

IN LOCAL & STATE, B1 WELCOME RAIN



IN SPORTS, A6 PREP SWIMMERS BACK IN THE POOL

IN HOME & GARDEN, B7 FIGHTING OFF BLOSSOM END ROT

TODAY'S OBITUARIES

- Roger Lee Elmquist
Charlotte Frederich
Lucille E. Hankins
Therese A. La Fleur
Derek Michael Lindley
Barbara Lynn Splett

MORE ONLINE



Stones drummer Charlie Watts dies

Charlie Watts, the drummer who powered the Rolling Stones for almost 60 years but much preferred jazz to rock and roll, died Tuesday.

The band had earlier announced that the 80-year-old Watts would not be part of their 2021 tour for unspecified health issues. He had survived throat cancer in 2004.

Read the story at mankatofreepress.com.

LOTTERY

Tuesday's Daily 3 2-3-3

Monday's Gopher 5 4-17-25-31-39

Monday's Powerball 17-36-47-60-61 and 15

Saturday's Lotto America 5-10-19-22-35 and 5

Tuesday's Northstar Cash 1-4-17-25-28

Tuesday's Mega Millions 17-18-26-52-67 and 19

PAGEFINDER

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Business, Comics, Corrections, Home & Garden, Marketplace, Nation & World, Obituaries, Public Notices, Sports, Puzzles, TV.

COVID CRISIS

Mankato student on a ventilator

Denied seriousness of virus, refused vaccine

By Jordan Smith jsmith@mankatofreepress.com

Kian Olson's mother describes him as an intelligent, headstrong 19-year-old who had been set to begin his sophomore year of college Monday. But right now he's lying in a hospital bed unconscious, with a tube down his throat, hooked up to a ventilator that is breathing for him.

He refused to accept that COVID-19 is a serious illness, said his mother, Nissa Sugden. He suggested the coronavirus did not exist or was a government conspiracy.

He has since told the nurses with Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato who are working to save his life that he wants to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

When vaccines became available, however, there was no question he would refuse an inoculation. And for months he did. He is stubborn and had thoroughly considered the issue, his vaccinated mother said, despite her telling him that it could prevent serious illness from taking hold of him.

There was more at play than his mother's imploring that might have convinced Kian, she said. Amid the surge of the delta variant, Kian's father, Mark, became sick with COVID and was hospitalized Aug. 13.

Mark has been battling pancreatic cancer for six years, Sugden said of her ex-husband. Having decided to stop taking cancer-fighting medica-



Courtesy Nissa Sugden

Kian Olson, who aspires to be an attorney and is majoring in political science, was set to begin his sophomore year at the University of South Dakota on Monday. Instead he went on a ventilator in the Mankato hospital that day, his third semester postponed

tion, he was placed into hospice a month ago.

Two days after Mark was hospitalized with the virus, a Sunday, it was Kian who brought home his potentially infectious father. Sugden said her son became a caretaker of sorts, which meant close proximity to his dad.

That Monday Kian began to feel sick. His mother took him to urgent care for a coronavirus test the next day, Aug. 17, which returned positive that afternoon.

By Thursday Sugden was again having to compel her son to go to urgent care. He had nausea and diarrhea and had been vomiting. After going in and then being released Friday, his oxygen level, as

measured by his mother's oximeter the next day, fell to a dismayingly low point.

"He was absolutely refusing to go back in, didn't think they could do anything for him," she said over the phone from her Mankato home. She told him bluntly, "The next time we go in, it will be the level that they can't send you home. We have to help you.

"If we don't, you have chances of dying. This is how serious it is."

The former Mankato West high schooler's story, currently unfolding from an intensive care unit in the Mankato hospital, has become the subject of online interest after his mother detailed

his condition and his prior refusal to be vaccinated in a Monday morning Facebook post.

Since then, Sugden's friends Jennifer Nielsen and Jen Wettergren have started a Caring Bridge webpage as well as a GoFundMe page that had raised about \$2,300 for medical costs by Tuesday evening.

Sugden has, like everyone else, watched her son's deteriorating condition over the internet. Tuesday morning she talked to — not with, but to — Kian over a Zoom call after nurses had lifted him from the paralysis drug he's been given. Because of COVID protocol,

Please see VIRUS, Page A2

Man charged in OD death

By Kristine Goodrich kgoodrich@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — A Mankato man is charged with murder in the overdose death of a man who had just gotten out of a treatment facility.

