♦*	Pass

?

***Transfer to hearts**

What call would you make?

A.2—No matter how good your hand is, just accept the transfer unless you have four-card support. Bid 2H.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 3 ♥ J ♦ AKQ98743 ♣ A74

South	West	North	East
1♦	1♥	1♠	4♥

?

What call would you make?

A.3—Are you going to defend 4H with this hand? Of course not. Bid 5D.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A984 ♥ A83 ♦ Q54 ♣ K106

Partner opens 1D and right-hand opponent bids 1S. What call would you make?

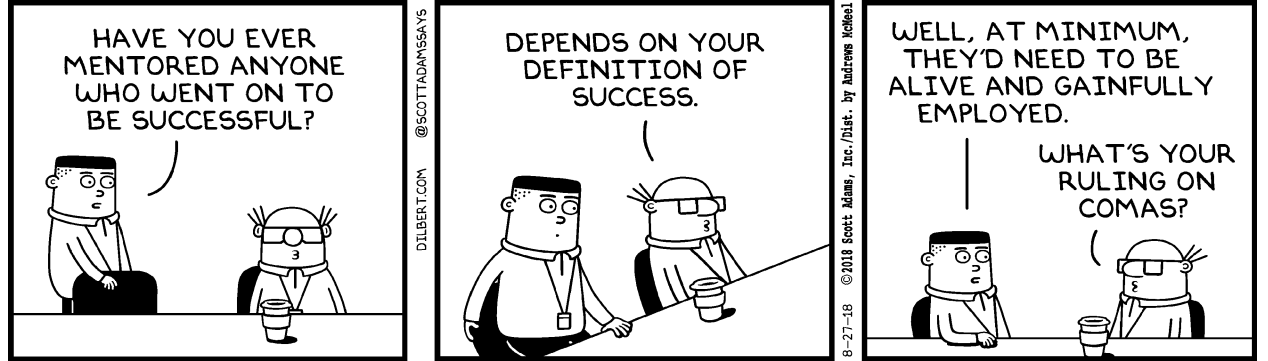
A.4—Bid 3NT. What else?

— Bob Jones

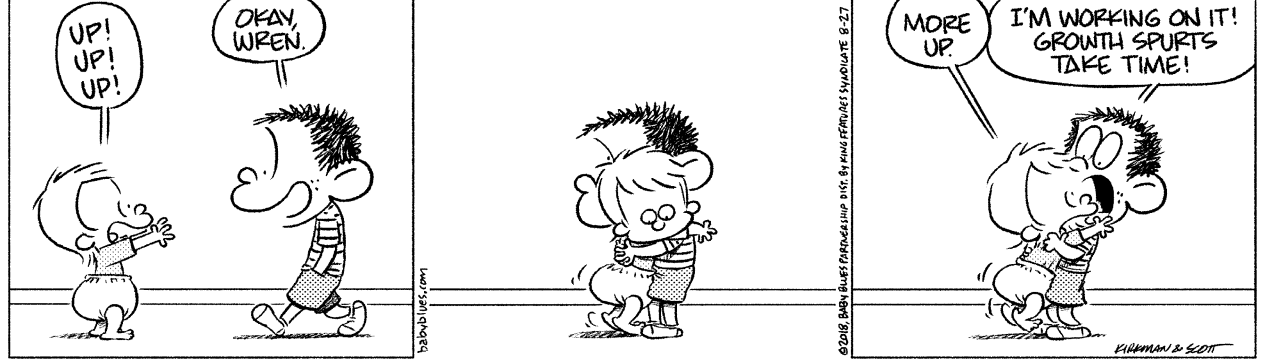
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Dilbert By Scott Adams



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman (Zits is on vacation until September 3. Please enjoy this strip from 2014.)



Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin



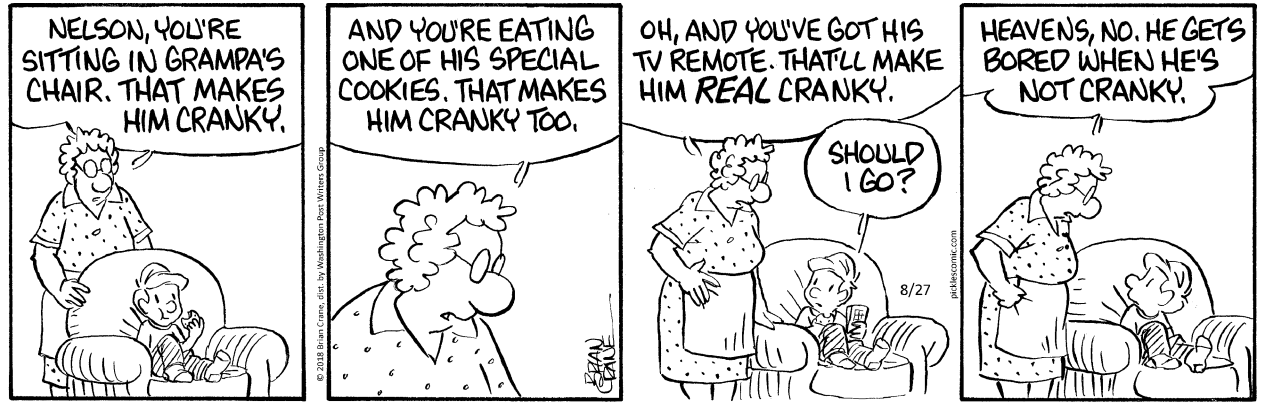
Frazz By Jef Mallett



Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz



Pickles By Brian Crane



Dick Tracy By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis



Animal Crackers By Mike Osburn



Prickly City By Scott Stantis



Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



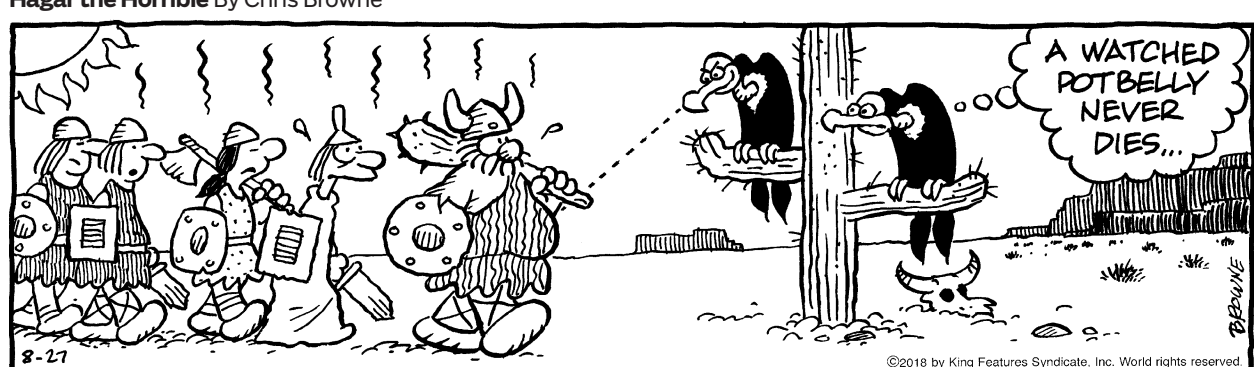
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



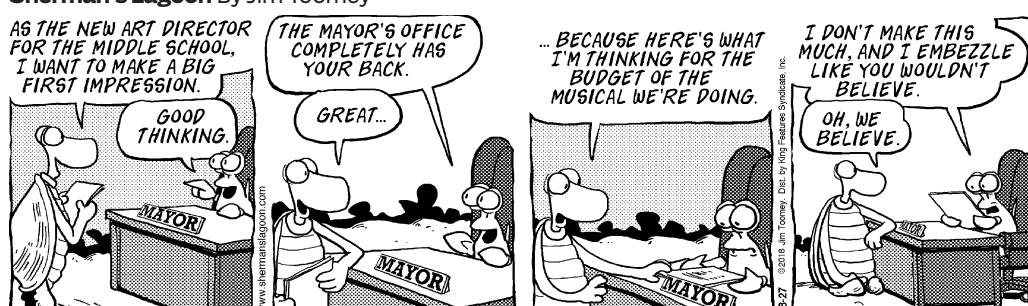
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



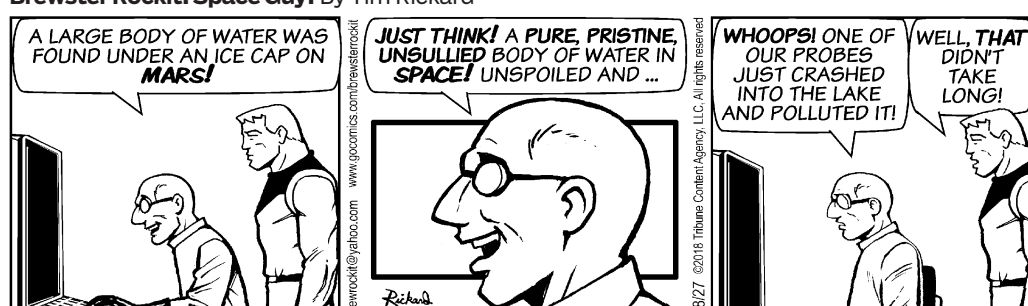
WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers



