

# BRainerd DISPATCH

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## BEARS IN A BARE TREE

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Seven black bears at Wild and Free Wildlife Rehabilitation Center are perched in a bare tree Tuesday in a 1.25-acre pen. The Garrison-based nonprofit is one of the only facilities in Minnesota that is licensed to handle black bears. These young bears were found as cubs this year and need to gain weight before they can be released back into the wild. Bears need to weigh between 40 to 50 pounds to survive hibernation, according to officials. Last year, the nonprofit had 24 bears at its facility. Officials are anticipating the center will receive many more underweight yearlings this fall due to the extreme drought earlier this year and lack of available food, so Wild and Free wants to raise money during the Give to the Max Day on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, to build another 1.25-acre pen.

## Water tower in running for grant

### Funding planned to pay for new synthetic roof

By Theresa Bourke  
Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd's historic water tower is one step closer to getting a new roof.

Committee members working to preserve the tower are awaiting final approval from the Minnesota Historical Society for a grant worth \$162,043 to go toward the tower's new roof.

The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program — also known as Legacy Grants — provides finan-

cial support for projects focused on preserving Minnesota's history and culture.

About 75 applicants throughout the state sought funding in the most recent grant cycle, with requests totaling about \$8.9 million. Roughly \$6.3 million worth of grants will be awarded. The historical society's Historic Resources Advisory Committee approved the water tower grant application in

**TOWER:** Page 9

## State in midst of COVID-19 wave

### Walz won't declare emergency during latest spike

By Dana Ferguson and Alex Derosier  
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — New cases, positive test rates, deaths and hospitalizations for COVID-19 remained high in Minnesota Wednesday, Nov. 17, amid a steadily worsening wave of infections in the state.

Hospitalizations remain at their highest since December of last year, reaching 1,382, while test positivity rates and seven-day rolling average cases remained among the highest in the U.S. at 70.9 per 100,000 people.

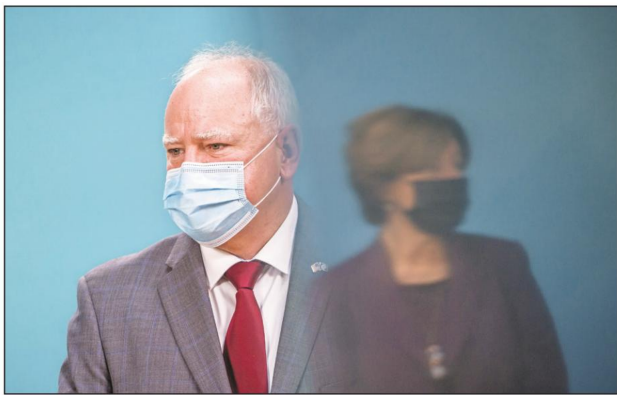
Gov. Tim Walz on Wednesday said he had no plan to reinstate a state of emergency in

Minnesota to combat COVID-19 as the state continued to rank among the top in the country for new cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

The governor made the comments from Helsinki, Finland, on a call with reporters. Walz is on a trade mission to Finland and the United Kingdom this week.

He said the emergency declaration that offers him additional powers to act without the approval of the Legislature would be less helpful to the state now that systems were in place to vaccinate people against the illness and test for COVID-19.

"It's just not that effective a tool right now



Joe Ahlquist / Post Bulletin

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar is reflected in a pillar while Gov. Tim Walz speaks during a Nov. 10 news conference at Mayo Clinic in downtown Rochester, highlighting the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine for children.

to use that," Walz said, noting that the declaration could also worsen tensions between the DFL governor and the

GOP-led Senate. "Just get vaccinated, that's the big thing."

**WALZ:** Page 9

## Making a strong impression in Europe

### State officials, business leaders visit UK, Finland

By Dana Ferguson  
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — Minnesota government and business leaders this week set off on a northern European trade mission aimed at boosting exports from the state and netting more investments into Minnesota.

More than 50 Minnesota representatives spent the week in London and Helsinki meeting with federal officials and business leaders there and building new connections around health and medical technology, environmental technology, agriculture and higher education.



Evan Frost / MPR News, Pool

DEED Commissioner Steve Grove speaks at a press conference April 30, 2020, as Gov. Tim Walz looks on inside the Department of Public Safety in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Gov. Tim Walz and state agency heads were among the first, if not the first, to resume in-person trade talks with the two countries after the COVID-19 pandemic forced many trade

and business summits into virtual settings. And the face-to-face interactions had a profound impact locally, Walz said. "Incredibly positive reception," Walz told reporters during a tele-

conference from Helsinki on Wednesday, Nov. 17. "I think that reputation of Minnesota as that problem-solving, innovative state is making a difference."

The Minnesota delegation toured the new Mayo Clinic Healthcare site in London, discussed policies that could slow climate change with energy officials and started conversations around new opportunities for U.K. investors to work with Minnesota companies during their three-day stay in London. The United States and the United Kingdom have yet to formalize a trade deal post-Brexit but state officials said they were hopeful that they'd laid good groundwork.

**EUROPE:** Page 8

### CASS COUNTY BOARD

## Boy River Township looks to absorb the city of Boy River

By Kyndra Johnson  
Brainerd Dispatch

BACKUS — A movement is underway for Boy River Township to absorb the city of Boy River.

Residents from Boy River and Boy River Township attended the Tuesday, Nov. 16, Cass County Board meeting in response to the letters received from Cass County about termination of snow removal due to the city not paying their bills.

Boy River Township Clerk Pat Ritter spoke on

the group's behalf, saying it would be in everyone's best interest if the township absorbed the city and became the local unit of government. Currently there is no local government for the city of Boy River and no one is designated or authorized to pay the bills for the city. County Administrator Josh Stevenson stated back in 2018 a special election was held to dissolve the city of Boy River but failed on a 3-2 vote.

**BOY RIVER:** Page 8

INSIDE TODAY OPINION 6 CLASSIFIED 9 COMICS 5 SPORTS 11 DEAR ABBY 7



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# Rare Sierra Nevada red foxes survive massive Dixie fire that burned habitat

By Lila Seidman  
Los Angeles Times

There might be something to the adage “clever as a fox.”

When the monstrous Dixie fire scorched a northeastern California expanse that the elusive Sierra Nevada red fox calls home, wildlife officials were worried.

The diminutive foxes, which dwell in the high-elevation reaches of the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade mountains in California and Oregon, are one of the rarest mammals on the continent. Their population size is unknown but is potentially only in the dozens, with an estimated 18 to 39 spread across the Sonora Pass, northern Yosemite and Mono Creek areas.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife experts think that fewer than 15 of the alpine creatures live in and around Lassen Volcanic National Park and Lassen National Forest, where massive swaths of land were devoured by the nearly 1-million-acre Dixie fire.

In 1980, the animals were designated a threatened species in California, and this summer — as the Dixie fire raged through parts of their territory — a portion of the state’s population won federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

No strangers to wildfire, the foxes have adapted to seasonal flames. Wildlife experts say they’re typically able to hide or temporarily leave when fires pass through. But with more blazes burning hotter, faster and even into higher elevations in recent years, officials worry the small creatures might not be able to escape the fierce new conflagrations.

“It’s certainly a threat, and it alludes to a larger threat of climate change,” Kaly Adkins, a wildlife biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said of the recent intense fires. The mountain-dwelling foxes rely on a certain level of snowpack, which has been dwindling in California’s multiyear drought.

Biologists said a vixen named Tule, who was tending to at least two pups in the remote Caribou Wilderness of Lassen National Forest, was at particular risk from the raging Dixie fire.

Driven by fierce winds, the blaze pushed into the Caribou Wilderness in early August, and the area around Tule’s den burned — as did most of her home range. About 335,750 acres of the Lassen forest was seared by the Dixie blaze, said Pat York, a public information officer with the



California Department of Fish and Wildlife / TNS  
A Sierra Nevada red fox pup is seen in the Caribou Wilderness in June. The pup’s mother survived the massive Dixie fire when it passed through their territory in early August. The mountain foxes are one of the rarest mammals in North America.

fire.

When the flames passed through Tule’s habitat, “I was really concerned,” said Jennifer Carlson, an environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

But it appeared Tule had outfoxed the fire. A satellite collar on the 3-year-old fox continued to ping.

GPS locations collected by the device showed that Tule traveled north of the fire when flames swept through and then returned to her home base after they passed, said Carlson, who leads the state wildlife department’s efforts to monitor the foxes in the Lassen Peak area.

Carlson says there’s also a good chance her pups survived. If the babies didn’t make it, it’s likely “her movements would have gotten much larger and she would have been using a much larger area,” the biologist said.

Tule is among a group of Sierra Nevada red foxes that state wildlife officials began capturing in 2018 and outfitting with satellite collars. Three other collared females in Lassen Volcanic National Park also appear to have survived the blaze, which charred about two-thirds of the park, Carlson said. Less of their habitat was damaged by the Dixie fire, but they’re continuing to use parts that did burn.

Scientists think all three females gave birth this year but have confirmed only one litter of five pups.

“If the parents survived, there’s a good

chance that the pups — most of the pups — survived and did not perish as a result of the Dixie fire,” she said.

But it’s not certain the youngsters made it; wildlife officials have not been able to access most of the burn area to check. Pup survival rates are relatively low, Carlson said, so even if they survived the blaze, there’s no guarantee they’ll make it to adulthood.

“They’re pretty resilient as far as being able to adapt to wildfire,” Carlson said of the foxes. “Now, if we continue to have catastrophic wildfires like this, that might be another story.

“If it continues to happen every year ... to where there’s no habitat left, then we’ll have a problem,” she added.

Despite their name, the foxes aren’t always red. Some are black, and others are a tawny brown. Dense fur grows on the bottom of their feet, allowing them to trek across deep snowpack “almost like snowshoes,” Adkins said. Dwelling at elevations as high as 10,000 feet in the summer and 5,000 feet in the winter, they are active year-round, feeding on small mammals and sometimes insects and berries.

When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the foxes as endangered this year, protections were extended only to the Sierra Nevada population, ranging from south of Lake Tahoe to south of Yosemite National Park. It doesn’t include the Cascade Range that encompasses the foxes

in Lassen Peak and those farther north in Oregon.

In its determination, the government noted the California segment’s low numbers made them “more susceptible to deleterious stochastic events” — harmful and random — “such as major fires or diseases.” Loss of just a few would wipe out a relatively large proportion of the entire population, officials said.

Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Center for Biological Diversity, disagrees with limiting the endangered species designation.

“We think they should have been listed as a species, rather than just that one population,” Greenwald said. The center, a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting endangered species, is fighting for federal safeguards for the fox population in the Cascades as well.

Fires are just one of many threats facing the rare animals.

Isolated on remote mountaintops, the minuscule populations are imperiled by inbreeding and hybridization with nonnative foxes. Coyotes compete for their living space and food. People are increasingly recreating on their turf. And there’s the ever-looming threat of climate change, which has the potential to shrink their habitat.

“It’s definitely a precarious situation for these Sierra Nevada red foxes,” Greenwald said.

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## WEATHER OUTLOOK

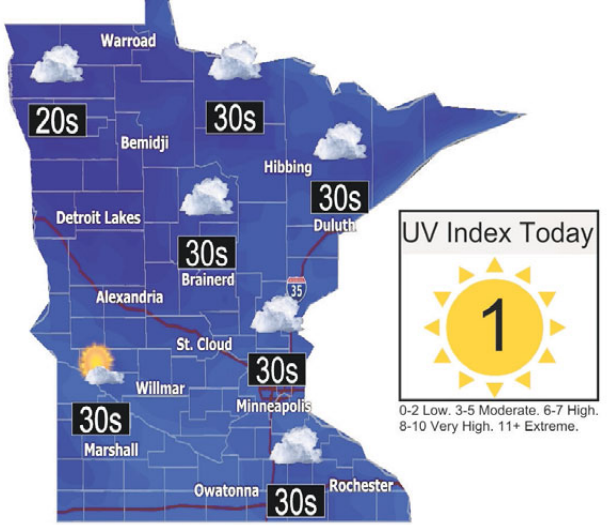


Jared Piepenburg   Jesse Ritka   Chief Meteorologist John Wheeler   Lydia Blume   Robert Poynter

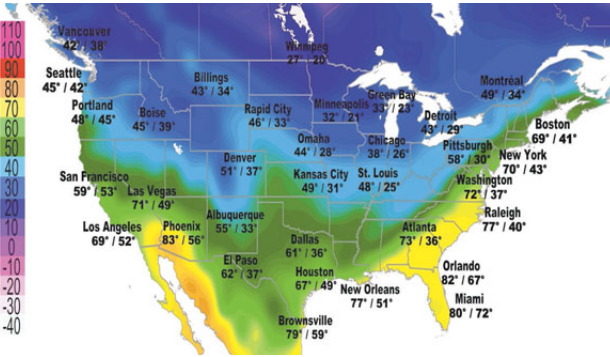
## StormTRACKER BRAINERD FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 30/16 Cloudy Wind: NW 18 mph	 38/24 AM Clouds/PM Sun Wind: S 14 mph	 37/22 AM Clouds/PM Sun Wind: NW 6 mph	 30/11 Mostly Cloudy/Wind Wind: NW 21 mph
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
 26/15 Partly Cloudy Wind: W 8 mph	 38/25 Partly Cloudy Wind: S 12 mph	 30/11 Mostly Cloudy Wind: N 12 mph	 23/12 Partly Cloudy Wind: N 9 mph

\*Average wind speed for each day



Regional Weather	Today	Hi	Lo	Tomorrow	Regional Weather	Today	Hi	Lo	Tomorrow
Bemidji, MN	27	14	34	21	Marshall, MN	34	21	45	29
Duluth, MN	33	22	38	29	Minneapolis, MN	32	21	42	30
Eau Claire, WI	31	18	39	30	Rochester, MN	31	21	39	32
Fargo, ND	29	19	39	22	Sioux Falls, SD	37	24	48	31
International Falls, MN	31	18	34	20	St. Cloud, MN	31	18	41	27



## StormTRACKER Forecast

Still breezy today. Chilly this afternoon. Warmer tomorrow.

Almanac Through 6 pm Wednesday		
Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	38	30
Normal	39	21
Record	69 in 1953	-7 in 1959
Precipitation	In Inches	
Wednesday	0	

Sunrise: 7:22 a.m.   Sunset: 4:40 p.m.  
Moonrise: 4:27 p.m.   Moonset: 7:39 a.m. Nov. 19

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## Blustery day

Weather drawing by Maria Ramponi from Mrs. Johnson’s fourth grade class at St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School.

Attention teachers: Don’t forget to submit your students’ weather drawings to the Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974, Brainerd, MN 56401

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# Bodycams to put more eyes on Minnesota authorities

**By Brian Bakst**  
MPR News

ST. PAUL — Thirty-four Minnesota State Patrol cadets, all crisply dressed in maroon uniforms and peaked circular hats, stood at attention as numbered badges were pinned to chests at the “Scorching 63rd” academy graduation a few weeks back.

The troopers-in-waiting had listened intently as the ceremony’s speakers reinforced their intense training and enormous responsibility. Then, they raised their right hands to swear an oath “to conduct myself at all times in accordance with the highest moral standards and never commit any act that will reflect discredit on the Minnesota State Patrol.”

A few weeks from now, they’ll be among the troopers new and old to begin adding something else chest-high on their uniform to back up that oath: a body camera.

More than 600 state troopers will be assigned the cameras to record hundreds of thousands of annual interactions with the public — from traffic stops to semitruck inspections to civil disturbances.

So will almost 200 Department of Natural Resources conservation officers along with hundreds more Capitol Security officers, BCA agents and other state-level law enforcement. In all 1,100 cameras are on order — slightly more than the number of officers who will wear them, to keep some spares on hand.

Under a directive from

Gov. Tim Walz, which will be reflected across the agency policies, the footage from the state officer cameras will be subject to a more formalized release process than has covered local police departments.

To be sure, the state units are years behind many local police in using body cameras. But the State Patrol’s chief, Col. Matt Langer, said it’s not an entirely new concept for the patrol.

“Video systems are a part of our culture,” Langer said, pointing to squad cameras in place for about two decades.

“Troopers have the advantage of being able to document their work both on the squad video, which quite honestly covers 90 percent of what troopers do, but also has a body-worn camera to augment the squad video, showing that perspective from the trooper but also capturing any event that that regrettably could be outside the field of view in the squad video.”

The first cameras are being worn by 20 or so “power users” who will train others. The ramp-up starts in December and will extend into the spring, with troopers in different geographic districts being outfitted in waves.

All troopers will have them except those on aircraft, desk duty or executive detail — the plainclothes officers assigned to security of the governor, for instance.

