

HITTERS WEIGH IN ON THE DEMISE OF THE SHIFT
SPORTS



\$10 MIGHT GET YOU A SEAT AT 'HAMILTON'
FACES

TUESDAY
March 28, 2023

StarTribune

37° 17°
Brisk. Don't look for any 50s until April. **B4**

2021 PULITZER PRIZE FOR BREAKING NEWS

6 killed in shooting at Nashville grade school



Suspect, who was killed by officers, had detailed map, scoped out building

By JONATHAN MATTISE and TRAVIS LOLLER • Associated Press

NASHVILLE - A former student shot through the doors of a Christian elementary school and killed three children and three adults after elaborately planning the massacre by drawing out a detailed map and conducting surveillance of the building, police said.

The massacre at the Covenant School in Nashville was the latest in a series of mass shootings in a country that has grown increasingly unnerved by bloodshed in schools.

The victims included three 9-year-old children, the school's top administrator, a substitute teacher and a custodian. Amid the chaos a familiar ritual played out: Panicked parents rushed to the school to see if their children were safe and tearfully hugged their kids, and a stunned community planned vigils for the victims.

"I was literally moved to tears to see this and the kids as they were being ushered out of the building," Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said Monday during one of several news See **NASHVILLE** on A5 ▶



NICOLE HESTER, Tennessean via AP, top; JOHN BAZEMORE, Associated Press, above
At top, a woman and two children left a reunification site at a church. The suspect was a former student at the Christian elementary school.

State will be first to face Juul in court

E-cigarette maker has settled with 39 others.

By ROCHELLE OLSON
rochelle.olson@startribune.com

Testimony begins Tuesday in Minnesota's trial against e-cigarette maker Juul Labs, with Attorney General Keith Ellison expected to give an opening statement in Hennepin County District Court.

The state is seeking more than \$100 million in damages from Juul, which "deceptively tricked and lured kids into using a product that is dangerous," the attorney general said in an interview Monday during jury selection.

Minnesota was among dozens of states that filed a lawsuit in December 2019 accusing Juul of misleading marketing practices illegally aimed at children. State leaders announced the lawsuit as a continuation of Minnesota's landmark \$6.5 billion settlement with Big Tobacco more See **JUUL** on A8 ▶

Water usage penalties scrutinized

Violations in state show lack of repercussions.

By GREG STANLEY
greg.stanley@startribune.com

Minnesota lawmakers are considering whether to strengthen the penalties for farms, companies and cities that pump millions of gallons more water than their state permits allow.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said the state's rules are inadequate, offering almost no consequences for those who brazenly ignore permitting rules or pump drastically more water than they are allowed.

The lack of repercussions was apparent after several major violations of water See **WATER** on A8 ▶

Stillwater braces for potential historic flood

Volunteers filled sandbags to hold off the St. Croix.

By MATT MCKINNEY
mckinney@startribune.com

Volunteers wearing high-visibility vests hoisted bag after bag of sand onto pallets in downtown Stillwater on Monday morning, the first day of a weeklong effort to build a town-saving berm ahead of what could be a historic crest of the St. Croix River.

Triggered by warnings from the National Weather Service, which for weeks has forecast

a high probability of flooding after one of the snowiest winters on record, the two dozen volunteers worked through a sunny but chilly morning in a riverside parking lot closed last week in preparation for the flood fight.

"You have to pace yourself," said Leesa Levy, a new Stillwater resident who said she wanted to help out.

"It's nice to be able to give back to the city," said Doug Menikheim, who lives on Stillwater's South Hill. "It's a nice place to live."

See **FLOODING** on A8 ▶



BRIAN PETERSON • brian.peterson@startribune.com
Longtime friends Herb Holman, left, and Marko Santori put in some time on the sandbag line Monday in Stillwater.

Netanyahu delays bid to overhaul Israel's judiciary

Plan plunges nation into one of its worst crises.

By PATRICK KINGSLEY, ISABEL KERSHNER and ERIC NAGOURNEY • New York Times

JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that he was delaying his government's campaign to exert greater control over the judiciary, backing off in the face of furious public protest that has plunged Israel into one of the deepest crises of its history.

In recent weeks, Netanyahu had been unyielding in his pursuit of the court overhaul, even as protests drawing hundreds of thousands have erupted across the country. On Sunday, he fired his defense minister for even suggesting that the plan be delayed.

But on Monday, with civil unrest at new heights, with work stoppages hitting hospitals, airports and schools, and with dissent growing in the military, he relented — if only See **ISRAEL** on A3 ▶

TOP NEWS

MUSLIM SET TO LEAD SCOTLAND

Former health secretary Humza Yousaf likely to be chosen as first minister. **A4**



NATION & WORLD

Calif. rolls back water curbs: State mostly out of drought, governor says. **A2**

U.S. officials hit with spyware: White House bans use by agencies. **A4**

MINNESOTA

Maternal health: Blood pressure cuffs given to pregnant women. **B1**

Walzes on the move: The governor's residence is getting a \$6M makeover. **B1**

SPORTS

Boldy shines again: His 2nd hat trick in eight days lifts Wild past Kraken. **C1**

Best show in college ball: Caitlin Clark monopolizes NCAA sizzle, Souhan says. **C3**

BUSINESS

From CO2 waste to soap: CenterPoint pilot project tests carbon capture. **D1**

George Floyd Square: Developer, partner invest in commercial complex. **D1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Water on the moon? Droplets were embedded in tiny glass beads in lunar dirt brought back on 2020 Chinese mission. **A2**

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STAR TRIBUNE
Minneapolis, St. Paul MN
Volume XLI • No. 358
March 28, 2023



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Postmaster: Send address changes to Star Tribune, 650 3rd Av. S., Suite 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488-0002. Published daily by Star Tribune Media Company, LLC, 650 3rd Av. S., Suite 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488-0002. "Star Tribune" is a registered trademark of Star Tribune Media Company, LLC.
(USPS/351-200) (ISSN/0895-2825) (10/16/95D)
Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, MN
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MONDAY'S POWERBALL

19 26 36 43 58 14

Jackpot
\$122 million
Next drawing
Wednesday

LOTTO AMERICA
Monday: 20 • 37 • 46 • 49 • 52
Star Ball: 10
Jackpot
\$39.93 million
Next drawing
Wednesday

GOPHER 5
Monday: 13 • 26 • 29 • 33 • 46
Winner/Jackpot
None; \$100,000
Next drawing/Jackpot
Wednesday; \$110,000

NORTH 5
Monday: 12 • 18 • 22 • 26 • 28
Jackpot: \$27,000

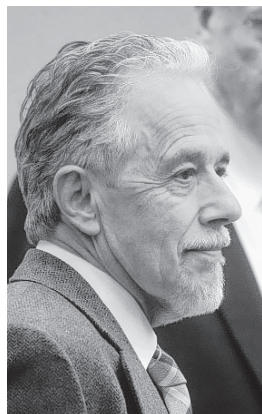
PICK 3
Monday: 8 • 3 • 9 (in order)

MEGA MILLIONS
Friday: 14 • 17 • 33 • 42 • 66
Mega Ball: 15 **Megaplier:** 3
Next drawing/Jackpot
Tonight; \$322 million

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NBA's Rick Barry, 79
Dianne Wiest, 75
Reba McEntire, 68

Bernice King, 60
Vince Vaughn, 53
Lady Gaga, 37



Terry Sanderson, who is suing over a skiing collision, testified Monday that it was Gwyneth Paltrow who ramed into him, not the other way around.

FACES

Paltrow sent him 'flying,' accuser says

The man suing **Gwyneth Paltrow** over a 2016 skiing collision at one of the most upscale resorts in North America took the stand Monday, saying he was ramed into from behind and sent "absolutely flying."

The trial in Utah hinges on who crashed into who: Paltrow testified days earlier that **Terry Sanderson**, a retired 76-year-old optometrist, veered into her back. He says the opposite, and that the collision broke four ribs and caused postconcussion symptoms that changed his personality and strained his family relationships.

But beyond questions of skiing etiquette, Paltrow's attorneys have argued the lawsuit is an attempt by an "obsessed" man to exploit the actor-turned-life-style-influencer's wealth and celebrity.

Sanderson is suing Paltrow for more than \$300,000, and Paltrow has countered for \$1 and attorney fees. The amount of money at stake for both sides pales in comparison to the typical legal costs of a multiyear lawsuit, private security detail and expert-witness-heavy trial.

On Monday, Sanderson recalled a screaming woman skiing into him and hitting him between the shoulder blades with her fists and poles as he tried to shield his head. "All I saw was a whole lot of snow. And I didn't see the sky, but I was flying," Sanderson said, calling it "a serious smack."

After 4½ days of calling witnesses, Sanderson's attorneys will now hand over the courtroom for Paltrow's defense team to make their case. Paltrow's attorneys are expected to call her two teenage children — **Moses** and **Apple** — and a ski instructor who was present the day of the collision.

'Hamilton' at Orpheum for \$10 in lottery

You don't have to pay the Ticketmaster price of \$996 to see "Hamilton" Producer **Jeffrey Seller** and Hennepin Theatre Trust, which is hosting the second

Minneapolis run of **Lin-Manuel Miranda's** juggernaut at the Orpheum Theatre, have announced a \$10 digital lottery for 40 tickets to each performance. Here's how you can snag a \$10 ticket. To enter, use the official "Hamilton" app (hamiltonmusical.com/app). Winners will be notified between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday for the upcoming



Lin-Manuel Miranda

week's performances via email or mobile push notification. Winners have two hours to claim their tickets. Each winner may purchase two tickets.

Lottery tickets may be picked up at will call two hours before performance and with a valid photo ID. A person is allowed only one entry and the tickets become void if resold. The lottery for performances from April 4-9 will close at noon Thursday. Subsequent digital lotteries will begin at 10 a.m. each Friday and close the following Thursday for the upcoming week's performances. "Hamilton" will take the stage at the Orpheum from April 4 through May 6.

ASSOCIATED PRESS, ROHAN PRESTON

HAVE A CONCERN? We'd like to hear from you. Concerns about accuracy can be directed to corrections@startribune.com. Correction requests can also be made by calling the newsroom at 612-673-4414.

California water-use curbs eased after winter deluge

Gov. Newsom warns that conservation still needed.

By SHAWN HUBLER
New York Times

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. — After being soaked by an onslaught of storms that have flooded towns, saturated fields and heaped the Sierra Nevada with a near-record snowpack, Californians are getting relief from a host of drought restrictions that were imposed last year during a historic dry spell.

"We've been waiting for this moment for some time," Gov. Gavin Newsom said, stepping out between atmospheric rivers to lift all but about 33 of the more than 80 emergency drought orders he issued since last spring.

But that doesn't mean California can stop thinking about conservation.

"It would be nice to have a governor say the drought is over," he said, but climate change has complicated the question. "Are we out of a drought? Mostly, but not completely."

The past three years have been the driest in recorded history in California. Last spring, state water officials reported that California's largest reservoirs were at half of their historical averages and that the snowpack was at just 14% of average.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the government's official drought-tracking service, more than 90% of the state was in severe or extreme drought.

Since then, however, a dozen powerful atmospheric rivers have swept through



NIC COURTY • New York Times

A duck swam through floodwaters in Watsonville, Calif., on March 14. Scenes like this have been repeated across the state.

California, and Los Angeles has recorded more than 2 feet of rain, about 200% of normal since the current season began in October. Similar levels of rain have fallen in San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno and other cities.

On Thursday, the Drought Monitor reported that only about a third of the state was experiencing any drought, and that only about 8.5% was in severe or worse drought. Major reservoirs are so full that water is being released from some of them to make way for the inevitable thaw of a colossal snowpack that is nearing triple the average size for this time of year, said Mike Anderson, the state climatologist.

Although the storms have been destructive for parts of the state, the governor credited the wet winter with easing the painful drought. Also key, he said, were conservation measures that the state

has taken over the past few years to boost water storage, increase supplies and upgrade flood-control infrastructure.

As the drought worsened, Newsom has appealed to residents to voluntarily cut 15% of their water usage. The state also slashed its deliveries to local and regional water agencies via the State Water Project. The project, a network of reservoirs, dams and waterways, is a major component of California's sprawling water system and serves some 27 million residents and agricultural users throughout the state.

As recently as December, water officials warned agencies to brace for just 5% of the water supplies they had requested, a cut that stunned farmers and ranchers and heightened political tensions in rural California. A month later, officials raised that to 30% as winter storms drenched the state.

Water on the moon? Yup

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — Scientists have discovered a new and renewable source of water on the moon for future explorers in lunar samples from a Chinese mission.

Water was embedded in tiny glass beads in the lunar dirt where meteorite impacts occur.

These shiny, multicolored glass beads were in samples returned from the moon by China in 2020.

The beads range in size from the width of one hair to several hairs; the water content was just a minuscule fraction of that, said Hejiu Hui of Nanjing University, who took part in the study.

Since there are billions if not trillions of these impact beads, that could amount to substantial amounts of water, but mining it would be tough, according to the team.

"Yes, it will require lots and lots of glass beads," Hui said in an email. "On the other hand, there are lots and lots of beads on the moon."

These beads could continually yield water thanks to the



JIN LIWANG • Xinhua via AP

In Beijing in December 2020, technicians worked on moon samples retrieved by China's Chang'e 5 lunar lander.

constant bombardment by hydrogen in the solar wind. The findings, published Monday in the journal Nature Geoscience, are based on 32 glass beads randomly selected from lunar dirt returned from the Chang'e 5 moon mission.

These impact beads are everywhere, the result of the cooling of melted material ejected by incoming space rocks. Water could be extracted by heating the beads, possibly by future robotic missions. More studies are needed to determine whether this would be feasible and, if so, whether the water would be safe to drink.

This shows "water can be recharged on the moon's surface ... a new water reservoir on the moon," Hui said.

Previous studies found water in glass beads formed by lunar volcanic activity, based on samples returned by the Apollo moonwalkers more than a half-century ago. These, too, could provide water not only for use by future crews, but for rocket fuel.

NASA plans to put astronauts back on the lunar surface by the end of 2025. They'll aim for the south pole where permanently shadowed craters are believed to be packed with frozen water.

Parked vehicles are now nation's largest source of stolen guns

By RICHARD FAUSSET
New York Times

NASHVILLE — On a Sunday in January 2022, a Glock 9mm pistol, serial number AFDN559, disappeared from a Dodge Charger parked near a midtown Nashville bank after someone smashed in the rear driver's side window.

Ten months later, Nashville police officers arrested three teenagers suspected in a series of shootings and discovered a cache of weapons in a nearby apartment. Among them was AFDN559. Forensic analysts would later tie the Glock to three shootings, including an attack in August that wounded four youths and another that wounded a 17-year-old girl in September.

In a country awash with guns, with more firearms than people, the parked car — or in many cases, the parked pickup truck — has become a



ERIC RYAN ANDERSON • New York Times

A cap with a pro-gun message, exactly the kind of thing thieves look for, sat on a vehicle's dashboard in Nashville recently.

new flash point in the debates over gun safety.

There is little question about the scope of the problem. A report issued in May by the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety analyzed FBI crime data in 271 U.S. cities, large and small, from 2020 and found that guns stolen

from vehicles have become the nation's largest source of stolen firearms — with an estimated 40,000 guns stolen from cars in those cities alone.

In some cities, organized groups of young people have swept through neighborhoods and areas around sports arenas, looking for weapons left

under car seats or in unlocked center consoles or glove compartments. Their work is occasionally made easier by motorists who advertise their right to bear arms with car window stickers promoting favored gun brands or that declare "molon labe" — a defiant message from ancient Sparta, which roughly translates as "come and take them."

Increasingly, thieves are doing just that. The Everytown researchers found that a decade ago, less than one-quarter of all gun thefts were from cars; in 2020, more than half of them were. The researchers say more study is needed to understand the shift, which has occurred as more states have adopted permitless carry laws and messages in gun industry marketing have encouraged Americans to take their weapons with them for personal protection.

And as the problem has

grown, public health officials and lawmakers, including some in Tennessee, have proposed a rather prosaic solution: encouraging or mandating that gun-toting drivers store their weapons in their vehicles inside of sturdy, lockable gun boxes.

Gun control advocates are hoping that the adoption of the boxes in cars will come to be seen as a solution that both sides of the gun debate can accept, much as both sides encourage the use of gun safes and trigger locks in the home.

But some experts say widespread adoption of the boxes may require a dramatic cultural change akin to the revolution in seat belt use. And it may prove to be even more polarizing than seat belts ever were. The National Rifle Association and other gun rights advocates believe car lockbox mandates to be an onerous burden — a reflection of how the avalanche of guns is creating new

sources of conflict.

Many lockboxes are relatively cheap. Simple versions that can attach to the underside of a car seat with a cable can be found for about \$40, and some cities have even begun developing programs to give them away.

Some skeptics doubt even widespread use of the boxes would make much of a dent in gun violence in a nation with more than 400 million firearms in circulation.

In Nashville, the number of guns reported stolen from cars there increased nearly tenfold over the past decade, to a record 1,378 in 2022 from 152 in 2012, according to police data. The city's rate of gun thefts from cars was the 15th highest in the country in 2020, based on FBI figures. The situation was even worse in Memphis, which had the highest rate of gun thefts from cars in the nation that year, according to the Everytown analysis.

Fox News fires producer who said she was coerced on Dominion case

Abby Grossberg lawsuits said she was being set up.

By KATIE ROBERTSON
New York Times

Fox News Media has fired a producer who last week accused the network of discrimination and of coercing her into providing misleading testimony in a blockbuster defamation case, according to court documents filed Monday.

Lawyers for the producer, Abby Grossberg, who had worked for hosts Maria Bartiromo and Tucker Carlson, said in the complaints that she was fired Friday in retaliation for a pair of lawsuits she had filed against the company several days earlier.

In those suits, Grossberg claimed that Fox News lawyers had coached her to

deflect blame from executives and male hosts in her deposition for Dominion Voting System's \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News. Dominion says Fox News' coverage repeatedly aired false claims about the company's election equipment in saying it contributed to widespread voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election.

Grossberg said in her suits, filed in New York and Delaware, that she and Bartiromo were being set up to take the fall for Fox News' actions because of the company's culture of misogyny and discrimination. She claimed that she endured a toxic environment at Fox News and that male producers had harassed her.

As part of the legal filings Monday, Grossberg's lawyers included her errata sheet, which witnesses use to cor-

rect mistakes in their depositions. Grossberg changed her answers to several questions from her deposition in the Dominion case. In one, about whether she trusted the producers at Fox News with whom she worked, she changed her answer from "yes" to "no." The producers, she said in her revised comments, are "activists, not journalists and impose their political agendas on the programming."

A Fox News spokesperson said in a statement that the company's lawyers had advised Grossberg that "while she was free to file whatever legal claims she wished," she was not allowed to disclose privileged information about the Dominion case. "We were clear that if she violated our instructions, Fox would take appropriate action including

termination."

The spokesperson added that the company would continue to "vigorously defend" itself against Grossberg's claims, "which are riddled with false allegations against Fox and our employees."

Grossberg's firing was reported earlier by Variety.

Paris Filippatos, a lawyer for Grossberg, said in a statement: "The frivolous litigation tactics by Fox News punctuate its blatant disregard for the law, which is further underscored by the company's recent retaliatory firing of Ms. Grossberg."

The Dominion defamation case is scheduled for trial in April. Fox News has denied any wrongdoing, and both parties have asked the judge to rule on the case in their favor before a trial, and are awaiting his decision.



OREN ZIV • Associated Press

Israeli police used a water cannon to disperse demonstrators blocking a Tel Aviv highway during one of Monday's big protests.

Civil unrest, dissent in military grows

◀ ISRAEL from A1 for the moment.

"When there is a possibility of preventing a civil war through dialogue, I, as the prime minister, take a timeout for dialogue," Netanyahu said in a speech announcing the postponement.

The concession came as Itamar Ben-Gvir, the head of a powerful far-right political party in Netanyahu's governing coalition, said he was open to delaying a parliamentary vote on overhauling the judiciary, giving Netanyahu some breathing room as protests ground the country to a halt.

By backing down, Netanyahu may be able to restore calm to the streets, but he now risks destabilizing the political coalition that he labored to assemble, finally forming a government in December. Many of his hard-right government partners had dug in their heels at any suggestion of a delayed vote.

Even as he relented on the timing, Ben-Gvir made it clear that he was not giving it up. "The reform will pass," he declared, vowing that "no one will scare us."

And it was unclear if Netanyahu's announcement would, in fact, appease foes of the court plan.

The Israeli opposition appeared to be split over his offer of dialogue. While Yair Lapid, a former prime minister and the centrist opposition leader, welcomed it, if warily, Merav Michaeli, the head of the center-left Labor Party, rejected it. "How many more times can we fall into the trap of cooperating with Netanyahu?" Michaeli said, accusing him of "buying time at the expense of our democracy."

The protesters, too, seemed unpersuaded.

"So long as the legislation continues and has not been

shelved, we will be in the streets," an informal protest body known simply as "the struggle HQ" said in a statement. "This is another attempt to weaken the protest."

Still, after the Netanyahu announcement, the head of Israel's main labor union called off a general strike planned for Tuesday.

The tensions began after the Netanyahu government moved to give itself more control over the appointment of judges — including those who sit on the Supreme Court. It also moved to strip much of that court's power to review parliamentary decisions.

Both sides have tried to wrap themselves in the mantle of democracy.

The government's supporters contend that Israel cannot be a true democracy without giving elected lawmakers primacy over unelected judges. Critics argue that the removal of judicial oversight of parliament would pave the way for authoritarian rule — at a time when Israel has the furthest-right and most religiously

conservative government in its history.

Some also expressed fears that Netanyahu might have another agenda.

The prime minister is currently standing trial on corruption charges. Opponents worry the court overhaul might make it easier for him to push through legislation that could allow him to avoid punishment. He has repeatedly denied that claim, but adding to the suspicions, parliament voted last week to make it more difficult to declare prime ministers incapacitated and remove them from office.

On Monday, in agreeing to hold off on any vote on the judiciary measure until after parliament returns from an April recess, Netanyahu struck a tone of diplomacy.

"I am giving a real chance for a real conversation," he said. "We insist on the need to bring about the necessary corrections in the legal system, and we will allow for an opportunity to achieve them with a broad consensus. That's the worthiest goal

there is."

It appeared more a moment of calculation than conciliation, however, and the prime minister made clear his scorn for the protesters. He likened some opponents of his plan to the woman in the biblical story of King Solomon who would have allowed a disputed baby to be cut in two.

The battle over the courts has become a proxy for much deeper social disagreements within Israeli society related to the relationship between secular and religious Jews and the future of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Orthodox Jews and settlers in the occupied West Bank say the court has historically acted against their interests and that it has for too long been dominated by secular judges. Jews of Middle Eastern descent also feel underrepresented on the court, which has mostly been staffed by judges from European backgrounds.

In urging this past weekend that the government delay a vote, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant noted that many military reservists had pledged to stand down from duty to protest the court overhaul.

"The rift within our society is widening and penetrating the Israel Defense Forces," he said in a speech Saturday. He added: "This is a clear and immediate and tangible danger to the security of the state. I shall not be a party to this."

The next day, Gallant was out of a job — and the streets were in chaos.

His firing heightened friction between Netanyahu and the Biden administration. The U.S. National Security Council called for compromise, expressing deep concern and stressing that "democratic values have always been, and must remain, a hallmark of the U.S.-Israel relationship."

NATION & WORLD

MASSACHUSETTS

Warren says she'll run again for Senate

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, is once again asking Massachusetts voters to send her back to Washington for a second six-year term, telling them there is still much work to do. "I first ran for Senate because I saw how the system is rigged for the rich and powerful and against everyone else. I won because Massachusetts voters know it, too. And now I'm running for Senate again because there's a lot more we've got to do," Warren says in a campaign ad. The former Harvard Law professor was a vocal critic of unregulated banking and big business long before her 2012 election win over GOP Sen. Scott Brown sent her to Congress.

FLORIDA

DeSantis signs school voucher expansion

Every Florida family will be eligible for state money to send their children to private schools regardless of income, under a massive expansion of the state voucher program signed Monday by Gov. Ron DeSantis. At a bill signing at Christopher Columbus High, a private school for boys in Miami, DeSantis described the effort as the "largest expansion of education choice, not only in the history of this state, but the history of these United States." The controversial bill was celebrated by GOP leaders and parents who currently use the scholarships. But it also faces fierce criticism from those who say its price tag — estimates range from \$210 million to \$4 billion in the first year — will devastate public schools, which educate about 87% of Florida's students.

NEW JERSEY

State takes over Paterson Police Department

The state's attorney general said that his office has taken control of the Police Department in the state's third-largest city, Paterson, less than a month after officers there fatally shot a well-known crisis intervention worker during a standoff. Attorney General Matt Platkin said that his office had assumed control of all police functions, including the division that investigates internal police matters. His announcement didn't mention the shooting of Najee Seabrooks directly, but it reflected activists' concerns about how the department is being run.

INDIANA

Ban on gender-affirming care advances

House Republicans on Monday passed a bill to ban all gender-affirming care for minors in the state, sending the measure to Indiana's GOP governor amid a wave of anti-LGBTQ legislation across the U.S. The House advanced the ban 65-30 after contentious hearings that primarily featured testimony from opponents. The bill would prohibit transgender youth under 18 from accessing hormone therapies, puberty blockers and surgeries.

ECUADOR

Massive landslide kills 16 with 7 missing

A massive landslide swept over an Andean community in central Ecuador, burying dozens of homes and killing at least 16 people as rescuers frantically searched for survivors, authorities said. Another 16 people were injured and seven remained missing hours after the landslide Sunday in Alausí, about 137 miles south of the capital, Quito. The agency estimated that 500 people and 163 homes were affected by the disaster, which also destroyed a portion of the Pan-American Highway.

SAUDI ARABIA

Packed bus hits bridge, kills 20, injures 29

At least 20 people were killed when a packed bus hit a bridge, overturned and burst into flames in southwestern Saudi Arabia on Monday, Saudi state media reported. Another 29 people were injured. The crash reportedly occurred when the vehicle's brakes failed in southwestern Asir Province bordering Yemen. The crash happened as many people are traveling to enjoy nightly feasts with family and friends during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

NEWS SERVICES

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NATION & WORLD



DEEPANSHU AGGARWAL • Associated Press

Supporters of the opposition Congress party shouted slogans as they protested against their leader Rahul Gandhi's expulsion from Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. Gandhi was expelled a day after a court convicted him of defamation.

Lawmaker's ouster protested

Demonstrators in India say free speech is in peril.

By PIYUSH NAGPAL and SHONAL GANGULY
Associated Press

NEW DELHI - Members of opposition parties dressed in black disrupted India's Parliament on Monday and protested in the capital, New Delhi, after Rahul Gandhi, a key opposition leader and fierce critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was expelled from the legislature last week.

Hundreds of supporters of Gandhi's Congress party demonstrated in the heart of New Delhi and dozens were detained by police. Lawmakers from 18 opposition parties also protested together outside Parliament, donning black clothes to symbolize mourning and waving posters

that warned India's democracy is in danger.

Gandhi's expulsion on Friday came a day after a local court convicted him of defamation and sentenced him to two years in prison for mocking Modi's surname in an election speech in 2019. The actions against Gandhi, the great-grandson of India's first prime minister, were widely denounced by opponents of Modi as assaults against democracy and free speech by a government seeking to quash dissent. His removal from Parliament also delivered a major blow to the Congress party ahead of national elections next year.

"The government wants to suppress the opposition and their voice," said Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the Congress party.

Over the weekend, Gan-

dhi said he is being targeted for raising questions about Modi's relationship to Gautam Adani, a coal tycoon who until recently was Asia's richest man.

Hindenburg Research, a U.S. financial research firm, accused the Adani Group in January of stock price manipulation and fraud running into billions of dollars. Since then, Gandhi has pushed for an investigation into Adani's sprawling businesses, whose market value has since plummeted by tens of billions of dollars. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party says he has no links to Adani.

The protesting opposition lawmakers backed Gandhi on Monday by renewing calls for a parliamentary probe into the Adani Group.

Gandhi said he was not bothered about losing his

seat in Parliament. "My job is to defend the institutions of the country and the voice of people," he said over the weekend.

A court in Modi's home state of Gujarat convicted Gandhi last week over a 2019 speech in which he asked, "Why do all thieves have Modi as their surname?" Gandhi then referred to three well-known and unrelated Modis: a fugitive Indian diamond tycoon, a cricket executive banned from the Indian Premier League tournament and the prime minister.

Under Indian law, a criminal conviction and prison sentence of two years or more are grounds for expulsion from Parliament. Gandhi was granted bail for 30 days to allow him to appeal the decision, which Gandhi says he will do.

Scotland will have first Muslim leader

Humza Yousaf new head of Scottish National Party.

By WILLIAM BOOTH
Washington Post

LONDON - Humza Yousaf, the grandson of a Pakistani immigrant who arrived barely speaking English to work in a sewing machine factory in Glasgow, was named as the new leader of the Scottish National Party on Monday.

Because of his party's majority, Yousaf will almost certainly be chosen as first minister — the leader of Scotland — by the Parliament on Tuesday.

At 37, Yousaf will be the youngest first minister of Scotland and the first Muslim to run the nation. His mother, wearing a headscarf, dabbed a tear as he spoke after the vote results were announced.

His ascension as Scottish leader comes alongside the premiership of Rishi Sunak, a Hindu, whose parents are also South Asian. London's mayor is Sadiq Khan, a Muslim and son of Pakistani immigrants. Today, Sunak, Khan and Yousaf are three of the most prominent — and powerful — leaders in Britain.

He promised Monday to continue his party's push to leave the United Kingdom and become a fully independent nation. "We will be the generation that delivers independence," he vowed.

But the way forward is unclear. A spokesman for 10 Downing Street said that Sunak will not support another referendum.

Beyond independence, the new leader of the SNP said he would focus on the high cost of living, improving educational opportunities and access to an often overwhelmed National

Health Service. The leader of the opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, said Yousaf and his party "do not have the answers on the NHS or on the cost of living crisis."

Yousaf will replace Nicola Sturgeon, who announced last month that she was standing down after more than eight years in the role, saying she no longer felt she could give the job her all. She also worried she had become a polarizing figure in a country divided over its future in the United Kingdom.

Sturgeon became first minister eight years ago after the failed independence referendum in 2014.

Sturgeon pressed then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson to allow Scotland to stage another vote, because Brexit — which most Scottish voters opposed — had altered the landscape. But Johnson insisted that the 2014 exercise was a "once in a generation" vote.

Fervor for independence has remained mostly flat.

One recent poll showed that 44% of Scots favored independence in comparison with 56% who did not — pretty much the same breakdown as in 2014, when 45% said yes and 55% said no.

The Scottish government under Sturgeon has also been in turmoil over Scotland's Gender Recognition Reform Bill, which would have made it easier for transgender people as young as 16 to change their legal gender. The law was halted by the British government.

The new leader of the SNP holds similar positions on most issues as his predecessor. He supports same-sex marriage, he has said, and he told the BBC last month, "I do not use my faith as a basis for legislating."

Recovery is tough in Mississippi

People in the poor state are already struggling.

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS and REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

ROLLING FORK, MISS. - The tornado that collapsed the roof and two walls of Jermaine Wells' Mississippi home also hurled a massive tractor tire that landed near him in the living room as his wife huddled in the laundry room.

The couple survived the storm, but as they picked through the ruins of their one-story home Monday in Rolling Fork, he said they're not sure how they're going to pay for daily expenses, let alone long-term recovery.

Wells, 50, drives a backhoe for a road department in another county, and he said he doesn't get paid if he doesn't work. His wife, a cashier at a local store, gathered loose coins as he looked for clothing in the rubble.

"I can't even get to work. I don't have no vehicle, no nothing," Wells said. "How can we rebuild something that we don't have nothing to build our foundation with?"

The disaster makes life even more difficult in this economically struggling area. Mississippi is one of the poorest states in the U.S., and the majority-Black Delta has long been one of the poorest parts of Mississippi — a place where many people work paycheck to paycheck, often in jobs connected to agriculture.

Two of the counties walloped by the tornado, Sharkey and Humphreys, are among the most sparsely populated in the state, with only a few thousand residents in communities scattered across wide expanses of cotton, corn and soybean fields. Sharkey's poverty rate is 35%, and Humphreys' is 33%, compared with about 19% for the state and less than 12% for the entire U.S.

People in poverty are vulnerable after disasters not only because they lack financial resources but also



RORY DOYLE • New York Times

A distribution point for donated relief supplies in Rolling Fork on Monday. President Joe Biden has declared an emergency.

because they often don't have friends or family who can afford to provide long-term shelter, said the Rev. Starsky Wilson, president and CEO of Children's Defense Fund, a national group that advocates for low-income families. "We have to make sure people with power — policymakers — pay attention to and keep their attention on people that are often unseen because they are poor, because they are Black, because they are rural," Wilson said in an interview.

On Monday, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency revised the state death toll from the tornado to 21, down from 25. The agency said the new number is based on deaths confirmed by coroners. One person was killed in Alabama.

Preliminary assessments show 313 structures in Mississippi were destroyed and more than 1,000 were affected in some way, the Federal Emergency Management Agency told emergency managers Monday.

The tornado destroyed many homes and businesses in Rolling Fork and the nearby town of Silver City, leaving mounds of lumber, bricks and twisted metal. The local

housing stock was already tight, and some who lost their homes said they will live with friends or relatives. Mississippi opened more than a half-dozen shelters to temporarily house displaced people.

The tornado obliterated the modest one-story home that Kimberly Berry shared with her two daughters in the Delta flatlands about 15 miles outside Rolling Fork. It left only the foundation and random belongings — a toppled refrigerator, a dresser and matching nightstand, a bag of Christmas decorations.

During the storm, Berry and her 12-year-old daughter prayed inside a nearby church that was barely damaged, while her 25-year-old daughter survived in Rolling Fork. Berry shook her head as she looked at the remains of their possessions. She said she's grateful she and her children are still alive.

"I can get all this back. It's nothing," said Berry, 46, who works as a supervisor at a catfish growing and processing operation. "I'm not going to get depressed about it."

She spent the weekend with friends and family sorting through salvageable items. Her sister, Dianna Berry, said

her own home a few miles away was undamaged. She works at a deer camp, and she said her boss has offered to let Kimberly Berry and her daughters live there for as long as they need.

President Joe Biden issued an emergency declaration for Mississippi on Sunday, making federal funding available to hardest-hit areas. But Craig Fugate, who headed FEMA in the Obama administration, said it's important to remember that the agency will not pay for all expenses after a disaster.

"In those communities where people don't have insurance and the homes were destroyed, their ability to do recovery will be tested," Fugate said.

FEMA provides temporary housing and helps with some uninsured losses, but he said the agency is not designed to replace everything if homes are uninsured or underinsured. Long-term recovery will be heavily dependent on money from Housing and Urban Development. "That money won't flow fast," he said.

Denise Durel heads United Way of Southwest Louisiana, where residents are still recovering from hurricanes Laura and Delta that struck in 2020. The organization has been helping people rebuild damaged homes, and some were uninsured or had too little coverage.

"Just drive through town," she said. "Blue tarps are still there. The houses are in worse shape."

Louisiana has finally received a large infusion of federal money to help those still struggling from the two 2020 hurricanes. Durel said if people didn't register with FEMA soon after the storms, they can't qualify for this new money. She said the application process is difficult and requires internet access.

"The people in Mississippi have to understand loud and clear: Somehow you have to find a way to get those people registered with FEMA," she said.



ANDREW MILLIGAN • PA via AP

Newly elected Scottish National Party leader Humza Yousaf said he supports same-sex marriage and his party's push to leave the United Kingdom and become a fully independent nation.

Spyware targets phones of U.S. officials overseas

U.S. cites security risks in attacks on 50 or more.

By ELLEN NAKASHIMA and TIM STARKS • Washington Post

At least 50 U.S. government personnel in at least 10 countries overseas have had their mobile phones targeted with commercial spyware, a number that is expected to grow as the investigation continues, senior administration officials said this week.

The revelation comes as the White House announces a new executive order to ban the use of commercial spyware by the U.S. government that poses a risk to national security and human rights. The order, unveiled Monday, follows in the wake of a long-running controversy over the misuse of a powerful spyware, Pegasus, by foreign governments to hack journalists, rights activists and dissidents around the world. It also comes as the administration this week co-hosts the second global Summit for Democracy.

In late-2021, Apple alerted roughly a dozen U.S. Embassy employees in Uganda that their iPhones had been hacked using Pegasus, military-grade spyware developed by NSO Group, an Israel-based company with government clients in dozens of countries. The tool

allows its users to steal digital files, eavesdrop on conversations and track the movements of targets — often activated through "zero-click" malware that doesn't even require the target to click on a link.

But the latest figure — of at least 50 government employees — shocked the Biden administration.

"We were astounded by the number," said one senior administration official, revealing that dozens of government officials, some of them very senior, had devices that appeared or were confirmed to have been hacked by commercial spyware. The official would not specify which company's software was used or who had deployed the malware. "We had a hunch early on, when we started this process that [such spyware] could pose counterintelligence and security risks. ... We realized increasingly that the counterintelligence and security risks were profound."

The effort to identify additional targeted personnel continues, the official said, "and we cannot rule out that there will be more instances."

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, noted that measures were being taken to mitigate the risks posed by the tools.

6 killed in shooting at Nashville grade school

◀ **NASHVILLE** from AI conferences.

Police gave unclear information on the gender of the shooter. For hours, police identified the shooter as a 28-year-old woman and eventually identified the person as Audrey Hale. Then at a late afternoon news conference, the police chief said that Hale was transgender. After the news conference, police spokesman Don Aaron declined to elaborate on how Hale currently identified.

Drake did not give a specific motive when asked by reporters but gave chilling examples of the shooter's planning for the targeted attack.

"We have a manifesto, we have some writings that we're going over that pertain to this date, the actual incident," he said. "We have a map drawn out of how this was all going to take place."

He said in an interview with NBC News that investigators believe Hale had "some resentment for having to go to that school."

The shooter gained entry by firing into glass doors on the building, shattering them, police later said in a tweet.

The shooter was armed with two "assault-style" weapons as well as a handgun, authorities said. At least two of them were believed to have been obtained legally in the Nashville area, according to the chief.

The victims were identified as Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs and William Kinney, all 9 years old, and adults Cynthia Peak, 61; Katherine Koonce, 60; and Mike Hill, 61.

The website of the Covenant School, a Presbyterian school founded in 2001, lists a Katherine Koonce as the head of the school. Her LinkedIn profile says she has led the school since July 2016. Peak was a substitute teacher and Hill was a custodian, according to investigators.

Students held hands as they walked to school buses, which drove them to a nearby church to be reunited with their parents.

Rachel Dibble, who was at the church as families found their children, described the scene as everyone being in "complete shock."

"People were involuntarily trembling," said Dibble, whose children attend a different private school in Nashville. "The children — started their morning in their cute little uniforms, they probably had some Froot Loops and now their whole lives changed today."

