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## Lead Agency:

Region 14 ESC
Responses Due:
Tuesday, November 13th, 2018 2:00 PM
USA Today 10/09/2018
USA Today 10/16/2018
request solicitation


## MOVIES

## Director boosts Oscar chances for 'Roma'

Patrick Ryan
USA TODAY
NEW YORK - "Roma" is one of the very best films you're likely to see this year. But how far can it go in a jam-packed 2019 Oscar race?
That's the question awards prognosticators have been asking since the movie premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in August and brought audiences to their foet the New York Film Festival over the before land
On paper, "Roma" has almost everything working against it: For starters, it's a black-and-white, Span-ish-language drama with English subtitles. The two-hour-plus film has no recognizable stars in the United States and charts a year in the life of a live-in maid named Cleo (played by Yalitza Aparicio, a first-time actress), who works for an upper-middle-class family in 1970s Mexico. It will be released Dec. 14 in select heaters and on Netflix.

"Roma" will be released Dec. 14 in select theaters

But "Roma" has a silver bullet in Alfonso Cuaron, the visionary filmmaker behind 2013's "Gravity," whose credits also include "Children of Men," "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Cuaron, 56 , has long been beloved by critics
and industry peers as one of Hollywood's Three Amigos" along with fellow Mexican directors Alejandro G Inarritu ("Birdman") and Guillermo del Toro ("The Shape of Water"). Cuaron has described "Roma" as his most deeply personal film yet, developed from his memories growing up in Mexico City and based on his childhood baby sitter
"We were a family together"" Cuaron has said of the
woman who inspired Cleo "When you grow woman who inspired Cleo. "When you grow up with someone you love, you don't discuss their identity.....
forced myself to see as this woman, a member of the forced myself to see as this woman, a member of the lower classes, from the indigenous population.... Thi
gave me a point of view I had never had before." There was not a dry eye in the house by the en the film's screening at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hal Saturday afternoon, which was introduced by surprise guest del Toro in Cuaron's absence.
" 'Roma' is, for me, the culmination of Alfonso's ca reer so far," del Toro said. "I said to him: 'This is not only your best movie, it's one of my top five (favorite) movies of all time. But don't get big-headed - it's No. 5.'"

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## PUZZLES

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POSTS - FOR

## BOOK REVIEW

## An American family suffers in 'Unsheltered'

Mark Athitakis
Special to USA TODA
The world is crashing down on Willa, the hero of Barbara Kingsolver's earnest and ambitious new novel, "Unsheltered" (Harper, $496 \mathrm{pp.}, \star \star \star \star$ ) Journalism cutbacks have ravaged her income. Her professor husband, university became insolvent. Their son's wife has killed herself, leaving behind an infant child. Barbara Their daughter is skepti- Kingsolver cally re-entering Ameri can life after a stint in Cuba. Iano's emphysemic father is a bigoted fan of the "Bullhorn" running for president in 2016. And their New Jersey home, built in the 1870s, is rapidly collapsing

How could two hardworking people do everything right in life and arrive in thinks
Kingsolver doesn't want you to read that line solely as a cry of despair. She takes the question seriously: What forces threaten to wreck the American family, and what can help stave them
off? To answer that, Kingsolver alter off? To answer that, Kingsolver alter 1874, where on the same patch of Pin 1874, where on the same patch of Pine
Barrens land a schoolteacher named Barrens land a schoolteacher named
Thatcher is befriending Mary Treat. Mary, based on a real person, is an uncredentialed but serious naturalist who has published widely and corresponds with Charles Darwin. But ac cepting the theory of evolution is all but a crime in town. Cutler, headmaster o Thatcher's school, thunders on creationism's behalf, backed by a mayor
who treats the town like a fiefdom.
"When men fear the loss of what th historthood in all its complexity, rich know, they will follow any tyrant who satirical line. promises to restore the old
order," Treat intones.
Kingsolver's point is clear: The American experiment, then and now, frays whenever its most fearful
citizens take comfort in citizens take comfort solver, a biologist by train olver, a biologist by train ing, has been attacking nuclear family since her 1988 debut, "The Bean Trees," and most powerful ly in 1998's "The Poison wood Bible."
"Unsheltered" works similar them c turf, and it has the virtues of her best fiction: a compassionate portrait of


Barbara
Kingsolver Kingsolver at her most di dactic. Willa's children ar guing over global economic policy resembles the luke warm banter of a thinkank podcast, and extend Thatcher and Cutler ar cartoonishly binary Only the rules of historical fic tion prevent Kingsolve from slapping a MAGA cap on Cutler's head. also is a resonant call to be more alert to our social predicaments, to "stand in the clear light of day.

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## PUZZLES

CROSSWORD EDITED Fred Piscop
BY Fred Piscop
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