

# Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Assad likely fled to Russia

Crowds in Syria celebrate end of dictator's rule; rebels urge calm, institute curfew in Damascus

By **Abdulrahman Shaheen and Abby Sewell**  
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Ousted Syrian President Bashar Assad fled to Moscow on Sunday, Russian media reported, hours after a stunning rebel advance took over the capital and ended the Assad family's 50 years of iron rule.

The Russian agencies, Tass and RIA, cited an unidentified Kremlin source on Assad and his family

being given asylum in Moscow, his longtime ally and protector. The Associated Press was not immediately able to verify the reports but contacted the Kremlin for comment.

RIA also said Moscow had received guarantees from insurgents of the security of Russian military bases and diplomatic posts in Syria.

Assad reportedly left Syria early Sunday, and Syrians have been pouring into the streets after a

stunning rebel advance reached Damascus, ending the Assad family's 50 years of domination.

The swiftly moving events have raised questions about the future of the country and the wider region. Russia has requested an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council discuss the situation in Syria, Russia's first deputy permanent representative to the U.N., Dmitry Polyansky, posted on Telegram.

Joyful crowds gathered in squares in Damascus, waving the Syrian revolutionary flag in scenes

Turn to Syria, Page 5



Opposition fighters celebrate the takeover of the city by insurgents in Damascus, Syria, on Sunday. **HUSSEIN MALLA/AP**



A person walks Thursday through Evans Field in River Grove, part of the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Des Plaines River Trail System. Scientists say wetlands absorb water from storms and flooding, reducing the destructive effects. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Study: Imperiled wetlands saving Midwest billions

Natural 'sponges' that help prevent flooding threatened by agriculture, law, policy

By **Adriana Pérez**  
Chicago Tribune

Thirty million acres of unprotected wetlands across the Upper Midwest, including 1 million acres in Illinois, are at risk of being destroyed largely by industrial agriculture — wetlands that provide nearly \$23 billion in annual flood mitigation benefits, according to new research. In the

long term, these wetlands could prevent hundreds of billions of dollars of flood damage in the region.

"Wetlands can help mitigate flooding and save our homes. They can help clean our water. They can capture and store carbon. They support hunting and recreation, and they support the commercial fishing industry by providing habitats for the majority of

commercially harvested fish and shellfish," said study author Stacy Woods, research director for the Food and Environment program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, a nationwide nonprofit science advocacy organization.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court stripped protections from freshwater and inland wetlands in its Sackett v. EPA ruling, allowing private property development

in wetland areas that don't have a "continuous surface connection" to permanent bodies of water.

But environmentalists say wetlands are rarely truly "isolated" from a watershed, no matter how inland they may be. Some experts worry that after President-elect Donald Trump takes office, he might roll back

Turn to Wetlands, Page 4

## Superfan lives his 'Vacation' fantasy

McHenry resident channels Griswold for the holidays

By **Peter Breen**  
Chicago Tribune

For many, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" is a must-watch seasonal classic.

For Ted Ray, the 1989 comedy about an extended family's disastrous attempt to celebrate the holiday, is an all-consuming passion, if not a downright obsession.

His homage to Clark Griswold, the movie's hapless hero, starts with more than 5,000 white lights Ray drapes over his far northwest suburban McHenry home. In that effort, Ray is no stranger to Griswoldian mishaps.

"I was using so much power that I lit my garage on fire the first year I did it," said Ray, an HVAC technician, who at 33 is two years younger than the movie.

But his enthusiasm for "Christmas Vacation" goes much further. In the driveway of Ray's home is a 1990 Ford Taurus wagon with a rear-facing row of seats that he bought for \$300 through Facebook Marketplace prior to last year's Christmas season. He figured it was a reasonable facsimile of the Griswold family vehicle but knew it needed an added touch.

In the movie, Clark Griswold drives his family out to the country in a similar wagon to find a Christmas tree. Chevy Chase's character settles on a massive tree but, having forgot-

Turn to Griswold, Page 4



**JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Bears dominated by 49ers

Ten days after team leaders fired coach Matt Eberflus, the state of the Bears looked even worse Sunday in a 38-13 loss to the 49ers at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. **Chicago Sports**

## Joffrey Ballet's 'Nutcracker' sparkles

It's been eight years since the company unveiled a new "Nutcracker," but the Chicago-themed production at the Lyric Opera House sparkles like it's still fresh out of the box. **Arts & Living**

## Woman remembered as 'shining star'

Tracey found dead in South Loop stairwell in October at age 36

By **Sylvan Lebrun**  
Chicago Tribune

Looking to escape city life in Chicago during the pandemic, Caitlin Tracey moved to a charming lakeside town in her home state of Michigan, where she rode an electric scooter to the grocery store and loved to paddleboard in the lake.

Her new neighbor in New Buffalo, Joyce Lantz, said she immediately admired Tracey, who she saw as "such a shining star." She was smart, successful and fashionable, with an "intelligence that's (also) a humor," Lantz said.

Her friends and family recall Tracey — nicknamed "CT" — as someone who loved travel, dancing, fine wine, fashion and hosting guests for meals. Her house, located just a few minutes' walk



Caitlin Tracey's father, Andrew Tracey, left, and mother, Monica Tracey, center, embrace the priest following Caitlin Tracey's funeral on Nov. 23 at Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

from the lake, was "like something that you'd see in a design magazine," Lantz said.

"As another woman, you just want to cheer her on, because she's on her own, and built this amazing life," Lantz said. "It's just

amazing to me how one person can come into your life and change the trajectory in such a major way. It's deeply sad, right? That she's not with us anymore."

Turn to Tracey, Page 2



# Get the most out of your newspaper subscription

Already getting the Tribune in print? Your subscription comes with **Unlimited Digital Access**. Read new stories throughout the day on [chicagotribune.com](http://chicagotribune.com) and page through the eNewspaper, a digital replica of the Tribune emailed to you daily. Here are two easy ways to activate your account:

**→ Call 312-442-0013**  
We'll quickly set up your Unlimited Digital Access.

**→ [chicagotribune.com/activate](http://chicagotribune.com/activate)**



## Tribune books

**“Dinner at Home”** Cooking at home doesn't have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto Parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomatillo olive relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

**“Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America's Most Notorious Gangster.”** Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune's archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

**“Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living”** For over a decade, Amy Dickinson has been the Tribune's signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to the empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips that Dickinson has been distilling for years.

**“Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change.”** Clarence Page's newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column's first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner's columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

**“10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything.”** You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that's just one of the obscure facts you'll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

**“Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything”** How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide.

All Chicago Tribune print books are available online at [chicagotribune.com/printbooks](http://chicagotribune.com/printbooks)

## Accuracy and ethics

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

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

### HOW TO CONTACT US

**Delivery problem?**  
Call 312-546-7900

7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday  
7 a.m.-noon Saturday-Sunday  
7 a.m.-11 a.m. holidays  
Or go to [chicagotribune.com/customerservice](http://chicagotribune.com/customerservice)

**Subscribe online:** [chicagotribune.com/subscribe](http://chicagotribune.com/subscribe)  
To subscribe, manage your print or digital subscription, or inquire about billing or vacation holds, call 312-546-7900.

**To report an error,** email [readerhelp@chicagotribune.com](mailto:readerhelp@chicagotribune.com) or call the Reader Help line at 312-222-3348.

Email .....	consumerservices@chicagotribune.com
Main operator .....	312-222-3232
Hearing impaired number .....	312-222-1922 (TDD)
Classified advertising .....	312-222-2222, <a href="mailto:classifiedinfo@tribune.com">classifiedinfo@tribune.com</a>
Display/preprint advertising .....	312-222-5995, <a href="mailto:ctmg@chicagotribune.com">ctmg@chicagotribune.com</a>
Display advertising self-service .....	<a href="http://placeanad.chicagotribune.com">placeanad.chicagotribune.com</a>
Mail .....	1000 Albion Ave., Schaumburg, IL, 60193

All advertising published in the Chicago Tribune is subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the Advertising Department. The Chicago Tribune reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

**EDITORIAL:** Questions and comments about stories in the Chicago Tribune should be directed to editors of the respective content areas.

**Chicago land news:** [Phil Jurik, pjurik@chicagotribune.com](mailto:pjurik@chicagotribune.com)  
**Sports:** [Amanda Kaschube, akaschube@chicagotribune.com](mailto:amanda.kaschube@chicagotribune.com)  
**Opinion:** [Chris Jones, cjones5@chicagotribune.com](mailto:chris.jones5@chicagotribune.com)

Chicago Tribune (USPS104-000) is published daily (7 days) at 1000 Albion Ave., Schaumburg, IL, 60193; Chicago Tribune Company, LLC, Publisher; periodicals postage paid at Schaumburg, IL, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes to the Chicago Tribune, Mail Subscription Division, 1000 Albion Ave., Schaumburg, IL, 60193.

Copyright 2024 Chicago Tribune Company, LLC. All rights reserved as to entire content.

### INSIDE

Almanac .....	News .....	10	Horoscopes .....	Nation & World.....	8
Arts & Living.....	Nation & World.....	5	Obituaries.....	News .....	10
Bridge.....	Nation & World.....	8	Sudoku.....	Nation & World.....	9
Comics.....	Nation & World.....	8	Television.....	Nation & World.....	7
Crossword.....	Nation & World.....	9	Weather.....	News .....	14
Editorials.....	News .....	6			

## Tracey

from Page 1

On Oct. 27, Tracey, 36, was found dead at the bottom of a stairwell in a luxury high-rise building in the Loop where her husband, Adam Beckerink, lives. Her death drew headlines when, in November, her parents successfully won custody of her remains after arguing in court both in Michigan and Cook County that Beckerink had a history of abusing her. The couple had been married for six months when she died.

On Thursday, police said her death is still under investigation.

“There was no physical violence that Adam had directed towards CT,” said Beckerink's attorney Todd Pugh on Saturday. “There is no corroboration to any of her claims. There was a layer of emotional volatility to the relationship, but CT enjoyed an incredibly close relationship with Adam's parents and Adam.”

Despite hardships Tracey may have faced, her friends and family recall a life filled with love.

“Taken from us far too soon, she was a force of nature — vibrant, bold, and always ready to make you laugh until your sides hurt,” Tracey's family wrote in their obituary for her Nov. 23 funeral. “Her sassy attitude, infectious energy, and unapologetic joy for life touched everyone she met.”

Born on May 29, 1988, Tracey grew up in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and studied hospitality management at Michigan State University, finishing her degree in only three years, according to the family's obituary.

After graduation, Tracey moved to Chicago with her older sister, where they lived next door to each other. She worked in data analytics before becoming a chief human resources officer, according to the obituary.

During the last years of her life, she worked remotely in New Buffalo and regularly traveled to Chicago to stay with her parents, or later, with Beckerink, her neighbors recounted to the Tribune.

Two women who lived doors away from Tracey in New Buffalo said they had fond memories of their “vibrant” and “loving” neighbor with a sentimental streak who kept photographs and keepsakes from her childhood home around the house.

Bunny Coyner first met Tracey in the fall of 2023, she said. The young woman was doing work around her house. Tracey was very handy, Coyner said, and told her that day: “I know my way around a drill and some drywall.”

Coyner remembered that when Tracey invited her in for a tour of her home, she mentioned she'd taken out a temporary restraining order against an ex-boyfriend. Tracey described his car and asked Coyner to alert her if she saw it.

“She was a beautiful, intelligent young woman and had a wonderful life ahead of her,” Coyner said. “I think she was looking forward to maybe getting out of this and searching out a new life, and I wished only the best for her, and she just couldn't do it.”

According to court records, Tracey had begun dating Beckerink, a tax attorney at a prominent law firm, in October 2022. Beckerink had a unit in the same downtown high-rise in Chicago that Tracey had lived in with her ex-husband prior to the divorce.

But the relationship soon deteriorated. Just one year later, Tracey was granted an emergency protective order in Cook County against Beckerink, for which she submitted an affidavit detailing multiple occasions of physical and verbal abuse.

According to court records filed by Tracey's parents in Michigan, Beckerink had “manipulated (Tracey) and purposefully isolated her from her family so that he could continue his campaign of abuse and terror unopposed,” with the records saying that Tracey had told them in September 2023 that Beckerink had held her hostage and physically brutalized her to the point where she required medical attention.

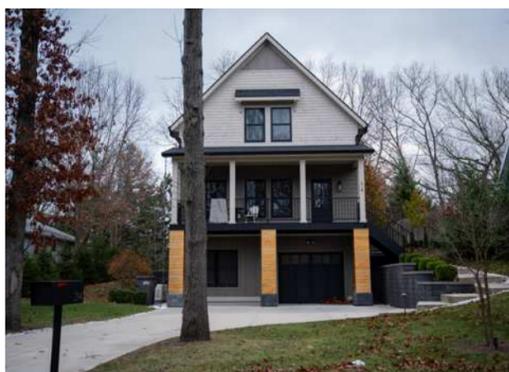
But by November 2023, Tracey moved to vacate the



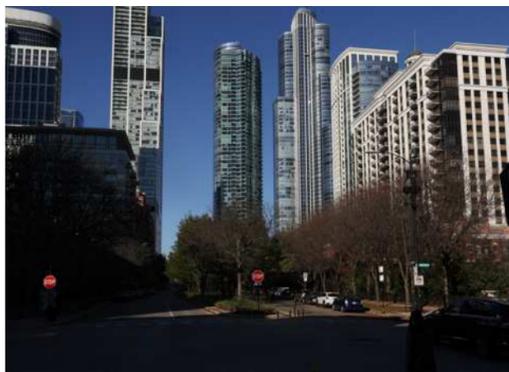
“As another woman, you just want to cheer her on,” said Joyce Lantz, a friend and neighbor of Caitlin Tracey in New Buffalo, Michigan. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Barbara “Bunny” Coyner, a friend and neighbor of Caitlin Tracey in New Buffalo, on Wednesday. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



The home of Caitlin Tracey in New Buffalo. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Afternoon shadows encroach on the street ahead of a residential tower in the 1200 block of South Prairie Avenue, center, on Nov. 7 in Chicago. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

order. Her parents allege in court filings it was due to Beckerink threatening to sue her for “defamation and libel.”

Despite the allegations of abuse, in April 2024, Tracey and Beckerink got married in a private ceremony, according to court records. No one seems to know for sure when the couple got back together.

Lantz said she didn't know about the alleged abuse or the restraining order. However, Lantz said she had begun to notice her neighbor's abrupt disappearances and “cryptic” texts over the last year.

Then, she said, she came home on Aug. 19 to see “five or six” police cars outside Tracey's house. That night, Beckerink was arrested by New Buffalo police for domestic violence, interfering with a 911 call and resisting and assaulting police officers, according to the arrest report obtained by the Tribune.

Beckerink currently faces multiple felony charges in addition to a domestic violence charge for the events of Aug. 19, according to a warrant prepared by the Berrien County prosecutor's office. A jury trial will begin in January.

Lantz said that after she saw Beckerink being taken away from Tracey's house in handcuffs, she texted Tracey to ask if she should come over.

“She said yes, which surprised me, honestly, because you know, I felt like she was a pretty independent woman that just handled things on her own,” Lantz said. “And when I got

down there, I walked up the steps to her home, to her front door, I went to hug her ... she felt so small and tiny, and honestly, frail. Almost like a shell of what she used to be.”

Both Lantz and Coyner went over to Tracey's house that night and sat with her for hours as she opened up about her relationship, they said. “We told her she had to get out of it, this was the time to get out of it. You're better than this, you're a wonderful woman, you're beautiful,” Coyner said.

In the days that followed, Tracey expressed to Lantz and Coyner that she wanted to “start her life over again here in Michigan” and “turn that corner,” Lantz said. She recalled how Tracey had begun to ask her for recommendations for where to get her hair and nails done in New Buffalo, and also requested the name of a Michigan divorce attorney.

“I thought she was getting to a point finally where she was going to get back on track, and that makes me feel incredibly sad,” Lantz said. “I felt like she was hopeful.”

When Tracey went to Chicago for a hair appointment a few days later, Lantz said that she'd assumed it was only to “tie up loose ends.”

Lantz only saw Tracey again one other time before she was found dead in October. Tracey had returned to Michigan with Beckerink near the end of August, dressed “very nice,” and said that she was there because of Beckerink's court date for his Michigan charges,

according to Lantz. Around that time, Lantz said she and Tracey exchanged a few text messages, in which Tracey “talked about getting her summer back, that she just didn't have much of a summer, so she wanted to get out on her paddle board.”

Coyner saw Tracey one more time in late September — again dressed formally, again with Beckerink, she said. According to court records, Beckerink had a case conference in Michigan scheduled for Sept. 23.

Since that day, the two women said, the lights have remained on in Tracey's house.

Tracey was laid to rest on Nov. 23 after a Catholic funeral Mass at Old St. Patrick's Church in the West Loop, which was led by the church's pastor, the Rev. Tom Hurley. Earlier that week, Tracey's parents had successfully defeated in court an attempt by Beckerink to halt the funeral and potentially confiscate their daughter's remains.

As Coyner watched the livestream of Tracey's funeral from her house in New Buffalo, she said she saw a red-tailed hawk land on a fence outside the window, which she thought of as a sign from “CT.”

At the start of the funeral Mass, Hurley told the crowd that Andrew and Monica Tracey had set some “ground rules” for him and the attending mourners, saying that “we need to check our anger at the door for now.”

“One of the things that Monica and Andy said to me is that their daughter's life is not going to be defined by anger and violence,” Hurley said.

Guests were encouraged to wear green, the school color of Tracey's beloved alma mater, Michigan State University.

In his homily, Hurley discussed how Tracey's life consisted of “stories of energy and hospitality and dancing and family and love and joy and laughter and fine wine and wonderful food.” She played softball, loved dancing and had “a beautiful gift of making people enjoy life and laugh,” he said.

Once, she had traveled to France to try and learn more about the shoe business due to her love for fashionable footwear, Hurley said, telling the mourners, “I hope you all have beautiful shoes on here today.”

“When I first got to your home ... you were kind of like ‘how are we going to do this, how are we going to get through this?’” Hurley said to Tracey's parents in the audience. “And then all of a sudden, just automatically, we just started talking about Caitlin. And Monica and Andy, when we started talking about Caitlin, your eyes lit up and you started smiling.”

# CHICAGOLAND

## WAUKEGAN

# Neighbors complaining about demolition

Water tower takedown, winds spreading dust

By Steve Sadin  
News-Sun

Demolition of an 81-year-old water tower — unused for more than 50 years just south of Washington Street on Keller Avenue in Waukegan — started on Oct. 31 and went without a hitch for the first few weeks.

But, when snow and strong winds arrived on Nov. 21, problems began for neighbors of the site.

Antonio Dominguez, the city's water plant supervisor, said two weeks before the project began letters were mailed to approximately 150 people near the water tower to let them know about the project, which was scheduled to last approximately six weeks.

"We didn't have any complaints, but we did have an issue when we had the snow and really high winds," he said at Monday's City Council meeting, referring to the Nov. 21 snowstorm. "There was a lot of debris blowing. We did talk to residents after the complaints."

Dominguez said water



Demolition of this water tower in Waukegan has drawn complaints from nearby residents.

STEVE SADIN/FOR LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

cannons are used to blow water on the concrete dust as part of the demolition process to keep the residue from blowing too far from the tower. With the colder temperatures, the water freezes when it mixes with the dust and hits items on the ground.

City officials are now

working with Leopardo Construction to compensate residents in the vicinity of the water tower for incurred property damage, and are taking steps to mitigate potential danger as the project nears completion.

Depending on the weather, Dominguez said the project should be

complete soon.

Ald. Thomas Hayes, 9th Ward, questioned Dominguez and representatives of both Leopardo and Alpine Construction at Monday's meeting about the situation. Alpine is the demolition subcontractor. Hayes let the council know the damage of blowing dust is severe and

dangerous.

Before the meeting, Hayes said he knocked on about 15 doors and talked to seven or eight people who live near the water tower. He personally experienced the danger of the dusty ice.

"I saw the dust," he said. "I slipped on the dust that was frozen on the cement. It was, in fact, there. As you know, it was there covering cars. One car, I could not even tell what color it was. One woman is not putting out her Christmas decorations because they would be covered in dust."

Built in the 1940s, the water tower was decommissioned approximately 50 years ago because there were more effective ways to get water to the area, Dominguez said.

Mayor Ann Taylor said in October the building was becoming a refuge for homeless people.

"It was not only excessive, but it was getting dangerous," she said. "People were sleeping there, and we decided to get it down."

Taylor questioned Leopardo and Alpine representatives about reports there was asbestos inside the tower which was escaping into the atmosphere. Ben Maust of

Leopardo assured her there was none there.

"There was asbestos in the building that was abated before Alpine came to do their work," Maust said. "The abatement was looked at by a contractor and was third-party reviewed. They confirmed there was no other asbestos on site. We removed all of that prior to any dust-creating demolition."

Hayes said he was told by residents whose property was damaged because of the dust frozen to their cars and other harm to their property they would receive monetary compensation. Company representatives said it would happen.

"I will send you the list to take care of it," Hayes said. "A resident told me the water was freezing in the street, and cars were slipping and sliding."

As the construction process started more than a month ago, the construction crew punched a hole in the top with an eight-foot, five-ton jackhammer device. Dominguez said large claws affixed to a crane were used to pull the concrete off the structure and dump it inside to keep debris from falling onto neighboring land.

# Genesee Theatre celebrates 20th reopening anniversary

'It's put Waukegan on the map' and helped downtown

By Steve Sadin  
Lake County News-Sun

Taking a leap of faith more than 20 years ago, Waukegan sold \$20 million in bonds to renovate and reopen the Genesee Theatre to spur the growth of the city's downtown. Since then, the showplace has navigated some lean times and now is helping the city reinvigorate its central business district.

Owned by the city but professionally managed, Mayor Ann Taylor said the theater's rebirth since 2004 has made a difference in the growth of the downtown area as it brings top-flight entertainment to the city. The new businesses and full storefronts across the street are a result.

"That whole block is rebounding because of the Genesee Theatre," Taylor said. "The theater has really kept downtown going. People come here, and you have that beautiful gem of a theater."

The Genesee Theatre marked the 20th anniversary of its reopening Tuesday in downtown Waukegan as it gets ready for a variety of holiday performances in the next few weeks, as well as six concerts and a comedy show in January.

Larry Frievalt, the theater's ticketing and patron services manager, joined the organization a few weeks before it reopened. He said the Genesee originally opened on Dec. 25, 1927, primarily as a movie theater. It closed in 1989, and reopened in 2004.

"It's put Waukegan on the map," Frievalt said. "People come here for a show, and our records show they come back approximately three times a year. They get to see top-name entertainment without the congestion of a



The Genesee Theatre has helped spur economic development on North Genesee Street in Waukegan. COURTESY PHOTOS

big-city arena.

Within six months, Frievalt said Beatle Ringo Starr recorded an album at the theater as part of the PBS Soundstage concert series. Since then, some of the name talent has included Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld, Steve Martin and Martin Short, Peter Frampton, Judas Priest and Morrissey.

Talking about reopening the theater around 25 years ago, the Waukegan City Council approved a \$20 million bond issue in 2001 to go with \$3.5 million secured by a private group to get the project started, according to a Chicago Tribune report at the time.

Though the project went over budget, Taylor, who was not part of city government at the time, said the renovation was forward-thinking. It created modern amenities, which were rarely present in renovated older theaters.

"It's a historic building, but the (renovation) architecture was modern," Taylor said. "They designed modern bathrooms and lounges. No one else was doing that then. It was way ahead of its time."

Initial growth was slow at first. In 2011, the city entered into a deal with Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin-based Uline, which brought annual cash infusions in exchange for professional oversight, according to a News-Sun story at the time.

Since it reopened, Frievalt

said 90% of the productions have been live Entertainment, including concerts ranging from classic rock, to heavy metal, to jazz, as well as standup comedy and Broadway-style shows have been featured.

Colleen Rogalski, the theater's marketing and booking manager, said bringing talent to the theater is a matter of developing relationships and treating the entertainers and their staff well.

"It starts with a relationship with their agent," she said. "You want everyone to have a good experience. You want the entertainer's staff to have a good experience with us, and you want the performer to have a good experience with the theater and the patrons. If they like it, they'll tell their friends."

When Morrissey came to the Genesee on Nov. 23, Rogalski said she was nervous because he has a reputation for canceling shows. Everyone went out of their way to make the experience a good one. It worked.

"We made sure everything they needed was accommodated," she said. "When his staff said, 'The boss is pleased,' we knew we did our job."

Just to the north of the main theater is the home of Three Brothers Theatre, a local company that produces several plays a year. Frievalt said when the Genesee was built, the space was intended for a black box

theater, which could be refitted from performance to performance.

Now, Three Brothers has a good professional space creating a theater district in the 200 block of North Genesee. Taylor said the Three Brothers Theatre is another example of how the Genesee has helped down-

town Waukegan grow.

Along with well-known entertainers, Frievalt said the Genesee makes an effort to accommodate community organizations as it has done for the public schools, local filmmakers trying to get a start, Bravo Waukegan and more.

A not-for-profit organiza-

tion that teachers Waukegan public school children how to play instruments, Bravo Waukegan holds shows on the Genesee's well-fitted stage in an auditorium holding 2,400 people.

"It gives them the chance to perform with a professional conductor on a great stage," Frievalt said.

## The \$80 Cashmere Boatneck Sweater

★★★★★  
1,200+ REVIEWS

6 COLORS AVAILABLE



Softer, thicker, & more luxurious than ever.

FREE SHIPPING & 365-DAY RETURNS

Quince

QUINCE.COM



The Genesee Theater is Waukegan celebrated the 20th anniversary of its reopening Tuesday.

## Wetlands

from Page 1

President Joe Biden's effort to counter the Supreme Court ruling by expanding federal regulations of small bodies of water and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. Undoing those protections would leave control of wetlands up to the states, some of which — like Illinois — have no strong safeguards in place.

Half of the nation's wetlands have disappeared since the 1780s, and urban development and agriculture in Illinois have destroyed as much as 90% of its original marshy, swampy land. Nowadays, its wetlands are vastly outnumbered by the 26.3 million acres of farmland that cover almost three-fourths of the state.

While urban and rural development and climate change disturbances contribute to the problem, the expansion of large-scale agriculture poses the biggest threat to wetlands, according to the study. Advocates see an opportunity in the next farm bill in Congress to support and encourage farmers to protect wetlands on their property.

A wetland is a natural sponge, said Paul Botts, president and executive director of The Wetlands Initiative, a Chicago-based nonprofit that designs, restores and creates wetlands.

By absorbing water from storms and flooding, wetlands can effectively reduce the risks and destructive effects of these disasters, which are intensifying and becoming more frequent because of a changing climate. Previous research estimated that 1 acre of lost wetland can cost \$745 in annual flood damage to residential properties, an amount that taxpayers fund through local, state or federal assistance programs.

"The trees and plants in wetlands trap and slow rushing waters, while wetland soil can soak up vast amounts of water," Woods said. "So communities really benefit greatly from wetlands as natural flood barriers."

Since 1980, Illinoisans have endured seven flooding events that each caused losses costing more than \$1 billion, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Six of these happened



Big Marsh Park, shown on Thursday, is a 300-acre natural area managed by the Chicago Park District. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

in the past 16 years.

"That is a staggering cost," Woods said. "But it's important to remember that it could have been worse because the existing wetlands in Illinois helped to reduce the impact of those terrible floods."

A study found that in spring 2019, one of the most recent billion-dollar flooding disasters that hit Illinois and other states prompted 2,204 claims for federal assistance through the National Flood Insurance Program, with claims averaging \$14,342. In the aftermath of heavy rains that rolled through Chicago and its suburbs in mid-September last year, the federal government provided over \$23 million in relief to Illinois residents.

In the long term, Woods calculated, wetlands could provide flood mitigation benefits of \$10.8 billion to \$25.2 billion in Illinois and \$32.3 billion to \$75.4 billion across the Upper Midwest, which includes Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

"Nature bequeathed to the flat Midwest a vast number of these sponges scattered all over the place. We spent a couple of hundred years busily filling them in, draining them, etc.," Botts said. "And if we had more of those original small, scattered sponges across our great Midwest, our suburban areas, our exurban areas and our farming areas would have less local flooding."

He pointed out that wetlands can be beneficial in controlling smaller floods that don't qualify for homeowners and renters for relief funds — but that can compound and become

a nuisance. These are particularly common in Chicago's Chatham neighborhood and suburban Cicero.

"The more routine flooding — it really drives people crazy," Botts said. "Why the hell is all this water ending up in my basement all the time? Even if it's just one or two days, it's also really unpleasant to clean up and it does damage."

Additional costs are associated with those regular floods, from preventive measures like lining basements, paying higher insurance premiums, and running sump pumps nonstop, all of which are harder to quantify and analyze at a bigger scale.

Dolores Sanchez, a Berwyn resident who lived between Cicero and Chicago during her college career, vividly remembers the first major flood she experienced in the suburban town in 2010. Water levels reached her thighs in the basement where she used to sleep. Her family bought a sump pump that helped except during more intense storms when the electricity went out.

"People have been advocating throughout the years to get more green spaces," she said. "There are a ton of empty lots that are not being put to use. ... Because flooding is going to continue to happen in Cicero, and it's horrible."

Her family stopped using the basement, dreading the next rainfall. She said her former neighbors and her relatives who still live in the suburb have their basements flooded almost every time it storms.

"The local adds up to the occasional giant flood that makes all the headlines, but it's the regular, local every-

other-year kind of flooding — that's really the point of the spear, where these small, scattered wetlands can really help," Botts said. "It isn't just about the big, giant floods."

### Rippling benefits

Even these considerable costs don't capture the myriad benefits that healthy wetlands offer.

For instance, they help mitigate climate change in other ways. Besides reducing flooding, wetlands trap and store carbon, preventing the gas from heating the atmosphere.

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the wetlands it manages can store up to 6,000 tons of this heat-trapping greenhouse gas each year, the equivalent of what coal-fired power plants would release to provide electricity to 1,059 homes annually.

"Wetlands trap and store over 30% of soil-stored carbon on Earth, which is especially impressive when you consider that wetlands only cover about 6% of the Earth's surface," Woods said. "So that's incredible."

Yet this can be a double-edged sword, she said.

When wetlands are damaged or destroyed, they release that stored carbon as methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, which accelerate climate change. Even rising temperatures can have this effect on intact habitats by increasing the activity of microbes and speeding the breakdown of organic matter in waterlogged soil, which emits methane.

Wetlands also support

wildlife such as aquatic animals, amphibians, reptiles and insects; a decline in biodiversity can cause large losses for the region's thriving outdoor recreation, tourism, hunting and fishing industries. Wetland vegetation can absorb contaminants in the water, keeping them from moving downstream.

In Illinois, these pollutants include nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater treatment plants, urban stormwater drainage and agricultural runoff, which flow into the Mississippi River Basin. Making their way into the Gulf of Mexico, these contaminants create an oxygen-void area, or "dead zone," that pushes fish and shrimp away or kills them, causing billions of dollars in damage to local fisheries and marine habitats.

### The future of wetlands protection

Some Midwestern states, including Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, offer comprehensive protections for water bodies. Seven states across the country, including Illinois, don't have laws as robust but do provide some regulatory protections for nonfederal waters, according to the Environmental Law Institute.

Illinois protects its wetlands only from state-funded activities. But some local governments go further: A DuPage County ordinance requires a stormwater permit for developments near wetlands, and a Lake County ordinance protects all bodies of water outside of federal jurisdiction.

A coalition of environmentalists and state lawmakers are pushing for stronger legislation.

Earlier this year, Sen. Laura Ellman, a Naperville Democrat, and Rep. Anna Moeller, an Elgin Democrat, introduced companion bills in the Illinois General Assembly that would establish a permitting program to protect wetlands from pollution and draining.

If passed, the Wetlands and Small Streams Protection Act would empower the state's Department of Natural Resources to regulate private land use around the state's remaining wetlands.

"The law ... would, for the great majority of existing wetlands in Illinois, simply

establish a permit process," Botts said.

At the federal level, a new farm bill being drafted in Congress — an extensive piece of legislation that sets agricultural and conservation policy nationwide — could address regulatory rollbacks from the executive and judicial branches. After a largely bipartisan history, the new bill has been delayed for more than a year by policy disagreement between Republicans and Democrats.

Woods hopes legislators can come together to significantly raise the cap on acreage that can be enrolled in the decades-old Conservation Reserve Program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

She recommended increasing support for that and similar USDA-administered programs that fund and assist farmers in restoring damaged wetlands on their properties and converting cropland back into wetlands. These programs also encourage adopting agricultural conservation practices like planting cover crops, eliminating harmful tilling and reducing fertilizer and pesticide use.

Expanding equity initiatives also would provide all farmers — especially those who are new or have been historically underserved — access to federal conservation programs to preserve and restore wetlands.

"The recommendations we make demand only a fraction of the annual value that wetlands deliver," Woods said. "I think as research continues coming out, it shows how incredibly valuable wetlands are to everyone in the United States."