Communities around the U.S. have suffered through one mass killing after another in recent years, with school shootings taking an especially painful toll.

Recent tragedies nationwide include the massacre at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, last year; a first-grader who shot his teacher in Virginia; and a shooting last week in Denver that wounded two administrators.

President Joe Biden, speaking at the White House on Monday, called the shooting a "family's worst nightmare" and implored Congress again to pass a ban on certain semi-automatic weapons.

"It's ripping at the soul of this nation, ripping at the very soul of this nation," Biden said.

Biden later ordered the U.S. flag to be flown at half-staff on all federal buildings through



George Uribe via Associated Press

Children held onto each other as they were taken to a church after the shooting at their school. Three children and three adults at the Covenant School in Nashville were killed by a shooter who planned extensively for the attack.



JOHN BAZEMORE • Associated Press

Pastor Paul Purdue embraced a woman during a vigil at Belmont United Methodist Church. Said one person near the scene: "I thought I would just see this on TV. And right now, it's real."

March 31.

Founded as a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church — which is affiliated with the conservative evangelical Presbyterian Church in America — the Covenant School is located in the affluent Green Hills neighborhood just south of downtown Nashville that is home to the famed Bluebird Café — a spot beloved by musicians and songwriters.

The school has about 200 students from preschool through sixth grade, as well as roughly 50 staff members.

"Our community is heartbroken," a statement from the school said. "We are grieving tremendous loss and are in shock coming out of the terror that shattered our school and church. We are focused on loving our students, our families, our faculty and staff

and beginning the process of healing."

Before Monday's violence in Nashville, there had been seven mass killings at K-12 schools since 2006 in which four or more people were killed within a 24-hour period, according to a database maintained by the Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University. In all of them, the shooters

were males.

Monday's tragedy unfolded over roughly 14 minutes. Police received the initial call about an active shooter at 10:13 a.m.

Officers began clearing the first story of the school when they heard gunshots coming from the second level, Aaron said during a news briefing. Police later said in a tweet that the shooter fired at arriving officers from a second-story window and had come armed with significant ammunition.

Two officers from a five-member team opened fire in response, fatally shooting the suspect at 10:27 a.m., Aaron said. One officer had a hand wound from cut glass.

A reeling city mourned during multiple vigils Monday evening. At Belmont United Methodist Church, teary sniffing filled the background as vigil attendees sang, knelt in prayer and lit candles. They lamented the national cycle of deadly shootings, at one point reciting together, "we confess we have not done enough to protect" the children injured or killed in shootings.

"We need to step back. We need to breathe. We need to grieve," said Paul Purdue, the church's senior pastor. "We need to remember. We need to make space for others who are grieving. We need to hear the cries of our neighbors."

A gun-filled photo, and 'thoughts and prayers'

By MARIANA ALFARO
Washington Post

Rep. Andrew Ogles, a Republican who represents the Nashville district where the Covenant School is located, said Monday in a statement that he was "utterly heartbroken" by the shooting there that left six people dead, including three children.

Gun-control advocates and Democrats highlighted another post from Ogles — a 2021 Christmas photo of his family posing with firearms.

After news of the Nashville shooting broke, Ogles said in the statement that he and his family "are devastated by the tragedy that took place at The Covenant School in Nashville this morning."

"We are sending our thoughts and prayers to the families of those lost," he said. "As a father of three, I am utterly heartbroken by this senseless act of violence. I am closely monitoring the situation and working with local officials."

The 2021 photo, which Ogles shared on Facebook, showed him, his wife and two of his three children holding weapons and smiling in front of a Christmas tree.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS!" Ogles wrote, adding a line that is often — and dubiously — credited to George Washington: "The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

Ogles is a strong proponent of the Second Amendment and gun ownership. On his campaign website, he said: "Disarming the people is the most effective way to enslave them, and we must remain vigilant when anyone seeks to erode our civil liberties. The rights of the people to keep and bear arms, protect themselves and their families, and prevent tyrannical rule is a fundamental liberty of our constitutional republic."

On Monday, Ogles' critics shared the congressman's statement about the shooting along with the Christmas photo. "How much more bloodshed will it take?" Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas, wrote in a tweet featuring Ogles's photo. "It's. The. Guns."

Fred Guttenberg, who advocates for gun control after his 14-year-old daughter, Jaime, was killed in the Parkland school shooting in 2018, said the tragedy "is listening to Tennessee politicians who refuse to call it a shooting but who engaged in behavior that caused this to be more likely when they glorify guns."

Ogles, a freshman congressman, represents Tennessee's Fifth Congressional District. On Monday, a 28-year-old armed with two rifles and a handgun killed three children and three adults at the private grade school, where the shooter was once a student. The shooter was killed by police.

Ogles' office had no immediate response to the criticism.

Justices hear free speech challenge to an immigration law

By ROBERT BARNES
Washington Post

The Supreme Court on Monday seemed divided over whether a federal law that makes it a crime to encourage undocumented immigrants to stay in this country might be so broad it would jeopardize charitable groups that feed the hungry or a family's plan to have a grandmother keep living nearby.

The Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals found the decades-old law "overbroad and unconstitutional" because it potentially outlawed more free

speech than needed to meet the law's goals.

Some justices had no trouble pinging Deputy Solicitor General Brian Fletcher with examples of who might fall on the wrong side of an immigration law that penalizes a person "who encourages or induces an alien to come to, enter, or reside in the United States."

"I think we're going to talk to the grandmother who lives with her family who's illegal or who are noncitizens," said Justice Sonia Sotomayor. "The grandmother tells her son she's worried about the burden she's putting on the fam-

ily, and the son says, 'Abuelita, you are never a burden to us. If you want to live here — continue living here with us, your grandchildren love having you.' Are you — can you prosecute this?"

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wondered about charitable organizations that say there is a "threat of prosecution for them for providing food and shelter and aid and recommending people for scholarship and all the rest." Kavanaugh, who has served meals to the homeless near the Supreme Court, added: "They seem to have a sincere concern about that and

that it will deter their kind of everyday activities."

Fletcher acknowledged there would be hard cases. But he said the Ninth Circuit got it wrong by issuing a ruling on the case at hand — involving a man who defrauded the undocumented — and "giving the words 'encourage' and 'induce' their broadest possible meaning and sweeping in wide swaths of protected speech."

"Our position here is that the statute need not and should not be read that way," he added.

Instead, the words "encourage and induce" in the law

should be read more like intentionally seeking to aid and abet a crime, Fletcher said.

The case the justices were considering provided Fletcher's example. Helaman Hansen operated an organization called Americans Helping America Chamber of Commerce. Nearly 500 noncitizens who had overstayed their visas paid the organization between \$550 and \$10,000 on the false promise they could gain citizenship through adult adoption, which the law does not allow. The government charges that Hansen's organization made more than \$1.8

million from the scheme.

Hansen was found guilty in 2017 of mail fraud, wire fraud and two counts of encouraging or inducing unlawful noncitizens for private financial gain. The ACLU and a public defender represent him challenging those two convictions, saying the law violates the First Amendment.

The high court took up a nearly identical case three years ago, also from the Ninth Circuit. But the court eventually decided the First Amendment question was not before them because it had not been raised by the parties in the case.

Editorials

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MICHAEL J. KLINGENSMITH, Publisher and CEO
SCOTT GILLESPIE, Editor, Editorial Pages

The case for rental assistance

In many Minnesota counties, an average of 1 in 7 renters spends more than half of their monthly income on housing. And in some counties, that figure is as high as 56%.

That means lower-income individuals, families and seniors often face tough budget choices that force them to spend less — or not at all — on necessities such as medications, food and transportation.

That's why a bill urged by a coalition of housing advocates who call their efforts "Bring it Home Minnesota" merits support. The legislation would create and fund a new rental assistance program administered by the state to help lower-income households that spend more than 30% of their annual income on market-rate rent.

Under the program, a state agency would issue grants to program administrators at the local level. They, in turn, would provide rent subsidies. Any individual or family under 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and who pays more than 30% of their income toward rent would be eligible.

AMI is calculated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for each region. For example, 50% of AMI for a family of four is \$51,700 in the Twin Cities, according to Bring it Home, and even lower in rural counties.

Rep. Mike Howard, DFL-Richfield, chief author of the bill (HF 11) and chair of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee, told an editorial writer that an important feature of the proposal is that it would not create a new department or structure and instead would use the current Section 8 delivery system.

Increased funding in Minnesota would help low-income families, reduce other burdens.

Housing choice vouchers (known as Section 8) have been one of the most effective ways to reduce housing instability. Studies have shown that subsidizing rents can reduce government spending in education, health care and other economic assistance programs. Yet the waiting list for that program is long; only an estimated 1 in 4 households that apply receive that federal voucher.

Subsidizing market rate rents would help renters statewide. Some north-central Minnesota counties have higher rates of cost-burdened residents than suburban and metro areas. The subsidies also have a positive impact on racial equity. Housing advocates note that 1 in 3 Black and Native households pay over 30% of their income on rent, compared with 1 in 5 white households.

Another benefit of helping renters in this way is that cities would be less likely to adopt rent control policies, which often have unintended consequences.

At this point in the legislative session, a housing spending target of about \$1 billion has been set for various housing programs. Most of that would come from the record \$17 billion surplus as one-time money, with about \$50 million designated for ongoing programs.

Ben Helvick Anderson, of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, told an editorial writer that at \$2 billion over the biennium, the Bring it Home initiative would help about 220,000 eligible Minnesota households.

That amount won't be available, but some portion of state housing funding should be used to increase rent assistance for low-income individuals and families. Affordable housing remains out of reach for too many Minnesotans.

OTHER VIEWS

TIKTOK Bans won't fix our online privacy problem

TikTok Chief Executive Shou Zi Chew did not have a successful appearance before the House Energy and Commerce Committee last week.

Chew's company was lambasted for more than five hours, a show of rare bipartisan consensus that something needs to be done about TikTok, but exactly what Congress or the Biden administration can or should do remains unclear.

It also became apparent that while TikTok is currently the target of federal inquiry, primarily because of growing anxiety with China's power and influence, the concerns over user privacy, misinformation and impacts to children are not unique to TikTok.

Harmful practices are baked into the business models of social media platforms, including Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and YouTube. An increasing number of state legislatures and lawsuits are attempting to force companies to take more responsibility for building safer products.

Indeed, TikTok is similar to other social media apps that vacuum up personal data, wrote Ron Deibert, director of the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto, which analyzed the TikTok app. He added that "most social media apps are unacceptably invasive by design, treat users as raw material for personal data surveillance, and fall short on transparency about their data sharing practices," which is why comprehensive privacy legislation is needed.

Despite several years of debate, Congress hasn't been able to move a bill that would protect data privacy on the inter-

net. Lawmakers got close last year with the American Data Privacy and Protection Act, but there were questions over whether the bill would override California's strong privacy law — which would be a mistake. House members said Thursday that they are trying again this year to pass the bill, which is good, but they should be catching up to California, not clawing back the state's leading-edge privacy protections.

The immediate question before federal lawmakers is how to address the national security concerns posed by TikTok's ties to China. The app was created by Chinese internet technology company ByteDance. Federal agencies have raised alarm because Chinese law requires that tech companies allow government access to user data. There's also concern that with the platform's reach — it has 150 million users, or nearly half the U.S. population — and its powerful algorithm, TikTok could be used as a tool to disseminate propaganda or disinformation.

The Biden administration has threatened to ban TikTok unless the app's Chinese owners sell their stakes.

Chew tried to make the case that TikTok is a private company independent of the Chinese government and could build a firewall to ensure there is no foreign interference. But his argument was undercut by an announcement Thursday from the Chinese Commerce Ministry that would oppose the forced sale.

Besides, simply banning TikTok doesn't address the larger problem. Regulations and policies that protect Americans' online privacy and limit the potential for harm to users, young and old, are long overdue.

FROM AN EDITORIAL IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Readers Write



Students made their way across the snowy University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis in late November.

SHARI L. GROSS • Star Tribune

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Fund, don't cut

The Star Tribune Editorial Board's March 23 piece — "The U must do more to cut costs" — seems largely underpinned by the faulty logic of wish-o-nomics: expecting that expenditures should go down despite inflationary increases in the costs of goods and services. Not only is the board's claim disconnected from reality (i.e., the University of Minnesota competes for talent in a market), the premise that cost-cutting is the solution to achieving a healthy and vibrant U is a popular misconception that is damaging to the institution. It is a scapegoat for the real problem of dramatic declines in state support, which have accelerated since 2008. Minnesota had been among the states leading the nation in per capita investments in higher education in the 1990s, now it is a middling No. 20.

Taxpayers need to ask their legislators and governor what more the U could deliver to Minnesota — in terms of jobs filled, doctors trained, tuition dollars saved — if state support had continued at its prior levels? And, what are they doing to reverse course?

COLLEEN MANCHESTER, Minneapolis

The writer is a professor at the U.

EDUCATION

What teaching gets you

After reading "Pay teachers a living wage" (Opinion Exchange, March 24), I had to agree on the surface that teachers do not have the easiest job in the world. However, there are some statements in the article that could have been expanded on. The commentary says that "new teachers likely enter with significant student loans. In short, it's difficult to begin a teaching career and have a family, unless the teacher's partner has a second full-time income." I am sure that is accurate. But it's not a problem unique to the educational field. Most graduates I know graduate with student loans, some very significant, and most entry-level jobs do not pay enough for a person to have a family unless both partners work.

The comment that "teaching is mentally and emotionally strenuous" resulting in "a dynamic and stressful work environment" again I am sure is true. In my 50-plus years of working, most of my jobs have been "mentally and emotionally strenuous." It's the nature of work.

In contrasting a teaching career to my sales career, I noticed a few omissions/benefits that teachers enjoy.

Time off. Teachers on average get 13 weeks, including 11 paid holidays. In my job, after 30 years, I get four weeks and six paid holidays.

Job security. The teachers union negotiates benefits, salaries and intervenes in problems that may result in discipline or termination. If I don't meet my goals, I am looking for a new job. If I want an increase in my benefits or commission, it is my responsibility to fight for it.

Retirement/pensions. According to the website Teacherpensions.org, teachers contribute about 7.5% of their salary to retirement. After 25 years with a final average salary of \$70,000, they would receive a pension representing 47.5% of their salary at retirement. I have a 401(k) that includes no employer contribution.

All jobs have positives and negatives. In my job, I love the challenges, victories and defeats. The positives far outweigh the negatives. I am sure that the majority of teachers love their jobs.

However, like most opinion pieces, without the entire picture presented, we do not get an objective, accurate assessment.

BRUCE LEMKE, Orono

•••

The recent surge in actions to ban books in school and public libraries reminds me of my seventh-grade social studies teacher. We were doing a unit on Russia, at the height of the Cold War. He told us that one of the weaknesses of autocracy was the banning of books and the ideas they contain. Autocrats are fearful of citizens encountering ideas that challenge their rule. In the U.S., he told us, we did not ban books. We trusted our citizens to be able to evaluate critically a range of ideas. To emphasize this, he brought to class a book of Marxist writings, including "The Communist Manifesto," and let us borrow it to read if we wished. I did. The manifesto wasn't very long, nor that hard to read, although I'm sure my teenage self missed a lot. I did not become a communist. What did happen was that I was energized by the trust placed in me by adults that I was free to go anywhere in the world of ideas, free to evaluate complex and controversial concepts on my own. It brought home forcefully the value of living in this society.

Why do we want to rob our youths of this today? Fearfulness of ideas is anathema to growth and shows a lack of trust in our own children.

WILLIAM S. CORDUA, River Falls, Wis.

ANTON LAZZARO TRIAL

No one noticed visiting teens?

While following the Star Tribune reporting on the Anton Lazzaro trial currently in progress, one has to wonder how Hotel Ivy security staff and others could not notice the female teenagers frequently visiting the 19th floor ("Sisters testify

Lazzaro paid them for sex," March 25).

Where does "mind your own business" end and "if you see something say something" begin?

CHRISTINE LEWIS, Minneapolis

DFL PARTY

Slow down, please

In the time of Trumpism, and as a lifelong moderate-leaning Democrat, I never thought I would utter the following statement. If the DFL in Minnesota refuses to take a more moderate stance, my plan is to cast votes for the federal offices (president, House, Senate) and stop and vote for nobody beyond that.

The Minnesota DFL has done the biggest money grab in the history of the state. This, at a time when Minnesotans are struggling with high inflation. Keep in mind, inflation itself is being driven by a confluence of issues. This includes supply chain shortages, a shortage of workers with boomers retiring as well as a nonexistent immigration policy, among other things.

The problem I have at the state level is with spending a more than \$17 billion surplus and not addressing things like eliminating the tax on Social Security and returning a small amount in the form of rebates to a limited number of people. This feels like Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic telling all of Minnesota that she knows how to spend your money better than you do.

In addition, Minnesota is failing to address the crime problem. Short or nonexistent sentencing for violent offenders doesn't deter crime. Sentence these offenders to longer terms and invest money in preparing and rehabilitating them for the outside once they've earned their release. This would do wonders to improve property values in high-crime areas, thus allowing working poor in those areas to live in their neighborhoods with pride and a reduced fear of violence.

There's a lack of an opposition party with some of the crazies on the right. QAnon, election deniers, isolationists and conspiracy theorists make the GOP a nonstarter for someone who values science, empathy for my fellow man and intelligent thinking when it comes to how politicians govern.

Until the DFL starts to understand how to govern, to trust Minnesotans and allow them a level of freedom for how to spend their own money, I am done supporting it with my vote.

JEFF BERG, Dayton

SPRING

The snow's been hiding a lot

While it is exciting that spring is coming, now is the also the time we see all the trash that has been snow-covered during our long winter. In this state of 10,000 lakes and many beautiful rivers, too much of this trash will end up polluting our waters if not cleaned up. I urge all reading this to do your part, and encourage others, too, to pick up as much trash as you are willing and able. If you are a homeowner, perhaps you can start with the trash in the street in front of your house. Perhaps carry a bag while walking and pick some up while exercising. Anything is a start and appreciated.

DAVE COUNCILMAN, St. Louis Park

YOUR VIEWS?

We welcome your participation in these pages, whether in letters for the "Readers Write" section or commentaries for the "Opinion Exchange" page.

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Opinion Exchange

Commentaries are selected to present a range of perspectives and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Star Tribune Editorial Board.

JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

Wisconsin vote matters — more than it should

Electing judges is a bad idea to begin with. The political nature of this decision — with possibly national consequences — makes matters worse.

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg Opinion

If you want a good summary of all that's wrong with U.S. politics right now, you could do worse than "The most important U.S. election this year is the runoff for a seat on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court."

The April 4 vote for a swing seat on the court would typically attract little notice. But Wisconsin, a fiercely divided state, is expected to be a battleground in the 2024 presidential contest, giving the seven high court justices enormous influence should the campaign produce legal challenges.

The state Supreme Court also could wind up ruling on abortion rights and other hot-button topics that could reverberate nationally.

That such a small election has taken on such import is fascinating for political observers. Yet it's an election that shouldn't be occurring in the first place. Judicial elections are a terrible idea — bad for voters who don't have the specialized knowledge to evaluate the candidates and bad for the courts because it undermines their proper role in the system.

That judicial elections in Wisconsin

and many other states are ostensibly nonpartisan makes matters worse. Partisan affiliations at least would give voters useful information about candidates who are generally unknown to the average voter.

Because the vote is so consequential, the national political parties are pouring money in. Including a first-round election that took place in February, spending on TV advertising has passed \$27 million, making it the most expensive judicial election ever.

Wisconsin Supreme Court decisions tend to follow party divides, with Republicans holding a 4-3 majority right now and a judge who voted with that majority retiring. The first-round vote in February narrowed the field to Democrat Janet Protasiewicz and Republican Daniel Kelly, and the winner of the final round will establish a new majority.

Key court decisions already have upended Wisconsin's political landscape. Most prominently, a ruling last year allowed Republicans to implement an extreme version of gerrymandering that gave the party large majorities in the state legislature, even though the state is evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats.

The stakes will be even higher in 2024. Courts in swing states have frequently been called upon to rule on legitimate election controversies, such as in Florida in 2000. And given the popularity of former President Donald Trump in the Republi-

can Party, we can expect attempts to overturn any Democratic victories by putting party pressure on Republican judges to go along with even entirely bogus lawsuits.

With so much riding on the court, it's dismaying that its composition is an outgrowth of a flawed process. For one, it is traditionally difficult to get voters interested in selecting judges, and even if they were, it's unlikely that voters have a real representational relationship with judges, which is at the core of how elections work to further democracy.

Since the Wisconsin judicial contest is nonpartisan, it also lacks the most helpful shortcut for voters to understand the candidates' perspectives. It's also an off-year spring election, so voters accustomed to having important elections in November of even-numbered years might not be paying attention.

This means these elections often have very low turnout. That heightens the influence of the handful of voters most tuned in to the system, but democracy isn't the rule of the best educated or the most attentive. It's the rule of all the people.

It's bad for the courts, too. There is nothing wrong with the fact that in a democracy judges are affected by politics. It's naive to think that judges could be walled off, and we shouldn't want that anyway. And if they are political actors in a partisan era, they are going to be aligned with parties as well, whether the judges are

elector or appointed.

But we generally don't want judges to be *only* political actors. We want them to take legal principles and reasoning seriously even while understanding they will bring their full experiences, including partisan ones, with them to the bench. Subjecting them to elections is apt to exaggerate the partisan aspects of their background and diminish everything else.

One reason the Wisconsin election matters so much is because of the Republican Party's turn against democracy. Republicans from state to state have passed legislation making it harder to vote, laws that friendly partisan judges are likely to uphold. Those laws have taken on a greater significance now that the leading Republican presidential candidate is also a former president who tried to overturn the results of a legitimate election, culminating in the attack on the Capitol in January 2021.

Many Republican judges stood up to Donald Trump and ruled against him and for democracy. But plenty of Republicans took Trump's side, and it's hard to know in advance what any particular judge (or election official or state legislator) will do next time. In other words, this election is a reminder of the current threats to U.S. democracy.

And then there is the question of nationalization of politics. Once upon a time, a state judicial election would be entirely contested by local political figures using local resources,

even if the national implications were important. Now, national organizations rally supporters and devote resources to the contest.

In some ways, that's a positive. This election will have national consequences, so it's reasonable that Americans in every state could try to affect the outcome. In addition, all the money spent on the contest will raise the election's profile for Wisconsin voters, informing them about the candidates and drawing more people to the polls.

But the national influence leaves Wisconsin less able to govern themselves on state and local issues, and therefore primed to lose one of the chief benefits of federalism, namely the ability of all of us to meaningfully affect important political outcomes. There is no perfect balance, but we're leaning toward the more nationalized extreme.

While the first-round election in February had a record turnout for Wisconsin judicial elections, it still only drew 21% of the voting-age population, with the 960,000 ballots cast well under a third of the 3.3 million who turned out for the 2020 presidential election. This is fundamentally just a bad way of doing democracy. Whatever the outcome.

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. A former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePaul University, he wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.

COUNTERPOINT

Yes, pay teachers more, but also get more for our money

Four things to consider.

By FRED ZIMMERMAN

Many of us might agree with the recent commentary, "Pay teachers a living wage" (March 24), which effectively argued that teachers should receive higher salaries. That may be true, but it's true as well that our education system needs a thorough critique.

I retired as a professor of engineering and management at the University of St. Thomas several years ago, in part because our youngest son was battling cancer at the time. We lived in Pittsburgh for a year while Hans was receiving a five-organ transplant at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. During that time, I taught two courses at the University of Pittsburgh. After returning to Minnesota, I was asked to teach at St. Cloud State University. At age 87, I am still employed full time. Here are my thoughts on the compensation of education professionals:

1) Yes, teachers should be paid more. But we should also do more work. U.S. school hours per year are well short of what is common in most industrialized countries. Korea, Finland and several others take the responsibilities of education more seriously — both in terms of hours spent and homework required. The need for more work in education also exists at the university level.

2) We should pay teachers more, but we should also

be picky. The norms on the Graduate Record Examination for the Major Fields of Study place education majors below fields in physical sciences, life sciences, engineering, humanities and business. Yet many barriers are in place to keep people from other disciplines out of the teaching profession. Though it is true that many K-12 educators do have advanced degrees, many of the programs involved are not particularly rigorous.

3) The school year should be examined. The required number of contact hours in Minnesota is among the smallest in the nation and much less than what is required in other industrialized countries. We have breaks, snow days, and summers off. What other profession enjoys such a schedule?

4) What skills our young people need to learn should also be examined. Perhaps the inclusion in our educational programs of an occasional carpenter or machinist (or a scientist or a nurse) — people who understand responsibility — would add to the quality of learning. Maybe the introduction of those role-models would enrich the experiences of our students.

Of course, we have many fine and dedicated people in education. And, yes, we should pay them more. But we should also get a lot more for our money.

Thanks to the authors of the March 24 commentary for their thoughts on this important issue.

Fred Zimmerman is professor emeritus, University of St. Thomas, and currently a fixed-term faculty member at St. Cloud State University.



DARLENE PFISTER • Star Tribune

Gov. Al Quie at a meeting of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens' Board in 1979. The board died at the hands of legislators in 2015. It was 48.

GOVERNANCE

Restore citizen voices to the MPCA process

The demise of the Citizens' Board in 2015 was a blow to transparency and decisionmaking.

By RON WAY

In 2015, a cabal of powerful legislators with a kettle of gripes drew scissors in a late-session huddle and snipped one of the state's most effective policymaking arrangements, the citizen board of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

No heads-up, no public discussion, and no respect for responsible lawmaking. Just a backroom whip-slash and a model in transparent governance went poof.

That reckless wrong would be righted by a bill advancing in the Minnesota Legislature, in open daylight (HF 2076/SF 1937). Rep. Kristi Purcell, DFL-Northfield, wants a governor-appointed, eight-member MPCA "community board" that, like the one purged, would sign off on agency policy. A companion bill by Sen. Fong Hawj, DFL-St. Paul, has been approved by the first of several committees.

The MPCA and its Citizens' Board were created in 1967 when an engaged public supported cleaning up widespread environmental damage. That would require regulation, always the nemesis of those preferring to do business without bothersome rules. The citizen board would review MPCA policy proposals in open meetings. It worked because the public was better informed, and agency proposals were improved through broader input.

The board's demise unfolded when it overruled the MPCA commissioner and required full environmental review of a planned 8,500-head feedlot in Stevens County. Critics saw that as needlessly adding time and cost to an agriculture project.

In reality, the board's undoing had as much to do with the persistent anti-regulatory bent of business and industry, and by a bevy of beefs from Iron Rangers, prominently the prolonged

permitting process for a copper-nickel mine near Babbitt. Leaders of the cabal to abolish the board were Rep. Kurt Daudt, then GOP House speaker and business favorite, and former Sen. Tom Bakk, then DFL majority leader and staunch mining advocate.

Daudt told MinnPost he was "always kind of baffled" that a politically appointed board would oversee a regulatory process. (What about the governor-appointed Public Utilities Commission?)

Daudt might know that the MPCA and its citizen board became law under the guidance of GOP Sen. Gordon Rosenmeier of Little Falls. GOP Gov. Harold LeVander supported the citizen board, and appointed fellow Republican John Badalich as MPCA's first commissioner.

A few years later, the Republican Nixon administration created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Council on Environmental Quality, and passed the foundational National Environmental Policy Act.

Among Minnesota's most effective environmental legislators at the time was GOP Sen. Robert Dunn of Princeton, who appreciated that MPCA legislative proposals had already been publicly vetted the board. Same for the era's legislative environmental master, Rep. Willard Munger, DFL-Duluth.

Government transparency improves decisionmaking and builds public understanding, as the MPCA's Citizens' Board showed for 48 years. A policymaking board also insulates commissioners from inevitable political pushback by ever-present disgruntled legislators.

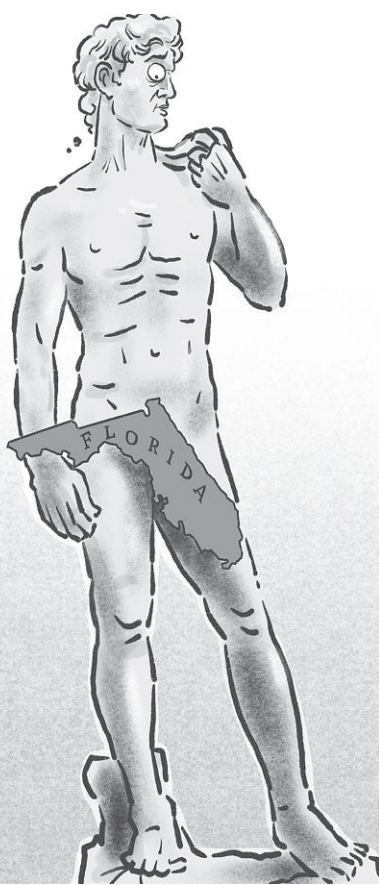
Pushback is one thing; late-night thuggery is quite another. So is the Minnesota Senate's recent misguided penchant of firing governor-appointedees who ruffle politicians while doing their jobs.

The Legislature should erase a disgrace and approve bills to restore the MPCA's citizen board.

Ron Way of Minneapolis is former MPCA assistant commissioner for public and legislative affairs. He's at ron-way@comcast.net.

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Enquirer ex-publisher testifies in Trump case

NEW YORK TIMES

The former publisher of the National Enquirer testified Monday before the Manhattan grand jury hearing evidence about Donald Trump's role in a hush-money payment to a porn star, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The publisher, David Pecker, also testified in January, soon after the grand jury was impaneled by the Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg. The grand jury has heard from at least nine witnesses and is expected to vote on an indictment soon.

Pecker, who was seen leaving the building where the grand jury sits at about 3:30 p.m. Monday, was a key player in the hush-money episode. He and the tabloid's top editor helped broker the deal between the porn star, Stormy Daniels, and Michael Cohen,

Trump's fixer at the time.

Ever since Trump predicted his arrest a little more than a week ago, all eyes have turned to the grand jury, which operates in secret.

And while grand jurors could vote to indict the former president as soon as this week — in what would be the culmination of a nearly five-year investigation — the exact timing of any charges remains a mystery.

It is subject to the quirks of the grand jury process in Manhattan, which include scheduling conflicts and other potential interruptions.

The prospect of an indictment has raised a number of questions about the contours of the potential case facing Trump, who would become the first former American president to be indicted.

Bragg's prosecutors are focused on the \$130,000 payment to Daniels, who agreed

to keep quiet about her story of an affair with Trump in exchange for the payoff. Cohen made the payment during the final days of the 2016 presidential campaign.

In recent weeks, Bragg's office signaled to Trump's lawyers that the former president could face criminal charges by offering him the chance to testify before the grand jury, people with knowledge of the matter have said. Such offers almost always indicate an indictment is near; it would be unusual for prosecutors to notify a potential defendant without ultimately seeking charges against him.

In New York, potential defendants have the right to answer questions in front of the grand jury before they are indicted, but they rarely testify, and Trump declined the offer.

Prosecutors have now questioned almost every major player in the hush-money epi-

sode, again suggesting that the district attorney's presentation is nearing an end.

Trump has denied all wrongdoing — as well as any sexual encounter with Daniels — and unleashed a series of escalating attacks on Bragg. Trump has referred to the investigation as a “witch hunt” and called Bragg, who is Black and a Democrat, a “racist” and an “animal.”

In a post this month on his social network Truth Social, Trump declared, without any direct knowledge, that his arrest was imminent, calling on his supporters to “PROTEST, TAKE OUR NATION BACK!”

While the focus of Pecker's testimony is unclear, he could provide valuable information for prosecutors. A longtime ally of Trump, he agreed to keep an eye out for potentially damaging stories about Trump during the 2016 campaign.

For a brief time in October

2016, Daniels appeared to have just that kind of story. Her agent and lawyer discussed the possibility of selling exclusive rights to her story of a sexual encounter with Trump to the National Enquirer, which would then promise to never publish it, a practice known as “catch and kill.”

Pecker didn't bite. Instead, he and the tabloid's editor, Dylan Howard, decided that Cohen would have to deal with Daniels' team directly.

And when Cohen was slow to pay, Howard pressed him to get the deal done, to prevent Daniels from revealing their discussions about suppressing her story. “We have to coordinate something,” Howard texted Cohen in late October 2016, “or it could look awfully bad for everyone.”

Two days later, Cohen transferred the \$130,000 to an account held by Daniels' attorney.

Proposal gives DNR revocation powers

← **WATER** from A1 laws and permits during the 2021 drought, when aquifers and wells across the state were stressed under the most severe dry spell in decades.

The DNR is currently allowed to issue an administrative penalty of up to \$20,000. But that fine doesn't have to be paid so long as the violation is corrected. A proposal that's been heard by House and Senate committees would increase the maximum fine to \$40,000 and allow the DNR to decide whether or not to forgive it.

It would also allow the DNR to revoke permits after egregious or repeat violations, and refer cases to law enforcement. “The \$20,000 limit is too low to deter violators,” said Katie Smith, DNR ecological and water resources director.

During the 2021 drought, nearly 800 Minnesota farmers with high-capacity wells pumped 6.5 billion more gallons of water than their permits allowed, a Star Tribune review of water permit data reported each year to the DNR found.

Farms on land owned or operated by one company — R.D. Offutt Co., a potato-growing giant that has become one of the biggest water users in the state — were responsible for 23% of the excessive pumping.

Some of those farms pumped tens of millions of gallons more water than their permits allowed. Not only will they face no fines under the current law, but many won't need to pay for the extra water based on the tiered system the state charges high-capacity users.

Blaine opened three new wells and pumped millions of gallons in 2021 and 2022 without getting permits. The DNR learned about it only after 141 nearby private well owners complained about running dry. Blaine likely won't face fines.

Farmers and the Irrigators Association of Minnesota asked lawmakers to carve out an exception in the proposed law for agricultural water use during droughts.

“We need some protection in years where we just have to go over,” said Anna Bregier, vice president of the association and an owner of Prairie Farm Co. in Benton County. “Really, the only time farmers would go over is during a drought.”

Prairie Farm has about 30 water permits registered in its name. During the 2021 drought, the farm reported using more water than allowed on nine of them, amounting to 199 million gallons of extra water.

The company did not report going over permit during non-drought years, state records show. Few agricultural irrigators report exceeding their permits outside of droughts.

If the state's intention is to make sure repeat violators are held accountable, it should make sure that farmers aren't punished during the rare dry years they need to save their crops, Bregier said.

“Small farmers cannot afford nor deserve these penalties,” she said.

As irrigation technology has improved over the last several decades, so too has Minnesota's reliance on it.

In 1988, during the last drought that was as severe as 2021, a total of 2,700 crop irrigation permit holders reported pumping 88.4 billion gallons of water, according to state records. In 2021 that jumped to more than 6,000 irrigators pumping 160.5 billion gallons, the records show.

Even with a growing population, most other sectors of Minnesota's economy cut water use during that time, including for power generation, industrial processing and public drinking water supplies.

Supporters of the increased fines argue that if water permit limits don't apply during the driest years — when water supplies are most stressed — than what good are they?

“Permits are there for a reason and if people are violating them, it needs to be addressed,” said state Rep. Heather Edelson, DFL-Edina.



BRIAN PETERSON • brian.peterson@startribune.com

Sandbags stood ready to defend Stillwater should a predicted historic cresting of the St. Croix River occur. The Weather Service set the likelihood of a flood at 81%.

Volunteers fill sandbags to protect Stillwater

← **FLOODING** from A1

Stillwater Public Works Director Shawn Sanders said it's too soon to know what the berm will cost the city, or exactly when or how high the river will crest. Many years the St. Croix hit its peak in the second week of April, he said, but the cooler temperatures of the past few weeks could mean it crests late.

The city's worst-ever flood was in 1965, when the St. Croix reached 694.07 feet above sea level. That was an exceptionally high water mark for Stillwater, where the Weather Service classifies anything above 689 feet as “major flooding.”

The Weather Service issued a flood outlook last week that put the chance for major flooding in Stillwater at 81%. The same forecast said Red Wing faces a 69% chance of major flooding, with St. Paul lower at 47%.

It appears that rainfall and temperature patterns for this week could promote slow melting that would ease the flood threat, according to meteorologist Craig Schmidt. The severity of any flooding will depend on what happens with rain and temperatures in April, he wrote in the latest flood forecast.

The city has already stacked 2½-foot-tall jersey

barriers along the riverfront, the first step in building the berm. City crews on Monday started dumping sand over the barriers, using heavy equipment to spread a tall pile on Nelson Street near the riverfront Dock Café.

The berm will be covered by a tarp, and the sandbags volunteers fill this week will go on last, adding some height to the berm and acting as anchors to hold down the tarps. Sanders said the city berm will reach about 692 feet.

The city doesn't need more volunteers at this point, said Cathleen Hess, a spokesperson for Community Thread, a

Stillwater nonprofit that helps the city recruit volunteers for the anti-flood effort.

Some 75 volunteers were expected Monday, including folks from Stillwater but also three women from the Mahtomedi Fire Department, a family from Lake Elmo and a group of friends who graduated from Stillwater High School in 1974.

“They step up and show up and they work really hard,” Hess said. The organization helped the city with flood preparations in 2019, when volunteers filled 28,000 bags. Hess said they expect to fill about the same

number this week.

Levy said she brought some sandbagging experience with her to Stillwater when she and her husband moved here last July: They used to live in Valley City, N.D., where locals would sometimes sandbag to keep the Sheyenne River from spilling into the city.

“You lift with your thighs and keep everything low to the ground,” said Levy, 64.

“You go as long as you want,” said Menikheim, who turns 87 this summer.

“Yeah, there's no competition,” Levy said, smiling. “Yet.”

Matt McKinney • 612-217-1747

State seeks \$100M from Juul over underage vaping

← **JUUL** from A1

than two decades ago.

The attorney general's office is teaming up again with the Robins Kaplan law firm and attorney Tara Sutton, who helped lead the state's 1998 tobacco case that settled after a four-month trial. Minneapolis firm Zimmerman Reed also is on the case.

The private firms are being paid on a contingency basis, according to Ellison's office.

The trial is expected to last three weeks and will be held in front of District Judge Laurie Miller, who was appointed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty in 2008.

Juul Labs has reached settlements with 39 other states and territories, a company spokesman noted in a state-



Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison is expected to give an opening statement in the trial on Tuesday.

ment.

“We have and continue to seek a similar settlement with the state of Minnesota,” said the statement from Juul. “Unfortunately, the Minnesota attorney general's office is determined to go to trial led by an outside law firm,

incurring significant costs to the taxpayers and judicial system.”

Juul Labs agreed on March 10 to pay the city of Chicago \$23.8 million to settle its lawsuit on similar claims of marketing to youth.

Minnesota is the first plaintiff to take the company to trial, because Juul had yet to offer an amount that would compensate the state for its losses, Ellison said. “They addicted a lot of kids,” he added.

