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POSTBULLETIN

UNLOCK DIGITAL AT >>> POSTBULLETIN.COM/ACTIVATE | ROCHESTER, MINN. | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021 | ONE SECTION

We the People



David Ramirez, Rochester, nurse

1. What is your hope for the future of this country?

“It might sound cliché, but unity in our country. We’re very divided. Sadly. So unity.”

2. How can you yourself contribute to that future?

For me, just follow the golden rule: Do unto others.



Ed Scharnweber, Zumbrota, radiology informatics

1. What is your hope for the future of this country?

“My hope: Communication. I hope people can focus on communication and collaboration to get things done. I think a lot of focus has been on the things that divide everyone, and I would like to see how can connect and move forward.”

2. How can you yourself contribute to that future?

I think keeping an open mind: Fact-finding, talking to people, get their understanding. Don’t try to make false pretenses where you make a judgment without knowing all the information. There’s a lot of polarization out there. And I can see viewpoints from both sides. Again, just take some time to sit down and think it through before you make a decision. Talking to people and getting their understanding is going to be key.

Most of us know those three words as the beginning of the preamble to the U.S. Constitution. They are powerful. They unite. They speak of a collective mission.

“We the people of the United States of America, in order to form a more perfect union ...”

The framers of our Constitution adopted those words with hope in their hearts, but also knowing that a perfect union would be hard to keep.

And, frankly, our form of government has faced a lot of challenges in recent years. But we have overcome such challenges in the past with a collective resolve to improve.

So the time has come for each of us, every one of us — even those of us in the media — to ask ourselves, “What will I do to help form a more perfect union?”

Because, after all, we the people decide our government.

Today, as was done 45 times before, we inaugurate a new president. Nearly half of those voting in November chose someone else to lead this country. But this is how it works in a democracy.

So there is a new beginning, a chance to start anew. A chance for us to take stock of what unites us rather than what divides us.

Our company of 300-plus journalists fanned out across our region’s communities to ask our neighbors, our fellow citizens, what they want for their country, and how they might contribute to those goals.

Turns out the hope our founders had for a more perfect union is still alive and well. These are our voices, our faces, our values.



Joe Dammann, St. Charles, radiology informatics

1. What is your hope for the future of this country?

“Continued progress and healing as a nation, literally and physically. Get past this pandemic. Get people well and trusting in the safety of public places. Emotionally, too. There’s a lot of divide, so there’s a lot of lost trust on an emotional and social level. We need to heal that, too. Overcoming those two huge issues that have really cropped up in the last two years: The pandemic and the social divide.”

2. How can you yourself contribute to that future?

It’s just patience. I think people need to take a moment, kind of consume the information they have and make sure that that information is valid before you snap to judgment or make a rash decision. I think a lot of what we’ve lost as a society is that patience, where you take a step back and don’t be so quick to snap to judgment. Let things unfold just a little bit more before you make a decision. (That road rage instinct) is very pervasive now. It’s really crept from road rage to general societal rage. People get so worked up so quickly. Things escalate much more quickly than they need to.



Vagisha Kulshreshtha, Rochester, Mayo Clinic graduate student

1. What is your hope for the future of this country?

“I definitely want us to stay focused on our health, on our community’s health, and make sure we can take care of everyone who is not in the best of circumstances. But I definitely hope in the future that we can move past all the division that we’ve had in our community and in our families. And just hope for the better.”

2. How can you yourself contribute to that future?

I try to be inclusive. I try to welcome new people in our community, even though they might have different beliefs from me. They might have a different background, a different culture. I like having a big community. I like having a big community. I like talking to people and making them feel comfortable.



Paul Kielas, Minneapolis, self-employed

1. What is your hope for the future of this country?

“No pandemic. Yep, that’s my hope for the future. Clearly looking forward to a new president. I truly believe that the impeachment is imperative, and I believe no one person can do what he has done, in all honesty. Clearly, I’m a Democrat. I have Republican family, and it’s created a whole lot of difficulties in our life. No one person is above the law, and that includes our president.”

2. How can you yourself contribute to that future?

By supporting the Democrats, I guess, is my thought. And what I can do to help others that struggle. If that means I see a guy on the street that is struggling financially, give a little something.



Johnny Key, Rochester, security

1. What is your hope for the future of this country?

“Hope better for everybody, so we can be as one. We all go through the same issues. We all got issues.”

2. How can you yourself contribute to that future?

I always try to give good input to people. To make things better. Just trying to give positive input in my job — and through the things that I have been through in life. Spread the good word to people.

Vaccine signup portal for seniors quickly overwhelmed

BY PAUL JOHN SCOTT
Forum News Service

ROCHESTER, Minn. — Gov. Tim Walz said it would be like trying to get tickets over the phone for Bruce Springsteen. It turns out to have been more like trying

to get tickets for The Beatles. Possibly even Hamilton.

Within its opening minutes of operation at noon Tuesday, Jan. 19, the Minnesota Department of Health vaccine sign-up call line offered a busy signal. The state had

advised seniors to try the webpage first, where there was no window to log in until noon.