Once dispatched, the cameras must roll during stops, pursuits and enforcement actions. They’ll automatically



Maria Alejandra Cardona / MPR News 2017

The Minneapolis Police Department has been using body cameras for a few years. Now state law enforcement officers are going to be required to wear them. Starting in December through the spring, the State Patrol will distribute bodycams to more than 600 officers.

turn on when an officer unholsters a gun or Taser.

The Legislature approved more than \$8 million to buy the cameras and account for data storage. House Public Safety Chair Carlos Mariani, DFL-St. Paul, helped shepherd the request through.

“What’s quote-unquote good about body cameras is that it will then provide information about bad things that cops do,” Mariani said. “From police perspectives, the good thing about body cameras is that it’ll provide information about the good things that cops do.”

In delivering the money, Mariani insisted it come with greater expectations for footage to be made available quickly.

“The state would provide the role modeling for what we believe, on the House side, are good, fair, best practices that reinforce the public’s trust in law enforcement,” he said.

Mariani had hoped to also win passage of a new purchase program for local departments, accompanied by a \$1 million annual grant program that would prioritize smaller, rural agencies. But that got left out of the legislation amid a dispute over expectations that departments receiving the money would follow state standards for maintaining and releasing footage.

Under the State Patrol’s written policy, there will be routine independent audits of trooper footage. And if there is use of force that results in a

death, that person’s family is assured access to the incident video within five days.

That’s in contrast to most Minnesota police departments, where such release is discretionary.

Similar policies for the DNR and other agencies are being finalized.

“We would consider it a step in the right direction,” said Julia Decker, who tracks body camera matters as policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota.

“Law enforcement will often release footage if it is sort of advantageous to them — if it helps their side of the story,” she said. “And on the flip side, if the footage is not helpful, it’s simply not released.”

But Decker said there is still a lot to learn about

the camera project. She’s concerned about that line between the cameras as accountability versus surveillance tools, particularly for troopers assigned to protests.

“That is sort of the tension,” Decker said. “Anytime we are talking about recording of encounters between law enforcement and community members, that is a recording of First Amendment protected activity.”

Decker said her group will keep pressing lawmakers to revisit state body camera standards first adopted five years ago to calibrate them for the times.

Sgt. Mike LeDoux is a 27-year veteran and president of the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association, a union for most on the force.

He said his members are on board with the camera deployment.

“The vast majority of troopers understand the necessity to have this particular piece of equipment,” he said.

LeDoux said the staged rollout should allow the patrol to work out any bugs. But he warned there will always be limitations, technological and otherwise.

“Since video cameras have become widespread in the law enforcement profession, we have some folks that maybe armchair quarterback based on a video,” LeDoux said. “And I think it’s important to remember, every incident has a beginning, a middle and an end. And you can’t selectively only look at 30 seconds of footage.”

# Minnesota launches five-year plan to test children for chemicals

**By Paul John Scott**  
Brainerd Dispatch

ROCHESTER, Minn. — Calling it “a first-of-its-kind state effort to systematically measure children’s exposures,” Minnesota health officials have launched a statewide biomonitoring project to identify harmful environmental agents in children.

The Minnesota Department of Health on Tuesday, Nov. 16, announced its Healthy Kids Minnesota program, moving a preliminary project from north Minneapolis and central Minnesota to preschool age children in Minneapolis and southeast Minnesota.

The new statewide program will collect urine samples from children ages 3–6 whose parents agree to their participation. The samples will be taken during early childhood screening appointments, which are required in Minnesota in order to enter kindergarten.

In addition to standard assessments (vision and hearing, thinking and language skills and social and emotional development), lab evaluation of samples from participating children would help the project identify chemical exposures in different communities.

The project will use the information to inform families of their test outcomes, including strategies to lower their exposures. Results will also help promote policies that reduce childhood exposures.

Participating families will be compensated with a \$40 gift card for their time. All participants will be ensured of their privacy according to Minnesota law.

“This new approach will provide key information about kids’ environmental exposures to chemicals and that in turn will help us learn

more about how we can help parents, health care providers and communities limit harmful exposures,” Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm said in a statement.

**Project to test for 45 chemicals**

After submitting samples to the state lab, the program will screen for exposure to 45 classes of chemicals, including metals, phthalates, pesticides, flame retardants, particles from air pollution such as smoking and cars, as well as environmental phenols found in common household products.

“Chemicals measured in Healthy Kids Minnesota may harm development in kids or cause other health concerns,” MDH spokesperson Scott Smith explained in an email.

“Depending on the chemical and how much a child is exposed to, these could include: learning and behavior problems, interference with the body’s natural hormone levels, effects on the reproductive system, increased cancer risk, damage to the heart and kidneys, and skin sensitivity and or allergy.”

Absent from the list is pharmaceutical pollution, or the residual absorption of prescription drugs now making their way into the groundwater and water supply, Smith confirmed.

Those chemicals reflect ubiquitous use of painkillers, antibiotics, psychotropics, hormones and heart medications, all of which have been found to collect in waterways and which can pass through the water treatment process to enter the drinking water, according to researchers at Harvard University and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Acknowledging the problem, the Minnesota Department of Health in 2015 published a report detailing water screening values for 119 medications, asserting “the amount of an active pharmaceutical ingredient in water that can be consumed daily with no expected health risk to humans.”

Smith’s email also highlighted the MDH Drinking Water Protection program, “a new project that looks for a broad group of unregulated contaminants in source water (groundwater, lakes, and rivers) used for drinking water and also in the drinking water as it leaves the well or treatment plant.”

The CDC chose its chemicals for inclusion in the project according to multiple criteria, including scientific data suggesting their exposure in the U.S. population, seriousness of health effects thought to result from exposure, need for assessing the efficacy of reducing a given chemical, testing ability and cost.

While chemicals collect in air, soil and water, “with a few exceptions, it is the concentration of a chemical in people that provides the best exposure information to evaluate the potential for adverse health effects,” according to CDC communications.

MDH and its partners over the next five years will conduct the program in one non-metro and one metro region per year. As one of just six states to receive CDC biomonitoring grants, the Minnesota effort will partner with Minneapolis Public Schools, Rochester Public Schools, Olmsted County Public Health, and Fillmore County Public Health.

Participants may wait a year for their results, while communities

could wait one year as well with a final statewide report requiring

five years. For more information about how to participate, visit the

Healthy Kids Minnesota website at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/>.

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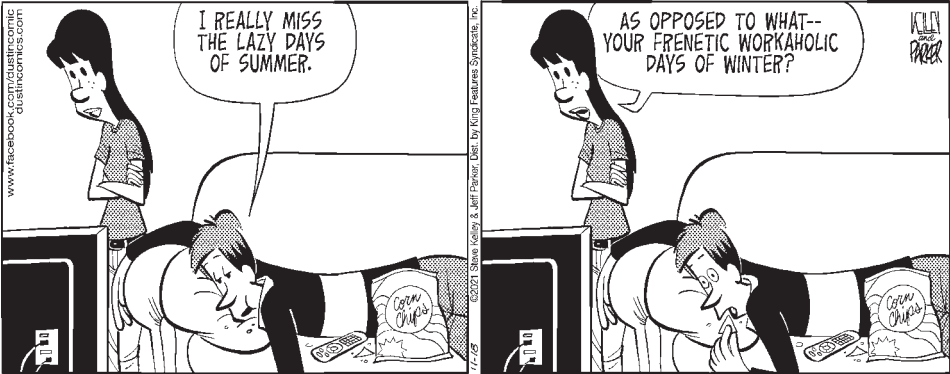
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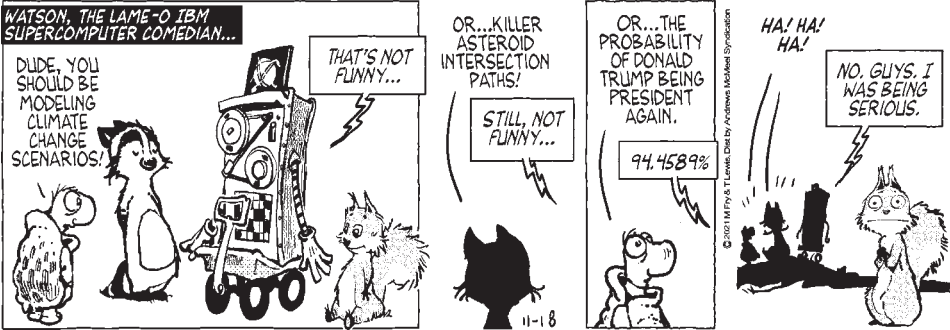
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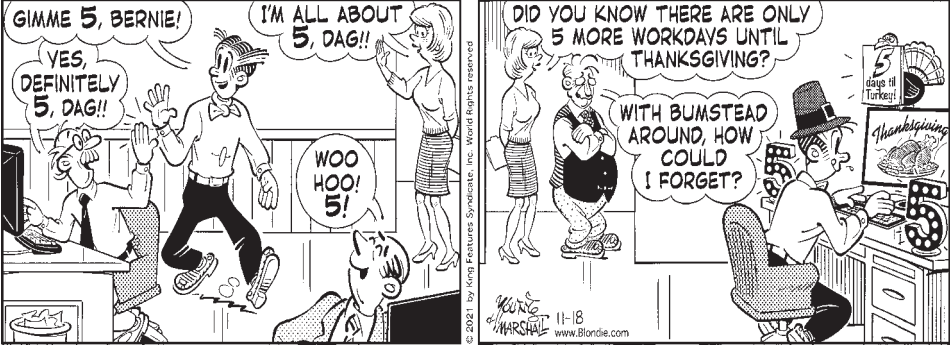
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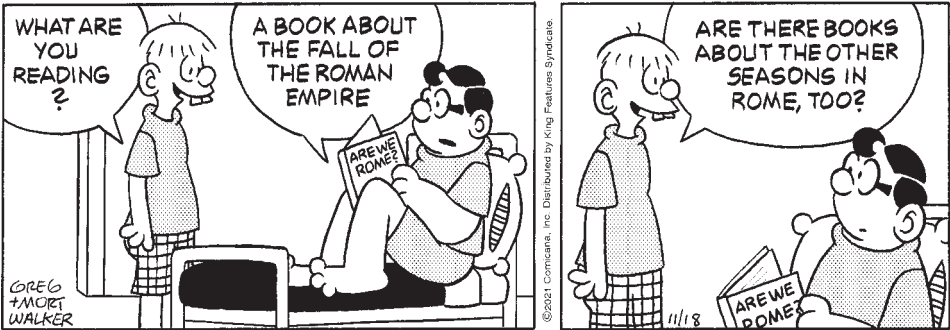
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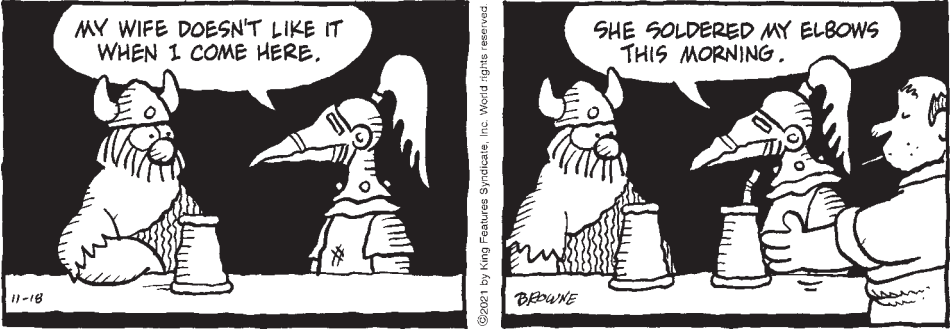
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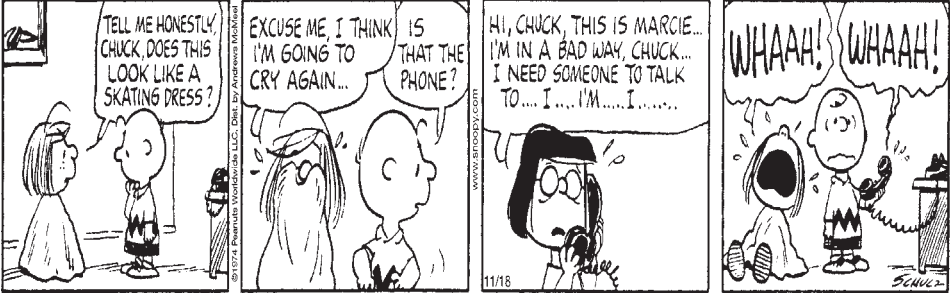
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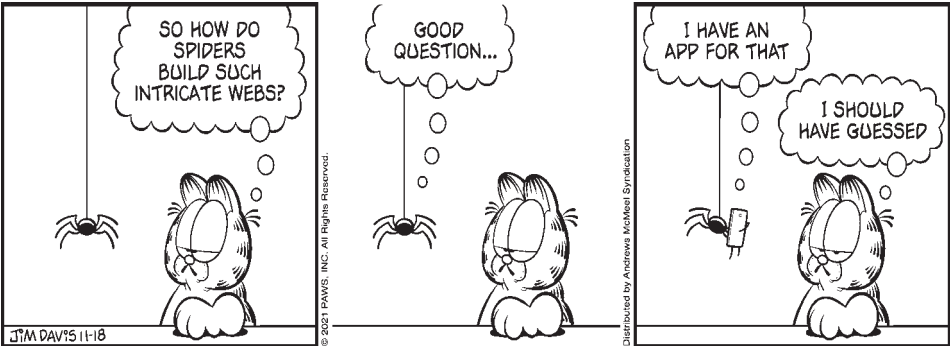
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It's written in the stars

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Any pesky problem plaguing a key relationship can evaporate if you change tactics. Work alone to clear up a mystery or solve a riddle. Focus on money making activities so you can upgrade your monthly income.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Take time to review what has been going on during the past few weeks; there could be some important lessons to unpack and integrate. Enjoy some time in the spotlight where you can form friendly connections.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Find a balance between being likable and being businesslike. Avoid any exaggeration or being too generous during negotiations. Not paying enough attention to the fine details can put you in a difficult position.

**CANCER** (June 21- July 22): You are probably quite able to adjust to changing undercurrents. For a few hours today you might fall under the spell of someone with great imagination or become vulnerable to someone who dangles temptations in front of you.

**LEO** (July 23- Aug. 22): When someone steps on your toes, reason can fly out the window. You should put a limiter on your sensitivity as you might inadvertently take something too personally. Any desire to be obedient may be at a low point today.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): Keep your ideas and plans under your hat now. It would be wise not to broadcast your latest dreams because your feelings will probably fade before anything of importance is accomplished. Adopt a wait and see attitude.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23- Oct. 22.): Your terrific timing can spark positive responses. You might be too possessive about things of minor importance but can be broadminded when key issues are discussed. Family supporters can help keep you out of harm's way.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your strengths and authority over other people may be highlighted and your ability to inspire is outstanding. You may be called on to lend a sympathetic ear or a comforting shoulder to a family friend soon.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Impractical ideas might have a practical application. You might be more interested in casual opinions than in facts and figures now. Someone can evaluate your plans and dreams and show you how to make it happen.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to demonstrate classic good taste. Although something inspiring or original can earn rave reviews, it might be too trendy to last. A loved one may be thrilled by any small token of your appreciation.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You could briefly feel dissatisfied with your home life, career, or status. These fleeting feelings may be an overdramatization and not reflect the reality of a situation. Concentrate on concrete and practical achievements.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Some heightened intuitions can help you correctly appraise people and situations. Do not risk your cash or your heart on fleeting obsessions that drain your resources. There could be unexpected reactions to your generosity.

**IF NOVEMBER 18 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** You could feel like the belle of the ball during the next three to four weeks as burdens may be lifted, optimism restored, and you feel welcome in group gatherings. The middle of January could be a good time to make key financial decisions or commit to a new career path because your perceptiveness is enhanced. You may be inspired by your surroundings in late January so keep a pencil handy and jot down your ideas. This is an excellent time to take a vacation to a glamorous location or to spend time with a romantic partner. Sit tight and wait until April to make major changes as things should smooth out quickly. You should embrace any offers or opportunities that come your way, no matter how small, because they may, in some way, improve your life and your future.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sunset site
  - 5 Barn section
  - 10 Choir voice
  - 11 Twain of music
  - 12 Fresh reaction
  - 13 State part
  - 14 Frisks
  - 16 Shop with cages
  - 20 Laundry problems
  - 23 "The Matrix" hero
  - 24 Beef cuts
  - 25 Puerto —
  - 27 Road-house
  - 28 Frisco team
  - 29 Refueling breaks
  - 32 Cheap criticisms
  - 36 Distressed cry
  - 39 State frankly
  - 40 Banishes
  - 41 Falafel holder
  - 42 Diving ducks
- 43** Unspoiled spot
- DOWN**
- 1 Hornet's kin
  - 2 Singer Fitzgerald
  - 3 RBI or ERA
  - 4 Tennis champ's forte
  - 5 Exhibits
  - 6 Jeer at
  - 7 Writer Beattie
  - 8 Ignited
  - 9 Put down
  - 11 Fife fellows
  - 15 Animal abodes
  - 26 Fit
- 17** As soon as
- 18** Caboose setting
- 19** Millennia
- 20** Goof
- 21** Writer Morrison
- 22** "— Misbe-havin'"
- 25** Shreds
- 26** Fit
- 28** Jottings
- 30** Join a bee
- 31** Big books
- 33** "The Art of Love" poet
- 34** Carry
- 35** Graceful swimmer
- 36** Filming site
- 37** Tin Man's prop
- 38** Through

S	O	W	S			P	E	L	E
Q	U	A	I	L		G	O	N	E
U	T	I	C	A		A	L	T	A
A	L	L		Z	I	P	L	I	N
B	E	E	L	I	N	E		C	O
	T	R	I	E	S		T	E	N
			T	R	U	C	E		
	V	I	E		L	E	A	D	S
S	O	N		A	I	R	L	I	N
H	O	T	L	I	N	E		L	A
I	D	E	A	L		A	W	A	K
F	O	R	T	S		L	I	T	E
T	O	N	E			N	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer

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		

11-18

Contract Bridge

What can defeat me?