Myles Daniel Hickman, 26, is suspected of supplying the drugs that caused the death Jesse Barnhart, 31, in a Mankato apartment on May 28.

Hickman was charged with third-degree murder Tuesday in Blue Earth County District Court. The charge comes following an investigation by the Minnesota River Valley Drug Task Force.

According to the charging complaint and a Drug Task Force news release:

Barnhart was found dead inside an apartment where he had been staying after he was released from treatment a few days prior.

Barnhart had a tourniquet on his arm. In the apartment agents found a baggie with a powder that tested positive for fentanyl, as well as a syringe and other drug paraphernalia.

A relative told investigators Barnhart had a long history of drug abuse.

An autopsy found Barnhart died of an overdose of heroin and fentanyl.

The tenant of the apartment said she had gone out of town. A friend told agents he did drugs with Barnhart and Barnhart had gotten drugs from Hickman.

Agents obtained warrants and found text messages in

Please see CHARGES, Page A2



Myles Hickman

Biden sticks with Aug. 31 pullout target despite criticism

Airlift out of Kabul ramps up

The Associated Press

U.S. President Joe Biden declared Tuesday he is sticking to his Aug. 31 deadline for completing a risky airlift of Americans, endangered Afghans and others seeking to escape Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The decision defies allied leaders who want to give the evacuation more

time and opens Biden to criticism that he caved to Taliban deadline demands.

"Every day we're on the ground is another day that we know ISIS-K is seeking to target the airport and attack both us and allied forces and innocent civilians," Biden said at the White House, referring to the Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate, which

is known for staging suicide attacks on civilians.

He said the Taliban are cooperating and security is holding despite a number of violent incidents. "But it's a tenuous situation," he said, adding, "We run a serious risk of it breaking down as time goes on."

The United States in recent days has ramped up its airlift amid new reports of rights abuses that fuel concern about the fate of

thousands of people who fear retribution from the Taliban and are trying to flee the country. The Pentagon said 21,600 people had been evacuated in the 24 hours that ended Tuesday morning, and Biden said an additional 12,000 had been flown out in the 12 hours that followed. Those include flights operated by the U.S. military as well as other charter flights.

Biden said he had asked

the Pentagon and State Department for evacuation contingency plans that would adjust the timeline for full withdrawal should that become necessary.

Pentagon officials expressed confidence the airlift, which started on Aug. 14, can get all Americans out by next Tuesday, the deadline Biden had set long before the Taliban

Please see AFGHAN, Page A3

WEATHER, PAGE A8

Pleasant

High around 80. Low around 60.



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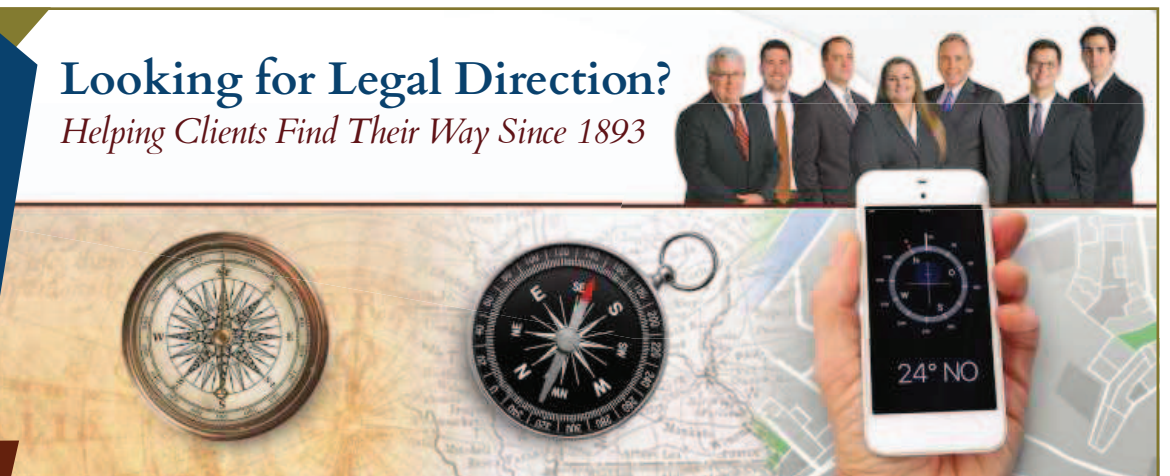
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Rubber duck gone from Maine harbor

BELFAST, MAINE — A 25-foot inflatable duck named Joy disappeared over the weekend, as mysteriously as it arrived, after bringing days of delight to a seaside Maine community.

