

City of Willmar to update  
trail head near Civic Center. **A3.**

Lakers deny Cards Section 8AAA title. **B1.**

WILLMAR, MINN. FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022 WCTrib.COM



Dana Ferguson / Forum News Service

State Sen. David Tomassoni, I-Chisholm, on March 1 introduces a pair of bills to provide funding to caregiving services for people with ALS and research to treat and cure those with the disease.

# Working toward a cure

## Emotional testimony helps advance ALS research legislation

**By Tom Cherveny**  
West Central Tribune

**St. Paul**

After emotional testimony, including that from Mayor Dave Smiglewski of Granite Falls, a Minnesota Senate committee on Tuesday moved a bill forward that would provide \$20 million for research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known also as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

"Wouldn't it be amazing if Minnesota became the place (where) we found a cure for this disease? We'd all be proud," said State Sen. Tom Bakk, I-Virginia, who stepped in to speak for the bill on behalf of its author, Sen. David Tomassoni, I-Chisholm. Bakk spoke to the Senate's Higher Education Committee, which is chaired by Tomassoni.

Speaking remotely and

  
Smiglewski

I can't do any of them."

Tomassoni said research is needed to give hope. "The future needs to be full of hope that the next generations will be ALS-free."

The full Senate unanimously approved the bill on Thursday. There is a companion bill in the House as well.

On any given day, there are 450 Minnesotans living with ALS, according to Bakk. On average, two Minnesota residents are diagnosed each week with

the disease, and the same number die, according to Marianne Keuhn, vice president of care services for the ALS Association serving Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Former Gopher and NBA basketball player Chris Engler was among those who testified to the debilitating effects of the disease, and how its progression is different in individuals. "Nobody should have to go through this," he told the committee.

Former Minnesota Twin Kent Hrbek told the committee that the disease claimed the life of his father in 1982. At the time of his father's diagnosis in 1981, there was an outreach support group of six at the University of Minnesota, and little more.

Hrbek has made it his goal for 38 years now to raise

funds for ALS research. He estimates that the efforts have raised maybe \$20 million to \$25 million.

This bill, which would provide \$20 million for research by institutes in Minnesota, could be transformative, according to Dr. David Walk, a neurologist with the University of Minnesota. "Funding in this bill can help to unlock the biology of this disease and design treatments that can improve and extend the lives of those living with ALS," he said.

Mayor Smiglewski, who turned 69 on Thursday, told the committee that he was fortunate to be diagnosed about two years ago with a slow-progressing form of ALS. His close friend, Jerry Ostensoe, with whom he

**ALS:** Page A2

# Legacy on display as ALS research bill is approved

**By Dana Ferguson**  
West Central Tribune

**ST. PAUL** — The life and legacy of a well-known Iron Range senator were at the heart of a discussion around spending \$20 million to research a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as ALS.

Sen. David Tomassoni, a

Chisholm independent, introduced the bill last week that would direct the funds to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education to award research grants of up to \$400,000 to scientists studying the prevention, treatment, causes and cures of ALS. Tomassoni last year was diagnosed with ALS, and the Iron Ranger has since

experienced limited mobility and speech due to the illness.

While he wasn't on the Senate floor Thursday, March 10, member after member shared their memories of Tomassoni, as well as words of support for his family, before the chamber unanimously approved the bill. And senators stood to applaud the bill's passage and

pointed up to the senator's family in the Senate gallery.

"Of all the bills I've carried over all the years, I don't think there's one that's more about hope," said Sen. Tom Bakk, a Cook independent and long-time friend of Tomassoni's, as he presented the proposal.

**LEGACY:** Page A2

# Minn. plans to cancel contracts

Lawmakers move to divest from Russian investments amid Ukraine conflict

**By Dana Ferguson**  
West Central Tribune

**ST. PAUL** — A bipartisan, bicameral group of Minnesota lawmakers on Thursday, March 10, announced a plan to divest Minnesota's state pension fund from Russia following its attacks on Ukraine.

The move could pull an estimated \$53 million in investments from Russian entities. And it's the latest step aimed at chiding the nation for its unprovoked aggression in the region. Days after Gov. Tim Walz signed an executive order ending contracts with Russian entities, legislators also announced that they would write the prohibition into state law.

That means that state agencies would be barred from contracting with Russian businesses unless the state Legislature repealed the prohibition at a later date.