Said Juul: “Effective interventions to address underage use of all tobacco products in Minnesota, including vapor, depends not on headline-driven trials, but on evidence-based policies, programs, and enforcement.”

As evidence to back up

its claim, Juul cited statistics from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showing a 50% decline in underage use of vapor products generally and a 95% decline in use of Juul products. The survey covered a stretch from 2019 to 2022.

San Francisco-based Juul has been blamed for igniting the youth vaping epidemic. Last year, the once-booming Silicon Valley company laid off hundreds of workers and settled thousands of lawsuits brought by families of Juul users, school districts, city governments and American Indian tribes.

Ellison said Juul products were more dangerous than cigarettes because they were marketed in appealing fla-

vors that make them easier to inhale than traditional tobacco.

In fall of 2019, Juul Labs stopped distributing pods flavored with mint, fruit, crème and cucumber.

The company also suspended all advertising in the United States and shut down its social media accounts.

Last summer, the federal Food and Drug Administration barred Juul from selling its vaping device along with tobacco and menthol flavored cartridges.

Juul appealed the decision and the order was stayed by the courts pending that appeal.

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MINNESOTA

LOCAL • STATE • REGION

A simple step aids maternal health

Hospital gives away blood pressure cuffs, helping pregnant women identify hypertension at home.

By JEREMY OLSON
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St. Cloud Hospital is giving away blood pressure cuffs after finding that the devices convinced pregnant women to seek help when hypertension threatened their health and birth outcomes.

During a test project last year, 38 women identified rising blood pressure through daily at-home use of the free cuffs and sought hospital care. Others reported reduced anx-

ety because they knew their blood pressure was stable, said Kayla Waldoch, a nursing supervisor at the CentraCare hospital.

"A big part of it is just building the knowledge and confidence in women about when to seek help," she said.

The giveaway was inspired by the Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative, a group of health care systems that sought in 2021 to reduce unexpected, disabling health problems in women following preg-

10% of women or more experience hypertension during or immediately after pregnancy

nancy and childbirth by 25%.

Hypertension is a key target because it can complicate pregnancies and raise postpartum risks of stroke and heart and kidney diseases. Some women already have chronic hypertension, while more than 1 in 10 experience onset during or immediately

after pregnancy.

The collaborative's efforts include a campaign to increase the percentage of pregnant women in Minnesota hospitals who receive medication within 60 minutes of blood pressure spikes. The target date for the goal was February 2023, but leaders said it could be months or years before they know if they met it.

"The impact for hypertension in particular will take years to fully realize because it does not simply end with the

conclusion of pregnancy," said Melissa Bray-Iverslie, a nurse clinician in St. Cloud Hospital's birthing center.

Hypertension during pregnancy can restrict fetal growth and cause other complications that can result in premature births or birth defects. These outcomes are less common in Minnesota, which has some of the nation's lowest rates of preterm birth and infant mortality, according to a 2022 March of Dimes

See **HYPERTENSION** on B2 ►

Walzes to move out amid upgrades

The state will pay about \$330,000 to rent a house.

By JESSIE VAN BERKEL
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The Summit Avenue mansion that has been home to 11 Minnesota governors is about to get a nearly \$6.3 million renovation, forcing out Gov. Tim Walz's family until late next year.

Plans to overhaul the 111-year-old governor's residence have been in the works for more than a decade. The English Tudor-style home is slated for exterior repairs along with upgrades to its mechanical, electrical, plumbing and security systems, and more.

Construction is expected to start in June and take more than a year. During that time the state will pay about \$330,000 to lease a house for the Walz family in Sunfish Lake, just south of West St. Paul in Dakota County, according to the lease documents.

Finding a suitable rental home for the governor's family that is close enough to the State Capitol and can accommodate security needs "is obviously an expensive thing to do," said Wayne Waslaski, an assistant commissioner at the Department of Administration, the state entity leasing the home.

The state is renting the home from former Republican U.S. Senate candidate Michael McFadden, an unlikely twist that was first reported by Minnesota Public Radio News.

"It's going to help facilitate taking care of a pretty significant state asset," said Waslaski. "So that a property that is on the National Register [of Historic Places] is maintained and preserved and it will be around for the next 50, 60, 70 years plus."

McFadden is a businessman who challenged former U.S. Sen. Al Franken in 2014. He could not be reached for

See **RENOVATION** on B4 ►

Woman sentenced in ambush plot

She receives 16½ years for attempted murder of MPD forensic scientist.

By KIM HYATT
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A 25-year-old Woodbury woman was sentenced to 16½ years Monday for the attempted murder of a Minneapolis police forensic scientist in a plot to gain her boyfriend full custody of his son.

Colleen Purificacion Larson waived her right to a jury trial with a guilty plea last month in Hennepin County District Court days after Timothy Amacher, 41, was sentenced to 18 years for attempted first-degree murder for helping devise and cover up the shooting of Nicole Ford, the mother of his son. Ford, who previously held the last name Lenway, had won sole custody after a bitter, yearslong court battle that led up to the ambush shooting outside a supervised visitation facility, Family Wise, on April 20.

Ford said while standing before a courtroom full of loved ones and Minneapolis Police Department colleagues that if Larson had been successful, her son would be motherless.

"I don't know what's worse: a vindictive ex who manipulates someone else to kill someone or a vulnerable stranger who blindly agrees to take someone's life without a second thought and zero remorse. Both are incredibly dangerous. Both are equally culpable."

Prosecutors wanted the maximum 17½ years for Larson. Her attorneys, James Gempeler and Daniel Adkins, were asking District Judge Shereen Askalani for probation and to place blame on Amacher and his manipulation. Adkins said that Amacher had tried to kill Ford twice before and it was his evil that led to this third attempt.

See **SENTENCE** on B2 ►



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI • richard.tsong-taatarii@startribune.com

Colleen Purificacion Larson was handcuffed and escorted out of the courtroom by sheriff's deputies on Monday after being sentenced to 16½ years in prison for the attempted murder of Nicole Ford in Minneapolis.

3 alleged victims in Lazzaro sex case testify

By STEPHEN MONTEMAYOR
smontemayor@startribune.com

The mother of one of Anton Lazzaro's alleged sex trafficking victims told jurors Monday about how she first noticed the glaring signals that something was wrong with her youngest child in fall 2020.

Her "tenacious," outgoing 16-year-old had suddenly grown withdrawn. Her grades took a dive. And she began making large cash deposits in their shared bank account.

An eventual and excruciating talk revealed the source: Her high school junior was being paid for sex with an adult man.

"I was horrified," she said. "I couldn't believe that someone would do that to my daughter and lure her in that way."

That mother's tip to the FBI sparked a federal investigation that, alongside an existing state probe prompted by the parents of another alleged victim, led to the charges naming five alleged teen girl victims on which Lazzaro is now standing trial.

The mother's testimony — as well as that from three more alleged victims — started the

See **LAZZARO** on B2 ►

Nonprofit reaches Syrian quake victims 'no one served'



GHAITH ALSAYED • Associated Press

An earthquake killed more than 50,000 people in Turkey and Syria on Feb. 6 and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

Mpls.-based Questscope is providing support as the country rebuilds.

By KELLY SMITH
kelly.smith@startribune.com

Seven weeks after a devastating earthquake hit Syria and Turkey, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit is shifting from providing crisis services to long-term support for Syrian families whose homes were reduced to rubble.

Questscope, a subsidiary of Minneapolis-based Alight

— formerly known as the American Refugee Committee — is providing food, supplies and mental health services for displaced families, and helping assess damage in Syrian villages as they begin to rebuild. The magnitude 7.8 earthquake killed more than 50,000 people in the two countries on Feb. 6 and left hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

"It was shocking," said CEO Muthanna Khriesat, who was in Aleppo, Syria, at the end of February. "It was not easy."

Questscope, which was founded in 1988, has about 70



Questscope CEO Muthanna Khriesat has been with the organization for 23 years.

employees worldwide with programs in Syria, Jordan and Germany that help about 9,000 people a year. Khriesat, who lives in Woodbury and splits his time working in Jordan and Minnesota, has been with Questscope for 23 years and has led the organization for about a year.

See **QUAKE** on B2 ►

Hospital's simple step helps pregnant women watch blood pressure

◀ **HYPERTENSION** from BI report.

However, that same report showed an increase in pre-term birthrates in several large Minnesota counties. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last year reported an increase in maternal deaths.

Brittney Laudenbach had three healthy pregnancies, and thought it would be safe to have a surrogate pregnancy for friends who struggled to have children. Severe headaches early on suggested that she might be at risk for pregnancy-related hypertension, so the St. Cloud obstetric nurse agreed to monitor her blood pressure at home.

Her blood pressure spiked at about 34 weeks gestation, and she went to the hospital reporting headaches and swelling.

Doctors gave her medication to prevent the seizures that can result from extreme hypertension and recommended immediate surgical delivery for the safety of the mother and the twin babies.

"I was scared," said Laudenbach, 31. "I've seen firsthand what can happen to women going through something like that."

Laudenbach credited blood pressure monitoring at home for her quick decision to seek care. Headaches are a common indicator of hypertension, but pregnant women sometimes ignore them or write them off as a lack of caffeine.

M Health Fairview in Minneapolis and other systems are providing blood pressure cuffs to women at risk for pregnancy-related hypertension, but spotty insurance coverage has been

a limitation.

The state Medical Assistance program for low-income Minnesotans recently expanded coverage to include digital blood pressure cuffs that are easier for pregnant women to use at home, but some private health plans don't pay for any of them, said Dr. Todd Stanhope, a North Memorial obstetrician and chair of the state collaborative.

Minnesota lawmakers have proposed requiring health plan coverage of at-home monitoring for any patients with uncontrolled hypertension, which could include pregnant women.

Waldoch said CentraCare pays for the cuffs when insurance doesn't cover them because there is an advantage to giving the devices and training to pregnant women in hospitals or clinics.

Some women might not drive to medical supply stores for pickup, while others might borrow ill-fitting cuffs from their parents that produce faulty readings.

Supply issues are a concern. CentraCare suspended giveaways this year when it received a delivery of cuffs that produced inconsistent readings. Handouts resumed this week with a new batch that is far more accurate.

Waldoch said monitoring can result in early, induced deliveries for the safety of babies and mothers.

However, if monitoring shows that blood pressure levels remain stable, it can allow women to deliver closer to their due dates.

"Sometimes," she said, "it helps us let the delivery go a little bit longer, too."

Jeremy Olson • 612-673-7744

Mpls.-based nonprofit helps post-quake Syria

◀ **QUAKE** from BI

The Jordanian computer science expert dreamed of becoming "the Bill Gates of the Arab world," Khriesat said, until he started volunteering with Questscope and realized how he could make a difference.

"We're trying to change that sadness for the present [into] hope for the future," he said.

In February, Khriesat helped convert Aleppo schools into temporary shelters. Four or five families were crammed into each classroom, sleeping on thin mattresses without access to showers, electricity or heat.

"When you are in a certain crisis like this, you need your dignity," he said. "Simple things that we're blessed with... they could not find."

Hundreds of employees who work for Questscope and partner Syrian organizations renovated bathrooms and provided blankets, hot meals, hygiene kits and solar-powered lamps to about 200 families. The organizations have also provided counseling and plan to set up trailers to house families after the shelters close.

Questscope, whose motto is "Putting the Last, First," has used its local connections to assist villages overlooked by other humanitarian groups.

"We were able to reach these people in these villages that no one served," Khriesat said. "All of our programs and solutions came from the people and from the community. We believe they know their resources, they know their weaknesses."

Since the disaster, Alight and Questscope have raised about \$300,000 for earthquake relief, but more is needed, Khriesat said — especially in war-torn Syria, which has received fewer resources than Turkey. He spoke Monday from Jordan about what is needed next. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: It's been almost two months since the earthquake. What do you want people to know about the rebuilding effort and why support will be needed long into the future?

A: Minnesotans helped us to do the first response, which was great. I think moving forward, we have to start thinking about what we have to provide for these families so they can settle back to their houses or rebuild their houses. I don't think these shelters can last long and they cannot live the rest of their lives in these shelters.

Q: How will donations help the recovery effort and the Syrian families you're working with?

A: They did not choose the situation that they are in. These small kids suffered from trauma, and one of the major things for healing them is for them to feel safe. And in the shelters, they don't feel safe. We have to collaborate together to help them.

Q: Syria received little international humanitarian aid. Why is that, and has the civil war affected Questscope's aid work?

A: Yes, this is the difference between Turkey and Syria. A response for a disaster without politics is different than a response to a disaster with politics. We're facing a lot of obstacles. But we're trying to do the best we can with the situation.

Q: What gives you hope for the families you've served in Aleppo who face a long road of recovery?

A: If we don't give up, I think we are the hope. How easily their life was destroyed in one minute, and think about how many years it will need to be rebuilt. I believe now, hope is the only thing we don't want to lose. We have to look for a better future.

Kelly Smith • 612-673-4141

Woman gets 16½ years in ambush plot

◀ **SENTENCE** from BI

"This is a redemption project," Adkins said to Askalani, adding that Larson has shown remorse and taken responsibility for her actions.

But Askalani said the only remorse Larson has shown was for the pain she caused her own family, and there were no factors to allow a downward departure in Larson's sentence for first-degree attempted murder.

"The remorse is for the impact this has had on her loved ones and on her life; there has been no remorse displayed by Ms. Larson for almost taking someone's life," Askalani said.

"Ms. Larson has stated that she doesn't know what she would do differently. By everyone's accounts, Ms. Larson has been described as naive, immature at times and easily manipulated," Askalani said. "However, she's also a 25-year-old woman who is educated. She's a graduate from a university. She was a productive, functioning adult in society."

Askalani repeated what Ford mentioned in her victim impact statement about Larson's continued willingness to attend therapy as an indication of her wanting to better her life. But in her statement, Ford pointed out that Larson was already in therapy when she chose to try to kill her.

Ford also said that Larson is still in contact with Amacher and his inner circle "communicating her love for him, even expressing she wants a future with him. Even today almost a year later, she remains steadfast in her love for Tim."

In her guilty plea to attempted first-degree murder last month, Larson admitted to running up behind Ford and shooting her as she approached the entrance to pick up her son — who was inside with Amacher — and continued shooting after Ford dropped to the ground, suffering from a point-blank shot to her neck that made it so she couldn't speak to the dispatcher when she called 911.

"She stood over me, which felt like only inches away, continuing in her attempts to end my life, even pursuing me after I fled from her," Ford said. "She has even admitted she had every intention of killing me."

Ford was intubated in the hospital for days, forced to communicate on written



Attorney Daniel Adkins argued for leniency Monday in the sentencing of Colleen Purificacion Larson, rear, for the attempted murder of Nicole Ford. At right, District Judge Shereen Askalani sentenced Larson to 16½ years. "Ms. Larson has been described as naive, immature at times and easily manipulated," Askalani said. "However, she's also a 25-year-old woman who is educated. She's a graduate from a university. She was a productive, functioning adult in society."



Photos by RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI • Star Tribune

pieces of paper. She has since returned to work at the department. Weeks before Amacher's trial, she married MPD officer Donovan Ford.

Larson's attorneys read a brief prepared statement on her behalf as well as a letter from Larson's father. She wrote that she accepts all consequences and wants atonement. She said she hopes to be a small-business owner to "promote healthy lifestyle through routine exercises and activities" and continue her spiritual journey with the support of family.

Wayne Larson asked the judge to be lenient on his daughter. "To make her snap, there had to be extreme pressure on her... If it was not for him, she would not be where she is now."

Larson said at her February plea hearing that Amacher provided his new truck, which didn't yet have license plates, and his gun, which investigators never found, to carry out the attack.

Askalani said while

Amacher is the one who conceived the plot and had strong motive to want Ford dead, Larson is the one who went to FamilyWise with a loaded gun.

"Mrs. Ford is alive not because Ms. Larson abandoned the plan for the plot to kill her, but because Ms. Larson was unsuccessful," Askalani said. "And Mrs. Ford survived because the bullet did not hit major organs or an artery. ... That was a narrow miss."

The attack, including Larson stalking beforehand and fleeing afterward, was captured on home surveillance in the neighborhood as well as area businesses around FamilyWise. Amacher's truck was also equipped with GPS monitoring that traced her route.

Ford said that Larson's admission of guilt means little considering her guilt was clearly caught on camera. Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Patrick Lofton said there wouldn't be the acceptance of responsibility if not

for the videos.

"This is not a case with the history of extreme cooperation," Lofton said. "This is a case where the evidence was really, really strong."

He added that Larson still believes she had to kill Ford based on the lies, conspiracies and manipulation of Amacher. But Lofton said Amacher is no sorcerer.

"She made her own decisions that day. They were very cold. They were very calculated. They were based on a complex plan. And they were carried out quite effectively. Thank God Mrs. Ford survived, but it was pretty close."

Larson, who has been out on bail for months on home monitoring, was handcuffed and escorted out of the courtroom by sheriff's deputies.

Ford watched the legal closure unfold before her in silence, then stepped outside the courtroom to hug her mother, friends and colleagues.

Kim Hyatt • 612-673-4751

Mom of alleged Lazzaro victim testifies: 'I was horrified'

◀ **LAZZARO** from BI

second week of Lazzaro's federal child sex-trafficking trial in Minneapolis.

Monday ended with FBI special agent Richard Waller, the lead agent who investigated Lazzaro, on the stand. Assistant U.S. Attorney Melinda Williams told Chief U.S. District Judge Patrick Schiltz that Waller would be the government's final witness and that the prosecution would rest its case "well before noon" Tuesday.

Schiltz told jurors at the end of the day that "we are well on track to get you the case this week."

Waller, who will resume testimony Tuesday, walked jurors through his investigation of Lazzaro's dating profile on the Seeking Arrangement site geared toward "sugar daddy" relationships.

Hesaid Lazzaro listed his net worth at \$5 million and billed himself as a CEO of a "gold/oil company." Records linked him to usernames including PickyButGenrous and TheYoungSD, which Waller suggested signified "sugar daddy." His profile included numerous statements preferring "young attractive women" and the prosecution on Monday emphasized that Lazzaro wrote, "I love to meet girls under 18-25."

Lazzaro's co-defendant, Gisela Castro Medina, has testified that she and a friend who later became Victim A met Lazzaro through Seeking Arrangement in May 2020. Castro Medina, now 20, has since pleaded guilty to conspiracy and obstruction charges and said she helped recruit other teen girls for Laz-

zaro to pay for sex.

Victim E testified Monday that Castro Medina introduced her to Lazzaro on social media and that the then-16-year-old agreed to meet her at the Mall of America. There, she said, he bought her a \$1,400 Prada purse as two friends shadowed them to make sure she was safe. He invited her to come back with him to his Hotel Ivy condominium in Minneapolis. She said she declined that day but later visited there alongside another girl, Victim D, and engaged in sex acts for money and vape pens.

"I just remember him calling us good girls," she said.

Victim D, whose mother preceded her on the witness stand Monday, said she was jealous of her friend's purse and wanted in on the benefits. She said that, aside from cash and vape pens, she also received a new iPhone after a sexual encounter with Lazzaro.

As her mother looked on in the courtroom, Victim D broke down crying as she described how she stopped eating, started drinking and began to isolate herself in the aftermath of meeting Lazzaro.

"I started to take three showers a day because I never felt clean anymore," she said. "My life changed. I was a completely different person. My innocence was stolen from me."

At various points during cross-examination of the two former friends, Lazzaro's attorneys zeroed in on the girls' willingness to visit Lazzaro and suggested a lack of pressure imposed on his part.

"He was friendly and immediately made you feel comfort-

able, correct?" attorney Daniel Gerdtz asked Victim D.

Some of Monday's most heated testimony came during earlier cross-examination of Victim A, the first alleged victim in this case. Thomas Beito, Lazzaro's other defense attorney, dug into her history of drug abuse while at multiple points sought to illustrate that Victim A could not be controlled by anyone.

Beito took issue with Victim A's account of why Castro Medina later kicked Victim A out of her home, suggesting it was over Victim A's drug abuse. Williams later showed jurors statements to investigators from Victim A that she was kicked out because she eventually refused to see Lazzaro.

During their encounters together, Victim A said Lazzaro frequently commented on her young age and body. He grew angry when she tried to close her eyes or look away from the large mirror hanging above the bed, she said, and lamented how he couldn't legally record pornography with her because of her age.

"He would always tell me that I was his favorite because I have such a childlike body," she testified, noting that she was 16 and barely weighed 90 pounds when she was paid for sex multiple times with Lazzaro in 2020.

Through her testimony, Victim A walked jurors through the dissolution of her friendship with Castro Medina as their relationship became more transactional. As Victim A started seeing Lazzaro alone for sex, he sent her home with two envelopes of money

— most of which went to Castro Medina.

Victim A later threatened to report Lazzaro to police if he did not give her the money that had been going to Castro Medina instead, demanding \$900. Prosecutors have said Lazzaro later sent the girl and her parents a nondisclosure agreement that they refused to sign.

Instead, they reported Lazzaro and Castro Medina to West Hennepin police at the same time Victim A was being questioned about vandalizing a car owned by Castro Medina's boyfriend.

Beito zeroed in on the timing of Victim A's first allegations of sex trafficking, and alleged that she tried to blackmail him into giving her money to not talk to police. Williams later showed jurors a Snapchat exchange between Victim A and Lazzaro in which Lazzaro, not the girl, proposed him turning over \$2,000 for Victim A's silence and for her to "leave Gisela alone as well."

Victim A and her parents are now also suing Lazzaro.

During sex, Victim A testified Monday, Lazzaro would tell her that "Daddy was going to take care of everything."

"The money is going to take care of everything," she recounted on Monday. "I'm not going to have to worry about being homeless."

"Who's Daddy?" Williams asked.

"That's what Tony called himself," Victim A replied. "Nobody else called him that though."

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Twitter: @smontemayor

REMEMBERING

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Hagen, Gerd E. (Fremming)



age 96, of Richfield, passed away March 21, 2023. She was born December 8, 1926, in Minnesund, Eidsvoll, Norway. She spent much of her youth with her siblings on the family farm, or at the family's summer home near Vormaa and Mjosa. She met her husband, Bjorn Hagen, with whom she moved to the U.S. in 1947. They married in 1948 and gave birth to their son, Rolf, in 1951. They together founded and for many years operated a successful fur business. They built a log home, where they enjoyed many summers with family and friends. She enjoyed many travels throughout Europe, Scandinavia, and to Hawaii, with friends and family. In addition, she organized countless events for various social and cultural groups. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bjorn; her son, Rolf; and brother, Bjorn. She is survived by her sister, Aud; daughter-in-law, Zelle Hagen; grandchildren, Brock Hagen and Jillian Ruston (Ellis), great-grandson, Alex; numerous nieces and nephews, and many more loving family and friends. Funeral service Thursday, March 30, at 2:00 PM at Lakewood Cemetery Chapel, 3600 Hennepin Ave., Mpls., with visitation beginning at 1:00 PM. Morris Nilsen Chapel 612-869-3226 www.morrisnilsen.com

Miller, Nancy B.



The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "to appreciate" as "to grasp the nature, worth, quality or significance of" and "to recognize with gratitude."

Nancy B. Miller regularly said that she wanted to be remembered as "The Great Appreciator." Recognizing with gratitude was Nancy's gift. Nancy sought engagement at every turn; she sought opportunities to truly see people. To see their culture, their beliefs, their hopes and challenges, and to recognize the humanness of their experience. People felt truly seen in her presence. Whether it was the Metro Mobility drivers who came from countries far from Minnesota (she carried in her purse a tiny notebook that had - with phonetic spellings - a few words in Arabic, Somali, Amharic, so she could properly greet and thank her drivers) or the audiologists at Costco (whom she regularly brought homemade chocolate chip cookies), Nancy never ran out of people to learn from, to make laugh, to connect with, and through it all, to make feel seen.

A conversation rarely passed without her saying "I'd get more done if I didn't spend so much time being grateful," or "I'm so bloody lucky to have..." and then she'd enumerate the many things so many of us take for granted: good water pressure, warm clothes, a refrigerator with the nourishment she needed. And with each of those things, she explicitly expressed her gratitude for the people who ensured those comforts: the attentive staff at Loring Green East where she lived for 35 years; a dear friend who knitted her a joyfully colored winter hat; the dotting staff at Lund's downtown Minneapolis store - especially Jared in produce, Bob the Butcher, Mike in the cheese department, Alex and Gertrude at the Front End, and of course, Chuck the manager.

Nancy lived expansively, whether internationally or at home. She and her beloved husband of 40 years, the late Robert H. Miller, spent deeply satisfying months in Oaxaca, Mexico. There they were engaged with the locals as much, if not more, than with the ex-pat community. Closer to home, Nancy was a devoted member for the First Unitarian Society and a vital participant in their "Active Voices" team, which sought to create actionable messages on a variety of social justice topics; she was also a long-time ticket holder at the Guthrie Theater and the Minnesota Orchestra. When encouraged to trim her budget a bit, she was adamant that she would find other areas to cut back than her monthly donations to Planned Parenthood, PBS, Minnesota Public Radio, and the Sierra Club. And Loring Park, right in her backyard, was a regular source of pleasure. Nancy was featured on KARE-TV and in the Star Tribune for her clear connection with the Park and all the life it supported, including the redwing blackbirds she hand-fed.

Nancy was an editor for much of her life and she had an abiding passion for words. "Etymologitis" she called it. Reading an article from her beloved "New Yorker" would take far longer than it might the average person because she would reach for the dog-eared dictionary that lived at her bedside to dig into the history of the word. Of course, this makes sense, as etymologies show the story of words, the twining of cultures and peoples from across borders and continents, a joining of the disparate that makes a whole. And she used those words in her regular contributions to the Letters to the Editor of the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Published or not (and they often were), those letters demonstrated her vigorous engagement with the world around her and that, after all, it is through words that we can change the world.

Nancy B. Miller died on December 22, 2022, just 20 days after her 95th birthday. That same year she had flown across the country five times to visit her daughter Mari Goldner in Oregon, and Eliza Fischer in California. To the end, she sought connection and lived with appreciation. Days before her death, knowing that the international background would be of interest to her, one of her daughters went to Nancy's bedside to let her know that her new in-home care attendant, Najma, was Somali. Nancy asked her daughter to bring her the little notebook from her purse so she could greet Najma properly. She died the way she lived: with appreciation and gratitude and a deep sense of how we are better together.

A memorial celebration of her life will take place at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis (900 Mount Curve Avenue, Minneapolis) at 10:30 AM on Saturday, May 13; reception to follow. Donations may be made to the Friends of Loring Park www.friendsofloringpark.org/donate.

Nehasil, Valerian J. "Larry"

age 88 of Burnsville passed away on March 26, 2023. Funeral Service 2pm Monday, April 3, 2023 at White Funeral Home, 12804 Nicollet Ave. S. Burnsville, MN. Visitation one hour prior to service. www.whitefuneralhomes.com

Schultz, Judith M.

age 88 of Fridley, formerly of Sacred Heart. Survived by daughter, Kara (Tony) Byington; grandson, Alex. Funeral Service Thursday 11am with visitation one hour prior at Miller Funeral Home, 6210 Hwy 65 NE, Fridley (763) 571-1300. Interment Morningside Memorial Gardens, Coon Rapids. www.millerfuneralfridley.com

Ziebart, James R.

age 86, of Minneapolis died Saturday, March 25, 2023. Services 11am Monday, April 3, 2023 at Dingmann Funeral Care Chapel in Annandale with visitation 1 hour prior to the service. www.dingmannfuneral.com

Helpful Telephone Numbers

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United Way 2-1-1 Metro: 2-1-1 or (651) 291-0211
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Motive probed in killing of man found in container

An overdose death may have set off a quest for revenge, documents say.



Pendegayosh Jr.

Law enforcement in central Minnesota is looking into whether revenge was behind the fatal shooting of a man whose body was put in a container and abandoned near the Lake Mille Lacs shoreline, according to newly filed court documents.

Bradley A. Weyaus, 21, of Isle, Minn., was charged last week in Mille Lacs County District Court with second-degree intentional murder, fleeing police and interference with a body in connection with the death of Rodney Pendegayosh Jr., 25, who lived in the Isle area.

Also charged last week with aiding an offender after the fact was Weyaus' girlfriend, Alexis M. Elling, 22, of Rochester. Both remain jailed ahead of court appearances April 4.

While the charges did not point to a possible motive for the killing, search warrant affidavits filed Monday suggest that Pendegayosh was killed in retaliation for the overdose death of Elling's brother in January.

Elling was overheard by someone close to her family saying that Pendegayosh was "bragging about strengthening the drugs that ultimately caused" 23-year-old Brandon Elling's death, read the affidavits, which were filed in pursuit of court approval to search social media accounts associated with the principals in Pendegayosh's death.

"No one has been charged in connection with that death at this point, and that investigation is still ongoing," Sheriff Kyle Burton told the Star Tribune on Monday. "We are still in the process of trying

to determine what role, if any, Rodney Pendegayosh Jr. or possibly others played in Brandon's death."

The charges also have not specified when Pendegayosh was killed, but the affidavits disclosed that Weyaus sought help from his girlfriend's mother and another person to "move a heavy tote out of his apartment" on March 15.

That was six days before highway workers came upon a container while on routine assignment near the lake's southwest shore. The workers looked inside and saw a severed foot "along with something wrapped in a tarp," the affidavits read.

According to the criminal complaints: Law enforcement was sent to the site of the container's discovery and saw buckshot from shotgun shells in Pendegayosh's neck.

An investigator who was driving to the scene saw a white Saturn associated with Weyaus and pursued it as the driver accelerated. The investigator soon broke off the pursuit and continued to the container's location.

Other law enforcement took up the chase and located the Saturn nearby on a rural property on Southport Road. Weyaus hid in a trailer on the property but soon surrendered. He had two duffel bags with a hammer, hacksaw and industrial tape inside that appeared to match the tape on the abandoned container. A search of his vehicle turned up a spent shotgun shell.

At the time of his arrest, Weyaus was wanted on unrelated charges for possessing drug paraphernalia, theft, burglary and lottery ticket fraud.

Paul Walsh • 612-673-4482

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Kogl, James.....Mpls
Miller, Nancy.....Mpls
Nehasil, Valerian.....Burnsville
Schultz, Judith.....Fridley
Ziebart, James.....Mpls

Basquez, Consuelo "Connie"
died March 23, 2023.
Washburn-McReavy
Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000

Bethke, Agnes "Aggie" Bridget

age 66, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on March 26th, 2023, due to cancer. She is lovingly survived by her husband, three sons, seven beautiful grandchildren, and all of the loved ones whose hearts she deeply touched.
The Peterson Chapel in St. Michael, MN www.thepetersonchapel.com

Busacker, Alice M.

Age 73, of Jordan, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Saturday, March 25, 2023. A visitation will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 from 4-7 PM at Ballard-Sunder Funeral Home, 4565 Pleasant St. SE, Prior Lake. A Christian funeral will be held on Friday, March 31, 2023, at 11 AM, with visitation from 10-11 AM, both at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Fish Lake, 20200 Fairlawn Avenue, Prior Lake, MN. Reverend Dr. Brent L. Parrish will preside. Interment immediately after service at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery and lunch to follow. Born on November 29, 1949, Alice was the 3rd of 13 children born to parents Clarence and Suverna Hennen. She grew up on the family farm in Jordan, MN. She attended Jordan and Prior Lake Schools. Upon graduation from High School, she began working at the Scott County Courthouse in their title office, where she continued to work for over 46 years. As a young woman, Alice loved to dance! While at the Carver Ballroom for a dance, she met Robert Busacker, and the rest was history. They were married on August 10, 1974 at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Fish Lake. The couple moved on to Bob's family farm in Jordan, and were blessed with the birth of their children, Jean and Paul. The family has many fond memories of time spent working on the farm together, and family vacations across the country. When she wasn't working at the courthouse or on the farm, Alice loved to be outside - she relished time spent mowing the yard or resting out on the front porch. As her children got older, Alice began a new chapter in her life as a devoted and proud grandma. She loved spending time with her grandkids, and made sure to spoil them at every opportunity. Alice was also a woman of deep faith - she was a proud member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church on Fish Lake community, and looked to the Lord in times of difficulty. Selfless, loving, and kind, Alice will forever be missed by her husband of 48 years, Bob; daughter, Jean (Nate) Brening; son, Paul Busacker; grandchildren, Grant and Gavin Brening and Anna, Jordyn, Evan, and Candace Busacker; siblings, Carol (Tom) Muelken, Rose (Paul) Krueger, Dolores Poppler, Betty (Jerry) Meuffels, Paul (Nellie) Hennen, Theresa (Allan) Hanson, Dan Hennen, Allen (Laura) Hennen, Ann (Pat) Schuneman, and Mary Jo Hennen; sister-in-law, Crystal Hennen; and many other relatives and friends. She is greeted in heaven by her parents, Clarence and Suverna; siblings, Barbara Hennen and Michael Hennen; and brother-in-law, Harlan Poppler.
www.ballardsunderfuneral.com

Frits, Garry W.

Age 80, passed away in Grand Rapids, MN March 25, 2023. Respects can be paid during his funeral at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Deer River, MN on Thursday, March 30th at 11 am. Rowe Funeral Home rowefuneralhomeandcrematary.com

Halbritter, Mary Ann

94, of Bellefonte passed away on Thursday, March 23, 2023. Mary was born in Bellefonte on March 9, 1929, the daughter of the late Louis and Mary Comunale Masullo. She married Ralph Halbritter who preceded her in death in 2005.

Mary is survived by her sister, Helen Confer, formerly of Milesburg and 14 nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her sister Angeline Masullo and her brothers, Frank, Joseph, James, Anthony and John Masullo; and nephew, David Jones.

Mary will be buried at the convenience of her family in Holy Name Cemetery, Medina, MN. Burial is under the direction of David Lee Funeral Home, Wayzata, MN.

Arrangements in Pennsylvania are being handled by the Dean K. Wetzler Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Inc., 201 Spring St., Milesburg, PA. Condolences: deankwetzlerfuneralhome.com

Johnson, Barbara

Age 71 formerly of Maple Grove. Survived by husband, Robert "Bob"; children, Nicole Johnson & Michelle (Eric) Bushbaum; grandchildren Mikayla & Bobby. Memorial service 2 PM Thursday with visitation one hour prior at Kozlak-Radulovich Maple Grove Chapel (13745 Reimer Dr.). Reception to follow at the Osseo American Legion. www.kozlakradulovich.com 763-416-0016

Kogl, James A.



James Kogl, the prolific saxophonist and horn enthusiast whose tender tone and soul-filled solos graced stages from coast to coast and beyond, solidifying him as a mainstay in Minnesota's live music experience for over four decades, died in early March while in his home. He was 74 years old. Born on July 23, 1948, in St. Paul, son of engineer, Eugene Kogl and dental hygienist, Betty Kogl, Jim was raised in the Twin Cities. Known amongst musicians as Grease, Jim picked up his first trumpet while attending Rosemount high school and in music he found the first love of his life. Eager to share a wealth of jazz influences with colleagues, his skill made him a conduit of soulful music with his first band, The Marauders and numerous others, most recently appearing onstage with the esteemed Willie Murphy. Jim's ideal was life on the water, spending summers on his boat, and winters travelling with friends and family to warmer waters in California, Florida and the Caribbean. Survived by sister, Jeanne; son, Jeremy and his mother, Colleen, along with many other relatives, friends and musicians. Memorial services 2 PM Saturday, April 1 at Gearty-Delmore Robbinsdale Chapel, 3888 W. Broadway Robbinsdale, Gearty-Delmore 763-537-4511 www.gearty-delmore.com

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3003645/4/20

Charges: Revenge was motive in fatal West St. Paul shooting

Revenge over a fatal shooting is the apparent motive for the killing of a 20-year-old man nearly two years ago in a West St. Paul park, according to charges.

Brenden J. Reynolds, 24, of Cottage Grove was charged Friday in Dakota County District Court with second-degree intentional murder in connection with the shooting death on June 9, 2021, of Jayvon A. Malone of Maplewood.

Reynolds was arrested Thursday night in a vehicle at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and remains jailed in lieu of \$1.5 million bail. Court records do not list an attorney for him. He's due back in court on April 6.

According to the complaint, a report of shots fired shortly before 9 p.m. sent police to Thompson County Park, where they saw two people putting pressure on gunshot wounds to Malone's chest and back.

As medics took over tending to Malone he uttered that

he was going to die. He soon died at a nearby hospital.

A witness told police that the gunfire occurred during a party to raise money for legal fees for someone in jail.

Surveillance video show Reynolds arriving at the park on motorcycle. He walked over to Malone and said, "You got my brother killed," the complaint quoted him as saying. A punch from Reynolds sent Malone to the ground.

Malone got up, ran and Reynolds shot him. Malone fired shots in Reynolds' direction and ended up down on the grass behind some vehicles.

Law enforcement believes that Reynolds was blaming Malone for the shooting death in 2018 of Wilbert Harris-McCalister, 19, of St. Paul in the city's Summit-University neighborhood, where a marijuana deal between gang members turned into a gun battle.

Malone was convicted of first-degree robbery for his role in the 2018 confrontation and served time in prison.

PAUL WALSH

Semi driven by teen collides with pickup in fatal crash near Rochester

A pickup truck driver was killed in a collision with a semitrailer truck driven by a 17-year-old northeast of Rochester, officials said.

The crash occurred shortly before 11:30 a.m. Friday at Hwy. 63 and County Road 21 in Farmington Township, the State Patrol said.

John W. Johnson, 83, of nearby Plainview, was taken by emergency responders to a hospital in Rochester and pronounced dead, the patrol said.

The semi driver, Tyler D. Kehren, of Lake City, Minn.,

was not hurt.

Minnesota requires that semi drivers be at least 18 years old and hold a commercial driver's license, said a spokeswoman for the state Department of Public Safety.

Kehren was heading south on Hwy. 63 and collided with Johnson's pickup at the intersection with County Road 21, the patrol said.

Debris from the crash damaged a nearby SUV, but the two people in that vehicle were not injured, according to the patrol.

PAUL WALSH

TWIN CITIES TODAY	WED • 3/29	THU • 3/30	FRI • 3/31	SAT • 4/1	SUN • 4/2	MON • 4/3
Clouds, chilly 7a: 20° • noon: 30° • 5p: 35° 37° Daytime high Precip: 20% • Wind: SW 7-12	Sunny and brisk 33° Precip: 10% • Wind: NW 8-13	Light rain or drizzle 41° Precip: 70% • Wind: SE 10-20	Rain ends as slushy snow 40° Precip: 80% • Wind: NE 15-25	Sunny, still cool 39° Precip: 10% • Wind: SW 5-10	Milder with light rain 48° Precip: 50% • Wind: SW 10-20	Glimmers of sun, where is spring? 43° Precip: 20% • Wind: NE 7-12

*Overnight low: Lowest temperature between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. the next day



WEATHER with Paul Douglas

Video forecasts: startribune.com/weather
Paul's blog: startribune.com/pauldouglas

First 50-degree high won't arrive until April

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." Few have summed up the contradictions of March better than Charles Dickens.