That's because even people who don't live near drained wetlands pay taxes to help others recover from residential flooding, she said. And it's not hard to empathize with those suffering such a devastating loss.

"One thing I know is that, no matter how you voted in the recent election, you don't want to lose your home to flooding," Woods said. "And that's why no matter how we vote, no matter what party we align with, we should be invested in protecting wetlands."

Chicago Tribune's Karina Atkins contributed.

aperez@chicagotribune.com

## Griswold

from Page 1

ten a saw, the Griswolds are next seen driving home with an uprooted tree affixed to the roof of their wagon.

This year, like last, Ray managed to procure a tree with intact roots from a nearby family farm.

With the tree tied to his wagon's roof, Ray has taken the wagon to go Christmas shopping and visit family members. He has driven it to a local drive-in theater for a showing of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" and has participated in holiday parades.

This coming Saturday, Ray is heading to Kenosha for a Griswold festival.

This year's tree is much larger than last year's, and Ray had to trim it so he could see better out of the driver's seat, he said. Nonetheless, both years he said he's been pulled over several times by police. But the officers who stop him usually want to take pictures of the wagon and issue a verbal warning that driving with such a large tree on top of it is a distraction, he said.

"It doesn't go very fast," Ray said of his Taurus. "Well, it's because there's a 500-pound tree on the top of the car."

Ray, who grew up in the Fox Lake area, said he was 5 or 6 when he first saw the movie, back when it was frequently shown on TV in December.

"I just remember the lights, when he was out there (fidgeting) with the lights. That was it," Ray said. "I saw all the lights on his house, and I was like, 'One day, I'm going to do that.' And again, it's just a fricking funny movie. I love it."

As a kid, Ray would do much of the decorating on the outside of his parents' home. But his father would



Dressed as the character Clark Griswold, Ted Ray sits in a Ford Taurus wagon with a tree on top outside his home to pay tribute to "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," on Wednesday in McHenry. Ray, 33, says this is the fourth year he's decorated his home after the holiday film. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**



A Ford Taurus wagon with a tree on top sits outside Ray's home.

have never let him put as many lights as he does with his own house because of

worries the electric bill would go through the roof.

Now a father of three,

including a 2-year-old named Audrey and 4-month old Russell — yes, just like

the Griswold kids — Ray can relate to aspects of the film beyond the comedy.

"It's a man who loves his family, and he's just trying to do everything he can to make his family happy," Ray said. "I'm all about that. I love my family. I love making people happy. And sure, he tried doing it, and there were mishaps all along the way — many, many bad mishaps. It was terrible. But he figured it out, and he made it work."

Ray said he watches "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" a couple of times during the summer and then 20 or 30 times during the Christmas season. While Ray's wife doesn't love the movie as much as him, she loves their light display, Ray said.

The couple's neighbors — unlike Todd and Margo, the

Griswold's Yuppie antagonists — are also on board. One neighbor cheers Ray on while he sets up and calls him Clark Griswold. During the four years his house has been the brightest on the block, "as far as I know, I don't have any complaints," Ray said.

Last year, when Ray only had about 4,500 lights, he began setting them up on the day after Halloween and finished up in about two and a half weeks. This year, Ray started setting up "very late" because he was busy caring for Russell and his twin sister, Addison, he said.

According to estimates from ComEd, if Griswold set up his incandescent lights in 2022 and kept them on for five hours every day during December, his electric bill for the lights alone would have been nearly \$7,500.

Ray, who is planning to power his 5,225 LED lights from 4:30 to 10:30 p.m. all month long, expects his December electric bill to be just \$180, he said. Unlike in the past, this year Ray only used LED lights, which use about 80% less electricity than traditional incandescent ones.

"All the house right now is only pulling 15 amps," Ray said Wednesday night. "When I did it the first time, it was pulling 188 amps."

Strings of lights line the front, sides and roof of Ray's house in an orderly fashion. One string climbs the flagpole in the center of the front yard. Another demarcates the perimeter of the property.

Ray doesn't mind when people come up to him when he's out and about wanting to take pictures of the car. It doesn't bother him when people driving by his home stop and take photos.

"Part of why I do this is because I want people to take photos and have a good time," Ray said.

# Syria

from Page 1

that recalled the early days of the Arab Spring uprising — before a brutal crackdown and the rise of an insurgency plunged the country into a nearly 14-year civil war.

Others gleefully ransacked the presidential palace and residence after Assad and other top officials vanished.

Abu Mohammed al-Golani, a former al-Qaida commander who cut ties with the group years ago and says he embraces pluralism and religious tolerance, leads the biggest rebel faction and is poised to chart the country's future.

In his first public appearance since fighters entered the Damascus suburbs Saturday, al-Golani visited the sprawling Umayyad Mosque. Calling himself by his given name, Ahmad al-Sharaa, he told hundreds of people that Assad had made Syria "a farm for Iran's greed."

The rebels face the daunting task of healing divisions in a country ravaged by war and still split among armed factions. Turkey-backed opposition fighters are battling U.S.-allied Kurdish forces in the north, and Islamic State is still active in some remote areas.

Syrian state television broadcast a rebel statement early Sunday that Assad had been overthrown and all prisoners had been released. They called on people to preserve the institutions of "the free Syrian state." The rebels later announced a curfew in Damascus from 4 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The rebels said they freed people held at the notorious Saydnaya prison, where rights groups say thousands were tortured and killed. A video circulating online purported to show rebels breaking open cell doors and freeing dozens of female prisoners, many of whom appeared shocked. At least one small child was seen among them.

"This happiness will not be completed until I can see my son out of prison and know where he is," said one relative, Bassam Masr. "I have been searching for him for two hours. He has been detained for 13 years."

Rebel commander Anas Salkhadi later appeared on state TV and sought to reassure Syria's religious and ethnic minorities, saying: "Syria is for everyone, no exceptions. Syria is for Druze, Sunnis, Alawites and all sects. We will not deal with people the way the Assad family did."

Damascus residents prayed in mosques and celebrated in squares, calling "God is great." People chanted anti-Assad slogans and honked car horns. Teenage boys picked up weapons apparently discarded by security forces and fired into the air.

Revelers filled Umayyad Square, where the Defense Ministry is. Some waved the three-star Syrian flag that predates the Assad government and was adopted by the revolutionaries.

Elsewhere, many parts of the capital were empty and shops were closed.

Soldiers and police left their posts and fled, and looters broke into the Defense Ministry. Videos showed families wandering the presidential palace, some carrying stacks of plates and other household items.

"It's like a dream. I need someone to wake me up," opposition fighter Abu Laith said, adding that rebels were welcomed in Damascus with "love."

At the Justice Ministry, where rebels stood guard, Judge Khitam Haddad said they were protecting documents from the chaos. Outside, some residents sought information about relatives who disappeared under Assad.

The Alawite sect at the core of Assad's base called on young Syrians to be "calm, rational and prudent and not to be dragged into what tears apart the unity of our country."

The rebels mainly come from the Sunni Muslim majority in Syria, which has sizable Druze, Christian and Kurdish communities. In Qamishli in the northeast, a Kurdish man slapped a statue of the late leader Hafez Assad with his shoe.

Prime Minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali said the

government was ready to "extend its hand" to the opposition and turn its functions over to a transitional government.

The Gulf nation of Qatar, a key regional mediator, hosted an emergency meeting with eight countries with interests in Syria late Saturday, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Turkey.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said they agreed on the need "to engage all parties on the ground," including the HTS, and that the main concern is "stability and safe transition."



**Far left:** An opposition fighter steps on a broken bust of the late Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus on Sunday. **Left:** A man tries to take a light fixture as people walk through the ransacked home of Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus on Sunday. **HUSSEIN MALLA/AP PHOTOS**

# GO INVISIBLE for the Holidays

No one will see how well you hear.



Phonak Lyric™

## You'll never miss a whisper this season.

A remarkable advance in hearing aid technology can dramatically change your life and the way you interact with those closest to you. These Holidays be part of every conversation, hear every punchline and feel true "togetherness."



### Experience the only 100% invisible hearing aids

- Wear them 24/7—when you sleep, shower, exercise
- Stay in your ears for months at a time... without removing\*
- No maintenance—no changing batteries\*
- Pure, natural sound
- Tinnitus relief, night and day

Scan the code to book your FREE BASELINE HEARING SCREENING!



**Trade-in, trade-up!**  
Use the value in your present hearing aids and trade-up to the newest technology



Your traded pair will help the Fisher Foundation bring back the hearing to a child with cancer.

**DOWNTOWN CHICAGO**  
Magnificent Mile  
142 E. Ontario St., Ste 1100  
**312-635-7770**

**HIGHLAND PARK**  
Crossroads Shopping Ctr.  
185 Skokie Valley Road  
**847-282-4977**

**PARK RIDGE/NORWOOD PARK**  
Presence Resurrection Ctr.  
7447 West Talcott, Ste. 360  
**708-221-9144**

**NAPERVILLE**  
Fox Run Square, #103  
1212 South Naper Blvd  
**630-225-7414**

**OAK BROOK**  
Oakbrook Prof. Bldg.  
120 Oakbrook Center, Ste 709  
**630-480-4242**



\*Duration of device battery life varies by patient and is subject to individual ear conditions. Lyric is not appropriate for all patients. Lyric, Distributed by Phonak, LLC ©2017. All rights reserved. MS053699



Voted Best Practice in Chicago and Suburbs - 3 years in a row!



**Par Ridder**  
General Manager

**Mitch Pugh**  
Executive Editor

**Chris Jones**, Editorial Page Editor

# Chicago Tribune

Founded June 10, 1847

**Phil Jurik**, Managing Editor

DIRECTORS OF CONTENT

**Amanda Kaschube**, Sports and Audience  
**Todd Panagopoulos**, Visuals

## EDITORIALS



People walk on the Magnificent Mile in Chicago on Black Friday on Nov. 29. As more and more people shop online, artificial intelligence is increasingly finding its way into those shopping decisions. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# AI is 'helping' with your online holiday shopping, whether you like it or not

The holiday shopping season has started fast, especially online, and those automated chatbots are working overtime.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly finding its way into decisions that once were purely human, like whether or not to buy a sweater. This year, more than ever, smart computer programs are stepping between customers and their shopping.

These programs make recommendations based on purchase history, browsing behavior and demographics. They also sharpen the results from online product searches, adjust prices based on competitive factors, and improve product placement or promotions. AI-powered customer service can answer questions and take orders. AI can even enable apparel shoppers to virtually "try on" clothes to see if they'll fit.

This integration of AI with routine tasks of our everyday lives isn't new, but its ubiquity is growing. Voice-operated digital assistants like Apple's Siri, Amazon's Alexa and Google Assistant remind us of appointments, tell us if it's cold outside and control smart devices at home. The ChatGPT program and its imitators help draft emails and term papers. AI-powered streaming platforms like Netflix and music services like Spotify make uncanny recommendations, sometimes seeming to know

our interests better than we know ourselves.

Merchants say their embrace of AI creates more efficient and personal shopping experiences. If Santa can tell when you've been bad or good, as the Christmas carol goes, imagine what a computer analyzing every keystroke can surmise about you and your holiday shopping list.

Some AI applications rival science fiction. A recent survey of 2,000 adults under age 40 showed that 13% of young men and 9% of young women are open to friendships with AI-generated companions, and one in four young people say they believe AI partners could eventually replace real-life romance. The Institute for Family Studies, a conservative think tank that conducted the poll, concludes, "Robots aren't just coming for your jobs but for your relationships, too."

In the U.S., this incursion is largely unregulated, which could be risky based on how AI is being used. The European Union has developed a sensible AI regulatory framework that rates the risk from "minimal" to "unacceptable."

Minimal risks include spam filters that use AI to better screen out junk emails and the like. An unacceptable risk threatens fundamental rights, such as using facial recognition and deep-

fakes to influence elections. Under the EU system, that's not allowed.

"High-risk" AI covers a lot of sensitive ground, from managing road traffic to grading students and evaluating employees. The risk comes from the potential for things to go badly wrong, and the EU requires those systems to meet stringent standards before being unleashed on the public.

Most AI related to holiday shopping falls into the catch-all category of "limited" risk, meaning the systems could be used to deceive people in relatively small ways. For example, the EU requires that chatbot programs conversing in text or voice make it clear that human users are interacting with AI, not other humans.

The EU framework is still being sorted out, but at least the Europeans have one. In the U.S., Congress so far has failed to pass legislation, and the only national standards to date stemmed from an executive order that outgoing President Joe Biden imposed in 2023.

With ex-President Donald Trump returning to the White House, Biden's order is probably headed for the trash, and it's unclear what AI guardrails a Trump administration might want, if any. During the run-up to Election Day, both Republicans and Democrats used AI to target messages and generate

memes. Fortunately, the worst fears of a lifelike fake message or video disrupting the election never materialized.

With the GOP in charge of Congress, there may be an appetite for AI legislation to protect national security or ban the awful practice of creating non-consensual explicit images. But any effort to curb the spread of misinformation faces a tough path as Republican lawmakers resist anything they see as suppressing free speech.

The problem is that with no safeguards, Americans are likely to be confronted with AI-generated content that isn't easily recognized as AI-generated. In that instance, people could lose confidence in their ability to determine what's true and what's being foisted on them for commercial purposes, or worse. Holiday shopping is just one example of a seemingly benign activity that could become problematic if AI is taken too far.

Advocates in the AI industry have pushed for rules of the road to help the technology gain acceptance and head off problems. The Europeans have provided a reasonable starting point. Now it's up to the ruling GOP to recognize that imposing regulations on the AI free-for-all stands to promote innovation and ensure that these powerful tools are used in a manner that serves the public.

### ABOUT THE DOGE INITIATIVE

President-elect Donald Trump has announced he'll create the Department of Government Efficiency, led by tech impresarios Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. The aim, Trump says, is to "dismantle government bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure federal agencies."

There's reason to be skeptical about Trump's ambitions for this body. ... But the goal of getting taxpayers better value for their money remains eminently desirable.

As a start, any effort of this kind requires setting achievable goals — and Musk and Ramaswamy have already emphasized a good one. They want to get federal workers back to the office. Long after the pandemic, government buildings are still conspicuously underpopulated. ...

The client-facing aspects of the government also badly need attention. Whether it's filing taxes, claiming benefits, buying savings bonds from TreasuryDirect, securing licenses and permissions, or dealing with regulators with overlapping jurisdictions, effective customer service rarely seems to be a priority. ...

As important as this mission is, however, voters should be realistic. Musk once said he aimed to cut "at least \$2 trillion" from Biden's proposed \$6.5 trillion-a-year budget. On the face of it, such a claim isn't credible: It would mean cutting all spending, including defense, Medicare and Social Security, by a third. Trump has already promised to protect the main entitlement programs. ... Another concern is that both men may have conflicts of interest and, as outside advisers, may not be subject to normal disclosure rules. ...

Musk and Ramaswamy should be commended for their ambition. They should also remember that fixing the government is an incredibly arduous task — and making ridiculous promises doesn't help.

**Bloomberg Opinion Editorial Board**

### EDITORIAL CARTOON

ON THE PLAYGROUND AT MAR-A-LAGO...



Horsey  
© 2024  
The Seattle Times

MEANWHILE, ON THE WEST COAST...



DAVID HORSEY

# Lifting our community, and the world, to its feet.



We're proud to be the Official Bank of FIFA World Cup 2026, and proud to help Chicago clients reach their goals, big and small.

*Rita*

Rita Sola Cook  
President, Bank of America Chicago

**BANK OF AMERICA**



**OFFICIAL BANK OF  
THE FIFA WORLD CUP 26™**

## What would you like the power to do?®

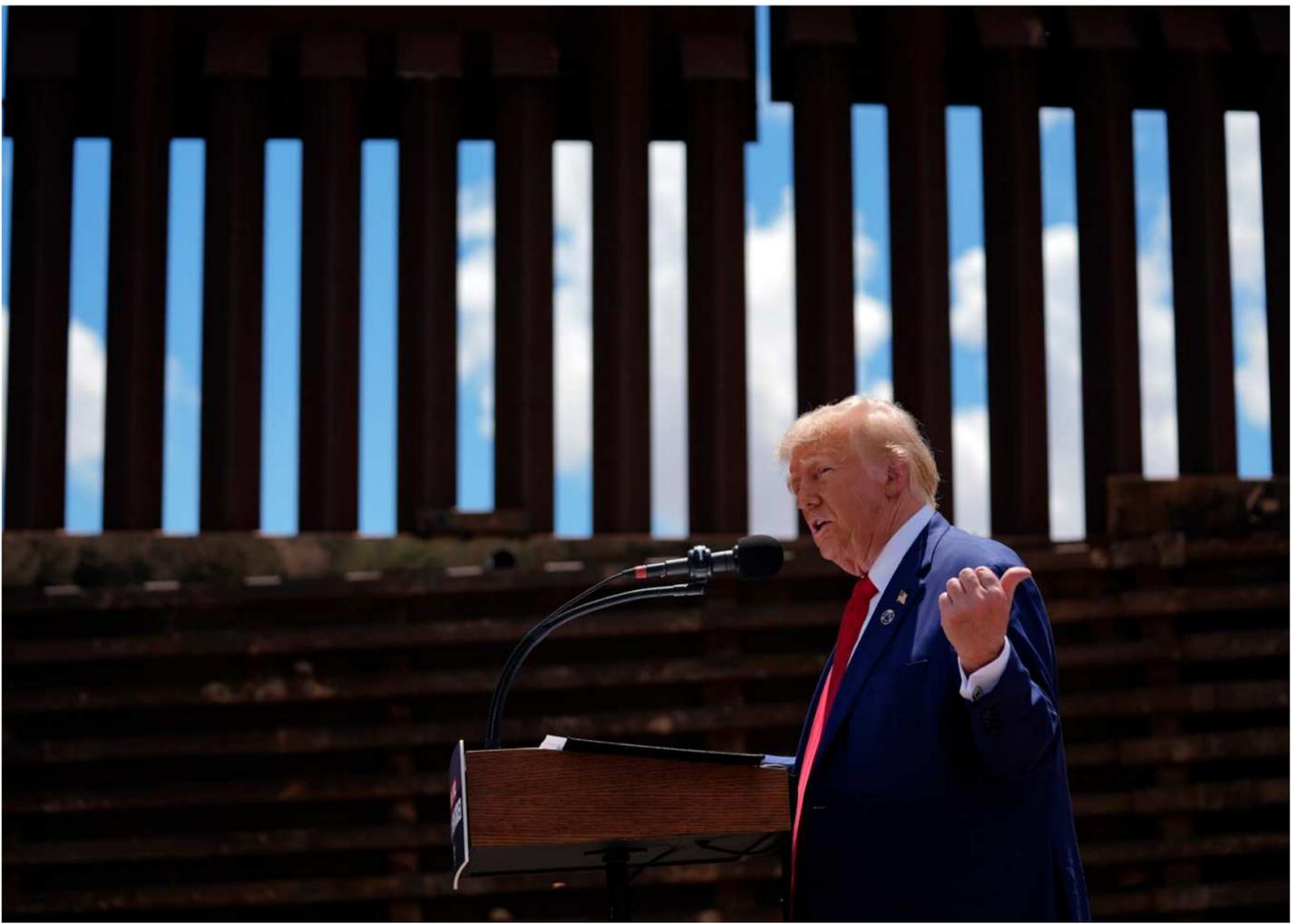
Go to [bankofamerica.com/chicago](https://bankofamerica.com/chicago) to learn more.

Scan for details



When you use the QRC feature certain information is collected from your mobile device for business purposes.  
Bank of America, N.A. Member FDIC. Equal Opportunity Lender. © 2024 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.

# OPINION



President-elect Donald Trump speaks along the southern border with Mexico on Aug. 22 in Sierra Vista, Arizona. EVAN VUCCI/AP

## Donald Trump plans to exploit the Alien Enemies Act. The courts should stop him.

By Katherine Yon Ebright

President-elect Donald Trump is getting ready to repeat a shameful mistake from our nation's history. As part of his plans for mass deportation, Trump has promised to dust off the Alien Enemies Act, last used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in World War II to hold 31,000 noncitizens of Japanese, German and Italian descent in internment camps based on their ancestry. Trump and his advisers claim that the same law would permit the detention and deportation of millions of noncitizens currently in the United States. Congress and the courts can and should stop him.

Enacted in 1798, the Alien Enemies Act allows the president, during a declared war or an "invasion" or "predatory incursion" by a foreign government, to summarily detain and deport noncitizens who were born in enemy nations. Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, which killed over 2,400 Americans, opened the door for Roosevelt to proclaim an invasion and invoke the law. Within 24 hours, more than 1,000 noncitizens of Japanese descent had been detained. Many more would follow — along with an even larger number of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent, detained under a separate legal authority. Instead of using the Alien Enemies Act to respond to a real invasion, however, Trump proposes to exploit the law to address a purely rhetorical

"migrant invasion" allegedly fueled by drug cartels south of the U.S.-Mexico border. If successful, the move could unlock sweeping authority to target millions of Latino immigrants, detaining them in immigration-processing camps and ultimately deporting them without a hearing. It could allow Trump to bypass regular immigration law, which contains protections for asylum-seekers and affords basic procedural rights to undocumented individuals who have lived in the United States for years. Trump could even seek to detain and deport immigrants who are lawfully present in this country, including green card holders who have lived in the United States for decades and have children who are U.S. citizens.

Using the Alien Enemies Act for peacetime immigration enforcement would be a staggering abuse of the law. Both its history and its text make clear that the Alien Enemies Act can be used only in wartime. Congress enacted the law under its constitutional war powers, designing it to address declared wars and armed attacks by hostile foreign powers — not migration by people fleeing hardship or seeking economic opportunity. Anyone committed to the rule of law, regardless of their politics, should oppose such blatant overreach.

But that's not the only problem with Trump's proposal. Whether used in wartime or peacetime, the Alien Enemies Act is inconsistent with modern understandings of equal

rights under the U.S. Constitution. It discriminates against individuals based solely on their ancestry — allowing the government to deem groups of people loyal or disloyal, safe or dangerous, based merely on where they were born. As the Supreme Court held in its 2000 *Rice v. Cayetano* opinion, ancestral discrimination "implicates the same grave concerns" as unconstitutional racial discrimination.

What's more, the law suffers from a near-total lack of due process, or protections against arbitrary violations of people's rights and liberties. There is no requirement that the president show, let alone persuade a court, that targeted individuals are likely to conduct espionage or sabotage on behalf of a foreign adversary. Nor does it allow targeted immigrants an opportunity to prove that they are loyal, law-abiding members of society. The law can be — and has been — used against permanent residents on the cusp of naturalizing, as well as noncitizen veterans of the U.S. military. It was even used against German Jews who were refugees from the Nazi regime in World War II.

Because of this clear conflict between the Alien Enemies Act and the values enshrined in our Constitution, we rightly regret past uses of the law. In 1988, Congress enacted a reparations regime for Japanese internment, acknowledging that both noncitizens and U.S. citizens of Japanese descent had been targeted out of "racial prejudice." In 2000, Congress

enacted the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act to apologize for the smaller-scale internment of roughly 3,000 noncitizens of Italian descent. And the George W. Bush administration, even as it cracked down on Muslim American communities after September 11, acknowledged that the use of the Alien Enemies Act in World War II had discriminated on the basis of ancestry and gone too far.

Despite these expressions of remorse, Congress has failed for decades to prioritize repealing the Alien Enemies Act. Not until August 2001, when Sens. Russ Feingold and Charles Grassley introduced the Wartime Treatment Study Act, did lawmakers ask why the law was still on the books and question its "continued viability." But congressional appetite for reform evaporated in the wake of the 9/11 attacks the following month.

Congress must take up Alien Enemies Act repeal once more. In the meantime, the courts must prepare to strike down an inappropriate peacetime use of the law or overturn it altogether. The threat that Trump will abuse the Alien Enemies Act to perpetrate another mass violation of constitutional rights demands decisive action. We should not repeat the shameful mistakes of America's past.

*Katherine Yon Ebright is counsel in the Liberty & National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.*

## The judiciary just lost the legendary Judge Joel Flaum

By Amy J. St. Eve and Michael Y. Scudder

Dec. 4 saw the passing of one of the finest federal judges in our nation's history — Joel M. Flaum. He served just shy of 50 years in the Chicago federal courthouse, as a district judge on the Northern District of Illinois for eight years and for the last 42 years as an appellate judge on the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. The judiciary lost a legend, and we a treasured colleague and mentor.

Public service, civility, kindness and an unyielding belief in the American constitutional design, especially the role of the third branch, were his trademarks. Flaum had an outsized influence on so many areas of law, and, at a personal level, overflowed with wisdom and exhibited respect for everyone who appeared in front of him. But for those who were fortunate to work with and learn from him, the loss we grieve the most is his friendship.

The son of Jewish immigrants, Flaum got his start at the age of 7 working in his father's store — Flaum's Grocery — just outside of

Hudson, New York. These simple beginnings never left him: humility, hard work and a commitment to service were part of his being. His car was always one of the last to leave the courthouse garage. Flaum was prone, as he often put it, to giving an opinion or brief another read or, as we often witnessed, mentoring a law clerk, lending an ear to a colleague, or catching up with the courthouse security or cleaning staff. Listening was one of Flaum's greatest strengths, for it positioned him to learn and then react with just the right dose of compassion and empathy.

Flaum understood that the federal judiciary's legitimacy, with, as Alexander Hamilton put it, no power over "the sword or purse," depends on earning and maintaining the public trust. Over four decades on the 7th Circuit, he sought to earn that trust by showing all parties and lawyers uncompromising courtesy within the courtroom and then working relentlessly behind the scenes to build consensus in difficult cases. Flaum could identify common ground among judges when

agreement seemed beyond reach. His ability to unite his colleagues made this institution stronger. He was the glue that bonded individual judges together as a court.

And so too did he strive to build trust by modeling unflinching civility and respect in the thousands of scholarly opinions he authored for the court. Flaum told countless judges that the best opinions are ones written with the losing party in mind — the criminal defendant serving a long sentence, the employee who lost a discrimination case, the immigrant about to be removed from the country and the like. Never did Flaum see a need for a sharp word; he always put his writing on higher ground to position the judiciary in the same way. Nothing was more important than getting the decision right and delivering it with the right touch.

When we each joined the federal judiciary, Flaum took us under his wing, as he had with generations of judges, law clerks and lawyers before us. He invested countless hours in his chambers and over many lunches at the Union League Club helping us to

see the court as an institution, as a collective body serving a cause larger than any one member. Judging was not about individual judges, he would often say, but instead about the court itself leaving the litigants knowing they were both heard and respected. Flaum took care to never treat one case as more important than any other, regardless of the parties or the subject matter. He understood that institutions earn respect by showing respect — always and everywhere, without regard to anything but equality under the law. The value of Flaum's example is beyond measure for all who mourn his loss.

Flaum was blessed with exquisite judgment, uncommon decency and abundant wisdom — all virtues everyone, and indeed our democracy, want in a federal judge. But we are convinced there was something more to him too. Flaum put into daily action one of life's greatest truths — that through giving comes receiving. Three short weeks ago U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts presented Flaum with the Edward J. Devitt Disting-

uished Service to Justice Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an Article III federal judge, for his lifetime of service to the judiciary. When it came his turn to speak after receiving the Devitt Award, Flaum beamed with pride over the privilege — indeed gift, as he saw it — of living a life of public service, serving a cause much greater than himself, much greater than any award, much greater than any number on a paycheck.

Thank you, Judge Flaum, for your example. You made our court a better institution and discharged your duty with extraordinary grace, humility and kindness. You showed us and so many others the way, and we best honor you by following in the path you lit and left behind. Nobody could have done it better.

*Amy J. St. Eve and Michael Y. Scudder serve as circuit judges on the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. They joined the court in 2018, and from 2002 to 2018, Judge St. Eve served as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.*

# OPINION

## FLAGGED FOR INTERFERENCE

Time to reassess how NFL penalties hold back offenses

JEROME MIRON/AP

By Sheldon H. Jacobson

**T**he NFL season is well past the halfway point, with eyes focused on the 2025 Super Bowl in New Orleans, now just two months away. The Detroit Lions and the Kansas City Chiefs have set the standard for excellence this season, despite some recent nail-biters, with both sporting near-perfect records. Close behind are teams like the Minnesota Vikings, Buffalo Bills and Philadelphia Eagles, hoping to have a say in who punches their ticket to the Big Game. But don't assume that it's just team performance that determines winners and losers. The penalty yards data point may be more significant than people realize.

The rules of fair play are enforced by a team of officials who use their knowledge and expertise, as well as video reviews, to get the calls right. The NFL Official Playing Rules is a 79-page document filled with every detail necessary to maintain a level playing field in every game. The document includes 19 rules, ranging from the size of the playing field (Rule 1), the dimensions of the balls used during a game (Rule 2), clock management (Rule 4), and even what range of numbers each position can wear (Rule 5). Even diagrams of how the officials signal the different rule infractions are provided.

The Official Playing Rules also defines what constitutes rule infractions, and how penalties are assessed. In fact, the document contains the word "illegal" 261 times and the words "penalty" or "penalties" 309 times. A summary of all possible rule infractions shows that the officials have their hands full in understanding and interpreting each play in real time.

Consistency is important. For most rule infractions, the offending team is penalized with both yards and down count adjusted. However, there are some infractions for which

the penalties are outliers, using *either/or*, not *and*. This is particularly true with rule infractions on defense.

The three most common rule infractions are offside, pass interference and holding. For defensive offside, this penalty is called after the play is completed. If the team on offense accepts the penalty, they are given 5 yards, with the down replayed. If they gain significantly more yards, they can decline the penalty and accept the play. This means that the penalty is a choice between *either/or*, or *and*.

Such a choice makes no sense. Since the team on defense commits a rule infraction, they should be penalized with 5 yards *and* the outcome of the play if the team on offense advances the ball beyond the line of scrimmage.

The same principle applies to defensive pass interference. The team on offense gets the ball at the spot of the foul, independent of whether the receiver catches the ball. If the player does catch the ball, why not add another 5 yards to the play?

Defensive holding can also fall into this group. If the play is not called dead and the team on offense gains positive yards, add the penalty to the yardage gained, not just giving them 5 yards

and a first down.

There are similar situations in both the NBA and the NHL that adjudicate the penalties appropriately.

In the NBA, if a player is fouled in the act of shooting and scores the basket, the player is given the points and a foul shot as an 'and one,' the opportunity to complete the three-point play. In the NHL, if a player commits a rule infraction, and their team is not in possession of the puck when a referee signals the delayed penalty, then the other team can send their goalie to the bench to add a sixth skater for as long as the team on defense does not touch the puck and gain offensive possession, or the team on offense scores a goal.

In both these cases, the team that is penalized pays the maximum penalty possible, not a choice amongst good options that the NFL defensive penalties provide.

The NFL rules for defensive infractions noted here need a refresh to more appropriately penalize teams that violate the rules, while giving offenses a better chance to benefit from the penalty. Given that these defensive penalties are some of the most common rule infractions, the result can only lead to more scoring, something that fans welcome and would support the eventual Super Bowl champion, which tend to have more highly ranked offenses than defenses.

Professional sports rule changes take time and thoughtful consideration before being installed. In this case, these three defensive penalties would be more in line with other rule infraction penalties. Indeed, it is time to penalize the defense violator appropriately with *ands*, not *either/ors*.

*Sheldon H. Jacobson, Ph.D., is a professor in computer science who teaches in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*

### VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

#### Peoria's public sleeping ban

Peoria Council Member John Kelly is quoted as saying "he didn't understand how allowing someone to remain in a tent while they sought housing was a more humane approach to the issue," ("Homeless people and advocates brace for Peoria's new public sleeping ban," Dec. 2.)

But he doesn't say what the alternate humane solution that is available actually is. So you take away their tents, but aren't providing a place for people to live while they seek a housing solution. Without a tent, people will just be sleeping on ground. The Peoria council's solution is to fine homeless people and then put them in jail.

I don't think that helps, as it will be a never-ending cycle of a poor person having to sleep outside then pay fines or be arrested. The money they have been saving to pay for a security deposit, and first and last month's rent will be eaten up. They will have a jail record and may not be able to get a job, or it will cause them to lose their job. I wish the reporter had asked Kelly where the people whose tents are removed are to go.

I know there is a major homelessness problem and I do not have an answer for how to fix it. But some of the factors I think that contribute to it are low wages, not being able to find steady work that pays decently, getting sick or having an accident, and a major lack of affordable housing.

In Chicago a number of city housing developments were torn down. Granted they were not good situations, but those

housing units were not replaced at even close to what was destroyed and some of that land was sold to private companies.

Currently, housing prices (at least to me) are through the roof. Companies offering to buy homes for cash are also part of the reason that there are fewer homes and high prices. In addition, some landlords gouge their tenants.

— Mary McCarthy, Downers Grove

#### Humboldt Park camp

The article in last week's Tribune, "Chicago homeless advocates ask city to rethink closure of Humboldt Park tent city," brought a true sense of urgency and need to so many who are in need of help. To take a one size fits all approach by closing Humboldt Park, regardless of where people are in the process of finding safe shelter and assistance, seems too rushed and bureaucratic.