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

- ♠ J 8 5 3
- ♥ K J 8 2
- ♦ K 4
- ♣ A Q 7

**WEST**

- ♠ —
- ♥ 10 7 4 3
- ♦ J 10 9 7
- ♣ J 9 6 5 3

**EAST**

- ♠ Q 10 9 6
- ♥ 9 5
- ♦ Q 8 6 5 2
- ♣ 4 2

**SOUTH**

- ♠ A K 7 4 2
- ♥ A Q 6
- ♦ A 3
- ♣ K 10 8

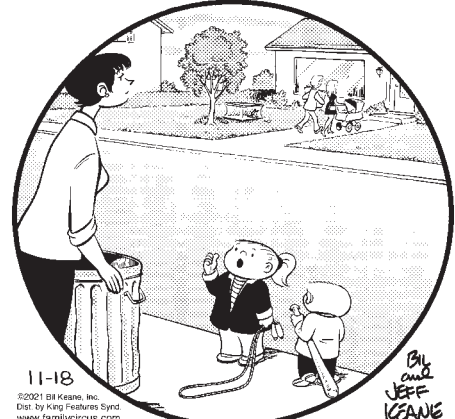
The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.  
A surprisingly large number of players show a lack of respect for safety plays. What is particularly annoying about this attitude is that their casual disrespect usually doesn't cost them a blessed farthing because the remote situation that they should be trying to protect against seldom occurs.  
However, lightning sometimes does strike, and when that happens, these players often wind up bemoaning their fate. For example, consider this deal where South gets to six spades and sees — or should see — that the only way the slam

can be lost is if he loses two trump tricks.  
So, instead of dismissing this "remote" possibility, South should instead concentrate all his thoughts on how to overcome a 4-0 trump division, if that unlikely distribution happens to exist.  
Accordingly, he should win the diamond lead in dummy and return a low trump. When East follows with the six, South should play the seven, being perfectly willing to lose the trick to the nine, ten or queen in order to assure the slam beyond the shadow of a doubt.  
In the actual deal, the safety play pays off, and South avoids going down one. Playing the ace on the first trump lead would be correct if East produced the nine, ten or queen at trick two, or if East showed out on the first trump lead. In all of these cases, South could then limit himself to either one trump loser or none with proper play. (In the actual case, if East played the nine or ten, South would next lead a spade to the jack and later finesse against East to hold himself to one trump loser.)  
This frame of mind — where declarer hopes for the best but prepares for the worst — is often crucial to achieving a favorable result. There is no good reason to incur an unfavorable outcome that could have been avoided.

Tomorrow: Test your defensive play.  
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Find Friday's  
Sudoku answers in  
Sunday's TV Week

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



THE LOCKHORNS

By Bunny Hoest & John Reiner



**HOW TO PLAY:**  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

8	6		3	5				
			9	1				4
9			7	8			6	
			6	4			2	
	6						8	
	2		3	1				
	3		2	9				7
5			1	4				
	4		7		2		5	

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6	5	9	4	2	8	1	7	3
4	1	7	9	3	5	2	8	6
8	2	3	7	6	1	5	9	4
9	3	8	5	4	7	6	1	2
7	4	5	2	1	6	8	3	9
1	6	2	8	9	3	7	4	5
3	7	4	6	8	2	9	5	1
5	9	6	1	7	4	3	2	8
2	8	1	3	5	9	4	6	7



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**USPS 063-060**  
**ABOUT THE BRAINERD DISPATCH:**  
The Dispatch continues the Weekly Dispatch founded in 1881. The Brainerd Dispatch is published Wednesdays and Sundays in Brainerd, Minnesota, by the Brainerd Dispatch, a division of Forum Communications Co. Second class postage paid at Brainerd, MN Office located at 506 James St., Brainerd, MN 56401.

**ATTENTION, POSTMASTER:**  
Address changes to the Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974, Brainerd, MN 56401.

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**Daily 3:** 8-4-7  
**Northstar Cash:** 6-8-11-18-21  
**Gopher 5:** 10-19-23-32-40  
**Powerball:** 3-16-48-52-60  
**Powerball:** 1 Power Play: 3  
**Jackpot:** \$190 million  
**Next drawing:** Saturday  
**Lotto America:** 7-11-24-28-29-  
Lucky ball: 9  
**Next drawing:** Saturday

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**Contact Times**  
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Obituaries voicemail will be checked prior to the deadline\*  
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or 866-910-9009

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All obituaries are paid advertisements. The charge for obituaries is \$15.75 per column inch and will print in the Brainerd Dispatch and also be posted on the Brainerd Dispatch website. The minimum charge for any obituary is \$78.75. Only photos of the deceased are allowed in an obituary. Obituaries must be prepaid. Obituaries can run an additional time at 50 percent off (within a seven-day period).

Rosie the robot helps improve efficiencies at local restaurant

'Rosie' helped Grand Haven gastropub stay afloat amid staff shortages

By Matt DeYoung  
Grand Haven Tribune

When first presented with the opportunity to purchase a robot to help deal with staff shortages, Josh and Katie Sandberg balked. “We were short-staffed all summer,” said Josh, owner of Paisley Pig Gastropub in Grand Haven. “No one was applying. We ran 8-10 people short all summer. We kept talking to our marketing company, trying to brainstorm — what are we going to do if things don’t change?” That marketing company, Design Force, came up with a solution — an automated robot that would help fill the void.

“My wife and I were totally against it at first,” Josh said. “How is this going to fit into our ambiance and our style of service? And we were thinking it was going to take someone’s job, and that’s not what we wanted, even though we were short-staffed.”

But upon further research, the Sandbergs began to warm to the idea. Late last month, they cut the check for \$20,000 to bring on Rosie, their newest team member.

“My wife named her after Rosie from ‘The Jetsons,’” Josh said.

Rosie stands approximately 4 feet tall. She doesn’t have arms or legs; instead, she moves across the floor on a wheeled system similar to a Roomba vacuum cleaner. As she glides toward you, her eyes glow blue. From behind, you’ll see shelves holding rubber tubs. Those convey Rosie’s true job —

helping bussers clear tables more quickly.

Sandberg explained that bussers have a watch that allows them to scan a small sensor on each table. Scanning the sensor summons Rosie to the table, and the bussers are able to load her up with dirty dishes. Once her tubs are full, the busser hits a button and Rosie makes her way to the dish-washing station, where the person there unloads the tubs containing dirty dishes and replaces them with clean tubs. Rosie then makes her way back to the dining room to resume collecting dirty dishes.

“The company we purchased her from is out of Chicago,” Josh said. “The first day, they came in and mapped out the whole restaurant, figuring out where we want her to stop, and programming to the point where if she comes to a certain table, which way to face so the bus tubs are exposed.”

If a person, a chair or another object obstructs Rosie’s path, she slows and uses her built-in sensors to find a clear route around the obstruction.

Josh said they’ve had Rosie for a month and have been pleasantly surprised at how well she’s worked out.

“You’ve got to keep an open mind when you look at technology,” he said. “You’re not going to replace people in the hospitality industry. You need to keep that human touch. But keep an open mind and see how technology can propel your business.”

Rosie has helped make the restaurant more efficient at clearing tables, meaning tables open up more quickly for waiting diners, Josh said.

The robot has also created quite a talking

point for customers.

“People have their cameras out, taking pictures and videos, and kids’ faces just light up — they think she’s the coolest thing,” Josh said. “The older generation has been a little more taken aback at first, but it’s certainly drummed up a lot of conversations. I try to be out in the dining room, answering questions and letting them know that it’s more for assistance, not taking someone’s job.”

Brad Phillips, co-founder of Design Force Marketing, said his company has spent a lot of time trying to help customers deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, from dealing with fluctuating demand for products to struggling to hire candidates.

“We began looking at ways to help, and we looked at robots and other automated processes, and realized these can really take a load off some of those real specific jobs,” Phillips said. “Certainly there are many other opportunities out there where you’re having to transfer a lot of product from one spot to another. Restaurants make perfect sense for that, but any kind of a store atmosphere where you’re stocking shelves, robots can follow you from spot to spot — to be the pack mule, if you will.”

Phillips said the goal isn’t to replace a person, but to help make an employee more efficient in doing their job.

“We have self-driving cars,” he said. “Why wouldn’t you want a self-bussing table?”

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FIRE CALLS

Firefighters respond to fire alarm at CLC

Brainerd firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 8:21 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 501 W. Col-

lege Drive, at the Central Lakes College Child Care Center.

Upon investigation, it was determined to be a false alarm.

POLICE BLOTTER

Brainerd police

**PROPERTY DAMAGE** — Report of property damage Sunday afternoon on the 700 block of North Ninth Street.

Report of property damage Friday afternoon on the 700 block of South Fifth Street.

Report of property damage Friday morning on the 500 block of North Ninth Street.

Report of property damage Nov. 10 on the 700 block of South Fifth Street.

Report of property damage Nov. 10 on the 400 block of South Seventh Street.

Report of garbage being dumped Nov. 9 on the 800 block of Juniper Street.

**THEFTS/BURGLARY** — Report of a theft Sunday on the 800 block of West Washington Street.

Report of a theft Saturday on the 400 block of West College Drive.

Report of a theft Saturday on the 1200 block of Oak Street.

Report of a burglary 1:12 p.m. Nov. 10 on Merri Lane.

Report of a stolen vehicle Nov. 10 evening on the 1000 block of Southeast 19th Street.

Report of shoplifting with a citation issued 1:04 p.m. Nov. 9 on the 400 block of Eighth Avenue Northeast.

Report of a theft Nov. 9 on the 1200 block of Maple Street.

Report of a theft Nov. 9 on the 400 block of South Sixth Street.

Report of a theft Nov. 9 on the 300 block of First Avenue Northeast.

Report of a stolen vehicle Nov. 8 on the 1300 block of Quince Street.

**ASSAULT** — Report of a fight 3:33 p.m. Nov. 10 on East River Road.

Report of an assault 1:16 p.m. Nov. 10 on the 700 block of South Fifth Street.

Breezy Point police

**ARRESTS** — A 49-year-old woman was arrested at 9:18 a.m. Nov. 8 for a warrant on the 6000 block of County Road 11. As of Monday afternoon, the woman was in custody in the Crow Wing County Jail.

Little Falls police

**ARRESTS** — A 37-year-old woman was arrested at 8:54 p.m. Nov. 9 for domestic and violation of a no-contact order on the 400 block of Eighth Street Northwest. As of Monday afternoon, the woman was in custody in the Morrison County Jail.

A 25-year-old man was arrested at 7:21 p.m. Nov. 9 for fleeing a peace officer on an ATV and firearms violations on the 1500 block of 18th Street Northeast. As of Monday afternoon, the man was in custody in the Morrison County Jail.

A 55-year-old man was arrested at 11:53 p.m. Nov. 4 for DWI on Second Avenue Northeast and Third Street. As of Monday afternoon, the man was no longer in custody.

**THEFTS** — Report of a theft Nov. 9 on the 700 block of Sixth Street Southwest.

Report of a stolen vehicle Nov. 9 on the 500 block of Fifth Street Southeast.

Report of a stolen TV Nov. 7 at Walmart.

Report of a stolen bicycle Nov. 7 on the 700 block of 11th Street Northeast.

Report of a stolen ATV Nov. 4 on the 200 block of Lindbergh Drive Northwest.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE** — Report of property damage Nov. 7 on the 15000 block of 18th Street Northeast.

Report of property damage Nov. 7 on the 300 block of 11th Street Southeast.

— Compiled by staff writer, Tim Speier who can be reached at tim.speier@brainerddispatch.com or 218-855-5859. Go to twitter.com/timmy2thyme to follow him on Twitter.

Fischbach proposes renaming 2 post offices in Minnesota

By Ingrid Harbo  
Grand Forks Herald

Two northwestern Minnesota post offices could soon have new names.

On Friday, Nov. 12, Rep. Michelle Fischbach led the Minnesota U.S. House delegation in proposing two bipartisan bills to rename post offices in the 7th District.

According to a news release from Fischbach’s office, the proposed bills would rename the post offices in Vergas and



Fischbach

Oklee to honor local heroes. The Vergas Post Office would be named after Jon Glawe, a veteran and mail carrier who lived in Vergas, while the Oklee Post Office would be named after Coya Knutson, the first woman elected to Congress from Minnesota.

Glawe and Knutson were selected for the

marks they made on their communities.

Glawe served in the U.S. army as a sergeant stationed in Germany. He took over the family farm and his father’s mail route after his father’s death, and delivered mail in the Vergas area for 36 years. He retired in 2011, and was known in his community for delivering mail, helping neighbors and volunteering at his church. He died in 2016 at the age of 66.

Knutson was born in North Dakota, and

attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She moved to New York to become a professional opera singer, but settled down on a farm near Oklee with her husband Andy. She was elected to Congress in 1955, and served until 1959. She also served as liaison officer for the Department of Defense under John F. Kennedy.

“I’m honored to be able to commemorate these individuals who made such an impact on their communities,” Fis-

chbach said in a letter.

For a post office name change bill to make it to the House or Senate, the bill must be approved by every member of a state’s delegation. Then, it has to be voted on by both the House and Senate, after which it is signed into law by the president.

After a post office is renamed, it receives a plaque with the new name and an unveiling ceremony, which is paid for by the U.S. Postal Service.

George Strait sets record with U.S. Bank Stadium concert

By Ross Raihala  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

**MINNEAPOLIS** — For a couple of hours Saturday night, one of the most consistently successful musicians of any genre held a sold-out U.S. Bank Stadium crowd in the palm of his hand — or, rather, in the back pocket of his boot-cut Wranglers.

George Strait, the King of Country, played the metro for the first time in more than eight years and the pent-up demand was clear. Some 51,030 people showed up, the second-largest crowd ever for a USBS concert after Garth Brooks, whose pair of 2019 shows drew a combined attendance of more than 140,000. (It’s worth noting, though, that Brooks played on an in-the-

round stage, allowing him to sell seats around the entire bowl.)

Strait, 69, announced he was retiring from full-scale touring back in 2013, but noted that he’d still perform live and release new music, just at a slower pace. He has lived up to that promise and typically plays a handful of Vegas gigs and a few massive one-off shows each year.

The schedule seems to be agreeing with him, as he was in top form Saturday night, tackling more than 30 songs backed by his crackerjack 11-piece Ace in the Hole Band. To be sure, Strait isn’t really a showman, at least not in the sense of the aforementioned Brooks or the Rolling Stones, who played USBS last month.

As usual, Strait didn’t

really talk much to the audience. Early on, he noted “It’s cold up here. Damn.” Later, he gave a shout-out to former Vikings quarterback Tommy Kramer, who was in the crowd. Strait also didn’t offer much theatrics beyond standing there and singing. One can imagine if Brooks or the Stones had done the same, concertgoers would have been demanding refunds.

So what’s the guy’s appeal? His songs. For three decades, Strait maintained a constant presence on country radio, scoring more than 80 Top 10 hits, more than half of which went all the way to No. 1. And judging by the crowd, plenty of people still love all those songs, which largely avoided trends and gimmicks of the time and

sound just as straightforward and honest now as they did back in the day.

While longtime followers will surely note a few favorites Strait skipped, they did get to hear a generous and deep selection of songs from throughout his career, including “I Saw God Today,” “Check Yes or No,” “She’ll Leave You with a Smile,” “Every Little Honky Tonk Bar,” “Somewhere Down in Texas,” “Amarillo by Morning,” “Troubadour,” “All My Ex’s Live in Texas” and the song that’s become his retirement anthem, “The Cowboy Rides Away.”