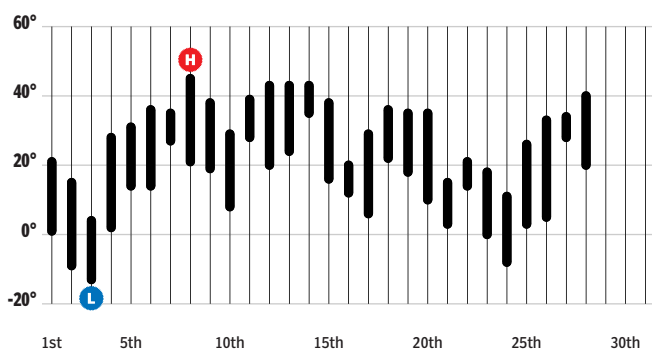
March can bring blizzards, floods and deadly tornadoes. A few takeaways from the deadly EF-4 (160-180 mph wind) tornado on the ground for 50-plus miles in Mississippi last Friday: Nighttime tornadoes are especially deadly. Have multiple ways to get warnings, including smartphone and NOAA Weather Radio. Eight people survived by hiding in a walk-in refrigerator at a local restaurant. They made the right choice. And when you hear "tornado emergency" you know it's real; a life-threatening scenario. Your family should have a tornado plan and practice it from time to time.

Another swipe of nippy Canadian air arrives today and Wednesday. A little rain Thursday and Friday ends as slush Friday night. That's no April Fools' joke.

We won't hit 50 degrees in the Twin Cities until April, the latest first-50 since 2001.

TWIN CITIES TEMPS FEBRUARY 2023

High: 45° on February 8 • Low: -13° on February 3 • Monthly average: 21.1



Yesterday	High	Low	Precipitation
Monday, Mar. 27	41°	24°	24 hours-6 p.m., yesterday 0.00"
Average	47°	30°	Yesterday's record 1.52" in 1998
Record	1946: 75°	1921: 5°	Month to yesterday 1.27"
This day last year	32°	13°	Month record 4.75" in 1965
Yesterday's snapshot (*estimate)			Above / below average -0.12"
12 am 30 6 am 25 Noon 36 6 pm 39			Year to yesterday 5.90"
3 am 28 9 am 29 3 pm 40 9 pm* 32			Above / below average +2.75"
Heating degree days	2023	2022	Avg.
24 hrs to 6 p.m. yest.	32	42	26
Seasonal	6400	6413	6507
			Snowfall (at MSP airport)
			24 hrs to 6 p.m. yesterday 0.0"
			Season to yest. (normal) 81.2" (47.0")

Forecasts and graphics, with the exception of Paul Douglas' article and 7-day forecast, provided by AccuWeather.com ©2023

HEALTH REPORT

TODAY'S AIR QUALITY
Good
0 50 100 150 200 300
48: Satisfactory; air pollution poses little or no risk

TODAY'S UV INDEX
Moderate
0-2 3-5 6-7 8-10 11+
4: Moderate risk; cover up, stay in shade near midday

TODAY'S COLD INDEX
Moderate
0-2 3-4 5-6 7-8 9-10
3: Moderate risk of getting a cold, based on AccuWeather.com and today's weather.

AROUND MINNESOTA

CITY	TODAY	WED
Albert Lea	42/15/pc	33/20/pc
Alexandria	24/-2/sn	20/5/c
Bemidji	20/-4/sn	24/0/s
Brainerd	26/-2/sn	27/-1/pc
Detroit Lakes	19/-6/sn	18/6/c
Duluth	26/6/sn	26/6/pc
Fergus Falls	22/-6/sn	18/6/c
Grand Marais	28/12/pc	31/11/pc
Hibbing	23/0/sn	24/-5/s
Intl Falls	22/2/sn	28/4/s
Mankato	39/11/pc	28/19/pc
Moorhead	20/-6/sn	19/6/s
Redwood Falls	34/7/pc	23/12/pc
Rochester	40/17/pc	32/19/pc
St Cloud	29/5/sn	25/5/pc
Worthington	41/10/s	26/16/pc

RIVER STAGES

Stages in feet as of 7 a.m. yesterday

Mississippi River	Flood Stage	Stage	24-hr. Chg.
near Royalton	-	9.91	-0.41
at St. Cloud	9	4.89	-0.03
at Champlin	12	4.33	+0.05
at Brooklyn Park	12	3.06	+0.10
at Fridley	16	5.19	+0.06
at St. Paul	14	4.32	+0.12

Minnesota River	Flood Stage	Stage	24-hr. Chg.
at Mankato	22	11.42	+0.29
at Henderson	732	724.39	+0.57
at Savage	702	692.29	+0.94

SKI REPORT

Resort	Base in inches	Trails open	Lifts open
Afton Alps	0-0	0	0
Buck Hill	40-40	16	10
Hyland	0-0	0	0
Mount Kato	0-0	0	0
Powder Ridge	0-0	0	0
Spirit Mountain	36-36	22	4
Welch Village	18-48	54	5
Wild Mountain	20-40	24	7

Source: OnTheSnow.com

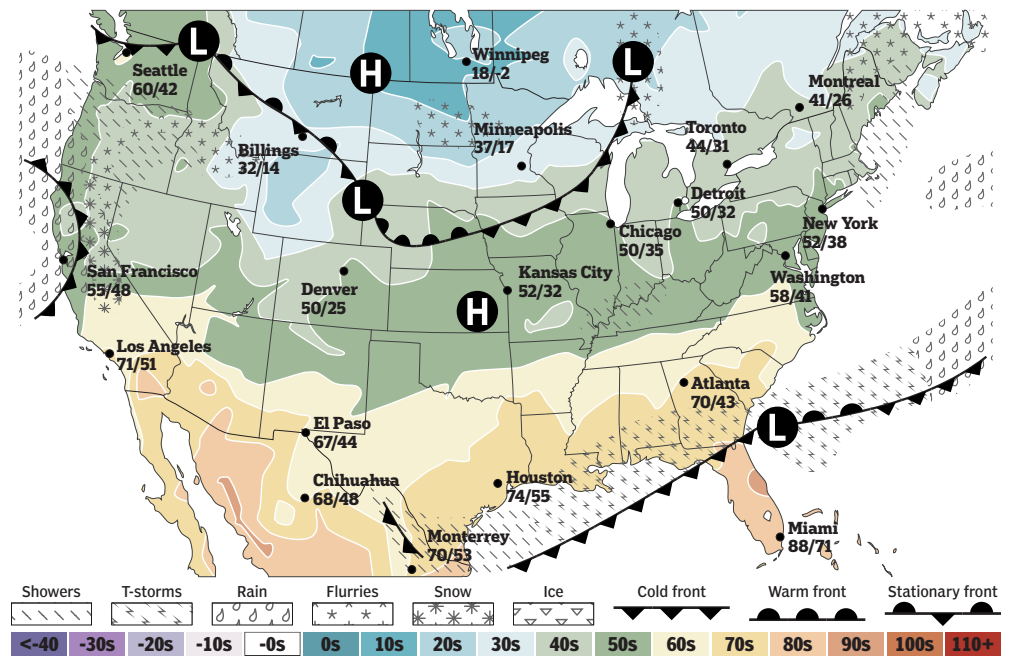
SUN AND MOON TODAY

Total daylight: 12 hours, 33 minutes

First Mar 28	Full Apr 5
Last Apr 13	New Apr 19

Sunrise: 7:02 am Sunset: 7:35 pm
Moonrise: 10:57 am Moonset: 2:51 am

NATIONAL OUTLOOK



Yesterday's high / low (for the 48 contiguous states): 91 in Titusville, FL / -20 in Daniel, WY

U.S. & WORLD CITIES • s-sunny • pc-partly cloudy • c-cloudy • sh-showers • t-thunderstorms • r-rain • sf-snow flurries • sn-snow • ice

U.S.	TODAY	WED	U.S.	TODAY	WED	WORLD	TODAY	WED
Albuquerque	56/37/s	69/44/s	Orlando	91/69/sh	80/61/pc	Havana	85/68/pc	84/72/s
Anchorage	38/34/pc	36/35/c	Philadelphia	54/38/pc	56/36/c	Helsinki	33/19/sn	31/12/c
Atlanta	70/43/c	67/46/s	Phoenix	80/53/s	81/56/pc	Hong Kong	71/64/r	74/66/c
Austin	70/50/c	68/56/c	Pittsburgh	48/27/c	53/25/sn	Jerusalem	69/49/s	62/44/pc
Baltimore	57/39/c	59/38/c	Portland, ME	45/30/sh	49/33/c	Johannesburg	71/54/pc	75/55/s
Billings	32/14/pc	29/18/c	Portland, OR	53/42/sh	59/41/s	Kabul	62/46/t	49/43/t
Birmingham	69/41/pc	67/41/s	Raleigh	67/45/pc	61/40/pc	Kingston	86/75/sh	88/76/s
Bismarck	22/-6/c	22/12/s	Rapid City, SD	42/14/pc	39/26/pc	Kuwait City	84/58/s	86/55/s
Boise	50/35/sh	46/33/c	Sacramento	52/43/r	53/40/sh	Lima	81/72/pc	82/71/pc
Boston	43/35/sh	50/35/pc	St. Louis	51/35/sh	62/40/s	London	50/47/r	59/49/r
Brownsville	76/64/sh	75/66/t	Salt Lake City	53/44/c	54/36/sh	Madrid	74/47/pc	78/55/pc
Buffalo	44/31/c	46/25/sn	San Antonio	70/52/c	66/60/c	Manila	91/77/t	92/76/pc
Cedar Rapids	49/28/pc	36/24/s	San Diego	68/53/s	61/51/r	Mazatlan	77/58/pc	79/58/s
Charlotte	76/51/c	65/44/pc	San Francisco	55/48/r	55/45/sh	Mexico City	83/55/sh	80/53/t
Charlotte, SC	68/43/c	63/41/s	San Juan	86/72/s	85/74/s	Mogadishu	91/80/s	90/79/s
Cheyenne	40/21/pc	40/22/c	Seattle	60/42/s	61/39/s	Montreal	41/26/pc	47/20/sn
Chicago	50/35/pc	43/25/pc	Sioux City	52/20/s	40/28/pc	Moscow	50/41/c	47/35/r
Cincinnati	49/30/pc	56/30/pc	Spokane	54/34/s	55/34/s	Mumbai	88/75/pc	87/75/pc
Cleveland	44/32/c	51/25/sn	Tampa	86/71/c	83/64/pc	Nairobi	80/61/pc	80/59/t
Dallas	63/43/s	69/57/pc	Tucson	82/51/pc	82/51/c	Nassau	85/70/c	86/71/s
Denver	50/25/pc	49/28/pc	Wash., DC	58/41/c	60/41/pc	New Delhi	86/65/pc	89/69/c
Des Moines	49/29/pc	39/29/pc				Oslo	38/26/pc	35/21/sn
Detroit	50/32/pc	45/21/pc				Ottawa	40/21/c	44/18/sn
Eau Claire	39/15/pc	30/15/pc				Paris	54/45/c	69/53/c
Fairbanks	31/21/pc	33/26/pc				Prague	42/29/sf	47/40/c
Fargo	21/-6/sn	22/7/s				Quebec City	40/22/c	40/18/sf
Fort Myers	88/69/pc	85/65/t				Quito	63/47/r	61/49/r
Galveston	75/60/c	70/67/c				Reykjavik	38/33/c	43/39/sn
Green Bay	44/24/c	34/17/sf				Rio de Janeiro	84/74/pc	86/76/t
Honolulu	81/73/sh	84/72/sh				Riyadh	85/60/s	87/62/s
Houston	74/55/c	73/59/c				Rome	62/39/s	62/46/pc
Indianapolis	49/31/c	55/28/pc				Santiago	81/51/s	81/49/s
Jacksonville	82/58/t	68/49/c				San Jose	86/69/pc	85/65/pc
Kansas City	52/32/pc	58/39/pc				Seoul	60/37/s	64/36/pc
Las Cruces	68/43/s	80/53/s				Shanghai	72/47/r	69/52/c
Las Vegas	67/54/s	64/44/c				Singapore	90/78/sh	91/78/sh
Los Angeles	71/51/pc	58/47/r				Stockholm	27/2/sn	30/18/sn
Louisville	54/34/pc	61/38/pc				Sydney	68/71/t	80/63/pc
Madison	47/25/pc	39/16/sn				Tehran	82/51/t	73/52/c
Memphis	62/40/s	66/45/s				Tel Aviv	72/56/s	68/54/pc
Miami	88/71/pc	87/72/t				Tokyo	58/45/sh	61/48/pc
Milwaukee	47/31/pc	36/21/pc				Toronto	44/31/pc	46/22/sn
Nashville	60/35/pc	63/38/s				Vancouver	58/37/s	53/38/pc
New Orleans	72/59/t	69/56/c				Vienna	48/30/pc	47/39/c
New York	52/38/pc	56/35/pc				Vientiane	93/74/s	91/71/t
Okla. City	55/34/s	67/51/pc				Warsaw	37/24/sn	46/34/pc
Omaha	51/24/pc	42/32/c				Winnipeg	18/-2/c	23/9/pc



GLEN STUBBE • glen.stubbe@startribune.com

Planned upgrades for the governor's residence include modernizing mechanical systems and replacing plumbing fixtures.

\$6.3M governor's residence renovation will start in June

RENOVATION from B1 comment Monday.

Waslaski said the department sent out a request for information to real estate industry professionals and searched online with little luck. Calls to industry contacts eventually led them to McFadden's property, he said.

The lease starts Monday and runs through September 2024, with an option to extend it for three more months. Walz's family is expected to move into the five-bedroom, 7,952-square-foot lakeside home in late May.

Monthly rent will be \$17,326, the lease document states, and the state will also pay around \$15,000 for carpet installation. The Department of Administration has funds in its budget to cover the temporary housing costs and the Legislature doesn't need to take additional action, Waslaski said.

According to a statement from the governor's office, Walz "is grateful to the community of Sunfish Lake for welcoming him and his family" as the governor's residence undergoes renovation.

Exterior tuck-pointing on the governor's residence in St. Paul is expected to start in June or July with full construction underway by September, according to the state's request for proposals (RFP) for a construction manager.

That RFP in December described the scale of work

planned for the mansion. The house has seven bedrooms, nine bathrooms and eight fireplaces. It was built for St. Paul lumberman Horace Hills Irvine, whose family donated it to the state in 1965.

"Many of the building components and systems are beyond their life expectancy and therefore have become dilapidated to the point where they must be replaced," according to the RFP.

Planned upgrades include modernizing mechanical systems, replacing plumbing fixtures, revitalizing the building interior and bringing security systems up to current standards.

Repairs also are needed to address site drainage, foundation and tunnel leaks and issues with the carriage house and storage building on the property, according to the RFP.

And there will be some floor plan alternations to improve food service operations, accommodate state-sponsored receptions and improve livability.

"From a maintenance standpoint, it's just getting unreliable. ... You have facility staff out there on a pretty constant basis doing a repair work," Waslaski said. "You go right down the list of building systems and every one of them is at the point where you just need to do a replacement."

Jessie Van Berkel • 651-925-5044

Alcohol called factor in fatal crash that closed Hwy. 62

By TIM HARLOW and PAUL WALSH
Star Tribune staff writers

Authorities say that alcohol was a contributing factor to a fatal crash that left part of Crosstown Hwy. 62 closed for much of the Monday morning rush hour.

The driver of a pickup truck towing a trailer left the eastbound lanes of Hwy. 62 near 34th Avenue about 3:25 a.m., entered a ditch and struck a concrete bridge pillar, the Minnesota State Patrol said.

The driver, identified as 34-year-old Brian Cravey of Wills Point, Texas, had been drinking, the patrol's report said. Cravey was taken to HCMC with life-threatening injuries and was in critical condition as of late Monday afternoon, a hospital spokeswoman said.

A 21-year-old passenger from Como, Colo., identified by the patrol as Preston Haley, died in the wreck.

Both lanes of the busy highway near Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport were closed for hours as troopers investigated the crash.



DAVID JOLLES • david.jolles@startribune.com

First responders attended to a crash that left one person dead and closed Crosstown Hwy. 62.

Complicating matters was a secondary crash, caused when a Minneapolis fire truck collided with a state trooper's squad car, said Assistant Fire Chief Melanie Rucker.

Rucker said the ladder truck was turning around when it hit the trooper's vehicle. She said no firefighters

were hurt, and the truck was towed from the scene.

The trooper sustained minor injuries, according to Lt. Gordon Shank with the State Patrol. Emergency lights were activated on both vehicles at the time of the crash, he said.

The collision led to long

traffic backups for much of the morning commute as motorists were diverted from Hwy. 62. Westbound lanes reopened about 10 a.m., and eastbound lanes reopened about noon.

Tim Harlow • 612-673-7768
Paul Walsh • 612-673-4482

Customs officers intercept badger and water buffalo skins

Customs officers in the Twin Cities intercepted from the Far East three air shipments that included various prohibited items, among them skins from a badger and from a water buffalo, officials said Monday.

The packages roused the suspicions of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers on March 21, soon after their arrival at a global shipping company's facility near the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the agency announced.

"CBP's agriculture specialists mitigate the threat of non-native pests, diseases and contaminants entering the United States," read a statement from Augustine Moore, area port director-Minnesota.

According to CBP officials: A shipment from Hong Kong was inventoried as a ceramic plate, but an inspection revealed food items that included 7 pounds of prohibited beef and pork sausage.

A package from Laos included 16 pounds of prohibited material that included tubers and root stock that required proper certification that they are free of harmful pests. The items were removed and examined.

However, further inspection detected a layer of wood shavings that concealed what the U.S.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection This badger pelt was intercepted by federal officials in the Twin Cities this month.

Fish and Wildlife Services verified was a badger skin.

A shipment from Thailand was labeled dried bamboo shoot but actually contained water buffalo skin.

All the intended recipients, located around Minnesota, were notified that their shipments were either seized in full or had the prohibited items removed before shipping went ahead.

"Our nation's food supply is constantly at risk from pests and disease not known to occur in the U.S.," LaFonda D. Sutton-Burke, director of field operations in the Chicago field office, said in a statement. "These significant interceptions by our agriculture specialists ... exemplify CBP's continued commitment to safeguarding American agriculture."

PAUL WALSH

SPORTS

TWINS PREVIEW WEEK

Improved pitching staff is no pie in sky

LA VELLE E. NEAL III



FORT MYERS, FLA. — One equipment truck has departed for the Twin Cities. Another is being loaded

as the Twins prepare to break camp and head for a regular season that will be better than the clunker of 2022.

How do I know? Well, I know a lot of things. And, after watching the Twins in exhibition games and examining how the roster was constructed, I know that the 2023 Twins will finish 91-71.

Laying out the reasons for such improvement usually requires listing a team's strengths. Evaluating this year's Twins begins with who is not here.

Chris Archer is a free agent. Dylan Bundy recently signed a minor league free-agent deal with the Cubs. Joe Smith is a free agent. Jharel Cotton is in Japan. Jhon Romero last week signed a minor league deal with Cleveland. Tyler Duffey, on a minor league deal with the Cubs, might make their club.

Gary Sanchez and Miguel Sano might play in other countries this year.

That means more than 30% of the Opening Day roster from last year is not in the majors — and five are not even playing.

The rotation will be better just because Bundy and Archer, who combined to make 30 starts of less than five innings last season, are gone. The nights in which Twins manager Rocco Baldelli asks the bullpen to cover 13 or more outs should be greatly reduced because they traded for a quality starter in Pablo Lopez and will have either a healthy Kenta Maeda or, if he falters, the promising Bailey Ober in the No. 5 spot.

Baldelli should lean more on his rotation this season — thank heavens — and Sonny Gray pretty much demanded it on Sunday when he said, "I don't think we're interested in going four innings and being happy."

Archer's ears shouldn't just be burning; they should be incinerated.

There are no reclamation projects in the rotation this year, and it should be one of the better ones in baseball.

Jhoan Duran is coming off a boffo year as a reliever. Four others averaged more than a strikeout an inning last season. Jorge Alcala is healthy. The bullpen has bite.

"It's probably the deepest pitching staff that we have had going into the season,"

See **NEAL** on C5 ▶

A shift in priorities to boost offenses

By PHIL MILLER • phil.miller@startribune.com

FORT MYERS, FLA. — Max Kepler considered the question, started to answer and thought better of it.

"I'll keep my mouth shut," the Twins right fielder said with a slight smile, "about what I think of the shift."

Joey Gallo cursed when the topic was broached, shook his head and likewise decided to keep his opinion to himself.

"I don't want to say what I think is fair and what isn't, and wind up in a headline like always," the new Twins outfielder explained. "Every time I answer questions about the shift, people want to make me the face of it."

Justin Morneau wasn't a part of those clubhouse discussions, but he understands the sentiment, the emotion that defensive shifts trigger, particularly in lefthanded sluggers such as himself and the two Twins outfielders.

"[Players] are trained from Little League on that if you hit the ball hard, most of the time you will be rewarded for it," the 2006 AL MVP and current Twins broadcaster said. "When that's no longer true, yeah, it's frustrating. You hit a hard line drive to the outfield, and it lands in the second baseman's glove and it's an out every time, that's tough."

See **TWINS** on C5 ▶

Twins season opener: 3:10 p.m. Thursday at Kansas City (BSN)

Star Tribune illustration • Photos by Star Tribune, Associated Press

WILD 5, SEATTLE 1 Wednesday: at Colorado, 9 p.m. (TNT)

There's no stopping Boldy — again — as Wild demolish Kraken

Winger picks up second hat trick in five games.

By SARAH McLELLAN sarah.mclellan@startribune.com

When he was a kid on his driveway, Matt Boldy might have been on a blitz like this.

"Maybe playing by myself," he said.

That is definitely not the case now.

No one has potted more goals in the NHL in March than Boldy, the winger turning in his

second hat trick in five games on Monday to spark the Wild to a 5-1 rout of the Seattle Kraken in front of 19,291 at Xcel Energy Center while joining exclusive company for his scoring surge.

"It just seems to be going in," Boldy said.

In his second NHL season, Boldy is already up to three hat tricks to tie for the second most in Wild history. Not only is he the fourth U.S.-born player to tally three before the age of 22, but since 2000-01 only five NHLers have posted more hat tricks before turning 22 — a



CARLOS GONZALEZ • cgonzalez@startribune.com
Wild winger Matt Boldy, right, celebrated with Marcus Johansson after scoring one of his three goals in a 5-1 romp over the Kraken.

list that includes former Wild great Marian Gaborik and current stars Connor McDavid and Patrik Laine.

"That's pretty special," defenseman Jake Middleton said. "It's cool to have a player of his caliber doing it at such a young age, especially with another top player out. The way he's kind of put us on his back is pretty impressive."

The Wild are 6-1-2 without injured superstar Kirill Kaprizov, and Boldy's 11 goals over that stretch are tops in the league.

Going back to Feb. 17, the Wild have been on a 15-1-4 run to pocket an NHL-best 34 points and this victory kept them in first place in the Central Division with eight games remaining. They won despite finishing the game shorthanded, as Ryan Reaves left with an upper-body injury.

Goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury was locked in early, his 13 first-period stops keeping the Wild afloat before they picked up the pace. Overall, Fleury racked up 35 saves.

See **WILD** on C6 ▶



OUR DAILY SPORTS PODCAST

On Monday through

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Volatility increases for QBs

DAILY DELIVERY
MICHAEL RAND

Only five years ago, Kirk Cousins was a hot commodity in part because of his performance and in part because of an unusual circumstance.

He was a quarterback at a relatively prime age hitting the open market as a free agent. The marketplace in 2018 was such that quarterbacks like that were generally not available in trades or free agency. If a team had an above-average quarterback that it liked, the player was signed and off-limits.

What has transpired since then is reflective of a seemingly greater level of volatility in the QB marketplace, with high-profile passers changing teams frequently. While the examples typically are trades and not free agents, the overall effect is interesting — and reflective of the Super Bowl-or-bust mentality that has become the norm.

Among the stunning moves the past few years: Tom Brady leaving New England to sign with Tampa Bay; the Rams dealing a boatload of picks and Jared Goff for Matthew Stafford; the Broncos going all-in on Russell Wilson; Deshaun Watson going from the Texans to Cleveland; and Aaron Rodgers being on the verge, eventually, of being traded to the Jets.

And we can add Lamar Jackson to that mix, too, as the Ravens QB acknowledged Monday on Twitter that he has requested a trade as their contract standoff continues.

Brady and Rodgers are end-of-career veterans — no doubt Hall of Famers on a path that Peyton Manning took when joining the Broncos after a long career with the Colts.

But Stafford (33 in 2021, the year he was traded) and Wilson (34) were experienced veterans with several good years presumably ahead of them at the time they were dealt. And Jackson, a 26-year-old former MVP, could be with an acquiring team for a decade — similar to the trade for the 27-year-old Watson purely from a football standpoint.

Sometimes it works splendidly: Brady won a Super Bowl. Sometimes it blows up: Year 1 of Wilson in Denver was a disaster. Sometimes it's both: A Super Bowl, then a disaster, for Stafford with the Rams.

What teams have realized is that there are two cheat codes for serious playoff contention: having a star QB, even if he's expensive; or having a solid (sometimes better than that) young QB on a rookie scale deal that allows for extensive roster-building around him.

That has created buyers and sellers on both sides of blockbuster QB deals and ushered in a much different market than the one the Vikings entered in 2018.

THE LINEUP

Listen now: On Monday's StribSports "Daily Delivery" podcast, Michael Rand was joined by Star Tribune columnist Patrick Reusse for a look back at the weekend in sports. Reusse made the trek to Fargo for the men's hockey region final and saw the Gophers fend off St. Cloud State in a 4-1 victory for a berth in the Frozen Four. The depth, talent and determination of this year's Gophers team told the story.

Coming today: Listen as Rand is expected to be joined by Star Tribune college basketball writer Marcus Fuller. With almost everyone's NCAA men's basketball tournament bracket in shambles, it's time to just enjoy this unconventional Final Four. Fuller has some Gophers updates as well.

New episodes are posted weekday mornings. Podcasts and subscriptions available on any Star Tribune digital platform and popular podcast apps.

WOLVES 119, SACRAMENTO 115

Wednesday: 9 p.m. at Phoenix (BSN, ESPN)



JOSÉ LUIS VILLEGAS • Associated Press

Wolves star Anthony Edwards, playing on back-to-back nights after returning from injury, used a Naz Reid screen to work around Kessler Edwards on Monday.

Wolves strong in back-to-back

They get balanced scoring and keep pushing back to beat the high-scoring Kings.

By CHRIS HINE
chris.hine@startribune.com

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. — One of the defining victories of the Timberwolves season came earlier this month when they came into Sacramento on the tail end of a back-to-back and pulled out a victory over the fast-paced Kings.

The Wolves returned to Sacramento in similar circumstances after beating Golden State on Sunday during their final West Coast trip of the season.

The Wolves repeated their recent history with another important victory, this time 119-115 at Golden 1 Center with Karl-Anthony Towns out because of a rest day as he comes back from his injured right calf.

The Wolves controlled a close game in the fourth quarter with some timely stops and big buckets up and down the roster, which typified their effort for the night. Both Jaden McDaniels and Naz Reid had thunderous dunks and the Wolves made it difficult for the league's top offense to score in the halfcourt.

The Wolves had seven players in double figures, with McDaniels scoring 20 to

GAME RECAP

IMPACT PLAYER

Jaden McDaniels, Wolves

A night after he scored just one point, McDaniels hit his first six shots on his way to 20 points while providing his typical defensive effort.

BY THE NUMBERS

3 The largest lead for either team in the third quarter

3-1 Wolves record against the Kings this season, including 2-0 in Sacramento.

6 Turnovers for the Wolves.

4 Consecutive victories for the Wolves after they fell to 35-37.

CHRIS HINE

FOR MORE COVERAGE

Visit startribune.com/wolves for more on this game.

lead the way. Reid was again huge off the bench with 18 points. Kyle Anderson had 15 points and 11 assists while Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 15 rebounds. They committed only six turnovers on the night.

De'Aaron Fox had 27 for the Kings.

A night after McDaniels scored one point, the Wolves made it a point to involve him early. They ran the first

play to get him a layup, and that set the tone for this first quarter, in which he shot 6-for-6.

McDaniels keyed a hot start for the Wolves that calmed down a crowd that was set to explode from the opening tip. The Wolves shot 52% in the first quarter and led by as much as 13 before carrying a 34-25 lead into the second.

The Kings chipped away at the Wolves lead throughout the second quarter and got as close as 43-39 before coach Chris Finch rotated back in his starting lineup. The Wolves pushed it back up to nine before foul trouble started having an impact, and the Wolves started showing frustration with the officiating. Both Mike Conley and Gobert hit the bench with three fouls a piece.

Free points at the line also helped the Kings erase the Wolves' lead completely by halftime and Sacramento led 58-57. The offense also dried up for the Wolves in the second quarter, as they shot just 9-for-23 after their strong first quarter.

The third quarter was about as close and competitive as a single quarter could get. Neither team led by more than three while the Wolves got their offense back on track. They shot 61%, and that helped them keep pace with the Kings, who had the most efficient offense in the league entering the night.

Anderson had 10 in the quarter to give the Wolves an 86-85 edge headed into the fourth.

WOLVES 119, SACRAMENTO 115

Wolves 34 23 29 33 — 119
Sacramento 25 33 27 30 — 115

WOLVES	FG	FT	Reb	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	APF	PT		
Anderson	36:01	5-10	3-4	3-4	11	4	15				
McDaniels	39:21	8-15	3-4	1-3	2	5	20				
Gobert	35:25	5-9	6-8	4-16	4	4	16				
Conley	27:30	6-8	3-4	0-2	3	3	16				
A.Edwards	38:38	6-15	4-8	1-5	7	4	17				
Reid	20:46	7-12	2-4	0-4	1	1	18				
Nowell	16:22	6-11	1-2	2-4	1	3	14				
McLaughlin	16:20	1-2	0-0	0-1	4	2	3				
Ab-Walker	9:35	0-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	0				
Totals	240	44-86	22-34	11-23	27	119					
Percentages:	FG .512	FT .647	Three-pointers: 9-24	.375	(Anderson 2-3, Reid 2-5, McLaughlin 1-1, Conley 1-2, A.Edwards 1-3, Nowell 1-3, McDaniels 1-4, Alexander-Walker 0-3).	Team rebounds: 15.	Team turnovers: None.	Blocks: 3 (Gobert 2, Reid).	Turnovers: 6 (Gobert 2, A.Edwards, Alexander-Walker, Anderson, Nowell).	Steals: 6 (Anderson 2, McDaniels 2, Conley, Reid).	Technical: Wolves, 4; 48th third.

SACRAMENTO	FG	FT	Reb	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	APF	PT		
Barnes	35:07	5-12	9-11	2-5	1	2	19				
Murray	27:53	1-8	0-0	2-6	0	3	3				
Sabonis	39:55	11-14	2-3	10-4	6	24					
Fox	35:09	10-20	8-10	0-4	6	1	29				
Huerter	26:45	4-7	2-2	0-3	1	13					
Monk	26:36	4-13	4-4	0-1	3	2	12				
Lyles	22:21	1-6	3-4	4-11	0	2	5				
Mitchell	12:54	1-1	2-2	0-0	1	1	4				
Len	7:29	1-1	2-4	1-2	0	1	4				
K.Edwards	5:48	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	2					
Totals	240	39-84	32-40	12-26	23	115					
Percentages:	FG .464	FT .800	Three-pointers: 5-27	.185	(Huerter 3-5, Fox 1-6, Murray 1-6, K.Edwards 0-1, Lyles 0-2, Barnes 0-3, Monk 0-4).	Team rebounds: 10.	Team turnovers: None.	Blocks: 4 (Len 2, Fox, K.Edwards).	Turnovers: 10 (Lyles 3, Sabonis 3, Monk 2, Fox, Huerter).	Steals: 4 (Lyles 2, Murray, Sabonis).	Technical: None. A: 18, 151 (17,608).

WOLVES NOTES

KAT gets breather; Edwards jumps back in

By CHRIS HINE
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SACRAMENTO, CALIF. — The Timberwolves didn't have **Karl-Anthony Towns** available for Monday's game against the Kings, as the team rested Towns for what it termed "injury management" of Towns' right calf strain.

Towns has played in two games, the first two he played since late November, but the Wolves were taking a cautious approach in letting Towns get extra rest ahead of Wednesday's game at Phoenix.

"This is part of the return-to-play protocols that go with coming back from a 50-game absence. Pretty standard operating procedure right now around the league," coach **Chris Finch** said. "We'll be without him, but we're kind of used to that. We'll certainly miss him. He's been pretty impactful the last two games."

It didn't take long for Towns to leave his mark upon his return to the lineup. On Wednesday, he hit a pair of free throws to beat the Hawks. Then on Sunday, Towns hit the go-ahead three-pointer with 9.9 seconds remaining to lift the Wolves over the Warriors.

The Wolves only have one back-to-back set of games the rest of the season, and it's their final two games against the Spurs on April 8 and the Pelicans on April 9. Finch said he didn't know if Towns would be available then.

Anthony Edwards was able to play on against the Kings a day after returning from a three-game absence because of a sprained right ankle.

Coming back motivated

After Sunday's victory at Golden State, Finch revealed that center **Rudy Gobert** told him and the team something after the All-Star break: that when the team came back, Gobert

was going to be better, more like the Gobert they knew in Utah.

"He told us to expect more from him coming out of the All-Star break," Finch said. "He knew he hadn't performed up to his standard and expectations. I think right now the team around him is really, really kind of figuring out a way to value him offensively and that's keeping him engaged as well."

Gobert joked that the biggest thing he did over the break was that he "got some sun."

He said it has taken him awhile to adjust to life on the Wolves, but that has started to happen recently.

"For me, it's always a slow start," Gobert said. "I've had time to just get comfortable in the situation, and also raise my level. Obviously also we had a lot of injuries throughout the season. But I'm really proud of the way everyone stayed with it. The resiliency that we've shown these last few months,

just got KAT back, just got Ant back. So all the work that we put in, I feel like it's finally starting to pay off on the court."

The Wolves have started to see some of the benefits of having two big men on the floor at all times with Towns back in the fold. While they struggled defensively against Atlanta, they still were able to generate enough offense to win. Then they turned up the volume on defense against the Warriors when the offense slowed down.

Gobert is glad the team hasn't shied away from its identity recently.

"That's why the team has been built that way — to be ourselves, to be unique," Gobert said. "We look at the height and they say [we're] big, but we've got bigs that can move and we've got bigs that can shoot better than most guards. It's a unique ability that we have both on offense and defense. It's an opportunity for us to really be unique."

NBA ROUNDUP

After reprieve, Doncic helps Mavericks halt skid

Luka Doncic finished with 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists just hours after his most recent technical foul and one-game suspension were rescinded Monday by the NBA and led the Dallas Mavericks past the Indiana Pacers 127-104 in Indianapolis.

The Mavericks (37-39) ended a four-game losing streak and moved within a half-game of the Los Angeles Lakers and Oklahoma City Thunder

in the race for the final two play-in spots in the Western Conference.

Kyrie Irving added 16 points and six assists for Dallas.

Phoenix 117, Utah 103: Devin Booker scored 24 points and Phoenix reserves sparked the decisive run for the Suns against the Jazz, who have lost four in a row to fall to 35-40. All-Star Lauri Markkanen scored 25 points for Utah but shot 6-for-22. Walker Kessler tied a career high with seven blocks.

Milwaukee 126, Detroit 117: Khris Middleton scored 34 points against the team that drafted him, and the visiting Bucks improved to an NBA-best 54-21 despite the absences of Giannis Antetokounmpo (knee), Jrue Holiday (personal) and Jae Crowder (calf). The Pistons got 32 points, eight rebounds and eight assists from Jaden Ivey.

New Orleans 124, Portland 90: Brandon Ingram scored 29 as the visiting Pelicans rode 57% shooting to victory.

Denver 116, Philadelphia 111: The Nuggets' Nikola Jokic had a triple-double of 25 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists in a home victory over the 76ers, who played without injured Joel Embiid.

New York 137, Houston 115: Immanuel Quickley scored 40 points and Julius Randle had 26 for the host Knicks. Quickley, starting in place of injured Jalen Brunson, added nine assists.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



CAEAN COUTO • Associated Press

Carrying a regional championship trophy made for light lifting Sunday after star guard Caitlin Clark carried Iowa past Louisville and into the Final Four.

Clark monopolizes sizzle of March

JIM SOUHAN



When WNBA great Sue Bird visited their practice this weekend, Iowa's players stared in astonishment. They grew up watching Bird star at UConn, Seattle and for Team USA.

Now a broadcaster, Bird is a crossover star — not to be confused with Iowa's best player, a star with a crossover.

Caitlin Clark watched the WNBA growing up, and she identified with Elena Delle Donne. Now the Hawkeyes star is playing a lot like Bird's best friend, Diana Taurasi, another player unafraid to shoot from 25 feet or engage in a game-long dialogue with the nearest ref.

Clark might be the best player and story in all of college basketball right now, and it's a story any Midwesterner should appreciate.

She grew up in Des Moines and played for Dowling Catholic, where

Lynx General Manager Clare Duwelius also starred.

Never particularly fast or smooth, Clark developed remarkable shooting range and used her height to see over defenses so she could deliver one-hand bullet passes to the post.

Good enough to elicit offers from around the country, she decided to stay home and play for Iowa.

On Sunday, Clark delivered the first 40-point triple-double in the history of March Madness, lifting Iowa to a 97-83 victory over Louisville. Her 41 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds put Iowa in its first Final Four since 1993.

As could have been said of her performance at the Big Ten tournament at Target Center, when you get a chance to see Clark play, live or on a screen, you shouldn't miss it.

Men's March Madness is the basketball tournament you watch because you filled out a bracket, and have 100 bucks or a breakfast bagel riding on the outcome.

If it weren't for the bracket and the betting, today you'd have to admit that you could not care less about Florida Atlantic, UConn, Miami or San Diego State.

The men's Final Four will include a No. 4 seed, two No. 5 seeds and a No. 9 seed, and will begin with two games that couldn't have filled a neutral-site arena if played at midseason.

These teams made it this far because they are well-coached and cohesive, and because there are no longer great teams in men's college basketball.

If you want to rank the quality of play and intrigue surrounding America's prominent basketball offerings, men's basketball would now belong in fourth place, behind — in whatever order you like — the NBA, the WNBA and women's college basketball.

If you chose wisely this weekend, you watched the Timberwolves win a thrilling game in San Francisco against the Golden State

Warriors championship players, and a kid from Des Moines dominate a regional.

Clark's dominance this season might be upending some future WNBA draft boards.

She's eligible for the 2024 draft, meaning she has at least one more season at Iowa. She has talked about petitioning for an extra season, under the NCAA's COVID eligibility guidelines.

If she enters the 2024 draft, she could be in the same draft class as Hopkins and UConn great Paige Bueckers.