I ask the lawmakers to look into their hearts and see those in need as individual people, to see themselves in the people who are homeless, and the needs that unite us all. This is something that could happen to any of us.

— Mandy May, Skokie

#### Open the lanes

Wide open express lanes on the Kennedy Expressway, with very limited working personnel actually present during work hours shout out for this solution: Open the lanes to traffic at least heading one way during the day. Stop the vague reference to

"opening in late fall" and provide relief for at least one part of the daily commute!

— Bernie Henry, Chicago

#### COVID-19 health measures

According to a recent editorial, the reason for the high COVID death rate in the U.S. was largely because of policy errors and over-reach by government scientists ("Oak Park, Evanston and Aurora were guinea pigs in a huge fluoride experiment. Now what?" Dec. 2)

The argument is that, though scientists advocated sound policies (masking, vaccines) that would save lives, the public didn't trust them because of other policies such as prolonged school closures that they advocated.

A more straightforward assessment is that those who opposed the sound policies — anti-science Republicans — were mainly responsible for the failure to adhere to sound policies. It is questionable history to attribute their opposition to long closures. The opposition to public health measures such as masking arose early in the pandemic, not after restrictions went on for too long.

The early public health measures could have effectively reduced the number of infections if implemented more rigorously, as the experience of countries with rigorous adherence to such measures showed. But public health measures in the U.S. met with widespread resistance. Had this resistance not been in place, it is likely that transmission rates could have been reduced, death rates would have dimin-

ished, and even that prolonged restrictions would not have been needed.

— Richard Hudson, Chicago

#### Fern Hill project

There's a reason Edward Keegan did not include Fern Hill's Old Town Canvas in his list of big projects that are not a good fit for neighborhoods: It's a good fit.

Reader Carew conflates the Old Town Historic District, a wonderful community of venerable single family homes (I should know: I lived on Crilly Court and was president of the Old Town Triangle Association when it was declared a Historic District in the 1970s) with the bustling surrounding neighborhood ("Voice of the People," Dec. 5.)

The proposed high-rise is not in the historic district. It won't make traffic worse. Indeed, a study coordinated with the Chicago Department of Transportation, found improvements that are part of the project will enhance traffic flow as well as pedestrian and bike safety. The properties it would replace include an unsightly pharmacy, a surface parking lot and two gas stations. With the challenges our city faces, I'm glad a developer has the confidence in Chicago and Old Town to make a big financial commitment and — I'm sure he hopes — a profit. Is this wrong?

— Paul Kuhn, Chicago

For online exclusive letters go to [www.chicagotribune.com/letters](http://www.chicagotribune.com/letters). Send letters by email to [letters@chicagotribune.com](mailto:letters@chicagotribune.com). Include your name, address and phone number.

**OBITUARIES**

**JOEL FLAUM 1936-2024**

# Longtime federal judge ‘kind and gracious to everyone’

By **Bob Goldsborough**  
Chicago Tribune

Joel Flaum spent almost 50 years on the federal bench in Chicago, including six years as the chief judge on Chicago’s U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Flaum built a reputation for judicial effectiveness while issuing a string of moderate rulings on issues including abortion.

“He was kind and gracious to everyone, including the people who appeared before him when he was a judge but also the people he came into contact with every day,” said Jayne Thompson, an attorney whose late husband, former Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson, worked with Flaum in the U.S. attorney’s office in Chicago. “He was a superb lawyer and a superb judge because he always tried to do justice — not necessarily what the prosecutor or defense lawyer wanted but what he thought was a just outcome in his cases, and he was really dedicated to that.”

Flaum, 88, died Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Aurora Lake-land Medical Center in Elkhorn, Wis., near a family vacation home, after a short illness, according to his wife, Delilah. He was a longtime Gold Coast resident.

Born Joel Martin Flaum in Hudson, N.Y., he received a bachelor’s degree in 1958 from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., and a law degree from Northwestern University in 1963. He picked up a master’s degree in law from Northwestern the next year.

After a stint in private practice, Flaum became an assistant state’s attorney in Cook County and was one of the prosecutors in the trial of mass killer Richard Speck. At the same time, he cofounded and was associate director of the police legal adviser program at Northwestern’s law school, where he also was a lecturer from 1967 until 1969.

Flaum worked in the Illinois attorney general’s office for several years and at 33 was the youngest person ever to head the state attorney general’s Chicago office. An April 1970 Tribune article called him a “quiet, scholarly” lawyer who handled most of the appeals work for then-Attorney General William Scott.

Seventh Circuit Judge William J. Bauer, a former U.S. attorney in Chicago, recalled his initially unsuccessful efforts to hire Flaum to be a federal prosecutor.

“I’d already taken (James R.) Thompson away from Scott, but Scott asked Joel to stay and he stayed,” Bauer said. “Joel was a great guy, he was a good judge and he was a good man. He was a kind,



Joel Flaum was a federal judge in Chicago for almost 50 years. **FLAUM FAMILY**

decent man who didn’t throw his weight around. He was nice to people, and he knew what he was doing.”

Thompson became U.S. attorney in Chicago in 1971 and chose Flaum to serve as first assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, a post he held from 1972 until 1975. Thompson was trying former Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner on corruption charges and needed Flaum to run the rest of the U.S. attorney’s office during that trial, Jayne Thompson said.

Flaum became part of a group of so-called “Thompsonites” — also known as the “Kiddie Corps” and the “Thompson Mafia” — who went on to assume top law enforcement and judicial posts, along with Dan Webb, Sam Skinner, Charles Kocoras, Tyrone Fahner and Jeremy Margolis.

Upon the recommendation of then-U.S. Sen. Charles Percy, President Gerald Ford in late 1974 nominated Flaum to be a federal district judge in the Northern District of Illinois. With his swearing-in in January 1975, Flaum became the nation’s youngest federal judge.

Flaum told the Tribune that although becoming a judge had not been set as a life goal, “there probably is a part of every practicing lawyer that hopes he might be so honored.”

“Certainly I owe much of my success to the prominence of the office in which I now serve, but actually I feel I’ve learned much and owe much to many,” he told the Tribune, referring to his work in the U.S. attorney’s office. “I consider myself a product of the bar and the people I’ve served with.”

Flaum struck down certain restrictive portions of a 1979 Illinois law that the state legislature passed to restrict abortions in Illinois. The 7th Circuit later struck down other portions of the law.

Percy recommended Flaum for a vacancy on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago in 1981, but President Ronald Reagan’s administration instead

chose to nominate University of Chicago law professor Richard Posner. Flaum then was recommended by Percy for a subsequent 7th Circuit vacancy and was confirmed by the Senate to the court in 1983.

For the next 37 years, Flaum was a judge in active service on the 7th Circuit. He became chief judge in 2000, serving until 2006.

On several occasions, Flaum’s name was floated as a possibility to head the FBI. In 1987, Thompson urged Reagan to make Flaum FBI director. Friends told the Tribune, however, that Flaum had not actively sought the post. Once again in 2001, Flaum was reported to be under discussion in Republican circles for the post, which ultimately went to Robert Mueller.

On the 7th Circuit, Flaum served alongside Judge Ilana Diamond Rovner, who earlier had succeeded him as a federal district judge.

“He was just the most remarkable person,” Rovner said. “He was a small-town boy from Hudson, New York, who conquered Chicago and far (beyond). Nobody had a better sense of humor. And he was a caring kind of person.”

In 2018, Flaum was part of a 7th Circuit panel that struck down an Indiana law restricting abortion, concluding that the law was unconstitutional.

Flaum took senior status, a form of semi-retirement, at the end of 2020. However, he continued serving and going to his federal chambers to handle cases until very recently, colleagues said.

On Nov. 13, Flaum received the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award in a ceremony at the U.S. Supreme Court presided over by Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. The award is made to a federal judge who has made significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law and the improvement of society as a whole.

“It was a great gift to him,” said Jayne Thompson, who attended the event. “The speakers were magnificent, and it was a wonderful and well-deserved evening and I know it meant a great deal to Joel.”

A first marriage to TV producer Thea Flaum ended in divorce. In addition to his wife, Flaum is survived by a son, Jonathan; a daughter, Alison; and four grandchildren.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at Congregation Anshe Emet, 3751 N. Broadway, Chicago.

*Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.*

**Chicago Tribune** Death Notices  
Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.  
chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

**Death Notices**

**Dillon, Jr., Daniel Joseph**

Daniel Joseph Dillon, Jr., 71, passed away December 5, 2024. Beloved husband of Julie Rosenfeld Dillon, loving father of Rose Adele Dillon and Thomas Milton Dillon, dear brother-in-law, uncle, and cousin to many. Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, Dan was a lifelong Sox fan, proud of his Irish heritage and Catholic education. Dan taught at Jamieson Elementary School for 27 years. Hosting spelling bees and preparing for holiday assemblies were two of his favorite activities. He was an avid golfer (an understatement), and loved St. Patrick’s Day parties, Christmas, and smoking turkeys in the backyard. Dan loved music, especially live performances from opera to rock and everything in between. Julie, Rose, and Tom are grateful for the support of wonderful neighbors, friends, family, caregivers, and co-workers during his battle with vascular dementia. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite children’s charity. Visitation on Thursday, December 12, from 4:00 pm until the time of the funeral service at 7:30 pm at **Cooney Funeral Home**, 625 Busse Highway, Park Ridge.

**Mottier, Margaret Alice**  
Margaret Mottier, 96 (nee Iler), of Hyde Park, passed away peacefully at home on November 29, 2024. Margaret was born on March 2, 1928, in Newark, Ohio. Margaret’s life was a quiet celebration of art, classical music, literature and giraffes; her passing leaves a void in the hearts of all those who knew and loved her. Margaret was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John, dear friends Helen and Fred Seaberg and Nancy and George Mavrogenes. She is fondly remembered by the Seaberg and Mavrogenes families to whom she became cherished family. Her gentle spirit, intellectual curiosity and passion for the arts are her legacy to all those fortunate enough to have known her. Margaret met John while a student at the University of Chicago and never left Hyde Park, she went on to a distinguished career in research at Encyclopedia Britannica. She will be dearly missed by those whose lives she touched and inspired to pursue a life of the mind. Services will be private.

## Honor a Loved One with a Death Notice in Chicago Tribune

It’s a final farewell; a sign of love and respect; an homage to a loved one’s life. Placing a Death Notice shows you care.

**The Death Notice Package includes:**

- Print listing in the Chicago Tribune
- Online notice with guestbook on chicagotribune.com

Our website walks you through the simple process to commemorate your loved one’s legacy.



Visit:  
chicagotribune.com/deathnotice



**ENDLESS TRIBUTES** A NEW WAY TO HONOR your loved ones.  
**OUR ENHANCED OBITUARY SERVICE**  
Chicago Tribune



# Every life story deserves to be told.

Share your loved one's story at  
placeanad.chicagotribune.com



## Chicago Daily Tribune

**ON DEC. 9 ...**

**In 1608**, poet John Milton was born in London.

**In 1886** Clarence Birdseye, developer of frozen foods, was born in New York.

**In 1907** Christmas seals went on sale for the first time, at the Wilmington, Del., post office; proceeds went to fight tuberculosis.

**In 1912** future House Speaker Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill was born in Cambridge, Mass.

**In 1940** British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

**In 1941** China declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy.

**In 1958** the anti-Communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis.

**In 1975** President Gerald Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan authorization to prevent New York City from having to default.

**In 1979** Archbishop Fulton Sheen, the religious broadcaster, died in New York; he was 84.

**In 1984** the 5-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

**In 1990** Solidarity founder Lech Walesa won Poland’s presidential runoff in a landslide.

**In 1992** Britain’s Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation.

**In 1993** the Air Force destroyed the first of 500 Minuteman II missile silos marked for elimination under an arms control treaty.

**In 1994** representatives of the Irish Republican Army and the British government opened peace talks in Northern Ireland.

**In 1996** archaeologist and anthropologist Mary Leakey died in Nairobi, Kenya; she was 83.

**In 2000** the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a temporary halt in the Florida vote count on which Al Gore pinned his best hopes of winning the White House. Also in 2000 Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak announced he would

resign and call a special election.

**In 2002** United Airlines filed the biggest bankruptcy in aviation history after losing \$4 billion in the previous two years.

**In 2003** the owners of a Rhode Island nightclub and the tour manager for the rock band Great White were indicted on charges related to a fire the previous February that killed 100 people. Also in 2003 former Sen. Paul Simon died in Springfield; he was 75.

**In 2004** Canada’s Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage was constitutional.

**In 2008** Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested on allegations of widespread political corruption.

**In 2012** Latin singer and reality star Jenni Rivera died in a plane crash that killed six others in northern Mexico; she was 43. Also in 2012 same-sex couples legally married in Washington state.

**In 2013** the Chicago Bears retired former coach and tight end Mike Ditka’s No. 89 jersey.

# Advertise 1-2-3 it's that easy!

- ✓ Selling an item
- ✓ Hiring an employee
- ✓ Celebrating a loved one
- ✓ Announcing an event

**1**  Schedule

**2**  Layout

**3**  Review & Submit

Self-Service Print and Online  
Display and Classified Ads  
See Your Options:

Visit: [placeanad.tribpub.com](http://placeanad.tribpub.com)



Chicago Tribune Hartford Courant Daily Press

THE MORNING CALL Orlando Sentinel Sun-Sentinel The Virginian-Pilot

## Holiday Cookies

From cookie classics to twists on old standards, this gorgeous compilation of prize-winning family recipes features nearly four decades worth of reader submissions to our sister paper's Holiday Cookie contest.



Shop now at  
[tribpub.com/cookies2](http://tribpub.com/cookies2)  
call (866) 545-3534

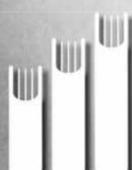


Offer valid through 12/9/24.

When *you* graduate,  
*she* graduates.

Finish your high school diploma, for you and for them.  
Find free, flexible and supportive adult education centers near you at

**[FinishYourDiploma.org](http://FinishYourDiploma.org)**



DOLLAR GENERAL  
LITERACY  
FOUNDATION

STUFF WANTED

Buying ALL Sports Cards Pre 1975 THE OLDER, THE BETTER! Please call Shane 937/432-8941

BUYING TOY TRAINS LIONEL, AMERICAN FLAYER, HO, BRASS, OLD TOYS, COIN OPERATED-GAMES, COKE MACHINES, SLOT CARS, OLD SIGNS! Dennis 630-319-2331

Wanted: Deer Hunting Land. Looking for land to bow hunt for deer. Willing to help work. 815-575-7686

Wanted: Oriental Rug Any size/Any condition - for cash. \*\*\*773-578-8088\*\*\*

Cars/Wheels

BMW X5 2012 Original owner, kept like new and in perfect condition. Silver on Black, low mileage, a must see. \$9,900. 847-840-4648



CATS

Maine Coon Kittens 2699863369 MI \$1800 male and female Ready For Xmas, XL, TICA registered, purebred, vet checked, vaccinated, home raised, pickup or delivery available. 269-986-3369

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Closed Medical Practice The medical practice of Steven Lammers, MD of Vernon Hills, IL will be closed on 1-7-2025 due to retirement. Medical records may be obtained by sending a request to stevenlammers@comcast.net. Records will be securely emailed in return. 847-549-1023

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT December 9, 2024 CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Bidder must complete and submit an Electronic Bid prior to the bid due date. An electronic bid must be submitted through the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below.

The City's system will not accept electronic bids after the due date and time. Bidders must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic bid. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. Paper bids will not be accepted. All Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following:

DESCRIPTION: DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION PROGRAM (SBI II) DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT TYPE: CONSTRUCTION

ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND RESPONDED TO FROM THIS URL ADDRESS: www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

SPECIFICATION NO: 1299369 RFQ NO: 4258 BID OPENING DATE: February 3, 2025 TIME: 11:00am, Central Time QUESTION DUE DATE: January 7, 2025

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: December 17, 2024 at 11:00am, Central Time at 2 N. LaSalle, Mezzanine, Fort Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60602. All Attendees must pre-register to participate. Interested Attendees must email Diane Szymusiak at diane.szymusiak@cityofchicago.org. Email Subject: Pre-Bid Conference for DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION PROGRAM (SBI II)

CONTACT: Diane Szymusiak, Procurement Specialist Email: diane.szymusiak@cityofchicago.org.

Bid Bond: Bids requiring a bid deposit must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, provided by a surety company authorized to do business in the United States, and made payable to the City of Chicago. A scanned copy of the bid bond must be attached to the online bid submission, with the original bond to be received by DPS within 3 business days of the bid opening. This is required of all bidders, not just the apparent low bidder. Any late Bids received after announced date and time, for the opening of Bids, will not be accepted. Pub: 12/9/2024 7736343

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s) Machinist (Original)

Application Filing Period: December 6, 2024 through December 20, 2024. Examination Date: January 11, 2025. Location: Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. Scope of Examination: Knowledge of Machinist practices. Nature of Position and Duties: Under supervision, performs skilled manual work in connection with the operation of precision machine tools used in fabricating metal parts. Installs, repairs and maintains mechanical equipment in the shop and in the field. Salary: \$58.39 per hour

Associate Process Control Engineer (Original)

Application Filing Period: December 6, 2024 through December 20, 2024. Examination Date: January 11, 2025. Location: Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. Scope of Examination: Knowledge of Associate Process Control Engineer practices. Nature of Position and Duties: Under general supervision, provides engineering services for the design, construction, improvement, modernization and maintenance of process instrumentation and computer control systems for water reclamation plants, pumping stations, and flood control reservoirs. Salary: \$90,792.78 per year

Applications can be submitted online only at www.districtjobs.org

Additional information may be found at www.districtjobs.org or call 312-751-5100. Mailed, Emailed, Hand delivered or Faxed Applications Will Not Be Accepted. Resumes Will Not Be Accepted in Place of Application Forms. An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/D Pub: 12/6-12/20/2024 7735124

Catch your news! Call 1-800-TRIBUNE for home delivery Operator #125 Wed/Fri/Sun/\$2.50



LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s)

Assistant Civil Engineer (Original & Promotional) Application Filing Period: November 29, 2024 through February 28, 2025. Scope of Examination: Knowledge of Assistant Civil Engineer practices. Nature of Position and Duties: Under immediate supervision, performs entry-level civil engineering work in the design, construction, maintenance and operation of water reclamation plants and sewers. May supervise sub-professional personnel. Salary: \$82,722.38 per year

Assistant Electrical Engineer (Original & Promotional) Application Filing Period: November 29, 2024 through February 28, 2025. Scope of Examination: Knowledge of Assistant Electrical Engineer practices. Nature of Position and Duties: Under immediate supervision, performs entry level electrical engineering work in electrical power and lighting systems design; construction inspection and scheduling review; and preparation of electrical estimates. Performs field inspections of electrical installations or assists in supervision of electrical equipment maintenance. Salary: \$82,722.38 per year

Assistant Mechanical Engineer (Original & Promotional) Application Filing Period: November 29, 2024 through February 28, 2025. Scope of Examination: Knowledge of Assistant Mechanical Engineer practices. Nature of Position and Duties: Under immediate supervision, performs entry level mechanical engineering work in mechanical design, construction inspection and plant maintenance or operation. May review the work of sub-professional personnel. Salary: \$82,722.38 per year

Assistant Structural Engineer (Original & Promotional) Application Filing Period: November 29, 2024 through February 28, 2025. Scope of Examination: Knowledge of Assistant Structural Engineer practices. Nature of Position and Duties: Under immediate supervision, performs entry-level structural engineering work in the design of steel, wood, and reinforced concrete structures. May supervise sub-professional personnel. Salary: \$82,722.38 per year

Senior Engineer (Promotional) Application Filing Period: November 29, 2024 through December 13, 2025. Examination Date: January 9, 2025-January 10, 2025. Location: Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, 6001 West Pershing, Cicero, IL. Scope of Examination: Knowledge of Senior Engineer practices. Nature of Position and Duties: Performs supervisory, professional civil engineering work related to the operation and maintenance of facilities necessary to collect, treat and discharge wastewater. Salary: \$112,470.80 per year

Applications can be submitted online only at www.districtjobs.org

Additional information may be found at www.districtjobs.org or call 312-751-5100. Mailed, Emailed, Hand delivered or Faxed Applications Will Not Be Accepted. Resumes Will Not Be Accepted in Place of Application Forms. An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/D Pub: 11/29-12/13/2024 7732062

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) OUTREACH RFP Purpose Aligned with Healthy Chicago (HC) 2025, this Request for Proposals (RFP) will ensure safe and healthy housing for all Chicago residents and reduce health hazards in residents' homes. Name and description of program/initiative/project/etc. Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) education initiative regarding lead poisoning prevention is an essential component of the Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program. CDPH seeks a community-based organization to provide outreach and education activities in community-based settings, especially childcare centers, to promote childhood lead poisoning prevention and reduce children's exposure to lead and other home health hazards. Prospective supplier requirements All suppliers are required to register under the Supplier portal at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement prior to reviewing and submitting a proposal. Upon registering, you may review and respond to the RFP application here: https://eprocurement.cityofchicago.org/OA\_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=PON\_ABSTRACT\_PAGE&PON\_NEGOTIATION\_STATUS=ACTIVE

TIMELINE Chicago Tribune run dates (five (5) day maximum): Friday, December 6, 2024 - Tuesday, December 10, 2024. RFP Release Date: Thursday, November 21, 2024. Pre-Solicitation Conference: Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. CT (bidders Conference Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/j/Meetup-join/19%3ameeting\_OGUwNjUyMmQ1ZWVhYm00MwUwLTl0WUw1MDh1ZDkyMzU0MjEwJwEw40?thread\_v2107c0c0x1795221c0f223a8227036cd9-062d-4151-8144-97d6c5667027%22%26220id%22%38%22aed05137-ec9a-4d75-8491-6ea6ac057e3%22%7d) Deadline for Questions: Friday, December 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. CT. Proposal Due: Monday, December 23, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. CT. Contract Start Date: Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Please contact Michele Reed directly with any questions at 312-746-4184 or via email at michele.reed@cityofchicago.org.

CDPH Approval: Sharita Webb, Program Director. 12/7, 12/8, 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247736015 https://cookcountylv.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities Contract Person: If you are not able to download the RFP or if you have other questions, please contact Thomas Spear, Lead Contract Negotiator, at (312) 603-7375 or thomas.spear@cookcountylv.gov Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference Date, Time and Location: \*\*Please see solicitation for meeting details.\*\* RFP Bid Due Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2025, 10:00 AM (CST). All Proposals must be submitted electronically and uploaded to: https://cookcountylv.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities following the instructions set forth in the IFB solicitation document. Late Proposals Will Not Be Accepted. Toni Preckwinkle President, Cook County Board of Commissioners Ruffi Sarrafian Chief Procurement Officer 12/09/2024 7736064

COUNTY OF COOK OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR THE COOK COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT FULFILLMENT SERVICES RFP NO.: 2419-10240 RFP Document: The RFP document is available for download at: https://cookcountylv.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities Contract Person: If you are not able to download the RFP or if you have other questions, please contact Thomas Spear, Lead Contract Negotiator, at (312) 603-7375 or thomas.spear@cookcountylv.gov Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference Date, Time and Location: \*\*Please see solicitation for meeting details.\*\* RFP Bid Due Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2025, 10:00 AM (CST). All Proposals must be submitted electronically and uploaded to: https://cookcountylv.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities following the instructions set forth in the IFB solicitation document. Late Proposals Will Not Be Accepted. Toni Preckwinkle President, Cook County Board of Commissioners Ruffi Sarrafian Chief Procurement Officer 12/09/2024 7736064

TO: Ken Sitar, JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA as Successor to Washington Mutual Bank; Mallard Cove Condominium Association RA: KSN Registered Agent, LLC, FirstService Residential Illinois, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000612. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726161

TO: Ken Sitar, JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA as Successor to Washington Mutual Bank; Mallard Cove Condominium Association RA: KSN Registered Agent, LLC, FirstService Residential Illinois, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000612. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726183

TO: Park Ridge Holdings LLC RA: Demetri Touzios, Park Ridge Holdings LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Park Ridge Holdings LLC, Demetri Touzios; First Secure Bank and Trust Co.; Katarzyna Biedrzycka, Chlad, NMD Property Management, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000907. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726203

TO: Park Ridge Holdings LLC RA: Demetri Touzios, Park Ridge Holdings LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Park Ridge Holdings LLC, Demetri Touzios; First Secure Bank and Trust Co.; Katarzyna Biedrzycka, Chlad, NMD Property Management, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000907. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726203

TO: Park Ridge Holdings LLC RA: Demetri Touzios, Park Ridge Holdings LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Park Ridge Holdings LLC, Demetri Touzios; First Secure Bank and Trust Co.; Katarzyna Biedrzycka, Chlad, NMD Property Management, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000907. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726203

TO: Park Ridge Holdings LLC RA: Demetri Touzios, Park Ridge Holdings LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Park Ridge Holdings LLC, Demetri Touzios; First Secure Bank and Trust Co.; Katarzyna Biedrzycka, Chlad, NMD Property Management, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000907. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726203

TO: Park Ridge Holdings LLC RA: Demetri Touzios, Park Ridge Holdings LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Park Ridge Holdings LLC, Demetri Touzios; First Secure Bank and Trust Co.; Katarzyna Biedrzycka, Chlad, NMD Property Management, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000907. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726203

TO: Park Ridge Holdings LLC RA: Demetri Touzios, Park Ridge Holdings LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Park Ridge Holdings LLC, Demetri Touzios; First Secure Bank and Trust Co.; Katarzyna Biedrzycka, Chlad, NMD Property Management, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000907. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726203

TO: Park Ridge Holdings LLC RA: Demetri Touzios, Park Ridge Holdings LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Park Ridge Holdings LLC, Demetri Touzios; First Secure Bank and Trust Co.; Katarzyna Biedrzycka, Chlad, NMD Property Management, LLC as Property Manager for Kay-Zee Condominiums RA: Nicole L. Denk, Kay-Zee Condominiums, Ltd. RA: NMD Property Management, LLC; Occupant, 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024COTD003956. FILED: October 11, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold 5/12/2022. Certificate No. 19-0000907. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2019. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 1419 W. Touhy Avenue, Unit 2, Park Ridge, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 09-35-10031-1002. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 4/7/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 4/7/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 4/7/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. RTF-IL-LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: November 12, 2024. 12/9, 12/10, 12/11/20247726203

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMONS - VLADISLAV STRTESCU Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada, Case No. A-24-903133-C, you have been sued for money damages on claims of Negligence and Wrongful Death arising out of the death of CARSON HEATH due to the car crash you were involved in on August 26, 2024 in Clark County Nevada. You or your attorney must respond to the Complaint in writing at the Eighth Judicial District Court, 200 Lewis Ave. Las Vegas, NV, 89101, within 21 days of the last publication of this Notice to avoid judgment being entered against you. Dec. 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2024/736612

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO RELOCATE A BRANCH OF WINTRUST BANK, N.A. Notification is given that Wintrust Bank, N.A., 231 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60604 has filed an application with the computer of the Currency of Cook County, Illinois, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to relocate a full-service bank branch at 1000 N. Rush St., Chicago, IL 60611. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Licensing at 6025 S. Financial Place, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60605 or at LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov within 15 days of the date of this publication. To request a copy of the public portion of the filing, contact the Director of Licensing at 6025 S. Financial Place, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60605 or email Licensing@occ.treas.gov. Filing information may also be found in the OCC's Weekly Bulletin available at www.occ.gov. December 9, 2024 - 7736547

RE-OPENING WAITING LIST

Reverend Daniel Alvarez Apartments is re-opening their Subsidized Housing Waiting List for the Studio and 1 BR apartments: Friday, December 13, 2024, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. A maximum of 24 pre-applications for studio and 72 for 1 BR will be accepted. Persons interested in receiving a pre-application card must call the office on 773-772-4063.

NO WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Reverend Daniel Apartments is a federally subsidized Family Development which is PROJECT BASED and therefore cannot accept section 8 vouchers or certificates.

Apartmentos Reverend Daniel Alvarez Apts. reabre su Lista de Espera de Vivienda Subsidada para los apartamentos de un Estudio, y un dormitorio. El viernes Diciembre 13, 2024, de 10:00 a. m. a 4:00 p. m. Se aceptaran un maximo de 24 pre-aplicaciones para apartamentos de estudio, 72 para un dormitorio. Las personas interesadas en recibir una tarjeta de solicitud previa deben llamar a la oficina al 773-772-4063.

NO SE ACEPTARA INFORMACION EN PERSONA

Apartmentos Reverend Daniel Alvarez Es un Desarrollo para personas mayores con Kuanyin Ag



# CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER



**AccuWeather Outlook:** Mild; cloudy this morning, then times of sun and clouds this afternoon. Clear to partly cloudy and colder tonight.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Day:  Night:	Day:  Night:	Day:  Night:	Day:  Night:	Day:  Night:	Day:  Night:
High: 51 Low: 29	High: 35 Low: 21	High: 29 Low: 4	High: 15 Low: 12	High: 31 Low: 28	High: 37 Low: 33
Mild; cloudy, then sunny intervals	Mostly cloudy and colder	Periods of sun with a snow shower; chilly	Mostly sunny, brisk and bitterly cold	Rather cloudy and not as cold	A little wintry mix in the morning
POP: 0%	POP: 20%	POP: 65%	POP: 0%	POP: 5%	POP: 60%
Winds: WSW 7-14 mph	Winds: WNW 7-14 mph	Winds: W 10-20 mph	Winds: W 10-20 mph	Winds: S 6-12 mph	Winds: SSW 7-14 mph

## CHICAGO FORECAST

Monday Conditions  
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

AccuWeather.com UV Index™  
0 1 1 1 0 0 0

RealFeel Temperature®  
39 40 43 47 44 40 40

Monday Activities  
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

Outdoor Activities Index  
4 5 5 6 5 3 3

Fishing Index  
0 6 6 4 3 1 3

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2 Low, 3-5 Moderate, 6-7 High, 8-10 Very High, 11+ Extreme. The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. Outdoor Activities and Fishing Indexes: 0-2: Poor; 3-4: Fair; 5-6: Good; 7-8: Very Good; 9-10: Excellent.

## CHICAGO ALMANAC

Sunday Temperatures  
O'Hare through 4 p.m.

High	55
Low	38
Normal high	39
Normal low	26
Record high	64 (1946)
Record low	-7 (1882)

Local Temperatures  
through 6 p.m. Sunday

Location	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Normal
Aurora	56	33	38	22	
Gary	59	41	40	26	
Kankakee	58	35	40	24	
Lansing	56	38	39	25	
Midway	56	40	27		
Romeoville	55	36	39	24	
Valparaiso	55	36	41	27	
Waukegan	50	39	38	24	

Sunday Precipitation

	2024	2023	Normal
Sunday*	0.00"	0.00"	0.08"
Month to date	Trace	1.06"	0.61"
Year to date	32.99"	31.82"	36.44"

Snowfall  
Sunday\* 0.0" 0.0" 0.2"  
Month to date 0.2" 0.3" 1.7"  
Season to date 3.1" 3.0" 3.7"

\*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Sunday

## Air Quality Index

Sunday's reading  
**Good**

Monday's forecast  
**Good**

Primary pollutant  
**Particulates**  
Source: AirNow.gov

## Sun and Moon

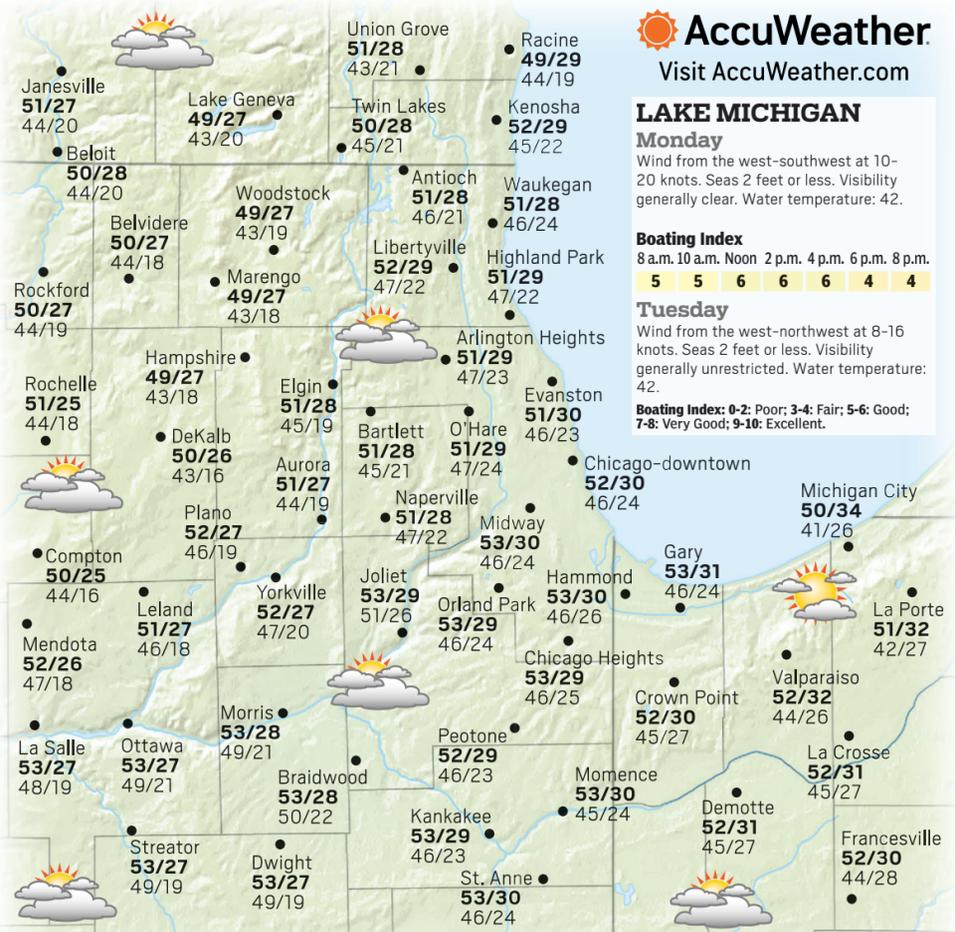
Sunrise 7:07 a.m. 7:08 a.m.  
Sunset 4:19 p.m. 4:19 p.m.  
Moonrise 12:42 p.m. 1:05 p.m.  
Moonset 12:12 a.m. 1:26 a.m.