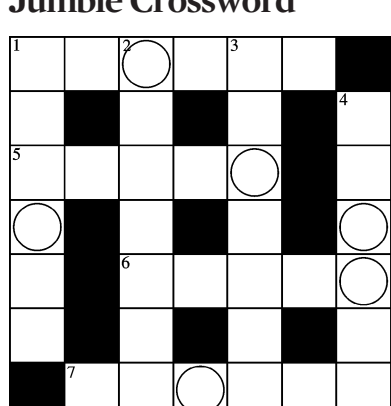
Trivia Bits

"I remember every detail. The Germans wore gray; you wore blue." That's a classic line from which classic film?

A) "Apocalypse Now"
 B) "Casablanca"
 C) "Citizen Kane"
 D) "On the Waterfront"

Saturday's answer: The action in the Broadway musical (and movie) "1776" takes place in Philadelphia.
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Jumble Crossword



CLUE ACROSS

1. Not qualified
 5. Statham
 6. Dodge
 7. Decline

CLUE DOWN

1. Not fair
 2. Severe, harsh
 3. Connection
 4. Articulate

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

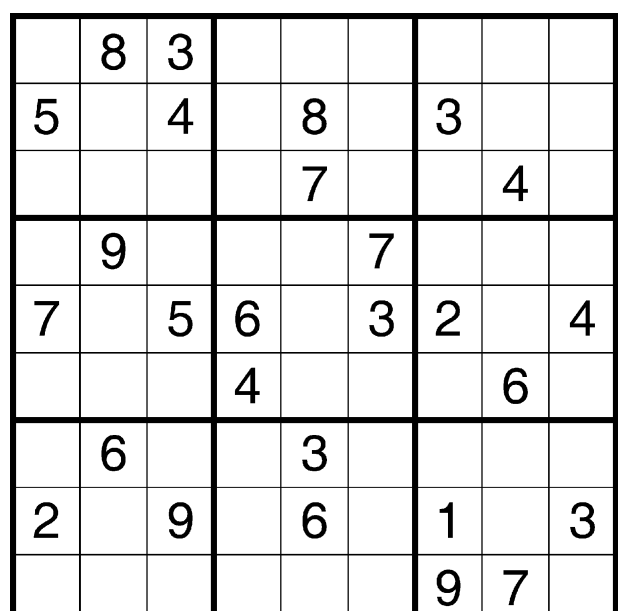
BONUS

CLUE: This U.S. state capital is the second largest city in the U.S. by area.

© Send comments to TCA - 160 N. Stetson, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or DLHoy@aol.com.
 ANSWERS: 1A-Unable 5A-Jason 6A-Evade 7A-Reflect 1D-Inject 2D-Austere 3D-Linkage 4D-Linkage 5D-Linkage 6D-Linkage 7D-Linkage
 By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1 2 3 4

8/27



9	4	3	6	2	7	5	1	8
8	7	1	9	4	5	3	6	2
5	2	6	8	1	3	7	9	4
6	5	4	7	8	1	9	2	3
3	9	2	4	5	6	8	7	1
7	1	8	2	3	9	4	5	6
1	8	7	5	6	4	2	3	9
4	6	5	3	9	2	1	8	7
2	3	9	1	7	8	6	4	5

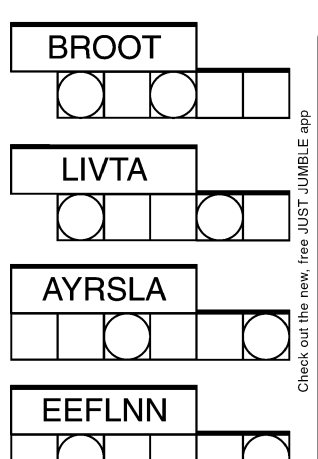
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Saturday's solutions

By The Mephram Group
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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

