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St. Cloud Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 | SCTIMES.COM

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The Minnesota Correctional Facility-St. Cloud is pictured earlier this year. DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

COVID-19 Prison intake on hold

Sarah Kocher
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

ST. CLOUD — Despite reporting no changes in its COVID-19 quarantine and infection mitigation measures, the Minnesota Correctional Facility-St. Cloud closed its intake operations earlier this month as cases spiked.

The St. Cloud facility usually serves as the primary intake center for the en-

tire Minnesota prison system. Since early November, intake has been shifted to the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the St. Cloud facility had 238 active COVID-19 cases among its approximately 800 inmates, or almost 30% of inmates. There were 251 people currently positive for COVID-19 systemwide, meaning St. Cloud accounts for more than 94% of current COVID-19 cases in Minnesota

prisons.

“Through our analysis we have not been able to identify a single reason for the dramatic uptick in positivity rates, but we believe a series of factors are at play,” Nick Kimball, head of communications for the Department of Corrections, said in an email to the St. Cloud Times.

Minnesota currently has the worst

See PRISON, Page 2A

‘Dramatic uptick’ of cases at St. Cloud correctional facility

US military medical teams to assist St. Cloud Hospital amid COVID surge

St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

ST. CLOUD — Gov. Tim Walz announced Wednesday the federal government accepted his request for emergency staffing assistance in Minnesota hospitals, including St. Cloud Hospital.

The federal government will be

sending two Department of Defense medical teams to relieve doctors and nurses as they treat COVID-19 patients and other patients.

The announcement comes as Minnesota sees the highest rate of new COVID cases in the nation and Minnesota hospitals feel the strain of a dramatic influx of COVID-19 patients, the vast

majority of whom are unvaccinated.

As of Tuesday, 1,382 Minnesotans have been hospitalized for COVID-19, the highest figure this year. Only 47 ICU beds statewide are open to accept Minnesota patients.

The emergency staffing teams, with

See ASSIST, Page 2A

COMMUNITY POLICING

Cold Spring police and residents discuss agreement

Imani Cruzen
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

COLD SPRING — Cold Spring Police Chief Jason Blum met with community members Tuesday to begin discussing a community policing agreement.

The draft agreement was brought forward by Fe y Justicia, a faith-based, Latinx-led organization, also known as the Faith and Justice Coalition. It has signed similar agreements with the St. Cloud Police Department and the Stearns County Sheriff's Office. The Cold Spring draft version uses text similar to the St. Cloud Community Policing Agreement.

The agreement covers commitments to hiring practices intended to diversify the Cold Spring Police Department; continued dialogue on improving impartial policing, including data collection; and support of community-based programs intended to improve communication and community relationships, among other topics.

Cold Spring is home to nearly 4,200 and 7% identify as Hispanic or Latino, according to the 2020 census. About 91% of the population identifies as white, among the rest 4% are listed as “some other race” and 4% are two or more races.

From December 2020 to mid-September 2021, 72% of citations issued by Cold Spring Police were to people perceived to be white, while 18% of citations were issued to people perceived to be Hispanic, 9% to those perceived to be Black and 1% to those per-

See POLICE, Page 2A



Cold Spring Police Chief Jason Blum holds a copy of a proposed community policing agreement at the start of a meeting Tuesday at Cold Spring City Hall. DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

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Pictures with Santa and his Reindeer!

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Pandemic: U.S. drug overdose deaths soared after lockdowns began. **7A**

In the running
After attack on her home last summer, Cold Spring mother runs for council. **3A**

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AbbottLab	1.80	1.4	32	126.62	-2.27	+17.5	
ActivsBliz	.47	.7	22	64.20	-1.94	-30.9	
AdvAuto	4.00	1.7	33	232.55	-3.14	+47.6	
AMD	...	...	53	151.34	-1.11	+65.0	
Alibaba	...	...	19	161.58	-6.85	-30.6	
Allete	2.52	4.0	21	63.29	-.36	+2.2	
Alphabet A	...	...	89	2960.94	+3.42	+68.9	
Ambev	.05	1.6	20	3.13	+.01	+2.3	
AmExp	1.72	1.0	19	179.61	-1.31	+48.5	
Annaly	.88	10.5	4	8.42	-.11	-.4	
Anthem	4.52	1.1	25	429.68	-.78	+33.8	
ApogeeE	.80	1.7	53	47.58	+.55	+50.2	
Apple Inc s	.88	.6	42	153.49	+2.49	+15.7	
Avingr	...	...	...	.73	+.05	+65.9	
BP PLC	1.29	4.7	14	27.43	-.24	+33.7	
BooBrad	.03	...	9	3.75	-.04	-21.6	
BkofAm	.84	1.8	14	46.51	-.57	+53.4	
BarriackGld	2.82	...	16	20.99	+.39	-7.9	
BerkH B	...	...	38	281.59	-1.77	+21.4	
BestBuy	2.80	2.1	16	132.86	-2.07	+33.1	
Brunswick	1.34	1.3	14	101.04	-.81	+32.5	
CH Robins	2.04	2.2	66	94.45	-2.04	+.6	
Carnival	...	...	...	21.33	-.26	-1.5	
Cisco	1.45	2.6	23	56.76	-.24	+26.8	
ClevCliffs	...	...	5	21.42	-.04	+47.1	
ClovrHlth n	...	...	...	6.43	-.51	-59.6	
CocaCola	1.68	3.0	30	55.91	-.31	+2.0	
ContxtLog n	...	...	...	4.77	-.30	-73.8	
EgyTrnsfr	.61	6.8	7	8.98	-.26	+45.3	
ExelaTc rs	...	...	...	1.51	-.07	+21.3	
ExxonMbl	3.52	5.5	...	64.31	-.71	+56.0	
Fastenal	1.12	1.8	40	61.23	-.12	+25.4	
FordM	.40	2.0	23	19.96	+.17	+127.1	
FrptMcM	.30	.8	15	38.87	-.73	+49.4	
FuelCell	...	...	...	10.24	-.35	-8.3	
Gap	.48	2.0	21	23.76	-1.30	+17.7	
GenMotors	...	...	10	64.61	+2.00	+55.2	
Goodyear	...	...	9	22.74	-.37	+108.4	
Graingr	6.48	1.3	28	486.58	-3.34	+19.2	
HP Inc	.78	2.5	11	30.93	-.28	+25.8	
HSBC	2.00	6.8	11	29.55	+.06	+14.0	
HomeDp	6.60	1.7	28	394.85	+2.52	+48.7	
ING	.14	.9	...	14.89	...	+57.7	
IQIYI	...	...	7	7.11	-1.48	-59.3	
Intel	1.39	2.8	10	50.23	-.38	+.8	
IBM	6.56	5.6	20	118.06	-.40	-6.2	
ItauUnH	...	...	6	4.10	+.01	-18.3	
Kohls	1.00	1.8	12	56.48	-1.80	+38.8	
LucidGrp n	...	...	...	52.55	-2.97	+95.9	
MDU Res	.87	3.0	14	28.76	-.09	+9.2	
MartMM	2.44	.6	34	423.56	+1.61	+49.2	
Mattel	...	...	10	22.72	-.04	+30.2	
McDnlds	5.16	2.0	27	252.69	+.23	+17.8	
Medtrnc	2.52	2.1	44	117.83	-.16	+.6	
Merck	2.60	3.1	38	82.60	-1.51	+1.0	
MetenHldg	...	...	...	.43	-.04	-78.5	
Microsoft	2.48	.7	46	339.12	+.23	+52.5	
Mondelez	1.40	2.3	24	62.17	-.30	+6.3	
NewOrEd s	...	...	11	2.20	+.05	-88.2	
NokiaCp	.19	3.3	...	5.68	+.09	+45.3	
NorwCruis	...	...	...	24.00	+.36	-5.6	
Nvidia s	...	...	...	292.61	-9.42	+124.1	
OtterTail	1.56	2.3	30	67.43	+1.02	+58.2	
Palantr	...	...	...	22.49	-.64	-4.5	
PayPal	...	...	...	206.27	-9.40	-11.9	
PaySafe	...	...	...	4.31	-.12	-68.1	
PeiotnIntr	...	...	...	51.13	-3.72	-66.3	
Pentair	.80	1.0	27	77.15	-.19	+45.3	
PepsiCo	4.30	2.6	28	163.37	+.06	+10.2	
Petrobras	...	...	3	10.04	-.25	-10.6	
Pfizer	1.56	3.1	22	50.87	+1.27	+38.2	
PlugPowr h	...	...	...	41.99	-1.12	+23.8	
Polaris	2.52	2.1	12	121.84	-3.34	+27.9	
Progenity	...	...	...	4.88	+.04	-8.1	
Prudentl	4.60	4.2	6	110.28	-1.01	+41.3	
Qualcom	2.72	1.5	26	183.54	+1.73	+20.5	
RivivaAu A n	...	...	...	146.07	-25.94	+45.0	
Roblox n	...	...	...	124.70	+8.52	+79.4	
SPI Eng	...	...	...	7.25	+1.10	-8.1	
SoFiTech n	...	...	...	21.12	-.55	-6.8	
SonoGrp n	...	...	...	38.20	-1.23	-.0	
SwstnEngy	...	...	...	5.21	-.06	+74.8	
Starbucks	1.96	1.7	...	112.52	+.29	+5.2	
StoneCo	...	...	37	20.70	-10.96	-75.3	
Sundial h	...	...	...	.79	-.04	+67.5	
TJX	1.04	1.4	36	73.55	+4.05	+7.7	
Target	3.60	1.4	29	253.80	-12.59	+43.8	
Tegna	.38	1.8	10	21.00	-.10	+50.5	
Tesla Inc	...	...	...	1089.01	+34.28	+54.3	
3M Co	5.92	3.2	18	183.34	-.03	+4.9	
Tyson	1.84	2.2	14	82.59	-.99	+28.2	
Uber Tch	...	...	...	44.11	-1.65	-13.5	
US Bancrp	1.84	3.1	12	59.32	-1.20	+27.3	
UidlthlthGp	5.80	1.3	30	448.95	-.67	+28.0	
Vale SA	3.08	26.1	98	11.81	-.30	-29.5	
VerizonCm	1.56	4.9	10	51.73	-.33	-11.9	
Visa	2.50	.7	41	205.06	-10.12	-6.2	
WalMart	2.20	1.5	40	141.94	-1.23	-1.5	
WalBBoots	1.91	4.0	18	47.81	-.76	+19.9	
WsteMinc	2.30	1.4	44	165.41	+.78	+40.3	
Wells Fargo	.80	1.6	3	49.84	+.53	+65.1	
Wendys Co	.48	2.2	48	22.13	+.37	+1.0	
Winnmark	1.80	.7	28	269.00	+1.13	+44.8	
XcelEngy	1.83	2.8	22	64.97	+.86	-2.5	
ZosanoP	...	...	...	.69	+.06	+30.2	
Zynga	...	...	...	6.96	-.41	-29.5	

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Nov. 18, the 322nd day of 2021. There are 43 days left in the year.

On this date:

1883: The United States and Canada adopted a system of Standard Time zones.

1963: The Bell System introduced the first commercial touch-tone telephone system in Carnegie and Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

1966: U.S. Roman Catholic bishops did away with the rule against eating meat on Fridays outside of Lent.

1978: U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four others were killed in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide by more than 900 cult members.



People gather for a meeting on a proposed community policing agreement Tuesday at Cold Spring City Hall. PHOTOS BY DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

Police

Continued from Page 1A

ceived as Asian or other, according to Cold Spring Police Department data.

“I ... want to start ... by saying that we know that our immigrants are being stopped considerably here in your city, and we have heard from many of them,” said Fe y Justicia Safety Coordinator Patty Keeling. “They’re not always ticketed and we are thankful for that, but they’re still being stopped.”

Keeling and Fe y Justicia Director Ma Elena Gutiérrez also expressed concern with the proportion of people of color being pulled over by police.

“We’re open to working with any community, I think, that is facing discrimination and racial profiling issues. If our community calls and says that there are issues here in our community, and that’s when it sends up an alarm for us. That’s when we would go and approach the police chief or the sheriff,” Keeling said.

Fe y Justicia provided Blum and community members with a draft version of the agreement, with a finalized agree-



Ma Elena Gutierrez listens to the discussion during the meeting.

ment and signing expected in the next several months. It is expected to then be reviewed annually.

A lot needs to happen in Cold Springs to build relationships, Keeling said.

“And I hope we can do a lot of change here and relieve the fear of our community,” Gutiérrez said.

“That is where we’re trying to begin that process and then it isn’t something that’s going to happen overnight. Wheels don’t turn that fast. But if we can begin turning those wheels to make

that necessary change then hopefully we can have more openness and people will feel more comfortable,” Keeling said.

Gutiérrez said she hopes the community can feel protected and more open to reporting concerns. A lot of what is being done is educating people and getting them comfortable with coming forward with issues, Blum said.

An additional meeting to continue discussing the agreement is being considered for December.

Prison

Continued from Page 1A

rate of new COVID-19 infections in the nation. When there has been a lot of community spread, Kimball said in a phone call Tuesday, “that has tracked in the facility.”

The highest active case count in the St. Cloud correctional facility was Nov. 17, 2020, with 359 active cases, according to Kimball. This is the same time the state was experiencing a COVID-19 case surge.

Other factors cited include the need for vaccine boosters, environmental factors like not being able to keep the windows open during the winter and “sporadic non-compliance” with mask-wearing and distancing protocols among staff discovered through contact tracing.

Kimball said the Department of Cor-

rections has not relaxed the mitigation efforts it put in place early in the pandemic.

“Given the inherent challenges in correctional facilities in a congregate living environment where people are living, working and operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, we’ve been on high guard throughout the pandemic,” Kimball said.

Visitation at the St. Cloud correctional facility has been suspended. Kimball said visiting is shut down in any facility with two confirmed cases between staff or those incarcerated.

He said staff and those incarcerated at these facilities have worked hard to do whatever they can to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in prisons.

“It’s important not to lose sight that people have been working hard at this for a long, long time,” Kimball said, noting that those incarcerated have “taken ownership” of making the correctional facilities safer by getting vaccinated,

wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

The facility is in a modified lockup status with reduced programming due to the number of people in quarantine and isolation.

As of Nov. 10, more than 80% of incarcerated people systemwide were fully vaccinated, and 83% had at least one dose, Kimball said. At the same time in St. Cloud, as of the same time peg, a little over 73% were fully vaccinated but about 86% had at least one dose. The Department of Corrections will be administering boosters systemwide starting this week.

Systemwide, the vaccination rate for staff members is lower, estimated by Kimball at around 60%.

Sarah Kocher is the business reporter for the St. Cloud Times. Reach her at 320-255-8799 or skocher@stcloud-times.com. Follow her on Twitter @SarahAKocher.