Full Last New First  
Dec 15 Dec 22 Dec 30 Jan 6

## Monday's Planet Watch

Mercury 6:20 a.m. 3:58 p.m.  
Venus 10:18 a.m. 7:37 p.m.  
Mars 7:47 p.m. 10:40 a.m.  
Jupiter 4:08 p.m. 7:05 a.m.  
Saturn 12:02 p.m. 11:07 p.m.

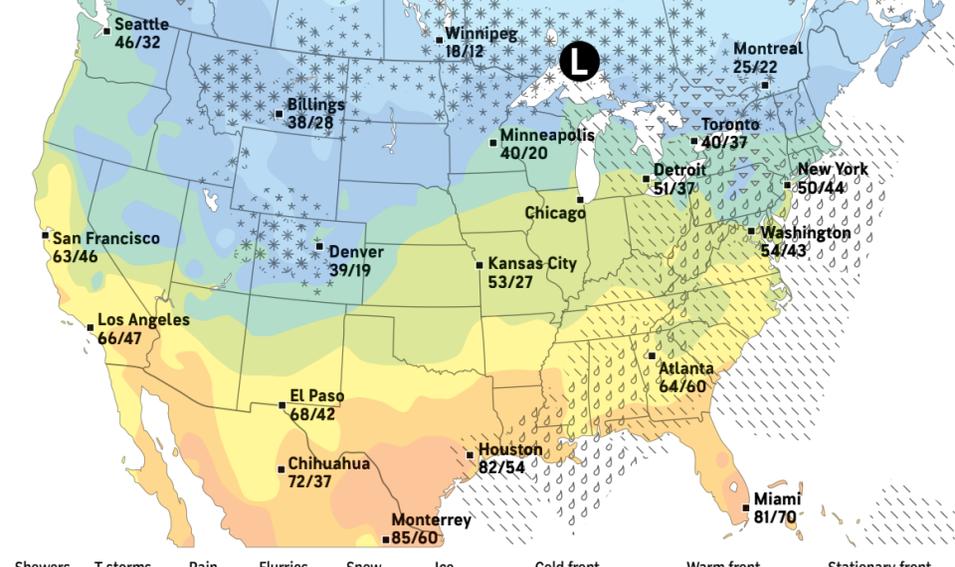
Best viewing times today: Venus: 7:15 p.m. Mars: 6:40 a.m. Jupiter: 7:15 p.m. Saturn: 7:15 p.m. Mercury: 6:40 a.m.



Shown is Monday's weather. Temperatures are Monday's highs and Monday night's lows with high and low RealFeel Temperatures shown below.

## NATIONAL FORECAST

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Legend for weather symbols: Showers, T-storms, Rain, Flurries, Snow, Ice, Cold front, Warm front, Stationary front.

Temperature bands: -10s, -0s, 0s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110s.

## NATIONAL CITIES

City	Mon. Hi/Lo/W	Tue. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	68/36/s	48/32/s
Albany, NY	39/37/r	45/42/c
Albuquerque	56/25/s	41/22/s
Amarillo	55/29/s	44/24/pc
Anchorage	38/36/r	38/34/r
Asheville	61/47/r	61/47/r
Aspen	23/5/sn	22/4/c
Atlanta	64/60/r	66/44/r
Atlantic City	53/41/r	53/49/sh
Austin	80/46/s	60/35/pc
Baltimore	49/39/r	56/50/sh
Billings	38/28/c	40/28/c
Birmingham	67/62/r	67/35/sh
Bismarck	31/21/c	27/-1/sn
Boise	38/22/s	38/22/s
Boston	43/40/r	45/41/sh
Brownsville	84/70/pc	79/47/r
Buffalo	45/42/r	47/38/r
Burlington, VT	34/32/sn	43/39/sh
Charleston, SC	70/58/c	74/64/sh
Charleston, WV	58/48/r	61/39/sh
Charlotte	57/52/sh	64/58/r
Chattanooga	62/56/r	66/39/sh
Cheyenne	33/18/sn	33/26/c
Cincinnati	55/46/sh	47/28/c
Cleveland	51/41/r	46/33/pc
Colorado Spgs	35/13/sn	36/17/c
Columbia, MO	54/28/s	38/27/pc
Columbia, SC	63/57/sh	69/60/sh
Columbus, OH	54/46/r	50/31/c
Concord	38/29/c	36/31/c
Corpus Christi	85/58/s	72/41/sh
Dallas	69/43/pc	52/35/pc
Daytona Beach	78/61/pc	78/61/pc
Denver	39/19/sf	39/27/c
Duluth	35/13/sf	17/5/sf
El Paso	68/42/s	54/29/s

## WORLD CITIES

City	Mon. Hi/Lo/W	Tue. Hi/Lo/W
Fairbanks	32/22/c	32/21/pc
Fargo	31/18/sn	23/-2/c
Flagstaff	48/15/s	39/10/s
Fort Myers	81/61/pc	84/67/s
Fort Smith	62/40/c	49/31/c
Fresno	57/39/pc	61/40/pc
Grand Junction	42/20/sn	38/20/s
Grand Falls	36/23/c	38/28/pc
Harrisburg	47/40/r	55/49/r
Hartford	46/38/r	44/41/sh
Helena, MT	38/26/c	40/29/s
Honolulu	84/73/pc	83/73/s
Houston	82/54/pc	65/39/pc
Int'l Falls	29/10/sn	17/-8/sn
Jackson, MS	71/65/r	68/37/sh
Jacksonville	77/57/c	80/62/pc
Janeau	40/36/c	43/38/r
Kansas City	53/27/pc	39/24/c
Las Vegas	61/36/s	57/36/s
Lexington	58/50/sh	54/31/sh
Lincoln	51/27/pc	40/18/c
Little Rock	64/49/c	52/32/s
Los Angeles	66/47/s	73/49/s
Louisville	58/49/c	50/28/c
Macon	67/60/r	69/53/sh
Memphis	64/51/c	52/32/s
Miami	81/70/pc	83/74/pc
Minneapolis	40/20/c	25/12/c
Mobile	70/64/r	76/42/r
Montgomery	69/62/r	70/41/r
Nashville	64/53/sh	59/31/sh
New Orleans	71/65/r	75/47/r
New York City	50/44/r	52/49/sh
Norfolk	59/51/r	65/61/sh
Oklahoma City	56/34/pc	45/29/pc
Omaha	48/26/pc	36/16/c
Orlando	80/60/pc	81/64/c

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice. POP: Probability of Precipitation.

## REGIONAL CITIES

City	Mon. Hi/Lo/W	Tue. Hi/Lo/W
Illinois		
Carbondale	58/37/c	42/28/s
Champaign	53/30/c	37/24/pc
Decatur	54/31/c	36/26/pc
Moline	52/26/pc	34/24/c
Peoria	54/28/pc	34/23/pc
Quincy	55/27/pc	34/24/pc
Rockford	50/27/pc	32/19/c
Springfield	55/29/pc	36/25/pc
Sterling	52/25/pc	31/19/c
Indiana		
Bloomington	53/40/c	44/24/s
Evansville	56/43/c	45/28/s
Fort Wayne	51/35/c	41/25/pc
Indianapolis	53/37/c	42/24/s
Lafayette	53/32/c	39/23/s
South Bend	51/33/c	37/25/pc
Wisconsin		
Green Bay	44/29/c	32/21/c
Kenosha	52/29/pc	36/22/c
La Crosse	45/23/c	27/18/c
Madison	48/25/c	30/20/c
Milwaukee	50/29/pc	35/24/c
Wausau	41/23/c	25/16/c
Michigan		
Detroit	51/37/sh	44/31/pc
Grand Rapids	47/33/c	35/27/c
Marquette	37/22/i	26/13/sf
Sault Ste. Marie	35/31/i	35/22/sf
Traverse City	43/35/sh	36/24/sf
Iowa		
Ames	49/24/s	31/16/sf
Cedar Rapids	50/22/pc	31/17/c
Des Moines	50/24/s	32/18/c
Dubuque	47/23/pc	30/19/c

## AccuWeather

Visit AccuWeather.com

## LAKE MICHIGAN

Monday  
Wind from the west-southwest at 10-20 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally clear. Water temperature: 42.

Boating Index  
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

5 5 6 6 6 4 4

Tuesday  
Wind from the west-northwest at 8-16 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally unrestricted. Water temperature: 42.

Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; 3-4: Fair; 5-6: Good; 7-8: Very Good; 9-10: Excellent.

## WEATHER HISTORY

On Dec. 9, 1987, three people were killed and two injured in Mill City, Ore., when a moving vehicle was smashed by a falling tree during a storm of high winds and heavy rain.

## WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: Where is the coldest place on Earth?

A: The South Pole. The annual mean temperature is -72(F).

Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at [abc7chicago.com/weather](http://abc7chicago.com/weather) or send them to:

Ask ABC 7 Weather Team  
190 N. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina

LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

# NATION & WORLD

## Trump calling for truce in Ukraine

Comments aimed at Russia also include pulling out of NATO

By Joanna Kozłowska and Ellen Knickmeyer  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump pushed Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Sunday to act to reach an immediate ceasefire with Ukraine, describing it as part of his efforts as the incoming president to end the war despite being weeks from taking office.

“Zelensky and Ukraine would like to make a deal,” Trump wrote on social media, referring to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In a television interview taped Friday and aired Sunday, Trump also said he would be open to reducing military aid to Ukraine and pulling the United States out of NATO. Those are two threats that have alarmed Ukraine, NATO allies and many in the U.S. national security community.

Asked on NBC’s “Meet the Press” if he were working to end the nearly 3-year-old Ukraine war, Trump said: “I am.”

He would not say whether he had spoken to Putin since winning the election in November: “I don’t want to say anything about that, because I don’t want to do anything that could impede the negotiation.”

Trump’s call for an immediate ceasefire went beyond the public policy stands taken by the Biden administration and Ukraine, and it drew a cautious response from Zelenskyy. It also marked Trump’s wading unusually deep into efforts before his inauguration on



Donald Trump greets Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Notre Dame Cathedral's reopening Saturday in Paris. LUDOVIC MARIN/POOL

Jan. 20 to resolve one of the major crises facing the lame-duck Biden administration.

Trump made his proposal after a weekend meeting with French and Ukrainian leaders in Paris, where many world leaders gathered to celebrate the restoration of Notre Dame Cathedral after a devastating fire. Of his advisers that traveled with him, none appeared to have expertise on Ukraine.

Kyiv would like to close a deal and “stop the madness,” Trump wrote on Truth Social. “There should be an immediate ceasefire and negotiations should begin.”

“I know Vladimir well. This is his time to act. China can help. The World is waiting!” He was referring to mediation efforts by China

that many in the West have seen as favoring Russia.

Zelenskyy described his discussions Saturday with Trump, brought together by French President Emmanuel Macron, as “constructive” but has given no further details.

In a post Sunday on the Telegram messaging app, Zelenskyy cautioned that Ukraine needs a “just and robust peace, that Russians will not destroy within a few years.”

“When we talk about an effective peace with Russia, we must talk first of all about effective peace guarantees. Ukrainians want peace more than anyone else. Russia brought war to our land,” he said.

Kremlin spokesman

Dmitry Peskov responded to Trump’s post by repeating Moscow’s longstanding message that it is open to talks with Ukraine. Peskov referenced a decree by Zelenskyy from October 2022 that formally declared the prospect of any talks “impossible” as long as Putin is Russia’s leader. That decree came after Putin proclaimed four occupied regions of Ukraine to be part of Russia, in what Kyiv and the West said was a violation of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Trump’s former national security adviser, retired Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, warned there was no such thing as a quick fix to ending Russia’s war on Ukraine.

“What I’m worried about is this kind of flawed idea

that Putin can be placated, right, that Putin will come to some kind of a deal,” he told “Fox News Sunday.”

“I think it’s really important for President Trump to adhere to his instinct in this connection... peace through strength. How about give them what they need to defend themselves, and then saying to Putin ‘You’re going to lose this war?’”

While Trump has said that he would like to see a quick ceasefire in Ukraine, his proposal Sunday was framed as a direct appeal to Russia. The quick responses from Ukraine and Russia demonstrated the seriousness with which they regarded the idea from the incoming American president.

As they pushed toward Syria’s capital, Damascus, the opposition freed political detainees from government prisons. The family of missing U.S. journalist Austin Tice renewed calls to find him. “To everyone in Syria that hears this, please remind people that we’re waiting for Austin,” said Tice’s mother, Debra, in comments that hostage advocacy groups spread on social media.

## Biden: Assad’s fall ‘justice’ but also ‘moment of risk’

President lauds US policies; Trump calls Russia, Iran weaker

By Will Weissert  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Sunday that the sudden collapse of the Syrian government under Bashar Assad is a “fundamental act of justice” after decades of repression, but it was “a moment of risk and uncertainty” for the Mideast.

Biden spoke at the White House hours after rebel groups completed a takeover of the country after more than a dozen years of violent civil war and decades of rule by Assad and his family. Biden said the United States was monitoring reports that Assad was seeking refuge in Moscow.

The outgoing Biden administration and President-elect Donald Trump were working to make sense of new threats and opportunities across the Middle East.

Biden credited action by the U.S. and its allies for weakening Syria’s backers — Russia, Iran and Iran-backed Hezbollah. He said

“for the first time” that they could no longer defend Assad’s grip on power.

“Our approach has shifted the balance of power in the Middle East,” Biden said after a meeting with his national security team at the White House.

Trump said Sunday that Assad had fled his country because close ally Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, “was not interested in protecting him any longer.”

Those comments on Trump’s social media platform came a day after he used another post to decry the possibility of the U.S. intervening militarily in Syria to aid the rebels, declaring: “THIS IS NOT OUR FIGHT.” The Biden administration had no intention of intervening, according to Biden’s national security adviser.

The U.S. has about 900 troops in Syria, including forces working with Kurdish allies in the opposition-held northeast to prevent any resurgence of the Islamic State group. Biden said he intended those troops to remain, adding that U.S. forces conducted “dozens” of what he called “precision airstrikes” Sunday on Islamic State camps and

operations in Syria.

U.S. Central Command said the operation hit more than 75 targets.

“We’re clear-eyed about the fact that ISIS will try and take advantage of any vacuum to reestablish its credibility and create a safe haven,” Biden said, using a different abbreviation for the group. “We will not let that happen.”

Biden also said “some of the rebel groups that took down Assad have their own grim record of terrorism and human rights abuses.” He added that the groups are “saying the right things now.”

“But as they take on greater responsibility, we will assess not just their words, but their actions,” he said.

Assad’s fall adds to an already tense situation throughout much of region on many fronts, including Israel’s war with Iran-backed Hamas in Gaza and its fragile ceasefire with Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Trump, who takes office Jan. 20, made a connection between the upheaval in Syria and Russia’s war in Ukraine, noting that Assad’s allies in Moscow, as well as in Iran, the main sponsor of



President Joe Biden speaks Sunday at the White House in Washington about the collapse of the Syrian government under Bashar Assad. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Hamas and Hezbollah, “are in a weakened state right now.”

Trump has suggested that Assad’s ouster can advance the prospects for an end to fighting in Ukraine, which was invaded by Russia in February 2022.

Trump wrote that Putin’s government “lost all interest in Syria because of Ukraine” and the Republican called for an immediate ceasefire, a day after meeting in Paris with the French and Ukrainian leaders.

Daniel B. Shapiro, a deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Middle East, said the American military presence will continue in

eastern Syria but was “solely to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS and has nothing to do with other aspects of this conflict.”

“We call on all parties in Syria to protect civilians, particularly those from Syria’s minority communities to respect international military norms and to work to achieve a resolution to include the political settlement,” Shapiro said.

“Multiple actors in this conflict have a terrible track record to include Assad’s horrific crimes, Russia’s indiscriminate aerial bomb bombardment, Iranian-back militia involvement and the atrocities of ISIS.”

As they pushed toward Syria’s capital, Damascus, the opposition freed political detainees from government prisons. The family of missing U.S. journalist Austin Tice renewed calls to find him. “To everyone in Syria that hears this, please remind people that we’re waiting for Austin,” said Tice’s mother, Debra, in comments that hostage advocacy groups spread on social media.

Tice disappeared in 2012 outside Damascus.

Biden said at the White House: “We believe he’s alive, we think we can get him back, but we have no direct evidence to that yet.”



HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Golani addresses a crowd Sunday in Damascus. AREF TAMMAWI/GETTY-AFP

## Who is rebel leader who toppled Syria’s longtime ruler?

By Kareem Chehayeb  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the militant leader whose stunning insurgency toppled Syrian President Bashar Assad, has spent years working to remake his public image, renouncing longtime ties to al-Qaida and depicting himself as a champion of pluralism and tolerance. As he entered Damascus behind his victorious fighters Sunday, he even dropped

his nom de guerre and referred to himself with his real name, Ahmad al-Sharaa.

The extent of that transformation from jihadi extremist to would-be state builder is now put to the test. Insurgents control Damascus, Assad has fled into hiding and, for the first time after 50 years of his family’s iron hand, it is an open question how Syria will be governed.

Syria is home to multiple ethnic and religious communities, often pitted against

each other by Assad’s state and years of war. Many of them fear the possibility that Sunni Islamist extremists will take over. The country is also fragmented among disparate armed factions, and foreign powers from Russia and Iran to the U.S., Turkey and Israel all have their hands in the mix.

Hours after Damascus’ capture, the 42-year-old al-Sharaa made his first appearance in the city’s landmark Umayyad Mosque, declaring Assad’s

fall “a victory for the Islamic nation.”

Al-Sharaa, who has been labeled a terrorist by the United States, and his insurgent force, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS — many of whose fighters are jihadists — now stand to be a major player.

For years, al-Sharaa worked to consolidate power while bottled up in the province of Idlib in Syria’s northwest corner as Assad’s Iranian- and Russian-backed rule

over much of the country appeared solid.

He maneuvered among extremist organizations while eliminating competitors and former allies. He sought to polish the image of his de-facto “salvation government” that has been running Idlib to win over international governments and reassure Syria’s religious and ethnic minorities. And he built ties with various tribes and other groups.

“Don’t judge by words but by actions,” he said.

# CEO's killing opens door to venting

Business side of insurance collides with experiences

By Tom Murphy and Devi Shastri  
Associated Press

For years, patients in the U.S. health care system have grown frustrated with a bureaucracy they don't understand.

Doctors are included in an insurer's network one year but not the next. Getting someone on the phone to help can be next to impossible. Coverage of care and prescriptions is often unceremoniously denied.

Last week's fatal shooting of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson has unleashed a wave of public feeling — exasperation, anger, resentment, helplessness — from Americans sharing their stories of interactions with insurance companies, often seen as faceless corporate giants.

In particular, the words written on ammunition found at the shooting scene — “delay,” “deny” and “depose,” echoing a phrase used to describe how insurers dodge claim payouts — amplified voices that have long been critical of the industry.

“All of a sudden, I am fired up again,” said Tim Anderson, describing how his wife, Mary, had to deal with UnitedHealthcare coverage denials before she died of Lou Gehrig's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, in 2022.

Anderson said they couldn't get coverage for machines to help his wife breathe or talk — toward the end, she communicated by blinking when he showed her pictures. The family had to rely on donations from a local ALS group.

“The business model for insurance is don't pay,” said Anderson, 67, of Centerville, Ohio. “When Mary could still talk, she said to me to keep fighting this. It needs



New York police officers search an area Friday in Central Park in the aftermath of Brian Thompson's killing in Manhattan. JEENAH MOON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

to be exposed.”

For Anderson and others, Thompson's death and the message left at the scene have created an opportunity to vent their frustrations. Conversations at dinner tables, office water coolers, social gatherings and on social media have pivoted to the topic, as police efforts to find the gunman keep the case in the news.

Hans Maristela said he understands why the chatter is bubbling up. The 54-year-old caregiver in California was moved to comment on Facebook about UnitedHealthcare's reputation of denying coverage. As a Catholic, he said, he grieves Thompson's death and feels for his family, especially with the holidays around the corner.

But he sees frustration with insurers even among his clients, most of them wealthy older people who've not been shielded from high out-of-pocket costs.

“And then you know the CEO of this company you pay a lot of money to gets 10



Bullets are marked as evidence Wednesday outside the Hilton Hotel where Thompson was fatally shot. STEFAN JEREMIAH/AP

million dollars a year, you won't have a lot of sympathy for the guy,” Maristela said, citing Thompson's compensation package that included base pay and stock options. “Health care is a business, I understand, but the obsession with share price, with profit, has to be reevaluated.”

University of Pennsylvania researcher Michael Anne Kyle said she's not surprised by the growth of conversation around insurers

“People are often struggling with this by themselves, and when you see someone else talk about it, that may prompt you to join the conversation,” she said.

Kyle studies how patients access care and said she's seen frustration with the system build for years. Costs are rising, and insurers are using more controls, such as prior authorizations and doctor networks, to manage them. Patients are often stuck in the middle of disputes between doctors

and insurers.

“Patients are already spending a lot of money on health care, and then they're still facing problems with the service,” she said.

Insurers often note that most of the money they bring in goes back out the door to pay claims, and they try to corral soaring costs and the overuse of some care.

Anderson said his initial reaction to the CEO shooting was to question whether it was connected to a coverage denial, like the ones he'd experienced with his wife.

“I definitely do not condone killing people,” he said. “But I read it and said, ‘I wonder if somebody had a spouse whose coverage was denied.’”

It's something Will Flanary, a Portland-based ophthalmologist and comedian with a large social media following, saw online a lot and found telling.

“It's zero sympathy,” he said. “And the lesson to take away from that is not, ‘Let's shame people for celebrat-

ing a murder.’ No, it's, ‘Look at the amount of anger that people have toward this system that's taken advantage of people and do something to try to fix that.’”

Flanary's content, published under the name Dr. Glaucomflecken, started out as niche eye doctor jokes and a way to cope with his own experiences with two cancer diagnoses and a cardiac arrest.

But it has evolved, featuring character skits that call attention to and satirize the decisions of large health insurers, including UnitedHealthcare.

He said he's never seen conversations around health insurance policy take off the way they did last week — and he hopes these new voices can help bring about change.

“I'm always talking about how powerful social media can be with advocacy,” he said, “because it really is the only way to put a significant amount of pressure on these corporations who are doing bad things for patients.”



Presidential candidate Calin Georgescu gestures outside a closed voting station Sunday in Mogosoaia, Romania, where a second round of balloting was scrapped. VADIM GHIRDA/AP

## Leading candidates denounce Romania's canceled election

By Stephen McGrath  
Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — On the day that the second round of presidential voting was supposed to be held, Romania's defiant far-right presidential candidate, Calin Georgescu, stood outside a closed polling station to denounce a top court's unprecedented decision to annul the first round of the vote in which he emerged as the front-runner.

“Today is Constitution Day and there is nothing constitutional in Romania anymore. I am here in the name of democracy,” Georgescu, 62, told media Sunday in Mogosoaia, outside Bucharest. “By canceling democracy, our very freedom is canceled.”

The Constitutional Court canceled the election Friday after a trove of declassified intelligence alleged that Russia organized a sprawling campaign across social media to promote Georgescu.

The court cited the illegal use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, as well as undeclared

sources of funding. Without naming Georgescu, the court said one candidate received “preferential treatment” on social media platforms, distorting voters' expressed will.

Despite being a huge outsider who declared zero campaign spending, Georgescu topped the polls in the first round on Nov. 24, and was due to face reformist Elena Lasconi of the Save Romania Union party in a runoff.

Thirteen candidates ran in the first round of the presidential race in the European Union and NATO member country; the aftermath was gripped by myriad controversies, including a recount of the vote ordered by the same court.

New dates will be set to rerun the presidential vote from scratch.

“We find ourselves in a moment of profound responsibility toward the values that characterize us as a nation,” Romanian President Klaus Iohannis said in a statement marking Constitution Day.

“The Romanian Constitution defines the framework

within which the state and political life operate, serving as a shield against threats to democracy. In turbulent times, state institutions are called upon to act with calm, wisdom and respect for the law, the Constitution and democracy.”

George Simion, the 38-year-old leader of the far-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, told reporters outside a closed polling station in Bucharest on Sunday that the annulment amounted to an attack against democracy, saying Iohannis should “take a step back and respect the Constitution, not mock it.”

“It is Constitution Day. It is a day of significance for Romanians. It is a day when Romanians should have gone to vote freely,” he said, adding that “blood was shed for this 35 years ago,” referring to Romania's revolution in December 1989 that overthrew communism.

On Friday, Georgescu's would-be opponent, Lasconi, also strongly condemned the court's decision to annul the elections, saying the second round should have gone forward.

## Ex-defense chief detained as SKorea reviews martial law bid

By Hyung-Jin Kim and Kim Tong-Hyung  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean prosecutors detained a former defense minister Sunday who allegedly recommended last week's brief but stunning martial law imposition to President Yoon Suk Yeol, making him the first figure detained in the case.

The development came a day after Yoon avoided an opposition-led bid to impeach him in parliament, with most ruling party lawmakers boycotting a floor vote to prevent the two-thirds majority needed to suspend his presidential powers. The main opposition Democratic Party said it will prepare a new impeachment motion against Yoon.

Ex-Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun was taken into custody at a Seoul detention facility after undergoing an investigation by prosecutors, a law enforcement official said, requesting anonymity in line with privacy rules.

The official gave no further details. But South Korean media reported that Kim voluntarily appeared at a Seoul prosecutors' office, where he had his mobile phone confiscated and was detained. The reports said police searched Kim's former office and residence Sunday.

Repeated calls to Seoul prosecutors' offices and police agency were unanswered.

Senior prosecutor Park Se-hyun said in a televised statement Sunday that authorities launched a 62-member special investigation team on the martial law case. Park, who will head the team, said the probe would “leave no suspicions.”

Yoon accepted Kim's resignation offer Thursday after opposition parties submitted a sepa-



Leader Lee Jae-myung, bottom center, and other Democratic Party members protest Saturday in Seoul, South Korea. The signs read “Punish the rebellion leader.” AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

rate impeachment motion against him.

Kim is a central figure in Yoon's martial law enforcement, which led to special-forces troops encircling the National Assembly building and army helicopters hovering over it. The military withdrew after the parliament unanimously voted to overturn Yoon's decree, forcing his Cabinet to lift it before daybreak Wednesday.

In Kim's impeachment motion document, the Democratic Party and other opposition parties accused him of proposing martial law to Yoon. Vice Defense Minister Kim Seon Ho told parliament that Kim Yong Hyun ordered the deployment of troops to the National Assembly.

The Democratic Party called Yoon's martial law imposition “unconstitutional, illegal rebellion or a coup.” It has filed complaints with police against at least nine people, including Yoon and Kim, over the alleged rebellion.

In a statement Wednesday, Kim said “all troops who performed duties related to martial law were acting on my instructions, and all responsibility lies with me.”

The Defense Ministry said it has suspended three top military commanders over their alleged involve-

ment in the martial law imposition.

Yoon issued an apology Saturday over the martial law decree, saying he won't shirk legal or political responsibility for the declaration. He said he would leave it to his party to chart a course through the country's political turmoil, “including matters related to my term in office.”

Since taking office in 2022 for a single five-year term, Yoon has struggled to push his agenda through an opposition-controlled parliament and grappled with low approval ratings amid scandals involving him and his wife.

Ruling People Power Party leader Han Dong-hun said Sunday that the PPP will work with the government to determine Yoon's early and orderly exit from office in a way that minimizes confusion, but he didn't say when that would happen. He also claimed that Yoon will not be involved in state affairs, including foreign policy.

Yoon's presidential office didn't immediately respond. The presidential office did say Sunday that Yoon accepted the resignation offer by Safety Minister Lee Sang-min, who has also faced an opposition-led impeachment motion over his alleged role in the martial law enforcement.

# Executive security takes spotlight

Killing of insurance CEO spurs reviews of protection plans

By Adam Geller, Cathy Bussewitz and Michael Liedtke  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — He's one of the most famous corporate leaders in the world, delivering products embraced by billions. But it's the haters that companies like Mark Zuckerberg's Meta worry about.

In an era when online anger and social tensions are increasingly directed at the businesses consumers count on, Meta spent \$24.4 million last year on guards, alarms and other measures to keep Zuckerberg and the company's former chief operating officer safe.

Some high-profile CEOs surround themselves with security. But the fatal shooting last week of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson on a New York City sidewalk has put a spotlight on the widely varied approaches companies take in protecting their leaders against threats.

Thompson had no personal security and appeared unaware of the shooter before he was gunned down.

And today's political, economic and technological climate is only going to make the job of evaluating threats against executives and taking action to protect them even more difficult, experts say.

"We are better today at collecting signals. I'm not sure we're any better at making sense of the signals we collect," says Fred Burton of Ontic, a provider of threat management software for companies.

After Thompson's shooting, Burton said, "I've been on the phone all day with some organizations asking for consultation, saying 'Am I doing enough?'"

Since the killing, some health insurers have taken



Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg passes media and a protester as he arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington for a closed-door gathering of leading tech CEOs to discuss the priorities and risks surrounding artificial intelligence. JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP 2023

steps to safeguard their executives and rank-and-file workers.

Medica, a Minnesota-based nonprofit health care firm, is temporarily closing its six offices for security reasons and will have its employees work from home.

"Although we have received no specific threats related to our campuses, our office buildings will be temporarily closed out of an abundance of caution," the company said Friday.

A Medica spokesman said the company had also removed biographical information about its executives from its website as a precaution.

UnitedHealth Group, parent of the insurer Thompson led, removed photos of its top executives from its website hours after the shooting, later removing their names and biographies.

But well before the attack, some of the biggest U.S. com-

panies, particularly those in the tech sector, were spending heavily on personal and residential security for their top executives.

Meta, whose businesses include Facebook and Instagram, reported the highest spending on personal security for top executives last year, filings culled by research firm Equilar show.

Zuckerberg "is synonymous with Meta and, as a result, negative sentiment regarding our company is directly associated with, and often transferred to, Mr. Zuckerberg," the Menlo Park, California, company explained this year in an annual shareholder disclosure.

At Apple, the world's largest tech company by stock valuation, CEO Tim Cook was tormented by a stalker who sent him sexually provocative emails and even showed up outside his Silicon Valley home at one point before the company's

security team successfully took legal action against her in 2022.

Cook is regularly accompanied by security personnel in public. Still, the \$820,000 the company allotted last year to protect top executives is a fraction of what other tech giants spent for CEO security.

Just over a quarter of the companies in the Fortune 500 reported spending money to protect their CEOs and other top executives. Of those that did, the median payment for personal security doubled over the past three years to about \$98,000.

In many companies, investor meetings like the one Thompson was walking to when he was shot are viewed as very risky because details on the location and who will be speaking are highly publicized.

"It gives people an opportunity to arrive well in advance and take a look at the room, take a look at

how people would probably come and go out of a location," said Dave Komendat, president of DSKomendat Risk Management Services, which is based in the Seattle area.

Some firms respond by beefing up security. For example, tech companies routinely require everyone attending a major event, such as Apple's annual unveiling of the next iPhone or a shareholder meeting, to go through airport-style security checkpoints.

Others forgo in-person meetings with shareholders. Government health insurance provider Centene Corp. joined that group Thursday, citing the UnitedHealthcare executive's death in announcing that its upcoming Investor Day will be held online, rather than in person as originally planned.

"But there are also company cultures that really frown on that and want their leaders to be accessi-

ble to people, accessible to shareholders, employees," Komendat said.

Depending on the company, such an approach may make sense. Many top executives are little known to the public, operating in industries and locations that make them far less prone to public exposure and to threats.

"Determining the need for and appropriate level of an executive-level protection program is specific to each organization," says David Johnston, vice president of asset protection and retail operations at the National Retail Federation. "These safeguards should also include the constant monitoring of potential threats and the ability to adapt to maintain the appropriate level of security and safety."