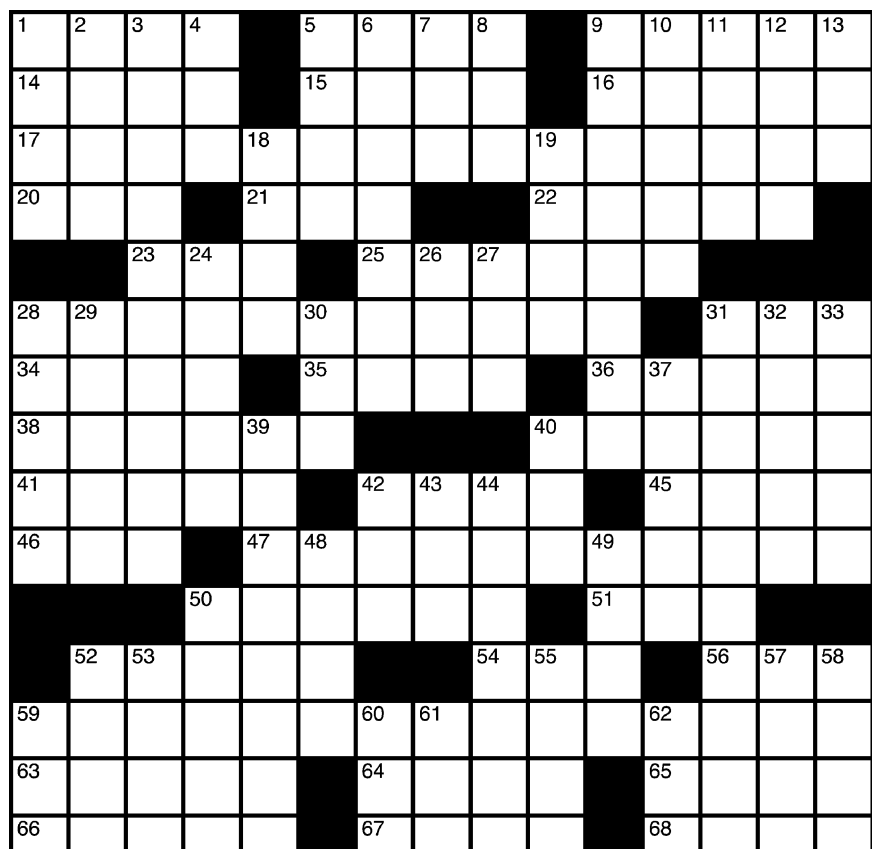
Saturday's answers

Jumbles: NOTCH COMMA LAWYER CANDID
 Answer: When the chef ran out of seafood for her famous chowder, it was a — "CLAM-ITY"

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Crossword

8/27



Across

1 Apple remnant
 5 Picket line crosser
 9 Proverbial waste maker
 14 Like die-hard fans
 15 Furry red Muppet
 16 Snake River state
 17 Sam Houston served twice as its president
 20 Rapper Dr. —
 21 Shade tree subject to blight
 22 Lubricated
 23 Black _ : covert missions
 25 Cost for an online pop-up
 28 General guideline
 31 Safari automaker
 34 Wraps up
 35 Fish trapped in pots
 36 "Word is ..."
 38 Geronimo's tribe
 40 Board meeting outline

Down

41 Motherless calf
 42 Tear canal
 45 Actresses Long and Vardalos
 46 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.: Abbr.
 47 Credible quality
 50 Intermittent, as fog
 51 "To each _ own"
 52 Bill Belichick, e.g.
 54 Boathouse item
 56 One _ million
 59 Hint that a storm is approaching
 63 Quite heavy
 64 Cookie in dirt pudding
 65 Extremely tired
 66 Desires
 67 Florist's arrangement
 68 Indy 500 racers

Saturday's solution

19 Shaving lather
 24 Joe of "My Cousin Vinny"
 26 FedEx rival
 27 Country with 11 time zones: Abbr.
 28 Curls up with a Kindle
 29 Take out of its container, as a houseplant
 30 Service charge
 31 "That's super-creative thinking!"
 32 Angry with
 33 Wall Street disaster
 37 Painter Matisse
 39 Performer of the 12 labors, to the Greeks
 40 Justice dept. division
 42 Party gp. chaired by Tom Perez
 43 "That's gross!"
 44 Prairie canines
 48 "Am _ only one?"
 49 Drive- _ window
 50 Blue Ribbon beer
 52 1962 Missile Crisis country
 53 Dark clouds, to some
 55 Sailor's hail
 57 Close by
 58 Creative pursuits
 59 Movie theater division
 60 Comics' Alley _
 61 To's partner
 62 Peacock logo network