For those who logged on at 12:01 p.m., the signup page was already triggering a virtual waiting room, one which lasted for 15 minutes

before offering a selection from one of the nine sites, which then leads to a signup form.

But for those who tried even just a few moments later, the waiting room remained frozen in place. Instead of a heartless rainbow wheel for the

provision of medicine capable of liberating the state’s 1 million seniors from self-quarantine, it offered a beating heart.

Not long thereafter, the signup page had crashed, first giving an error reading, and eventually a red box which stated:

“We are experiencing extremely high call volume and traffic to the vaccine registration page. The vendor is working to address these technical issues. Please check back momentarily.”

VACCINE: Page 3



Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

Lourdes boys hockey coach Jeff True speaks to his team during the first boys hockey practice of the season Jan. 4 at Graham Arena in Rochester. Players are required to wear masks during practice and competition to help prevent the spread of COVID.

Group files lawsuit over mask mandate

BY JASON FELDMAN
jfeldman@postbulletin.com

High school winter sports teams across the state began practicing this week.

Many teams in Minnesota can begin playing games in five days.

As of now, hockey and basketball players will have to wear face coverings to play in those games, as they have done this week in practices.

But a group is pushing to get that mask mandate repealed.

Let Them Play MN, an organized group of parents, coaches, officials and athletes from across Minnesota, has filed a lawsuit against Gov. Tim Walz and other state officials seeking to reverse the state's requirement that high school and youth athletes — basketball and hockey players, specifically — wear masks while practicing and competing in games.

The Star Tribune of Minneapolis first reported the lawsuit late Friday night.

The mask mandate was announced on Monday, Dec. 28, the same day it was announced that winter sports teams could resume practices on Monday, Jan. 4. High school and youth sports had been paused since mid-November, ending the high school football season after a limited number of playoff games. It also ended the high school volleyball season just days before the postseason was to begin.

Let Them Play MN's lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court on

Friday. According to the Star Tribune report, Let Them Play MN says young athletes are being singled out "for disfavor and unnecessary restrictions" that the group claims are illegal. The suit also alleges that the state has not shown data to justify its mask mandate and that it has "singled out youth athletes — restricting their liberty and ignoring their health — as a political sacrifice without support in their own data, sound science or any rational basis."

In the lawsuit, some athletes and coaches from around the state offered their accounts of how masks have affected them during practices. The Let Them Play MN Facebook page also includes numerous posts from parents whose children have experienced problems, including nausea, vomiting and asthma attacks, while using masks during practices.

Some hockey coaches in southeastern Minnesota told the Post Bulletin this week that players were having trouble adjusting to wearing masks under their helmets. Players and coaches said the masks restrict their peripheral vision, making it difficult to see the puck when it's at their feet. One coach expressed concern that, if a player is along the boards and looking down for the puck, it could increase the danger of a hit from behind or from the side sending the player head-first into the boards.

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 7

AN IDEAL FIT

BY PAT RUFF
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Iowa the perfect spot for K-M's Kennedy

Patrick Kennedy doesn't break into a rash, become short of breath or have heart palpitations when he loses a wrestling match.

Nobody was quite sure what would be the case with the Kasson-Mantorville phenom and 2020 graduate when he did suffer a loss. That's because the name Patrick Kennedy and "lose" hadn't gone together in 2 1/2 years and well more than 110 matches.

The two finally did converge this past November when Kennedy was pinned in the title match of the U23 and UWW Junior Nationals in Omaha, Neb.

While the loss bugged the heck out of him, there was no rush to the hospital afterward.

Now, two months later, Kennedy has an even better feel for his reaction to losing. That seemed inevitable as the 174-pounder is a freshman wrestling on the No. 1-ranked team in the country, the University of Iowa.

The losing — which occurs only occasionally for him — has happened in the Iowa wrestling room. And while it's been tough for him to take and nothing he wants to make a habit of, the freshman has discovered that it might be just the thing for him.

Kennedy has built a reputation as someone with massive hunger to be the best in his sport. But it turns out that losing makes him down-right ravenous, and in the process, better.

"There are some days where I get beat," Kennedy said, "but I love the challenge of it; I love being in those dogfights in the room. I might get beat, but then I come back the next time full of piss and vinegar."

Kennedy has felt at home since showing up at Iowa City in August. It was already a familiar place for Kennedy, who'd been coming to the University of Iowa the last few summers to train with the team.

IDEAL FIT

It made picking the Hawkeyes easy for Kennedy, who was a four-time state champion and the No. 1-ranked 182-pounder in



the country when he graduated from Kasson-Mantorville.

After five months as a Hawkeye, Kennedy hasn't been disappointed. This was what he was looking for, starting with the seriousness of this wrestling program.

Kennedy says there's no beating around the bush here from its head coach, Tom Brands, or any of Iowa's wrestlers.