Some organizations have a protective intelligence group that uses digital tools, such as machine learning or artificial intelligence, to comb through online comments to detect threats not only on X and other social media platforms but also on the dark web, Komendat says.

Burton, a former special agent with the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service, notes that despite the current climate, there is little in the way of organized groups that target companies.

Today, a primary worry is loners whose rantings online are fed by others who are like-minded. It's up to corporate security analysts to zero in on such dialogue and decide whether it represents a real threat.

And CEOs aren't the only targets of disgruntled customers. In the U.S., there were 525 workplace fatalities due to assault in 2022, according to the National Safety Council. Industries including health care, education and service providers are more prone to violence than others, and taxi drivers are more than 20 times more likely to be killed on the job than other workers, the group said.



Bottles of raw milk are displayed May 8 at a store in Temecula, California. Raw Farm, of Fresno, voluntarily recalled all whole milk and cream products late Tuesday. JONEL ALECCIA/AP

## Raw milk's recall in California expands as more bird flu seen

By Jonel Aleccia  
Associated Press

A California farm expanded a recall of raw milk sold in stores and halted production after state health and agriculture officials found bird flu virus in more milk samples.

Raw Farm, of Fresno, voluntarily recalled all whole milk and cream products from stores late Tuesday after tests found bird flu virus in "multiple" retail samples and dairy storage and bottling sites. The recall covers all Raw Farm milk and cream produced between Nov. 9 and Nov. 27.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture quarantined the farm and suspended distribution of raw milk, cream, kefir, butter and cheese produced on or after Nov. 27.

"Californians are strongly encouraged not to consume any raw milk or cream products in their possession or still on store shelves," officials said in a statement.

The move followed recalls of two lots of Raw Farm products after bird flu was first detected in retail milk on Nov. 21.

No known cases of

bird flu virus have been confirmed in people who drank raw milk, officials said. Pasteurized milk is heat-treated to kill the virus and remains safe to drink.

Pet owners also should avoid feeding Raw Farm products sold nationwide as "pet food topper" or "pet food kefir" to their animals, who can become ill, health officials said. Cats on farms with infected cows have developed brain damage and died after drinking contaminated raw milk.

Bird flu virus, also known as Type A H5N1 avian influenza, was detected for the first time in U.S. dairy cows in March. The virus has been spreading rapidly, particularly in California, where nearly 500 of the more than 700 infected U.S. herds have been detected.

The virus has infected 57 people in the U.S. this year, including 31 in California, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mild illnesses have been seen in dairy and poultry workers.

In two cases, an adult in Missouri and a child in California, no known source of the flu have been identified. No cases of bird flu spread-

ing between people have been detected in the U.S.

Health officials have long warned against drinking raw milk because it can contain germs that cause illnesses that range from mild to life-threatening.

Raw Farm's owner, Mark McAfee, has called for less raw milk regulation. In an Instagram post Wednesday, farm officials said they were working to restore supply.

"There are no illnesses associated with H5N1 in our products. But rather this is a political issue," the post said. "There are no food safety issues with our products or consumer safety. We are working towards resolving this political issue while being cooperative with our government regulatory agencies."

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., tapped to be the nation's top health official, has vowed to allow wider distribution of raw milk. McAfee told The Associated Press that Kennedy is a customer. Kennedy has promised that the Food and Drug Administration's "aggressive suppression" of unpasteurized milk would end under President-elect Donald Trump.

## Ecuador's power outages melt one town's ice cream industry

By Gonzalo Solano  
Associated Press

SALCEDO, Ecuador — Ice-cream production in Salcedo, a quaint town in Ecuador's central highlands, began in the mid-20th century, born from the ingenuity of Franciscan nuns.

Locals say the sisters would drink fruit shakes made with milk from the region's dairy farms until one of them began collecting the leftovers, turning them into creamy popsicles that became an overnight sensation.

The nuns sold the popsicles in town to gather money for the poor. But the people of Salcedo saw a business opportunity and began experimenting with new flavors and techniques, establishing a thriving industry that has made their small town famous among ice cream lovers.

However, a recent wave of power outages, triggered by a prolonged dry spell, is threatening the future of Salcedo's ice cream industry and melting away its dreams of a more prosperous future.

The daily power outages that began early this year and intensified in September can last up to 14 hours. They have come about because of drier-than-usual weather in Ecuador, which relies heavily on hydroelectric plants. During most months of the year, hydroelectric plants produce 70% to 90% of Ecuador's electricity. The nation of 17 million people invested heavily in dams over the past two decades, but it is now struggling to come up with alternatives.

"We are living through the worst third-world conditions," said Gabriel Pumasunta, owner of the Polar Bear ice cream factory.

Pumasunta, who runs the small company with his two brothers, said that if the power outages continue this month, they will have no choice but to shut down



A worker cleans equipment Nov. 28 at an artisanal popsicle factory in Salcedo, Ecuador, which has been suffering from recurring power outages. DOLORES OCHOA/AP

the plant.

Pumasunta said power outages have halted production and storage, causing much of his product to melt.

Before outages intensified in September, Polar Bear was producing 60,000 popsicles a month, Salcedo said. Now, the small company makes 10,000 popsicles a month, and it has been forced to let go of eight of its 10 employees.

To stay afloat, Pumasunta has dipped into the company's savings and those of his family. He now works on the plant's machines himself, taking care of deliveries to bring down costs; his parents have also stepped up to help.

President Daniel Noboa, who was elected last year in a special election that followed the resignation of Ecuador's previous president, has not been able to solve the electricity crisis. The chamber of commerce in Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, estimates that power outages are generating weekly losses of \$700 million for Ecuadorian businesses.

Germán Soria, president of the association of artisanal ice cream makers, said that before the power crisis, Salcedo had 80 small- and medium-size ice cream plants and three large factories. Now, 30 of the smaller plants have been forced to

close.

Soria's ice cream plant, which is in a shed behind his house, now sits empty. He said he stopped production three weeks ago and has been forced to sell some equipment as well as a plot of land to cover his debts.

He said the outages, which occur at unexpected times, make it hard to plan production. "Our clients are also less keen to buy ice cream because they're not sure if they can keep the popsicles from melting."

According to local officials, the power crisis has cost 300 jobs in Salcedo, a town renowned for its fruit-flavored ice cream.

Noboa has promised that power shortages in Ecuador will end this month, but analysts doubt his claim, saying the country lacks the capacity to make up for a 1,900-megawatt deficit.

The Ecuadorian government has bought and rented electric generators that are expected to arrive in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile in Salcedo, the collapse of the ice cream industry has rippled through the economy, affecting dairy farms, fruit growers, transporters and mom-and-pop stores that specialized in selling the famous popsicles. Three large ice cream factories have been affected too.

NEWS BRIEFING

# Trump alters rhetoric on how US prices will change after his tariffs

From news services

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump said he can't guarantee that his promised tariffs on key U.S. foreign-trade partners won't raise prices for American consumers, and he suggested once more that some political rivals and federal officials who pursued legal cases against him should be imprisoned.

Trump, in a wide-ranging interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" that was taped Friday and aired Sunday, also touched on monetary policy, immigration, abortion and health care.

He often mixed declarative statements with caveats, at one point cautioning "things do change."

Trump has threatened broad trade penalties but said he didn't believe economists' predictions that added costs on those imported goods for U.S. companies would lead to higher domestic prices for consumers. "I can't guarantee anything. I can't guarantee tomorrow," Trump said, seeming to open the door to accepting the reality of how import levies typically work as goods reach the retail market. That's a different approach from Trump's typical speeches throughout the 2024 campaign, when he framed his election as a sure way to curb inflation.

He also offered conflicting statements on how he would approach the justice system after winning election despite being convicted of 34 felonies in a New York state court and being indicted in other cases over his handling of national security secrets and efforts to overturn his 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

"Honestly, they should go to jail," Trump said of members of Congress who investigated the Capitol riot by supporters who wanted

him to remain in power.

As for the idea of revenge driving potential prosecutions, Trump said: "I have the absolute right. I'm the chief law enforcement officer, you do know that."

He also singled out lawmakers on a special House panel who investigated the insurrection, citing Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., and former Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo.

Trump also promised that the government efficiency effort led by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy will not threaten Social Security. "We're not touching Social Security, other than we make it more efficient," he said. He added that "we're not raising ages or any of that stuff."

**War in Gaza:** Israeli airstrikes in central Gaza killed at least 14 people Sunday, Palestinian health officials said, while the bombing of a hospital in northern Gaza wounded a half-dozen patients.

Israel's military continues its latest offensive against Hamas militants in northern Gaza, whose remaining Palestinians have been almost completely cut off from the rest of the territory amid a growing humanitarian crisis.

One airstrike flattened a residential building in the urban Bureij refugee camp Sunday afternoon, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in nearby Deir al-Balah, where the casualties were taken. At least nine people were killed, including six children and a woman. An Associated Press journalist saw the bodies at the hospital's morgue.

Earlier Sunday, another Israeli strike hit a tent in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing at least five people, including two parents and their two children, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said.



**Bangladesh protest:** Supporters of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party shout slogans Sunday outside the Indian High Commission in Dhaka during an anti-India protest. India's foreign secretary, Vikram Misri, is due to visit Bangladesh's capital Monday amid growing tension between the two neighbors. MAHMUD HOSSAIN OPU/AP

In northern Gaza, the Health Ministry said a bombing targeted the Indonesian Hospital wounding six patients, one of them seriously. It is the largest hospital north of Gaza City.

"We demand international protection for hospitals, patients and medical staff," the ministry said in a statement that also urged safe passage to and from hospitals, more medical supplies and fuel and safe evacuation of the wounded.

The Israeli military said Sunday evening that it was unaware of any attack on the Indonesian Hospital "in the last three to four hours."

Meanwhile, the military said it briefly closed the key Kerem Shalom crossing after fighters launched mortar shells several feet from the nearby humanitarian corridor toward its troops.

A second cold, rainy winter is beginning in Gaza, with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in squalid tent camps and reliant on international aid.

**China-Taiwan relations:** China sent 14 warships, seven military aircraft and four balloons near Taiwan between Saturday and Sunday, according to Taiwan's Defense Ministry, as Beijing ramps up pressure on the island it claims as its own.

China's military activities come amid speculation that Beijing might organize military drills around the island in response to Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te's recent visit to Pacific allies, including U.S. stops in Hawaii and Guam.

China claims Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy of 23 million people, as its own territory, and bristles at other countries' formal exchanges with Taiwan. The United States, like most countries, doesn't recognize Taiwan as a country but is its main unofficial backer and sells it arms.

The Chinese government has pledged to annex Taiwan, through military force if necessary, and sends ships and military planes

near the island almost daily.

The Defense Ministry said six of the aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial demarcation zone between Taiwan and China.

**Guyana tourism:** Guyana is revisiting a dark history nearly half a century after American minister Jim Jones and more than 900 of his followers died in the rural interior of the South American country.

It was the largest suicide-murder in recent history, and a government-backed tour operator wants to open the former commune to visitors. The proposal is reopening old wounds, with critics saying it would disrespect victims and revive a sordid past.

The tour would ferry visitors to the far-flung village of Port Kaituma nestled in the lush jungles of northern Guyana. It's a trip available only by boat, helicopter or plane; rivers instead of roads connect Guyana's interior. Once there, it's six miles

via a rough and overgrown dirt trail to the abandoned commune and former agricultural settlement.

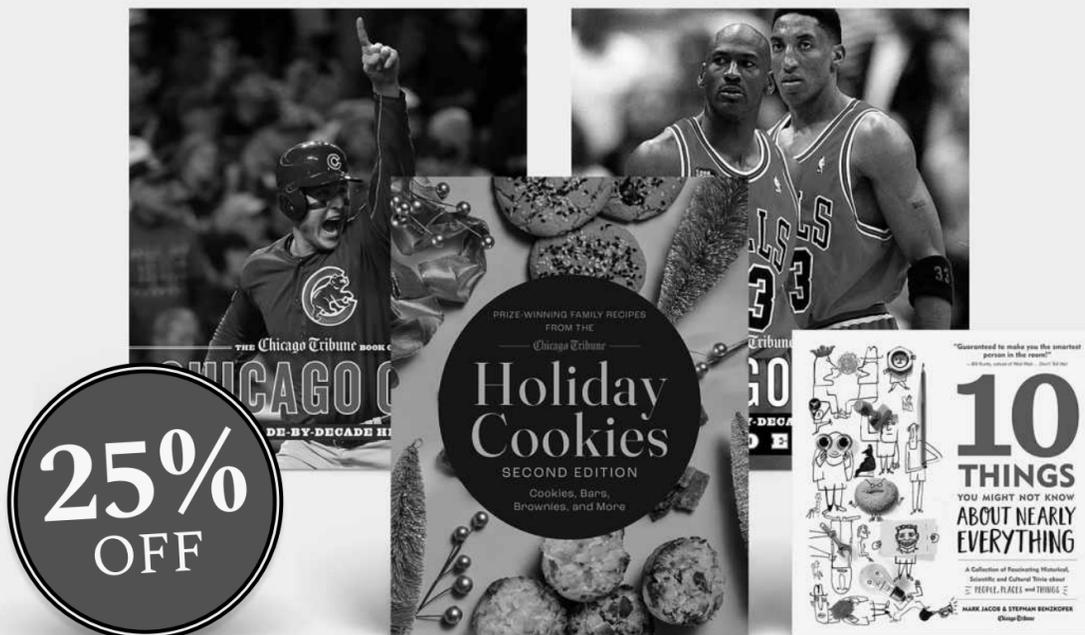
Neville Bissember, a law professor at the University of Guyana, questioned the proposed tour, calling it a "ghoulish and bizarre" idea in a recently published letter.

**Netherlands blast:** Emergency services searched Sunday for a second day through the debris of an apartment block in The Hague that was destroyed by an explosion and fire, killing at least five people, but held out little hope of finding any more survivors.

The cause of the Saturday disaster was unclear. The fire service said five bodies were found and five injured people were rescued.

Mayor Jan van Zanen said rescuers are now looking for eventual bodies, given the "slim chance of survival" under what's left of the apartments. However, one person was rescued alive many hours after the blast.

# NOVEL GIFTS



25% OFF

From sports history to holiday cookies, there's something for every bookworm in your life!

Chicago Tribune STORE

SHOP NOW at [chicagotribune.com/books25](http://chicagotribune.com/books25) or call (866) 545-3534

Valid through 12/9/24.

## ARTS &amp; LIVING



Lauren Quinn and ensemble in the 2024 holiday production of "The Nutcracker" by the Joffrey Ballet. KATIE MILLER

REVIEW "THE NUTCRACKER" ★★★★★

# Still sparkling for the holidays

This year's 'Nutcracker' by the Joffrey Ballet is a new reminder of why we love this production

By Lauren Warnecke

It's been eight years since the Joffrey Ballet unveiled a new "Nutcracker," after more than three decades performing Robert Joffrey's beloved production of the holiday classic. It's safe to say the new-car smell has worn off, but Joffrey's Chicago-themed "Nutcracker" at the Lyric Opera House sparkles like it's still fresh out of the box.

Choreographer Christopher Wheelton imagined a different kind of "Nutcracker" for the Joffrey, moving the action from an upper-class living room to a shanty town in Jackson Park the winter before the first Chicago World's Fair. The year is 1892—coincidentally, the very year "The Nutcracker" premiered in Saint Petersburg. The United States didn't get its first "Nutcracker" until 1944, kicking off a uniquely American phenomenon that, given the size and enthusiasm of the audience at the Lyric Opera House on Friday night, isn't fading any time soon.

We simply love "The Nutcracker," and there is much to admire about this 21st-century production. Wheelton and children's author Brian Selznick reimaged the rich-kid-coming-of-age story, centering on immigrant fair workers deep in fair preparations. A



Victoria Jaiani and Edson Barbosa in the 2024 holiday production of "The Nutcracker." TODD ROSENBERG

Daniel Burnham-type called the Great Impresario (danced Friday by Alberto Velazquez) replaces the Drosselmeyer figure in the traditional version. Depending on which "Nutcracker" you're watching, Drosselmeyer could be either a creepy uncle or overbearing and paternalistic toward Marie (Friday at the Joffrey, Annabelle de la Nuez), a blithe and imaginative young girl who

falls asleep and dreams of a magical kingdom of international delights. Velazquez hedges toward paternalistic. He is both the boss and a welcome guest at Marie's family's party, gathering neighboring families to drink and be merry, fashioning everyday items into a diorama of the finished fair and dancing together around a scrappy, Charlie Brown Christmas tree.

Apart from these changes, the party scene carries on pretty much like normal. The Impresario gives Marie a nutcracker doll which her mischievous brother Franz (danced by the terrific young Elliot Angsurat of Dundee) breaks into pieces. Young love blossoms between Marie and the Impresario's apprentice, Peter (José Pablo Castro Cuevas), and—as Tchaikovsky's score crescendos and the kids scatter to the edges of the one-room cabin—the party parents borrow steps from a traditional polonaise as the Lyric Opera Orchestra's low brass shows its hand with a glorious, floor-vibrating arrangement of the Grandfather Waltz. That moment, more than any other, reminds me every year of just exactly why we love "The Nutcracker." And this year more than any other, I found Joffrey's working-class, immigrant story about making the most of what you've got with chosen family especially poignant and heartwarming.

At the risk of losing the plot, the rest of this "Nutcracker" is like many others. Marie falls asleep and dreams of a battle between life-sized toy soldiers and giant mice. A terrific fight between Maxwell Dawe and Dylan Gutierrez as the Nutcracker and Rat King, respectively, should not escape notice.

Turn to *Nutcracker*, Page 6

REVIEW MAVIS STAPLES

# Joyous '85th Hometown Birthday Celebration' simply dazzles

By Bob Gendron

Mavis Staples, take a bow. Friday at an event billed as her "85th Hometown Birthday Celebration" at a jam-packed Auditorium Theatre, the legendary vocalist put on a performance for the books—one that found her catching fire from the first note she sang and dazzling all the way through a fervent encore that apparently surprised even venue staffers who anticipated the lights would go up sooner.

On another night, maybe Staples abides by the scheduled stop. But not on an evening that found the habitually upbeat singer in an especially jubilant mood and out to defy any limitations associated with advanced age. The local native's enthusiasm and spirit transcended the songs and impacted every aspect of her 110-minute set, particularly in terms of its spontaneity and infectiousness.

Possibly having more fun than even anyone in the captivated crowd, Staples wouldn't

be restrained and couldn't resist an opportunity to share her bliss. She picked up on small cues and transformed them into unforgettable unscripted moments. She jazz-scatted onomatopoeia atop a drum riff; started singing the words to the Talking Heads' "Life During Wartime" shortly after finishing a cover of the band's "Slippery People"; seconded her two backing vocalists' statements with rejoinders; moaned impromptu reassurances; regaled with witty banter; and, after being mass-serenaded with "Happy Birthday," wished herself one in the third person.

Staples kept the mood light and pacing loose. She conveyed gratitude on her face, via blown kisses and kind waves, and in remarks. "Y'all make me feel so good, I'm gonna take off and run all around this building," Staples declared amid one of a handful of deserved breathers. Kidding, of course. Still, considering her outsized energy and feisty determination, betting

Turn to *Staples*, Page 6



Mavis Staples performs during her "85th Hometown Birthday Celebration" at the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago on Friday. TROY STOLT/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# Woman feeling neglected by husband's excessive manners



**R. Eric Thomas**  
*Asking Eric*

**Dear Eric:** I have an ongoing disagreement with my very polite and well-mannered husband. When we enter a venue together (restaurant, store, etc.), he opens the door/elevator door to let me through and then holds the door open so that at least two or three people and sometimes large groups of people, can walk in ahead of him.

He then follows them and I am significantly ahead of him. Therefore, I often stand off to the side/wait or move forward/wait.

For example, I often wait for a while at the hostess stand of a restaurant while he makes his way to the same location. I would appreciate standing next to him as we enter a venue. It also feels awkward waiting for him in such situations.

Should courtesy require getting the door/holding the elevator door open for strangers or moving forward with his wife so we can enter together?

— *Manners*

**Dear Manners:** His politeness is so extreme that it's come around to being impolite back to you. You wonder how far he's willing to take this. At a certain point, one stops being a random nice man and becomes a restaurant's volunteer doorman.

If he won't stop holding the door to groups entering after you, you can stand next to him as he holds the door and become restaurant doormen together. Perhaps this act of polite "solidarity" will show him the mannerliness of moderation.

**Dear Eric:** I play Mahjong with senior citizens several times a week at a local Barnes & Noble.

One day, our group needed two tables, and one table had stuff sitting on it, along with a backpack on the floor with no one around. I moved it to the table right next to it because we needed that specific size table, and there were many other open tables around us.

When the young man finally came back, I apologized and said "Sorry to move your stuff, but we needed this table, and you were nowhere around." He then told me it was rude to touch his stuff. Many of the ladies agreed with him, so I wonder if I was wrong.

But the way I look at it is, you can't expect someone to save a table and then walk around for an hour and expect no one to want the table. Also, I have come many times early and sat at a table to "reserve" it and never left my stuff on it expecting no one to move my stuff if they needed the table. What do you think?

— *Game Play Rules*

**Dear Rules:** I think you shouldn't have touched another person's belongings.

Coffee shops, bookstores and spaces where we gather can be catch-as-catch-can when it comes to seating. But the general rule is that if your stuff is on the table, it means you intend to come back to it in the place you left it. Your need for the table didn't supersede his need. It would've been better to make-do with another table until he returned, then ask him to move.

That said, if he really was gone an hour, it's rude of him to camp out on a table. Everyone here could have made a more conscientious, community-minded choice.

**Dear Eric:** One of my neighbors and I have been taking a long walk (about five miles) on most Saturday mornings since the pandemic. We both enjoy the exercise and the company.

Recently, another woman who lives in the neighborhood has expressed a desire to join us on these walks. We have both decided that we don't enjoy this woman's company enough to spend a couple of hours with her weekly. We don't know how to blow her off without offending her.

Any ideas what we might say to her that would not be cruel but would get the message across?

— *Walk Off*

**Dear Walk Off:** As this is a tradition that goes back a few years, it's fair to tell the third neighbor that you and your friend have come to appreciate this special time together and would prefer to preserve it.

Even if you're not discussing deeply personal matters on your walks, you've established a rhythm and a relationship that would be changed by adding someone else. Your neighbor might not be thinking of that aspect. Sure, it could come off as cliquish, but you're not obligated to respond to every person who invites themselves into your plans.

If you're inclined to socialize with her in smaller doses, suggest a shorter walk or a different activity on another day. But it's not cruel to say that this is a special thing you and your friend have planned together, and you value it the way it is. Your neighbor can accept that.

Send questions to [eric@askingeric.com](mailto:eric@askingeric.com).

Copyright 2024. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency



Lucinda Williams takes on the Beatles catalog in a new album. CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION 2017

## CELEBRITIES

# Williams tackles 'Holy Grail' of songs

From news services

Lucinda Williams isn't easily intimidated, but it would be hard for any musician not to shudder at the task before her.

The mission? Record an album of Beatles songs — only one of the best-known catalogs in popular music — in the same London studio where most of the originals were made. She and her band had just three days.

The result, "Lucinda Williams sings the Beatles from Abbey Road," is out now. It's the seventh in her series of "Lu's Jukebox" projects and the first one that will be made available via streaming services.

The singer-songwriter based in Nashville, Tennessee, delivers her take on 12 Beatles songs, most of them from the band's later period. She takes on hits like the Paul McCartney ballads "Let It Be" and "The Long and Winding Road," while also choosing the more obscure "White Album" cuts "Yer Blues" and "I'm So Tired."

"It felt like the Holy Grail," she said. "This is where the Beatles recorded. And we're going to go in there where they made all of these majestic, classic, amazing songs?"

Abbey Road was the idea of her manager-husband, Tom Overby, and they blocked out a small amount of time before a British tour earlier this year. Her Beatles-fan producer, Ray Kennedy, said he believed Williams was the first major artist to use the London studio to remake the band's work.

"My greatest fear was, I didn't want to sound like a cover band doing Beatles songs," she said.

**Lamar tops Apple Music's chart, but women make history:** "Not Like Us," but people sure like him: Kendrick Lamar's smash topped Apple Music's global song chart in 2024 as the music streamer released year-end lists last week.

"Not Like Us" is Lamar's first No. 1 on the year-end global songs chart. He's followed by Benson Boone's "Beautiful Things" in second. Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso" follows in third, Shaboozey's "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" in fourth and Taylor Swift's "Cruel Summer" in fifth.

"Cruel Summer" is a cut from Swift's seventh studio album, "Lover," released in 2019. It had a resurgence in summer 2023.

Of the 100 songs

included on the list, 39 are from female-identifying artists, a record first in the global chart's seven-year history.

And this one may come as a surprise: Japanese hip-hop act Creepy Nuts' breakthrough track "Bling-Bang-Bang-Born" topped Apple's most-read lyrics in 2024. Following Creepy Nuts is "Not Like Us," "Espresso" and Billie Eilish's "Birds of a Feather."

"Bling-Bang-Bang-Born" also topped Apple Music's Sing chart, which allows users to view which songs fans sang along to the most. Clearly, Japanese music is growing in international popularity: In 2023, another Japanese group, Yoasobi, topped the Sing chart in its inaugural year, with "Idol." This year, "Idol" continues to dominate, reaching No. 2.

**Dec. 9 birthdays:** Actor Judi Dench is 90. Actor Beau Bridges is 83. Actor John Malkovich is 71. Singer Sylvia is 68. Singer Donny Osmond is 67. Comedian Mario Cantone is 65. Actor Felicity Huffman is 62. Musician Jakob Dylan is 55. Rapper Canibus is 50. Singer Imogen Heap is 47. Actor Jolene Purdy is 41.



Anabelle de la Nuez and José Pablo Castro Cuevas in the 2024 holiday production of "The Nutcracker" by the Joffrey Ballet.

KATIE MILLER

## Nutcracker

from Page 5

Battle won, the Impresario performs some hocus pocus and transports Marie and Peter (swapping Dawe back to Cuevas again) to the finished fairgrounds, stopping in a lake-effect snowstorm along the way. Most of Marie and Peter's time at the fair is spent on the Midway, where they're entertained by divertissements from cultures all over the world: Spain, Venice, China and the Middle East. Fairgoers delight in a newfangled Ferris wheel and the Queen of the Fair (Amanda Assucena) presides, fashioned after the Statue of the Republic. There's even a nod to Buffalo Bill Cody (Gutierrez), who set up his Wild West spectacle in an

18,000-seat grandstand nearby to cash in on the massive influx of tourists to Chicago.

A good "Nutcracker" doesn't have to make sense but uses foreshadowing to connect Marie's dream to her reality. Wheeldon (with lots of help from genius puppeteer Basil Twist, projections designer 59 Productions and legendary scenic and costume designer Julian Crouch) creatively links a rat-infested, muddy neighborhood to the battle scene. Walnuts cracked by Marie's treasured gift at the party reappear as child-sized, cheeky dancing nuts who periodically open their shells to wink at us. The Queen of the Fair and Impresario are linked to a burgeoning love story between him and Marie's single mother. Thus her

dream is not a materialistic one, but the hope that her hardworking mom will one day experience happiness (with a rich guy, to boot).

And it should be said that the Joffrey company dances the socks off this "Nutcracker," which is rife with choreographic oddities and weirdly unmusical moments that, if not for them, would be hard to get over. Take Jeraldine Mendoza, Evan Boersma, Anais Bueno and Stefan Gonçalves, for example, whose Spanish quartet was the tightest and most enjoyable this geometric variation has ever been. There's an unforgettable Arabian duet, with Edson Barbosa stepping up to the plate for Victoria Jaiani as the inimitable seductress. Assucena and Velazquez have molded the grand *pas de deux* (which has

been busted apart in this version) into something far more palatable than it should be, taking every chance for poise and grandiosity they can despite being given very little to work with. And of course there's Gutierrez, who even introduced a few new lasso tricks this year—leaning all the way into this ridiculous role. After years spent loathing that Buffalo Bill, this critic is finally on board, thanks to him.

Lauren Warnecke is a freelance critic.

### "The Nutcracker"

**When:** Through Dec. 28  
**Where:** Joffrey Ballet at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive  
**Running time:** 2 hours with an intermission  
**Tickets:** \$36-\$214 at 312-386-8905 and [joffrey.org](http://joffrey.org)

## Staples

from Page 5

against her would've been unwise.

At this point, simply calling Staples an institution falls short of the mark. The Rock & Roll Hall of Famer began singing in her family's namesake band at 8 years old; joined the civil rights and social justice movements; played at John F. Kennedy's inauguration; marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; experienced first-hand on tour the hatred associated with segregation and racism; and, with her father and siblings, created a hybrid, idiosyncratic style of music that the group performed together for several decades.

Renowned for her radiant positivity, Staples, who turned 85 in July, is the sole survivor of her family's portent ensemble. Her sister Yvonne died in 2018, and her brother, Pervis, in 2021. Those losses, coupled with the pandemic shutdown, the usual effects of octogenarian age and an accidental fall in the summer of 2023, prompted Staples to

court retirement. Her associates went as far as to organize farewell events. But the famously restless singer reversed course.

Staples plans on releasing her first new LP in six years in 2025. The anticipated record will mark the latest in a series of studio efforts that witnessed her collaborate with younger contemporaries such as Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, M. Ward and Ben Harper.

Fittingly, Staples' later-career rebirth began in Chicago when local label Alligator Records issued her self-financed "Have a Little Faith" LP in 2004. The album title proved both instructive and prophetic for many of the highlights — a book by former Tribune critic Greg Kot, a documentary film, three Grammy Awards and Kennedy Center honors among the milestones — that followed. And by all accounts, she's not close to calling it a career yet.

Save for sitting for a few brief spells and receiving a bit of assistance entering and exiting the stage, Staples gave no indication she was slowed in any capacity. As for the

condition of her voice? Tremendous. Mighty, rich and strong, its emphatic depth, sacred bent, throaty grit and dynamic contrasts ensured each lyric and wordless expression landed with resolute passion. Whether belting at a clarion volume or shifting to a hushed, low gear, Staples' contralto exhibited incredible purity and pitch control.

On command, her instrument became a blaring trumpet, mellow French horn or sharp tenor saxophone; a demonstrative shake of a fist or consoling caress akin to a mother's hand on her child's shoulder. Akin to the hallelujahs in "Far Celestial Shore," Staples' voice rose from a whisper to a roar — and vice versa. During gospel-driven a capella runs she launched once her band completed a song, Staples testified and reasserted her purpose. The traditional approaches traced a through-line back to the river baptisms of the deep South as well as places of worship on Chicago's South and West Sides.

Preacher. Teacher. Historian. Daughter. Unifier.

Fighter. Worker. Peacemaker. Comforter. Conductor. Promise-keeper. Staples wore those hats and others, broadcasting a soulful conviction that made it obvious that to her the songs were more than words set to music. They represented belief systems, empowering messages, tireless struggles for good. Vibrating with intensity, they served as vessels for delivering on her signature live pledge to bring the audience joy, happiness, inspiration and positive vibrations.

She achieved that and more, and got a little help from her friends. The spacious, spare architecture of the arrangements, guided by longtime guitarist Rick Holmstrom, further underlined Staples' intent and clarity. His tremolo-based style, swampy reverb and snaking, spring-coiled lines fostered the sense that the sounds floated. The steady rhythm section's tempos and surplus of crisp, bounding grooves kept it all tethered.

Spurring on her colleagues, Staples shouted words of encourage-

ment between verses and refrains. She clapped to the beats, rolled her hands and extended her arms as if offering the world a hug. During a rousingly funky "Heavy Makes You Happy," she lightly slapped Holmstrom on the back as he bent forward and leaned into a solo. Her megawatt smile and aural stimulation projected an ebullience that required none of the high-definition visual production utilized by most arena headliners. Staples guaranteed you not only saw but felt her emotions.

Opens Margo Price and Jackson Browne — the former, an Illinois native, charmed with a short albeit vivid, acoustic roots-country set with her husband; the latter battled a cold that left his voice ravaged and nose dripping — joined Staples and company for "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?," the first tune her father, Pops, taught his family. The guests also traded verses on a rendition of "The Weight." By the time the classic ended, nobody doubted the load Staples could bear.

Justice, equality, love,

nonviolence: Staples presented the ideals as non-negotiables. All the while operating from a deceptively simple, common-sense premise: Have the audience feeling better when they leave than when they arrived.

Mission accomplished. May we delight in her presence again in the near future. It can't come soon enough.

Bob Gendron is a freelance critic.