Conventional wisdom and some WNBA experts have always listed Bueckers ahead of Clark because of Bueckers' lifelong dominance, ball handling, clutch shooting and ability to run a team.

Clark might be creating an important debate about future WNBA point guards.

She's taller — 6-foot — and has added muscle in the last year. Bueckers is listed at a lean 5-11. Clark plays bigger

than her listed height while Bueckers plays like a traditional point guard.

While Bueckers is an excellent shooter, she prefers to pass. Clark is an excellent passer and an outrageous shooter, in terms of range and confidence.

Both are excellent leaders, with Clark being much more demonstrative.

Both have taken a college program to the Final Four, but Clark did so with a more dominant display and a program that has never been confused with a powerhouse.

Bueckers has been plagued by injuries. Clark has not.

The Lynx have the second pick in this year's draft, and could choose versatile Maryland wing Diamond Miller.

If the Lynx draft high again in 2024, they could hope to wind up with Bueckers or Clark. The consolation prize would be quite consoling.

Jim Souhan's podcast can be heard at TalkNorth.com. On Twitter: @SouhanStrib. jsouhan@startribune.com

BRIEFLY

Ravens QB Jackson asks to get traded

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lamar Jackson said Monday he has requested a trade from the Baltimore Ravens.

In a series of tweets, the star quarterback said he requested a trade as of March 2. On March 7, the Ravens put the nonexclusive franchise tag on Jackson and said they were still hopeful they could reach a long-term deal with him.

That version of the franchise tag allowed Jackson to negotiate with other teams, but it also gives Baltimore a chance to match any agreement he makes.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh spoke about Jackson at the league's owners meetings in Phoenix on Monday.

"I haven't seen the tweet. That's an ongoing process," Harbaugh said. "I'm following it very closely, just like everybody else is here, and looking forward to a resolution."

Jackson, the 2019 NFL MVP, doesn't have an agent. His passing and running ability make him one of the game's most unusual stars, but the 25-year-old also has been hurt at the end of the past two seasons.

Green Bay GM Brian Gutekunst said he is not requiring a first-round pick in a potential trade sending quarterback Aaron Rodgers to the New York Jets but added he would want "fair value," adding, "He's a premier player, so getting premier picks back for [premier] players is important." The four-time NFL MVP remains under contract with the Packers.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL Texas keeping Terry

Texas named Rodney Terry its men's basketball coach, removing the interim tag after he led the Longhorns to the Elite Eight following the mid-season firing of Chris Beard.

The announcement came barely 24 hours after the Longhorns' season ended when Texas was knocked out of the NCAA tournament by Miami (Fla.) on Sunday. Financial terms and years of the agreement were not immediately available.

Rewarding Terry with the promotion was no surprise. He took over the Longhorns as acting coach when Beard was first suspended on Dec. 12 after a felony domestic violence arrest. Terry was then given the title of interim head coach when Beard was fired Jan. 5. The charge against Beard was dismissed in February, and he has since been hired to coach Mississippi.

Wisconsin is the only Power Five team playing in the NIT semifinals Tuesday in Las Vegas. The Badgers play North Texas in the first semifinal, followed by Alabama-Birmingham and Utah Valley, with the winners facing Thursday.

SOCCER

Pepi, U.S. advance

Rcardo Pepi scored on his first touch of the match in the 62nd minute, and the United States men's soccer team beat El Salvador 1-0 in Orlando to reach the CONCACAF Nations League semifinals.

The Americans joined Mexico in the Nations League semifinals at Las Vegas on June 15, part of a final four that will include Canada or Honduras along with Costa Rica or Panama.

Pepi entered replaced Daryl Dike in the 60th minute and ran onto a pass Weston McKennie released at the midfield stripe. The 20-year-old striker took a touch, fought off an arm from defender Roberto Dominguez and chipped the ball with his right foot over goalkeeper Mario González for his sixth goal in 14 international appearances and third in two games.

AROUND THE HORN

MLB: The Chicago Cubs agreed to a \$35 million, three-year contract with infielder Nico Hoerner, who is moving back to second base this year after he was the team's regular shortstop in 2022. ... Milwaukee signed first baseman Luke Voit and designated Keston Hiura for assignment. The Brewers also indicated right-hander Gus Varland of North St. Paul had made the team.

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

Two top seeds head to Dallas

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aliyah Boston had 22 points and 10 rebounds, Zia Cooke scored 18 points and top-seeded South Carolina used its smothering defense to take control in the second quarter, outlasting second-seeded Maryland 86-75 on Monday night to reach its third consecutive Final Four.

Coach Dawn Staley's team improved to 36-0 this season with its 42nd consecutive victory dating to last year's NCAA title run. The Gamecocks are now two games away from repeating as champions and completing the 10th undefeated season in the women's game.

South Carolina play Iowa and star Caitlin Clark in the national semifinals on Friday night in Dallas. That can wait a bit. Her players deserve that, Staley said.

"I just want to enjoy this and just give our players an opportunity to be talked about," Staley said. "The joy that I feel for this team to be able to be where they are, I'm just really happy."

It is the Gamecocks' fifth Final Four since 2015, all under Staley.

Boston, the 6-5 senior All-America, made 10 of 14 shots, adding five assists and two blocks.

Maryland (28-7) was routed at home 81-56 by the Gamecocks on Nov. 11, but played without injured All-America Diamond Miller. With a healthy Miller and an offense averaging nearly 80 points a game, the Terrapins pushed the pace early, disrupting South Carolina's No. 1 defense and were ahead 21-15 as an edgy, pro-Gamecocks crowd in the Greenville 1 Regional wasn't sure what it was watching.



MIC SMITH • Associated Press

South Carolina's Aliyah Boston spun past-Maryland's Brinae Alexander for an open shot early in the Greenville 1 Regional final.

But the Gamecocks outscored the Terps 23-9 in the second quarter in building a 38-30 lead at halftime. The Gamecocks pulled away with a 14-3 third-quarter burst.

Seattle 3 Regional

Virginia Tech 84, Ohio State 74: The top-seeded Hokies (30-4), led by Elizabeth Kitley's 25 points and 12 rebounds and Georgia Amooore's 24 points, advanced to their first Final Four.

Kitley, the 6-6 center and leading scorer, took over inside in the second half. She scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter and her three-point play gave her team a 70-60 lead.

Taylor Mikesell scored 25 points to lead the third-seeded Buckeyes (28-8), but 19 came in the first half.

MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

Lower seeds make their presence felt in Final Four

March Madness has whittled down to the Final Four, and No. 1 seeds are nowhere to be found. Instead, the Final Four will have no team seeded better than No. 4 for the first time since seeding began in 1979.

No. 9 Florida Atlantic became the lowest-ever seed to make the Final Four after defeating Kansas State. Miami and San Diego State are in the Final Four for the first time. And UConn's back for the first time in nine years. There have been millions of busted brackets and only three games remain.

Here's a short look at who's left and who left the Big Dance early:

No. 5 San Diego St. (31-6) vs. No. 9 Fla. Atlantic (35-3) Saturday, 5:09 p.m. Ch. 4)

The Florida Atlantic Owls — Who? — extended their second appearance in the tournament with a 79-76 victory over Kansas State. The Conference USA champs are the winningest team in Division I and will face San Diego State in the national semifinals. The Aztecs beat Creighton when Darriion Tremell hit the second of two free throws with 1.2 seconds left. The Aztecs are the first Mountain West

team to advance this far. The Owls are the lowest seed left in the field.

No. 5 Miami, Fla. (29-7) vs. No. 4 UConn (29-8) Saturday, 7:49 p.m. (Ch. 4)

UConn has looked unstoppable since the NCAA tournament began, winning its four March Madness games by at least 15 points. The Huskies put on a show in Las Vegas in the Elite Eight, overwhelming Gonzaga at both ends in an 82-54 rout. They figure to get a stiffer test against Miami. Jim Larrañaga's Hurricanes have plenty of experience after playing in the Elite Eight last season and reached the Final Four by beating No. 2 seed Texas 88-81.

Top seeds disappear

The top four seeds were Alabama, Houston, Kansas and Purdue. Expectations for a chaotic tournament were quickly met: The Boilermakers were ousted by Fairleigh Dickinson in a first-round stunner and the defending champion Jayhawks lost to Arkansas and Houston didn't survive the second weekend.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TWINS PREVIEW WEEK

Shifts are gone. Will thrills come?

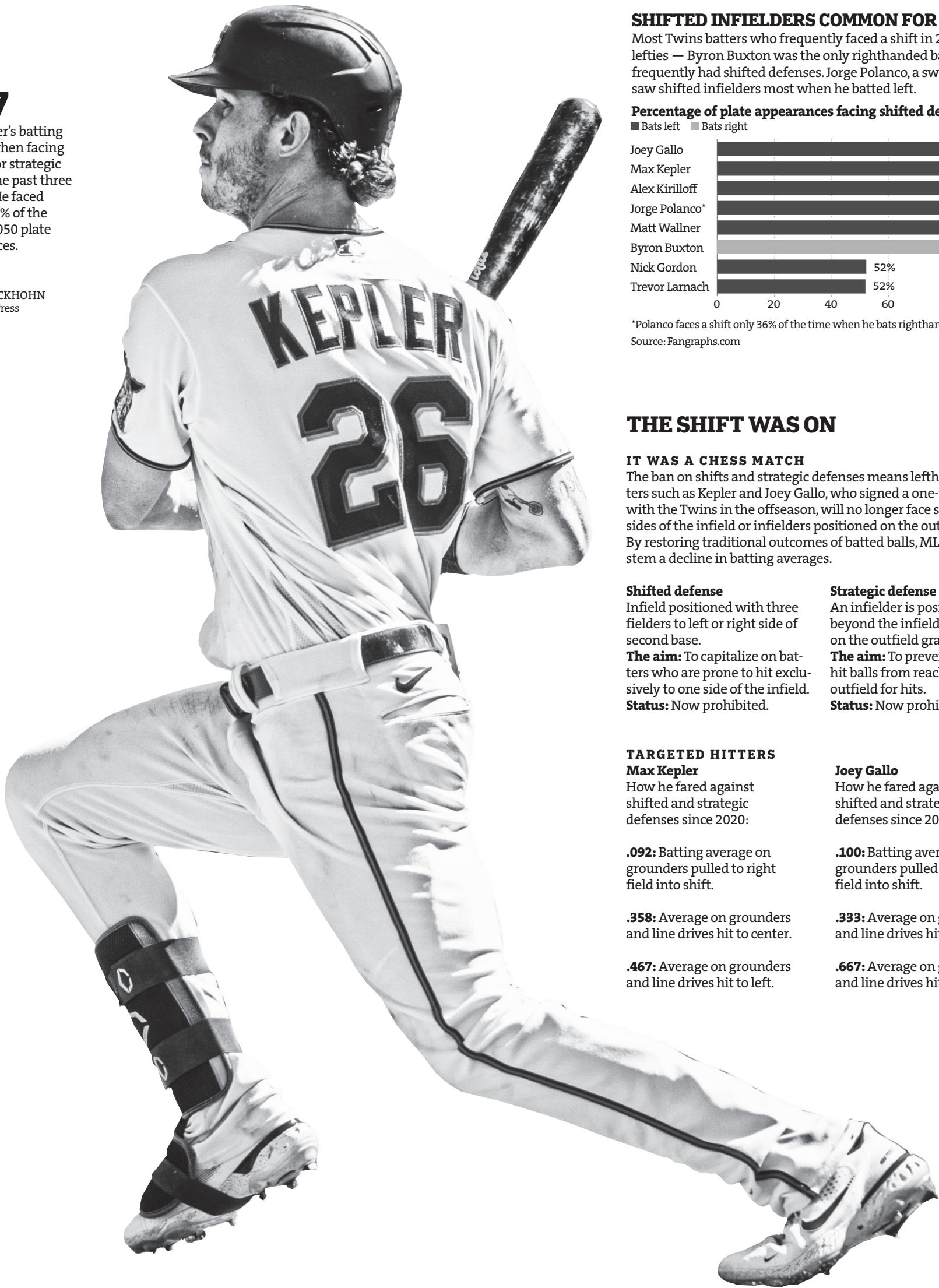
By MARYJO WEBSTER, JIM FOSTER, MARK BOSWELL and STEVE ZIMMERMAN • Star Tribune staff

The use of defensive shifts has jumped in recent years as a strategy vs. hitters prone to pulling the ball. It has been deployed against Twins hitters, especially lefthanded hitters. Just ask Max Kepler. With those shifts now banned, we'll see this season if Kepler and Co. improve at the plate. What we do know is that defensive shifts stifled several Twins hitters, and we explore that on this page.

.227

Max Kepler's batting average when facing a shifted or strategic defense the past three seasons. He faced them 93.3% of the time in 1,050 plate appearances.

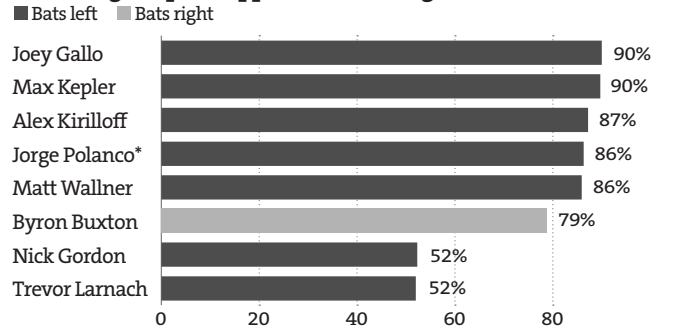
Photo by BRUCE KLUCKHOHN Associated Press



SHIFTED INFIELDBERS COMMON FOR SOME

Most Twins batters who frequently faced a shift in 2022 are lefties — Byron Buxton was the only righthanded batter who frequently had shifted defenses. Jorge Polanco, a switch hitter, saw shifted infielders most when he batted left.

Percentage of plate appearances facing shifted defense



*Polanco faces a shift only 36% of the time when he bats righthanded. Source: Fangraphs.com

THE SHIFT WAS ON

IT WAS A CHESS MATCH

The ban on shifts and strategic defenses means lefthanded hitters such as Kepler and Joey Gallo, who signed a one-year deal with the Twins in the offseason, will no longer face stacked sides of the infield or infielders positioned on the outfield grass. By restoring traditional outcomes of batted balls, MLB seeks to stem a decline in batting averages.

Shifted defense

Infield positioned with three fielders to left or right side of second base.
The aim: To capitalize on batters who are prone to hit exclusively to one side of the infield.
Status: Now prohibited.

Strategic defense

An infielder is positioned beyond the infield boundary on the outfield grass.
The aim: To prevent sharply hit balls from reaching the outfield for hits.
Status: Now prohibited.

TARGETED HITTERS

Max Kepler

How he fared against shifted and strategic defenses since 2020:

.092: Batting average on grounders pulled to right field into shift.

.358: Average on grounders and line drives hit to center.

.467: Average on grounders and line drives hit to left.

Joey Gallo

How he fared against shifted and strategic defenses since 2020:

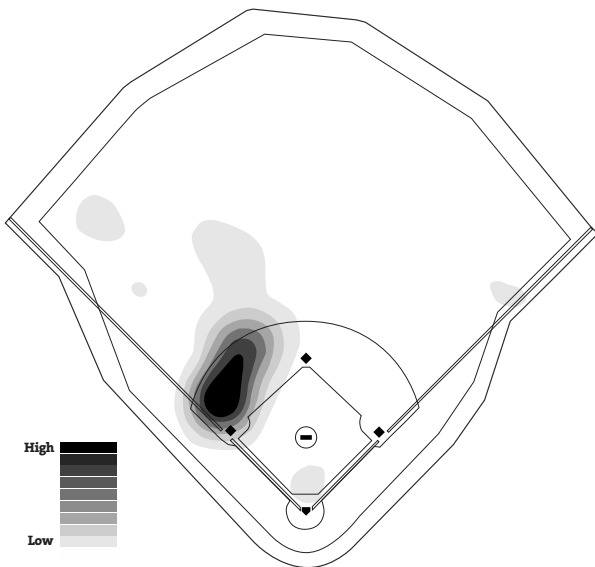
.100: Batting average on grounders pulled to right field into shift.

.333: Average on grounders and line drives hit to center.

.667: Average on grounders and line drives hit to left.

THE HEAT SHOWS UP

The major reason teams used shifts so frequently against select Twins hitters is because they had a tendency to pull the ball into expected areas of the field. The darkest shaded areas designate the highest concentrations of balls batted into play — and does not account for every ball put in play — for Byron Buxton, Max Kepler and Jorge Polanco in 2022.

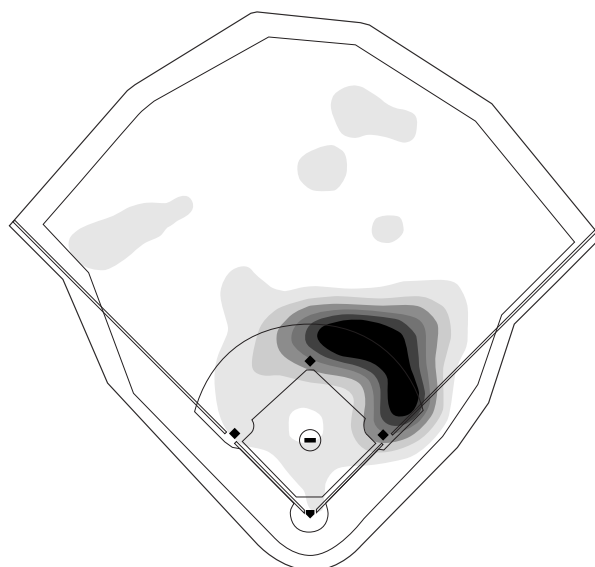


BYRON BUXTON • RIGHTHANDED

Hot-corner hot zone

Buxton's status as a power hitter has emerged in recent years and has included faster exit velocities of balls hit and greater home run frequency. What has also followed is a trend for Buxton, if he isn't hitting home runs (28 in 2022), to pull toward shortstop and third base.

	PA vs. shift	BIP vs. shift	BA vs. shift	BIP % into shift
2022	310	185	.206	54.5

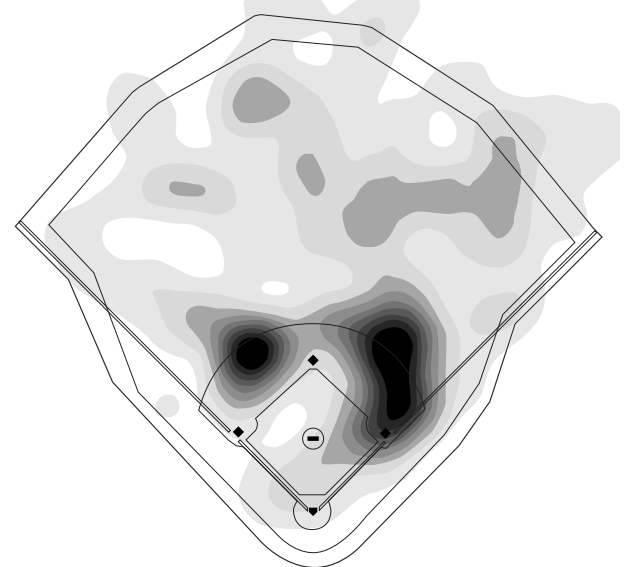


MAX KEPLER • LEFTHANDED

An unbalanced look

The scouting report on Kepler was clear last season: overload the right side of second base with fielders and challenge him to beat the shift. Oftentimes, he wasn't able to punch the ball through and instead hit ground balls between first and second 127 times.

	PA vs. shift	BIP vs. shift	BA into shift	BIP % vs. shift
2022	417	308	.235	41.2



JORGE POLANCO • SWITCH HITTER

More room for hits

As the lone switch hitter on the Twins, Polanco had the potential to be one of the least-shifted batters on the Twins with an ability to spray the ball to all fields. Instead, it was neutralized by his knack for pulling the ball into shifts.

	PA vs. shift	BIP vs. shift	BA into shift	BIP % vs. shift
2022	328	203	.234	50.7%

NHL



CARLOS GONZALEZ • cgonzalez@startribune.com

Matt Boldy had plenty of chances to celebrate Monday night, with his second hat trick in five games. Here he enjoyed one of his two second-period goals in the Wild's 5-1 victory over the Kraken.

Boldy's hat trick galvanizes Wild

WILD from CI

"Maybe a little more busy than usual in the first," said Fleury, who is 8-0-1 during his past nine starts. "I just tried to keep us in the game and tried to make the next stop. I always trust we can come back."

Did they ever.

With 4 minutes, 43 seconds to go in the first period, Middleton capitalized on a glove-side shot to register a career-high 15 points and become the Wild's 16th different scorer over the nine games the team has played without Kaprizov.

Then Boldy took over.

First, he ignited the power play from a 1-for-14 slump at 5:38 of the second after accepting a seam pass

from Marcus Johansson and skating inside for the blistering shot that's been headlining his recent uptick. The power play ended up 1-for-3, while Seattle went 0-for-3.

Next, Boldy scooped up a Joel Eriksson Ek faceoff win, curled away from pressure and banked a shot off the far post and behind Kraken goaltender Philipp Grubauer with 5:01 to go in the period.

This was Boldy's sixth multi-goal game of the season and third in the past five games, but he wasn't done scoring.

Only 50 seconds into the third, he rang another shot off the post to seal his first natural hat trick.

"Just putting it on a tee for me," Boldy

said. "Great pass by Jo-Jo on the first one. Then Ekky winning the faceoff, and Ekky putting it on a tee again. Those guys are playing awesome."

Boldy's 12 goals since the month started are tied with Arizona's Clayton Keller for the league lead. The winger is two goals shy of 30.

"He's on a tear right now," Eriksson Ek said. "I hope he can keep it up."

Seattle spoiled Fleury's shutout bid 39 seconds later when Jaden Schwartz pinballed a shot into the Wild net, but Boldy had already supplied the Wild with the cushion they would need.

"We've got a lot of games left," Boldy said. "Just kind of keep my confidence, keep playing the way I'm playing, and keep shooting."

GAME RECAP

STAR TRIBUNE'S THREE STARS

1. Matt Boldy, Wild: The winger scored his second hat trick in five games to sit two goals shy of 30.

2. Marc-Andre Fleury, Wild: The goaltender racked up 35 saves.

3. Joel Eriksson Ek, Wild: The center assisted on Boldy's last two goals.

BY THE NUMBERS

2 Natural hat tricks for the Wild this season (Boldy and Kirill Kaprizov Feb. 26 vs. Columbus), the first time that's happened in franchise history.

3 Hat tricks for Boldy in his NHL career, tied for second on the Wild's all-time list.

SARAH McLELLAN

WILD 5, SEATTLE 1

Seattle 0 0 1-1
Wild 1 2 2-5
First: 1. Wild—Middleton 3 (Spurgeon, Johansson), 15:17. **Penalties:** Schwartz, Sea (interference), 5:34; Goligoski, Wild (holding), 11:16; Foligno, Wild (tripping), 15:32.
Second: 2. Wild—Boldy 26 (Johansson, Spurgeon), 5:38, pp. 3. Wild—Boldy 27 (Eriksson Ek), 14:59. **Penalties:** Dunn, Sea (hooking), 5:08; Zuccarello, Wild (roughing), 7:54; Dunn, Sea (roughing), 7:54.
Third: 4. Wild—Boldy 28 (Eriksson Ek), 0:50. 5. Wild—Hartman 14 (Zuccarello, Merrill), 10:21. 6. Seattle—Schwartz 18 (Dunn, Geekie), 11:00. **Penalties:** Wild bench, served by Zuccarello (holding), 2:55; Donato, Sea (fighting), 2:55; Dewar, Wild (fighting), 2:55; Bjorkstrand, Sea (slashing), 4:10; Gourde, Sea (fighting), 18:41; Shaw, Wild (fighting), 18:41.
Shots: Seattle 13-13-10-36. Wild 5-7-8-20. **Power plays:** Seattle 0 of 3; Wild 1 of 3. **Goalies:** Seattle, Grubauer 14-13-4 (13-9). Wild, Fleury 24-13-4 (36-35). **A:** 19,291 (18,064). **Referees:** Francis Charron, Steve Kozari. **Linesmen:** Brandon Gawryletz, Tommy Hughes.

ROUNDUP



FRANK FRANKLIN II • Associated Press

Islanders goalie Ilya Sorokin stopped a shot on goal by the Devils' Dawson Mercer on Monday.

Islanders continue dominating Devils

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyle Palmieri had two goals and an assist, Ilya Sorokin made 30 saves and the host New York Islanders beat the New Jersey Devils 5-1 on Monday night.

Pierre Engvall, Bo Horvat and Zach Parise also scored for the Islanders, who stopped a two-game losing streak and moved three points ahead of Pittsburgh for the first wild card in the Eastern Conference.

Erik Haula scored for the Devils and Vitek Vanecek fin-

ished with 31 saves. New Jersey, which clinched a playoff spot with a win against Ottawa on Saturday, remained three points behind first-place Carolina in the Metropolitan Division.

Palmieri lifted a backhand past Vanecek with 5:38 left in the middle period to snap a 1-1 tie then scored an insurance goal with 4:35 left in the third.

The Islanders improved to 16-5-0 in their past 21 games against the Devils, including 8-3-0 at home.

Montreal 4, Buffalo 3 (SO): Michael Pezzetta scored the

decisive shootout goal and the Canadiens avoided playoff elimination by rallying over the host Sabres. Brendan Gallagher forced overtime by scoring his 200th career goal in capping a 3-on-2 rush with a shot from the right circle 8:35 into the third period. Jordan Harris and Alex Belzile also scored for Montreal.

Colorado 5, Anaheim 1: After giving up the game's first score, the Avalanche scored five unanswered goals to rout the host Ducks.

WILD NOTES

It's a three-way chase in Central

By SARAH McLELLAN
sarah.mclellan@startribune.com

The Wild have only one division championship in franchise history, the Northwest title from 2008, but they have emerged as a contender for the Central Division crown with two-plus weeks to go.

"We want to be first," said winger **Matt Boldy**, who scored a hat trick in a 5-1 victory over the Seattle Kraken on Monday. "We want to win every game. To kind of have it start coming all together in a way and playing good hockey, it's exciting."

Dallas sat atop the Central for two months before the Wild ended that reign Saturday, their victory coupled with a loss by the Stars to lift them into the top seed for the first time since Dec. 28, 2021.

But this isn't a two-team race: Defending Stanley Cup champion Colorado is also in the mix. Like the Wild, the Avalanche played and won Monday night, 5-1 at Anaheim. These teams will then go head-to-head Wednesday when the Wild begin a two-game road trip. Colorado and Dallas do have one game in hand over the Wild, who have only eight contests left on their calendar.

Of the three rivals, the Wild and Avalanche would

appear to have the toughest remaining schedules; the Wild and Colorado each have five games left vs. opponents in a playoff position. As for the Stars, they will face only two teams in a playoff spot.

"If you're first place in the Central, it's a great year," Wild winger **Marcus Foligno** said. "That's what we're all striving for. We know no matter what, playoffs are playoffs. It's always a tough road. You're always going to have battles. Just to see how hard we worked throughout the season to be in this position, it's a good feeling. We want the No. 1 spot."

Alumni spotlight

The Wild have launched an alumni association to help former players reconnect and provide opportunities with the organization on and off the ice.

Nearly 300 players have skated in a game for the Wild and more than 40 of those alumni currently live in Minnesota. A committee made up of select alumni, Wild front-office personnel, community members and local personalities will be created.

The team also announced a "Crazy Game of Hockey" charity event with the band O.A.R. and Grammy-nominated guitarist **Cory Wong** on

July 7 and 8 in the Twin Cities to help promote the Wild Alumni Association.

There will be a celebrity hockey game at Tria Rink in St. Paul and a concert at the Armory in Minneapolis as well as a VIP event at the Pantages Theatre. Tickets include admission to all three events.

Star power

Goaltender **Filip Gustavsson** was named the NHL's third star of the week for the second time this season.

Gustavsson, who backed up **Marc-Andre Fleury** Monday vs. Seattle, went 2-0 last week while stopping 69 of the 71 shots he faced for a 0.96 goals-against average and .972 save percentage. Before helping the Wild to a 3-1 win over Chicago on Saturday, Gustavsson posted a career-high 47 saves during a 2-1 overtime victory at New Jersey last Tuesday; 25 of those stops came in the third period and overtime.

Injury update

John Klingberg missed a third consecutive game because of an upper-body injury, but the defenseman will travel with the Wild on their upcoming trip.

The team still made one switch on defense against the Kraken, subbing **Jon Merrill** in for **Calen Addison**.

PREPS BOYS BASKETBALL

Asuma wants to build on trips to state

The Cherry standout has another year to try for a state title before joining the Gophers.

By MARCUS FULLER • marcus.fuller@startribune.com

Gophers recruit Isaac Asuma didn't get to finish the season the way he had hoped for with a Class 1A championship...

The 6-3 junior guard was named to the all-tournament team after Cherry ended its season with a fourth-place finish last week.

The highlight of Asuma's state tournament trip was playing at Williams Arena in front of his future coach Ben Johnson and the Gophers staff...

"It was just an awesome experience to get more of a feel of Williams Arena on the court," Asuma said. "It's always fun to play there."

A year ago, Asuma erupted for 36 points in a state semifinal loss to Hayfield at the Barn. He didn't have the same high-scoring game this time, but Asuma was thrilled to get the win.

"Last year, I had a crazy stretch of scoring there and it was a lot of fun," he said. "This year I didn't get as many minutes as I wanted, but it was still a fun experience with my team to win."

Asuma finished with 11 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists when he was limited to 22 minutes with foul trouble in the quarterfinals vs. Border West. In the semifinals, Asuma overcame early foul trouble to lead Cherry with 21 points and seven rebounds...

As the state's No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2024, Asuma averaged 21 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for a 27-6 team this season.

"I want to become a better on-ball defender and shooter," he said on his offseason goals. "I want to be a better all-around player and sharpen everything up."

Cherry reached its first state tournament since 1997 last year, but now the Tigers return all but one player from back-to-back state tourney teams, including Asuma's brother (freshman Noah Asuma) and cousin (eighth-grader Isaiah Asuma).

"It was really big for all of us," Asuma said about reaching state again. "We're going to be back and we're going to win it next year."

The Gophers finished 9-22 this season, but Asuma said previously he understood why Johnson's team had a tough time with consistency due to injuries and inexperience.

"I know this season hasn't had a lot of highs with the wins, but I still know they're playing a bunch of young guys," he said. "Some injuries happened they weren't expecting. They can't control the injuries, which are a big part of that. I think the direction they're heading with the young guys getting more experience is a good way to go about it."

MINNESOTA SCENE

U men's track and field is No. 1 for first time

STAFF REPORTS

The Gophers men's track and field team earned its first No. 1 team ranking in school history following another stellar showing at national events last week.

The U.S. Track and Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association announced the Gophers on top of the team rankings Monday since they currently have four athletes No. 1 in their events nationally.

The Gophers compete in outdoor track but haven't competed in indoor track since the indoor program was cut following the 2021 season.

The top individuals in the country for the Gophers are Kion Benjamin (100 meters), Devin Augustine (200), Matthew Wilkinson (3,000 steeplechase) and Isaiah Schaffer (shot put). Hammer thrower Kostas Zaltos and pole vaulter Jak Urlacher are ranked second and third in the nation as of Monday, respectively.

On Friday, Augustine broke his own 200-meter school record with a time of 20.49 seconds at the Raleigh Relays at North Carolina State.

Also in North Carolina, the All-America Wilkinson finished runner-up in the 3,000-meter steeplechase event on Thursday. He had the top college time at the meet at 8:29.35.

At the Clyde Hart Classic at Baylor, Zaltos won the hammer throw event by setting a lifetime best mark of 240 feet, 8 inches. That distance ranks No. 2 in the NCAA and No. 15 in the world this year.

Benjamin also posted his collegiate career-best mark in Waco, Texas, by winning the 100 in 10.13 seconds, which ranks No. 1 in the NCAA this season.

MARCUS FULLER

Assistants follow Plitzuweit

New Gophers women's basketball coach Dawn Plitzuweit announced her coaching staff, and as hinted, it's a reunion of her staff from West Virginia.

After having moved with Plitzuweit from South Dakota to West Virginia a year ago, Jason Jeschke, Aaron Horn and Ariel Braker will be coming to Minnesota.

As he was at West Virginia, Jeschke will be associate head coach. He has been with Plitzuweit since coming to South Dakota in 2017. Horn came to South Dakota in 2016. Braker — a two-year starter and three-time captain as a player at Notre Dame who played in three NCAA title games — was with Plitzuweit for a year at South Dakota before going to West Virginia.

KENT YOUNGBLOOD

BASEBALL

MLB • SPRING TRAINING

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct. Lists MLB teams and their spring training records.

NATIONAL W L Pct. Atlanta 17 10 .630 Chicago 16 12 .571 Los Angeles 14 12 .538

RESULTS MONDAY Twins 8, Pittsburgh 4 Arizona 7, Cleveland 6 Atlanta 6, Boston 1 Chicago Cubs 6, Chicago White Sox 6, tie

GAMES TUESDAY Twins vs. Pittsburgh, 12:05 pm Toronto vs. Philadelphia, 11:05 am N.Y. Yankees vs. Washington, 11:05 am

COLLEGE • MEN NSIC MSU Mankato 4, Minot State 3 North St. 14, Winona St. 13 Sioux Falls 18, Bemidji St. 4

BASKETBALL TIMBERWOLVES STATISTICS (Through Sunday) Player G Min Pts Reb Ast

Edwards.....72 36.0 24.6 5.8 4.4 Towns.....23 33.3 20.5 7.9 5.1 Robert.....63 30.7 13.8 11.6 1.1

COLLEGE • MEN NSIT At Las Vegas Semifinals • Tuesday North Texas vs. Wisconsin, 6 pm

COLLEGE • WOMEN WHIT Quarterfinals • Monday Bowling Green 69, Florida 52

SEMIFINALS • APRIL 6 Gophers vs. Boston U., 4 pm Michigan vs. Quinnipiac, 7:30 pm

CHAMPIONSHIP • APRIL 8 Semifinal winners, 7 pm

SOCCER

MLS WESTERN W L T Pt GF GA

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pt, GF, GA. Lists Western MLS teams and their records.

COLLEGE • MEN

NSIT At Las Vegas Semifinals • Tuesday North Texas vs. Wisconsin, 6 pm

COLLEGE • WOMEN WHIT Quarterfinals • Monday Bowling Green 69, Florida 52

SEMIFINALS • TUESDAY Bowling Green vs. Columbia Kansas vs. Washington

NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT Championship • Saturday Minn. Duluth vs. Ashland, 2:30 pm

LACROSSE

COLLEGE • WOMEN

UPPER MIDWEST St. Benedict 14, Beloit 4

HOCKEY

WILD STATISTICS (Through Sunday) SCORING GP G A PTS +/- PIM

Table with columns: Player, GP, G, A, PTS, +/-, PIM. Lists Wild players and their stats.

NHL STANDINGS/SUMMARIES

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL GP W L OT PT GF GA Wild 74 43 22 9 95 224 199

PACIFIC GP W L OT PT GF GA Vegas 73 46 21 6 98 242 205

ATLANTIC GP W L OT PT GF GA y-Boston 73 57 11 5119 275 157

NEW JERSEY 5, NEW JERSEY 1 New Jersey 0 1-0-1 N.Y. Islanders 1 1-3-5

OTTAWA 5, FLORIDA 2 Florida.....0 1 1-2 Ottawa.....2 1 2-5

MONDAY Wild 5, Seattle 1 Colorado 5, Anaheim 1

TUESDAY Boston 4, Carolina 3, SO Colorado 4, Arizona 3, SO

WEDNESDAY Wild at Colorado, 9 pm Florida at Toronto, 6:30 pm

NCAA TOURNAMENT REGIONAL FINALS

MEN EAST REGIONAL

FINAL • SATURDAY Florida Atlantic 79, Kansas St. 76

SOUTH REGIONAL FINAL • SUNDAY San Diego St. 57, Creighton 56

MIDWEST REGIONAL FINAL • SUNDAY Miami (Fla.) 88, Texas 81

WEST REGIONAL FINAL • SATURDAY UConn 82, Gonzaga 54

FINAL FOUR AT HOUSTON Semifinals • Next Saturday Fla. Atlantic vs. San Diego St., 5:09 pm

MIAMI OPEN Round of 32 • Miami Gardens, Fla. • Karen Khachanov (14) def. Jiri Lehecka, 6-2, 6-4

• Stefanos Tsitsipas (2) def. Cristian Garin, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

• Quentin Halys def. Mackenzie McDonald, 7-6 (2), 6-3

• Francisco Cerundolo (2), 6-2, def. Felix Auger-Aliassime (5), 6-2, 7-5

• Daniil Medvedev (4) def. Alex Molcan, walkover

• Adrian Mannarino def. Hubert Hurkacz (8), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (0)

• Christopher Eubanks def. Gregoire Barrere, 6-3, 7-6 (7)

• Lorenzo Sonego def. Frances Tiafoe (12), 6-3, 6-4

PRO • WOMEN MIAMI OPEN Round of 32 • Miami Gardens, Fla.

• Martina Trevisan (25) def. Jelena Ostapenko (24), 6-3, 6-3

• Anastasia Potapova (27) def. Zheng Qinwen (23), 6-4, 7-6 (4)

• Jessica Pegula (3) def. Magda Linette (20), 6-1, 7-5

• Sorana Cirstea def. Marketa Vondrousova, 7-6 (3), 6-4

• Elena Rybakina (10) def. Elise Mertens, 6-4, 6-3

• Petra Kvitova (15) def. Varvara Gracheva, 7-5, 7-6 (5)

• Ekaterina Alexandrova (18) def. Bianca Andreescu, 7-6 (0), 0-2, ret.

• Aryna Sabalenka (2) def. Barbora Krejickova (16), 6-3, 6-2

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago: Acquired RHP Carlos Guzman from Detroit in exchange for INF Zach McKinstry.

FOOTBALL NFL

Atlanta: Signed DE Joe Gaziano.

Buffalo: Signed S Taylor Rapp to a one-year contract.

Cincinnati: Re-signed WR Trent Taylor to a one-year contract. Signed CB Sidney Jones to a one-year contract.

Indianapolis: Re-signed DE Khalid Kareem.

Jacksonville: Signed DLs Michael Dogbe and Henry Mondeval.

L.A. Rams: Re-signed DL Marquise Copeland to a one-year contract.

New Orleans: Signed WR Bryan Edwards.

San Francisco: Signed OL Matt Pryor.

AWARDS

MIAC: Named the following athletes of the week: Joe Becker of St. John's (baseball player), Gustavus Luke Siegle (baseball pitcher), Gustavus Caitlin Olafsson (softball player), St. Olaf's Mady'n Singleton (softball pitcher), Gustavus Jack Bergmeyer (men's tennis) and St. Olaf's Otha Zubarevic (women's tennis).

