

# Chicago Tribune



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ATVs are swarming Pembroke Township. Residents say a rare ecosystem and the community are helpless



An ATV drives through a sand dune on private property Dec. 15 in Hopkins Park. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## FEELING ATTACKED AND DEFENSELESS

By Karina Atkins | Chicago Tribune

Shortly after George Floyd was murdered blocks from her home in Minneapolis, Mihesha Gibbs-Lumpkins decided to return to Pembroke Township with her husband and two children.

Her 13-year-old son was the one who voiced a need to escape the chaos. Walking to school, past the corner store where Floyd was suffocated by a police officer, was overwhelming.

“For this to happen so close to home and along his daily route it terrified us all,” Gibbs-Lumpkins said.

Her hometown, a predominantly Black farming community 60 miles south of Chicago, was supposed to be the perfect reprieve.

Within a few months, the family of four moved into a quaint ramblar in Hopkins Park, a small village within the township. It was surrounded by rare black oak savanna and backed up to the landlocked area’s unique sand dunes.

*“Our way of life is not being respected. Our right just to sleep peacefully is not being respected. Hearing assault rifles for hours on end is gut-wrenching.”*

— Mihesha Gibbs-Lumpkins, a community engagement coordinator for the Nature Conservancy and a Hopkins Park village trustee

She recalled it as a place with no fences. One farm gave way to another, which gave way to an expanse of towering trees, which gave way to rolling hills of sand.

In the Pembroke she remembered, her kids would be able to play without boundaries. But she did not return to that Pembroke. Today, she doesn’t feel comfortable letting her kids walk to the edge of her property alone.

Gibbs-Lumpkin and her neighbors feel that their once-tranquil community is slowly slipping away. Conservation groups began buying property in the early 2000s to create nature preserves. In the past decade, out-of-town

Turn to Pembroke, Page 4

## Downward trend in homicides continues

City had fewer than 600 slayings, but officials are not celebrating just yet

By Sam Charles  
Chicago Tribune

Despite recording more than 570 homicides in 2024, Chicago actually saw signs of improvement, with that total marking the third consecutive year the city recorded fewer killings than the one prior.

In fact, 2024 was the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic that the city had fewer than 600 slayings before the turn of the calendar. The official figure was 571 just before Christmas, but no one is claiming victory.

Chicago saw a 7% overall decrease in murders and nonfatal shootings in 2024, a year hallmarked by the Democratic National Convention and another annual uptick in summer gun violence. But each of CPD’s five patrol areas — clusters of districts that blanket the whole city — saw a reduction in killings year-over-year, city data show.

“It’s not even just the homicides, but the number of people who have been traumatized by gun violence,” CPD Superintendent Larry Snelling, entering his second full year as head of the department, recently told the Tribune.

“The benchmark for me is to get as much control on gun violence and violent offenders as humanly possible, getting them behind bars and getting them held, repeat

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### INSIDE



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Terrible, horrible, no good, very bad year

2024 was one of the worst in memory for Chicago sports. Here’s one last look back at a lost year. **Paul Sullivan in Chicago Sports**

## Discriminating based on source of income

The practice still is widespread despite new Illinois law, housing advocates say. Lawsuits may change that. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

## Who we lost from the arts world in 2024

Remembering the good times and grand talents, the pleasure and thrills that the lives of those who departed provided. **A+E**

## Warsaw museum a symbol of openness

A new modern art museum — designed by an American — will help leave behind Poland’s communist legacy. **Life+Travel**

## WWII veteran’s Purple Heart tracked down

Edward Gorski Jr. called ‘a man’s man’ who was dedicated to his country and fellow soldiers

By Christy Gutowski  
Chicago Tribune

In the final push to defeat Nazi Germany during World War II, Edward Gorski Jr. was trying to shield himself inside a foxhole in the city of Berlin when the 19-year-old Chicagoan was struck by enemy fire.

Gorski, a broad-shouldered Army private with a rugged face, was hit with mortar shrapnel after a fellow soldier in a nearby trench lit a fire for warmth, accidentally revealing their position to German forces.

It was May 2, 1945, days after



Edward Gorski in 1984.

Adolf Hitler’s suicide and days before the end of the war in Europe. The shrapnel struck Gorski in the face, and he nearly lost an eye, but he survived to share some wartime stories — including how he earned a Purple Heart for his combat injuries.

“He said you’d see bullets flying, especially at night, and you’d hear them zip,” said a son, Scott Gorski, 62, of North Carolina. “He told me as long as you hear them, you’re fine. It’s when you don’t hear the bullet, that’s

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World War II veteran Edward Gorski Jr., who died in 1993 of a heart attack, is buried at Elm Lawn Memorial Park in Elmhurst. Gorski survived being hit in the face by shrapnel in Germany during one of the final battles of the war. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

TODAY’S WEATHER



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Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 18

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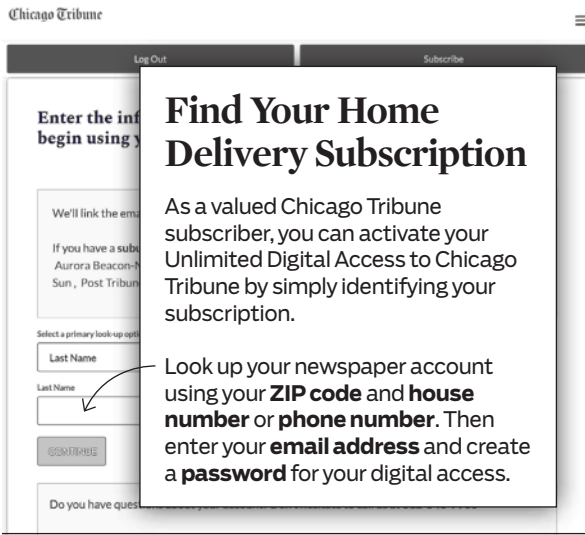


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**“He Had It Coming: Four Murderous Women and the Reporter Who Immortalized Their Stories”** “Chicago The Musical” has played on Broadway for more than 9,600 performances since it premiered on Nov. 14, 1996, yet not many people know the characters of Roxie Hart, Velma Kelly and others are inspired by real women. Their stories were captured by Tribune reporters. This new book includes original newspaper clippings, Watkins’ stories and new analysis written by Tribune reporter Kori Rumore and visual editor Marianne Mather, film critic Michael Phillips, theater critic Chris Jones and Rick Kogan.

**“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. The photos and articles tell a fascinating story about Capone and those connected to him.

**“Gangsters & Grifters: Classic Crime Photos From the Chicago Tribune.”** This collection of photographs taken in the early 1900s through the 1950s features infamous criminals, small-time bandits, smirking crooks, pickpockets, hoodlums and wiseguys at crime scenes. Created from the Tribune’s archives of vintage glass-plate and acetate negatives, these images have been largely unseen and unpublished for generations.

**“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 her empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips.

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City Hall and County Building on Sept. 3, 2020, in Chicago’s Loop. The building is one of 411 that will run on renewable energy beginning Jan. 1. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# Chicago buildings to run on 100% renewable energy in 2025

**By Karina Atkins**  
Chicago Tribune

The 411 buildings owned by the city of Chicago will run entirely on renewable energy beginning Jan. 1.

The feat will eliminate 290,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, according to Angela Tovar, the city’s chief sustainability officer. That’s equivalent to taking over 67,500 passenger vehicles off the road each year.

“Every Chicagoan interacts with a city-owned building, whether the cultural center, City Hall, Harold Washington Library, O’Hare and Midway (international airports) or your local library. To be able to achieve this milestone on behalf of city residents is exciting,” Tovar said.

Chicago is one of a handful of cities — from Hous- ton to Burlington, Vermont — to transition its municipal buildings to renewable energy.

The switch isn’t as intuitive as plugging a city building into a solar panel or a wind turbine. Electricity generated at a coal- or gas-fired plant is indistinguishable from electricity generated from a renewable source once it’s flowing through the power grid. So the city entered a five-year power purchase agreement with energy supplier Constellation to ensure the local grid will have enough renewable power to meet the city’s demand. The

agreement also will keep municipal utility bills stable or potentially drive cost savings, according to Tovar.

This is the largest power purchase agreement Constellation has entered into with a municipality to date, according to company spokeswoman Liz Williamson. The energy supplier operates in six states and

Swift Current Energy.

The remaining 30% of the city’s clean power will come from renewable-energy certificates procured by Constellation on its behalf. They authenticate that a portion of the city’s electricity bill went to funding an accredited solar or wind project somewhere in the country.

**“Every Chicagoan interacts with a city-owned building, whether the cultural center, City Hall, Harold Washington Library, O’Hare and Midway (international airports) or your local library. To be able to achieve this milestone on behalf of city residents is exciting.”**

— Angela Tovar, Chicago’s chief sustainability officer

Washington, D.C.

Beginning in 2025, 70% of municipal buildings’ electricity will come from Double Black Diamond, a new 4,100-acre solar farm in downstate Sangamon and Morgan counties. Enabled in large part by the city’s demand, it’s the largest solar project east of the Mississippi River.

“Double Black Diamond will serve as a roadmap for us as we continue trailblazing a path for clean energy now,” said Eric Lammers, CEO and co-founder of Double Black Diamond’s constructor and operator,

Some say the certificates are a form of greenwashing because they don’t ensure renewable energy is generated on the same grid where the certificate receiver is using power. A certificate used in Chicago could, for example, be traced to energy produced at a solar project in Texas or North Carolina.

But Tovar said the city made its decision to use certificates purposefully.

“We want to keep that 30% open because we really want to spend the next year looking at the prospect of starting to put rooftop solar on our own buildings,” she said.

# Naperville council hires energy consultant to evaluate electricity source options

**By Tess Kenny**  
Naperville Sun

The Naperville City Council is moving forward with energy consultant services that it previously rejected more than six months ago.

At its meeting this week, council members voted 6-3 to award a \$74,950 contract to Customized Energy Solutions. The one-year agreement calls for the Philadelphia-based consultant to provide the city options for how it goes about powering its electric grid in years to come.

Over the past year, Naperville has started to explore what its electric supply will look like after 2035, when the contract with its current provider — the coal-heavy Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) — is set to expire.

As part of that process, city staff in June requested the council bring in consultants to help chart a path forward. The request was rejected by council because of concerns over the necessity.

A key qualm for some council members at the time was that it was too early to broach the subject. Members worried that pressure from IMEA — which has requested that the city decide by next spring whether it will extend its

contract past 2035 — was unnecessarily speeding up the council’s window to make informed decisions.

However, Councilwoman Jennifer Bruzan Taylor brought the matter back for council to revisit in September. She said that in the months since consultant work was denied, she had come to understand the services were needed regardless of a potential IMEA contract renewal on the horizon.

Ultimately, staff was directed to reissue a request for proposals for energy management consulting services.

The city received proposals from three vendors: Customized Energy Solutions, Maryland-based EFW Inc. and Georgia-based EnerVision Inc.

A selection team composed of staff from Naperville’s electric utility, finance department and city manager’s office evaluated and rated the proposals. Customized Energy Solutions received the highest rating by far, scoring 90.2 to second qualifier EFW’s 60.9.

Specifically, the contract tasks Customized Energy with laying out alternatives to IMEA and how they measure up to what the agency currently offers the city. The consultant also

will evaluate the cost, benefit and risk of each option it provides.

Staff anticipates Customized Energy will complete the project by March 1, 2025. Contract terms, though, run through the end of next year to allow for follow-up discussions once the consultant’s report is submitted, staff said.

Although approved, the proposal again incited some pushback Tuesday from council members.

“I do agree that we do need a consultant to look at this ... I am still worried about the timing,” said Councilwoman Allison Longenbaugh, who joined members Ian Holzhauer and Patrick Kelly in voting against awarding the contract.

“We’re still 11 years away from the contract expiration ... it just seems too early to me,” Kelly echoed.

Taylor said she recognized the “fear of not wanting to feel like IMEA is pressuring us to do anything” but added that on the flip side, exploring “how we’re procuring energy and who we’re procuring it from takes a significant amount of years.”

She also said that if the city wants to step away from IMEA, “this is kind of the first step in having to do so because we’ll have to plan

Eventually, such panels could replace the certificates, and Chicagoans can first expect to see them at public buildings like libraries because Tovar wants the whole city to feel the positive impact of the clean-energy transition.

“Really being addictive was of critical importance to us,” she said.

Her team originally wanted to create a solar farm in Cook County, but land was cost-prohibitive. Instead, Constellation and Swift Current Energy have jointly committed to donating \$400,000 annually to Chicago nonprofits promoting workforce development in the green economy.

Construction of Double Black Diamond also created about 450 jobs and is expected to bring about \$100 million in new tax revenue to Sangamon and Morgan counties.

The city is buying only half the solar farm’s power. The other half will contribute to Illinois’ overall clean-energy infrastructure. Cook County and Loyola University Chicago have already agreed to purchase some for their operations.

“We will continue to explore and find opportunities to leverage our buying power to drive community benefits like the ones we have here,” Tovar said.

City Hall has already committed to powering all buildings, not just municipal buildings, with renewable energy by 2035.

for that.”

Regarding early renewal with IMEA, Mayor Scott Wehrli asked Electric Utility Director Brian Groth whether approving the contract with Customized Energy Solutions would tie the city to any sort of spring 2025 vote on extending with its current provider.

It would not, according to Groth.

“It is simply to understand our options and the timelines and the risks,” he said.

In a call Thursday, Groth added that the timeline for Customized Energy Solutions’ project is separate from any potential contract decisions with IMEA.

“I think it’s a separate issue because the IMEA contract is one option that the city has and it’s one that we know of, but we don’t know what the other options are. ... We don’t want to eliminate any options that we have and that’s why we’re doing this right now,” he said.

Looking forward to what information and insight Customize Energy returns to the city with, Groth said, “It will be nice to have a third party weigh in on ... what options the city has as we procure energy and necessary services beyond 2035.”

[tkenny@chicagotribune.com](mailto:tkenny@chicagotribune.com)



# CHICAGOLAND

## Discrimination based on source of income still widespread

Recent suits may change practice that violates state law

By Lizzie Kane  
Chicago Tribune

After eight years on the waitlist, Mikia Knighten was excited to learn in October 2022 that she had received a housing voucher from the Chicago Housing Authority.

The rental subsidy would allow her to move to a better neighborhood with better opportunities for her and her now 4-year-old daughter, she said.

It was going to “take a little bit of a load off” in a high-cost housing market, she said.

But after spending about eight months applying for apartments, Knighten found no landlord willing to accept her rental subsidy, and her allotted time from CHA to find a unit where she could use her voucher was up, according to the lawsuit she filed in August alleging that housing providers discriminated against her based on her source of income.

Knighten’s lawsuit alleges that housing providers said they did not accept housing vouchers, did not work with CHA or did not respond when she told them she had a housing voucher.

“It was really dehumanizing,” Knighten said. There’s “a real stigma behind having the voucher.”

Within the last year and a half, housing attorneys have filed some of the first lawsuits, including Knighten’s, allowed under Illinois’ nearly two-year-old statewide law preventing discrimination on the basis of someone’s source of income. All the complaints allege that the plaintiffs, who had housing vouchers, were discriminated against. Advocates said the discrimination is still widespread across the city and state despite the law, and they’re eager for legal rulings to help hold real estate professionals accountable.

As the cases wind their way through the court system, housing counseling and legal aid organizations are continuing to enforce the law through other means, such as filing claims with local and state human rights agencies. Before the new state law took effect, attorneys were not legally allowed to sue alleging source of income discrimination; the local human rights commissions in Chicago and Cook County were the primary route for holding housing providers accountable, and their rulings do not come with consequences as severe as lawsuit verdicts.

Knighten, who lives in Lansing, is suing 14 parties, ranging from individuals to real estate brokerages to smaller corporations. Some defendants did not return requests for comment. Others said they did not know they were being sued, that they were no longer the owners of the property in question, had not heard of the plaintiff or declined to comment on pending litigation. Knighten’s voucher was through the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the primary federal housing voucher program. Formerly known as Section 8, it allows public housing authorities to provide subsidies to low-income residents to find housing in the private market.

The multi-billion-dollar program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through local public housing authorities, helps more than 2 million households nationwide. The Chicago Housing Authority is supplying vouchers to more than 52,000 renters through the program, according to HUD data. Residents with vouchers from the CHA pay 30% to 40% of their income toward rent and utilities; the CHA covers the rest.

It can take years, sometimes decades, to get off the waitlist for a housing voucher. About 18,000 households are on the CHA’s waitlist. When the agency last opened the waitlist for four weeks in 2014, it got



The Greenwood Avenue Apartments, owned by Mac Properties, are on the corner of South Greenwood Avenue and East 45th Street in Chicago’s Oakland neighborhood. Mac Properties has been accused of discrimination in a lawsuit. **VINCENT D. JOHNSON/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

280,000 applications, 70,000 of which were approved for the list.

In Illinois, the majority of voucher holders are Black, like Knighten, as the Black population has historically faced racial discrimination preventing them from building wealth, making them more likely to use vouchers. Housing advocates said source of income discrimination is another form of racial discrimination.

For those who do get off the waitlist, in 2022 only 61% were able to use their CHA vouchers, the agency’s most recent year with complete data.

The CHA data are consistent with national figures. Only 60% of voucher holders are able to use them to lease homes, according to a 2024 national study conducted with data from 2015 to 2019 by New York University’s Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. The numbers are worse for markets with an older housing stock and for voucher recipients of color, the study says, both of which apply to Chicago.

Michael Mini, executive vice president of the Chicagoland Apartment Association, a trade group that represents housing providers, said he has not heard of any problems or concerns related to source of income discrimination.

The “vast majority” of his members are “very familiar” with the voucher program and had already been following the city and county laws prior to the statewide law’s passage, Mini said. He said his organization notified its members downstate and beyond when the state law was passed.

“Source of income is a protected class. Like any other protected class, we expect our members to comply with the law,” Mini said.

But housing advocates said source of income discrimination happens overtly and covertly. Sometimes real estate professionals explicitly say they will not accept a housing voucher; other times they do not count the voucher toward a renter’s income and say the renter does not have sufficient income to qualify for the unit. Many property owners and managers require a renter’s monthly income to be three times the monthly rent. And sometimes required credit scores and high application fees are limiting factors for voucher holders.

“There are always emerging strategies ... that a landlord can employ that really accomplish the same thing,” said Susan Theiss, an attorney focused on fair housing rights with Legal Aid Chicago. “Landlords are always shifting the ground when they really don’t want to rent to people with housing assistance.”

Theiss and other advocates said the number of callers alleging source of income discrimination has increased since the state law passed, a

sign that information about it is getting out.

In one case, fair-housing counseling organization Open Communities and one of its clients filed a lawsuit in 2023 in federal court in Chicago against national property management company Harbor Group Management and software company PERQ. The lawsuit alleged that Harbor Group Management employed an artificial intelligence chatbot that systematically rejected online applicants who had Housing Choice Vouchers.

In January, the parties settled for monetary damages and entered into a two-year consent decree that requires Harbor Group to provide Open Communities data and access related to its fair-housing policies and practices, including its use of PERQ software.

In another case, filed Dec. 17 in federal court in Chicago as a class-action suit, four Black women alleged that Mac Properties discriminated against them for their source of income, housing vouchers and race, steering them away from “desirable apartment buildings,” according to the lawsuit. That hurt them financially and caused them to lose out on housing opportunities in Hyde Park given Mac’s dominance of the rental market in the neighborhood, the suit alleges.

In a statement, a Mac Properties spokesperson denied the allegations in the suit, calling them “entirely baseless” and citing the company’s “ongoing training” of its leasing agents to ensure they comply with “all legal and ethical standards.” The company said it has rented to hundreds of voucher holders in its 5,000 units in Hyde Park. The spokesperson also said one of the plaintiffs filed a complaint with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations that was dismissed this year.

“Mac Properties has a proven and longstanding commitment to providing equal access to housing for all individuals, regardless of income. We strictly adhere to all local, state, and federal housing laws — without exception,” the spokesperson said in the statement.

The outcomes of the initial lawsuits will outline for housing providers and judges how the law should and will be enforced, attorneys said. Advocates and their clients are also using the new state law to help with eviction cases and are still filing cases through the local and new state human rights commissions.

Allison Bethel, director of the Fair Housing Legal Clinic at University of Illinois Chicago, said she has clients who are voucher holders and are being evicted and/or are facing poor living conditions or fines because of their source of income. The clinic has settled cases where clients have stayed housed or received money, Bethel said.

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations estimates it has received 1,700 complaints related to source of income discrimination since 1990, the year the agency began handling these types of complaints. The commission saw the number more than double from 2022 to 2023, with 101 source of income discrimination complaints filed in 2023, according to agency data provided to the Tribune. A commission spokesperson said many of those complaints were from repeat filers who are typically renters in the midst of their housing search who have been turned away from several housing providers.

In Cook County, fewer than 75 complaints have been filed since 2013, when it made source of income discrimination illegal, according to the county. Since 2022 the Cook County Commission on Human Rights has seen an uptick in filings. A county official said there has been a recent increase in filings since September, too, when the county began accepting complaints via an online form. The Illinois Department of Human Rights, which began accepting source of income complaints in January 2023, when the statewide law took effect, received 34 complaints in 2023 and 48 in 2024 as of November, according to data provided to the Tribune.

Advocates and attorneys say some cases are settled before an investigation is completed. They also said it can take several months to over a year for the IDHR to process and investigate a complaint, with many of its cases still awaiting results. Some of those advocates said they hope this process can be sped up.


The IDHR said in a statement that each case is unique, with some taking longer than others depending on factors such as “the number of cases received by the agency, the complexity of the allegations raised in a charge, the time parties need to understand and respond to requests for information and/or documents, and investigator caseloads and staffing allocations.”

As Illinois heads into year three of its statewide source of income protections, housing advocates will continue their work and await verdicts that they hope can help guide their paths forward.

“We’ve just got to get ... the word out more. ... And (we) need a couple of court decisions, too,” Bethel said.

For Knighten — who works at a call center and is paying more than 1.5 times as much for rent as she would have with a voucher — she hopes her case raises awareness. “Just because people are getting assistance from the government doesn’t make them less of a person,” Knighten said. “(I want to) make sure no one else has to go through what I went through when they are just trying to get help to survive.”

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# Pembroke

from Page 1

off-road enthusiasts have trespassed on the dunes. They shoot guns and make campfires late into the night, leaving behind bullet casings and beer cans.

The off-road activity has only increased in recent years, according to residents. Gibbs-Lumpkin said she saw droves of 200 to 300 riders at a time descend on the dunes on several occasions this summer. Another resident shared a video with the Tribune of riders revving their engines on an October Sunday at 5:30 a.m.

Lacking its own police force, the less-than-1,900-person township feels attacked and defenseless.

“I used to tell people all the time that Hopkins Park in Pembroke is one of the last places on this earth where you can go to get your mental and emotional health back in order without getting a prescription,” Gibbs-Lumpkins said.

The ambient sound of chirping birds, whistling branches and scurrying creatures was rarely disrupted by cars or planes. Sandwiched between fields, the town was supposed to be a world away from the riots ensuing in Minneapolis in 2020.

Then, shortly after she moved to her new home, off-road vehicles began zooming through her backyard. She had to move the chairs and sofa away from the windows so they weren’t in the line of sight of a stray bullet.

“Our way of life is not being respected. Our right just to sleep peacefully is not being respected. Hearing assault rifles for hours on end is gut-wrenching,” Gibbs-Lumpkins said.

The small, resource-poor township relies on the Kankakee County sheriff’s office to enforce the law. But Sheriff Mike Downey said his force’s hands are largely tied. It lacks the resources to pursue armed off-rovers through acres of rolling sand, and state law empowers officers only to issue citations for criminal trespassing.

But residents, who say not everyone files a complaint, are at a loss. Many have resorted to protecting their property with barricades made of metal mattress frames, used cars and fallen trees. The off-rovers just come back with bulldozers and chain saws. The “No Trespassing” signs they have posted on private property all over town are adorned with bullet holes.

Once antagonists, environmentalists have partnered with residents to fend off the off-rovers.

“(Our responsibility) is no different than anybody else who owns property and lives here,” said the Nature Conservancy’s Illinois director of land and water conservation, Jason Beverlin. “We are part of the neighborhood, and we have a responsibility to work with our neighbors to try to help solve this.”

## ‘A Black mecca’

Two centuries ago Pembroke’s sandy soil was presumed worthless. People freed from slavery were largely able to stake their claim on the area in the mid-1800s because white settlers passed it over. The town steadily grew as it became a refuge for Black people escaping the Jim Crow South.

Through trial and error, Black farmers learned to live off the land: growing specialty crops to feed their families, harvesting just enough timber to heat their homes and intentionally burning land to keep it healthy. Thanks to their light touch, Pembroke is one of the few places that still looks like it did over 200 years ago, said Kim Roman of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

It’s home to at least 38 endangered or threatened species and the largest concentration of black oak savannas: sparsely treed grasslands found at the convergence of eastern hardwood forests and western grassland prairies. Once covering about 30 million acres across the Midwest, these savannas now account for less than 6,500 acres.

Much of the savanna lies within sand dunes created by a catastrophic flood during the last ice age. Tsunami-like waves from melting glaciers drained the large lakes that



Community engagement coordinator for the Nature Conservancy and Village of Hopkins Park Trustee Mihesha Lumpkins stands in the Pembroke Savanna on Dec. 1 in Hopkins Park. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



A fence and trespassing signs block a path to a sand dune located on private property behind homes and used frequently by ATVs in Hopkins Park.



An ATV moves through a sand dune on private property Dec. 15 in Hopkins Park.

covered Illinois and Indiana, leaving behind sand that once lined the lakebeds. Thousands of years of wind shaped 80 acres of sand into the dunes that the off-rovers now call “the bowl.”

The Nature Conservancy began establishing a network of preserves in Pembroke during the early 2000s. Almost 450 acres were collected during public auctions of land lost due to unpaid property taxes. Many residents saw it as an intrusion on a struggling community.

Poverty is endemic, and population loss has been steady. A few churches, a deli and gas station are scattered between shuttered buildings on Main Street. The population has more than halved since 1980, declining from nearly 4,700 to less than 1,900 in 2020.

“We had a Black mecca out here, and we didn’t know it,” Arnetia Marshall said at a mid-December community meeting where a dozen residents aired their grievances about the off-road activity. “We’ve always been a welcoming community, but this welcome comes with respect.”

Today the conservancy has about 2,700 acres in the area but it stopped purchasing land through public auction in 2015, according to Beverlin.

Some of the conservancy’s property leads to and is within “the bowl,” thrusting the organization into partnership with the residents against Pembroke’s newest intruders.

A now-deleted 2022 real estate listing for vacant



Mayor Mark Hodge, 62, sits in his office in Village Hall, which is located in a church, in Hopkins Park.

land advertises “Exclusive access to ‘The Bowl.’ If you know, you know! Bring your ATVs (all-terrain vehicles), 4-wheelers, and motorcycles!”

Beverlin and his colleagues have been intentional about establishing more collaborative relationships with residents. Gibbs-Lumpkins was hired last year as a community engagement specialist.

The organization sent the police a letter last month requesting a conversation about getting the off-roading activity under control. Earlier this month, Downey acknowledged to the Tribune that his office received the letter but has yet to respond.

The sheriff’s office has received 66 calls since 2020 regarding criminal trespassing within the township, according to sheriff’s office records. Downey said most off-roader-related calls have been logged as trespassing complaints.

Ultimately, he questioned whether the off-rovers

were a “huge problem,” stating that his office only averages a dozen calls about trespassers in Pembroke Township per year. Nineteen of those 66 calls were made this year and 14 were made last year, according to mid-December data. There were also 31 calls reporting shots fired in 2024 and 85 calls in 2023, the same year the sheriff responded to an ATV accident that killed a child.

## Roadblocks to prosecuting

This spring, Gibbs-Lumpkins bought another home, away from the dunes, because of all the off-road activity. Caravans of off-rovers still whiz by at all hours but she feels better protected from the gun activity.

Bruce Collins, who currently lives along the bowl’s perimeter, said he’s had stray bullets fly into his home twice: once through his son’s bedroom wall and

the second time through his living room window.

“I’ve been complaining for the last three years, and no one did anything,” Collins said. He’s frustrated that municipal and county officials aren’t taking ownership over the issue.

Hopkins Park Mayor Mark Hodge has put the responsibility squarely in the sheriff’s court.

“If we had our own police department, then we could manage and eliminate this within a month,” said the mayor, who worked as a corrections officer in California for two decades before returning to his hometown and assuming public office in 2015.

Pembroke and Hopkins Park’s governments are toothless without their own police force. The county sheriff is not authorized to enforce village and township ordinances. The sheriff must depend on county and state trespassing, noise pollution and gun laws, which Hodge said would be adequate if enforced.

Some of Hodge’s peers in local government and his constituents believe the sheriff’s office’s lack of attention has racial undertones. Pembroke is a predominantly Black town, and Kankakee is a predominantly white county.

“The police treat us differently” was a phrase repeated constantly during the December community meeting.

Kankakee County is 70% white, while Pembroke Township is 70% Black.

“I think it’s racial. I’ll say it because I do believe we are paying our tax dollars like everybody else,” Rosemary Foster, a lifelong Pembroke resident and Kankakee County Board member, told the Tribune in early December.

But the police said the bowl’s topography makes it particularly difficult to regulate activity in Pembroke compared with other parts of Kankakee County, where unauthorized off-road activity is also common. Squad cars are not equipped to chase ATVs and razors through the expansive, rolling dunes.

Several residents told the Tribune their 911 calls for help were met by responders telling them nothing could be done.

“We can chase them all we want and the issue becomes, if we get into a pursuit with an ATV and God forbid something bad happens to the driver of that ATV, who do you think they’re going to blame?” Downey said. “With the SAFE-T Act, all we can do is write them a citation anyway.”

Trespassing is not a detainable offense following the passage of the 2021 Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act. First-time offenders are issued a ticket, and second-time offenders can be arrested only for a couple of hours. The crime is considered a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Kankakee County State’s Attorney Jim Rowe said he has met with village and township leadership to discuss “criminal activity”

at the bowl.

“My Office will prosecute any such crimes that are reported to law enforcement and meet the requirements for criminal prosecution, i.e., witnesses to the offense, identity of the trespassers, signed trespass complaints by the property owner, etc.,” he wrote the Tribune in an email. “This evidence, and more, is required by law for a trespassing offense to be charged.”

But the sheriff’s office has not cited any off-rovers in Pembroke since the SAFE-T Act was passed, and many of the calls about off-road activity have been made anonymously, Downey said.

In the last five years, the sheriff’s office has only filed one official incident report of criminal trespassing and two reports of stray bullets damaging homes in the bowl’s perimeter, according to official documents obtained by the Tribune via a Freedom of Information Act request. None identified a suspect.

Downey is hopeful that a new ATV fleet purchased by his office this fall will help his team wrangle off-rovers in the near future. The fleet hasn’t been deployed yet, and off-road activity has slowed down with the cold weather.

## Gearing up for grassroots action

Hodge, Foster and Pembroke Township Supervisor Samuel Payton sent a joint letter pleading for assistance from the Illinois chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association did not respond to the Tribune’s request for comment.

The local leaders plan to send a similar letter to Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the Illinois State Police in the coming weeks.

Residents have also been strategizing grassroots action. They organized a “stand-in” to confront armed off-rovers in late October. And, during the mid-December community meeting, they discussed using drones to track vehicles, joked about a tax boycott to incentivize police action and encouraged one another to file formal complaints every time they call the police.

Everyone reminisced about a time when no one needed fences. They agreed the rural community needed its own police department.

A couple of residents floated the possibility of using the demonstrated interest in off-roading to bring much-needed economic activity to the small town. It was quickly shut down by others.

“Eventually, (creating a regulated ATV riding area) is one of the things that the community could consider doing on our terms. But right now, we need to take control of the situation that’s threatening a lot of our landowners,” Johari Cole-Kweli, the founder and president of the Community Development Corporation of Pembroke-Hopkins Park, told the Tribune. “We’re getting accosted. It’s lawless.”





Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Samantha Steele enters the Daley Center on Dec. 27 for her initial court appearance for her Nov. 10 DUI arrest. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# Cook County tax commissioner gets license back after DUI arrest

By Peter Breen and A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

Samantha Steele, the Cook County Board of Review commissioner arrested last month for driving under the influence of alcohol after a car crash, won back her right to drive on a technicality after her first court appearance Friday.

Steele, a first-term commissioner on the three-member panel that hears property tax appeals, crashed what she said was a friend's car in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood the night of Nov. 10. The incident made waves not only because she told responding officers at the scene that she was an elected official and often refused to cooperate with their orders, but also made crude comments to one of her arresting officers.

Steele has not commented on the incident and remotely attended the Board of Review's public meeting earlier this month. She did not speak to reporters after Friday's proceedings.

Those arrested for DUI typically have their license suspended, but Steele's attorney, John Fotopoulos, petitioned for her driving privileges to be restored last month and won them back Friday after arguing that she wasn't given proper warning of the consequences of

refusing a breathalyzer test.

Fotopoulos said it might be more difficult for a police officer to properly fill out DUI paperwork than Police Department paperwork in a murder case.

After hours of back and forth between Steele's attorney and the prosecutor, as well as testimony from the arresting officer, Judge Athena James Frentzas granted Fotopoulos' petition and set Steele's next appearance for Feb. 14.

Steele did take a brief field sobriety test during the November incident but wasn't breathalyzed. According to the arrest report, "her eyes were bloodshot and glassy," she smelled like alcohol and appeared "to be swaying" during the field sobriety test. Body-camera footage from the night of the crash showed officers taking an open but corked bottle of wine out of the passenger seat footwell. She admitted at the scene that she hit two other cars.

Steele was later taken to the hospital after she said she'd hit her head during the crash. While there, according to the arrest report, she refused a breathalyzer test and repeatedly asked the police officer with her, "Is your penis that small?"

Danny Yu, the officer who arrested Steele and was questioned about his penis

size, said in court Friday that at the hospital he read Steele the warning that if a first-time offender refuses or fails to complete all chemical sobriety tests requested, they could see their license suspended for a year.

Yu, a seven-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, said he'd made around a dozen DUI arrests for the department and that he interpreted Steele's crude comments as part of her refusal.

Before granting Steele her license back, the judge said Yu never specified what time Steele refused testing at the hospital.

In paperwork from the night of the arrest, Yu wrote that Steele refused chemical sobriety testing at 9:15 p.m. In testimony Friday, Yu said the testing he was referring to was field sobriety testing that had been done before Steele was taken to the hospital.

While one Republican member of the Cook County Board called for Steele's resignation over how she treated officers at the scene — the crude statements received some national media attention — Democratic colleagues have declined to comment or called for "grace."

Steele also serves on the Lake County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals in Indiana.

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# Gorski

from Page 1

when you're hit."

His father died in early 1993 after suffering a massive heart attack in his Westmont home. The retired private security captain had turned 67 one month earlier.

Another son, David, said that after his father's death he put the Purple Heart and other medals in a bank safe-deposit box but eventually lost track of the box after he moved out of state and the bank closed or merged with another institution.

The family assumed the contents of the safe-deposit box were gone forever until a recent December day when the Tribune tracked them down to say that their father's medals, including the Purple Heart, had ended up in the unclaimed property section of the Illinois treasurer's office.

The office had preserved the medals in a Springfield vault since Oct. 30, 2003, when a Darien bank turned them over as contents from an abandoned safe-deposit box. Treasurer Michael Frerichs is the state's official custodian of unclaimed property, which includes everything from bank accounts and insurance policies to stamps, baseball cards, jewelry and coins.

An estimated \$2 billion in forgotten cash and stock has been returned to individuals, employers and nonprofits during Frerichs' three terms, according to his office.

Military medals are often difficult to return because the name under which the property was submitted may not correspond to the name of the honoree. A Purple Heart has no engravings that would identify the recipient or the conflict in which it was awarded. And neither the Armed Forces nor the federal government maintains a comprehensive list.

The treasurer launched a special effort, "Operation Purple Heart," in late 2021 to raise awareness about unclaimed medals.

On Veterans Day weekend, the Tribune detailed its efforts to help identify the veterans who earned 11 Purple Hearts that sat unclaimed in the treasurer's vault. After four months of research, the Tribune succeeded in nine of the outstanding cases.

Frerichs gave one of the Purple Hearts to a Decatur woman last fall, the 12th he has returned during his time in office. Two more families have filed claims for medals since the Tribune wrote about their cases. But the safe-deposit boxes connected to Gorski and another man, Robert Cawthon, remained a mystery.

The Tribune continued digging and, with the help of researchers at the National Archives and Records Administration in St. Louis, unearthed Gorski's discharge papers from nearly 80 years ago. The documents confirmed he earned the same five military decorations — including the Purple Heart and a blue combat infantryman badge — as those in the treasurer's vault.

Scott and David Gorski said their father was proud of his military service. They hope to honor his wishes by giving the medals to Scott's oldest son, Shawn, also an Army veteran.

## 'A man's man'

Edward Gorski Jr. voluntarily enlisted in the Army in April 1944, months after his 18th birthday.

The oldest child of working-class parents, he grew up on Chicago's North Side near Wrigley Field. Tall and muscular, he and his brothers looked like their own football team, Scott Gorski said. He wasn't surprised his father volunteered to serve.

"He was a man's man — there's no doubt about it," he said. "I remember my dad saying, 'Scott, the most important thing about it is keeping the battle on their soil, not ours.' He said, 'When you have a battle on your soil, you've got a lot more casualties and a lot more problems. It just makes sense to bring the fight to them and away from our families.'"

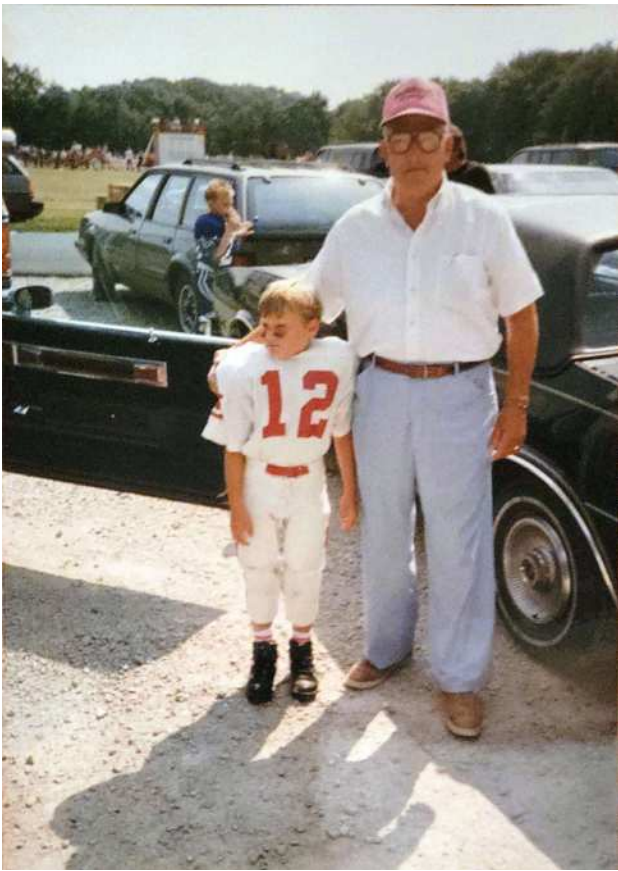
The military records confirm some of Gorski's stories. The infantryman and his battalion pushed from



Shawn Gorski of Geneva, the first-born grandson of World War II veteran Edward Gorski Jr., shared a special bond with his grandfather and also served in the Army. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



A case in the unclaimed property vault of the Illinois treasurer's office in Springfield holds Purple Heart medals that were turned over to the state. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE**



Two sons of Edward Gorski Jr., at right, said they would like his wartime medals to go to his grandson Shawn, seen here at age 7 at a football game. **LORA OLDHAM**



The medals awarded to Edward Gorski Jr. ended up in the custody of the state treasurer's office as unclaimed property after his family lost track of the safe-deposit box where they had been stored. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

France through the Rhineland toward Austria, facing brutal cold, sleep deprivation and days of bloody, ruthless fighting. He survived significant combat, including the battle in the German capital of Berlin where he was struck by shrapnel in the face and body.

Though he shielded his family from the atrocities he experienced at war, Scott Gorski said his father told him the hardest experiences were the casualties of men in his battalion, including being forced to leave

them behind, and when he witnessed the suffering of children.

"The biggest thing to him was some of the things he saw with poverty and kids during the war," Scott Gorski said. "He remembers seeing a child eating grease in the back of a diner ... just scooping grease out of a bin and pouring a sugar packet and taking a sugar packet and pouring sugar on it just so he could get it down."

Gorski said his father told him he'd often share his military rations, such as peaches or chocolate bars.

There was one story about a lighter moment that still makes Scott Gorski smile.

After a relentless night of combat, as Edward Gorski and his fellow soldiers made their way through Austria, they spotted children sledding on a snowy hill. Ignoring his lieutenant's command to push on, the soldier driving the truck carrying Gorski stopped to allow the men to run up and down the hill, each taking his turn sledding.

"All they had seen was nothing but fighting," the son said. "He said it made them feel normal for a change."

He said her father's dedication to his country and fellow soldiers is inspiring.

"I couldn't imagine being that age and making those kinds of decisions every moment of the day while just trying to stay alive," Scott Gorski said. "He said you really got to have guys who are looking out for each other, and obviously they did because he said a lot of his guys made it back. Some obviously didn't."

## Indulgent grandpa

As Edward Gorski fought overseas, his girlfriend, Evelyn, worked long hours at a Chicago parachute factory, according to David Gorski, 68, who now lives in Wisconsin.

"They were sweethearts," he said. "I bet every night she went to bed wondering if he was all right. My mother put herself to work as much as her body could handle so she wouldn't think about it."

Edward Gorski returned to Chicago after being honorably discharged in November 1945. He had earned a Purple Heart, a European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two bronze service stars, a combat infantryman badge, and the good conduct and World War II victory medals, according to his discharge records.

He and Evelyn exchanged vows in a Presbyterian church the following September.

David Gorski said his mother had saved her paychecks to help the young couple begin their lives as husband and wife. They started a family on Chicago's

North Side but eventually moved to suburban DuPage County. They lived mostly paycheck to paycheck, with Evelyn staying home to raise their daughter and four sons while working part time selling Avon beauty products.

Gorski worked for a while as a welder but eventually switched careers to private security. He worked 13-hour shifts, six days a week, for many years, David Gorski said.

On some weekends, Gorski took his family on excursions to the Wisconsin Dells, to Springfield or into Chicago for a hot dog at Jimmy's Red Hots, for a Cubs game or to catch perch at his favorite fishing spot, "the horseshoe" near Montrose Harbor on Lake Michigan.

Scott Gorski said his dad "never met a stranger," at times opening his home to a neighborhood kid in need. His patriotic dad played cards with other veterans at local VFW or American Legion halls and put Scott through scouting, helping troop members earn their safety badges by teaching target practice with rifles he acquired for the task.

"There was nothing he wouldn't sacrifice for us," his son said.

Years later, after he retired, Edward Gorski often babysat his first grandchild, Shawn, who is Scott's oldest child. Edward and Shawn shared the same birth date, Jan. 9.

Shawn Gorski, of Geneva, told the Tribune his grandpa "stepped in" at a crucial time after his parents divorced.

Edward took Shawn to fish for bluegills, to play tennis at the courts outside his apartment and for regular trips to Lincoln Park Zoo. He also dutifully attended Shawn's football games and came along for a trip to Disney World in Florida when Shawn was about 5.

"I think he just knew that he needed to be there for me," said Gorski, 39.

Shawn was barely 8 years old when his grandfather died. He still remembers when his mother, Lora Oldham, broke the news to him after he returned home from school. Gorski said he instantly knew his grandfather was gone before his mother spoke the words.

At the services, Oldham said, a woman turned to her son and told him: "You were the apple of your grandpa's eyes."

"And Shawn just started bawling," she said. "He was always so good to Shawn."

After college, inspired to serve his country after the 9/11 attacks, Shawn Gorski followed in his grandpa's footsteps and joined the Army. Gorski said he served from 2009 to 2013 as a signal officer in Germany training soldiers on communications before they were deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

He said his grandfather was "my buddy, for sure."

"He was incredibly patient and fun," Gorski said. "It was literally my rules. He had multiple heart attacks and, I think, he knew he wasn't going to live long and so just kind of let it be,

you know, just enjoyed it."

## Lost valor

Edward Gorski had a scar shaped like a half "C" beneath his left eye that served as a daily reminder of what he survived during World War II. He also had his medals, which his son Scott said his father kept in a metal Band-Aid tin in his bedroom nightstand.

"I think it meant a lot to him," the son said. "It showed him he wasn't going to run from something."

Scott assumed the medals were long lost, not realizing his brother David had put them in a bank after their father's death.

"I set the deposit box up because I wanted to keep them safe for my parents' oldest grandson," David said. "My dad expressed when he was alive and Shawn was very young that he wanted them to go to him."

David Gorski moved to central Wisconsin nearly 25 years ago with his mother and eventually lost track of the box. The medals ended up in Illinois' unclaimed property section in late 2003. The only information the state had was David's name and a post office box address in Darien.

After researching several families with the same Polish moniker and connections to the western suburbs, the Tribune identified the correct Gorski through obituaries, old addresses, military records and other public documents. One of the records confirmed that David Gorski once held a P.O. box with the same address as the one the bank provided.

The family didn't know about the treasurer's "Operation Purple Heart" campaign. Scott moved to North Carolina the year before his father died. Evelyn, David and an older brother were in Wisconsin. Another brother died in 1995. A sister lived in Florida until recently.

Scott Gorski said he plans to file a claim, with David's help, to get back their father's medals and give them to Shawn.

Edward Gorski is buried at Elm Lawn Memorial Park in Elmhurst. Sadly, his widow died weeks before the Tribune contacted the family with information about her husband's long-lost medals. Evelyn Gorski, who never remarried, died on Oct. 8 in Wausau, Wisconsin. She was 99.

More than 30 years after her husband's death, she is now buried alongside him. Their shared grave marker includes an emblem of a cross, an open Bible and the words "together forever."

*Anyone with information about a Purple Heart return, particularly a safe-deposit box connected to Robert Cawthon, is urged to contact the Illinois treasurer's office at [claimantconnect@illinoistreasurer.gov](mailto:claimantconnect@illinoistreasurer.gov). For more information, go to <https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/purplehearts/>.*

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# Still excited about ‘making a difference in the community’

Ald. Mike Saville  
nears 40 years on  
Aurora City Council

By Steve Lord  
Aurora Beacon-News

Mike Saville doesn't expect anyone to agree with him all the time. "You're not going to be able to come to 100% agreement," the 6th Ward alderman in Aurora said recently. "We don't always have to agree. I mean, spouses don't always agree. We might disagree one time, and agree the next 99 times."

That has been a guiding concept for Saville, who is nearing 40 years on the Aurora City Council — more than 40 years in public service — the most consecutive years on the council for any alderman since at least the change of government in the city in 1977, and maybe ever.

He has served through five mayoral administrations — David Pierce, David Stover, Tom Weisner, Bob O'Connor and Richard Irvin — and with other aldermen too numerous to mention. And in that time, Saville has left a mark on downtown Aurora and in his near West Side ward by supporting what he calls "quality of life issues" — development standards, parks, historic preservation, flooding and his particular focus, the Riverwalk through downtown.

Moreover, he has made a connection with people in his 6th Ward to the point of enjoying ongoing support, even when they don't agree. "What I've tried to do is listen as much as possible, to always see if there's a compromise, or if they just want me to vote no," he said. "Sometimes, I would vote in favor of my constituents, when I might have voted for something else."

"My secret is when an election comes around, I run scared. I don't take it for granted. I try to get back to people. I try to remain humble to the experience. Even though I have experience, I never go into an issue where I know it all."

"I always say, don't call me alderman, call me Mike."

Ald. Carl Franco, 5th Ward, who has served about 10 years with Saville, said it is that even-tempered attitude that has contributed to Saville's longevity on the council.

"Mike's just a good person, a solid person," Franco said. "He just wants to do the right thing. He's on a very even keel. I get agitated at times. I couldn't do it for 30 years, I know that."

Mayor Richard Irvin has served for the past seven years as mayor with Saville on the council, and with him as a fellow alderman for 10 years before that.

He said Saville is "not only synonymous with Aurora, but also synonymous with fairness, professionalism, balance and community service."

"His four decades on the City Council have granted him a historical access and

Mike Saville, Aurora's 6th Ward alderman for almost 40 years, presents an award as part of his duties as mayor pro-tem, filling in when the mayor is absent. STEVE LORD/THE BEACON-NEWS

longitudinal perspective that only time can provide," Irvin said. "He's a walking encyclopedia of Aurora happenings and is an elected official who brings his years of personal experience to every single decision he votes on."

"He is the people's politician and a darn good one."

Saville graduated from the University of Illinois-Chicago with a degree in political science. After graduation, he traveled a bit, but eventually made his way back to the city where he grew up, Aurora.

In 1980, Chet Albright, who was the 6th Ward alderman at the time, sponsored Saville for the Aurora Plan Commission (now the Planning and Zoning Commission).

"I had no planning background," he said. "The Plan Commission was a great educational opportunity. I realized, I'm happy being a planner. This is fun."

When Albright resigned from the City Council to take a new job in 1985, Saville put his hat in the ring for the position, along with two others.

David Pierce, mayor at the time, chose Saville.

"I never thought I'd be here after all these years," Saville said.

Almost immediately, Saville took an interest in improving development standards in the city, which were "loose" at the time, he said. His interest would lead to years of chairing the City Council's committee on development, known by several names over the years but now called the Building, Zoning and Economic Development Committee (which he does not chair now).

The first legislation he sponsored was to force property owners who tore buildings down to put in topsoil and plant grass on the lot, known as "greening" the lot.

"Aurora was a very different town," he said. "It was in the path for development, but it needed guidance."

To see Aurora change and change for the better, it's been a phenomenal opportunity."

Through the years, a partial list of things Saville has supported or sponsored include: Increased lot sizes for building and rebuilding; requiring vacant houses be boarded up and painted; an anti-monotony ordinance so the city would not have narrow row houses; and amendments to the sign ordinance, including support for taking billboards down in downtown.

Saville has been a staunch supporter of historic districts. Three of the four such districts in the city — Riddle Highlands, Palace Street and Tanner — are in the 6th Ward.

Another of the first challenges Saville faced — one that took a long time to deal with — was flooding in his ward.

"When I became alderman, we had one good storm sewer," he said. "The rest of the ward had bad storm sewer systems. There was a time when I didn't like it when it was raining because I knew I was going to get a call. Now, I enjoy the sound of rain again."

Saville also was a supporter of neighborhood downzoning throughout the city, a long-range reversal of the rule enacted in 1957 that allowed many single-family homes to convert to multi-family. At the time, it was seen as a solution to a housing crisis, but it turned out to be a true neighborhood-buster leading to overcrowding.

In the effort to turn those homes back to single-family, Saville and other aldermen worked with such neighborhood activists as Lillian Perry, Elaine Parker, Arlene Shoemaker, Betty Barr (who also served with Saville on the City Council) and Marie Wilkinson.

But perhaps the one issue Saville is most connected to is passage of the 1987 Riverwalk Commission, and its eventual companions, the FoxWalk District and the

Design Review Committee.

"I knew Kane County had it on the books to bring the bike trail to Aurora," Saville said. "It was going to stop. I thought how do we get it through downtown? Let's have a Riverwalk; Naperville has a riverwalk, other cities have a riverwalk."

The idea of the commission was so popular that there were too many people applying to be on it, so the idea of a Riverwalk Advisory Committee was born.

In 1993 the city created the FoxWalk District, which included the entire downtown. After that came the Design Review Committee, which signs off on all design things downtown, from benches, signage to light poles.

"When we proposed it, there were seven different light standards downtown," Saville said. "Look at downtown today, it looks as good as it does because of the Riverwalk. Every succeeding administration, to their credit, has carried forward those standards."

Saville points to the section on Stolp Island, between Downer Place and Benton Street, where the new Stolp Island Theatre is, and the refurbished GAR Museum.

But there are 10 different vistas featuring the river that have been created downtown since the commission came in, he said.

"It can be a place of commerce and excitement," he said. "In 1987, I said the river and the downtown are the heart and soul of our community. And we did end up connecting the riverwalk with the downtown. So, it's been fun and rewarding to watch and unfold, even though we're not done yet."

Saville is not done yet, either. Longevity like his on the council is rare. Bob O'Connor served as an alderman at-large for 36 years before retiring in 2021, and Scheketa Hart-Burns spent 32 years on the council, passing away in 2023.

Saville did try for higher office in 2017, when he ran for mayor, losing in the primary to Irvin and Rick Guzman. But he continued as alderman, winning reelection in his 6th Ward most recently in 2023, eventually gaining 72% of the vote despite facing six candidates.

"Truthfully, I'm just taking it one election at a time," Saville said. "I'll see how I'm doing, check the constituents. Today I feel good. I'm making a difference in the community."

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# Dixmoor mayor faces potential challenge from former trustee

By Samantha Moilanen  
Daily Southtown

Dixmoor Mayor Fitzgerald Roberts could face a challenge from former Trustee Cynthia Mossuto in the upcoming April election, pending the outcome of a challenge to her nominating petition.

Mossuto cast her bid for village president on a slate of candidates under the party name Dixmoor United. Also on the slate is Shuaverta Miles for clerk, along with Baltazar Martinez Jr., Joy Johnson and Raymond Lavigne for three trustee seats, according to the village clerk.

Village attorney James Vasselli said Thursday Ira Rolark, who also filed a petition to run for trustee, has challenged the petitions for the entire Dixmoor United slate. There are three separate electoral boards for the candidates, one each for mayor, clerk and trustee, which village spokesman Travis Akin said ensures candidates are not on an electoral board for the position they are running for.

Akin said Cook County conducted a binder check Friday to determine if there are enough valid signatures on the petitions. Then the county will relay the findings to the electoral boards, he said.

Filing independently are Juanita Darden-Thompson for reelection as village clerk, and Charlene McFadden, Dwayne Tyson and Angela Franks-Muse for another term as village trustees, according to the clerk's office.

Roberts, a former trustee who was elected village president in 2021, said he seeks a second term because he has more to accomplish.

"I like what I do. I like being a servant. I was born a servant to help the people. It's not about me pretty much running just to carry a title. I run so I can have the resources where I can take care of the people of the community," Roberts said. Mossuto, a Dixmoor



Roberts



Mossuto

Public Library District trustee and former village trustee, said she is running for village president because she wants to see more transparency.

"We've had a lot of people that call the Village Hall and we don't get any answers. I have filed Freedom of Information Acts for the last two years, even going through the attorney general's office. No answers. So as a resident, I can't get that information," she said. "I would have to hire an attorney. But who has the resources to do that? I think you need to have an open and honest government."

Mossuto and Lavigne faced an objection to their petitions when they ran for trustee seats in 2023 and were initially removed from the ballot. After appealing, a Cook County judge overruled the board, allowing them to remain on the ballot.

Given the objection two years ago, Mossuto said she and the other challengers anticipated having to go through judicial review.

If reelected, Roberts said he wants to continue work to rebuild the village through infrastructure improvements and to bring more businesses and new housing developments to Dixmoor.

Roberts said one of his goals as mayor was to replace aging water lines in the village, which is often plagued by water disruptions. In September, crews completed a \$3 million project to replace a water main that runs south under Interstate 57, but Roberts said work is not done.

Roberts said he plans to build a new village hall, upgrade the Dixmoor Community Center and is working to bring a mall to Sibley Boulevard in the village.

According to the village's 2024 multi-year capital improvement plan approved in August, rehabilitating the community center is projected to cost \$500,000. This will fund the renovation of the existing structure, the parking area, drainage improvements and a connection to the sewer on Paulina Avenue. The plan also includes \$10 million in Rebuild Illinois funds for water infrastructure upgrades, including a new pump station, generator and water mains. There is also \$4 million estimated for lead service line replacement.

Mossuto said the village's water issues remain dire and would be her top priority.

"I believe there's so much more that can be done in Dixmoor. The water situation is still very bad. I mean, I live in the mobile home parks. For the last three days, our water pressure has been really low," she said.

Mossuto said she also struggles to obtain meeting minutes and agendas for board meetings, which on the village's website are only posted for January, February, March and April of this year. She said she would also seek to push board meetings to a later time so more residents can attend when they get off work.

"I want somebody in the village that has transparency with the residents, where the residents are part of the community," she said. "If you can change it to seven o'clock, you have more residents that are involved. There's no openness here. You know, the residents we're all left, like, kind of in the dark, and that's not fair to anybody."

State campaign finance disclosure reports show Roberts' election campaign, filed under the For the People political action committee, received a single \$3,000 contribution from Vasselli's law firm, the corporate counsel for the village, during the July-September quarter.



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## Police

from Page 1

offenders, and putting a stop to their violent behavior.”

Chicago’s decrease in murders is in keeping with national trends and reductions in other major cities, according to the FBI. City-wide, CPD also reported large decreases in robberies and motor vehicle thefts, though the latter remain well above pre-pandemic levels.

Mayor Brandon Johnson recently told the City Club of Chicago that a goal for 2025 is to keep the city below 500 murders, but only time will tell.

And the crime fighting does not come cheap. CPD’s budget, not including overtime, will surpass \$2 billion next year.

Chicago cops kept busy in 2024. Once again, more than 12,000 guns were recovered throughout the year, department leaders have said. Officers made more than 33,000 arrests on the year, a slight increase from 2023, according to CPD data.

## Uneven progress

While each CPD area can point to successes, a closer look at district-level data within them shows that the downturn in violence in 2024 was not spread evenly across the city.

The Harrison District (11th), home to several open-air drug markets and roughly bounded by Roosevelt Road, Division Street and Western and Cicero avenues, has long been one of CPD’s most violent. In 2023 it saw 79 killings, a figure that dropped to 49 through mid-December this year, according to CPD.

But to the south, in the Ogden District (10th), 2024 brought a sharp rise in fatal violence: 48 murders through mid-December, up from 34 in the same period last year. Snelling said a burgeoning gang conflict in Little Village has caused the uptick.

The highest concentration of fatal violence was found within two beats in the Grand Crossing District (3rd) on the South Side, the district Snelling calls home.

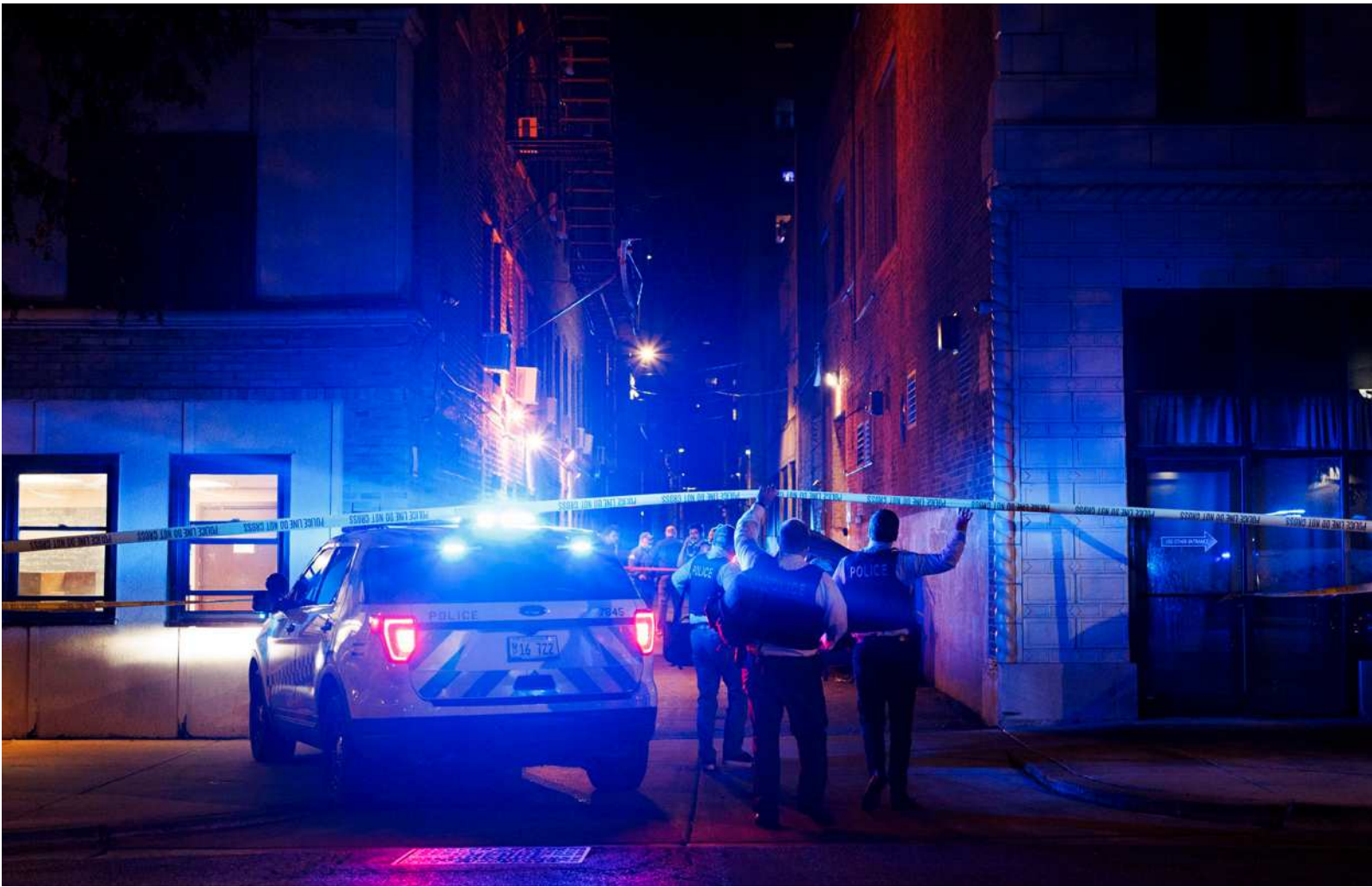
This year saw 25 killings in beats 321 and 322, a roughly 1¼-square-mile area bounded by the Dan Ryan Expressway, 65th Street, 71st Street and Stony Island Avenue. Those two beats saw 12 murders in 2023, according to CPD data.

“I live in the city of Chicago and I understand the danger as much as anybody, having grown up in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the city and then living amongst the people,” Snelling told the Tribune.

“I don’t remove myself from that, because everybody in the city is going through something right now,” he said, “and I know that there are people who are looking over their shoulders every single day, worried about some type of attack.”

Though killings in the Grand Crossing District went up this year, the district actually saw fewer shootings altogether. Snelling said the increased lethality partly stems from more guns being equipped with “auto sears” or “switches” — small, affixable objects that turn a semi-automatic gun fully automatic, capable of firing several rounds with a single pull of the trigger.

“The type of weapons that are being used right now are leading to more fatalities,” Snelling said. “The switches,



Chicago police officers work at the scene where a man was fatally shot in the Uptown neighborhood on Oct. 1. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Rosie Henry, right, and her daughter, Sherica Henry, embrace after family, friends and co-workers of Rafael Wordlaw released balloons in memory of the 31-year-old in Chicago's Fuller Park on July 31. Wordlaw, an off-duty Cook County Sheriff's deputy, died after a shooting and crash in Woodlawn. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Officers stop protesters from walking on Ashland Avenue after activists arrived at Union Park during the final day of the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 22. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Recruits raise their right hands as they perform the oath of office at the Chicago Police Department graduation ceremony at Navy Pier on July 30. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

the extended magazines and assault rifles. We’re seeing a lot more of these homicides being committed with assault rifles, more deadly weapons and weapons that are designed or altered to lead to mass casualties.”