"This is important for Minnesota to send a message that we stand firmly with Ukraine and strongly condemn the Russian government's actions," Senate author Karin Housley, R-Stillwater, said. "My heart breaks for the Ukrainian families that are suffering right now. This bill demonstrates that we stand with Ukraine and with the free democracies across the world that have a right to exist in peace."

Bipartisan agreements aren't easy to come by in the politically-split Capitol and lawmakers noted that they started working on a plan to divest from Russia almost immediately after it launched attacks on Ukraine. To date, roughly 550 civilians have been killed in Ukraine and more than 2 million people have been displaced.

"We join an ever-growing number of democracies in standing up to this evil committed in Ukraine, not only because standing against tyranny is always the right thing to do but because we can't allow a single cent from our state to line the pockets of oligarchs and despots who sanction the murder of innocent despots," Rep. Sydney Jordan, DFL-Minneapolis, said. "It is not every day that you see this particular group of legislators pushing the same bill."

**CONTRACTS:** Page A2

# Minnesota House passes drought relief bill

**By Alex Derosier**  
West Central Tribune

**ST. PAUL** — The Minnesota House voted 101-33 Thursday evening, March 10, to pass a Democratic-Farmer-Labor version of a drought relief bill for farmers and ranchers. But with a competing Republican proposal

from the Senate, aid may face further delays as lawmakers work to hash out differences between the bills.

A Republican-backed proposal that passed the Agriculture Committee in the Senate Wednesday focuses mostly on grants for farmers and ranchers, appropriating \$10 million in relief

grants, as well as funding for the state Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and \$500,000 for deer farmers.

The Democrats' proposal offers similar relief but adds \$13 million for programs including reforestation efforts to counter tree loss inflicted by the drought and grants for

water infrastructure.

"The ongoing drought has affected forests throughout Minnesota," Rep. Rick Hansen, DFL-South St. Paul, said in a release announcing the bill passing the House. "This bill provides for reforestation in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Protecting our public nat-

ural resources is critical in conserving water and mitigating climate change."

Hansen and Rep. Mike Sundin, DFL-Esko, authored the House version of the relief bill, which despite some Republican protests passed with bipartisan support.

Earlier on in the Legis-

Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email aderosier@forumcomm.com.

ALS

From Page A1

worked for many years, has not been so fortunate.

Diagnosed about three years ago, Ostensoe is now totally disabled, according to Smiglewski. He's now cared for at home by his wife and friends, including the mayor.

Smiglewski told the committee that he was close friends with former State Sen. Gary Kubly of Granite Falls, who succumbed to ALS while in office 10 years

ago this month.

There are currently five people in Granite Falls living with ALS, Smiglewski told the committee. In a community of just under 3,000 people, this is significantly higher than any other statistical average, he said.

For 90% of people who are diagnosed with ALS, there is no known reason for its cause, according to Keuhn. Military veterans are twice as likely as the general population to be afflicted, she said.

Bakk told the committee that

Smiglewski's testimony and the high number of people per capita in Granite Falls makes him wonder if there is an environmental factor. He also pointed to the disproportionate number of professional athletes who are diagnosed with the disease.

As a close friend to Sen. Tomassoni, Bakk also told the committee how his friend kept going to medical appointments on Fridays to learn the cause of symptoms that he at first joked as being those of advancing age. One Monday, Tomassoni

returned with the news: "Tom, I've got ALS," Bakk related.

"He said something I will never forget," said Bakk. "'I'm not afraid of dying. I'm afraid of what I have to go through to get there.'"

Bakk said it's his hope the legislation will be approved to fund research that will be able to help those yet to be diagnosed. At the hearing's onset, he noted: "It may be a very curable disease but we just don't know because we haven't done the research."

LEGACY

From Page A1

"Hope so that the next person that is diagnosed someday, their family is going to have some quality of life other than, 'Go home and exercise, there's nothing we can do.'"

ALS is a progressive disease of the nervous system that gradually spurs a loss of muscle control. There is no known cure. Roughly 450 Minnesotans are living with the disease at any given time.

Tomassoni, former professional athletes and Minnesotans who'd lost loved ones to the disease

last week brought forward the bill and urged a renewed push to find more answers about it. While the illness has been around since 1869, there have been relatively few developments in preventing or treating the disease.

