

A HOT COMMODITY

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Never-before-heard tapes by late Jazz Showcase founder hit shelves — just in time for his 100th birthday. **Arts & Entertainment**

Below the surface

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Amendment for abortion rights still not a reality

Supporters see more urgent situation in GOP-controlled states

By Dan Petrella
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Embarking on a second term about six months after the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority struck down the federal right to abortion, Gov. JB Pritzker declared in his January 2023 inaugural address that the new realities facing those seeking the procedure "demand that we establish a constitutional protection for reproductive rights in Illinois."

In the four legislative sessions since, however, Pritzker and the Democratic-controlled Illinois General Assembly have taken no visible steps toward realizing that goal. The lack of action in Springfield ahead of a Sunday deadline for lawmakers to place constitutional amendment referendums on the Nov. 3 ballot guarantees Pritzker will end his second term without voters having an opportunity to decide whether abortion rights should be enshrined in the Illinois Constitution.

Undoubtedly, Illinois law contains some of the strongest protections for abortion rights in the nation, and Democratic lawmakers continue to pass measures to protect access for the state's residents and for the many out-of-state patients who come to Illinois to receive services. But the absence of a public push to change the state constitution reflects what abortion rights supporters see as a more urgent situation in Republican-controlled states, as well as the challenge of passing an amendment that requires approval by three-fifths majorities in both legislative chambers and by voters.

For Pritzker, a billionaire governor who has spent millions of dollars supporting similar abortion rights efforts in other states, the lack of action in Illinois cracks the door to criticism that his focus is divided as he campaigns this year for a rare third term in Springfield and considers a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2028. By tabling a possible constitutional amendment, Democrats also have handed abortion rights opponents a rare opportunity to

See **ABORTION** on Page A5



Arabic curriculum faces controversy

Despite groundswell of support, southwest suburban school district's multiyear attempt to add language program has not gone smoothly

By Angie Leventis Lourgos and Addison Wright | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Father of two Waleed Atawneh has urged his southwest suburban high school district to add Arabic to its world language program, contending it would boost job prospects for students, serve a national interest and provide an opportunity for many children — including his own — to identify with the subject matter they're studying.

"It would allow the students to see themselves in the curriculum," said Atawneh, a second-generation Arab American who hopes his young kids will one day have the option to take Arabic language classes at their public high school. "If the Arab American students saw their language, their culture, being taught as part of the mainstream curriculum ... it would allow them to be seen."

But the argument has not gone smoothly. Despite a sizable population of Arab American students and groundswell of support from many parents, Orland Park-based High School District 230 is facing controversy over a proposal to create an Arabic language program.

Many proponents expressed frustration with the school board and administration as multiyear efforts to bring Arabic language instruction to District 230 appeared to stall, culminating with the recent resignation of the only Arab American member of the school board.

Local educator Mohammed Jaber — who first proposed adding Arabic language instruction to the district's curriculum in 2023 — stepped down from the school board in late March, citing frustration with district resistance and delays to the proposal.

"I asked once, twice, I thought

See **ARABIC** on Page A6

Above: Students learn Arabic words while playing with bilingual flash cards during Modern Arabic 1 class at Richards High School in Oak Lawn on April 17. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Adrian Williams, a senior at Portage High School, with his mother, Tiffany May, in Portage, Indiana, on Wednesday. He was charged with a felony after officers responded to a report of a gun — which turned out to not be real — outside a Planet Fitness. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE**

'Senior assassin' game worries officials

Teen faces felony after playing the tag-style high school rite of passage

By Rebecca Johnson
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Adrian Williams knew something was wrong when the police vehicles pulled up near his parked car outside a Planet Fitness in northwest Indiana.

Officers shouted "hands up" and pointed guns at him, a "nerve-racking" experience, the 18-year-old Portage High School senior said. He managed to get out of his car and kneel down with his

hands in the air, his mind racing.