## Officers slain

Rafael Wordlaw, a 31-year-old Cook County sheriff’s deputy, was at a gas station in Beat 321 in late July when he was fatally shot while trying to protect a friend

during a robbery attempt. A man was charged with murder in his death and that case remains pending, court records show.

“He was a hero. He was a protector, and he died being a hero and being a protector,” Wordlaw’s cousin Tiffany Davenport said at his funeral.

Two active-duty CPD officers were shot and killed in 2024, while a third died of injuries he suffered decades earlier.

Officer Luis Huesca, 30,

was fatally shot last April near his home on the Southwest Side shortly after he completed a tour of duty.

Huesca, a six-year veteran of CPD and friend of another recently slain officer, Andrés Vázquez-Lasso, was shot multiple times in the 3100 block of West 56th Street while off-duty but in uniform early on April 21. Huesca’s gun and vehicle were also taken at the scene of the shooting but were later recovered. A man was charged with murder in Huesca’s death, and that case remains pending too.

In early November, CPD officer Enrique Martínez was shot and killed while he and other officers conducted a traffic stop in the Chatham neighborhood on the city’s South Side. A man who allegedly used the type of modified weapon Snelling talked about was later charged with first-degree murder of an officer and first-degree murder, among other felonies, and will remain detained until trial.

“Enrique will always be my little brother, but I will always look up to him,” Martínez’s older brother, CPD officer Adrian Martínez García, said at the funeral last month. “His blood runs through my veins, and now he lives through me and I live for him.”

James Crowley, a CPD officer who sustained catastrophic injuries in an on-duty car crash in 1987, also died in 2024, according to CPD.

As of November, the department had 11,661 sworn officers, according to data from the city’s Office of Inspector General — down by 113 from the year prior.

## Convention grabs spotlight

CPD and other public safety stakeholders devoted much time and attention this year to the Democratic National Convention in late August.

Thousands of police officers — Snelling and other CPD leaders among them — were around the United Center and Union Park over the convention’s four days as demonstrators marched and chanted. Dozens of arrests were made, but there were no violent outbursts.

Fewer than a dozen misconduct complaints were lodged during the

convention, and Snelling later told reporters that fears of police-citizen clashes à la the 1968 DNC could finally be put to rest.

“2024 is the new standard, and the men and women of the Chicago Police Department set that new standard out in the field,” Snelling said.

Misconduct cases involving the Chicago Police Board — the most serious allegations, where an officer faces firing or a monthslong suspension — were slowed to a crawl in 2024 amid an ongoing legal dispute between the city and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7, the union representing rank-and-file officers and detectives.

The case, before the Illinois Appellate Court, stems from an earlier award to the FOP that allows accused officers to have their cases heard and decided in private by a third-party arbitrator instead of the police board.

In the meantime, six accused officers have opted to have their cases heard by the board, records show. Sixteen other accused officers have requested arbitration, but those cases remain paused as the Appellate Court case progresses.

Despite the police board chokepoint, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability recommended CPD fire 53 officers during 2024, according to COPA data. Another 417 officers were recommended for suspensions, though the lengths were not known.

There were about 6,200 police misconduct complaints throughout 2024, a slight increase from the year before, according to COPA data. The lion’s share of those — more than 5,000 — fell under the jurisdiction of CPD internal affairs.

CPD adjudicates, internally, thousands of less severe incidents of wrongdoing every year with the Bureau of Internal Affairs and Summary Punishment Action Requests — SPARs — issued by mid-level CPD supervisors. SPARs can range from a noted violation or reprimand to a multiday suspension.

Data previously obtained by the Tribune through the Freedom of Information Act showed that through late July, CPD supervisors had issued nearly 2,900 SPARs since the start of 2024. Records showed supervisors issued 3,704 SPARs in

all of 2023.

## Discipline changes coming?

Kyle Cooper, president of the Chicago Police Board, announced this month that the very rules that govern CPD officers’ conduct could change.

In 2025, the Police Board will hold listening sessions and begin a review of those edicts so that “we can bring these rules to the 21st century,” Cooper previously said.

“The goal for this year is a preliminary first step of what we anticipate will be a lengthy and complex process and project that will involve input from a diverse group of stakeholders,” Cooper said.

“The last thing that (I) as board president or the board is interested in doing is putting forward a set of proposed revisions and rules that are misaligned from the reality of what it’s like to be an active Chicago police officer on a day-to-day (basis).”

CPD also continued its slog toward compliance with a federal consent decree. The independent monitoring team that assesses the city’s adherence found the police department, as of June, had reached “operational compliance” with 9% of its consent decree requirements. Secondary compliance was reached in 37% of monitorable paragraphs in the first half of this year, up from 35% in the last period. Preliminary compliance, though, fell from 46% in the last monitoring period of 2023 to 45% in the first period of 2024, the monitoring team found.

The most recent report from the independent monitoring team came as Johnson was considering cuts to CPD’s Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform to balance the city’s budget, though the idea was later taken off the table.

“Cuts to policy development, training, officer support, and community policing not only risk slowing the already-behind pace of reform — the cuts risk undoing the progress the City and the CPD have made to date,” the monitoring team wrote last month. “At only about 9% Full compliance with the original Consent Decree, the City should be accelerating the pace of compliance, not just fighting to maintain it.”

# Company wants to annex land into East Dundee for quarry, truck driving school, parking

By Gloria Casas  
Chicago Tribune

Plote Construction Inc. wants to annex 178 acres of land on Route 72 into East Dundee for use as a rock quarry and for a truck driving school/truck parking facility, according to information provided to the village.

If approved by the Elgin City Council, the Cook County property would become part of a village manufacturing district that already exists in the area, Ryan Trottier, Plote’s vice president of land development, said earlier this month at a meeting of the East Dundee Planning and

Zoning Commission, which recommended approval.

In addition to annexation, the company is requesting two special use permits from the village — one for a gravel quarry from which they will do mineral extraction and the other to park vehicles on the site, Trottier said.

The quarry work includes crushing, grading, washing and loading, he said. The site was used for such work in the past so what they’re seeking is “nothing different than what has already occurred on this property for decades,” Trottier said.

“We’ve had these uses going on at different times throughout history,” he said.

“The property is extraordinarily unique in nature by its physical characteristics. The main attribute has to do with the fact that this property was mined many years ago and is going through the process of reclamation, which is filling the property back up.”

Once it is reclaimed, it will be used for other purposes, he said.

Plote is also requesting a special-use permit for 24-hour-a-day outside vehicle parking and storage and a truck driving school, according to the proposal. The truck parking operation will be overseen by a different company.

Additionally, Plote seeks three zoning code variances involving paved surfaces, screening/landscape and lighting. Because the reclamation work will be ongoing and the ground isn’t settled yet, it would be better to hold off on paving roads until the undertaking is completed, Trottier said.

“Our goal is to get done with the reclamation process, allow it to settle out and, in the future, we can look for more long-term, permanent uses,” he said.

Those future uses could include contractor yards, repair shops, offices, third-party land leases and retail development, he said.

Annexing the property would create new economic development for East Dundee on its eastern border once the reclamation is finished, Trottier said. Anywhere from 10 to 50 acres should be ready for development within the next two to five years, he said.

“We see this as a stepping stone to get to that point,” Trottier said.

Plote has been doing business in East Dundee for more than 40 years, he said. The company has constructed 19 buildings — creating a total of more than 550,000 square feet of space — in the village’s industrial park, he said. There are between 80

and 90 tenants occupying that space, he said.

“We want to do good projects we stand behind and own,” Trottier said.

One example of Plote’s work, he said, was the purchase of the former Walmart store on Route 25, which was repurposed and leased to a business that makes cabinets and flooring that it sells throughout the country, he said.

It also recently purchased the former Dundee Ford property and is repurposing it as well, Trottier said.

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.



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# Manhattan therapy horse ranch seeks donations

By Michelle Mullins  
Chicago Tribune

For nearly 10 years, the HHH Ranch in Manhattan has provided more than 5,000 families with horse therapy.

The ranch's volunteers and its rescue horses have helped people from age 2 to 93 with a wide variety of needs, its president and founder Christine Doran said.

The horses provide a nurturing and empowering environment for individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities or medical issues, those struggling with anxiety or depression, adolescents who have experienced bullying or have suicidal thoughts and victims who have been sexually abused, Doran said.

The ranch has a space for everyone, she said.

"We really pride ourselves on giving each individual the amount of time that they need here," Doran said. "We say clocks don't exist. It is about what you need, not what is expected by society. You are not a number to us. You are an individual. We want each individual to grow and heal at their pace."

The ranch has more than 100 people on its waitlist.

While the needs continue to grow, the not-for-profit organization is struggling as its funds aren't keeping up, Doran said.

The ranch, which relies heavily on volunteers, has seen its fundraising diminish in the last year, which affected its ability to provide scholarships for students who may not otherwise be able to participate in its therapy programs.

"The most painful consequence of this funding shortfall is the suspension of our scholarship program for the first time in nearly a decade," Doran said. "This decision is particularly heart-wrenching, as we know how much these lessons mean to the students who are not only eager to learn but also truly deserving of the opportunities we provide."

HHH Ranch is making a



Children in wheelchairs get an up-close-and-personal view of a horse at a community event at HHH Ranch in Manhattan. A wheelchair can be scary to a horse, but they go through training so they are relaxed and enjoy their time with everyone who wants to visit them, said Christine Doran, ranch founder and president. **HHH RANCH**

year's end fundraising push and hopes to raise \$40,000.

Doran said no donation is too small.

"Every small donation plays a crucial role in our operations," she said. "Those modest donations, ranging from \$5 to \$50, truly accumulate and make a significant impact."

The ranch has several goals for the funds it receives. It looks to buy a new side-by-side utility vehicle, which makes running the ranch much more efficient, Doran said. Its vehicle recently broke down, leaving workers to push wheelbarrows throughout the farm.

The ranch also hopes to pay off its tractor. Doran said she wants to reinstate its scholarship program so more students can take part in its services.

HHH Ranch's other goal is to raise \$100,000 for a down payment on additional

land where it can expand its reach.

Doran said she hopes to soon use the additional space to build a home where troubled adolescent girls can receive counseling. A larger farm would provide more land for adults with disabilities to raise bees or grow organic fruits and vegetables, providing them with more job opportunities, Doran said.

"Everyone is somewhere on a journey in their life, and everyone has some type of healing to do," Doran said. "And I want this space to be a safe space for them. We are not here to lay your path for you. But you have a safe space here to choose which rocks that you want to lay and make your own path."

Doran's path to owning a horse therapy farm started when she was in high school and was trying to decide on a career. She said she asked God for a sign when she saw

an electronic message board for the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch in Missouri. That ranch used horses to help troubled adolescent boys.

Seeing that "large sign" and talking with the ranch's founder helped her decide to combine her passion of helping people with her love of animals.

Doran learned about operating a horse therapy ranch in Spain and later worked at a center for individuals with disabilities in Joliet.

In March 2015, she opened HHH Ranch, 14101 W. Bruns Road, Manhattan. Doran said she prides herself on getting to know each family that takes part in the program, and she offers community events and sensory friendly events throughout the year.

The program's work is powerful and has delivered results, Doran said.

Therapy programs are

available for those struggling with mental health issues. In one instance, the program helped a 10-year-old child who contemplated suicide. In another case, the program helped a 15-year-old victim of sexual assault.

Many of children experiencing mental health issues, bullying or depression come from loving homes and not from troubled backgrounds, Doran said.

The ranch serves several children who have epilepsy, and horses can recognize if a child is about to have a seizure and pause until the episode is over, Doran said.

Some individuals who have physical limitations have learned to ride independently on a horse, Doran said.

"I always say horses are truly magical beings, but there's a lot of science to it, too," Doran said. "A horse can feel how fast your heart is beating from 4 feet away.

They are feeling the energy coming off of you. They are reading you. That's what helps so much. They are able to go, "OK, this is what you are actually needing right now."

Sadie West's son Kale, who has autism, has been a participant at the ranch for the last two years. In addition to riding horses, Kale, 21, volunteers at the ranch and cares for, grooms and feeds the horses.

"He and I both love the ranch, the atmosphere and environment that Christine has created," West said. "He looks forward to going to the ranch. It's become a place of peace for me too. I love being in the energy field of the horses. It's a very calming feeling."

The ranch also helps animals and has rescued 120 animals over the years. Some of the animals had been starved, abused or abandoned before they were rescued by HHH Ranch, Doran said.

"Our rescues have had horrible beginnings and middles but we say that their ends will be beautiful," she said. "They just have so much more heart to give to these students."

The horses have known the pain of not belonging and therefore have been able to give so much more to the ranch's participants. Like people, they are also deserving of healing and hope, Doran said.

HHH Ranch's mission is to create a sanctuary for people and animals alike to heal and flourish where everyone is accepted and celebrated.

"Riding is such a small portion of what we do," Doran said. "We're giving you a tool box with tools in it so that you learn to survive life beyond these walls."

The ranch offers a variety of ways to give, including Venmo, Zelle, PayPal or check. For more information, go to [www.hhh-ranchil.org](http://www.hhh-ranchil.org).

*Michelle Mullins is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.*

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OBITUARIES

G. JOSEPH COSENZA 1943-2024

Co-founder of Inland Real Estate Group, ‘consummate dealmaker’

By Bob Goldsborough  
Chicago Tribune

G. Joseph Cosenza got together with two college fraternity brothers and a fellow schoolteacher in the 1960s to form Oak Brook-based Inland Real Estate Group, which they grew from a single three-flat building on the West Side into one of the nation's largest commercial real estate firms and one of the Chicago area's largest privately held companies.

Cosenza was with Inland for 56 years, and he held key roles including being the firm's vice chairman and its longtime head of acquisitions.

“Joe lived life to the fullest with a seemingly endless supply of enthusiasm that was nothing short of inspirational,” Tony Chereso, Inland's CEO and president, told the Tribune. “He was a larger-than-life individual not only at Inland but also throughout the commercial real estate industry. Joe was the consummate dealmaker, an absolute legend and a force to be reckoned with for more than 50 years.”

Cosenza, 81, died of complications from prostate cancer on Dec. 25 at his home, said an Inland spokeswoman. He had been a Downers Grove resident.

Born in Chicago, Cosenza grew up in Bellwood and graduated from Proviso West High School in Hillside. He earned a bachelor's degree from what now is known as Northeastern Illinois University and then picked up a master's degree from Northern Illinois University.

Cosenza initially was a schoolteacher and administrator. He taught in La Grange's school district from 1967 until 1968, and then was an assistant principal and teacher in Wheeling's school district from 1968 until 1972.

Cosenza and two fraternity brothers, Daniel Goodwin and Robert D. Parks, embarked on business ventures to help them pay their way through college, including operating a student book exchange and organizing dances and other gatherings for student groups. Like Cosenza, Goodwin had begun his career as a teacher, but Goodwin started dabbling in real estate in his off-hours, and



G. Joseph Cosenza co-founded Oak Brook-based real estate firm Inland Real Estate Group and headed up the company's acquisitions function during a 56-year career with the firm.

INLAND REAL ESTATE GROUP

after notching some early successes, some colleagues including Cosenza joined him.

Early on, three teachers, Cosenza, Goodwin and Robert H. Baum, decided to pursue a limited partnership structure, which meant that they could retain management control while limiting their partners' liability to their initial investment.

The group found early success, and the trio formally started Inland in 1968, although Cosenza did not join Inland full time until 1972. The firm began constructing single-family houses and apartment buildings, along with investing in other properties. By the mid-1970s, Inland had expanded beyond just buying and building small income properties into related businesses like property management, real estate brokerage, services, endurance and even hardware supply, and the firm also built its first shopping center.

By 1979, Inland was managing more than 10,000 apartments, and three years later, the firm was managing more than twice that amount. By the 1980s, Inland had expanded to making investments in Phoenix and Tampa.

Cosenza was an integral part of Inland's growth, colleagues said. In 1985, he was promoted from senior vice president to president of Inland. He also led Inland's real estate acquisitions function, and he later added the title of vice chairman.

“We will miss his enduring loyalty, high energy and passion, particularly when

he was on the acquisition front, fighting the good fight to acquire real estate on terms most favorable to Inland and our investors,” recalled co-founder Baum, Inland's chairman and general counsel. “And in the office, Joe displayed love, kindness and humor that Inlanders will always remember.”

In recent decades, Inland has continued to grow and now has owned and managed hundreds of millions of square feet of commercial property and more than 96,000 apartment units across 49 states. The company has expanded to own self-storage facilities, student housing, hotels and medical facilities, and has more than 1,400 employees.

“What Dan Goodwin, Joe and the other founding partners built at Inland is one of America's greatest success stories,” Chereso said.

Cosenza never retired from Inland.

On a personal level, Cosenza cut something of a dashing figure around the office, wearing bow ties to work each day that he tied himself, and also sporting dress shirts with cufflinks and his initials emblazoned on the cuffs, Baum recalled. Cosenza also was a patron of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a longtime Chicago Bears fan, an aficionado of French restaurants and an auto enthusiast who had a 1934 Ford hot rod, Chevy sports cars like Corvettes and Camaros and the latest electric vehicles including the Tesla Plaid, Baum said.

“He loved to laugh and treated everyone with kindness and respect,” Baum said. “And when it came time to deal in the world of real estate, whether it was acquisition, development, financing or sales, there was nobody better.”

Cosenza is survived by his wife, Judy; a son, Mark; a daughter, Cathy; five grandchildren; and a sister, Anita.

A visitation will take place from 3-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, at Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home, 4343 Main St., Downers Grove. A funeral service will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 3, at St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic Church, 445 Prairie Ave., Downers Grove.

Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON DEC. 29 ...

In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

In 1800 Charles Goodyear, inventor of the vulcanization process that made possible the commercial use of rubber, was born in New Haven, Conn.

In 1808 the 17th U.S. president, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

In 1809 William Gladstone, a four-time British prime minister, was born in Liverpool, England.

In 1845 Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

In 1851 the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston.

In 1890 the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as about 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

In 1913 the first movie serial, “The Adventures of Kathryn,” premiered in Chicago.

In 1934 Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

In 1936 actress Mary Tyler Moore was born in Brooklyn, N.Y.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany began dropping incendiary bombs on

London.

In 1957 singers Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme were married in Las Vegas. (The marriage lasted until Gorme's death in 2013.)

In 1967 Hyundai Motor Co. was founded in Seoul, South Korea.

In 1975 a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.

In 1986 former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan died in Birch Grove, England; he was 92.

In 1989 playwright Vaclav Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia by the country's Federal Assembly, becoming the first non-Communist to attain the post in more than four decades.

In 1992 a St. Charles couple, David and Sharon Schoo, were arrested at O'Hare airport after returning from a nine-day Acapulco vacation and charged with leaving their two young daughters at home alone. (The girls later were adopted by another couple.)

In 1994 U.S. officials confirmed the release of U.S. Army helicopter pilot Bobby Hall from North Korean custody (due to the time difference, it was Dec. 30 in Korea when Hall crossed the demilitarized zone to freedom).

In 1996 war-weary guerilla and government leaders in Guatemala signed an

accord ending 36 years of civil conflict.


In 1998 Khmer Rouge leaders apologized for the 1970s genocide in Cambodia that claimed 1 million lives.

In 2000 President-elect George W. Bush filled four more Cabinet slots, tapping Rod Paige to be secretary of education, Gale Norton to be secretary of the interior, Anthony J. Principi to return as secretary to the Department of Veterans Affairs and Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson to be secretary of health and human services.

In 2004 President George W. Bush assembled a four-nation coalition to organize humanitarian relief for Asia and said the U.S. would help bankroll long-term rebuilding in the region leveled by a massive earthquake and tsunamis. Also in 2004 militants launched coordinated car bombings and battle security forces in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; at least 10 militants were killed in the attack.

In 2012 Gay and lesbian couples exchanged vows under Maine's new same-sex marriage law, which voters passed Nov. 6. Also in 2012 Ruth Ann Steinhausen, who as a 19-year-old stalker shot baseball star Eddie Waitkus in 1949, a crime that inspired the book and movie “The Natural,” died in Chicago; she was 83.

In 2014 the Chicago Bears fired general manager Phil Emery and head coach Marc Trestman after a 5-11 season.



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Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

In Memoriam



**Janice M. Aubin**  
Eight years, think of you and love you every day.  
Love,  
Pat, Ashley, family, and friends.  
*Sign Guestbook at [chicagotribune.com/obituaries](http://chicagotribune.com/obituaries)*

Death Notices

Callahan, Sally Ann

Sally was born on January 9, 1936, in Evanston Illinois and died on December 20, 2024, in Elgin Illinois. She grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended Holy Angels High School where she played basketball and volleyball and was elected president of the student body. She then attended St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana, where she met her future husband, John "Jack" Callahan. They were married on September 20, 1958, three months after graduation, and went off to spend three years in the U.S. Air Force before moving to Elgin, where Jack was starting work with a law firm. She loved gardening from childhood and had three different gardens going at her Elgin house. She also loved skiing at Breckenridge, winters at Pelican Bay, and golf anywhere. She was a member of the Elgin Home and Garden club; the Fidelity; the Donor Club; PEO; and numerous school related groups. She was always a willing worker and ready to volunteer for anything that needed attention. And of course, her primary interest and love was her family. With five children, and, at one point having five in grade school at the same time, life was hectic, but everyone got individual attention and all of them doted on their mother as she doted on all of them. And when the thirteen grandchildren arrived, they found that Sally had a huge reserve of love. Each grandchild thought that he or she was Sally's favorite. And they were all correct. Survived by loving husband of 66 years, Jack Callahan; children Edward Callahan (Peggy), Catherine Callahan (Tom), Brian Callahan (Diane), Christie Callahan, Kevin Callahan (Sarah); grandchildren: Michael Callahan (Ellen), Matthew Callahan (Trey), Charlie Simon, Daniel Callahan (Katie), Paul Jobin, Natalie Callahan, Rose Simon, Tommy Jobin (Bri), Jack Callahan, William Jobin (Tori), Max Callahan, Finn Callahan, and Rafferty Callahan; great grandchild Apollo Luvmore; sister-in-law Mary E. Winne; nieces and nephews: Julie Winne, Mike Winne (Beth), Jim Winne (Meg), Beth Lane (Rick) and Pat Winne (Kim); preceded in death by her parents Grace and Paul Hultkrans, brother Paul Hultkrans, brother-in-law Jack Winne and faithful companion, Breckie. Burial will be private. If you wish to donate to a charity in Sally's memory, please choose any you wish, and Sally would approve. **Laird Funeral Home**, Elgin is in care of arrangements. 847-741-8800 or [www.lairdfamilyservices.com](http://www.lairdfamilyservices.com).

Carroll, Margaret Kelly 'Meg'

Margaret (Meg) Kelly Carroll, of Blue Island, passed away on December 20, 2024. The first of six children, she was born to Eva and Walter Kelly on September 6, 1956 in Chicago.

Meg is survived by her children Dan, Hannah, and Tim Carroll; mother Eva; siblings Tom (Kay), Martin, Peter (Barbara), and Kate Kelly; cherished nephew Tom (Karen) Lunaburg; and the thousands of teachers and administrators she educated over 40 years at Saint Xavier University. She was preceded in death by her father Walter and brother Paul.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate her life and love on a date in 2025 to be determined.

Christy, Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen Christy née Brooks, age 80, of Chicago, IL. Beloved wife of the late Lawrence Clinton Christy. Loving mother of Brooks (Brenda) Christy, Lindsay (Dale) Amborski, and Kate Christy (Eric Anderson). Dear grandmother of Ellen and Jane Amborski; Augie and Charley Anderson; and kind step grandmother of Catherine, Christopher, and Paul Miller. Fond sister of the late Susan Brooks Day. Visitation Friday, January 3, 2025, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, 1424 N. Dearborn Parkway, Chicago IL 60610. Funeral Service Saturday, January 4, 2025, 10:30 a.m. at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, 1424 N. Dearborn Parkway, Chicago IL 60610. Interment at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Saint Leonard's Ministries, 2100 West Warren Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60612. Info: [donnellanfuneral.com](http://donnellanfuneral.com) or 847-675-1990.



Cosenza, G. Joseph



G. Joseph Cosenza, the son of a barber, and a proud first-generation American, was a devout Catholic who loved his faith and family above himself. He was a legendary real estate deal maker who oversaw more than \$55 billion in acquisitions as a co-founder in 1968 of what would become The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies, Inc., and he considered Inland and his fellow Inlanders like a second family. Mr. Cosenza, 81, of Downers Grove, Illinois, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family, on December 25, 2024. He is survived by his wife Judy; son Mark and his wife Amanda; daughter, Cathy and her husband, Ivan; grandchildren Carter, Drake and Gavin Cosenza, and Daniela and Angelo Sanchez; his sister, Anita Cosenza; Sister-in-law Barbara Marx and Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law Tom and June Pazderski; and uncle of JoAnne Pazderski and Michael and Beth Ralston, and a large circle of friends and colleagues, including his business partners and fellow Inland co-founders Robert H. Baum and Robert D. Parks, all of who will miss him dearly. Born December 6, 1943, in Chicago, to Joe and Rose Cosenza, Mr. Cosenza grew up in Bellwood, Illinois. He attended Proviso West High School, and he went on to receive his BA from Chicago Teachers College (now Northeastern Illinois University) and his MS in Education from Northern Illinois University. He met his beloved wife, Judy, when they were both undergraduates at Chicago Teachers College. From 1967 to 1968, Mr. Cosenza taught at the LaGrange School District, and from 1968 to 1972, he served as Assistant Principal and teacher in the Wheeling School District. While an undergraduate, he met and became life-long friends with the late Daniel L. Goodwin, who, along with Joe and fellow school-teachers Robert D. Parks and Robert H. Baum, formed Inland as a side business to earn some extra money to supplement their modest teacher's salary. In the early days, Inland built affordable houses with money collected by family, friends and fellow teachers. Over the next five decades, Inland expanded nationally and into all sectors of the commercial real estate field. As President of Inland Acquisitions, LLC, the real estate purchasing arm of the Inland Group, Mr. Cosenza oversaw and consulted or negotiated the purchase of more than \$55 billion in real estate. Employing more than 1,400 people nationwide, Inland entities owned and managed property measured in the hundreds of millions of square feet in 49 states. In addition to serving as President of Inland Acquisitions, LLC, he also served as Inland Group Vice Chairman and Director, and he served as a director or officer on many of Inland's separate corporate boards. Over the years, Inland founded seven entities that eventually either listed on or merged with a public company on the New York Stock Exchange. One of Mr. Cosenza's proudest business moments was ringing the bell of the NYSE for the first time in 2004. A proud, licensed real estate broker since Inland's founding, Mr. Cosenza was an active member of various national and local real estate associations, including the National Association of REALTORS®, Illinois Association of REALTORS®, and Chicago Association of REALTORS®. Mr. Cosenza was also very active in banking and financial circles. He served as past Chairman of the Board of American National Bank of DuPage, and part owner of American National Bank of DuPage and Burbank State Bank, and he served on the Board of Directors of Continental Bank of Oakbrook Terrace. He was a past Chairman and a Director of Inland Bank & Trust, and a Director on the Board of Inland Bancorp, Inc. For his many career accomplishments and impact upon the commercial real estate industry, Mr. Cosenza was lauded with numerous awards and recognitions, including the Chicago Association of REALTORS® Hall of Fame, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the Illinois Real Estate Journals and CRE Connect industry publications. A man of deep Catholic faith, Mr. Cosenza was personally and philanthropically involved at both the Dioceses of Joliet, Illinois, and at St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic Church in Downers Grove, Illinois. He started working with the Saint Vincent De Paul Adopt-A-Family program at St. Mary of Gostyn in the 1980's to provide assistance to local families in need. In his free time, Mr. Cosenza loved nothing more than spending time with his family, especially with his beloved grandchildren; spending precious vacation time with the family at their home on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin; and working on or driving one of his many muscle cars from his extensive car collection. Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at **Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home**, 4343 Main Street, Downers Grove, Illinois, 60515. A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, January 3, 2025, at 10:00 am at St. Mary's of Gostyn Catholic Church, 445 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois, 60515. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Prostate Cancer Foundation at <https://www.pcf.org> or to St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry at St. Mary of Gostyn Church in Downers Grove, Illinois, by calling the business office at (630) 773 - 9624, or via the Church's WE SHARE site at <https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/smgonlinedonation>. Arrangements by **Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home**, (630) 968-1000 or [www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com](http://www.adamswinterfieldsullivan.com).



Darras, James W.

JAMES W. DARRAS 75, of Geneva, IL, passed away on December 23, 2024



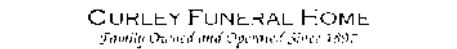
The son of the late William and Violet Darras. Beloved husband of Georgia (nee Mangos) for 33 years. Loving brother to Chris (Jean) Darras, Nicholas (Maureen) Darras. Brother-in-law to Dean and Louise Mamalakis, and Uncle to Christina, Billy and Dori Darras. James holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interior Design and Associate Degree in Architecture from Southern Illinois University. James Darras worked for over forty-five years as Project Manager/Senior Designer in commercial interior design. He loved his profession and pursued it with much passion and dedication. Other interests outside of architecture was singing with the Hellenic Choral Society of the Chicago Diocese and a longtime sports enthusiast supporting the Cubs, Bears and Formula One Racing. James worked in Chicago, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C. His projects were located all over the world including the United States; Egypt; Kuwait; and Guatemala. Family and friends are requested to meet at **Yurs Funeral Home**, 1771 W. State Street; Geneva, IL. (630)232-7337. Visitation from 9am to 11am on Monday, December 30, 2024. Funeral Service to follow. Interment at Union Cemetery, St. Charles, IL. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 601 So. Central Ave, Chicago, IL. 60644-5089 For further information call **Yurs Funeral Home** Geneva 630-232-7337 or [www.yursfuneralhomes.com](http://www.yursfuneralhomes.com)

Ernst, Sherwin

Sherwin Ernst, 92, passed away on December 23, 2024. Sherwin was a native of Chicago and relocated to Tampa in 1984. He is survived by his loving family. For full obituary and to express condolences online visit [Segalfuneralhome.com](http://Segalfuneralhome.com).

Franco, John J.

John J. Franco, age 73, Ret. CFD, passed away December 24, 2024. Beloved husband of Susan (nee Ternes); Loving dad of Jeffrey (Maribeth) Franco; Greg Franco, and Nina Franco (John Scherer); Proud grandpa of Tyler, Fin, Jack, and Noah; Dear brother of the late Joe (Laura) Franco, the late Raymond Franco, Mary Grace (Tom) Chapa, Anna (Norm) Long, the late Bobby Franco; Albert Franco, and Mary Rose Lovick; Cherished son of the late Albert and Barbara Franco; Fond uncle to many nieces and nephews. Memorial visitation Friday, January 3, 2025 from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Memorial service Saturday, January 4, 2025 11:00 a.m. at Curley Funeral Home, 6116 W. 111th St., Chicago Ridge. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, donations to Ignite the Spirit, [www.ignitethespirit.org](http://www.ignitethespirit.org) would be appreciated. For Funeral info (708) 422-2700, or [www.curleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.curleyfuneralhome.com).



Gajewski, Jeffrey

Jeff "Jeffrey" Gajewski of Watseka, IL, passed away December 24, 2024, at his home. Visitation Thursday, January 2, 2025, 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM at **Brust Funeral Home**, 135 S. Main Street, Lombard. Funeral Prayers Friday, January 3, 9:30 AM from the funeral home to 10:00 AM Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 114 S. Elizabeth Street, Lombard. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery, Justice, IL. Info [www.brustfuneralhome.com](http://www.brustfuneralhome.com) or 888-629-0094.

Gannon, RSM, Sister Laurus

Sister Laurus Gannon, RSM, Beloved Sister of Mercy for 77 years. Devoted daughter of the late Rose nee Gallagher & Elmer Gannon. Cherished sister of the late Sister Mary Charla Gannon, RSM, Lawrence Gannon, & Reverend Charles Gannon. Beloved aunt & great aunt. Prayer Service and Visitation Thursday, January 2nd from 9:00 am until 10:15 at Mercy Hall, Illinois Room, 10044 S. Central Park in Chicago. Mass of Christian Burial following at 10:30 at Mercy Chapel. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Sisters of Mercy, 10024 S. Central Park, Chicago, IL 60655 would be greatly appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to **Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home**. [thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com](http://thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com) 708-425-0500

Gaydos, Mildred

Mildred Gaydos, age 92, passed away peacefully on December 14th, 2024. Resident of Heartis Village Orland Park Assisted Living since June 2021. Former longtime resident of Chicago and Alsip, IL. Beloved wife of the late Theodore Gaydos; devoted daughter of the late John and Anna (nee Juhasz) Motel; cherished sister of the late John (Irene) Motel, Helen Shirk, Mary (Rich) Nalepka, Bill (Ruth) Motel, Anna (Ed) Volf, George Motel and Elizabeth (Stan) Martinkus; cherished aunt and great aunt to many nieces and nephews. Mildred enjoyed drawing, painting and classic movies from the 1930's and 1940's. Funeral Services were held privately at Resurrection Cemetery.



Green, Ian

On December 25, 2024, Ian Green passed away in Vernon Hills, IL. He may have been a Chicagoan since 1981 who treasured his wife, family and friends "out here," but Ian was always a New Yorker at heart. He was born and raised in Poughkeepsie, NY as the last of three children to George Alexander Green and Mary Margaret (Murphy) Green. He proudly began an IT career in his hometown in the early days of IBM. It was that career that carried him to Chicago where he met his wife. Together, they savored life to the fullest. The next journey with friends was always on the calendar with regular adventures to Europe and Mexico. Ian cherished time with family and friends, whether it was his regular poker group, summer backyard barbecues, beloved getaways to Saugatuck, MI or the annual holiday party. Ian is predeceased by his "special honey," wife Barbara (Mersch) Green, as well as his siblings Nancy and Donald. He is survived by his son Todd Karner (Julie Babetch), two adored granddaughters, and daughter Kelley (Green) Skaarva. A visitation for Ian is scheduled from 3-7 PM Monday, December 30 at **Drake and Son Funeral Home**, 5303 N. Western Ave., Chicago. Prayers will be said at 5 PM. The burial will take place at noon on Tuesday, December 31 at St. Henry Catholic Cemetery, 1929 W. Devon Ave., Chicago. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Many Paws Global Rescue – [manypawsglobalrescue.org](http://manypawsglobalrescue.org).



Hafft, Sara

Sara Hafft, Beloved wife of Herbert Hafft, Mother, Sister, Aunt, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, and friend . . . August 28, 1933, to December 27, 2024 Sara passed away peacefully at the age of 91. Born in Demblin, Poland she endured the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust. Despite the profound trauma experienced, she emerged with a remarkable spirit of resilience, compassion, and unwavering hope. Sara was the biological daughter of Samuel and Sheva Reznick, the adopted daughter of Nathan and Celia Aronoff, and sister to Rosa Appel, Sidney Aronoff, and Samuel and Dede Harris. Sara committed her life to building a loving family. She was a devoted mother to David(Amy), Barry (Donna), and Kenny (Wendy); cherished grandmother to Rebecca, Matthew, Jenna, Brandon, and Zachary; great-grandmother to Carter, Dylan, Emma, Mackenzie, and Braxton. She will be deeply missed by her family, including Herman and Etty Appel, Eileen and Richard Aronoff, Janice and Michael Schrimmer, and Jeff and Julie Kreamer. Sara was a vibrant presence in her community, known for her warm smile, infectious laughter, and the genuine kindness she extended to everyone she met. She cherished her many friendships and treasured the deep connections she formed throughout her life. Graveside services Monday 12 Noon at Shalom Memorial Park, 1700 Rand Rd., Arlington Heights, IL. Donations in lieu of flowers, to Illinois Holocaust Museum, Hadassah hospital or Northbrook Community Synagogue. Arrangement by **Ner Tamid Funerals**, [www.NTFunerals.com](http://www.NTFunerals.com) or 847-504-7336



Harkna, Eric

Eric Harkna, 84, of Evanston, IL, passed away on December 19, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Tallinn, Estonia, he escaped Soviet occupation as a child, immigrating to New York, where he embraced the American dream. A graduate of Colgate University and Columbia Business School, Eric became a successful advertising executive, CEO of BBDO Chicago, leaving a legacy of inclusive leadership. He served as honorary consul to Estonia, fostering ties between his homeland and the U.S., and was a devoted family man, passionate sailor, and mentor to many. Eric will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, resilience, and joie de vivre. Eric was the beacon for his wife, Tonise Paul Harkna, and his children Britt (Anthony) Ciccarelli, Kristiana Harkna (Garrett Riemann), Alexandra (Conor) Shea, and Christian (Katharine) Harkna. He was beloved "Boompap" to Robert (Sydney), Michael (Rachael), Erik, and Brandon Ciccarelli; Griffen, Skyler, and Christopher Riemann; James and Victoria (Shea). He was preceded in death by his sister Aari (the late Joseph) Solazzo. He was a fun-loving brother in marriage to Roberta (Kenneth) Chrobak and R. Gregory (Helen) Paul and a kind uncle to a bevy of nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday, January 3, 2025, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Donnellan Family Funeral Services, 10045 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, IL 60077. Funeral Mass Saturday, January 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m. at Saint John Henry Newman Parish and Saint Athanasius Church, 1615 Lincoln Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Interment Calvary Cemetery, Evanston, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Chicago Diabetes Project, 1074 West Taylor Street #233, Chicago, IL 60607. Info: [donnellanfuneral.com](http://donnellanfuneral.com) or 847-675-1990



Hoogland, William G.

William G. Hoogland, 88, Ret. CPD, passed away December 17, late of Estero, FL. Beloved husband of Alice (nee Von Osinski ) and the late Rosalyn (nee Wawronowicz) Hoogland. Loving father of William (Deborah), David (Karen), Daniel (Deres) and Patricia (Ken) Doig. Fond brother of, Ed Hoogland, Marion Zubik , Karen Kane and the late Phil Hoogland, Peter Hoogland, Bob Hoogland and Helen O'Donnell. Dear grandfather of 17, great-grandfather of 13. Unclear of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday, Jan 3rd, 3-8 p.m. at **Donnellan Funeral Home**, 10525 S. Western Ave., Chicago. Funeral Saturday, Jan 4th , 9:00 a.m. from the Funeral Home to St. Barnabas Church, 10134 S. Longwood Dr., for 10:00 a.m. Mass. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept 142, Memphis, TN 38101 or [stjude.org/tribute](http://stjude.org/tribute). For information call 773-238-0075 or sign guestbook at [www.donnellanfuneralhome.com](http://www.donnellanfuneralhome.com)



Kallinger, Rudolph

Born on September 4, 1929, Rudy Kallinger (95), of Lake Forest, Illinois passed away peacefully at home on December 21, 2024. Rudy is preceded in death by his wife of 61 years Arlene Kallinger. He is survived by his four children: Susan Casserly, Laura Hardman, Jim (Dana) Kallinger and Nancy Alcazar. He was a wonderful grandpa

to Darryl, Chris, Justin, Greg, Ryan, Michelle, Alex, Lauren, Deanna and Eric, and a loving great-grandpa to Camden, Beckett, Mckenzie and Caleb. Our dad is greatly loved and will be dearly missed by family, friends, and all those who knew him. He was a humble and kind gentleman, fun-loving and a joy to be around, and always took a sincere interest in those he interacted with. His family was his pride and joy and his greatest role in his life was being a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Visitation will be Friday January 3rd from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at **Wenban Funeral Home**, 320 Vine Avenue, Lake Forest, IL. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday January 4th at 10:00 a.m., St. Patrick's Church, 950 W. Everett Road, Lake Forest, IL, followed by interment at Ascension Cemetery, 1920 Buckley Road, Libertyville, IL. Info: [www.wenbanfh.com](http://www.wenbanfh.com) or (847) 234-0022.





Every life story deserves to be told.

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Chicago Tribune



### Komparda, William Peter 'Bill'

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of William (Bill) Komparda, 66, of Saint Charles, Illinois on December 20, 2024, born on February 19, 1958.

Bill met the love of his life, Wife and soulmate, Tammy, in 2001, married 22 years.

Bill was known for his witty sense of humor, extensive trivia knowledge on virtually every subject, undying love for anything Three Stooges, a seasoned pool player and music lover of 60's, 70's and 80's rock to classical. But most of all, he was a devoted Husband, Son, Brother, Son in Law, Uncle and cherished Friend to many - especially the Albert Street Gang.

Bill worked for his late Father & Great Uncle's brokerage company at the Chicago Board of Trade for 27 years where he traded for 13 years but his real passion was working in the office behind the scenes.

Preceded in death by, Mother Bernice & Father Stanley Komparda, In-Laws Charles & Evelyn Schmid, Fur-Babies, Barney, Rusty, Timmy & Butch.

Survived by his Wife Tammy Komparda, Saint Charles Illinois, Mary Komparda (Dianne Costanzo) of Lake Geneva Wisconsin, God-Son Josh (Kim) Augustin, Nephews Jake (Cathy) Augustin, Luke (Annette) Augustin, Jason (Tatiane) Schmid, Great Nieces & Fur-Baby Lucky.

In lieu of flowers it was Bill's wish to make a donation to: Fried's Cat Shelter, 509 S. Indiana Hwy 212 Michigan City, Indiana 46360.

Arrangements by **Yurs Funeral Home**, Saint Charles, Illinois. Celebration of Life service to be planned at a later date



### Kuznar, Rita

Rita Kuznar nee Ellman age 94. Beloved wife of



Walter. Loving mother of Neal, Alan (Tanya), Mary, Kevin (Christine) and Scott (Jenny). Fond Grandmother of 5. Dear sister of Marie (the late Robert) Keller. Preceded in death by 4 other siblings. Memorial service to be held at a later date. Brust Funeral Home 630-510-0044.

### Mahoney, Joseph Daniel

Joseph Daniel Mahoney, Sr. 83, of Burr Ridge, died peacefully, December 26, 2024 with family by his side.

Joe was born August 29, 1941, the son of James and Marie (Byrne) Mahoney. He graduated from Georgetown University and served in the United States Army. On August 7, 1965 he married Mary Kay Sheerin. Joe worked in the bond market for over 50 years.

Joe is survived by his wife, Kay Mahoney, Daughter-in-law, Renee Mahoney and grandson, Mason Mahoney. Joe was a beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings, Patricia (Ed) Jacobi, James (Mary) Mahoney, and Kay (John) Tibbs, by his son, Joseph Mahoney, Jr. and by his daughter, Meghan Mahoney.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 3, 2025 from 4-8pm at Sullivan Funeral Home-60 S. Grant Street, Hinsdale. A Second visitation will be held Saturday, January 4, 2025 10-11am with a Mass being celebrated at 11am all at St. John the Cross Catholic Church-5005 Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL.

For further information please contact DeFiore Funeral Home at 847-515-8772 or online condolences may be directed to [www.defiorefuneral.com](http://www.defiorefuneral.com)

## DeFiore

### McCarthy, Lenore "Lynn"

Lenore "Lynn" McCarthy, of Chicago, passed away on December 21, 2024. Loving mother of Elizabeth (Howard) McCarthy Samuels and Sarah Fay. Cherished grandmother of Maxwell and Tessa. Dear sister of John (Mona) Biskup. Lynn was born on October 1, 1942. Lynn was an alumna of Wheelock College (B.S. in Education), Boston University (M.Ed. in Reading) and Northwestern University (PhD in Reading and Language). Lynn was an accomplished educator, having held the following positions: Grade school teacher in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Brussels, Belgium; Faculty Member, Associate Dean and Dean at National Lewis University; Principal of Baker Demonstration School in Evanston, Church School in Glenn Ellyn, Cherokee School in Lake Forest, and Martin Luther King Jr. Laboratory School in Evanston; and Assistant Superintendent of School Operations and School Improvement in Evanston/Skokie School District 65. Funeral service Monday, December 30 at 1:00PM at Graceland Cemetery, 4001 N. Clark St, Chicago. Family and friends who will not attend the services can view the services live on Monday, December 30 at 1:00PM CST or any time after at [www.lakeshorejewishfunerals.com](http://www.lakeshorejewishfunerals.com). Arrangements by Lakeshore Jewish Funerals, 773-625-8621.



**Lakeshore**  
Jewish Funerals

### McNamara, Robert Rigney

Robert Rigney McNamara, beloved son of the late



Thomas and Rita (Rigney) McNamara, died peacefully at his home on December 18th, 2024. Born on January 7th, 1962, he was preceded in death by his parents, his infant brother Thomas W. McNamara, Jr. and his sister Michelle McNamara. He is survived by his wife Suzanne (Muslim) McNamara; his children (4): Elizabeth, Thomas, Colleen (fiance: Michael Miller), and Sean; his sisters Margo (Gerry) Chadwick, Maureen (Brent) Stratton, Kathleen (Kevin) Conroy, and Mary Rita (Steve) Skrine; and his beloved seventeen nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday, January 2, 2025, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Donnellan Family Funeral Services, 10045 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, IL 60077. Funeral Mass Friday, January 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m. at Saints Joseph & Francis Xavier Parish, at SFX Church, 524 9th Street, Wilmette, IL 60091. Live Streaming available on [donnellanfuneral.com](http://donnellanfuneral.com). Interment All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines, IL. Reception and Memory Sharing to follow the interment at Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Saints JFX School Endowment Fund, 808 Linden Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091 or Archdiocese of Chicago Spiritual Renewal, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Info: [donnellanfuneral.com](http://donnellanfuneral.com) or 847-675-1990.



### Muszynski, Arlene F.

Arlene F. Muszynski, née Smith, age 73, of Skokie, died Sunday, December 22, 2024, at Presbyterian Homes Westminster Place in Evanston. Devoted daughter of the late Robert and Ann Marie, née Forslund, Smith, she was born October 19, 1951, in Chicago. Beloved wife of David; loving mother of Joseph, Alinda, Julie



(Christopher) Anderson, and John (Kelsey); cherished grandmother of Ella and Charlie Anderson and Bo and Dotty Muszynski; dear sister of Janet and Robert (Kathy) Smith; fond sister-in-law of Karen and Daniel (Jamnean) Muszynski. Visitation, Saturday, January 4, 2025, from 3 to 7 p.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Celebration of Life, Sunday, January 5, 2025, at 1 p.m. (Contact family for Celebration of Life details.) In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Anthropedia, a non-profit whose work inspired Arlene during her final years: 3693 Forest Park Ave., Suite B, St. Louis, MO 63108 ([anthropedia.org/donate](http://anthropedia.org/donate)). Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or to leave a condolence message, please go to [habenfuneral.com](http://habenfuneral.com), click on Arlene's obituary, and post a message under Tributes.



### O'Donoghue, Dr. Marianne N.

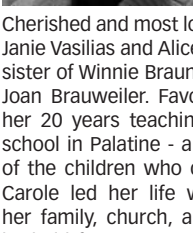
Marianne Nelson O'Donoghue, MD, age 83, of



River Forest, entered into eternal life on December 26, 2024, surrounded by family. Dr. O'Donoghue was born June 29, 1941 in Oak Park, Illinois, to Paul "Al" and Marion (nee Freeman) Nelson. She was loved by siblings Patricia (Bruno Opela), Paul (Elizabeth), and Thomas (Patricia). She was an accomplished academic, first attending Loyola University in Chicago, then Trinity College in Washington, DC. She graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine, and completed dermatology residencies at the University of Chicago and the University of Cincinnati. In addition to her successful dermatology practice in Oak Brook, she was an attending physician at Rush University Medical Center for over 50 years. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Dr. J. Kevin O'Donoghue, four children: Mary Kate O'Mara (Michael), Maureen O. Hannon (Patrick Clair), Michael (Amy, nee Sperling) and Christopher (Anne, nee McGovern); fourteen grandchildren: Myles, Brian, Elizabeth, Nicholas and Emma O'Mara; Bridget Esteves (Wyatt), Edward and John Hannon and stepson John Clair, Kaitlyn, Ryan, and Daniel; Owen, Kevin and Brendan; and great-grandson: Martin Esteves. She is also survived by her brother, Tom Nelson (Patricia), sister-in-law Elizabeth Nelson and dozens of nieces and nephews in the Nelson, Opela, and O'Donoghue families. Dr. O'Donoghue devoted her life to the service of others. She was an active member of St. Luke's Parish in River Forest, serving as a cantor, lector, Eucharistic minister, and catechism instructor in the children's program. She remained thankful to the St. Luke's parish for the nurturing environment provided to her family. Dr. O'Donoghue was grateful to have had a long, fruitful career in dermatology, shaped by inspiring mentors, colleagues, students, and of course, her patients. She also volunteered her time as president of the Women's Dermatological Society, the Noah Worcester Dermatological Society, the American Dermatological Association, the Chicago Dermatologic Society, the Illinois Dermatologic Society, and as director and vice president of the American Academy of Dermatology. She was a devoted spouse, loving mother, active grandmother, and devout Catholic. She will always be remembered for her intellect, faith, and her service to others. She loved to play tennis, and her family could always count on meeting her out for a lunch date. She will be missed and loved by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Visitation Sunday, December 29th from 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Salerno Galewood Chapels, 1857 N. Harlem Ave. Chicago. Funeral Monday, December 30th, Mass of Christian Burial 10:00 a.m. at St. Luke Church in River Forest. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

### Parsons, Carole

Carole Ann Parsons, age 85, of Palatine, Illinois passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2024. She was born on November 5, 1939, in Chicago to Michael and Winifred (nee Golden) Hussey. Devoted wife of Richard Parsons for 60 years. Beloved mother of Kevin (Judy), Jennifer (Jerry) Vasilas, Mary Claire, and Edward.



Cherished and most loving grandmother of Jake and Janie Vasilas and Alice, Lila and Olive Parsons. Dear sister of Winnie Braun, Fr. Mike Hussey and the late Joan Brauweiler. Favorite teacher to many during her 20 years teaching at St. Thomas of Villanova school in Palatine - a job she loved as much as all of the children who came through her classroom. Carole led her life with unwavering devotion to her family, church, and community. Visitation will be held from 3-8pm on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home**, 185 E Northwest Highway, Palatine. Funeral Mass 10am Friday, January 3 at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church, 1201 E Anderson Drive, Palatine. To view live stream of Mass visit [www.smithcorcoran.com](http://www.smithcorcoran.com). Interment will be private at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in Carole's name to Journeys The Road Home, <https://www.journeystheroadhome.org> or Gerry's Cafe, <https://donorbox.org/gerryscafe>. For info, 847-359-8020 or [www.smithcorcoran.com](http://www.smithcorcoran.com).



### Pietroczyński, C.S.S.F., Sr. Paul Marie

Sister Paul Marie Pietroczyński, C.S.S.F. Died on



December 19, 2024 in Mother of Good Counsel Convent, IL. Beloved member of Felician Sisters Community for 82 years. Beloved daughter of the late Xavier and the late Cunegunde. Beloved sister of the late Thaddeus, the late Genevieve (the late Norbert) Obrzut, the late Chester and the late Harry (the late Victoria). Nieces and nephews. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024 at the Mother of Good Counsel Convent, 3800 West Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. following the visitation. Commendation will follow at St. Adalbert Catholic Cemetery, Niles, IL. Funeral Services can be viewed from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device at the following link: <https://feliciansisters.zoom.us/j/85057339328> In lieu of flowers, donations to Felician Sisters' Retirement Fund, 3800 West Peterson, Ave., Chicago, IL 60659 would be appreciated. INFO 312-459-4367 David J. Moore, Director.

### Pruzan, Ina

Ina Pruzan, nee Pass, 81. 59 and a half wonderful years of marriage and a true life partner with Ira; devoted mother of Brian (Jodi) Pruzan and Mike Pruzan; cherished grandmother of Emma and Sarah Pruzan; adored daughter of the late Lou and Sarah Pass; dear sister of the late Sam (Arlene) Pass; loving aunt and cousin. Ina cherished the many friends that meant so much to her. Ina's family would like to thank her caregivers for their dedication and compassion. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice. Chapel service Monday, Dec. 30, 2:30 PM at **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**, 1700 W. Rand Rd, Arlington Heights. Interment to follow at Shalom Memorial Park. For a link to view the service, shiva, and to leave condolences: [www.shalommemorial.org](http://www.shalommemorial.org), 847-255-3520.



### Purtill, Diane

Diane Purtill, 83, loving daughter of the late John and the late Mae Purtill; beloved sister of John (Kristin) Purtill, the late Daniel Purtill, and the late Mary Peters; and cherished aunt and great-aunt of many nieces and nephews. Diane received her undergraduate degree from Mundelein College and her Masters in Library Science from the University of Southern California. Her entire career was spent in the Chicago Public Library system. She rose to the level of senior management before her well-deserved retirement. Diane was an avid reader, world traveler, and devout Catholic. She will be missed by many.



Interment will be private at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines.



### Rivet, Elizabeth J. "Betty"

Elizabeth J. "Betty" Rivet (née Boyle), age 88, of Chicago, passed away Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Devoted daughter of the late Eugene and Elizabeth (née Crooks) Boyle, Betty was born December 19, 1935, the oldest of five children. Cherished sister of Gene and Tim Boyle and the late Paddy Anderson and Denny McGuinness; loving mother to James (Cindy), Lori, Catherine, Michael, and Colleen (Mary); cherished grandmother to Mary (Shane) Gustin, Michael (Ruth) Rivet, Robert (Sara) Clark, Brian (Kai) Clark, Kevin (Diana) Clark, and Mitchell and Haley Rivet; precious great-grandmother to Hunter and Cassidy Gustin, Michael P. Rivet, and Elizabeth, Audrey, and the late Alice Clark; fond aunt to many nieces and nephews. Betty will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by all who knew her. She easily made friends wherever she went, and her sense of humor, devotion to her family, and her compassion and care for animals were the cornerstone of her character. Gathering, Saturday, January 18, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. until time of Mass of Christian Burial, 11 a.m., at St. Gertrude Catholic Church, 1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago. Private Interment, All Saints Catholic Cemetery, Des Plaines. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or to leave a condolence message, please go to [habenfuneral.com](http://habenfuneral.com), click on Elizabeth's obituary, and post a message under Tributes.



### Sansone, Elaine M.

Elaine M. Sansone, nee Carpino; Beloved wife of 68 years to Augie Sansone; loving mother of Michael (Margaret), Augie Jr. (Cathy), and Lisa (Terry) Maloney; dearest grandmother of the late Dawn, Kristen, Nikki, Michael, Michelene, Stephanie, A.J., Jake, and Joey; great-grandmother of ten; loved daughter of the late Joseph and Caroline (nee Comiano) Carpino and daughter-in-law of the late Joseph and Lena Sansone; cherished sister of John (the late Nancy) Carpino, Carol (the late John) Lyons, and the late Joseph (the late Bernice) Carpino; fond aunt and great-aunt to many; Visitation, Monday, from 4 to 8 p.m. at **Nelson Funeral Home** 820 Talcott, Park Ridge. Family and friends to meet, Tuesday, at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Mission 9711 W. Devon Ave., Rosemont, IL for the Funeral Mass to begin at 10 a.m. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Elaine's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or MISSfoundation.org would be appreciated. For information 847-823-5122 or [www.nelsonfunerals.com](http://www.nelsonfunerals.com)



### Shapiro, Erwin "Lou"

Erwin "Lou" Shapiro, age 82. Beloved husband of 59 years to Ady nee Sandalow. Devoted son of the late Simon and Faye Shapiro. Loving father of Jonathan Shapiro, Bobby (Deborah) Shapiro, Amy Shapiro and Stephen (Melissa) Shapiro. Proud grandfather of Eden Winograd, Livvy Winograd, Simon, Talia, Elle and Lia Shapiro. Dear brother of Sandy (David) Marcus and brother in law of Michael (Naomi) Sandalow, Barbara (Stan) Krupp, Joel Sandalow and the late Terry (the late Ina) Sandalow. Uncle of Mitchell, Heather, David, Marc, Judith, Sharon, Sholom, Nathan, Elizabeth, Andy, Matthew, Brian, Scott and Noah. Dearest cousin of Dennis Shapiro who was like a brother. Beloved lifelong friend of Michael and Barbara Levey. Proud Army Reserve veteran, leader in Highland Park CERT, Jewish War Veterans Post 29 & American Legion Post 145. Memorial service Thursday, January 2, 4PM at North Shore Congregation Israel, 1185 N. Sheridan Road, Glencoe, IL 60022 with shiva following until 8PM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lewy Body Dementia Association, [www.lbda.org](http://www.lbda.org) or Friends of the IDF, [www.support.fidf.org](http://www.support.fidf.org) To attend the funeral livestream, please visit our website. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Skokie Chapel, 847.229.8822, [www.cjinfo.com](http://www.cjinfo.com).



CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

### Shields Sr., Robert 'Bob'

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Shields Sr. on 12/23/2024, at the age of 85. Bob grew up on the south side of Chicago. He was preceded in death by his father Edward Sr., mother Gladys (nee Harvey) and sister Louise. He is survived by his brother Edward Jr.



Bob and his late wife Ann shared five children; Robert Jr. (Lynne), Gregory (Laura), Kathleen (Don), Carol Ann (Greg), and Matthew (Kelly), as well as seven grandchildren (Audrie, Mark Curtis, Robert III, Sean, Sarah, Lucy, and Lola) and three great-grandchildren (Kennedy, Brady, and Eliana). He also leaves behind many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Bob proudly served in the Army reserves for three years and as a Chicago Police Officer for 28 years. He started his career as a rookie police officer in the Englewood district and finished as a Detective in the Gang Crimes Division. He was very proud of his time with the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and often shared stories of service, dedication and honor. Bob dearly missed his CPD partners Mel Kolosa and Harry McKenna, who both preceded him in death.

Upon retiring from CPD, Bob moved to Florida where he met Doris, enjoyed the Chicago White Sox, fishing and going out with lifelong friends. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter and unwavering support for his family and friends. Bob has been the rock of support to many and will be sincerely missed.

A celebration of life will be held on 12/29/2024 from 1:00-6:00pm at **McInerney Central Chapel, 4635 South Wallace, Chicago, IL 60609**.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations sent in Bob's memory to the Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA) - [www.lbda.org](http://www.lbda.org)

### Simoncelli, Wayne Robert

Wayne Robert Simoncelli, 82, of Downers Grove. Beloved husband of the late Patricia. Loving father of Charesse (Jack) Manganiello, Wayne Simoncelli, Shannon (Tim) Schloneger, Dino Simoncelli, Nicole (Marty) Turek, Claudine (Efrain, Jr.) David, Dominic Simoncelli and Angela (Chris) Dunda. Devoted grandfather of Nick, Anthony, Joey, Wayne, Anthony, Calista, Paulie, Francesca, Christian, Jacob, Claire, Isabella, Everini, Dino, Lena, Abby, Patty, Hailey, Efrain III, Carlos, Dominic, Vincenzo and Luca. Dear brother of Leonore (late Arthur) Gabl, and the late Emil, the late Peter (Carol) and the late Edward (Louise) Simoncelli. Fond uncle of many. Preceded in death by his parents, the late Emilio and Carmella Simoncelli. Visitation 3 to 9pm Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025 at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 301-75th St., Downers Grove, IL 60516. Prayers 9:30am Friday, Jan. 3, 2025 at the funeral home to Divine Savior Church, Downers Grove for Mass at 10am. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital appreciated. Family and cooking were Wayne's main loves in life. Funeral home phone 630/964-6500 or [www.hjfunerals.com](http://www.hjfunerals.com)



### Slavin, Marjory Cohen

Marjory Cohen Slavin passed away on December 20



at the age 82. Born in Dayton, Ohio to parents Bertha Shor Cohen and Joseph Cohen, Marjory attended Northwestern University when on the road to being both Phi Beta Kappa and a Rhodes Scholar she met and married Louis Slavin her senior year. The couple resided in Kalamazoo MI and Chicago IL where they raised their children. In 2020, they moved to Tucson AZ where both were active in many cultural activities including the University of Arizona College of Fine Arts and the Jewish Community Center where she served as board president. Survivors include her daughter Emily Slavin, sons Nathaniel Slavin (Cheryl Bame) and Seth Slavin (Solea Steinbruck ), grandson Lucas Bame Slavin and her sister Lesli (Stan) Chassin. Burial was held in Dayton on December 27, 2024. In lieu of gifts, donations may be made to Urban Gateways, 1637 N. Ashland Ave, Ste. #1, Chicago 60622 or <https://urbangateways.org/about>

### Stanton, Cheryl Margaret

Cheryl Margaret (nee Smith) Stanton, age 80, companion, partner and wife of 58 years to Tom (Ret. CPD), mother to Megan Stanton-Anderson (Mike), Mike (Mariann), Katie, Tom (Lisa), Paddy (Dawn), Pete, CPD (Katie), Anne Colasanto (John), and Liam (Jackie); sister to Pam Michaud of Iowa City, joyous grandmother to 16 and unwavering friend to so many from her Roger's Park base and beyond. Cheryl was a daily photographer of the sunrise over Lake Michigan (her and Tom's Galway Bay!) and a woman who believed that the miracle is happening right now. Above all, Cheryl left the judging to Saint Peter, and loved you for who you are.

Please join the Stanton family in applauding Cheryl for a life lived with grace and compassion on Monday, December 30 at St. Gertrude's church located at 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660. Visitation at 9:30am followed by mass at 11:00am. Interment private.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider a donation in Cheryl's memory to the Danny Did Foundation at [www.dannydid.org](http://www.dannydid.org) or 3008 Central St., Ste. 203, Evanston, IL 60021; or METAvisor for metastatic breast cancer research at [www.metavivor.org](http://www.metavivor.org) or 7780 Elmwood Ave, Suite 130, Middleton, WI 53562. Funeral info: 773-736-3833 or [www.smithcorcoran.com](http://www.smithcorcoran.com)



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## Chicago Tribune

Visit: [chicagotribune.com/deathnotice](http://chicagotribune.com/deathnotice)



**Stransky, Helen**  
Helen Ann Stransky passed away on December 21, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard Stransky, her parents Frank & Helen Smunt, and her brother Frank Smunt Jr. Her family was able to spend her last day holding her hand and reminding her how much they loved her. Helen was born on July 15, 1937 and raised in Berwyn where she graduated from Morton High School. Helen married Richard Stransky in 1959 and had four children. In 1966 they moved to Glen Ellyn. Helen's greatest joy was raising her family and watching her children and grandchildren's involvement in many different school and sports activities. She and Rich rarely missed an event and her children and grandchildren always knew that they were their biggest cheerleaders. As Helen's children grew older, she worked for over 20 years with Official Airline Guides in Oak Brook. Helen and Rich moved around a bit, eventually settling in Del Webb in Huntley. Helen enjoyed the garden club and bus trips to attend many events. Helen loved cooking meals for her family and listening to everyone laugh, tell stories and enjoy being together. She was an avid fan of Hallmark Christmas movies, Dancing with the Stars and the Rose Bowl parade. After Rich's passing in 2017 Helen moved in January 2020 to Beacon Hill in Lombard. She is survived by her children, Sherry (Leigh) Roadman, Richard, Jr. (Jennifer) Stransky, Scott (Laura) Stransky and Duane (Erin) Stransky, 10 grandchildren, Stephanie (Jerry) Lange, Jeffrey (Morgan) Roadman, Daniel Roadman, Ryan (Catie) Stransky, Collin Stransky, Brooke Stransky, Jessica Stransky, Jake Stransky, Nickolas Stransky and Sabrina Stransky, 6 great-grandchildren, and 3 nieces. A private celebration of life is being planned for a later date. The family would like to thank the staff of Beacon Hill for providing Helen with wonderful care during the past few years. In Helen's memory please consider donating to the Beacon Hill Team Member Appreciation Fund: www.TheLifespaceFoundation.org.