Assist

Continued from Page 1A

22 medical personnel each, will support staff at St. Cloud Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, the press release said.

The teams will arrive next week and begin treating patients immediately.

“Every day, our doctors and nurses are treating Minnesotans sick with COVID-19 or suffering other emergencies. But they are under water, and they need all the help we can give them,” Walz said in the release.

“Hospital capacity is extremely tight in the metro and in Greater Minnesota, and this high level of activity is taking a tremendous toll on our health care

workers,” said Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm in the release. “We are working hard to give them support, but they also need each and every Minnesotan to do their part by reducing the rate at which COVID-19 is spreading. That means getting vaccinated, wearing a mask in public indoor settings, testing as appropriate, and using all the tools we know help limit transmission.”

Opening up bed space in long-term care facilities

In addition to requesting federal staffing support, Walz announced some long-term care facilities in the state will be assisting Minnesota hospitals by opening up bed space to accommodate non-critical patients who have recently

had surgery and others who no longer need hospital-level care but cannot go home.

Cerenity Senior Care-Marian of St. Paul will be able to accept up to 27 patients as a hospital decompression site.

A team of 10-25 nurses from federal partners and 15 nursing assistants from the Minnesota National Guard and private vendors will also provide transitional care to patients who are currently hospitalized, allowing hospitals to treat those sick with COVID-19 and others requiring emergency support, according to the press release.

Cerenity Senior Care-Marian will join Good Samaritan Society-Bethany in Brainerd (34 beds) and Benedictine St. Gertrude’s in Shakopee (27 beds) in providing transitional care to patients.

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LOCAL®ION

Target tames global supply backups; sales surge 13.2%

Anne D’Innocenzio
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Target delivered another strong quarter, overcoming a slew of challenges from inflationary pressures to congested ports. Third-quarter profits rose nearly 47%, while sales increased 13.2%, both exceeding expectations and the Minneapolis company raised projections for fourth-quarter comparable store sales.

Target joins Walmart heading into the holiday shopping season with momentum. The biggest U.S. retailers are rerouting goods to less congested ports, even chartering their own vessels. Target also said it unloaded about 60% of its containers at off-peak times Target and Walmart are using their scale to keep prices comparatively low and perhaps most importantly, keeping its shelves full when so much is in short supply.

On Wednesday, Target said that inventory levels rose nearly 20% compared with the same period last year. Yet the company has not unscathed by soaring costs.

It’s quarterly operating income margin rate during the quarter was 7.8%, up from 8.5% last year. Its gross margin rate was 28%, also up from last year’s 30.6%. The company cited higher merchandise and freight costs, on top of rising supply chain costs.

Some of those cost increases will be permanent, company executives said Wednesday. While supply chain bottlenecks should ease over time, Target is seeing rising prices from suppliers who are also wrestling with higher costs. Labor also remains tight and part of Target’s own cost increases come from staffing up to handle online orders.

Target’s shares fell more than 5%, or \$13.54, to \$252.89 at the opening

bell.

Sales at stores that have been open for at least a year rose 9.7% in the three-month period that ended Oct. 30. That was on top of a 9.9% growth in the same 2020 span. Target reported double-digit sales growth across all five of its key merchandise categories including food and clothing.

Online comparable sales jumped 29% compared with a blistering 155% increase a year ago before vaccines against COVID-19 became available and many Americans steered clear of indoor spaces.

Net income rose to \$1.49 billion, or \$3.04 per share, from \$1.01 billion, or \$2.01 per share, last year. Adjusted earnings per share for the recent quarter was \$3.03, far exceeding the \$2.82 per share Wall Street had been expecting, according to a survey by FactSet.

Sales reached \$25.29 billion in the quarter, topping last year’s \$22.34 billion and also the projections of industry analysts.

Target CEO Brian Cornell told reporters Tuesday that Americans have been shopping throughout the year, particularly during key periods like back-to-school and Halloween.

The company now expects that same-store sales for the fourth quarter will be up in the high single digit to low double-digit percentage range, up from the previous guidance for a high-single digit increase.

Also reporting quarterly earnings Wednesday was Lowe’s, which continued a string of topping Wall Street expectations in a red-hot housing market, as did Home Depot on Tuesday. In an interview with The Associated Press, Lowe’s CEO Marvin Ellison said the company secured the goods customers want and is in a “great position.”

Shares of Lowe’s Inc. rose almost 3%.



Andrea Robinson is pictured Tuesday at Cold Spring City Hall. She is planning to apply for a spot on the city council. DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

After attack on home, Cold Spring mother plans run for city council

Becca Most

St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

COLD SPRING — Andrea Robinson doesn’t want what happened to her family last summer to be the end of their story.

For months, Robinson’s family was a target of racial harassment, which came to a head when a stolen SUV with a piece of granite on the accelerator crashed into their Cold Spring home in July. A Richmond man has since been charged with felony theft, stalking, violating a restraining order and first-degree damage to property.

After the incident, about 100 people attended the Cold Spring City Council

meeting to push the council to address racism in Cold Spring. Other multiracial families shared racist incidents they or their children experienced in the city, too.

Andrea said her family felt abandoned by community leaders and police in July.

Robinson reported her Black children were the target of racist bullying in RO-CORI public schools last summer, and said she has since quit attending school board meetings because “the school continues to lack accountability.”

Following the resignation of city council member Gary Theisen in October, Robinson said she plans to seek his

See COUNCIL, Page 4A



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Andrea Robinson talks about damage done to her home after an attack during an interview Aug. 17 in Cold Spring. DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

Council

Continued from Page 3A

open seat.

“Our experience, you know, what came of it?” she said. “It shouldn’t be the end of the story that what our kids went through, and what we went through, and our home, is where the story ends, but really just the beginning of the community growing ... making a mark differently than what it is on the map right now. It’s been a hard journey.”

The council will interview four applicants for the position before its meeting Tuesday and will announce their decision then, said council member Doug Schmitz. Other applicants include Alice Schreifels, Tom LeGassa and Mike Fall.

‘Bringing the community together’

Initially, Robinson said she didn’t even consider running for city council or the school board because her multi-racial family was considered part of a marginalized group in the community. “I didn’t see it as an option,” she said.

In May, after seeing the support from the community, Robinson said she realized she wasn’t alone and had something to offer.

“I think it’s important to have someone on the council that can advocate but also has experience and is committed to bringing the community together,” Robinson said. “That is my biggest commitment.”

Robinson currently works as a small business contracting supervisor for the Office of Civil Rights with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

She has a master’s degree in public administration and an undergraduate degree in accounting, which she says will come in handy when it comes to city budgeting and financial matters.

“I have engaged extensively with state, federal and city governments,” she said. “After I started with the Department of Transportation, I decided that my career would be in serving the public.”

Goals for the city moving forward

One of her goals is to talk with the council about starting a Citizen Advisory Board, which will serve as an intermediary between the council and the community.

Robinson said she’s done some research into other community advisory boards around the country.

She hopes the board will be a place where residents feel comfortable sharing their stories without fear of retaliation or of their experiences being played down. The Board will also hold the Council responsible for its duties and look for ways to help the community grow and thrive.

“We love the city we live in, I mean, this is our home and we want it to be our home. We value where we live,” she said.

“And we don’t want nobody else to have to go through what we went through just because we’re different,” added her husband, Phil. “There’s so many stories of diverse families coming here and end up leaving because somebody is not doing their job to make everybody feel comfortable and welcome. ... Diversity is a good thing.”

Robinson said it’s scary to consider running for office, and it’s hard to be in the public eye all the time.

“Even if I don’t win, so as long as there are other candidates that are committed to diversity, inclusion and bringing people together,” she said. “It won’t stop me from attending meetings ... because it’s important. Sometimes I’m the only one there.”

Becca Most is a cities reporter with the St. Cloud Times. Reach her at 320-241-8213 or bmost@stcloudtimes.com. Follow her on Twitter at @becca_most.

House censures Arizona’s Gosar for violent video

Matthew Brown
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The House of Representatives censured GOP Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., for posting an anime video that was edited to show him killing Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and attacking President Joe Biden.

The House voted 223-207 to censure Gosar, with one “present” vote and three abstentions. The vote largely fell along party lines, two Republicans alongside all Democrats voting for censure.



Gosar

This is the most serious action the House can take to punish a lawmaker short of expulsion from Congress. Gosar will be stripped of his committee assignments but will remain a House member. The last time the House voted to censure one of its members was in 2010, against former Rep. Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y., over ethics violations. It was the 24th time the House had censured a lawmaker in its history.

Gosar faced widespread criticism after he posted an edited anime-style video to his social media accounts appearing to show him killing his colleague, Ocasio-Cortez, and attacking Biden.

It mimicked the theme song and introduction of “Attack on Titan,” a popular Japanese animation series. Twitter flagged the video for violating its rules against calls for violence. It was later deleted.

Gosar was defiant about being censured: “I do not espouse violence against anyone. I never have,” he said. “There is no threat in the cartoon other than the threat that immigration poses to our country.”

He had released an open letter apologizing to his colleagues but not to Ocasio-Cortez, stating that his staff had released the video and that “nothing hateful” was intended by the imagery.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Tuesday the House would

be voting to censure Gosar, “because he made threats, suggestions about harming a member of Congress. That is an insult – not only endangerment of that member of Congress, but an insult to the institution of the House of Representatives.”

At issue for Democrats is a broader concern over increasing calls for political violence on the American right that have escalated in the months since the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

“We cannot have a member joking about murdering each other or threatening the president of the United States,” Pelosi said Wednesday during debate, warning that calls for violence against lawmakers is “a danger to everyone” because “the example set in this House is one viewed across the country.”

The two Republicans who voted to censure Gosar, Reps. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., and Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., have become pariahs in their own party for frequent criticisms of GOP adherence to Trump and perceived political radicalization.

Most Republicans shrugged off Gosar’s actions, accusing Democrats of overreacting to his posts.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., called the censure vote an “abuse of power,” claiming there are double standards for different sides of the aisle.

“House Democrats have broken nearly every rule and standard in order to silence dissidents and pass their radical agenda,” McCarthy said during debate, citing comments from Reps. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., and Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., that drew criticism from both parties in the past.

McCarthy threatened that the Democrats had now set a precedent that any lawmaker who made allegedly inflammatory comments would “need the vote of the majority” to avoid censure, promising that “a new standard will continue to be applied in the future.”

Ocasio-Cortez pushed back, accusing McCarthy of deflecting from the issue.


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Horn-wearing ‘public face’ of Jan. 6 riot gets 41 months

Jacques Billeaud
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacob Chansley, the spear-carrying Jan. 6 rioter whose horned fur hat, bare chest and face paint made him one of the more recognizable figures in the assault on the Capitol, was sentenced Wednesday to 41 months in prison.

Chansley, who pleaded guilty to a felony charge of obstructing an official proceeding, was among the first rioters to enter the building. He has acknowledged using a bullhorn to rile up the mob, offering thanks in a prayer while in the Senate for having the chance to get rid of traitors and scratching out a threatening note to Vice President Mike Pence saying, “It’s Only A Matter of Time. Justice Is Coming!”

Though he isn’t accused of violence, prosecutors say Chansley, of Arizona, was the “public face of the Capitol riot” who went into the attack with a weapon, ignored repeated police orders to leave the building and gloated about his actions in the days immediately after the attack.

Before he was sentenced, Chansley told U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth it was wrong for him to enter the Capitol and that he accepts responsibility for his actions. He emphasized he wasn’t an insurrectionist and is troubled with the way he was portrayed in news stories in the aftermath of the riot.

“I have no excuse,” Chansley said. “No excuses whatsoever. My behavior is indefensible.”

The judge said Chansley’s remorse appeared to be genuine but noted the seriousness of his actions in the Capitol. “What you did was terrible,” Lamberth said. “You made yourself the center of the riot.”

The image of Chansley holding a flagpole topped with a spear tip and looking as if he were howling was one of the most striking to emerge from the riot. He previously called himself the “QAnon Shaman” but has since repudiated the QAnon movement, which is centered on the baseless belief that former President Donald Trump was fight-



Jacob Chansley, seen on Jan. 6, was sentenced on Wednesday to 41 months in prison for his felony conviction for obstructing an official proceeding. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP FILE

ing a cabal of Satan-worshipping, child sex trafficking cannibals.

He is among 650 people charged in the riot that forced lawmakers into hiding as they were meeting to certify President Joe Biden’s Electoral College victory. More than 120 defendants have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanor charges of demonstrating in the Capitol that carry a maximum of six months in prison.

Chansley and Scott Fairlamb, a New Jersey gym owner sentenced last week for punching a police officer during the attack, have received the longest prison sentences out of the 38 Capitol riot defendants who have been punished so far.

Chansley, who has been in jail for 10 months, sought to be sentenced to time served.

His lawyer, Albert Watkins, said his client has longstanding mental health problems that were worsened by being held in solitary confinement due to COVID-19 protocols and is in dire need of mental health treatment.

In the year before the Capitol riot, Chansley appeared in costume at pro-Trump events, protests over face mask requirements and at a gathering of Trump supporters in November 2020 outside an election office in downtown Phoenix where votes from the presidential race were being counted.

Real Life HERO

Alex Schoephoerster

Attorney at Moss & Barnett

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Scientists Stunned After Shocking Discovery Reveals True Cause of Fatigue

New research finds unlikely source for why some seniors have an endless supply of energy

For the millions of American’s suffering from fatigue there is finally hope.

A new study reveals our energy levels don’t have to decline with age.

Published by the National Institutes of Health, this peer-reviewed study caused shockwaves in the scientific community. That’s because it runs counter to everything scientists have believed about energy levels and aging for years. But the evidence is undeniable.

Researchers analyzing 142 scientific papers determined the key to gaining more energy with age lies inside our cells — in our mitochondria.

Mitochondria play a critical role in generating metabolic energy. They are responsible for converting the food we eat into energy we can use. A paper published by the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology even called them “the gatekeepers” of cellular life and death. That’s how vital they are to the survival of human cells.

However as we age, the number of our mitochondria declines. In addition, the mitochondria become susceptible to DNA damage, decreased function, oxidative stress and even mutations. All of which results in excess fatigue, accelerated aging and poor health.

But thanks to this study, America’s No. 1 anti-aging doctor has been able to develop a new, all-natural solution that helps seniors increase the number of their mitochondria, so they can “rewind” the clock on old age.

“By taking this one compound you can quickly restore the mitochondria inside your cells,” explains Dr. Al Sears – founder and director of the world-renowned Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine.

“And, once your mitochondria levels are restored, you will have so much energy that you will feel decades younger.”