The rubber ducky was removed from the harbor sometime Saturday, likely because of concerns about Tropical Storm Henri, Belfast Harbor Master Katherine Given was quoted as saying in the Bangor Daily News.

Despite the weather concerns, Given said, people were upset to see the duck leave the harbor.

The duck's arrival in the harbor two weekends ago was, and remains, a mystery. But Given said she received an anonymous letter from someone claiming to be responsible.

Will the ducky return? That's not known — but the letter alluded to the duck landing somewhere else after Belfast.

The Associated Press

CORRECTIONS

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Courtesy Nissa Sugden

Kian Olson stands with his 15-year-old sister, Nadine. The children's mother, Nissa Sugden, said Nadine has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

VIRUS: Semester put off for illness

Continued from Page A1

she is barred from being in the local hospital or sitting alongside her ailing son.

The last time he spoke to her was when he, uncharacteristically in tears, called to tell her the nurses planned to put the tube down his throat.

"It was really, really hard," she said. "He was very, very, very scared."

What Sugden, 46, said she feels now is intense fear for other families whose members are hesitant to be inoculated.

She is mostly level-headed about her son's sickness, thoroughly tracking the details to maintain a semblance of control. Breakdowns still happen, though.

They happen when she pops into a Zoom call and sees her son who, despite lately showing good skin coloration, can be sobering to look at. He has a tube in his mouth and lies almost completely still.

They happen when her 15-year-old daughter, Nadine, begins crying.

"Initially I was very angry with him. I was angry that he had refused so long and didn't believe in it ... and now he's put everybody in jeopardy of losing him," she said. "And then, you go to completely horrified and scared."

"I don't think the anger is there anymore," she said, voice quivering. "All I do is fear for other families having to go through this. Because these kids think they're invincible. Nothing's going to happen to them. And this is now hitting home for so many people."

One of those people is 46-year-old Kim Gores, who lives in Garden City and is friends with Sugden and Kian. Before she saw Sugden's Facebook post about Kian, she had been staunchly opposed to the COVID vaccine. She had denounced the pandemic as a political scam.

People she knew had been sick with the virus before, but they had recovered without a threat to their lives.

She was mulling over a potential vaccination anyway, though, because she just took a new job as a grocery store cashier, a role with constant public interaction amid a nation-

wide surge in new cases. Kian's initial situation prodded her further.

Then she went to the Caring Bridge page where Kian's medical updates are posted. She learned from a Monday night post that the 19-year-old she knew and cared for was on a ventilator.

That was the end of her holdout.

"Him thinking the same way I was thinking to now, him being in that situation and fighting for his life — it changed my mind a lot," she said. She now plans to be vaccinated on Thursday. She knows it's what Kian wants.

As for Kian himself, he will have to wait until the 91st day following a recovery to receive a vaccine.

Before he went under, his mother told him there is no option except to fight through this, to be stubborn, to recover and get back to the University of South Dakota, where he has reluctantly chosen to postpone his third semester until he's well.

She is clear-eyed, however, about the severity of his condition. That it might worsen before improving. She doesn't know when he'll be permanently awake again.

Nurses at the hospital have done much to set her at ease, she said. Her boy, who wants to become an attorney and thrives when he has control of a situation, now powerlessly depends on their medical help.

"They are there being Kian's mom right now," said Jen Wettergren, the friend who helped to create the Caring Bridge and GoFundMe sites. "It reminds her of that, when they call, knowing that these nurses are acting as his momma and doing what they would do when they tuck their babies in at night."

His mother hopes the very character trait that prevented him from being vaccinated — he's a fighter who, once he has decided to do something, cannot be dissuaded — will now keep him alive.

"We told him that he's a fighter, when he was gonna be going under," Sugden said.

She told him: "There's no other option. You'll fight through it and we'll see you when you come out."

CHARGES: Now on probation

Continued from Page A1

which Barnhart arranged to buy drugs from Hickman for \$120.

Barnhart was seen in surveillance video at a Mankato gas station in a car that belongs to someone with whom Hickman resides. Barnhart withdrew \$120 from an ATM at the gas station.

Hickman was jailed Tuesday afternoon and the prosecutor is asking for bail to be set at at least \$300,000.

Hickman currently is on probation for a 2016 drug sales conviction and a 2017 drug possession conviction, court records show.