**Strohe, Sharon L.**  
Sharon L. Strohe, 81, of Morton Grove, formerly of Chicago and Skokie, beloved sister of the late Carol DiSimone and Roseann Strohe; loving daughter of the late Roy and Rosemary Strohe; dear friend of Mary Pabst. Memorial visitation at St. Martha Church 8523 Georgiana Ave. Morton Grove, IL 60053 on Friday, January 3rd from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the memorial mass at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to the church appreciated. Sign online guest book at [www.simkinsfh.com](http://www.simkinsfh.com). (847) 965-2500



**Tomaras, Mary Carole**  
Mary Carole Tomaras (nee Johanson), 83, fell asleep in the Lord on December 21st, 2024. Beloved wife of John Tomaras. Loving mother of Susan (Nektarios) Morakalis, Jane (Jeff) Devine, and Jason (Linda) Tomaras. Devoted daughter of the late John and Frances Johanson. Proud grandmother of Konstantinos and Maria Morakalis, Ryan and Noah Tomaras, and Jianna and Jaima Devine. Dear sister of Astrid Grande, Jane Pulliam, and Peggy Elia. Daughter-in-law of the late Bea and James Tomaras. Fond aunt of Kelly, Kathy, Carmen, Jordan, and Darcy.

Services were held on December 24th, 2024. May Mary Carole's memory be eternal.

Arrangements by **Memory Eternal Funeral Directors, Ltd.** (847) 375-0095



**Varak, Barbara Rose**  
Barbara Rose Varak, age 79, of LaGrange; beloved wife of the late Frank R. Varak; loving mother of Robert (Jean) & Susan; proud grandmother of Kate, Sarah, the late Molly, Emily, Lauren, Madeline, & Emma; dear sister of the late Paul & the late James Remsik; aunt and friend of many. Visitation 4 to 8pm on Thursday, January 2 at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 1025 W. 55th St., Countryside. Family & friends will meet at the funeral home for prayers at 9:15am on Friday, January 3. Mass will follow at St. Cletus Church in LaGrange, 10am. All are invited to meet at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery 20953 W. Hoff Road, Elwood, IL for 12:00pm interment. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Barb's name to the Breast Cancer Research Fund (<https://give.bcrf.org/>) are appreciated. Funeral information: (708) 352-6500 or [hjfunerals.com](http://hjfunerals.com)



**Venezia, Antonio J.**  
Antonio J. Venezia, Jr. passed away peacefully at home on December 26, 2024 at age 92. Tony (A.J.) was born December 20, 1932 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Antonio J. Venezia, Sr. and Zulime Venezia (nee Agnelli). Tony received doctorates in dentistry and orthodontia from University of Tennessee and Northwestern University. Tony was a Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army. He was a successful race car driver throughout Europe under the racing pseudonym of "007." He practiced orthodontia in Chicago and Flossmoor, IL for many decades. Tony was President of the Chicago Dental Society, Illinois State Dental Society, and South Suburban Dental Society at various points throughout his lauded career. He was an avid world traveler, helicopter skier, SCUBA diver, and bicyclist. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, and uncle, Tony is survived by his wife of 52 years, Joan Venezia (nee Reid), six children, twelve grandchildren, sister, and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025, from 9:00am-12:00pm at **Kurtz Memorial Chapel**, 65 Old Frankfort Way in Frankfort, followed by mass at 12:30 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 7659 W Sauk Trail, in Frankfort. Internment with 21-gun salute to follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.



Every life story deserves to be told.  
Share your loved one's story at [placeanad.chicagotribune.com](http://placeanad.chicagotribune.com)

Chicago Tribune

**Walters, Michael Ann**  
Michael Ann "Mike" Walters, nee Sweet; beloved wife of the late Dr. Theodore "Ted" Clark Walters; loving mother of Steve Walters (Allison) and David (Leslie) Walters; cherished grandmother of Grace, Ford, Ben, and Sara Walters. Beyond her immediate family, Mike was also a maternal figure to many. She cared deeply for her extended family, her local community, and the broader city of Chicago. Whether she was feeding the neighborhood's stray cat, opening her home to her nieces and nephews, or cutting out box tops for her local schools and volunteering, Michael was an angel whose constant care and empathy touched the lives of everyone she knew.


While Mike is known to many locals as the kind blonde-haired woman who worked the front desk at the Western Springs Veterinary Clinic for 27 years beside her husband, she also worked as a roller-skating waitress at Dog N Suds, an elf at Santa's Village, a truck driver, census taker, den mother, and a church youth leader, and perhaps most importantly, as a thoughtful and compassionate mother and grandmother.

A celebration of Michael's life will be held on Sunday, January 5 at The Community House in Hinsdale from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM, with a special tribute at 3:30 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the cancer charity of your choice are appreciated. Arrangements by Sullivan Funeral Home 630-323-0275 or [www.sullivanfuneralhomehinsdale.com](http://www.sullivanfuneralhomehinsdale.com)



**Weinstein, Joan**  
Joan Weinstein nee Straus, born January 16, 1927 passed away peacefully, shy of her 98th birthday, on December 26 in Highland Park, Illinois. She is survived by her two sons, Alan (Bonii) and John (Heidi); her four grandchildren, Michael (Jessica), Diana Wielgus (Andrew), Alex (Allison) and Hana (Reese); and eight great-grandchildren. Born, raised and living most of her life in Chicago, she met her lifetime partner Mayer "Mike" while attending Hyde Park High School. After Joan attended Eureka College they were married for more than 60 years, until Mike's passing in 2008. While Joan and Mike loved to travel the world, for Joan in particular, nothing was more important and brought more joy than being with her friends and family. While most of her friends preceded her in death, she was surrounded and comforted by the presence and love of her family in her final days. Funeral service Monday, December 30, 12:00 PM at **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette, IL 60091. Interment Westlawn Cemetery, Norridge, IL. Info: 847-256-5700.



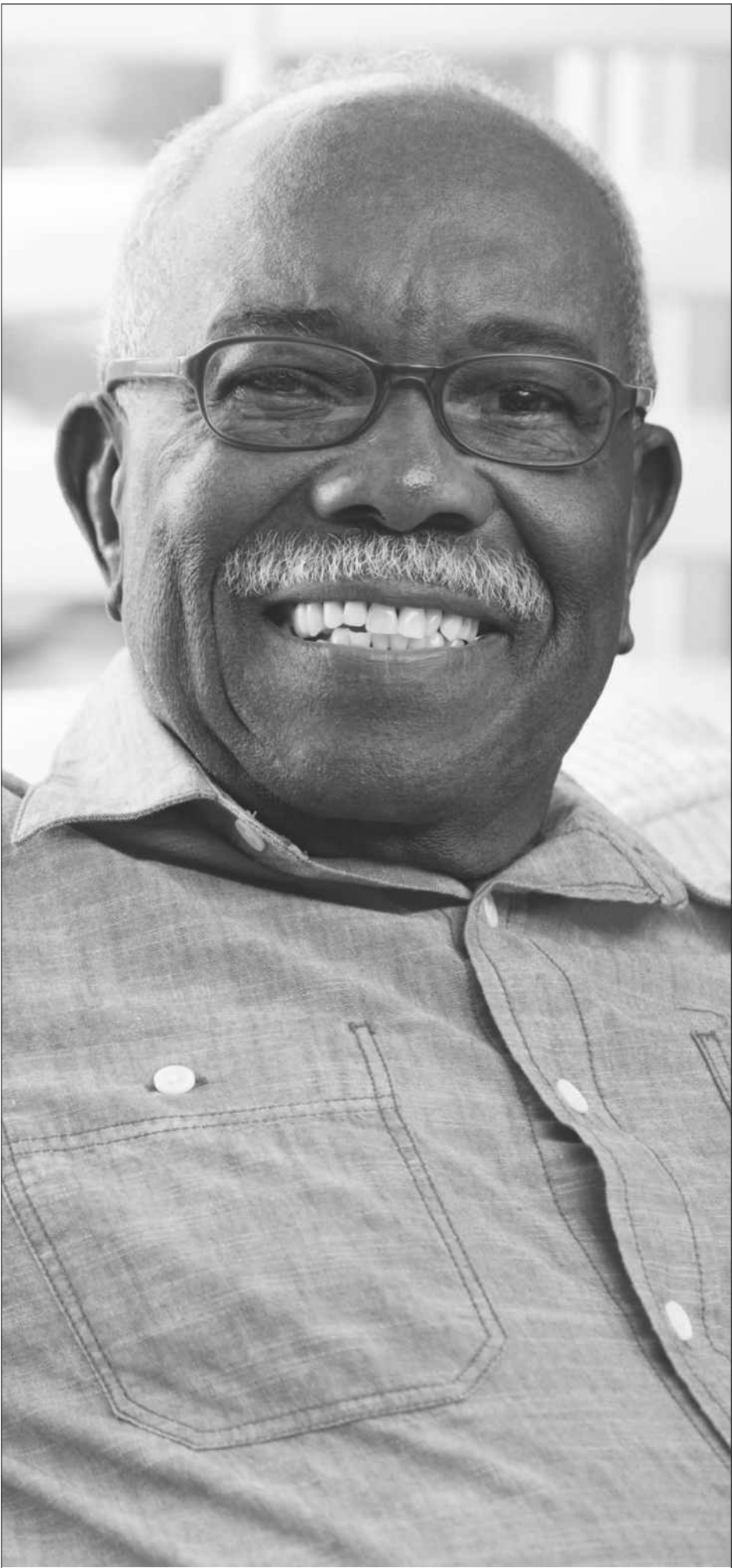


**ENDLESS**  
TRIBUTES

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## Chicago Tribune





# CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER





**AccuWeather TEAM**

Meteorologists Larry Mowry, Cheryl Scott, Jaisol Martinez, Tracy Butler and Greg Dutra

**ABC7 Outlook:**  
Wet weather returns. Showers for most locations. Heaviest rain south of I-55.

**SUNDAY**

Day Night



High: **44** Low: **33**



Breezy and cooler with periods of rain

POP: **90%**

Winds: **N 10-20 mph**

**MONDAY**

Day Night



High: **42** Low: **36**



Mostly cloudy

POP: **0%**

Winds: **WSW 4-8 mph**

**TUESDAY**

Day Night



High: **40** Low: **27**



Periods of snow and rain

POP: **95%**

Winds: **N 8-16 mph**

**WEDNESDAY**

Day Night



High: **30** Low: **20**

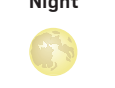

Low clouds and colder

POP: **25%**

Winds: **WNW 8-16 mph**

**THURSDAY**

Day Night



High: **30** Low: **16**

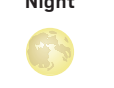

Partly sunny

POP: **25%**

Winds: **W 8-16 mph**

**FRIDAY**

Day Night



High: **24** Low: **11**

Plenty of sunshine

POP: **5%**

Winds: **W 8-16 mph**

**CHICAGO FORECAST**

**Sunday 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 0 0 0 0 0 0

**RealFeel Temperature®**  
30 29 30 33 27 28 28

**Sunday Activities**  
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

**Outdoor Activities Index**  
1 0 0 1 0 0 2

**Fishing Index**  
0 0 0 0 0 0 1

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**

**Saturday Temperatures**  
O'Hare through 4 p.m.

High	51
Low	47
Normal high	34
Normal low	22
Record high	69 (1984)
Record low	-13 (1924)

**Local Temperatures**  
through 6 p.m. Saturday

Location	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Aurora	51	46	33	18
Gary	55	48	34	21
Kankakee	55	47	34	19
Lansing	54	46	34	19
Midway	53	48	34	22
Romeoville	52	46	34	19
Valparaiso	52	47	36	21
Waukegan	53	47	33	19

**Saturday Precipitation**

	2024	2023	Normal
Saturday*	0.18"	0.13"	0.06"
Month to date	0.89"	2.75"	1.92"
Year to date	33.88"	33.51"	37.75"

**Snowfall**

	2024	2023	Normal
Saturday*	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"
Month to date	2.4"	0.3"	6.7"
Season to date	5.3"	3.0"	8.7"

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

**Air Quality Index**

Saturday's reading

Good

Sunday's forecast

Moderate

Primary pollutant

Nitrogen Oxide  
Source: AirNow.gov

**Sun and Moon**

	Sun.	Mon.
Sunrise	7:18 a.m.	7:18 a.m.
Sunset	4:28 p.m.	4:29 p.m.
Moonrise	6:32 a.m.	7:31 a.m.
Moonset	3:00 p.m.	3:59 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

Dec 30

Jan 6

Jan 13

Jan 21

**Sunday's Planet Watch**

	Rise	Set
Mercury	5:39 a.m.	3:01 p.m.
Venus	9:59 a.m.	8:18 p.m.
Mars	6:07 p.m.	9:16 a.m.
Jupiter	2:39 p.m.	5:35 a.m.
Saturn	10:46 a.m.	9:55 p.m.

**Best viewing times today:** Venus: 8 p.m. Mars: 8 p.m. Jupiter: 8 p.m. Saturn: 8 p.m. Mercury: 6:50 a.m.

**AccuWeather**

Visit [AccuWeather.com](http://AccuWeather.com)

**LAKE MICHIGAN**

**Sunday**  
Wind from the north at 7-14 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility less than 3 miles at times in rain. Water temperature: 41.

**Monday**  
Wind from the west-southwest at 4-8 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally clear. Water temperature: 41.

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

0 0 0 0 0 2 0

**Monday**  
Wind from the west-southwest at 4-8 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally clear. Water temperature: 41.

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

**ASK abc7**

Jaisol Martinez

**QUESTION:** What are the average highs and lows in January in Chicago?

**ANSWER:** The average high on Jan. 1 is 33 degrees and then it drops to 31 degrees on Jan. 15. By the end of the month, the average high rises to 32 degrees. The average low on the first day of January is 21 degrees and then it drops to 19 degrees by Jan. 15. The average low drops to 18 degrees on Jan. 31.

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

REGIONAL CITIES		Sun.	Mon.
City		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
<b>Illinois</b>			
Carbondale		58/41/r	56/43/sh
Champaign		48/38/r	48/41/c
Decatur		51/38/r	48/41/c
Moline		49/35/pc	45/35/c
Peoria		50/38/r	48/37/c
Quincy		52/37/sh	48/35/c
Rockford		45/31/r	43/33/c
Springfield		51/38/r	48/40/c
Sterling		46/32/pc	44/34/c
<b>Indiana</b>			
Bloomington		58/42/r	52/45/pc
Evansville		57/42/r	58/47/c
Fort Wayne		52/37/r	45/36/pc
Indianapolis		55/39/r	50/41/pc
Lafayette		49/37/r	47/41/c
South Bend		47/35/r	43/36/c
<b>Wisconsin</b>			
Green Bay		37/30/pc	42/29/s
Kenosha		45/33/r	46/34/c
La Crosse		40/31/pc	38/28/c
Madison		41/29/c	41/30/c
Milwaukee		44/34/r	45/35/pc
Wausau		40/28/c	41/28/s
<b>Michigan</b>			
Detroit		51/37/r	47/34/pc
Grand Rapids		43/35/r	45/32/pc
Marquette		36/28/pc	36/26/c
Sault Ste. Marie		38/33/c	38/32/sn
Traverse City		41/37/r	45/31/pc
<b>Iowa</b>			
Ames		42/32/pc	41/28/r
Cedar Rapids		43/34/c	41/31/c
Des Moines		43/32/pc	42/29/r
Dubuque		42/31/pc	39/30/c

NATIONAL CITIES		Sun.	Mon.
City		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Abilene		74/53/pc	79/40/s
Albany, NY		49/46/r	56/35/r
Albuquerque		59/37/s	57/29/s
Amarillo		65/47/pc	67/27/s
Anchorage		16/13/s	19/13/s
Asheville		62/39/r	60/41/pc
Aspen		44/24/sn	27/5/sn
Atlanta		66/48/r	64/50/s
Atlantic City		56/52/c	57/38/s
Austin		74/49/s	83/50/s
Baltimore		62/49/r	60/37/s
Billings		39/29/sn	36/26/sn
Birmingham		64/47/r	65/54/s
Bismarck		41/22/s	26/19/c
Boise		48/29/r	41/22/pc
Boston		49/45/r	57/39/r
Brownsville		84/59/s	83/63/pc
Buffalo		58/40/r	44/34/sh
Burlington, VT		48/42/r	53/36/r
Charleston, SC		70/53/r	70/48/pc
Charleston, WV		64/44/r	55/38/pc
Charlotte		65/46/r	65/45/pc
Chattanooga		63/46/r	63/50/pc
Cheyenne		51/32/pc	38/20/sn
Cincinnati		60/41/r	53/44/pc
Cleveland		62/39/r	47/35/sh
Colorado Spgs		56/38/pc	50/21/s
Columbia, MO		53/36/pc	51/37/sh
Columbia, SC		67/48/r	68/43/pc
Columbus, OH		62/41/r	52/40/pc
Concord		40/35/r	53/31/r
Corpus Christi		80/56/s	84/54/s
Dallas		69/52/pc	77/44/s
Daytona Beach		74/64/t	74/59/s
Denver		59/38/pc	47/21/pc
Duluth		36/26/pc	35/21/c
El Paso		70/44/pc	75/41/s

		Sun.	Mon.
City		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Fairbanks		-16/-20/s	-12/-23/s
Fargo		35/23/s	26/19/c
Flagstaff		56/28/pc	57/24/s
Fort Myers		76/67/t	82/66/c
Fort Smith		63/43/s	67/44/s
Fresno		61/44/sh	52/40/pc
Grand Junction		51/31/pc	42/21/s
Grand Falls		40/22/sn	29/21/sn
Harrisburg		61/49/r	55/34/c
Hartford		47/42/r	57/34/r
Helena, MT		38/32/sn	36/24/sn
Honolulu		82/71/sh	83/72/s
Houston		71/54/s	78/54/s
Int'l Falls		35/20/c	27/19/c
Jackson, MS		67/48/s	70/54/s
Jacksonville		73/58/t	75/54/s
Juneau		34/24/pc	31/22/s
Kansas City		51/35/pc	48/32/r
Las Vegas		66/46/s	64/42/s
Lexington		63/45/r	55/47/pc
Lincoln		54/32/pc	44/26/r
Little Rock		65/46/s	67/47/s
Los Angeles		62/48/pc	64/47/c
Louisville		64/45/r	58/50/c
Macon		71/45/r	67/47/s
Memphis		61/46/pc	67/47/pc
Miami		77/70/t	81/69/c
Minneapolis		38/29/pc	34/26/c
Mobile		73/49/s	69/59/s
Montgomery		70/47/r	69/54/s
Nashville		62/47/sh	62/52/pc
New Orleans		71/53/s	71/60/s
New York City		57/53/s	58/42/pc
Norfolk		70/55/c	64/45/s
Oklahoma City		64/43/pc	64/38/s
Omaha		49/31/pc	43/27/r
Orlando		76/64/t	79/62/s

		Sun.	Mon.
City		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Palm Beach		77/67/t	81/67/pc
Palm Springs		76/51/s	78/51/s
Philadelphia		63/51/c	60/35/pc
Phoenix		75/48/pc	74/49/s
Pittsburgh		62/42/r	49/36/pc
Portland, ME		40/36/r	52/35/r
Portland, OR		50/42/r	49/37/sh
Providence		51/48/r	55/35/r
Raleigh		69/50/r	66/46/pc
Rapid City		49/33/c	35/19/sn
Reno		52/27/sh	45/25/pc
Richmond		69/52/r	63/41/c
Rochester		58/43/r	49/36/c
Sacramento		62/41/r	59/35/s
St. Louis		57/41/r	53/43/c
Salem, OR		49/41/r	49/35/c
Salt Lake City		54/30/sh	39/24/s
San Antonio		79/49/s	86/54/s
San Diego		61/49/pc	62/47/s
San Francisco		60/45/r	59/43/s
San Juan		81/73/pc	82/72/pc
Santa Fe		56/31/s	55/22/s
Savannah		69/52/r	71/50/pc
Seattle		45/41/r	48/39/sh
Shreveport		67/50/s	74/49/s
Sioux Falls		45/28/s	38/25/sn
Spokane		38/32/r	37/30/c
Syracuse		54/46/r	50/36/sh
Tallahassee		75/51/r	73/50/s
Tampa		74/66/t	77/65/s
Topeka		56/32/pc	50/32/r
Tucson		79/44/pc	77/43/s
Tulsa		63/43/pc	61/40/s
Washington, DC		65/52/r	62/39/pc
Wichita		61/38/pc	55/35/pc
Wilkes-Barre		59/47/r	51/32/c
Yuma		75/49/pc	78/50/s

WORLD CITIES		Sun.	Mon.
City		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco		85/67/s	86/68/s
Algiers		63/38/s	62/41/pc
Amsterdam		47/44/c	49/42/c
Ankara		42/31/c	45/25/pc
Athens		52/43/pc	57/40/s
Auckland		75/64/pc	75/62/sh
Baghdad		66/42/pc	69/44/s
Bangkok		88/70/s	90/68/pc
Barbados		85/74/sh	84/74/pc
Barcelona		58/40/s	58/40/s
Beijing		41/22/pc	44/17/pc
Beirut		63/55/sh	62/53/sh
Berlin		37/34/c	42/34/c
Bermuda		67/64/pc	68/65/c
Bogota		65/50/r	65/49/r
Brussels		41/39/c	44/36/c
Bucharest		41/30/c	45/29/c
Budapest		38/24/pc	36/22/pc
Bueno Aires		77/68/pc	81/70/pc
Cairo		67/52/s	65/53/s
Cancun		85/69/t	84/69/sh
Caracas		88/74/pc	87/75/c
Casablanca		68/45/sh	67/42/s
Copenhagen		46/42/c	47/43/r
Dublin		50/46/c	51/48/c
Edmonton		16/8/pc	14/-1/c
Frankfurt		35/29/c	37/29/c
Geneva		40/27/pc	40/27/s
Guadalajara		82/41/s	82/42/c
Havana		80/68/t	83/68/c
Helsinki		42/34/c	39/25/s
Hong Kong		66/57/pc	69/61/pc
Istanbul		48/43/sh	49/39/c
Jerusalem		57/43/pc	50/41/r
Johannesburg		78/60/t	78/60/t
Kabul		47/23/pc	48/25/pc
Kingston		88/75/t	88/74/pc

		Sun.	Mon.
City		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Kyiv		35/31/c	37/32/pc
Lima		75/66/c	76/66/c
Lisbon		57/40/s	56/40/s
London		49/43/sh	49/44/c
Madrid		54/27/s	51/27/s
Manila		84/77/c	88/76/pc
Mexico City		72/42/s	73/43/s
Monterrey		82/53/pc	91/60/pc
Montreal		40/37/r	47/36/r
Moscow		35/32/c	36/28/c
Munich		41/25/pc	35/23/pc
Nairobi		81/59/pc	81/60/s
Nassau		78/69/pc	82/68/pc
New Delhi		65/49/pc	66/46/pc
Oslo		43/33/c	37/24/c
Ottawa		39/36/r	43/33/r



INSIDE VINTAGE CHICAGO TRIBUNE • NATION & WORLD

OPINION

Chicago Tribune  
Founded June 10, 1847

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EDITORIALS

2024 IN REVIEW

The election as told through Tribune editorials

2024 was a highly consequential election year, and the Tribune Editorial Board turned many times to the presidential campaign. There was the disastrous-for-Democrats debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, the sudden switch by the Democratic Party to nominate Kamala Harris, the contrasting conventions, campaign ups and downs and, of course, the ultimate triumph of Trump himself. Here's some of what we had to say as political chaos, followed by drastic change, unfolded.

Feb. 13

Wisconsin Republican Mike Gallagher announces retirement from the House of Representatives.

How much room is left in the Grand Old Party for those who don't toe the MAGA line, 100% of the time? On the day after the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's first Republican president, Wisconsin Republican Mike Gallagher's surprise Feb. 10 announcement that he would retire from the House of Representatives when his term ends has set us wondering.

March 4

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that individual states can't unilaterally bar Donald Trump from appearing on ballots on the grounds of Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. The editorial board approves.

We were stirred and pleased that the Supremes acted unanimously in striking down the Colorado Supreme Court ruling, which was the issue on the table here but will extend to other states that have followed suit. The three liberal justices stepped away from their potential partisan corners and also rejected the suggestions of several law professors no doubt of their acquaintance. That puts this issue to bed in the best possible way, and Trump should return the favor by noting that not everything in Washington is some Deep State plot against him. To his credit, he actually did take some baby steps Monday in that direction. When things go his way, he is capable of marginal magnanimity. It's when things do not that this big baby's ruinous side always reveals itself. In this case, he could learn a thing or two from those liberal justices. They swallowed hard and did their jobs. Trump for president is a matter for the voters. Such is the price of democracy.

June 26

In a debate with Donald Trump, disaster strikes for Joe Biden. By the following morning, the editorial board is calling for the president not to run again.

Trump was mostly just himself, energetically narcissistic, cavalier with truths, cruel of tone, bereft of empathy. Biden was an encapsulation of what many Americans have come to know very well as they care for aged parents, partners, friends, grandparents and colleagues: a man now struggling to maintain a line of thought and keep track of complex facts, a man who gets flustered under deadline pressure, a man who has become vulnerable and yet, at the same time, far less self-aware. None of these descriptions of Biden prevent his enjoying a great life fully deserved by a man of distinguished public service; they don't preclude his passing on wisdom in a classroom, giving speeches, accepting awards, shaping a memoir with a co-writer, having dinner with old friends and colleagues, playing with grandkids. A charitable person would say, maybe, they don't even preclude his living out the last few months of a first term as president of the United States. With the help of trusted staffers. But standing again for that office? It's a ridiculous idea.

July 8

Democrats still are mulling what to do about the Joe Biden issue. The editorial board has



Howard University students watch live election results during a watch party near an election night event for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at Howard University in Washington on Nov. 5. NATHAN HOWARD/AP



President Joe Biden leaves the stage during the Democratic National Convention at the United Center on Aug. 19. BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE



Former President Donald Trump walks off stage with Melania Trump during an election night event in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Nov. 6. DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

an analogy involving federal judges.

When Article III federal judges start to struggle to fulfill their vital role, the standard practice is that a trusted colleague, other than the chief judge of a district, schedules a lunch and quietly but firmly suggests to the reluctant jurist that the time has come to stand down. Often this is accompanied by the unveiling of a portrait in a ceremonial courtroom. Assuming the message is received, no public mention is ever made of this intervention; rather, a willing retirement is announced, accompanied by many grand words about all the retiree's accomplishments.

After the disastrous debate with Trump, we anticipated that would be how things went with Biden. Indeed, there clearly are those still working in that direction, which would involve an acknowledgement of changed personal circumstances on the part of the nominee (no shame there), perhaps (or perhaps not) a crowning of Vice President Kamala Harris

as successor, and a surely graceful exit accompanied by an entire library's worth of pronouncements of admiration by pretty much every Democratic head ever to talk. Then, of a sudden and as if by magic, the editorials and opinion columns would tend to legacy burnishing, to admiration and praise, with any sense of relief banished to the subtext. It would have been a sight to behold in left-leaning media, large and small.

July 19

The editorial board attends the final night of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and finds Appalachia in ascendency.

Our predecessors on the Tribune Editorial Board would not recognize the Republican Party we found Thursday as we took to the floor of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. There were a few cursory nods to the old party of Ronald Reagan in the form of grainy video. But bankers

and besuited businesspeople, the old-school Republicans whose values this newspaper long reflected, were as hard to find as a speaker extolling the values of the free market, the perils of protectionism or even the importance of free speech. What mattered most to those with whom we spoke Thursday night was to ensure that Donald Trump was keeping guard on behalf of America — even, we were told over and over, at the “gates of hell.” The Republicans have pivoted hard to being a blue-collar protectorate.

July 25

The editorial board argues Democrats should be allowed to vote from the convention floor at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Democratic Party leaders no doubt are relieved to have the matter essentially settled before their printers say it's too late to print those Harris-and-whomever T-shirts. But we would prefer a live reminder to the nation that convention delegates have the final say when chaos has erupted and previous plans have gone awry.

Aug. 21

At the DNC, Joe Biden's speech gets pushed out of prime time.

The messy realities of human existence, whether for presidents of the United States or anyone else, aren't what political conventions are designed to convey. There is pathos when an old lion admits that the ride is over. And Biden had to do so on the biggest of public stages. So it was egregious that the program ran so long and Biden didn't take the stage until well after 10 p.m., past prime time and with the United Center full of the fatigued. No doubt that wasn't the intent. But the error nonetheless amounted to a final indignity for Biden. He remains the president after all, and it wasn't respectful. On a night in which Democrats otherwise delivered the message they intended and effectively prosecuted the case against another term for Donald Trump, it left a sour taste.

Oct. 1

Unlike rival ABC News, CBS

News says that it expects debate candidates to fact-check each other. The editorial board approves of that but not vice presidential candidate JD Vance's use of fiction.

Good moderators certainly should question a candidate's untruthful, or unresponsive, answers in sharp, follow-up questions, assuming they are capable of pivoting in real time. That's the way to handle Trump. But once moderators start making their own voices-of-God declarative statements, which will always be subject to interpretation, the whole structure of the debate starts to fall apart. And that achieves nothing. The moderators are supposed to be unbiased. Republicans had a reasonable beef with ABC News. All that said, we strongly recommend a line of questioning for vice presidential candidate JD Vance on Tuesday night. Vance has at least strongly implied that it is acceptable, if one wants to bring attention to an issue, to do so in the form of fictive storytelling, and to use anecdotes that may not be literally true. This is dangerous claptrap, and Vance knows it very well.

Nov. 6

Donald Trump wins the presidential election.

There are lots of ways of defining the liberal elite — assistant deans, network anchors, public health officials and, yes, legacy newspaper journalists — but there can be no question that Tuesday night saw a wholesale rejection of their dominant value system. America didn't just elect a craven candidate whom the highly educated had deemed unacceptably dictatorial, fascistic even, but the nation did so in such a way that President-elect Donald J. Trump's agenda now will largely be unfettered, thanks to Republican majorities in the Senate and, quite possibly as we write, the House. And, adding insult to injury for Democrats, it's likely that the result of the election also will deliver Trump from his myriad legal challenges.

The party that had been saying democracy was on the ballot found that democracy had risen like an orange tiger to bite it in the neck.



# OPINION

## 2024 IN REVIEW

# A look back at the election through Tribune op-eds

Donald Trump is going to be our nation's next president, but how he got there and how the Democrats lost are a journey worth revisiting.

After a bad debate performance and immense pressure from his party, President Joe Biden bowed out of the presidential race. Vice President Kamala Harris replaced him as the Democratic nominee but could not keep the momentum going — even with running

mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and after a successful Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Several voices opined in our section about the future of both parties as well as: What will Biden's legacy be? What motivated traditional Democratic voting blocs to turn out for Trump? Here's a look back at this turbulent race in excerpts.

### July 25

**John Mark Hansen, "Democratic Party's backward induction problem in the presidential race"**

The only way for the Democratic Party to seize this opportunity is to devise an open process — and have talented candidates such as Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro participate in it. And unless the party is able to change the incentives of the decision-makers in the final stage of the process, they will not.

At the end of an open process, at the last stage of some kind of "beauty contest" mini-primary, the choice of the nominee will belong to the delegates to the 2024 Democratic National Convention. There once was a time when convention delegates were party officers and elected officials who actually brokered nominations. But that was more than 50 years ago. Today's delegates are chosen, most of them, as a reward for their loyalty to the Democratic Party and the strength of their personal and political connections to the winner of the primaries. Ninety-nine percent of them are pledged to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Many of them are devoted to Harris. Even more are longtime Biden supporters who will put heavy weight on the endorsement he has given his vice president.

Even after an open process, conducted in good faith, the delegates to the 2024 convention, by their very makeup, are very likely to vote for Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee. Reasoning by backward induction, then, the major talents waiting in the wings are very likely to stay right there, declining to be considered, uniting behind the vice president. Indeed, the cascade has already begun: Recently, Beshear, Newsom, Pritzker and Arizona U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly pledged their support for Harris.

### July 28

**Storer H. Rowley, "Biden's vision of democracy? 'Enough of us came together to carry all of us forward.'"**

GOP vice presidential nominee JD Vance got it mostly right when he said that America is not just an idea, but people bound together by "shared history and a common future." Of course it is, and Joe Biden, whatever his flaws, has embodied the best of it.

To be sure, the president left his own party in chaos for weeks as he hung on to the notion of running and winning a second term, amid significant pushback from Democratic Party leaders worried about his disastrous debate performance and growing signs of age. His dithering was Shakespearean, and Republicans were gleeful about the chaos.

But the truth is, Biden's record as a one-term president was already among the most accomplished and consequential in history. Of course, it was going to be hard to give up the reins. He has said again and again he wants to finish the job. But he did the right thing.

Beyond just stabilizing the country and cleaning up the messes he inherited, Biden has presided over an economic recovery that produced about 15 million jobs and beat back inflation, and he won a series of legislative victories, many with bipartisan votes, when his party held one of the slimmest margins in congressional history. From the infrastructure bill that Trump promised and couldn't deliver, to the largest investment ever in funding to combat climate change, Biden signed laws that helped veterans, promoted gun safety, lowered the cost of prescription drugs, and boosted clean energy jobs and manufacturing of computer chips back on American soil.



President Joe Biden greets people at a campaign event at El Portal restaurant on March 19 in Phoenix. **JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP**



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris celebrates her nomination with vice presidential nominee Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz on Aug. 22 during the DNC at the United Center. **BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE**



A photo of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump with an ear bandage is posted on a pickup truck before a campaign event in Reno, Nevada, on July 30. **JAE C. HONG/AP**

That's only a partial list. Abroad, Biden battled unfair Chinese trade practices and cemented alliances in the Pacific. When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Biden demonstrated his years of foreign policy experience and led NATO allies to support Ukraine, presiding over a resurgence in NATO's mission and unity, even helping it expand with two new members, Finland and Sweden. More than that, he restored America's leadership and reputation abroad as a reliable ally following his predecessor's courting of dictators, abrogation of agreements on climate change and Iranian nuclear weapons, and denigration of NATO. In the volatile Middle East, Biden continues to push for a deal that would not only end the war in Gaza but also could put the region on a path toward eventual peace and a two-state solution. No easy task.

### Aug. 25

**Clarence Page, "Walz helps Democrats offer voters a better reflection of themselves"**

When Gov. Tim Walz spoke, he offered proper thanks to Kamala Harris, President Joe Biden's endorsed successor, and the rest of the delegates in the Chicago arena for "bring-

ing the joy" to this election. That sounded familiar. Was it a reference to the "politics of joy" that many of us old-timers associate with another decade and another Minnesota Democrat?

Could be. Former Vice President and U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey used this phrase while announcing his own candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination back in 1968. It was a fateful year of the sort that Democrats have been trying to live down ever since. Amid widespread protests against the Vietnam War, President Lyndon B. Johnson had decided to step aside without running for another term, and Humphrey won the Democratic Party's nomination. Unfortunately for Humphrey, the tumult surrounding the convention in Chicago defied his attempts to forge unity and promote the "politics of joy," which seemed disastrously out of touch with the riots and protests on the streets. Worse, Humphrey failed to distance himself from Johnson's unpopular war policy, of which he had been a loyal defender. He lost a close election to Richard Nixon.

Against that historical backdrop, it is easy to see why Walz would be delighted to see signs of joy returning to Democratic politics.

It remains to be seen

whether the theme will attract enough new voters to bring a Democratic victory. But the chances have been helped by the former schoolteacher's folksy charm and, from what we've learned about him, an admirable record of public service.

### Aug. 29

**Peter H. Schwartz, "Trump's visual politics are reshaping America"**

As we observe the 2024 presidential campaign unfold, the power of Donald Trump's visual politics continues to shape the political landscape. Consider the following developments in the past 12 months alone.

Mug shot phenomenon: Trump's booking photo became an instant cultural touchstone, transformed into a powerful symbol of defiance.

Courtroom as stage: Trump's courtroom appearances have become political theater, each a visual performance crafted to communicate strength, victimhood or righteous anger.

Rally aesthetics: Trump's campaign rallies continue to be exercises in visual branding, creating visceral, emotional connections with his base.

Social media evolution: Trump has adapted his visual communication style to new formats, favoring short, punchy

video clips and memes.

Assassination attempt: Following the attempt on Trump's life, the visual narrative shifted to images of him as a quasi-martyr, reinforcing the idea of his presidency as divinely ordained.

Democratic Party politics are and always have been about concrete goals and some measurable concept of progress. As Trump and his cohorts might say: Boring.

### Oct. 2

**Laura Washington, "Here's what Harris must do to appeal to a fractured voter base"**

If Kamala Harris wants to broaden her base, she must attract voters seeking a conservative message. The Nikki Haley voters, constitutionalist types and Dick Cheney-esque characters. Recall that Haley, a former United Nations ambassador and South Carolina governor, won 20% of the 2024 Republican presidential primary vote. That's a cache of support Harris can capture. In the swing states, that could be the difference between a loss and a victory.

Then, there are the progressives, perhaps the most motivated Democratic voters, but also the most difficult to compromise with. Their left-leaning agenda is not that popular with most Americans. Harris leans with them. Yet, her nearly four years serving with Joe Biden in the White House has taught her that if you want to get stuff done, you start in the center.

We all remember what happened in her last presidential run in the 2020 Democratic primaries. Harris ambushed Biden in the debates, then got decapitated by then-U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii.

Progressive voters need to be massaged. They make up a large cohort and often identify with third-party candidates and independents such as Jill Stein and Cornel West, who are big on protest votes.

So herein lies the rub for Harris. How does she appeal to these three groups without antagonizing any one of them? Remember, Biden tried the "Trump threatens our democracy" line. It went nowhere. Messaging matters. Fragmented communication with her voters is certainly less effective than Trump's messaging.

### Nov. 13

**J. Marcos Peterson, "I am a Mexican American who voted for Trump. No, I don't hate myself"**

I'm a proud, first-generation, college-educated and gay Mexican American with undocumented family in the United States, including a mother who was previously deported to Mexico, and I experienced homelessness as a child. I am everything Democrats claim to support, right?

Wrong. Democrats have accepted a progressive platform, ignoring decades worth of change and focusing on erroneous issues. They have built campaigns on a foundation of misleading airs and fake vibes.

Voting for Donald Trump does not make me racist, sexist, misogynistic, homophobic or any other "ist" and "ic" I've been called. I, along with more than half of the voting public in America, am sick of the self-righteous and label-obsessed left alienating us over differing opinions.

In her concession speech, Vice President Kamala Harris claimed to have built strong coalitions. What she did was the opposite. She did not motivate enough Black voters, Latino voters, Asian voters, Jewish voters, union voters and female voters to cast their ballots for her. Fewer women voted for Harris than they did Joe Biden, even with abortion being a top issue. To the very end, Harris ignored the data; she ignored what voters needed.



OPINION

# What kind of year has it been for Chicago architecture?



Edward Keegan

In Chicago architecture, there's always something new, always something to look forward to. But looking back, 2024 was a middling year — no great new buildings came online, no local luminary received significant new acclaim, but the work of constantly creating the city continued apace.

Google began its remodeling of the Thompson Center without disclosing much about the actual scope of work. An unexpected highlight has been the revelation of the building's structural frame as the entire glass curtain wall has been removed. Alas, the exposure of the building's structural gymnastics promises to be fleeting as the renovation continues. But this short-term architectural sugar rush hardly makes up for the lack of transparency as to what's happening with the building's renovation; Google's two released renderings are not enough for a project of this importance.

As a reminder that architecture just doesn't happen fast: It has been more than 31½ years since Helmut Jahn's death, and his last buildings continue to come online. In addition to his 1000M tower in the South Loop, the Pritzker Military Archives Center (PMAC) opened its architecturally ambitious new facility in Kenosha. The striking red structure sits in a field appearing as a 21st century McCormick Reaper in the southeastern Wisconsin landscape. The black and red, steel-and-glass structure can be considered a bookend to Jahn's career, which started with McCormick Place. While PMAC continues to move its archives into the stunning building, the exhibition space needs some attention to meet the high standard presented by the architecture.

While the opening of the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park has been pushed back to 2026, the complex's



Renovation by Google continues at the Thompson Center in the Loop on Oct. 3. The old glass panels were removed in preparation for a new glass facade. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



The Obama Presidential Center is reflected in the West Lagoon in Jackson Park on Sept. 4. **EILEENT. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

distinctive tower topped out in the summer. At year's end, much of the stone cladding on the faceted tower is already in place, and it's now possible to fully grasp the structure's 225-foot-tall impact on the South Side skyline.

Change is a constant at our cultural institutions. The Shedd Aquarium is sporting big new tanks under the museum's iconic dome. Designed by Valerio Dewalt Train, the project updates the iconic room's fish tanks — one saltwater, one freshwater — with a hint of the old designs to be

found in the crown above them.

Even more subtle (and all too easy to miss) are the updated Korean galleries at the Art Institute. Just steps off of the main thoroughfare beyond the main stair hall inside the Michigan Avenue entrance, locally based Future Firm has performed minimalist magic to put the emphasis on the displays.

We bid farewell this year to Skidmore Owings & Merrill's postmodern Tribune Freedom Center at Chicago Avenue and Halsted Street to make way for

the still-evolving design for a casino by Bally's. None of the images for the casino promises high expectations for the architecture. When you're throwing around casino money, there should be enough to produce better design.

The Chicago Bears went nomad this year as their stadium plans moved from Arlington Heights to Burnham Park and now possibly to the old Michael Reese Hospital site in Bronzeville. While it's been encouraging to hear that the McCaskey family is willing to invest substantial millions in a new home, it's no surprise that it also is looking for quite a lot of public investment (including public land in the case of the Burnham Park site) as well.

The Chicago White Sox released designs for a new home in the South Loop shortly before the start of the team's worst season ever on the field. Developer Related Midwest even built a ball field on the site to try to create excitement among lawmakers for public funding, but at year's end, the project's prospects are quite unclear, especially as the Bears would like to dip into our civic coffers as well.

And now the Chicago Fire are eyeing a piece of The 78 for their 25,000-seat soccer stadium. We can expect 2025 to be one of serious decision-making at this long-vacant site.

The return of NASCAR for a second-year run through the streets of Grant Park in July put our downtown infrastructure through a test for another year. Chicago's architecture provides a stunning backdrop for a gritty racing series whose traditional base has been centered in nonurban areas of the Southeast. The organizers were able to shave six days off their schedule of traffic delays compared with the year before, but the event will always face criticism for the time it takes over a large swath of Grant Park during the summer (a total of 19 days in 2024).

It would be nice to see the NASCAR race become an annual event, but the base contract ends in 2025 (with options for two additional years). If you haven't been, this next year is the time to go.

The Pritzker Architecture Prize, considered the Nobel Prize of architecture, has deep Chicago roots, as it's funded by Chicago's Pritzker family. Since its inception in 1979, we've often played host to its yearly award ceremony. The prize returned home in May when Riken Yamamoto of Japan received the award at the Art Institute of Chicago. Yamamoto played to the local audience while greeting each of the 300 attendees following the ceremony by mentioning that Cubs pitcher Shota Imanaga had come to us from his own family's city of Yokohama.

So, 2024. A middling year by Chicago's high architectural standards. But the city still offers its talented crop of architects more challenges that will come into better sight in the new year. Here's to 2025.

*Edward Keegan writes, broadcasts and teaches on architectural subjects. Keegan's biweekly architecture column is supported by a grant from former Tribune critic Blair Kamin, as administered by the not-for-profit Journalism Funding Partners. The Tribune maintains editorial control over assignments and content.*

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

### Ease the pain of suffering

As we gathered at the bedside of my gentle, dying mother-in-law, Ellie, her niece spoke softly in her ear recalling when she accidentally broke Ellie's favorite statue of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Ellie immediately consoled her frightened niece by calmly reassuring her: "It's OK. It can be fixed."

The story reminded me that we are all broken humans struggling to navigate our broken world. Broken by loneliness, hunger, poverty, addictions, and physical and mental pain. Too many of us are too often living in a state of despair. Despite these and other afflictions, they can be fixed, but it will require our assistance.

This holiday season and in the seasons to follow, let us open our eyes and minds, indeed, our entire selves to recognize the suffering of our brothers and sisters and to provide comfort. Let us be the vessel that aids in the healing of their brokenness.

Acting with nonjudgmental compassion, understanding and hearts full of love, we may temper the hopelessness of many while simultaneously healing our own brokenness. Like the statue, we, too, can be fixed.

— Richard M. Farrell, Galena, Illinois

### Answering the call to give

From the late 1950s through the '60s, my father, Marv, and my uncle, Al, owned a small neighborhood grocery store in the 600 block of North Clark Street. There was a Catholic convent within walking distance. We saved dented but still usable canned goods, out of date but still edible snacks, and assorted items that we couldn't sell but were still safe for consumption. Every couple of weeks, two nuns would come in for everything we had saved.

The original plan was to give it to them, but they insisted on paying. Marv decided 10 cents apiece was sufficient, and so it remained.

At Christmastime, Marv and Al would hit up all of the vendors for free products for the convent. We loaded up our van and two cars with everything and delivered it all on Christmas Day, which was the only day all year that the store was closed.

When the convent closed and the nuns were transferred to Milwaukee, we made the trip north.

The spirit of giving at Christmastime is for people of all faiths — in this case, two Jewish families answered the call for charity.

— Len Levy, Glenview

### We are wise to be grateful

When I began to reflect on what I am thankful for this past year, I must admit that I felt an unusual weight I hadn't experienced before. As a Muslim, I understand that true gratitude arises when a person acknowledges their blessings and observes the state of the less fortunate of the society. In such difficult times, self-celebration may be tough, but the spirit of gratitude encourages us to find and appreciate life's treasures, even amid anguish and sorrow.

As I reflect on Palestine's struggles, I have much to be thankful for: every bite that I take without worrying about my next meal, every peaceful night's sleep without fear, every morning that I wake up with all my loved ones safe. My children's daily education, friendship and laughter, and a secure home and fulfilling work — these simple joys are treasures.

This new year, I wish every person worldwide could experience these fundamental pleasures, free from fear and hardship.

— Faiza Ahmed, Madison, Wisconsin

### What will happen in 2025?

I wonder how many Christmases and New Year's Days I have left since I am in my mid-80s.

As another year arrives, and I hang up my new Elvis Presley calendar, I find myself wishing that human life spans were longer. I really want to see the many technological miracles coming down the pike. I want to see who our next five presidents will be. I want to know if people will still come to church or if there will be any churches. I want to know how human beings will have resolved the climate crisis. I want to know who will be the first to live on Mars.

But of course, time will win out in the end, and everything goes on without us. The only thing that is certain is the breath we just took. The one after that is not a given.

My mantra for the new year is: "I want to stay alive in '25," and hopefully, some years beyond that. Perhaps there is still time for me to ride in a driverless cab to my next doctor appointment.

— Kathleen Melia, Niles

### Happy to relive the past

Thank you to Michael Peregrine for the wonderful piece about our beloved Frazier Thomas ("WGN host Frazier Thomas made Christmas magical for kids," Dec. 21). My brother and I spent many afternoons with him, Gar and the rest. Peregrine brought back lovely memories.

— Barbara Wunder McAslan, Treasure Island, Florida

### The best birthday greeting

As a youngster in the 1950s, I was a regular fan of "Garfield Goose and Friends." Just before my 8th birthday in 1953, I had drawn a picture of Garfield in his castle and sent it in to the studio announcing my birthday.

On my birthday, I ran home to watch the show, and at the end of the show, Frazier Thomas announced, "And happy birthday to Bobby Schaefer who is 8 years old today!"

What a birthday present to a young kid! Fond memories.  
— Robert Schaefer, Long Beach, Indiana

### Op-ed was quite moving

Thanks so much for printing the op-ed "I brought

Christmas cheer to hospital patients through the power of newspapers" (Dec. 24). The events that Jack Modzelewski describes as a young man were quite moving on so many different levels.

I hope that the writer's parents knew how special he was.

— Bernard Berkin, Highland Park

### A blessing for hospitalized

I truly enjoyed Jack Modzelewski's op-ed about selling newspapers in hospitals. My mother was hospitalized numerous times over the years, and getting a newspaper was something she looked forward to every day. She read it cover to cover and saved me the puzzles.

What a blessing to those hospitalized.  
— Virginia Dare McGraw, Naperville

### The 'why' of AI technology

Mohammad Hosseini's op-ed "Should AI be used to resurrect extinct species like the Neanderthal?" (Dec. 19) was not only thought-provoking but also quite alarming. I'll let others more experienced in science settle that one, but for the layman, any experiments of that type should at least pass the "why" test.

Artificial intelligence will be changing the lives of everyone on the planet in many ways that may be wonderful and in some that may be frightening. As Fareed Zakaria points out in his book "Ten Lessons For a Post-Pandemic World," when AI is combined with bioengineering, there could be gene selection in producing children. Parents could have their choice — male or female, tall, strong, blue-eyed, etc.

We need to think about the "why" question and then move ahead with great caution.

— Rick Ronvik, Sister Bay, Wisconsin

### Inspired by obituary

I read the obituaries in the Tribune every day and have for many years. The obituary for Mary Ellen Vitek in the Dec. 19 paper was the most poignant, funny and inspiring I've seen. Mary Ellen's strong instructions — "sing at Mass with gusto" and "be grateful and kind and your life will be filled with happiness" — spoke to me. I could not agree more.

I told some friends who also get the Tribune to read the obituary. They agreed that it, too, made them smile and inspired them. They think we should start a workshop on how to compose an obituary.

I congratulate the person who wrote this one. Well done! Can I hire you to write mine?

— Diane Daly, River Forest

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— VINTAGE CHICAGO TRIBUNE —

Breaking history since 1847

# The top stories of 1924

The Chicago History Museum’s Paul Durica looks back at the news from a century ago

By Marianne Mather and Kori Rumore  
Chicago Tribune

This week we’re handing over the Vintage Chicago Tribune page to Paul Durica, director of exhibitions at the Chicago History Museum. In his own words, he reflects on his past year of research:

“Over the last year, I have started my day by reading the Chicago Tribune, that is the corresponding edition from 100 years ago.

“The decision to read each day’s newspaper from 1924 came from a realization that two events that have meant a lot to my work occurred in the same calendar year. Those events are the kidnapping and murder of 14-year-old Robert Franks by Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb, considered the crime of the century at the time, and the passage by the United States Congress of the nation’s most restrictive piece of immigration legislation.

“I wondered what else happened in 1924 and what would I learn by letting the year unfold day by day, in real time. Much from that year is still remembered while many events, meaningful in their moment, have faded from memory.

“I discovered a year that continues to shape Chicago. In many ways, we are all living in the city that came into existence in 1924. We engage with that year on the streets we walk, the buildings we enter, and the festivals and events we attend.

“Despite many successes and advances, the year serves as a warning. In Chicago, crime is out of control. In Washington, corruption is rampant. And in Europe, authoritarianism is on the rise. We know what became of the people who lived through that year. What will become of those who lived through 2024 is the task of a future historian.”

Here are Durica’s top stories of 1924:

## January 1924

**Local:** Kate Buckingham and John G. Shedd make gifts to the South Park Commission that will change the city.

Buckingham was a shy but generous benefactor who provided \$700,000 to build a fountain in Grant Park in memory of her brother, Clarence. The opening of the fountain in 1927 was an event of enormous civic pride, with John Philip Sousa and his marching band brought in to play “Stars and Stripes Forever” when the fountain’s jets and lights first were turned on.

Shedd provided the funding for an aquarium on the lakefront, featuring a permanent inland saltwater exhibit. The first in the nation, it opened to the public on May 30, 1930, after five months of train cars hauling roughly 1 million gallons of ocean water from the Florida coast to the city by the lake.

**National:** Teapot Dome scandal begins to emerge in Washington.

**International:** V.I. Lenin dies in Russia.

## February 1924

**Local:** City shuts down screening of “The Birth of the Nation” at the Auditorium.

**National:** Former President Woodrow Wilson dies.

**International:** Adolph Hitler goes on trial in Munich for having helped lead a failed coup there in 1923.

## March 1924

**Local:** Archbishop George Mundelein is elevated to cardinal in Rome.

Mundelein was installed as archbishop of Chicago in 1916. Five years later, he received notice to sail for Rome at once. Mundelein arrived in Vatican City for a private meeting with Pope Pius XI, who gave a blessing for all the people — Catholic and non — of Chicago. He was elevated to cardinal.

An estimated 1 million Chicagoans lined the streets in 1924 when he returned from Rome. According to the Tribune, Mundelein “said frankly that he had never before beheld such a crowd. ‘Chicago always has a



Richard Loeb, center left, and Nathan Leopold Jr., center right, stare at each other after they gave separate confessions to killing Robert “Bobby” Franks on May 21, 1924, in Chicago. The confessions were given May 31 after a pair of glasses, found next to Franks’ body, were connected to Leopold. **CHICAGO HERALD-AMERICAN**



Chicago Mayor Dever welcomed Cardinal Mundelein upon his arrival home to Chicago at Garfield Blvd. and the Baltimore and Ohio train tracks on May 11, 1924. Mundelein was returning from Rome where he was appointed Cardinal by Pope Pius XI. **CHICAGO TRIBUNE HISTORICAL PHOTO**



Beulah Annan gave her confession at the Hyde Park police station after shooting her lover, Harry Kalstedt, earlier that day, on April 3, 1924. **CHICAGO TRIBUNE HISTORICAL PHOTO**



Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales, third from left, visits Chicago in October 1924. **CHICAGO TRIBUNE HISTORICAL PHOTO**

surprise awaiting one. That’s why I love this city so and am so glad to be its first Cardinal.”

**National:** Harry K. Thaw receives the right to a new trial for the 1906 murder of architect Stanford White.

**International:** The Tribune interviews Mahatma Gandhi not long after his release from prison.

## April 1924

**Local:** Beulah Annan kills her

lover Harry Kalstedt.

“Thursday afternoon Mrs. Annan played ‘Hula Lou’ on the phonograph while the wooer she had shot during a drunken quarrel lay dying in her bedroom,” the Tribune wrote. And thus the jazz-age tale of Annan as “the prettiest woman ever accused of murder in Chicago” began. Tribune reporter Maurine Dallas Watkins covered the story and would go on to write the play that would become the hit musical “Chicago.”

**National:** U.S. House passes a

restrictive immigration bill.

**International:** Fascists win big in Italian parliamentary elections.

## May 1924

**Local:** Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb kidnap and murder 14-year-old Robert “Bobby” Franks.

A car ride home from school turned into the Crime of the Century in 1924, when Franks went missing and two prominent sons of Kenwood families, Leopold and Loeb, were brought in for questioning. To the public, Franks’ death appeared to have been orchestrated for money and for thrill. But the two brilliant masterminds behind the crime simply referred to it as a “perfect murder” — for which they believed they could outsmart the authorities and would never stand trial.

**National:** Black Gold, owned by an Osage woman, wins the Kentucky Derby.

**International:** Several nations vie for the “death ray” technology purportedly developed by British inventor Grindell Mathews.

## June 1924

**Local:** Belva Gaertner goes on trial for killing her lover in March.

“I don’t know. I was drunk,” was Gaertner’s defense when her lover, Walter Law, was found dead in her car near her apartment. When the police found her at home, they also found her blood-drenched coat piled on the floor. Gaertner would join Beulah Annan in Chicago’s infamous Murderess Row. Both were acquitted.

**National:** Republicans nominate Calvin Coolidge for president and Evanston resident Charles Gates Dawes for vice president.

**International:** George Mallory and A.C. Irvine are reported dead after having attempted to summit

Mount Everest.

**July 1924**

**Local:** Oak Park native Ernest Hemingway is reported to have been gored by a bull in Pamplona, Spain; the largest fleet to date sets off from Belmont Harbor on the race to Mackinac Island.

**National:** Deadlocked Democrats compromise on John W. Davis and Charles W. Bryan as their presidential ticket.

**International:** The Olympic games kick off in Paris, with Chicago swimmers Sybil Bauer and Johnny Weissmuller excelling.

## August 1924

**Local:** Cigarette foe Lucy Page Gaston dies of throat cancer.

**National:** Conman Charles Ponzi is released from prison but faces state charges.

**International:** Astronomers from around the world observe Mars, which is passing the closest it will be to Earth until 2007.

## September 1924

**Local:** The Leopold and Loeb trial ends with a sentence of life in prison with no possibility of parole.

**National:** Miss Philadelphia wins what becomes the Miss America contest in Atlantic City.

**International:** A trio of American flyers successfully circumnavigate the globe by plane.

## October 1924

**Local:** The Prince of Wales visits Chicago.

**National:** The Washington Senators beat the New York Giants in a seven-game World Series.

**International:** Conservatives topple the Labour government in a snap election in England.

## November 1924

**Local:** North Side gang leader Dean O’Banion is assassinated in his flower shop.

The son of Irish immigrants, O’Banion grew up in the Kilgubbin neighborhood on Chicago’s North Side. He ran with a gang of petty thieves and quickly mastered the skills for bootlegging once Prohibition went into effect. He also had a floral shop, Schofield Co., across from Holy Name Cathedral and had been working at the designer’s table on Nov. 10. Three men entered the shop. One grabbed O’Banion’s hand and held it down. Two drew pistols, shot him to death and were picked up by a getaway car.

“O’Banion sprawled on the floor beneath the pots of roses, which shook of his body hitting the show case as it fell,” a Tribune reporter noted. O’Banion’s slaying sparked a gangland war, and gave him both pop-culture and literary fame.

**National:** Calvin Coolidge and the GOP win big in federal elections.

**International:** Composer Giacomo Puccini dies.

## December 1924

**Local:** President Calvin Coolidge visits Chicago; John J. Glessner donates his house to the American Institute of Architects; and the Field Museum purchased the lions of Tsavo.

**National:** Labor leader Samuel Gompers dies; tobacco magnate James B. Duke establishes a trust that leads to the Trinity College becoming Duke University.

**International:** Sun Yat-Sen arrives in modern day Beijing and is set to become China’s president early in 1925.

*Read Paul Durica’s full week-by-week summary of the news published in 1924 at Pocket Guide To Hell: pocketguidetohell.com/1924-project*

*Have an idea for Vintage Chicago Tribune? Share it with Kori Rumore and Marianne Mather at krumore@chicagotribune.com and mmather@chicagotribune.com*



## NATION &amp; WORLD

## Putin apologizes for ‘tragic incident’

But Russian leader stops short of saying plane was shot down

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday apologized to his Azerbaijani counterpart for what he called a “tragic incident” following the crash of an Azerbaijani airliner in Kazakhstan that killed 38 people, but stopped short of acknowledging that Moscow was responsible.

Putin’s apology by phone came as allegations mounted that the plane had been shot down by Russian air defenses attempting to deflect a Ukrainian drone strike near Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya.

The phone call was initiated by Putin, the Kremlin said.

An official Kremlin statement issued Saturday said that air defense systems were firing near Grozny airport as the airliner “repeatedly” attempted to land there Wednesday. It did not say one of these hit the plane.

The statement said Putin apologized to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev “for the fact that the tragic incident occurred in Russian airspace.”

The readout said Russia has launched a criminal probe into the incident, and Azerbaijani state prosecutors have arrived in Grozny to participate. The Kremlin also said that “relevant services” from Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are jointly investigating the crash site near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan.

The plane was flying from Azerbaijan’s capital,



Pallbearers carry the body of a plane crash victim Saturday in Baku, Azerbaijan. The accident Wednesday killed 38 people. AP

Baku, to Grozny when it turned toward Kazakhstan, hundreds of miles across the Caspian Sea from its intended destination, and crashed while making an attempt to land.

There were 29 survivors. More than half of people on board were Azerbaijani citizens, authorities said. Seven Russians and six Kazakhs died in the crash.

According to a readout of the call provided by Aliyev’s press office, the Azerbaijani president told Putin that the plane was subject to “external physical and technical interference,” although he also stopped short of blaming Russian air defenses.

Aliyev noted that the plane had multiple holes in its fuselage and that the occupants had sustained

injuries “due to foreign particles penetrating the cabin mid-flight.”

Aliyev’s more accusatory, strongly worded statement, however, presents the first public crack in the Kremlin’s attempts to control the narrative.

Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan have long tried to build economic ties to the West and shed the Russian colonial legacy — without antagonizing the Kremlin. The two former Soviet states have taken a neutral stance on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, benefiting from growing trade with Russia without directly supporting the Kremlin’s war aims.

Still, the Kremlin’s apology without accepting responsibility complicates these countries’ efforts to

maintain friendly relations with the Kremlin without appearing weak to their citizens and the world, analysts said.

The Kremlin’s acceptance of responsibility is important in Azerbaijan because Aliyev had personally apologized to Putin for the Azerbaijani military’s erroneous downing of a Russian military helicopter in 2020.

At the time, Azerbaijan took responsibility and offered compensation for the accident, which claimed the lives of two Russian servicemen.

Aliyev most likely expected a similar response from the Kremlin, said Zaur Shiryev, an Azerbaijan expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a policy

research organization.

Putin’s statement “is a textbook example of a non-apology apology,” Shiryev said. “There was no direct acceptance of responsibility, no offer of compensation, and no commitment to hold those responsible accountable.”

Aliyev said that a team of international experts had begun probing the incident at Azerbaijan’s initiative, but provided no details.

On Friday, a U.S. official and an Azerbaijani minister made separate statements blaming the crash on an external weapon, echoing those made by aviation experts who blamed the crash on Russian air defense systems responding to a Ukrainian attack.

Passengers and crew

who survived the crash told Azerbaijani media that they heard loud noises on the aircraft as it was circling over Grozny.

Dmitry Yarov, head of Russia’s civil aviation authority Rosaviatsia, said Friday that as the plane was preparing to land in Grozny in fog, Ukrainian drones were targeting the city, prompting authorities to close the area to air traffic. Yarov said that after the captain made two unsuccessful attempts to land, he was offered other airports but decided to fly to Aktau.

Rosaviatsia had cited unspecified evidence last week showing that a bird strike led to an emergency on board.

If proven that the plane crashed after being hit by Russian fire, it would be the second deadly civil aviation accident linked to fighting in Ukraine. Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was downed with a Russian surface-to-air missile, killing all 298 people aboard, as it flew over the area in eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists in 2014.

Russia has denied responsibility in that crash, but a Dutch court in 2022 convicted two Russians and a pro-Russia Ukrainian man for their role in downing the plane with an air defense system brought into Ukraine from a Russian military base.

Following Wednesday’s suspension of flights from Baku to Grozny and nearby Makhachkala, Azerbaijan Airlines announced Friday that it would also halt service to eight more Russian cities.