"A lot of the stuff we are doing here is a lot like we did at Kasson-Mantorville" under coach Jamie Heidt, a former University of Iowa star wrestler, Kennedy said. "It's awesome to be in the wrestling room here. The best part about it is how direct everyone is and how there's no beating around the bush. If there is something that you need to hear, they're going to let you know it."

None of the Hawkeyes have wrestled in an actual match yet this season. Like every college sport, the COVID-19 pandemic has messed with wrestling schedules around the country. Iowa doesn't go at it for real until Friday, when it hosts Big Ten rival Nebraska.

"A lot of things are goofy because of COVID," said Kennedy, who had in-class learning his first day on campus but has been doing it online ever since, like everyone at his school. "But I'm not going to fight it. If I have to wear a mask in order to win a national title, I'll do that."

Kennedy is uncertain which Hawkeye will be in the starting lineup on Friday at his 174-pound weight. Kennedy, senior Michael Kemerer and junior Myles Wilson are all possibilities.

But he's not worried about it, feeling that things will sort themselves out as the season progresses.

Whether he is chosen on Day 1 to represent Iowa or not at 174 pounds, it's not going to change his plans.

He has subscribed to Brands' way of thinking, which is to think big and to waste no time to get there.

"Tom always has a sense of urgency with us to get better," Kennedy said. "He tells us not to wait around. He preaches that you can be as good as you want to be."

Kennedy has never wavered about his own desire. Go into his room on the Iowa campus and there it is.

"My goal is to be a national champion and to do it every year," he said. "I've got it written on my wall. I think about it all the time."

Photo courtesy of University of Iowa

Kasson-Mantorville graduate Patrick Kennedy, a four-time state wrestling champion, is now a freshman wrestling at No. 1-ranked Iowa.

Tide or Buckeyes? What to watch for in tonight's CFP title game

Post Bulletin staff

Alabama and Ohio State have combined to win half of the national championships since the College Football Playoffs were implemented in 2015.

Ohio State won the inaugural CFP championship, beating Oregon 42-20 in January of 2015, just more than a week after beating Alabama in the CFP semifinals in the Sugar Bowl.

Alabama won two of the next three, beating Clemson in 2016 and Georgia in 2018. The Tide have been in four championship games in all, suffering losses in 2017 and 2019 to Clemson.

Here are four things to watch in tonight's 7 p.m. CFP championship game (ESPN, 7 p.m.).

COACHING EXPERIENCE

Alabama's Nick Saban is coaching in his fifth CFP championship game. Ohio

State's Ryan Day is in his first.

Saban is 249-63-1 as a college head coach. Day is 23-1 overall.

Saban has led four teams to national championship games. He knows how to prepare, what's worked for his teams and what hasn't.

But will any of that matter this season?

And does that lack of experience affect Day at all? His Buckeyes were a distinct underdog in the national semifinals against defending champion Clemson, yet Ohio State dominated that game, winning 49-28.

THE FIELDS FACTOR

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields will again have to be at his best for the Buckeyes to keep pace with the Tide. Fields was outstanding against Clemson in the semifinals, throwing for 358 yards and six touchdowns.

It was a spectacular,

if somewhat unexpected performance from Fields, who had thrown for 15 total TDs and five interceptions in his previous six games.

Another strong effort by Fields will help open up the Buckeyes' running game.

Star back Trey Sermon rushed for nearly 200 yards against Clemson. Perhaps of more importance for OSU: How healthy is Fields? He took a heavy shot to the ribs early against Clemson and looked flustered for the rest of the first half. He looked like a different QB in the second half of that game, helping the Buckeyes cruise to a win. Which Fields will we see tonight?

CONTROL THE FLOW

Ohio State can score. It averages more than 40 points

per game this season.

But the Buckeyes likely don't want to get into an up-and-down game with the Tide, who can strike quickly and strike at will.

Ohio State must generate a pass rush and make Alabama QB Mac Jones uncomfortable

early in the game. If Jones and his standout group of receivers, including Heisman Trophy winner Devonta Smith, get hot early, it'll be a long night for the Buckeyes.

OSU's front seven also is tasked with slowing Alabama's star running back Najee Harris, who runs behind one of the best offensive lines in the country. Harris literally ran around, over and through Notre Dame defenders in the CFP semifinals.

Alabama has won twice this season despite allowing more than 45 points in a game.

If tonight's game turns into a track meet, that'll likely not be good news for the Buckeyes.

THE TURNOVER BATTLE

A big reason why Ohio State is unbeaten heading into this game is their turnover differential.

The Buckeyes have forced at least one turnover in every game but one this season, and they average 2.6 forced turnovers per game. OSU forced Clemson into two turnovers in the national semifinals and the Buckeyes are third in the country in turnover margin (plus-1.29 per game).

Forcing turnovers against the Tide is easier said than done, though.

Alabama (12-0) averages less than a turnover per game and QB Mac Jones has thrown a total of four interceptions all season.