If Strait’s solidly entertaining performance wasn’t enough, he gave fans something like a mini festival. Gates opened at 3

p.m. and newcomer (and Minnesota native Caitlyn Smith) wore Prince Purple for her opening set. The venerable Little Big Town, country music’s answer to Fleetwood Mac, followed.

But the big news was the presence of Chris Stapleton, who just took home four (or six, if you count his production nods) Country Music Association Awards Wednesday night, more than any other act this year. Noting that he was “proud to be on this bill,” the 43-year-old Kentucky native delivered passionate outlaw country rockers to a rapt audience that cheered whenever he played one of his hits (“Parachute,” “Broken Halos,” “Starting Over,” “Millionaire”).



OTHER OPINION

# Biden makes a trillion-dollar investment in America’s future

Finally, “Infrastructure Week” is no longer a punchline. As President Joe Biden signed the \$1.2 trillion bill into law Monday, he kicked off the biggest spending program in more than a decade to build and rebuild the nation’s essential infrastructure.

Over the coming years, the U.S. will significantly ramp up construction related to roads, bridges, water systems, broadband, ports and the power grid. These are the kinds of bread-and-butter government projects that are vital for the nation’s safety, well-being and economic strength. These investments will make a real impact on people’s lives by helping keep the lights on during heat waves, by expanding public transit so people can get to work without a car and by giving students reliable internet access so they can do their schoolwork.

Certainly, the bill is not as far-reaching as Biden’s initial \$2.3 trillion proposal. And even that plan, while ambitious, was not enough to address the tremendous need. The U.S. has consistently underfunded infrastructure over the last half-century, and that’s created a backlog of work to keep existing transportation, water and energy systems up to date.

Plus, the nation is facing the even more daunting job of preparing communities for the onslaught of climate change. From the wildfires to flooding to coastal erosion, extreme weather patterns are already taxing the nation’s infrastructure. The U.S. has to address climate change on two fronts: Rebuilding communities to withstand the effects of climate change, while rapidly reducing the nation’s reliance on fossil fuels to slow global warming to avoid greater devastation. All of that work will cost a lot of money.

Yet, despite the need, it was still a battle to pass the bill. Biden had to scale back his infrastructure vision to get bipartisan support — something that is far too rare in Washington, even for programs that have long been supported by Democrats and Republicans.

Biden’s initial plan rightly recognized that the U.S. must also strengthen the infrastructure — including education, child care, housing and healthcare — that allows people to work, to invent and to adapt to a changing climate. But to appease Republicans and some Democrats, the social spending was removed and the bipartisan bill primarily funds conventional brick-and-mortar infrastructure. Much-needed housing, community and climate programs are, for now, still included in the Build Back Better Act, which is being negotiated in Congress.

For too long, the U.S. has been a nation resting on its laurels, too self-satisfied with past achievements to recognize the need to keep building toward a brighter future and the country is now paying the price in deferred maintenance. The infrastructure bill is an overdue reinvestment, but it should only be the first installment.

The Times Editorial Board  
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THIS WAS BRAINERD

NOVEMBER 18  
20 years ago (2001)

Several Brainerd lakes area residents who had elective knee surgery last week are being contacted by their physicians to be sure they are recovering properly in light of the sudden deaths of three Minnesota men who had similar surgeries last week. The Minn. Dept. of Health has asked for a moratorium on such surgeries until the deaths are investigated.

30 years ago (1991)

An attempt by the Minn. Deer Hunters Assn. to donate venison to the needy has been shot down by the state health authorities. The group wanted to give venison to the Salvation Army to distribute to the poor, but the state said no – the day before the season opener. Talks will be held in December about trying the program next year.

40 years ago (1981)

MnDOT allegedly dumped at least five gallons of the controversial weed killer 2,4,5-T within 200 yards of Baxter’s municipal water well last September and didn’t tell anyone about it, according to environmental activist Gary Payne. MnDOT says the disposal posed no hazard and was not hidden from the public.

60 years ago (1961)

(Adv.) Now showing at the Brainerd Theatre, see Spencer Tracy and Frank Sinatra starring in “The Devil at 4 O’Clock,” in the high adventure tradition of Guns of Navarone. At the Paramount, see Susan Hayward and John Gavin starring in “Back Street.”

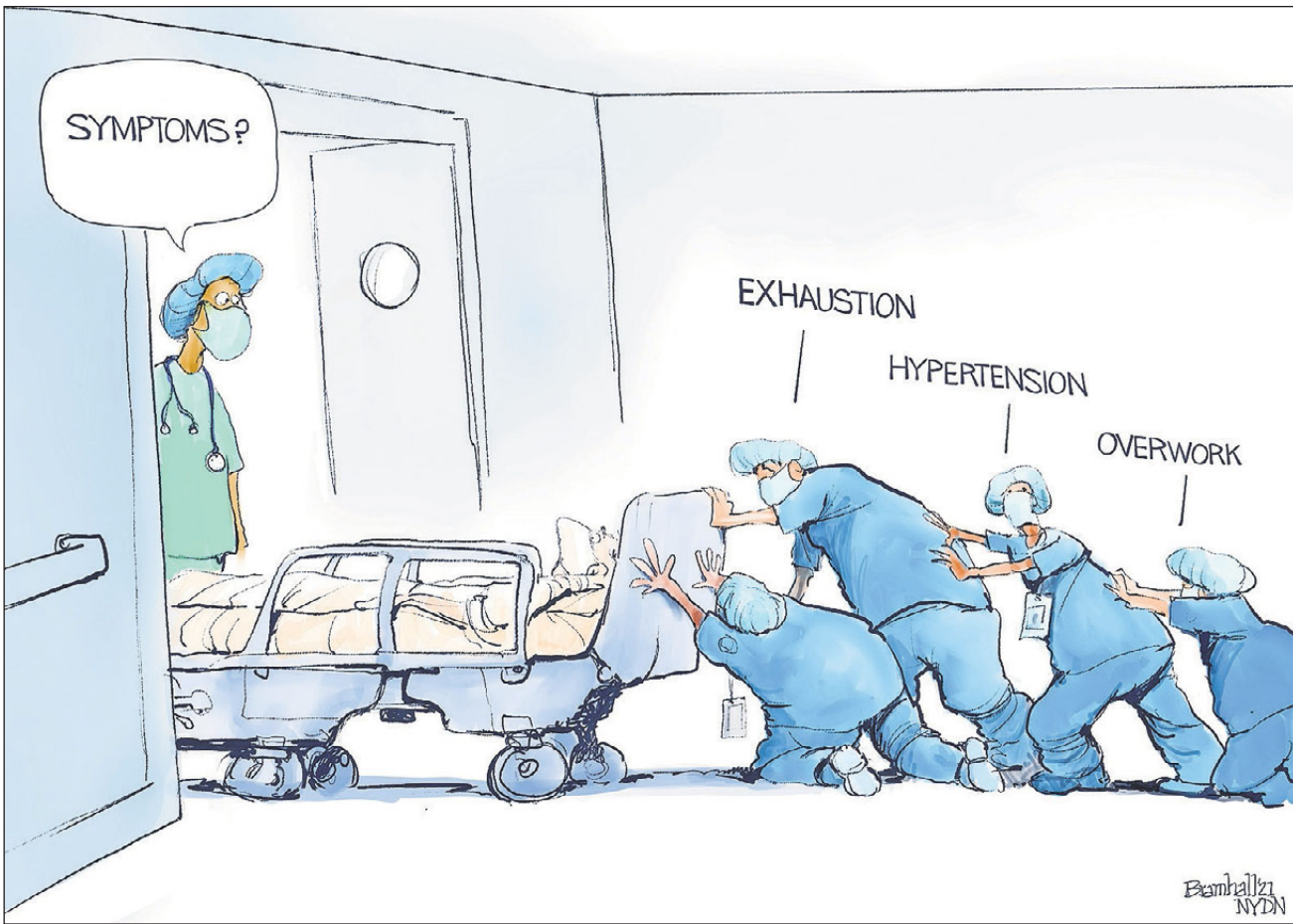
80 years ago (1941)

A former Brainerd woman is in serious condition in Ancker Hospital in St. Paul today after jumping off the middle of the High Bridge yesterday. One of the few to have jumped from the bridge without being killed in the fall, she is expected to recover from contusions and bruises but has no broken bones. She jumped after a quarrel with her husband.

100 years ago (1921)

It was a great day in the annals of football when Joe Haskell’s “Centrals” mopped up their opponents, the scrappy “Pearsons.” It was only four to a side – center, quarterback and two ends – but it was just as hot as any high school game. The score was 70 to 24, and Captain Haskell says there will be another game “as soon as our pants are repaired by mother.”

–Compiled by Terry McCollough–



GUEST OPINION

# Ensuring people have a ‘right to food’

By Bruce Shultz  
National Farmers Organization

The state of Maine has made headlines in the agricultural world. Nov. 2, Maine approved a “right to food” amendment to their state’s constitution.

This is the first of its kind in the nation. It states that “All individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to food.” This amendment provides Maine residents with the constitutional right to grow, harvest, and consume their own food. It even gives them the right to save and share seed with other producers. This began as a referendum from the people. It advanced to the Legislature, where two thirds of its delegates voted to affirm the right of a citizen to feed, grow and raise the food they need for their family. Hopefully, this is the first of many state and federal changes to ensure that family farmers have a prominent role in American agriculture.

Last year, when COVID-19 was just beginning to shut down much of the country, we all remember shortages at grocery stores. First, it was toilet paper, then shortages moved to the meat counter because of processing plant closures. Farmers were not

harvesting vegetables in March and April of 2020 because of the loss of wholesale markets catering to restaurants. Milk was dumped in every corner of the country. Our food system has grown to be nationalized and run by a very few multinational companies. Today’s consumers have only experienced a large industrial food complex. But, Americans are now seeing the importance of buying local and supporting family farms.

The idea of consumers focusing on local farmers to produce their food is certainly not a new idea, but to many it was all but forgotten. In the past decade we have seen farmers markets grow in popularity.

My wife and I have a friend who operates a vegetable subscription business. For several years, we subscribed to receive weekly boxes containing a variety of fresh vegetables. Now, my wife and I have our own garden which seems to grow larger every year. We have always raised our own beef, but as friends have asked for meat, we began selling them an animal to butcher for their families. This is becoming more popular all the time. Prior to COVID, we could call our local butcher and schedule an animal for a few weeks out. Then it became six months. Now, we must schedule a year in advance.

To help with this demand, Montana Farmers Union has invested in a mobile processing facility which they are locating in Havre, Montana. MFU has partnered with the state of Montana to develop a meat cutting curriculum at the Montana State University in Havre. The mobile processing facility will be federally inspected, so we will have greater flexibility to market our meat to the public. My wife and I have invested money in this for a few reasons. First, the guarantee of more available animals which we can sell direct; the second reason is to foster the new program which we hope leads to more local butcher shops. Third, we want to provide consumers with more buying options.

This country’s food system needs to change. Weaknesses of the system were front and center during 2020. Smaller, local processing of our agricultural products is what we need. That will lead toward a smaller carbon footprint because of shorter hauling distances and will create a stronger rural economy. Maine understands the importance of “food as a right”, I hope everyone else does too.

Bruce Shultz is vice president of the National Farmers Organization. He and his wife Wendy operate a cow/calf ranch in Raynesford, Montana.

GUEST OPINION

# Reforming the Electoral Count Act is the best way to get back on track

By Lynn Schmidt  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Being able to read a map is a good thing. Writing a map to overthrow American elections, not so much.

This past summer, my teen and I took a road trip. On our travels to our destination, we noticed that the highway was closed going in the opposite direction. I knew we should find an alternate route before we headed home. The problem was that my GPS kept trying to direct me to travel on the highway I was trying to avoid.

Once we arrived at our destination, I asked my teen to grab a paper map out of the glove box. She shot a look of horror at her mother, the dinosaur. (Any parent of a teen knows the look of which I speak.) I used the opportunity to go over map skills with her, and we went on to write down the directions of the alternate route on a piece of paper. We arrived home successfully, without GPS, and touted the practicality of being able to read and use a physical map.

Few had heard of conservative lawyer John Eastman until recently. That is, until he associated himself with Donald Trump after the 2020 election. Eastman’s legal career started after he attended law school at the University of Chicago. He became a member of the Federalist Society and was a former dean of the law school at Chapman University.

Eastman also wrote a map on how to overturn our elections in six easy steps. Eastman wrote the two-page memo, which he shared with then-President

Trump. The memo, which was published in Bob Woodward and Robert Costa’s new book, “Peril,” listed a detailed plan for then-Vice President Mike Pence to declare the 2020 election invalid and hand over the presidency to Trump. Trump and Eastman met Pence in the Oval Office in early January and tried to pressure Pence to intervene.

“Mr. Eastman said that Mr. Pence as vice president was ‘the ultimate arbiter’ of the election, essentially saying he had the power to determine who won, and that ‘we should take all of our actions with that in mind,’” the authors of “Peril” wrote. Thankfully, Pence did not comply and completed his constitutional duty in certifying the electors, which made Joe Biden the 46th president of the United States.

Before the 2020 election, Americans used our Constitutional GPS to certify our electors. The counting of the electoral votes was all but ceremonial. Now there is a map, on paper, on how to overturn a free and fair election. This map is extremely dangerous to our democracy. Before Trump supporters rise in defense, consider the fact that the map is out there and can be just as easily used as a navigation tool by Democrats.

The University of Virginia Center for Politics, which has partnered with Project Home Fire, recently released new data. The results are a warning that Americans have lost faith and trust in our democracy. Included in the data set was a chilling statistic: More than 80% of Biden and Trump voters agree that elected officials of the other

party “present a clear and present danger to American democracy.” This is further proof that the big lie of widespread voter fraud has done remarkable damage on both sides.

There is a way to reroute and get ourselves back on a healthier road for our democracy. That road requires reforming the Electoral Count Act of 1887. The Electoral Count Act is not particularly clear and has a couple of loopholes. The last thing we need is ambiguity in our election systems. The Electoral Count Act can be reformed with a few steps including creating a higher threshold for electoral vote challenges, clarifying that only state-certified electoral votes are counted on Jan. 6, and that the vice president’s role is truly ceremonial, and he or she has no power to choose noncertified electors over certified ones.

Amending the Electoral Count Act would require only a majority in both houses of Congress and a presidential signature. It is time to grab our metaphorical compasses and reach out to our elected members of Congress with the direction of supporting reform measures to the Electoral Count Act.

Getting from point A to point B has never been easier with technological advancements at our disposal. But that doesn’t mean we still don’t get detoured from time to time. Reforming the Electoral Count Act can help America get back on track to a healthier democracy.

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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# Minnesota gamer credited for helping ‘Call of Duty’ add accessibility features

By Erich Fisher  
Post Bulletin

ROCHESTER, Minn. — A broken promise made 15 years ago was recently mended for Randy Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald, a former professional video game player now turned Facebook Live streamer in Rochester, helped develop one of the first major accessibility features in a video game for people with disabilities for the 2007 game “Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare.” While testing the game, his disability, arthrogryposis, which makes him unable to use his legs or arms, made it difficult to use the button layout.

Changes were made and the company, Infinity Ward, named the layout after his gamer tag “NoM4D,” but he was never credited by name. Raven Software, the main studio behind the development of “Call of Duty: Vanguard” that released on Nov. 5 reached out to Fitzgerald with a free copy of the game and recommended he check out the end credits.

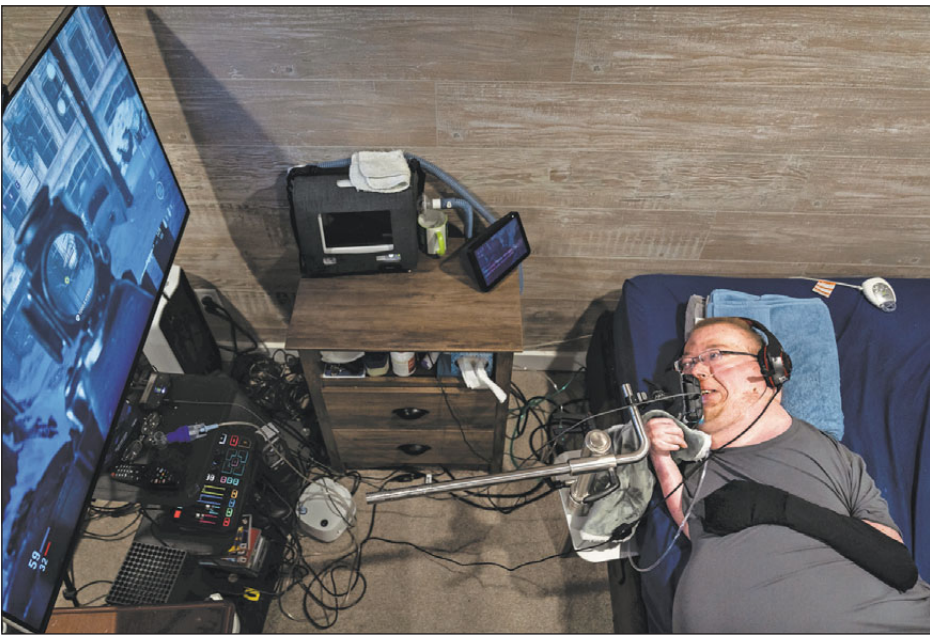
“I was really excited ... That’s pretty cool,” Fitzgerald said. “Of all the games I’ve worked on over the years, this is the first time I’ve been credited.

