

BRIEFS

No injuries in Mankato house fire

MANKATO — A fire caused around \$65,000 damage to a Mankato residence Thursday afternoon.

No one was home when the fire broke out in the attic of the attached garage of 40 Karen Court around 2 p.m. Neighbors helped four dogs get out of the residence.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The Free Press

Floyd mural in Mpls defaced with paint

MINNEAPOLIS — Someone has defaced a giant mural of George Floyd at the Minneapolis intersection where he died in May.

Someone sprayed black paint on the mural on the side of a food market, the Star Tribune reported. A Minneapolis police spokesman says the department hasn't taken any reports about the vandalized mural, however.

Other Floyd murals around the country have reportedly been defaced, including in Rochester, Minnesota; Long Beach, California; and Portland, Oregon.

Floyd, who was Black, died on Memorial Day after four Minneapolis police officers arrested him for allegedly trying to use a counterfeit \$20 bill at the food market. The officers held him down on his stomach in the street while he was handcuffed. A white officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes even as Floyd said he could not breathe.

His death sparked global protests against racism and police brutality.

Grandmother found shot in backyard

ST. PAUL — St. Paul police are investigating the fatal shooting of a 61-year-old woman found in the backyard of an east side home.

Officers were called to a residence shortly before 9 p.m. Wednesday by the victim's daughter who said her mother had been shot in the head.

First responders found the victim unresponsive in the backyard. She could not be revived, the Star Tribune reported.

Family members who came to the home identified the victim as Theresa Janis. Relatives said Janis lived in the home with her daughter and grandchildren, ages 3, 4 and 5.

The children were at the home at the time of the shooting, but it's unclear what they may have seen or heard, family members said.

Police are looking for a suspect.

The death is the second homicide this week in St. Paul and the 21st of the year.

The Associated Press

Free Press alerts

You can get free text alerts via new text alert service by The Free Press.

Just go to www.mankatofreepress.com/textalert to sign up.

United Way campaign crucial for nonprofits

Goal at more than \$2 million to support 56 community programs

By **Brian Arola**
 barola@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — In what's been a difficult year for many nonprofits, the Greater Mankato Area United Way's annual campaign could be more crucial than usual.

The United Way set a

\$2.06 million goal when it virtually launched its 2021 campaign. The funding would support 56 programs at 36 agencies in Blue Earth, Nicollet, Le Sueur and Waseca counties.

The campaign takes on an added significance for some nonprofits because the

COVID-19 pandemic meant many traditional fundraisers weren't possible this year.

"More than ever we need (donor) support," said United Way CEO Barb Kaus. "We're very blessed in our region to have a community of people who give from their hearts; they always step up to the challenges."

Leisure Education for Exceptional People, or LEEP, typically has its LEEP

Legends charity softball game fundraiser during the summer. Not only could it not happen, but LEEP hasn't been able to resume its Special Olympics events since shutting down programming earlier in the pandemic.

The nonprofit is planning to pilot some form of distanced programming this year still, but the Special Olympics events its clients participate in won't resume

until the state organization deems it safe. With so much uncertainty about when programming can resume again, Executive Director Lisa Hoffman Wojcik said the United Way's funds will help keep costs low for clients once they do start up again.

"The United Way funds are critical for us," she said.

Please see **CAMPAIGN**, Page B3

HILLTOP SPOT

Sitting Bull statue overlooks prairie in Benson Park



Tim Krohn

The Sitting Bull sculpture is perched atop a hill in the prairie area in the center of Benson Park in upper North Mankato.

Resident donated sculpture to North Mankato



Tim Krohn

The Sitting Bull sculpture now looks over the restored prairie at Benson Park in upper North Mankato.

By **Tim Krohn**
 tkrohn@mankatofreepress.com

NORTH MANKATO — A limestone sculpture of Sitting Bull, which spent years in a yard in lower North Mankato and then time in storage at a city lot, has a new home with commanding views of restored prairie.

"We wanted to find a spot where he fit in, and I think this works well," said Mayor Mark Dehen.

The sculpture was done by local artist Tom Miller, who worked on it off and on for about 17 years. He later sold it to Jon Pluto, who lived at 615 Belgrade Ave. Pluto recently donated the statue to the city.

The city worked with Native Americans Dave Brave Heart and David Clobes, as well as Miller, as they sought a permanent home

for it.