Nationally, about \$115 million has been earmarked to fund ALS research this year, and senators backing the bill, along with neurologists that see Minnesotans with ALS, said that the \$20 million research boost could spur landmark advancements. The plan would also allocate \$5 million to support services for caregiving services for Minnesotans fighting ALS.

Almost two dozen senators stood to share their memories of working with Tomassoni in the Senate and they joked that he wouldn't be able to make them stop talking about his since he was watching the discussion remotely. Both Democrats and Republicans emphasized the senator's legacy as being a good-humored, good-natured person who consistently put his district first.

"I tell you what, if you couldn't be a friend with David Tomassoni, you've got a big problem because he was everybody's friend," Sen. David Senjem, R-Rochester, said.

And they said the legislation was a good

example of Tomassoni's efforts to put others first.

"This is what the heart of David Tomassoni is about and has been about and continue to be about in the Minnesota Senate," Sen. John Hoffman, DFL-Champlin, said. "We can do something better for other people, it's not about him, it's about helping other people."

Leaders in the House of Representatives have said the bill would also be a priority there, giving it a strong chance of passing through the Legislature this year.

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



Dana Ferguson / Forum News Service

Luda Anastazievsky, chair of the Minnesota Ukrainian American Advocacy Committee, on Thursday spoke to reporters at the Minnesota Capitol about a legislative proposal to divest Minnesota's pension fund from Russian interests.

CONTRACTS

From Page A1

Ukrainian American Minnesotans said they had loved ones in areas of Ukraine that had come under fire who were living in conditions without heat, electricity, food or water and they worried that they would die in an attack or as a result of not being able to access resources they need to live. They said the legislation sent a strong message that the state con-

demns Russia's actions. And they noted that while they could affect state employee pensions, it was worth taking a stand.

"Our state can't send defensive weapons, but it can fight back and defend Ukraine. ... Our state should not support a government that invades its neighbors without provocation and targets innocent civilians as part of its military strategy," said Luda Anastazievsky, chair of the Minnesota Ukrainian American Advocacy Committee.

Anastazievsky is also a teacher whose pension could be impacted by the move if approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the governor.

"As a public employee, I don't want my money going to Putin to fuel his war machine. Russia must feel economic pressure if we hope to stop this war and deter future aggression," she said.

Legislative leaders said they expected the bills would move quickly through committee hearings and come to the

floor for a vote in seven to 10 days. And they said they would also consider expanding the ban on pension fund investments to Belarus.

Anastazievsky said they would also weigh legislation aimed at welcoming Ukrainian refugees to Minnesota and sending medical supplies and protective equipment to Ukraine.

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

Minnesota DNR seeks citizen rainfall monitoring volunteers

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota State Climatology Office is seeking out volunteer monitors to help verify rain totals.

Volunteers use a standard rain gauge for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who submit reports online.

Volunteers receive online training on how to observe weather trends and submit their precipitation and weather events reports. Vol-

unteers also help monitor drought and flooding which helps make precipitation maps more accurate and provide needed guidance on Minnesota's changing climate.

The volunteer must have internet access and purchase a standard four-inch diameter rain gauge, available at a discount through CoCoRaHS, and they are particularly needed outside the immediate Twin Cities metro area.

For the past two years, Minnesota has won the "CoCoRaHS Cup" for recruiting the most new amount of volunteers of any other state. To sign up or for more informa-

tion, visit CoCoRAHS.org.

Man dies in fatal crash near Cass Lake

PENNINGTON, Minn. — A Pennington man is dead after a two-vehicle head-on collision Wednesday, March 9, northeast of Cass Lake.

Neil Cutbank, 44, of Pennington, was driving a 2007 Chevrolet HHR when he collided with a 2018 Ford Escape driven by Jeffrey Imhoff, 59, of Bemidji, at 9:50 a.m. on the Scenic Highway South East, according to a release from the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office.

The Chevrolet HHR was traveling north and

the Ford Escape was traveling south along the highway in Brook Lake Township, about 20 miles east of Bemidji, when they collided in the southbound lane, the release said.

Cutbank was taken by ambulance to Cass Lake Indian Health Service's Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. Imhoff was transported to the Sanford Health in Bemidji with non-life-threatening injuries.

Airbags were deployed in both vehicles and Cutbank was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash, the release said.