Fields



Jones

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COVID-19 case numbers

COUNTY	NEW CASES	TOTAL CASES
Dodge	21	860
Fillmore	22	699
Goodhue	66	2,032
Houston	12	698
Mower	44	2,616
Olmsted	120	6,656
Wabasha	26	1,056
Winona	31	2,769
STATE TOTAL	8,953	312,969

Updated: 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Source: Minn. Dept. of Health

Minn. COVID cases, deaths rise toward end of holiday weekend

BY ANNE HALLIWELL
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The Minnesota Department of Health on Sunday reported 8,953 new COVID-19 cases and 57 deaths.

Of the 57 deaths, 28 lived in private residences, while the other 29 lived in long-term care facilities or assisted living. They ranged from an Anoka County resident in their late 50s to a Nobles County resident over age 100.

The number of cases and deaths has risen dramatically after the start of Thanksgiving weekend's average of 22.5 deaths a day. November has already been the deadliest month since the beginning of the pandemic.

Hennepin County reported 1,981 of the 8,953 new COVID-19 cases Sunday. Dakota County reported 727 newly confirmed cases, Ramsey County reported 698, and Anoka County reported 566.

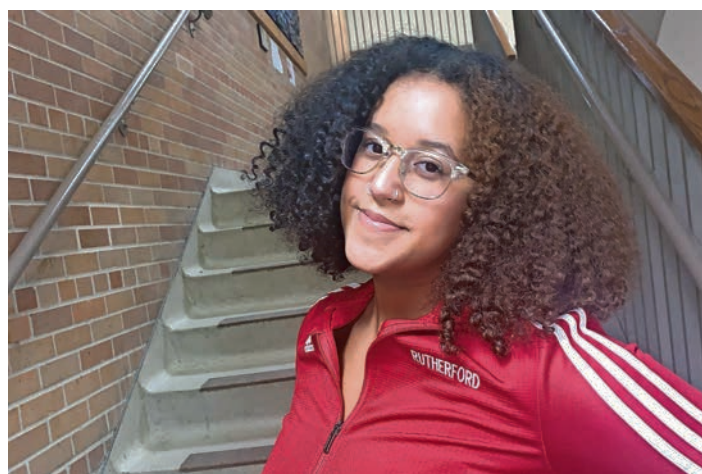
Since the beginning of the pandemic, 3,578 Minnesotans have died from COVID-19. More than 306,000 have tested positive.

Police officer, 2 others wounded by gunfire; suspect arrested

HANNAH YANG AND ANDREW KRUEGER
MPR News

ALBERT LEA, Minn. — Three people, including a police officer, were wounded by gunfire in Albert Lea early Sunday, Nov. 29, prompting several SWAT teams from around the region to respond to what authorities called an “active shooter” situation at an eight-story apartment building.

Authorities announced just after 11 a.m. that a 21-year-old male suspect had been arrested after an hours-long standoff.



Reese Rutherford.

Contributed photo



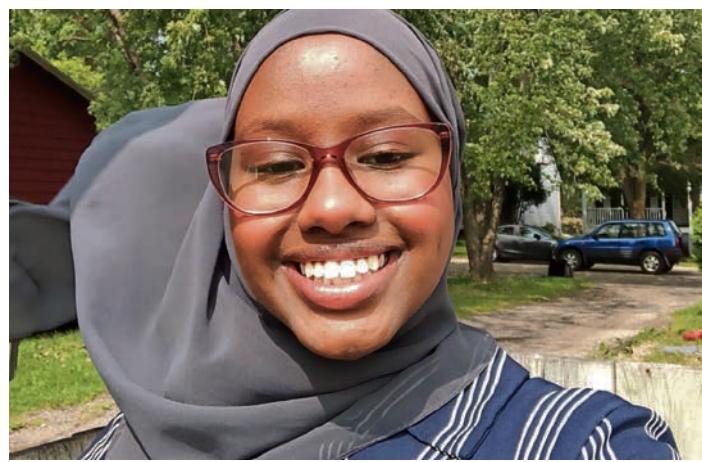
Zuri Cofer.

Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com



Sahra Jilaow.

Contributed photo



Salma Abdi.

Contributed photo

‘OUR VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD’

Rochester teens were too young to vote, but not too young to get involved

BY JORDAN SHEARER
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John Marshall High School senior Zuri Cofer is perfectly aware of the impact national politics can have on people's everyday lives. Earlier this year, her aunt was deported to Kenya after having lived in the United States for years. She was unable to remain protected under DACA.

Called “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” the program allows undocumented immigrants the opportunity to work in the country if they arrived when they were young.

“She'd been here for a long time. They put her in handcuffs and took her away,” Cofer said. “That was another big thing about Trump that I hated so much ... the fact that immigrants are not a priority to him.”

Whether it's DACA or the situation along the Mexican border, immigration policies are just one of the things Cofer would like to see change with a new administration.

She's one of many high school students who had opinions about the election without the ability to participate. But, just because they weren't able to vote doesn't mean they

didn't take part in different ways. Whether it was advocating for candidates on social media or picking up a phone as part of a campaign, Rochester youth worked to make their voices heard.