Unique Discovery Restores Mitochondria

For more than 20 years, Dr. Sears has been considered America’s No.1 anti-aging pioneer. He has authored over 500 scientific papers and has appeared on dozens of media outlets including ABC News, CNN, Lifetime, and many more.

Now, his latest discovery — a unique molecule that restores mitochondria inside cells — is so popular that seniors all across the country are stocking up on this new, all-natural energy-booster.

Users say this advanced formula, sold under the name *Ultra Accel II*, allows them to experience the energy levels they had in their 20s and 30s. Those who’ve been lucky enough to get their hands on *Ultra Accel II* report seeing remarkable, almost unbelievable results.

As John H., from Bradenton, Florida reports: “I’m a 70-year-old man and I’ve been taking Ultra Accel II for 2 ½ months. On a recent treadmill test, I was told that I did as well as several patients tested who were in their 20s.”

As Karyn E. from Palm Beach, Florida says “I noticed more energy within 24 hours of taking Ultra Accel. I was thrilled to have all that extra strength and endurance. Then after a few months, I ran out... and within a week, all that extra energy disappeared. Now, I’ll never be without Ultra Accel II.”

Study Confirms 100% Success Rate

Scientists recently gathered a group of men and women suffering from high levels of fatigue.

Over an eight-week period they gave the subjects a daily dose of *Ultra Accel II*’s core compound. The results? All of the participants felt a significant improvement in energy levels. And the study reported a 100% success rate in boosting the energy levels of those suffering from fatigue.

PQQ Increases “Power Generators” by 55%

Condition	Power Generators
Without PQQ	11
With PQQ	17

That’s because PQQ (CoQ10’s more powerful cousin) — the core ingredient in *Ultra Accel II* — is the only natural molecule that supports healthy numbers of mitochondria — the power generators inside your cells.

In one study, mice fed PQQ increased the number of mitochondria in their cells by more than 55%, in only eight weeks.

In addition to feeling more energized, users often report feeling mentally younger, with fewer “senior moments” and brain fog. That’s because the key compound has been shown to stimulate the production of NGF, which helps trigger the growth of new brain cells.

“I’ve been taking Ultra Accel II continuously for over 12 months and I’ve found my energy levels to be as high or higher with less exercise. People can’t believe I turn 50 this year,” reports Wayne L. And Jerry M. says he “noticed a difference within a few days... my endurance doubled. I love it. There really is something about *Ultra Accel II* that I can FEEL. It’s not just in your body either. You can feel it mentally, too. This is something I’ll be taking for a long time.”

Demand For Ultra Accel II Soars

“For too long, millions of Americans have suffered the life-ruining effects of fatigue and lethargy,” says Dr. Sears when asked about the remarkable success of *Ultra Accel II*.

“Until now, there’s never been a science-backed solution that actually works and guarantees real results,” continued Dr. Sears, “but with the release of *Ultra Accel II* that all changes and now you can unlock an endless supply of all-day energy, at any age.”

Due to the unprecedented demand and recent media exposure, people are struggling to get their hands on this low cost, prescription-free energy booster.

However, through our partnership with the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine we’ve managed to secure a small supply exclusively for readers of this publication. For the next 48 hours only we’re able to offer a special discounted supply of Ultra Accel II.

How To Try It Risk-Free

Ultra Accel II is not available in any store at any price.

The only way to get this potent energy booster is by calling the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-764-5795** within the next 48 hours and taking advantage of this special offer.

Dr. Sears is so confident in this product he’s protecting customers with a 100% money-back guarantee on every order. “Just send back the unused bottles within 90 days of purchase, and I’ll refund every penny of your purchase price,” he adds.

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours only. After that, the number will be shut down allowing them to restock.

Call **1-800-764-5795** to secure your limited supply of Ultra Accel II. It’s completely safe and no prescription is required. Those who call within the first 24-hours qualify for a significant discount. To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code **NP1121UA139** when you call.

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US overdose deaths hit record amid pandemic

Fentanyl behind highest one-year total ever

Ken Alltucker
USA TODAY

More than 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses during the 12 months following the COVID-19 lockdowns, the most overdose deaths ever recorded in a one-year span, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics estimates released Wednesday show 100,306 drug overdose deaths during 12 months ending in April. That represents a jump of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths during the same period one year before and is more than double the number of deaths each year from vehicle crashes.

The provisional data, which includes cases still under investigation, provides the first full picture of the impact of stay-at-home orders many states implemented in mid- to late March 2020 to limit spread of the coronavirus. Although states began to ease restrictions weeks or months later, some people in recovery struggled to maintain sobriety, while others turned to drugs to cope. Experts say the drug overdose deaths spiked as people felt isolated, lost jobs or struggled with the emotional toll of loved ones afflicted with COVID-19. “Two forces here are the negative economic impact of the pandemic as well as the emotional impact,” said Dr. Paul Christo, associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. While prescription painkillers drove the nation’s overdose epidemic in the past decade, they were supplanted by heroin and more recently by fentanyl, a



Estimates released Wednesday show 100,306 drug overdose deaths during 12 months ending in April. ART ILLMAN/FRAMINGHAM METROWEST DAILY NEWS

powerful synthetic opioid. Fentanyl was developed to treat intense pain but has increasingly been sold illicitly and mixed with other street drugs. Even a small amount of the drug, often smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico with chemical components made in labs overseas, is enough to kill. The Drug Enforcement Administration recently seized large shipments of fake pills containing fentanyl that were made to look like common prescription opioids or benzodiazepines. “One of the problems of why we’re seeing so many overdoses is due to fentanyl,” said Jon Zibbell, a senior scientist at RTI International, a nonprofit. “If you removed fentanyl from the equation, deaths would plummet.” AJ Bank, 23, of Aurora, Illinois, was furloughed from his job as a server and bartender at Chili’s last year when lockdowns limited the restaurant’s in-person dining. The temporary joblessness

worsened his existing depression and stoked worries about mounting bills. His mother, Wendy Bank, said he self-medicated with a street version of ketamine, a drug being studied as a possible treatment for depression but also one that circulated for years as the club drug called Special K. He secured the drug from a friend on Oct. 1, 2020. The drug was laced with a potent dose of fentanyl, enough of the powerful opioid to kill more than one dozen people. His body was discovered in his home the next day. “He was just a very good-hearted, loving human being,” his mother said. Wendy Bank had never heard of fentanyl before the drug claimed her son. “I wished I had known about fentanyl so I could have warned him,” she said. “But I knew nothing about the drug, let alone knowing drugs on the street were being laced with the deadly poison.”

Holiday air travel expected to rebound

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The number of airline passengers traveling for Thanksgiving this year is expected to rebound to pre-coronavirus pandemic levels, but the Transportation Security Administration said it’s ready. Administrator David Pekoske said Wednesday that he expects agency staffing to be sufficient for what’s traditionally TSA’s busiest travel period. “We are prepared,” Pekoske told ABC’s “Good Morning America.” He said travelers should expect long lines at airports and plan to spend a little more time getting through security. In 2019, a record 26 million passengers and crew passed through U.S. airport screening in the 11-day period around Thanksgiving. But that plummeted in 2020 during the pandemic. Pekoske said he didn’t think a vaccine mandate going into effect for TSA agents Monday would have any effect on staffing for Thanksgiving. “In fact, implementation of the mandate will make travel safer and healthier for everyone,” he said. “So we see quite a significant increase in the number of our officers that are vaccinated, and I’m very confident that there will be no impact for Thanksgiving.” Pekoske told NBC’s “Today” on Wednesday that he remains “very concerned” about the issue of unruly passengers on airplanes. The Federal Aviation Administration said it has referred 37 cases involving unruly airline passengers to the FBI for possible criminal prosecution since a spike began in January.

Companies bid \$192M in Gulf oil sale

Matthew Brown and Janet McConaughy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS – Energy companies including Shell, BP, Chevron and Exxon-Mobil offered a combined \$192 million for drilling rights on federal oil and gas reserves in the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday, as the first government lease auction under President Joe Biden laid bare the hurdles he faces to reach climate goals dependent on deep cuts in fossil fuel emissions. The auction came after attorneys general from Republican states successfully sued in federal court to lift a suspension on federal oil and gas sales that Biden imposed when he took office. Companies offered bids on 308 tracts totaling nearly 2,700 square miles during a virtual auction hosted by the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. It marked the largest total acreage and second-highest bid total from a government auction since Gulf-wide bidding resumed in 2017. Driving the heightened interest are a rebound in oil prices and uncertainty about the future of the government leasing program, industry analysts said. Biden campaigned on pledges to end drilling on federally owned lands and waters, which include the Gulf. “Prices are higher now than they’ve



The U.S. on Wednesday auctioned vast oil reserves in the Gulf of Mexico estimated to hold up to 1.1 billion barrels of crude. ERIC GAY/AP FILE

been since 2018,” said Rene Santos with S&P Global Platts. “The other thing is this fear that the Biden administration is here for another three years. They’re certainly not going to accelerate the number of lease sales and they could potentially have fewer sales.” It will take years to develop the leases before companies start pumping crude. That means they could keep producing long past 2030, when scientists say the world needs to be well on the way to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to avoid catastrophic climate change. Yet even as Biden has tried to cajole other world leaders into strengthening international efforts against global

warming, including at this month’s climate talks in Scotland, he’s had difficulty gaining ground on climate issues at home. The administration last week proposed another round of oil and gas lease sales in 2022, in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and other western states. Interior Department officials proceeded despite concluding that burning the fuels could lead to billions of dollars in potential future climate damages. Emissions from burning and extracting fossil fuels from public lands and waters account for about a quarter of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. “The thing that is really bedeviling people right now is this conflict between the short term and long term when it comes to energy policy,” said Jim Krane, an energy studies fellow at Rice University in Houston. “We still need this energy system that is basically causing climate change, even as we’re fighting climate change.” Wednesday’s livestreamed auction invited energy companies to bid on drilling leases across 136,000 square miles – about twice the area of Florida. Federal officials estimated prior to the sale that it could lead to the production of up to 1.1 billion barrels of oil and 4.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Look skyward: Partial lunar eclipse coming

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

The longest partial lunar eclipse in nearly 600 years will appear Thursday night and early Friday across the country, weather permitting. According to NASA, the eclipse will last 3 hours and 28 minutes, making it the longest partial eclipse of this century and the longest in 580 years. For East Coast observers, the partial eclipse begins a little after 2 a.m. Friday and reaches its maximum at 4 a.m. On the West Coast, it begins just after 11 p.m. Thursday and reaches a maximum at 1 a.m. Friday. Special glasses aren’t needed to see it, unlike during a solar eclipse. “Partial lunar eclipses might not be quite as spectacular as total lunar eclipses – where the moon is completely covered in Earth’s shadow – but they occur more frequently,” NASA said. A lunar eclipse happens when the sun, Earth and a full moon form a near-perfect lineup in space in what is known as syzygy, the American Astronomical Society said. The moon gradually glides into Earth’s shadow until most of the lunar disk turns from silvery gray to a dim orange or red.

NATION & WORLD WATCH FROM WIRE REPORTS

Inmate stabbed in eyeball in latest federal prison violence
WASHINGTON – An inmate at the largest federal prison in the U.S. was stabbed in the eyeball by a fellow prisoner this month – the latest gruesome example of violence in a prison system plagued by chronic unrest, understaffing, corruption and abuse. The 27-year-old inmate was attacked from behind at FCI Fort Dix, a low-security prison in Burlington County, New Jersey. The inmate has remained hospitalized since the Nov. 5 attack, three people familiar with the matter said. He is expected to survive.

White House: 10% of kids have been vaccinated in 1st 2 weeks
WASHINGTON – The White House says about 10% of eligible kids ages 5 to 11 have received a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine since its approval for their age group two weeks ago. At least 2.6 million kids have received a shot, White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said Wednesday, with 1.7 million doses administered in the last week alone, roughly double the pace of the first week after approval. It’s more than three times faster than the rate at which adults got shots at the start of the vaccination campaign 11 months ago.

Swiss government: Same-sex couples can marry starting July 1
GENEVA – Switzerland’s executive body announced Wednesday that same-sex couples can get married starting next year, making good on the support Swiss voters expressed in a referendum. The Federal Council said that starting Jan. 1, Switzerland would recognize the marriages of same-sex couples who wed in other countries instead of continuing to treat the unions as civil partnerships. Switzerland is one of the few remaining countries in Western Europe where gay and lesbian couples do not already have the right to wed.

Operator: Impact from release of Fukushima water minimal
TOKYO – The operator of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant said Wednesday that a data simulation of its planned release of treated radioactive water into the sea suggests it would have an extremely small impact on the environment, marine life and humans. The Japanese government and the plant’s operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, say they will start gradually releasing the water in the spring of 2023. The plan has been fiercely opposed by fishermen, residents and Japan’s neighbors.

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



Paul Bugbee
Times Writers Group
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's time to get woke to the concept of systemic healing

Over the past 18 months, in addition to the word COVID, I’ve learned two new words that seem to represent the instability of our time. Or, at the least, the focus of today’s headlines.

“Systemic.”
Systemic relates to an entire system. \In medical terms it relates to the entire body, such as a systemic disease. Or, in the context of recent dialect, it relates to an entire system, such as a company, or a culture or a country.

To be specific, in its present context, as a country we are no longer considered racists, we are “systemic” racists. Whether we agree or disagree, whether we think it or not; apparently, today, we are all racists. It’s a “systemic” problem which, by all accounts, is rooted in our American culture. We no longer must question the issue; evidently, it is what it is!

“Woke.”
As an adjective, often used in a slang vernacular, Dictionary.com defines “woke” as “having or marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, especially those related to civil and human rights.” One example of its use in a sentence: “we need to stay angry and stay woke.” The implied message is that we need to remain aware of social inequalities – all the time.

The popularity of the word has provoked bitterness and controversy among liberals and conservatives and seems only to widen the gap between.

My rural, predominantly white upbringing and exposure was what one might consider as sheltered. Although I knew a few people with ethnic and cultural differences, I really had no sense of what racism or discrimination meant. In my world — in my bubble — people were people and everyone deserved to be treated with dignity, kindness and respect.

Evidently, my naivety and lack of awareness (and that of others like me) is what is now considered a systemic culture of racism. The fact that we don’t recognize or acknowledge racism apparently makes us racist!

I am greatly offended by the implication!
I first learned what discrimination meant as a college student. I couldn’t understand why classmates and friends of mine who were considered minorities received free or subsidized tuition. These colleagues weren’t athletes or academic scholars and their financial situation was equally as dire as mine, yet because of their ethnicity or the color of their skin, they were given an easier ride through college than I.

Although I now know that systemic racism was the reason for my ignorance, when I think about it, the seeds of discrimination were planted. Unfortunately, not in a good way.