“It was validating. I almost wanted to be like ‘Finally!’ But I didn’t want to be ungrateful either.”

Fitzgerald first started playing video games when he was a kid growing up in Iowa. When his family took him to a bowling alley, his dad helped him get close to the Pac-man arcade game so Fitzgerald could play with his mouth.

That started a love for video games that only grew in high school.

“There’s that phrase: every man has to have competition. I couldn’t play basketball. I couldn’t play football,” he said. “Even when I was a little kid, I knew this was going to be the next big sport ... It was something I could do that was an even playing field.”



Traci Westcott / Post Bulletin

Randy Fitzgerald, a professional gamer, demonstrates how he plays Call of Duty with the button layout he designed allowing him and others with similar disabilities to play the game on Nov. 10 at his home in Rochester.

After graduating college with a degree in game design and interning at the video game studio Activision, which has developed several Call of Duty games, Fitzgerald became a well-known figure in the gaming world after attending a video game convention in 2006.

His style of play, which involves using different facial features and muscles to operate the controller, was the first time anyone had seen a video game played in that way.

“I played Sonic with my mouth on the controller, that was the first major media frenzy. I just remember turning around; all these lights were flashing,” Fitzgerald said. “It was like paparazzi. That’s what it felt like, a celebrity paparazzi and I was just like ‘what is going on?’ And next thing I know there’s like 800 microphones in my face.”

From that convention onward, Fitzgerald grew a massive following for being the world’s first quadriplegic professional video game player as well as an advocate for creating accessibility features in video games for disabled players like himself.

This following played a key role when he was playing a test version of “Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare” in 2006.

While playing the game, he found it difficult using the available button layouts on his Xbox controller. He left a message on Infinity Ward’s forum page voicing how he enjoyed the game, but struggled to play it. The response was overwhelming.

“Twenty-five thousand people replied,” Fitzgerald said. “(Infinity Ward) called me and said ‘We’re going to take your suggestions, put them in the game and name it after you,’ and I was like ‘Wow!’”

The button layout became one of the first major accessibility features in a video for people with disabilities and was a staple feature in most of the Call of Duty versions that were released in the next 15 years. Fitzgerald’s actual name, however, was never credited in the following games after Activision took over Infinity Ward and ousted the development teams that promised Fitzgerald credit.

For Fitzgerald, whose livelihood revolves around playing video games, especially Call of Duty, it hurt not receiving the credit.

“I was disappointed they lost contact with me,” he said.

But earlier this year, Raven Software, the lead developer for “Call of Duty: Vanguard,”

was wondering who was responsible for the “NoM4D” button layout and reached out to Fitzgerald.

“I told them the whole story and they said ‘that’s messed up,’” he said. “They asked me what I would like, probably thinking I would ask for money, but I just wanted to be credited. I wanted what was promised to me.”

Fitzgerald had a virtual meeting with the company shortly after about the situation and other accessibility features that could be added into the game. After the meeting, however, he didn’t hear anything back from Raven Software for months.

“I was like, ‘Here we go again,’” he said.

But the studio did reach out again, and now Fitzgerald’s name is officially credited in development, signifying the impact he’s felt he’s spent his career in the gaming industry trying to make.

Fitzgerald hopes this kept promise will open more opportunities for him to continue game development in the years to come.

“It means everything,” he said. “I think everybody’s goal on earth should be to leave a mark and make the world a little bit better, and I feel like I kind of did that.”

# Father's anger issues stem from head injury

DEAR ABBY: I’m a divorcee who has reconnected with a childhood neighbor, “Levi.” He was physically assaulted as a teenager and badly injured. He has made almost a complete recovery, but has a metal plate in his skull and a traumatic brain injury. We have always been friends, and after my divorce, he asked me out.

It felt strange, akin to dating my brother, but he was persistent. We had fun, enjoyed parties and hanging out, and I got pregnant. Immediately I began to resent Levi. Neither of us was capable of raising children. Our 5-year-old now lives in chaos.

I didn’t know Levi as well as I thought. His TBI is a much bigger problem than I realized. He cannot control his temper. He’s quick to

yell at our son, “Jaden,” and me, and puts me down in front of him. We have to move to a different area of the home to give Levi space.

He truly cannot help it, but it’s hard to tolerate the tantrums. Jaden loves his father anyway and never holds a grudge. Levi frequently apologizes, but the behavior never stops. He has never been physically abusive, but he’s walking a fine line with the verbal nastiness. I’m constantly a referee to prevent escalation.

I love both Levi and my son. We are not married. Should I continue trying to make it work? Or should I run for the hills with Jaden? It’s loud and often contentious. – SECOND-GUESSING MY LIFE

DEAR SECOND-GUESSING: Your love for Levi is beside the point. The longer Jaden is subjected to his father’s irrational outbursts — whether they are aimed at you or at him — the more the boy will feel this is what a normal adult relationship is like. For your son’s sake, you should separate. If Levi’s abuse escalates from verbal to physical, THAT’S when you should “run for the hills.”

DEAR ABBY: I am a mother of three adult kids. We are all comfortable financially. My eldest and youngest are successful. They work hard, and enjoy their homes and their lifestyle of entertaining and eating out.

My middle child lives far away and is happy to say he is not a capitalist. He works for nonprofits and barely makes ends meet. He went to college, but dropped out in his last semester. He has no health insurance. He drives a car, but has no insurance or driver’s license. He clearly knows better, but insists that all these concerns of mine are “old world and overrated” and that I worry about “nothing.”

I’m sick about the mistakes I’ve made with him, but I’m not sure what they were. I try to focus him on his license and insurance, but nothing gets done. What’s the next best step? – HELICOPTER MOM IN MICHIGAN

DEAR HELICOPTER MOM: I am sorry you didn’t mention what exactly your son does for these nonprofit organizations. Because they are “nonprofit” does not mean there is no money to pay their employees. Not only do staffers at nonprofits earn good wages, there are also benefits. The next best step for YOU would be to step back, and allow your adult son to conduct his life the way he has chosen and to accept the consequences of his irresponsibility.

DEAR ABBY is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# St. Paul initiative puts youth on city boards, commissions

By Tom Crann and Megan Burks  
MPR News

ST. PAUL — Across the state, newly elected civic leaders are settling into their roles after this month’s election. And so are 10 young people appointed to St. Paul boards and commissions under a new program called Youth on Boards.

Open to youth ages 14 to 21, the initiative is a collaboration between St. Paul Parks and Recreation and the St. Paul Public Library system. It’s designed to let youth be heard and learn how local government works. They’ll weigh in on transportation, capital improvement, economic development and more.

Abdulrahman Mohamed, 17, was appointed to the Human

Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission. He joined MPR News host Tom Crann to talk about the opportunity.

Their conversation is transcribed below. It has been lightly edited for clarity and length.

**What are you passionate about that got you involved in this?**

The thing that got me passionate is helping my community. I help out people in my mosque or help people with after-school tutoring. I want to be able to help as many people as I can, and working on a government level can give me that platform to help as many people as I can.

**What do you hope to achieve through this experience on the Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission?**

I want to tackle any discriminatory practices that are standing in the way of my fellow community members. Examples are ageism, sexism, racism, ableism and many more obstacles that are still happening nowadays in the workforce. I also hope to engage with a lot of my community members and learn more about them and try to dismantle some of the malpractices that we have in St. Paul,

**What have you learned so far about how this commission works?**

I still haven’t been to the first meeting, because it’s going to be Tuesday. But I know they gather information on cases, they discuss it and they make a verdict at the end. I’m not entirely sure — that’s why I’m there to learn.

**Why do you think elected officials should listen to young people who can’t yet vote?**

Well, I guess I can speak to my experience. So I can’t vote right now since I am 17. But I shouldn’t be discredited just because I’m young, because next year when I turn 18 in May, I will be able to vote. And

having an elected politician who discredited young people — they won’t get my vote when I turn 18.

**What do you, as someone who is not yet 18, bring to this conversation that you think might be missing?**

As a young person, I still have time to be open-minded and learn more about different scenarios. And frankly, the thing about us young people is that we’re not asking to be heard; we’re demanding things to change. And while we can’t vote for now, we have a lot of other things we could do in the meantime, like starting petitions, organizing protests and using social media to inform those who can vote.



# Job possibilities in all fields



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# Florida surpasses a grim milestone

More than 1,000 manatees have died in the state

By Rose Wong  
Tampa Bay Times

Since July, every weekly update from state wildlife officials has set a new record for the most manatee deaths counted in a single year. On Wednesday, Florida crossed an especially tragic threshold: more than 1,000 manatees dead.

The exact count, through Nov. 12, was 1,003 manatees, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

That is up from 637 all of last year and far above the previous record, 830, in 2013. Florida passed the previous high halfway through 2021. Manatee death reports are filed each Friday and published by the state the following Wednesday.

“It makes me sad and angry,” said Patrick Rose, executive director of Save the Manatee Club, a conservation nonprofit.

The bad year got off to a quick start. Manatees took shelter from cold water by warm discharges from a power plant in the Indian River Lagoon off Brevard County, scientists say. The area is a typical wintering spot, but years of algal blooms there have killed tens of thousands of acres of seagrass. That destruction left manatees without enough food. Many starved.

“It could’ve been prevented,” Rose said. The algal blooms that have decimated the lagoon are fueled by human pollution, like septic and sewer overflows and fertilizer runoff during

rainstorms.

Starvation is not the only culprit for manatee deaths, though. Nearly 100 have been killed in collisions with boats or other watercraft, according to Conservation Commission data. Red Tide has also contributed. The Tampa Bay and Pinellas shorelines were hit hard by a toxic bloom this summer.

The die-off in 2021 has left some with fears for the long-term health of one of Florida’s most beloved and iconic species. Manatees are listed as a threatened animal, after federal wildlife regulators improved their status from endangered in 2017. The Conservation Commission in recent years estimated at least 7,520 were alive.

U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., introduced a bill in August to return manatees to an endangered status. If passed, HR 4946 could draw more funding and attention, Buchanan said, which he hopes would help protect the creatures.

“I represent Manatee County. Manatees are so beloved there, but also across Florida,” Buchanan said. “People are very passionate about it.”

Manatees aren’t only cute, Rose said. Their health is a signal for the well-being of the overall ecosystem. Many fish and turtles also eat or live in seagrass, and poor water quality affects human health.

The damage that caused the die-off last winter is not easily repaired. State scientists and conservationists fear a repeat if manatees around Brevard County again struggle to find food this winter.

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Douglas R. Clifford / Tampa Bay Times / TNS

Florida had already set a record for manatee deaths in 2021. The toll has now officially surpassed 1,000.

## EUROPE

From Page 1

And they committed to putting pressure on the state’s congressional delegation and others in Washington to free up trade between the two countries.

“It’s really provided a good opportunity for us to help set the stage for a good trade agreement with the U.K.,” Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said.

The United Kingdom was the eighth largest exporter of Minnesota goods in 2020, and 70 UK businesses operate locations in Minnesota. Meanwhile, 60 Minnesota companies operate businesses in the UK. Finland is not as high on the state’s export list but Minnesota exported \$19 million to the country last year.

“To show up here with 60 Minnesota businesses is a

huge signal to the market that we’re open for business,” Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove said. “We’re getting a lot of openness and excitement.”

The Minnesota delegation was set to meet with Finnish President Sauli Niinistö and companies with Minnesota ties on Wednesday, before wrapping up the visit with additional networking talks on Thursday, Nov. 18. The group was scheduled to travel back to Minnesota on Friday, Nov. 19.

At home, the state tracked a surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths that jumped to the highest in the nation. Health department officials this week said they would open up booster doses of vaccines to curb the latest wave later this week.

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 651-290-0707 or email dferguson@forumcomm.com

## BOY RIVER

From Page 1

County Attorney Ben Lindstrom suggested residents file another petition to hold a special election and have the city of Boy River dissolved. Election Administrator Pamela Smith also shared information with the residents on where to find and send forms needed and offered to assist in the process.

Environmental Service Director John Ringle requested the board approve joining a nine county consortium to develop a grant proposal for a feasibility study and plan for future needs for construction and demolition landfills. Currently, Cass County and the other area counties operate

unlined construction and demolition landfills, Ringle said, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has indicated it is not accepting permits for additional expansions or new landfills unless they are lined. Many of the construction and demolition landfills are nearing capacity and their permits will expire in a few years, Ringle said.

Ringle requested the board approve an expenditure from the Solid Waste Fund in 2022 not to exceed the amount of \$6,000. Board Chair Jeff Peterson motioned in favor of the request, with Commissioner Bob Kangas seconding, and all commissioners voted to approve.

Ringle also requested the



Xose Bouzas / Hans Lucas

A woman works with a computer on June 17 at the Technology trade show VivaTech in France, Paris.

# Can artificial intelligence help close gender gaps at work?

AI-powered human resource tools target gender inequality

By Sonia Elks  
Reuters

LONDON – Is it because she is a mother? Or perhaps she is perceived as lacking ambition, or leadership qualities?

Gender stereotypes continue to hold women back at work, but a handful of tech firms say they have developed artificial intelligence (AI) systems that can help break biases in hiring and promotion to give female candidates a fairer chance.

Employers and the wider economy could stand to gain, too.

“We are at this moment in artificial intelligence, that we either have the ability to hardwire our biases into the future or ... to hardwire equity,” said Katica Roy, chief executive of Colorado-based software firm Pipeline Equity.

“A lot of the time that we talk about equity, we talk about it as a social issue or the right thing to do, which it is, but it’s actually a massive economic opportunity.”

Organizations are increasingly turning to AI to help make hiring decisions, prompting concern among digital rights experts who warn that algorithms can perpetuate biases.

An AI hiring tool developed by Amazon had to be scrapped after it taught itself male candidates were preferable to women.

But women’s rights groups and digital experts said well-designed tech aimed at targeting bias can “shine a light” on the hidden factors holding women back.

“Bias is as old as human nature, and traditional hiring practices have been shot through with a number of different biases,” said Monideepa Tarafdar, a professor in the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. “I think AI can be part of the solution. Definitely. But I do not think it can be the only solution.”

Inclusive alternatives

These equality-focused technology firms are using AI to bypass or review decisions such as scanning CVs or deciding pay rises, and offer personalized, data-based advice.

Software developed by Pipeline Equity, a startup founded in 2017, has a number of human resource uses – from checking for biased language in performance reviews to offering advice on hiring and promotions.

Textio also uses AI to analyze companies’ corporate statements and job postings to identify whether they are adopting a masculine tone that will alienate women or members of minority groups, and suggesting more inclusive alternatives.

Pymetrics, another leading firm in the space, offers gamified assessments that it says evaluate potential hires more fairly than reading CVs.

Studies have found that businesses led by diverse teams tend to be more profitable, while boosting women’s presence and role in the workplace could be worth billions of dollars to national economies.

But COVID-19 has spurred a “shecession” that has seen a disproportionate number of women pushed out of the labor force. The International Labour Organization found gender gaps have widened and women’s employment is set to recover more slowly.

Meanwhile, companies are struggling to fill open positions with record numbers quitting in the United States in what has been dubbed “the great resignation.”

“Businesses have so many roles that they’re unable to fill, I mean, empty seats can’t do your work for you,” said Kieran Snyder, chief executive of Textio.

“You need to hire great people if you’re going to have any kind of success.”

Helping or spying?

But AI will not be a silver bullet in creating fairer workplaces, women’s rights advocates and researchers said, warning that the technology could raise as many problems as it solves.

The idea that technology offers some kind of unbiased factual truth or objectivity is an illusion, said Manish Raghavan, a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Center for Research on Computation and Society.

“All AI has to learn from data in some way; it has to learn from past decisions,” he said.

“That’s not to say it’s impossible to use technology to mitigate your own implicit biases, I think it just has to be very, very carefully designed. And I honestly just don’t think we’re at that point yet where we’re able to do that.”

A lack of transparency about how most commercial algorithms work makes it hard to scrutinize their performance, he added.

Tarafdar, who is leading a research project to analyze how AI can lead to unintentional workplace bias, said effective solutions cannot just pinpoint key hiring decisions but must also look at the wider workplace culture.

Bosses should also carefully consider how much data they can gather on workers before their actions slip from helping towards surveillance, she added.

The real key to change is opening difficult, honest, conversations about bias that can challenge misconceptions, said Allyson Zimmermann, a director of women’s workplace rights organization Catalyst.