Several other airlines have made similar announcements since the crash.

The New York Times contributed.

## Director of Gaza hospital detained after Israeli raid

Military says doctor, hundreds more held are Hamas suspects

By Wafaa Shurafa and Sam Mednick  
Associated Press

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel’s army detained the director of one of northern Gaza’s last functioning hospitals as overnight strikes elsewhere in the territory killed nine people, including children, Palestinian medical officials said Saturday.

Israel’s military alleged that Hamas militants were using the facility and said more than 240 people were detained.

Gaza’s Health Ministry said Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, was arrested Friday along with dozens of other staff and taken to an interrogation center. The ministry said Israeli troops stormed the hospital and forced many staff and patients outside and told them to strip in winter weather, according to the ministry.

Israel’s military Saturday confirmed it detained the hospital director for questioning and called him

a suspected Hamas operative while providing no evidence. It said it encircled the hospital and special forces entered and found weapons in the area. It said militants fired on its forces and they were “eliminated.”

An Israeli military spokesman, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, later asserted that most of those detained are Hamas operatives.

On Friday, the military denied it had entered or set fire to the hospital complex but acknowledged it had ordered people outside. The military repeated claims that Hamas militants operate inside Kamal Adwan, which hospital officials have denied.

The hospital has been hit multiple times over the past three months by Israeli troops waging an offensive in largely isolated northern Gaza against Hamas fighters it says have regrouped.

MedGlobal, the humanitarian organization for which Abu Safiya worked, said it was gravely concerned about him. It said the incident follows the October detention of five other staffers, calling it an “alarming and egregious pattern of targeting medical personnel and spaces.”

Israel’s nearly 15-month-

old campaign of bombardment and ground offensives has devastated Gaza’s health sector. The World Health Organization has said the raid on Kamal Adwan has put northern Gaza’s last major health facility “out of service” after growing restrictions on access, adding that “this horror must end and health care must be protected.”

The Health Ministry said conditions for Kamal Adwan patients who were relocated to the damaged Indonesian Hospital nearby — also raided in the past — were “extremely difficult.”

The Israeli military statement Saturday said 350 patients along with medical personnel had been evacuated from Kamal Adwan in recent weeks, and another 95 patients, caregivers and medical personnel were evacuated to the Indonesian Hospital during the operation.

The war has killed more than 45,400 Palestinians and wounded more than 108,000 others, according to the Health Ministry. Its count does not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Since October, Israel’s offensive has virtually sealed off the northern Gaza areas



A demonstrator releases yellow smoke Saturday during a rally outside of Israel’s Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv in support of Israeli hostages in Gaza. JACK GUEZ/AFP

of Jabaliya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya. Tens of thousands of Palestinians were forced out but thousands are believed to remain in the area where Kamal Adwan and two other hospitals are located.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas after the militants’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel in which they killed roughly 1,200 people and abducted some 250 others. Some 100 Israelis remain captive in Gaza, and around a third are believed to be dead.

Israel continued attacks Saturday across Gaza. The Health Ministry said

Saturday that 48 people had been killed in the past 24 hours by Israeli fire.

Meanwhile, in Lebanon, Syria’s Embassy suspended consular services Saturday, a day after two relatives of deposed Syrian President Bashar Assad were arrested at the Beirut airport with allegedly forged passports.

Two Lebanese security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the suspension was ordered because the passports belonging to Assad’s relatives — the wife and daughter of one of his cousins — were believed to have been forged at the embassy.

Assad’s uncle, Rifaat Assad — who has been indicted in Switzerland on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity — had flown out the day before using his real passport and was not stopped, the officials said.

The U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported Saturday that 70 Syrians, including former army officers, were handed over by a Lebanese security delegation to the security forces of the new Syrian government, led by the former insurgent group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS.



A plane lands Saturday at Cardiff Airport in Wales. Thick fog disrupted flights in the United Kingdom. BEN BIRCHALL/PA

## Fog delays UK flights on busy holiday weekend

Associated Press

LONDON — Travelers flying to or from the U.K. faced further disruptions Saturday as thick fog and low visibility restricted air traffic on one of the year’s busiest weekends.

Gatwick Airport in London warned that some flights may be delayed throughout Saturday. Flights were delayed by up to three hours late Friday because of poor weather conditions, and at least 40 flights from

the airport were delayed Saturday morning.

Heathrow Airport, one of Europe’s busiest, advised passengers to check with their airlines regarding potential delays. Disruptions were also reported at other U.K. airports.

The U.K.’s weather forecasters, the Met Office, said thick fog patches could reduce visibility to just 328 feet in some areas across the country. It said travelers should allow “a little bit longer” for journeys and

warned drivers to be careful.

Kiera Quayle and her husband, who were visiting family for Christmas on the Isle of Man, were among many affected. Their return flight to London was delayed by hours and then canceled late Friday.

“It’s frustrating and stressful, but I overheard a few families who are now missing holidays and work who have it worse at this point,” she said.

Conditions are expected to improve Sunday, the Met

Office said.

The country’s main air traffic control organization said the restrictions would remain in place in areas with low visibility.

“Restrictions of this sort are only ever applied to maintain safety,” it said. “Our teams are working closely with the airports and airlines to minimize disruption.”

The restrictions came as many people travel after the Christmas holiday and ahead of the New Year.



# How do you plan to ring in new year?

Majority of adults in US plan to stay home, survey finds

By Mark Kennedy and Linley Sanders  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — If you're planning on ringing in the new year quietly at home, you're not alone.

A majority of U.S. adults intend to celebrate New Year's Eve at home, according to a poll by Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"As I've gotten older over the last few years, it's like if I don't make it to midnight, it's not a big deal, you know?" says Carla Woods, 70, of Vinton, Iowa.

Nearly 2 in 10 will be celebrating at a friend or family member's home, and just 5% plan to go out to celebrate at a bar, restaurant or organized event, the poll found.

But many U.S. adults will celebrate the new year in a different way — by making a resolution. More than half say they'll make at least one resolution for 2025.

There's some optimism about the year ahead, although more than half aren't expecting a positive change.

About 4 in 10 say 2025 will be a better year for them personally. About one-third don't expect much of a difference between 2024 and 2025, and about one-quarter think 2025 will be a worse year than 2024.

Kourtney Kershaw, a 32-year-old bartender in Chicago, often fields questions from customers and friends about upcoming events for New Year's Eve. She said this year is trending toward low key.

"A majority of who I've spoken to in my age range, they want to go out, but they don't know what they're going to do because they haven't found anything or things are just really expensive," she said. "Party packages or an entry fee are like a turnoff, especially with the climate of the world and how much things cost."



Fireworks light the sky near the Statue of Liberty as the new year is rung in Jan.1 in New York. LOKMAN VURAL ELIBOL/ANADOLU



Revelers enjoy Times Square at last year's New Year's Eve celebrations in New York City. SELCUK ACAR/ANADOLU 2023

As expected, younger people are more interested in ringing in the new year at a bar or organized event — about 1 in 10 U.S. adults under 30 say they plan to do that. But about 3 in 10 older adults — 60 and above — say they won't celebrate the beginning of 2025 at all.

Anthony Tremblay, 35, of Pittsburgh, will be traveling through Ireland with

his wife.

"I don't do anything too crazy for New Year's, usually. So this is definitely a change," he said. "I wanted to do something unique this year, so I did."

Woods will be working New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

She answers calls on the Iowa Warmline, a confidential, noncrisis listening line

for people struggling with mental health or substance use issues.

"Holidays are really hard for people, so I don't mind working," she said. "I'm passionate about it because I have mental health issues in the family and so being able to help people is rewarding to me."

Every New Year's also triggers the eternal debate about resolutions.

A majority of U.S. adults say they intend to make a New Year's resolution of some type, but millennials and Gen Z are especially likely to be on board — about two-thirds expect to do so, compared to about half of older adults.

Women are also more likely than men to say they will set a goal for 2025.

About 3 in 10 adults choose resolutions involving exercise or eating healthier. About one-quarter said they'll make a resolution in-

volving losing weight and a similar number said they'll resolve to make changes about priorities of money or mental health.

Woods' resolutions are to stay social and active.

As a mental health counselor, she knows those are key to a happy 2025 and beyond: "Probably one of my biggest resolutions is trying to make sure I stay social, try to get out at least once a week — get out and either have coffee or do something with a friend. That's not only for the physical but also for the mental health part."

Kershaw, the bartender, says weight loss and better health are the top resolutions she hears people make.

"Mental health is the new one, but I think it's high up there as well as with regular health," she said.

She prefers more goal-oriented resolutions and, this time, it's to do more traveling and see more of the

world: "I don't know if that's really a resolution, but that's a goal that I'm setting."

And how will she welcome the arrival of 2025?

Usually, she stays home watching movies with plenty of snacks, but this year Kershaw has a different plan, maybe one of the most Chicago things you can do.

This die-hard sports fan will be at Wrigley Field in Chicago on Tuesday watching the Chicago Blackhawks take on the St. Louis Blues.

"Hockey's my favorite sport. So I will be watching hockey and bringing in the new year," she said.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,251 adults was conducted Dec. 5 to 9, 2024, using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based Ameri-Speak Panel, designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error overall is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.

## NEWS BRIEFING

# Trump leans toward tech allies, not base, in foreign worker debate

From news services

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President-elect Donald Trump appears to be siding with Elon Musk and his other backers in the tech industry as a dispute over immigration visas has divided his supporters.

Trump, in an interview Saturday with the New York Post, praised the use of visas to bring skilled foreign workers to the U.S. The topic has become a flashpoint within his conservative base.

"I've always liked the visas, I have always been in favor of the visas," Trump said.

But Trump has in the past criticized the H-1B visas, calling them "very bad" and "unfair" for U.S. workers. During his first term as president, he unveiled a "Hire American" policy that directed changes to the program to try to ensure the visas were awarded to the highest paid or most skilled applicants.

Despite his criticism of them and attempts to curb their use, he has also used the visas at his businesses, something he acknowledged in his interview Saturday.

"I have many H-1B visas on my properties. I've been a believer in H-1B. I have used it many times. It's a great program," Trump told the newspaper.

He did not appear to address questions about whether he would pursue any changes to the number or use of the visas once he takes office Jan. 20.

Trump's hard-line immigration stance, focused mostly on immigrants in the country illegally, was a cornerstone of his presidential campaign and a priority issue for his supporters.

But in recent days, his coalition has split in a public debate largely taking place online about the tech industry's hiring of foreign workers. Hard-right members of

Trump's movement have accused Musk and others in Trump's new flank of tech-world supporters of pushing policies at odds with Trump's "America First" vision.

Software engineers and others in the tech industry have used H-1B visas for skilled foreign workers and say they are a critical tool for hard-to-fill positions. But critics have said they undercut U.S. citizens who could take those jobs. Some on the right have called for the program to be eliminated.

**Mega Millions winner:** At least one Mega Millions player has plenty of dough to ring in the new year after drawing the winning number. After three months without anyone winning the top prize in the lottery, a ticket worth an estimated \$1.22 billion was sold in California for the drawing Friday night, according to the Mega Millions website.

The California Lottery said the winning ticket was sold at a Circle K in Cottonwood, about 150 miles north of Sacramento. The winning ticket matched the white balls 3, 7, 37, 49, 55 and the gold Mega Ball 6.

Ishar Gill, a son of the store owner, said the winning ticket was "a blessing" for the rural town of roughly 6,000 people. The identity of the winner or winners was not known.

The total amount of the Mega Millions jackpot would only be distributed to a winner who chooses an annuity paid over 29 years. Nearly all grand prize winners opt to take a cash payout, which for Friday night's drawing is an estimated \$549.7 million.

**Missing Tenn. girl:** A missing 14-year-old Tennessee girl has been found safe in the Louisiana woods, where authorities say she was left



**Bear in the air:** Spectators watch a panda-themed drone show Saturday on the Victoria Harbour waterfront in Hong Kong. The city's first pyrotechnics and drone show was one of a series of activities across the city in recent weeks, including exhibitions and a panda-themed carnival, after Beijing gave it a pair of the animals, bringing the number in Hong Kong to six. CHAN LONG HEI/AP

by a man who had picked her up from her home after the two met online.

Alexander Materne, 28, drove the girl to his home in St. Rose, Louisiana, on Dec. 23 and had sex, after which the girl disclosed her age, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Materne then brought the girl to a secluded, wooded area in Tangipahoa Parish and left her there with a tent, food and water, authorities said. He then went to Jennings, Louisiana, to celebrate Christmas with his family, officials said.

Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff Gerald Sticker said the two had met on a gaming platform and had made a plan for Materne to drive to her home in Tennessee.

Materne faces numerous charges, including aggravated kidnapping of a child and felony counts of human trafficking and carnal knowledge.

The break in the case, Sticker said, came when the girl's parents did their own investigation and tracked

Materne to Jennings, where his family lived, about 160 miles west of Materne's home in St. Rose.

**Russia-Moldova gas:** Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom said Saturday it will halt gas supplies to Moldova starting Jan. 1, citing alleged unpaid debt by the European Union candidate country, which has brought in emergency measures as it braces for power cuts.

Gazprom said in an online statement that it reserved the right to take further action, including terminating its contract with Moldovagaz, Moldova's main gas operator, in which the Russian company owns a majority stake. The cessation of gas will stop supplies to the Kuciurgan power plant, the country's largest, which is situated in the separatist pro-Russian Transnistria region.

Moldova reacted by accusing Moscow of weaponizing energy supplies.

Gazprom has said Mol-

dova owes close to \$709 million for past gas supplies, a figure fiercely disputed by the government in the capital Chisinau.

Moldova claims, citing findings by British and Norwegian audit firms, that its debt stands close to \$8.6 million.

**Italy budget:** Italy's parliament Saturday approved the government's 2025 budget, worth a total of \$31 billion — more than half of that in tax cuts and social security benefits for low-income citizens.

The measures, pushed by the far-right Cabinet headed by Premier Giorgia Meloni, won final approval in the upper house by 108 votes to 63.

The country's center-left opposition had harshly criticized the economic package, saying it didn't meet the premier's pledges to slash taxes for most Italians and boost employment.

Meloni has staunchly defended the budget, stressing its "wide balance" and

its aim to support low and medium-income earners and families with children, while adding resources for the country's struggling health system.

**Olivia Hussey dies at 73:** Olivia Hussey, who starred as a teenage Juliet in the 1968 film "Romeo and Juliet," has died, her family said on social media Saturday. She was 73.

Hussey died Friday "peacefully at home surrounded by her loved ones," a statement posted to her Instagram account said.

Hussey was 15 when director Franco Zeffirelli cast her in his adaptation of the William Shakespeare tragedy after spotting her onstage in the play "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," which also starred Vanessa Redgrave.

"Romeo and Juliet" won two Oscars and Hussey won a Golden Globe for best new actress for her part as Juliet, opposite British actor Leonard Whiting, who was 16 at the time.



# Ukraine slows firing of US missiles

Supply runs low as a skeptical Trump about to take office

By Kim Barker,  
Lara Jakes  
and Eric Schmitt  
The New York Times

KYIV, Ukraine — With much fanfare, Ukraine was granted permission to fire Western long-range missiles at Russian military targets more than a month ago. But after initially firing a flurry of them, Ukraine has already slowed their use.

Ukraine is running out of missiles. It also might be running out of time: President-elect Donald Trump has said publicly that allowing U.S.-made long-range missiles inside Russia was a big mistake.

So far, the missiles have been effective in limited ways, but they have not changed the war's trajectory, senior NATO officials said.

The war has also not escalated as some had feared. Although Russia launched a powerful new intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile at a Ukrainian weapons facility after the first two volleys of Western long-range missiles, it has since responded to them with its usual mix of drones, missiles and threats.

Two U.S. officials said they believed Russia was trying to avoid escalating military operations in Ukraine, especially with the election of Trump, a longtime skeptic of the war, and given Russia's recent battlefield successes. They spoke on the condition of anonymity, given the political sensitivities.

Adm. Rob Bauer, NATO's most senior military officer, said recently that the strikes by the long-range ballistic Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS, had "seriously hit a number" of weapons factories and ammunition depots in Russia. He said that had forced Russia to move many logistics facilities farther



Donald Trump meets Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sept. 27 in New York City. **JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON/AP**

back from the front.

"They don't like the ATACMS coming in their own country, through the air; they don't, because they are effective," Bauer said in an interview in early December.

In some ways, what has happened with the ATACMS — pronounced "attack 'ems" — is the story of what has happened with other Western weaponry in the war. Ukraine pressed for months and even years to get Western weapons: HIMARS rocket launchers, Abrams tanks and F-16 fighter jets.

But by the time the West granted access to these weapons, Ukraine had lost more ground. And no weapon has been a silver bullet. Western officials also say Ukraine has relied too much on help from the West and hasn't done enough to bolster its own war effort, especially in mobilizing enough troops.

The United States had long resisted send-

ing Ukraine long-range ATACMS, with a range of 190 miles, fearing that their use deep inside nuclear-armed Russia would escalate the war.

In the spring, President Joe Biden relented. The administration shipped Ukraine as many as 500 missiles from Pentagon stockpiles, the U.S. officials said. While Ukraine couldn't use them in Russia, they fired them at targets in eastern Ukrainian territories controlled by Russia and in Crimea, seized by Russia in 2014 — aiming at hardened command and control posts, weapons storage areas and some other bunkers.

U.S. and NATO officials said those strikes had been effective but also said that they felt Ukraine could have been more judicious in the number of missiles used and more selective with targeting.

The U.S. officials said Biden had justified granting permission on Nov. 17

to use the missiles in Russia because Moscow brought North Korean soldiers into the war.

There were caveats, though. U.S. officials said the weapons would initially be used mainly against Russian and North Korean troops in the Kursk region of western Russia, where Ukraine was trying to hold onto territory after a surprise Ukrainian offensive in August.

At that point, Ukraine had only "tens of the missiles" left — maybe about 50, the two U.S. officials said. It had no likelihood of getting more, they said. The limited U.S. supplies had already been assigned for deployment in the Middle East and Asia. Officials in Britain, which allowed Ukraine to use its long-range Storm Shadow missiles inside Russia after Biden's decision, also said recently that it didn't have many more to provide.

It is unlikely that Trump will step in to fill the gap. He

recently told Time magazine that he disagreed "very vehemently" with Ukraine's use of ATACMS in Russian territory and called Biden's decision to provide them "foolish." The next day, the Kremlin said Trump's position "fully aligned" with Moscow.

Since the United States and Britain granted permission, Ukraine has launched at least a half-dozen missile strikes, using at least 31 ATACMS and 14 Storm Shadows, according to the Russian Defense Ministry and Russian military bloggers. The Ukrainian military does not comment on the use of the missiles, but neither the United States nor Ukraine has challenged those reports.

The most damaging attack appears to have been from Storm Shadows fired Nov. 20 at a Russian command bunker near Maryino, Kursk, officials and analysts said.

On Nov. 21, Russia

launched its new hyper-sonic ballistic missile, the Oreshnik, or "hazelnut tree," at a military facility in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro. That was seen as a warning that Russia could hit any part of Europe with the new missile, a message to Europe and America about possible consequences.

Six days later, the Russian general who was the architect of the Ukraine invasion called Biden's top military adviser to discuss concerns about escalation, insisting that its missile test had been long planned.

After that Nov. 27 call, Ukraine didn't fire ATACMS or Storm Shadows for two weeks. Russia also launched few missile or drone attacks into Ukraine, although Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened to launch the Oreshnik at the center of Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, if Ukraine didn't stop using ATACMS in Russia.

Despite his public threats, Putin is trying to react carefully to Ukrainian operations, the U.S. officials said. They believe Moscow will most likely not respond to ATACMS strikes in a way that could risk drawing Washington deeper in the fight or put the new administration in an awkward position as it comes in.

Moscow could step up cyber or sabotage operations in Europe, but it is unlikely to directly target U.S. interests, the officials said.

Some analysts said Ukraine had slowed its missile use because it had initially targeted Russian facilities it had long wanted to hit. Now, with few missiles remaining, Ukraine is being more deliberate.

"We decided to wait and find high-value capability, and that's natural," said Mykola Bielieskov, a military analyst at Ukraine's government-run National Institute for Strategic Studies. "Don't expect quick returns, because we need to preserve this capability and spend it judiciously and very wisely."



Graves lie in neat rows Dec. 20 at Östra Kyrkogården in Gothenburg, Sweden. The city needs to find at least 10 burial acres to handle casualties in case of war. **MIMMI MONTGOMERY/AP**

## Sweden's war readiness plan means cemetery reservations

By Mimmi Montgomery  
Associated Press

GOTHENBURG, Sweden — Burial associations in Sweden are looking to acquire enough land for something they hope they'll never have to do: Bury thousands of people in the event of war.

The search follows recommendations from the Church of Sweden's national secretariat, which reflect crisis preparedness guidelines from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, or MSB, and the Swedish Armed Forces.

The preparedness guidelines have been put in a new light by Sweden's decision to join NATO and tensions with Russia in the Baltic Sea region.

According to the Church of Sweden provisions, supported by legal paragraphs in Sweden's Burial Act, burial associations are responsible for ensuring the availability of enough land to bury roughly 5 percent of the population within a parish, if needed.

The Goteborg Burial Association, which operates in Sweden's second-largest city, is currently trying to navigate the challenge of acquiring at least 10 acres

of land to ensure it can handle urgent casket burials for some 30,000 dead in case of war. That is in addition to another 15 acres of land needed for building graveyards for regular use in Goteborg.

"The (recommendations) mean that we need more land for burial grounds and this is a phenomenon in the big cities, and a problem in the big cities, where land resources are scarce to begin with and not always sufficient to meet burial ground needs even in times of calm and peace," said Katarina Evenseth, senior adviser at the Goteborg Burial Association.

Together with the local municipality, which has a monopoly in making decisions about land usage in Goteborg, the burial association has identified a vast area appropriate for building a large-scale cemetery for the intended purpose.

But a lengthy approval and building process means it could take about 10 years to complete, posing further challenges in uncertain times.

Meanwhile, the MSB continues to stress the importance of crisis preparedness and highlights the efforts of the Church of

Sweden.

"Already back in 2015, the Government assigned various authorities to once again start engaging in civil defense planning, and many organizations have started planning, with the Church of Sweden being at the forefront of that planning," said Jan-Olof Olsson, Critical Infrastructure Protection expert at MSB.

"Unfortunately, it is the case that we are reminded to a greater degree that war could happen and that we simply need to be prepared for that," Olsson said.

Sweden pursued a policy of neutrality from the early 19th century.

But public opinion shifted in 2022 after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, leading to Sweden and Finland applying to join the transatlantic alliance out of concern about the threat from their newly aggressive Russian neighbor across the Baltic Sea.

Sweden and Finland sent out updated civil preparedness guides in November with instructions on how to survive in war. The guides are similar to those in Denmark and Norway, though they don't mention Russia by name.

## Ukrainian troops risk ceding more land in Kursk to Russia

By Samya Kullab  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Five months after their shock offensive into Russia, Ukrainian troops are bloodied and demoralized by the rising risk of defeat in Kursk, a region some want to hold at all costs while others question the value of having gone in at all.

Battles are so intense that some Ukrainian commanders can't evacuate the dead.

Communication lags and poorly timed tactics have cost lives, and troops have little way to counterattack, seven front-line soldiers and commanders told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Since being caught unaware by the lightning Ukrainian incursion, Russia has amassed more than 50,000 troops in the region, including some from its ally North Korea.

Precise numbers are hard to obtain, but Moscow's counterattack has killed and wounded thousands and the overstretched Ukrainians have lost more than 40% of the 380 square miles of Kursk they seized in August.

Its full-scale invasion three years ago left Russia holding a fifth of Ukraine, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has hinted that he hopes controlling Kursk will help force Moscow to negotiate an end to the war.

But five Ukrainian and Western officials in Kyiv who spoke on condition of anonymity said they fear gambling on Kursk will weaken the whole 621-mile front line, and Ukraine is losing precious ground in the east.

"We have, as they say, hit a hornet's nest. We have stirred up another hot spot," said Stepan Lutsiv, a major in the 95th Airborne Assault Brigade.

Army chief Oleksandr Syrskyi has said Ukraine launched the operation



People sing mournful Christmas carols Saturday at the Lychakiv Military Cemetery in Lviv, Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. **YURIY DYACHYSHYN/GETTY-AFP**

because officials thought Russia was about to launch a new attack on northeast Ukraine.

It began Aug. 5 with an order to leave Ukraine's Sumy region for what they thought would be a nine-day raid to stun the enemy. It became an occupation that Ukrainians welcomed as their smaller country gained leverage and embarrassed Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Shocked by the success achieved largely because the Russians were caught by surprise, the Ukrainians were ordered to advance beyond the original mission to the town of Korenevo, 16 miles into Russia. That was one of the first places where Russian troops counterattacked. By early November the Russians began regaining territory rapidly.

Some front-line commanders said conditions are tough, morale is low and Ukrainian troops are questioning command decisions, even the very purpose of occupying Kursk.

Ukrainian soldiers said they were not prepared for the aggressive Russian response in Kursk, and cannot counterattack or pull back.

"There's no other option. We'll fight here because if we just pull back to our borders, they won't stop;

they'll keep advancing," said one drone unit commander.

U.S. longer-range weapons have slowed the Russian advance and North Korean soldiers who joined the fighting last month are easy targets for drones and artillery because they lack combat discipline and often move in large groups in the open, Ukrainian troops said.

On Monday, Zelenskyy said 3,000 North Korean soldiers had been killed and wounded.

But they seem to be learning from their mistakes, soldiers added, by becoming more adept at camouflaging near forested lines.

One recent clash took place near Vorontsovo tract, a forested area between the settlements of Kremenne and Vorontsovo.

Until two weeks ago, the area was under Ukraine's control. Last week part of it has been lost to Russian forces and Ukrainian troops fear they will reach a crucial logistics route.

Eyeing front-line losses in the eastern region known as the Donbas — where Russia is closing on a crucial supply hub — some soldiers are more vocal about whether Kursk has been worth it.

"All the military can think about now is that Donbas has simply been sold," the platoon commander said. "At what price?"



# Flooding took away love of his life

Couple separated by hurricane never spent a day apart

By Travis Loller  
Associated Press

ERWIN, Tenn. — Jerry and Sibrina Barnett never spent a day apart over 35 years. They worked long hours, never took vacations and liked to relax with their son at home. They had no idea that a hurricane could reach them in the mountains of eastern Tennessee.

Living in Johnson City, they were barely aware that Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida on Sept. 26. The next day it was raining heavily, so Sibrina went in late to her once-a-week cleaning job at the Impact Plastics factory.

It was the last time they saw each other.

Today, Sibrina Barnett's clothes are just where she left them, on her side of the bed. Her nail polish and shampoo are still in the bathroom. Her sweater still hangs from the back of a kitchen chair. Jerry knows he will have to move them one day, but not yet.

Helene caused catastrophic damage, the deadliest storm to hit the U.S. mainland since Katrina in 2005. At least 221 people were killed. Many were like Sibrina, drowning in floods hundreds of miles inland. Behind every number was a person whose absence is sorely felt.

**'Just trying to enjoy life'** She was 17 and he was 20 when they met, and "35 years later, we never left each other's side," Jerry said.

"We wasn't really wild people or anything. We was just a couple young people trying to enjoy life a little bit," he said.

A few years later, she was pregnant. They got married and made their future in a mobile home in the same community Jerry has known all his life.

"Me and her, both, grow-



Jerry Barnett reflects Nov. 22 on the life of his wife, Sibrina Barnett, in Johnson City, Tenn. Barnett's wife died in floodwaters in September. **GEORGE WALKER IV/AP**

ing up as kids, didn't really have a lot," Jerry says. "We wasn't poor, but we wasn't wearing Levi's and Nikes and stuff either."

They were both workaholics. He does HVAC repair, but she was proud to be the main breadwinner. Six days a week, she'd handle a morning cleaning job, then clean a private school in the evening.

Clients loved her for being meticulous — she'd sometimes go back over areas already cleaned by a different crew until they met her standards.

"Work making money, that's how you're going to have anything," Jerry says. "She spoiled me and my son. That's exactly what she did."

Caimen is 21 now, but the first thing visitors see in the



Sibrina

home he shares with his dad is a coffee-table-size resin model of characters from the Dragonball Z anime show. Dozens of smaller models fill a living room display case. Still more line the hallway.

Sibrina ordered the figures and they would assemble them together. Some came from Japan and cost thousands of dollars.

"We decided to kind of just enjoy it as we went, instead of trying to have a bunch for retirement or our older age," Jerry said. Given what happened, "I'm kind of glad we did."

One of the display cases now holds Sibrina's urn.

**The flood:** At Impact Plastics, rainwater would often pool on the factory parking

lot, but Sibrina called Jerry on her break to report it was higher than usual. Then she called again — the water had risen to the bottom of her car door. Jerry drove to get her, but the exit off the interstate was blocked.

"Don't worry about even trying to get down in here," she told him. "She said, Just go home. It looks like I'm going to be here for a few hours."

What happened next, Jerry learned secondhand. As the water kept rising, Sibrina and nine other workers retreated to the highest point — the flatbed of a tractor-trailer loaded with giant coils of plastic tubing. It wasn't high enough. They called 911, but first responders were focused on a different emergency.

Then the truck flipped over, sending the workers

into the raging water. Some managed to float on the tubing and were washed onto a pile of debris. Sibrina was one of six who died.

Many Americans haven't thought of inland areas as being particularly vulnerable to severe weather, but places like Erwin, in a valley alongside the Nolichucky River, are increasingly prone to disasters.

Jerry went back to work. He had no idea how bad the flooding was, and didn't learn she was missing until hours later. He tried searching for clues in YouTube videos. Eight days passed before her body was recovered.

**The litigation:** Jerry's lawyer, Luke Widener, said the workers relied on management to warn them of dangers outside because the factory had few windows.

Some said they weren't allowed to stop work until the power went out. By then, the access road was under water.

Widener also represents Zinnia Adkins, who earned \$11.50 an hour as a temporary employee at Impact Plastics. She's alive, she said, because a co-worker gripped her tightly in the chest-deep water. She can't swim and still sleeps on the couch because the bed feels too open and unsafe.

The family of another employee, Johnny Peterson, filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the company and its owner, Gerald O'Connor, who said the workers were dismissed with enough time to escape.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the state's workplace safety office have opened investigations.

# Britain's House of Lords braces for evictions

Parliamentarians by inheritance to get boot next year

By Mark Landler  
The New York Times

LONDON — Godfrey John Bewicke-Copley, the 7th Baron Cromwell, traces his family's title back to 1375. His forebears fought the French at the Battle of Agincourt. For the last decade, Lord Cromwell's day job has been in Britain's House of Lords, where he mulls legislation, runs to committee meetings and briskly greets fellow lawmakers in Parliament, many of whom are elected.

His right to be there is rooted in his ancestry: Hereditary peers inherit their seats, in his case from his father, the 6th Baron Cromwell. But Lord Cromwell insists that his aristocratic lineage has little bearing on his work as a public servant.

"We are not the port-swilling, fox-hunting hoorays on vast Downton Abbey-esque estates of popular imagination," he said. "Indeed, sometimes people are rather disappointed when they find that we are typically hard-working professionals of one sort or another."

For Lord Cromwell, that includes a career in private banking, advising companies on doing business in Russia — something he no longer does — and running the family farm in Leicestershire. Gregarious, well informed and opinionated, Lord Cromwell, 64, has spoken up regularly in debates on issues from Ukraine to water quality.

None of that will spare him from being evicted when the Labour government enacts a law eliminating hereditary peers, likely by the middle of next year. Labour argues that these peers are undemocratic, a relic as superannuated as the ermine robes they wear. Purging them is the first step to reforming an



Godfrey John Bewicke-Copley, the 7th Baron Cromwell, takes a seat Dec. 18 in London. **ANDREW TESTA/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

ancient institution which, although it has little more than a consultative role in lawmaking, has become, by all accounts, bloated, hidebound and ethically dodgy.

Lord Cromwell, whose family name is Bewicke-Copley, admits a touch sadly that he is related to neither of England's most famous Cromwells, Oliver and Thomas. Having first gained his seat in 1982 after his father's death in a riding accident, he views the passage of the law with regret but also stoic acceptance. He even manages a dash of mordant wit.

"Christmas is approaching," he said during a debate on the legislation this month. "While, as one of the so-called turkeys directly affected by the bill, I might abstain on it, I certainly do not propose to obstruct or delay it."

Instead, Lord Cromwell pleaded to convert the most active and engaged of the 88 remaining hereditary peers to so-called "life

peers," which would save their seats and grant them the same status as a majority of the 805 members of the Lords, whose peerages are bestowed on them by the prime minister and who can remain in their seats for life.

"The hereditary principle is indefensible, other perhaps than by appeals to romantic ideas about growing up with a sense of duty," he said in an interview. "I do not defend it and am happy with the government's commitment to end it."

But Lord Cromwell noted a paradox at the heart of the House of Lords: Since 1999, hereditary peers have actually been elected — albeit by their fellow peers, not by the country. Life peers are simply appointed, ostensibly for their public service but often as a reward for donating money to political parties.

That is a result of a deal cut by a previous Labour prime minister, Tony Blair, who ran into resistance when he set out to cull all

the hereditary peers. Blair swept out most of them — including Lord Cromwell, who regained his seat in a peers' by-election in 2014 — but agreed to let a rump group remain until a future government could carry out a more root-and-branch overhaul.

Now that moment has come. But the government of Prime Minister Keir Starmer has also retreated from an earlier vow to abolish the House of Lords and replace it with a "new, reformed upper chamber." Instead, it is again singling out hereditary peers, who are in some ways low-hanging fruit, while leaving unresolved the thornier question of what to do about the more politically connected life peers.

To Lord Cromwell, that does little to advance reform. Many life peers, he said, scarcely bother to show up for work, while the appointments process has devolved into a vast patronage machine.

"This positively feudal system makes the hereditary elections look democratic," he said over coffee in Portcullis House, Parliament's office building, across the street from Big Ben.

On Dec. 20, Starmer submitted his first list of 30 nominees for peerages. It attests to how the Lords has become a handy way to reward friends and offer consolation prizes to fallen allies. On the list were Labour members of the House of Commons who had been voted out of their seats, as well as Starmer's former chief of staff, Sue Gray, who left after losing out in a feud with other advisers.

Her elevation to the Lords drew quiet grumbles about hypocrisy from Conservatives. Many have reviled Gray since she played a role in the downfall of a previous prime minister, Boris Johnson, by leading an investigation into social gatherings held in No. 10 Downing St. that violated COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

But Johnson, his critics say, corrupted the appointments process more than anyone. Among his peers were Evgeny Lebedev, a Russian-British media baron who publishes the London Evening Standard and is the son of a former KGB officer, and Charlotte Owen, a 31-year-old former aide to Johnson whose thin resume raised questions about why she deserved a lifetime sinecure.

"Prime ministers have abused the powers of patronage to appoint cronies," said Vernon Bogdanor, a political scientist at King's College London. "You can still, in effect, buy a place in the chamber."

"The reason they're starting with these is that it is the least controversial part of this in the country as a whole," said Simon McDonald, a former head of the British diplomatic service who is a cross-bench, or nonpartisan, peer. "The hereditary principle is kind of discredited as a governing principle."

McDonald said he favored term limits and more scrutiny of people who get life peerages. But neither of those, he said, would justify preserving hereditary peers. For one thing, they are all men, owing to the hurdles for women in inheriting most peerages. The last female hereditary peer, Margaret Alison of Mar, a Scottish politician known as the Countess of Mar, retired in 2020.

Lord Cromwell pointed to accomplishments like persuading the second chamber to create a committee to monitor the development of space, as well as strengthening legislation that would curb nuisance lawsuits against journalists. To the critics, it all sounds familiar — and unpersuasive.

"Their first argument is that the hereditary peers are, to a man, good, upstanding men who do their shift," McDonald said. "I'm sure everyone agrees with that. My answer to that is, so what?"





Producer and composer Quincy Jones was a multitalented musical titan. **DREW GURIAN/INVISION 2014**



Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny died in prison at age 47. **PAVEL GOLOVKIN/AP 2020**



Scene-stealing actor Maggie Smith gained new fans in the 21st century. **KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP 2015**



Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., was Al Gore's running mate in 2000. **CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP 2003**



Comedian Bob Newhart was one of the most popular TV stars of his era. **JEROME T. NAKAGAWA/AP 2003**

YEAR IN REVIEW IN MEMORIAM

# Influential figures lost in 2024

By **Bernard McGhee**  
Associated Press

*Here are some of the influential and noteworthy people who died in 2024.*

**JANUARY**

**David Soul, 80:** The actor and singer co-starred as the blond half of the 1970s crime-fighting duo “Starsky & Hutch.” *Jan. 4*

**Joyce Randolph, 99:** The veteran stage and television actor portrayed the savvy Trixie Norton on “The Honeymooners.” *Jan. 13*

**Dexter Scott King, 62:** He dedicated much of his life to shepherding the civil rights legacy of his parents, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. *Jan. 22*

**Charles Osgood, 91:** He anchored “CBS Sunday Morning” for more than two decades and was host of the long-running radio program “The Osgood File.” *Jan. 23*

**N. Scott Momaday, 89:** Pulitzer Prize-winner whose debut novel “House Made of Dawn” is widely credited as the starting point for contemporary Native American literature. *Jan. 24*

**Jean Carnahan, 90:** She became the first female senator to represent Missouri when she was appointed to replace her husband after his death. *Jan. 30*

**Chita Rivera, 91:** The dynamic dancer, singer and actress garnered 10 Tony nominations, winning twice, in a long Broadway career that forged a path for Latina artists. *Jan. 30*

**FEBRUARY**

**Carl Weathers, 76:** A former NFL linebacker who became a Hollywood action movie and comedy star, playing nemesis-turned-ally Apollo Creed in the “Rocky” movies. *Feb. 1*

**Hage Geingob, 82:** Namibia’s president and founding prime minister played a central role in what has become one of Africa’s most stable democracies. *Feb. 4*

**Toby Keith, 62:** A hit country crafter of pro-American anthems. Stomach cancer. *Feb. 5*

**John Bruton, 76:** A former Irish prime minister who played a key role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. *Feb. 6*

**Seiji Ozawa, 88:** The Japanese conductor spent three decades at the helm of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. *Feb. 6*

**Bob Edwards, 76:** He anchored National Public Radio’s “Morning Edition” for nearly 25 years. *Feb. 10*

**Alexei Navalny, 47:** The fiercest foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin crusaded against official corruption and staged massive anti-Kremlin protests. *Feb. 16*

**Lefty Driesell, 92:** The Hall of Fame coach whose folksy drawl belied a fiery on-court demeanor that put Maryland on the college basketball map. *Feb. 17*

**Hydeia Broadbent, 39:** The HIV/AIDS activist came to national prominence for her inspirational talks to reduce the stigma surrounding the virus she was born with. *Feb. 20*

**Richard Lewis, 76:** An acclaimed comedian known for exploring his neuroses in frantic, stream-of-consciousness diatribes while dressed all in black. *Feb. 27*

**MARCH**

**Akira Toriyama, 68:** The creator of the best-selling Dragon Ball and other popular anime who influenced Japanese comics. Blood clot. *March 1*

**David E. Harris, 89:** He flew bombers for the U.S. military and broke barriers in 1964 when he became the first Black pilot hired at a major U.S. airline. *March 8*



Actor James Earl Jones, an icon of stage and screen, died in September at age 93. **CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP 2009**

**Joe Lieberman, 82:** The former U.S. senator from Connecticut ran for vice president on the Democratic ticket with Al Gore in 2000 and almost became Republican John McCain’s running mate eight years later. Complications from a fall. *March 27*

**Louis Gossett Jr., 87:** The first Black man to win a supporting actor Oscar and an Emmy winner for his role in the seminal TV miniseries “Roots.” *March 28*

**APRIL**

**Lou Conter, 102:** The last living survivor of the battleship USS Arizona, which exploded and sank during the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. *April 1*

**Peter Higgs, 94:** The Nobel prize-winning physicist proposed the existence of the so-called “God particle” that helped explain how matter formed after the Big Bang. *April 8*

**O.J. Simpson, 76:** The decorated football superstar and Hollywood actor was acquitted of charges that he killed his former wife and her friend but later found liable in a separate civil trial. *April 10*

**Robert MacNeil, 93:** He created the PBS newscast “The MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour” in the 1970s and co-anchored the show with Jim Lehrer for two decades. *April 12*

**Bob Graham, 87:** A former U.S. senator and two-term Florida governor who gained national prominence as chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks. *April 16*

**Dickey Betts, 80:** The guitar legend who co-founded the Allman Brothers Band and wrote their biggest hit, “Ramblin’ Man.” *April 18*

**Duane Eddy, 86:** A pioneering guitar hero who provided reverberating electric sound on such instrumentals as “Rebel Rouser” and “Peter Gunn.” *April 30*

**MAY**

**Dick Rutan, 85:** He, along with co-pilot Jeana Yeager, completed the first round-the-world flight with no stops or refueling. *May 3*

**Steve Albini, 61:** A legendary producer who shaped the musical landscape through his work with Nirvana, Pixies, PJ Harvey and more. *May 7*

**Roger Corman, 98:** The “King of the Bs” helped turn out such low-budget classics as “Little Shop of Horrors” and gave many of Hollywood’s most famous actors and directors early breaks. *May 9*

**Alice Munro, 92:** The Nobel laureate was a Canadian literary giant who became one of the world’s most esteemed contemporary authors. *May 13*

**Peter Buxtun, 86:** The whis-

tleblower who revealed that the U.S. government allowed hundreds of Black men in rural Alabama to go untreated for syphilis. *May 18*

**Ivan F. Boesky, 87:** Stock trader whose cooperation with the government cracked open one of the largest insider trading scandals on Wall Street. *May 20*

**Bill Walton, 71:** He starred in basketball for coach John Wooden’s UCLA Bruins before becoming a Hall of Fame center for his NBA career and a renowned broadcaster. *May 27*

**JUNE**

**The Rev. James Lawson Jr., 95:** An apostle of nonviolent protest who schooled Civil Rights activists to withstand brutal reactions from white authorities. *June 9*

**Lynn Conway, 86:** A pioneer in the design of microchips that are at the heart of consumer electronics who overcame discrimination as a transgender person. *June 9*

**Jerry West, 86:** Selected to the Basketball Hall of Fame three times as a player and executive. *June 12*

**Willie Mays, 93:** The electrifying “Say Hey Kid” became one of baseball’s greatest and most beloved players. *June 18*

**Anouk Aimée, 92:** The radiant French star of classic films including Federico Fellini’s “La Dolce Vita.” *June 18*

**Donald Sutherland, 88:** The Canadian actor whose career spanned more than half a century of films, from “M-A-S-H” to “The Hunger Games.” *June 20*

**JULY**

**Joe Bonsall, 76:** A Grammy Award winner and celebrated tenor of the country and gospel group the Oak Ridge Boys. *July 9*

**Shelley Duvall, 75:** Movie star whose wide-eyed, winsome presence was a mainstay in the films of Robert Altman and who co-starred in Stanley Kubrick’s “The Shining.” *July 11*

**Dr. Ruth Westheimer, 96:** The sex therapist became a media star and best-selling author through her frank talk about bedroom topics. *July 12*

**Shannen Doherty, 53:** The “Beverly Hills, 90210” star whose life and career were roiled by illness and tabloid stories. *July 13*

**Richard Simmons, 76:** He was television’s hyperactive court jester of physical fitness who built a mini-empire in his trademark tank tops and short shorts. *July 13*

**Bob Newhart, 94:** The deadpan accountant-turned-comedian became one of the most popular TV stars of his time after striking gold with a classic comedy album. *July 18*

**Lou Dobbs, 78:** The conservative political pundit was a founding anchor for CNN and later was a nightly presence on Fox Business Network for more than a decade. *July 18*

**Francine Pascal, 92:** A onetime soap opera writer whose “Sweet Valley High” novels captivated millions of young readers. *July 28*

**AUGUST**

**Juan “Chi Chi” Rodriguez, 88:** A Hall of Fame golfer whose antics on the greens and inspiring life story made him among the sport’s most popular players. *Aug. 8*

**Susan Wojcicki, 56:** A pioneering tech executive who helped shape Google and YouTube. *Aug. 9*

**Wallace “Wally” Amos, 88:** The founder of the Famous Amos cookie empire. *Aug. 13*

**Gena Rowlands, 94:** She was hailed as a guiding light in independent cinema as a star in groundbreaking movies by her director husband, John Cassavetes. *Aug. 14*

**Peter Marshall, 98:** Game show host who played straight man to the stars for 16 years on “The Hollywood Squares.” *Aug. 15*

**Alain Delon, 88:** The internationally acclaimed French actor embodied the bad guy and the policeman. *Aug. 18*

**Phil Donahue, 88:** His pioneering daytime talk show launched an indelible television genre. *Aug. 18*

**Ruth Johnson Colvin, 107:** She founded Literacy Volunteers of America and received the nation’s highest civilian award: the Presidential Medal of Freedom. *Aug. 18*

**John Amos, 84:** He starred as the family patriarch on the hit 1970s sitcom “Good Times.” *Aug. 21*

**Edward B. Johnson, 81:** As a CIA officer, he traveled into Iran with a colleague to rescue six American diplomats who fled the 1979 U.S. Embassy takeover in Tehran. *Aug. 27*

**SEPTEMBER**

**Sergio Mendes, 83:** The Grammy-winning Brazilian musician whose hit “Mas Que Nada” made him a global legend. *Sept. 5*

**James Earl Jones, 93:** A celebrated icon of stage and screen, eventually lending his deep, commanding voice to CNN, “The Lion King” and Darth Vader. *Sept. 9*

**Frankie Beverly, 77:** With his band Maze, he inspired generations of fans with his smooth, soulful voice. *Sept. 10*

**Alberto Fujimori, 86:** His decade-long presidency began with triumphs righting Peru’s economy and defeating a brutal insurgency only to end in autocratic excess that later sent him to prison. *Sept. 11*

**Tito Jackson, 70:** One of the

brothers who made up the beloved pop group the Jackson 5. *Sept. 15*

**Maggie Smith, 89:** The masterful, scene-stealing actor gained new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in “Downton Abbey” and Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter films. *Sept. 27*

**Kris Kristofferson, 88:** A Rhodes scholar with a deft writing style who became a country music superstar and an A-list Hollywood actor. *Sept. 28*

**Pete Rose, 83:** Baseball’s career hits leader who undermined his historic achievements by gambling on the game he loved. *Sept. 30*

**Dikembe Mutombo, 58:** A Basketball Hall of Famer who was one of the best defensive players in NBA history and a longtime global ambassador for the game. Brain cancer. *Sept. 30*

**OCTOBER**

**Ratan Tata, 86:** One of India’s most influential business leaders was former chairman of the \$100 billion conglomerate Tata Group. *Oct. 9*

**Ethel Kennedy, 96:** The wife of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy raised their 11 children after he was assassinated and remained dedicated to social causes and the family’s legacy for decades. *Oct. 10*

**Thelma Mothershed Wair, 83:** One of nine Black students who integrated a high school in Arkansas’ capital city, Little Rock, in 1957 while a mob of white segregationists yelled threats and insults. *Oct. 19*

**Fethullah Gülen, 83:** A reclusive U.S.-based Islamic cleric who inspired a global social movement. *Oct. 20*

**Phil Lesh, 84:** Bass guitarist and founding member of the Grateful Dead. *Oct. 25*

**Teri Garr, 79:** A quirky comedy actor in such favorites as “Young Frankenstein” and “Tootsie.” Multiple sclerosis. *Oct. 29*

**NOVEMBER**

**Quincy Jones, 91:** The multitalented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson’s historic “Thriller” album to writing prize-winning film and television scores. *Nov. 3*

**Bernard “Bernie” Marcus, 95:** The co-founder of the Home Depot, a billionaire philanthropist and a big Republican donor. *Nov. 4*

**Bobby Allison, 86:** He was founder of racing’s “Alabama Gang” and a NASCAR Hall of Famer. *Nov. 9*

**Bela Karolyi, 82:** The charismatic, if polarizing, gymnastics coach turned young women into champions and the United States into an international power in the sport. *Nov. 15*

**Barbara Taylor Bradford, 91:** A British journalist who became a publishing sensation in her 40s with the saga “A Woman of Substance” and wrote more than a dozen other novels that sold tens of millions of copies. *Nov. 24*

**DECEMBER**

**Nikki Giovanni, 81:** The poet, author, educator and public speaker who rose from borrowing money to release her first book to decades as a literary celebrity shared her blunt and conversational takes on everything from racism and love to space travel and mortality. *Dec. 9*

**George Joseph Kresge Jr., 89:** He was known to generations of TV watchers as the mesmerizing entertainer and mentalist the Amazing Kreskin. *Dec. 10*

**Rickey Henderson, 65:** The baseball Hall of Famer and speedster who shattered stolen-base records and redefined the sport’s leadoff position. *Dec. 20*







# Lights, camera, cubicles: TV shows, films have covered office life for years

If Hollywood holds up a mirror to real life, we've been watching facsimiles of ourselves at work on the small and large screen for years. The following is a list of television shows and movies about office life for each decade from the 1950s to the 2020s:

**1950s**  
Television: "The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show" (1950-1958): While primarily a domestic comedy, the show often featured George's office as a key setting for humor.  
Film: "Desk Set"(1957) Starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, this romantic comedy was set in a corporate office, highlighting the clash between human resourcefulness and early forms of automation.

**1960s**  
Television: "The Dick Van Dyke Show" (1961-1966): Focused on Rob Petrie's work as a comedy writer for a TV show, this series starred Dick Van Dyke showing the delicate and humorous balance between office life and personal life.  
Film: "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" (1967): A satirical musical starring Robert Morse and Michelle Lee about climbing the corporate ladder in a 1960s office setting.

**1970s**  
Television: "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" (1970-1977): After her stint on "The Dick Van Dyke Show" as Rob Petrie's wife, Mary Tyler Moore starred as Mary Richards, a journalist and producer at a Minneapolis TV newsroom.  
Film: "9 to 5" (1980): Although technically released in 1980, this film starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin follows the struggles in a 1970s office between a chauvinistic male boss and their justice-seeking female employees.

**1980s**  
Television: "Cheers" (1982-1993): Set in a Boston bar, this popular series starred Ted Danson as the owner of a bar where the patrons share, among other things, the triumphs and trials of their respective careers.

Film: "Working Girl" (1988): A dramedy starring Harrison Ford, Melanie Griffith and Sigourney Weaver about a secretary navigating office politics to pursue her ambitions in corporate New York.

**1990s**  
Television: "NewsRadio" (1995-1999): A workplace sitcom centered around the quirky staff of a fictional news radio station.  
Film: "Office Space" (1999): This cult classic satirizes the day-to-day drudgery and mundane absurdities of corporate life.

**2000s**  
Television: "The Office" (2005-2013): This mockumentary sitcom starring Steve Carell – a remake of the British series starring Ricky Gervais – focused on the daily lives of office workers at Dunder Mifflin, a paper company in Scranton, Pennsylvania.  
Film: "The Devil Wears Prada" (2006): A dramedy starring Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt about a young woman working as an assistant to a powerful fashion magazine editor.

**2010s**  
Television: "Parks and Recreation" (2009-2015): This mockumentary follows the lives of employees working in a quirky local government office in Pawnee, Indiana.  
Film: "The Intern" (2015): A feel-good film about a senior intern – Robert De Niro – joining a fast-paced e-commerce startup.

**2020s**  
Television: "Severance" (2022-2025): A dystopian thriller starring Adam Scott and Britt Lower as employees working at a mysterious company who undergo a procedure to separate work and personal memories.  
Film: "WeWork: Or the Making and Breaking of a \$47 Billion Unicorn" (2021): This documentary, directed by Jed Rothstein, follows the rise and fall of WeWork and the workplace culture it attempted to create.

– Marco Buscaglia

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# Fastest growing health care jobs for 2025

Health care job projections have increased for the past several years, and there are no signs of slowing down in 2025. Due to an aging population, advancements in medical technology and increased focus on preventive care, numerous professions offer excellent career opportunities for anyone entering the health care industry.

**1. Nurse practitioners (NPs)**  
Growth projection: Expected to grow by more than 40% by 2025.  
Average salary: \$126,260 per year.  
Job description: Nurse practitioners provide primary and specialty care, often serving as the main health care provider in underserved areas. They diagnose illnesses, prescribe medication and manage patient care plans.

**2. Physician assistants (PAs)**  
Growth projection: Projected to grow by 28% through 2033.  
Average salary: \$125,270 per year.  
Job description: Physician assistants work under physicians to examine, diagnose and treat patients. They perform medical procedures, prescribe medication and assist in surgeries.

**3. Occupational therapy assistants**  
Growth projection: Expected to grow by 25% through 2033.  
Average salary: \$61,174 per year.  
Job description: Occupational therapy assistants help patients develop, recover and improve the skills needed for daily living and work under the guidance of occupational therapists.

**4. Home health aides**  
Growth projection: Employment is projected to increase by 21% through 2033.  
Average salary: \$30,930 per year.  
Job description: Home health aides assist individuals with chronic illnesses or disabilities, helping with daily activities such as bathing, dressing and medication management in patients' homes.

**5. Physical therapy assistants**  
Growth projection: Anticipated to grow by 25% through 2033.  
Average salary: \$64,080 per year.  
Job description: Physical therapy assistants work with physical therapists to help patients recover from injuries, manage pain and improve mobility through therapeutic exercises.

– Marco Buscaglia

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CAREERS

Looking for a new job?: Make it a 12-month process

We’ve created a brief calendar of job-search activities so you can stay in fighting shape in 2025.

**January:** Dust off the resume. It’s the No. 1 tool you’ll need to find a job, so don’t let it sit idle for years. Chances are you’ll forget some of your prior accomplishments, so update it each time you score a noteworthy victory on the job.

**February:** Sending Valentines to all your peers might be a little creepy but there is no reason you shouldn’t drop a quick email to some people you’ve worked with or for in the past.

**March:** Do a little spring cleaning and get rid of some of the dead weight at the office. It sounds silly but you’ve been carrying around some of the same files, desk toys, books and shoes for years. If you can do some decluttering now, you’ll be able to make a less dramatic exit when you finally do decide to leave.

**April:** Spend April cultivating new contacts. Take a close look at your LinkedIn profile and start connecting with some friends of friends, professional peers and people with impressive resumes.

**May:** Do a little shopping. Since many initial interviews are online, you may not think you need an impressive suit for that Zoom encounter. But you should make sure you have at least one decent suit for interviews. Sometimes, jobs are filled in a hurry and you may be called in to interview for the position within a few days. Having that one go-to interview suit in the closet is always helpful.

**June:** Use the start of the summer to assess where you are and where you want to go. This isn’t what you can do while sitting at the office during lunch. Instead, take a few hours somewhere to find peace and quiet.

**July:** See what’s out there. Since most employees are limited to the scope of their own jobs, they often don’t realize what other exciting projects they could be working on and how much money they could make.

**August:** It’s never a bad idea to build up your base of knowledge and for some, that may mean going back to school. Sign up for at least one class or seminar to sharpen your skills for your current position or learn something new that may be helpful for one a job may pursue in the future.

**September:** Brush up on your interviewing skills. If you’re not a great public speaker or feel uncomfortable in one-on-one situations, you shouldn’t expect to excel at a job interview without some practice.

**October:** Embrace new technology. Find out if there is a device or an app that you’re not using that may help you.

**November:** Refine your presence on social media. Get rid of all the old photos from college – you know, the ones where your roommates drew horrible things on your face with a black permanent marker? Those should be the first to go. Then, clean up the posts where you bad-mouth an employer or a client or even say something negative about your job. Those are the types of things that recruiters look for when considering candidates.

**December:** December is a great time to cultivate contacts. Go ahead and send a holiday greeting to former coworkers, professors and anyone else who has had an impact on your career. Even if they’ll never be a direct reference, it’s nice to spread some cheer during the holidays.

– Marco Buscaglia

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# CHICAGO SPORTS

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




Two White Sox fans wear paper bags over their heads spelling out "Southside Sadness" during a game against the Mets on Aug. 31 at Guaranteed Rate Field. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## It was a very bad year

Chicago sports fans suffered through disastrous 2024, which included epic ineptitude

City of big coaching searches



**Paul Sullivan**  
*In the Wake of the News*

Raging against the machine was all the rage for Chicago sports fans in 2024, a year that somehow exceeded 2023 as the worst in most of our memories. Imagine that. White Sox fans openly rooted for a loss in a late September series against the Los Angeles Angels, just so they could say they witnessed

the team's record-setting 121st defeat. Outraged Bears fans forced the McCaskeys to end their long-standing policy of not firing a head coach in season. Bulls and Blackhawks fans complained about the new Chicago Sports Network not being carried on Comcast or YouTube TV, then stopped caring as the losses piled up. Cubs fans repeatedly voiced their displeasure with the Rickettes and President Jed Hoyer over a fourth straight season without a postseason, only to see ticket prices rise again. If an entire city of fans could lie in the fetal position and pull up the

covers over our collective heads the rest of the winter, we gladly would do so. Here are some of the things that helped make 2024 another year to forget ... with a few notable exceptions.

**Chant of the Year**

"Sell the team!"

After Sox fans chanted for Jerry Reinsdorf to divorce himself from the team they love during the Angels series, Bears fans picked up the slack Thursday by aiming the same chant at the McCaskeys during the brutal 6-3 loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

**Game of the Year**


*White Sox 3, Angels 2: Sept. 24 at Guaranteed Rate Field*

Sox fans cheered Angels second baseman Jack López when he homered to give L.A. a 2-0 lead in the eighth inning, knowing the record-setting 121st loss was imminent. But the Sox rallied for three runs in the eighth to win. The Sox treated the series like it was their World Series. "It's huge," Andrew Benintendi said. "I think if we swept the final series of the year, it would be, not funny, but it'd give us all a chuckle." The Sox swept the Angels, then lost No. 121 in Detroit. Chuckle, chuckle.

Sox general manager Chris Getz said his original list of candidates for the team's managerial vacancy numbered more than 60. The two ex-Sox favorites whom fans cried for, Ozzie Guillen and A.J. Pierzynski, were not among the 60-plus. Getz's eventual hire, Will Venable, could lose 99 games in 2025 and win the American League Manager of the Year award. Blackhawks interim coach Anders Sorensen, also promoted from within the organization, is so mellow he makes former coach Luke Richardson look excitable

*Turn to Sullivan, Page 2*

## Carroll makes sense as viable candidate



**Dan Wiederer**  
*On the Bears*

Perhaps Pete Carroll's age feels like a legitimate deterrent to some. He is, after all, a septuagenarian, turning 74 in September 2025. Do the Chicago Bears really want to roll those dice and unite with a gray-haired coach whose NFL career likely won't reach the end of this decade? Shouldn't they be aiming to go younger, filling their head coaching vacancy with a similarly vibrant but much younger leader who might be able to stick around for a long time? And what about Carroll's defensive-minded background? Is that what the Bears need at this critical stage of their history, when the development of quarterback Caleb Williams is so crucial to the organization's future? Plus, isn't it possible Carroll's desire for clout inside Halas Hall — particularly as it pertains to building the roster — might chal-



Seahawks coach Pete Carroll walks on the field before a game against the Bears on Sept. 17, 2018, at Soldier Field. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## BULLS How can team be less reliant on downing 3-pointers?

**By Julia Poe | Chicago Tribune**

The Bulls can't survive without 3-point shooting. This is, in a way, what it looks like when the other shoe drops. Nearly midway through the season, the Bulls are the second-most prolific 3-point shooting team in the NBA, trailing only the Boston Celtics as they average 16.5 made 3s on 44 attempts per game. The success of this transformed offense has been undeniable. The Bulls entered their game Saturday night against the Milwaukee Bucks ranked sixth in the league in points per game (117.7) and 12th in offensive rating (112.6) as they marginally outperform expectations. But the sustainability of the 3-pointers — the making of them, not the attempts — has been a looming question. The reality for a lopsided roster is that a team only ever trades one problem for another. The Bulls are more dependent than ever on a single style of shot. And as shooters begin to hit the expected midseason slumps,

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Turn to Bulls, Page 4





Team	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
BEARS					Next game TBD @GB
BULLS		@CHA 6 p.m.   CHSN		@WAS 6 p.m.   CHSN	
BLACKHAWKS	DAL 7:30 p.m.   ESPN		STL at Wrigley Field 4 p.m.   TNT		

WHITE SOX

# Thaiss ready to settle in after a pair of trades

By LaMond Pope  
Chicago Tribune

Matt Thaiss has had a unique offseason.

The Los Angeles Angels traded the catcher to the Cubs on Nov. 20. Less than a month later, the Cubs dealt Thaiss to the White Sox in exchange for cash considerations.

“Being in one place my whole career for 10 years (in the Angels organization) and then the past couple of weeks have been crazy, but I’m excited for a new opportunity and to meet some new people (and) get to work,” Thaiss said during a video conference Dec. 19, two days after the trade. “It’s really crazy thinking about being in one spot my whole career, but I am excited.”

Thaiss already has reconnected with some familiar faces from his Angles days.

“Between (Sox catching coach) Drew (Butera), (hitting coach) Marcus (Thames) and (bullpen coach) Matty Wise there is a lot of familiarity there,” Thaiss said. “I loved working with Drew and loved working with Matty, and Marcus was one of my favorites too.

“They know me and I know them, and that will help bridge this gap starting over with a new club. And getting comfortable real quick.”

Thaiss and Butera were teammates in 2021.

“We were in (Triple-A) Salt Lake City together,” Thaiss said. “Really helped me, a month or two months, in catching and he really helped me elevate my game from that standpoint. And in 2023 as my catching



Angels catcher Matt Thaiss reaches out for the ball as he warms up before a spring training game on March 21, 2023, in Tempe, Ariz. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

coach, he was unbelievable with drill work he’d do every day, the kind of mentorship he gives.

“Guys like (Sox prospects) Kyle (Teel) and (Edgar Quero) are going to see that; (2024 starting catcher) Korey (Lee) has already seen that. He has a way of making sure we’re on the right path at all times. It’s a special part of what he does.”

Thaiss, 29, has a .208/.313/.342 slash line with 23 doubles, 22 home runs and 79 RBIs in 245 career games during parts of six major-

league seasons with the Angels (2019-24). He had a .204 average (32-for-157) with nine doubles, two home runs and 16 RBIs in 57 games in 2024.

“It was a good season,” he said. “I’ve had conversations already with guys with the White Sox. I expect more from myself.

“I have been working hard to make sure my 2025 is better than my 2024. Excited to up my game and take it to the next level.”

One of his potential new battery mates is right-hander Bryse

Wilson, who signed a one-year, \$1.05 deal with the Sox on Dec. 18.

“There’s potential for me to be in the rotation, and that definitely played a bigger factor in signing with the White Sox,” Wilson said during a video conference Dec. 19. “That’s obviously the main goal and just coming in and fighting for a rotation spot and having a good year.”

Wilson, 27, is 20-21 with a 4.61 ERA and 305 strikeouts in 143 career outings (52 starts) during parts of seven major-league

seasons with the Atlanta Braves (2018-21), Pittsburgh Pirates (2021-22) and Milwaukee Brewers (2023-24). He went 5-4 with a 4.04 ERA and 82 strikeouts in 34 appearances (nine starts) in 2024.