A second occurrence, years later as a landlord, I remember appearing before a St. Cloud magistrate on the charge of rental discrimination. The fact that I leased second story apartments for \$10 more per month than ground floor apartments yielded a guilty verdict because the upstairs tenant was classified as a minority. I later learned, from an elected city councilman, that the city was looking for a scapegoat to raise the awareness of a recent ordinance prohibiting racial profiling in apartment rentals.

The \$100 fine was less than an appeals court. I quickly learned that justice is heavily seasoned with politics.

Regardless of my own perceptions of discrimination, for those who read my columns, most might agree that I lean toward the left. I loathe discrimination in every way, shape or form and I have never considered myself superior to anyone. In fact, I am humbled by most.

The “woke” of racial discrimination and ethnic differences has heightened my awareness of social inequities and has softened my own sense of reverse bias. I am heartbroken by the racial atrocities of our forebears and I wonder if they (or we) can ever be forgiven. I apologize for my own ignorance and shortsightedness.

But please, don’t call me a racist. I may be part of a systemic culture that has fostered racial and discriminatory practices in America for two and a half centuries, but you need to know that for most of us it’s not intentional. Perhaps, more than anything else, perceptions of reverse discrimination give us a glimpse of what others may feel every day of their lives.

We need to be vigilant and remain aware of racial biases – known or unknown; but we won’t move forward until we shed the anger. We need to forgive and be forgiven. It’s time to talk about systemic healing.

— *This is the opinion of Times Writers Group member Paul Bugbee, a Central Minnesota resort owner. His column is published the third Thursday of the month.*



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don’t walk away from Northstar empty-handed

Shutting down the deficit-plagued NorthStar commuter rail line between Minneapolis and Big Lake is back in the news, but doing so unilaterally also has a price: \$85 million paid back to the Feds for early termination and \$107 million invested in train path capacity that cannot be recovered. Better, instead, to save and leverage these funds by reinvesting in a more relevant rail-based transportation concept that better fits post-pandemic reality. Here’s how:

First, keep the train service, but scale it back, replacing the six weekday round trips out of Big Lake with three round trips out of St. Cloud — morning, mid-day and evening — with stops limited to Coon Rapids and Ramsey. This to recognize that Minnesota’s busiest two-way intercity travel corridor is likely to remain popular with students, intermittent commuters and the transit dependent even as traditional downtown commuting to Minneapolis declines.

Then, move management and operation of the trains from Met Council to Amtrak. That will make it easier and cheaper to add (or reduce) service, and it takes metro taxpayers off the hook by federalizing operating and capital subsidies. It will also remove the

Met Council from control of an intercity rail operation having over half its train-miles and its St. Cloud station activity outside of its metro area geographic jurisdiction.

Implementation should pay for itself as it removes NorthStar train miles and a station stop from the host freight railroad’s congested Minneapolis terminal trackage and adds them back to the lower cost, wide-open tracks west of Big Lake, making additional track capacity charges unlikely. It also enables the sale of at least two of the five NorthStar train sets to fund station area improvements that could include a more walkable downtown St. Cloud facility, better bus-to-rail transfer service and the repurposing of closed station sites.

As for that \$85 million otherwise returned to the feds? Use it instead to convert Highway 10 through Ramsey and Elk River and 252 through Brooklyn Park to more efficient limited-access freeways, a transportation investment far more germane to the broader mobility needs of that corridor than fixed-route commuter rail.

Let your local, state and federal elected officials know there is a cost-effective way out for NorthStar that includes the transit dependent. Much is riding on the Minneapolis-to-St. Cloud outcome.

Jerome Johnson, St. Paul

Political polls increasingly untrustworthy

Ross K. Baker

Guest columnist

A remarkable opinion piece appeared recently in the Star-Ledger, New Jersey’s most prominent newspaper. It was written by Patrick Murray, the director of the Monmouth College poll that has been widely cited in national news media for years. In his opinion piece, Murray concedes that his polling on the New Jersey gubernatorial election was a failure.

The Monmouth poll consistently predicted an easy victory for incumbent New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy. But election night found Murphy running neck-and-neck with challenger Jack Ciattarelli and possibly even being defeated by him.

Ultimately, Murphy won by about two points, but the polling narrative of an easy win for the Democrat was not just a bad call, but a message to pollsters everywhere that their surveys, like so much else in American politics, have been contaminated by political polarization.

One of the things pollsters have known for years but have been unwilling to face up to, because their business is so lucrative and marketable, is that a combination of technological changes, like modeling, and a disposition by those being polled to lie or deceive pollsters with answers that they deem to be more socially acceptable have rendered these surveys practically useless, especially in close elections.

The excuses trotted out by pollsters after the election in 2016, in which Hillary Clinton was predicted to be an easy winner, were a combination of two lame explanations: The first is that the polls were correct as far as the national electorate was concerned – Clinton did win the popular vote – but that state-level polls were inaccurate. The second was that missing the level of Trump’s support was the result of respondents not being upfront with pollsters.

This was known as the “shy Trump voter” problem: Many voters thought that admitting to supporting Trump was not entirely respectable, so the respondent

told the pollsters what they thought the pollsters wanted to hear – which was a preference for Clinton.

Poll respondents lying to surveyors is no new thing. Back in 1982 Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, an African American, lost his race to be California’s governor, despite being shown consistently ahead in the polls.

Those contacted by phone seem to believe that they are being judged by the caller. Rather than risking to appear racist for not professing support for a Black candidate, or feeling “shy” about admitting to be a Trump supporter, they don’t admit their real preference.

Voters should also understand that there is a wide variation in the quality of polls.

The worst are the polls that the campaigns themselves conduct. When they release results, the polls usually inflate the support for the campaign that has commissioned the poll.

News organizations such as The New York Times and The Washington Post partner up with university-based polls to give them some intellectual heft, but it is unlikely that a supporter of Trump would be disposed to answer the questions of pollsters identifying themselves with two liberal media outlets collaborating with academic institutions.

I know Patrick Murray. He was trained at my university, and his candor reflects well on his character. But I think he should have gone even further and issued a broader indictment of the polling industry that has shown its flaws as far back as the disastrous Literary Digest poll of the 1936 election, which showed Alf Landon beating Franklin D. Roosevelt because its poll tallied only the responses of those who owned phones in that year in the depth of the Great Depression.

As fewer people respond to pollsters and more react hostilely or give ingratiating answers, the polls become less believable and less valuable in understanding what Americans are thinking.

Ross K. Baker is a distinguished professor of political science at Rutgers University and a member of USA TODAY’s Board of Contributors. Follow him on Twitter: @Rosbakel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be the author’s original work and credit other sources when appropriate. They should be typewritten, exclusive to this newspaper and no more than 300 words. Include your name, address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters are edited for length, clarity and grammar.

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Columns should focus on timely local, national or international issues of concern to people in our community. State your opinion and use facts and well-reasoned arguments to support it. Be typewritten and about 600 words. Include a paragraph at the end explaining who you are. A photograph of the writer also is requested to accompany the article. Include your name, address and daytime phone number for verification. Some Your Turns may be edited for length, clarity and accuracy.

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Flu outbreak rips through University of Michigan

Kristen Jordan Shamus
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Influenza is sweeping the University of Michigan’s Ann Arbor campus, with 528 cases diagnosed at the University Health Service since Oct. 6.

The outbreak is so sudden and large – 313 cases were identified the week of Nov. 8 alone, and 37% of flu tests that week were positive – that it has drawn the attention of federal health leaders.

A team of investigators from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be on campus this week trying to learn more about the spread of the virus and the effectiveness of this year’s flu vaccine.

Among those who have contracted flu at U-M this fall, 77% didn’t get a flu vaccine. The cases were identified as influenza A (H3N2), said Lindsey Mortenson, UHS medical director and acting executive director.

“While we often start to see some flu activity now, the size of this outbreak is unusual,” said Juan Luis Marquez, medical director at the Washtenaw County Health Department. “We’re grateful for the additional support of the CDC and

our ongoing partnership with the university as we look more closely at the situation.”

The work will be led by the local health department and will include the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the university and a team from the CDC.

When a public health authority requests assistance from the CDC for an urgent public health problem, such as disease outbreaks, unexplained illnesses and natural or human-caused disasters, an Epi-Aid team is tapped to provide short-term assistance.

In Ann Arbor, the team will evaluate flu vaccine uptake and vaccine effectiveness and risk factors for spread by collecting samples from patients at University Health Service, providing data analysis, and conducting questionnaires.

Health leaders are concerned about the timing of the increase in cases in Ann Arbor because many students plan to travel soon for Thanksgiving break. They are calling on as many people as possible to get flu vaccines.

Last year there was little to no flu activity. This year, health officials are concerned about the possibility of a “twin-demic” if coronavirus and flu infections surge.

Three Times The Immune Protection in Just 8 Hours

Breakthrough study reveals all-natural immune system activator mobilizes the body’s elite fighting force on demand

An incredible discovery by Nobel prize-winning researchers is helping people of all ages safely defend their body from attack.

It’s due to a powerful group of immune super cells that were once thought to diminish with age. But this new discovery proves your immune cells can be successfully maintained to keep fighting indefinitely.

This breakthrough technology has been described as, “the key to unlocking a whole new level of cellular immunity.”



Rare plant extract studied at UCLA and Johns Hopkins University for immune support, now available in Primal Force Shield.

According to researchers, a hidden “activator” can be turned on to trigger the body’s natural ability to defend itself against foreign invaders at any time.

Studies from the world-renowned Salk Institute, Albany Medical College, and Washington University report these super cells can revitalize an aging brain, promote healthy lung function, and improve vision.

Dr. Al Sears, a world leader in regenerative medicine and founder of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Royal Palm Beach, Florida, is spearheading this incredible new research. He reports he has already seen dramatic results in his own patients:

“The change I see in patients when they come back for their follow-ups is striking,” he says. “Our user trials show they’ve all achieved a measurably higher level of immunity.”

Dr. Sears revealed his patients’ immune system age tested, on average, 13 years younger than their current biological age.

YOUTHFUL INVINCIBILITY OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

This incredible younger immune age is due to a defense shield everyone is born with— T-cells.

T-cells are the immune system’s elite fighting force. They recognize infected cells immediately and surround the invaders. They then coordinate your antibodies and other weapons of the immune system in a rapid response to destroy any returning infection.

But over time, the immune system’s generals and foot soldiers begin to slow down and fail as free radicals and toxic invaders cause it to weaken.

But, thanks to the breakthrough research from Dr. Sears and his team, there is now a proven solution to counter this decline.

This T-cell breakthrough comes from the unique healing properties of an ancient herb called astragalus.

Dr. Sears studied astragalus alongside native healers and learned of its powerful immune-boosting properties firsthand.

Its antioxidant effects inhibit free radical production in your body. Free radicals are linked to numerous disorders associated with aging. Controlling their behavior is the first step in keeping the immune system at peak level.

DON’T HIDE AND WAIT – STRENGTHEN IMMUNITY NOW

When Arizona State researchers tested a similar astragalus solution, the response was incredible. They reported a “dynamic change” that showed the body was “priming for a potential immune response.”

The number of neutrophils, lymphocytes, and monocytes (the key white blood cells that act against viral and bacterial infections) began to skyrocket.

A few hours later, a total immune system rewind occurred.

After seven days, the team restored aging T-cells and completely rebooted aging immune systems.

In a separate study, UCLA researchers compared an astragalus compound against other cell activators in a double-blind clinical trial.

Within 72 hours, the astragalus delivered “a significant boost in

new T-cells,” while the other activators had yet to make any significant effect.

AN IMMUNE SYSTEM MIRACLE LIKE NO OTHER

This all-natural breakthrough can completely reinvigorate immune cells, turning back the clock so they can function at peak level.

That’s the key finding of a new study by researchers from the Rockefeller Institute, Sloan Kettering, and Dartmouth University.

The teams gave a powerful astragalus extract to 100 patients, aged 63 and older, using doses from 10 to 50 milligrams. The results awakened decades worth of sleeping T-cells.

In total, between five to 20 years of immune age reversal occurred based on immune aging biomarkers..

It’s this age-defying power that led Dr. Sears to develop a new immune solution featuring astragalus at its core.

Primal Force Shield is an easy-to use oral spray that starts to work within 8 hours of use.

“Most astragalus products only target a single bio-active component,” says Dr. Sears. “But with this formula, we’ve unleashed the body’s immune defense shield, and you can get it all from a single solution.”

Primal Force Shield reinforces the body’s innate immunity to support the “bulletproof protection” it needs to defend itself from foreign invaders now and in the future.

MORE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

The brand-new formula has sold more than 35,000 bottles. Satisfied customers can’t stop raving about how much younger they feel and how energy levels have skyrocketed.

“I’ve been taking Shield everyday for the past three weeks and it makes me feel protected...all the good-for-me ingredients in Shield all work together to boost my immune system, so I feel equipped to fight off a virus if it chooses me!” says Claire H.

This is just a sample of the many reviews Dr. Sears receives on a regular basis thanks to his breakthrough defense formula, Primal Force Shield.

HOW TO GET PRIMAL FORCE SHIELD

To secure bottles of this incredible defense-booster, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-453-9783** within 48 hours. “It takes time to manufacture this formula,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers who need it most.”

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product that he is offering a 100%, money-back guarantee on every order. “Send back any used or unused bottles within 90 days and I’ll rush you a refund,” says Dr. Sears.

The Hotline is taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will shut off to allow for inventory re-stocking.

Call **1-800-453-9783** to secure your supply of Primal Force Shield. Readers of this newspaper qualify for a discount, but only if they call within the first 24 hours. To take advantage of this limited offer, use Promo Code **NP1121PFS12**.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY.

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Obituaries

continued from 10A

Everett H. Rasmussen

ST. CLOUD, MN - Everett Hildon Rasmussen, age 94, St. Cloud, MN, died Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at The Landing Assisted Living, Sauk Rapids, MN.

Funeral services will be Monday, November 22, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday. Burial will be in North Star Cemetery, St. Cloud, MN. The service will be live streamed on the Holy Cross Lutheran Church website at www.hclutheranchurch.org. Funeral arrangements were made by Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud, MN.



Everett was born March 13, 1927 in Viborg, SD to Chris O. and Carrie (Larsen) Rasmussen. He attended Pleasant Grove grade school, a one room school for all eight grades, and graduated from Viborg High School in 1945. Everett was drafted into the United States Army on the 15th of December, 1950, served in Korea, and was honorably discharged in November 1952. He started working at Herberger’s Department Store in New Ulm, MN on April 1, 1953 as Advertising and Display Manager. On April 23, 1955, Everett was united in marriage to Janice Stiedel in St. Cloud, MN. To this union, one daughter, Kari Beth was born. Everett continued working at Herberger’s being promoted to the Central Office where he was the first Central Merchandiser for the entire company. He worked for Herberger’s until May of 1983, a wonderful 30 year career. In August of 1983 Everett started selling commercial and investment real estate for Mark’s Realty and in 1985 transferred to Meyer Commercial. He retired in 2010, another successful career of 27 years.