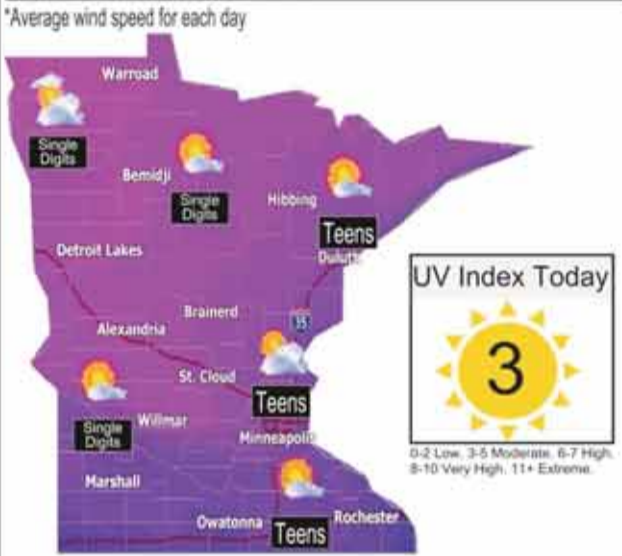
— Forum News Service



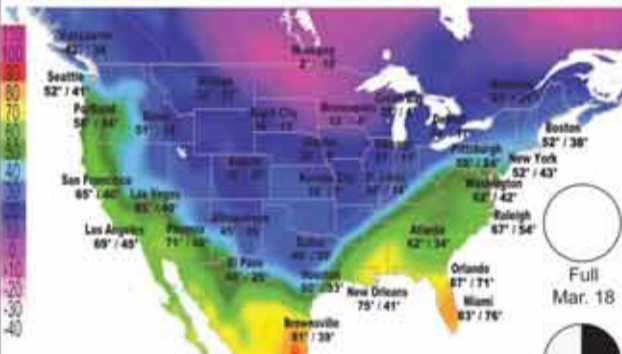
StormTRACKER

WILLMAR FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
7/-8 Partly Cloudy/Wind Wind: NW 21 mph	31/29 Mostly Cloudy Wind: S 15 mph	38/27 Partly Cloudy Wind: NW 12 mph	35/20 AM Snow Showers Wind: N 13 mph
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
50/37 Partly Cloudy Wind: S 13 mph	51/32 Mostly Cloudy Wind: W 11 mph	43/28 Mostly Cloudy Wind: NW 11 mph	47/30 Partly Cloudy Wind: NW 11 mph



Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow	Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow
Bemidji, MN	4/-14	20/17	Marshall, MN	11/-1	38/31
Duluth, MN	15/-7	19/15	Minneapolis, MN	12/-5	27/25
Eau Claire, WI	18/-2	23/20	Rochester, MN	17/1	29/26
Fargo, ND	7/-12	28/24	Sioux Falls, SD	16/-1	41/29
International Falls, MN	8/-18	19/12	St. Cloud, MN	9/-11	26/23

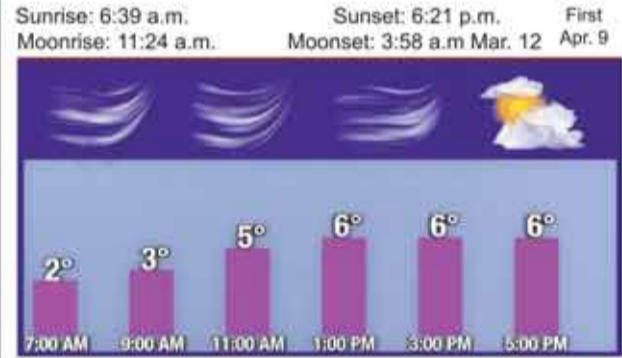


StormTRACKER Forecast

Mostly cloudy and breezy with highs in the low teens. The sun and warmer temperatures return this weekend.

Almanac Through 6 pm Thursday

Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	27°	3°
Avg. Wind Direction Thursday	W	
Peak Wind Speed Thursday	21 mph	



TODAY'S INFO

What's happening?

Do you know of something that might make a good story or photograph for the newspaper? Call at 320-235-1150.

call 320-235-1150.

Lottery results

Winning numbers drawn Thursday night are:

Daily 3: 9-6-6

Northstar Cash: 14-15-18-20-27

Lucky for Life: 1-7-18-41-42

Lucky ball: 3

For more information, go to mlottery.com.