“There were definitely a lot of ups and downs, consistencies or inconsistencies,” he said of his season. “I liked how I’ve battled through all the different roles. Getting the starts, the one innings, the three innings, whatever it may be, just going back and forth between that, I definitely learned a lot.

“In ’23 it was all bullpen; there were a lot of different roles in the bullpen. But throwing in the starts there in the middle of the season this year and then going back to the bullpen, I think there was a lot of adjusting that I didn’t do as fast as I would have liked.

“But learning that going forward is something that I’m very confident in doing if need be. Ready to learn and continue to get better.”

He’s focusing on limiting damage in 2025.

“I gave up quite a few homers (20 in 104 ⅔ innings) last year, so not making as many mistakes (is a focus),” he said. “Whether that comes from different pitch sequencing, usage or just trying to be finer and make less mistakes, that’s something that we’ll talk about and figure out.

“I command the baseball really well, so I’m not too worried about throwing strikes. Would like to develop more of a swing-and-miss pitch this offseason. Just a little bit more strikeouts, little less homers and I think we’ll be on a good path.”

## Sullivan

from Page 1

by comparison.

The Bears promoted Thomas Brown, who had recently been promoted to offensive coordinator to replace Shane Waldron, to replace coach Matt Eberflus, who flunked his timeout test by not calling one when he needed to at the end of the Thanksgiving Day loss in Detroit. Brown flunked his test Thursday by calling a timeout with the clock stopped after changing his mind about punting on fourth down with a little more than two minutes left in the loss to the Seahawks. Next up?

## Chutzpah award

It was a tie between Comcast — for raising its regional sports fee by 5.5% to \$20.25 per month in 2025 despite not carrying CHSN, which televises Hawks, Bulls and Sox games — and Reinsdorf and Hawks Chairman Danny Wirtz for starting CHSN without a carriage deal with Comcast.

## Clocked

Bears fans were ecstatic when GM Ryan Poles was on the clock for the NFL draft, knowing USC quarterback Caleb Williams would be the No. 1 pick.

Bears fans were dismayed upon learning Williams was not a student of Clock Management 101, turning the two-minute drill into the three-minutes-and-counting drill in losses to the Lions and Seahawks.

## It’s so hard to say goodbye

The Bulls traded perhaps their most popular player, Alex Caruso, just as the Sox traded their most popular player, Jake Burger, one year earlier. Caruso was an undrafted player who made his reputation on hustling and defense. Burger overcame years of debilitating injuries to become a home run threat.

Reinsdorf apparently doesn’t tolerate players who play hard and actually relate to their fan base.

## Chess game

Hoyer waited until February to get agent Scott Boras to agree on a three-year, \$80 million deal with two opt-outs for Cody Bellinger instead of the long-term deal Bellinger was seeking. Check. Bellinger had a below-average season and then opted in for \$27.5 million in 2025, forcing Hoyer



Thunder guard Alex Caruso, center, and Bulls center Nikola Vucevic say hello after a Thunder victory over the Bulls at the United Center on Oct. 26. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

into a salary dump on the New York Yankees for next to nothing. Checkmate.

## Top 5 Schriff-isms

The most memorable calls of first-year Sox broadcaster John Schriffen:

- “For all the haters ...”
- “South Side, stand up!”
- “Radio losers”
- “We ain’t takin’ that.”
- “I need this win.”

## Hall-worthy

OK, not everything was awful in 2024. Former Bears Steve McMichael, Devin Hester and Julius Peppers entered the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, while the late former White Sox slugger Dick Allen was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame at the winter meetings.

## Empty stats

Angel Reese’s double-double record with the Sky versus Caleb Williams’ NFL rookie record streak without an interception. Which was more irrelevant in the big picture?

## Adios, acronyms

Sox manager Pedro Grifol’s

“FAST” principle versus Eberflus’ “HITS” principle. Does anyone still remember what they stood for?

## Singe-worthy debut

In his first home game as Cubs manager, Craig Counsell survived a portable fireworks device outside the dugout that spewed sparks during pregame introductions.

“I cut the corner too sharp I guess, felt a little eyebrow singe,” Counsell joked.

The rest of the season provided mostly duds for Counsell, whose team finished 83-79.

## Gone, not forgotten

Former Sox broadcaster Jason Benetti was on the call for a 2-1 Sox loss in Detroit in June when Paul DeJong was doubled off first base to end it.

“How in the world does this happen?” Benetti said on the Tigers broadcast.

Benetti was later on a Westwood One radio broadcast of the Bears’ infamous “timeout” loss in Detroit.

“And the Lions, for the first time since ’16, have won on Thanksgiving, 23-20 the final score,” he said. “How in the world can that happen?”

On both occasions, the Hollywood native knew exactly how it happened.

## Gone, forgotten

Eberflus, Waldron, Grifol, Teresa Weatherspoon, Velus Jones Jr., Héctor Neris and Martin Maldonado.

## Serenity now?

The most ironic Liev Schreiber narration from “Hard Knocks,” the HBO documentary series on Bears training camp: “Serenity is not the same as surrender.”

## Hello again, old friend

Anthony Rizzo, Phil Jackson, Jeremy Roenick, Javier Báez, Patrick Kane, Caruso and Jon Lester all returned to their old stomping grounds to much fanfare.

Chicago never forgets its legends.

## 2024 All-Injury Team

**First team**

- Eloy Jiménez
- Luis Robert Jr.
- Lonzo Ball
- Nate Davis
- Cody Bellinger

**Second team**

- Nick Madrigal
- Zach LaVine
- Jaquan Brisker
- Mike Clevinger
- Seth Jones

## Fool me once ...

For the second straight year, the Chicago Fire’s biggest crowd — 55,385 — turned out to Soldier Field on Aug. 31 to see Inter Miami star Lionel Messi. The Fire drew a record 62,124 against Miami on Oct. 4, 2023, also to watch Messi.

And on both occasions, Messi did not play.

## Perseverance award

*Tony La Russa*

You can take La Russa out of the Sox manager’s seat, but you can’t stop him from hanging around the Sox dugout, batting cage, clubhouse or owner’s suite.

## Quote of the Year

Lester on driving his kids around to events during his retirement: “I run an Uber service without the stars. (My kids) don’t give me any positive comments.”

Amen, said every parent in America.



BEARS

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	IN LONDON	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	WEEK 11	WEEK 12	WEEK 13	WEEK 14	WEEK 15	WEEK 16	WEEK 17	WEEK 18
Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Nov. 28	Dec. 8	Dec. 16	Dec. 22	Dec. 26	TBD
																
TEN	@HOU	@IND	LAR	CAR	JAX	@WAS	@ARI	NE	GB	MIN	@DET	@SF	@MIN	DET	SEA	@GB
Win	Loss	Loss	Win	Win	Win	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	TBD
24-17	19-13	21-16	24-18	36-10	35-16	18-15	29-9	19-3	20-19	30-27 OT	23-20	38-13	30-12	34-17	6-3	TBD



Bears cornerback Tyrique Stevenson tackles Seahawks wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba during the fourth quarter Thursday at Soldier Field. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

# Stevenson developing a knack for getting under opponents’ skin

At least Tyrique Stevenson is putting his yapping to good use on the field now.

It will take some big, game-changing plays for the Bears cornerback to put the Hail Mary play at Washington behind him. And I say that while recognizing that the other 10 defenders still should have been able to get the ball on the ground in that situation. But Stevenson had a knucklehead moment and will pay the price for it.

For the second week in a row Thursday, he drew a penalty from an opponent. Stevenson said something to set off Seattle Seahawks wide receiver DK Metcalf after a Zach Charbonnet run late in the second quarter. Metcalf was called for two personal fouls after the play. Only one was enforced by rule.

This came a week after Stevenson drew a 15-yard penalty against Detroit Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams. Those two had a run-in on Thanksgiving Day at Ford Field after Stevenson tripped Williams as he went out of bounds. That’s the NFL’s version, anyway. Stevenson was fined for the play.

Stevenson has a way about him of getting under the skin of opponents, which can be helpful as long as he keeps himself in check.

“He’s definitely up there (as a trash talker),” fellow cornerback Jaylon Johnson said. “They look for him on tape. He happened to get one and hold his composure today. Last week, Jamo has got some smoke with him. He’s able to get some good penalties.”

What’s more telling is Stevenson went from rotating with Terrell Smith for seven straight games after the Hail Mary to playing 100% of the snaps on defense. The Bears had been swapping out Stevenson and Smith every two defensive series.

“It was definitely out of the ordinary,” Stevenson said. “Definitely didn’t expect it (last week). Everybody kind of found out right before the game. It felt good to be out there for a whole game. I had kind of gotten used to the rotation and it got comfortable. But it did feel good getting the whole game.”

I asked him if it’s a little bit like the running back position. Those guys often talk about getting in a rhythm and getting a feel for the game with more snaps.

“That makes perfect sense,” Stevenson said. “But this is the NFL and you’ve got to adjust on the fly every play. You’re playing the coordinator and the player, and every play is like the first play. You’ve got to adjust.”

The Bears were hoping Stevenson would take a big step forward in his second season, and that hasn’t happened. He had some strong moments early in the season with signs of improved communication and film preparation.

I talked with secondary coach Jon



**Brad Biggs**  
On the Bears

Hoke about it before the game at Washington. I think Stevenson has had to battle to stay locked in since then.

“I had my ups and downs,” he said. “I feel like I did my job. I haven’t given up over five touchdowns. I don’t think I’ve had a bad season. If that one play leads you to dictate I had a bad season, shame on you. I feel like I had an OK season despite the Hail Mary.”

He knows it hasn’t been good enough, and I think he realizes Year 3 will be critical. A new coaching staff will evaluate him, and he has to assert himself as a pro from Day 1.

“Just continue being me,” Stevenson said. “I have to take the next step in my career. I had a good rookie season. I had a good second season with mistakes.”

“Now it’s time to come back and just show how much room I have to grow and where my mindset is with the game and my mindset for taking care of myself so I can perform on the field.”

Performing on the field is what it will take. He can move past the Hail Mary, but it will require some big plays in big moments.

**There’s no telling how a new coaching staff will view Jonathan Ford.** But barring an injury, the defensive tackle has a shot to land a job somewhere next season.

You might never have heard of Ford before. I didn’t know who he was when the Bears signed him off the Green Bay Packers practice squad Dec. 11. He was a seventh-round pick out of Miami in 2022 and was stuck in Green Bay for nearly three seasons without getting on the field in a regular-season game.

Ford is 6-foot-5 and listed at 338 pounds. He told me he’s more like 345. Five days after walking into Halas Hall for the first time, he had one solo tackle, four assists and a tackle for a loss in 25 snaps at Minnesota. He had one tackle the next week in 17 snaps against the Lions and one tackle against the Seahawks.

I’m not suggesting the Bears discovered a star, but men his size who can move don’t just pop up out of the blue, and now Ford has some legitimate NFL game tape for the Bears and the rest of the league to evaluate.

Ford had no inkling of the Bears’ interest until his agent, Tony Paige, called and explained the opportunity. He had a chance to sign with the 53-man roster for the final four games. He would be leaving a team bound for the playoffs but would have a chance — finally — to play.

“It was a no-brainer,” Ford said. “I was eager for the opportunity. I just took it.”

Ford thought he would break through during training camp and the preseason, when he logged five tackles in 72 snaps. But he pulled a

calf muscle in the preseason finale, and the Packers placed him on injured reserve.

“I thought I had a chance to be in the mix,” he said. “Felt I was right there on the threshold. People around the building told me I was right there. Stuff happened and I had to adjust to the new norm at the time.”

After the Packers activated him in October, they waived him. When he went unclaimed, they re-signed him to the practice squad.

“I had to get on the field,” he said. “It was about getting an opportunity.”

The Bears told Ford he could play for them. All he had to do was get a crash course on the terminology and be ready to strap on his helmet. It all happened so quickly, he didn’t have any family from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., or friends in attendance at the game in Minneapolis.

“But there were a lot of people rooting for me,” he said. “Family, friends, old coaches. My phone blew up. It was a good feeling.”

What the future holds for Ford is unknown. He has to stay healthy, and once there’s some tape on him for offensive linemen to study, he’ll have to adjust a bit. With his size, he should have scheme versatility, and finally the Packers’ well-hidden secret is out.

“I didn’t know him before this,” Bears defensive line coach Travis Smith said. “A guy with his size and his movement skills for his size and his physicality, yeah. Just look at the situation and him being in his third year and having not played, and they had been able to keep him on the practice squad. All of a sudden come in and play four, five days later against Minnesota, that was huge.”

Smith agrees there’s enough out there for Ford to have a real shot somewhere after the season.

“No matter what system he is in, when you have big men who are physical and can move, it’s not the old days of Gilbert Brown,” Smith said, referring to the longtime Packers run stuffer (1993-2003). “Those guys have been kind of phased out of the league because there’s a need for a pass rush and the ability to play the perimeter run game.

“But Jonathan is a big man, and you see him overlapping tackles for loss, knocking back O-linemen, getting out of the stack. Plays with great effort. He’s a good find.”

One other thought regarding Ford. It speaks to the incredible depth — and to a degree the health — the Packers have had on their defensive line to keep him under wraps for so long without needing to use him. I chatted with a pro scout from another team who told me he tried to talk his bosses into claiming Ford off waivers in October.

“He’s got a little juice for a big guy,” the scout said. “Interested to see if he can do anything. I like the move, taking a shot on him.”

## Wiederer

from Page 1

lenge the power structure President/CEO Kevin Warren and general manager Ryan Poles have in place, disrupting their vision for how the franchise’s turnaround should occur?

Sure, there are easy ways to reject Carroll as a viable candidate to become the 19th head coach in Bears history, and Warren and Poles should have plenty of alternative choices.

But with reports surfacing over the past week that Carroll is interested in learning more about the job and that the Bears have mutual intrigue, the organization owes it to itself to remain open-minded.

Make a call. Lean in. Listen closely. Let it all sink in.

**‘He’s a believer’**

Isn’t Carroll exactly the kind of candidate Warren described at the start of this month when he offered a list of traits the Bears will value as they seek their next coach?

Tough and demanding: Check.

Can create a culture of accountability: Check.

Bright and creative? Decisive? Check, check and check.

After Thursday night’s game at Soldier Field, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Geno Smith weighed in with his endorsement. Smith played for Carroll for five seasons in Seattle and revived his career during that time.

“Coach Carroll, man, is a special human being,” Smith said. “He’s a believer. He’s a guy who is always going to be upbeat. He’s always going to fight. And he has one way about him. That’s what I love about him.”

That one way is energized. Positive. Charismatic.

For 14 seasons in Seattle, Carroll established a reputation as a master motivator and an authentic leader with a natural ability to connect with players. One league source with experience under Carroll called him “an absolute legend in building belief.”

“Pete can make you feel like you’re 7 feet tall,” the source said. “And there’s no substitute for that kind of energy, for that kind of belief.”

Breaking news: An influx of belief is needed at Halas Hall.

Let’s be real. Are these wayward Bears — last place, 4-12, staggering through a 10-game losing streak — in any position to be picky about anything or anybody right now?

Is a franchise that has finished in the bottom half of the NFC North in 12 of the last 16 seasons worthy of steering away from a coach whose regular-season winning percentage in Seattle was .606?

Can a team that hasn’t enjoyed three consecutive winning seasons since the late 1980s and has only three playoff victories since the turn of the century turn up its nose at a coach who knows what it’s like to hoist a Lombardi Trophy during a confetti shower?

**Reaching out**

Over his 14 seasons in Seattle, Carroll’s teams went to the postseason 10 times and won 10 playoff games. And while we’re on that magic number, the Seahawks averaged 10 victories per season under his watch, a benchmark the Bears have reached only six times since 1992.

At the very least, that feels worthy of a lengthy introductory conversation.

Tell us, Pete, what is it about this position that excites you most? What are your plans for bringing out the best in Williams? What kind of coaching staff would you assemble? Why, in your mind, do you think your time ran out in Seattle?

That conversation has the potential to be incredibly illuminating, with insight from a proven NFL head coach who spent more than a decade leading a franchise that has been a model of stability over the past 25 years.

As the Bears began setting a direction for their coaching search earlier this month, Warren emphasized the need to establish and maintain high expectations.

“The other thing I have found during my years in the (NFL),” he said, “is that good players want to become great and great players want to become legendary.

“And the only way you make a good player great or a great player legendary is to create that environment of accountability and set standards that are extreme and demanding. We will find that person to be able to lead our franchise.”

**Ben thinking**

Sure, Carroll’s Seahawks faltered some during his final three seasons, compiling a 25-26 record plus one blowout playoff loss to the San Francisco 49ers in 2022.

But Carroll won at least seven games in every season he coached. That was the low-water mark. And, man, Chicago, what wouldn’t you give for leadership that at least knows how to operate a parachute?

None of this is to say the Bears should be single-minded when it comes to reaching out to Carroll or potentially pursuing a union. Within league circles, Detroit Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson remains a much hotter name, a young and brilliant strategist who has helped elevate quarterback Jared Goff’s career to a new level while positioning the Lions to make a run at the Super Bowl.

An aggressive pursuit of Johnson undoubtedly should be on the Bears’ immediate to-do list after the season ends next weekend. Johnson probably should remain their top target until they find a reason to come off of that. The powers that be at Halas Hall also might want to cast lines to Mike Vrabel, Brian Flores and Kliff Kingsbury, to Aaron Glenn, Kellen Moore, Joe Brady and Todd Monken.

The quest to create a clear direction never has been more crucial for the Bears. And if it turns out that Carroll deserves more serious consideration, the Bears should embrace and enjoy that vetting process.

They should sense for themselves what Carroll’s unique combination of ambition and optimism feels like. They should immerse themselves in his presence and assess how his natural charisma would play both inside the locker room and in Chicago.

They should ask hard questions about how Carroll would create a demanding environment and establish the kind of top-to-bottom accountability that fluctuated under Matt Eberflus.

They must get a better understanding for what Carroll values most in an offensive coordinator and play caller after cycling through four of them in Seattle — from Jeremy Bates to Darrell Bevell to Brian Schottenheimer to Shane Waldron. Yes, that Shane Waldron.

They should feel out how much say Carroll wants and needs in personnel moves. And they should peer into the fuel gauge and determine what they believe Carroll has left in his tank.

Upon his dismissal last winter in Seattle, Carroll made it clear he wasn’t running out of gas.

“I’m freakin’ jacked,” he said. “I’m fired up. I’m not tired. I’m not worn down,”

Carroll wants to coach again. He’s intrigued by the possibility of doing so in Chicago. His candidacy feels legitimate. The logical next move is to advance the process.



SPORTS

SABRES 6, BLACKHAWKS 2 LATE FRIDAY

Mrázek pulled after 4 1st-period goals

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Alex Tuch had a hat trick for the Buffalo Sabres in a 6-2 win against the Chicago Blackhawks on Friday night.

Dylan Cozens and Jack Quinn each had a goal and an assist in the first period. The Sabres also got goals from Zach Benson and Tuch to build a 4-0 lead, while Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen needed to make just two of his 15 saves in the opening period.

Tuch scored twice in the third period after Seth Jones cut the Sabres lead to 4-2

Buffalo's victory was its second in a row after a 13-game winless streak (0-10-3) that briefly put the Sabres below the Hawks for the worst record in the NHL. Rasmus Dahlin had two assists after tallying four in Buffalo's 7-1

win against the New York Islanders on Monday.

Tyler Bertuzzi had the other goal for the Hawks. Goaltender Petr Mrázek was pulled after allowing four goals on 11 shots in the first period. Backup Arvid Söderblom made 22 saves.

**Takeaways**

**Hawks:** They dropped to 5-14-2 on the road after going winless on a three-game trip. They have lost five consecutive away games with a three-game home winning streak in between. The Hawks play 10 of their next 13 games at the United Center plus Tuesday's home game in the Winter Classic at Wrigley Field.

**Sabres:** Consecutive blowout wins have restored some confidence

and eased fan discontent after the third-longest skid in team history.

**Key moment**

Cozens set up Quinn's one-timer on a rush 15 seconds after Tuch's tip-in to make it 3-0 in the opening 13 minutes.

**Key stat**

The Hawks trailed by three before recording a shot on goal at 13:11 of the first.

**Up next**

The Hawks host the Dallas Stars on Sunday before playing the St. Louis Blues in the NHL Winter Classic on Tuesday at Wrigley Field. The Sabres visit St. Louis on Sunday.



Sabres goaltender Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen makes a save on a shot from Blackhawks center Connor Bedard during the second period on Friday in Buffalo, N.Y. JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP

MEN'S BASKETBALL DEPAUL 84, LOYOLA MARYLAND 65

Benson's double-double leads Demons to victory

Associated Press

NJ Benson had 22 points and 17 rebounds in DePaul's 84-65 victory over Loyola Maryland on Saturday at Wintrust Arena.

Benson was 10 of 14 from the

field and also blocked two shots. Jacob Meyer added 12 points and five boards for the Blue Demons (9-4) and CJ Gunn scored 11.

It was the final nonconference game for DePaul, which had lost

four of its last five before Saturday, including its first two Big East games. Two-time defending national champion Connecticut comes to Wintrust on Wednesday (1 p.m., CBSSN).

Jacob Theodosiou led the Grey-

hounds (5-6) with 22 points, Milos Ilic had 13 points, six rebounds and two steals and Jordan Stiemke scored 10.

DePaul took its first lead 1 minute, 15 seconds into the game and never relinquished it. Benson

scored 14 in the first half to help put the Blue Demons up 44-26 at the break.

An 8-0 second-half run extended the lead to 64-36. Isaiah Rivera scored 10 of his 11 points after halftime.

Bulls

from Page 1

the offense is at risk of becoming fully exposed.

In the early weeks, center Nikola Vučević often laughed when asked if his shooting ever would cool off. It was a question he had asked himself. As tirelessly as he worked in the offseason, Vučević doesn't have a thorough explanation for how his 3-point accuracy has jumped from 29.4% last season to 45.6%.

For Vučević, the goal always has been the same: consistency. He doesn't thrive in tumult. When his shooting becomes streaky, he often struggles to contain his frustration, which then degrades his accuracy. Vučević's volume of shots has been satisfying, but he cares more about sustaining a high level of accuracy than jacking up a bunch of shots.

But the trend is beginning to turn for Vučević. He shot 35% from 3-point range over the last five games before Saturday, going 0-for-4 in a loss to the Celtics and 2-for-8 in Monday's loss to the Milwaukee Bucks.

Vučević isn't alone. The Bulls are trending downward in 3-point accuracy, dropping to 35.9% over the last 10 games before Saturday. This has been heightened by the absence of key players such as Lonzo Ball and Ayo Dosunmu, who not only boost the team's 3-point shooting, but also can facilitate playmaking to create better opportunities.

The Bulls' long-range attempts haven't wavered even as their accuracy has dipped. Instead, they are taking more and more 3s as defenses begin to cede the 3-point arc in preference of packing the paint and removing all other avenues of scoring.

Thursday's loss to the Atlanta Hawks, in which the Bulls shot 51.2% (22 of 43) from long range, encapsulated just how dependent they have become — on both 3-point shooting and the individual brilliance behind it.

Jevon Carter buoyed the offense with an improbable flurry of six 3s in the first quarter. On the score-sheet, this created the facade of a robust offense as the Bulls pulled ahead by double digits.

In reality, Carter's scoring belied a complete lack of scoring from the



Bulls center Nikola Vucevic walks on the court during the second half against the Hawks on Thursday in Atlanta. MIKE STEWART/AP

rest of the roster, which made only six shots inside the arc in the first quarter. Once Carter's hot streak dimmed, the Bulls floundered.

The pattern repeated in the third quarter, with Zach LaVine burying six 3s. The Bulls seemed to settle into a comfortable blowout, only to have it evaporate in the fourth quarter.

The 141-133 loss, their third straight defeat, highlighted that while 3-point shooting is an easy way to blow out an opponent, quarters such as the second and fourth — in which the Bulls made only three 3-pointers each — can

leave the team paralyzed for scoring options.

To be clear, the Bulls should be able to win any game in which they score more than 130 points. Thursday's failure falls squarely on the defense. But finding a way to be less vulnerable to shooting streaks and skids is imperative for maintaining competitiveness in the new year.

There are a few ways to accomplish this. The Bulls could utilize Vučević more inside the arc. Defenses are trying to knock him out of his typical shooting rhythm, which is opening mismatches and post-ups down low that the Bulls

aren't hitting. Improved entry passes — and better finishing at the rim from Vučević — would reestablish some balance.

The Bulls also could benefit from utilizing LaVine's playmaking more consistently. He has spent most of this season showcasing his ability to do more with less, averaging an improved 22.3 points despite taking two fewer shots per game than the previous two seasons. But the offense finds its true rhythm when LaVine pushes the ball downhill early in a game.

The best way for the Bulls to ride out shooting slumps is to

create better 3-point shots. They shouldn't stop taking 3s — quite the opposite. The offense has been revitalized by the enthusiasm with which the players have bought into a new style of play. Even when the 3s aren't falling, the ball movement and off-ball creativity established by the system is critical to the success of the offense.

For the Bulls, the answer is taking better 3-point shots, not fewer. Whether they can continue to create those looks — even as defenses adjust to combat their greatest strength — will be the focal point of the next stage of the season.

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# NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Manning, Gates among Hall finalists



Two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning, pictured, former Defensive Players of the Year Luke Kuechly and Terrell Suggs, and TE Antonio Gates are among the finalists for the 2025 Pro Football Hall of Fame class. The Hall on Saturday announced the names of the 15 modern-era finalists who advanced from a group of 25 to the final stage of voting. The group includes five players in their first year of eligibility, nine who were finalists last year and WR Steve Smith Sr., who made it this far for the first time in his fourth year of eligibility. The selection committee will vote next month to pick the class of between three and five modern-era players. Manning, Kuechly and Suggs are finalists in their first year of eligibility, along with kicker Adam Vinatieri and former Baltimore guard Marshal Yanda. Gates was a first-time finalist for the 2024 class and is back at this stage along with DE Jared Allen; WRs Torrey Holt and Reggie Wayne; OLs Willie Anderson and Jahri Evans; DBs Darren Woodson, Eric Allen and Rodney Harrison; and RB Fred Taylor also advancing.

Dodgers set to re-sign Hernández



Teoscar Hernández is headed back to the Dodgers. The free agent outfielder has agreed with the reigning World Series champions on a \$66 million, three-year contract. After initially looking for a three-year contract that never materialized in free agency last off-season, Hernández and his representatives turned their focus to getting the best short-term deal from the best team interested. That led to a \$23.5 million, one-year deal with the Dodgers, where he joined a loaded lineup that included Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman. Hernández wanted to play deep into October, and did, becoming a World Series champion during an All-Star season when he was the Home Run Derby champion and won his third career Silver Slugger, which got him a \$1 million bonus. The Dominican outfielder had a huge impact as the Dodgers won their second World Series title in five seasons. He hit .272 with a career-high 33 homers and 99 RBIs in 154 regular-season games. Hernández had made it clear he wanted to stay in Los Angeles, saying that was his priority.

Georgia's Beck to enter NFL draft



Georgia quarterback Carson Beck on Saturday announced his plans to enter the NFL draft, five days after having season-ending elbow surgery. Beck, a fifth-year senior, made his NFL plans official on social media. Beck suffered a right elbow injury in the first half of the Bulldogs' 22-19 overtime win over Texas in the SEC title game on Dec. 7 in Atlanta. Beck had surgery on Monday to repair his ulnar collateral ligament in the elbow. The procedure was performed by Dr. Neal ElAttrache in Los Angeles. Beck is expected to begin throwing next spring. He could have returned for a sixth season but instead will enter the NFL draft. Beck posted on Instagram: "The past five years at the University of Georgia have been nothing short of a dream come true and I will forever cherish the memories that have been made." Gunner Stockton, who took over for Beck in the second half against Texas, will start for Georgia on Wednesday in the Sugar Bowl against Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff quarterfinals. Beck has started every game of the 2023 and 2024 seasons. He was 24-3 as a starter. —AP



Notre Dame's Deion Colzie (0) celebrates with teammates after making an interception during the first quarter against Indiana in the College Football Playoff opener on Dec. 20 at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana. MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Answering the call

Depleted Irish defense hopes to make an impact

By Curt Rallo  
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame's defense set a dominating tone early in its College Football Playoff opener against Indiana. The Fighting Irish stuffed the highest-scoring team in the CFP field for a 14-3 halftime lead, but then Notre Dame suffered a gut punch. Defensive lineman Rylie Mills sacked Indiana quarterback Kurtis Rourke on the first play of the second half, and had to be helped off the field with a knee injury. Heading into its CFP quarterfinal game against second-seeded Georgia, the Fighting Irish are determined to make sure the setback doesn't turn into a letdown. The Fighting Irish (12-1) finished with a 27-17 victory against Indiana, giving up two touchdowns in the final two minutes after building a 27-3 lead. Now Notre Dame has to replace Mills, its sack leader this season, for the game against Georgia (11-2). Kickoff for the Sugar Bowl is scheduled for Wednesday at the Superdome in New Orleans. "So we feel badly for (Mills), but at the same time ... we just don't flinch," Notre Dame defensive coordinator Al Golden said. "We move forward. It's time for somebody else to have an opportunity, and I know they'll be ready." After a shocking 16-14 loss to Northern Illinois in the second game of the season, Notre Dame's defense led the charge for an 11-game winning streak that lifted the Fighting Irish when the offense struggled to find its footing. And the defense has done it while being forced to replace a series of key

players. Mills was a force on Notre Dame's defense, which is ranked first in the nation in team passing efficiency defense (96.94), first in turnovers gained (29), first in defensive touchdowns (6) and third in scoring defense (13.8). Notre Dame's defense punished opponents this season despite losing four starters to season-ending injuries — linemen Mills, Jordan Botelho and Boubacar Traore (all knee injuries), and cornerback Benjamin Morrison (hip). Freshman linebacker Kyngstonn Viliamu-Asa (knee injury) hasn't played since he was hurt in the Army game. Jason Onye, a defensive tackle, hasn't played since the fifth game because of a personal issue. Seventh-seeded Notre Dame needs the defense to come up big once more against powerful Georgia and a quarterback it knows little about. Notre Dame head coach Marcus Freeman is counting on Gabe Rubio and Donovan Hinish to step up and take turns filling in for Mills. "You don't prepare them in a week," Freeman said of players stepping up to replace starters. "They've been preparing every single day all season long. "That's why every rep you do in a practice matters and is evaluated," Freeman said. "You don't know when that rep is going to be thrust against Georgia. You have to prepare in a way in practice that you're improving, but you're ready if your number is called." Howard Cross III, a defensive lineman who has teamed up with Mills to be the leaders of an imposing defensive front, had just returned to the Fighting Irish lineup for the playoffs after missing three games with an ankle injury. "It was heartbreaking," Cross said of


seeing Mills go down. Cross said it's been an unusual season with the injuries, but facing a 14th game, everybody is dealing with pain. "The whole thing is no one's healthy, no matter what position you are, no matter what you're doing," Cross said. "Your hamstring could be sore, like somebody's hurt in some way, shape or form. Some worse than others. "It is kind of a testament to the mental toughness of this team," Cross said of the defense always being ready. "The whole thing for us is like, God forbid you go down, the next guy up has to know exactly what they're doing. We are expecting the next guy up to have the same or better production than the guy that's starting right now." Notre Dame's defense faces the challenge of replacing Mills and getting ready for a Georgia offense led by Gunner Stockton, who replaces injured starter Carson Beck. "You evaluate, obviously, schematically, what they've done all season," Freeman said of preparing a different look from the Bulldogs. "Then you have a separate tape of what Stockton, the new quarterback, has done. I think we have 80-something plays of him playing quarterback. He can run their offense. He does some things a little bit differently. He can extend plays with his legs. He's a good athlete." Georgia head coach Kirby Smart doesn't anticipate a diminished Notre Dame defense despite the personnel issues. "They play great defense and great pass rush," Smart said. "They're physical up front. They affect the pass rush with how hard they play, and they got really good defensive backs. They play man-to-man. They get up on you, put their hands on you."


NFL PREDICTIONS


## Week 17


By Rob Maaddi | Associated Press


**This season**  
Overall: Straight up: 171-72. Against spread: 132-107-4.


 **New York Jets at Buffalo (minus 8½):** The Bills will know going in if they have a shot at the AFC's No. 1 seed. If the Chiefs beat the Steelers and lock it up, Buffalo's main priority will be keeping Josh Allen and everyone healthy. Still, they can rest in Week 18. After a subpar effort against the Patriots, the Bills can't take Aaron Rodgers and the Jets lightly. **BILLS 27-16**


 **Las Vegas (minus 1) at New Orleans:** The Raiders already hurt their draft positioning by beating the Jaguars last week. Another win could further knock them down and negatively impact their quest for a franchise quarterback. But coach Antonio Pierce wants to win and the players don't care about draft slots. The Saints can't get to the end of the season fast enough. **RAIDERS 20-16**


 **Carolina at Tampa Bay (minus 8):** The Panthers have embraced the spoiler role and coach Dave Canales will try to derail his former team's playoff hopes. Bryce Young keeps improving and Chuba Hubbard is having a career year. The Buccaneers would've lost to Carolina last month if Hubbard didn't fumble in overtime. Baker Mayfield and a turnover-prone offense have to overcome a depleted defense that couldn't stop Cooper Rush and the Cowboys. **BUCCANERS 26-20**

 **Tennessee at Jacksonville (minus 1):** The winner of this one really loses because it'll be costly in the race for draft positioning. **TITANS 19-17**


 **Indianapolis (minus 7½) at New York Giants:** The Giants have come too far to lose the No. 1 pick in the draft. The Colts are clinging to slim playoff hopes. Jonathan Taylor and Anthony Richardson combined for 308 yards and four TDs against the Titans. They could have similar results against New York. **COLTS 27-16**

 **Dallas at Philadelphia (minus 7½):** The Cowboys are left to play for a winning record after being eliminated from the playoff race. The Eagles still need a win to secure the NFC East, but are almost locked into the No. 2 seed. If Jalen Hurts can't play because of a concussion, Dallas has a shot against Kenny Pickett. Saquon Barkley is 268 yards away from breaking Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record. He could have a big day facing the fifth-worst run defense in the NFL. **EAGLES 24-17**

 **Green Bay (minus 1) at Minnesota:** The Vikings are two wins away from the NFC's No. 1 seed with Sam Darnold. Let that sink in. But those won't be easy victories. Minnesota has to beat Green Bay and then Detroit on the road to win the NFC North and get home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Vikings defeated the Packers 31-29 in Green Bay in September. They're getting the Packers on short rest off a Monday night rout. The Vikings have been overlooked and underrated. This is a statement game. **VIKINGS 27-22**

 **Miami (minus 6½) at Cleveland:** Tua Tagovailoa and the Dolphins still have slim playoff changes and get an opportunity to win a game in cold weather. A loss helps the Browns hold onto a top-five pick in the draft. **DOLPHINS 25-16**

 **Atlanta at Washington (minus 4):** The Falcons regained control of their NFC South hopes when the Buccaneers lost. Now, they have a tough test against the Commanders with Michael Penix Jr. making his second start facing off against Jayden Daniels in another matchup between rookie QBs. Daniels beat Caleb Williams and the Bears earlier this season on a Hail Mary. Washington clinches a playoff berth with a win or a loss by Tampa Bay. **COMMANDERS 24-23**

 **Detroit (minus 3½) at San Francisco:** The Lions aim to avenge their loss in the NFC championship game, though this matchup lost its luster because the 49ers are eliminated from the playoff race. Detroit clinches the NFC's No. 1 seed with a win if the Packers beat the Vikings. If Minnesota beats Green Bay, the Lions have to beat the Vikings in Week 18 to win the division and secure the top seed so the result against San Francisco won't matter. In that case, Dan Campbell could choose to rest some of his starters in preparation for a winner-take-all regular-season finale. **LIONS 26-23**



Jared Goff and the Lions have a chance to wrap up the No. 1 seed in the NFC this weekend. KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AP



Chicago Tribune  
A+E



Comedian Bob Newhart at the now-gone Mill Run Theatre in Niles in 1973. WILLIAM VENETTA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# WHO WE LOST

Remembering the good times and grand talents of the departed in 2024



Music producer Quincy Jones answers questions about his autobiography and music anthology in a hotel room at the Ritz-Carlton in Chicago on Oct. 11, 2001. ALEX GARCIA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Chicago folk singer Ella Jenkins performs during "Adventures in Rhythm" for children attending a book fair on Nov. 11, 1963. JOHN AUSTAD/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Chita Rivera arrives at the 72nd annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York. EVAN AGOSTINI/AP 2018

By Rick Kogan and staff  
Chicago Tribune

It is a chore each December for my arts and entertainment colleagues and me to think about death and departure. We are compelled to remember some of those people, places and things that vanished in the previous year from the world we cover.

We make a list and on it, of course, are some famous names, but also others with just compelling life stories. These annual lists are subjective and could easily go on and on. They don't necessarily recount the year's most newsworthy obituaries. I can speak for my pals when I tell you that we do not handle this chore with tears. In recalling lives gone, we remember the pleasure and thrills that those lives provided, sometimes over decades. Writing and reading these notes from the beyond, so to speak, bring more smiles than tears. So, read what we have to say and know that this coming new year, like any new year, is filled with promise and pleasure.

FROM TRIBUNE WRITER  
CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI

Tommy DeLorenzo, who died at 38 in October, was a master balloon artist — balloon décor, balloon sculpture, balloon arches. If you could picture it, he could recreate it out of inflated clusters of rubber. He made astronauts out of balloons. He made palm trees out of balloons. He once constructed a hot air balloon out of balloons. He founded his business, Balloons by Tommy, at 14. He grew up in Elk Grove Village. Balloons by Tommy continues in Bensenville with his husband, Scott DeLorenzo. If you have attended any balloon-friendly events in the Chicago area in the past 24 years, there's a decent chance those balloons were placed there by Tommy and his staff: Weddings and product launches and pride parades, baby showers and bar mitzvahs.

His balloons would resemble cascades of oxygen bubbles sailing upward, strands of DNA, billowing sheets of candy buttons, or phosphorus deep-sea beasts made of LEDs. His work was so beloved that if there is one thing to salvage from the 2024 presidential race, one could argue it was made in Tommy's name. The contract for the balloon-drop finale

at the Democratic National Convention in August went to Treb Heining, a balloon artist whose work punctuated Super Bowls, Olympics and 14 party conventions (including Milwaukee's Republican National Convention in July). He decided to make the drop a tribute to Tommy, who was diagnosed in 2022 with Stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma. At Heining's urging, 55 balloon artists from 18 states and Canada came to Chicago, to assemble 100,000 balloons. They wore green ribbons reading "Tommy."

Even if you didn't know any of this, that balloon drop felt different: From the United Center rafters, white balloons floated down very slowly, as if they wanted to stretch out the moment a few extra seconds. Next came the blue balloons, then the red. Tommy watched from a hospital bed. Balloons for miles, inflated with love.

Dennis McClendon, who died Aug. 8 at 67 from complications with pancreatic cancer, drew maps for a living. Yet that's a vast understatement. McClendon was so prolific, that if you live or work in Chicago, he probably defines your day without you even realizing. Some

Turn to Lost, Page 6



Seiji Ozawa conducts at the Chicago Symphony Center. JOHN BARTLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2001



British actress Maggie Smith portrays a narcissistic teacher in "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie." GETTY

## REVIEW

# Wrightwood 659 shows Himalayan artworks then and now

By Lori Waxman  
For the Chicago Tribune

Sonam Dolma Brauen has surrounded a towering 13th century copper stupa, a type of Buddhist shrine, with 200 white clay mounds arranged in concentric circles. These tsatsas, or small devotional sculptures recently made by participants and each containing a wish for peace, are modeled after the mold carried by the artist's family during their escape from Tibet when she was 6 years old.

Her "Field of Wishes" perfectly epitomizes the



Losel Yauch's "Procession Immemorial" is on view in "Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now" at Wrightwood 659. MICHAEL TOPEA

concept of "Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now," an exhibition that pairs art by 28 living artists of the

Himalayas and its diaspora with traditional religious objects from Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and surround-

ing areas. The historical objects belong to the collection of New York's Rubin Museum, which curated the show as the final one in its physical space before its doors closed last fall. It'll be on view in Chicago at Wrightwood 659 through mid-February.

"Reimagine" is full of artists and ideas that will be new to most viewers, with bygone Himalayan art being underrepresented in this city, contemporary Himalayan art not at all. The new work runs the gamut from manga to giant mirrored mandalas, junk assemblage to fine art photography,

digital avatars to upcycled fabric sculptures. Alas, the historic statues and pictures end up being mostly overshadowed; it is clear they are here primarily in service of their newer, bigger, and flashier descendants, to provide cultural context but rarely to take center stage. We mostly like big, bold, clever things today, and here they are, outshining their esoteric, modest, sacred inspirations.

Fortunately, there is plenty worth looking at, even at the expense of gems like "The Demoness of Tibet," a strange early 20th century painting

that depicts the legendary taming of a bothersome spirit by pinning her down with Buddhist temples between cosmic mountain ranges. Her supine form is hard to notice in a room dominated by a full-size herd of ghostly riderless horses, tenderly woven from willow branches, old silk saris, and raffia by New York-born Losel Yauch based on her grandfather's stories of growing up in eastern Tibet. Yauch's horses are scrappily beautiful elegies for a place long lost to time and exile, but

Turn to Wrightwood, Page 8



# Top 10 Broadway shows of 2024

‘Tommy,’ powerful plays and a sizzling ‘Sunset Blvd.’



Chris Jones

NEW YORK — This last year was busy on Broadway, with new musicals and several impressive plays featuring ensemble casts. As always, the best shows asked the fundamental questions of human existence and focused on how human relationships can both destroy our certainty and save our souls. And the shows listed below also managed to be great nights out on the town. Here are my 10 favorites, in order.

**1. “Stereophonic”:** By the end of “Stereophonic,” you were sick of the characters kvetching, arguing, loving and creating music in a 1970s recording studio, a la Fleetwood Mac. Playwright David Adjmi’s secret sauce here was to center his observations on a Rosencrantz or a Guildenstern, in this case, the sound engineer, a kind of outsider. Through this laconic character’s eyes, we watched a perfectly cast ensemble explore what it is like to collaborate as well as show us why some of our most intense and important relationships come with a sell-by date and disappear into the dust. As do we, with only our creative works remaining. This show was an object lesson in the importance of detail and veracity; get the small stuff right and people will contemplate their own mortality all night long.

**2. “The Hills of California”:** Jez Butterworth’s richly layered drama about a Blackpool Madam Rose in northern England and her singing daughters, some talented, some not, is a superbly constructed play set in two 20th century eras, linking how families change and curdle with the falling economic fortunes of what once was the closest Britain ever came to its own Las Vegas. The show was directed by Sam Mendes and featured an all-British cast working together with great intensity. The experience was as riveting as Broadway gets. For anyone worried about becoming their mother, this play evoked echoes of Greek tragedy to suggest that you might as well just practice acceptance. A shivering, exciting piece of theater.

**3. “Sunset Blvd.”:** The British director Jamie Lloyd has become the No. 1 Andrew Lloyd Webber whisperer, charged with updating his grand, fin-de-20th century spectacles for the millennial hipster aesthetic (“Evita” is next). But this was an especially effective show because Lloyd’s interest in fusing film and theater reflected the original theme of the piece and its source movie. Better yet, his minimalism, pretentious as it can seem, here became an ideal match for the florid romanticism in the Lloyd Webber score, to my mind his best. What impressed the most of all was the searing Nicole Scherzinger. This great star ditched the typical tragic turban and creaking Norma Desmond



Nicole Scherzinger in “Sunset Blvd.” on Broadway at the St. James Theatre in New York. **MARC BRENNER**

voice in favor of evoking a still-sexy beast, sizzling with desire all night long.

**4. “Maybe Happy Ending”:** This delightfully quirky and deceptively shrewd musical from Will Aronson and Hue Park about two Korean robots who fall in love uses battery life as an effective proxy for human mortality. Remarkably, clear rules are established, the metaphor perfectly fits the A.I. moment and the result is a show that is both adorable and creepy. Much of its appeal comes from its charming stars, Darren Criss and (especially) Helen J. Shen, but Michael Arden’s direction is notable not just for the humanity (irony intended) of the production but for how well it manipulates the audience’s eye so that the physical production reflects the growing fusion between robotic and carbon-based views of the world.

**5. “Gypsy”:** Madam Rose long has been known for her powerhouse belt and for being a bad mother, but Audra McDonald surely is the best actress ever to play this role and she has some different ideas. Universalized by a multi-racial cast, this “Gypsy” feels more emotional than previous incarnations. That’s partly due to McDonald’s empathetic performance, as supported by Joy Woods as a cynical, wound-tight Louise, her hopes for normalcy lost too soon, but also to the rich texture of director George C. Wolfe’s production that faults not so much Rose herself but the world beyond the theater’s doors. Here was yet another reminder of the sacrifices showfolk make: the heartbreak, the likelihood of failure and the cruel passage of time for which aging humans are never well-prepared.

**6. “The Who’s Tommy”:** A much under-appreciated revival of the superb rock musical by Pete Townshend and The Who, finally given a new Broadway production that had the guts to confront head-on the issue of

child abuse that always informed the original 1969 album. “Tommy” always was an existential howl of boomer anger at the psychological fallout from their emotionally repressed parents; it just took years for the stakes to become clear. Alas, many tastemakers did not understand the importance of what admonitions and reconciliations were being attempted in this radically different remount, even though the show was superbly directed by Des McAnuff, who poured much of his self into this fearless, superbly performed ensemble production.

**7. “Suffs”:** This new Shaina Taub musical was another underrated show of 2024. Granted, a weighty topic like the history of women’s suffrage didn’t offer the kind of escapism-empowerment fusion found at “Hell’s Kitchen,” “& Juliet” and “Six.” But Taub’s show, an achievement of great note for its courageous composer, lyricist and star, actually made its audience feel those things more than those other shows. Sure, this was very much a gathering of the politically like-minded and its timing was not ideal. But this was also a historical musical that did what all the best Broadway musicals do: It taught, humanized, empowered, entertained and moved an audience.

**8. “Mary Jane”:** Amy Herzog’s beautiful little play, written with the authority that comes from experience, is about an ordinary young mother doing her best to save her very sick child. More than that, “Mary Jane” explained far better than any murderous vigilante why ordinary people are so upset at the healthcare system. Part of our collective malaise comes from our timeless frustrations with sickness and mortality; healing is always a thankless job when it fails. But Herzog, and the play’s gut-wrenching star, Rachel McAdams, still made

clear that ordinary human kindnesses on the part of those in the medical profession go an awfully long way toward stemming that pain.

**9. “Oh, Mary!”:** Cole Escola’s chaotic one-human version of poor Mary Todd Lincoln casts the former first lady as a wild-eyed wannabe cabaret star marinated in whiskey, paint thinner and self-delusion — and the star of an uproariously anachronistic farce that arrived on Broadway during the summer from edgier points downtown. A satiric soupçon at just 80 minutes, “Oh, Mary!” was not supposed to still be running but Broadway audiences have rightly demanded otherwise, mostly because the show packs in more hard laughs per minute than any other show. Escola’s career now seems set. This show showed the power of searing satire blended with gobs of empathy for the woman who had to follow the guy in the top hat around, losing her mind in the process.

**10. “Doubt: A Parable”:** An immaculate revival from director Scott Ellis and the Roundabout Theatre of John Patrick Shanley’s taut masterpiece about the now-familiar sex abuse scandal in the Catholic church. “Doubt,” though, also is about the difficulty of making crucial decisions without certainty — something to which everyone can relate. In 2024, this show felt like an ode to those women, and some men, who found the courage to stand up against abusers and take the side of the young and vulnerable. Then again, every character in this production appeared to be in some kind of pain. As the central nun fighting off a sly priest, Amy Ryan revealed a character slowly realizing that her unswerving belief in the hierarchy she serves — the way she had ordered her entire life to date — is immoral. Time to stand up.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic. [cjones5@chicagotribune.com](mailto:cjones5@chicagotribune.com)



Helen J. Shen and Darren Criss in “Maybe Happy Ending” on Broadway at the Belasco Theatre in New York. **MATTHEW MURPHY AND EVAN ZIMMERMAN**



The company of “The Who’s Tommy” on Broadway at the Nederlander Theatre in New York. **MATTHEW MURPHY AND EVAN ZIMMERMAN**



Nikki M. James as Ida B. Wells and cast in “Suffs” on Broadway at the Music Box Theatre in New York. **JOAN MARCUS**



Rachel McAdams and Lily Santiago in “Mary Jane” on Broadway at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre in New York. **MATTHEW MURPHY**



Juliana Canfield in “Stereophonic” on Broadway at the John Golden Theatre in New York. **JULIETA CERVANTES**

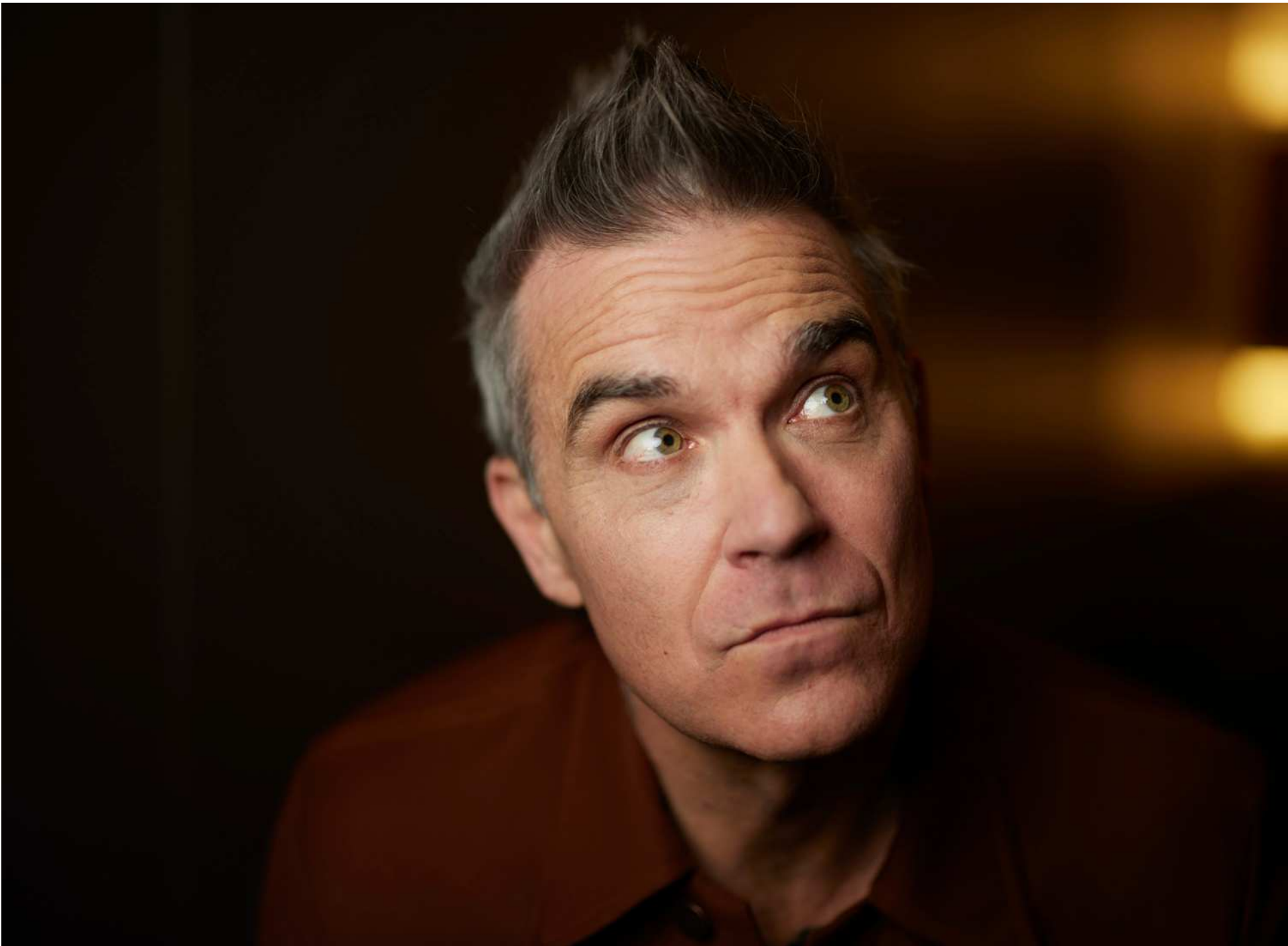


Leanne Best, Ophelia Lovibond, Helena Wilson and Laura Donnelly in “The Hills of California” on Broadway at the Broadhurst Theatre in New York. **JOAN MARCUS**



Audra McDonald in “Gypsy” on Broadway at the Majestic Theatre in New York. **JULIETA CERVANTES**





Robbie Williams, seen Nov. 13, has had some emotional responses at screenings of the film “Better Man.” MATT LICARI/INVISION

# Singer: ‘I’ve been a cheeky monkey all my life’

Director suggested using a CGI chimp in Williams’ biopic

By Jake Coyle  
Associated Press

It was after one particularly emotional premiere of the new biopic about his life that Robbie Williams resolved he couldn’t be “the crying guy” at every screening.

“Better Man,” which chronicles the life of Williams, the British pop star and former Take That singer, can hit him differently at different times. Jet lag is a factor. So is who’s in the building. One screening with his band, he says, was “healing.” But he’s self-conscious enough about all the emotion that he can be defensive about it.

“In real life, I don’t cry that much,” Williams says and then smiles. “You have a (expletive) biography about you and have the world go, ‘I’ve seen you and heard you’ and come tell me how you deal with it.”

One twist? The Williams heard in “Better Man” is Williams, himself. But the Williams seen in the movie is a computer-generated chimpanzee. Michael Gracey, who directed the 2017 musical hit “The Greatest Showman,” had the novel idea that Williams should get the big-screen biopic treatment, but with a monkey. Relying on Weta’s motion



Williams, left, and Ayda Field Williams arrive at the Golden Globes first-time nominee celebration on Dec. 17 at The Maybourne Beverly Hills in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

capture technology, the actor Jonno Davies stands in for Williams.

In “Better Man,” now in limited theaters and expanding Jan. 10, that makes for a compelling spin on the music biopic, partly because it’s still a quite R-rated journey through the ups and downs of mega pop stardom.

Williams also hopes it will expand his footprint in America, where he’s famously less famous than he is in Europe.

“Maybe this film moves the needle for me,” Williams, 50, says. “Or if it doesn’t, I’ll do something else.”

What both a conversation with Williams and “Better Man” have in common is a frankness about the experience of fame. More than it’s a litany of chart-topping successes, “Better Man” is a chronicle of fame-induced trauma,

complete with drug addiction and mental breakdown.

Williams, now, though, is a reformed bad boy — a family man with four kids with all kinds of plans, like building hotels and buying sports teams.

“At the moment,” he says, “I have the wide-optimism of a new artist.”

This interview with Williams has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q: Did your identification with monkeys predate “Better Man”?**

**A:** Well, let me know, in the biography of your life, what animal would play you?

**Q: I don’t know. A chipmunk?**

**A:** I asked my friend this morning, Joey McIntyre, from New Kids on the Block, and he said, “An owl.” And I agreed with him. An owl would be good

for him. Did this predate? I guess so, subconsciously. My MO has been cheeky. What’s more cheeky than a cheeky monkey? I’ve been a cheeky monkey all my life. There’s no more cheekier monkey than the coke-snorting, sex-addict monkey that we find in the movie.

**Q: I’ve never seen a monkey do so much coke.**

**A:** Yeah, we’ve seen a bear do a lot of coke but never a monkey.

**Q: Do you think it’s easier for audiences to empathize with a monkey than for you?**

**A:** We care for animals more than we care for humans, most of us. I guess there is a removal, as well. It’s very much a human story but if you’re watching it and someone’s playing Robbie Williams, you’re thinking: Does he look like him? Does he act like him? Does he talk like him?

**Q: As someone who has been open about difficulties in life, you’re not new to the idea that people don’t have a lot of sympathy for wealthy pop stars. You were probably suffering very human things at a time when people didn’t see you as human.**

**A:** I think they have sympathy once you come through the other side, and you’re talking about something in the past. Everybody loves a story of redemption. The

redemption is: I was this guy who experienced this thing, but I’ve endured and overcome it. You throw in a word like “endure,” and I can already hear British people going “(Expletive) you! What did you endure? Knickers being thrown at you.” Dude, I was mentally ill. I still am, but I’m in a good place. I couldn’t derive joy from anything because I was mentally ill. I won a sprinting race with two broken legs.

**Q: It was that bad?**

**A:** Yeah. My story’s not unusual. There’s a boy band documentary that’s going to be on tele in Britain that I’ve taken part in, and everyone’s story is the same. They’ve got the bends. They experienced this thing that warped them and gave them mental breakdowns.

I can’t apologize for the truth, and the truth is there’s something about this matrix-bending, washing-machine fame that’s deeply unhealthy. No matter what job you have or what path you choose in life, you spend the second 20 years of your life sorting out the first 20 years. It just so happens I did it in public and told people exactly what was going as it was going on. And still do.

**Q: Fame, as you describe it, would seem clearly unhealthy. But does some part of you need it?**

**A:** It’s different now.

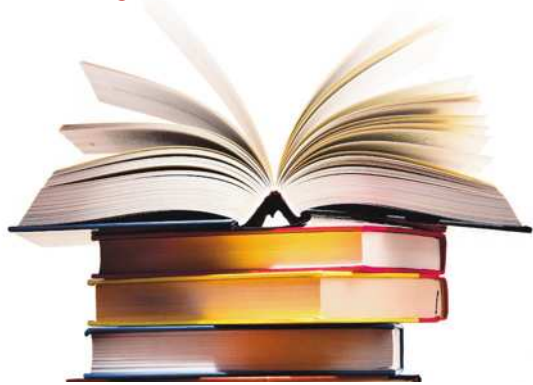
I (expletive) love it. I wouldn’t trade it for the world. I’m 50, and I’m incredibly grateful for fame. It facilitates everything that I need and want to do with my life. I was just too young to receive it, and I wasn’t surrounded by good people. And I wasn’t good people. But now I can’t speak highly enough of it. (Laughs.)

**Q: So how did you turn your life around? You’ve often credited your wife.**

**A:** Ayda was credited with saving my life before she saved my life. I was like, “You (expletive).” I was like: “I’ve done a lot of work on myself here. Don’t give her all the credit.” But now I can give her way more credit than I was giving her because I’ve realize how much she’s done.

Without that grounding, my life would be a lot different. I probably wouldn’t be here. Because I have somebody in my life that’s worth me being the best version of myself 24 hours out of the day, I’m better. And because there’s four young souls that need looking after, my purpose is a lot different. I suppose my purpose at one time, due to finding hedonism incredibly intoxicating, was to be the most (expletive) person in the room. But now I want to be the most well person in the room. I intend to be the welllest person in the mother-(expletive) room. (Laughs.)

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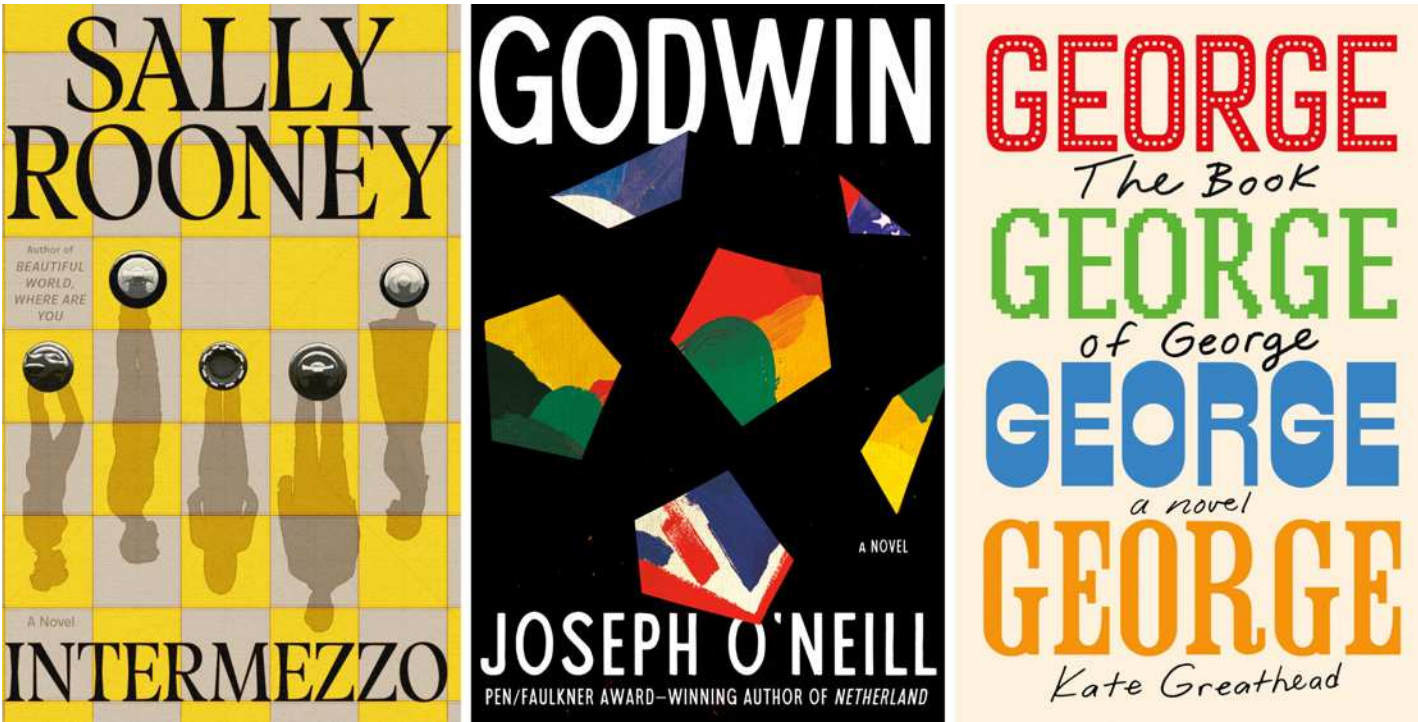
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BIBLIORACLE

More Biblioracle Book Awards for fiction

By John Warner  
For the Chicago Tribune

My favorite part of this gig is that whenever I am reading, I can claim to be working. When you can figure out how to make an activity you enjoy and would be doing anyway your work, you're one lucky person.

But because I can claim reading as work, I end up reading many more books than I have the time or space to cover here, even when I'm writing every week. There are so many works of fiction that I couldn't cover in depth, I realized they deserve their own Biblioracle Book Awards.

BOOK I WAS LEAST SURPRISED BY HOW SATISFYING IT WAS OF THE YEAR

I have been a fully committed Sally Rooney fan from the moment I read her first novel, "Conversations with Friends," so I was confident that "Intermezzo" would deliver, and lo and behold it did. I think I didn't write about it because there is so much public "discourse" about Rooney and her work, while I'd rather just kick back

and immerse myself in the story of two brothers, the young, awkward chess genius Ivan, and the older, dashing lawyer Peter, as they navigate the grief of their father's death, and the complications surrounding the women they love.