On March 22, 1991 Everett lost his first wife, Janice, after 36 years of marriage. On September 17, 1999 he was united in marriage to Delores (Folsom) Olson. Everett was an active member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Survivors include his wife, Delores of St. Cloud, MN; daughter, Kari Ahles of St. Cloud MN; grandson, Cole (Laura) Hedlund of Sauk Rapids, MN; step granddaughters, Kristin Ahles of Minneapolis, MN; Katie (Larry) Fallang of Waite Park, MN; Erin (David) Carlsen of Princeton, MN; great granddaughter, Audree Evelyn Hedlund; great grandson, William Cole Hedlund; step great granddaughters, Aaliyah and Dasia Carlsen and Anna Fallang; sister-in-law Roberta Rasmussen of Viborg, SD; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife, Janice, son-in-law, Gary Ahles, siblings, Earl (Lorraine) Rasmussen, Ray (Iona) Rasmussen, Ada (James) Oakland, Darold (Ferne) Rasmussen, Curtis Rasmussen; and nieces, Sandra Rasmussen Diver and Ranae Oakland Anderson.



320-252-3132
Obituary & Guestbook online at www.bensonfuneralhome.com

Obituaries

continued on 9A

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES				
Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Biniek, George A.	91	St. Wendel	16-Nov	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Boecker, Ralph B.	77	St. Cloud	16-Nov	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
*Brixius, Cyrilla T.	96	St. Cloud	16-Nov	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Conroy, Helen A.	100	St. Cloud	15-Nov	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Danelek, Mary	89	Oak Park	14-Nov	Foley Funeral Home, Foley
Dinndorf, Carol	74	Avon	12-Nov	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Avon
Feld, Mary Catherine	92	Waite Park	14-Nov	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Feldewerd, Dorene	80	Meire Grove	16-Nov	Patton-Schad Funeral & Cremation Services, Melrose
Kalla, Floyd J.	93	Otsego	09-Nov	Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Kramer, Orville "Orv"	80	Clearwater	13-Nov	Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud
*Kritzky, Banette "Beanie"	67	Blaine	21-Oct	Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels, Coon Rapids
Kuch, Mary L.	70	St, Cloud	10-Nov	-
Lind, Gregory "Greg"	61	St. Cloud	14-Nov	Miller-Carlin Funeral Home
Mohr, Richard F.	83	St. Cloud	15-Nov	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Noble, Warner "Butch" O.	83	St. Cloud	10-Nov	Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Priem, Violet L.	70	Clearwater	11-Nov	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
*Rasmussen, Everett H.	94	St. Cloud	16-Nov	Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud
*Ruegemer, Richard R.	89	St. Cloud	15-Nov	Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Schmidt, Harold H.	87	Maple Lake	15-Nov	Dingmann Funeral Care Burial & Cremation Services
Supan, Alice M.	90	St. Stephen	09-Nov	Daniel Funeral Home, Sartell
* Additional information in display obituaries				
<i>Obituaries appear in print and online at www.sctimes.com/obituaries</i>				

George A. Biniek

ST. WENDEL - Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, November 22, 2021 at St. Columbkille Catholic Church in St. Wendel for George Anthony Biniek, age 91, of St. Wendel, who passed away on Tuesday, November 16, at the St. Cloud Hospital. Reverend Gregory Mas-
tety will be the celebrant. Burial will take place in the parish cemetery.

Family and friends may call 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, at the St. Columbkille Catholic Church at St. Wendel, MN and after 9:30 a.m. on at the Church in St. Wendel. Parish prayers will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, followed immediately by a Rosary by St. Isidore Knights of Columbus Council #9307.

George was born on May 17, 1930 at Avon, MN to Peter B. and Mary (Cichy) Biniek. He married Dorothy Salzer on June 7, 1958 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Collegeville. George was a farmer most of his life, and help raise their children with his wife on the family farm. He was a member of St. Columbkille Catholic Church and St. Isadore Knights of Columbus Council #9307 of Holdingford, MN.

George enjoyed maintaining his yard. Cutting the grass and gathering the leaves were very important. He volunteered at Mother of Mercy Nursing Home in Albany, helping people move around the facility. George was also a long-time trustee for St. Columbkille Parish where he was a member.

He is survived by his children; Ann (Ernest) Rudnicki of Avon, Lois (Dale) Henrich of Morris, Marian (Dan) Skwira of Holdingford, Joan (Greg) Grebinoski of Holdingford, Jerry (Sue) Biniek of Avon, Tom (Jackie) Biniek of Avon, and David Biniek of Avon; 16 grandchildren; and 21 great grandchildren; two sisters-in-laws Marie (Leander) Pierskalla and Carol Salzer; nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends.

In addition to his parents and wife Dorothy he was preceded in death by; one son, Edward; and his brothers and sisters, Bernard, Robert, Joseph, John, Eleanor and Martha.



Banette "Beanie" Kritzky



BLAINE - Banette "Beanie" Kritzky, age 67 of Blaine formerly of Cottage Grove, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones on October 21, 2021. She was preceded in death by her mother, Carole Kritzky; and sister, Debbie Kritzky. She will be deeply missed by her father, Donald Kritzky Sr.; daughter, Kelley Johnson; grandkids, Kenzie Pachter, Hanna Clase-
man, Logan Pitzer, and Allyssa Claseman; sib-
lings, Gail (Tom) Jahn, Terry Ahlstrand, and Barbara Lindeman; her very close friend, Phyllis Swift; numerous nieces, nephews, other loving family and friends. Ba-
nette's memorial service will be Friday, Novem-
ber 19, 2021 at 2 PM with visitation at 1 PM at Washburn-McReavy Coon Rapids Chapel, 1827 Coon Rapids Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids.
w w w . W a s h -
burn-McReavy.com
Coon Rapids Chapel
763-767-1000

Rose L. Suchy

LITCHFIELD - Rose L. Suchy, age 72 of Litch-
field, MN died Nov. 15, 2021. A visitation will be held Nov 19, 2021, from 3:00 - 6:00 PM at Johnson Hagglund Fu-
neral Home in Litch-
field, MN.



Cyrilla T. Brixius

ST. CLOUD - Mass of Christian Burial cele-
brating the life of Cy-
rilla T. Brixius, 96, of St. Cloud will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at St. Antho-
ny's Catholic Church in St. Cloud. Cyrilla passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Reverend Jo-
seph Herzing will officiate. Entombment will be in Assumption Cemetery Mausoleum, St. Cloud. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday at the Daniel Funeral Home in St. Cloud and after 9:00 a.m. on Saturday at the church. Parish Prayers will be at 4:00 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home.



Cyrilla was born on January 21, 1925 in Bran-
don, Minnesota to the late Jacob and Hortulana (Kracher) Goering. After high school, she gradu-
ated from the St. Cloud School of Nursing. Cyrilla married Albert Brixius on May 20, 1947 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Brandon. She lived in St. Cloud all her married life. Cyrilla was a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Christian Women and the Legion of Mary.

Cyrilla enjoyed making rosaries and donated to missionaries in Africa and India. She also en-
joyed doing jigsaw puzzles and crocheting. Above all, Cyrilla treasured spending time with family. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She lived a sacrificial life devoted to God and family.

She is survived by her children, Albert, Andrew (Mary Kay), Barbara (Daniel) Knier, Paul (Barba-
ra), Zita (Robert) Murphy, Bernard (Lisa), Chris (Susan), Patty (Mark) Bzdok; 21 grandchildren; 33 great grandchildren and counting; and siblings, James (Gina) Goering, Edward (Kay) Goering, Daniel (Cleo), Christella (Dennis) Korkowski, Rebecca (Wayne) Chouanard.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Al in 2008; daughter-in-law, Sharon Brixius; and siblings, Johanna Lambertz, Claude Goering, Char-
lotte Goering, David Goering, Charles, Goering, Hortulana VanSloun.

Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers. A heartfelt thank you to St. Benedict's Commu-
nity, especially the staff at Benedict Court.



Richard R. Ruegemer

ST. CLOUD - Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 am Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the Church of St. Augustine in St. Cloud for Richard R. Ruegemer, age 89 of St. Cloud. Rev. Brady Keller will officiate and entombment will be in Assumption Cemetery in St. Cloud. Visitation will be from 4-8 pm Friday at the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in St. Cloud and 1 hour prior to services Saturday at the church in St. Cloud.

Richard Ray Ruegemer, aka Dick, aka R³ was born November 28, 1931, to Erwin and Louise (Foltmer) Ruegemer in Saint Cloud, MN, the oldest of five children. Dick died peacefully on November 15, 2021.

Dick attended Riverview Lab School, graduated from Tech High School in 1949 and graduated from the St. Cloud Teachers College in 1952. After working for several years in Minneapolis and Spokane, WA, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1960 with a Master's degree in Engineering Mechanics.

Dick married Marlene McCarthy on June 2, 1962, and the couple had four children. Dick and Marlene were married for nearly 35 years until Marlene's death in 1997. Dick married Diane Varsnick on September 16, 2000, and the couple enjoyed more than 21 years together.

Dick took great pride in his family. He was proud of his children, stepchil-
dren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and ALL of their spouses and significant others. He loved attending their events and bragging about them to anyone who would listen. He always focused on each of their strengths and abilities. He taught each of them valuable lessons about unconditional love, faith, optimism, hard work and humility. He also taught some of them practical lessons about Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus (he helped anyone who asked, with their math homework), woodworking, fishing, mechanical and electrical design, why the sky is blue and too many other subjects to list them all here.

Dick also took great pride in his work. He started his first job in engi-
neering on November 2, 1952, and he retired from his last engineering job 65 years later to the day, on November 2, 2017 at the age of 86. More than 53 of those years were spent working at DeZurik in Sartell. He also worked at the University of Minnesota, Kaiser Aluminum (Spokane, WA), Univac (St. Paul, MN) and at St Cloud State University as an adjunct instructor for Engineering.



Lakes and fishing were a huge part of Dick's life. His grandfather, Peter Ruegemer, started Ruegemer's Lakeview Resort on Horseshoe Lake in Rich-
mond and Dick spent many days at the resort and on the lake swimming, water-skiing, and fishing. Every summer and fall for most of his life he would find time to go on fishing trips with family and friends. In 1998, Dick bought a cabin/home on Clitherall Lake in Ottertail County, near Battle Lake. His goal was to get a place large enough so all of his children and grandchildren could be there at the same time and create new family traditions while experiencing lake life, fishing and the great outdoors. It was such a success that he, Diane, Danna and George decided to buy the original house at the old resort that Dick's grandparents lived in on Horseshoe Lake and began many traditions with Diane's children and siblings.

Dick is survived by his wife Diane, children: Therese (Dan) Haker, Nashville, TN, Anne (Mark) Houghland, Maple Grove, Paul (Caroline), St. Cloud, Amy (Ken) Gohman, Avon; step-children: Krisie (Jeff) Barron, New London and Danna (George) Mokamba, Chanhassen; grandchildren: Joe (Ali) Haker, Kelly (Levi) Watson, Katie (Jon) Haker, Adam (Tara) Traut, Eric (Nicky) Traut, Emily (Lisa) McEwan, Philip Ruegemer, Michael (Ellie) Gohman, Megan Gohman, Andy (Kayla), Charnley, Joe Charnley and Zaria Mokamba; great-grandchildren: Adelaide, Kaden, Jude, Braxton, Kiana, Emery, Mateo, Wallace and one on the way; siblings: Joyce Haskell, Helen (Jerry) Weber, Jack (Bonnie) and Mary Jonas; in-laws: Gary (Theresa) Gohl, Deb Millner, Cindy (Rick) Mahutga and Barb (Don) Scherbing.

Preceding Dick in death are his parents, first wife Marlene and many in-laws.



SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING AND DIVING | STATE MEET



Tech's Journey Bennett twists in the air in her dive in the Section 5A swimming and diving finals at Becker High School on Saturday. BRIAN MOZEY/ST. CLOUD TIMES

Six area schools prepare for state this weekend

Brian Mozey
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Class A and AA girls swimming and diving state meet is coming up this weekend in the Twin Cities with six of the seven local teams sending individuals and relay teams.

The state meet spans three days: diving preliminaries Thursday, swimming preliminaries Friday and the swimming and diving finals on Saturday. Class A will begin at noon each day, while Class AA will follow at 6 p.m.

Cathedral/St. John's Prep, Tech, Albany, ROCORI and Sauk Rapids-Rice will compete in Class A and Sartell will be in the Class AA competition. All of these events will take place at the Jean K. Freeman Aquatics Center on the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Here's who will be competing this weekend:

Class A

ROCORI's Cece Woods, Tech's Journey Bennett and Cathedral/SJP's Madie Anderson will start the competition off with the diving prelims on Thursday. Woods, Bennett and Anderson are in the middle of the pack.

Anderson will dive seventh, Woods 16th and Bennett 23rd on Thursday with



Mary Morris competes in the 200 freestyle event on Sept. 16 at St. John's University in Collegeville. DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

32 total divers.

Cathedral/SJP, Albany and Tech will start Friday with the 200-yard medley relay. The three teams are ranked 13th, 14th and 16th for times respectively. Then, Cathedral/SJP's Mary Morris and ROCORI's Laney Schneider will battle in the 200 freestyle. Morris is

ranked third and Schneider is 15th in the time rankings.

Izzy Westling is the sole local swimmer in the 200 individual medley as the Crusader is ranked 14th in that event. Tech's Kierstyn Nelson and ROCORI's

See STATE, Page 3B

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY | GIRLS

St. Cloud-area teams ready for 2021-22 season

Brian Mozey
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

ST. CLOUD — Local ice rinks are starting to get busier as the three local girls hockey teams start up the 2021-22 season.

There's been some turnover in players as seniors have graduated, but also some new changes to head coaches.

River Lakes is looking to make another trip to the state tournament after winning its section last season. St. Cloud and Sartell/Sauk Rapids will be looking to improve from last year and continue growing this upcoming winter.

Here's a few questions heading into the 2021-22 girls hockey season.

Can River Lakes repeat its state run?

The Stars had an impressive season

See HOCKEY, Page 3B



River Lakes' Jordyn Bebus takes a slap shot at the Gentry Academy goal during the Class A state girls hockey tournament quarterfinals against Gentry Academy at the Xcel Energy Center in March. BRIAN MOZEY/ST. CLOUD TIMES

Meier has goal and assist as Sharks top Wild 4-1

Mike Cook
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Timo Meier had a goal and an assist to keep up his strong start, and the San Jose Sharks beat the Minnesota Wild 4-1 on Tuesday night.