### Setlist from the Auditorium Theatre on Dec. 6

- "City in the Sky"
  - "I'm Just Another Soldier"
  - "Handwriting on the Wall"
  - "Who Told You That"
  - "Can You Get to That" (Funkadelic cover)
  - "Respect Yourself"
  - "Heavy Makes You Happy" (Bobby Bloom cover)
  - "Friendship"
  - "Far Celestial Shore"
  - "Slippery People" (Talking Heads cover)
  - "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" (traditional)
  - "The Weight" (The Band cover)
  - "Nobody's Fault But Mine" into "Freedom Highway"
- Encore:** "I'll Take You There"

# What to watch MONDAY

December 9, 2024

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

## The Great British Baking Show: Holidays

Netflix ■ Season Premiere

In the two-episode seventh installment, Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith are joined by former contestants who will whip up sweet seasonal treats in their bid to take top honors.

## NFL Football: Cincinnati at Dallas

ABC & ESPN, 7 p.m. Live

Joe Burrow leads the Cincinnati Bengals into AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, to collide with the Dallas Cowboys in this Week 14 edition of Monday Night Football.



FOX

## Best Christmas Movies Ever!

The CW, 7 p.m.

Join over 50 stars, writers, athletes, directors and critics as they share the spirit of the season and discuss such beloved classics as *Home Alone*, *Elf*, *The Santa Clause*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and, of course, *Die*

Hard in this Christmas special feature.

## The Real Full Monty

FOX, 7 p.m.

Six celebrities — Taye Diggs (*All American*), James Van Der Beek (*Dawson's Creek*), Anthony Anderson (*black-ish*), Tyler Posey (*Teen Wolf*), Bruno Tonioli (*Dancing With the Stars*) and Chris Jones (Kansas City Chiefs defensive tackle) — come together to learn a striptease dance routine and bare it all to a live audience in an effort to help support prostate/testicular/colorectal cancer testing and research in this two-hour event.

## The Voice

NBC, 7 p.m. Live

Season 26 of the singing competition series comes to an end beginning tonight. Tuesday night's two-hour installment will crown the latest winner.

## NCIS

CBS, 8 p.m.

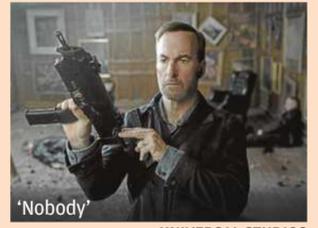
NCIS investigates a murder related to a car that begins driving on its own in the new episode "Out of Control."

## Brilliant Minds

NBC, 9 p.m.

In the fall finale, "The Other Woman," Dr. Pierce (Tamberla Perry) treats a patient in crisis, but it presents an ethical dilemma. Meanwhile, Drs. Wolf and Nichols (Zachary Quinto and Teddy Sears) disagree on how to treat a patient. *Brilliant Minds* will return with new episodes Jan. 6.

## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

**Leah's Perfect Gift** (2024, Drama) Emily Arlook, Evan Roderick **Hallmark, 5 p.m.**

**The Girl Who Escaped: The Kara Robinson Story** (2023, Docu-drama) Katie Douglas, Cara Buono **LMN, 5 p.m.**

**Deadpool 2** (2018, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin **FX, 6:30 p.m.**

**Believe in Christmas** (2024, Romance) Meghan Ory, John Reardon **Hallmark, 7 p.m.**

**Doctor Strange** (2016, Action) Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor **TNT, 7 p.m.**

**The Naughty Nine** (2023, Adventure) Winslow Fegley, Camila Rodriguez **Disney, 7 p.m.**

**Edge of Tomorrow** (2014, Science fiction) Tom Cruise, Emily Blunt **SYFY, 7:30 p.m.**

**Dr. Seuss' The Grinch** (2018, Children) Benedict Cumberbatch, Cameron Seely **Freeform, 8 p.m.**

**Danger in the Dorm** (2024, Suspense) Bethenny Frankel, Clara Alexandrova **LMN, 9 p.m.**

**The Christmas Charade** (2024, Romance) Rachel Skarsten, Corey Sevier **Hallmark, 9 p.m.**

**Godzilla vs. Kong** (2021, Science fiction) Alexander Skarsgård, Millie Bobby Brown **TNT, 9:30 p.m.**

**Nobody** (2021, Action) Bob Odenkirk, Connie Nielsen **SYFY, 10 p.m.**

From the editors of **TV Weekly** and **tvinsider.com**

## CATCH A CLASSIC

### Marilyn Monroe Icon-a-Thon

MOVIES!, beginning at 12:15 p.m.

Spend an afternoon and some of the evening with screen legend Marilyn Monroe with five films: **O. Henry's Full House** (1952), an anthology of five O. Henry stories, with Monroe appearing in the first one, "The Cop and the Anthem," alongside Charles Laughton and David Wayne; **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes** (pictured), the iconic 1953 musical comedy also starring Jane Russell; **How to Marry a Millionaire** (1953), the romantic comedy that also features Betty Grable and Lauren Bacall; **There's No Business Like Show Business** (1954), the musical comedy/drama featuring Monroe in an ensemble along with Ethel Merman, Donald O'Connor and Mitzi



20TH CENTURY FOX

Gaynor; and **Let's Make Love** (1960), Monroe's second-to-last film, a musical comedy co-starring Yves Montand.

# PLAN AHEAD

With TV Weekly Magazine  
1-855-524-6304 | www.tvweekly.com/bestof

MOVIES 24/7 GRIDS BEST BETS

# Thornton credits '1883' cameo with landing role in 'Landman'

By Uwa Ede-Osifo  
The Dallas Morning News

"Have you ever noticed when you come here to the Stockyards, you see all the guys with their starch shirt?" says Billy Bob Thornton, seated outside his room at the Hotel Drover in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Their wife's got the skirt and cowboy boots. They both have a brand new hat. You can tell they're from New Jersey," he says, laughing.

Twangs of acoustic country tunes filter out from the hotel lobby. Thornton, 69, thumbs a cigarette that he later tucks away unlit. He looks like a rock star, clad in all black, with a silver peace sign necklace around his neck. Later that day, he'd perform with his band, the Boxmasters, at Tannahill's Tavern and Music Hall after being honored there by the Lone Star Film Festival for his contributions to Texas film and TV. His latest Texas role is in Taylor Sheridan's Permian Basin oil drama, "Landman," which premiered recently on Paramount+.

Sheridan, who's known for his hit Western shows, previously tapped Thornton to play a Fort Worth marshal in "1883," a prequel to "Yellowstone."

"I went in there and shot everybody up in the saloon and got out of there," Thornton says of the cameo.

That appearance led to his role on "Landman," an adaptation of Christian Wallace's Texas Monthly podcast "Boomtown," which examines the impact of the West Texas oil boom on the politics, culture and people in the region.

Sheridan wrote the role of Tommy Norris, an oil crisis manager, for Thornton. "Essentially, I'm the



Billy Bob Thornton plays Tommy Norris, an oil crisis manager, in Taylor Sheridan's "Landman." **PARAMOUNT+**

guy who makes sure everything runs right so my boss makes his money," Thornton says, referring to his character, a middle man between the workers in the field and the bigwigs in the office.

Tommy navigates the competing interests of oil tycoons, drug kingpins and locals. He's also quick to jump into action when catastrophe strikes — an oil truck crashing into a plane; a fiery explosion that wounds workers.

"The weight of the world is on my shoulders," Thornton says of Tommy. Shooting for the show took Thornton to the oil fields of West Texas.

The weather when filming began in February was "freezing cold," he recalls, before heating up in the spring. "It was 100 degrees with 100% humidity. You get a taste of what these guys do all day long," he says. "There's something about being in the environment that you feel like that character."

Though he has lived in California for years, Thornton, who grew up in Arkansas, is a bona fide Southerner. He has had a decadeslong love affair with Texas and even has the state flag tattooed on his back, a relic from his time working on 2004's "The Alamo," where he

played Davy Crockett. He has been a go-to for other Southern characters, but his roots in the region haven't always guaranteed him a role. He has said that a casting director once told him he wasn't "Southern enough" for a part that later went to someone from New York.

Nowadays, he says, there are fewer Southern stories being told, but more Southern locations being used. He cites production in states such as Texas and Georgia for films and shows that are not necessarily set there.

When asked why that's the case, Thornton alludes to misunderstandings about the South. He brings up Sheridan, a Fort Worth native, as an example, someone people assume is "this cowboy, who's a redneck guy, whose politics are so far right... He's actually a very fair guy."

"Taylor's political belief is what mine is, which is common sense," says Thornton, now perched toward the edge of his seat.

The South's past may make it an "easy target to blame" for issues like prejudice, he says. "Everything's our fault."

"Should we hate each other? No. Do the politicians want us to? Yes." He adds with a chuckle: "That's just my personal opinion."

## Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
20					21					22					
					23	24				25					
26	27							28	29						
30					31	32					33	34	35		
36					37					38		39			
40						41						42			
					43	44	45			46	47				
					48					49					
50	51							52	53				54	55	56
57								58				59			
60								61				62			
63								64				65			

By Stella Zawistowski. © 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

12/9/24

### ACROSS

- 1 Dispose of
- 5 \_\_\_ and ends
- 9 Arroz con \_\_\_ (chicken dish)
- 14 Shanghai's continent
- 15 At no cost
- 16 Labor group
- 17 Took a tumble
- 18 Ado
- 19 Misty-eyed
- 20 Disapproving sound
- 21 "Purple Haze" artist: 2 wds.
- 23 Design details, for short
- 25 Trails behind
- 26 French Polynesian island
- 28 "I want it!"
- 30 Spoken
- 31 Got older
- 33 Soda can part
- 36 \_\_\_ and lke (candy brand)
- 37 Bowling alley divisions
- 39 Factual
- 40 "Sweetie," in modern parlance
- 41 Intend
- 42 Detest
- 43 Makes an attempt
- 46 Newspaper bigwig

### DOWN

- 1 Loony
- 2 Places into service
- 3 Thick dairy drink
- 4 Buddy
- 5 Sanctioned
- 6 Percussion instruments
- 7 Actor Arnaz
- 8 Informal get-together
- 9 New York county
- 10 Tense: 2 wds.
- 11 Untrustworthy people
- 12 Actress Petty
- 13 Black gemstone
- 21 Speedy plane
- 48 Tolerate
- 49 New Orleans footballer
- 50 Olive Garden carbs
- 54 Decide (to)
- 57 "Spider-Man" director Sam
- 58 Fairy-tale monster
- 59 Neck of the woods
- 60 Black \_\_\_ beef
- 61 Guided excursion
- 62 Kiss from a dog
- 63 Curry of the NBA
- 64 Spherical shapes
- 65 Erie or Tahoe

### Solutions

E	K	V	T	S	B	R	O	H	P	E	S	T	E	S
K	O	I	T	R	U	O	L	S	U	G	N	A	V	
V	E	R	A	V	E	G	O	I	M	A	I	R		
O	P	T		S	K	O	I	T	S	D	S		R	E
				T	N	I	A	V	S	A	R		B	E
R	O	T	I	D		S	E	I	R					
E	J	H		N	V	E	M		E	V		B	A	E
U	E	L	T	S	E	N	V	T	K	E		I	W	
A	B	T	A		D	E	G	A	V	A		O	R	A
				E	M	W	I	G		I	T	I	H	A
				S	G	V	L		S	C		S	P	E
X	I	R	D	N	E	H	I	M	I	J		K		S
Y	A	V	E	T	S	S	S	U	F		T	L	E	F
N	O	I	N	U	E	R	E	F	A	V	I	A	V	
O	L	T	O	P	S	D	O		D	U	M	P		

- 22 Shade tree
- 24 Heap
- 26 Burial place
- 27 Opera song
- 28 Units of heredity
- 29 "What's the big \_\_\_?"
- 32 Soccer or softball
- 33 Casual Italian eatery
- 34 Car or truck
- 35 Ale, e.g.
- 38 Workout shoes
- 39 Slender
- 43 Work together: 2 wds.
- 44 Pungent veggie
- 45 Tax-collecting agency: Abbr.
- 47 Trash-talk
- 48 Light brown shade
- 49 Clean with a brush
- 50 Swimsuit tops
- 51 Tirade
- 52 Dorothy's dog
- 53 Composer Stravinsky
- 55 Actor Gregory
- 56 Seize
- 59 100%

**Horoscopes**



**Today's birthday** (Dec. 9): Fortune follows partnership this year. Fulfill your domestic visions with steady incremental steps. Your career blossoms this spring. Adjust around a summer change of heart, before savoring autumn delights at home with family. Discover new winter career directions. Share your heart, ideas and dreams together.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): Today is a 9. You're growing stronger. Personal matters take focus. Your experience makes you attractive. Imagine winning. Go for it and keep your eyes on the prize.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): 6. Rest and recharge. Review the current situation and make plans. Consider things philosophically. Avoid provoking jealousies by staying sensitive to others. Practice soothing rituals.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): 8. Rely on each other. Share ideas and information with friends. Support community goals, wishes and dreams. Avoid snarky commentary.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): 9. Take advantage of being in the professional spotlight. You're attracting the attention of someone influential. Show respect and gain love. Stay on task.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. Time to expand your territory. Keep your objectives in mind. Plan routes in advance to avoid delays and traffic. Get adventurous. Investigate possibilities.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. A lack of funds would mess with your plans. Manage accounts and budgets. Stay in communication with interested parties. Contribute to support your family.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. Compromise. Negotiate with your partner to refine the plan. Strategize and align your interests. Imagine perfection, work out the steps and coordinate who does what.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 9. Focus on physical labors. Prioritize health and fitness. The pace is picking up. A change to the status quo is possible. Watch for openings.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 8. Relax. Games and fun require your attention. You're attractive and attracted. Give in to unexpected visits or spontaneous diversion. Fall in love again.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 7. Household issues need focus now. Stick close to home and get your chores done. Plan a project to beautify and improve your family's space.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 8. Participate in interesting conversations. You can learn what you need. Update your skills. Brief your team on a brilliant idea. Listen and share options.

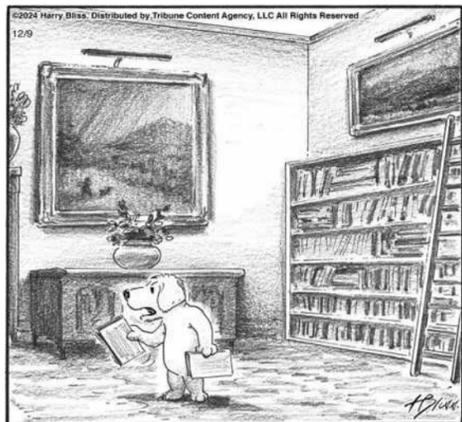
**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): 9. Maintain momentum. You can find resources from unexpected sources. Invest in success. Follow an elder's advice. Prioritize basics. Build and grow.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

**The Argyle Sweater** By Scott Hilburn



**Bliss** By Harry Bliss



**Bridge**

Here are the answers to the weekly quiz:

**Q.1**—Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:  
♠ KJ ♥ AJ96 ♦ Q94 ♣ J753

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦	Dbl*	2♦
?			

**\*Negative**

What call would you make?

**A.1**—Bid 2H. You must show a major in this position, if you have one, no matter how minimum you are.

**Q.2**—North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:  
♠ K ♥ AKJ32 ♦ KQ5 ♣ 10764

South	West	North	East
1♥	Dbl	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

**A.2**—Pass. Do not bid 3H. This hand has great defensive prospects.

**Q.3**—East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:  
♠ A8 ♥ J9 ♦ 8762 ♣ AKJ97

East	South	West	North
1♦	2♣	Pass	2♦*
Pass	?		

**\*Club raise, at least invitational values**

What call would you make?

**A.3**—There are things to like about this hand, but it is still a minimum 2-level overcall. Bid 3C.

**Q.4**—Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:  
♠ J983 ♥ Q1085 ♦ AQ3 ♣ 82

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	2♦	?

What call would you make?

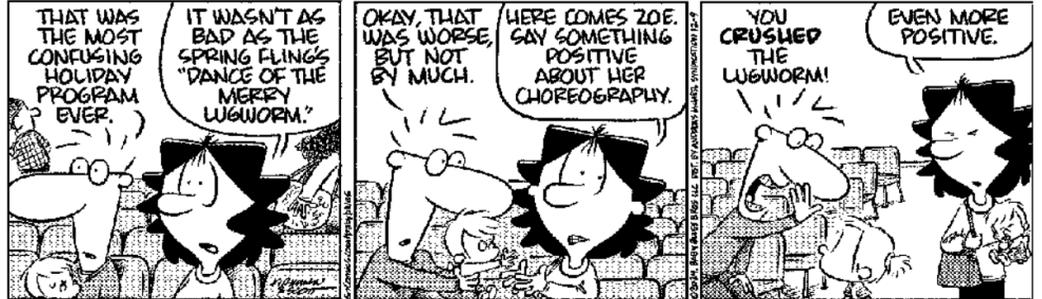
**A.4**—Double, for takeout. This is a Responsive Double, the same as a negative double but used by the side that did not open the bidding, after the opponents have bid and raised the same suit.

— Bob Jones  
Tribune Content Agency

**Grand Avenue** By Mike Thompson



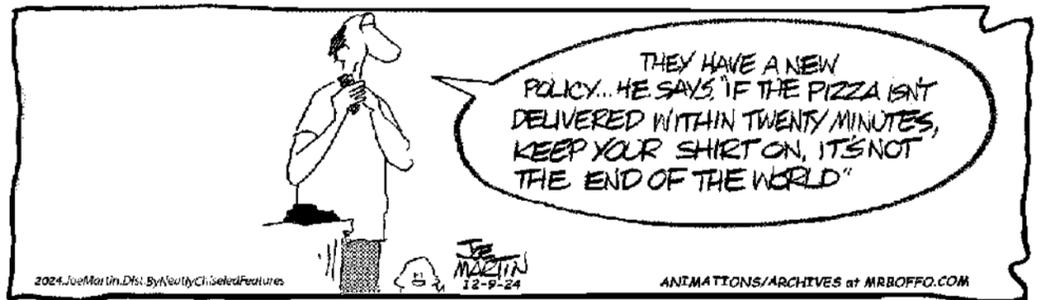
**Baby Blues** By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



**Mr. Boffo** By Joe Martin



**Frazz** By Jef Mallett



**Classic Peanuts** By Charles Schulz



**Pickles** By Brian Crane



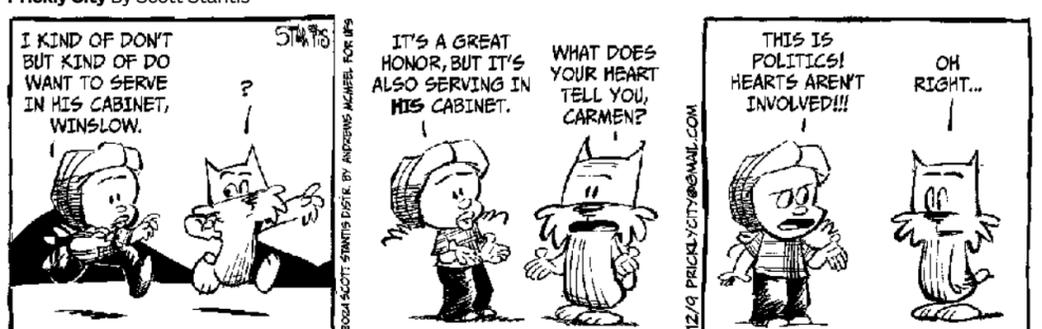
**Dick Tracy** By Charles Ettinger and Mike Curtis



**Animal Crackers** By Mike Osburn



**Prickly City** By Scott Stantis





# BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

## SUDOKU

3		6	5					8
								7
			4					2
			8	3				
		1				8		9
2				6				4
5		8				6		
				7	4			
9	4				3			
	8				1	2		3

Level **1** 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit from 1 to 9. For strategies on solving Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](https://www.sudoku.org.uk).

3	4	2	1	5	6	7	8	9
5	1	7	3	8	9	2	6	4
8	6	9	4	7	3	5	1	2
7	2	6	9	4	1	8	3	5
4	5	1	8	3	6	7	2	9
9	3	8	5	7	2	1	6	4
6	6	5	2	3	8	4	7	1
2	7	3	6	4	1	9	5	8
1	8	7	4	6	5	9	2	3

© 2021 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

3/15/21

## BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

H	R	P	B
M	C	I	F
L	A	K	N
P	E	O	E

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

**BOGGLE POINT SCALE**  
 3 letters = 1 point  
 4 letters = 2 points  
 5 letters = 3 points  
 6 letters = 4 points  
 7 letters = 6 points  
 8 letters = 10 points  
 9+ letters = 15 points

**YOUR BOGGLE RATING**  
 151+ = Champ  
 101-150 = Expert  
 61-100 = Pro  
 31-60 = Gamer  
 21-30 = Rookie  
 11-20 = Amateur  
 0-10 = Try again

**Boggle BrainBusters Bonus**  
 We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?  
 Find AT LEAST SIX TREES in the grid of letters.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

BOGGLE is a trademark of Hasbro, Inc. © 2022 Hasbro, Inc. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All Rights Reserved. [www.bogglebrainbusters.com](https://www.bogglebrainbusters.com)

## WordWheel

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

© 2023 Knight Features. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. 1/27

## WORD SEARCH

### Wordsearch: Stamp collecting

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

S Q S R E L A E D K R K T W O W I X  
 D E N Q I N T E R N A T I O N A L I  
 I O R A C C N G I S E D L U C S I T  
 D N M A H O Y P H Z G Z O F A P F Q  
 E A V J R L N O I T A R O F R E P C  
 N C F E I O W S S G D Y O F G C F O  
 O A G B S R H T S D X L L A N I F M  
 M T K A T T P A U T I H G C I A O M  
 I A H Z M W M G E O E E Q E T L D E  
 N L S I A C E E J T Q I N V N I E M  
 A O Z L S I O E N W J A N A U T K O  
 T G V G F T P N Z T P K N L O Y A R  
 I I T K H R O E D E A L B U M C O A  
 O H I N G E S R V I R F I E T Z S T  
 N N M G I A D T I R T H X J J V F I  
 J T E B R M Y G U C A I V Z U V U O  
 Y B B O H K X H E D A R O N N Q X N  
 P H I L A T E L Y K Y L N N A C O P

- ALBUM
- CATALOG
- CHRISTMAS
- COLOR
- COMMEMORATION
- CONDITION
- DEALERS
- DENOMINATION
- DESIGN
- EDGE
- FACE VALUE
- FOLIO
- HINGE
- HISTORICAL
- HOBBY
- INTERNATIONAL
- INVESTMENT
- ISSUE
- MAIL
- MINT
- MOUNTING
- PANE
- PERFORMANCE
- PHILATELY
- POSTAGE
- RARE
- SOAKED OFF
- SPECIALITY
- STUDY
- TWEezer

## TV CROSSWORD

by Ricky Cruz

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12					13	
14			15					16	
17			18			19			
20								21	
22									22
23									
24									
25									
26									
27									
28	29	30				31			
32									
33									
34									
35									
36									
37									
38									
39									
40									
41									
42									
43									
44									
45									
46									
47									
48									
49									
50									
51									

Created by Ricky Cruz

6/9/24

### ACROSS

- Question
- Nationality of Hong Chau
- "Documentary Now!" channel
- Solo
- Hip hop's Kris
- "What?"
- Wong of "Beef"
- Voice of Mario in "The Super Mario Bros. Super Show!"
- Phoebe played by Lisa Kudrow
- Pet (annoyance)
- Two, in French
- Detective Wolfe
- Muscle
- French state
- "Survivor" game-changers
- "White People"
- Oteri of "SNL" fame
- Kurylenko of "Treason"
- Prefix before -pus
- Spin on a record?
- Wide, as an angle
- Ninja turtle with a purple mask

### DOWN

- Type of screen
- Atlantic coast time zone
- Some native Canadians
- AFTRA
- Arthur of "Maude"
- Wise, as advice
- "We There Yet?"
- "Moby Dick" captain
- Spanish toast
- Kitchen cutter
- Donald Glover's "Community" role
- Director Hsiao-hsien
- Stat
- Wes Anderson's "\_\_\_ of Dogs"
- "There's no other choice"
- "Four Weddings and a \_\_\_"
- Margaret of "Drop Dead Diva"
- Sound effect for some wrong answers on "QI"
- Cumberbatch of "Sherlock"
- Show following Philip J. Fry
- Extra quarters (abbr.)
- Cage of 2023's "Renfield"
- Old-timey suffix
- Hair color
- Wedding vow
- Place
- Friend of Blue, on "Blue's Clues"
- Will Smith film based on an Asimov story
- "\_\_\_ King" (Sylvester Stallone crime series)
- Nuñez of "The Office"
- "True"
- Warrior Princess
- "Rolie Polie \_\_\_"
- Rim
- Interior secretary Haaland
- Carry, as furniture

R	E	S	A	G	E	S	B	E
G	A	V	E	N	I	T	S	
D	O	T	L	E	T	Y	N	O
S	E	L	O	X	I	H	R	
O	U	T	O	W	E	T	O	
S	T	O	D	A	L	I	N	W
L	I	V	E	D	E	N	O	I
O	R	E	N	X	E	D		
E	A	E	E	A	V	E	N	B
O	N	V	A	T	O	R	I	V
H	N	H	S	O	R	K	N	V
C	E	I	L	V	H	L	K	S

© 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All Rights Reserved. 6/9/24

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIWTL

SEMSY

PSOOEP

NEIYNT

© 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

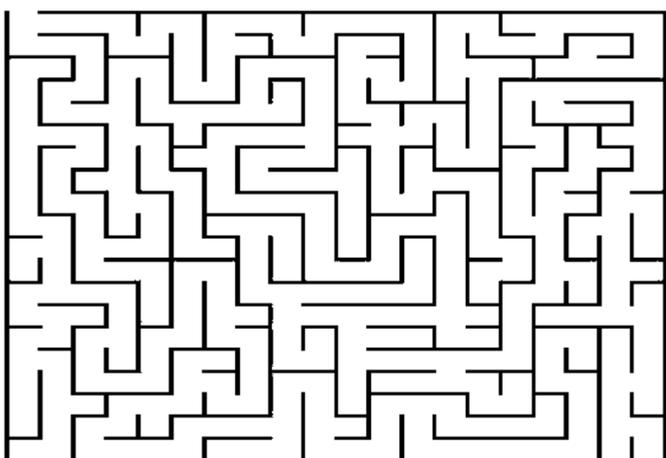
Inland near Sicily	Enlata again	Blank in poetry	Only Time singer	Correo (Spanish a mail)	19-wheeler	Katey of "The Big Bang Theory"	Appropriate for a children's rating
		Eggs - brunch dish					
Walk in water	Fairy tale second word		Stay with, as a decision		Fellow, in British slang		
So eat year	Kick off	Wall St letters			Mr. Rogers' Foal's mom		
			Od flaries				Birds in a gaggle
Soor	Not naughty	Go angling	Reasons	Energy type	All excited - tiny amount		
			USN rank			Dal as act	Coomy guy
Fran Dublin			The "K" in Kmart				
			Himalaya's legend		Greek letters		
Hwy. crossings	Mil. command bases		Dense				

© 2021 Knight Features. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency.

8/15/21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

## KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



## FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



Chicago Tribune

# CHICAGO SPORTS

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

49ERS 38, BEARS 13

## Into the ground



49ers defensive end Leonard Floyd (56) sacks Bears quarterback Caleb Williams (18) on Sunday at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

### In their first game after coaching change, Bears thoroughly dominated by 49ers

By Colleen Kane | Chicago Tribune

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The Bears already have endured a brutal season.

On Sunday, 10 days after team leaders fired coach Matt Eberflus, the state of the Bears looked even worse in a 38-13 loss to the 49ers at Levi's Stadium.

The 49ers outgained the Bears 319 yards to 4 in the first half on the way to a 24-0 halftime lead, and the Bears (4-9) couldn't catch up despite a better second half in their seventh straight loss.

The defense under new play caller Eric Washington, who took over the role from Eberflus, gave up 452 yards to a 49ers team decimated by injuries.

And in interim coach Thomas Brown's

**UP NEXT**  
Bears at Vikings  
7 p.m. Dec. 16, ABC-7

debut, the Bears offense managed just 162 net yards. Quarterback Caleb Williams completed 17 of 23 passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns. He was sacked seven times for a loss of 46 yards and lost a fumble.

After the dismal first half, the Bears opened the third quarter with a 16-play, 70-yard touchdown drive. Williams hit Rome Odunze in the back left corner of the end zone for a 4-yard pass. Tight end Cole Kmet dropped the 2-point conversion pass,

Turn to Bears, Page 2

### Bears' execs will need to convince head coach candidates who's really in charge

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — There will be no shortage of top names attached to the Bears head coach opening. It will be a coveted job both for those who want it — and for those who want the team to be interested in them for whatever leverage that could create elsewhere.

The Bears became the third NFL team to have a job opening when they fired Matt Eberflus on Nov. 29, joining the New Orleans Saints and New York Jets. When the last pink slip is handed out on Black Monday, there likely will be at least six and possibly eight or more teams seeking a new coach.

The Bears will have to sell their job



**Brad Biggs**  
On the Bears

based on more than just rookie quarterback Caleb Williams. Thomas Brown, who made the rapid climb from passing game coordinator to offensive coordinator to interim head coach, figures to receive an interview, although Sunday's debut against the depleted San Francisco 49ers at Levi's Stadium wasn't encouraging.

Generally teams grant an interview to the interim coach who guided them to the finish line. How well the Bears play down the stretch and respond to Brown will factor into how seriously he's considered. A decision can't be based on a win total alone

Turn to Biggs, Page 2

### Are Blackhawks just spinning their wheels?



**Paul Sullivan**  
In the Wake of the News

Blackhawks coach Anders Sorensen was asked before his first game Saturday if he was going into his new job thinking about the playoffs.

Sorensen looked at me like I was on hallucinogens or had just stepped on the team logo in the locker room, the cardinal sin for media members.

I couldn't blame him. The Hawks, after all, have the NHL's worst record and are in a rebuild that's progressing like the bottom step of a broken escalator.

"Yeah, we're taking it one day at a time here," Sorensen said. "The biggest message for us is we'll try to get better today, and then tomorrow we'll get better again. Improving every day is a big part of it. If it's 1% per day, then over 30 days that's 30%. We're trying to get to that."

It was a ridiculous question, naturally, but it had to be asked after center Jason Dickinson said Friday the coaching change



Blackhawks center Connor Bedard looks on during a break in the action in the third period against the Jets on Saturday at the United Center. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

was made with enough time left for the Hawks to contend.

Dickinson insisted it's "on the players now" to get things fixed. "It's not that (the switch was) surprising," he said. "There's not a good time you need to make the decision. It's not too late in the season. There's still hope. There's lots of hockey. You can win a lot of games in a row and put yourself right back into the conversation. It's maybe a little bit better sooner rather than

Turn to Sullivan, Page 3

#### COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

##### First-round games

**(10) Indiana at (7) Notre Dame**  
7 p.m. Dec. 20,  
ABC-7/ESPN

**(11) SMU at (6) Penn State**  
11 a.m. Dec. 21, TNT

**(12) Clemson at (5) Texas**  
3 p.m. Dec. 21, TNT

**(9) Tennessee at (8) Ohio State**  
7 p.m. Dec. 21,  
ABC-7/ESPN

##### Quarterfinals

**Fiesta Bowl:** (3) Boise State vs. 6-11 winner  
6:30 p.m. Dec. 31, ABC-7/ESPN

**Peach Bowl:** (4) Arizona State vs. 5-12 winner  
Noon Jan. 1, ABC-7/ESPN

**Rose Bowl:** (1) Oregon vs. 8-9 winner  
4 p.m. Jan. 1, ABC-7/ESPN

**Sugar Bowl:** (2) Georgia vs. 7-10 winner  
7:45 p.m. Jan. 1, ABC-7/ESPN

**Semifinals**  
**Orange Bowl:** 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9, ESPN

**Cotton Bowl:** 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10, ESPN

**Championship**  
6:30 p.m. Jan. 20 in Atlanta, ESPN

##### CITRUS BOWL

**Illinois vs. South Carolina**  
2 p.m. Dec. 31, ABC-7

**FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL**  
**Northern Illinois vs. Fresno State**  
1:30 p.m. Dec. 23, ESPN

■ Coverage, Back Page

#### WHITE SOX

### Allen gets ultimate honor: Hall of Fame

Classic baseball era committee elects Sox great, MVP, All-Star

By LaMond Pope  
Chicago Tribune

DALLAS — Dick Allen earned National League Rookie of the Year honors in 1964 with the Philadelphia Phillies.

He was voted the American League Most Valuable Player in 1972 while playing for the Chicago White Sox.

And Sunday, Allen became a Hall of Famer after gaining induction through the classic baseball era committee voting.

Allen, who died in 2020 at age 78, surpassed the 75% threshold for election in a vote from the 16-member committee.

The only other election made by the committee this year was Dave Parker. Allen was named on 13 of 16 ballots and Parker was on 14 of 16.

The committee considered players, managers, umpires and executives whose greatest contributions to the sport were before 1980.

Allen had 351 home runs, 1,119



Dick Allen was center stage on Nov. 15, 1972, during a news conference at Comiskey Park after he was named AL MVP. CHICAGO TRIBUNE

RBI's and a .292 career average during a 15-year major-league career with the Phillies (1963-69, '75-76), St. Louis Cardinals (1970), Los Angeles Dodgers (1971), Sox (1972-74) and Oakland Athletics (1977). During his 11-year peak (1964-74), Allen's 165 OPS+ was the top in baseball.