Want more PUZZLES?
 Go to chicagotribune.com/games

CHICAGO WEATHER CENTER

chicagoweathercenter.com | BY TOM SKILLING AND WGN9

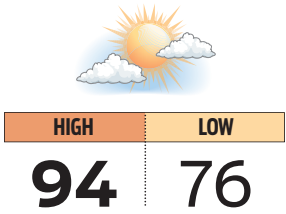


MONDAY, AUG. 27

NORMAL HIGH: 81° NORMAL LOW: 62° RECORD HIGH: 97° (1973) RECORD LOW: 47° (1982)

Heat advisory issued for most of Chicago area

LOCAL FORECAST



Heat advisory in effect for midday to early evening for most of NE Illinois and NW Indiana, including the city of Chicago/Cook County.

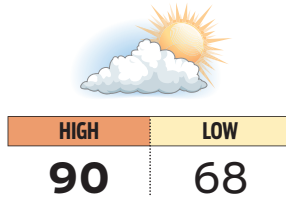
Combinations of heat and high humidity continue with afternoon highs reaching into the low to mid-90s and heat indexes over 100°.

Some early-morning cloudiness and a few showers mainly north of Chicago, then skies become mostly sunny with scattered cumulus clouds.

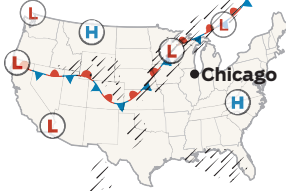
Take precautions to protect against the heat and sun.

Partly cloudy overnight.

TUESDAY, AUG. 28



Sunny early with increasing cloudiness and a slight chance of t-storms later in the afternoon. Very warm and humid with highs in the upper 80s to lower 90s and heat indexes close to or over 100°. T-storms likely overnight.



ASK TOM

Dear Tom, So many people died in the 1995 summer heat wave in Chicago but not in the 1934 heat wave. Why the big difference in the death numbers?

Dear Francisco, At least 739 Chicagoans died in the July 1995 heat wave, but probably fewer than 30 died in the July 1934 heat event, although the 1934 heat wave was longer-lasting and much more intense.

The explanation has to do with the way people lived back then. John Russick of the Chicago History Museum says air conditioning was non-existent in the 1930s, but during heat waves people slept on their roofs and their porches.

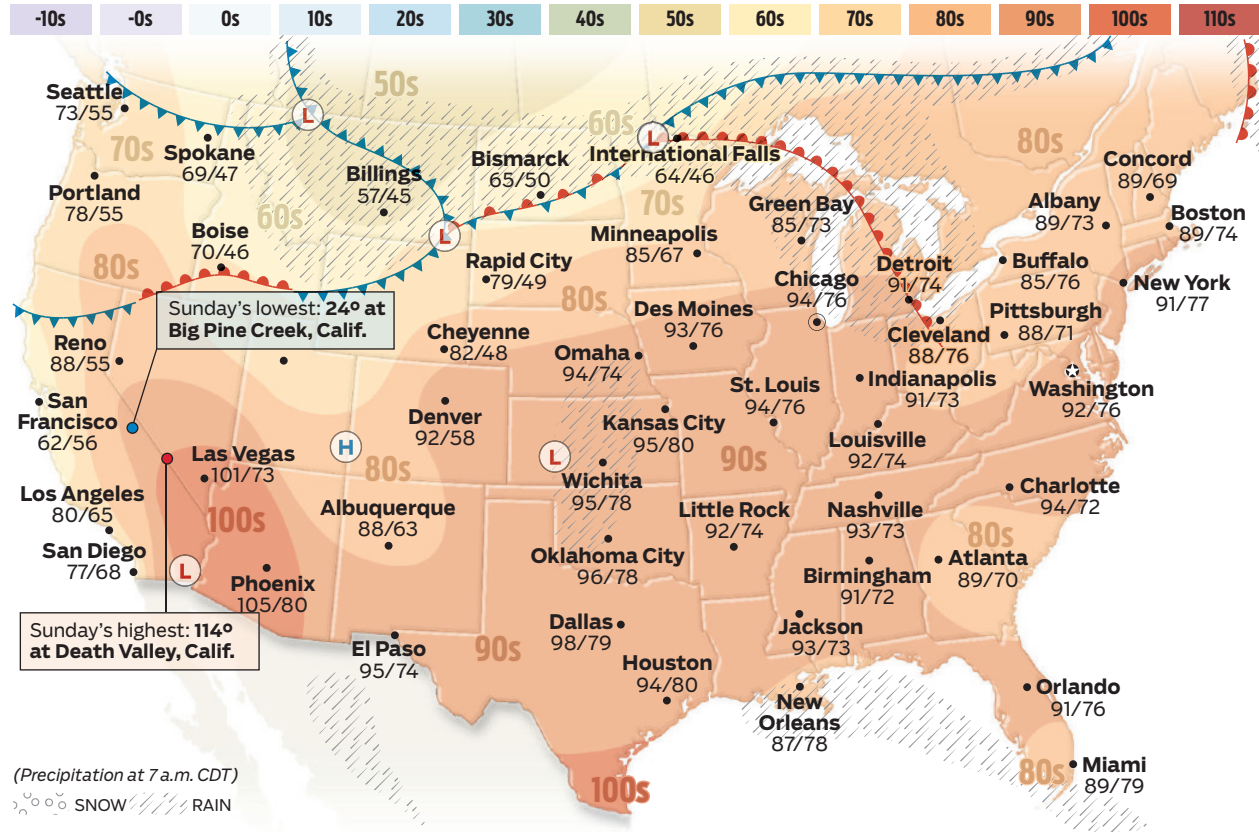
Write to: ASK TOM 2501 W. Bradley Place Chicago, IL 60618 asktomwhy@wgnv.com