Mario Ferraro, Erik Karlsson and Tomas Hertl also scored for San Jose. Logan Couture and Rudolf's Balcers had two assists, and James Reimer made 26 saves as the Sharks won for the second time in six games.

"It was a complete team win. I thought every line gave us something tonight; I thought all the D that played were excellent, and had good goaltending," San Jose coach Bob Boughner said. "We came out ready to play a solid road game."

Joel Eriksson Ek scored for Minnesota, which lost for the second time in seven games. Cam Talbot stopped 17 shots.

Meier, who returned Saturday after missing five games while in COVID-19 protocol, has six goals and eight assists to tie Couture with a team-high 14 points. Only two players in Sharks' history have more points through their first 10 games: Owen Nolan 17 in 1999-00 and Joe Thornton 16 in 2005-06 and 15 in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

"The start is not bad, but I know I can take another step and make some better, more consistent plays and even take the next step. I want to be the best player I can be for the team," said Meier, who was challenged by his coaches after last season to be more detailed throughout his game.

"I think he's finally bought in that the better he plays defensively, the less he's going to be in his own end. He's been doing some great things in the offensive zone that he wasn't doing last year," Boughner said. "He's getting to the point in his career where he understands the way he has to play to have success. This is the best hockey I've seen him play."

He got the second assist on Ferraro's early goal and scored on a nice individual effort with 42.2 seconds left in the opening period for a 2-0 lead. Meier carried the puck into the right circle, turned outside and sent a pass back to Marc-Edouard Vlasic at the point. Vlasic's shot hit traffic in front but deflected to Meier who was charging in from the right side for an easy goal from just below the dot.

"We left some guys open and not really pushing guys up the wall, just looked a little bit sluggish. That team made plays and played with confidence," Minnesota's Marcus Foligno said.

Playing the fourth game of a five-game road trip, San Jose was looking for a better performance after a 6-2 drubbing Saturday in Colorado.

"We did a lot of good things well that we've done all year. It was good to rebound after a tough game," Couture said.

After a nifty stick-handle around Hertl, Eriksson Ek's shot from the right circle beat Reimer 5:25 into the second period, but Karlsson's top-corner shot 4 minutes later during 4-on-4 action pushed the San Jose lead to 3-1.

Looking for its sixth win in nine games after the opponent scores first, Minnesota moved leading goal scorer Ryan Hartman between Kirill Kaprizov and Mats Zuccarello in the third period to no avail. Kaprizov had two shots on goal and has a mere eight in his past four games. The 2021 Calder Memorial Trophy winner has three goals in 15 games after scoring 27 in 55 outings last season.

"He'll find his way," Wild coach Dean Evason said. "Yeah, for sure he's getting special attention. But he got special attention last year, too. It didn't take very long for the league or our division last year to know how good he was, right? They were still putting top defensemen against him and special concentration. So, he'll fight through it. His work ethic is good enough it'll come around."

SCOREBOARD



Odds available as of print deadline

NCAAF		
Favorite	Thurs Spread	Underdog
Louisville	20.5	O/U 60.5 DUKE

Friday		
Favorite	Spread	O/U
LA. TECH	15.5	49.5
NEVADA	1.5	52.5
HOUSTON	8.5	60.5
WASH. ST.	15.5	52.5
San Diego St.	10.5	41.5

Saturday		
Favorite	Spread	O/U
OHIO STATE	19.5	67.5
ARMY	36.5	56.5
Purdue	11.5	46.5
Kent State	12.5	74.5
W. KENTUCKY	9.5	64.5
W. VIRGINIA	2.5	56.5
PENN STATE	17.5	46.5
BOSTON COLL.	1.5	54.5
TULANE	5.5	60.5
CLEMSON	4.5	57.5
OKLAHOMA	3.5	60.5
KENTUCKY	36.5	60.5
CSTL CAROL.	24.5	61.5
IOWA	11.5	37.5
GEORGIA ST.	16.5	65.5
NOTRE DAME	17.5	59.5
Washington	6.5	43.5
WISCONSIN	8.5	41.5
PITTSBURGH	14.5	65.5
UTSA	4.5	53.5
Marshall	14.5	62.5
CINCINNATI	11.5	64.5
Appalachian St.	9.5	52.5
MIDDLE TN	3.5	60.5
Michigan	14.5	57.5
ALABAMA	21.5	58.5
East Carolina	3.5	46.5
Minnesota	6.5	43.5
ucla	3.5	65.5
TCU	21.5	64.5
UTEP	9.5	47.5
TULSA	21.5	50.5
Florida	9.5	69.5
byu	19.5	57.5
LIBERTY	4.5	53.5
NC STATE	11.5	51.5
UCF	30.5	55.5
KANSAS ST.	0.5	60.5
Auburn	7.5	44.5
North Texas	10.5	57.5
California	1.5	44.5
OLE MISS	36.5	64.5
UTAH	3.5	58.5
MIAMI (FL)	7.5	56.5
TENNESSEE	28.5	62.5
Oklahoma State	10.5	56.5
UTAH ST.	4.5	52.5
BOISE ST.	27.5	48.5
LSU	28.5	57.5
Arizona St.	3.5	59.5
Colorado St.	2.5	53.5

NFL		
Favorite	Thurs Spread	Underdog
Patriots	6.5	47.5 -300

Sunday		
Favorite	Spread	O/U
Packers	2.5	48.5-140
Ravens	5.5	45.5-270
Dolphins	3.5	44.5-180
49ers	6.5	44.5-270
PANTHERS	3.5	43.5-180
BROWNS	9.5	43.5-540
EAGLES	1.5	43.5-120
BILLS	7.5	50.5-350
TITANS	9.5	44.5-540
RAIDERS	1.5	50.5-103
Cardinals	2.5	48.5-130
CHIEFS	2.5	56.5-140
CHARGERS	5.5	47.5-250

Monday		
Favorite	Spread	O/U
BUCCANEERS	10.5	49.5-550

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NFL

AMERICAN 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	4	4	0.556	219	228
Las Vegas	5	4	0.556	210	230
Denver	5	5	0.500	200	183

NATIONAL 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	4	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

Thursday, Nov. 18

New England at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 21

Baltimore at Chicago, 1 p.m.

Detroit at Cleveland, 1 p.m.

Green Bay at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Dallas at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at L.A. Chargers, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Denver, L.A. Rams

Monday, Nov. 22

N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 8:15 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	10	5	.667
New York	8	6	.571
Philadelphia	8	7	.533
Boston	7	7	.500
Toronto	7	8	.467

Southeast Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	10	3	.769
Miami	9	5	.643
Charlotte	8	7	.533
Atlanta	6	9	.400
Orlando	3	11	.214

Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	10	4	.714
Cleveland	9	6	.600
Milwaukee	6	8	.429
Indiana	6	9	.400
Detroit	3	10	.231

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	9	4	.692
Memphis	7	7	.500
San Antonio	4	10	.286
New Orleans	2	13	.133
Houston	1	13	.071

Northwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	9	5	.643
Denver	9	5	.643
Portland	7	8	.467
Oklahoma City	5	8	.385
Minnesota	4	9	.308

Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	12	2	.857
Phoenix	10	3	.769
L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643
L.A. Lakers	8	7	.533
Sacramento	6	8	.429

Tuesday's Games

Golden State 117, Brooklyn 99

Utah 120, Philadelphia 85

L.A. Clippers at San Antonio 92

Wednesday's Games

Indiana at Detroit, late

Washington at Charlotte, late

Boston at Atlanta, late

Cleveland at Brooklyn, late

L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee, late

New Orleans at Miami, late

Orlando at New York, late

Houston at Oklahoma City, late

Sacramento at Minnesota, late

Chicago at Portland, late

Dallas at Phoenix, late

Thursday's Games

Golden State at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.

Washington at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.

San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Philadelphia at Denver, 9 p.m.

Toronto at Utah, 9 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Florida	16	11	2	3	25 62
Toronto	17	11	5	1	23 46
Tampa Bay	14	8	3	3	19 43
Detroit	18	8	8	2	18 51

Boston	13	8	5	0	16	41	37
Buffalo	15	7	6	2	16	45	44
Montreal	18	4	12	2	10	38	61
Ottawa	15	4	10	1	9	36	52

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	14	12	2	0	24	49	27
Washington	16	9	2	5	23	56	39
NY Rangers	16	10	3	3	23	45	45
Philadelphia	14	8	4	2	18	38	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NY Islanders	13	5	6	2	12	29	39
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	

Minnesota	15	10	5	0	20	49	47
Nashville	16	9	6	1	19	44	42
St. Louis	15	8	5	2	18	51	42
Dallas	14	6	6	2	14	37	43
Colorado	12	6	5	1	13	43	39

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's Games

Florida 6, N.Y. Islanders 1

N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 2

Buffalo 2, Pittsburgh 1

Toronto 3, Nashville 0

Philadelphia 2, Calgary 1, OT

San Jose 4, Minnesota 1

Arizona 3, St. Louis 2

Winnipeg 5, Edmonton 2

Dallas 5, Detroit 2

Carolina 4, Vegas 2

Anaheim 3, Washington 2, OT

Ottawa at New Jersey, ppd

Wednesday's Games

Colorado at Vancouver, late

Chicago at Seattle, late

Washington at Los Angeles, late

Thursday's Games

Calgary at Buffalo, 7 p.m.



Kailee Falconer of the St. Cloud Icebreakers makes a save during the game against Fergus Falls in February at the MAC in St. Cloud.
DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

last year reaching the Class A state quarterfinals and losing to Proctor Academy. River Lakes relied on a heavy upperclassmen group that consisted of seven seniors that graduated last spring.

Head coach Alexis Klatt came into this winter with the objective of filling in some empty holes from those seniors and developing a tradition of girls hockey success in the River Lakes area.

“Doing it just once doesn’t make it a tradition, but doing something over and over again makes it a tradition,” Klatt said. “I think this year, the biggest things on our minds and our biggest goal is to prove that last year wasn’t a fluke or a one time we had a great group of girls and that was it. We want to prove that River Lakes can compete continuously, not just a one and done.”

A couple big names coming back from last year are freshman goalie Kaydence Roeske as well as big sister and forward Kianna Roeske. These two have been a vital role for the Stars over the last couple of seasons and that will continue this winter.

Klatt said those two have become more vocal on and off the ice in the sense of encouragement, helping individuals and making sure players know what’s happening on the ice.

Along with those two, Aubree McDonagh had taken a leadership role on the defensive side. Jordyn Bebus will join Kianna Roeske on the forward side and these two seniors will take charge of the offense.

Klatt said she believes this team has a good balance between offense and defense as well as a fast team that can get up and down the ice.

“I think fans can expect to see a lot of fun from these girls on the ice,” Klatt said. “They take this game seriously, but not too seriously where you can see that they enjoy being out there and playing this game.”

With a new head coach, what does St. Cloud look like?

The head coach may be new to the position, but Amanda Pickett is very familiar with the St. Cloud girls hockey team. Pickett was an assistant coach on the staff last year and watched/helped these girls grow throughout the season.

Along with a familiar coach, there’s a lot of experience returning to the Crush this season. St. Cloud only graduated three seniors, which means not only experience but depth on this team as well.

Pickett and the players are excited for the potential this team has with a strong balance between offense and defense.

“We’re already a step forward regarding chemistry because a lot of us know each other from last year’s team,” said Cailey Davidson.

Davidson will join Kat Bell, Jenna Amundson and Ava Schmidt as some of the leading goal scorers from last year. These four will help produce an offense

along with plenty of young talent forming the second and third line for varsity.

Peyton Mathiasen and Ally Breidenbach are two returners on the defense that will lead this defensive group this year. Mathiasen added that they’re so happy to have returning senior goalie Kailee Falconer back at goal.

Falconer had a 90.7 save percentage along with 460 saves last year and the expectation is to grow on that percentage and be that brick wall for the Crush.

“Early on, I’ve noticed that we have a lot of good speed and passing that will help us on offense and defense,” Breidenbach said.

The chemistry is there and the hunger is there to make this season memorable. Now, the players are focusing on one game at a time with the hope they’re playing their best hockey in February when section and state tournaments happen.

“These girls are catching onto these drills so quick and it’s exciting to see,” Pickett said. “If we can follow what we do system wise, the rest is history.”

What does the Sartell/Sauk Rapids-Rice roster look like?

The Sartell/Sauk Rapids-Rice girls hockey team took a little hit this offseason after losing not only 13 seniors, but some key contributors to the offense and defense.

The Storm’n Sabres are relying on an experienced defense with a handful of defensemen and a goalie returning from last year. Sophomore Morgan Dorn will be guarding the goal, while Tia Vogt, Anna Lundeen and Erika Johnson return for the defense.

Head coach Marty Anderson said the experience from last season is coming on the defensive end, so he’s hoping that defense to stop opponent’s and give the offense a chance to take a lead or extend the lead.

“This is probably the youngest team we’ve ever had,” Anderson said. “It’s a teaching phase right now, but we’ve already made some great strides in the first couple of weeks and I think that’ll continue.”

Kelly Carriere and Chloe Reiter are two senior forwards that will look to lead this offense early on, but Anderson has already seen some players step up in these first couple weeks.

Brayley VanDenBerg and Brooke Pogatchnik are two young forwards that have taken some big responsibility being on the first line with Carriere for the offense. Anderson said he’s been happy with what he’s seen from that first line early on.

There are six eighth graders on the roster, which Carriere and Dorn love to see because they know the program is growing for future years to come.

“It’s exciting to see all of this young talent on the team because they’ve been learning and growing fast to start this season,” Carriere said.

Brian Mozey is the high school sports reporter for the St. Cloud Times. Reach him at 320-255-8772 or bmozey@stcloudtimes.com. Follow him on Twitter @BrianMozey.

State

Continued from Page 1B

Megan Willenbring will follow in the 50 freestyle as the two of them are in the middle of the pack at 15th and 16th coming into the weekend.

Nelson and Albany’s Katie Spanier will swim in the 100 butterfly, with Nelson 11th and Spanier 19th in time rankings. No local swimmers are competing in the 100 freestyle.

After a small break, Willenbring and Cathedral/SJP’s Claire Westling will battle in the 500 freestyle. The Spartan will be 14th in the rankings, while Westling sits at 18th.

ROCORI and Sauk Rapids-Rice will hit the pool for the 200 freestyle relay in the ninth event of the day. The Spartans are ranked seventh and the Storm sits at 18th for this event.

The 100 backstroke will have three local swimmers competing for a podium spot. Mary and Ella Morris from Cathedral/SJP and Spanier will be fighting for a top spot. Mary Morris is sixth overall, while Ella Morris and Spanier are 12th and 16th.