As police surrounded him, blue and red lights flashing, Williams could come up with only one possible reason for an arrest. So, even before the handcuffs went on, he started screaming, "It's a water gun!" and "I'm playing senior assassin!"

Up until that April 10 moment, Williams had never been in trouble with the law, he and his mother say. Williams is set to graduate, with plans to attend and play football at St. Xavier University in the fall.

But now, Williams is facing a felony charge after participating in senior assassin, a popular tag-style game where teens hunt

down their opponents with Nerf and water guns. Despite its threatening-sounding name, it's usually a good-spirited elimination challenge that has become tradition for many high school seniors across the Chicago area and the country.

But suburban police and school officials warn that the rite of passage can be "incredibly dangerous," especially when it's played in public. As high school graduation season approaches, police have blasted alerts about the controversial game, which they said has heavily been on their radar in recent years. The game is typically organized on social

See **GAME** on Page A4

US withdrawal plans a wake-up call

The United States' plans to pull 5,000 troops from Germany faced bipartisan resistance in Washington, with some saying it sends the "wrong signal" to Russia. **Nation & World, Page B5**

Banner year for the Big Ten

The Big Ten Conference is reveling in success after having three different schools win a national title in football and men's and women's basketball in the same year. **Sports**



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WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY H: 63 L: 45
MON. H: 76 L: 49
TUE. H: 52 L: 40
Complete details on Page A22

INDEX

Almanac A17
Crossword ... In Comics
Editorials B1
Horoscope ... In Comics
Letters B3
Obituaries A18
Rides G7
Success G4
Television D7

178th year No. 123
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Relaxed Lyon serves up memorable bites



Rick Steves

Just two hours from Paris by train is Lyon, one of France's culture hubs and a foodie mecca. Straddling the mighty Rhône and Saône rivers between Burgundy, Provence and the Alps, this city is relaxed, welcoming and — despite having romantic cobbled alleys, pastel Renaissance mansions, Paris-like shopping streets, evocative museums and renowned cuisine — surprisingly untouristy.