“Youth have always been a source of pure energy that doesn't negotiate and that drives results,” said Ojas Bhagra, a senior at Mayo High School. “We set ourselves up to get real change accomplished and established ourselves as a group that can't be overlooked.”

Through his efforts with the Rochester-Olmsted Youth Commission, Bhagra

met with strategists from the campaign for congressional candidate Dan Feehan, providing a youth-based perspective. Bhagra also encouraged his family to donate to local campaigns and watched most of the town hall debates.

John Marshall senior Sahra Jilaow worked as an election judge at the John Adams precinct. She helped register new voters and explained ballots. And, as with everything in 2020, she helped sanitize everything to keep the process moving.

See VOICES, Page 3

Holiday shoppers focus on local retailers



Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com
Kim Wolfenden helps customer Matt Kreidermacher select a pair of shoes while he shops during Small Business Saturday at TerraLoco in Rochester.

BY BRIAN TODD
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“It's Christmas gifts,” said Tammy Tauferner, looking at the bag she held in her hand.

Tauferner was shopping at TerraLoco on Saturday, shopping for holiday presents for loved ones.

While there are other shopping options available, Tauferner likes keeping her money local when she can, and she believes in supporting TerraLoco's owner, Tiffany Piotrowicz.

“Because she does so much for the community,” Tauferner said, explaining one of the reasons she shops at the Rochester running and

apparel store. “So giving back and buying from her store is what we need to do.”

Piotrowicz said this year's holiday shopping season will be different than previous years'.

This year, rather than holding one big sale event, Piotrowicz said she's spreading the sale over the whole holiday season in an effort to also spread out the shoppers. A sign at TerraLoco announces only 10 shoppers are allowed in at a time. On past post-Thanksgiving weekends, Piotrowicz said, there might be 40 or more shoppers in the store at a time.

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Minnesota legislators reach truce on COVID business relief

Deal could sour over unemployment snafu

BY SARAH MEARHOFF
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — Minnesota lawmakers say they have agreed on at least one component of a highly anticipated coronavirus relief bill to aid struggling businesses. But unless they reach a consensus on how to extend unemployment insurance benefits, the whole deal could be doomed.

In a series of media appearances and legislative committee hearings on Thursday, Dec. 10, Democratic and Republican state lawmakers said they had finally come to an agreement on a bill to aid small and mid-sized businesses struggling through the latest round of coronavirus-related emergency closures, as ordered by Gov. Tim Walz in hopes of curbing the virus' spread.

Sen. Eric Pratt, R-Prior Lake, said the \$216 million bipartisan negotiation would deliver three rounds of financial relief "fastest, faster and fast" based on need. The first and "fastest" round of relief would go to businesses closed down in Walz's latest shutdown order — restaurants, bars, gyms and more — who have seen at least a 30% reduction in sales.

Businesses who qualify for first-round relief would not need to apply to the state. Based on sales tax collections and industry codes, the state could automatically determine who qualifies and mail a check by the end of the month, should the bill pass Minnesota's split Legislature come Monday's special session.

The second "faster" round of relief would be conducted through a grant process, to be handled by the state Department of Employment and Economic Development. The third "fast" round would be distributed by local governments, using a \$130 million pot from the state.

Pratt said the bill is meant to be a short-term fix to get businesses through a bleak start to winter.

See RELIEF, Page 3

COVID-19 case numbers		
COUNTY	NEW CASES	TOTAL CASES
Dodge	12	1,017
Fillmore	25	869
Goodhue	48	2,540
Houston	24	927
Mower	27	3,006
Olmsted	82	7,799
Wabasha	24	1,269
Winona	28	3,222
STATE TOTAL	3,523	367,218

Updated: 11:00 a.m. Thursday
Source: Minn. Dept. of Health

Forum Design Center



Photos by Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

Vincent Arnold, of Dodge Center, puts money into a Salvation Army kettle Monday at Hy-Vee Barlow Plaza in Rochester.

'WE'RE BEHIND ON KETTLE MONEY'

Salvation Army needs donations, volunteers

BY ANNE HALLIWELL
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This year — as in every year — the Salvation Army is hoping for a miracle.

About two weeks before Christmas, the organization has only raised about half of its \$960,000 campaign, even after setting its sights lower than in 2019.

"We're behind on kettle money, but we always are," said Rebecca Snapp, Rochester's director of community engagement. "I'm not panicking yet ... you get to the week or two before Christmas and all of a sudden you see donations come in, but it's definitely a scary thing every year."

Money isn't the only thing the Rochester Salvation Army is short of this year. There have been about half as many bell ringers this year as in previous years — 2,460 hours reserved instead of 4,500. It's worrying because bell ringers generally double donations to kettles during their shifts. The nonprofit has asked



Tom Salfi, of Rochester, donates money in a Salvation Army kettle Monday at the Hy-Vee Barlow Plaza in Rochester.

this year's two-person teams to keep a distance from donors, wear gloves and masks while ringing, and provided wipes to clean the kettles between shifts. However, the fear of COVID-19 lingers.