HOW'D SHE DO THAT? BOOK OF THE YEAR

The main character, George, in Kate Greathead's "The Book of George" is a smart, sometimes charming, sometimes callous, self-sabotaging young man who over the course of the book becomes a somewhat older man, and then older still. George should be frustrating in his refusal to move past his "Georgeness," but as told through a series of chapter vignettes marking different important moments in George's life, Greathead manages to intimately connect us to her main character in a way that pays off handsomely by the end of the journey.

HOW'D HE DO THAT? BOOK OF THE YEAR

With "Godwin," Joseph O'Neill takes two characters who are only tangentially

related to each other and somehow intertwines their stories in ways that work both in terms of story and theme. Mark Wolfe is a prickly technical writer with a wife, child and wayward half-brother who has roped him into a scheme to find a possibly phantom teen African soccer prodigy. Lakesha Williams is the director of a collective of technical writers to which Mark belongs, and who comes under attack by a malevolent co-worker. Told in sections alternating between these two characters, O'Neill delivers a powerful experience simply by looking closely at the world through these different eyes. A brilliant work of conjuring.

BOOK IT TOOK ME SEVEN MONTHS TO READ OF THE YEAR

Rita Bullwinkels "Headshot" is structured as a series of stories covering a tournament for teenage girl boxers being held in a ramshackle Reno gym. As the matches unfold, Bullwinkel probes the lives and psyches of the combatants with an intensity I can only liken to, well... a boxing match. That

intensity made it hard to read straight through, so I started taking breaks between chapters. I started in April and finished at Thanksgiving. My verdict: Wow!

THIS IS TOO MUCH FUN (WAIT, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS TOO MUCH FUN!) BOOK OF THE YEAR

Margo, the main character of Rufi Thorpe's "Margo's Got Money Troubles" gets pregnant after an affair with her married professor, and against all advice and common sense decides to keep the baby, which she attempts to raise with the help of her former professional wrestler father, and a couple of Margo's fellow online performers of adult material. Frank, and funny, and charming, and I get a happy feeling just thinking about the period I spent reading it.

2025 is looking as promising as 2024, so buckle up.

John Warner is the author of "Why They Can't Write: Killing the Five-Paragraph Essay and Other Necessities."

Twitter @biblioracle

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

John Warner tells you what to read based on the last five books you've read.

- 1. "All Fours" by Miranda July
  - 2. "The Vegetarian" by Han Kang
  - 3. "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee
  - 4. "Free Food for Millionaires" by Min Jin Lee
  - 5. "Sugar Street" by Jonathan Dee — Billie P., Highland Park
- This is one of those cases where it's not clear to me why this book is coming in so strong on my Biblioracle sensors other than this author's name rhymes with one on the above list, but I've learned to trust the gut: "High Dive" by Jonathan Lee.

- 1. "Love Letters to a Serial Killer" by Tasha Coryell
  - 2. "The Mighty Red" Louise Erdrich
  - 3. "Dept. of Speculation" by Jenny Offill
  - 4. "No One Is Talking About This" by Patricia Lockwood
  - 5. "The Widow" by Fiona Barton — Nancy G., Chicago
- This feels like a good occasion for a book that has mystery at its center but also has some of the philosophical life explorations that Nancy seems interested in, "Case Histories" by Kate Atkinson.

- 1. "The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma" by Bessel van der Kolk
  - 2. "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" by John Boyne
  - 3. "The Devil Wears Prada" by Lauren Weisberger
  - 4. "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng
  - 5. "The Covenant of Water" by Abraham Verghese — Dilly P., Lincolnwood
- I feel like Emma Straub's "This Time Tomorrow" has the right mix of character and heart that Dilly is looking for.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle

Send a list of the last five books you've read and your hometown to biblioracle@gmail.com.

What to watch SUNDAY

December 29, 2024

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

BET Year in Black 2024

BET & BET Her, 6 p.m.

CBS News anchor Jericka Duncan hosts this hourlong special that brings together a roundtable of Black voices, including Ms. Pat, comedian/actor Michael Blackson, Hollywood Unlocked founder Jason Lee and comedian/entertainer Pretty Vee. They revisit and count down the most unforgettable moments of 2024 across Black pop culture, entertainment, sports and news. Also featured is an exclusive musical performance by Muni Long.

Home Town

HGTV, 7 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

Ben and Erin Napier will help a couple who've experienced challenges securing their dream home find a midcentury modern charmer. The Napiers will tackle a time crunch to build a huge garden complete with a greenhouse and a specialty kitchen that will supply the new homeowners' budding salsa and hot-sauce business.

NFL Football: Atlanta at Washington

NBC, 7:15 p.m. Live

Week 17's Sunday Night Football matchup has the Atlanta Falcons at the Washington Commanders.

NHL Hockey: Dallas at Chicago

ESPN, 7:30 p.m. Live

Matt Duchene leads the Dallas Stars into Chicago's United Center to face off against Connor Bedard and the Blackhawks.



'Home Town'

ANDERS KRUSBERG, HGTV

CATCH A CLASSIC

Special Theme: Sundays With Carol Burnett

TCM, beginning at 7 p.m.

TCM's final Sunday evening in which it pairs a classic movie with a comedic take on the feature that was performed in a sketch on The Carol Burnett Show offers a double feature. Up first is the 1945 Best Picture Oscar-nominated melodrama/film noir Mildred Pierce (pictured), led by Best Actress winner Joan Crawford and Best Supporting Actress nominees Eve Arden and Ann Blyth. The film was parodied in the Nov. 20, 1976, episode of the show as "Mildred Fierce," with Burnett as the



TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO.

title character and Vicki Lawrence as her daughter. The second part of this double bill is the Best Picture-nominated 1944 film noir Double Indemnity, starring Best Actress nominee Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray. The show spoofed this film as "Double Calamity" in the Nov. 3, 1973, episode, with Burnett stepping into Stanwyck's femme fatale shoes and guest star Steve Lawrence taking on MacMurray's role.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



DISNEY ENTERPRISES INC.

Meet the Parents (2000, Comedy) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller E!, 5 p.m.

Jerry Maguire (1996, Romance-comedy) Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr. BBC America, 5:30 p.m.

Frozen (2013, Children) Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel ABC, 6 p.m.

The Perfect Storm (2000, Suspense) George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg Vice, 6 p.m.

Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982, Comedy) Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh Sundance, 7 p.m.

Fifty Shades of Grey (2015, Romance) Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan Lifetime, 7 p.m.

Monsters, Inc. (2001, Children) John Goodman, Billy Crystal Disney, 7 p.m.

This Time Each Year (2024, Romance) Alison Sweeney, Niall Matter Hallmark, 7 p.m.

Thor: Love and Thunder (2022, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman FX, 7 p.m.

The Bodyguard (1992, Drama) Kevin Costner, Whitney Houston VH1, 7:30 p.m.

A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson BBC America, 8:30 p.m.

Billy Madison (1995, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Darren McGavin Bravo, 8:30 p.m.

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com





# Lennon seeks to innovate late Beatle’s music

Producer cherishes his father’s work as ‘living part of him’

By David Bauder  
Associated Press

Only recently given stewardship over his late father’s work, Sean Ono Lennon is on a remarkable run.

The only child of John Lennon and Yoko Ono won an Academy Award in March for a short film based on his parents’ 1971 song “Happy Christmas (War is Over)” and, a few months later, was nominated for his first Grammy, for producing a box set on the album “Mind Games,” originally released in 1973.

“It feels overwhelming and surreal,” said Lennon, who also recently shared a Webby Award with his mother for Ono’s interactive art project “Wish Tree.”

For Lennon, who was 5 years old when the former Beatle was killed in 1980, the work is a way to connect with his father. It’s more than a preservation mission. On “Mind Games,” he takes artistic license, pulling apart the recordings of John Lennon’s music to create something entirely new.

Lennon was inspired, in part, by another Beatle offspring, Dhani Harrison, who helped repackaging his father’s “All Things Must Pass.” Dhani Harrison is also behind this fall’s reissue of his dad’s “Living in the Material World,” but that experience is nothing like what Lennon did with “Mind Games.”

Besides the music, the innovative box is modeled after one of his mother’s art pieces and filled with art reproductions, hidden music, video, messages and puzzles, with some only visible through an ultraviolet light that is included — “mind games,” remember? The deluxe box retails for \$1,350, but there are less expensive options.



Sean Ono Lennon, seen March 10, has been nominated for a Grammy for his work producing a box set on his father’s album “Mind Games,” first released in 1973. **EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION**

Lennon, 49, knew his father was a musician before he died; the boy tagged along to the studio for some “Double Fantasy” sessions. But truly understanding his impact came later, like when he’d hear fans singing his father’s music outside their New York apartment on the Oct. 9 birthday they shared. “It was pretty clear to me that wasn’t happening with my friends,” he said.

His father’s music played constantly around the house, and learning to play those songs launched his own journey to become a musician.

“I think I would have rebelled more against my dad’s — and my mom’s — music if I had grown up with my dad in the house, and I had been angry at him or rebelled against him,” he said in a recent interview. “Because he wasn’t around, I’ve always really cherished the music as sort of a living part of him.”

He inherited the job of keeping his father’s music alive for new generations when his mom, now 91, retired.

In liner notes for “Mind

Games,” Lennon explains that “the only meaningful way that I can show my love to him” is to work hard on his music and keep it in the culture’s consciousness.

“What else can I do in this Earth to express my love and reverence for my father than to do an incredibly meticulous job of taking care of his music?” he said. “I can’t actually think of anything else, other than taking care of my mother, which I try to do as well.”

Only after he began the “Mind Games” project did Lennon learn that the album wasn’t particularly well-regarded when it was released. He found an interview where even John Lennon considered it a transition from a period of political activism to being a musician again. The title song was its only hit.

That attitude lingers, judging by an online site called “Brutally Honest Rock Album Reviews.” In an unsigned review, the author said the “Mind Games” reissue defines overkill. “You can now own and forever cherish six different versions of songs

that were unmemorable at best and a complete waste of time at worst.”

That only motivated Lennon to work harder, and led to a bold artistic decision. Part of the reason the album didn’t really connect was because it wasn’t promoted well or supported by concerts, he said. But he also described the original album mix as thin and not doing justice to the music.

Using the original recordings, he constructed new versions of the songs, sometimes emphasizing different instruments. He sought a warmer, more direct sound reminiscent of Lennon’s “Plastic Ono Band” album — most visibly on “Aisumasen (I’m Sorry),” one of a handful of compositions reflecting marital turmoil that presaged Lennon’s notorious “lost weekend” separation from Ono.

Different versions of the title cut also show Sean’s approach. There’s the original “Mind Games,” with a distinctive chiming sound that drives the melody. That’s stripped away in a new mix where a reggae



Singer John Lennon was killed on Dec. 8, 1980, when his son Sean Ono Lennon was 5 years old. **AP 1968**

guitar lick becomes audible. An organ-dominated instrumental sounds like a church hymn. There are other outtakes, some with alternate lyrics and one with a snippet of “Make Love, Not War,” a song fragment dating back to the Beatles that the author repurposed.

He didn’t have a trove of unheard material to mine, other than Lennon’s demo of “I’m the Greatest,” a song he gave to fellow Beatle Ringo Starr.

In some of the new versions, Sean goes beyond remixing or revealing outtakes to imposing his own artistic vision over his father’s.

“There are some people who feel that it’s taking liberties, and I guess it technically is,” Lennon said. “The way I look at it is, if I’m going to do the best job I can, the only way I can do that is to follow my heart and make it sound the best that it can sound. If that means maybe turning down an instrument a lot in a certain section because I don’t think it’s helping, then I’m going to do that.”

For anyone who wants the original versions, they’re readily available.

“It’s very forensic work,” he said. “I’m not worried about what someone else is going to think. I’m just in there trying to do good by my dad, and I really feel that I know how to do good

by him, because I know his music better than I know anybody else’s music.”

As a musician, Lennon relates to moments where his father expresses vulnerability, like an interview where John described “Intuition” as a good song where he didn’t nail the lyrics. The “Get Back” film of recording sessions for the “Let it Be” album showed the Beatles as humans who didn’t hand songs down from Mount Olympus.

Next on the docket is a film resurrection of the “One to One” concerts involving his father and a reissue of the “Walls and Bridges” album. Lennon, who lives and works in New York and is in a relationship with musician and model Kemp Muhl, released his own album, “Asterisms,” in February.

Told he sounded like his father when singing forcefully, Lennon practically whispered lyrics on his early albums. He hated the way he sounded, but didn’t want to deal with the comparisons. He doesn’t hold back anymore. “Now I’m too old to care,” he said.

“I didn’t get into music because I had some great talent or something,” he said. “I got into it because my dad was this famous musician and playing his songs and learning his music made me feel closer to him.”

## NONFICTION REVIEWS

### Dynamic that beget classic captured

Georgetown University academic Charles King evokes the sacred upswell of the “Hallelujah Chorus” and other songs in his spirited, pitch-perfect “Every Valley,” the story behind the creation of composer George Frideric Handel’s “Messiah.”

In the early 18th century, Baroque music tapped Italian structures, such as operas and arias, while innovating with orchestras, dissonances and tempo. A handsome prodigy from Saxony, Handel (1685-1759) was broad-shouldered and feisty, famed for sarcastic asides.

King showcases eccentric Charles Jennens, a melancholic Leicester-shire squire. Intrigued by ancient biblical texts, he filled notebooks with verses lifted from the King James translation.

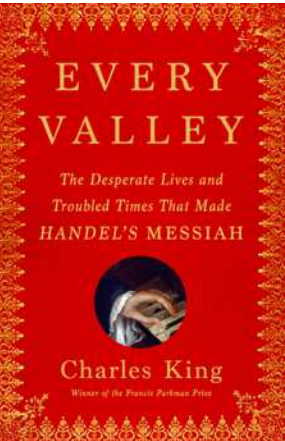
“Jennens had selected passages from Isaiah and the minor prophets, then from the Gospels and the book of Revelation ... at every turn it would have been impossible to miss the connections between the cosmic and contemporary,” King observes.

These conceits became the underpinnings for Handel’s oratorio and a collaboration that enervated and frustrated both men.

“Every Valley” beautifully captures the dynamic that seeded the masterpiece. Jennens aimed for a bold narrative of a sacrificial savior, from annunciation through resurrection.

Handel’s status was tied up with the fortunes of the royal family as its members jockeyed for power. King fleshes out his cast with an adulterous alto, a displaced African prince and acerbic satirist Jonathan Swift, unearthing a strange yet enticing history of what-ifs and who-could-have-knows?

As King notes, Handel’s “Messiah” was the



‘EVERY VALLEY’  
By Charles King; Doubleday, 352 pages, \$32.

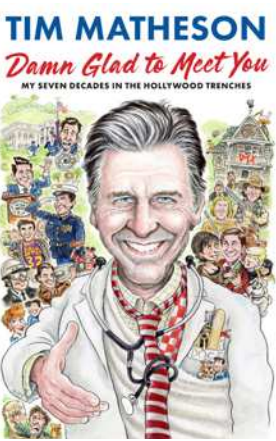
crescendo of a resplendent career; it doesn’t quite resemble anything else in the composer’s oeuvre.

By weaving the strands together, King enlarges a work that never ceases to stir us, “a confection of spiraling solos and soaring choruses ... a relevant, grown-up way of engaging with the present.” — *Hamilton Cain, Minnesota Star Tribune*

**Tim Matheson has portrayed** a president and vice president. A police officer and military officer. And more than a few doctors. The 76-year-old has hundreds of acting, directing and producing credits to his name over a career that began when John F. Kennedy was president. (Yes, Matheson played him on screen, too.)

Matheson transports readers to the sets of quite a few of his Hollywood gigs in the enjoyable and illuminating memoir, “Damn Glad to Meet You: My Seven Decades in the Hollywood Trenches.”

The book’s title is a nod to the recurring line Matheson delivers as Eric “Otter” Stratton, the Delta rush chairman in the all-time comedy, “Animal House.” The section on the making of the classic 1978 film is almost worth the book’s purchase price



‘DAMN GLAD TO MEET YOU’  
By Tim Matheson; Grand Central Publishing, 384 pages, \$30.

alone.

“Damn Glad to Meet You” isn’t all fun and games, though. It features some helpful tips and tricks on acting, directing and navigating the Hollywood jungle as well as some poignant moments. Matheson recounts the time he spent with some actors and comedians who were taken too early, including John Candy, Chris Farley and Sam Kinison — plus, his “Animal House” co-star John Belushi.

“You came for some Belushi stories,” Matheson writes. “I know. He’s who I’m asked about more than anyone else I’ve ever worked with, and I’ve worked with almost everyone.”

These days, Matheson is working north of the border, where his hit Netflix show, “Virgin River,” is shot. It’s just the latest in a long line of roles the native Californian has taken on in his productive and lengthy career.

“I’ve been lucky. I know that,” Matheson writes. “I’ve always found a place to tell a story.”

And now, he’s telling us his stories. We should be damn glad he did. — *Mike Householder, Associated Press*

## FICTION REVIEWS

### Tale slowly builds to shocking ending

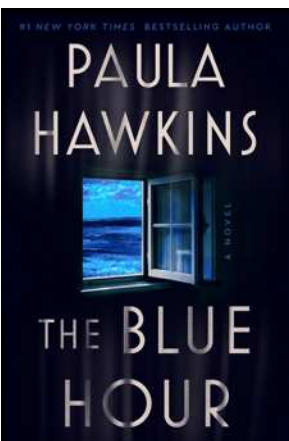
Since bursting on the scene in 2015 with “The Girl on a Train,” Paula Hawkins has established herself as a reliable writer of psychological thrillers set in the U.K. “The Blue Hour” doesn’t plow any new ground on that front, but it’s a tight story with interesting characters that keeps you engaged until the end.

Set mostly on an isolated Scottish island named Eris, where famous painter and ceramicist Vanessa Chapman once lived and worked, the story begins with a discovery. A bone in one of Chapman’s sculptures, now owned by an estate, may be human. That revelation links together the three main characters — Chapman’s longtime companion Grace Winters, a Chapman scholar who works for Fairburn Estate named James Becker, and Julian, Chapman’s ex-husband who went missing 20 years ago.

Told in the present, in flashbacks from two decades ago, and via excerpts from Chapman’s diary, the plot moves along steadily. It’s not really a keep-the-reader-guessing type of thriller, but more of a slow build that culminates in a shocking ending.

Hawkins weaves artistic themes and the creative process through the novel. Chapman’s diary entries are filled with references to the landscape that inspires her — the “terrible chaos” of waves, the sky “miraculous azure or threatening gunmetal.” The title refers to a time at dusk before the stars come out when the color leaches from the day, but it’s not yet full dark.

The novel’s setting is a character unto itself. Eris is reachable from the mainland only when the tide is out, in two six-hour chunks each day, and so it’s a fine place to bury secrets — physical and psychological. Learning those secrets



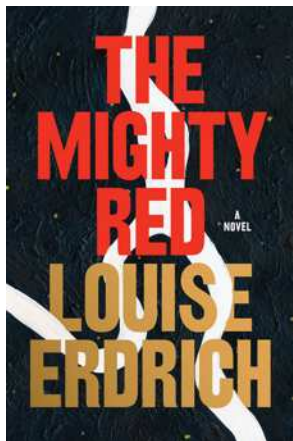
‘THE BLUE HOUR’  
By Paula Hawkins; Mariner Books, 320 pages, \$30.

is the fun of the novel, and there are few authors writing today who drip them out, page by excruciating page, like Hawkins. — *Rob Merrill, Associated Press*

**Pulitzer winner Louise Erdrich returns** with a story close to her heart, “The Mighty Red.” Set in the author’s native North Dakota, the title refers to the river that serves as a metaphor for life in the Red River Valley. It also carries a secret central to the story’s plot.

The slow reveal of that secret propels a good chunk of the novel, which tells the story of Kismet Poe, a teen girl caught in the middle of a love triangle featuring one of the town’s richest residents (he stands to inherit two lucrative sugar beet farms) and a home-schooled romantic who works at his mom’s bookstore. By page 15, 18-year-old Gary Geist proposes to Kismet, who then tells her mother, “It could be, I think, that I love him.” Pages later we meet Hugo, who Kismet considers less mature, but who built his own computer and has a plan to make lots of money in the oil fields, buy a car and win Kismet’s eternal affection.

There’s a secondary plot that Erdrich spins involving Kismet’s mom, Crystal,



‘THE MIGHTY RED’  
By Louise Erdrich; Harper, 384 pages, \$32.

and her husband, Martin, who works as a traveling theater arts teacher throughout North Dakota. He disappears one day during the economic meltdown of 2008, along with the church investment fund that he was managing.

The plot is played partly for laughs from that point on, but Erdrich does have something to say about how economic downturns impact people like Crystal and Kismet, or as she writes: “real Americans — rattled, scratching, always-in-debt Americans.”

There’s lots more here about love and loss and the things people do when they experience the highs and lows of both. The story culminates with more backstory, as their friend Eric and then Gary recount to Kismet what happened one winter night when they and their friends on the high school football team took an inebriated snowmobile ride on the frozen Red River.

Erdrich foreshadows it from the start of the book — Gary’s mom wonders if her son has a guardian angel — but when we finally get the truth, it’s a powerful moment, and one that sets the scene for, if not forgiveness, some measure of peace. — *Rob Merrill*



# Lost

from Page 1

Chicagoans have his work tattooed on their bodies. The Chicago Sun-Times called him the “Michael Jordan of geographical design,” which is exactly right. In 1993, when the CTA adopted a color-coded system for train lines, McClendon drew that map, which is the same map we see today. He drew the maps for the American Institute of Architects’ indispensable guide to Chicago buildings. He drew the maps we use for PACE buses. He drew all 442 maps in “The Encyclopedia of Chicago.” He created the Chicago Bike Map for the Chicago Department of Transportation. That’s just Chicago.

McClendon’s company, Chicago CartoGraphics, was frequently commissioned by real estate businesses and tourism boards around the world. According to the RTA, he was updating its local transit maps just before he died.

He knew a scary amount about Chicago, and like many Chicago experts, he was an autodidact born elsewhere. He came from Texarkana, Arkansas, where he worked as a radio DJ. By the time he arrived in Chicago in 1983, he had a law degree and worked for Arthur Andersen. But he left to make maps for the American Planning Association. He found his life’s work. He became a (self-taught) cartographer, a (self-taught) historian and a (self-taught) expert on urban planning. Though relatable and modest (he told this newspaper Chicago was really just a city “as a sheet of graph paper”), he became known as “Mr. Downtown.”

He was not above drawing a detailed map on a restaurant napkin to explain himself (as this reporter can vouch). He was a heartbeat in a profession increasingly without a human touch. He once told the Tribune: “Mapmaking is full of judgment calls. Now that so much of this judgment is being done by machine intelligence, we’re in a funny situation where we don’t know where things are coming from.” The next time you’re waiting for a Chicago train or bus, look around, find the map of routes and you’ll know.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, one would never confuse comic actor **Joe Flaherty**, who died at 82 in April, and comic actor **Martin Mull**, who died in June at 80. But they were unique among funny people. They hid behind the most understated facades. Mull had his laconic delivery and blonde mustache; Flaherty was tall and gawky, a human Adam’s apple. They also shared Chicago: Mull was born here (to a carpenter dad and actress mom) before moving to the Cleveland suburbs. Flaherty was a Pittsburgh native with plans to translate his stature into dramatic roles but instead moved to Chicago, settled in and became a comedian, then left for Canada.

They were also rare among the famously funny in that neither had a defining role. Mull, in the late ‘60s, began as a hipster renaissance figure, a singer-songwriter of absurdities who opened for Bruce Springsteen and Frank Zappa — his one semi-hit was “Dueling Tubas,” a parody of “Dueling Banjos” from “Deliverance.” That segued into acting on two cult parodies, Norman Lear’s soap opera “Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman,” and the small-town talk show “Fernwood 2 Night.” And finally, parallel careers as a respected painter and TV and film roles full of misplaced importance: Colonel Mustard in “Clue,” P.I. Gene Parmesan in “Arrested Development.” Mull was beyond droll: He once told David Letterman he didn’t want a mansion “though of course I have that kind of money.”

Flaherty spent seven years in Chicago at Second City, then on “The National Lampoon Radio Hour,” in both instances slipping into exasperated characters alongside era-defining lunatics, including a fledgling John Belushi, Bill



Music producer Steve Albini in his studio on July 24, 2014. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Second City alumni Harold Ramis, left, and Joe Flaherty perform a skit at “The Second City Celebrates 50 Years of Funny” event at Pipers Alley in 2009. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Murray and Harold Ramis. He didn’t quite stand out until leaving Chicago to launch the Toronto branch of Second City, only to become arguably the most normal member of the influential cult series “SCTV.” He played Count Floyd, a Svengoolie-esque horror host who apologized for the movies he showed; he played Guy Caballero, the Panama hat-wearing SCTV station manager. Once again, he was never going to stand out in a cast that included Catherine O’Hara, John Candy and Martin Short, though as Short recalled recently, Flaherty became “the anchor.” He projected a decency he would later use well in another short-lived classic, “Freaks and Geeks.” He played a suburban dad, a typically outsized, blundering role.

But Flaherty found dignity in boredom. He shared that with Mull: Both stared into the everyday conformity of just existing, and instead of protesting, they embraced the void.

You’ve heard of the rule of three, the myth that famous people die in threes. So what do we call a more localized, profession-defining rash of losses? Chicago’s **Steve Albini**, whose work as a music producer personified alt-rock in the ‘90s, died in May; Chicago’s **Quincy Jones**, whose work as a producer/arranger for performers (Michael Jackson, Sarah Vaughan) and TV and film (“Roots”) marked pop culture for decades, died in November. Much less discussed was **Shel Talmey**, who died at 87, one week after Jones.

Like Albini and Jones, he had a sound, and he came from Chicago. Also like Albini and Jones, it’s hard to imagine the last half-century of pop music without his still-ubiquitous records. Indeed, our history of youthful rebellion would sound different without Talmey. Call him the godfather of noise, the destroyer of future eardrums. He produced “You Really Got Me” and “All Day and All of the Night” by the Kinks. He produced The Who’s first single, “I Can’t Explain,” then the garage-rock manifesto “My Generation.” Talmey told interviewers the band’s record label initially complained that they were given a bad copy of the tune — the copy they had was loaded with feedback.

Talmey’s signature sound was grimy and chugging, just distorted enough for historians to place his records firmly among the first steps on the path to punk rock and heavy metal.

What’s funny about that is Talmey’s background: In Chicago, as a child, his father was a dentist. Talmey himself caught the showbiz bug when he became a regular contestant on “Quiz Kids,” a long-running NBC game show that was broadcast from Chicago. As a young Los Angeles-based record engineer in the early 1960s, he took a trip to London just as the British Invasion was percolating and got his first producer jobs by passing off Beach Boys records as his own; his first hit was with a twangy pop trio, the Bachelors.

Other than a few Kinks hits (“Tired of Waiting For You”) and Chad & Jeremy’s “Summer Song,” things grew increasingly muscular from there. Talmey recorded the Easybeats’ “Friday on My Mind,” the garage sounds of The Creation, early tunes by The Damned, and the very first singles by a young artist named Davy Jones (who soon changed his name to David Bowie). Think about that the next time you laugh at the name Sheldon.

## FROM CONTRIBUTING CRITIC HANNAH EDGAR

For decades, **Sir Andrew Davis** was Lyric Opera. During his tenure as the company’s music director and principal conductor from 2000 to 2021, he led some 700 performances of 62 operas. In all, “there was never a hint of the slapdash,” former Tribune critic John von Rhein reflected in a profile for Lyric’s program books. “Looking back at my reviews of his performances over the years, I am struck by the consistently high quality he maintained, regardless of repertoire, cast, or production.”

Davis, 80, was a towering figure in Anglophone classical music around the world, helming the BBC Symphony, Glyndebourne Festival, Melbourne Symphony and Toronto Symphony over the course of his career. Those who worked with him always circled back to his genuine joy on the podium. In a zesty, fevered “Hansel and Gretel” last January, Davis’ last stand at the company he called home, his grin was visible from halfway across the hall.

Davis appeared frail at his 2022 farewell concert, of Beethoven’s Ninth, hosted by the company. But his leukemia diagnosis did not become public until April 20th of this year, when he succumbed to the disease. Lyric will host a concert to celebrate his life and achievements on

Feb. 15, 2025; the concert features a new piece by his son Ed Frazier Davis, whose choir Vox Venti holds its own memorial concert on March 8 at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Evanston.

I attended what, unbeknownst to us all, were Davis’s final Chicago appearances last December, with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Davis knew his way around an orchestra as both a conductor and composer — Ed takes after him in that respect — and he’d brought his kooky, kaleidoscopic reorchestration of Handel’s “Messiah.” Taking deeply familiar music and turning it new: Is there anything more Sir Andrew than that?

On Feb. 6, we also lost a one-time Chicago baton in **Seiji Ozawa**, 88, whose rapid ascent in the 1960s broke a racial barrier in classical music. The Ravinia Festival, which Ozawa led as music director from 1964 to 1968, was his first big break; posts at the Toronto, San Francisco, and Boston symphonies followed. He led the last of those for nearly 30 years. “I was pouring myself into it in those days,” he told the author Haruki Murakami in “Absolutely on Music” (2016), a book of their transcribed conversations about music. “I was determined to make (Boston) one of the ten greatest orchestras in the world.”

And he did. But then again, just about every orchestra was better off for having worked with Ozawa, whose performances melded gloss and ruddy viscosity. His work took on a more tempered, reflective quality as he aged, as he himself recognized in recent years. “Even at my age, you change,” he told Murakami. “The work itself changes you.”

## FROM TRIBUNE CRITIC CHRIS JONES

In the 1990s, the retail area around North and Clybourn Avenues sprung into being: emporia such as Crate & Barrel, Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware and the exotically spelled Z Gallerie all arrived to cater to Lincoln Park and Bucktown’s emergent class of urban homeowners, mostly recently arrived Gen Xers who wanted an urban life without giving up either cars or chain stores. The area filled up with huge surface parking lots, each belonging only to one or two outlets. A shopper making so many tough left turns often needed a break for a strawberry margarita with a salt rim. Enter **Uncle Julio’s**,

about as fake a Mexican (or was it Tex-Mex?) restaurant as ever served overloaded nachos. It was, of course, a suburban interloper as its comforting bilingual name, free adjacent parking lot and fake-hacienda vibe made clear. In March, after 34 years of sizzling fajitas and hiding spouses escaping shopping, it called it quits. No more margarita-sangria swirls to save a stressed-out Saturday.

Few cities in America maintain a professional network of suburban theaters that specialize in splashy productions of Broadway musicals; Chicago has just such a still-thriving circuit in Aurora, Oakbrook Terrace and Lincolnshire. **Kary M. Walker**, who died at 79 in September in Spain, is a big part of the reason why. As the executive producer of the in-the-round Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Walker built the largest theater subscription base in the country, hired countless Chicago actors and took many a busload of seniors back to the songs of their youth. A Texan by birth and temperament, Walker was a colorful showbiz promoter and raconteur, famous for blowing up at critics on the phone and then calming back down to a purr within moments. Here was an old-school Chicago showman, a lover of musicals and the American songbook, and an arts leader who understood that when you have so many butts in seats, you have both an opportunity and an obligation to put on a damn show.

## FROM COLUMNIST RICK KOGAN

**Jay Robert Nash** was a man for whom a few words were never enough. During his life, which ended on April 22 of lung cancer after 86 active years, he once estimated that he had written something in the neighborhood of 50 million words.

Most of those came in nonfiction books, firmly focused on crimes and killers (movies too), but he also wrote poetry and plays. Most of his books were created in the pre-internet age, when research was done the dusty, old-fashioned way, plowing through archives and fading newspapers. Some of his books were big best-sellers and some were not. He won awards.

As prolific as he was in print, he was equally loquacious in person, his personality and imagination cutting a story-packed path across the places where writers and journal-



Record producer Shel Talmey in London on Sept. 7, 1973. **TPLP/GETTY**



Martin Mull in 2018. **AP**



Author Peter Ferry in Lake Forest in 2015. **YVETTE MARIE DOSTATNI/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Conductor Andrew Davis leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2020. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

ists once gathered. Some of his stories were real, some were not, but all were unforgettable.

As writer Clarence Petersen put it in a Tribune story in 1981, “(Nash’s) most intriguing creation is himself. Pugacious, diminutive, and dapper in the attire of a 1920s gangster, his heroic fantasies have made him a Chicago legend — especially among the patrons of his favorite saloons.”

For four decades he was married to Judy Anetsberger, who told me “A lot of his so-called reputation was unfair. I have never known a smarter, kinder man nor one who worked harder.”

Marriage and fatherhood curtailed some of Nash’s nocturnal adventures as did the fact that some of his favorite haunts, Riccardo’s and O’Rourke’s, shuttered and some of his old pals retired, moved away or died.

But he will live on, in his books and in stories told by those who knew him, stories about this fine writer, decent man and authentic Chicago character.

**Peter Ferry** was passionately an author and teacher, inspiring decades of students in his English and writing classes at Lake Forest High School, a youthful crowd of many thousands that included such later famous people as actor Vince Vaughn and author Dave Eggers.

Ferry died the morning of Sept. 17. At his side were his wife, Carolyn, and children Lizzie and Griffin. He was 77 years old.

“He was a very erudite guy with a wry wit, and he understood the strange sense of humor my friends and I had,” Eggers said. “We became fanboys of Mr. Ferry, and he was our hero and mentor. And he and I stayed in touch for the next 35 years.”

He and his family settled in Evanston but he loved to travel. Tribune readers first encountered him in the mid-1980s when his name began to appear in this paper’s Travel section. His short stories appeared with welcome frequency in such journals and magazines as McSweeney’s, StoryQuarterly, HyperText and Catamaran.

His first novel, “Travel Writing,” was published in 2008 to great acclaim. The next was “Old Heart,” which attracted the attention of playwright, producer and author Roger Rapoport, who produced a stage version of the book and is currently in



# Lost

from Page 6

production on a film version. In person, Ferry was a delight, soft-spoken, with a sharp and smart sense of humor and a palpable sensitivity. I didn't see him as much after he and his wife moved from Evanston to Indianapolis a few years ago. But he'd often talk about the increasing amount of time they spent at Palisades Park, a community just south of South Haven on the shores of Lake Michigan. It was for generations an escape for Ferry's family. He enjoyed playing tennis there. He enjoyed the sunsets, the quiet, the time to write.

Never, in the lively history of show business, has there been anybody like **Bob Newhart**, and it was in Chicago that he burst onto the entertainment landscape. For more than half a century he remained a vital, admired and impossible-to-imitate presence in nightclubs, on albums, in films and, most profoundly, on TV.

After a lifetime of making people laugh, Newhart died on July 18 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 94. He worked nearly to the end of his life, contributing to 2023's "Bob and Don: A Love Story," a documentary about his longtime friendship with the late comic Don Rickles.

He was born George Robert Newhart in Oak Park grew up in Chicago, attended St. Ignatius College Prep and graduated from Loyola University with a bachelor's degree in business management in 1952.

Drafted into the U.S. Army, he then worked as an accountant but, he later said, was not good at that job, often adjusting petty cash imbalances with his own money.

Working as an advertising copywriter he and a colleague entertained each other with long telephone calls about absurd scenarios. They scripted a radio show which they later recorded and sent to radio stations. That partner left and Dan Sorkin, a disc jockey at a local radio station and Newhart's friend, introduced him to the head of talent at Warner Bros. Records.

The label signed him in 1959, only a year after it was formed, based solely on those recordings. His debut album was "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart."

It became a sensation, selling 1.5 million copies and earned two Grammy Awards and was the first comedy album ever to hit No. 1. Naturally, the success of Newhart's albums and his packed nightclub shows attracted television and he became a frequent and popular guest.

In 1972, he started "The Bob Newhart Show," playing psychologist Bob Hartley. The show was an immediate hit and still was when Newhart decided to end its run in 1978. He came back to the television world in 1982 with "Newhart," playing a Vermont innkeeper. That show ended in 1990 after eight seasons and 182 episodes, the last one — remember? — chosen by TV Guide as the best finale in television history.

In 1963 he married Virginia "Ginnie" Quinn and they lived in Beverly Hills, California, where they raised four children. He would reach new TV millions when he appeared in CBS' top-rated sitcom, "The Big Bang Theory." Astonishingly, he won his first Emmy for the role. He continued to perform 20-some stand-up gigs a year and still found it enjoyable to work on new routines.

Throughout his career, his ties to Chicago remained strong and he kept tabs on old Chicago friends and our beleaguered sports teams. And he remains part of the local landscape, in the form of that life-size bronze sculpture that finds him sitting in a chair next to an empty sofa, now plunked near the east edge of Navy Pier. He has been there since 2004, in winter, summer, spring and fall.

**FROM FILM CRITIC MICHAEL PHILLIPS**  
**Norman Jewison**, 97,



Actor Shelley Duvall in 1977. **JEAN JACQUES LEVY/AP**



Comedian Richard Lewis in 1985. **SALLY GOOD/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Actor Teri Garr in 1984 in Los Angeles. **BOB RIHA, JR./GETTY**

died Jan. 10. The Canadian-born director gave us "The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Moonstruck" — and one of the finest films ever shot in Illinois, downstate or otherwise, "In the Heat of the Night."

**Chita Rivera**, 91, died Jan. 30. Well. There are great dancers, and then there are great dancers. Once seen, never forgotten. Never enough film work, but you can YouTube the hell out of her TV appearances; she was Broadway

**Richard Lewis**, 76, died Feb. 27. The king of kvetch and a droll master of everyday existential lament, the comedian and actor brought an actor's intensity to his comedy, and a comic's timing and pacing to every acting gig.

**David Bordwell**, 76, died Feb. 29. The Madison, Wisconsin-based film scholar and historian opened countless eyes to the techniques, visual strategies and hypnotic wonderment of cinema.

**Louis Gossett Jr.**, 87, died March 29. A warm and reassuring screen presence to the last, he won his Oscar for "An Officer and a Gentleman."

**Roger Corman**, 98, died May 9. The drive-in and cheapo exploitation producer who made American International Pictures a true-blue calling card for earthy delights gave many future giants of the movies their start. The title of his book says it all: "How I Made a Hundred Movies in Hollywood and Never Lost a Dime."

**Donald Sutherland**, 88, died June 20. No one else like him. That voice could sell you anything, and his presence in everything from "Don't Look Now" to Chicago-born director Philip Kaufman's delicious remake of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" added so much.

**Judy Belushi-Pisano**, 73, died July 5. The producer and Oak Park native was married to John Belushi, which couldn't have been easy. She oversaw her late first husband's legacy with care and devotion.

**John Amos**, 84, died Aug. 21. On the Chicago-set sitcom "Good Times," Amos provided the lifeline of realism tied to the show's Cabrini-Green projects. He never got his due, or the full breadth of roles his talent deserved.

**James Earl Jones**, 93, died Sept. 9. A force of dramatic nature and sly comic wiles, the Darth Vader thing was great, yes, but roughly 97th on his list of reasons for greatness — and for an audience's gratitude across the decades. No Oscar. But he's hardly the only top-shelf American actor who never

won, and whose breadth of roles is a continual source of satisfaction.

**John Ashton**, 76, died Sept. 26. A character actor's character actor, Ashton shot to prominence with the first (and only good) "Beverly Hills Cop" outing, and thanks to writer-director and Chicago native Haroula Rose, delivered particularly affecting performances in his last years with "Once Upon a River" and the Chicago-filmed "All Happy Families."

**Maggie Smith**, 89, died Sept. 27. Few stage-trained performers brought as much brio, snap and wrist action (literally; what she does with her wrists for comic punctuation is worthy of orthopedic study) to whatever she took on, beginning with "Bridgerton," the Harry Potter movies, earlier dramatic triumphs such as "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" and hundreds more.

**Mitzi Gaynor**, 93, died Oct. 17. Born in Chicago, she brought triple-threat showbiz acumen to good material, lesser material, movies, nightclubs — and every last sequin designer Bob Mackie threw at her, lovingly.

**Teri Garr**, 79, died Oct. 29. An exemplar of '70s popular filmmaking, and a blithe genius of comic fizz. And a great dancer.

**Quincy Jones**, 91, died Nov. 3. The Chicago native gave Sinatra some of his coolest charts, Austin Powers his infernally catchy theme song "Soul Bossa Nova" (a 1962 Jones composition) and enough evergreen music to fill worlds to come.

## FROM TV CRITIC NINA METZ

"Brewster McCloud" was **Shelley Duvall's** screen debut and I wrote about it a few years ago: "Robert Altman hit mainstream success with 'M\*A\*S\*H' in 1970, the same year that that one of his lesser-known pictures, 'Brewster McCloud,' also arrived in theaters. Both films are subversive comedies — countercultural middle fingers, in cinematic form — but 'M\*A\*S\*H' was timely and had the advantage of scoring with a Vietnam War-weary public. 'Brewster's' storytelling eccentricities? Moviegoers didn't know what to do with those."

But audiences had no such confusion about Duvall or her talent. In her first movie, she wore false eyelashes on both her top and bottom eyelids, giving her the look of one of Margaret Keen's iconic paintings of saucer-eyed waifs. She was the proto-maniac pixie dream girl, but Duvall would prove herself



John Amos in 2016 in New York. Amos starred as the family patriarch on the hit 1970s sitcom "Good Times" and earned an Emmy nomination for his role in the seminal 1977 miniseries "Roots." **AMY SUSSMAN/AP**

to be much more than that.

She would work with Altman several times again, in "Nashville," "McCabe & Mrs. Miller" and other titles, including her perfect resemblance to Olive Oyl in "Popeye." For some generations, she might be best known for her iconic role in "The Shining" as a woman at the mercy of a husband (memorably Jack Nicholson) who has lost his mind. For later generations, she was the face (and creative force behind) "Faerie Tale Theatre." But by the 1990s, opportunities were drying up and she moved back to Texas, where Altman had first discovered and hired her for "Brewster McCloud." She was 75 when she died in July, leaving behind a legacy of work that is strikingly unique in every way.

A word about **TV show cancellations**. What have we lost in 2024? Well, a whole lot of TV shows, including one-and-dones such as "The Acolyte" (a "Star Wars" spinoff on Disney+), "The Brothers Sun" (an action-comedy on Netflix) and "My Lady Jane" (a historical fantasy romance on Amazon). All these shows had small but devoted followings and when the cancellations were announced, audience frustration radiated out from social media. We've always been told that TV was a business that aimed to create long-running hits! Streaming has upended that and the disappointment is real. But maybe we've also forgotten how common it was in the pre-streaming era for network shows to be canceled only a few episodes in, becoming yet another piece of pop cultural detritus consigned to the Hollywood junk heap.

But it's never been this bad, I hear you saying. I don't know if that's true. Around 600 shows premiered in 2022. Two decades earlier, in 2002, that number was 182. More shows are getting made, therefore more shows are getting canceled. Is Hollywood still in the business of building audience loyalty? For now, the answer remains unclear.

## FROM A+E EDITOR DOUG GEORGE

The news last month that Pitchfork Music Festival was no more came as a shock to Chicago-area music fans. The festival announced on Nov. 11 on its website and social media that it would not return to Union Park in 2025, its final festival having taken place last July with headliners Black Pumas, Jamie XX and Alanis Morissette.

The three-day gathering of music and live bands has drawn some 20,000 music fans to the Near West Side park more or less annually since 2006, save a pandemic year off. Before

that, it was the 2005 Intonation Music Festival.

In hindsight, maybe its ending wasn't such a shock. Pitchfork's namesake music publication had been folded into GQ last January by owners Condé Nast, with many Pitchfork Media employees losing their jobs. Although there had been little diminishment in last July's event — same three stages jam-packed with alternative and indie rock, hip hop and EDM, same fun vendors including the CHIRP Record Fair and Flatstock Poster Fair — some grumbled that Morissette was an odd pick as a so-called legacy act.

Set against its summer festival cousins Riot Fest and the massive Lollapalooza, those who attended Pitchfork had prided themselves on attending because they were serious about the music. Less of a scene, more for music nerds, said one local attendee in 2024. At this point, organizers have only said definitely that there would be no fest in 2025. But. "We look forward to continuing to create spaces where music, culture, and community intersect in uplifting ways," its message to fans on social media concluded, "and we hope to see you there."

Children's musician **Ella Jenkins** may be gone but it's easy to think her music will live on for a long time to come. Jenkins' music career spanned more than 60 years and some 40 albums, those recordings a mix of traditional songs and her own compositions, memorable titles such as "You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song."

She was known as the First Lady of Children's Music. Her style of call-and-response singing with children came from listening to jazzman Cab Calloway's performances of "Minnie the Moocher" on the South Side in the 1930s, according to the Tribune obituary after her death Nov. 9 at age 100, as well as what she heard in church in her Bronzeville neighborhood growing up.

Over the decades, countless children saw her perform or sang along with her songs. If you know "Miss Mary Mack," chances are you can thank Jenkins. She was a frequent performer at Ravinia and the Old Town School of Folk Music and a favorite guest on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." She traveled the world, giving concerts and absorbing styles of music from across the globe. But Jenkins often gave concerts in far simpler surroundings in a neighborhood park or from a side stage at the Printers Row Lit Festival. A park in Old Town was dedicated in her name a few blocks from the townhouse where she lived, and though the pandemic finally ended her public performances, she attended a celebration

of her 99th birthday there last year.

**Hyde Park Summer Fest** has been running, under various guises, since 2014, but the news came in May that it would not return for 2024. Lil Kim was a headliner in 2023, the year the festival celebrated 50 years of hip hop. West Side rapper Lupe Fiasco headlined in 2022. Although there had been little diminishment in last July's event — same three stages jam-packed with alternative and indie rock, hip hop and EDM, same fun vendors including the CHIRP Record Fair and Flatstock Poster Fair — some grumbled that Morissette was an odd pick as a so-called legacy act.

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# Corbet brings visionary bravado back to films

‘Brutalist’ goes for broke in industry ruled by safe bets

By Jake Coyle  
Associated Press

Brady Corbet’s “The Brutalist” emerged less like a new film worth checking out than a movie colossus to behold.

Corbet’s visionary three-and-a-half-hour post-war American epic, shot in VistaVision, has taken on the imposing aura of its architect protagonist’s style. Little about it is tailored to today’s more prescribed movie world. It even has an intermission. And yet “The Brutalist” isn’t just one of the most acclaimed films of the year, it’s edged perilously close to the mainstream.

For Corbet, the 36-year-old director, it’s a surprising turn of events. His 215-minute movie, he thought, was surely destined for cult-movie status.

“It’s a great reminder that anything can be mainstreamed,” Corbet says. “That gives me real hope for the future of the medium. Six months ago ... many people were telling me that the film is undistributable.”

Corbet, sitting in the offices of A24, which acquired his film out of the Venice film festival, smiles. “I was definitely not so popular with people as recently as August.”

Yet since its arrival at Venice in September, “The Brutalist” has emerged as a major Oscar contender. It was recently nominated for seven Golden Globes. Numerous critics groups have named it the best film of the year.

But Corbet and “The Brutalist” are aiming higher than awards-season success. “The Brutalist” is a grand bid to bring some visionary bravado back to movies. Corbet — who was an actor in films by



Filmmaker Brady Corbet, center, appears on the set of “The Brutalist,” which has emerged as a major Oscar contender. **A24**

Michael Haneke, Olivier Assayas and Lars von Trier before committing to directing — believes film is stuck in a stasis. In a movie world ruled by safe bets and streaming imperatives, “The Brutalist” dares to go for broke.

“I struggle a lot with movies from the last 20, 30 years,” says Corbet. “There’s many exceptions. But there aren’t as many as there should be. I just feel that they’re perfunctory — narratively perfunctory, stylistically. There are no big swings.”

“The Brutalist,” written by Corbet and his partner, the filmmaker Mona Fastvold, operatically unfolds the fictional story of László Tóth (Adrien Brody), a Hungarian architect who, having survived Nazi concentration camps, immigrates to Pennsylvania. He’s scraping by in a working-class life when his renovation of a library

for a wealthy industrialist, Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce), propels him back into architecture. Van Buren becomes László’s benefactor, commissioning him to build a sprawling institute. Their relationship, as patron and artist, grows increasingly tense and disturbed. “The Brutalist” evolves as a grim character study and sweeping psychodrama about the rapaciousness of American capitalism.

It’s also a pointed critique of Hollywood. For Corbet and Fastvold, some of the movie’s central dynamic came out of their previous film, “Vox Lux,” which starred Natalie Portman as a pop star whose fame is born out of a school shooting. The swelling ranks of financiers, Corbet says, made him miserable.

“Our experience on ‘Vox’ was really, really difficult for a variety of reasons. It was much more inside

the Hollywood process and that’s partially just because it was shot inside the States,” says Corbet. “After I made that film, I was like, I’m never working in the United States again. I was just being harassed by the powers that be daily. I remember at one point having a driver drive me around the block so that no one could be in my ear while I was at the monitor.”

Fastvold and Corbet, who live in New York with their 10-year-old daughter, shot “The Brutalist” in Hungary. If the movie is a self-conscious stab at resurrecting some of the visionary spirit of American moviemaking, it’s also a commentary on some of the forces that constrict it today.

“This is the closest we will ever get to making a film about making movies,” says Fastvold. “We didn’t have a Van Buren, but we certainly had our fill of

complicated relationships with the people who hold the purse strings.”

Making “The Brutalist” took some seven years in total. When Corbet reflected on that struggle at the movie’s Venice news conference, his voice quivered with emotion. Remarkably, it was accomplished with a budget less than \$10 million — considerably less than the film’s scope would suggest.

“The film was certainly designed to be outsized and imposing,” Corbet says. “We knew the film would be long. We knew it was a big object. We also felt it had to be. The form and the content needed to be lock step with each other. The appeal of Brutalism is its commitment to both minimalism and maximalism, and all of my films are playing with that dynamic. I like those extremes.”

When Fastvold and Corbet sat down to write,

they resolved not to be constrained by any self-imposed limitations. They wrote big. The couple, both of whom grew up with relatives who were architects, were fascinated by the connections of Brutalism, which favors raw concrete, and the war.

“Some of these things wouldn’t exist unless they had gone through the trauma experienced during the war,” says Fastvold. “There’s an honesty in Brutalism. Instead of covering up how the building is constructed, this is showing things the way they are. That felt connected to how you handle or process trauma, by exposing it.”

For Brody, the role had obvious echoes with arguably his most defining performance. In Roman Polanski’s 2002 “The Pianist,” Brody also played a Jewish artist warped by WWII.

“The research and the immersion needed to portray someone who lived through the horrors of World War II left me with an understanding that clearly lingered and exists within me,” Brody says.

Asked why he thinks moviemaking has grown less adventurous, Corbet describes systematic failure. It’s not only business limitations, he says, it’s a lack of boldness.

“I find this sort of faux humility to be exactly that,” Corbet says. “You made a movie. You raised millions of dollars. You assembled a crew of 250. Stop apologizing for it.”

Corbet already sounds delighted that his next project — a ‘70s-set horror Western — will further test whatever popularity has come his way thanks to “The Brutalist.”

“You have to dare to suck,” Corbet says. “I really think it’s so important. If you’re always trying to color inside the lines, you’re not advancing the conversation.”

## Wrightwood

from Page 1

there are horses of other names here, too, including five that gallop confidently out of a 34-foot-long cascade of used prayer flags in the museum’s atrium. “The Windhorse (lungta)” was fashioned by Asha Kama Wangdi with members of VAST, a youth arts organization he co-founded in Bhutan, from the faded flags that accumulate on mountaintops, unintended litter whose spiritual work the artist intends to continue through creative reuse.

Wangdi’s critical, sincere, and spectacular engagement with traditional materials echoes throughout “Reimagine,” notably in an installation by Sneha Shrestha, a Nepalese artist who goes by the name IMAGINE. Against a brilliant yellow graffiti mural of Nepali script, she displays clusters of small metal ritual objects—offering bowls, bells, oil lamps, ewers, buddhas—some borrowed from the Rubin collection, others from family members. Purposely shown without labels, the objects are easy enough to tell apart, the museological sheen of disuse contrasting with the spirited stains of current worship.

There’s not a lot of humor in “Reimagine,” but those who yuk it up do it well. Inspired by a pair of fanciful metalwork temple lions, Shushank Shresta poses lustrous ceramic likenesses of the creatures that guard his own home, pet dogs named Zinc and Caolin, as goofy as their 19th century ancestors are fierce. His “Uber Rat,” a taxicab-rodent with iPods in its ears, cartoonishly updates the lowly critter who serves as the elephant god Ganesha’s vehicle of choice. Shrad-dha Shrestha also revamps religious imagery, turning Hindu goddesses into adorable Powerpuff Girls versions of themselves. Just imagine the potential animated children’s series, where cute but fiery deities fight for outcasts,

ensure fruitful harvests, guide humanity, and bestow profound wisdom! The adult version is already a go: Shanghai-born LuYang cosplays Tibetan Buddhist philosophies in Gothic sci-fi getups for her narrative video “DOKU.” Its title derives from a phrase meaning “we are born alone, and we die alone,” a goth mantra if ever there was one.

As seems to be the case everywhere these days, there is plenty of figurative painting in “Reimagine,” much of it very fine. Standouts include Jasmine Rajbhandari’s “Compassion,” a scene of Buddhist and Hindu gods attending to war-injured women and children with water bottles and oxygen tanks, rendered by the Nepalese artist in heroically brash colors. In a pair of palimpsestic paintings on used tarp food sacks by Tenzin Gyurmey Dorjee, a Tibetan refugee born and raised in India, people jostle to get on a bus, a statue is repatriated, a monkey brandishes pistols, mother and son agonize over buying forbidden buffalo meat, animal masks are worn, and Gandhi gazes down on it all. Pema “Tintin” Tshering, of Bhutan, offers a magnificent modernization of the figure of the mahasiddha, who obtains enlightenment unconventionally through passionate practice of a chosen discipline. Arrayed around a gigantic buddha amid sublimely stylized clouds, waves, and decorative patterns, his little mahasiddhas wield such decidedly current tools as a camcorder, stethoscope, soccer ball, guitar, and, of course, those of Tshering himself, a paintbrush and palette. There’s even a laptop represented, like the one I’m typing devotedly on right now.

Lori Waxman is a freelance critic.

“Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now” runs through Feb. 15 at Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Ave.; more information at 773-437-6601 and [wrightwood659.org](http://wrightwood659.org)



Pema “Tintin” Tshering’s painting “Buddha with the passions surrounding” is part of “Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now” at Wrightwood 659 in Chicago. **PEMA TSHERING/BARUN ROM**



Shraddha Shresta remakes the Hindu goddesses of wisdom in the style of Powerpuff Girls, part of “Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now” at Wrightwood 659 in Chicago. **MICHAEL TOPEA**



For “Field of Wishes,” Sonam Dolma Brauen guided participants in the making of 200 white clay tsatsas, then arranged them around a 13th century stupa from the collection of the Rubin Museum in New York. Part of “Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now” at Wrightwood 659 in Chicago. **MICHAEL TOPEA**



Chicago Tribune

# LIFE+TRAVEL

Style | Relationships | Home



CZAREK  
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AP PHOTOS

## A symbol of openness



Warsaw hopes a new modern art museum — designed by an American — will help leave behind Poland’s communist legacy

TRAVEL



RODRÍGUEZ FAMILY

LIFE

### What do you do with heartbreak at the holidays?

Forgive the father you never had, writes Laura Rodríguez Presa



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY

BALANCING ACT

### Pajamas and police escorts

I’m trying to reconcile this infuriating contrast at Abundant Life Christian School, writes Heidi Stevens



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## Seniors labor to form close bonds in a new community



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

**Dear Eric:** My husband and I are in our 70s and retired to a new community. We are engaged in church ministries and social groups that meet for dinner periodically. I volunteer and he is an avid golfer.

My problem is not being able to turn new relationships into meaningful friendships. I have met many wonderful people but have a problem getting close with anyone. Any suggestions?

— *Feeling Isolated*

**Dear Isolated:** I know it doesn't feel like it, but you're not alone. Many adults struggle to make the deep connections they want, especially later in life or in new communities. I turned to friendship expert Anna Goldfarb, author of "Modern Friendship: How to Nurture Our Most Valued Connections."

Here's what she advises: "One of the best strategies for deepening a friendship is to provide what researchers call social identity support, which is seeing your friends for all the roles they play in their life: their race, class, gender and religion. This could look like asking to try their favorite dishes they grew up eating, including them in your cultural traditions, and signaling that you'd like to be a part of theirs, too.

"Another strategy is to recruit an accountability buddy. Identify a meaningful goal you both want to achieve — moving your body more, learning how to knit, watching every Matt Damon

movie in chronological order — whatever floats your boat. Your friendship will deepen as you cheer on one another because you're more invested in your successes."

Goldfarb told me, and I agree, that you're off to a great start. So, you should congratulate yourself on making the effort and for continuing to try. It's not always easy or as straightforward as we'd like, but you're on the right path.

**Dear Eric:** I enjoy your column and would like to make a comment regarding the letter from "Game Off" regarding her frustrations with her 10-year-old grandnephew who plays video games while on family vacation.

I agree family time is important, and, in her own home, she should negotiate something with her niece so she can spend time with her grandnephew during visits.

However, she's completely out of touch regarding gaming. Many colleges now have competitive gaming teams supported by computing and graphic design faculty, and they operate out of the athletics department just like other teams — it's called "esports" and is becoming a big business.

Her grandnephew may be headed to a successful career down the road through gaming.

— *Game Time*

**Dear Game Time:** You're right, it's all about balance. The letter writer can and should communicate her needs and wants regarding family visits. But she should also remain open to parenting choices that may not be what she would do in a similar circumstance.

Additionally, while moderation is important when making decisions about gaming, you're

correct that it's a growing and sometimes lucrative field of study and competition.

**Dear Eric:** I just love your column. I don't miss it because your advice is straightforward, right-on, sensible and kind. So, I saw myself in the letter from a friend of the woman who is so kind and so helpful to everyone, but rather controlling and beastly with her husband ("Bad Mounthing Do-Gooder"). Not as the friend, but as "the woman," although not that far over the top.

However, I see where I can improve in my relationship with my husband, not that he is perfect, as he tends to be a bit self-centered but is a good guy with many excellent qualities.

After reading that column, I took a deep breath, a step back, decided to let go and then said to myself, "I can be a better person." I am grateful for your column, and glad to be able to change when needed.

— *Living and Learning*

**Dear Living and Learning:** I commend you for being willing to be so open and vulnerable, and to commit to change. I also want to encourage you not to be too hard on yourself.

It's great to identify places where you can grow, but it's also OK to acknowledge places where you need other people to make changes, too. The key is to talk them through, with empathy and openness, so that no one feels attacked and everyone feels heard.

Thanks for your kind words about the column, as well. I am so glad it's resonating with you.

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

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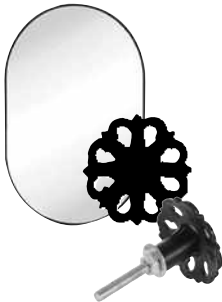
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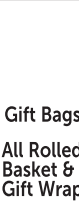
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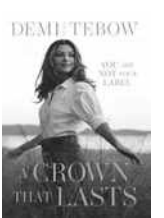


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# Holiday spirit in contrast with shooting

  
**Heidi Stevens**  
*Balancing Act*

The kids were in holiday jammies. They were being escorted out of their school, which just became a crime scene, and they were dressed in flannel pants and plaid robes and furry slippers. One boy's shirt said "Don't moose around" above a plaid moose, which matched his red and black plaid pajama bottoms. The adults were decked out too. One woman, clutching a phone and a water bottle in one arm and a terrified girl in the other, had on pants covered in holiday lights. Her "Let it snow" shirt had holiday lights circling the big, blocky letters. It was probably pajama day at Abundant Life Christian School, at least for some of the classrooms. The week before winter break is a little more performance than pedagogy. Spirits are bright. Attention spans are short. Teachers have to get creative. If you have kids, you know. You're rushing around trying to complete your holiday to-do list — Holiday cards! Holiday cookies! Holiday concert! Holiday staff party! Holiday shopping! Holiday work deadlines so you can take the holidays off! — and an email arrives from school about holiday spirit week (!) and suddenly you're trying to figure out how to dress your kid as the Grinch by Thursday. And it's all a little stressful, but it's also a little magical and it's also the whole, entire point. A life that asks you — allows you — to make the holidays (any of the days, really) feel joyful and magical and love-filled is the



Children board buses to reunite with their families after a shooting Dec. 16 at Abundant Life Christian School. **JAMIE KELTER DAVIS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

whole, entire point. So you go all in on holiday spirit week. I'm guessing, of course. I'm guessing about the moments leading up to Dec. 16, the day a 15-year-old girl attacked a study hall of students at Abundant Life Christian School before shooting herself. I'm staring at photos from the news coverage and trying to reconcile the playfulness of "Don't moose around" next to the flattened fury on the face of the police officer tasked with escorting the boy in those jammies to safety. (Safety is a term I use loosely; I'm not sure this child will ever feel safe again. Anywhere.) I'm trying to imagine how the morning played out for those kids. Before they got to school. Nine

days 'til Christmas. Advent calendars, maybe? That kind of giddy, devious feeling when you're wearing something that's usually against the rules? Begging Mom to let you ditch a coat? I'm trying to imagine how the morning played out for those parents. Before they got the call or text or whatever alerted them to the nightmare playing out in the building where they drop off a piece of their hearts every morning. Coffee, dishes, email, pull the jammies out of the dryer just in time, maybe? I'm trying to imagine how the morning played out for those educators. Before their workplace turned deadly. Before one third-grade teacher, as The New York Times reported, stood between the class-

room door and the students "armed with a pair of scissors, ready to defend against anyone attempting to enter." Imagine. I'm trying to imagine why we allow this to keep happening. I'm trying to imagine what it would take for us to feel so fed up, so mortified, so absolutely infuriated at the lost potential and lost innocence and lost hope and forever shattered lives that we swear never again. I'm trying to imagine what it would take for policymakers to stop wasting their time and ours arguing about trans athletes or what parts of U.S. history can be taught or whether rainbow flags are allowed in classrooms or whether dictionaries (dictionaries!) should be allowed in school libraries and start doing

the hard, morally imperative work of protecting kids from guns, their No. 1 killer. I'm trying to imagine the labor and guidance and common sense from Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Wear Orange, Sandy Hook Promise, March for Our Lives, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and the thousands upon thousands of angry, heartbroken, determined Americans who refuse to believe we have to live like this ... leading us to a time when we don't. I'm trying to imagine how in the world we continue to justify this set-up. Where kids put on holiday jammies and parents drop them at buildings and teachers meet them at classroom doors and all of it is, ostensibly,

the bricks-and-mortar manifestation of our values, our priorities, our beliefs, what we hold dear. We hold dear children and opportunity and knowledge and safety and bright futures and big ideas, all sprinkled with love and joy and recess and talent shows and holiday spirit week. We build monuments to those values. We call them schools. And kids keep dying in them. It's obscene. I'm trying to imagine it changing. It's getting hard to. *Heidi Stevens is a Tribune News Service columnist. You can reach her at heidikstevens@gmail.com, find her on Twitter @heidistevens13 or join her Heidi Stevens' Balancing Act Facebook group.*

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LIFE



Reporter Laura Rodríguez Presa and her father, Jose Carmen Rodríguez, during her third birthday celebration in Mexico before they moved to Chicago. **FAMILY PHOTO**

# How do you make peace with your past?

In my case, by finally forgiving the father who abandoned me as alcohol slowly took his life

By **Laura Rodríguez Presa**  
Chicago Tribune

After my alcoholic father passed away a couple years ago, I felt like a survivor. For almost three decades I watched him distance himself from me as he died slowly, of alcohol and solitude.