NSIC: Named the following athletes of the week: Augustana's Andrea Cain (softball player), Augustana's Hailley Houston (softball pitcher), Augustana's Florentia Hadjigeorgiou (women's tennis), Augustana's Colten Brand and Wayne State's Logan Moeller (men's track and field), Augustana's Patty Jo English and MSU Marquette's Lexie Hurst (women's track and field).

UMAC: Named the following athletes of the week: Northland's Peyton Solberg (baseball player), Northland's Zack Nelson (baseball pitcher), Bethany Lutherer's Ana Christopherson (softball player), Bethany Lutherer's Kayla Sene (softball pitcher), Wis.-Superior's Mateus Miranda Silvestre and Greenville's Rafael Rodriguez (men's tennis) and Wis.-Superior's Andreina Tejada and Webster's Maddie Mena (women's tennis).

NBA STANDINGS/SUMMARIES

WESTERN CONFERENCE

1-Denver-y 51 24 680 -8

2-Memphis-y 47 27 635 3½

3-Sacramento 45 20 600 36

4-Phoenix 40 35 533 11

5-L.A. Clippers 39 36 520 12

6-Golden State 39 37 513 12½

7-Timberwolves 39 37 513 12½

8-New Orleans 38 37 507 13

9-L.A. Lakers 37 38 493 14

10-Dallas 37 39 487 14½

Oklahoma City 36 39 480 15

Utah 35 40 467 16

Portland 33 42 440 18

San Antonio 19 56 253 32

Houston 18 58 237 33½

EASTERN CONFERENCE

1-Milwaukee-x 54 21 720 -

2-Boston-x 52 23 693 2

3-Philadelphia-x 49 26 653 5

4-New York-x 48 28 632 6½

5-New York 43 33 566 11½

6-Brooklyn 40 35 533 14

7-Miami 40 35 533 14

8-Atlanta 37 38 493 17

9-Toronto 37 38 493 17

10-Chicago 36 38 486 17½

Washington 33 42 440 21

Indiana 33 43 434 21½

Orlando 35 41 427 22

Charlotte 25 51 329 29½

Detroit 16 59 213 38

Note: x - clinched playoff spot; y - clinched division; Teams seeded 7-10 in each conference will compete in play-in tournament at end of regular season.

MONDAY

Wolves 119, Sacramento 115 Dallas 127, Indiana 104

Denver 116, Philadelphia 111 Milwaukee 126, Detroit 117

New Orleans 124, Portland 90 Phoenix 117, Utah 103

Chicago at L.A. Clippers, late

SUNDAY

Wolves 99, Golden State 96 Boston 137, San Antonio 93

Charlotte 110, Dallas 104 Chicago 118, L.A. Lakers 108

Cleveland 108, Houston 91 Memphis 113, Atlanta 119

Orlando 119, Brooklyn 106 Portland 112, Oklahoma City 108

Toronto 114, Washington 104

TUESDAY

Boston at Washington, 6 pm Cleveland at Atlanta, 6:30 pm

Miami at Toronto, 6:30 pm Charlotte at Oklahoma City, 7 pm

Orlando at Memphis, 7 pm New Orleans at Golden State, 9 pm

WEDNESDAY

Wolves at Phoenix, 9 pm Milwaukee at Indiana, 6 pm

Dallas at Philadelphia, 6:30 pm Houston at Brooklyn, 6:30 pm

Miami at New York, 6:30 pm Detroit at Oklahoma City, 7 pm

L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 7 pm Utah at San Antonio, 7 pm

Sacramento at Portland, 9 pm

SCOREBOARD

WOMEN GREENVILLE (S.C.) 1

FINAL • MONDAY South Carolina 86, Maryland 75

GREENVILLE (S.C.) 2 FINAL • SUNDAY LSU 54, Miami 42

SEATTLE 3 FINAL • MONDAY Virginia Tech 84, Ohio State 74

SEATTLE 4 FINAL • SUNDAY Iowa 97, Louisville 83

FINAL FOUR AT DALLAS Semifinals • Friday LSU vs. Virginia Tech, 6 pm

Iowa vs. South Carolina, 8 pm Championship • Next Sunday Semifinal winners, 2 pm

TENNIS

PRO • MEN MIAMI OPEN

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Buffalo: Signed S Taylor Rapp to a one-year contract.

Cincinnati: Re-signed WR Trent Taylor to a one-year contract. Signed CB Sidney Jones to a one-year contract.

Indianapolis: Re-signed DE Khalid Kareem.

Jacksonville: Signed DLs Michael Dogbe and Henry Mondeval.

L.A. Rams: Re-signed DL Marquise Copeland to a one-year contract.

New Orleans: Signed WR Bryan Edwards.

San Francisco: Signed OL Matt Pryor.

AWARDS

MIAC: Named the following athletes of the week: Joe Becker of St. John's (baseball player), Gustavus Luke Siegle (baseball pitcher), Gustavus Caitlin Olafsson (softball player), St. Olaf's Mady'n Singleton (softball pitcher), Gustavus Jack Bergmeyer (men's tennis) and St. Olaf's Otha Zubarevic (women's tennis).

NSIC: Named the following athletes of the week: Augustana's Andrea Cain (softball player), Augustana's Hailley Houston (softball pitcher), Augustana's Florentia Hadjigeorgiou (women's tennis), Augustana's Colten Brand and Wayne State's Logan Moeller (men's track and field), Augustana's Patty Jo English and MSU Marquette's Lexie Hurst (women's track and field).

UMAC: Named the following athletes of the week: Northland's Peyton Solberg (baseball player), Northland's Zack Nelson (baseball pitcher), Bethany Lutherer's Ana Christopherson (softball player), Bethany Lutherer's Kayla Sene (softball pitcher), Wis.-Superior's Mateus Miranda Silvestre and Greenville's Rafael Rodriguez (men's tennis) and Wis.-Superior's Andreina Tejada and Webster's Maddie Mena (women's tennis).

NBA STANDINGS/SUMMARIES

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DALLAS 127, INDIANA 104 Dallas.....29 30 40 28 - 127

Indiana.....27 20 27 30 - 104 Dallas: Bullock 47 0-0 11, Hardaway Jr. 4-8 3-14, Powell 2-3 0-0, Donic 8-17

5-25, Irving 7-11 1-16, Bertans 2-2 0-0, Morris 1-3 0-0, Wood 3-6 0-0, McGee 4-5 2-3 10, Pinson 0-0 0-0, Holiday 1-2 2-2,



PREPS EXTRA



METRO GYMNAST OF THE YEAR



BRENNAN SCHACHTNER • Special to the Star Tribune
Reagan Kelley of Watertown-Mayer/Mound Westonka backed up her first state title with a second this year.

Repeat all-around title was lonely road

By **JIM PAULSEN** • james.paulsen@startribune.com

How do you follow a state championship when much of your previous team — i.e., your support network — has graduated?

If you're Reagan Kelley, you shut out distractions and work harder.

After consistently posting many of the highest event scores in the metro during the regular season, the Watertown-Mayer/Mound Westonka senior gymnast won her second consecutive Class 1A all-around title at the state meet, outscoring Big Lake rival Brittany Krumrei 38.5-38.15.

Along the way, Kelley, one of few on her team who attends school at Mound Westonka, won the vault and finished second on the balance beam, the uneven parallel bars and the floor exercise.

Kelley is the Star Tribune's Metro Gymnast of the Year, just as she was in 2021-22.

As fulfilling as it was to win a second all-around title, Kelley said doing it on her own, without so many of the teammates who had surrounded her in 2022 when they also won the Class 1A team title, was a little isolating.

At the end of the 2021-22 season, she and teammate Anna Mielke dueled to the wire for the all-around title.

"I am so happy with how my season went, and I'm so proud of the team. I know I personally did as well as I possibly could," said Kelley, who will take her gymnastics skills to Winona State next season.

"Last year, because I was doing it with Anna and she was a friend, it was a distraction from the pressure. This year, because I was competing against people I don't know very well, it was a little more stressful."

She credited her ability to shut out the outside noise as she won her second title, but she admitted to one small regret.

"I wish I would have soaked up the moment a little more," she said. "It was a pretty stressful day."

METRO WRESTLER OF THE YEAR



ALEX KORMANN • alex.kormann@startribune.com
Waconia wrestler Max McEnelly celebrated after defeating Stillwater's Ryder Rogotzke in the Class 3A 195-pound final.

From meet's biggest match, another title

By **JIM PAULSEN** • james.paulsen@startribune.com

Max McEnelly never really understood the dramatic buildup.

A Waconia senior wrestler, McEnelly had been successful in previous matchups with Stillwater's Ryder Rogotzke. He still feels the hype surrounding their highly anticipated bout in the Class 3A, 195-pound final at the wrestling state meet — arguably the most anticipated match of the tournament — was fine for the interest it drew to wrestling and as a learning tool, but he never felt like it was the tossup many believed.

McEnelly, headed to the Gophers for college, and Rogotzke, bound for Ohio State, were certainly both prominent but ...

"I beat him the last three times we wrestled," McEnelly said. "I know a lot of people wanted to see that match because we're both highly recruited, and he's so good he can pin anybody, but I knew I could win again if I just wrestled my match."

He did, scoring two points with a third-period takedown and holding on for a 3-2 victory. Not only did McEnelly win the showcase showdown, he won his fourth individual state championship, becoming the 30th in state history to win four.

All that made him the Star Tribune's 2022-23 Metro Wrestler of the Year.

McEnelly admitted that winning the final match of his high school career, after the buildup and the challenges thrown his way by Rogotzke, was a little more special.

"I obviously want to win every match, but I probably did want to win it a little more," said McEnelly, who will spend the next few months competing for U.S. Open and world junior championships before he joins the Gophers.

"Mostly because it was my last one and I was going for four [championships]. I've got a lot of great memories of good times and hard times with my team and my teammates. They've all been in my corner and believed in me. I never could have done any of it without them."

METRO BOYS SWIMMER OF THE YEAR



AARON LAVINSKY • aaron.lavinsky@startribune.com
At the state meet, Eden Prairie senior Luke Logue won two races, swam legs on two winning relays and a team title.

Fantastic at state from start to finish

By **JOE GUNTHER** • joe.gunther@startribune.com

Luke Logue entered the 2023 boys swimming and diving state meet as the two-time defending champion in the 100 backstroke.

Logue, a senior, took home a third title in that event, and he added first-place finishes in three others.

His performance propelled Eden Prairie to an upset of Edina for the Class 2A championship and made him the Star Tribune Metro Boys Swimmer of the Year.

Besides that 100 backstroke three-peat, Logue also won the 200 individual medley and swam legs on the winning 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays.

"He was the first person to swim for us in the meet, and he was the last person," Eagles coach Kelly Boston said. "He swam the first leg of the first relay and the last leg of the last relay. That just kind of defined what he did for the team."

Logue, who has committed to Notre Dame, became the sixth swimmer since 1924 to win the 100 backstroke three consecutive years. That is his preferred event.

"I'm joining great company in terms of being able to win three years. I think it is a really cool accomplishment," Logue said.

The 200 medley is not an event Logue likes to swim; he does it out of necessity. In his first two tries at the state meet he finished in the top five. He broke through this year, despite an illness that troubled him on meet day.

Logue teamed with Brian Shi, Drew Ploof and Matthew Lillejord to win the 200 medley relay and with Eric Howard, Lillejord and Charlie Folks to win the 400 freestyle relay.

"I love swimming individuals because you're in complete control and you're the only one accountable," Logue said. "But in relays you can have a much bigger impact worth double points. If you can put out a really great split, you can change the course of an entire meet. I really enjoy the relays for the group effort part of it and also the ability to have a really impactful swim."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Healthy enough to win title again

TAISON CHATMAN
Totino-Grace • basketball

The Eagles are a different team with a healthy and focused Chatman.



Chatman had 20 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and two steals as Totino-Grace successfully defended its Class 3A championship with a 50-46 victory over DeLaSalle on Saturday night at Target Center. "It's a great accomplishment to go back to back," Chatman said. "It's really special." The 6-4 guard, an Ohio State recruit, struggled at times through a tremulous season. He suffered a medial collateral ligament injury to his left knee last June and lost a close friend before the start of the season in November. "I faced a lot of adversity," Chatman said. "It's been a tough season." Chatman persevered in the state tournament. He had 16 points and five assists in the quarterfinals vs. St. Francis and 12 points and nine assists in the semifinals vs. Alexandria. "I will take any version of Taison," Eagles coach Nick Carroll said. "But healthy in mind, body and spirit is preferred."

JACKSON MCANDREW
Wayzata • basketball

Nobody elevated his stock more than McAndrew in the state tournament.



The 6-9 junior guard had 25 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots in the Trojans' 75-71 overtime victory over defending state champion Park Center in the Class 4A final, avenging last year's loss in the championship game. He scored 13 of the Trojans' final 14 points. McAndrew averaged 22.3 points and eight rebounds per game in the state tournament. He was 21-for-40 from the field and 15-for-16 from the free-throw line.

RON HAGGSTROM

NOTES



Hopkins guard Liv McGill, scoring against Stillwater in the Class 4A state tournament at Williams Arena, is ranked No. 14 nationwide in the Class of 2024.

Hopkins' McGill chooses to play for Gators

STAFF REPORTS

Florida women's basketball coach **Kelly Rae Finley** made the trek back to Minnesota for the girls basketball state tournament championship games. It paid off.

Hopkins junior **Liv McGill** revealed Sunday on Twitter that she has verbally committed — "1000% committed," she tweeted — to the Gators. A 5-7 point guard, McGill averaged 14 points per game for the Class 4A state runner-up Royals (28-3).

McGill is the nation's No. 14 recruit in the Class of 2024, according

to ESPN's HoopGurlz rankings. McGill is No. 2 in Minnesota in the class, behind Benilde-St. Margaret's **Olivia Olson**, who ranks seventh nationally.

Two of McGill's senior teammates, guard **Nunu Agara** and forward **Taylor Woodson**, also signed letters of intent with major conference programs earlier this season. The 5-11 Agara signed with Stanford, and the 6-0 Woodson is headed to Michigan.

Finley, a Breck standout in high school (1999-2003), was elevated from Gators interim coach in February 2022. Her Florida team played a

WNIT quarterfinal against Bowling Green on Monday night.

RON HAGGSTROM

Osterman switches to U

Cade Osterman, a state champion as Elk River's quarterback and the 2022 Mr. Football, announced Sunday on Twitter his plan to switch his college commitment from Iowa State to the Gophers.

Osterman, whose father, **Aaron**, caught 111 passes and scored seven touchdowns as a Gophers wide receiver from 1991 through '94, accepted a preferred walk-on offer from Gophers coach **P.J. Fleck**.

At 6-1 and 185 pounds, Osterman is expected to play receiver in college.

"This was my dream school growing up," Osterman told Gopher Illustrated. "My dad played on the team in the early '90s and I've grown up following the team and caring a lot about the program."

Osterman quarterbacked Elk River to a 13-0 record and the Class 5A state championship in the fall, rushing for 1,453 yards and 20 touchdowns while running the Elks' power-T offense.

He was named Minnesota Mr. Football by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association in December.

JIM PAULSEN

BUSINESS

Utility's pilot tries to put CO2 to use

CarbinX machine captures carbon dioxide to produce key ingredient for making soap.

By MIKE HUGHLETT
mike.hughlett@startribune.com

The big black box in the boiler room at the Radisson Blu hotel in Bloomington looks a bit like something out of a science fiction movie. Inside, chemical reactions are turning carbon dioxide into grist for soap-making.

The CarbinX machine is part of a CenterPoint Energy pilot program aimed at capturing carbon dioxide and boosting energy efficiency.

"Decarbonization of the gas system is becoming more important to CenterPoint and the state of Minnesota," said Todd Berreman, energy efficiency director at CenterPoint. Indeed, gas utilities are under pressure from regulators and environmental groups to slash CO2 emissions.

"This is a piece of the pie," Berreman said.

It's a very small piece now, but an intriguing one. The CarbinX machine, developed by Calgary, Alberta-based

Clean O2, sucks in flue exhaust from natural gas water heaters and boilers. The machine is stocked with potassium hydroxide, which is transformed into potassium carbonate, an ingredient for soap and other cleaners.

Currently, CarbinX machines capture 25% of the CO2 in flue exhaust, but the company's CEO and founder, Jaeson Cardiff, said a new model that would capture 50% of CO2 emissions is due out as early as this year. He said 100% carbon capture is feasible.

Clean O2's market is commercial buildings, and the company often works closely

with utilities to deploy its machines.

Houston-based CenterPoint, Minnesota's largest gas utility, recently launched a pilot program paying for the \$25,000 machines. The first of 10 was installed at Guardian Angels, an assisted-living center in Elk River. The CarbinX machine at the Radisson Blu was deployed last week.

"We were very interested in the project because of our sustainability culture," said Alberto Abreu, general manager of the Radisson Blu Mall of America. "Hopefully, this will incentivize other hotels

See **CARBON** on D6 ▶



SHARIL GROSS • Star Tribune

A CarbinX unit, which is about the size of two refrigerators, has been installed at Radisson Blu at the Mall of America.

PLANS FALL INTO PLACE AT FLOYD SQUARE

NEAL ST. ANTHONY

The Minneapolis-based Graves Foundation has acquired the largest commercial structure at the intersection where George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police in 2020 — a good thing in a neighborhood marked by tumult, despair and economic decline.

The foundation last week closed on the \$1.1 million deal for 3828-40 Chicago Av., paying less than half the price sought in 2019 by the former longtime owner.

The plan is for the several-door commercial-residential property to be refreshed, restocked and managed by veteran Powderhorn neighborhood developer-manager Dan Coleman and his partner, businessman P.J. Hill. They will buy the building from Graves over several years.

"We are doing this through our Graves Ventures," said Bill Graves, president of the foundation. "Our commitment is to see Dan and P.J. move into full ownership of the building and we seek to break even. Not to make a buck."

Grateful entrepreneurs John and Denise Graves formed the foundation, based in nearby Midtown Exchange on Lake Street, after the sale of their tax-software company. They plan to donate and invest \$100 million over time on behalf of disadvantaged youths in Hennepin County and economic development in diverse, low-income neighborhoods.

Bill Graves, who left a business career to manage the foundation for his parents, connected with Coleman and Hill last year after he learned they were having trouble increasing their investment at 38th and Chicago.

The Graves have roots on the South Side. Bill Graves' See **ST. ANTHONY** on D6 ▶



KINGDEMETRIUS PENDLETON

From left, Bill Graves of the Graves Foundation and veteran developer-managers Dan Coleman and P.J. Hill.

"It's an honor for Dan and I to own property at that intersection."

P.J. Hill, Mpls. financial adviser

Mpls. wants its tourists back

Meet Minneapolis is launching an ad campaign to counteract negativity.

By NICK WILLIAMS
nick.williams@startribune.com

In the wake of civil unrest over the police killing of George Floyd in 2020, would-be visitors — from the suburbs, small towns and neighboring states — kept their distance from Minneapolis.

A stigma about Minnesota's largest city was fueled by occasional reports of violent crimes and theft, dampening tourism and recreation.

In an effort to reverse negative beliefs about life in Minneapolis, and to remind people of what they're missing, the city's tourism agency is launching a new marketing campaign to convert wary explorers back into regular visitors.

Meet Minneapolis' "See What All the Fuss is About" campaign targets those living within a 300-mile radius of the city, in places like Duluth, St. Cloud, Mankato, Rochester as well as cities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin and potentially Canada, said Melvin Tennant, chief executive of Meet Minneapolis.

More than 60% of the city's visitors come from the suburbs, Greater Minnesota and bordering states, Tennant said.

The pandemic, coupled with the civil unrest, damaged the city's tourism and hospitality sectors. With business travel slow to return, leisure visits have become a priority for the agency in supporting the recovery.

In 2019, Minneapolis hotel occupancy was 69%. It fell sharply to 21.4% and 29.9% in See **CAMPAIGN** on D6 ▶

BANK COLLAPSE AND ECONOMIC FALLOUT

First Citizens buying much of SVB

Deal could help shore up trust in regional banks.

By STAN CHOE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — First Citizens Bank is buying much of Silicon Valley Bank, the tech-focused financial institution whose failure this month set off a chain reaction that rattled faith in banks around the world.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and other regulators had already taken extraordinary steps to head off a wider crisis by guaranteeing all depositors in SVB and another failed institution, Signature Bank, could get their money, even if they had more than the \$250,000 limit insured by the FDIC.

The First Citizens deal announced late Sunday, at least initially, seemed to

achieve what regulators have sought: a shoring up of trust in other regional banks across the country.

Stock prices strengthened for First Republic, PacWest Bancorp and other banks that investors have spotlighted as most at risk for a sudden exodus of nervous customers, similar to the run that caused Silicon Valley Bank's failure.

The sale underscores that See **BANKS** on D6 ▶

Top regulator: Deposits are safe

Fed official vows agency will protect depositors.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's top financial regulator pledged Monday that the Federal Reserve and other agencies will take whatever steps they deem necessary to protect depositors and the banking system two weeks

after two large bank collapses triggered financial turmoil in the United States and Europe.

Regulators "are prepared to use all of our tools for any size institution, as needed, to keep the system safe and sound," Michael Barr, the Fed's vice chair for supervision, said in written testimony that will be delivered Tuesday at a hearing of the Senate Banking Committee.

The Senate panel will hold

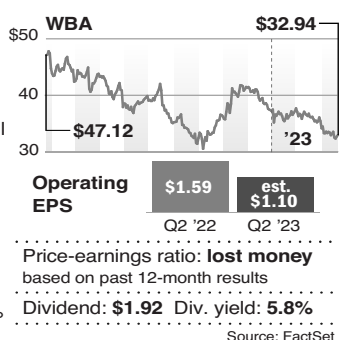
the first formal congressional hearing on the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and New York-based Signature Bank and the shortcomings of supervision and regulation, by the Fed and other agencies, that preceded them. The committee will also likely question Barr and other officials about the government's response, including its emergency decision to insure all

See **DEPOSITS** on D6 ▶

DAILY MARKETS

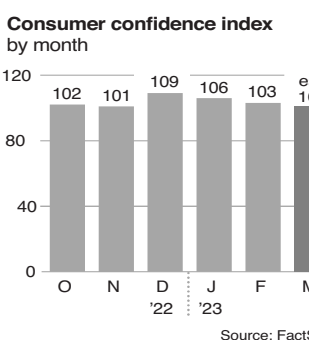
Walgreens

Walgreen Boots Alliance posts its second-quarter earnings Tuesday before the bell. The Illinois-based health care retailer and pharmacy is forecast by Wall Street to post a smaller profit compared with the year-ago period. Analysts project that Walgreens earned \$1.10 in the second quarter, down from the \$1.59 it earned a year ago. Walgreens shares are down 13% this year after tumbling 28% in 2022.



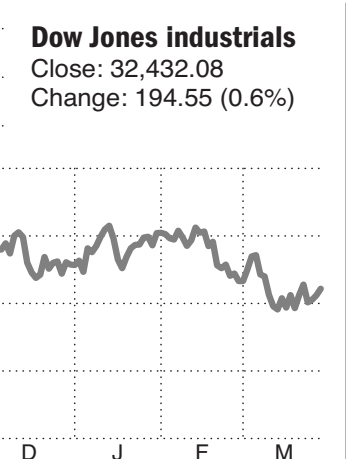
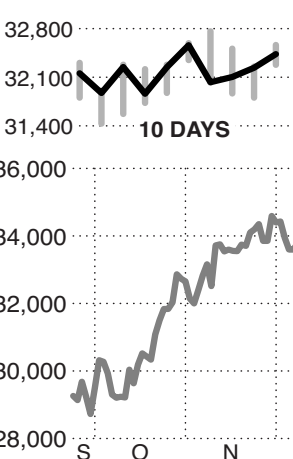
How confident?

The Conference Board issues its monthly consumer confidence report on Tuesday. Analysts are predicting that the board's consumer confidence index dipped this month to 101.3 from 102.9 in February. A reading of 90 or better reflects a healthy economy. Inflation and rising interest rates have shaken consumers' confidence in the past year, but a strong labor market has helped to prop up Americans' optimism.



Banks in focus

The U.S. banking industry will be in full focus during a Senate hearing today. Michael Barr, the Federal Reserve vice chair for supervision, (shown) will speak before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Barr was already conducting a review of industry standards when a crisis roiled the sector earlier this month. Silicon Valley Bank collapsed and Signature Bank failed, creating broader concerns about banks' abilities to cover their deposits.



NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG
SummW rs	3.60	+1.70	+89.5
FCZBA	895.61	+313.06	+53.7
GorillaTc n	11.80	+3.44	+41.1
CBL Intl n	6.13	+1.72	+39.0
LoopInd	2.52	+0.62	+32.6
EyePtPh	2.83	+0.55	+24.1
PyxisOnc	2.70	+0.49	+22.2
VicarSrgA	2.32	+0.42	+22.1
GuardH rs	6.27	+1.10	+21.4
Telesis	2.88	+0.44	+18.5
HarrowHL	21.46	+3.04	+16.0
Daxor	11.23	+1.54	+15.9
Celucely	10.80	+1.29	+13.6
RenovRx	2.99	+0.36	+13.5
ComSvrg rs	2.08	+0.23	+12.4
Altisrce	4.52	+0.49	+12.2
HotThrs rs	2.25	+0.24	+11.9
FstRepBk	13.82	+1.46	+11.8
GaleraTh	2.46	+0.26	+11.6
Altium	4.82	+0.50	+11.8

NATIONAL GAINERS

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG
Buenos Aires Merval	227827.70	217885.47	219276.72
Frankfurt DAX	15127.68	15127.68	15127.68
London FTSE 100	7491.74	7405.45	7471.77
Hong Kong Hang Seng	19938.77	19509.49	19567.69
Pans CAC-40	7119.59	7039.09	7078.27
Tokyo Nikkei 225	27543.48	27359.72	27476.87
Seoul Composite	...	...	...
Sydney All Ordinaries	7172.90	7137.60	7143.80
Toronto TSE300	19638.63	19511.18	19624.74

NATIONAL LOSERS

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG
NearIntll	4.98	-7.19	-59.1
ZuraBio n	16.84	-12.58	-42.8
Y BioPh n	3.02	-1.77	-37.0
Beamr n	2.23	-0.66	-22.8
Pharming	12.26	-2.70	-18.0
PepGen n	12.77	-2.46	-16.2
AlpineAc	9.00	-1.72	-16.0
Biosheng rs	3.23	-0.60	-15.7
RibbnCm	3.18	-0.56	-15.0
EosEn A	2.02	-0.34	-14.4
Nexters	3.33	-0.55	-14.2
DayOnePh	13.20	-2.12	-13.8
AssureHL rs	3.33	-0.53	-13.7
DiamdHdA	12.86	-1.82	-12.4
ARS Phar	6.66	-0.93	-12.3
StitchFix	4.73	-0.65	-12.0
EloxxPh rs	2.54	-0.34	-12.0
Excscientia	5.49	-0.71	-11.4
SilenceTh	8.30	-0.99	-9.7
KuraSu	60.95	-6.44	-9.6

NYSE	NASD
Vol. (in mil.)	3,885 4,030
Pvs. Volume	4,169 3,959
Advanced	1821 2056
Declined	553 1360
New Highs	21 50
New Lows	16 121

HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.
DOW	32,564.00	32,276.72	32,432.08	+194.55 +0.60%
DOW Trans.	13,952.58	13,742.81	13,887.20	+180.61 +1.32%
DOW Util.	920.80	909.84	912.30	+1.63 +0.18%
NYSE Comp.	14,955.72	14,758.57	14,894.85	+136.28 +0.92%
NASDAQ	11,903.21	11,739.05	11,768.84	-55.12 -0.47%
S&P 500	4,003.83	3,970.49	3,977.53	+6.54 +0.16%
S&P 400	2,439.96	2,404.16	2,426.84	+22.68 +0.94%
Wilshire 5000	39,610.62	39,259.36	39,374.94	+115.58 +0.29%
Russell 2000	1,762.65	1,742.06	1,753.67	+18.75 +1.08%

GLOBAL	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	WK MO QTR	YTD
Buenos Aires Merval	227827.70	217885.47	219276.72	...	...%	▼ ▼ ▲	+8.05%
Frankfurt DAX	15127.68	15127.68	15127.68	+170.45	+1.14%	▲ ▲ ▲	+8.65%
London FTSE 100	7491.74	7405.45	7471.77	+66.32	+0.90%	▲ ▼ ▲	+0.27%
Hong Kong Hang Seng	19938.77	19509.49	19567.69	-347.99	-1.75%	▲ ▼ ▼	-1.08%
Pans CAC-40	7119.59	7039.09	7078.27	+63.17	+0.90%	▲ ▼ ▲	+9.34%
Tokyo Nikkei 225	27543.48	27359.72	27476.87	+91.62	+0.33%	▲ ▼ ▲	+5.30%
Seoul Composite	...	...	...	...	...%	— — —	+7.10%
Sydney All Ordinaries	7172.90	7137.60	7143.80	+6.20	+0.09%	▲ ▼ ▲	-1.08%
Toronto TSE300	19638.63	19511.18	19624.74	+123.25	+0.63%	▲ ▼ ▲	+1.24%

GLOBAL	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	WK MO QTR	YTD
FUELS							
Crude Oil (bbl)	72.81	69.26	55.13	-9.3			
Heating Oil (gal)	2.77	2.70	2.79	-17.6			
Natural Gas (mm btu)	2.09	2.22	5.78	-53.3			
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.68	2.59	3.70	+9.1			
METALS							
Gold (oz)	1,952.40	1,982.10	1.50	+7.3			
Silver (oz)	23.05	23.25	-0.83	-3.4			
Platinum (oz)	977.10	983.90	-0.69	-9.0			
Copper (lb)	4.10	4.10	+0.07	+7.9			
Aluminum (ton)	2,341.75	2,308.00	+1.46	-2.8			
AGRICULTURE							
Cattle (lb)	1.65	1.63	+1.17	+6.5			
Coffee (lb)	1.76	1.78	-1.21	+5.3			
Corn (bu)	6.48	6.43	+0.82	+4.5			
Cotton (lb)	0.80	0.77	+3.89	-4.6			
Lumber (1,000 bd ft)	397.90	413.50	-3.77	+6.5			
Orange Juice (lb)	2.53	2.54	-0.55	+22.4			
Soybeans (bu)	14.42	14.28	+0.98	-5.1			
Wheat (bu)	6.98	6.89	+1.38	-11.9			

REGIONAL GAINERS

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG
Celucely	10.80	+1.29	+13.6
Surmodic	19.23	+0.82	+4.5
WellsFargo	37.47	+1.24	+3.4
Deluxe	15.47	+0.37	+2.5
Ameriprise	298.23	+6.79	+2.3
Agiliti	16.24	+0.33	+2.1
Electrmed	10.65	+0.22	+2.1
Mosaic	43.28	+0.89	+2.1
ANI Ph h	38.38	+0.77	+2.0
Hawkins	42.81	+0.83	+2.0
Target	159.38	+3.16	+2.0
Pegapee	42.06	+0.77	+1.9
Pentair	52.74	+0.96	+1.9
PiperSaul	137.95	+2.63	+1.9
OtterTail	71.48	+1.22	+1.7
Toro Co	109.52	+1.79	+1.7
Clearfield	45.77	+0.58	+1.3
Winmark	308.49	+4.00	+1.3
Graco	69.90	+0.85	+1.2
UdthHtgP	481.90	+5.91	+1.2

REGIONAL LOSERS

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG
JanOne	1.18	-0.17	-12.3
CanbyPryk	25.61	-0.89	-3.4
Stratusys	14.15	-0.23	-1.6
SeegNbr	28.47	-0.35	-1.2
NthnTech	11.90	-0.10	-0.8
BestBuy	73.85	-0.47	-0.6
SkyWater Tech	10.71	-0.07	-0.6
XcelEnergy	65.29	-0.26	-0.4
Ecobal	160.21	-1.51	-0.1
HonWllntll	187.99	-1.47	-0.1
ProLabs	31.56	-0.04	-0.1
US Bancrp	34.87	-0.03	-0.1
Allete Inc.	63.33	+0.03	0.0
CardioSys	19.86	+0.02	+0.1
Fastenal	52.35	+0.05	+0.1
Gen Mills	84.88	+0.08	+0.1
InspRMC	248.50	+0.15	+0.1
NVE Corp	77.31	+0.09	+0.1
Medtrnc	79.64	+0.27	+0.3
3M Co	101.49	+0.35	+0.4

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

MAJORS	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	1YR AGO
USD per British Pound	1.2291	+0.064	+5.2%	1.3184
Canadian Dollar	1.3651	-0.090	-6.6%	1.2473
USD per Euro	1.0796	+0.036	+3.3%	1.0987
Japanese Yen	131.58	+84	+64%	122.14
Mexican Peso	18.3436	-1.044	-5.7%	19.9746

COMMODITIES

U.S. crude oil	CLOSE	PVS	%CHG	%YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	72.81	69.26	+5.13	-9.3
Heating Oil (gal)	2.77	2.70	+2.79	-17.6
Natural Gas (mm btu)	2.09	2.22	-5.78	-53.3
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.68	2.59	+3.70	+9.1

REGIONAL GAINERS

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG
RhyInc	10.80	+1.29	+13.6
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8

REGIONAL LOSERS

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8
Micro	21.72	+0.82	+3.8

CONSOLIDATED STOCKS LISTINGS

Name	PE	Vol.	Last	Chg.	Name	PE	Vol.	Last	Chg.	Name	PE	Vol.	Last	Chg.	Name	PE	Vol.	Last	Chg.
A-B-C					Bio-Techne	46	6363	73.41	+87	Datadog	...	38220	65.60	+36	GlbFndri	26	7156	67.80	-1.25
ABB Ltd	25	12357	32.14	-6.1	BionGen	3	17930	123.60	-4.60	Deere	22	13925	393.01	+65.1	GoldenEnt	...	713	42.11	+11.1
AFAC	10	23210	63.11	+2.3	BlackRock	15	2840	61.33	+3.6	DeltaAir	51	71847	18.51	+24	GoldmanS	24	3133	339.06	+2.23
AMH Ph h	39	8002	644.05	-3.48	Blackstone	36	37919	84.19	+3.45	Deluxe	10	2001	1547.07	+37	Graco	26	10829	69.90	+85
ASML hld	...	266428	18.87	+2.6	Boeing	...	38882	2007.04	+3.00	DeutscheBk	4	104120	9.79	+4.4	Grainger	22	1796	671.66	+8.06
AT&T Inc	...	266428	18.87	+2.6	BookingsHL	67	2463	2508.31	+8.98	DevonE	5	77415	48.08	+1.51	HCA Hldg	13	9812	254.41	+19
AbbottLab	25	46276	98.46	+4.1	BrookingsHL	67	2463	2508.31	+8.98	Diageo	...	15714	116.07	+1.98	HDFC Bk	25	11749	64.38	+99
AbbVie	24	38843	157.54	-4.8	BrkfldCp	36	32337	29.93	-0.4	Diageo	...	15714	116.07	+1.98	HMN FN	10	16	18.81	+13
Accenture	30	37433	273.96	+1.96	BrkfldCp	36	32337	29.93	-0.4	Diageo	...	15714	116.07	+1.98	Humana	23	6645	506.99	+4.56

St. Louis latest to sue over car thefts

Police have received 4,500 reports of stolen Kias, Hyundais in 10 months.

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS - A federal lawsuit filed Monday by the city of St. Louis accuses automakers Kia and Hyundai of failing to install industry-standard anti-theft technology, resulting in thousands of vehicle thefts in the Missouri city.

The lawsuit seeks damages in excess of \$75,000 plus punitive damages. St. Louis joins several other cities that have filed similar lawsuits, including Cleveland, Milwaukee, San Diego, Columbus, Ohio, and Seattle.

Kias and Hyundais have been targeted since a TikTok social media challenge put a spotlight on the vehicles' lack of an immobilizer, showing viewers how to hot-wire cars with a USB cord and a screwdriver. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the thefts have resulted in at least 14 crashes and eight fatalities across the U.S.

"Defendants' careless disregard for the safety of the public has created a public nuisance in the City of St. Louis, resulting in an explosion of auto-related crime that is injuring citizens, taxing St. Louis's resources, and jeopardizing the public health, safety, and peace of all who live, work, and visit St. Louis," the lawsuit states.

Kia said that the lawsuits by St. Louis and other cities are "without merit."

"Kia has been and continues to be willing to work cooper-



ANGELA PETERSON • Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel via Associated Press
A Kia which was damaged after being stolen in 2021. Hyundai and Kia are offering software updates for millions of their vehicles that are missing a "key" anti-theft device.

atively with law enforcement agencies in St. Louis to combat car theft and the role social media has played in encouraging it," the company said.

Hyundai Motor America "is committed to ensuring the quality and integrity of our products," the company said in a statement.

St. Louis police have received more than 4,500 reports of thefts of Kia and Hyundai vehicles over the past 10 months, and three-fifths of all vehicle thefts in that span have involved Kias or Hyundais, the city said.

The lawsuit cited several incidents involving stolen Kias and Hyundais. In August, occupants of a stolen Kia

Optima and a stolen Hyundai Sonata were involved in a shootout near downtown in which a 17-year-old was shot. In September, a bicyclist was struck and killed by a speeding Kia that had been stolen.

Last month, both automakers rolled out software updates aimed at stemming the raft of thefts. The updates are free for millions of vehicles that are missing a key anti-theft device. The software updates the theft alarm logic to extend the length of the alarm sound from 30 seconds to one minute and requires the key to be in the ignition switch to turn the vehicle on.

About 3.8 million Hyundais

and 4.5 million Kias are eligible for the software update, the NHTSA said.

Kia said it is shipping more than 27,000 free steering-wheel locks to more than 140 law enforcement agencies, including nearly 1,500 to police in the St. Louis area, "and we will continue to provide additional free locks as needed."

Hyundai said engine immobilizers became standard on all vehicles in November 2021. The company said it also provides free steering-wheel locks to law enforcement agencies to distribute to those who own or lease affected models, and reimburses customers who bought steering wheel locks.

Chipotle agrees to settle case for \$240K

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, MAINE - Chipotle Mexican Grill has agreed to pay \$240,000 to former employees as part of a settlement stemming from a complaint that the company violated federal law by closing a restaurant where workers wanted to unionize.

Chipotle announced it was permanently closing its Augusta, Maine, location last year after workers filed a National Labor Relations Board petition for a union election. The NLRB later said the closure was illegal.

The Maine location was the first in the chain to file a union petition. The settlement, released by union officials on Monday, states that two dozen employees will receive payments from Chipotle and they will be placed on a preferential hiring list for other Maine locations.

The company must also post a notice in dozens of stores in New England that it won't close stores or discriminate against employees due to union support, the settlement

states.

"It sends a message to corporations that shutting down a store and blackballing workers didn't work for Chipotle and it won't work for them either," said Brandi McNease, a former employee of the Augusta store and the lead organizer of the union drive.