But AI tech can help to upend those preconceptions and open opportunities, she added, citing the case of a young woman who got an interview after being selected using technology that “blinded” recruiters as to her gender and age.

“When she showed up for the interview, they just burst out laughing. And it wasn’t, you know, a rude kind of laughing. They were so shocked that she was this young woman,” she said.

“It really opened their eyes; they thought they would have a middle-aged man coming in ... She went into the interview, she got the job. She told me it was an extremely positive experience.”

board approve a parcel remapping project in Crooked Lake Township and authorize use of available county staff and resources for the completion of the project. The project would be considered a pilot project for future townships. There was concern that by conducting the project it would engage in unnecessary scrutiny by property owners. Jessica Watts from Cass County MIS said this would allow for the current maps to be more accurate, but would not be legally binding as property owners would still be required to hire a land surveyor. It was also noted by conducting this project the highway department would benefit from these maps. The board approved the request unani-

mously.

**In other business, the county board:**

**Heard the third quarter Longville ambulance report** from North Memorial Health Ambulance Services Manager Kevin Lee.

**Approved changing** the Land Department timber auction policy to four quarterly oral timber auctions per year and no sealed bid auctions, with reporting back in a year to evaluate revenue loss or gain.

**Approved final payment** on the countywide edge line striping project.

**Approved Martin Mechanical** to update the current cost estimate tables for developing a final plan and request for bonding in 2022 to rebuild

the Pine River Transfer Station Solid Waste Recycling facility, not to exceed the amount of \$2,500.

**The next meetings are as follows:** Joint meeting with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe at 10 a.m. Nov. 29 at the Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake or by Zoom meeting; commissioner’s board meeting at 3 p.m. Dec. 9 with a public hearing beginning at 6 p.m. regarding the 2022 Cass County fee schedule, budget and property tax levy, at the boardroom in the courthouse annex in Walker; and commissioner’s board meeting at 9 a.m. Dec. 21 at the Land Department meeting room in Backus.

Kyndra Johnson is the Cass County correspondent.



# TOWER

From Page 1

early November, sending it on to the full historical society for final approval, which is expected to be given later this year.

This grant is a matching grant, meaning the city of Brainerd would kick in matching funds — \$162,043 — along with the money from the grant for a grand total of \$324,086 to construct a new roof for the tower. That amount is the estimated cost for a synthetic rubber roof and catch basin for drainage, restoration of the windows and steel staircase, tuckpointing the brick around the windows and relocating the flagpoles.

The Brainerd City Council agreed in July to kick in the matching funds if the grant were approved. Those funds would come out of the \$300,000 the council budgeted back in 2018 for the tower's destruction if it could not be restored. So far, the council has used \$12,500 of that money as matching funds for a 2019 grant from the historical society to fund plans to design the



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Historic Brainerd water tower April 8, 2020, at sunset.

new roof and other renovations needed.

The work to restore the tower started in 2018, after stucco fell from the 100-year-old structure and prompted council members to discuss whether it was possible to come up with the funds for a restoration project or if the tower should just be torn down. A committee — which has since become a nonprofit — has been working since that time to raise funds

for the project.

Once the historical society officially approves the latest grant, the city can begin soliciting bids to put a roof on top. The goal with the roof is to stop further water damage, which is the root cause of the tower's problems.

After a new roof is put on, an additional optional construction phase would be to remove and repair the stucco, which could cost in the ballpark of \$600,000. The

tower itself, however, is structurally sound.

## Donating to the cause

The latest donation to the tower project came from the Brainerd Jaycees in the form of \$1,000, which were part of the proceeds collected from this year's StreetFest. Jaycees Mike O'Day and Melissa Willis presented the water tower committee with a large ceremonial check Wednesday, Nov. 17.



Theresa Bourke / Brainerd Dispatch

Members of the Brainerd Jaycees presented the city's water tower committee Wednesday with a large check to represent a \$1,000 donation of funds raised during the annual StreetFest event earlier this year. Pictured are: Mike O'Day, Brainerd Jaycees, left; Dave Badeaux, water tower committee; Ashley Storm, water tower committee; Melissa Willis, Brainerd Jaycees; Mary Koep, water tower committee.

Other donations can be made online via the city's website at ci.brainerd.mn.us, with a 3.61% service fee applied to all donations. Commemorative water tower items — like Christmas tree ornaments, mugs, T-shirts and keychains — are available at Visit Brainerd on Laurel Street downtown.

There are two open spots on the water tower committee. Those interested in becoming a member can fill out an

application at <https://bit.ly/2SwQ4Rt> or pick up an application at city hall. The committee meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at city hall. Meetings are open to the public.

For more information, visit [brainerdwatertower.com](http://brainerdwatertower.com) or follow the Save the Historic Brainerd Water Tower page on Facebook.

**THERESA BOURKE** may be reached at [theresa.bourke@brainerddispatch.com](mailto:theresa.bourke@brainerddispatch.com) or 218-855-5860. Follow her on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/DispatchTheresa](https://twitter.com/DispatchTheresa).

# WALZ

From Page 1

While the state of emergency had been the right move early in the pandemic to scale up testing, personal protective equipment and vaccines, it was no longer needed to prevent COVID-19 deaths, Walz said. And if he declared it, more Minnesotans could choose not to follow state masking requirements or shutdowns.

Walz said it was "demonstrably false" that reinstating his emergency powers would bring down COVID-19 cases in the state and said he needed the help of lawmakers to approve flexibility and funding for hospitals that were strained from a tide of COVID-19

cases.

To date, Walz and leaders in the divided Legislature have been unable to compromise on the terms that would allow them to return to St. Paul for a special legislative session to take up hero pay for front-line workers, hospital relief measures and support payments for farmers.

In a Wednesday statement, Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller, R-Winona, said Senate Republicans are open to a special session.

"We remain ready to come back for a special session to address frontline worker bonus pay, drought relief, and immediate COVID needs," Miller said. "The governor is the only person who can call a special session and we look forward to

continuing discussions with the governor when he gets back from his trade mission."

The governor on Wednesday said his administration had done more to curb the pandemic than the Senate Republicans had done during the course of the pandemic. And, again, he refused to call back lawmakers if the threat of losing Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm remained on the table.

Senate Republicans have said they have a right to confirm or terminate state commissioners.

"I can't afford to lose someone at the department of health who is getting these vaccines out and making a difference," Walz said.

Earlier in the day, Walz and the department of health announced that

two federal emergency staffing teams would be deployed to Minnesota to relieve medical staff at Hennepin County Medical Center and St. Cloud Hospital. They are set to begin treating patients next week.

Malcolm said additional hospitals had requested relief staffing but the federal government had a limited number to send out. The state is also set to open a third alternative care site at Cerenity Senior Care-Marian of St. Paul beginning Monday, Nov. 22.

The decompression site will take patients transferred out of hospital settings that aren't yet ready to return home. The center will be able to accept 27 patients at a time, primarily from Twin Cities area hospitals. Alternative

care sites have also opened in Brainerd and Shakopee.

Walz said the state was considering additional sites, too, if COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to grow in Minnesota.

Following are the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 case rates, deaths, hospitalizations and vaccinations as of Wednesday, Nov. 17. Because all data is preliminary, some numbers and totals may change from one day to the next.

## Statewide case rates

- ▶ **NEW CASES:** 3,457
- ▶ **SEVEN-DAY, ROLLING AVERAGE OF NEW CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE:** 70.9 (as of 11/9)
- ▶ **TOTAL CASES, INCLUDING REINFECTIONS:** 861,235

**TOTAL REINFECTIONS:** 9,433

▶ **SEVEN-DAY, ROLLING AVERAGE TEST POSITIVITY RATE:** 10.5% (as of 11/9)

## Hospitalizations, deaths

- ▶ **ACTIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS:** 1,382
- ▶ **TOTAL HOSPITALIZATIONS:** 43,827
- ▶ **DEATHS, NEWLY REPORTED:** 46
- ▶ **TOTAL DEATHS:** 9,093

## Vaccinations

- ▶ **FIRST DOSE ADMINISTERED:** 3,562,569 or 68.4% of population ages 5 and older
- ▶ **COMPLETED SERIES (2 doses):** 3,331,979 or 63.9% of population ages 5 and older

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DIVING



Brainerd Warriors Brennea Deason (left) and Izzy Olson take a break from preparing for the Class 2A state diving competition. The two juniors will open the competition 6 p.m. Thursday at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

# Warriors hope to make the right kind of splash at state

**By Jeremy Millsop**  
Brainerd Dispatch

**T**hey're becoming almost inseparable. Brainerd Warriors juniors Brennea Deason and Izzy Olson don't look alike, but a list of their athletic resumes might make some conclude that they are indeed twins. The two added to their mirror athletic bios by both advancing to the Class 2A State Diving competition that begins 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at



Deason



Olson

the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center in Minneapolis. Again, they're both juniors. They're both short in stature. They both have been to state in three different sports. Two of those sports are the same in gymnastics and swimming and diving. Deason has also advanced to state in track and field, while Olson has state golf on her list of accomplishments.

State diving

**Who:** Brainerd Warrior juniors Izzy Olson and Brennea Deason

**What:** The Class 2A State Diving Competition

**When:** Prelims start at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18; Semifinals will follow after the preliminary round; Finals will be 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20

**Where:** University of Minnesota Aquatic Center

Both divers have past experience at state diving. This will be Olson's third state trip. As an eighth-grader, she advanced

to the final round and finished 16th. The next year she missed the finals and finished 18th. That same year, Deason surprised many by advancing to the finals and placing 13th. There was no state meet last year, but Olson would have advanced as she won the Section 8-2A final. She repeated as the section champion this year. "I think she's ready and I don't say that lightly," Brainerd diving coach Mary Strieff said. "She's going to take care of business. It's fun to watch Izzy walk into a

competition. This year at the Central Lakes Conference meet, she got off to a pretty rocky start. I think everyone on our team was beating her after the third round. It was a real fun event to watch as she clawed her way back out of that. "I think that competition taught her to not panic, stay the course, and it really just takes one dive to get that spark back and start diving amazingly again." Olson won the section diving title with 397.35

**DIVING:** Page 14

## Wolves lackluster in win over Kings



Nick Wosika / USA Today Sports

Sacramento Kings guard Jahmi'us Ramsey (20) has his shot blocked by Minnesota Timberwolves forward Jarred Vanderbilt (8) during the second quarter Wednesday at Target Center in Minneapolis.

**By Jace Frederick**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

There was one question hanging over the Minnesota Timberwolves following their loss to Phoenix. Despite the end result, Minnesota played hard and competed with one of the NBA's top teams at Target Center. But could it do it again? Could the Wolves follow up one solid performance with another? Short answer: No. They did win, though. Anthony Edwards scored 16 points in the final frame, burying four triples, to lead Minnesota to a 107-97 win over Sacramento at Target Center.

If you're the Timberwolves, it's better to win ugly than lose ugly. And Wednesday certainly was ugly. Sacramento (6-9) turned the ball over time and time again and struggled to shoot, but stayed in the game because Minnesota's offense struggled again, and the Kings beat the Timberwolves up on the offensive glass for much of the night. The game had the feel of two struggling teams looking for ways to lose. Sacramento had 14 turnovers in the first half while shooting 33 percent from the field, and somehow led the Wolves

**WOLVES:** Page 14

## Hot shooting leads Gopher women to win over American

**By Michael Lyne**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

After their best shooting performance of the season, the Minnesota women's basketball team extended its winning streak to three by beating American University on Wednesday night 73-56 at Williams Arena. "You know, (I) give our guys credit for responding, especially after the start of the first few possessions," Gophers coach Lindsay Whalen said. "Happy with the win. Happy to be able to take a look at this, learn some things, and continue to get better."

Minnesota opened up the game with a miss, then two consecutive turnovers, and found themselves trailing American 8-4 early. However, Whalen took a timely timeout. Then, the Gophers settled in and quickly gained momentum as they went on a 13-point run that stretched over five minutes to take a 17-8 lead, highlighted by a trio of threes from graduate students Gadiva Hubbard, Deja

Winters and junior Jasmine Powell. The Gophers finished the first quarter with a 21-12 lead, a season-high point total for Minnesota in the opening quarter of play. After Minnesota's big run, American had a seven-point run of its own that stretched from the end of the first quarter into the second, but Powell ended it with her second three-pointer of the night with 8:28 seconds remaining to get the Gophers back on track, as they led 24-17. The Gophers held a 35-28 lead over American at halftime, with 15 of those points coming off the bench. Powell and Winters fueled the Gophers in the first half, combining for 15 points, as Powell went on to finish the game with 12 points, a season-high eight assists, and a team-high six rebounds. "Our team responds," Whalen said. "We got

**GOPHERS:** Page 14

## Lore rewards random acts of kindness with Wolves courtside tickets

**By Jace Frederick**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

New Minnesota Timberwolves part owner Marc Lore has had a number of special guests sit courtside with him early this season. Part owner Alex Rodriguez, Lynx players and hall of famer receiver-to-be Larry Fitzgerald have all joined Lore to take in games. But Wednesday's guests were special in that they earned their way to the side of the court via random acts of kindness. Lore put out a tweet Wednesday asking Minnesotans to do something thoughtful for someone in the community, and then share with him what they did. Lore

received roughly 350 responses to sift through and picked three winners to sit courtside with him. The winners were Jillian Kaspar, John Tucker and Tay Washington. Kaspar bought gas for someone whose card was declined, and also bought treats for the kids in the car. She is a Timberwolves season ticket holder who'd been saving up for courtside seats for her 30th birthday, and her present happened to come a little early. She loves tattoos and Britney Spears, and has been in the restaurant industry since she was 15 years old. Tucker bought coffee for a military member. He has been a loyal Wolves fan for about nine

years, and has had a podcast that focused on the Timberwolves and the Minnesota sports landscape and previously won a high school state golf championship. Washington paid for the Wendy's order for the person behind her in line, something she does from time to time when given the opportunity. She is a big basketball fan who loves Anthony Edwards and dancing. Lore said he focused on the winners who executed a random act of thoughtfulness. "Something powerful happens when you give back in a purely random way with no expectation of for anything in return," he tweeted.



# Vikings hope ‘shenanigans’ behind them as they look to make playoff run

By Chris Tomasson  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Dalvin Cook is hopeful the Minnesota Vikings have overcome the “shenanigans” of the early part of the season. Adam Thielen said recent frustration they experienced has been turned into a “rallying point.”

Don’t look now, but the Vikings, 4-5 after breaking a two-game losing streak, are very much in the NFC playoff race heading into Sunday’s key game against NFC North rival Green Bay (8-2) at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Winning the division remains a long shot for Minnesota, and a loss to the Packers on Sunday would all but wrap it up for Green Bay, but the race for a wild-card spot is wide open. The Vikings are just a half game behind Carolina (5-5) for the seventh and final spot in the NFC. And they beat the Panthers 34-28 in overtime on the road in Week 6, so they would win a possible tiebreaker.

“The confidence for this team (comes from)

just knowing we’re right there in the mix after all the mistakes and all the last-minute shenanigans we’ve had all year,” Cook, a running back, said Wednesday on the heels of last Sunday’s 27-20 win at the Los Angeles Chargers. “We’re right here in the mix of what we’re trying to get done.”

Each of the Vikings’ five losses has been by seven or fewer points, and a combined 18 points in all. The four that really stung were a 27-24 loss at Cincinnati in Week 1 after Cook lost a fumble in overtime, a 34-33 loss at Arizona in Week 2 that ended when Greg Joseph missed a 37-yard field goal, a 20-16 home loss to Dallas and backup quarterback Cooper Rush in Week 8, and a 34-31 overtime setback at Baltimore after Minnesota blew a 14-point third-quarter lead in Week 9.

After the loss to the Ravens, Thielen talked about how frustrated the Vikings were after so many closs losses. But the wide receiver

said the team was able to turn that into a positive before upsetting the Chargers on the road.

“As frustrated as we all were, that was kind of a rallying point., to say for how frustrated we all are, for how disappointed in where we are, we’re right there,” he said. “It is what it is. Let’s go to work. Let’s find a way. Let’s find a way to get it turned around.”

The Vikings need to win at least one of their next two games to still feel good about their playoff prospects, but that won’t be easy. The Packers are a 2½-point favorite and quarterback Aaron Rodgers might not be as rusty as he was in last Sunday’s 17-0 win over Seattle. Rodgers missed one game while on the COVID-19 reserve list and was activated until the day before the game against the Seahawks.

Next up for the Vikings will be the 49ers (4-5) in San Francisco on Nov. 28, a game with major playoff implications. The 49ers are coming off a resounding 31-10 upset



Jayne Kamin Oncea / USA Today Sports  
Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson flexes to the crowd after hanging on to a complete pass for a first down in the first half against the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

of the Los Angeles Rams on Monday night and might be finding their stride.

Head coach Mike Zimmer hopes the Vikings also are finding their groove.