Hickman is the fourth person to be charged with murder in connection with a drug overdose so far this year in Blue Earth County. The prior charges stemmed from two fatal overdoses that both also involved fentanyl, which is a powerful synthetic opioid.

Area markets

Grain prices at Tuesday's close. (Crystal Valley, Madelia)

Corn 5.84
Soybeans 12.79

Grain futures

CHICAGO (AP) — Futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade Tue.:
Open/High/Low/Settle/Chg.

WHEAT
5,000 bu minimum; cents per bushel

Sep	722½	723¼	710¼	718	—1¼
Dec	737	737½	724¼	732¼	—1¼
Mar	750¼	750¼	738	745½	—1½
May	754½	755	743¼	750¼	—1¼
Jul	724	725½	715	720½	—2¼
Sep	717¼	726	717¼	721¼	—2¼
Dec	727¼	730	719	725½	—2¼
Mar	727¼	731	726¼	726¼	—2
May	715	715	713	713	—2
Jul	684	684	680	683½	—1¼
Sep	676¼	—	—	—	—
Dec	686	—	—	—	—
Mar	686	—	—	—	—
May	686	—	—	—	—
Jul	631	—	—	—	—

Est. sales 101,078. Mon.'s sales 83,497
Mon.'s open int 398,356, up 2,571

CORN
5,000 bu minimum; cents per bushel

Sep	539½	546½	537	544½	+6½
Dec	537	547	536	545¼	+9¼
Mar	544	554	543¼	552¼	+9
May	549¼	558	548¼	556¼	+8¼
Jul	547½	556½	546½	555¼	+9
Sep	509½	519¼	509½	518¼	+8¼
Dec	500	510	499½	508¼	+8¼
Mar	507¼	516	507¼	515¼	+8¼
May	512¼	519½	512¼	519½	+8¼
Jul	514	522½	514	521½	+8¼
Sep	487½	+8¼	—	—	—
Dec	476¼	480½	476¼	479	+6
Jul	489	—	—	—	—
Dec	437¼	439¼	437¼	439	+2¼

Est. sales 260,876. Mon.'s sales 226,533
Mon.'s open int 1,447,677

SOYBEANS
5,000 bu minimum; cents per bushel

Sep	1301¼	1343½	1284¼	1337	+43
Nov	1299	1337½	1292	1331¼	+39
Jan	1303¼	1342½	1297¼	1336¼	+38½
Mar	1306¼	1343	1301¼	1338½	+37¼
May	1310¼	1344¼	1305	1341¼	+37
Jul	1310¼	1345	1306¼	1342	+36½
Aug	1301¼	1332½	1301¼	1329½	+34¼
Sep	1268	1291	1268	1291	+30
Nov	1240¼	1270¼	1238¼	1267¼	+28¼
Jan	1246¼	1266	1246¼	1264¼	+28¼
Mar	1239	1246	1237¼	1244	+26¼
May	1238¼	+26¼	—	—	—
Jul	1239¼	1243¼	1239¼	1239¼	+26½
Aug	1234	+26¼	—	—	—
Sep	1188	+26¼	—	—	—
Nov	1178½	1194¼	1178½	1189¼	+23¼
Jul	1190	+23¼	—	—	—
Nov	11241	1281¼	11241	1281¼	+23¼