WGN-TV meteorologists Steve Kahn, Richard Koeman, 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.



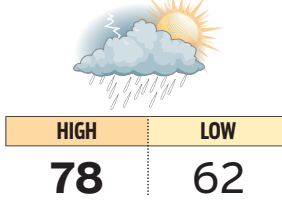
NATIONAL FORECAST



The Chicago National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory in effect Monday to Monday evening for most of north-east Illinois into northwest Indiana, calling for heat indexes well above 100 degrees.

Take proper precautions to protect those most susceptible — the very young, the old and people with respiratory problems. Lengthy exposure to the elements, including sustained sunshine, will not only enhance the effective heat indexes an additional 5 to 15 degrees but also increase the risk of sunburn.

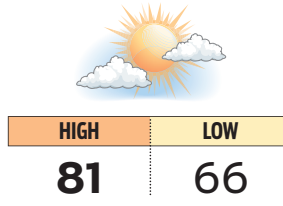
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 29



Clouds early, becoming partly sunny later in the afternoon with a chance of thunderstorms. Turning cooler and less humid with afternoon highs in the upper 70s. Clearing later at night. Northeast winds.



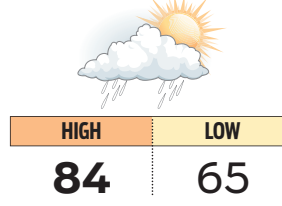
THURSDAY, AUG. 30



Scattered clouds but plenty of sunshine. Afternoon highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s with cooler readings along lakefront. Partly cloudy overnight. East to southeast winds.



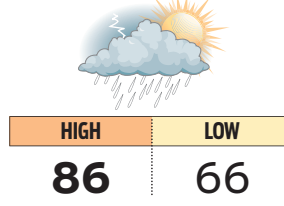
FRIDAY, AUG. 31



A gradual increase in cloudiness with a slight chance of showers later in the day. High temperatures in the low to mid-80s. Thickening clouds with showers and thunderstorms likely overnight. S/SE winds.



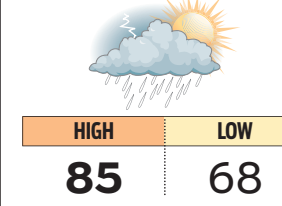
SATURDAY, SEPT. 1



Mostly cloudy with clusters of showers or thunderstorms likely. Warm and humid with afternoon highs in the mid to upper 80s. A chance of thunderstorms at night. Southwest winds.