"We've actually seen a real outcry of people wanting to be generous and wanting to help any way they can, but with bell-ringing, it's tough," Snapp said. "It's something where there's definitely an opportunity for exposure."

Snapp looked on the bright side, though — people who feel comfortable bell-ringing should be able to find a time slot that works for them.

"There's still lots of indoor locations open," she said. "Any time of day, any part of town, there are spots available for people to ring."

The Salvation Army also opened a "virtual kettle" option on www.registertoring.com, where those who don't want to risk virus exposure by ringing in-person can solicit donations from their friends and family.

Snapp suggested that Rochesterites add virtual kettle links to Christmas missives to help make up for 2020's lack of physical proceeds.

OTHER WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

The Salvation Army will also begin distributing Toy and Joy packages to registered families the week of Dec. 16. Before then, the nonprofit needs volunteers to "shop" for children on their parents' behalf and wrap presents for pickup.

It's significantly more work on the front end to package the gifts for contactless pickup, Snapp said. The Salvation Army is looking for socially distanced, masked volunteers to come in between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to sort through the donated gifts and divide them up for the families.

Interest in the Toy and Joy program has gone up this year. Last year, Snapp said, they served 1,300 children. This year, it's closer to 2,000.

The Salvation Army will continue to accept gift donations through Dec. 16 as well. Presents for teenagers are in high demand.

"People love to shop for kids that are 5-8 years old," Snapp said. However, gifts for kids who are 12 to 18 are needed.

See SALVATION ARMY, Page 3

Two more Olmsted County residents die of COVID-19

BY JOHN MOLSEED
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Olmsted County health officials are seeing another spike in COVID-19 cases.

Two more people — white males living in long-term care facilities, one age 91 and another age 85, have died from the virus. The men are the 40th and 41st COVID-19 fatalities in Olmsted County.

Another 708 new cases were confirmed

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over the past week, said Shay Baumbach, public information officer for Olmsted County Public Health.

The number of cases was still elevated following a sharp rise at the beginning of November. However, the rolling seven-day

average of new cases diagnosed per day is slowly decreasing after peaking at about 129 new cases per day a month ago, she said.

Baumbach said health officials speculate that the rise might be a result of Thanksgiving holiday get-togethers, but contact tracers are still trying to determine the source.

"Right now, we're trying to figure out the pieces to the sudden increase," she said.

Currently, there are 713 active cases in Olmsted County.

New cases remain too high for an accurate and timely estimate of community spread as contact tracers work to inform people who have been exposed and trace the sources of exposure to the virus.

Baumbach said the slight slowdown in new cases and bringing on more contact tracers has narrowed the gap, but county health

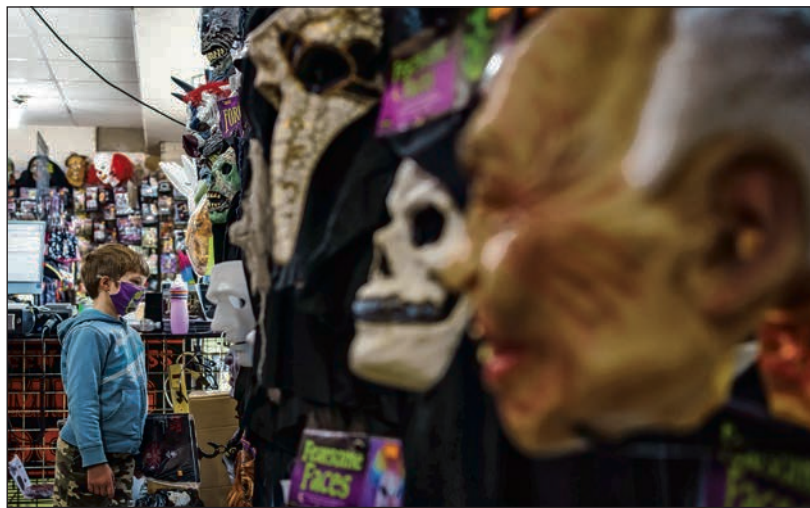
officials still don't have an accurate percentage of cases that are a result of community spread, meaning new cases that aren't tied to known cases or outbreaks.

Health officials are also preparing plans to distribute vaccines. One obstacle will be holding mass vaccination clinics while keeping people distanced, she said. More information on plans for those efforts will likely be available next week.

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POSTBULLETIN

Minnesota Newspaper Association's 2019 Daily Newspaper of the Year

UNLOCK DIGITAL AT POSTBULLETIN.COM/ACTIVATE | ROCHESTER, MINN. | MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020 | ONE SECTION

'We've lost a giant': Rochester native Sandy Keith dies at 91

Former Minn. Supreme Court justice was a 'champion of human rights'

BY JOHN MOLSEED
jmolseed@postbulletin.com

Sandy Keith had stepped away from public life in recent years, but his influence continues to be felt in Rochester and across the state.



Keith, a Rochester native, former state senator, Minnesota Supreme Court justice and chief judge, and perpetual community leader, died Saturday at age 91.

"It's hard to measure his impact on this town, or even this state," Sen. Dave Senjem said Sunday. "We've lost a giant."