Albany’s Megan Koglin and ROCORI’s Alani Nguyen earned spots at state in the 100 breaststroke. Koglin is ranked ninth and Nguyen is at 16th overall.

Cathedral/SJP and ROCORI are both in the top 10 for the 400 freestyle relay. The Crusaders is seventh ranked and the Spartans sit at ninth.

Class AA



Kate Spanier competes in the 200 individual medley for Albany on Sept. 16 at St. John's University in Collegeville. DAVE SCHWARZ/ST. CLOUD TIMES

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St. Cloud junior Ally Breidenbach passes the puck in March 10 at Bernick's Arena in Sartell.
ZACH DWYER/ST. CLOUD TIMES

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Public Notices

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
St. Cloud Area School District 742
St. Cloud, Minnesota
November 3, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Education of St. Cloud Area School District 742 was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at District Administration Office, 1201 South 2nd Street, Waite Park, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Chair Shannon Haws (following Community Input) with the following Board Members present: Al Dahlgren, Zach Dorholt, Les Green, Natalie Ringsmuth, and Monica Segura-Schwartz. Board Member Scott Andreasen was virtually present pursuant to the meeting notice.

I. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA AND WORK SESSION AGENDA

Moved by Andreasen, seconded by Dahlgren to approve the Board Meeting agenda and Work Session agenda.

On roll call, the following voted “aye”: Andreasen, Dahlgren, Dorholt, Green, Haws, Ringsmuth and Segura-Schwartz. Motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Ringsmuth seconded by Andreasen to:

Approve the following personnel changes pursuant to relevant laws and appropriate provisions of negotiated agreements between the Board of Education and exclusive representatives. For new hires, the indicated rates are consistent with current negotiated agreements and Board approved rates of pay. All rates/salaries listed do not include fringe benefits.

LICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Qiong Huang, Chinese Immersion Teacher, Apollo High School, effective October 18, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 1 (152.5 days of a full-time contract) at a salary of \$34,327.34. Ms. Huang was previously a Chinese Instructional Paraeducator at Apollo High School.

Abigail Driste, Early Childhood Teacher, Quarryview Education Center, effective October 25, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 1 (148.5 days of a full-time contract) at a salary of \$33,426.95.

Kaila Nicka, Physical Education Teacher, Talahi Community School, effective September 27, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, Lane BA, Pay Level 2 (167.5 days of a full-time contract) at a salary of \$38,970.46.

Rehire

Michelle Swedal, ADSIS Teacher, Talahi Community School and Lincoln Elementary School, effective October 18, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, Lane MA, Pay Level 5 (152.5 days of a full-time contract) at a salary of \$47,960.84. Ms. Swedal was previously a Co-Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School.

Leave of Absence

Julia Salzer, EL Teacher, Discovery Community School, effective November 28, 2021 through March 14, 2022.

Resignation

Jamie Zylka, Nurse, Discovery Community School, effective November 12, 2021.

Retirement

Maureen Proell, Technology Education Teacher, South Junior High School, effective October 29, 2021, after 16 years of service in District 742. Ms. Proell was previously on a leave of absence.

NONLICENSED STAFF

New Hire

Ismahan Abdi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 19, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Saido Abdi, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective October 19, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Amino Adan, Kitchen Helper, Apollo High School, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.55.

Jasmin Alayon, EI Programs Instructional Paraeducator, Apollo High School, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Courtney Birr, Clerical Class II (10-Month), Quarryview Education Center, effective October 26, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$16.80.

Donald Boelz, Custodian, Apollo High School, effective October 5, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.70.

Randi Eilola, Student Support Paraeducator, Discovery Community School, effective November 3, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$15.00.

Cindy Erickson, ABE Literacy Accountability Specialist, Quarryview Education Center, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$24.62.

Morgan Freese, Instructional Technology Support Assistant, North Junior High School, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$18.23.

Maryan Hassan, Custodian, Discovery Community School, effective October 20, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.70.

Travis Jensen, Custodian, Talahi Community School, effective October 19, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.70.

Julene Larson, ABE Literacy Accountability Assistant, Quarryview Education Center, effective October 20, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$16.36.

Josie Love, Clerical Class I (10-Month), Kennedy Community School, effective October 18, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$15.42.

Maryan Ali, Kitchen Helper, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 7, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.77.

Rosangely Morales-Dominguez, Bilingual Communications Support Specialist, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$21.54.

Cayla Nelson, Kitchen Helper, Apollo High School, effective October 7, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.77.

Miranda Neu, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Quarryview Education Center and Talahi Community School, effective October 28, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Jonathan Legg, Theatre Director, Tech High School, effective October 1, 2021, with a yearly stipend of \$5,229.

Charlene Novak, Kitchen Helper Substitute,

District Wide, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.77.

Velva Pennington, Behavior Support Specialist, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 20, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$18.96.

Kristine Ruiz, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective October 18, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$18.27.

Sarah Schindele, ABE Literacy Accountability Specialist, Quarryview Education Center, effective November 1, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$24.62.

Ikra Suldán, Custodian, Discovery Community School, effective October 20, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.70.

Brenda Tamm, ABE Literacy Accountability Specialist, Quarryview Education Center, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$24.62.

Patrick Watrin, Custodian, Tech High School, effective October 19, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.70.

Nicole Wesbur, SPED Instructional Paraeducator, Kennedy Community School, effective October 28, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$16.75.

Rehire

Julie Gillen, Clerical Class II, District Administration Office, effective October 11, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$19.34. Ms. Gillen is returning for a part time assignment after retirement.

Joan Schneider, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective October 20, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.77. Ms. Schneider is returning for an assignment after retirement.

Julie Schroeder, Kitchen Helper Substitute, District Wide, effective October 15, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.77. Ms. Schroeder is returning for an assignment after retirement.

Lisa Zahn, Kitchen Helper, Tech High School, effective October 14, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.55. Ms. Zahn was previously an ABE Literacy Accountability Assistant at Quarryview Education Center.

Reassignment

Brittany Hanson, Benefits Coordinator, District Administration Office, effective July 1, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$23.45. Ms. Hanson was previously an HR Specialist at the District Administration Office.

Kari Macho, Student Support Paraeducator, South Junior High School, effective October 13, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$15.00. Ms. Macho was previously a Class II Clerical (10-Month) at Apollo High School.

Taunya Ring, Clerical Class II (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective October 18, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$17.61. Ms. Ring was previously a Clerical Class I (12-Month) at the District Administration Office.

Susan Kelley, Nutritional Services Substitute, District Wide, effective October 25, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.77. Ms. Kelley was previously a Kitchen Helper at North Junior High School.

Jake Braegelmann, Program Coordinator for Project Challenge, Quarryview Education Center, at an hourly rate of \$26.16. Mr. Braegelmann was previously a Behavior Resource Specialist at Discovery Community School.

Non-Renewal

Chad Keller, Head Boys Soccer Coach, Apollo High School, per Minnesota Statute §122A.33.

Resignation

Mohamed Omar, Custodian, Oak Hill Community School, effective October 28, 2021.

Elizabeth Lowery, Girls Soccer Coach, North Junior High School, effective September 27, 2021.

Kristine Ruiz, Clerical Class III (12-Month), District Administration Office, effective October 25, 2021.

Dale Okland, Substitute Custodian, District Services Building, effective November 3, 2021.

Deceased

Evan Evans, Bus Driver, District Services Building, passed away on October 18, 2021, after 49 years of service in District 742.

Approve the Monthly Treasurer’s Report for September 2021.

Approve the Monthly Financial Report for September 2021.

Approve the McKinley-ALC Elevator Project Change Order with Ebert Construction in the amount of +\$1,648.20.

III. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. (DISCUSSION ITEM) - Board Retreat Topics Board Member Monica Segura-Schwartz brought forward suggested Board Retreat topics. After much discussion the Board agreed to proceed with the following three topics at the December 14th Board Retreat: (1) Equitable education and facilities - access and opportunity, (2) Data Retreat, and (3) Apollo Referendum.

Additional topics to be included in a future work session included: (1) Marketing and Perceptions, (2) Graduation rates deep dive, and (3) How have we adapted with regards to arts, curriculum, and activities with the change in our demographics and community over the past 8-10 years.

B. Proposed Revised Board Policy 512 - School Sponsored Student Publications and Activities (First Reading) Dr. Laurie Putnam, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, reviewed proposed revised Board Policy 512 - School Sponsored Student Publications and Activities. There were no suggested changes. This proposed revised policy will be on the November 17, 2021 Board Meeting agenda for a second reading.

IV. BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monica Segura-Schwartz, Chair of the Board Development, Policy and Governance Committee, noted the committee met on October 26, 2021, and discussed topics for the upcoming Board Retreat. The committee also reviewed policies and discussed the policy review cycles for 2021-2022. Board Members agreed that policies which are reviewed with no changes do not need to come to a Board Meeting if the policy is documented as such. Monica also discussed the Reorganization Meeting which is normally held on the first Monday of the new year, with a request to consider holding it on the second Monday of the new year with her being out of town. This topic will be on the November 17th Board agenda as an Action Item.

Les Green, Chair of the Board Personnel and Negotiations Committee noted the committee met today and discussed the following items: 1) Adminis-

tration provided update on the status of negotiations for groups that have commenced bargaining but have not settled, 2) Administration provided an update on the Director of Equity Search, 3) Administration provided notice of maltreatment allegations against employee, 4) Superintendent recommended COVID funded stipend for the additional financial work of managing and monitoring COVID funds and expenses over two years, 5) Reviewed the process for non-renewal of a varsity coach and received information about the administrative recommendation, and 6) Prepared for the work of the school board in the upcoming closed session to conduct the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

V. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

The Board meeting concluded at 8:08 p.m.

The Board then moved to the Work Session, which included discussion of the following items:

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

A. Transitional Services Update

Rebecca Groenewold and Jennifer Loch, Transitional Education Liaisons, presented an update on Transitional Education and Services which connects to students and families. The McKinney Vento Act of 1987 ensures rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness. Homeless is defined as: Individuals or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Student rights include: (1) Educational stability with immediate enrollment participation, (2) Qualification for free school meals valid for the entire school year, and (3) School Transportation with access to the same services to and from school as students who are permanently housed, even if living outside of the attendance area of the school of origin.

Data indicates 569 students utilized services in 2019-2020, 448 students in 2020-2021, and 291 students to date in 2021-2022. Living arrangements include: 72% doubled up, 22% sheltered, 5% hotel/motel and 1% unsheltered.

There was an impact of COVID 19 and Distance Learning on homeless families. The American Rescue Plan Funding for Homeless Children and Youth, Part I, provided relief in many forms including: hotels, trac phones and minutes, transportation, and various forms of supplies. Funds have also been requested for Part II which ends September 30, 2024.

Educational Support Services provided: (1) Assistance with enrollment and registration, (2) Transportation, (3) School Supplies and Clothing, (4) Support with Access to Extracurricular activities, (5) Ensuring Participation in all Programs Available to Housed Students, and (5) Tutoring Services at K-2 levels with a pilot program at Talahi and Madison with support provided for the Promise Neighborhood Homework Club.

Partnerships include District 742 LEAF, the St. Cloud Police Department, Salvation Army, Place of Hope, Pathways 4 Youth, Catholic Charities, Neighbors to Friends, Lutheran Social Services, HRA, United Way, and many local businesses and churches.

A future dream is to have permanent supportive housing in the St. Cloud area. The Board members expressed many thanks to Rebecca and Jennifer for their tireless and rewarding work to students and families.

B. 2022 Legislative Platform

Board Member Zachary Dorholt presented an overview of the current 2021 Legislative Platform, the former 2019 Legislative Platform and the AMSD's position on Special Education. Board Members shared their feedback and thoughts on what to include for 2022.

C. Schools Update

Elementary Dr. Mike Rivard, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, shared examples of our preschool students continuing to learn and grow socially and academically with a new grocery store dramatic play area and alphabet leaf hunt by matching bags of groceries with a matching shopping cart. In our Lincoln and Talahi communities, our schools hosted a Fall Learning Festival on October 14th. Over 500 students and family members came to Lincoln to participate in games, friendship, and community building.

October 19th was Unity Day in our anti-bullying campaign during National Bullying Prevention Month. This special day was created to unite all people in schools, communities and online against bullying. Everyone was encouraged to wear orange which is commonly associated with safety and visibility. Madison hosted their Spirit week during October as part of their Bullying Prevention Month. Activities included Hat Day and Virtual Family Math Night.

Later in October, the St. Cloud Fire Department visited kindergartners at Oak Hill which is always a favorite time. Madison Media Center also hosted their annual book fair which gives students a wonderful choice of books from many genres.

Last month, principal Anna Willhite gave a presentation to the School Board about Kennedy Community School's work in STEAM educational strategies to guide student inquiry and critical thinking. This past week, our creative Kennedy fourth graders worked on their science standards by learning about X-rays and completed their own skeleton hands by incorporating the STEAM strategies into the process. In this hands-on activity, students learned about bones, technology and the advancements of engineering x-ray machines, and art strategies, all in one activity.

Secondary Dr. Laurie Putnam, Superintendent of Secondary Education, shared about the season of career awareness and exploration and college applications. November 4-11 is Future Health Professionals week and Apollo HOSA students practiced patient care and participated in a virtual activities and career fair related to health careers.

A number of secondary athletes are headed to state in Cross Country, Boys Soccer, St. Cloud Crush adapted soccer, and St. Cloud Crush Girls' Tennis. The 6th grade sports sampler was a huge hit with a large group of students participating.

Winter activities are beginning at the middle level including girls' basketball, robotics, Future Problem Solvers, knowledge bowl, math team, art club, musicals, and speech. High school sports and extracurricular activities are also beginning with many opportunities to get involved.

The meeting concluded at 9:22 p.m.

Les Green, Clerk

These minutes are not official until reviewed and approved by the Board of Education.

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				7	2	4		
2		3		1				7
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8				3		9	4	

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

www.sudoku.com

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NKATE
NIREL
DMYOEC
EBBBLO

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Yesterday's Jumbles: SUEDE SHAKY THIRST EMERGE
Answer: When Curtis thought twice about not getting a roast beef sandwich, he knew it was a — MISSED STEAK

Today's Guest JUMBLER is DAN THOMPSON creator of RIP HAYWIRE

THIS DOG PREFERS A GOOD NAP INSTEAD OF ADVENTURE. HE WAS—

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mailbox post is thicker. 2. Ear is larger. 3. Pocket is missing. 4. Patch on sleeve is different. 5. Nose is moved. 6. Leaves are added.