City Administrator John Harrenstein said they looked at several locations, including Spring Lake Park, Bluff Park and near the Rex Macbeth memorial next to the Veterans Memorial Bridge as it would be in the shadow of the Ardent Mill silos mural depicting Native Americans and located close to downtown.

Harrenstein and Dehen said Brave Heart and Clobes most liked Benson Park, a new and expansive park in upper North Mankato that features restored prairie, rolling hills and wetland features.

"As far as we know, Sitting Bull was considered the protector of the prairie," Harrenstein said of the site selection.

"He's on the hillside watching

Please see **SCULPTURE**, Page B3

Area job numbers down but improving

Region does better than rest of state

By **Tim Krohn**
 tkrohn@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — The Mankato area's job numbers are improving but still off last year's mark. Overall, however, the Mankato area performed far better than the rest of the state in clawing back jobs during the pandemic.

In July the Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is all of Blue Earth and Nicollet counties, saw job numbers down 1.4% compared to July 2019.

(In June, local job numbers were down 5.2% from a year earlier.)

There were 55,573 jobs in the region in July, down 781 from a year earlier.

Manufacturing jobs locally were down 2.3% year over year, while service sector jobs were down 1.2%. Government jobs were up 14.2% locally compared to a year earlier.

The average hours per week worked was down, with an average of 25.5 hours per week this year compared to 29.5 hours a year earlier.

The Mankato area performed considerably better than other metro areas in the state.

Minneapolis-St. Paul jobs were down 8.7% year over year, Duluth was down 9.3%, Rochester down 8% and St. Cloud was down 3.1%.

Minnesota's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 7.7% in July down from 8.6% in June, according to numbers released Thursday by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Over the year in July, Minnesota shed 256,062 payroll jobs, down 8.5%. The private sector shed 220,409 of those jobs, also down 8.5%. All sectors continued to show over-

Please see **JOBS**, Page B3



CONNECT
Real Estate Group

www.connectmankato.com 151 St. Andrews Ct.
info@connectmankato.com Ste. 400, Mankato,
 (507) 779-7319 MN 56001



Scan me!



Man's affair with neighbor hits moment of truth

DEAR ABBY: Last night I visited my 47-year-old son. After a 23-year marriage, he is going through a nasty divorce. While I was there, he asked my opinion about what he should do regarding a "situation."



DEAR ABBY
Universal Press

A 62-year-old female divorced neighbor, who looks much younger, befriended him, and they've been having sex and spending time together for several months. She hasn't been in any relationships for two years.

He told her he's not interested in a permanent relationship because he's

still not in a good emotional place, but he told me the real reason is their age difference. She told him she wants to continue, hoping it will lead to something permanent. He wants to be friends with benefits but doesn't want to hurt her feelings by telling her this.

He's a decent guy and feels he's being deceptive. I suggested he be honest and tell her it's because of the age difference. What do you recommend? —

MOM IN THE MIDDLE

DEAR MOM: Does your son think it will hurt the

woman's feelings less if he monopolizes her for months — or more — and breaks the news later? For some people, a 15-year age difference is no big deal. But the longer this arrangement continues, the more hurt she will be when she finds out how much it matters to him.

I agree with you. Honesty is the best policy. And you know what? If she's as worldly as I suspect she may be, she may agree to continue the arrangement just the way it is.

DEAR ABBY: I am a quilter. I have created hundreds of quilts as gifts for friends and family over the last 30 years.

Earlier this year, my husband's uncle passed away, and my mother-in-law brought his quilt over and gave it back to me. When my mother passed recently, I was given her quilt back, too. Looking at them makes me sad, but I can't bear to just throw them away.

My question is, what do I do with them? And what can I say to people about not returning these gifts I made without hurting their feelings at the time they've lost their loved ones? —

HURT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HURT: This is the first I have heard about returning personal gifts to the givers after someone

passes away, and frankly, I am surprised. I wonder if the same would be true of gifts of expensive jewelry or clothing?

If it happens again, all you have to say is how sorry you are for the person's loss but that you don't "need" the quilt back and suggest it be donated to a hospital, nursing home, senior center or orphanage. Consider contacting a local church for information on where they might be needed.

As to what to say to these grieving relatives, remember that when a gift is given, it is the recipient's — or the recipient's survivors — to do with as

they wish. Try not to take it so personally.