Est. sales 183,605. Mon.'s sales 149,639
Mon.'s open int 686,370

SOYBEAN OIL
60,000 lbs; cents per lb

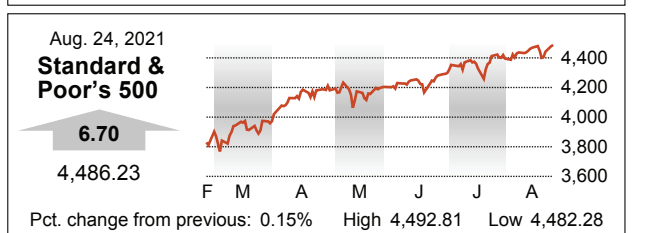
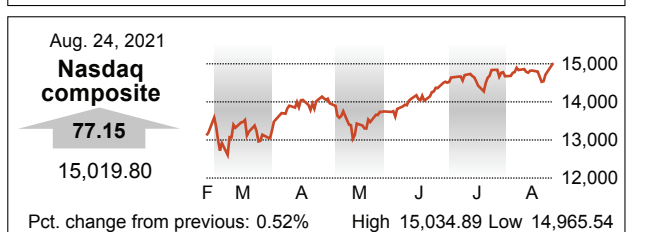
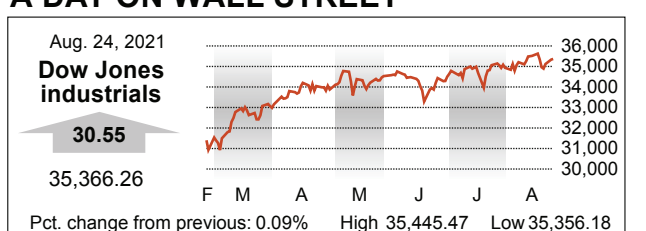
Sep	59.33	62.01	59.02	61.09	+1.84
Oct	58.75	61.55	58.39	60.61	+1.95
Dec	58.69	61.46	58.29	60.55	+1.99
Jan	58.57	61.20	58.19	60.34	+1.92
Mar	58.15	60.57	57.85	59.91	+1.90
May	57.78	59.97	57.36	59.47	+1.89
Jul	57.38	59.31	56.88	58.97	+1.87
Aug	56.51	58.37	56.51	58.37	+1.83
Sep	55.98	57.78	55.98	57.78	+1.77
Oct	56.90	57.26	56.90	57.26	+1.68
Dec	55.91	57.27	55.91	57.05	+1.63
Jan	56.86	+1.62	—	—	—
Mar	56.00	56.52	56.00	56.49	+1.58

Est. sales 122,868. Mon.'s sales 129,346
Mon.'s open int 428,285

SOYBEAN MEAL
100 tons; dollars per ton

Sep	348.10	356.80	347.10	354.90	+8.30
Oct	346.70	354.70	345.30	352.80	+7.80
Dec	349.30	357.70	347.90	355.70	+8.00
Jan	349.90	357.90	348.20	355.80	+7.40
Mar	351.90	359.00	349.90	356.30	+6.00
May	354.20	360.50	351.90	358.10	+5.60
Jul	356.40	362.80	354.10	360.40	+5.50
Aug	354.80	359.40	352.00	358.10	+5.00
Sep	349.80	355.10	347.00	353.20	+4.70
Oct	342.70	348.30	340.70	346.90	+5.00
Dec	342.10	349.20	340.50	346.30	+5.00

A DAY ON WALL STREET



NYSE diary

Advanced: 1,746
Declined: 707
Unchanged: 78
Volume: 3.6 b

Nasdaq diary

Advanced: 2,244
Declined: 1,092
Unchanged: 179
Volume: 3.4 b

NYSE diary

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%
Ameriprise Fndcl	268.14	+3.12	+1.2
Arch Dan Mid	59.61	+3.30	+5.5
Best Buy Co	121.49	+9.33	+8.3
Consolidated Comm	9.29	+0.01	+1.1
Crown Holdings Inc	109.19	+8.4	+8
Fastenal Co	55.10	-4.5	-8
General Mills	58.42	-1.18	-2.0
Iron Inc	80.85	+2.32	+3.0
Johnson Outdoors	116.11	+2.17	+1.9
3M Company	194.75	+0.7	...
US Bancorp	56.81	+6.4	+11
Verizon Comm	55.01	-4.1	-7.0
Walmart Stms	148.90	-1.55	-1.0
Xcel Energy Inc	68.29	-0.70	-1.0

Meat futures

CHICAGO (AP) — Futures trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Tue:
Open High Low Settle Chg.

CATTLE
40,000 lbs; cents per lb.

Aug	126.97	127.47	125.70	125.80	—65
Oct	132.00	132.85	131.60	131.70	—25
Dec	136.80	138.22	136.75	137.40	+58
Feb	139.27	140.55	139.27	139.97	+55
Apr	141.50	142.47	141.50	142.12	+47
Jun	135.82	136.57	135.70	136.25	+40
Aug	134.30	135.00	134.15	134.60	+35
Oct	136.72	137.65	136.62	137.15	+35
Dec	140.00	141.00	140.00	140.60	+63

Est. sales 65,490. Mon.'s sales 84,901
Mon.'s open int 303,346, up 13,688

FEEDER CATTLE
50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.

Aug	158.45	159.00	157.95	158.57	+37
Sep	167.25	168.95	165.37	165.77	—153
Oct	170.67	172.55	169.67	170.22	—45
Nov	171.50	173.32	170.72	171.20	—50

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