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4	5-		2-		3-
11+	6x		3-		
	3-	3-	3	10+	
5+			5-	2÷	
	1-			6	1-
5-		3	3-		

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Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

1	3	4	2	5	6
5	1	6	3	4	2
4	5	2	6	3	1
2	4	1	5	6	3
3	6	5	1	2	4
6	2	3	4	1	5

GARFIELD

SO HOW DO SPIDERS BUILD SUCH INTRICATE WEBS?

GOOD QUESTION...

I HAVE AN APP FOR THAT

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED

DOONESBURY

WHY DIDN'T BERNIE TELL ME ABOUT THE GAME SITE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I'M SORRY, MIKE. I DIDN'T MEAN TO JUST BARGE IN AND COMPLICATE YOUR LIFE...

ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT TRUE — I DID MEAN TO. MIKE, WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR A GIRL TO GET A SECOND CHANCE WITH YOU?

BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIEND? THE FRENCH CYCLING CHAMP?

FINI. I GOT TIRED OF ALL THE DECEPTION.

DECEPTION?

DIDN'T YOU WATCH THE OLYMPICS? HE GOT NAILED FOR STEROIDS.

DILBERT

WAKE UP. I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS ABOUT YOUR TRIP TO MARS. ...

UUUH?

THE SUSPENDED ANIMATION PILL YOU TOOK WAS SO STRONG THAT YOU SLEPT ALL THE WAY THERE AND BACK.

WHY IS IT STILL THE SAME DAY I LEFT?

SOUNDS LIKE A BLACK HOLE SITUATION.

FRAZZ

I'M MAKING A LIST OF EVERYTHING I'M THANKFUL FOR.

HOLIDAY PROJECT?

NO

SO I KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO BITE ME IN THE...

"BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR" IS A CAUTION, NOT A CURSE.

ZITS

I BOUGHT MY FIRST VINYL RECORD!

YESS!

NOW TO PLOP IT ON YOUR AWESOME STEAMPUNK WHIRLYGIG!

TURNTABLE.

I LIKE WHIRLYGIGS.

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Those new neighbors don't look like a mommy and daddy. They look like a boy and girl."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"WHY ARE ANTS ALWAYS ON PARADE?"

"SOMETIMES I THINK WE'RE ALL ON PARADE, JOEY."

NON SEQUITUR

HEY, DADDY... LET'S DO A PRACTICE POP QUIZ

OK... WHERE DOES THIS QUOTE COME FROM...

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT: THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"

all MEN are

FROM SOME STINKY, BOOGER-BRAINED BOY, NO DOUBT!!

GOTTA GIVE HER THAT ONE ON A TECHNICALITY

YOU'RE NOT HELPING, KATE...

BEEBLE BAILEY

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

A BOOK ABOUT THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

ARE WE ROME?

ARE THERE BOOKS ABOUT THE OTHER SEASONS IN ROME, TOO?

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

THIS STRIP HAS SUCH A PUBLIC PLATFORM TO INFORM PEOPLE ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES THAT MATTER.

THAT'S A GREAT POINT. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO INFORM THEM ABOUT?

'CRWTH' IS A VALID SCRABBLE WORD.

I WAS THINKING BIGGER.

THAT'S PRETTY BIG.

TAKE THAT STUPID VOWELS!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

THIS CLOSET LOOKS STRANGELY BARE. WHERE'S MY STRIPED BLOUSE? WHERE'S MY CARDIGAN? EVEN MY JEANS ARE MISSING!!

ELIZABETH, I FOUND THESE IN YOUR CLOSET!

THOSE ARE YOUR CLOTHES?

SORRY, I'VE HAD THEM FOR SO LONG... I THOUGHT THEY WERE MINE!!

THAT'S OK, THOUGH — I DON'T MIND IF YOU BORROW THEM!!

CRANKSHAFT

OKAY, THE HALO LIGHT IS SET...

NOW ALL WE NEED TO DO IS PLUG IN THIS SPECIAL CONDENSER MICROPHONE AND YOU'LL BE THE STAR OF THE BOOK PANEL!

MAYBE DRIVING TO SEATTLE FOR THE BOOK PANEL WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER.

DUSTIN

I REALLY MISS THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER.

AS OPPOSED TO WHAT-- YOUR FRENETIC WORKAHOLIC DAYS OF WINTER?

PICKLES

I TRIED A NEW RECIPE FOR THIS PUDDING. I HOPE IT TURNED OUT.

UGH! IT'S AWFUL! THIS IS THE WORST PUDDING I'VE EVER MADE.

NOPE. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

I THINK YOU MAY HAVE TAKEN THAT THE WRONG WAY.

RED & ROVER

DOWN! SET! HUT ONE! HUT TWO! HUT...

MY GOODNESS, ROVER. THAT'S THE SEVENTH TIME THIS GAME YOU'VE JUMPED OFFSIDE.

SORRY — NUMBERS CONFUSE ME.

DOWN! SET! HUT ONE! HUT TWO!

PEANUTS

TELL ME HONESTLY, CHUCK, DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A SKATING DRESS?

EXCUSE ME, I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY AGAIN.

IS THAT THE PHONE?

HI, CHUCK, THIS IS MARCIE. I'M IN A BAD WAY, CHUCK... I NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO... I... I'M... I...

WHAHH! WHAHH!

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The Invention of the Year

The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation . . . The Zinger.

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough . . . a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"

-Kent C., California

The first thing you'll notice about the Zinger is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum. It weighs only 47.2 lbs but can handle a passenger that's up to 275 lbs! It features one-touch folding and unfolding – when folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

Why take our word for it. You can try the Zinger out for yourself with our exclusive home trial. Call now, and find out how you can try out a **Zinger** of your very own.

Zinger Chair®

Call now and receive a utility basket absolutely FREE with your order.

855-279-2599

Now available in a Joystick model (Zoomer Chair)

Joystick can be mounted on the right or left side of rider's comfort

The Zinger and Zoomer Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2021 Journey Health and Lifestyle

NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub

Featuring our Exclusive Shower Package

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing. Introducing Safe Step Walk-In Tub's exclusive **Shower Package!**

✓ First and only walk-in tub available with a customizable shower

✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option

✓ Now with 10 Hydro Jets, 16 Air Bubble Jets, and MicroSoothe® Advanced Air Therapy System

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✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

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*With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

320-316-0922

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

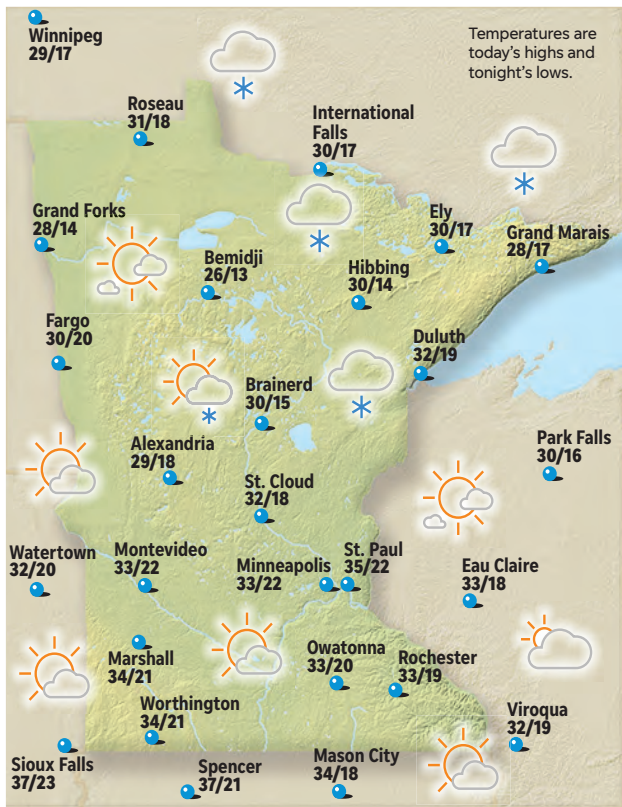
CSLB 983603 F13000002885 13HV08744300

CT-GC1075148-02 PAID ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT 85229

SEVEN DAY FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH 32 LOW 18	HIGH 39 LOW 26	HIGH 42 LOW 24	HIGH 33 LOW 12	HIGH 29 LOW 18	HIGH 41 LOW 27	HIGH 38 LOW 15
Wind: WNW 15-25	Wind: SSE 8-16	Wind: NW 4-8	Wind: NW 10-20	Wind: NW 7-14	Wind: S 7-14	Wind: NNW 7-14

THE REGION



ALMANAC

St. Cloud through 5 p.m. Wednesday
Temperature
High/low 42/33
Normal high/low 38/22
Record high 69 in 1953
Record low -6 in 1959
Precipitation
Past 24 hrs Wed. trace
Month to date 0.84"
Normal month to date . 0.87"
Year to date 23.73"
Normal year to date .. 27.11"

SUN & MOON

Sunrise today 7:20 a.m.
Sunset today 4:43 p.m.
Moonrise today 4:29 p.m.
Moonset today 6:31 a.m.

Nov 19 Nov 27 Dec 4 Dec 10

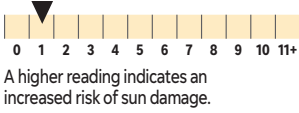
SUMMARY

Windy today with clouds and sun. Winds west-northwest 15-25 mph. Turning cloudy tonight. Winds light and variable. Variable cloudiness tomorrow.

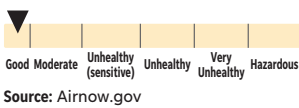
SNOW

Past 24 hrs Wed. trace
Month to date 1.7"
Normal month to date ... 3.3"
Season to date 1.7"
Normal season to date .. 4.3"

UV INDEX



AIR QUALITY



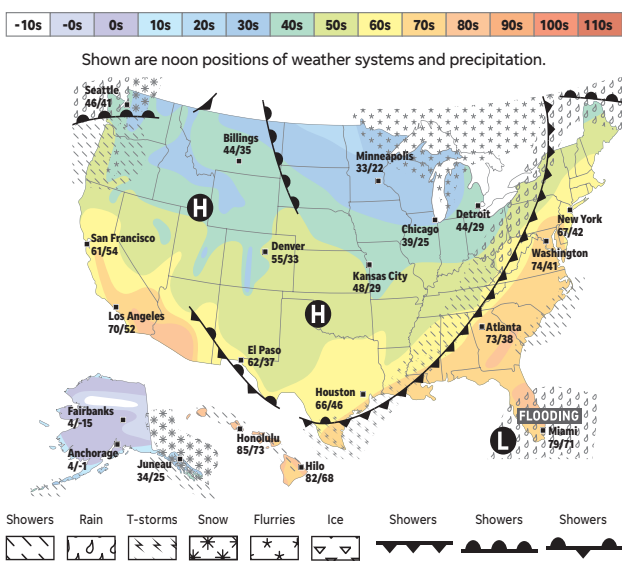
HEATING DEGREE DAYS

Wednesday 27
Month to date 453
Season to date 985
Normal s-t-d 1405

WEATHER HISTORY

On Nov. 18, 1421, surge from a powerful storm swept inland and destroyed Holland's dikes. More than 70 villages were swept away; 10,000 people died.

THE NATION



Extremes Wednesday

High: Kingsville, TX 90 Low: Butte, MT 2

City	Today	Fri
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Austin	64 39 pc	67 44 s
Bismarck	35 20 s	46 23 c
Boise	47 38 c	53 38 sh
Buffalo	50 32 r	42 30 sf
Charleston, WV	61 30 sh	44 24 pc
Cheyenne	47 32 pc	59 36 c
Cincinnati	49 27 sh	42 28 s
Cleveland	47 31 r	41 27 sf
Dallas	61 37 s	63 47 s
Des Moines	40 24 s	46 33 c
Grand Rapids	39 28 sf	41 31 pc
Indianapolis	45 25 pc	40 29 pc
Jackson, MS	64 37 pc	61 33 s
Kansas City	48 29 s	52 39 pc
Las Vegas	69 51 pc	71 52 pc
Madison	36 19 pc	39 30 s
Memphis	56 33 pc	55 35 s

THE WORLD

Acapulco	85 73 s	86 73 s
Amsterdam	54 50 c	55 47 c
Berlin	49 47 sh	54 49 c
Calgary	40 20 c	38 22 pc
Cancun	83 71 t	84 70 t
Chihuahua	64 38 s	74 40 s
Dublin	57 52 c	55 48 c
Halifax	54 54 r	59 33 r
Kiev	39 35 c	44 42 r
London	57 50 c	57 46 pc
Madrid	58 36 s	58 43 pc
Mexico City	70 51 s	66 48 pc
Mogadishu	90 78 c	90 78 pc
Monterrey	68 56 t	68 56 pc
Montreal	49 32 r	40 27 pc
Moscow	32 31 c	36 32 sn
Nassau	82 73 r	81 72 t
Paris	51 39 c	51 40 c
Rome	66 49 c	65 47 pc
Saskatoon	27 10 c	25 8 c
St. John's	35 29 c	49 41 r
Sydney	76 66 pc	80 64 c
Tokyo	62 53 c	64 53 pc
Vancouver	43 37 r	43 37 s

Monarchs make welcome return to California coast

Haven Daley and Olga R. Rodriguez
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. – There is a ray of hope for the vanishing orange-and-black Western monarch butterflies.

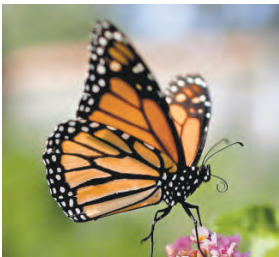
The number wintering along California's central coast is bouncing back after the population reached an all-time low last year. Experts pin their decline on climate change, habitat destruction and lack of food because of drought.

An annual winter count last year by the Xerces Society recorded fewer than 2,000 butterflies, a massive decline from the tens of thousands tallied in recent years and the millions that clustered in trees from Northern California's Mendocino County to Baja California, Mexico, in the south in the 1980s. Now, their roosting sites are concentrated mostly on California's central coast.

This year's official count started Saturday and will last three weeks, but already an unofficial count by researchers and volunteers shows there are more than 50,000 monarchs at overwintering sites, said Sarina Jepsen, director of endangered species at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

"This is certainly not a recovery, but we're really optimistic and just really glad that there are monarchs here, and that gives us a bit of time to work toward recovery of the Western monarch migration," Jepsen said.

The Western monarch butterfly population has declined by more than 99% from the millions that wintered in California in the 1980s because of the destruction of their milkweed habitat along their migratory route as housing expands into their territory and use of pesticides and herbicides increases.



Western monarch butterflies head south from the Pacific Northwest to California each winter. GREGORY BULL/AP FILE

STORM OR HAIL
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- Pressure you to sign an exclusive agreement at their first meeting
- Request full payment up front or a large down payment
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