DEAR ABBY: What do you say to a guy who resurfaces 10 months after our first encounter and wants to know if I want to "see" him again? He didn't mention going to dinner or a movie or anything — just seeing each other every 10 days or so. —

UNDECIDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNDECIDED: I'm not you, but this is what I would say: "What do you have in mind? A hike? A picnic at the beach? A socially distanced dinner?" And if his answer isn't something more than getting together for sex, I'd pass.

When the bells toll for thee, watch out

Here is another of Fran Lebowitz's funny comments: "Remember that as a teenager you are in the last stage of your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you."

At the bridge table, sadly, you rarely know

when the phone is ringing for you. But it helps to remember the facts. Of course, part of the problem is the amount to remember, some of it important, some irrelevant. Still, remember to remember how many trumps have gone, how many points are in the opponents' hands (easier to do if they bid), which cards are winners, how the bid-

North 08-21-20			
♠ 7 4 2			
♥ 6 3			
♦ Q J 10 8			
♣ A Q J 9			
West	East		
♠ 10 8 6 5 3	♠ J 9		
♥ 8 5 4	♥ K Q J 9 2		
♦ 5	♦ K 6 4 3		
♣ 8 7 4 2	♣ K 3		
South			
♠ A K Q			
♥ A 10 7			
♦ A 9 7 2			
♣ 10 6 5			
Dealer: East			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	1♥
All Pass			
Opening lead: ♠ 4			

one no-trump if East had had the courtesy to pass. It also promised at least one stopper in the opener's suit. North had an easy raise to game.

There are six top tricks: three spades, one heart, one diamond and one club. A winning finesse in either minor will bring in the extra three tricks. Which one to take? There are only 13 high-card points missing, so East must have both of the minor-suit kings for his opening bid. Therefore, after South wins with the heart ace, he should cross to the club ace and take the diamond finesse three times to collect nine tricks.

Take the club finesse, though, and declarer loses a rapid five tricks: four hearts and one club.

A concussion requires medical care

DEAR DOCTORS: I tripped while I was out running a few months ago and got pretty banged up, including a knock to the head. My wife worried about a concussion and wanted me to see a doctor. How do you know if you have a concussion?

DEAR READER: A concussion is a type of brain injury that can occur when a force is powerful enough to cause the head, along with the brain inside of it, to shake quickly back and forth. This can result from the type of direct impact you experienced when you fell during your run. It may also be caused by an indirect force that's powerful enough to make the head whip back and forth, as can happen during a tackle or when you're rear-ended in your car at high speed.

Your brain is basically a passenger within your skull. When something causes your head to stop short or suddenly change direction, your brain continues moving. It bounces and twists and bumps into the interior surfaces of the skull. A concussion results in a chemical change within the brain, along with bruises, tears or injury to the soft and fragile tissues. Because it's not life-threatening, concussion is typically referred to as a mild traumatic brain injury, or TBI. However, the ef-

fects can be serious.

When you have a concussion, symptoms may show up right away, or they can develop over a period of hours or days. Immediately after a concussion, a person may appear dazed or bewildered. They may not immediately be aware of what happened, and it's possible they won't recall the moments leading up to the injury. Some people become clumsy, and they may have trouble understanding and following directions. Physical symptoms can include headache, feeling nauseated, vomiting, a feeling of pressure within the skull, blurred or double vision, ringing in the ears and problems with balance and coordination. Some people may develop a sensitivity to external stimuli, including light and sound. The person may report feeling slow or groggy or just generally not OK. A brief loss of consciousness immediately after impact is possible.

Someone with a suspected concussion should seek medical care. You'll be asked for details about the accident, as well as any symptoms. It's important to also share information about any medications and supplements, as some can

increase risk of bleeding. Diagnosis includes a neurological exam that checks vision, hearing, strength, balance and coordination. Cognitive tests are used to evaluate memory, recall and concentration. It's possible that someone would be asked to stay overnight in a hospital for observation.

In some cases, brain imaging tests may be considered.

In 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a blood test to evaluate concussion. It measures levels of two protein biomarkers that the brain releases into the blood within 12 hours of a head injury. It's not a diagnostic test for concussion, but it does help predict which patients will have injuries that will be visible in a brain scan.