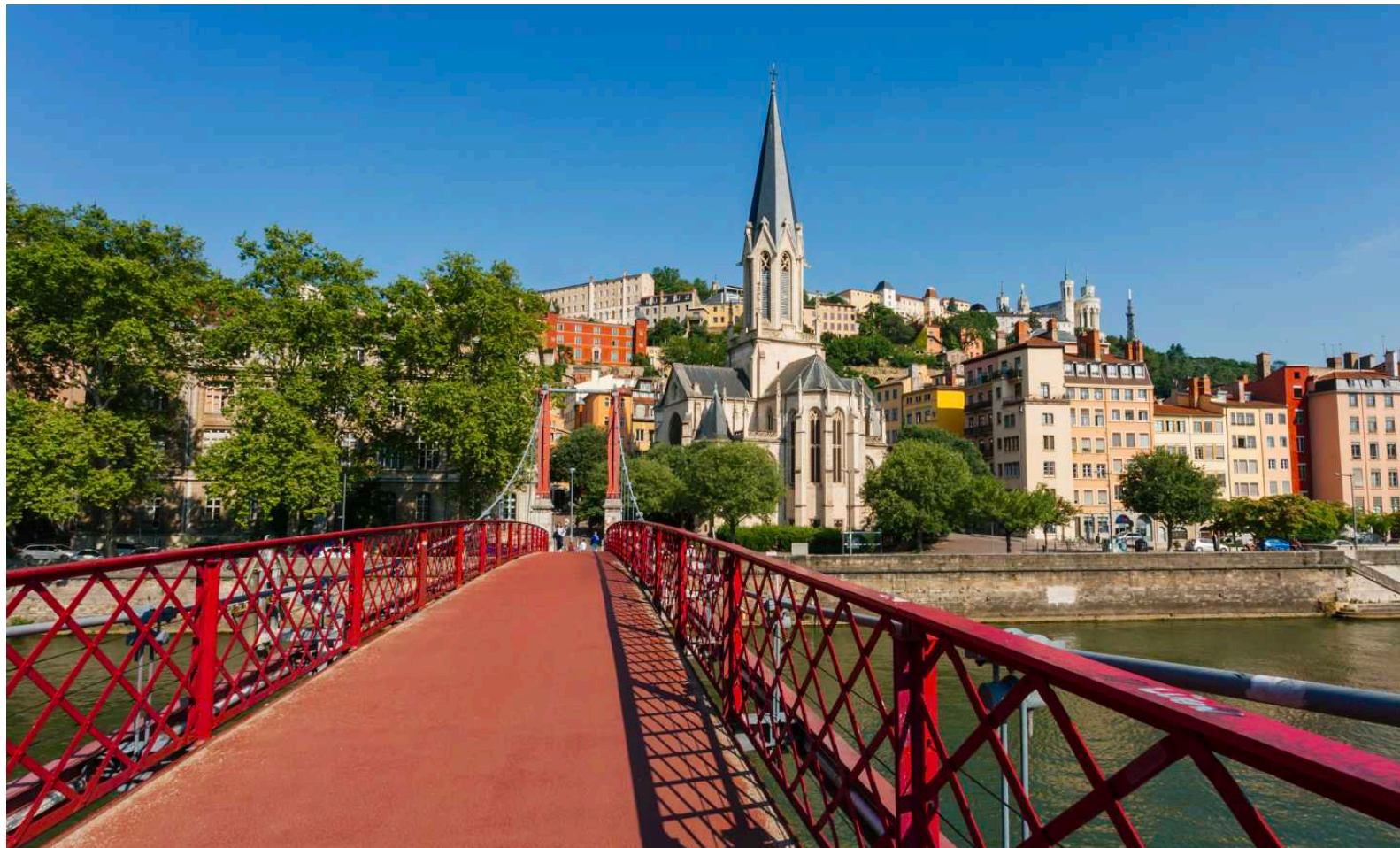
Lyon's sights are concentrated in three areas: historic Vieux Lyon (the old town, on the bank of the Saône River); the Presqu'île (the peninsula between its two rivers), and Fourvière Hill, with its white Notre-Dame Basilica glimmering above the city.

I like to start my Lyon sightseeing day with a funicular ride up Fourvière Hill — where the city was founded as “Lugdunum” by the Romans in 43 B.C. From the Fourvière terrace, I enjoy a commanding view of Lyon's old town, with its Renaissance roofs sporting uniform chimneys and the Presqu'île's elegant 19th-century architecture.

The hill's landmark is the gleaming Notre-Dame Basilica, built in the late 1800s. Inside this ornate neo-Gothic building, everything is covered with elaborate mosaics that tell stories of the Virgin Mary. Next to the basilica, a chapel that predates the church by 500 years is capped by a glorious gold statue of Mary overlooking the city.

A short walk from the basilica is the fine Lugdunum Gallo-Roman Museum, built on the hillside, with views of two Roman theaters.

You'll hear the term “Gallo-Roman” a lot in



Lyon offers romantic cobbled alleys, Paris-like shopping streets and renowned cuisine — with no hint of classless tourism. **ADDIE MANNAN**

Lyon: As they established their vast empire, the Romans conquered the Gauls (the dominant proto-French tribe) and incorporated them into their culture. For several centuries, this substantial part of the Roman Empire was a Gaulish, or Gallo-Roman, civilization. In the museum you'll see Roman artifacts including coins, tools, amphora (jugs) and a tablet inscribed with a speech given by Emperor Claudius in 48 A.D.

Outside the museum are two theaters: A big one that was built under the reign of Emperor Augustus (and is still used today for concerts), and a smaller one with acoustics ideal for speeches and songs.