Chipotle said in a statement that it settled the lawsuit because fighting it would have been burdensome and expensive. The company respects "our employees' rights to organize under the National Labor Relations Act" and is "committed to ensuring a fair and just work environment that provides opportunities to all," said Laurie Schalow, chief corporate affairs officer for the company. "We settled this case not because we did anything wrong, but because the time, energy and cost to litigate would have far outweighed the settlement agreement," Schalow said.

The Augusta location closed last summer. Workers described the closure as retaliation for the union drive, which company representatives denied.

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Mortgage Foreclosures

15-101457

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 14, 2014

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$168,367.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Daniel P. O'Reilly, a married man

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 1008597-2304449100-6

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: IMPAC MORTGAGE CORP.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 12416 280th Ave NW, Zimmerman, MN 55398

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 01-033-3103

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Sherburne

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$198,446.50

ALL pre-foreclosure requirements have been met with: that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 24, 2023, 10:00AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, 13880 Highway 10, Elk River, MN 55330

IF the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the real estate is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 24, 2023, or the next business day if November 24, 2023 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: March 22, 2023

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Assignee of Mortgage

LOGS Legal Group LLP Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778

Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Tracy J. Halliday - 04610X

Attorneys for Mortgagee 1715 Yankee Doodle Road, Suite 210 Eagan, MN 55121

(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2/23

Star Tribune

Mortgage Foreclosures

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 14, 2002

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$30,667.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Scott A. Sebek, an unmarried person

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 1008597-2304449100-6

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: IMPAC MORTGAGE CORP.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 12416 280th Ave NW, Zimmerman, MN 55398

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 01-033-3103

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Wright

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$198,446.50

ALL pre-foreclosure requirements have been met with: that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 13, 2023, 10:00AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, 3800 Braddock Avenue NE, Buffalo, MN to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 1 year from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is April 13, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: February 15, 2023

Santander Bank, N.A. fka Sovereign Bank, Assignee of Mortgage

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.

Attorneys for: Santander Bank, N.A. fka Sovereign Bank, Assignee of Mortgage

1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205

Mendota Heights, MN 55120

801-355-2886

651-228-1753 (fax)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MN11250

2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28/23 Star Tribune

31 rail cars derail in North Dakota

Officials say there is no threat to public safety.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WYNDMERE, N.D. - A Canadian Pacific train derailed in rural North Dakota Sunday night and spilled hazardous materials, but local authorities and the railroad said there is no threat to public safety.

There were no injuries and no fire associated with the derailment, which occurred in a rural area outside Wyndmere, a town of several hundred people about 60 miles southwest of Fargo.

Canadian Pacific spokesperson Andy Cummings said 31 of the 70 cars on the train left the tracks around 11:15 p.m.



JOSHUA HENDERSON via Associated Press
This provided photo showed a Canadian Pacific train that derailed in rural North Dakota on Sunday. The derailment spilled hazardous materials, but there were no injuries.

Sunday, and some of the cars leaked liquid asphalt. But there are no waterways near where the derailment happened.

The railroad's hazardous-materials experts are working with local first responders to clean up the spill.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the derailment or exactly how much liquid asphalt spilled.

Railroad safety has been in the spotlight nationally ever since last month's fiery derailment of a Norfolk Southern train near East Palestine, Ohio. Roughly half of that town of about 5,000 people near the Pennsylvania border had to be evacuated after officials decided to release and burn toxic chemicals.

Bank stocks fare well as most indexes rise

By STAN CHOE, DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

A choppy day of trading on Wall Street ended with stocks mostly higher Monday, as battered banks showed more strength, at least for now.

The S&P 500 eked out a 0.2% gain after having been up by as much as 0.8%. Banks and energy stocks led the gainers in the benchmark index, outweighing losses in technology and communications companies.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.6%, while the Nasdaq composite fell 0.5%, reflecting losses in Google parent Alphabet and other tech companies. Gainers outnumbered decliners on the New York Stock Exchange by nearly 3-1.

Other areas of the market that don't benefit from such Big Tech stocks have been weaker. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks, for example, is on track for a 7.6% loss this month vs. a 0.2% gain for the S&P 500.

The Russell outgained the broader market Monday, however. The index rose 18.75 points, or 1.1%, to 1,753.67.

For the day, the S&P 500 rose 6.54 points to 3,977.53.

The Dow added 194.55 points to 32,432.08, and the Nasdaq fell 55.12 points to 11,768.84.

The S&P and Nasdaq

are coming off two straight weekly gains, even as markets have been in turmoil following the second- and third-largest U.S. bank failures in history earlier this month. Investors have been hunting for which banks could be next to fail as the system creaks under the pressure of much higher interest rates.

Still, financial stocks were among the biggest gainers Monday. First Citizens' stock soared 53.7% after it said it would buy most of Silicon Valley Bank, whose failure sparked the industry's furor earlier this month. As part of the deal, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. agreed to share some of the losses that may arise from some of the loans First Citizens is buying.

Other banks that investors have highlighted as the next potential victims of a debilitating exodus of customers also strengthened.

First Republic Bank jumped 11.8% and PacWest Bancorp rose 3.5%. Most of the focus in the U.S. has been on banks that are below the size of those that are seen as "too big to fail."

A broader worry has been that all the weakness for banks could cause a pullback in lending to small and midsize businesses across the country. That in turn could lead to less hiring, less growth and a higher risk of a recession.

Many economists were already expecting an economic downturn before all the struggles for banks.

"Unfortunately this is what happens when you tighten policy that quickly," Amanda Agati, chief investment officer of PNC Asset Management Group, said about the past year's swift rise in interest rates. "Things break in the system. Some of the weakest links are starting to show up."

The worries are international. In Europe, Credit Suisse's stock tumbled so quickly this month that regulators brokered its takeover by rival Swiss banking giant UBS. At the end of last week, the market's sights set on Deutsche Bank, whose stock fell sharply as analysts questioned why it had come under pressure.

"So far, regulators and lawmakers have worked together to keep the crisis under control, and they have used all the help they could to do so," Naeem Aslam of Zaye Capital Markets said in a commentary. "This particular element is keeping the hope alive that whatever the issue was with Deutsche Bank, lawmakers are going to address it, as there is simply too much to lose if things are left alone."

On Monday, Deutsche Bank shares rose 6.1% in Germany. Other big banks across Europe also found some stability. These giant banks don't

share many characteristics with the smaller and midsize banks in the United States that have been under pressure. But all are navigating much more scrutiny from investors broadly. Their world has become much more difficult because interest rates have jumped very high very quickly.

The Federal Reserve and other central banks announced their latest increases to interest rates in recent weeks as they fight inflation that's still gripping worldwide. Higher rates can undercut inflation by slowing the economy, but they raise the risk of a recession. They also hurt prices for stocks, bonds and other investments.

The Fed has pulled its key overnight rate to a range of 4.75% to 5%, a rise from virtually zero at the start of last year. It indicated last week that the troubles in the banking system could end up acting like rate hikes on their own, by slowing lending.

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, told a conference in Beijing that risks to financial stability have risen as interest rates climbed. She said actions by central banks and other regulators have helped to ease strains on markets, "but uncertainty is high, which underscores the need for vigilance."

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Legal Notices

DISSOLUTION NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Osseo-Maple Grove Football Association, a Minnesota 501(c)3, DBA Osseo Youth Football Association, has approved a resolution that the association voluntarily dissolve, and that the Board of Directors is now engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the association under the provisions of Minnesota Statute 317A. PO Box 505, Osseo, MN 55369.

We, Preston Knapp and Michelle Knapp are bringing forth our Land Patent Benefit. If interested see https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MIL-07CAzdkL7nVjete_VyqOwlp6Be/view

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Clark Taylor please contact Hite Law Group 504-252-0678

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Certificates of Assumed Name

Certificate of Assumed Name
State of Minnesota, Pursuant to the Chapter 333 Minnesota Statutes; the undersigned, who is or will be conducting business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:
1. State the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted: Minnesota Watersheds
2. State the address of the principal place of business. 1005 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343
3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, 1005 Mainstreet, Hopkins MN 55343

4. I certify that I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify that I understand that by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.
Dated: 2/20/2023
(Signed) Jan Voit

Garage Sales - Minneapolis

2023 Star Tribune Citywide/Neighborhood Garage Sale Calendar

PUBLICATION DATES:
Sunday, April 16, 2023
Sunday, May 21, 2023

Call 612-673-7000 or email placeads@startribune.com to promote your sale in the calendar.

Deadlines:
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371 Jewelry & Precious Metals

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371 Jewelry & Precious Metals

"JEWELRY @ AUCTION"
SUNDAY, APR. 2, 2023 11AM
Online Wed. March 22 AT: WWW.PROXIBID.COM/JPC
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Mortgage Foreclosures

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
Mortgagor: Trent Charles Johnson, an unmarried man
Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgages Unlimited Inc., its successors and assigns
Dated: August 3, 2018
Recorded: August 15, 2018
Wright County Recorder Document No. A137724

Assigned to: AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC
Dated: March 26, 2020
Recorded: March 26, 2020
Wright County Recorder Document No. A1421984

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 10084810000038788
Lender or Broker: Mortgages Unlimited Inc., a Minnesota Corporation
Residential Mortgage Servicer: AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC

Mortgage Originator: Mortgages Unlimited Inc., a Minnesota Corporation
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 1, Block 6 of Groveland 2nd Addition, Wright County, Minnesota
This is Abstract Property
TAX PARCEL NO.: 155132006010
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 10056 Somerset LN Monticello, MN 55362

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Wright
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$193,289.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$242,401.59

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee has complied with all notice requirements as required by statute that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 10, 2023, 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, 3800 Braddock Avenue NE, Buffalo, MN to pay the debt secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, or said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is November 10, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: March 16, 2023
AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, Assignee of Mortgage
By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, Attorneys for AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, Assignee of Mortgage
1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205 Mendota Heights, MN 55120 801-355-2886 651-228-1753 (fax)

Mortgage Foreclosures

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MN11155.
3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25/23 Star Tribune

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 29, 2013
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$154,200.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Allan Thorpe, an unmarried man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Lending Solutions, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 7, 2013 as Document Number A1238977 in the Office of the County Recorder of Wright County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment recorded on February 22, 2023 as Document Number A1526190 in the Office of the County Recorder of Wright County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 5, Block 1, Agri View Division, according to plat on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder, in and for the County of Wright, State of Minnesota
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for American Lending Solutions, LLC

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$140,268.26
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Lending Solutions, LLC
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 211-011-001050
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 10052081305008-9

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution on the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 09, 2023 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Wright County Sheriff's Office, 3800 Braddock Ave. NE, Buffalo, MN 55313, to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagor, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2023.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

Mortgage Foreclosures

Dated: March 07, 2023 NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC

Mortgagee: TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Sung Woo Hong, Esq.*
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (23-0187-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18/23 Star Tribune

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: February 27, 2020
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$191,468.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Seth Alan Solberg, a single man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 29, 2020 as Document Number A1424916; as modified by document recorded on February 24, 2021 as Document Number A1459959 in the Office of the County Recorder of Wright County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded on November 19, 2020 as Document Number A1448654 in the Office of the County Recorder of Wright County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Unit No. 91, CIC No. 92, Heritage Estates villas, Wright County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 12105 63RD ST NE, OTSEGO, MN 55301

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Wright County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$207,849.43
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Cardinal Financial Company
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: R118-211-000910
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1000922-1400473567-0

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution on the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Wright County Sheriff's Office, 3800 Braddock Ave. NE, Buffalo, MN 55313, to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagor, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on October 11, 2023.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS

Mortgage Foreclosures

THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None
Dated: February 15, 2023
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Mortgagee
TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Sung Woo Hong, Esq.*
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (22-0649-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28/23 Star Tribune

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 28, 2016
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$141,860.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Anthony D Johnson and Mandy Johnson, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Primelending, A Plainscapital Company
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on May 10, 2016 as Document Number 819547 in the Office of the County Recorder of Sherburne County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded on February 24, 2021 as Document Number 868967 in the Office of the County Recorder of Sherburne County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Winding Trails, Sherburne County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 10530 302ND AVE, PRINCETON, MN 55371

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Sherburne County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$126,420.00
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Primelending, A Plainscapital Company
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 01-487-0145
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100053601315201393

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution on the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the

FOUNDATION BUYS BUILDING

◀ **ST. ANTHONY** from D1 grandfather lost his Lake Street car dealership during the 1930s Depression before taking a job in St. Cloud.

Coleman and Hill tried to buy the 3828-40 commercial-residential complex from longtime owner Mike Stebnitz over a year ago. Coleman's banker wouldn't underwrite a loan because of unrest-related vacancies and a cloudy future for the neighborhood.

Stebnitz, who moved to Florida several years ago, had refurbished the complex over a decade and stocked it with business and residential tenants. Most fled in the aftermath of Floyd's death as the intersection became the flash point of gathering and protest.

"Stebnitz was a good community-minded owner," Minneapolis economic development chief Erik Hansen said of the former owner. "There's been fear that outside [speculators] would come in and buy it ... to just hold it. P.J. and Dan are good guys. They will [invest] in the neighborhood."

Coleman, 38, a University of Minnesota graduate and basketball player, grew up on the South Side and started investing largely in multifamily housing in the Powderhorn neighborhood while playing in Europe a decade ago. He acquired a different building at the intersection, the one on the southeast corner of 38th and Chicago in 2019, several months before Floyd's murder.

A restaurateur Coleman recruited, Dragon Walk, failed in 2020 amid disruptions after Floyd's death. Last year, chef Imani Jackson opened her Chopped & Served catering and takeout business in the ground-floor space after moving from a smaller space elsewhere.

Hill, 35, played basketball



NEAL ST. ANTHONY • Star Tribune

Just Turkey owner Sam Willis Jr., left, prepared for the lunch rush with employee Shamar Steele at 3731 Chicago Av.

for Ohio State University and professionally before returning to Minneapolis to become a financial adviser. The Minneapolis resident worships at his uncle Curtis Farrar's 40-year Worldwide Outreach for Christ ministry at 38th and Chicago. Hill co-chaired Mayor Jacob Frey's 2021-22 Inclusive Economic Recovery task force. Hill and Coleman plan to fully lease 3828-40 Chicago, pocked now by vacant storefronts.

"Our roots are here," said Hill. "It's an honor for Dan and I to own property at that intersection. This is our opportunity to pay it forward."

Coleman and Hill are Black grassroots developer-managers with limited access to capital.

Coleman also acquired and renovated a commercial-residential property at 38th and Bloomington, several blocks east of Chicago. He has earned no return on his capital, thanks to the destruction and disruption on 38th Street since 2020.

Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins, who represents E. 38th Street, is encouraged. The city and community this year should make a decision on the future

of the partly obstructed Chicago intersection. The city is buying the former Super America site across from Cup Foods, for transformation into a memorial and health-and-healing center.

"I've talked to P.J. and Dan about this for two years ... and it portends the optimism in the community," Jenkins said. "They are staking a bigger claim at this challenged intersection."

Sam Willis Jr., co-owner of Just Turkey restaurant at 3731 Chicago, said he's proud of Hill and Coleman for doubling down at 38th and Chicago.

"This area is good and business is getting better after a terrible winter," said Willis, another South Side native and graduate of Roosevelt High School.

There's a growing vision of a revitalized commercial hub, cognizant of the tragic past, and poised for a revitalized future in housing, art, food and other businesses.



Neal St. Anthony has been a Star Tribune business columnist and reporter since 1984. He can be contacted at nstantony@startribune.com.

Device key to soap-making plan

◀ **CARBON** from D1 to try the unit."

The Radisson Blu brand in the U.S. — along with other Radisson concepts and chains including Country Inn & Suites — is owned by Maryland-based Choice Hotels International. The company's long reach gives Clean O2 and CenterPoint potential to expand CarbinX technology.

"Getting in with a partner like Radisson Blu is really important to us," Berreman said.

Cardiff said the lodging industry is "particularly interesting" because hotels are natural customers of soap and other cleaning products. "They use a lot of detergents, and we can provide them with something that supports the circular economy."

Cardiff, a plumber and gas fitter by trade, started developing CarbinX technology in 2005 and sold his first commercial machine in 2017. Clean O2 since has sold 42 more machines, which are deployed in Canada, the U.S. and Japan.

Soap-making is a critical part of Clean O2's economic model since it provides revenue for both Cardiff's company and the CarbinX machine's

hosts. Potassium carbonate — pearl ash — is collected and made into soap or other detergents by Clean O2 itself or contract manufacturers.

Part of Clean O2's challenge will be building an economical soap-making network.

The company is small, generating about \$1.6 million in sales last year. Cardiff said Clean O2 is working on an agreement with a major U.S. boiler manufacturing company to make and distribute the CarbinX machine.

The \$300,000 cost of CenterPoint's CarbinX pilot project in Minnesota is covered by the utility's state-mandated and ratepayer-funded Conservation Improvement Program. That program is aimed at energy-efficiency projects.

The CarbinX machine captures waste heat from furnace and water-heater exhaust, recycling it to preheat water flowing into water heaters and conserving gas in the process.

CenterPoint is evaluating whether to expand its CarbinX program via a separate regulatory route dedicated to carbon reduction. That would need approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

CO2 releases from furnaces

and water heaters are known as Scope 3 emissions and are discharged from end users. CenterPoint's Scope 3 emissions policies have been criticized by As You Sow, a nonprofit group representing two of the company's shareholders.

As You Sow filed a shareholder proposal for CenterPoint's coming annual meeting aimed at getting the company to bolster its Scope 3 policies. CenterPoint recommends its shareholders vote against the resolution.

Whether CarbinX technology can have a significant effect on reducing CO2 emissions is far from clear.

"I think it is an interesting technology," said Joe Dammel, manager director for buildings at Fresh Energy, a St. Paul-based clean energy advocacy group. "But in terms of the scalability and commercial technology potential of [CenterPoint's program], I'd like to wait and see the pilot's results."

Dammel said the best way to cut CO2 emissions from natural gas is to electrify heating.

"The gas that you don't use is a much more effective way of stopping emissions," he said.

Mike Hughlett • 612-673-7003

Fed official pledges to protect deposits

◀ **DEPOSITS** from D1

he deposits at both banks, even though the vast majority exceeded the \$250,000 limit on insured deposits.

The Fed has come under harsh criticism by groups advocating tighter financial regulation for failing to adequately supervise Silicon Valley Bank and prevent its collapse, and Barr will likely face tough questioning by members of both parties.

In his prepared testimony, Barr blamed the management of Silicon Valley Bank for its failure. But he also said

he would ensure that the Fed "fully accounts for any supervisory or regulatory failings" in a previously announced review of the bank's collapse.

Barr said officials at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, which supervised Silicon Valley Bank, sent several warnings to the bank's management about the risks it was taking, including its substantial holdings of Treasury and other bonds that were steadily losing value as interest rates rose.

Ultimately, when large depositors sought to withdraw more than \$40 billion in a single

day, the bank couldn't pay out the funds. On March 10, the bank was seized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

As recently as mid-February 2023, Barr said in his prepared testimony, Fed staffers told the central bank's board of governors that rising rates were threatening the finances of some banks and highlighted, in particular, the risk-taking at Silicon Valley Bank.

"But, as it turned out," Barr says, "the full extent of the bank's vulnerability was not apparent until the unexpected bank run on March 9."

SVB purchased at a discount

◀ **BANKS** from D1

Silicon Valley Bank's assets do have value and helps to rebuild some faith in the banking sector, investors and experts said. But they also said it doesn't by itself provide an immediate all-clear for other banks following the second- and third-largest U.S. failures in history. Restoring trust and figuring out exactly what pain other banks may ultimately feel will take more time.

"The financial system is like a boat," said Aaron Klein, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the Treasury Department. "SVB's collapse has rocked the boat, but the ship is righting itself."

"The news today is good, it's a positive step forward to digging out of the hole of the collapse that SVB put us in," he said. "But losses are substantial: \$20 billion is real money, even in Washington."

That \$20 billion is referring to the loss the FDIC said its deposit insurance fund could take because of Silicon Valley Bank's failure. As part of the deal with First Citizens, the FDIC agreed to share in potential losses or gains coming out of some of the loans purchased from Silicon Valley Bank.

The \$20 billion wouldn't come from taxpayers. It would instead come from an FDIC fund that banks pay into. But banks could ultimately charge slightly more in fees or pay less in interest to their customers to help make up for it, Klein said.

"The question is who should bear those losses?" he said. "Should seniors get a few less interest points on their bank deposits, or should" big depositors with more than \$250,000 at Silicon Valley Bank be willing to lose some of their cash?"

First Citizens agreed to buy about \$72 billion of Silicon Valley Bank's assets at a discount

of \$16.5 billion. About \$90 billion in assets remain in FDIC's receivership. The FDIC also received rights related to First Citizen Bancshares stock that could be worth up to \$500 million.

Since the banking crisis began in mid-March, officials from the Treasury Department to the Federal Reserve have said they still see the system as sound and secure.

Todd Phillips, a fellow at the Roosevelt Institute and a former attorney at the FDIC, said extraordinary actions by regulators back up those statements. Besides guaranteeing deposits at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, regulators also announced a program to allow other banks to raise cash more easily. That has the overall banking system on more stable footing in his mind, even if investors are sending some bank stocks on wild runs.

Mpls. combats negativity with ad campaign

◀ **CAMPAIGN** from D1

2020 and 2021, respectively, according to Meet Minneapolis. In 2022, occupancy rose to 46.8%.

This campaign is the agency's largest in a decade, Tennant said. Produced in partnership with Minneapolis-based marketing firm Periscope, it highlights the city's restaurant scene, landmarks, recreation opportunities and arts and entertainment industry.

"We wanted to, as we say, take back the mic," Tennant said. "We've had a lot of negative media about Minneapolis over the last three years and we want to be very, very clear in the way in which we convey what the true assets and attitudes are of Minneapolis. This was really meant to get the attention of people who may have been negatively influenced by media, images or reports that they had heard."

That includes downtown Minneapolis, an area some

would assume has faltered after large companies began allowing employees to work from home, creating hardships for some businesses that rely on a downtown workforce seeking goods and services.

Anecdotal information on safety issues didn't help, feeding fear into the minds of visitors that downtown has become "a place that they might not want to go," Tennant said.

"But if you really look at the facts, you see really great traffic at the theaters," he said. "You look at the various sports teams, you look at more and more restaurants opening, and more and more workers coming back downtown. It has definitely returned back to the type of vibrancy that people remember."

According to rankings compiled by researchers at the University of Toronto and University of California, Berkeley,

downtown Minneapolis has regained 51% of its economic and social activity when comparing a three-month period in late 2019 to the same period in 2022.

While promising, Minneapolis' recovery fell toward the bottom in a ranking of mid-size cities in North America. Minneapolis is far below over-achieving Salt Lake City, with downtown activity that now exceeds pre-pandemic levels, but better than San Francisco, which has recovered just 31% of its downtown activity during the same period.

The campaign will be a mixture of advertising in print, radio and television, on billboards and online, in addition to social media, Tennant said. The agency plans to spend about \$500,000 on the campaign this year, an amount Tennant hopes to maintain over the next couple of years.

Nick Williams • 612-673-4021

ENTERTAINMENT CATEGORY

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#MNBEST

VARIETY



Frank Buffalo Hyde says appearing on the MTV series was part of a pandemic promise to say yes more often.

By JENNA ROSS • jenna.ross@startribune.com

By competing on the new reality series “The Exhibit: Finding the Next Great Artist,” painter Frank Buffalo Hyde knew that for better or worse, he’d be representing Indigenous artists.

Turns out he’s repping Minnesota, as well.

At the height of the pandemic in 2020, Hyde and his family moved from Santa Fe, N.M., to Northfield, where his wife, a ceramist, got a job at St. Olaf College. He was living here when a casting agent contacted him. At first, he ignored it, thinking it was a prank.

But he ended up signing on. The MTV and Smithsonian Channel series, in which seven art-

‘Next Great Artist?’

ists compete for \$100,000 and an exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., seemed like “a great opportunity to highlight what I do and hold space for contemporary Native American artists.”

That’s a responsibility non-Indigenous artists don’t have, but one that he, as an Onondaga painter, has dealt with his entire career. The 48-year-old knew that if he said no, somebody else would have done it, leaving him throwing stuff at the TV, yelling, “I could do a better job!”

And after the losses of the pandemic, Hyde promised himself that if he made it through, he’d say yes more often.

See **PAINTER** on E6 ▶

Above, artist Frank Buffalo Hyde worked on a painting in his garage studio at his Northfield home.

Photo by BRIAN PETERSON • brian.peterson@startribune.com

Elegant, evocative and edgy ballet

REVIEW: Joffrey troupe gives nods to Balanchine, Thomas Newman, Beatles.

By SHEILA REGAN
Special to the Star Tribune

Joffrey Ballet’s long-awaited engagement at Northrop auditorium was a mix of pristine neoclassical form, emotionally driven expression and a dash of urban chic.

Originally slated for 2021, the Northrop Centennial Commission, “Of Mice and Men,” was postponed to this year because of the pandemic. But it got moved again when Northrop’s roof partially collapsed in January. The show finally went on Saturday without a hitch.

The Chicago-based company displayed its perfect synchronicity with George

Balanchine’s “Serenade,” set to Tchaikovsky’s “Serenade for Strings.” It was the first ballet the ethnic Georgian, Russian American Balanchine created after moving to the U.S. He had founded the School of American Ballet to develop dancers in a style he had created and set the new work for them, which they performed in 1934.

Balanchine’s choreography seemed deceptively simple at first. Wearing long tutus, the large group of female dancers all moved in perfect unity as they flowed through classical ballet positions. As the piece progressed, the dancers’ harmony of movement became quite impressive, with the patterns in Balanchine’s choreography turning more complex.

The latter portion of the ballet involved an intriguing sequence beginning with one

See **BALLET** on E6 ▶



CHERYL MANN

Choreographer Cathy Marston adapted John Steinbeck’s classic “Of Mice and Men” for the performance at Northrop auditorium on Saturday.

Duluth writer’s ‘Daniel’s Gotta Die’ gets fest slot

Matthew Dressel’s screenplay was for the late Bob Saget’s final movie.

By CHRISTA LAWLER
christa.lawler@startribune.com

DULUTH - Matthew Dressel first saw an audience watch “Daniel’s Gotta Die,” the dark-humored film he wrote more than a decade ago, in a black box theater last October when it premiered at the Austin (Texas) Film Festival.

It was anxiety-inducing, he recalled, experiencing the real-time reaction of the crowd’s response to this quirky comedy that lived off-screen for so long. But right around the end of the first act, Dressel said, he felt the room of about 100 viewers shift.

“There’s that moment,” he said. “They’re along for the ride.”

“Daniel’s Gotta Die,” with the built-in lure of being the late Bob Saget’s final film, will premiere at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Zinema in Duluth as part of the Minnesota Film Festival. Mary Lynn Rajskub (“24,” “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia”), who stars in the movie, will attend the screening and perform a stand-up show at Teatro Zuccone later that night.

The film festival, in its second year, runs through April 2 at the Zeitgeist building in the center of Duluth’s Arts District and will feature more than 100 shorts, documentaries and feature-length works. It’s a filmmakers’ festival, according to

See **FILM** on E6 ▶

COMICS

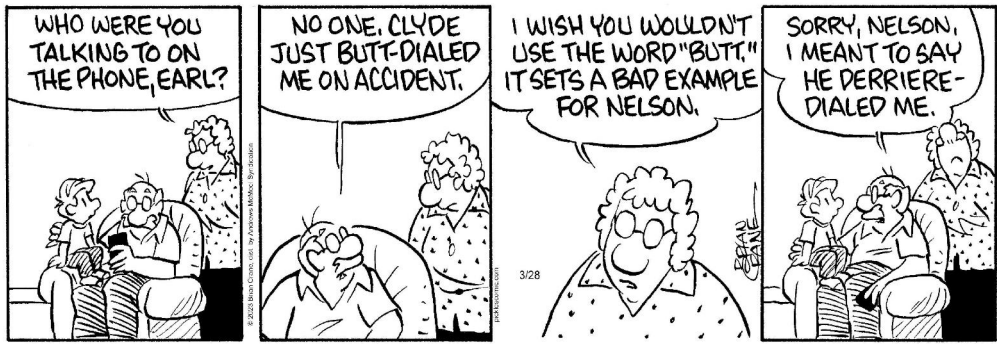
BLONDIE DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



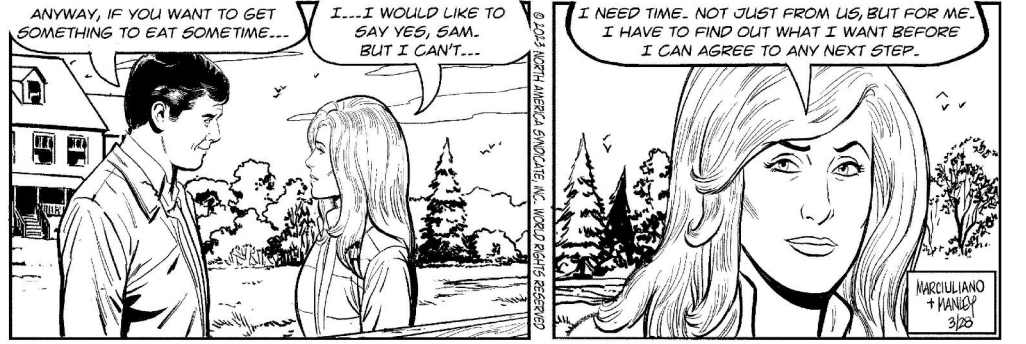
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE LYNN JOHNSTON



PICKLES BRIAN CRANE



JUDGE PARKER FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO AND MIKE MANLEY



CRABGRASS TAUHID BONDIA



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE JOHN HAMBROCK



GARFIELD JIM DAVIS



GET FUZZY DARBY CONLEY

Darby Conley is on vacation. These strips have previously run.



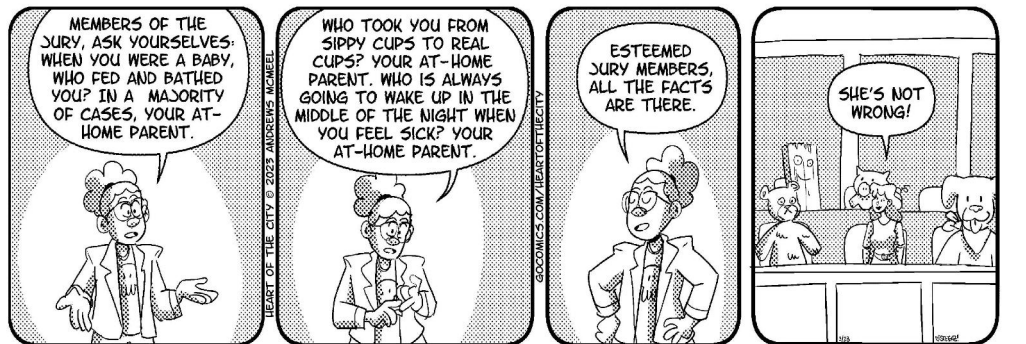
SALLY FORTH FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



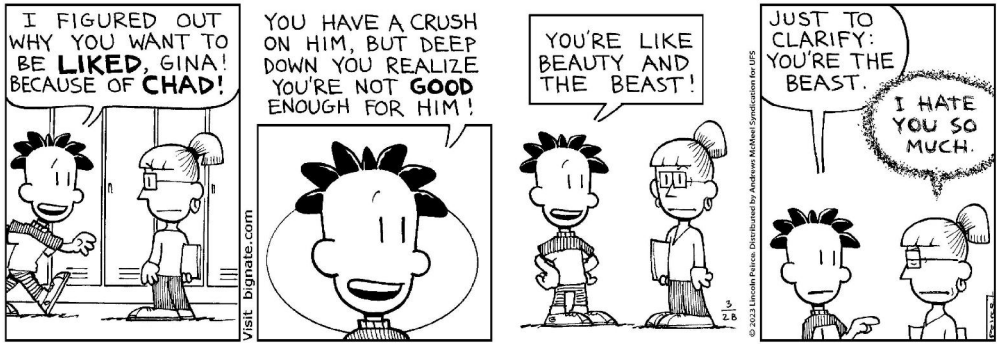
BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



HEART OF THE CITY STEENZ



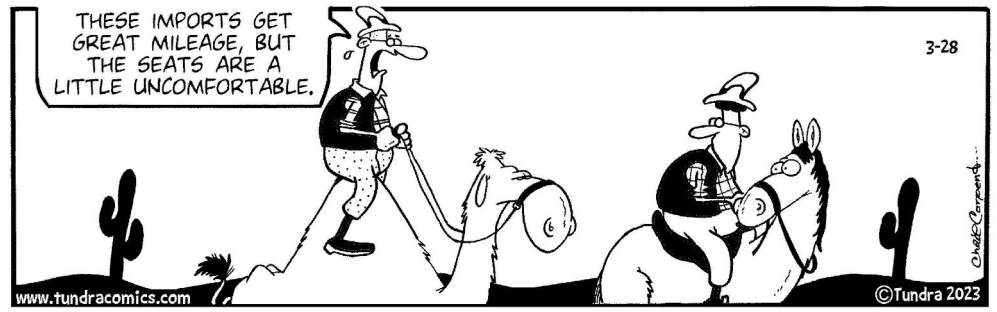
BIG NATE LINCOLN PEIRCE



ONE BIG HAPPY RICK DETORIE



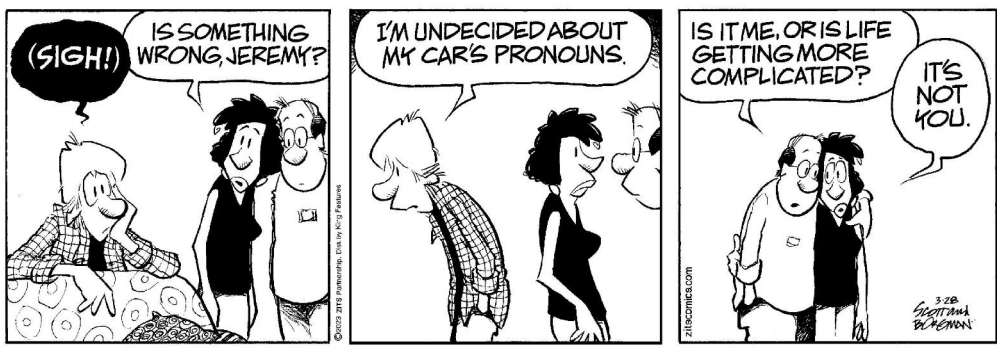
TUNDRA CHAD CARPENTER



CRANKSHAFT TOM BATIUK AND CHUCK AYERS



ZITS JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



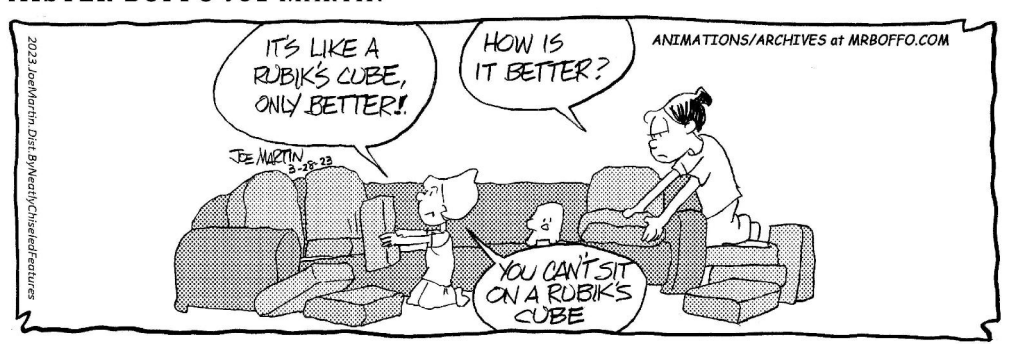
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM MIKE PETERS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE HILARY PRICE

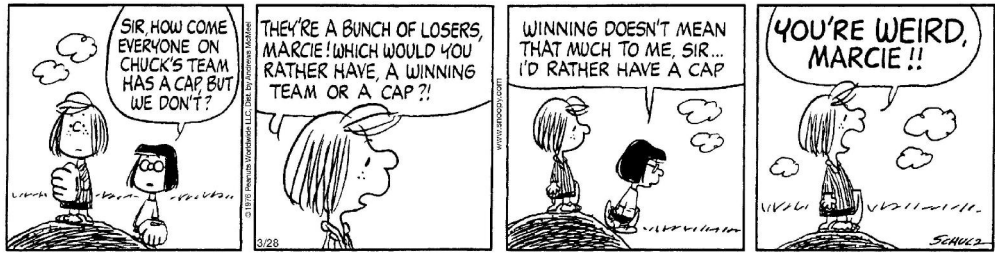


MISTER BOFFO JOE MARTIN

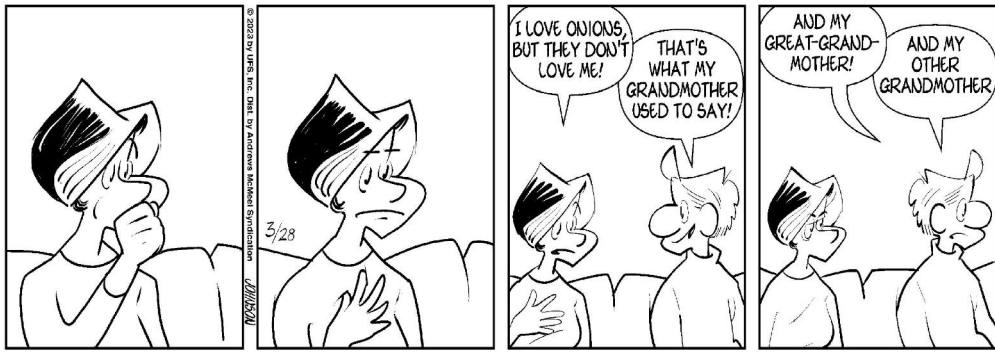


COMICS & GAMES

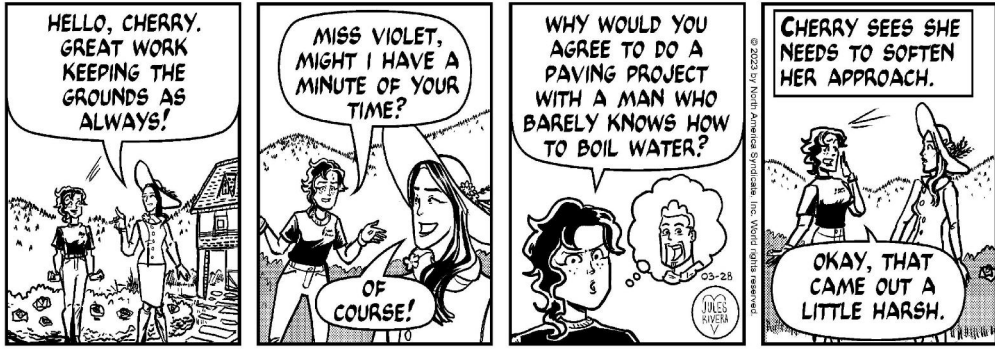
PEANUTS CHARLES SCHULZ



ARLO 'N' JANIS JIMMY JOHNSON



MARK TRAIL JULES RIVERA



JUMP START ROBB ARMSTRONG



F MINUS TONY CARRILLO



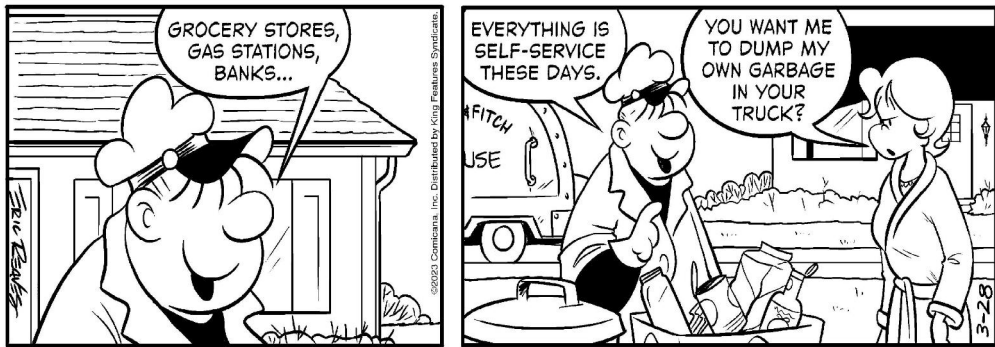
BALDO HECTOR CANTU AND CARLOS CASTELLANOS



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE CHRIS BROWNE



HI AND LOIS BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



BETLE BAILEY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



WUMO MIKAEL WULFF AND ANDERS MORGENTHALER



HOROSCOPE HOLIDAY MATHIS

Your birthday today: Welcome to your year of self-discovery. You'll travel to pursue interests. A circle of friends opens to include you. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 3, 13 and 29. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ensure your success by setting yourself up for it. The action you need to take is something small that you've overlooked. Maybe you didn't think it was significant enough to make a difference, but small things matter. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your self-esteem will be irrelevant to the success of a project. You'll get into the flow of doing what needs to be done and serving the needs of your team, and for a while nothing else seems to exist. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll dance around big questions and delve into existential topics, if not with others then in your own thought processes. You'll consider what it means to be in your world. CANCER (June 22-July 22). Media offers experiences beyond what seems currently possible in real life. Sure, it's a fantasy, but it still teaches you something. You'll expand your potential as you model yourself in some small way after a character you admire. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's time to achieve a higher understanding of your circumstances, how they came to be and what your specific part is in this drama, or comedy, such as the case may be. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Go where you have stiff competition. You'll be inspired by how others are achieving results and you'll also be inspirational to others. They point out how you're special, which is something you're too close to be able to see on your own. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Find out the intentions of others. Poke around. Ask good questions and observe the energy and tone of the answers you get. Be skeptical of obviously rehearsed pitches or unearned compliments — both will lead to an ask. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're brave. It's a more exciting way to live. You'll keep moving forward. People will follow you. First, you'll act like you have confidence in your skills, and then you'll use them enough to become confident. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Empiricism, the belief that knowledge comes strictly through observation and experience, will be the philosophical tenet that keeps you on track today. The favored approach: Note what's really there and stick with what works in practice rather than in theory. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Humanity often upholds its own interests at the expense of the interconnected ecosystem it belongs to. Though no creature can be blamed for the limited awareness of its vessel, you will take up a cause for other beings. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The root of the issue is, by definition, buried. As gardeners know, if you're too aggressive with fragile roots, you can kill the system. To get to the bottom of the problem, dig gently. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Knowing people can always change their minds, you seize their moment of interest in you. You'll make a decision quickly because your options could disappear otherwise. If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on 'Write the Author' on the Holiday Mathis page.