With 3.8 million reported concussions per year, this is a common injury. It's also a potentially serious one. It's important, so we'll say it again: If you suspect a concussion, seek medical care.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health.



EVE GLAZIER and ELIZABETH KO
Ask the Doctors

The Free Press MEDIA Trusted. Local. Indispensable. www.mankatofreepress.com Call 507-625-4451 to subscribe

The Free Press MEDIA
The OFFICIAL Sponsor of the Annual Greater Mankato Fall City Wide Garage Sale
Friday, September 11 & Saturday, September 12
SOCIAL DISTANCING ENCOURAGED
Ads run Thursday, Sept. 10
Friday, Sept. 11 • Saturday, Sept. 12
Find up-to-the-minute garage sale postings online at www.mankatofreepress.com/classifieds

1-15 WORDS*	16-25 WORDS*	26-35 WORDS*	36-45 WORDS*
\$7.95	\$10.95	\$13.95	\$16.95

*Word count includes dates, times, and location

ALL paid ads receive a FREE Garage Sale Kit
Call 507-625-3764 to pickup kit

ROJO-GARCIA: Niece makes older man cry

Continued from Page B8

She said that the older gentleman was reinforcing what the speakers at the rally were talking about various topics. Again, she said, their ideas didn't suit her ideas, but she listened anyway.

"And I told him that," she said. "But after that, they tried to tell me about the reasons why they like Trump and asked why I didn't."

It was at this point, she said, that she made an older gentleman cry. Oh, boy.

"What did you do to make an old guy cry?"

"I told him that he hurt Mexicans," she said. Things that she had even experienced, such as classmates attempting to bully her saying

that her dad probably sells drugs because he's Mexican. Things like losing friendships because one friend told her that all Mexicans are murderers, 'illegal' and thieves.

"You said all that?" I said. "Yeah! He said he never thought of that. But we continued to talk, though they talked over me sometimes — I told him 'Excuse me' — and I think we both learned something."

Eventually, she said, one of the gathering's leaders came up to her to give her a business card to become an intern of sorts. She thanked him, though she didn't take the offer. And just listening to her express her concerns and listen to others, I could hear her passion for social

issues, politics and, most importantly, understanding.

(Also, to the two men at the gathering, I don't know you, but thanks for listening to my niece. I think she's pretty amazing, too.)

I was — am — in complete awe of this 14-year-old kid. Fearless. Compassionate. Craving knowledge to make informed decisions. And knowing it's OK to be outspoken but with tact.

"And what did you take away from this meetup?" I asked her.

"Being educated and respectful goes a long way," she said.

Bingo, kid.
Diana Rojo-Garcia can be reached at 5070-344-6305 or drojogarcia@mankatofreepress.com.

PROTESTS: 'What we are doing will benefit'

Continued from Page B8

for participating in a Harry Potter-themed protest on Aug. 3.

The other eight political and labor activists and artists were arrested Wednesday and early Thursday on sedition and other offenses related to the July 18 protest, Arnon's lawyer, Weeranan Huadsri, said.

They were brought to the criminal court Thursday and flashed three-fingered salutes, a sign of resistance borrowed from the movie "The Hunger Games." In the evening they were released on bail under the

condition that they do not repeat their offenses, Arnon said.

Dozens of supporters were waiting outside the court, singing and chanting slogans such as "Down with dictatorship" and "Long live democracy."

Arnon said he believes he can still attend rallies and speak up on the issues he raised.

"We've always affirmed that what we do isn't illegal and is allowed under the constitution. And it is done with the intention of seeing our society become fully democratic. And we are

sure that what we are doing will benefit the country," he said.

Human Rights Watch called on Thai authorities to drop all charges against the activists.

"The Thai government's repeated promises to listen to dissenting voices have proven meaningless as the crackdown on pro-democracy activists continues unabated," said Brad Adams, Asia director of the group. "The authorities should right their wrong and immediately drop the charges and release Arnon and other detained activists."

Greater Mankato City Wide Garage Sale

Location of Sale: _____
Date & Time: _____
Texts: _____

For our records only

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Drop form and payment off at:
The Free Press, 418 S. 2nd Street, Mankato
or mail your form and payment to: The Free Press, PO 3287,
Mankato MN 56002 or call 507-344-6395

Deadline to place ad is Tuesday, September 8 at 12 pm (noon)