Back down the hill, Vieux Lyon offers the best concentration of well-preserved Renaissance buildings in France — vestiges of

Lyon's golden age when it was the center of Europe's silk industry. Pedestrian-friendly lanes — punctuated with picturesque squares and courtyards — are made for ambling, window-shopping and café lingering. You'll still find local silk here: On Rue du Boeuf, silk purveyor Brochier Soieries displays a silk-worm exhibit and a binary “computerized” weaving loom, reminiscent of the early Industrial Revolution.

The many traboules (covered passageways) in Vieux Lyon once protected unfinished silk goods from the elements — but also worked as shortcuts, connecting the old town's three main north-south streets. Today, traboules provide a hide-and-seek opportunity to discover pastel courtyards, lovely loggias and delicate arches. After exploring Vieux

Lyon, I enjoy poking around the city's fun assortment of museums.

In a Renaissance mansion named for a wealthy merchant family, the Gadagne Museums offer two very different exhibits: one on serious city history, and another on puppetry. The Museum of Fine Arts, in a former abbey on the Presqu'île, has an impressive collection, ranging from Egyptian antiquities to Impressionist paintings, and its inner courtyard is a pleasant place to take a peaceful break from city streets. Also on the Presqu'île are the Museums of Textiles and Decorative Arts, filling two buildings that share a courtyard.

On the east bank of the Rhône, the Resistance and Deportation History Center explains the clever strategies Lyon's resistance members used to fight the

Nazis during World War II — and the Lumière Museum is dedicated to the Lumière brothers' pivotal contribution to film. Nearby, Les Halles market is a food festival — crammed with butchers, fishmongers, pastry specialists, cheese shops and colorful produce stands, with mini restaurants mixed in.

Dining is one of the premier attractions in Lyon and, compared to Paris, the prices are great. Here, top chefs are more famous than professional soccer players.

Lyon's characteristic bouchons are small bistros that evolved from the time when Mama would feed the silk workers after a long day. The lively pedestrian streets of Vieux Lyon and Rue Mercière on the Presqu'île are bouchon bazaars, worth strolling even if you dine elsewhere. Though food quality may be better away

from these popular restaurant rows, you can't beat the atmosphere.

After dinner, I like to go for a stroll to savor the city's famous illuminations. While Paris may call itself the “City of Light,” Lyon is a leader in urban lighting design and hosts conventions on the topic. Each night, more than 200 buildings, sites and public spaces are gloriously floodlit.

When I travel outside of Paris, I'm struck by all the wonders there are to enjoy in France. Lyon provides an elegant French urban scene — all with no hint of classless tourism.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Youn digs dish with potatoes in Spain

By Jae-Ha Kim
TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

When Youn Yuh-jung won an Academy Award for her role in “Minari,” she made history as the first Korean actor to be honored with an Oscar.

Already a legend in her homeland, Youn added more U.S. productions like “Pachinko” and “The Wedding Banquet” to her expansive resume.

In the second season of “Beef” — now streaming on Netflix — Youn portrays a billionaire South Korean businesswoman who will do whatever it takes to protect her bumbling boy-toyish husband.

“We shot ‘Beef’ in Los Angeles and South Korea,” Youn, 78, said in a recent interview from her New York hotel. “This was my very first time shooting in Hollywood. We filmed some of the scenes in a North Hollywood studio. And then we went to a really expensive country club town (in Ojai), and stayed on the beach for that shoot. (We also filmed) in Seoul.”

This interview with Youn has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Many of your earlier films were filmed in Seoul and South Korea. What about some of your recent work?

A: For the other American productions, I filmed (the series) “Pachinko” in Canada and Korea, and the films “Minari” in Oklahoma and “The Wedding Banquet” in Canada.

Q: Do you have a preference for working on location



Youn Yuh-jung, seen April 15, plays a businesswoman in Season 2 of “Beef.” **EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION**

versus a soundstage?

A: Sometimes I prefer location, sometimes I prefer the set. It depends.

Q: Is it true that when you filmed a season of the reality series “Youn's Kitchen,” a diner invited you to cook at his hotel in Switzerland?