WUZZLES TOM UNDERWOOD

Each Wuzzle is a rebus — a word riddle created from combinations of words, letters, syllables, figures or symbols, positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

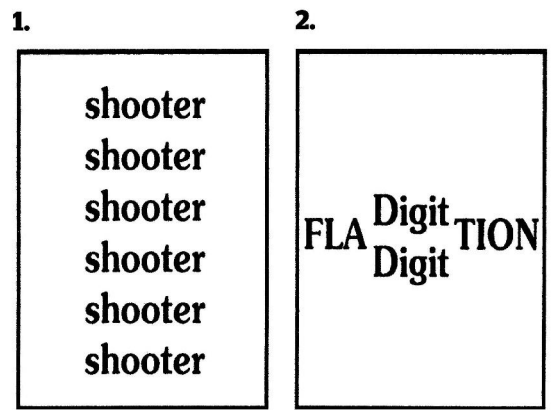
Example: NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

Print your answers here:

- 1. _____
2. _____

Today's answers:

1. Six-shooters 2. Double-digit inflation



CRYPTOQUIP

Each letter stands for another. If you think X=O, for example, it would equal O throughout the puzzle.

TGBV RMPBSMYA TZNG O JDUUBY

GOPRNLZVF JLMXBBYR KBLA FBVNUA,

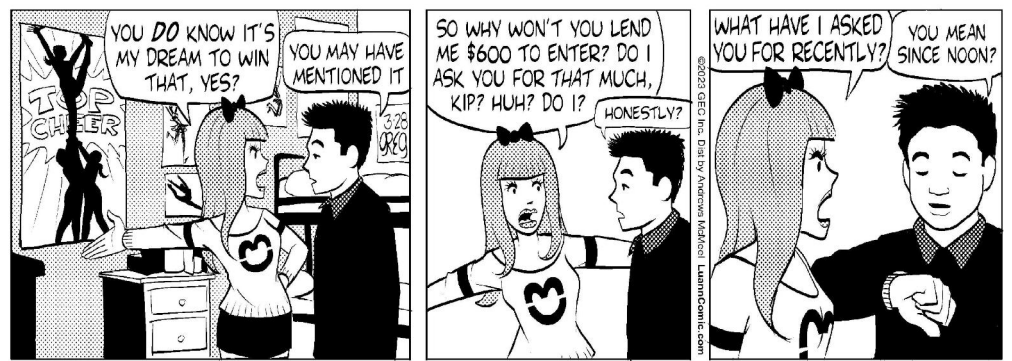
TMDUY NGON SB NBVYMV-UMKZVF XOLB?

Today's cryptoquip clue:

F equals G

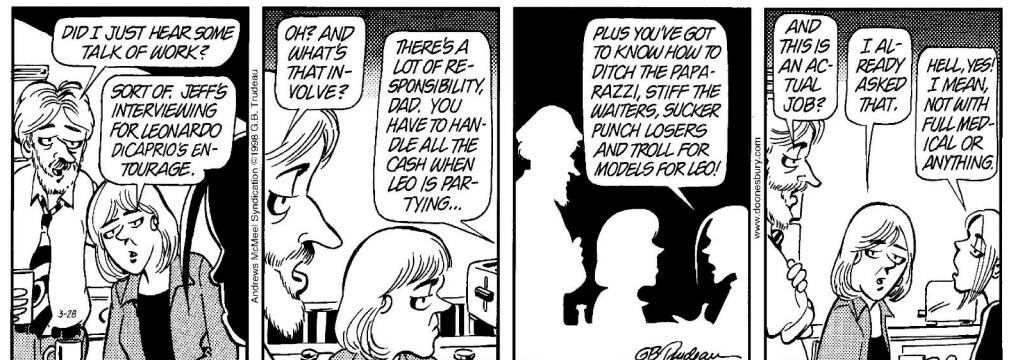
Monday's answer: Flick about a spying campaign that's highly unlikely to be successful: "Mission: Implausible."

LUANN GREG EVANS

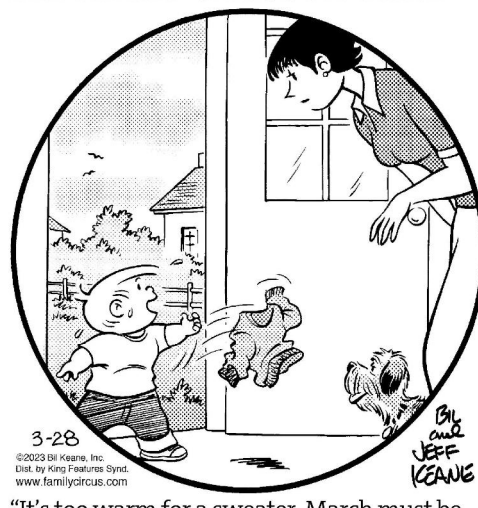


DOONESBURY GARRY TRUDEAU

Garry Trudeau is on hiatus. These strips have previously run.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS BIL KEANE



"It's too warm for a sweater. March must be turnin' into a lamb."

DENNIS THE MENACE H. KETCHAM



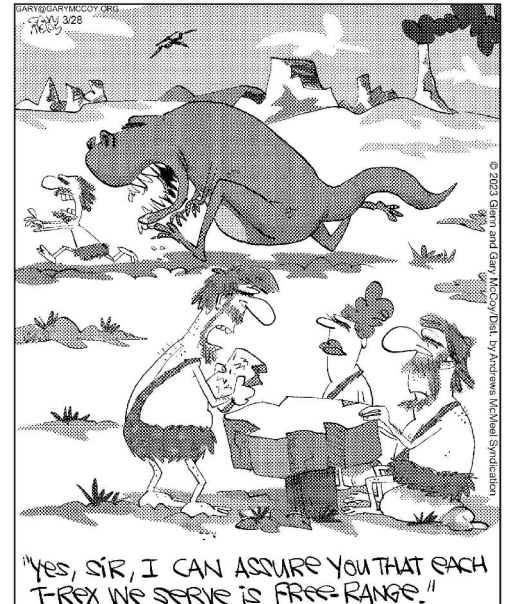
"I know you told me not to eat the cookies, but what else can I DO with 'em?"

ARGYLE SWEATER SCOTT HILBURN



HOW THE TABLES TURNED

FLYING MCCOYS GLENN AND GARY MCCOY



"Yes, sir, I can assure you that each T-Rex we serve is FREE RANGE."

MEDIA

VIDEO GAMES

New camera angle is over the shoulder

By GIESON CACHO • Bay Area News Group

Capcom's most successful remake franchise has been "Resident Evil."

The latest remake is "Resident Evil 4." It follows Leon S. Kennedy, a survivor of the Raccoon City zombie outbreak. He's no longer a rookie officer but a highly trained government agent sent to look for the U.S. president's kidnapped daughter, Ashley Graham.

His investigation takes him to Spain, where he runs into homicidal villagers, who are part of a mysterious cult. Through a 20-hour campaign, players will have to locate the girl and stop another biohazard incident involving a parasite called Las Plagas.

The major innovation that "Resident Evil 4" introduced was a new over-the-shoulder camera angle and novel emphasis to the survival-horror genre. The original focused on action and overwhelmed players with crazed villagers. It induced a sense of panic as Leon had to fend off the armed enemies while also running away. The tight camera angle created a more intimate and visceral perspective that brought players closer to the action but also created anxiety-inducing blind spots.

The remake adds new functionality to the knife. It now allows Leon to parry attacks with a well-timed button press. This is balanced by the fact that knives degrade over time.

It adds an element of skill to combat that accentuates the new granularity of gunplay. Now, if villagers are swarming Leon, players can shoot foes in the leg to slow them down while also opening them up to a toppling roundhouse kick, or they can shoot oil-filled lamps to rain fire upon enemies.

The other improvement is a renewed emphasis on stealth. Players can also set up traps or use environmental elements like a chandelier to take out foes. All of this updates the gameplay so that it feels more modern while also staying true to the original.

Instead of a quick-time knife fight with Jack Krauser, players will engage in an actual boss battle, while other moments, such as one on the lake, feel more epic and fluid without the interruptions. Players will see prompts telling them to evade or break free but they feel much more in the flow of the action.

The other issue with the original was the escort chapters featuring Ashley Graham. This is where Leon has to protect her while also fending off cultists.

They're less annoying in the remake, but she does get in the way of fighting cultists at times, and the fact that she can die if hurt after being incapacitated can make certain parts of the game frustrating. Thankfully, players have better control over her actions as Leon tells her to stay close or run away and take cover.

For better or worse, the "Resident Evil 4" remake maintains its hokey dialogue and plot structure. This entry has some cringeworthy dialogue, but after more than a decade, it just accentuates the project's campy vibe.

The "Resident Evil 4" remake is as nerve-racking today as it was in 2005. The developers kept the essence of the original alive in the remake for a whole new generation of players.



Capcom/TNS

Leon S. Kennedy fights with Krauser in the "Resident Evil 4."

TALK SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

- 9 A.M. Karamo A man who confessed to cheating wants to unlock his wife's phone. (WUCW, Ch. 23)
2 P.M. The Kelly Clarkson Show Christina Ricci, Melissa Rauch, "Magic Mike" live performance. (KSTP, Ch. 5)
11 A.M. Live With Kelly and Ryan Comic Ali Wentworth, "American Idol's" Luke Bryan, Katy Perry and Lionel Richie. (KARE, Ch. 11)
Maury Terri thinks that her husband, Joe, is cheating after being told by her daughter. (WUCW, Ch. 23)
1 P.M. Rachael Ray Sara Haines chats about her shows, pastry chef Zac Young has a Passover dessert. (KARE, Ch. 11)

POP CULTURE Q&A

'Joanna' was odd Sutherland/McKuen venture



20th Century Fox

Donald Sutherland and Genevieve Waite in "Joanna."

By RICH HELDENFELS Tribune News Service

Q: Over 50 years ago I saw a movie that I thought was a little strange. But I am still thinking about it. I have tried to find a title, but no luck. All I know is that Donald Sutherland played a wealthy, sickly young man and it had music by Rod McKuen.

A: It appears that you saw "Joanna," a 1968 movie starring Genevieve Waite, with a cast including Donald Sutherland and music by Rod McKuen. It was not a success when first released, but has remained in the public eye, including on DVD; I suspect that's because of the McKuen connection.

'Cannonball' keeps truckin'

Q: Back in the 1950s or '60s, there was a TV show called "Cannonball" about two truckers driving around the country. Could you give me more details about this show, and is it available on any services?

A: According to the reference book "Total Television," "Cannonball" was a syndicated series in 1958.

The half-hour episodes starred Paul Birch as Mike Malone and William Campbell as Jerry Austin. I have seen episodes posted on YouTube.

Write to brenfels@gmail.com.

Tuesday March 28, 2023

Table with 13 columns (Time slots) and 13 rows (Channels) listing morning programming.

Table with 13 columns (Time slots) and 13 rows (Channels) listing afternoon programming.

Table with 13 columns (Time slots) and 13 rows (Channels) listing evening programming.

Table with 13 columns (Time slots) and 13 rows (Channels) listing late evening programming.

Table with 13 columns (Time slots) and 13 rows (Channels) listing overnight programming.

Table with 13 columns (Time slots) and 13 rows (Channels) listing early morning programming.

Advertisement for TV Weekly magazine featuring a cover image and promotional text: 'GET A GREAT DEAL! What's On TV & Where To Find It! TV Weekly's listings and guides are so comprehensive, you won't find anything like it anywhere - subscribe today!'.

ADVICE & GAMES

ASK AMY

Pandemic lingers for some people

Dear Amy: I'm a 65-year-old physician with an immune deficiency, and while for many the pandemic no longer impacts their lives, I still need to consider my risk every day.

To quote Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, we're still in the "high plains plateau" of the pandemic, where people are dying of COVID daily.

It's reasonable for lower-risk people to move on. But those of us who still face the concern of a virus that could harm or kill us are more and more isolated.

I'd love to move freely and not feel so judged when I wear a mask, but there are no public spaces that are risk-free for me at this point.

There are different realities, and people are on their own to assess their risk and risk tolerance at this point and for the foreseeable future. It's very stressful.

I don't have a question for you, just a request that you spread this message. I wanted to offer my perspective, as someone who wishes desperately that I could do these things without considering my personal risk.

Amy says: Thank you for reminding us that for many, the pandemic is not over.

I cannot fathom wondering about or judging anyone's choice to wear a mask. In addition to the real and practical medical reasons for masking, what possible difference could it make to you if someone else wears one?

At this year's Academy Awards ceremony, actress Jessica Chastain (who won the Best Actress award last year) was seen wearing a mask. Her reason? She is currently appearing on Broadway, and she doesn't want to get sick. (Masks not only help to protect against the virus causing COVID, but also help to protect against other airborne viruses.)

There was an outpouring of support on social media for this artist's choice, with many people who still need to mask noting that her example made them feel less alone. I wish the same for you.

Lend, don't give

Dear Amy: I have a niece, "Jane," whom I love and feel very connected to. Around five years ago, Jane reached out to me with an emergency need for several thousand dollars. I didn't hesitate to give it to her, and she was extremely grateful.

Over the years I've given her smaller sums (without her asking), when I've had the sense that she was financially on the edge. Again, she has always been very grateful.

For a variety of reasons, I've decided not to continue to do this. First of all, I know she can make it on her own now. I also recognize that she is making choices that keep her lifestyle where it is. I know that if she wanted to live in a higher income bracket, she is perfectly capable of getting herself there.

Just as I'd decided this, she asked for financial help for the down payment on a house. I can afford to do this, but I'm wondering if I should. What are your thoughts?

Amy says: You don't mention if she ever repaid any of the money you gave her, so I'm assuming that you both saw these as gifts, rather than loans.

If you choose to give her money this time, you might set it up as a long-term loan. She can make small payments over time or agree to repay you the entire amount if (or when) she sells the house. Get the terms in writing.

If in the future she comes to you asking for another bailout, you can tell yourself (and her) that the well is dry until the loan is repaid.



Send questions to Amy Dickinson at askamy@amydickinson.com.

MISS MANNERS

Obsessed hubby needs to refocus

Dear Miss Manners: My husband is a very sweet, good-natured guy. But lately, he keeps upsetting me with an annoying (and, in my view, very inconsiderate) habit. He loves taking photos of me, including candid photos when I don't realize he is taking them.

I accept it is part of who he is. The really upsetting part is that he sometimes posts these photos on social media without my consent, even if I find them embarrassing. For example, he sends them to his family on a group chat that includes nine relatives. Today, he even sent an embarrassing photo to one of my friends/co-workers. I never find out until after these pictures are sent.

I have repeatedly tried to explain that this upsets me and is an invasion of my privacy. I also explained that some moments are intimate and should be left between us. But he claims the photos are "cute" or "beautiful" and that I shouldn't mind.

The last two times he did this, I felt rage. What do I do? **Gentle reader:** He is not all that sweet and good-natured if his idea of fun is to hound, upset and embarrass his wife. This is not "part of who he is," as you assert; it is something he chooses to do.

Miss Manners suggests that you stop arguing about the photographs and instead find out why your husband thinks it's OK to annoy you.

the wedding of his friend Cody. In the past three years, Cody and Liam have communicated, at most, three or four times via text.

Cody has asked Liam to throw a five-day destination bachelor party. Not only that, he and his fiancée are asking the members of the wedding party to fly to Austria for their "first" wedding, stay there for six days, then travel to Italy for their "second" wedding and stay there for another six days. And of course, they also are expected to bestow a gift on the couple.

My daughter figures attending the weddings would cost them about \$20,000, and that's without the bachelor party. They also would have to take their young son with them.

Liam is afraid that if he says no, he will lose Cody as a friend, while my daughter is telling him that Cody already isn't his friend. (I'm trying to stay out of it.) If she is successful in convincing Liam not to participate in this fiasco, how can he back out gracefully?

Gentle reader: It is hard for Miss Manners to imagine that anyone would accept these terms — let alone still want to be friends with the person who set them. All Liam has to say is, "I'm sorry, but I had no idea what this would involve. I simply can't do it. We wish you all the best."



"Miss Manners" is Judith Martin of the Washington Post. Send questions to her website, missmanners.com or to dearmissmanners@gmail.com.

SUDOKU

Complete the grid below so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. For help, go to en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudoku.

Monday's Answer

3	4	1	6	8	2	5	9	7
8	7	6	4	5	9	2	1	3
5	9	2	3	7	1	8	4	6
9	1	3	7	2	6	4	8	5
4	2	5	9	3	8	7	6	1
7	6	8	1	4	5	3	2	9
2	5	9	8	6	7	1	3	4
1	8	4	5	9	3	6	7	2
6	3	7	2	1	4	9	5	8

	9		2	4				6
2	8		7	6	1			
1		6			8			
	6	8				3	9	
4			1					2
	1	2				4	6	
			9			1		8
			4	8	2		7	9
8		1	5				2	

3/28 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

SUBJECT: AFRICAN COUNTRIES

You are provided with the first three letters of the name of a country in Africa. Complete the name. (e.g., Cha. Answer: Chad.)

Freshman level

- Ken
- Eth
- Alg

Graduate level

- Tun
- Sen
- Uga

Ph.D. level

- Gha
- Ben
- Moz

Answers:

1. Kenya 2. Ethiopia 3. Algeria 4. Tunisia 5. Senegal 6. Uganda 7. Ghana 8. Benin 9. Mozambique

Scoring:

- 18 points: congratulations, doctor
- 15 to 17 points: honors graduate
- 10 to 14 points: you're plenty smart, but no grind
- 4 to 9 points: you should hit the books harder
- 1 to 3 points: enroll in remedial courses immediately
- 0 points: who reads the questions to you?

DAILY BRIDGE CLUB

By FRANK STEWART

West dealer Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ 6 4 3
 ♥ A K 10 6
 ♦ 8 6 4 3
 ♣ 5 2

WEST
 ♠ A Q J 9 5 2
 ♥ 9 7 3 2
 ♦ J 10
 ♣ 7

EAST
 ♠ 10 8
 ♥ Q 8 5
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K Q 10 9 6 4 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ J 4
 ♦ A K 9 7 5 2
 ♣ A J 8

West 2 ♠ Pass
 North Pass 5 ♠
 East 3 ♠ All Pass
 South 4 ♠
 Opening lead — ♣ 7

In today's deal (reported by Barry Rigal) from the Life Master Pairs at the ACBL Fall Championships, East had options at his first turn to bid and chose a preemptive lift to three spades. He failed to shut out South, who came in with four diamonds (a lusty 3NT was possible) and was raised.

West led his singleton club: deuce, queen, ace. South drew trumps and next led the jack of hearts, putting up dummy's ace when West played low. Fine so far; but then declarer tried a spade to his king. He lost two spades and later a club. Down one.

It's sad to see this quality of play in an event for Life Masters. After South takes the ace of hearts, he has an extra chance by cashing the king and ruffing a heart. The fall of East's queen makes dummy's 10 high for the 11th trick.

When I became a Life Master in 1972, the title had some prestige. But now with masterpoint inflation plus the proliferation of events, players can achieve LM ranking without ever playing in tough competition.

Daily question
You hold: ♠ K 7 ♥ J 4 ♦ A K 9 7 5 2 ♣ A J 8. You open one diamond, your partner responds one spade, you jump to three diamonds and he bids three hearts. You try 3NT, and partner goes to four diamonds. What do you say?

Answer: Partner has a good hand with shortness in clubs. Since your ace of clubs is a good card and your king of spades may fill in partner's long suit, slam is likely. Cue-bid five clubs or just jump to six diamonds.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Like plans and eggs
- High-five, e.g.
- With 68-Across, ulterior motive ... or what 21-, 37- and 59-Across each has?
- Start of a conclusion
- Rose or Rozelle of sports
- Get situated
- "Damn!"
- Bring in
- Bestows, in the Bible
- New York City-born ice cream brand with a Danish-sounding name
- A scarf might cover it
- Group of nine
- Frank who directed "It's a Wonderful Life"
- Long-running sketch show, in brief
- Fab Four drummer
- The Wizard of ___ Park (Edison)
- Word before angle or awake
- Next-to-last Greek letter
- "The Bourne Identity" org.
- Home to the Taj Mahal
- 1970s auto that shares part of its name with one of Santa's reindeer
- The "E" in the mnemonic HOMES
- "Well, well, well!"
- Airport screening grp.
- Wambach in the National Soccer Hall of Fame
- Bowling alley features
- Slabs
- Word often confused with "lay"
- Macho sorts
- Perfume ingredient
- ZZ Top, for one
- Name for the star on Israel's flag
- Sparkly headpieces
- Certain inebriate
- Apian abode
- "Do it again!"
- "Will do!"
- Dell competitor
- See 9-Across
- Certain bulbs, in brief
- Loch ___
- Tres ___ cake
- Unmitigated
- Lizard with a crest
- Jackie Robinson, for one
- Go on a shopping spree
- Headliner
- The faintest amount
- "The Pirates of ___" (Gilbert and Sullivan operetta)

DOWN

- Motorcycle, in slang
- Olympic skater Slutskaya
- High-maintenance headliner
- Dramatic exhalation
- Double ___ (variety of pun)
- Math degree?
- Wyatt and Virgil of the Wild West
- First-aid equipment
- Lines on a map
- Kind of jet
- Sports star inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2021
- Third word in many limericks
- Very muscular, in slang
- Wiener schnitzel meat
- Circling, as a satellite
- Subject of HBO's 2013 biopic "Behind the Candelabra"
- Anthem lyricist with a musical name
- Off-base?
- Sounded satisfied, say
- Something that can roar or purr
- Salt Lake City resident
- Rookie
- Cutlery
- Passover repasts
- Amass a mass
- Sailor's speed
- ___ Lady (nickname for Margaret Thatcher or the Eiffel Tower)
- Camelot lady
- Sri Lankan specialty
- The moon's ___ of Tranquility

Monday's Answer

B	R	A	N	D	M	A	P	C	L	A	S	S
L	A	N	C	E	I	R	E	M	A	N	I	C
U	P	T	O	N	S	O	A	P	O	P	E	R
E	T	S	Z	E	E	S	E	N	A	M	E	L
J	U	I	C	E	P	R	E	S	S	Z	I	N
A	R	E	O	L	A	S	P	E	N	A	S	S
Y	E	S	M	D	A	T	E	S				
T	I	N	D	E	R	M	A	T	C	H		
C	H	O	R	E							O	O
C	U	B	L	E	I	S	T	A	N	T	O	N
A	R	E	A	S	Q	U	E	E	Z	E	T	O
P	S	A	L	M	S	T	A	D	A	O	D	D
F	U	S	E	B	O	X	E	S	L	A	D	L
L	A	I	S	T	S	L	O	N	A	B	Y	S

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	
15					16					17						
18					19					20						
21				22					23		24					
25						26			27			28		29		
30						31						32				
				33	34			35				36				
37	38	39	40					41				42				
43						44			45							
46						47			48			49	50	51	52	53
54					55					56						
	57		58					59		60						
61					62			63				64				
65								66				67				
68								69				70				

Puzzle by Daniel Raymond No. 0221 03/28/23

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Food with a tortilla shell
- Make a visit
- Gave a meal to
- Stench
- Cyclops feature
- Direction opposite WSW
- Fortune's partner
- Alternative strategy, or a hint to the word whose letters progress in reverse through 18-, 23-, 36-, 49- and 59-Across
- Home body?
- Name hidden in "white rice"
- Goals
- "The Tell-Tale Heart" writer
- Houston slugger
- Years and years and years
- Goof
- "This ride is fun!"
- Field that includes farmland?
- Hooded snake
- Warning sign in a TV studio
- Holy city in Saudi Arabia
- Mousy response?
- College sponsored by the LDS Church
- "You got it!"
- Name of Spain's current king
- Where people wait to get on board
- Take home, as a salary
- Fuzzy kind of rug
- Opposite of subtract
- Like some meatless diets
- Board game with a miniature candlestick
- 2021 M. Night Shyamalan thriller in which people age suddenly
- "Present!"
- Skeleton part
- 12/31: Abbr.
- Went offstage
- Orchid support
- Miso soup cube
- Lambert who sings with Queen
- Enters a tournament
- Quarry mineral
- Hooded snake
- Warning sign in a TV studio
- Holy city in Saudi Arabia
- Sinus doc
- Name that anagrams to "Syria"
- Like a beanpole
- Hula-
- Tony-winning Arthurian musical

DOWN

- Infatuate
- Like pound cake, vis-a-vis sponge cake
- Ovenware vessel
- Freudian concept
- Frock
- By ___ and bounds
- Lounge around
- Initial poker bet
- Leather punch
- Maroon 5's "___ Will Be Loved"
- French variant of "Ralph"
- Sinus doc
- Name that anagrams to "Syria"
- Like a beanpole
- Hula-
- Tony-winning Arthurian musical
- Bandaged body part in a van Gogh self-portrait
- Not wet
- Trample
- By mouth
- "Don't rain on my ___!"
- Snoopy, e.g.
- Holiday ___ Express
- Positive attribute
- When repeated, soothing words
- Stoned
- 2021 sci-fi epic starring Zendaya
- Judge to be 58
- Score such as 7-7
- Stunt cyclist's sport, briefly
- Type of tuna
- "Big Brother" network

Monday's Answer

E	M	O	J	I	A	R	K	L	G	B	T	Q			
R	A	T	E	D	D	E	I	E	I	G	H	T			
O	Z	O	N	E	L	E	T	A	T	A	R	I			
D	E	E	D	L	I	S	T	E	R	M	O	P			
E	L	S	E	O	B	E	I	S	N	E	W	S			
				R	P	G			S	O	Y				
				D	R	J	I	L	L	B	I	D	E	N	
P	H	I	S	C	O	U	R	E	D	E	D	M			
I	O	N		T	S	A				R	I	O			
E	M	O	D	R	U	H	I	L	L	D	S	L			
R	E	S	U	M	E	S	N	E	O	N	A	T	E		
F	A	R	E	S						M	O	O	L	A	
D	R	U	G	D	E	V	E	L	O	P	M	E	N	T	
H	E	R	E		T	E	X	A	N		A	R	C	S	
L	E	S	S		S	T	E	W	S		S	T	E	P	

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
14					15							16			
17					18							19	20	21	22
20					21							22			
				23	24				25	26	27				

Joffrey production is elegant, evocative and edgy

◀ **BALLET** from El of the dancers falling to the ground. A male dancer entered toward the fallen woman, a third female dancer blindfolding his eyes. An interlude of gorgeous lifts and aching beauty followed. It was a mesmerizing work, performed with a live orchestra.

"Serenade" was followed by John Steinbeck's classic "Of Mice and Men," choreographed by Cathy Marston. Academy Award-nominated composer Thomas Newman created a masterpiece score for the work, bringing in different flavors of American music — folk, roots, blues and more — which all propelled the plot forward and added to the emotional intensity.

The piece about best friends George and Lennie during the Depression era was set as a flashback to a horrible nightmare. George's character was performed by two dancers — Xavier Núñez and Alberto

Velazquez. They personified George living through the events of the story and expressing his inner turmoil as he came to grips with his own inability to stop the tragedy from happening. Dylan Gutierrez played Lennie with a sweet vulnerability of a giant that does not know his strength.

Lorenzo Savoini's set was spare. It was made of benches manipulated throughout the piece and ominous wood platforms that loomed over the characters, closing them in. His lighting design was made of the warm colors of dusk.

Joffrey closed out the evening with Justin Peck's "The Times Are Racing," an edgy, modern ballet piece with hints of hip-hop and popular dance and a reference to the Beatles. At times ebullient, it throbbed with a fast-paced energy as dancers in shorts, sneakers and oversized shirts raced toward a dramatic finish.



"Of Mice and Men" incorporates different flavors of American music.

CHERYL MANN

Is he 'The Next Great Artist'?

◀ **PAINTER** from El

It's been more than a decade since a reality TV series has tackled the art world. "The Exhibit" bypasses some of the genre's conventions, including weekly eliminations.

"It seemed antithetical to the process of evaluating art, which is inherently subjective, to send someone home every week," said Nadim Amiry, vice president of original series at MTV Entertainment Studios and Paramount Media Networks.

Instead, by judging the artists' body of work at the series' end, "it gave us the ability to really get to know these artists and understand how they view the world." Three episodes in, a second contestant revealed his Minnesota ties: Sculptor and furniture designer Misha Kahn was born in Duluth. He now lives and works in New York.

Deciding to include Hyde in the show was "one of the easier decisions," Amiry said.

He's a "highly credible painter" whose work appears in galleries across the country, including the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. "Frank's unique perspective on the role of Indigenous artists in today's society made him a really powerful voice in the series."



Artist Frank Buffalo Hyde in front of one of his recent paintings.

BRIAN PETERSON • brian.peterson@startribune.com

◀ **'Where I'm me'**

The show's second challenge hit Hyde's sweet spot.

The judges, including the Hirshhorn's director, Melissa Chiu, asked the artists to create — in seven hours or less — pieces that "reflect the world's love affair with social media." Some of the artists work in 3-D, some with mixed media. Some, like Hyde, paint.

For years, Hyde has used bold colors, pop icons and clever titles to comment on modern Native American culture, including its commodification. That includes toying with the way our screens have mediated our experiences; the phone is a frequent frame.

So when the show said "go," Hyde began painting, against a red-orange backdrop, buffalo

◀ **'The Exhibit: Finding the Next Great Artist'**

When: Friday, 9 p.m.
Where: MTV.

dancers' feet in traditional regalia. But the piece's focus is a phone being held in the foreground, capturing the scene.

He didn't win the challenge, but during the episode's "crit session," guest judge Jiajia Fei, a museum digital strategist, called it "a beautiful painting."

"Out of all the work here, it's the one that looks to me the most like art ... the one I would take home with me and add to my own collection."

Going into the show, Hyde was nervous about how he'd be edited, about how he'd look

on screen. But his jitters faded each time he entered the studio.

"That's my jam," he said. "That's where I'm me."

While some of his competitors played with wild, 3-D sculptures — think a giant, inflatable, resin banana — and tried new materials, Hyde stuck to his strength: painting, and quickly. Over his decades of working with acrylics, which can set six to 12 layers in a day, he accepted too many shows with a too-tight turnaround. Then his daughter was born, and speed became "a professional imperative."

With each of the show's six challenges, he said, he was the first to finish.

◀ **'No shortcut'**

In a bright garage-turned-studio, Hyde loaded his brush with black paint. With smooth, sure strokes he outlined one figure, two.

Behind him hung a 6- by 10-foot mural layered with faded imagery from his childhood near Syracuse, N.Y. Athletes in motion. An old-school Big Boy logo. The former Syracuse University mascot, the so-called Saltine Warrior, in profile.

He takes hold of their built-in narratives, then tweaks them.

"I'm reclaiming that tapestry," he said of the piece, titled "You're in Onondaga Country," a play on the old banner, "You're in Orangeman Country."

Hyde grew up 6 miles outside of Syracuse, on his moth-

er's Onondaga reservation. But he also spent lots of time in Santa Fe, where he assisted his father, a sculptor, in the studio. After playing in a rock band, he attended the Institute of American Indian Arts, studying writing before focusing on painting.

A gallery owner told him, at age 18, that painters hit their stride in their 50s. "Bullshit," he thought then. "But I kind of understand what they were trying to tell me, now that I'm in that neighborhood."

"There's no shortcut," he said. "You have to do the work, have to put the hours in the studio."

"I have been doing this for over 25 years but I feel like I'm just getting started."

In small, strange ways, his past prepared him for reality

TV. He and his wife, Courtney M. Leonard, had a studio in Santa Fe that was open to the public. There, they often worked outside as folks passed by and became comfortable making art in front of people.

He also stopped competing, long ago, with anyone but himself. Even on a show based on competing with other artists?

"Especially on a show where I'm competing with other artists," he said. "It doesn't faze me at all."

He has begun to incorporate the experience into his artwork, ever winking. A canvas in the corner of his studio features a familiar red logo: "As Seen on TV?"

Jenna Ross • 612-673-7168

Duluth writer's 'Daniel's Gotta Die' to screen at film festival

◀ **FILM** from El director Matthew Koshmrl, for those who are currently making movies and those who are filmmaking-curious. The program has a series of indie picks, including some that were made locally using resources available through the Media Arts School at Zeitgeist and the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm, Minn.

The festival includes a pitch competition, which gives would-be creators a chance to wow a panel of professionals, with up to \$18,000 in grants available.

"Daniel's Gotta Die" is the most Hollywood of the offerings. It's playing in two theaters — with one already sold out, Koshmrl said.

In this dark comedy, the four Powell children, ranging from the cold and calculating Mia (Rajskub) to the chipper and good-guy Daniel (Joel David Moore), must spend the week-

end at their dead father's (Iggy Pop) estate in order to claim a piece of the inheritance. While Daniel is bent on bonding, his siblings are trying to kill him and claim his money.

Dressel, 38, is a Michigan native who made his way to Duluth via Los Angeles around a decade ago. He quickly became embedded in the local filmmaking scene, filming shorts and writing scripts. He programmed films at Zinema for a while, curating a selection of offbeat movies. His YouTube series "The Pilot Is Dead" is a quirky and comedic look at the shortest of short-lived TV shows.

Dressel, whose influences range from the Coen brothers to "The Simpsons," wrote "Daniel's Gotta Die" 12 years ago — then it languished. It was optioned by production company Darius Films. Actors and directors came and went, and the title changed. It was



Provided by Matthew Dressel

Matthew Dressel, left, worked with producer Leah Jaunzerns and director Jeremy LaLonde on "Daniel's Gotta Die," the movie that he wrote more than a decade ago.

rewritten over and over again and eventually recast in the Caribbean as opposed to a cold northern clime. A blue iguana became a central figure. The title changed again.

In 2021, Dressel was part of a small COVID-19-conscious cast and crew in the Cayman

Islands and took on a heightened role with the production. In addition to writing updates on the fly, he shot behind-the-scenes footage. Later, back in Duluth, he was involved in every step through postproduction.

He's now seen the finished

product upward of 10 times — but never with friends and family.

"It's been absolutely surreal," Dressel said. "Even just being a part of the process. I have been there every step of the way."

In his screenplay, Dressel initially imagined the Powell family story as wacky and slapstick. But in the hands of Canadian filmmaker Jeremy LaLonde, that got toned down, and it darkened and became serious.

"The director took influences from Hitchcock," Dressel said.

Saget, most famous for his role as Danny Tanner on "Full House," died in January 2022 before he had a chance to see his final film. But he spent a lot of time talking about the experience on an episode of his podcast "Bob Saget's Here for You" with guest Rajskub.

On the episode, Rajskub, recalled getting a phone call from her agent asking if she

could leave in two days for the Cayman Islands, where she would need to be for next five weeks. She didn't even know anything about the film and said accepted the role even before she read the script.

"And then I read it and thought, 'When is the other shoe going to drop?'" Rajskub said.

"Daniel's Gotta Die" has been selected at several other screenings including the LA Comedy Festival, Garden State Film Festival in New Jersey and Monte-Carlo Film Festival. Dressel, meanwhile, is working on his own event, Junk Food Film Festival, that celebrates VHS culture and not-so-serious works. He's also continuing his web series.

"I'd like to get back to writing movies again," he said. "I just need to find someone who will pay me."

Christa Lawler • 218-940-5840
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