“We’ve played well enough to win some games that we haven’t won, and so we’re trying to catch up to where we hope to be,” he said. “There is still a lot of time left.”

For the Vikings to make a playoff run, they

likely will need to have success on offense while being as aggressive as they were against the Chargers. After facing criticism for conservative play in some of their losses, they opened it up more last Sunday.

Quarterback Kirk Cousins threw downfield more, completing 25 of 37 passes for 294 yards. Justin Jefferson caught nine passes for a season-high 143 yards, and Thielen had five grabs for 65 yards, including a

key 18-yard catch when the Vikings ran out the final 4:36 of the game to stop a two-game losing streak.

“I think it was a good showing of what the formula kind of has to be to win games,” Thielen said. “It’s a little bit different league nowadays. You have to be able to be aggressive, and you have to be able to convert in aggressive situations to win games.”

# Vikings’ Wonnum tests positive, then negative for COVID-19

By Chris Tomasson  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minnesota Vikings starting defensive end D.J. Wonnum on Wednesday tested positive for COVID-19 and then later in the day tested negative, a source said.

The source said that Wonnum will test again on Thursday to determine if his first test Wednesday might have been a false positive. If he tests negative, he could be cleared to practice.

Wonnum was one of four Vikings players to miss practice on Wednesday for what the team said was “not injury related.” The source said Wonnum is fully vaccinated and that he was feeling fine and had no symptoms.

The other Minnesota play-



Jerome Miron / USA Today Sports  
Minnesota Vikings defensive end D.J. Wonnum in action during the game between the Vikings and the Detroit Lions on Oct. 10 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

ers to miss practice for “not tackle Brian O’Neill, corner-injury related” reasons were back Mackensie Alexander

and tight end Chris Herndon. Details were not immediately available regarding their absences. With Herndon not at practice, the Vikings protected tight end Brandon Dillon on the practice squad.

The Vikings listed as limited in practice center Garrett Bradbury and safety Harrison Smith for “not injury related” reasons. Bradbury was activated off the COVID-19 reserve list Tuesday and Smith activated off it Wednesday.

Without Wonnum at practice, the Vikings were even thinner at defensive end. Danielle Hunter is out for the season after suffering a torn pectoral muscle on Oct. 31 against Dallas. Top reserve Kenny Willekes has been on

the COVID-19 reserve list since last Friday, and sat out last Sunday’s 27-20 win at the Los Angeles Chargers.

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said Monday that Willekes needed to “pass a couple tests” to return. Willekes, who is fully vaccinated, would need two negative tests 24 hours apart to come off the list to play against the Packers.

Other defensive ends on the 53-man roster are starter Everson Griffen, rookie Patrick Jones II and Eddie Yarbrough, who was signed last Friday. Jones played 11 snaps against the Chargers and Yarbrough four. The Vikings also have defensive end Nate Orchard on the practice squad.

# United’s Fantastic Four attack gelling at the right time

By Andy Greder  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minnesota United was forced to wait more than one-third of the season until their preferred four attackers started a game together in July. But a first taste of what a majority of that group can produce came in June against the Portland Timbers.

While Robin Lod was out, Franco Fragapane, Emanuel Reynoso and Adrien Hunou produced what was then the fastest goal in club history. After a give-and-go with Fragapane, Reynoso took off on a long dribble through the midfield and fed Fragapane after his incisive cut into the Timbers defense. Fragapane then passed to Hunou in front of net for a calm right-footed finish.

The second-minute goal led to a 1-0 road win over the Timbers at Providence Park, a fitting location for a breakthrough given that’s where fifth-seeded Minnesota goes to face fourth-seed Portland in an MLS Cup Playoffs first-round match at 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

The Loons’ ability to deploy that front four was delayed by transfer hiccups for Hunou into May and Fragapane into June, and then by international duties for Lod and injuries to Lod,

Fragapane and Reynoso. They only started eight games together this season but when they were in the starting XI, the Loons are 4-2-2.

“If you look at the record since they’ve been together, the amount of goals that we’ve scored .... That’s as good as you could have expected,” manager Adrian Heath said. “Had we had them consistently all season, could have been 10 (wins). If they consistently play together, they will create opportunities and score goals.”

When one of those four attackers scored a goal in those combined starts, MNUFC is 4-0-1 this season. The draw came against L.A. Galaxy on Decision Day, when Hunou and Lod got on the scoresheet and a Galaxy own goal produced a 3-3 result. It pushed Minnesota into the playoffs for a third-straight season.

“Now, we have been building up the last few games with our chemistry and we know what others are doing,” Lod said. “I am really enjoying playing with those guys.”

Overcoming delays in getting the four on the field at the same time — and Hunou scoring after a slow start — proved vital. If they lost to the Galaxy, the Loons would have been knocked out of the playoffs entirely.

But if they had been on the field together more all season, maybe the Loons’ route to MLS Cup wouldn’t be starting on the road. Had that been the case, Heath said, “I don’t think we would have needed to go to the last day and gone through what we did to have made the playoffs.”

The foursome started the last six regular games together. But to show how fickle this situation continues to be, Lod has been absent since the regular-season finale on Nov. 7 because he was called into Finland’s national team for World Cup qualifiers through Tuesday. He is expected to return to Minnesota on Wednesday, and the team will leave for Oregon after Friday’s training session.

The remaining three — Hunou, Fragapane and Reynoso — were “excellent” in training in Blaine on Tuesday, Heath said.

“We will probably go as far as them four play,” Heath said. “We need our big players to play. If Robin comes back hopefully fit after (Tuesday’s qualifier), Rey is looking really sharp, Adrien Hunou is playing with a lot more confidence and Fraga is doing really, really well. Keep them four going. Keep them involved in the game. Get them in



Joe Camporeale / USA Today Sports  
Minnesota United midfielder Robin Lod (17) and teammates Adrien Hunou (23), Franco Fragapane (7) and Michael Boxall (15) celebrate Lod’s goal against Los Angeles Galaxy goalkeeper Jonathan Bond (1) during the first half Nov. 7 at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, California.

the right spots. We think they will be a big, big plus for us.”

The Loons’ broke the club’s record for fastest-goal in a game in September when Fragapane sent a perfectly weighted pass to Lod at the near post for a goal in the first minute of a 2-0 win over Houston. It was another example of how quick and lethal the foursome can be, and one of the most dangerous factors of the Loons’ attack is its flexibility, with all four players willing to come inside and help create in the build-up.

Center forward Hunou prefers to have a partner

at the top of the attack and right-sided midfielder Lod is comfortable creating that company. Central attacking midfielder Reynoso wants to pull the strings in the middle, as does left-side midfielder Fragapane. If they do this well, fullbacks Romain Metanire and Chase Gasper can provide other options with overlapping runs.

With these variations, it could feel like “wack-a-mole” for opposing defense.

“When coming from a defensive midfielder,” Will Trapp explained, “that is always hard when guys are floating

in space and you don’t know if it’s your guy or your teammate’s mark.”

Minnesota’s attackers playing well at the end of the season — including Lod’s goal for Finland against Bosnia Herzegovina on Friday — comes at the perfect time for the Loons.

“When it comes off well, it’s nearly impossible to stop,” Trapp said. “That is always a great sign when you see that at the end of the season, right? Sometimes it takes time for everyone to gel in as it is. To have those four clicking at the end is what we want.”



# Wild can't recover from slow start in 4-1 loss to Sharks

By Dane Mizutani  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Despite what recent memory might suggest, Minnesota Wild coach Dean Evason warned after morning skate that Tuesday's game against the Sharks would not be an easy win.

Though the Wild dominated the Sharks last season during a condensed 56-game schedule, Evason understood the type of skill his team was going up against this time around.

"Just looking at their top two lines, it's lots of points, lots of big bodies, lots of guys getting to the net," Evason said. "Plus, when they've got people on the backend that create offense as they do, it's going to be a challenge for us."

It proved to be exactly that and the Wild failed to rise to the occasion in a humbling 4-1 loss



Minnesota Wild center Joel Eriksson Ek (14) skates with the puck while San Jose Sharks center Jonathan Dahlen (76) defends in the second period Tuesday at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

to the Sharks. As the final seconds ticked off the clock the announced crowd of 15,367 at Xcel Energy Center had been reduced to a smattering of fans scattered about.

There was no need to stay until the end of the game. This thing was over with more than 10

minutes to play.

For what feels like the millionth time this season, the Wild fell behind in the game, and this time they couldn't dig themselves out of the hole.

It started to get away from the Wild early in the first period as defen-



San Jose Sharks right wing Timo Meier (28) scores a goal against Minnesota Wild goaltender Cam Talbot (33) in the first period Tuesday at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

seman Mario Ferraro buried a perfect pass from center Logan Couture early in the first period to the Sharks in front 1-0. Much later in the frame, winger Timo Meier stretched the Sharks lead to 2-0 with by hammering home a rebound in front.

That forced the Wild to chase the game once again, and while Joel Eriksson Ek cut the deficit to 2-1 in the second period, that was as close

as the Wild got on this particular night.

The most frustrating part for the Wild is there was a chance to break through a few minutes later.

After a clean hit by Matt Dumba along the boards, center Tomas Hertl came to the aid of his fallen Sharks teammate, and got tagged with a roughing minor in the process.

That gifted the Wild a power play for all of 40

seconds before Eriksson Ek got called for tripping to negate the man advantage. Then, a mere 10 seconds later, defenseman Erik Karlsson scored for the shorts to make it 3-1.

That paved the way for the third period where Hertl put an end to any thoughts of a comeback. He found the puck on his stick right on the doorstep and delivered the dagger to finalize the score at 4-1.

# Dumba must answer for clean hit? Ridiculous

Minnesota Wild star Matt Dumba was roaming near the blue line during Tuesday's game at Xcel Energy Center when he saw Sharks winger Alexander Barabanov drop his head.

Not a good idea. You could almost see Dumba's eyes light up from way up in the press box before he sent Barabanov crumbling to the ice with a hip check that

would make legendary NHL defenseman Rob Blake proud.

"He's just skating up the wall with his head down," Dumba said. "I was able to step up and get a good lick on him."

Not surprisingly, Dumba had his head on a swivel as soon as he regained his balance. He braced for impact knowing what was coming down the pipeline. A couple of seconds later, Sharks center Tomas Hertl jumped Dumba and all hell broke loose along

the boards.

"You're always kind of expecting it," Dumba said. "My boys had my back."

The fact that Dumba had to answer for his big hit in any capacity is 100 percent what's wrong with NHL hockey: A guy who lays out an opponent with a clean hit is immediately expected to drop the gloves. It's ridiculous.

And it didn't stop there. A few minutes later, Sharks winger Jonah Gadjovich confronted Dumba behind the play, begging for a fight. Dumba smartly declined, knowing the Wild had the puck going the other way. Why drop the gloves and negate a potential scoring chance? Problem was, Gadjovich wouldn't stop. He stalked Dumba up the ice before Marcus Foligno finally jumped in and gave him the fight he so badly wanted.

"He's trying to do something (after) their player gets hit," Foligno said. "It is what it is. There's no need for Matty to fight there. We've got guys that can fill in for that."

As for Dumba, he opted to throw some shade at



San Jose Sharks center Tomas Hertl (48) and Minnesota Wild defenseman Matt Dumba (24) get into a scrum in the second period Tuesday at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

Gadjovich postgame.

"I wasn't going to fight that guy," he said. "I don't even know who that is. He's just barking at me. I didn't even think Moose has to fight him at that point."

He's absolutely right. Nobody should have to fight in that situation. It was a clean hit by Dumba. He popped his hip out and glided into the point of contact. You

literally can't do it any better. There's absolutely no reason he should have to engage in the toxic masculinity that followed from Hertl and Gadjovich before everyone finally felt OK letting bygones be bygones.

This is a sport that prides itself on toughness, yet players consistently feel the need to drop the gloves after every big hit. It's hilariously

backwards, and Dumba had already dealt with it earlier in his career. A few years back, he laid a clean hit on Flames center Mikael Backlund, and got jumped for his actions. Then a couple of weeks later had to fight Flames winger Matthew Tkachuk, too.

To make matters worse, Dumba threw an errant punch in that fight, tore his pectoral muscle in the process, and was forced to miss the rest of the 2018-19 campaign. The culture of the sport literally stole a year of his prime.

Thankfully, nothing happened to Dumba this time around. He finished out the game and garnered praise from coach Dean Evason afterward.

"He's always ready to go. No question about that," Evason said. "He was calm. He wasn't trying to do extra stuff. He was just playing within himself."

Asked if he was frustrated that he had to answer for his big hit, and might have to do so later this season, Dumba tried to brush it off, responding "No. It's part of the game."

It is. And it shouldn't be.

# Gophers' Peyton Hemp makes a quick adjustment to college hockey and to the 'quiet' of college life

By Jess Myers  
The Rink Live

MINNEAPOLIS — The University of Minnesota, in the heart of the region's largest city with more than 50,000 students going all directions at all times, can be a noisy, chaotic and intimidating place for a freshman.

For Minnesota Gophers rookie forward Peyton Hemp, if there is one complaint she has had since arriving on campus two months ago, it would be that things are sometimes too serene.

Hemp, who is one of six siblings, learned to love the constant noise of home. She now has two roommates at the U of M. And that has been perhaps her biggest adjustment to college life.

"Home is definitely chaotic. I'm in the middle, so there's some stuff that goes with that. But it's a big family, everyone's all in and out of the house, so that's what I'm used to," said Hemp,

before a recent Gophers practice at Ridder Arena, before heading back to her relatively quiet apartment. "It's really different. I'm so used to something always going on and a group always talking in my house, so when I walk in and it's quiet, it's like 'What's going on?'"

If that part of campus life has been an adjustment, there is a notable contrast on the ice. There, Hemp has seemingly had no "ramping up" period between her role as a prep star at Andover and her current position as a rookie star for the hottest team in women's college hockey.

Two years ago, Hemp helped Andover win its first state girls hockey title. Last winter, she was named Ms. Hockey for her work with the Huskies (she put up 80 points in her final 23 high school games). And after one month on the college hockey rink, she was named the WCHA's Rookie of the Month.

After a dozen college games, she is second on the team in assists (10) and points (15), and has been an immediate fit on a Gophers squad that

had an uncharacteristic 1-3-0 start, but has rattled off eight consecutive wins since then.

"She's been on fire. Peyton plays with a lot of confidence. She knows her abilities and what she's good at, and she plays to what she knows she can do," said senior forward Emily Oden, who has been on Hemp's line, along with senior Amy Potomak, for much of the season. "Peyton knows she's a fast, strong skater so she plays to those abilities and keeps things simple. She doesn't try to do things that aren't necessarily in her toolbox."

## Experienced linemates

Hemp admitted that playing with two seniors, the easy play for a freshman would be to pass the puck to her more experienced linemates whenever possible and let them do what they do. Perhaps most impressive about Hemp's debut is that she has not played like a prototypical freshman.

"What I've seen is her not deferring to a couple seniors, which is great," Gophers coach Brad Frost

said. "That's not an easy spot to be in as a freshman ... They're just older and have more experience and sometimes you want to get the puck up too much."

Instead, Frost put Hemp in a position where she could contribute from Day 1.

"She's been on one of our top two lines all year," he said. "She's been on our power play, she's been killing penalties, she scored in her first game as a Gopher, so her game just translates really well."

One adjustment Hemp has made is playing roles with the Gophers, as opposed to high school where she was used in every role for the Huskies. At the U of M she is dealing with what she calls some "tough love" from her coaches, and learning where she fits in on a team and on a line filled with talent. So far, so good.

"We really complement each other," she said of the Hemp-Potomak-Oden trio. "Amy is the finesse, goal-scorer type. Just get the puck to her and you know she's going to put it away. Oden and I are more



Contributed / University of Minnesota Athletics  
In her first dozen college hockey games, former Minnesota Ms. Hockey winner Peyton Hemp recorded 15 points for the Minnesota Gophers and was named the WCHA rookie of the month for October.

similar in that we see the ice and make plays when we can, but we can also finish."

Hemp's younger sister, Josie, a defenseman who will play for Minnetonka this season, has committed to the U of M and is expected to arrive on campus in two years. Peyton joked that watching sisters on her current team — like Gophers Madeline and Audrey Wethington — she is prepared for a little more noise and a return to the family dynamic she's used to when her sister arrives.

"I've seen first-hand the bickering, which is really funny, so I'm ready for that," Peyton said, with a grin.

## Whitecaps exhibition added

The Gophers announced this week that they have added an exhibition game versus pro hockey's Minnesota Whitecaps. The teams will face off at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at Ridder Arena. Admission will be free.