A: Yes, we were having a restaurant opening (for the series) in Garachico, Spain, and there were some guests coming in. One asked our production people if he could see the chef. So maybe he was giving me some nice compliments about the food. He came into the kitchen and said he has some resort areas in Switzerland and asked me to come over and make a menu for him. It was interesting.

Q: Did you end up going to Switzerland?

A: No, I told him this is a reality show. I'm not a chef, I'm an actress! (Laughs.) But I did visit Switzerland a long time ago, maybe it was 40 or 50 years ago. I went to Basel and Mont Blanc with my family. I cannot remember all the places that I went.

Q: You also filmed the travel show “Sisters Over Flowers” in Croatia. What are your memories of that country?

A: Oh, it was a beautiful place that wasn't contaminated by pollution and

tourists at the time. To me, it was a beautiful place. We didn't have a direct flight from Korea to Croatia. Nowadays, so many Korean people want to go visit Croatia.

Q: When you filmed another season of “Youn's Kitchen” in Indonesia, did you have time to go sightseeing?

A: Not much, actually, because we were busy cooking for the show, which had a very, very harsh schedule. We left Bali, maybe we took a ferry or some kind of boat for two hours and then reached that special place (Gili Trawangan) where we opened the kitchen. Cars aren't allowed, only bicycles and some donkey rides, I think. It was very, very different.

Q: When you travel, do you seek out Korean food?

A: I have to have Korean food. But nowadays, everywhere has Korean food so it's easier to travel.

Q: What about local food?

A: That time in Spain, I realized they had a beautiful potato (dish). I never ate potatoes like that. Maybe because of the soil? I don't know what was the difference, but it was delicious. So I kept eating their potatoes from morning to night.

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

Couple cancels stay over illness but still charged for hotel room

By Christopher Elliott
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

My wife and I were booked to stay at the Hampton Inn in Great Falls, Montana.

On the morning of our trip, she woke up with a fever and a severe cough. She was later diagnosed with pneumonia and had to be admitted to the hospital. I called the hotel to cancel the reservation, but the desk clerk told me that we'd still be charged the full \$173 because it was a late cancellation. He said that there was nothing he could do.

I called Hilton's customer service line, and a representative said that the property would have to handle it. I asked for the hotel manager, but she was in a meeting. I left my number but never heard back. I later wrote to Hilton's corporate offices and even sent a certified letter to Hilton Corporate, but no one responded.

I just want a refund or a credit for a future stay. Can you help me?
— Bill Chellis, Camano Island, Washington

A: I'm sorry to hear about your wife's illness, and I hope she's feeling better. Hotels typically have strict cancellation policies — many require 24 hours' notice or more to avoid penalties. In your case, Hilton was within its rights to charge for the night. But in the hospitality business, having the right to do something and doing the right thing often aren't the same.

Your paper trail shows that you did everything you could to get help. You called, asked for a manager, appealed to corporate, and followed up in writing. (By the way, you can find the names, numbers and email addresses of the Hilton executives on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.) This is exactly

what consumers should do when they have a legitimate request for an exception to a policy.

The state of Washington has a Consumer Protection Act that broadly prohibits “unfair or deceptive” practices. While it doesn't specifically cover hotel cancellations, it does give consumers a legal avenue if a company refuses to act in good faith. On a federal level, there's no blanket law requiring hotels to waive penalties for medical emergencies, but the Federal Trade Commission does monitor businesses for misleading practices. The wording of “may incur charges” within Hilton's own cancellation notice arguably left the door open for some discretion.

When I contacted Hilton,

it reviewed your case again. A representative said that its front desk agent had correctly followed the policy but confirmed that it had overlooked your follow-up requests. Hilton then refunded your \$173.

Your case is a good reminder that policies aren't always the final word. If you have a valid reason — backed up by documentation — and you politely persist, companies can often bend a rule. And when they don't — well, you know how to find me.

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 or chris@elliott.org.