Turn to Allen, Page 3

Team	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 BEARS					Next game Dec. 16 @MIN
 BULLS					CHA 7 p.m.   CHSN
 BLACKHAWKS	@NYR 6 p.m.   CHSN			@NYI 6:30 p.m.   CHSN	



Bears quarterback Caleb Williams is sacked by 49ers defensive tackle Maliek Collins in the second quarter on Sunday at Levi's Stadium. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Bears

from Page 1

and the Bears trailed 24-6.

The Bears were into 49ers territory on their second drive of the half after a defensive stop, but Williams committed a turnover on second-and-8 at the 30-yard line. He originally was ruled to have thrown an incomplete pass, but replay assist ruled it was a fumble that 49ers defensive tackle Evan Anderson recovered.

The 49ers capitalized with Isaac Guerendo's 4-yard touchdown run for a 31-6 lead. Guerendo, the 49ers' third-string running back filling in for the injured Christian McCaffrey and Jordan Mason, had 78 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

Quarterback Brock Purdy completed 20 of 25 passes for 325 yards, two touchdowns and a 145.4 passer rating for the 49ers (6-7). Tight end George Kittle had six catches for 151 yards, with 138 of those yards coming in the first half.

The Bears scored their second touchdown on Williams' 14-yard pass to Odunze to cut it to 31-13 early in the fourth quarter. But Patrick Taylor Jr. scored on a 3-yard run to put the 49ers on top

38-13.

The Bears lost wide receiver/returner DeAndre Carter to a hamstring injury in the first quarter. Running back Travis Homer went out with a head injury in the third quarter.

The Bears' first half of football in the post-Eberflus era was ugly.

They had more punts (five) than net yards (4) while giving up 319 yards to the 49ers. Williams was sacked four times — all on third down — for a loss of 30 yards. The running game consisted of D'Andre Swift's four carries for 7 yards.

The 49ers took a 7-0 lead on the opening drive on Purdy's 7-yard touchdown pass to Jauan Jennings, who was open between Jonathan Owens and Tyrrique Stevenson. Purdy had back-to-back passes of 23 and 33 yards to Guerendo and Kittle on the drive.

Guerendo made it 14-0 late in the first quarter with a 1-yard touchdown run. That followed his 27-yard catch from Purdy. Kittle also had a 32-yard catch on the drive.

Purdy's 16-yard pass to Jennings midway through the second quarter made it 21-0, and Jake Moody's 23-yard field goal with 1 minute, 50 seconds to play in the half increased the 49ers lead to 24-0.



49ers running back Isaac Guerendo (31) scores a touchdown during the first quarter against the Bears on Sunday at Levi's Stadium. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Biggs

from Page 1

in just five games that won't matter in the big picture.

Multiple sources indicate the Bears already have started talking to people behind the scenes, laying the groundwork for future discussions with candidates they want to be part of the process.

The news conference last Monday with President/CEO Kevin Warren and general manager Ryan Poles was a dud. No one wins one of those when the team is explaining why it sacked the coach with five games and two years remaining on his contract. But the Bears took a bigger loss than was required. Everyone has watched it.

The explanation was flubbed for why Eberflus was allowed to conduct a day-after-game Zoom session with media shortly before he was fired. Warren's attempt to rationalize the timeline made about as much sense as Eberflus' recounting of why he ended the Thanksgiving Day loss in Detroit with a timeout in hand. Just own it: "We screwed up. We need to be better."

Warren made it clear that, at least behind the scenes, he'll be leading the charge to hire the next coach. Poles will be the point man in the operation, but Warren has all the juice and he made sure everyone is aware.

"We'll work that out," Warren said when asked who would have

final say if the two didn't reach a consensus on the hire. "Again, Ryan is the general manager. He's head of football operations, so he would have the final say if it ever got to that point. But I'm confident that we will work through it."

"The good thing about it is so long as we keep the center of our decisions what's in the best interest of the Chicago Bears, our players, as we go forward it will become clear as far as who is the person who should lead this franchise from a football standpoint and a coaching standpoint."

This arrangement doesn't come as a surprise. Warren makes sure the spotlight is on himself. The Bears held a news conference in April to introduce their lakefront stadium plan the day before an NFL draft they hoped would transform the organization. Fortunately, Williams has gone over better than that news conference.

One item that was left unclear is if anyone else will have a significant hand in the process. The duo was asked if the team would involve a search firm, which is more common when teams are hiring a GM than a coach.

"We have not made that decision right now," Poles said. "We are going to lean on both of us and our entire organization, everyone in that think tank, and make sure we make the best decision."

One longtime league executive believes that was a sign the Bears at least have floated the idea internally. Whether that's true, who knows, but Poles didn't

dismiss the possibility and he's pretty straightforward in these settings.

"That tells me they haven't flushed it out yet, and that's a stupid way to hire a coach," the executive said. "That's what colleges do."

It's certainly possible the Bears won't involve a search firm, and between now and the end of the season, you'd imagine they will need to make clear how the process will play out. The more transparent the organization is about how the search will be conducted — not the ins and outs but the general parameters in place — the better chance the Bears have of earning faith with a skeptical fan base that has seen the team make poor hire after poor hire.

The news conference doesn't matter nearly as much to potential candidates as direct communication with Warren and Poles — when the time comes for that — and intel they can gather from those they know who are tied in to Halas Hall. The Bears have an opportunity to emerge on the other side of this in a much better position.

Poles will need to be portrayed as a GM in a stable situation. The news conference didn't project that message, but Poles wasn't going to look gung-ho and eager 72 hours after firing Eberflus, with whom he has a close relationship. That's understandable. Poles needs to be on steady ground because that will be one of the first questions a coaching

candidate has.

"I am definitely going to ask who am I reporting to," the executive said. "What is that structure like? Who am I meeting with every week? Am I meeting with Ryan and then Kevin and then George (McCaskey) also? Tell me how many times I have to do that. I've got to run this football team."

"Who has final decision on the 53-man roster? Who do I have to go to when we are hiring assistant coaches? Who has that authority? If I get a bunch of, 'Well, we're all going to do it together,' that says something to me as a candidate. That kind of confirms the press conference. OK, I really think that Kevin is my boss and I have to be good with that."

The new coach will have to feel good about Poles because even if Warren wields the power, Poles is the one the coach will be sitting in a room with late at night, not Warren.

I don't want to make assumptions on the length of Poles' contract. But Eberflus was hired with a five-year contract, and it would make sense that Poles' deal when he was hired in January 2022 was for the same length. Both were represented by former Bears defensive lineman Trace Armstrong.

You can't rule out the possibility Poles will receive a contract extension as evidence he's on solid ground and to have the new football duo aligned. That's just me speculating at this juncture and there's no salary cap for the

front office, so we're only talking about McCaskey money here.

Every candidate will see untapped potential in Williams. The Bears' top choice will need to believe Poles and his staff can get the roster right around the quarterback. Poles has to sell himself, and that's an area where he probably can do well: meeting face to face with head coaching candidates.

The Bears have to be humble in the process. They have to be forthright about where mistakes were made. They have to be convincing that they get it. They were embarrassed on national television in Detroit and they've lost a series of games in the closing moments in ways you can't imagine a team doing in such a short period of time.

They have to convince the best candidates for the job that, after a grueling midseason stretch and awkward news conference, they have Halas Hall in order. They must communicate that message and they have about four more weeks to contemplate precisely how to accomplish that.

Two sources said a plus here is Warren likely will have the green light to spend as necessary to make the right hires — and that's plural because a head coach is only as good as his assistants.

"You hate saying the decisions are going to set the trajectory of the franchise over the next 10 to 15 to 20 years," Warren said. "This is one that will."

Dream big.

## SPORTS

76ERS 108, BULLS 100

## Bulls lose their offensive identity in loss

By Julia Poe | Chicago Tribune

The Bulls sank back into a losing streak with a 108-100 loss to the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday.

The 100-point result was one of the lowest-scoring games of the season since Nov. 6, when the Bulls finished one of only three games this season with fewer than 100 points. And the Bulls continued the same frustrating trend of the season — if the offense can't outscore their opponent, the defense can't win the game.

Here are six takeaways from the loss.

**1. The Bulls lost their offensive identity.** This matchup was a clear clash of playing styles. The Bulls are the fastest team in the NBA. The 76ers are the second-slowest. And most of the offensive battle was predicated on which team's ethos would win out.

For the first quarter, the Bulls held the upper hand. They badgered the 76ers on defense and sprang into action quickly on offense, scoring 10 points in the fast break and taking 23 shots (including 12 from 3-point range) in the first quarter alone. But the 76ers ground that down to a halt in the second quarter, aided by the methodical offense anchored around center Joel Embiid.

The Bulls only scored eight more points in transition in the rest of the game. And while they kept their 3-point shot volume up — finishing with 54 attempts from behind the arc — the offense struggled to involve center Nikola Vučević for the second game in a row.

Vučević took only seven shots in the game, finishing with 13 points. Only two games after the center ripped off 39 points in a win over San Antonio, the Bulls offense will spend the next four days without a game searching for an answer to maintaining their shooting volume while utilizing the center more effectively.

"We've got to be able to post feed better," coach Billy Donovan said. "(Vučević) could have had a much, much better offensive night. They were switching him out top, so the 3s weren't there. He rolled into the post. I thought there were way too many passes deflected, tipped away, where we've got to find him. ... He's so unselfish. We've just got to be better at executing passes to him."

**2. Second quarters are trending in the wrong direction.** For the second game in a row, the second quarter broke the Bulls in an otherwise even performance.

The Bulls scored only 17 points in the second quarter Sunday while shooting 2-for-12 from behind the arc. No player made more than one field goal in the quarter as Vučević scored a team-high four points. It was a complete offensive breakdown, fueled by a slight shift in defense from the 76ers — and a complete collapse in transition points as the 76ers finally began to hit their shots.



76ers center Joel Embiid drives to the basket against Bulls guard Josh Giddey and center Nikola Vučević, right, at the United Center on Sunday. **NAM Y. HUH/AP**

While the Bulls went 5-for-20 from the field in the second quarter, the 76ers went 16-for-25 — and only three of those misses occurred inside the 3-point arc.

**3. Joel Embiid continued his dominant trend in Chicago.** The key to the game-changing second quarter came down to Embiid, who provided his best outing of an up-and-down season.

Embiid missed his first seven shots of the game — but once he warmed up, he returned to his typical form, scoring 31 points while tallying 12 rebounds to anchor the 76ers offense.

Embiid has always seemed to hold a particular knack for beating the Bulls. He held a career 14-2 record against the franchise entering Sunday. The Bulls' first win against Embiid didn't come until a double overtime victory in March 2023 — nearly nine years after he was drafted into the NBA.

For the Bulls, only one player could provide a defensive counter: guard Lonzo Ball, who was deployed in a series of double team traps on post-ups to barrage and bother Embiid into mistakes.

Donovan said Ball was cleared by the medical staff prior to the game to elevate his minutes restriction to 20 minutes, which allowed him to play eight minutes in the fourth quarter, including the last two minutes in the closing rotation. But the Bulls couldn't slow Embiid without Ball on the floor.

**4. Matas Buzelis grew to meet the moment.** The growth of rookie Matas Buzelis remains a crucial bright spot for the Bulls, even in losses. Buzelis has often thrived against lower-level teams and struggled against heavy hitters like the Boston Celtics. The 76ers don't fall cleanly into either category, but their stars still offer a challenging test — and Buzelis passed on Sunday.

The rookie tallied five points, three rebounds and a block in nearly 24 minutes against the 76ers. Donovan played Buzelis for nearly 14 minutes straight in the second half. It was his longest stretch of the season — and earned by his rebounding and defensive rotation, which was crucial for the Bulls in the fourth quarter.

Although Buzelis was frustrated with his shooting (2-for-7 from the floor, 0-for-5 from 3-point range), his ability to affect the game regardless of scoring is a promising sign for a young player trying to earn a regular rotation.

Buzelis also embraced the opportunity to face off against Paul George, who he idolized as a young player. And after trying to keep it all business during the game — "On the court, I'm not friends with anybody," the rookie said — Buzelis spoke to George after the game and received encouragement from the veteran.

"He told me to just keep pushing," Buzelis said. "It means a lot. I try to instill his game into my workouts and I try to reflect what he does on the court."

**5. Andre Drummond was welcomed home.** Sunday marked a homecoming for former Bulls center Andre Drummond, who played the last two seasons in Chicago before returning to Philadelphia as a free agent.

Drummond could barely walk five feet at the United Center before the game Sunday without being bombarded with hugs from Bulls staffers and players. Donovan praised Drummond pregame for his energy and effort during his tenure with the Bulls.

Although Drummond has been a crucial backup for the 76ers this season — plugging in for Embiid throughout the starter's stop-and-start injury recovery — he played less than seven minutes on Sunday, all of which came in the first quarter. Drummond tallied four points and seven rebounds in that initial rotation. But once Embiid was up and running, the 76ers didn't return to their backup center for the duration of the game.

**6. The Bulls honored Bob Love.** The entire Bulls roster wore No. 10 pins to honor the memory of Bob Love, who would have turned 82 on Sunday. The Love family was in attendance for the game and the Bulls took several moments to highlight the deceased star.

Love died on Nov. 18 after a long battle with cancer. He is memorialized by the Bulls as a member of the Ring of Honor and was the second player to ever have his jersey retired by the team.



Teammates cluster around and congratulate Dick Allen after the White Sox slugger's home run ended a 21-inning marathon on May 28, 1973. **CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Allen

from Page 1

He earned seven All-Star selections, including three with the Sox.

"He said, '(Philadelphia), that was my start — if I don't have that, I don't have anything,'" his son, Richard Allen Jr., told the Tribune in a recent phone interview. "But he said, 'Chicago, a beautiful place to play.' He loved Chicago, loved the city, the fans."

After navigating through Philadelphia's minor-league system, including facing racism while breaking the color barrier in the state at Triple-A Little Rock, Ark., Allen joined the Phillies late in 1963. The next season, he had 29 home runs, 91 RBIs and 125 runs — and also hit 13 triples — while batting .318 on the way to being named the NL Rookie of the Year.

Allen earned All-Star selections from 1965-67 with the Phillies. He was traded to St. Louis ahead of the 1970 season and the Cardinals dealt him to the Dodgers after that year.

The Sox acquired him in a December

1971 trade, sending Tommy John and Steve Huntz to the Dodgers.

Allen hit .307 with 85 home runs and 242 RBIs in his three years with the Sox, including a .308 average with 37 home runs, 113 RBIs, 99 walks and a .603 slugging percentage during his MVP season. He was credited with reviving a franchise that had possibly been on the verge of relocating.

"He was an incredible player, man," former Sox teammate Jerry Hairston Sr. recently told the Tribune in a phone interview.

Allen spent two more years in Philadelphia and his final season with the Athletics. His best showing while on the BBWAA ballot for the Hall of Fame was 18.9 percent. He fell one shy of election in various committee votes for the Hall of Fame held late in 2014 and 2021.

Cooperstown came calling for Allen and his family on Sunday. Induction will take place on July 27.

"I'm sure (his family members) realize he was a great player," former Sox teammate Steve Stone recently told the Tribune in a phone interview. "But this will cement the fact that he was one of the greatest players."

## Sullivan

from Page 1

later, because that way you've still got a chance.

"Whether we make the playoffs or not, that's still to be determined. But to see growth and some sort of potential coming out of the latter half of this season, that's really what is possible here. If you wait until the last few weeks of the season, maybe you've got some guys that are checked out, guys that are just moving on, (saying) 'it's over.' Right now there is still hope, there's still a lot to play for."

Dickinson is technically right. The Hawks have 3½ months left this season to figure things out.

It would take a complete and unforeseeable turnaround, which is what the Edmonton Oilers did last season, starting out 3-9-1 before replacing their coach and eventually going on a 16-game winning streak that launched them to a 104-point season and Stanley Cup Final appearance.

Now back to reality, already in progress. According to The Athletic's projections, the Hawks have a 15% chance at the No. 1 draft pick and less than a 1% chance of making the playoffs. Based on their current status and a lackluster 14-shot effort in Saturday's 4-2 loss to the Winnipeg Jets, there's nothing for Hawks veterans to play for but a chance to escape at the trade deadline.

And for Connor Bedard and the youth corps, it's just a chance to prove the team has a bright future.

The Hawks will begin a three-game New York/New Jersey trip on Monday at Madison Square Garden against the Rangers with a league-worst 8-17-2 record.

With 18 points, they're already 13 points out of a wild-card spot, and starting goaltender Petr Mrázek went on injured reserve Sunday with a left groin injury incurred during Saturday's game. Drew Comesso was called up from Rockford to back up Arvid Söderblom in net, and the Hawks also recalled defenseman Kevin Korchinski.

Of course, if they do improve 1% every day, as Sorensen hopes, they'll be 118% better by the final regular-season game April 15 in Ottawa.

So there's that. General manager Kyle Davidson believed the team he assembled was significantly better than last season's, or else he would've let coach Luke Richardson continue to lose under the pretense of rebuilding. Whether Davidson is deluded by his own genius is to be determined. No one else considered this team a huge upgrade.

The last time the Hawks brought up a Rockford coach to the big league was six

years ago, when the dynasty era officially ended. The Hawks fired coach Joel Quenneville on Nov. 6, 2018, after they failed to make the playoffs for the first time in his reign and replaced him with IceHogs coach Jeremy Colliton, who was 12 games into his second AHL season.

"A decision like this isn't made on one game, one play or one specific thing," then-GM Stan Bowman said. "It's sort of a collection of things."

Davidson gave the same general response to Richardson's early season firing, saying it was "more of a big-picture number of different things."

The Hawks have been to the post-season only once since Quenneville's dismissal, and that was when they were gerrymandered into the 2020 playoffs due to the COVID-19 regular-season cancellation in March. The NHL went straight to the playoffs when play resumed in May with an expanded 24-team field. The Hawks had a 2.5% chance of making the post-season until the format change, which is only a little better than this season's chances.

If Sorensen's strong suit is developing young players, it makes sense to bring up top prospects such as Korchinski and Frank Nazar, whom he had in Rockford, to get the pipeline flowing. Based on the general malaise of Hawks fans who slept through Saturday's game at the United Center, most of them would rather watch a prospect-laden team lose while learning than the current iteration.

There's no player besides Bedard whom fans are excited about, but some of the prospects might inject some life into the stadium. A cacophony of noise over the p.a. system, from rock songs to in-game deejays, is what the Hawks marketing department uses these days to drown out the silence.

While surrounding Bedard with veterans might have sounded good in theory, it hasn't worked. In his second season, Bedard's progress is the only reason to pay attention to the Hawks, assuming you even can watch them on your cable provider or streaming service. Bedard also has to take more chances with all eyes on him.

Sorensen said Saturday he has a plan for getting Bedard going.

"Just encouraging him to find those areas where he can get a shot off and utilize his shot," Sorensen said. "Playing that quick, give-and-go game so he can get to those spots is a big part of it. I think there were moments there where you started seeing it today and then it didn't flourish, unfortunately. But we'll keep working at it."

The Hawks remain a work in progress, their default mode since the dynasty ended. Wake us up when they're ready to change.

# NFL

## AFC

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Buffalo	10	3	0	.769	397	268	6-0-0	4-3-0	7-2-0	3-1-0	3-0-0
Miami	6	7	0	.462	264	292	4-3-0	2-4-0	5-4-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
e-N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	251	300	2-4-0	1-6-0	3-6-0	0-4-0	1-3-0
e-New England	3	10	0	.231	221	307	1-5-0	2-5-0	2-7-0	1-3-0	1-3-0

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Houston	8	5	0	.615	308	288	4-2-0	4-3-0	6-2-0	2-3-0	4-1-0
Indianapolis	6	7	0	.462	267	298	3-3-0	3-4-0	5-4-0	1-3-0	1-3-0
e-Jacksonville	3	10	0	.231	238	345	2-4-0	1-6-0	3-5-0	0-5-0	2-2-0
e-Tennessee	3	10	0	.231	227	342	1-5-0	2-5-0	3-5-0	0-5-0	1-2-0

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	323	238	5-1-0	5-2-0	7-2-0	3-1-0	3-1-0
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	383	318	4-2-0	4-3-0	5-4-0	3-1-0	2-2-0
Cincinnati	4	8	0	.333	335	340	1-5-0	3-3-0	2-6-0	2-2-0	1-3-0
e-Cleveland	3	10	0	.231	232	335	2-4-0	1-6-0	3-5-0	0-5-0	2-2-0

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Kansas City	11	1	0	.917	289	235	6-0-0	5-1-0	6-1-0	5-0-0	4-0-0
L.A. Chargers	8	4	0	.667	260	188	4-2-0	4-2-0	5-3-0	3-1-0	2-1-0
Denver	8	5	0	.615	305	234	4-2-0	4-3-0	4-4-0	4-1-0	2-2-0
e-Las Vegas	2	11	0	.154	236	361	1-4-0	1-7-0	2-8-0	0-3-0	0-5-0

## ROUNDUP

# Rams hold off Allen, Bills

Associated Press

Matthew Stafford passed for 320 yards and hit Puka Nacua for a 19-yard score with 1:54 to play, and the Rams overcame Josh Allen's record six-TD performance to snap the Bills' seven-game winning streak with a 44-42 victory Sunday.

Allen passed for 342 yards and three TDs and rushed for 82 yards and three more scores for the visiting Bills (10-3), who hadn't lost since Oct. 6 against the Texans in Houston. He became the first player in NFL history with three passing TDs and three rushing TDs in a game.

The Rams (7-6) and AFC East champion Bills combined for 902 yards of offense without a turnover.

**Vikings 42, Falcons 21:** Sam Darnold threw for 347 yards and five TDs, both career highs, and the

Vikings pulled away from Kirk Cousins and the visiting Falcons for their sixth straight victory. Darnold added another highlight to his brilliant first season with the Vikings following Cousins' departure in free agency to the Falcons with a 22-for-28 performance and no turnover-worthy plays despite heavy first-half pressure. Jordan Addison had eight catches for 133 yards and three scores and Justin Jefferson racked up seven receptions for 132 yards and two TDs. Cousins had two INTs without a TD.

**Eagles 22, Panthers 16:** Saquon Barkley rushed for 124 yards to break the Eagles season record, Jalen Hurts threw two TD passes and ran for a score, and hosts won their ninth straight game.

**Bucs 28, Raiders 13:** Baker Mayfield threw for 295 yards and three TDs, helping

the host Bucs took over sole possession of first place in the NFC South. The Raiders lost QB Aidan O'Connell to a knee injury in addition to extending the NFL's longest losing streak to nine.

**Steelers 27, Browns 14:** Russell Wilson threw for 158 yards and two TDs and the Steelers pulled away for the win. The Steelers beat the Browns at home during the regular season for the 21st straight time and took a two-game lead over the Ravens in the AFC North.

**Jaguars 10, Titans 6:** Tank Bigsby ran for an 8-yard TD with 6:46 left and the Jags snapped a five-game skid and ended the visiting Titans' slim playoff hopes by scoring the final 10 points. **Saints 14, Giants 11:** Brian Bresee blocked a potential tying FG with 11 seconds left, and the Saints held on for the road win after losing QB Derek Carr to an injury.

## NFC

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Philadelphia	11	2	0	.846	342	234	5-1-0	6-1-0	4-0-0	7-2-0	3-0-0
Washington	8	5	0	.615	376	296	5-2-0	3-3-0	3-2-0	5-3-0	2-2-0
Dallas	5	7	0	.417	248	339	1-5-0	4-2-0	2-2-0	3-5-0	3-1-0
e-N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154	194	293	0-7-0	2-4-0	1-2-0	1-9-0	0-5-0

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tampa Bay	7	6	0	.538	363	309	3-4-0	4-2-0	1-3-0	6-3-0	2-2-0
Atlanta	6	7	0	.462	278	333	3-4-0	3-3-0	0-4-0	6-3-0	4-1-0
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	290	292	3-4-0	2-4-0	1-3-0	4-5-0	2-3-0
Carolina	3	10	0	.231	233	388	2-5-0	1-5-0	1-4-0	2-6-0	1-3-0

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Detroit	12	1	0	.923	417	234	6-1-0	6-0-0	4-0-0	8-1-0	4-0-0
Minnesota	11	2	0	.846	339	240	6-1-0	5-1-0	5-0-0	6-2-0	2-1-0
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	349	274	5-2-0	4-2-0	5-0-0	4-4-0	1-3-0
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	254	278	4-3-0	0-6-0	2-3-0	2-6-0	0-3-0

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	302	283	3-4-0	5-1-0	4-1-0	4-4-0	3-2-0
L.A. Rams	7	6	0	.538	298	332	4-3-0	3-3-0	3-1-0	4-5-0	2-1-0
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	284	289	4-3-0	2-4-0	3-1-0	3-6-0	2-2-0
San Francisco	6	7	0	.462	308	308	4-3-0	2-4-0	2-2-0	4-5-0	1-3-0

e-Eliminated from playoffs; x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division



WR Puka Nacua catches the ball against Bills CB Christian Benford during the Rams' 44-42 win on Sunday. The visiting Bills lost for the first time in eight games. **KYUSUNG GONG/AP**

**Dolphins 32, Jets 26:** Tua Tagovailoa threw a 10-yard TD pass to Jonnu Smith in OT and the Dolphins overcame Aaron Rodgers' first 300-yard passing game in nearly three years. After Jason Sanders tied it late in regulation with a 42-yard FG, Tagovailoa moved the Dolphins down the field and they beat the Jets for the ninth straight time in Miami. The Jets were eliminated

from playoff contention for the 14th straight year. **Seahawks 30, Cardinals 18:** Zach Charbonnet ran for a career-high 134 yards and two TDs, Geno Smith threw for 233 yards and a score, and the Seahawks won on the road to remain atop the NFC West. **49ers 38, Bears 13:** Brock Purdy tossed two TDs and the host 49ers rebounded from two blowout losses.

## SUMMARIES

**TAMPA BAY 28, LAS VEGAS 13**  
Las Vegas 0 10 0 3 - 13  
Tampa Bay 14 0 0 14 - 28  
**First Quarter**  
TB: McMillan 15pass from Mayfield (McLaughlin kick), 8:07.  
TB: R.White 5pass from Mayfield (McLaughlin kick), 3:52.  
**Second Quarter**  
Las: O'Connell 1run (Carlson kick), 9:21.  
Las: FG Carlson 25, 4:28.  
**Fourth Quarter**  
TB: R.White 3run (McLaughlin kick), 8:47.  
Las: FG Carlson 27, 3:05.  
TB: McMillan 29pass from Mayfield (McLaughlin kick), 1:56. **A:** 63,250.

**TEAM STATS** **LAS** **TB**  
First downs 16 21  
Third down efficiency 4-13 5-12  
Total Net Yards 286 420  
Rushes-yards 25-91 26-152  
Passing 195 268  
Punt Returns 2-30 1-3  
Kickoff Returns 2-59 2-48  
Interceptions Ret. 2-24 1-0  
Comp-Att-Int 23-37-1 18-29-2  
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-10 4-27  
Punts 4-44 25-3-42 667  
Fumbles-Lost 2-1 2-1  
Penalties-Yards 3-31 5-31  
Time of Possession 31:30 28:30

**RUSHING:** Las Vegas, McCormick 15-78, O'Connell 6-6, Bowers 1-3, Ridder 2-3, Abdullah 1-1. Tampa Bay, White 17-90, Tucker 3-47, Mayfield 2-12, Irving 4-3.  
**PASSING:** Las Vegas, O'Connell 11-19-1-104, Ridder 12-18-0-101. Tampa Bay, Mayfield 18-29-2-295.  
**RECEIVING:** Las Vegas, Mayer 7-68, Meyers 7-67, Bowers 3-49, McCormick 2-11, Tucker 2-7, Marshall 1-6, Abdullah 1-(-3). Tampa Bay, Evans 4-69, Shepard 4-63, McMillan 4-59, Otton 3-70, White 2-19, Irving 1-15.  
**INTERCEPTIONS:** Las Vegas, Jones 1-24, Chaisson 1-0. Tampa Bay, Smith 1-0.

**NEW ORLEANS 14, N.Y. GIANTS 11**  
Seattle 7 0 0 3 - 14  
N.Y. Giants 0 3 0 8 - 11  
**First Quarter**  
NO: K.Miller Brun (Grupe kick), 1:19.  
**Second Quarter**  
NYG: FG Gano 43, 11:20.  
**Third Quarter**  
NO: J.Johnson 11pass from Carr (Grupe kick), 3:40.  
**Fourth Quarter**  
NYG: Tracy 1run (Nabers pass from Lock), 4:11.

**TEAM STATS** **NO** **NYG**  
First downs 18 17  
Third down efficiency 5-15 5-19  
Fourth down efficiency 0-1 2-4  
Total Net Yards 291 325  
Rushes-yards 33-92 23-112  
Passing 199 213  
Punt Returns 0-0 5-46  
Kickoff Returns 2-47 2-49  
Interceptions Ret. 1-0 1-0  
Comp-Att-Int 20-31-1 21-49-1  
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-19 2-14  
Punts 7-41 7-14 8-37 375  
Fumbles-Lost 3-0 0-0  
Penalties-Yards 6-40 12-112  
Time of Possession 31:49 28:11

**RUSHING:** New Orleans, Kamara 17-44, Miller 10-32, Carr 2-12, Williams 3-5, Haener 1-(-minus 1). N.Y. Giants, Lock 5-59, Tracy 16-45, Singletary 2-8.  
**PASSING:** New Orleans, Carr 20-31-1-218. N.Y. Giants, Lock 21-49-1-227.  
**RECEIVING:** New Orleans, Kamara 5-35, Valdes-Scantling 4-51, Johnson 4-49, Moreau 2-40, Williams 2-10, Wilson 1-18, Holker 1-10, Austin 1-5. N.Y. Giants, Nabers 5-79, Bellinger 5-45, Tracy 5-38, Robinson 4-38, Slayton 2-7.  
**INTERCEPTIONS:** New Orleans, Davis 1-0. N.Y. Giants, Hawkins 1-0.  
**TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS:** New Orleans, Amadi 6-2-0, Davis 3-0-0, Harris 5-1-0, Saunders 4-1-1, Bresee 1-0-1. N.Y. Giants, McFadden 8-3-0, Muasau 7-1-0, Hawkins 4-2-0, Nubin 4-1-0, Pinnock 2-4-0, Burns 2-2-1, Thibodeaux 2-1-1.  
**MISSSED FIELD GOALS:** New Orleans, Grube 60, Grube 53. N.Y. Giants, Gano 35.

**MIAMI 32, N.Y. JETS 26, OT**  
N.Y. Jets 3 10 10 3 0 - 26  
Miami 6 9 0 11 6 - 32  
**First Quarter**  
Mia: Achane 2run (kick failed), 10:24.  
NYJ: FG Carlson 28, 5:19.  
**Second Quarter**  
NYJ: FG Sanders 39, 14:53.  
Mia: FG Sanders 24, 4:56.  
NYJ: FG Carlson 30, 4:9.  
Mia: FG Sanders 57, :02.  
**Third Quarter**  
NYJ: D.Adams 3pass from Rodgers (Carlson kick), 11:20.  
NYJ: FG Carlson 40, 1:02.  
**Fourth Quarter**  
Mia: T.Hill 4pass from Tagovailoa (Waddle pass from Tagovailoa), 9:04.  
NYJ: FG Carlson 42, :52.  
Mia: FG Sanders 52, :07.  
**Overtime**  
Mia: J.Smith 10 pass from Tagovailoa, 6:05.

**TEAM STATS** **NYJ** **MIA**  
First downs 23 28  
Third down efficiency 4-12 1-9  
Total Net Yards 402 375  
Rushes-yards 21-83 19-43  
Passing 319 332  
Punt Returns 2-0 1-10  
Kickoff Returns 1-29 4-123  
Interceptions Ret. 0-0 0-0  
Comp-Att-Int 27-39-0 33-47-0  
Sacked-Yards Lost 3-20 0-0  
Punts 2-48-0 3-49-333  
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0  
Penalties-Yards 10-83 8-49  
Time of Possession 31:02 32:53

**RUSHING:** N.Y. Jets, Allen 11-43, I.Davis 10-40, Miami, Achane 14-23, Wright 2-7, T.Hill 1-6, Wilson 1-4, Tagovailoa 1-3.  
**PASSING:** N.Y. Jets, Rodgers 27-39-0-339, Miami, Tagovailoa 33-47-0-332.  
**RECEIVING:** N.Y. Jets, D.Adams 9-109, Wilson 7-114, Allen 4-38, Conklin 3-33, I.Davis 3-27, Lazard 1-18, Miami, T.Hill 10-115, Waddle 9-100, Achane 6-45, J.Smith 3-44, Wright 2-6, J.Hill 1-14, Wilson 1-7, Beckham 1-1.