After earning a law degree from Yale in 1953, Keith served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Korea.

He returned to Rochester and joined the legal team at Mayo Clinic. Despite his father's reservations, Keith entered politics, representing Rochester in the Minnesota Senate as a member of the DFL party. (Keith's father, Norman, moved from Canada to practice medicine at Mayo Clinic.)

Keith practiced family law in Rochester and returned to the state Capitol after winning election as lieutenant governor in 1962. He served in that position until 1967.

In 1966, he made a bid for the DFL nomination for governor. His candidacy split the party. Senjem said many saw the youthful Keith's candidacy as a Minnesota manifestation of John F. Kennedy's face of the party. Others, he said, saw incumbent Gov. Karl Rolvaag as the rightful placeholder for the position.

"He was young and fit, and many people in the party thought he would appeal to voters," Senjem said.

Keith lost an exciting primary race, which became the subject of a book.

In 1989, he was appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court and was elevated by Gov. Rudy Perpich to chief justice. Keith later made a ruling allowing Arnie Carlson, Republican challenger to Perpich, to be on the 1990 general election ballot after Republican nominee, businessman Jon Grunseth, dropped out of the race.

Carlson won the election, creating a lifelong rift between Keith and Perpich.

"He put his view of the law ahead of a deep, personal friendship," Senjem said. "It was a painful, painful thing for him."

But John Wade, a longtime Rochester business leader and former president of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, said Keith stood by the decision.

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Dana Knaak, of Rochester, browses through the dolls on display as part of the History Center of Olmsted County's Creepy Doll Contest on Friday at the history center in Rochester.

Photos by Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

ALL DOLLED UP

History Center of Olmsted County resurrects creepy dolls for contest

She's beauty. She's grace. She has a haunting porcelain face. The History Center of Olmsted County's "creepy dolls" are coming out of their boxes and making their way into your nightmares for the 2020 Creepy Doll Contest.

"I think 2020 actually kind of lends itself to creepy dolls, in many ways," said Kevin Whaley, the history center's collections manager. "We know that they are not all creepy. Part of their charm is how human-like some of them actually do look. That is both really cool and really creepy at the same time."

The contest began in 2019 as "an innocent perusal by a volunteer in search of interesting artifacts to post on social media," according to the history center.

The dolls, some of whom have human hair or are poisonous to handle because of old preserving techniques using arsenic and lead, went viral and gained global attention.

"When the creepy dolls went viral, it became very clear to us that the dolls went beyond our county and beyond our state, even though they represent our local history," said Christine Rule, history center board president. "I think what



One of the dolls on display as part of the History Center of Olmsted County's Creepy Doll Contest.

they've really done is help bring interest and awareness to local museums and what they have in their collections, all over."

Nine of the center's dolls have been selected to compete in this year's contest. History center visitors will not only get to feast on their eyes on the collection, but will also be able to learn more about each doll's hair-raising history.

"We know who owned them each originally and then how they came to the history center and why they donated them," Whaley said. "We also know a little bit more about who made the dolls, so that gives us more about what they were made out of and which ones have kind of unique features, like a voice box."

See **CONTEST**, Page 3

7 more Minn. COVID deaths cap deadly week

Disease has claimed 72 lives since Sept. 28

BY JOHN MOLSEED
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Seven more people have died from COVID-19 in Minnesota, state health officials reported Sunday, ending one of the

more deadly weeks of the pandemic in Minnesota since June.

All seven people were in their 70s or older, and four were residents of long-term care facilities, according to preliminary reports from the Minnesota Department of Health. That brings the total death toll of the virus to 2,080.

Fatal cases have trended upwards slightly, with 72

deaths over the past week, which is the most deaths over a seven-day span since June.

Another 1,048 new cases were confirmed from a volume of about 28,830 tests, which is a positivity rate of about 3.6%. That brings the total number of cases confirmed in Minnesota to 103,826 since the pandemic reached the state in March.

At least 10 people were

admitted to intensive care units for treatment of the virus this weekend, according to preliminary reports from MDH. The rate of people hospitalized for the virus has also climbed slightly in the past two weeks, from about 4.7 per 100,000 Minnesota residents in mid-September to more than 7 per 100,000 people the last week of September going into October.

COVID-19 case numbers		
COUNTY	NEW CASES	TOTAL CASES
Dodge	2	280
Fillmore	7	163
Goodhue	3	416
Houston	0	146
Mower	4	1,370
Olmsted	15	2,667
Wabasha	5	229
Winona	13	985
STATE TOTAL	1,048	103,826

Updated: 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Source: Minn. Dept. of Health

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COVID-19 case numbers

COUNTY	NEW CASES	TOTAL CASES
Dodge	13	1,049
Fillmore	12	919
Goodhue	27	2,622
Houston	11	994
Mower	26	3,086
Olmsted	105	8,082
Wabasha	16	1,334
Winona	21	3,291
STATE TOTAL	3,439	378,823

Updated: 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Source: Minn. Dept. of Health

Forum Design Center

Minnesota health officials report 85 COVID-19 deaths

1 of those deaths occurred in Olmsted County

BY JOHN MOLSEED
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Another 85 Minnesotans died of COVID-19, state health officials announced Sunday.