Despite his abandonment, I loved him. I still do.

When he died, I felt a sense of relief because we were both finally at rest. His addiction had dissipated, and as for me, there were finally no more places to look for him in the physical world. Or so I thought. What I didn't know was that my heart would inevitably continue searching for his love in anyone that I dated. I had no idea that the wound his absence left in me was bigger than my intellect, and certainly stronger than what my emotions could handle.

Despite being a 33-year-old woman, I felt like a little girl searching for her father's love after ending a relationship just before the holidays. I was shattered. And at a time when my social media feeds are flooded with engagements, pregnancy announcements and family photos, I felt abandoned all over again.

"I thought I was past this. I'm stronger and smarter than this," I told my therapist. I had promised myself I wouldn't let the heaviness of another lost love

consume me.

"But you can't deny your pain and your emotions," she responded.

That is when I understood that the memory of my estranged father still haunts me. It wasn't my most recent breakup that weighed me down. I was confronted by the realization that I equate each failed relationship throughout my life with my father's abandonment.

The pain that I felt from this breakup was about more than how it appeared at face value. It was directly connected to all the times my father left me waiting by the phone, without ever calling; to all the times he said he loved me, but never showed up; to all the times I begged him to stop drinking, but he never did.

The body stores feelings that overpower our intellect and logic, so mine couldn't differentiate between another failed relationship and my father's absence. But this is also when I understood just how much I love my father and how much I still yearn for his love, years after his

passing. I realized I hadn't forgiven him for abandoning me.

Instead, I became angry that I was still searching for the love of a father I never had in the eyes of men I barely knew. I was angry with him for all the broken pieces that left me anxious and starving for affection.

A starvation that made me see breadcrumbs of attention as a five-star meal. That is what the absence of a parent does to you: It makes you question your worth and makes you settle for mediocre affection.

About 10 years ago, I wrote a short blog in Spanish about my father when he was still alive. It was titled "How to find the perfect man when you're missing your father." At the time, I hadn't done any therapy and I certainly didn't think that my father's alcoholism and his absence would live in me forever.

I described all the ways I wanted to be loved, which were all the ways my father never showed me. I also said that I love him regardless. And a year after he died, I also wrote about my grief and love for him as a way to process his death.

So it has dawned on me now that loving him doesn't mean that I had forgiven him. At least not from deep within and from the heart. I realized I need to forgive

him in order to stop looking for him in other men, to stop settling for mediocre relationships or reliving the pain of his abandonment over and over again after a breakup.

I understand that I will forever carry my father's wound in me and that makes me even stronger. That's a heavy truth that has taken me a while to accept. And perhaps that is the best gift I can give myself for the holidays: to finally make peace with my pain and stay hopeful for the future.

I've been going to therapy for nearly five years. It has saved me many times and it has reshaped my life and character in ways I cannot describe.

But I've learned that healing and grief are not linear. At least not when you're confronted with your deepest fears and you suddenly become the little girl that begged her alcoholic father for love and attention.

But that little girl and the adult in me wholeheartedly forgive my father because despite all the ways in which he couldn't love, I've found that I'm resilient in ways that allow me to love myself and others.

To those with an absent, deceased or estranged parent, or a family member dealing with alcohol or other addictions, I share your pain. But we must forgive in order to redefine love and to find the love we truly deserve — not the one we settle for.







THE KID WHISPERER

Guide student to be respectful in setting limits with teachers

By Scott Ervin  
Tribune News Service

**Dear Kid Whisperer:** My freshman son is well-behaved and loves school, except for fifth period. That class is taught by a long-term substitute and has been all year.

My son has been a pretty accurate reporter so far in his life at school, and he says the substitute does not have lesson plans and student behaviors are pretty bad. The students have taken to criticizing the teacher's lack of preparation to his face during class. (My son even told me that he engaged in this once.) The teacher also often yells at the students.

My son is fed up and so am I, but I don't want my son to be disrespectful. I am going to talk with the principal, but how do I tell my son to handle this situation?

**Dear Reader:** If the goal is for your son to have the optimal learning environment possible while being respectful in class, you are starting on the right track.

One piece that I will add is, I think it's important for you to be able to teach your kid to calmly and respectfully advocate for himself.

Here's how I would teach your kid to remain calm and respectfully set a limit with his teacher:

Kid: Fifth period is a joke! The teacher just has us get on the same computer program every day and he doesn't teach! EVER! People are bored and they're acting up and he yells, and people don't care, and people yell back at him, and I want to yell at him! I hate it!

Kid Whisperer: I am so sorry that this is happening. It's not fair and it's not right. While a reasonable number of tough situations will arise at school, just like



DREAMSTIME

in life, and you should have to deal with those situations yourself, this may rise to a level of dysfunction that is not reasonable for 14- and 15-year-olds to deal with.

Kid: I'll say! Homeschooling it is!

Kid Whisperer: I hope it doesn't come to that. Let's tag-team this. I am going to go in and talk to your principal to make sure this teacher starts teaching lessons. Also, I think this may be a good time for you to advocate for yourself being treated in a dignified way. While there is a hierarchy in the classroom, and the teacher must be at the top of that hierarchy, you have the right to calmly and respectfully advocate to be treated in a calm, respectful way.

Kid: Will this include me telling him, in front of all my friends, that he's a terrible teacher?

Kid Whisperer: While that may or may not be true, if it were you in his position, would you take that very well?

Kid: I suppose not.

Kid Whisperer: Right. That's why I will be trying to deal with the academic piece. You are in charge of setting limits about how you wish to be treated by your teacher.

Kid: This sounds promising.

Kid Whisperer: Don't get too excited. If he treats you in a way that you feel is mean or disrespectful, you can say, calmly and respectfully, and if possible, in a whisper, "I don't think you're being respectful to me. May we please talk about this later?"

Kid: But won't I get in trouble?

Kid Whisperer: Maybe. But this is the kindest, most respectful way I can think of for you to advocate for yourself without being rude or disruptive. If you say exactly these words in exactly the way I described, he can't reasonably say that you did anything wrong — although he might anyway. I'll support you if necessary. If you say anything else, or say it the wrong way, you're on your own.

That later conversation should be, as much as possible, led by Kid. To be optimally successful, Kid should just empathize and say how the teacher's anger makes him feel and should not involve criticizing the teacher or telling him what to do in any way.

Statements could include:

- I know that this is a really hard job, but I feel scared when you yell at us.
- I know some of the kids aren't cooperative, but I feel like when you yell at all of us, it's not fair.

This will be difficult to carry out (for you and Kid), but it's probably the best way to get good outcomes from a very tough situation.

*Behavioral consultant Scott Ervin, M.Ed., is a parent and former teacher and principal. He is the author of "The Classroom Behavior Manual: How to Build Relationships, Share Control, and Teach Positive Behaviors."*

Remote worker forced to deal with envy from in-office crew



Judith Martin  
Miss Manners

**Dear Miss Manners:** I am a longtime employee of a company that has offered additional work-from-home days to IT workers willing to exchange their spacious and private offices for a desk in a shared room when working on-site. To skip the commute for an additional two days per week, I took advantage of this offer and gave up my office.

What do I say or do, if anything, in response to the inevitable feelings of resentment from employees to whom this tradeoff has not been offered? How do I best respond in a firm but polite way to comments like, "I'm not sure what your schedule is, now that you're home" or "I'm not sure how to schedule a meeting with you"?

To avoid confusion, I'm always clear about when I'll be working remotely and when I'll be at the office in person.

**Gentle reader:** As this is your job, Miss Manners advises being businesslike. Answer the question, not the subtext: "Here is where you can find my schedule and here is how to schedule a meeting with me."

**Dear Miss Manners:** Fifty years ago, an old love and I parted ways. We haven't remained in touch, but we have been generally aware of our separate paths.

When my friend married, I was a part of that celebration, and I sincerely wished her and her spouse well. Now, the news has been passed to me that she is battling a

terminal illness.

After we parted, she told me that she had burned my old letters, though not with rancor. I still have all the letters that she wrote to me, and I would now like to return them: She has children, and her letters recorded many remarkable parts of her life.

How might I proceed?

**Gentle reader:** Quick — ask! Miss Manners reminds you that people with terminal illnesses are nevertheless alive and have opinions.

That your friend burned your letters, not in anger but just to toss the past, suggests that she might not like to have her children poring over her ancient romances. You may consider it harmless history, but she might consider it embarrassing.

Or not. But surely she should make the decision.

**Dear Miss Manners:** I'm not well-off, and my friend is. She loves eating at nice restaurants. I can't afford those, so I usually take her out for hamburgers. She knows my financial circumstances.

I am very uncomfortable letting her treat me to fancy outings because I'm unlikely to ever be able to reciprocate. When I've asked her to take me to inexpensive hamburger joints, she will make excuses like she wants to try a restaurant she just heard about, and I'm the only one who can go with her. Should I refuse to accompany her? Or give up and figure that she can afford it, and that she doesn't care that I can't reciprocate?

**Gentle reader:** The latter is obviously the case, but you should still reciprocate — just not in a restaurant competition. Unless you can find a really good

restaurant that is not yet well-enough known to charge high prices.

Nah. Your friend would not be able to resist telling her rich friends about it, and the prices would soar. If you must stick with food, perhaps you can manage a good home-cooked meal.

But you needn't; there are other ways to reciprocate. She must have interests besides eating well. You could give her a small, well-chosen present, such as a book that might interest her, or a gadget that could solve some problem she mentioned. Or volunteer to run an errand, saving her time or stress.

You needn't do this at every meeting, as if in payment for lunch. Just often enough to show that you care about your friend and enjoy contributing to her happiness, as she does to yours. That is what reciprocation in friendship is.

**Dear Miss Manners:** I am curious about your thoughts on a "money dance" at a wedding reception. The DJ will announce the dance, in which the bride and/or groom take to the floor and dance with guests at the reception — if the person brings them money. It seems common practice.

**Gentle reader:** Renting out the bride (or bridegroom), even for short periods, does not strike Miss Manners as festive. Surely she is not the only one to think how much more money could be made on longer-term rentals.

*To send a question to the Miss Manners team of Judith Martin, Nicholas Ivor Martin and Jacobina Martin, go to [missmanners.com](http://missmanners.com) or write them c/o Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.*



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What's another teeny, tiny stain? You've got more important things to think about—like making sure your kids are buckled correctly in the right seat for their age and size.

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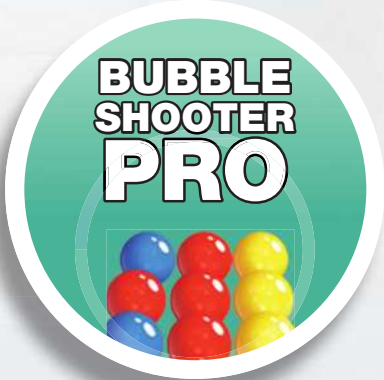
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TRAVEL



Visitors walk up the geometric staircase Oct. 24 at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Poland. CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/AP PHOTOS

# ‘Renaissance’ in Warsaw

## Modern art museum is intended to revitalize Polish capital as it moves past its communist legacy

By Vanessa Gera  
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — A modern art museum designed by American architect Thomas Phifer recently opened its doors in the Polish capital — a minimalist, light-filled structure that is meant to be a symbol of openness and tolerance as the city tries to free itself from its communist legacy.

The Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw sits like a bright white box on a major city street. Inside, a monumental staircase with geometric lines rises to upper floors, where large windows flood the gallery rooms with light.

City and museum officials say the light and open spaces are meant to attract meetings and debate — and become a symbol of the democratic era that Poland embraced when it threw off authoritarian communist rule 35 years ago.

Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski said the museum’s opening is a “historic moment for Warsaw” and that the project, which will later include a theater, will help to create a new city center no longer dominated by a communist symbol.

“This place will change beyond recognition. It will be a completely new center,” he said. “There has not been a place like this in Warsaw for decades, a place that would be created from scratch precisely to promote Polish art, which is spectacular in itself.”

Warsaw was turned to rubble by occupying German forces during World War II and was rebuilt in the gray, sometimes drab style of communist regimes across Eastern Europe.

But years of economic growth in the post-communist era have produced modern glass architecture, cutting-edge museums and revitalized historic buildings.

The museum was built on the site of a former parking lot near the Palace of Culture and Science, a dominating Stalinist skyscraper. Though long hated by many who saw in it as a symbol of Moscow’s oppression, the ornate palace remains an icon of the city today — perhaps even the city’s most recognized building.

The museum responds with its bright white minimalism and smaller scale.

“It is very important that this building is located opposite the Palace of Culture and Science and symbolically changes the center,” museum director Joanna Mytkowska said. “This is a building dedicated to open, equal and democratic culture.”

American and other Western architects are putting their mark on Warsaw. The city skyline includes a soaring tower created by Daniel Libeskind, the renowned Polish American architect.

The firm of British designer Norman Foster created the Varso Tower, which at 1,017 feet is the tallest skyscraper in the European Union. A Finnish architectural team designed the city’s landmark Jewish history museum.

Phifer’s New York-based practice is known in the United States for projects including the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Corning Museum of Glass and the Glenstone Museum expansion in Potomac, Maryland.

Asked by a reporter if he viewed the Warsaw museum as his masterpiece, the 71-year-old did not hesitate with his answer. “Of course,” he said.

He said from the time he began working on the museum 10 years ago, he was aware that his work was part of Warsaw’s “remarkable renaissance.”

The city financed the \$175 million project. In the first weeks it will hold performances and present several large-scale sculptures and installation pieces by female artists, including Magdalena Abakanowicz, Alina Szapocznikow, Sandra Mujinga and Cecilia Vicuña. The full opening with its larger collection is scheduled for February.

The area around the building is still under construction and will eventually become what the architect calls a “forum space,” including a garden and a theater, also designed by Phifer.

Not everyone loves the new museum’s austerity, and some residents have compared it to a concrete bunker.

Phifer said he believes the critics will feel differently when they enter the building and see its design and how the white background gives space for the art “to come alive.”

“The museum is what I would call a magic box. There is a bit of mystery to



The Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Poland, was built on the site of a former parking lot near a Stalinist-era skyscraper.



A visitor photographs a towering sculpture Oct. 24 at the Museum of Modern Art.



People look out of the window of the museum Oct. 24.

it,” he said. “You don’t really understand this work until you come inside and experience it with the art.”

Trzaskowski, the mayor, said all ambitious architectural projects are bound to stir up emotions.

“Every large project that has been

built from scratch in the world, such as the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Guggenheim in Bilbao or the pyramid in the Louvre, has stirred up controversy,” he said. The real controversies, he added, are to come when the museum starts staging its exhibitions.



# Take inspiring walk through Prague



Rick Steves

Known as the “Golden City of 100 Spires,” Prague boasts a fairy-tale medieval Old Town, historic churches and synagogues, and perhaps Europe’s largest castle. A good way to introduce yourself to the city, its layered past and its resilient people is with a walk across town, starting on lively, urban Wenceslas Square, weaving through the atmospheric Old Town and ending at the picturesque Charles Bridge.

Huge Wenceslas Square, lined with great buildings, has been center stage for much of modern Czech history. It’s named for King Wenceslas, the “good king” of Christmas-carol fame, sitting astride the big equestrian statue at the top of the boulevard-like square. The statue is a popular meeting point among locals, who like to say “I’ll meet you under the horse’s tail.”

The creation of the Czechoslovak state was celebrated here in 1918. An inspiring memorial commemorates Jan Palach and Jan Zajíc, two college students who set themselves on fire in 1969 to protest the Soviet Union’s invasion of the Czech Republic the year before. Twenty years later, giant crowds converged on the square, jingling their key chains and chanting “It’s time to go now!” in the lead-up to the peaceful overthrow of the communist government.

The Czech people have a rousing enthusiasm for blowing raspberries in the face of authority — once voting to name a fictional comedic character, Jára Cimrman, as their “Greatest Czech of All Time.” From the 14th-century rebel Jan Hus (who chal-



A medieval astronomical clock on Prague’s Old Town Square, with the spiky Týn Church towers in the background. **GLENN ERIKSEN**

lenged church corruption roughly a century before Martin Luther) to the flashes of revolt that sparked the 1989 Velvet Revolution, the Czechs have maintained a healthy disrespect for those who would tell them how to live their lives. (Remembering the mediocre jobs the communists assigned them, Czechs quipped: “They pretended to pay us, we pretended to work.”)

From the bottom of Wenceslas Square, it’s a short walk down skinny Melantrichova Street to Prague’s quaint, compact Old Town. On the way you’ll pass the wonderful open-air Havelská Market, a thriving display of traditional-though-touristy Czech culture. Here you can browse for handcrafts or snack on a vegetable or piece of fruit — merchants (often the farmers themselves) are happy to sell you just one.

A couple of blocks from the market is the Old Town Square, surrounded by gloriously colorful buildings in a diversity of architectural styles: Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo and Art Nouveau. Chief among them is the towering Gothic Týn Church, topped by fanciful spires.

At the center of the massive square, two monuments face off: Hus, the reformer, and a Bernini-inspired Virgin Mary. The original statue of Mary, erected in 1652, honored the Virgin as the city’s protector during the Thirty Years’ War. But by the early 20th century, nationalist Czechs saw this Mary as a symbol of their oppressors, the militantly Catholic Habsburgs. Cue installation of the Hus memorial, with Jan’s eyes defiantly locked on Mary. After the declaration of independence in 1918, a rebellious mob

tore down the “Habsburg” Virgin — to the dismay of many in this mainly Catholic country. It wasn’t until 2020 that a replica was placed on her original spot, sparking controversy and conversation.

A short detour up the uniquely tree-lined Parizska (“Paris”) Street leads to the poignant Jewish Quarter, with museums, synagogues and cemeteries. For me, this is one of the most powerful collections of Jewish sights in Europe.

Parizska ends at a bluff that once sported a 50-foot stone statue of Josef Stalin. It was torn down in 1962 and replaced in 1991 by a giant ticking metronome, its concrete base now favored by skateboarders who love to film themselves “skating at the Stalin.”

Back at the Old Town Square, Karlova Street zigzags down to the river to one of my favorite places

for a stroll: the Charles Bridge. Under the communists, this pedestrian-only bridge crossing the Vltava River was empty, its big Gothic towers and statues of saints coated in black soot. Today it’s a celebration of life, with a festival of gleaming statues, artists and musicians all along its length.

Across the bridge is the Castle Quarter, topped by the massive, must-see Prague Castle. A visit to the castle complex, with its quarter-mile stretch of churches, courtyards and palaces spanning a thousand years of Czech history, can fill the better part of a day.

The mythical founder of Prague, the beautiful princess Libuše, named her city “Praha” (“threshold”). The Czechs have always been at a crossroads of Europe — between the Slavic and Germanic worlds, between Catholicism and Prot-

estantism, and between Cold War East and West. Despite these strong external influences, the Czechs have retained their distinct culture ... and their enviable ability to find humor in life’s challenges.

*Rick Steves writes European guidebooks, hosts travel shows on public TV and radio, and organizes European tours. This column revisits some of Rick’s favorite places over the past two decades. Visit his website at [ricksteves.com](http://ricksteves.com), email him at [rick@ricksteves.com](mailto:rick@ricksteves.com) or follow his blog on Facebook.*

## GEOQUIZ ANSWER

**Answer:** Florida. The park, which is mostly open water and seven small islands, is about 70 miles west of Key West. It’s accessible only by boat or seaplane.

## CELEBRITY TRAVEL

### Actor on quest to see more of world

By **Jae-Ha Kim**  
Tribune Content Agency

Stephanie Koenig stars as Gwen Sanders on the FX series “English Teacher.” The well-traveled writer, producer and actress said that if she had to pick one destination as a favorite, she’d select somewhere in Greece. “There are so many beautiful places to visit,” said Koenig, 37. “We traveled to Greece right after the pandemic and went to Athens, Zakynthos and Santorini. We were lucky because Greece had just reopened for tourists and there was nearly no one there, especially on the beach in Santorini. I absolutely loved the land and the people. Every restaurant was open and filled with smiling Greek restaurant owners.”

This interview with Koenig has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q: Have you visited places for work that were so nice that you traveled back there later?**  
**A:** You know, I don’t think I’ve been to any place that cool for work yet. I do like Atlanta, though. It was fun to shoot there. I’m obsessed with the Belt-Line. Every city needs a BeltLine.

**Q: Do you work while you’re on vacation?**  
**A:** I absolutely love separating work from vacation. I can really tune out. I love drinking coffee on vacation and realizing I can use that coffee energy for pure joy and exploration instead of sitting down at a computer.

**Q: What untapped desti-**



Actress Stephanie Koenig said a dream about Alaska spurred her to visit the state. **EMMA EXPERIENCE**

**nation should people know about?**  
**A:** Alaska. I had a dream once that I was in Alaska, but I had never been. So I started obsessing about going and it did not disappoint. Go to Seward to see the Orcas. Stay in Girdwood to go skiing and drive past the moving glaciers. I think my jaw stayed dropped the entire time.

**Q: What was a trip you took as a child that stands out?**  
**A:** Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We used to go almost every summer for national dance competitions. The waves, heat, people, convention centers — I loved all of it. ... I spent quality time with my family there. I think that’s why it’s so special to me.

**Q: What’s the most important thing you’ve learned from your travels?**  
**A:** To keep traveling. There is so much to see and people to meet.

**Q: Where are your favorite weekend getaways?**  
**A:** Palm Springs, Santa Barbara, Big Bear.

**Q: If you’ve ever gone away for the holidays, which was the best trip?**  
**A:** I love spending Christmas in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and we usually spend Thanksgiving in Lake Placid, New York, with family. It’s absolutely stunning during any season with giant mountains, icy waterfalls, beauti-

ful stars at night.

**Q: When you go away, what are some of your must-have items?**  
**A:** Facial creams. I can’t use many because I have allergies to something in other creams, and I’m not sure for the life of me what ingredient breaks me out in hives.

**Q: What is your guilty pleasure when you’re on the road?**  
**A:** Scream-singing to Celine Dion.

**Q: What kind of research do you do before you go away on a trip?**  
**A:** Too much. I’m good at it though and found that it’s all about location. You need to research the right location before you hop on Airbnb and pick out a random pretty house in the middle of nowhere.

**Q: What is your best and worst vacation memory?**  
**A:** Worst vacation memory is senior year spring break. I got so burned in Cancun that I ended up in a wheelchair. I used expired suntan lotion on our first excursion and was exposed to the sun for hours. Long story, but my feet were swollen and purple. Then I got my thumb stuck in a hotel door. Best vacation memory? There’s too many. It’s not the place you go, but the people you go with.

*For more from the reporter, visit [www.jaehakim.com](http://www.jaehakim.com).*

## TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

### KLM prolongs processing rest of refund for ‘flex’ flight

By **Christopher Elliott** | King Features Syndicate

I am writing because I hope that someone at KLM will help me with a refund for a “flex” flight I purchased this summer. This email comes from a place of desperation, as I’ve had a terrible time trying to contact KLM and getting any information regarding my refund.

Last year, I booked three round-trip, “flex” refundable tickets from Washington, D.C., to Amsterdam on KLM.com. I paid \$4,907 for the tickets. In April, I had to cancel the trip, so I went to KLM.com and initiated a cancellation. The next week, KLM credited my card for \$2,293, which was less than half the amount of the original tickets.

I’ve been in contact with KLM through multiple channels, including phone, WhatsApp and Messenger, and I’ve had a very difficult time getting any information on the status of the remaining refund. Agents don’t have the complete information and also seem to invent policies as they go.

I’ve spent hours trying to settle this issue, and each communication with KLM’s customer service leaves me more confused than when I started. By making the refund process as opaque, time-consuming and difficult as possible, KLM is engaging in unethical and possibly fraudulent behavior. Can you help me?

— *Mel Stevenson, Takoma Park, Maryland*

**A:** You should have received a prompt refund for your ticket. KLM’s flex ticket allows you to change your flight without paying a change fee. (You only pay the difference, if applicable.) You can take an earlier or later flight without paying a change fee if seats are available. And most importantly, you can cancel your flight and get a refund without paying a cancellation fee.

So, why didn’t you get it? Sometimes airlines process their refunds in batches, and it’s possible that KLM processed two tickets and intended to do the other two later. It’s also possible that the carrier misunderstood its own ticket terms — I’ve seen this many times.

All KLM would repeatedly say was that your fare did not qualify for a refund, even though you had purchased a fully refundable flex fare.

You kept great records on your refund request. I might have limited my interaction with KLM to text messages or emails, which would ensure there’s a record of your conversation. But it’s clear that KLM sold you a fully refundable ticket and that you should have received a prompt refund.

It looks like you even appealed this to the top executives at KLM. (I list the names, numbers and email addresses of the KLM customer service executives on my consumer advocacy

site, [elliott.org](http://elliott.org).) But they ignored you.

Come on. Airlines can’t just sell you a fully refundable ticket, then only refund half of it. After my advocacy organization asked about this case, KLM sent you an email.

“After thoroughly reviewing your previous reservation, we have determined that your tickets are indeed fully refundable,” it said. KLM processed the rest of your refund, as promised.

*Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer of Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps consumers resolve their problems. Contact him at [elliott.org/help](http://elliott.org/help) or [chris@elliott.org](mailto:chris@elliott.org).*





Brooks Ghost 16 shoes provide the support needed for long walks. **BROOKS RUNNING**

# Nurses recommend top shoes to help keep you on your toes

**By Morayo Ogunbayo**  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

One sign of a trip well spent is a high-step count for the week, reflecting the sights you saw and the activities you accomplished.

Some of the most memorable vacation moments happen on all-day walking tours.

Walking long distances like that is uncommon for most of us, and the shoes we wear for walks within our neighborhood might not cut it when the next vacation rolls around.

Nurses have approved some of their favorite shoes for these purposes, sure to withstand both the longest travel days and even typical workdays when you're on your feet for hours on end.

**Brooks Ghost 16**

Brooks ultra-comfy running shoes also provide the support needed for long walks.

They are also lightweight, meaning they are easy to pack.

"For me, Brooks Ghost 16's have been a lifesaver," Shawnda Dorantes, a nurse practitioner, told Travel+Leisure. "They provide all-day comfort and support that I rely on. They're also fantastic for travel when comfort and breathability are vital."

Brooks Ghost 16 Running Shoes are available for men and women and cost \$140.

**Kizik Wasatch**

The shoe brand is known for its functional, hands-free design that allows wearers to slide their foot in and out of the shoe with ease.

Kizik makes these comfy sneakers with thick, removable insoles that are waterproof, which one nurse called "perfect for slipping on in a hurry, quiet when walking, and super comfy."

Kizik's Wasatch sneakers are available for men and women. They are priced at \$150.

**Reebok Walk Ultra 7 DMX Max**

These sneakers have the classic Reebok look, while also providing comfort that could make an active vacation more bearable.

The shoe has memory foam cushioning on the inside and a rubber outsole, providing the best of both worlds.

"I am a Nurse and have worn Reebok shoes for many years," one woman wrote in a review of the shoes. "The insoles are fantastic and mold to your feet. My feet never hurt standing and walking in these shoes for 12 hours at a time."

Reebok Walk Ultra 7 DMX Max Shoes are available for men and women and cost \$60.

**Teva Terrawave**

The makers of the popular, functional sandals have moved into the world of sneakers, creating these lightweight shoes with special dual-density foam bottoms for support.

Marlee Bruno, a board-certified physician's assistant in Pensacola, Florida, told Travel+Leisure they were "durable for rugged terrain and comfortable and breathable," and noted how easy to pack they are.

Teva Terrawave sneakers come in sizes for men and women and are available for \$150.

**Hoka Clifton 9**

Hoka has been known to create shoes great for walking, and these are no exception.

Jihan Brueggemann, a registered nurse for more than 11 years, praised the sneakers to Travel+Leisure, saying they are her "ultimate favorite because they offer more stability and ankle support." She went on to say the Clifton 9s make her feel "like I am walking on air."

Hoka Clifton 9s are available for men and women and range in price from \$116 to \$145.

# How can I preserve old papers?



**Ellen Warren**  
Answer Angel

**Dear Answer Angel Ellen:** I just came across a family newspaper clipping of my mom in a high school high-jump competition — in sunglasses and bloomers! I'd never seen the photo, which is priceless.

The newsprint version is already deteriorating. I'd like to frame the shot. How can I preserve it?

— Judith F.

**Dear Judith:** Newspapers are good for many things (including washing windows). But as a veteran newspaper writer with a basement full of decaying stories that I've written then stashed over the decades, I don't need to consult the National Archives to learn that "newsprint is an inherently unstable paper."

For your purposes, the Archives' website (archives.gov) says photocopying the news clipping is the way to go: "Photocopies will far outlive newsprint when stored under normal conditions." That's good advice when the clippings are valued for the information they contain and not as artifacts.

The paper that newspapers are printed on is cheap, made with a high percentage of unpurified wood pulp causing it to turn yellow and crack. To avoid that, ideally you'd need a stable temperature, regulated humidity, and special boxes and tissue paper for storage. The Archives has many more tips on document preservation.

**Dear Answer Angel Ellen:** Why can't I find old-school sweatpants without those stretchy cuffs that grab your ankle? I don't think they're flattering at all. And they're all so thin! I would



DREAMSTIME

like decent-looking warm sweat pants with straight legs and no elastic of any kind at the ankle.

— Babs

**Dear Babs:** I'll grant you that sweatpants with cuffs, called joggers, have taken over the market, and stores are much more likely to have piles of them. However, there are still many options for your preferred sweats style: Gap, Eddie Bauer, Target, L.L. Bean, Walmart, amazon.com and others all sell straight-leg sweats.

As for the heavy fabric you're looking for, that's a tough one. Some manufacturers sell "fleece-lined" sweats that, in reality, are just heavyweight sweats. In other cases they actually are lined with the fuzzy fleece that you find too hot. Life's too short to keep ordering online versions only to find they're not what you want and have to be sent back.

So, readers, send your recommendations for heavyweight (but not fleece-lined) straight-leg sweats to solve Babs' Goldilocks dilemma. She's looking for the Papa version of sweats, not Mama or Baby.

**Dear Answer Angel Ellen:** At my work, the dress code is extremely flexible (employees wear anything from classic pantsuits and pumps to capris and flip-flops). My fall/winter

wardrobe staples consist of A-line skirts (above and below the knee) and slacks in neutral color (black/grey/camel) teamed with sweater sets. Also, my other usual tops are blouses or turtlenecks with a jacket.

Is above- or below-the-knee hem more appropriate this season?

—j.J

**Dear j.J:** If your only dilemma is what skirt length to choose, it is entirely up to you. Wear what makes you feel best. Meanwhile, we all are well-advised to check our appearance in a full-length mirror — front and back — before leaving the house.

**Reader rant**

From Linda S.: "Why is it that every pair of lace-up shoes I buy comes with laces two times as long as they should be? I double-bow them and they're still sweeping the floor. Is it asking too much for the manufacturer to provide the correct length laces? I have had this problem with gym shoes, casual lace-ups and expensive dress shoes with unique laces that are difficult to replace with shorter versions that look good."

Send your questions and rants — on style, shopping, fashion, makeup and beauty — to [answeringangel@att.net](mailto:answeringangel@att.net).



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Chicago Tribune

# REAL ESTATE



Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward bought a penthouse in New York City in the 1980s. EVAN JOSEPH STUDIOS PHOTOS

## NYC PENTHOUSE WAS MOVIE STARS' GETAWAY

With spacious views, Newman-Woodward co-op lists for \$9.95M

By Vivian Marino  
The New York Times

The longtime Manhattan home of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, a sprawling penthouse at the exclusive 1120 Fifth Ave. co-op that they had used as a pied-à-terre and to entertain fellow movie stars and other prominent guests, is on the market for the first time in four decades.

The asking price is \$9.95 million, with \$13,078 in monthly maintenance, said Noble Black of Douglas Elliman Real Estate, who is listing the property with his colleague Jennifer Stillman.

The sale of the apartment is being handled by the couple's children on behalf of Woodward, 94, who has withdrawn from public life since being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2007.



The view of the reservoir in Central Park from one of the two penthouse terraces at 1120 Fifth Ave. and East 93rd Street.

Newman died of cancer in 2008 at 83. Woodward remains at her long-time primary residence in Westport, Connecticut, where she and Newman raised their daughters Nell, Melissa and Clea. They bought the co-op, which has

sweeping views of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir in Central Park, in the early 1980s. "It was really kind of their romantic spot," said their youngest daughter, Clea Newman Soderlund, an ambassador to the SeriousFun Children's Network, a

camp program for seriously ill children founded by Newman. "They would spend weeks at a clip there. They would go to the theater or the opera or out to dinner with friends."

The apartment encompasses half the top floor of a 15-story limestone co-op building, designed by James E.R. Carpenter, erected in 1925 at the corner of Fifth Avenue and East 93rd Street in Carnegie Hill. It has just under 3,000 square feet of interior space, with two bedrooms and 2 ½ bathrooms, and two spacious terraces totaling about 2,300 square feet.

"My mother wanted a terrace for the dogs, so they could go outside — that was the prime objective," Newman Soderlund said. "They ended up getting this extraordinary property that overlooks the park and reservoir, and they got the sunrise and sunset."

The terraces also provided scenic backdrops for the couple's numerous cocktail and dinner parties, where they regaled a long list of guests that included Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Tom Cruise, Cher and Harry Belafonte.

Turn to Penthouse, Page 3

### ELITE STREET

## Toews sells condo in Lincoln Park for \$4.5M

By Bob Goldsborough  
For The Chicago Tribune

Former Chicago Blackhawks hockey great Jonathan Toews on Dec. 19 sold his four-bedroom, 4,406-square-foot penthouse condominium in Lincoln Park for \$4.5 million.

Toews, 36, was the Blackhawks' team captain and a central part of the team's three Stanley Cup-winning teams between 2010 and 2015. After battling long COVID and chronic immune response syndrome, Toews sat out the 2023-24 hockey season, and he is a free agent. He never has retired from the NHL, and just last month he posted on Instagram that he recently had spent five weeks in India undergoing a healing detox.

Through an opaque land trust based in Winnipeg, Canada,

Toews paid \$3.55 million in 2019 for the penthouse condo, which is atop an eight-story building, and for three parking spaces in the building.

In July, Toews listed just the condo for \$4.7 million, and he found a buyer in October. His listing agent, Millie Rosenbloom, declined to comment. Public records do not yet identify the buyer.

Toews' condo is one of two penthouse-level units in the building, which has 10 residences in total and was built behind the brick and limestone facade of a nearly 100-year-old parking garage. The condo has four and a half bathrooms, skyline views, a 50-foot-high great room with 11.5-foot-high floor-to-ceiling windows, a double-height gallery

Turn to Elite, Page 3



Former Blackhawks hockey great Jonathan Toews sold his four-bedroom, 4,406-square-foot penthouse condominium in Lincoln Park for \$4.5 million. BOB GOLDSBOROUGH





There are few exceptions to reporting the beneficial ownership of companies. **DREAMSTIME**

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Who must file federal Beneficial Ownership Information report?

By Ilyce Glink and Samuel J. Tamkin  
Tribune Content Agency

**Q: I am the secretary of the board of directors of a homeowners association. Our management company is telling us that we have to file the Beneficial Ownership Information report required by the U.S. Treasury Department. We are a not-for-profit entity, and the board is volunteer. Is this really required by the U.S. Treasury?**

**A:** If your management company is telling you to file the form, we suspect that they are correct and you should file it. Beginning this year, the U.S. government began accepting reports regarding the beneficial ownership of companies. The purpose of the Corporate Transparency Act is to curb illicit finance — in short, money laundering.

The reporting requirements aren't complicated but require companies to report who owns and controls them. So, if you own more than 25% of a company, you are required to document your ownership. There are certain reporting exceptions, but the reporting covers just about all companies.

Again, you're asking

about a homeowners association and we're addressing your issue alone. For anybody else wondering whether they need to file a report, please review the Beneficial Ownership Information section at [fincen.gov/boi](https://fincen.gov/boi).

You'd think that the government might have exempted condominium and homeowner associations in their work. We haven't discovered that exemption. There are 23 exemptions listed on the FinCen website, but none would exempt condominium or homeowners associations.

The best we could find was a statement on the FinCen website that certain homeowner associations that are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations may be exempt from filing.

Also, informal associations that do not have a corporate charter issued by a state are likely not required to file a report. For example, this might include a group of homes that together make up an association through an easement agreement but are not a formal association and are not incorporated with the state in which they are located.

A quick internet search found that there have been some lawsuits filed to try to get condominium and homeowners associations exempted. We haven't seen any that have been successful so far.

We assume that your association is incorporated, but as with many homeowner and condominium associations, we suspect you are a nonprofit corporation. Having said that, we don't know if you have the IRS 501(c)(4) social welfare organization designation.

Given where things stand, the easiest course of action would be to follow your management company's advice and file. It's not difficult and doesn't take too much time.

However, if you really don't want to file, you'll need to look into it further: Find out more about your association, its tax status and filings, and then determine whether you are exempt from filing. Your association attorney may also have some thoughts on the matter.

*Ilyce Glink is the CEO of Best Money Moves and Samuel J. Tamkin is a real estate attorney. Contact them through the website ThinkGlink.com.*

ASK THE BUILDER

Effective drainage depends on proper use of materials

By Tim Carter  
Tribune Content Agency

Water drainage is misunderstood by many homeowners, builders, YouTube personalities and building inspectors, if my email in-box is any indicator. I've lost count of the thousands of drainage-help requests entered on the Ask Tim page of my website, AsktheBuilder.com.

Geology was my college major, with a specific focus on hydrogeology. That's the discipline of subsurface groundwater and groundwater movement.

Many building and landscaping products are designed with a specific purpose in mind, and they perform well, but they can cause problems when used in ways that are not recommended. This has happened, in my opinion, with the use of geo-textile fabrics in drainage systems.

The first thing to understand about subsurface water movement is that it doesn't always head straight down to the center of the Earth. In almost all cases, water starts to move sideways or downslope when the soil's B horizon has a clay content. The clay layer under the A horizon (the topsoil) prevents water from moving down. Water, like most things, loves to travel in the path of least resistance.

Topsoil acts like the air filter in your furnace or AC air handler. It captures tiny silt particles that get disturbed in periods of heavy rainfall. Water flowing over the surface of the ground gets fouled with silt in storms. This is why the water in creeks, brooks and streams turns muddy during and just after a big storm. Forty-eight hours after the storm has passed



Almost everything about the installation of this 4-inch-diameter perforated drainpipe is wrong. **TIM CARTER**

that same water will be clear.

The last piece of the puzzle is fluffed soil or dirt. When you dig undisturbed soil during construction, you increase its volume by about 10%. The soil that was protected by the topsoil is now exposed to the destructive force of raindrops and overland water flow. This explains why governments want silt fences erected around construction sites. They want that silt to stay put on the construction site.

This fluffing happens a second time when the dirt is placed alongside a foundation. Decades before geo-textile fabrics were invented, builders placed one foot of dry straw on top of the coarse gravel that sat on top of the drain tile at the base of the foundation. The straw acted like the topsoil and prevented the silt from fouling the gravel and clogging the drain tile.

Many experts agree on the best way to place 4-inch drain tile at the bottom of a foundation. It should be placed on top of 4 inches of coarse gravel that is free of any sand or fines. It should be the size of green grapes or small walnuts. It can be rounded or crushed stone. Water flows through this gravel

like it does through a large kitchen colander with big holes. This is exactly what you want: rapid water movement.

The top of the drain tile pipe should be no higher than the top of the concrete footing. The holes in the perforated pipe should aim down. Use an analog clock face as your north star. The holes should be placed in the same orientation of the numbers 4 and 8 on a clock face.

Many builders and laborers put the perforated drain pipe upside down, with the hole pointing up. This allows gravel to block the holes, which prevents water from entering the conduit. And the pipe doesn't need to be sloped like a plumbing drain pipe. It can be level around the perimeter of the footing. Once the drain tile is extended to daylight beyond the foundation, you can transition to solid pipe. Slope this pipe a quarter-inch per foot to promote rapid water to flow away from the foundation.

It's best practice to install 2 or 3 feet of the coarse gravel on top of the drain tile pipe. The more you put, the better. And skip the geo-textile fabric.

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CATHRYN SHIEL PHOTOS

HOME OF THE WEEK

# Streeterville 3-bed home with brightly painted walls: \$2M

**Address:** 1500 Lake Shore Drive, No. 11A, Chicago  
**Price:** \$2,000,000  
**Listing date:** Dec. 5, 2024  
This three-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath-room home has walls painted French blue, orange and aubergine. In the kitchen are Miele and SubZero appliances and counters with marble finishes. The primary bedroom includes an en-suite bath with a double vanity, shower and a walk-in closet. Two more bedrooms also have en-suite bathrooms. Other rooms in this home include a lacquered library, a living room, dining room and a family room. A 24-hour doorman, parking and a fitness center complete this home.  
**Listing agents:** Sophia Klopas and Meredith Manni Meserow, Jameson Sotheby's International Realty, 312-927-0334

Some listing photos are “virtually staged,” meaning they have been digitally altered to represent different furnishing or decorating options.

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## Penthouse

from Page 1

After buying the apartment, Woodward and Newman made a few changes and updates, Black said, like enlarging the primary bedroom by combining two smaller bedrooms. But little has been done to the unit in recent years. “The kitchen is still very much how they had it. There’s also original wallpaper and tile. Early ’80s vintage. It retains their personality.”

But “there’s plenty of space to play around with.”

And the apartment still has many of its original prewar flourishes, like the nearly 11-foot ceilings, herringbone wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, and decorative wood moldings and built-ins.

“The bones are what’s really spectacular in terms of the scale of the rooms, ceiling heights, windows and the view of Central Park,” Black said, adding that “the pedigree” of two Hollywood legends having lived in the apartment “takes it to another level.”

Many of the apartment’s previous contents have been removed, with some sold at auction. A scattering of Woodward



The formal dining room of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward’s penthouse at 1120 Fifth Avenue and East 93rd Street, on the market for the first time in four decades. The celebrated couple bought the co-op overlooking Central Park in the early 1980s and used it for big, splashy parties. **EVAN JOSEPH STUDIOS VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES**

and Newman’s old photographs, books and personal belongings remains.

They had amassed extensive collections of artwork, furnishings and watches, along with film and auto-racing memorabilia. (Newman, a noted philanthropist and entrepreneur, was also an accomplished race car driver.)

The pair were among the most renowned actors of the 20th century, appearing onstage and in film and receiving many accolades along the way. Newman won an Academy Award for best actor for his role in “The Color of Money” (1986), and Woodward took best actress for “The Three Faces of Eve” (1957).

The apartment is entered through a spacious foyer that opens to a library/bedroom with built-in shelves and an adjacent bathroom; a formal dining room, also with built-in shelves and window seats; and an enormous living room, which is anchored by a fireplace with a carved wood mantel and features a

separate dry bar. Newman kept his baby grand piano in the living room.

“Their favorite room was probably the living room,” Newman Soderlund said. “They spent a lot of time there listening to music and enjoying the view.”

The dining room leads to the kitchen area, which contains a butler’s pantry,

breakfast nook, laundry/staff room and a powder room. The windowed kitchen is outfitted with butcher-block countertops and original metal cabinets. Nearby is a service elevator.

The kitchen and living room lead out to the Central Park-facing west terrace.

At the east end is the primary bedroom suite, with two large walk-in closets and an en suite bathroom with hand-painted tiles and a soaking tub. The bedroom leads to a wrap-around terrace with city-scape views.

Newman Soderlund said she and her sisters have many fond memories of the penthouse, where they would watch fireworks on New Year’s Eve and gather for family dinners. Sometimes they stayed in the two-bedroom, ground-floor apartment that their parents also owned in the building. (It was used as an office, gym and guest space. The unit is still owned by Woodward and is available for purchase separately.)

“We loved coming here,” she said. “My parents told us ‘You’re welcome to come and visit anytime,’ but it wasn’t really set up for staying there any length of time. It was their oasis in New York.”

## Elite

from Page 1

with 22-foot-high ceilings and a rooftop deck on the second level.

Developer Todd Buffington undertook the building’s conversion and expansion — five glass and steel floors rise above the original three levels of the garage — in 2017 and 2018.

The penthouse had a \$74,182 property tax bill in the 2023 tax year. It also has a \$1,845-a-month homeowners association fee.

**Pat Ryan, retired chairman of Aon Corp., sells condo in the Four Seasons Hotel for \$1.3M:** Billionaire philanthropist and insurance

magnate Pat Ryan, who founded and is the retired chairman of Aon Corp., and his wife, Shirley, on Dec. 18 sold one of the two condominium units they have owned on the 62nd floor of the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago building on North Michigan Avenue for its \$1.3 million asking price.

Pat Ryan is the founder and executive chairman of the insurance holding company that he founded in 2010, Ryan Specialty Group, and he continues to have major influence in his longtime role on the board of trustees of his alma mater, Northwestern University, particularly in athletics. Both Pat and Shirley Ryan founded Pathways, an organization



The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago on North Michigan Avenue. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2020**

formed to raise awareness and spread knowledge about early detection and intervention for pediatric motor, sensory and communication delays,

and in 2017, they integrated Pathways with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in a brand-new hospital building known as the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.

In the Four Seasons, the Ryans paid \$1.9 million in 1989 for the three-bedroom, 2,727-square-foot condo that they just sold, meaning that they took a \$600,000 loss on it over 35 years of ownership. In 2018, they paid \$4.4 million for a three-bedroom, 4,320-square-foot unit next door to the one they just sold. That larger unit has been on the market since Nov. 20 for \$2.3 million.

The smaller condo that the Ryans just sold is south-east facing and has three bathrooms, 11-foot ceilings and corner living and dining rooms with views of Lake Michigan and the Michigan Avenue skyline. The couple first listed it on Nov. 15.

The condo that the couple sold is a “one of a kind unit with 11-foot ceilings and amazing south-east views,” listing agent Michael Maier of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago told Elite Street.

The condo had a \$35,992 property tax bill in the 2023 tax year. It also has a \$3,419-a-month homeowners association fee.

The buyer is an oral surgeon, according to public records.

The Ryans own other homes as well, including a 15,166-square-foot mansion in Winnetka and a lakefront mansion in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

*Bob Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.*



# SUCCESS

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## 2024 economy in review: The I’s have it!

At this time of year, I like to reflect on larger trends and then highlight lessons that we can take to the following year. To sum up 2024, think of the letter I, as in i-nflation, i-nterest rates and i-nvestments, which dominated headlines.

### Inflation

Although the rate of inflation retreated from the post-COVID peak of 9.1% annually, consumers continued to struggle with still-high prices on everything from insurance to child care to rent.

The final inflation report of 2024 will be released in January, but through November, the consumer price index increased to 2.7% from a year ago and the core rate, which strips out volatile food and energy, is up 3.3% from a year ago.

To translate those numbers in an easy-to-understand way, today it takes almost \$123 to buy what \$100 bought in November 2019.

### Interest rates

To beat back inflation, the Federal Reserve kept interest rates at a 23-year high of 5.25% to 5.5% throughout most of the year. Those high rates were tough on borrowers, who continued to struggle with almost 22% average rates on credit card balances and 8% to 9% for new and used cars.

If borrowers were the losers of a high-interest rate environment, savers have been the winners. Rates have dipped below 5% on high yield savings accounts and certificates of deposit, but there are still plenty of good deals out there for consumers.

The Fed shifted gears in September, when it cut interest rates for the first time in four years. The central bankers started with a 0.5 percentage-point reduction, followed by two quarter-point cuts in November and December.

Although anything can happen, for 2024, the Fed has engineered a soft landing. That’s the oft-desired, though rarely achieved goal of hiking interest rates to bring down inflation, without triggering a recession. Although the Fed does not directly control mortgage interest rates, the cost of financing a home remains elevated.

### Investments

Prior to the election, investors were already enjoying double-digit returns on stocks. Those gains continued after the election was decided, on hopes that a second Trump administration would keep taxes low and ease regulations.

As stock indexes reach new highs, you may encounter two ends of the emotional spectrum: euphoria or anxiety. I would caution against either of those extremes because acting on either of them could cause long term investors a lot of pain.

Ben Carlson, director of institutional asset management at Ritholtz Wealth Management recently provided this excellent advice: “You should only invest in the stock market an amount you would be willing to hold through both bull and bear markets. No one can predict when stocks will take off or get crushed so your asset allocation should take that into account.”

The past five years has been an ideal period to remind everyone that market timing does not work. Few can pick the ideal time to buy or sell.

### Three more I’s

For many, this is a time of year to catch your breath, refuel, and reconnect with friends and family. With a hat tip to the letter I, may the season inspire, illuminate, and invigorate us all.

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



DREAMSTIME

# Your personality can affect your income

Big 5 system reveals your potential by measuring your levels of key factors

By Jessica Stillman | Inc.

How much you earn depends on your skills, your experience, your industry and your level of ambition. Does it also depend on your personality?

A new study conducted by University of Cambridge economists combed through data on about 22,000 households to find out. It discovered insights anyone looking to maximize their bank account should know.

### The Big 5 personality framework

When everyday people want to understand their personality better, they might take an online quiz or turn to commercial personality frameworks like Myers-Briggs. But when scientists look to measure people’s personalities, they all turn to the Big 5. This system of describing personality places people on five sliding scales that measure your levels of the following five key traits.

- Extroversion: Do other people sap you or energize you?
- Conscientiousness: Do you do what you say you will do?
- Agreeableness: How much do you try to please others?
- Neuroticism: Are you emotionally stable?
- Openness: How much do you like or avoid new things?

This framework has been validated by research again and again. Multiple studies have also shown that our Big 5 personality traits can impact things like how well our romantic relationships go and the careers we choose. For this study, published in the Journal of Political Economy, a team of economists wanted to see if the Big 5 also impacted how much money people make.

They looked at data on some 22,000 German households that included information on income and personality. Did

they find that your character influences your bank account?

### How your personality affects your income

The answer, according to a recent post on The Conversation by Weilong Zhang, who participated in the research, was a clear yes. Being high in agreeableness seems to lower the amount people earn. So does being more on the neurotic end of the scale. On the other hand, conscientiousness raises the chances that you will bring home a big paycheck.

It’s not too hard to guess the reason behind some of these findings. Doing what you say you’re going to do and not freaking out are both great ways to get ahead at work.

Or as Zhang puts it, “Conscientious people are often perceived as reliable and hardworking, while emotional stability allows people to handle stress effectively — both of which employers value highly.”

But other factors were more complex. “Agreeableness, despite its social benefits, turns out to be a financial liability,” Zhang says. “Highly agreeable people tend to avoid conflict, which can make them less assertive in negotiations.” Low agreeableness may also be read by others as boldness and leadership potential. It apparently doesn’t pay to be too nice at work.

On the flip side, “Workers with higher levels of emotional stability may approach salary negotiations with more confidence, leading to better outcomes,” he writes.

### Lessons for leaders and strivers

The economists were interested in doing this analysis because of what light it might shed on the gender pay gap. Women tend to be more agreeable on average compared with men. Is that part of the reason they earn less?

That’s a fascinating question (and the answer seems to be yes), but it’s not terri-

bly practical for the average business leader looking for actionable tips to earn more and be a better manager. What do these results say to them?

Zhang suggests that leaders looking to reduce gender-based pay gaps could “re-evaluate how they reward traits like agreeableness and emotional stability. For example, valuing collaborative and empathetic leadership styles alongside assertiveness.” You could also provide negotiation training to employees.

But this research also seems useful to anyone looking to maximize their earning potential. Big 5 personality traits are relatively stable over our lifetimes. If you were a shy toddler, you are likely to tend toward introversion as an adult, too. But “relatively stable” does not mean the same thing as cast in iron.

Studies have shown both that your personality can undergo quite large changes over the course of your life, and that conscious effort can shift your personality along each spectrum of the Big 5.

The key to becoming, say, more extroverted, is to perform small actions of extroversion. If you want to be friendlier, you might push yourself to chitchat a bit with the cashier at the supermarket. If you want to be less neurotic, try a simple daily gratitude practice. Basically, faking it until you make it actually shifts your personality.

### A reminder from science: You can change your personality

All of which suggests that if you fear your personality is standing in the way of a bigger bank account, you are probably not wrong. You are also not powerless. Consciously assessing how you might be standing in the way of your own financial success and then taking small but consistent actions to change your personality can, quite literally, pay off.



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



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SUCCESS

# Avoid potential problems with Roth conversions



Elliot Raphaelson  
*The Savings Game*

In several of my columns, I have pointed out the advantages of Roth conversions from traditional IRAs. If you anticipate that you will not access the converted amount for several years, the advantages of tax-free interest, dividends and capital growth are considerable, as is the possibility of future increases in tax rates.

In addition, a conversion will add to the wealth of your beneficiaries because their inheritance will be tax-free. But, before you complete any conversions, take into consideration the possible potential problems.

For example, you can no longer change your mind after you execute a Roth rollover. Based on the latest regulations, you can't reverse the conversion. So, you should review the following factors before you complete a conversion.

Rollovers and AGI

The rollover increases your adjusted gross income (AGI) in the year of your conversion, which means you will have increased federal taxes. You may also lose some credits or deductions for that year.

You also need to be aware of possible changes in your income-related monthly adjusted amount (IRMAA) surcharges. The increase in your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) can result in surcharges associated with your Part B and/or Part D Medicare premiums.

The calculation is based on your MAGI reported two years ago. So, the potential surcharge for 2025 would be based on your reported income from 2023. The surcharge applies to all premiums associated with Part B and D when your MAGI exceeds the first dollar of the IRMAA specified limits. In order to avoid the surcharge, you should consider taking partial conversions each year rather than taking a large conversion in one year.

You may find yourself facing penalties associated with your estimated tax payments. Make sure that your estimated tax payment is sufficient. For example, if



DREAMSTIME

you made quarterly payments of \$10,000 for three quarters, and you expect that because of your conversion your total tax liability for the year of conversion will be \$60,000, you should make a contribution of \$30,000 in the fourth quarter to avoid a penalty.

If you own multiple IRAs, your required RMD is the aggregate total of all your RMDs held by all your custodians before any conversion can be successfully completed.

Potential problem with a charitable beneficiary: If you plan on naming a charity as a beneficiary of your IRA, it makes no sense to convert that portion of your IRA to a Roth IRA. Charities do not pay any federal taxes when they are the beneficiary of an IRA.

**Does a conversion even make sense?**

Take into consideration your expected tax bracket upon retirement. If you believe you will be in a lower tax bracket than you are now, reconsider whether a Roth conversion would be cost-effective

for you.

If you anticipate that you will be eligible for financial aid in retirement because of your expected income in retirement, reconsider a Roth conversion. Your conversion can result in a disqualification of financial aid.

If you are on a fixed income and spending all of it, reconsider a conversion. You can't avoid additional federal taxes in the year of your conversion.

Bottom line: Roth conversions can have many advantages for you and your beneficiaries, especially if you don't anticipate that you will be withdrawing the converted amount for many years, and if you anticipate that you will be in a higher tax bracket when you withdraw the funds. Conversions are more cost-effective when your tax bracket is low. If you are likely to face IRMAA surcharges, you should gradually do partial conversions to avoid any surcharges.

*Elliot Raphaelson welcomes your questions and comments at [raphelliot@gmail.com](mailto:raphelliot@gmail.com).*



Terry Savage  
*The Savage Truth*

## Worthy goal for college-bound: File that FAFSA

Last year, families that filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for college found themselves trapped in a computer nightmare. In an attempt to make the process simpler, the government botched the rollout, leaving many families unable to file FAFSA until January — three months late. And that delayed college notifications of financial aid until June, in many cases.

So how is FAFSA doing for the 2025-26 school year, which will affect current high school seniors and returning college students who need to reapply each year for financial assistance?

The answer is ... it's off to a slow start. Jack Wallace of Yrefy, a lender that specializes in refinancing distressed student loans, says the government delayed its full launch this year only until Nov. 21. But starting in October, a "beta" testing program allowed about 167,000 applicants to move through the system to see if the process would be smoother this year, including not only filing but also forwarding the information to schools.

Since the full FAFSA opening, about 1.5 million families have been able to file, without much complaint. But that still leaves an estimated 16.5 million waiting to file for aid for the coming academic year.

And that means the pipeline could get clogged again soon.

Getting started

My first bit of advice is to spend the holiday season completing the FAFSA process. As a reminder, now the student and the family file with separate log-ins at [www.StudentAid.gov](http://www.StudentAid.gov). The student gets one account and the parents get a separate account, keeping financial information confidential.

The student should start the process by completing his or her account first. Once each account is confirmed, the parent (or guardian, or "principal contributor") must log back into the website to separately start completing the FAFSA form.

Each saves information separately. The process links them together based on the child's Social Security number.

Notably, this year the person who provides the most financial support to the dependent child must fill out their information as the "principal contributor." In case of divorce, or even two-income families, only one parent — the parent who contributes the most to support the child — must set up the account. The StudentAid.gov website has a new tool, the "parent wizard," to help determine who must file.

The first goal of the original FAFSA simplification was to link the application to the IRS tax return filed by the parent. But the parent must check the box on the application to give permission for the IRS to send tax information. The latest return will be the one filed last year. If it was a joint return, with two parents working, even though one may be the "principal contributor," the total income on the return is what affects financial aid.

Frank conversation

The new, streamlined FAFSA form allows you to automatically have your information sent to up to 20 schools.

That doesn't mean you must follow up with an application, but at least the school will have your information on file if you do.

The parent/contributor and child should have a frank conversation about the cost and choice of schools. Go to each school's website and look up the cost.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that your family can't qualify for financial aid. Statistics show that 85% of those who file get some form of financial aid.

That percentage is high because the FAFSA is frequently required for free money, even when scholarships or grants are not necessarily based on need. Also, many individual schools and state scholarship agencies look at the FAFSA in determining financial aid.

So it's not just about federal student loans. And that's the Savage Truth.

*Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and the author of four bestselling books, including "The Savage Truth on Money." Terry responds to questions on her blog at [TerrySavage.com](http://TerrySavage.com).*

# Confronting the challenges that face retirement system

By Mallika Mitra  
Kiplinger's Personal Finance

Alicia Munnell recently stepped down after more than 25 years as founding director of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. She sat down with us to discuss saving for retirement.

**Q: You founded the Center for Retirement Research in 1998. Which of the center's accomplishments since then are you most proud of?**

**A:** We started as just two people. Now, we have roughly 22 employees, and we're a recognized, credible name that is trusted to not be left- or right-leaning. We created the National Retirement Risk Index, which measures how many working-age households are at risk of not maintaining their preretirement standard of living once they're in retirement, and we publish authoritative, first-class research that ends up in economic journals. One of our major contributions is making complex economic concepts that have big policy implications understandable and accessible.

**Q: What types of concepts do you help clarify?**

**A:** Take something like Social Security. There is a ton of panicky news about the program going bankrupt, but that's not what is happening. There's a gap between outlays and revenues, and the U.S. is filling that gap with money from a trust fund, which will become exhausted in 2033 if policymakers don't act to shore it up. Even if that trust fund is depleted, money from payroll taxes will cover almost 80%

of benefits. So Social Security is not going to disappear, and defining that gap for people is really important.

**Q: How does the Center for Retirement Research's work translate into actual policy changes?**

**A:** We've done a lot related to 401(k) plans. We emphasize how much of a burden it is for individuals to decide whether to join a plan, figure out how to invest that money, know what to do when they change jobs and more. Alongside similar organizations, our research helped bring about changes to the system — including through automatic enrollment of employees in 401(k) plans, automatic escalation of the percentage of salary contributed to the plans over time, and use of target-date funds — that have made it easier for people to save.

**Q: What is the biggest challenge facing Americans who want to save for a comfortable retirement?**

**A:** Other than the financing issues with Social Security, it's access to retirement savings plans. If you take a snapshot of the private-sector workforce at any moment in time, only about 50% of people are working for an employer that offers a retirement plan, and those retirement plans are the only way most people save.

**Q: What changes do you hope to see for the retirement system?**

**A:** Before 2033, when retirement benefits would have to be cut by 21%, I'd like to see Social Security fixed. I'd also like to see more access to workplace retirement savings plans. We have a number



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of experiments at the state level that would require employers that don't offer a retirement plan to automatically enroll their employees in an IRA and put contributions from employees' earnings into that account (employees can opt out if they wish). Those programs are in their nascent stage but becoming increasingly popular. At the federal level, Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., has introduced the Automatic IRA Act of 2024, which would require employers that don't offer a retirement plan and have 10 or more employees to enroll workers in an IRA or similar retirement plan.

**Q: Is there anything else that should be done now to get more Americans to save?**

**A:** I think that lecturing people to save more is not helpful. We need a system where the appropriate portion of your income is put aside for you. People are busy — parents have jobs, and they need to get their kid to soccer, put meals on the table, figure out their finances and have some fun. Asking them to manage their savings is asking a lot, so making contributions automatic and easy is absolutely necessary.

## Why you can't simply copy someone else's business strategy

As a business coach, I've seen CEOs and founders tempted to imitate others' success, only to become frustrated when it doesn't work. Strategies are context-dependent and tailored to specific market dynamics, cultures and customer needs.

**The magic is in the interconnections**

Successful business strategies involve a network of interdependent choices that, when combined, create a competitive advantage. When you cherry-pick aspects of a strategy without understanding how they interlock, you miss the bigger picture. Take Southwest Airlines and its imitator, Spirit Airlines. Both aim to be low-cost carriers, but their approaches are different. Southwest focuses on fast turnarounds, point-to-point routes, and a strong company culture. It uses only the Boeing 737 to streamline operations. Spirit, however, offers ultra-low fares by charging for extras, creating a different customer experience. While they share some low-cost airline tactics, their core strategies diverge. Spirit couldn't replicate Southwest's culture and operations, nor did it intend to.

**Market context matters**

Every business operates within a specific market context. Strategies are designed with this context in mind, including customer preferences, competitive dynamics and regulatory constraints. Copying a strategy without understanding the market environment it was designed for can lead to poor results. Consider Airbnb and VRBO. Both operate in vacation rentals but target different travelers. Airbnb offers unique, localized experiences—letting guests "live like a local" in various properties, including shared spaces like apartments or single rooms. VRBO primarily serves families and groups seeking entire homes or condos. Though similar in business model, their branding, customer engagement and user experiences differ due to distinct customer needs.

**Culture is critical**

The best strategies are not just about what you do, but how you do it. Company culture plays a huge role in how effectively a strategy can be executed. For example, Vanguard and Charles Schwab both operate in financial services, offering similar low-cost investing options. However, their strategies are rooted in different cultures. Vanguard focuses on a "client-first" approach with a mutual ownership structure, returning profits to investors through lower fees. Schwab emphasizes a customer-friendly approach, with a broader mix of digital services and innovation driven by entrepreneurial spirit and agility. If one copied the other's strategy without aligning cultural values, it would likely fail.

SOURCE: Bruce Eckfeldt, Inc.



SUCCESS

# Worried employees want to quit? It's easy to increase engagement

By **Alix McCabe**  
Fast Company

Employee satisfaction is plummeting, and businesses are struggling to keep their talent engaged and fulfilled. Research by Gallup shows that 51% of employees are actively looking for other work.

