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HURRICANE DELTA HITS LOUISIANA

TODAY'S OBITUARIES

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• Glenda Lou (Bunde) Jonson
• Gina Elizabeth Sandbo

MORE ONLINE

Plot puts focus on governors' safety

A plot to kidnap Michigan's governor has put a focus on the security of governors who have faced protests and threats over their handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

While the alleged plot against Gretchen Whitmer is the most specific and highest-profile to come to light, it's far from the first threat against state officials, particularly Democrats who imposed business closures and restrictions on social gatherings.

Across the country, armed protesters have rallied this year against coronavirus-related shutdowns. In Michigan, some protesters with guns were allowed inside the statehouse in April after passing temperature screenings. Some lawmakers wore bulletproof vests.

Read the story at mankatofreepress.com.

LOTTERY

Friday's Daily 3 7-1-6

Friday's Gopher 5 2-16-18-24-36

Wednesday's Powerball 6-24-30-53-56 and 19

Wednesday's Lotto America 17-19-24-34-51 and 10

Friday's Northstar Cash 5-18-20-22-28

Friday's Mega Millions 5-11-25-27-64 and 13

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WEATHER, PAGE A6

Sunny

High in the upper 60s. Low in the low 50s.



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Mankato, Minnesota

COVID cases decline in region over week

Martin County death attributed to virus

The Free Press and MPR News

MANKATO — South-central Minnesota had a dip in new COVID-19 cases over the last week.

The nine-county region combined for 356 new cases, compared to 490 the week before, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Testing was lower during an overlapping time period, but so

was the rate of positive tests.

The counties' overall positivity rate dropped from 5.7% to 4.5% from Sept. 23-30 to Sept. 30-Oct. 7. The new case totals are for the weeks of Sept. 25-Oct. 2 and Oct. 2-9.

Blue Earth County's weekly case total dropped for the second straight week. The county has gone from 120 to 104 to 75 new cases over the last three weeks.

Despite the regionwide drop in new cases, only two other counties in south-central Minnesota actually had fewer cases this week compared to the week before. Waseca and Martin counties, however, had big drops.

Waseca County went from 156 to 74 new cases over the last two weeks. There were significantly fewer tests in the county over the last week as well — free testing the week before led to an elevated

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test total — although the rate of positives dropped from 14% two weeks ago to 10.5% over the last week.

A COVID outbreak at Waseca's prison for women isn't as widespread as it was last week. The prison had 71 active cases among inmates and one among staff as of Friday, according to the Bureau of Prisons.

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A DOG DAY



Pat Christman

Lily Tompkins, 4, throws a stick for her dog Bruno on a summer-like afternoon Friday at Hiniker Pond. Temperatures over 80 made it feel more like summer than fall. Saturday is expected to be 15 degrees cooler with Sunday rising back into the 70s.

Virus cases lead Loyola to go to remote learning

Building closed; activities still on

By Kristine Goodrich kgoodrich@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — Loyola Catholic School has returned to distance learning for at least a week due to confirmed and possible COVID-19 cases.

The Mankato private school, with around 500 students, closed to in-person learning on Friday.

As of Thursday there were two confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and staff, Principal Adam Bemmels said. Multiple other members of the school community

also are unwell, though as of Friday it was not clear if they have the coronavirus.

School leaders decided to temporarily close the building while testing, contact tracing and notifications are underway.

Bemmels called it a "difficult decision" that was made balancing the hardship the closure creates for some families with the public health risk.

Students and staff used Friday as catch-up and preparation day, Bemmels said. Classes will be held remotely Monday through Wednesday. Thursday and Friday are pre-scheduled no school days.

Please see LOYOLA, Page A2

MSU completes plan for educating better cops

Report based on input from community, criminal justice professionals

By Mark Fischenich mfishenich@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — A four-month review of how Minnesota State University educates future police officers, ordered by MSU President Richard Davenport following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, has been

completed.

A long list of changes are proposed by the start of the 2021-22 academic year in Minnesota's largest four-year law enforcement program. The review included community listening sessions and advice from a workgroup of law enforcement professionals, racial justice advocates and university officials.

The recommendations are founded on a goal of making future police officers, corrections officers and others planning to work in the criminal justice system more educated about the lives and perspectives and

histories of the full range of Americans they will encounter in their careers.

Four July listening sessions, each attended via Zoom by 18 to 31 community members, generated numerous themes. Students in criminal justice programs need to understand history, including social and economic inequality, and how different groups have different perspectives on the role of law enforcement.

And they need to learn how to listen to criticism, according to the report's summary of the

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