The deaths come among another 3,439 confirmed new cases of the virus, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Over the past week, 460 Minnesotans have died from the virus, and a total of 4,444 died since the pandemic was first reported in the state.

The new confirmed cases came at a volume of about 48,000 tests for the virus, for a test positive rate of about 7%. During the recent surge of cases, the statewide rate of positive tests peaked at about 15.6% on Nov. 10 and dipped to about 10.7% on Nov. 25 before rising again to about 13% as of Dec. 2, according to MDH.

State health officials consider a rate above 10% COVID-positive tests a "high risk" for public health.

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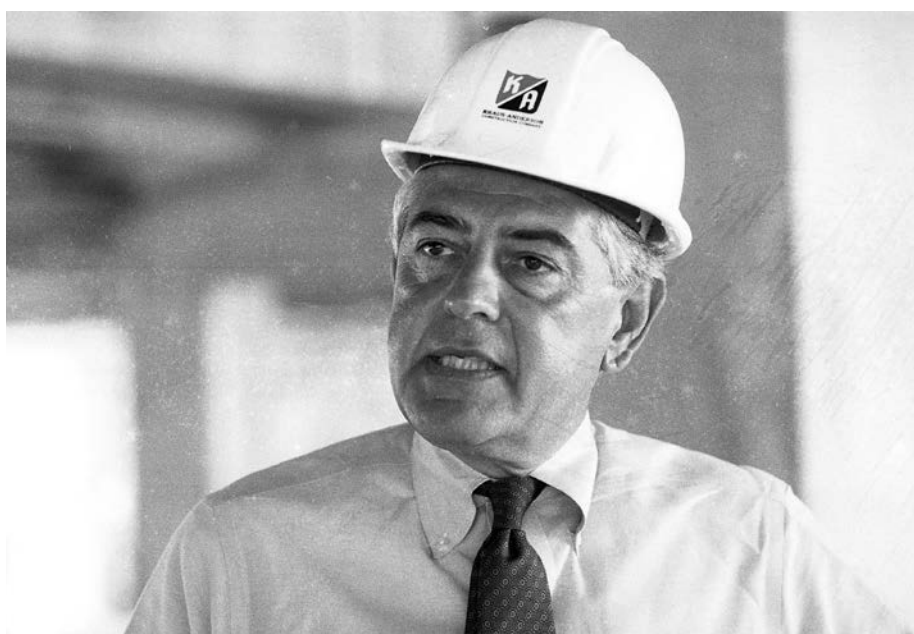


Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

Gus Chafoulias, of Titan Development and Investments, signs a steel beam during the topping-off ceremony for the Hilton hotel on Jan. 31, 2018, in downtown Rochester.

GUS CHAFOULIAS' LEGACY 'MORE THAN JUST BUILDINGS'

VISIONARY DEVELOPER WAS ALSO KNOWN FOR MENTORING OTHERS



Post Bulletin archive

Gus Chafoulias in 1988. Chafoulias died Friday at age 85.

BY JEFF KIGER
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Friends and family say Gus Chafoulias' legacy is much more than the many buildings he created that changed Rochester's downtown. They say his greatest legacy is the people he touched and helped.

"People don't know how many lives he touched ... people from all walks of the life," said his son Andy Chafoulias. "It was so remarkable, and he did it with such sincerity."

Longtime Rochester developer Gus Chafoulias, known for his prominent projects like the downtown Centerplace Galleria Mall, the first renovation of the Historic Chateau Theatre and the recent construction of the Hilton Hotel, died on Friday night at the age of 85 from pulmonary fibrosis. He is said to have driven the creation of about 50 Rochester buildings.

See CHAFOULIAS, Page 3



Traci Westcott / twestcott@postbulletin.com

Ofnohre Huizar carries an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe during an 8-mile pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday from Eyota to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester.

Riders make pilgrimage for Virgin of Guadalupe

BY JEFF KIGER
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A local group led by Juan Esparza didn't let chilly morning temperatures stop them from riding their horses into Rochester on Saturday morning to ceremonially present an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe to the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

The riders, preceded by a truck displaying U.S. and Mexican flags, rode their horses for about an hour from a farm near Chester. They covered about 8 miles to make the pilgrimage to the church.

When they arrived at the Southeast Rochester church, Esparza took off his sombrero and carried the framed image

of the Virgin Mary into the church with his spurs jangling. It was placed on display during the Mass.

"It is a very special day," Esparza said, after the Rev. Jim Berning and the Rev. Luis Vargas blessed the riders and their horses.

While he had participated in such a pilgrimage in Mexico on Dec. 12, Esparza said this was the first time he had done it in the U.S.

The day is a very important national holiday for Mexican Catholics. Vargas explained that the Virgin Mary is believed to have appeared on the hillside by the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City on Dec. 12, 1531.

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