While the top reason for this trend is predictable — employees are looking for higher pay and better benefits — there's another reason worth exploring: lack of career development and opportunities. This trend highlights the need for organizations to implement strategies that will inspire their employees to stay, and one way to do this is through emphasizing cross-functional mobility.

Throughout my 12 years at Allianz Trade, I've been given flexibility to explore various positions, from marketing and communications to human resources, sales, and distribution. In my previous role with the company as chief human resources and communications officer for the Americas region, I led employee-focused programs to cultivate engagement, enhance recognition and rewards, and promote learning and development programs.

Now, in my new role as chief commercial officer for the region, I'm focusing on something completely different: the organization's distribution strategy and growth initiatives. While my day-to-day is vastly different, I draw from my past experiences daily to help drive the organization forward.

My personal career trajectory underscores the relevance of encouraging emerging leaders to embrace cross-functional opportunities. This is how companies of all industries and sizes can cultivate well-rounded leadership profiles, retain and motivate in-house talent, and unlock growth and innovation.

### Identify interested employees

Organizations should create a process to proactively identify employees interested in cross-functional opportunities. We do this through annual succession planning and creating a personal development plan with our employees.

Early in my tenure at Allianz Trade, I communicated my interest in geographic mobility (performing the same or similar role in a different country) and functional mobility (moving to a distinct discipline



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within the organization).

By capturing these ambitions during my annual review process, the company understood my goals and supported me along the way. Understanding whether an employee is interested in exploring different functions within the organization empowers them to step outside of their comfort zone knowing they have the company's support, as it did for me.

### Promote hands-on experience

While reading about a role provides insight, there is no substitute for firsthand experience gained by stepping into the shoes of colleagues in other departments. Shadow programs are an excellent way to encourage employees to try their hand at something they may otherwise overlook.

I've participated in several shadow programs during my career, including valuable time spent in our U.K. and Italian businesses shadowing their marketing teams, as well as in Paris shadowing HR colleagues. These experiences were monumental in shaping my personal growth and professional perspective.

When considering a new position in human resources after spending decades in marketing, investing meaningful time shadowing HR colleagues was a game-changer for me.

### Offer mentorship for growth and development

Research indicates that 90% of employees with mentors report greater job satisfaction. Mentorship is crucial to helping employees feel supported, understood and valued. Your company can support cross-functional mobility by facilitating mentoring programs where colleagues can learn from experienced leaders with similar career journeys. Over the years, several mentors have played an instrumental role in my development, serving as sounding boards, coaches, challengers and supporters.

By building from within and developing leaders with a wide range of skills, organizations are better equipped to meet the challenges of their work and more likely to retain talent by offering diverse and multifaceted career paths.



**Steve Rosen**  
Kids & Money

## Teaching kids financial skills a game at time

Parents have stretched their budgets over the years to buy the hottest toys and games for their kids, and, of course, many of those must-haves now reside in storage bins in the attic.

Some turned out to be a waste of money. But what about the ones that never lost popularity, particularly those that made an impact on your child's financial smarts — even if they didn't know it at the time? What classics come to mind?

To find the toys and games that fit the bill, I rounded up ideas from curators of the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York.

### Board games

No surprise with this first pick, Monopoly. The board game classic, which families have been playing for decades, allows kids to practice handling money, making change and negotiating, said Mirek Stolee, board game curator.

"If playing by the official rules, the auction (mechanism) introduces the basics of supply and demand. Developing properties with houses and hotels also teaches the concept of investing now to earn more later."

Hasbro's board game Pay Day has a personal finance theme: Players must manage their monthly wage of play money to pay their bills and expenses. "It rewards frugality."

Chris Bensch, the museum's chief curator, added Dealer's Choice and Masterpiece.

As a teen in the 1970s, Bensch enjoyed playing Dealer's Choice and Masterpiece, two board games that dealt with used cars and fine art, respectively. "Those are both very different markets," Bensch said, "but each game teaches the financial virtues of buying low and selling high."

Also: The Game of Life.

### Cash registers & pretend money

The toy cash register tops the list of Michelle Parnett-Dwyer, curator of dolls and toys. It not only helps kids learn basic math skills like adding and subtracting and sorting money, but "it is also a great toy for developing language and social skills," she said.

Parnett-Dwyer also lists pretend play money in different currencies, which "provides hands-on practice with making change, subtracting and adding, as well as an opportunity to talk about how currency works in other parts of the world."

Also: The monster stealing coin bank.

### Video games

If you're on board game overload, consider two classic video games — The Sims franchise and Animal Crossings: New Horizons, said Andrew Borman, director of digital preservation.

"The Sims franchise allows the player to manage many aspects of their character's virtual life, including their profession and business venture," Borman said. "In the game you can buy a home, furnish it, purchase items from useful to flashy. Money management plays a key role in striking the balance between wants and needs."

As for Animal Crossings, Borman gives it a thumbs-up for "running on its own free-form economy. Players must pay a mortgage, make investments and make other financial decisions as they manage their own island."

### Baseball cards

This tops my pick list. As I've said before, card collecting taught me about wants and needs, trading and negotiating, and watching my pennies. Baseball cards were inducted into the Museum of Plays' hall of fame in 2023.

Questions, comments, column ideas? Send an email to [sbrosen1030@gmail.com](mailto:sbrosen1030@gmail.com).

## Consider these factors in buying life insurance

By **Ella Vincent**  
Kiplinger's Personal Finance

Purchasing life insurance with your loved ones in mind may not be as romantic as giving them flowers or candy, but it's the most effective way to preserve your family's standard of living in the event of your untimely death.

Life insurance, which provides a payout to your beneficiaries after you die, can also pay off any outstanding debts and allow you to pass on more wealth to your children. If you're thinking of buying life insurance, here are some factors to consider.

The amount of coverage that's right for your family. One way to determine the amount of insurance you need is to use a method known as DIME, which stands for debt, income, mortgage and education. Calculate how much non-mortgage debt you have, your annual income multiplied by the number of years you want insurance coverage, the balance on your mortgage, and the estimated cost of your children's college education. Then purchase a life insurance policy that would cover all of those expenses.

Even in a household in which one spouse works and the other doesn't, the nonworking spouse may want to have a life insurance policy, says Byron Udell, founder and chief executive officer of life insurance broker and quote-comparison website AccuQuote. If that spouse dies, the surviving spouse will be able to



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use the death benefit to cover the cost of child care and other household assistance provided by the nonworking spouse.

Likewise, even if you and your partner both work and don't have children, your household income may be greatly reduced if you died. Life insurance would enable your partner to continue to pay the mortgage and cover other expenses.

Term versus whole life insurance. Term life insurance policies provide coverage for a specific period, typically 10 to 30 years. If you die while the policy is active, your beneficiary receives the payout specified in the policy. If you outlive the term, no one will receive a payout. Udell says a 20-year term life policy could be a good choice if you have a young family and want to provide coverage for your

children until they become adults.

Whole life insurance policies provide coverage during your lifetime as long as you pay the premiums. The policies have an investment component that includes tax-deferred cash growth over time, which could provide you with supplemental income in retirement. However, whole life insurance costs up to six times more than a term policy with the same death benefit, so if your primary goal is protecting your family, a term policy could be a better choice.

Many employers provide group term life insurance as a benefit, so you may already have some coverage. However, typical workplace insurance coverage is equal to one to three years of your salary, which may fall short of your family's needs. For that reason, you may want to look for a policy to supplement any coverage you already have.

You can get quotes on policies from websites such as AccuQuote ([www.accuquote.com](http://www.accuquote.com)), Policygenius ([www.policygenius.com](http://www.policygenius.com)) and SelectQuote ([www.selectquote.com](http://www.selectquote.com)).

Before purchasing a policy, check with your state department of insurance to make sure the insurance company is licensed to operate in your state. You'll also want to check its financial stability. Agencies such as A.M. Best ([web.ambest.com](http://web.ambest.com)) and Standard & Poor's Insurance Ratings Service ([www.spglobal.com](http://www.spglobal.com)) rate insurance companies' financial soundness.

## Regulatory pressures weigh heavy on small-business owners

By **Sarah Lynch**  
Inc.

Small-business owners are bogged down. According to the MetLife and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index for the fourth quarter of 2024, about half of owners "and decision makers" say handling regulatory compliance costs too much time and money.

And the problem is only getting worse: Owners in this report were more likely than last quarter and the same time last year to say that "time or resources spent on fulfilling regulatory compliance requirements has increased in the past six months."

Small-business owners say they are spending much of their time on taxes, recordkeeping and payroll, as well as other items like licensing, permits, cybersecurity, and privacy. To keep up with all the to-dos, many owners — 44% — are outsourcing some of this work. That's posing a financial burden, though, and 69% of owners say they spend more on compliance per employee than their larger competitors.



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The ultimate — and concerning — result for owners comes down to growth: 51% say that "licensing, certification and permit requirements make it harder to grow their business," according to the report. "Too many regulations cause big head-

aches for small businesses," said Tom Sullivan, vice president of small business policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in a news release for the index, "even if they feel confident in their ability to comply or have the means to outsource compliance

tasks."

But things could be moving in a positive direction in 2025 — at least, that's what owners are hoping. In this quarter's index, more owners indicated that they are expecting increased revenue, investment and hiring than they were just months ago.

This optimism is reflected in another recent survey, from the National Federation of Independent Business, which showed the highest level of optimism among small-business owners in nearly three years.

Bill Dunkelberg, chief economist at the NFIB, pointed to the results of U.S. presidential election and said that owners were "particularly hopeful for tax and regulation policies that favor strong economic growth as well as relief from inflationary pressures."

Looking at the results of the index and findings from the NFIB, Sullivan says he expects that "concern over regulation will decrease" in 2025. But that doesn't mean growth will be easy: "The tougher question ... is whether or not the concerns over inflation will decrease."



# RIDES

## GRASSO'S GARAGE

# 2024 Ford Bronco Big Bend deserves more accolades

By Marc D. Grasso  
Boston Herald

With Ford Motor Co. doing a great job in recent years reusing historic nameplates, the 4-door 2024 Ford Bronco Big Bend shows up to Grasso's Garage, and what a beauty it is. Boasting a \$40K base price tag, this SUV is a huge play to lure Jeep Wrangler buyers to Ford.

The company's primary focus for the Bronco was to steal consumers from the Jeep brand and expand its profile in off-road culture. Ford really hit it out of the park with the Bronco Big Bend, as recent price reductions across the Stellantis footprint would suggest. Jeep's Gladiator Mojave and Wrangler



Ford really hit it out of the park with the '24 Bronco Big Bend. MARC D. GRASSO/BOSTON HERALD

Rubicon are certainly big enough and do whatever Jeep lovers expect, and the

brand's off-road presence, comfort and abilities top the chart. However, road

noise is an ever-present problem Jeep has not tackled. With the Bronco Big

**2024 FORD BRONCO BIG BEND**  
**MSRP:** \$40,370  
**MPG:** 18 city / 17 highway / 18.9 as tested  
**As Tested:** \$54,920

Bend, road noise is virtually gone and yet it matches the utility of the Wrangler — a big win!

Powered by a 2.3L EcoBoost inline 4-cylinder engine, the 2024 Bronco Big Bend paired exceptionally nicely with the 10-speed automatic transmission. This combination was ultra quiet and a pleasure to ride/drive. Upgrades to our Bronco tester included Big Bend Series, Sasquatch package, a hard-gray molded top with sound deadening

headliner and LED signature lighting.

The Big Bend's height stance, drive modes, boxy exterior, roof removal options, wheel upgrades and comfort are all similar to those of the competition, but the Bronco does it better. Achieving almost 19 mpg on a trek of more than 400 miles, the Big Bend's 2.3-liter engine was peppy and powerful, having no issues getting up to speed. Great work, Ford! Now don't go overpricing this thing in the future.

*Grasso's Garage is here for you! Are you in the market for a new car? I would be happy to provide my honest input. All you have to do is email me: marc.grasso@bostonherald.com.*



There are a few versions of the Hyundai Ioniq 6; the best can go up to 342 miles on a full charge. HYUNDAI MOTOR AMERICA

# GOING THE DISTANCE

## The longest-range EVs you can buy for under \$50,000

By Josh Jacquot | Edmunds

Electric vehicles are growing in popularity but still make up a small percentage of total car sales. More than two decades of vehicle and infrastructure development have yielded only a 6.8% market share for EVs in the United States. Part of the problem is range anxiety — owners' fear that they won't be able to get where they need to go on a full charge. But as charging stations proliferate and EV range increases, that fear should fade. To help, Edmunds' experts have compiled a list of five of the highest-range electric vehicles available for less than \$50,000. The vehicles on this list are specific trims and configurations that offer the most range for the least money.

The range ratings listed below are a combination of EPA and manufacturer estimates. Edmunds does its own independent EV range testing, which can be found on its website. Prices listed here include destination charges.

### 2025 CHEVROLET EQUINOX EV

With an ultra-low starting price, the Equinox EV is affordable and practical. Chevy estimates its range at 319 miles. That, of course, is not a formal EPA estimate, but it's identical to what the EPA estimated for the Equinox with this powertrain for 2024. The big difference for 2025 is a significantly lower starting price for a car with fewer features and slightly more power. Still, the Equinox includes several meaningful driver-assist features, such as automated emergency braking and rear parking sensors, as standard.

*Equinox LT FWD price:* \$34,995

### 2024 FORD MUSTANG MACH-E

A max 320-mile EPA range rating helps make Ford's iconically named EV reasonably practical. The Mach-E charges slower than other EVs in this price range, but it's more engag-

ing to drive than many competitors. Its hatchback body and low ride height represent a practical middle ground between a sedan and an SUV. There are also multiple powertrains available, including a more powerful GT version and a shorter-range variant that costs less. Overall, the Mach-E represents an attractive, fun and utilitarian EV for the money.

*Mach-E Premium Extended Range RWD price:* \$48,990

### 2025 HYUNDAI IONIQ 6

With up to 342 miles of EPA-estimated range and a sub-\$44,000 starting price, the Ioniq 6 is a masterfully utilitarian electric sedan. Part of its appeal is compatibility with the latest quick-charging technology, which Hyundai says allows it to charge from 10% to 80% in less than 18 minutes. It can also fully replenish its battery on a home charger in less than seven hours. Edmunds



The 2024 Tesla Model 3 sedan boasts an estimated range of up to 363 miles. EDMUNDS



The 2024 Tesla Model Y can go up to an estimated 320 miles on a full charge. TESLA MOTORS

verified Hyundai's charging claims, but, as always, they are condition-dependent. The Ioniq's styling may not be for everyone, but there's no denying the appeal of Hyundai's 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty.

*Ioniq 6 SE RWD price:* \$43,850

### 2024 TESLA MODEL Y

Tesla's Model Y was among the first all-electric SUVs and it remains the standard bearer for small

electric SUVs. It offers an EPA-estimated range of up to 320 miles. We also like the Y's utility. There's decent storage behind the second-row seats, a handy rear underfloor storage area and even a front trunk. You can also make the most of the Model Y's range on road trips thanks to Tesla's nationwide network of easy-to-use Supercharger fast-charging stations.

*2025 Model Y Long Range Rear-Wheel Drive price:* \$44,990



The 2024 Ford Mach-E is sporty to drive and can go up to an estimated 320 miles on full charge. FORD MOTOR CO.



The 2025 Chevrolet Equinox EV can go up to an estimated 319 miles on a charge. GENERAL MOTORS

### 2024 TESLA MODEL 3

Tesla made big updates to its Model 3 for the 2024 model year. Tesla estimates that the Long Range Rear-Wheel Drive version can go 363 miles on a full charge. That's an ample surplus of miles for most people's needs. And the Model 3 has shown itself to be one of the most efficient EVs available, using less electrical power per mile driven than many competitors. What's more, range is but one of the 3's many merits. It acceler-

ates quickly, handles well and brings together luxury and affordability in a thoroughly modern design.

*2024 Model 3 Long Range Rear-Wheel Drive price:* \$42,490

**Edmunds says:** Every EV on this list offers more than 300 miles of range, which is as much as most people need. Also keep in mind that maximum range can be reduced by cold weather, hilly terrain and aggressive driving styles.



AUTO REVIEW

# Don't mind charging time in roomy, award-winning EV9

By Barry Spyker  
Tribune News Service

Hooked to a super-fast charger, Kia's all-new, all-electric EV9 can recapture an 80% charge in 24 minutes. But what's the rush?

You'll be stretched out in the ultra-cushy three-row SUV, front seat reclined and power leg-rests deployed, while the Ergo Motion system performs a soothing massage. Might as well do the slow charger and flip on the 14-speaker Meridian audio system.

Kia and family (Hyundai, Genesis) have been attracting enormous attention in the EV world with several striking designs over the past couple of years. The EV9 has become the new flagship SUV, but 10 more electric vehicles are reportedly planned by 2026.

The EV9 is considered an upper-midsize but is just a half-inch bigger than its Telluride kin. It's unusually boxy and upright for an EV, with stacked LEDs and a lighting-bolt line of running lights. Working air intakes at the front corners cool the brakes.

On the sides, fender flares and recessed door handles reduce wind resistance. Rear tail lights have a radical, jagged streak, while the rear wiper is neatly hidden under the spoiler where it belongs.

EV9's base trim, called Light, starts in the mid-\$50s, has a single motor and rear-wheel drive. At the high end is the GT-Line, which blends near-luxury comfort with a hint of sportiness and uses two motors for more power and the sure-footedness of all-wheel drive.

Along with its dual motors are dual World Car awards — World Car of the



The all-electric 2024 EV9 offers excellent dynamics. KIA

**'24 KIA EV9 GT-LINE**  
**Price:** \$73,900 (\$76,935 as tested)  
**Powertrain:** Dual motor setup  
**Horsepower/Torque:** 379/516 pound-feet  
**Range:** 270 miles  
**Performance:** Zero to 60 mph in 4.8 seconds  
**EPA rating (city/highway/combined):** 88/72/80

Year and World Electric Vehicle — bestowed for its exterior design and seven-seat interior.

EV9's driving dynamics are excellent. Steering is responsive and nicely weighted, and braking is strong and even. Corners are negotiated with good grip and minimal lean, especially for a nearly 3-ton SUV. Partial credit goes to the battery-derived low center of gravity.

Kia left out adaptive dampers and air suspension, yet it handles modest bumps acceptably.

Three drive modes here, and Normal is where you'll spend most of your time. Eco lightens the giddy-up and extends the range a bit; in Sport mode, adjustable seat bolsters tighten while throttle response quickens for a livelier ride.

While towing is not range-friendly, the SUV can pull 5,000 pounds and is equipped with a self-leveling rear suspension.

Electric range is not

exceptional anyway at a Kia-estimated 270 miles, but some in buyer forums say they're doing closer to 300. Climate, hills and personal driving style will contribute to your range.

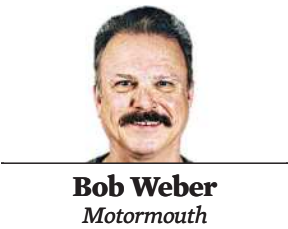
As for charging, you'll need at least a Level 2 charger at home to get juiced up in nine hours. A public fast-charger will get it to 80% in about 1.5 hours. Or plug into a household outlet — if you have nowhere to be for four days.

Inside, the EV9 seats six or seven and has nearly 160 cubic feet of passenger volume and comfort.

Up front, three digital displays are nicely merged into one broad screen. A 12.3-inch infotainment touchscreen provides navigation, entertainment, vehicle settings and diagnostics. Another, in front of the driver, is an LCD display with gauge cluster and other driver data. Between them is a 5-inch climate touchscreen for current temp, fan speed and vent positions.

EV9 comes standard with a package of driver-assist features, including adaptive cruise control, navigation-based assist on curves, and collision-avoidance systems for forward, rear and blind-spot situations. The GT-Line also gets an advanced highway-drive assist.

# Automatic functions might quit if battery weak or dying

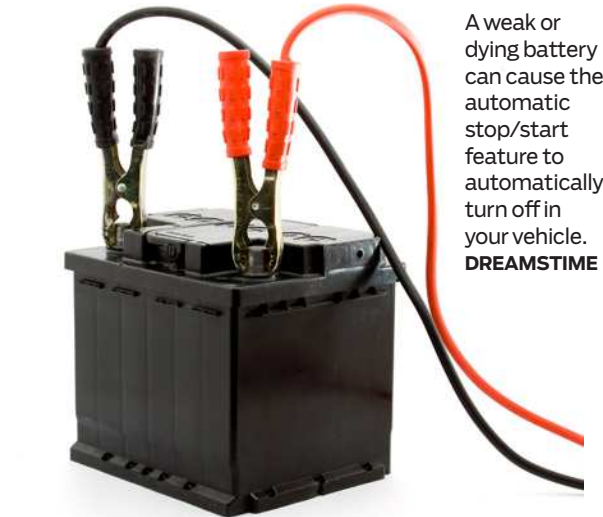


**Dear Motormouth:** My 2023 GV80 has a lot of bells and whistles, and one of them is the engine turning off at stop lights to save gas. I noticed that the feature had stopped working, so I took the vehicle back to the dealership. Two hours after my appointment time, it was returned to me with the statement that there was no error code and there were many things that could keep that feature from operating correctly. They offered nothing more.

At home I researched causes and decided that the battery was the most logical culprit. My battery minder confirmed that short trips brought the charge down to 52%. Once charged, the feature is back working. Should I return to the dealership to point out their minimal service provided?  
— S.K., Skokie, Illinois

**Dear S.K.:** A weak or dying battery absolutely causes the condition you describe. The automatic stop/start feature is automatically turned off to allow more important stuff to keep working. I would definitely discuss this with the service manager, who may wish to send somebody for training.

**Dear Motormouth:** The owner's manual for my 2025 Toyota Sienna has a section on fuel, specifying certain generic grades of unleaded gas, but also referring to better-quality and cleaner gas, termed "Top Tier detergent" gas. Shell, Mobil and a few other brands show up on



A weak or dying battery can cause the automatic stop/start feature to automatically turn off in your vehicle. DREAMTIME

the Top Tier app directory of local retailers. Is "Top Tier" gas something to be concerned about? None of my nearby stations (Speedway, Circle K) qualify.  
— B.C., Kankakee, Illinois

**Dear B.C.:** When you choose Top Tier gas, you are assured that the detergent blend exceeds the EPA minimum. This cocktail keeps the engine's intake valves clean.

**Dear Motormouth:** I own a 2018 Hyundai Sonata. Sometimes when I park, the doors will automatically lock. Is there a way to stop this?  
— M.M., Easton, Pennsylvania

**Dear M.M.:** In most cases, you can change the setting for automatic lock. For instance, go to the touchscreen, select vehicle and then select setting and then select doors. There you will find a way to activate and deactivate this "security" feature. Check with your dealer's service manager if you need help.

**Dear Motormouth:** It's five years on my battery and time to change it. To keep my pre-set settings last time, I connected a cable to my other car's test port and into a 12-volt socket

in mine. This worked to save all the settings in the van. Today I saw an ad in the paper selling a maintenance charger and noted I need to buy one of those for my other car, which hardly gets driven in winter, allowing the battery to constantly need charging to start the car. Suddenly dawned on me, could I put this maintenance charger on my van battery terminals while I change the battery since the only requirement is to just keep 12 volts on the cables?  
— B.H., Hoffman Estates, Illinois

**Dear B.H.:** If you have a domestic van or car, you need not worry about losing settings. They have a keep-alive feature. But your method will always work, even on temperamental imports. Just be careful to connect your jumpers to the cables, not the terminals. And keep the positive cable from touching any part of the vehicle.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

# SeniorLiving Solutions

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Villa St.Benedict 1920 Maple Ave.,Lisle, IL60532	630-852-0345				RC,AA,AL, EFC	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
*Type: SA Senior Apartments • RC Retirement Communities • AA Active Adults • AL Assisted Living • MC Memory Care • LFP Life Plan Community • EFC Entrance Fee Community													

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**PICKLES**  
by Barry Crake

Tsk Tsk!

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?

OUR NEIGHBOR'S WINDOWS LOOK SO DIRTY. IN FACT, THEIR WHOLE HOUSE LOOKS DIRTY.

HOW CAN THEY STAND TO LIVE LIKE THAT?

SQUEAK! SQUEAK!

NEVER MIND.

**Baby Blues** By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

WHO WANTS TO HELP TAKE THE CHRISTMAS TREE DOWN AND PUT THE LIGHTS AND ORNAMENTS AWAY?

TOO LATE. YOU'RE ENLISTED.

POOF?

POOF!

POOF!

POOF!

**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY SOMETIMES!

YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY ALL OF THE TIME!

YOU NEVER LISTEN!

YOU NEVER LISTEN!

AND DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN WE THINK.

OKIE DOKE.

YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT!

AND YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT!

NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

**Grand Avenue** By Mike Thompson

I STILL HAVEN'T CLEANED UP THE CHRISTMAS MESS.

I STILL HAVEN'T TAKEN DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

AND I'VE BEEN HORRIBLY LAX ABOUT THE HOUSECLEANING.

I DIDN'T WAIT UNTIL NEW YEAR'S TO DROP THE BALL.

**WUMMO**  
by Wulff & Morgenthaler

Wow! VR fireworks!

So realistic! You can really smell the gunpowder!

Borrow Frazz's leaf blower

THE MULTICOLORED STICKY NOTES MAKE IT THAT MUCH BETTER.

**FRAZZ**  
by JEFF MALLETT

MY REPORT IS ON THE STICKY NOTE, BELOVED PRECISELY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT STICK TO ANYTHING TOO TENACIOUSLY.

NATURALLY, I DIDN'T FINISH IT.

WHICH SHOULD SCORE ME AN A.

I'M NOT SURE MRS. OLSEN IS FLUENT IN META.

HOW IT WORKS IS, YOU WRITE YOUR TASKS AND GOALS ON STICKY NOTES.

AND POST THEM ALL UP ON THE WALL.

RESERVING THE KEY NOTE FOR THE END OF THE YEAR.

THEN...

Borrow Frazz's leaf blower

THE MULTICOLORED STICKY NOTES MAKE IT THAT MUCH BETTER.

**ANIMAL CRACKERS**  
By Mike Osburn

HEY, LYLE!

HAVE YOU MADE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

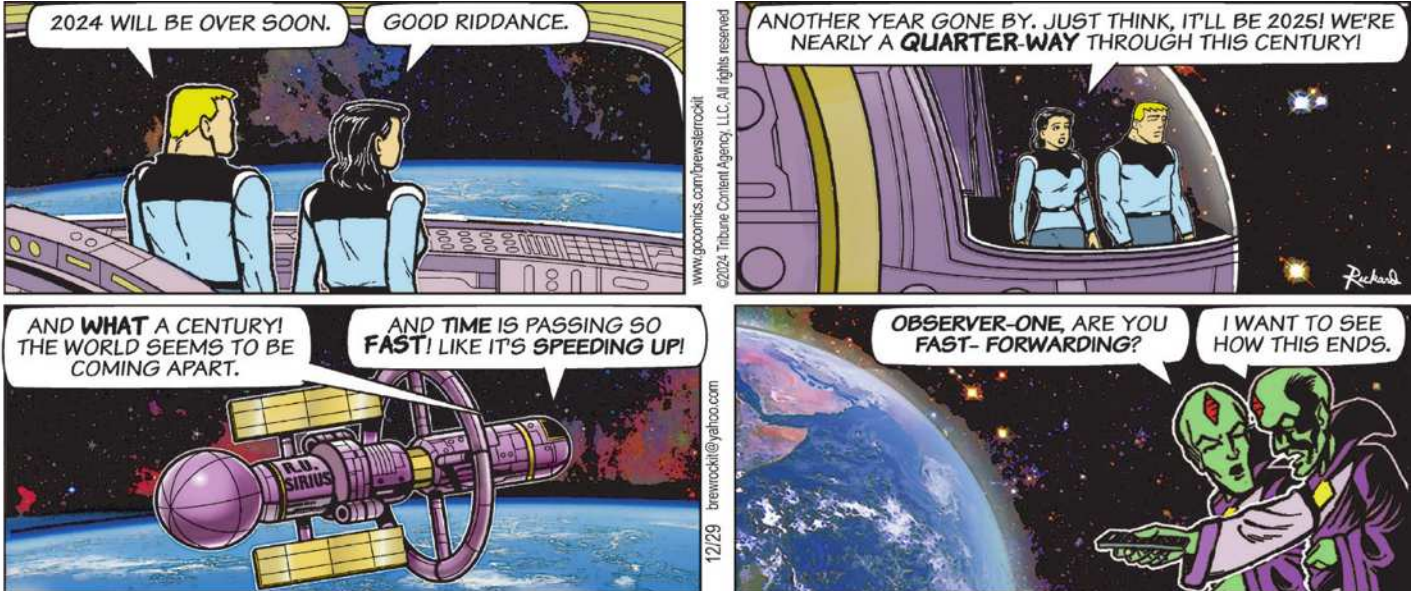
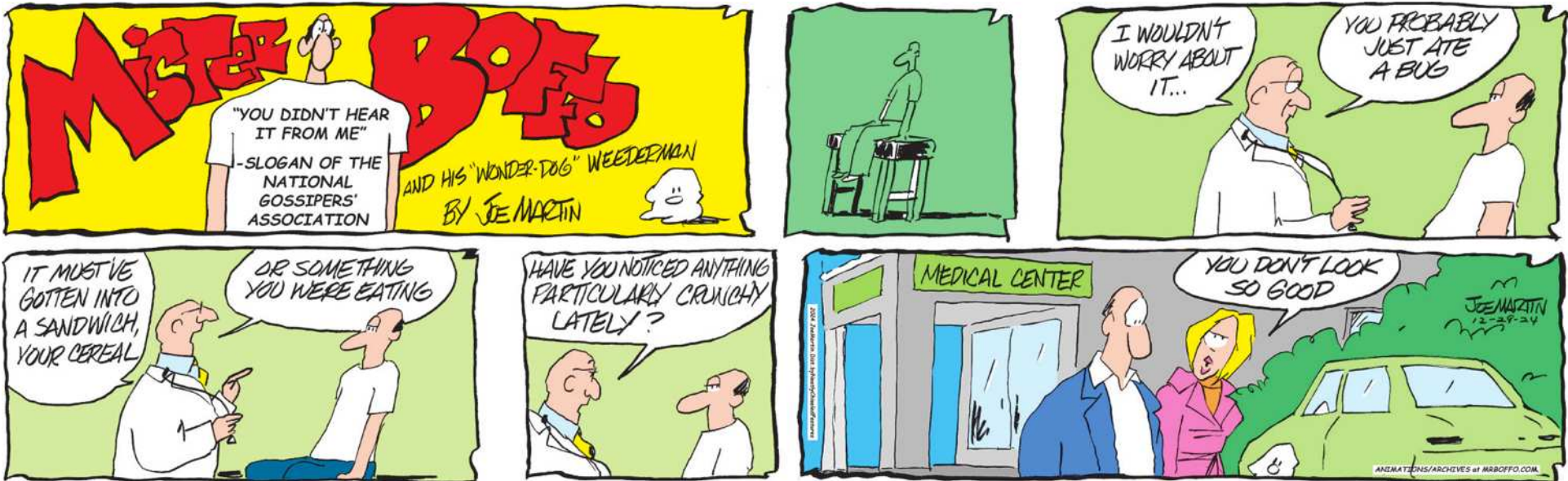
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT GOING ON A NEW DIET, TO BE MY OLD SELF!

WATCHING LESS TELEVISION, OR CUTTING OUT SOCIAL MEDIA.

SO, WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

TO BE MY OLD SELF!





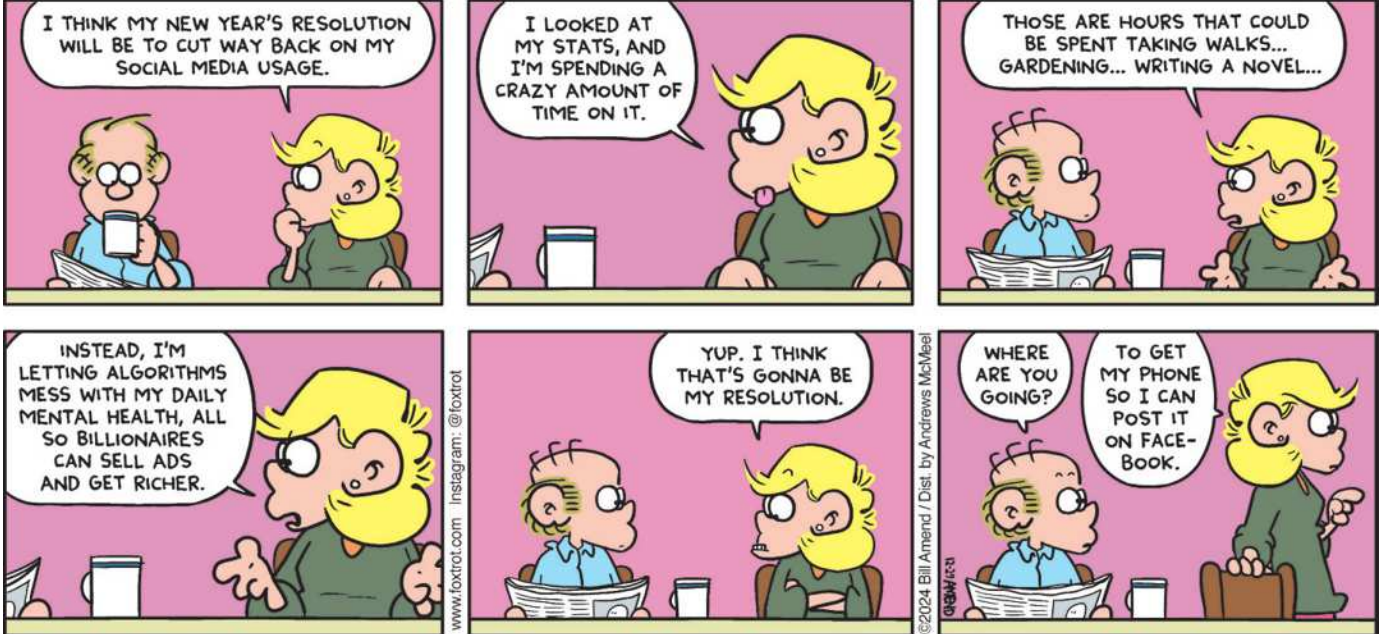
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Take It From the Tinkersons By Bill Bettwy



FoxTrot By Bill Amend



Dogs of C-Kennel By Mick and Mason Mastroianni







# puzzle island

For interactive puzzles and games go to **chicagotribune.com/games**

## PSEUDOSCIENCES: Sounding like real ones

By Fred Piscop | Edited by Stanley Newman (stanxwords.com)

### Across

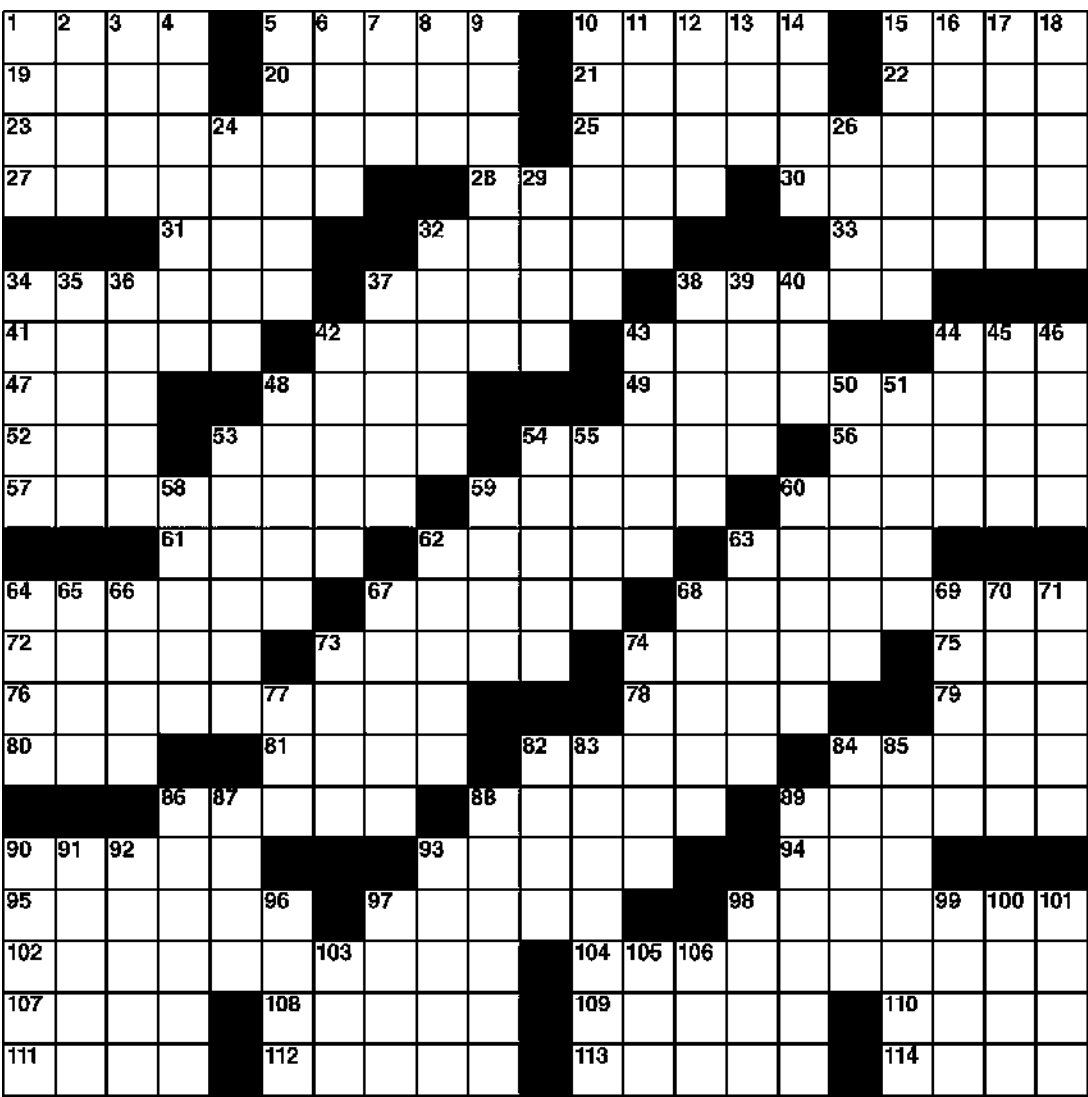
- 1 Clenched hand  
5 Commandments verb  
10 Less green, as bananas  
15 "Saturated" nutrients  
19 House painter's estimate  
20 "Your table's ready" gadget  
21 Florida citrus city  
22 Spruce up, as a news story  
23 Of piers (not hymns)  
25 Of a Rolling Stone (not bartending)  
27 International accord  
28 Fond wishes  
30 Push forward  
31 "— too shabby!"  
32 Less cooked  
33 — nous (confidentially)  
34 Retentive ability  
37 Added staff  
38 Diversionary device  
41 Eastwood of Hollywood  
42 Tosses in one's hand  
43 Opera set in Egypt  
44 Grafton's — for Lawless  
47 Tonic partner  
48 See 82-Across  
49 Of a German tennis great (not handwriting)  
52 Saucer crew, for short  
53 Real-estate measures  
54 — pants (baggy trousers)  
56 Took back, as a championship  
57 Of mouse-o-phobia (not the environment)

- 59 Distance runner  
60 Longfellow title character  
61 Read (over)  
62 *Beauty and the Beast* girl  
63 Turkey seasoning  
64 Variety of skiing  
67 Schoolyard menace  
68 Of shopping (not living matter)  
72 Drought enders  
73 Pirate's plunder  
74 Heaviest inert gas  
75 Sturgeon eggs  
76 Of pants patches (not new words)  
78 Seuss' *If — the Zoo*  
79 College transcript no.  
80 Unfortunate  
81 Star pilots  
82 With 48-Across, fish dish  
84 Brainy  
86 What a sure thing isn't  
88 Up and about  
89 Shorthand experts  
90 Software test versions  
93 Sources of sugar  
94 Very much like  
95 Nightly news hour  
97 Vital sign  
98 Retinal ID check  
102 Of lamp dwellers (not ancestry)  
104 Of carbonation (not living matter)  
107 Aardvark's fare  
108 Vintner brothers' surname  
109 Blazing  
110 New Haven collegians  
111 Poet of unexpected rhymes

- 112 Rembrandt contemporary  
113 Grannies  
114 Mentally sound

### Down

- 1 Slowly vanish  
2 Skillet substance  
3 Faction within a faith  
4 Competed against  
5 Not consistent  
6 — and hearty  
7 Hitherto  
8 Part of a chicken or chair  
9 Give it your best  
10 Earned a handy victory  
11 More frosty  
12 DC donors  
13 Yellowstone grazer  
14 Hoarse voice  
15 Rap sheet listing  
16 Get a shelly from a shelter  
17 Striped predator  
18 Fashion flair  
24 Sound of scorn  
26 Triple-tier treat  
29 Is in debt  
32 Incenses  
34 John D. MacDonald sleuth  
35 Social stratum  
36 Capital of Belarus  
37 Needing darning  
38 More urgent  
39 Dutch cheese  
40 Half-— (coffee order)  
42 Blacksmith's workshop  
43 Be in harmony  
44 Actor Rob  
45 Frankenstein aide  
46 Last word of a 1/1 song  
48 Win a point



Last week's answers can be found in today's "Puzzle Island Solutions." © 2024 Creators Syndicate. All rights reserved.

- 50 The Beaver State  
51 Speak candidly  
53 Mets slugger Pete  
54 Rolling, as terrain  
55 Comrade  
58 Voice a belief  
59 It's cheese-filled and griddled  
60 Silk substitute  
62 Harbor markers  
63 Nation south of Egypt  
64 Boats like Noah's  
65 Pop singer Del Rey  
66 French foot  
67 Expert golfer's woe  
68 British nobleman  
69 Hymn instrument  
70 Start getting paid  
71 Irish poet  
73 Dark beer  
74 Country singer LeAnn  
77 Part of UNLV  
82 False tales  
83 Gloria of Latin pop  
84 One of five popes  
85 Childhood malady  
86 Fill with joy  
87 "Makes sense"  
88 Have faith in  
89 Give one's OK  
90 Got the ball rolling  
91 Justice Kagan  
92 Camp structures  
93 Army instrument  
96 Yuletide beverages  
97 Either end of a magnet  
98 Cornell of Cornell University  
99 Brown soft drink  
100 Opposed to, nonstandardly  
101 NASDAQ counterpart  
103 Bodybuilder's back muscle  
105 "— job's worth doing..."  
106 California wine, for short

## Runway Show

By Adrienne Baik | Edited by Patti Varol

### Across

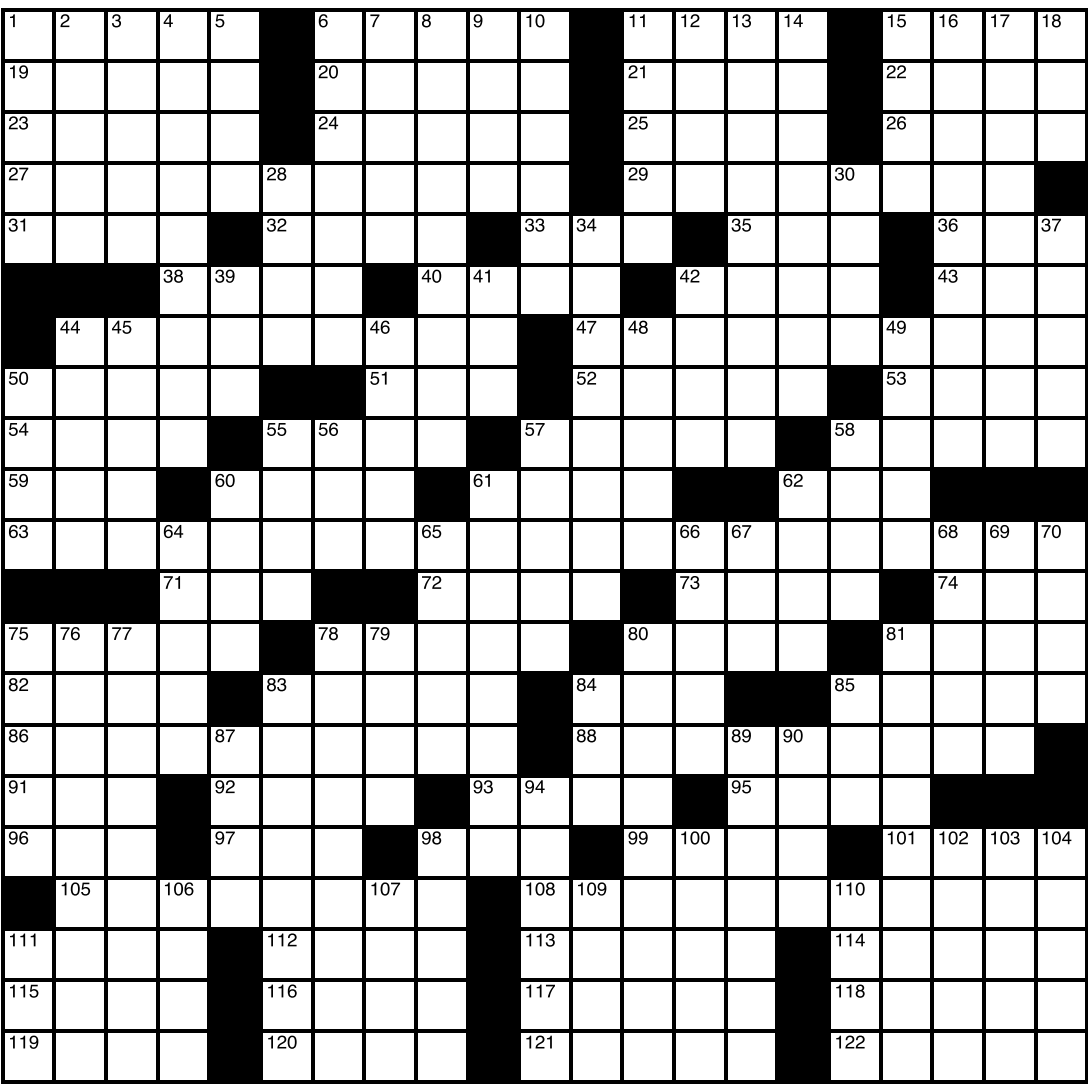
- 1 Farm stores  
6 Shell competitor  
11 Secures  
15 Big serving  
19 Cover, in a way  
20 Press backspace  
21 Welsh accent feature  
22 Company picture  
23 Eldest von Trapp sister  
24 Ride —: roll backward while facing forward on a skateboard  
25 Greek venues  
26 Taj Mahal site  
27 \*Dish service  
29 \*Animated film with the tagline "Honey just got funny"  
31 Kerfuffles  
32 "Wonder Woman" antagonist  
33 Sounds of hesitation  
35 KPMG employee  
36 Company VIP  
38 Turns loose (on)  
40 Focal point in a cathedral  
42 Sign on a staff  
43 British "sir"  
44 \*"Rumpelstiltskin" or "Cinderella"  
47 \*Many a sunset image  
50 Reasons some check Zillow, for short  
51 "... as all —out"  
52 Do not disturb  
53 Truckloads  
54 Chewy Japanese noodle  
55 Inner circle members  
57 Honey holders  
58 105-Across producers  
59 — Deng: pygmy hippo of internet fame  
60 Finish with a lower score  
61 High quality  
62 Asian language  
63 Long-haul travel perk, and a description of the answers to the starred clues  
71 Expressive rock genre  
72 Handled talent show intros, e.g.  
73 Spiny succulent  
74 — favor  
75 Family, in Hawaiian

- 78 Dipper's twin in "Gravity Falls"  
80 Read a QR code  
81 List title  
82 Didn't give  
83 Preps vegetables, maybe  
84 Fashion designer Anna  
85 Holiday time, slangly  
86 \*Kids party entertainer's craft  
88 \*Asian competition involving line cutting  
91 Hosp. areas  
92 D-Day conflict  
93 Final notice?  
95 River residue  
96 Thanksgiving tuber  
97 — of the line  
98 Big stretch?  
99 Crunch in the cereal aisle  
101 Takes in  
105 \*Repeated tweets  
108 \*Chinese festival performance said to bring good luck  
111 Vocalist's spotlight moment  
112 Machu Picchu native  
113 Less noble  
114 Biotech giant  
115 Color choices  
116 Pair  
117 Calendar entry  
118 Spills the beans  
119 Crafty marketplace  
120 SFO info  
121 Checks  
122 "Easy on Me" Grammy winner

### Down

- 1 Part of a taco assembly kit  
2 Epic set in the 10th year of the Trojan War  
3 Dupe  
4 Extreme preoccupation  
5 Window feature  
6 Impatient kid's cry  
7 Give a TED Talk, e.g.  
8 Efforts to get dough from cookies?  
9 Doubter's query  
10 "Frasier" actress Jane  
11 Ambiguous shapes  
12 Teacher's helper  
13 Groups that create harmony?  
14 Spooked wildebeest movement

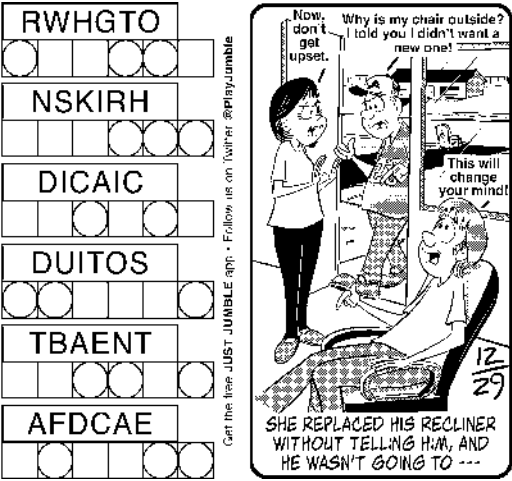
- 15 Bulgarian or Bosnian  
16 Digital circuit building block  
17 Come to the same conclusion concerning  
18 Feathery wrap  
28 Like some veils  
30 Clumsy hulks  
34 Got comfortable in a La-Z-Boy  
37 Hot spots in the kitchen  
39 Org. that takes many forms  
41 Veterinary patient  
42 Dove shelter  
44 Consumed  
45 Icy  
46 Shoelace tip  
48 Digger controller  
49 Billiards bounce  
50 Persian poet  
55 — stick  
56 Fire sign?  
57 Guest spot?  
58 Dwindle in size  
60 Capital near the Andes  
61 Old relation  
62 MGM mascot  
64 Tennis star Ivan  
65 Fire sign?  
66 Wordless  
67 French cookbook term  
68 Big time?  
69 Greet silently  
70 Donald Glover's "Community" role  
75 "Here we go again"  
76 Learn of  
77 Looking sunny  
78 Small glazed treat  
79 Deep purple fruit  
80 Travel baggage  
81 Tackled together in tandem  
83 Con  
84 Go on a run?  
85 Disney's Cruella de —  
87 Was short  
89 Gamer's field  
90 Twain hero  
94 Hundred-to-one shot  
98 "Good grief!"  
100 Real estate expert  
102 Camera view  
103 Pathogen fighter  
104 Vibe  
106 Hopeful  
107 College World Series org.  
109 Critic's kudos  
110 Spreadsheet filler  
111 — shed



Last week's answers can be found in today's "Puzzle Island Solutions." © 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

### Jumble

Unscramble the six Jumbles, one letter per square, to form six words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

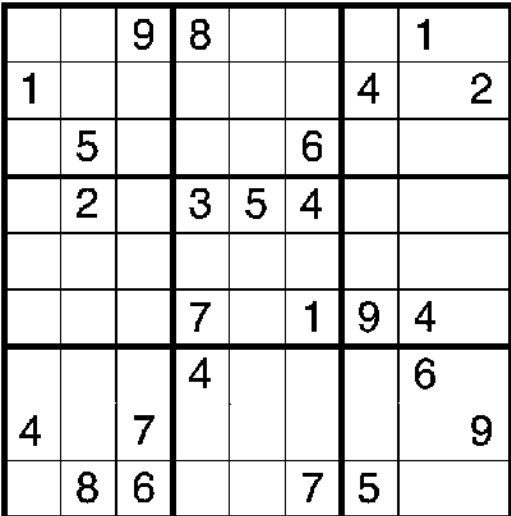


PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW  
This week's answers can be found in today's "Puzzle Island Solutions."  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

### Sudoku

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Level: **1 2 3 4**

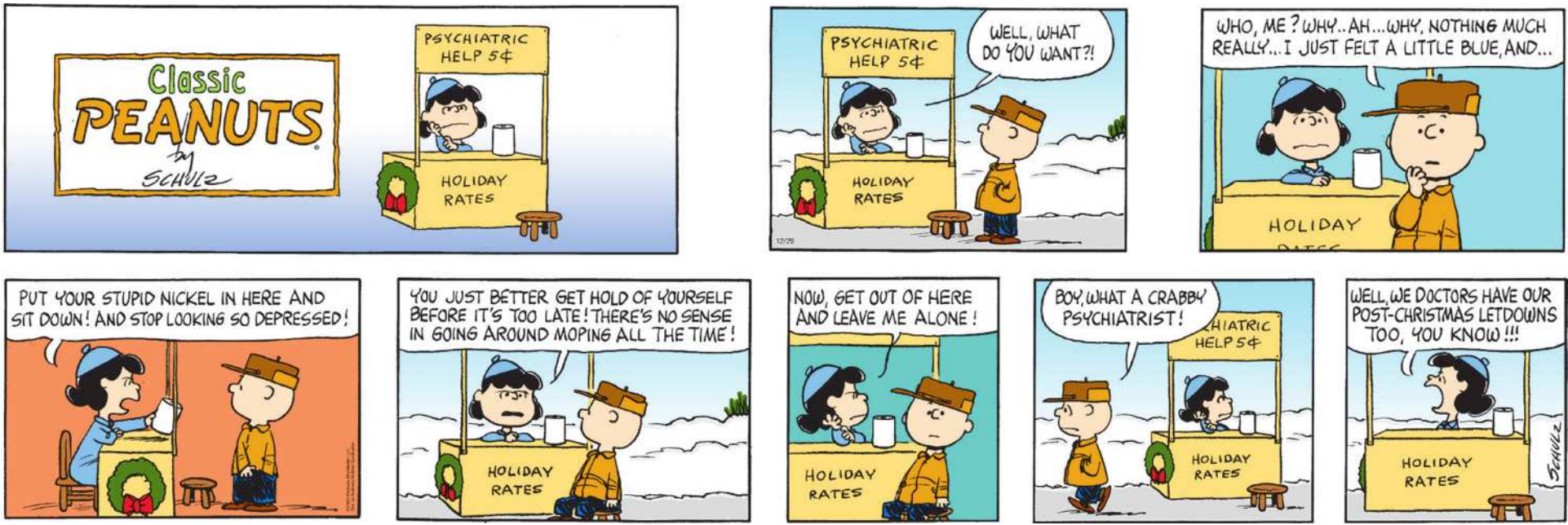


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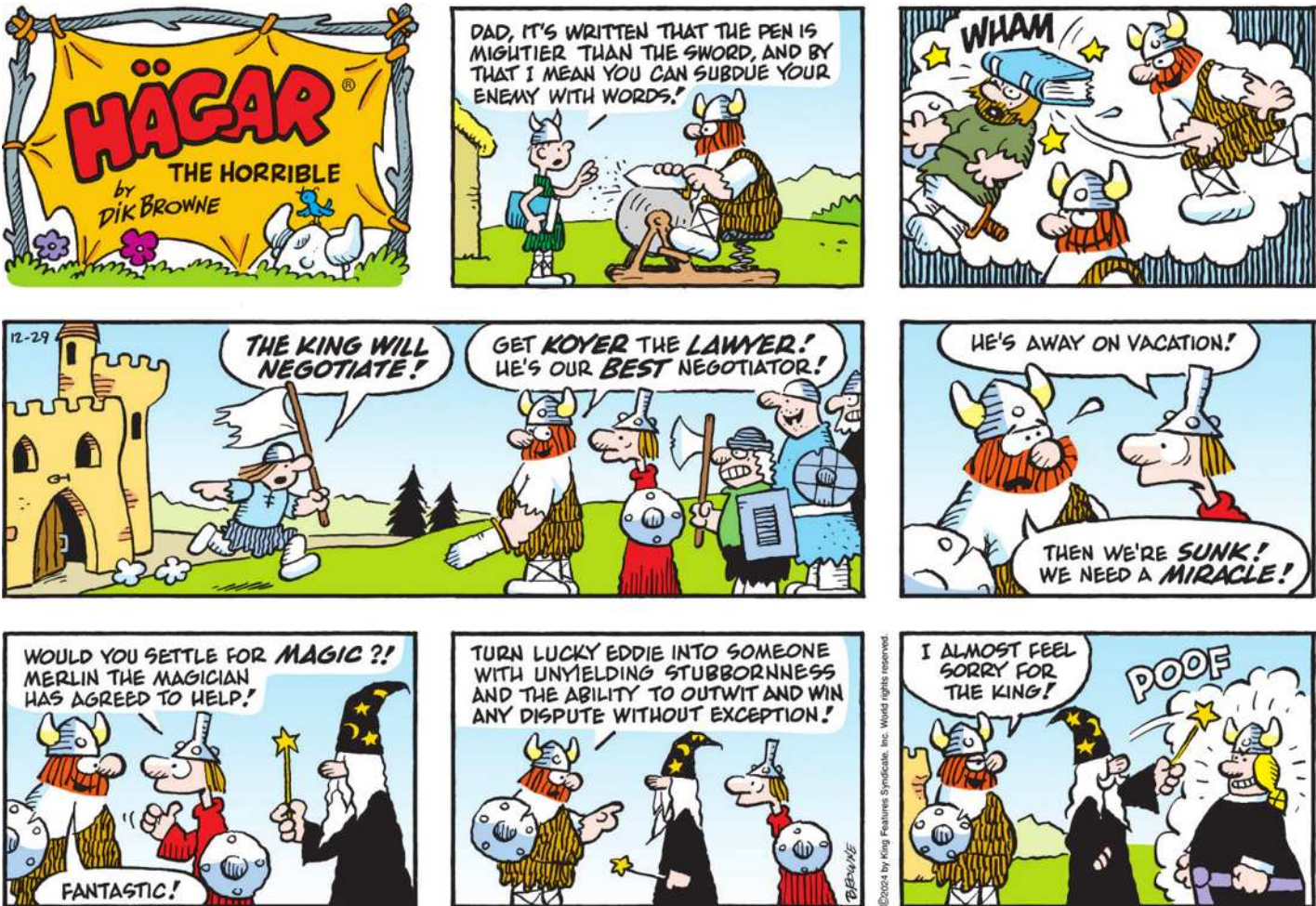




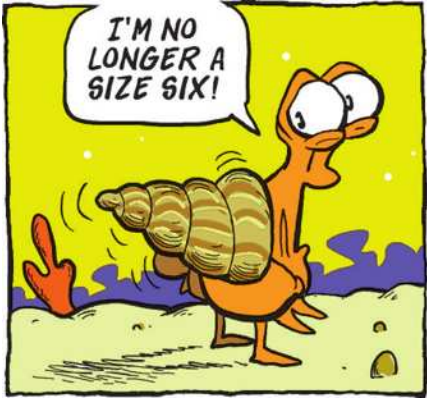
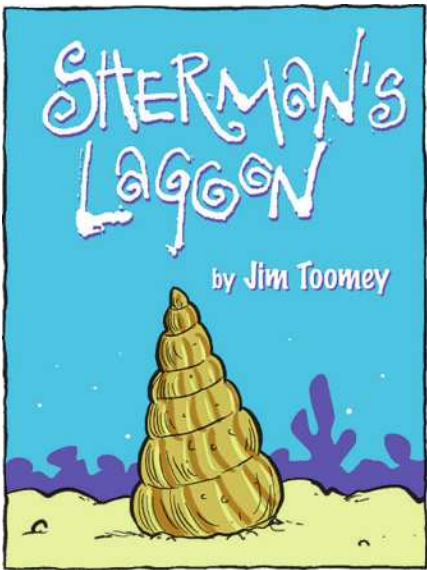
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



The Lockhorns  
By Bunny Hoest and John Reiner







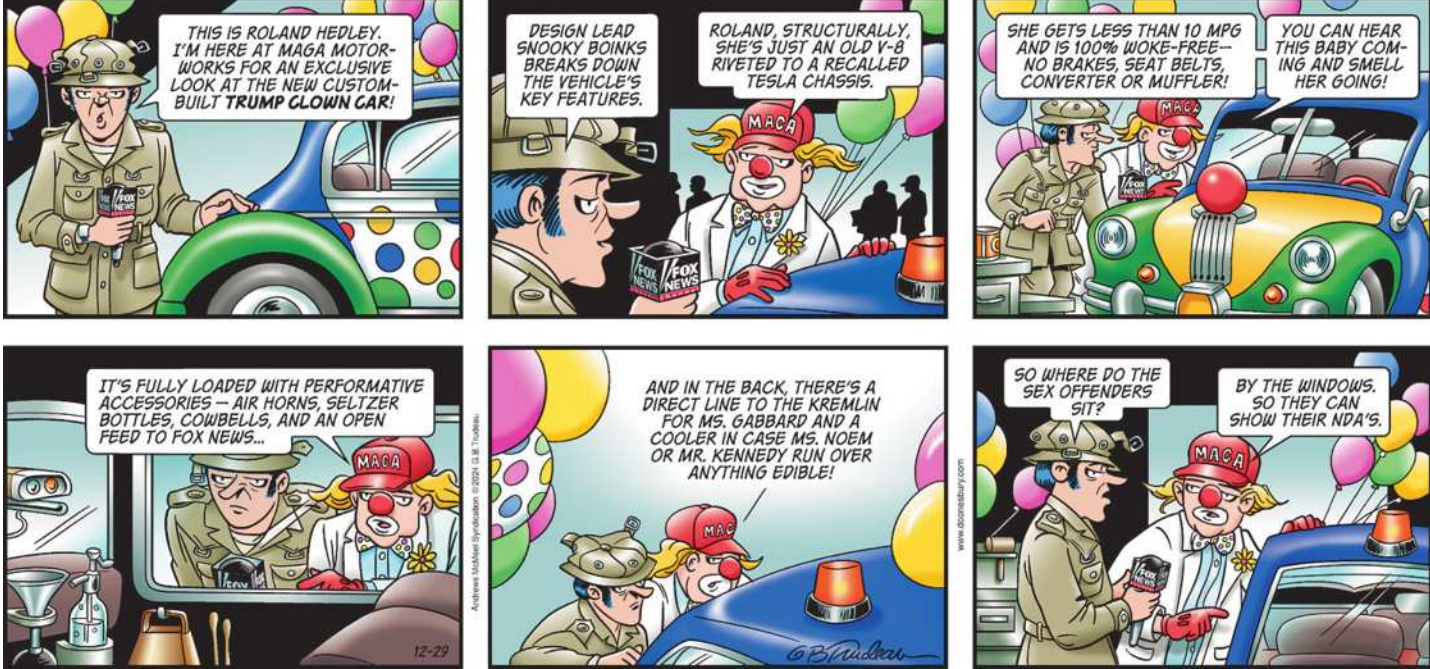
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



The Middletons By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers



Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Prickly City By Scott Stantis