The Gophers and Whitecaps last played in Sept. 22, 2019, which was a 5-1 win by the U of M. The current Whitecaps roster includes former Gophers Chelsey Brodt-Rosenthal, Winnie Brodt-Brown, Alex Woken, Stephanie Anderson, Meghan Lorence, Nicole Schammel, Patti Marshall and Amanda Leveille.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Reports: Michigan St. to offer Mel Tucker \$95M extension

Michigan State is preparing to offer Spartans head coach Mel Tucker a 10-year, \$95 million extension that would make him the second-highest paid football coach in the nation, the Detroit Free Press reported Wednesday.

The “Inside the Locker Room” podcast also reported the impending deal Tuesday night, adding that MSU alums Mat Ishbia and Steve St. Andre are donating the private funding for the extension.

Tucker, 49, would be No. 2 nationally behind only Alabama’s Nick Saban, per the USA Today salary database. Tucker would pass Penn State James Franklin for tops in the Big Ten, per the database.

Further, only three NFL coaches (Bill Belichick, Pete Carroll, Sean Payton) would be making more than Tucker once the deal is consummated. It would also make Tucker the highest paid Black coach in all of American sports, passing Stanford’s David Shaw. Mike Tomlin is the highest paid Black coach in the NFL at \$8 million.

Tucker’s current salary of \$5.632 million is fourth in the conference and 13th nationally, per USA Today.

Tucker is 11–6 as Spartans head coach in just shy of two full seasons. He went 5–7 in one year at Colorado before leaving for East Lansing.

The Spartans (9–1) are No. 7 in the latest College Football Playoff rankings.

Taking the Spartans from afterthought to a Top 10 team this season made Tucker the odds-on favorite to become the new head coach at LSU, which is parting ways with Ed Orgeron at season’s end.

Tucker being linked to LSU was a catalyst for the new deal, per the Free Press report.

Ishbia is chairman, president and CEO of United Wholesale Mortgage The former Party basketball walk-on also donated \$32 million in February toward a new football facility. St. Andre is the founder of marketing firm Shift Digital.

LPGA championship increases prize pool to \$7M in 2022

The LPGA’s CME Group Tour Championship, which begins Thursday at Naples, Fla., announced an increased prize pool of \$7 million for the 2022 event, with the winner of the season-ending competition to earn \$2 million.

WOLVES

From Page 11

by four at the break. Minnesota (5–9) did emerge the victor, mustering up just

GOPHERS

From Page 11

more active, and I think our players got more of a feel of what they were trying to do. We always respond, and it’s a credit to the players on the team.”

When the second half got underway, the Gophers continued to build on their lead behind Kadiatou Sissoko, who scored 13 of her season-high 17 points in the second half, as she also tallied five rebounds and an assist.

All 15 healthy players on Minnesota’s roster saw minutes in the win, marking freshman

DIVING

From Page 11

points. Deason finished fourth with 340.85 points.

“Obviously, they’re both very talented athletes and they’ve worked hard at diving,” Strieff said. “Come to our practice. It doesn’t always look pretty. I think it just speaks to their athletic ability and then you pair that with their capability to handle big means,

That prize pool is up from \$5 million for this week’s event and \$1.5 million to the winner. It is the largest single-event winner’s share on the LPGA Tour.

The event, which is being held at the Tiburon Golf Club Gold Course for the ninth consecutive year, was last won by Jin Young Ko of South Korea in December 2020 in a dominating five-stroke victory.

“We could not be more grateful to CME Group, under the bold and visionary leadership of Group Chairman and CEO Terry Duffy, for helping provide the best female golfers in the world with the opportunity to live their dreams,” LPGA Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan said in a statement. “The Race to the CME Globe and the CME Group Tour Championship have transformed the LPGA since their inception in 2014.”

Every player in the field next year will earn at least \$40,000.

In addition to being the defending champion, Ko enters this week’s LPGA’s CME Group Tour Championship as the leader in the season-long Race to the CME Globe.

The field includes the top 60 players in the points standings competing in a 72-hole, no-cut event.

Flames’ Mikael Backlund fined \$5K for cross-checking

The NHL fined Calgary Flames forward Mikael Backlund \$5,000 on Wednesday for cross-checking Philadelphia Flyers forward Travis Konecny.

The fine is the maximum allowable under the league’s collective bargaining agreement.

Backlund received a minor penalty for boarding when the incident occurred at 11:53 of the first period of the Flames’ 2-1 overtime loss in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Backlund, 32, has three goals and two assists in 16 games this season, his 14th with the Flames. He has 402 points (157 goals, 245 assists) in 760 career games.

NFL orders post-Thanksgiving COVID testing, masks, surveillance

Citing surging COVID-19 cases, the NFL is mandating testing, indoor masks and video surveillance of group gathering areas following Thanksgiving, NFL Network reported Wednesday.

A memo sent to teams and

players detailed the updated protocol, including required surveillance of weight rooms and cafeterias to help the league enforce mask-wearing indoors.

Tests are required of all team personnel, regardless of vaccination status, on Monday, Nov. 29 and Wednesday, Dec. 1, per details of the memo reported by multiple outlets.

Because of increased travel and contact with friends and family at holiday gatherings, the league decided to elevate protocol and testing. A handful of household names have tested positive in recent weeks, including Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and Chargers defensive end Joey Bosa.

Enforcement of indoor mask violations had been a gray area. Video surveillance had been partially the responsibility of three team “mask compliance officers” as designated by each of the 32 clubs.

As of Nov. 29, each team is required to have video surveillance in weight rooms and cafeterias available for review by league officials.

Staples Center to become Crypto.com Arena on Dec. 25

Staples Center in Los Angeles will be rebranded as Crypto.com Arena starting Christmas Day in a naming rights deal announced Tuesday night.

The cryptocurrency exchange, which is headquartered in Singapore, is paying a reported \$700 million over 20 years to rename the 20,000-seat home of the NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers, the NHL’s Kings and the WNBA’s Sparks.

It is believed to be the richest naming rights contract in sports history, according to ESPN.

The building in downtown Los Angeles has been called Staples Center since it opened in October 1999. The office-supply retail company held a 20-year agreement for the naming rights.

The name change takes place on Dec. 25 when LeBron James and the Lakers host Kevin Durant and the Brooklyn Nets.

Crypto.com also has sponsorship deals with the NHL’s Montreal Canadiens, Formula One, the UFC, Serie A soccer in Italy and the French soccer club Paris Saint-Germain. The NBA’s Philadelphia 76ers have a Crypto.com uniform patch.

The Clippers are scheduled to move into their new \$1.2 billion Intuit Dome in Inglewood, Calif., in 2024.

on Fox led Sacramento with 28 points and five assists.

Minnesota hosts San Antonio on the second half of a back to back for the Wolves on Thursday.

that is great to see because they (my teammates) work on that every day,” Powell said on the team’s offensive shooting and scoring night. “Just moving the ball and finding the open player, that’s what we want to do. We want to get in the paint, we want to find the open player, and our guys, they take pride in knocking those shots down.”

Minnesota is now a perfect 3–0 all-time against American. Upcoming this weekend, they will partake in the Women’s Battle 4 Atlantis in Paradise Island, Bahamas, and will take on Connecticut first at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

cleanly so they’ll score well, but it’s just that the degree of difficulty won’t be very high.

“I think Brenna knows that each competition is different and ‘Steady-Eddy’ wins the race here,” Strieff said. “She’s just going to go and put great dives in and see where she stacks up against the state’s best.”

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ATHLETICS

Booster meeting set for noon

The Brainerd Sports Boosters will hold its weekly luncheon noon Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Brainerd American Legion on Front Street.

This week’s program will be the Brainerd/Little Falls Warriors girls hockey team. The Boosters will recognize this week’s

Brainerd Warriors athlete of the week Brenna Deason at its next meeting Dec. 2 as she will be competing in the Class 2A State diving competition at the University of Minnesota. There will be no program Thursday, Nov. 25 because of Thanksgiving.

SCOREBOARD

AREA EVENTS

**Thursday, Nov. 18**

**GIRLS HOCKEY**  
Prairie Centre vs. Northern Lakes at Breezy Point 7 p.m.

**GIRLS SWIMMING**  
**Class 1A State Diving prelims**  
University of Minnesota Aquatic Center noon  
**Class 2A State Diving prelims**  
University of Minnesota Aquatic Center 6 p.m.

**MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
Central Lakes at Minnesota State, Fergus Falls 7 p.m.

**Friday, Nov. 19**  
**GIRLS HOCKEY**  
Rogers vs. Brainerd/Little Falls at Brainerd 7:15 p.m.

**GIRLS SWIMMING**  
**Class 1A State Diving prelims**  
University of Minnesota Aquatic Center noon  
**Class 2A State Diving prelims**  
University of Minnesota Aquatic Center 6 p.m.

**DANCE TEAM**  
Crosby-Ironton at Pequot Lakes 7 p.m.

TV AND RADIO

**Thursday, Nov.18**

**BASKETBALL:**  
Men’s college basketball: St. Bonaventure vs. Boise State, 1 p.m., ESPN2  
Men’s college basketball: Clemson vs. Temple, 3:30 p.m., ESPN2  
Men’s college basketball: Ohio State at Xavier, 5:30 p.m., FS1  
Men’s college basketball: Marquette at Mississippi, 6 p.m., ESPN2  
Men’s college basketball: Alabama State at Iowa, 6 p.m., BTN  
Men’s college basketball: Rutgers at DePaul, 7:30 p.m., FS1  
Men’s college basketball: Fairleigh Dickinson at Northwestern, 8 p.m., BTN  
NBA: Philadelphia at Denver, 8 p.m., NBA TV  
Men’s college basketball: Elon vs. West Virginia, 8:30 p.m., ESPN2

**FOOTBALL:**  
College football: Louisville at Duke, 6:30 p.m., ESPN  
NFL: New England at Atlanta, 7 p.m., FOX

**HOCKEY:**  
NHL: Dallas at Minnesota, 7 p.m., BSN, KKN-AM (930), KUAL-FM (103.5), KSKK-AM (1070)

**Friday, Nov. 19**  
**AUTO RACING:**  
Formula One: Qatar Grand Prix practice, 7:55 a.m., ESPN2

**BASKETBALL:**  
Men’s college basketball: 11 a.m., ESPN2  
Men’s college basketball: Charleston Classic semifinal, 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., ESPN2  
Men’s college basketball: 4 p.m., ESPN2  
Men’s college basketball: Hofstra at Maryland, 5:30 p.m., FS1  
NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Boston, 6:45 p.m., ESPN  
NBA: Dallas at Phoenix, 9:05 p.m., ESPN  
Men’s college basketball: Michigan at UNLV, 11:30 p.m., ESPN2

**CURLING:**  
U.S. Curling Trials, 5 p.m., NBCSN

**HOCKEY:**  
College hockey: Penn State at University of Minnesota 7 p.m., BSN

**FOOTBALL:**  
College football: Southern Mississippi at Louisiana Tech, 7 p.m., CBSSN  
College football: Memphis at Houston, 8 p.m., ESPN2  
College football: Air Force at Nevada, 8 p.m., FS1  
College football: San Diego State at UNLV, 10:30 p.m., CBSSN

**GOLF:**  
PGA Tour: RSM Classic, 11 a.m., GOLF

**VOLLEYBALL:**  
College volleyball: Michigan at Purdue, 6 p.m., BTN  
College volleyball: Penn State at Nebraska, 8 p.m., BTN

BASKETBALL

Professional				
NBA				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	11	5	.688	—
New York	8	7	.533	2.5
Philadelphia	8	7	.533	2.5
Toronto	7	8	.467	3.5
Boston	7	8	.467	3.5
Central				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	10	4	.714	—
Cleveland	9	7	.562	2.0
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	3.5
Indiana	6	10	.375	5.0
Detroit	4	10	.286	6.0
Southeast				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	10	4	.714	—
Miami	10	5	.667	.5
Charlotte	9	7	.562	2.0
Atlanta	7	9	.438	4.0
Orlando	4	11	.267	6.5
Western Conference				
Northwest				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	9	5	.643	—
Denver	9	5	.643	—
Portland	7	8	.467	2.5
Oklahoma City	6	8	.429	3.0
Minnesota	5	9	.357	4.0
Pacific				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	12	2	.857	—
Phoenix	10	3	.769	1.5
L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643	3.0
L.A. Lakers	8	8	.500	5.0
Sacramento	6	9	.400	6.5
Southwest				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	9	4	.692	—
Memphis	7	7	.500	2.5
San Antonio	4	10	.286	5.5
New Orleans	2	14	.125	8.5
Houston	1	14	.067	9.0
Central				
Wednesday’s Games				
Charlotte 97, Washington 87				
Detroit 97, Indiana 89				
Atlanta 110, Boston 99				
Brooklyn 109, Cleveland 99				
Miami 113, New Orleans 98				
Orlando 104, New York 98				
Milwaukee 109, L.A. Lakers 102				
Minnesota 107, Sacramento 97				
Oklahoma City 101, Houston 89				
Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m.				
Chicago at Portland, 9 p.m.				
Thursday’s Games				
Golden State at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.				
Washington at Miami, 6:30 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 7 p.m.				
San Antonio at Minnesota, 7 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Denver, 8 p.m.				
Toronto at Utah, 8 p.m.				

Wednesday’s Results				
Minnesota 107, Sacramento 97				
Sacramento 18 30 24 25				
Minnesota 19 22 33 30				
SACRAMENTO (97)				

Fox 10-20 6-8 28, H.Barnes 3-10 6-6 13, Haliburton 3-10 0-0 7, Holmes 6-10 0-1 12, Metu 2-8 0-0 4, Hield 5-17 1-2 16, Da.Mitchell 2-7 2-2 7, T.Thompson 2-6 4-6 8, Bagley III 1-5 0-0 2. Totals 34-93 19-25 97.

**MINNESOTA (107)**  
A.Edwards 11-24 0-0 26, Towns 9-12 3-3 22, Russell 6-15 4-4 17, Beverley 5-12 4-4 14, Vanderbilt 1-1 2-2 4, Jd.McDaniels 3-5 0-1 7, Beasley 1-5 1-2 4, Prince 2-4 0-0 5, Reid 3-4 1-2 8, Jo.McLaughlin 0-0 0-0 0, Knight 0-0 0-0 0, Layman 0-0 0-0 0, Nowell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 41-82 15-18 107.

3-Point Goals—Sacramento 10-38 (Hield 5-14, Fox 2-5, H.Barnes 1-2, Haliburton 1-5, Da.Mitchell 1-5, Holmes 0-1, Bagley III 0-2, Metu 0-4), Minnesota 10-36 (A.Edwards 4-10, Jd.McDaniels 1-1, Reid 1-2, Prince 1-3, Towns 1-4, Beasley 1-5, Russell 1-6, Beverley 0-5). Fouled out: None. Rebounds—Sacramento 63 (T.Thompson 9), Minnesota 46 (Vanderbilt 7). Assists—Sacramento 19 (Fox 5), Minnesota 20 (Russell, Beverley 7). Total Fouls—Sacramento 22 (Holmes 4), Minnesota 24 (Beverley 5). A—13,108.

FOOTBALL

Professional						
NFL						
American Football Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	280	135
New England	6	4	0	.600	275	177
Miami	3	7	0	.300	177	252
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222	161	296
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	8	2	0	.800	278	232
Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500	268	230
Jacksonville	2	7	0	.222	149	232
Houston	1	8	0	.111	128	258
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	231	217
Pittsburgh	5	3	1	.611	177	185
Cincinnati	5	4	0	.556	236	203
Cleveland	5	5	0	.500	231	241
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	262	241
L.A. Chargers	5	4	0	.556	219	228
Las Vegas	5	4	0	.556	210	230
Denver	5	5	0	.500	200	183
National Football Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	2	0	.778	284	195
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	257	231
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	.333	179	216
Washington	3	6	0	.333	185	246
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	279	212
New Orleans	5	5	0	.556	222	178
Carolina	5	5	0	.500	205	193
Atlanta	4	5	0	.444	178	263
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	2	0	.800	216	180
Minnesota	4	5	0	.444	221	211
Chicago	3	6	0	.333	150	224
Detroit	0	8	1	.056	150	260
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	8	2	0	.800	287	189
L.A. Rams	7	3	0	.700	271	227
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	216	212
Seattle	3	6	0	.333	181	186
Week 11						
Thursday's Games						
New England at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.						
Sunday's Games						
New Orleans at Philadelphia, 12 p.m.						
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 12 p.m.						
Washington at Carolina, 12 p.m.						
Indianapolis at Buffalo, 12 p.m.						
Detroit at Cleveland, 12 p.m.						
San Francisco at Jacksonville, 12 p.m.						
Houston at Tennessee, 12 p.m.						
Green Bay at Minnesota, 12 p.m.						
Baltimore at Chicago, 12 p.m.						
Cincinnati at Las Vegas, 3:05 p.m.						
Arizona at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.						
Dallas at Kansas City, 3:25 p.m.						
Pittsburgh at L.A. Chargers, 7:20 p.m.						
Monday's Games						
N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 7:15 p.m.						