SUNDAY, SEPT. 2



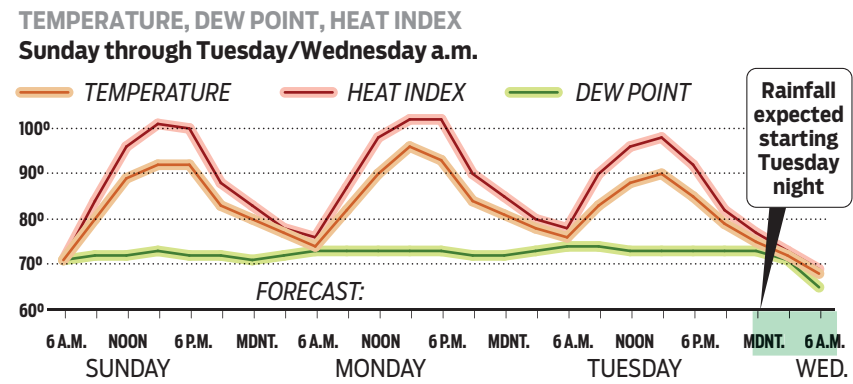
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers or thunderstorms. Highest temperatures in the mid-80s. Becoming partly cloudy overnight. Southwest winds shift west late.



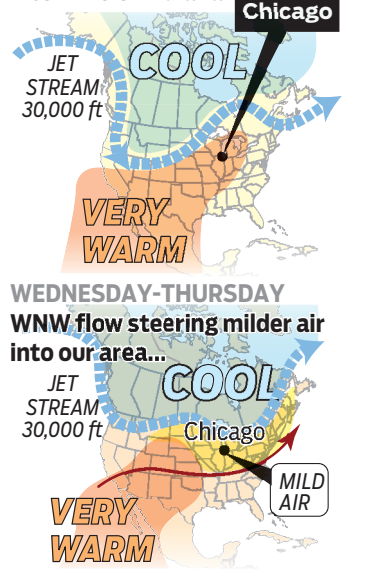
Heat here until mid-week upper-level pattern change

HEAT ADVISORY All areas: Max heat index of >105°F EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING FOR CHICAGO: 3 consecutive days peak heat index of 100-105° 2 consecutive days peak heat index of 105-110° 1 day peak heat index 110° or greater Elsewhere: Max heat index 110° or greater and minimum heat index of 75°+ for 48 hours or more

PRACTICE HEAT SAFETY Prevent heat-related deaths INDOORS Check on those without AC, especially the sick and elderly WORK SITES Stay hydrated, take breaks in the shade OUTDOORS Limit strenuous activities, stay hydrated, find shade INSIDE VEHICLES Never leave kids or pets unattended



MONDAY-TUESDAY SW flow steers very warm air into Illinois/Indiana



PAUL DAILEY, THOMAS VALLE / WGN-TV

CHICAGO DIGEST

Table with 4 columns: LOCATION, HI, LO, LOCATION, HI, LO. Lists temperatures for various Chicago locations.

Table with 2 columns: PERIOD, 2018 NORMAL. Shows precipitation totals for the year to date.

Table with 2 columns: TIME OF EXPOSURE BEFORE SUNBURN BEGINS. Lists burn times for different sun exposure durations.

Table with 2 columns: WIND, SW 15-28 kts, SW 15-25 kts. Shows wind speeds and water temperatures.

Table with 2 columns: POLLEN, LEVEL. Lists pollen levels for various types of plants.

CHICAGO AIR QUALITY

Saturday's reading Moderate Sunday's forecast Moderate Critical pollutant Particulates

Table with 2 columns: SUN, MOON. Shows moon phases and times for the week.

Table with 4 columns: 3RD Q, NEW, 1ST Q, FULL. Shows moon phases for the week.

SUNDAY PLANET WATCH

Table with 3 columns: PLANET, RISE, SET. Lists planet rise and set times for the week.

SOURCE: Dan Joyce, Triton College

MIDWEST CITIES

Table with 4 columns: MON./TUES., FC, HI, LO, FC, HI, LO. Lists weather forecasts for Midwest cities.

OTHER U.S. CITIES

Table with 4 columns: MON./TUES., FC, HI, LO, FC, HI, LO. Lists weather forecasts for other U.S. cities.

WORLD CITIES

Table with 4 columns: MON./TUES., FC, HI, LO, FC, HI, LO. Lists weather forecasts for world cities.

WORLD CITIES

Table with 4 columns: MONDAY, FC, HI, LO, MONDAY, FC, HI, LO. Lists weather forecasts for world cities.

Chicago Tribune advertisement for 'Chicago Bears: A Decade-by-Decade History' book. Features a bear helmet and promotional text: 'THE BEDTIME STORIES YOU TELL YOUR KIDS SHOULD INCLUDE MONSTERS'.