**SEATTLE 30, ARIZONA 18**  
Seattle 17 7 3 3 - 30  
Arizona 7 3 8 0 - 18  
**First Quarter**  
ARI: Mi.Wilson 41pass from Murray (Ryland kick), 11:53.  
Sea: FG Myers 20, 4:41.  
Sea: Smith-Njigba 19pass from G.Smith (Myers kick), 3:25.  
Sea: Charbonnet 1run (Myers kick), :16.  
**Second Quarter**  
ARI: FG Ryland 28, 10:53.  
Sea: Charbonnet 51run (Myers kick), 2:36.  
**Third Quarter**  
Sea: FG Myers 36, 5:29.  
ARI: Conner 2pass from Murray (Murray run), 1:05.  
**Fourth Quarter**  
Sea: FG Myers 35, 1:56.

**TEAM STATS** **SEA** **ARI**  
First downs 18 21  
Third down efficiency 7-15 4-12  
Fourth down efficiency 0-0 1-1  
Total Net Yards 409 356  
Rushes-yards 31-176 23-121  
Passing 233 235  
Punt Returns 1-14 2-21  
Kickoff Returns 1-27 0-0  
Interceptions Ret. 2-21 0-0  
Comp-Att-Int 24-30-0 25-38-2  
Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0 2-24  
Punts 5-53-0 4-45-0  
Fumbles-Lost 1-0 1-0  
Penalties-Yards 9-62 6-49  
Time of Possession 33:02 26:58

**RUSHING:** Seattle, Charbonnet 22-134, Mcintosh 7-38, Smith-Njigba 1-4, G.Smith 1-0, Arizona, Conner 18-90, Murray 3-16, Benson 2-15.  
**PASSING:** Seattle, G.Smith 24-30-0-233, Arizona, Murray 25-38-2-259.  
**RECEIVING:** N.Y. Jets, Charbonnet 7-59, Smith-Njigba 5-82, Metcalf 4-49, N.Fant 3-18, Mcintosh 2-7, Barner 1-13, P.Brown 1-6, Holani 1-(-1), Ari, McBride 7-70, Harrison 4-49, Conner 4-32, DeMarco 4-15, Mi.Wilson 2-57, Reimer 1-14, Z.Jones 1-13, Dorch 1-5, Benson 1-4.  
**INTERCEPTIONS:** Seattle, E.Jones 1-12, Bryant 1-9.  
**MISSSED FIELD GOALS:** Arizona, Ryland 40.

**PITTSBURGH 27, CLEVELAND 14**  
Cleveland 7 0 0 7 - 14  
Pittsburgh 3 10 14 0 - 27  
**First Quarter**  
Pit: FG Boswell 30, 9:32.  
Cle: Jedy 35pass from Winston (Hopkins kick), 5:56.  
**Second Quarter**  
Pit: N.J.Harris 1run (Boswell kick), 11:00.  
Pit: FG Boswell 54, 4:21.  
**Third Quarter**  
Pit: Jefferson 10pass from Ru.Wilson (Boswell kick), 8:41.  
Pit: Freiermuth 20pass from Ru.Wilson (Carlson kick), 3:56.  
**Fourth Quarter**  
Cle: Njoku 15pass from Winston (Hopkins kick), 7:25.

**TEAM STATS** **CLE** **PIT**  
First downs 19 14  
Total Net Yards 300 270  
Rushes-yards 25-104 35-123  
Passing 196 147  
Punt Returns 4-44 2-20  
Kickoff Returns 1-56 0-0  
Interceptions Ret. 0-0 2-29  
Comp-Att-Int 24-41-2 15-26-0  
Sacked-Yards Lost 3-16 1-11  
Punts 5-45-2 6-52-333  
Fumbles-Lost 2-1 1-1  
Penalties-Yards 9-81 6-61  
Time of Possession 30:00 30:00

**Rush:** Cle, Chubb 11-48, Winston 4-28, J.Ford 10-28, Pit, Harris 16-53, Warren 9-47, Ru.Wilson 6-17, Patterson 4-6.  
**PASSING:** Cleveland, Winston 24-41-2-212, Pittsburgh, Ru.Wilson 15-26-0-158.  
**RECEIVING:** Cle, Njoku 7-42, Jedy 5-64, Moore 3-34, J.Ford 3-19, Proche 2-18, Strong 2-9, Atkins 1-14, Woods 1-12, Pit, Freiermuth 3-48, Miller 3-38, Williams 3-36, Warren 2-25, Jefferson 1-10, Austin 1-4, Pruitt 1-(-1), Patterson 1-(-2).  
**INTERCEPTIONS:** Pittsburgh, Pierre 1-18, Benton 1-11.  
**TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS:** Cle, Emerson 4-1-0, Garrett 2-1-1, Pit, Elliott 9-4-0, Ca.Heyward 3-2-2, Watt 2-2-0, Highsmith 2-1-1.  
**MISSSED FIELD GOALS:** Cleveland, Hopkins 43, Hopkins 38.

**MINNESOTA 42, ATLANTA 21**  
Atlanta 7 3 11 0 - 21  
Minnesota 7 7 7 21 - 42  
**First Quarter**  
ATL: Algeier Grun (Koo kick), 8:58.  
Min: Addison 49pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), :37.  
**Second Quarter**  
Min: Jefferson 12pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 2:01.  
ATL: FG Koo 20, :10.  
**Third Quarter**  
ATL: FG Koo 29, 5:06.  
Min: Jefferson 52pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 3:25.  
ATL: B.Robinson 13run (B.Robinson run), :38.  
**Fourth Quarter**  
Min: Addison 11pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 12:59.  
Min: Addison 6pass from Darnold (Reichard kick), 8:23.  
Min: A.Jones 15 run (Reichard kick), 3:38.

**TEAM STATS** **ATL** **MIN**  
First downs 25 23  
Total Net Yards 496 433  
Rushes-yards 32-158 24-115  
Passing 338 318  
Punt Returns 1-11 0-0  
Kickoff Returns 1-31 2-46  
Interceptions Ret. 0-0 2-4  
Comp-Att-Int 23-37-2 22-28-0  
Sacked-Yards Lost 1-6 4-29  
Punts 1-53-0 2-51-0  
Fumbles-Lost 1-1 0-0  
Penalties-Yards 12-127 6-35  
Time of Possession 31:25 28:25

**RUSHING:** Atl, Robinson 22-92, Algeier 9-63, McCloud 1-3, Min, A.Jones 13-73, Akers 5-37, Darnold 4-7, Mullens 2-(-2).  
**PASSING:** Atlanta, Cousins 23-37-2-344, Minnesota, Darnold 12-28-0-347.  
**RECEIVING:** Atlanta, McCloud 8-98, Mooney 6-142, D.London 5-70, Robinson 2-9, Pitts 1-14, Woerner 1-11, Minnesota, Addison 8-133, Jefferson 7-132, Hockenson 4-45, A.Jones 2-11, Oliver 1-26.  
**INTERCEPTIONS:** Minnesota, Metellus 1-4, B.Murphy 1-0.  
**MISSSED FIELD GOALS:** Minnesota, Reichard 47.

**SAN FRANCISCO 38, CHICAGO 13**  
Chicago 0 0 6 7 - 13  
San Francisco 14 10 0 14 - 38  
**First Quarter**  
SF: Jennings 7pass from Purdy (Moody kick), 12:20.  
SF: Guerrero 1run (Moody kick), 1:39.  
**Second Quarter**  
SF: Jennings 16pass from Purdy (Moody kick), 7:41.  
SF: FG Moody 23, 1:50.  
**Third Quarter**

## SCOREBOARD

## NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	19	5	.792	—
New York	14	9	.609	4½
Brooklyn	10	14	.417	9
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	11
Toronto	7	17	.292	12
SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Orlando	17	9	.654	—
Miami	12	10	.545	3
Atlanta	13	12	.520	3½
Charlotte	7	17	.292	9
Washington	3	18	.143	11½

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Cleveland	21	4	.840	—
Milwaukee	12	11	.522	8
Indiana	10	15	.400	11
Chicago	10	15	.400	11
Detroit	10	15	.400	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	16	8	.667	—
Memphis	16	8	.667	—
Houston	15	8	.652	½
San Antonio	11	12	.478	4½
New Orleans	5	19	.208	11
NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Oklahoma City	18	5	.783	—
Minnesota	12	10	.545	5½
Denver	12	10	.545	5½
Portland	8	15	.348	10
Utah	5	17	.227	12½

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Golden State	13	9	.591	—
L.A. Clippers	14	10	.583	—
Phoenix	12	11	.522	1½
L.A. Lakers	12	11	.522	1½
Sacramento	11	13	.458	3

## SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia 108, Chicago 100  
Milwaukee 118, Brooklyn 113  
Charlotte 113, Indiana 109  
Denver 141, Atlanta 111  
Miami 122, Cleveland 113  
Orlando 115, Phoenix 110  
Memphis at Washington, late  
New Orleans at San Antonio, late  
Minnesota at Golden State, late  
Houston at L.A. Clippers, late  
Utah at Sacramento, late  
Portland at L.A. Lakers, late

## MONDAY'S GAMES

New York at Toronto, 6:30p.m.

## TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Emirates NBA Cup Quarterfinals  
Orlando at Milwaukee, 6p.m.  
Dallas at Oklahoma City, 8:30p.m.

## WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Emirates NBA Cup Quarterfinals  
Atlanta at New York, 6p.m.  
Golden State at Houston, 8:30p.m.

## SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 116, Charlotte 102  
Oklahoma City 119, New Orleans 109  
Washington 122, Denver 113  
Dallas 125, Toronto 118  
Detroit 120, New York 111  
Miami 121, Phoenix 111  
Memphis 127, Boston 121

## SOCCER

## MLS CUP PLAYOFFS

MLS Cup Championship  
Saturday: #2 L.A. Galaxy 2,  
#7 N.Y. Red Bulls 1

## CUP MVP

Gastón Brugman named, L.A. Galaxy

## MLS CHAMPIONS

2024: Los Angeles Galaxy  
2023: Columbus Crew  
2022: LAFC  
2021: New York City  
2020: Columbus Crew  
2019: Seattle Sounders  
2018: Atlanta United  
2017: Toronto  
2016: Seattle Sounders  
2015: Portland Timbers  
2014: Los Angeles Galaxy  
2013: Sporting Kansas City  
2012: Los Angeles Galaxy  
2011: Los Angeles Galaxy  
2010: Colorado Rapids  
2009: Real Salt Lake  
2008: Columbus Crew  
2007: Houston Dynamo  
2006: Houston Dynamo  
2005: Los Angeles Galaxy  
2004: D.C. United  
2003: San Jose Earthquakes  
2002: Los Angeles Galaxy  
2001: San Jose Earthquakes  
2000: Kansas City Wizards  
1999: D.C. United

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE						
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA
Liverpool	14	11	2	1	29	11
Chelsea	15	9	4	2	35	18
Arsenal	15	8	5	2	29	15
Man City	15	8	3	4	27	21
Notting. Forest	15	7	4	4	19	25
Aston Villa	15	7	4	4	23	23
Brighton	15	6	6	3	25	22
Bournemouth	15	7	3	5	23	24
Brentford	15	7	2	6	31	28
Fulham	15	6	5	4	22	20
Tottenham	15	6	2	7	31	19
Newcastle	15	5	5	5	19	20
Man United	15	5	4	6	19	18
West Ham	14	4	3	7	18	27
Everton	14	3	5	6	14	21
Leicester	15	3	7	21	30	14
Crystal Palace	15	5	7	6	14	20
Ipswich	15	1	6	18	27	9
Wolverhampton	14	2	3	9	22	36
Southampton	15	1	2	12	11	31

## SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Fulham 1, Arsenal 1  
Ipswich 1, Bournemouth 2  
Leicester 2, Brighton 2  
Chelsea 4, Tottenham 3

## MONDAY'S MATCH

West Ham vs. Wolverhampton, 2p.m.

## SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Arsenal vs. Everton, 9a.m.  
Liverpool vs. Fulham, 9a.m.  
Newcastle vs. Leicester, 9a.m.  
Wolverhampton vs. Ipswich, 9a.m.  
Nottingham Forest vs. Aston Villa, 11:30a.m.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 15

Brighton vs. Crystal Palace, 8a.m.  
Man City vs. Man United, 10:30a.m.  
Chelsea vs. Brentford, 1p.m.  
Southampton vs. Tottenham, 1p.m.

## U.S. WOMEN'S SCHEDULE (20-1-2)

Nov. 30: U.S. 0, England 0  
Dec. 3: U.S. 2, Netherlands 1  
s-Feb. 20, 2025: vs. Colombia, 7 p.m.  
s-Feb. 23: vs. Australia, 4 p.m.  
s-Feb. 26: vs. Japan, 9:30 p.m.  
s-SheBelieves Cup

## U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE (6-6-2)

c-June 23: U.S. 2, Bolivia 0  
c-June 27: Panama 2, U.S. 1  
c-July 1: Uruguay 1, U.S. 0  
Sept. 7: Canada 2, U.S. 1  
Sept. 10: U.S. 1, New Zealand 1  
Oct. 12: U.S. 2, Panama 0  
Oct. 15: Mexico 2, U.S. 0  
n-Nov. 14: U.S. 1, Jamaica 0  
n-Nov. 18: U.S. 4, Jamaica 2  
Jan. 18, 2025: vs. Venezuela, 2 p.m.

## TENNIS

WTA MUNDOTENIS OPEN  
Sunday at Florianapolis; Florianapolis,  
Brazil; outdoors, Red clay  
WOMEN'S SINGLES, CHAMPIONSHIP  
#7Maja Chwalinska d. Ylena In-Albon,  
6-1, 6-2.  
WOMEN'S SINGLES, SEMIFINALS  
Ylena In-Albon d. #1 Maria Lourdes  
Carle, 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-2.  
#7Maja Chwalinska d.  
#8 Leonia Jeanjean 6-0, 6-3.  
WTA OPEN ANGERS ARENA LOIRE  
Sunday at Arena Loire; Angers, France;  
hardcourt indoors  
WOMEN'S SINGLES, CHAMPIONSHIP  
#3Alycia Parks d.  
Belinda Bencic, 7-6(4), 3-6, 6-0.

## NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	28	17	9	2	36	106	91			
Toronto	27	16	9	2	34	80	71			
Boston	29	15	11	3	33	75	87			
Tampa Bay	25	14	9	2	30	98	76			
Ottawa	27	12	13	2	26	82	86			
Buffalo	27	11	13	3	25	80	86			
Detroit	27	10	13	4	24	67	83			
Montreal	27	10	14	3	23	75	98			
METRO.		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Washington	27	19	6	2	40	109	74			
New Jersey	30	18	10	2	38	102	82			
Carolina	27	17	9	1	35	101	81			
N.Y. Rangers	26	14	11	1	29	85	79			
N.Y. Islanders	29	11	11	7	29	77	87			
Philadelphia	27	12	11	4	28	81	94			
Pittsburgh	29	12	13	4	28	84	110			
Columbus	27	12	12	3	27	93	96			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
CENTRAL		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Minnesota	27	18	5	4	40	86	65			
Winnipeg	29	20	9	0	40	103	75			
Dallas	26	16	10	0	32	86	67			
Colorado	29	16	13	0	32	95	103			
St. Louis	28	13	13	2	28	73	87			
Utah	26	11	11	4	26	75	77			
Nashville	28	7	15	6	20	61	88			
Chicago	27	8	17	2	18	66	86			
PACIFIC		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Vegas	28	18	7	3	39	99	82			
Los Angeles	27	16	8	3	35	83	71			
Vancouver	26	14	8	4	32	85	83			
Edmonton	27	15	10	2	32	82	79			
Calgary	27	13	9	5	31	72	78			
Seattle	29	14	14	1	29	89	88			
San Jose	30	10	15	5	25	82	108			
Anaheim	25	10	12	3	23	62	76			

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.										
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SUNDAY'S RESULTS										
Seattle 7, N.Y. Rangers 5										
Tampa Bay 4, Vancouver 2										
N.Y. Islanders 4, Ottawa 2										
Columbus 4, Winnipeg 1										
Colorado 4, New Jersey 0										
Utah at Philadelphia, late										
Calgary at Dallas, late										

## MONDAY'S GAMES

Chicago at N.Y. Rangers, 6p.m.  
Detroit at Buffalo, 6p.m.  
Anaheim at Montreal, 6:30p.m.

## TUESDAY'S GAMES

Colorado at Pittsburgh, 6p.m.  
Philadelphia at Columbus, 6p.m.  
San Jose at Carolina, 6p.m.  
Toronto at New Jersey, 6p.m.  
Los Angeles at N.Y. Islanders, 6:30p.m.  
Boston at Winnipeg, 7p.m.  
Calgary at Nashville, 7p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Edmonton, 8p.m.  
Minnesota at Utah, 8:30p.m.  
Florida at Seattle, 9p.m.  
St. Louis at Vancouver, 9p.m.

## WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 6p.m.  
Anaheim at Ottawa, 6:30p.m.

## SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Utah 5, Buffalo 2  
Boston 4, Philadelphia 3 (OT)  
Winnipeg 4, Chicago 2  
N.Y. Islanders 4, Carolina 3  
Florida 3, San Jose 1  
Colorado 2, Detroit 1  
Pittsburgh 5, Toronto 2  
Washington 4, Montreal 2  
Ottawa 3, Nashville 1  
Los Angeles 4, Minnesota 1  
Edmonton 4, St. Louis 2

## AUTO RACING

## F1 ABU DHABI GRAND RESULTS

Sunday at Yas Marina Circuit; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Lap length: 5.00 kilometers (Start position in parentheses)  
1. (1) Lando Norris: British Indian Ocean Territory, McLaren, 58 laps, 1:26:33.291, 25 points.  
2. (3) Carlos Sainz Jr.: Spain, Ferrari, 58, +5:832 seconds, 18.  
3. (19) Charles Leclerc: Monaco, Ferrari, 58, +31:928, 15.  
4. (16) Lewis Hamilton: Great Britain, Mercedes, 58, +36:483, 12.  
5. (6) George Russell: Great Britain, Mercedes, 58, +37:538, 10.  
6. (4) Max Verstappen: Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 58, +49:847, 8.  
7. (5) Pierre Gasly: France, Alpine, 58, +1:12:560, 6.  
8. (7) Nico Hulkenberg: Germany, Haas, 58, +1:15:554, 4.  
9. (8) Fernando Alonso: Spain, Aston Martin, 58, +1:22:373, 2.  
10. (2) Oscar Piastri: Australia, McLaren, 58, +1:23:821, 1.  
11. (18) Alexander Albon: Thailand, Williams, 57, +1 lap.  
12. (11) Yuki Tsunoda: Japan, Racing Bulls, 57, +1 lap.  
13. (15) Guanyu Zhou: China, KICK Sauber, 57, +1 lap.  
14. (13) Lance Stroll: Canada, Aston Martin, 57, +1 lap.  
15. (17) Jack Doohan: Australia, Alpine, 57, +1 lap.  
16. (14) Kevin Magnussen: Denmark, Haas, 57, +1 lap.  
17. (12) Liam Lawson: New Zealand, Racing Bulls, did not finish, 55.  
18. (9) Valtteri Bottas: Finland, KICK Sauber, did not finish, 30.  
19. (20) Franco Colapinto: Argentina, Williams, did not finish, 26.  
20. (10) Sergio Perez: Mexico, Red Bull Racing, did not finish, 0.

## DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Max Verstappen, RBL Racing 437  
2. Lando Norris, McLaren 374  
3. Charles Leclerc, Ferrari 356  
4. Oscar Piastri, McLaren 292  
5. Carlos Sainz Jr. Ferrari 290  
6. George Russell, Mercedes 245  
7. Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes 223  
8. Sergio Perez, Mexico, RB Racing 152  
9. Fernando Alonso, Aston Martin 70  
10. Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine 42  
11. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Haas 41  
12. Yuki Tsunoda, Japan, Racing Bulls 30  
13. Lance Stroll, Canada, Aston Martin 24  
14. Esteban Ocon, France, Alpine 23  
15. Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, Haas 16  
16. Alexander Albon, Williams 12  
17. Daniel Ricciardo, Racing Bulls 12  
18. Oliver Bearman, Haas 7  
19. Franco Colapinto, Williams 5  
20. Guanyu Zhou, KICK Sauber 4  
21. Liam Lawson, New Zealand 4

## ODDS

NBA FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	MONDAY UNDERDOG
New York	6	(229½)	at Toronto

COLLEGE BASKETBALL			
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	MONDAY UNDERDOG
at Indiana	9½	Minnesota	
at SC State	1½	Chas. Southern	
at Norfolk State	2½	Hofstra	
at VCU	22½	Pennsylvania	
at Baylor	20½	Abilene Christian	

NHL			
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	MONDAY UNDERDOG
at Buffalo	-152	Detroit	+126
at NY Rangers	-255	Chicago	+205
at Montreal	-152	Anaheim	+126

NFL WEEK 14			
FAVORITE	NOW O/U	UNDERDOG	MONDAY UNDERDOG
Cincinnati	5½	(49½)	at Dallas

COLLEGE FOOTBALL			
FAVORITE	NOW O/U	UNDERDOG	SATURDAY UNDERDOG
at Army	5½	(40½)	Navy
Salute to Veterans Bowl			
South Alabama 10½	(59½)	W. Michigan	
Frisco Bowl			
Memphis	1½	(57½)	West Virginia
Boca Raton Bowl			
James Madison 6½	(52½)	W. Kentucky	
New Orleans Bowl			
Ga. Southern	4½	(47½)	Sam Houston
Cure Bowl			
Ohio	1½	(54½)	Jacksonville St.
Hawai'i Bowl			
San Jose State	2½	(62½)	South Florida
Bahamas Bowl			
Liberty	2½	(51½)	Buffalo

## COLLEGES

# Playoff set: Oregon No. 1; SMU in, Alabama left out

By Eddie Pells  
Associated Press

The new, 12-team College Football Playoff brings with it a promise to be bigger, more exciting, more lucrative.

Perfect or 100% fair? Well, nobody ever believed that.

The expanded playoff bracket unveiled Sunday left a presumably deserving Alabama team on the sideline in favor of an SMU squad with a better record after playing a schedule that was not as difficult.

It ranked undefeated Oregon first but set up a possible rematch against Ohio State, the team that came closest to beating the Ducks.

It treated underdog Boise State like a favorite and banged-up Georgia like a world beater at No. 2.

It gave Ohio State home-field advantage against Tennessee for reasons it would take a supercomputer to figure out.

It gave the sport the multiweek tournament it has longed for, but also ensured there will be plenty to grouch about between now and when the trophy is handed out on Jan. 20 after what will easily be the longest college football season in history.

All of it, thankfully, will be sorted out on the field starting with first-round games on campuses Dec. 20 and 21, then over three succeeding rounds that will wind their way through traditional bowl sites.

Maybe Oregon coach Dan Lanning, whose undefeated Ducks are the favorite to win it all, put it best when he offered: "Winning

a national championship is not supposed to be easy."

Neither, it turns out, is figuring out who should play for it.

## Alabama comes up short

The Big Ten will lead the way with four teams in the tournament, followed by the SEC with three and the ACC with two. The lasting memory from the inaugural bracket will involve the decision that handed the ACC that second bid.

Alabama of the SEC didn't play Saturday. SMU of the ACC did. The Mustangs fell behind by three touchdowns to Clemson before coming back to tie. But they ultimately lost 34-31 on a 56-yard field goal as time expired.

"We were on pins and needles," SMU coach Rhett Lashley said. "Until we saw the name 'SMU' up there, we were hanging on the edge. We're really, really happy and thankful to the committee for rewarding our guys for their total body of work."

The Mustangs only had two losses, compared to three for the Crimson Tide. Even though SMU's schedule wasn't nearly as tough, the committee was impressed by the way the Mustangs came back against Clemson.

"We just felt, in this particular case, SMU had the nod above Alabama," said Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, the chairman of the selection committee.

"But it's no disrespect to Alabama's strength of schedule. We looked at the entire body of work for both teams."

## First-round byes

Georgia, the SEC champion, was seeded second; Boise State, the Mountain West champion, earned the third seed; and Big 12 titlist Arizona State got the fourth seed and the fourth and final first-round bye.

All will play in quarterfinals at bowl games on Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

Clemson stole a bid and the 12th seed with its crazy win over SMU, the result that ultimately cost Alabama a spot in the field. The Tigers moved to No. 16 in the rankings, but got in as the fifth-best conference winner.

## Automatic byes, bids add twist

The conference commissioners' idea to give conference champions preferable treatment in this first iteration of the 12-team playoff could be up for reconsideration after this season.

The committee actually ranked Boise State, the Mountain West Champion, at No. 9 and Big 12 champion Arizona State at No. 12, but both get to skip the first round.

Another CFP guideline: There's no reseeding of teams after each round, which means no break for Oregon. The top-seeded Ducks will face the winner of Tennes-



QB Kevin Jennings and SMU lost the ACC title game on a last-play FG on Saturday but still made the 12-team playoff. **GRANT HALVERSON/GETTY**

see-Ohio State in the Rose Bowl. Oregon beat Ohio State 32-31 earlier this year in one of the season's best games.

## First-round matchups

**No. 12 Clemson at No. 5 Texas (Dec. 21):** Clemson is riding high after the SMU upset, while Texas is 0-2 against Georgia and 11-0 vs. everyone else this season. The winner faces ... Arizona State in the Peach Bowl. Huh?

**No. 11 SMU at No. 6 Penn State (Dec. 21):** The biggest knock against the Mustangs was that they didn't play any big boys with that 60th-ranked strength of schedule. Well, now they get to. The winner faces ... Boise State in the Fiesta

## CFP AT A GLANCE



**BYES (top four seeds)**  
1. Oregon 2. Georgia  
3. Boise St. 4. Arizona St.

## FIRST ROUND MATCHUPS

**10 Indiana at 7 Notre Dame**  
8 p.m. Dec. 20  
TV: ABC/ESPN

**11 SMU at 6 Penn State**  
Noon Dec. 21  
TV: TNT/Max

**12 Clemson at 5 Texas**  
4 p.m. Dec. 21  
TV: TNT/Max

**9 Tennessee at 8 Ohio State**  
8 p.m. Dec. 21  
TV: ABC/ESPN

Bowl. Yes, SMU vs. Boise was the quarterfinal we all expected.

**No. 10 Indiana at No. 7 Notre Dame (Dec. 20):** Hoosiers coach Curt Cignetti thought his team deserved a home game. Well, not quite but close. The winner gets ... Georgia in the Sugar Bowl. The Bulldogs got the No. 2 seed despite a throwing-arm injury to QB Carson Beck. But what else was the committee supposed to do?

**No. 9 Tennessee at No. 8 Ohio State (Dec. 21):** The Buckeyes (losses to Oregon, Michigan) got home field over the Volunteers (losses to Arkansas, Georgia) in a matchup of programs with two of the biggest stadiums in football. The winner faces ... Oregon in the Rose Bowl. Feels like that matchup should come in the semifinals or later



Indiana players celebrate with the Old Oaken Bucket after defeating Purdue in a game Nov. 30 in Bloomington, Ind. **DARRON CUMMINGS/AP**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS INDIANA AT NOTRE DAME

# Hoosiers to face in-state Irish in a rare meeting

By Eric Olson | Associated Press

Indiana will turn in its calling card as the nation's biggest basketball state and become a college football hot spot the week before Christmas.

The College Football Playoff bracket released Sunday sends No. 10 seed Indiana to No. 7 Notre Dame for a first-round game on Dec. 20, with the winner facing No. 2 Georgia in the Sugar Bowl in a quarterfinal Jan. 1.

The Indiana and Notre Dame campuses are separated by 200 miles in the Hoosier State, but their football teams haven't met since 1991 and before that 1958. Notre Dame leads the series 22-3, with Indiana's wins coming in 1900, 1905 and 1950.

The last time Notre Dame (11-1) and Indiana (11-1) played, Rick Mirer and Jerome Bettis led the Irish to a 49-27 win in South Bend on an 86-degree September afternoon 33 years ago. The temperature will be quite a bit cooler when the teams meet at Notre Dame Stadium in less than two weeks.

Georgia (11-2) earned the SEC's automatic bid and a first-round bye by beating Texas in overtime Saturday. The Bulldogs have won all three meetings with Notre Dame, all of them high-stakes games, and

never have faced Indiana.

Despite their close proximity, Notre Dame and Indiana have been on opposite ends of the college football world historically. Notre Dame is among five schools with more than 900 all-time wins. The Hoosiers' 691 all-time losses are second to Northwestern's 703. Notre Dame claims 13 national championships; Indiana has played in 13 bowls.

First-year Hoosiers coach Curt Cignetti has led the program to its first 11-win season, an eight-game improvement from 2023. He said his team has had to deal with criticism about its schedule and whether it was playoff-worthy.

"We were the feel-good story of college football for a long time," Cignetti said Sunday on ESPN. "Then we got rankings and you got teams concerned about their status about being one of the 12, and then you start seeing people taking shots."

Irish coach Marcus Freeman said he's a believer.

"Being in college football you can't help but notice the tremendous job they've done at Indiana this year, to go 11-1 in the Big Ten Conference and to win some games against really good opponents," he said on ESPN. "It speaks to where that program is. We

understand the challenge of that."

Georgia coach Kirby Smart said he hadn't studied Notre Dame or Indiana enough to comment on a potential matchup in the Sugar Bowl. Smart worked with Cignetti when both were on Nick Saban's staff at Alabama from 2007-10 and said it has been "really neat, really cool" to see the transformation of the Hoosiers.

"My years at Alabama I was a really young coach and I enjoyed being around him, and his personality is different," Smart said. "I really like Coach Cignetti and followed him; wherever he's gone, he's done really well."

Georgia's first meeting with Notre Dame came in the 1981 Sugar Bowl. Vince Doolley's 1980 Bulldogs finished a 12-0, national championship season with a 17-10 win. Freshman and future Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker rushed for 150 yards and two touchdowns with a dislocated shoulder to lead the Bulldogs.

Their other two games were early season contests in 2017 and 2019. Georgia won the first 20-19 at Notre Dame in a Top 25 matchup that set the Bulldogs on the path to a 9-0 start and appearance in the CFP championship game. Georgia won the second game 23-17 in Athens, Ga., when both teams were in the top 10.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

# Illinois drops Big Ten opener to Ohio State

Associated Press

Cotie McMahon scored a season-high 25 and No. 12 Ohio State stayed unbeaten with an 83-74 victory over No. 21 Illinois on Sunday in Columbus, Ohio, in a Big Ten opener.

McMahon made 7 of 12 shots with two 3-pointers and 9 of 12 free throws.

Taylor Thierry scored 14 on 5-for-7 shooting with two 3-pointers for Ohio State (8-0). Chance Gray scored 13.

Genesis Bryant hit four 3-pointers and scored 22 to lead the Illini (7-2). Kendall Bostic totaled 17 points and 13 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season. Jasmine Brown-Hagger added 14 points off the bench.

Thierry and McMahon scored six points each in the first quarter and Ohio State led 18-16.

Gray had nine points in the second quarter as the Buckeyes outscored the Illini 22-10 to take a 40-26 lead into halftime.

McMahon had 11 points and Jaloni Cambridge scored six, accounting for Ohio State's first 17 points of the third quarter, as the Buckeyes extended their lead to 61-43.

Bryant hit a 3-pointer to pull the Illini within 73-65 with 3:04 to play, but they would get no closer.

Ohio State will host Ball State on Tuesday. Illinois returns home to play Bradley on Thursday.

**No. 23 Michigan 60, Northwestern 54:** Olivia Olson scored 18 points, Jordan Hobbs added 16 and the Wolverines used a strong fourth quarter to turn back the Wildcats in Ann Arbor, Mich., in the Big Ten opener for both.

Olson scored the first eight points and Syla Swords added a layup in a 10-0 run that rallied Michigan from a four-point deficit to a 50-44 lead with six minutes left in the fourth quarter.

The Wildcats strung together three 3-pointers and led 53-52 with 3½ minutes remaining before Hobbs hit a layup and a jumper for a 56-53 Michigan lead. Hobbs added a layup near the two-minute mark for a 58-54 lead.

After the teams traded misses, Michigan's Mila Holloway (10 points) hit a turnaround jumper with 26 seconds left for the final margin.

Michigan outscored Northwestern 20-10 in the fourth quarter.

Kyla Jones scored 14 points and Caleigh Walsh added 10 for Northwestern (4-4). Taylor Williams had 11 rebounds.

**No. 24 Michigan State 89, DePaul 61:** Jaddan Simmons scored 18 points, Julia Ayrault added 17 points and 12 rebounds and the Spartans blew past the Blue Demons in East Lansing, Mich., improving to 9-0 for the first time in program history.

Emma Shumate scored 12 points and Jocelyn Tate had 10 points for the Spartans. Grace VanSlooten had four of Michigan State's 14 blocks. Michigan State had 24 assists on 31 baskets.

The Spartans outshot the Blue Demons 47%-22% in the first half and led 42-25 at halftime. The lead peaked at 32 when Kennedy Blair converted a three-point play for an 89-57 lead with two minutes remaining.