Corrections

If you have a question about accuracy of information in a news story, please

West Central Tribune

wctrib.com

A Division of Forum Communications Company

Steven W. Ammermann

Publisher/General Manager

sammermann@wctrib.com

Kelly J. Boldan

Editor

kboldan@wctrib.com

Tammie Brooks

Controller

tbrooks@wctrib.com

Christie Steffel

Advertising Manager

csteffel@wctrib.com

News Department (320-235-1150)

Hours: 8 a.m. to midnight weekdays, 4 p.m. to midnight Sunday.

news@wctrib.com

Customer Service (888-598-3162)

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, memberservices@wctrib.com

Classified ads (320-235-6766)

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

classads@wctrib.com

Vol. 95 No. 60

(USPS 675080)

Postmaster: Send any address changes to: West Central Tribune, PO Box 839, Willmar, MN 56201-0839

Publishing: The West Central Tribune publishes print and digital e-paper editions on Wednesdays and Saturdays and a digital e-paper edition Mondays through Saturdays. The Tribune publishes online at wctrib.com seven days a week. The newspaper is published by West Central Tribune at 2208 Trott Ave. SW, Willmar, Minnesota, 56201.

Membership Rates

Wednesday & Saturday Mail Delivery + Digital All Access \$259.99 for 52 weeks or \$143.94 for 26 weeks

All print subscriptions include unlimited digital access.

\$9.99 per month Digital All Access Call for additional information.

Refunds for subscriptions are subject to the following conditions. Refunds for unused liability will be issued if the balance is over \$5.00. The remaining balance of \$5.00 or less will be credited to our Newspapers in Education Program. A subscription may be restarted within 30 days to utilize any balance remaining on the account per the customer's request.

# Willmar to apply for DNR trail grant for trail head improvements

**By Shelby Lindrud**  
West Central Tribune

WILLMAR — The city of Willmar is reaching out to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for help to complete significant and needed improvements at the trail head located near the Willmar Civic Center. The trail head is the starting point of three trails — Glacial Lakes State Trail, Willmar Trail and Eagle Lake Trail.

While the trails themselves have been updated and maintained over the years, not much has been done to the trail head.

“Basically it is a gravel parking lot,” said Rob Baumgarn, Willmar Parks and Recreation director, at Monday’s meeting of the Willmar City Council. “There aren’t any amenities there.”

Baumgarn asked for council permission to apply for a DNR Regional Trail grant. The request

will be for \$150,000 to fund the construction of bathroom facilities, a shelter and additional parking. The city will put in an additional \$50,000 toward the project, bringing the total to \$200,000.

The council gave its unanimous approval for the application with no comment.

“It is a nice trail to get done,” Baumgarn said.

Baumgarn has had discussions with the DNR about the proposed project and he said they understand the need for the improvements. The grant application is due March 31, according to the DNR website, and grant award announcements should come this summer. Baumgarn said he doesn’t expect all the improvements to be done quickly.

“This will probably take a couple of years to get this done,” Baumgarn said.



Shelby Lindrud / West Central Tribune

The Glacial Lakes State Trail trail head, located near the Willmar Civic Center, is also the start of two city trails — Willmar and Eagle Lake trails. The city is applying for a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources grant to help fund needed upgrades at the trail head, such as a shelter and bathroom facilities.

# GOP bill requiring schools to share K-12 syllabi clears Minnesota Senate

**By Dana Ferguson**  
West Central Tribune

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Senate on Thursday, March 10, advanced a proposal to require K-12 teachers to make public their class syllabus and update parents if there were meaningful changes during the course of the academic year.

The plan is the latest piece of GOP lawmakers’ so-called “Parents Bill of Rights” to advance through the chamber and the bill’s author said it comes on the heels of the pandemic and after parents reported that they had trouble getting information about their kids’ syllabi from public or charter schools.

On a 36-31 vote, senators advanced the pro-



Dana Ferguson / Forum News Service

State Sen. Michelle Benson, R-Ham Lake, on Feb. 14 spoke to reporters at the Capitol about the GOP “Parents Bill of Rights” regarding access to educational materials.

posals, which will face an uphill climb in the Democratic-Farmer-Labor-led House of Representatives. Republican lawmakers around the

country have introduced similar bills ahead of the midterm elections in the fall.

And Minnesota Republicans said they were a

top priority coming into the 2021 legislative session.

“During COVID, the burden fell more on parents in some cases, and as we move back to balance, let’s remember that partnership needs to be strengthened every day because that is what’s best for our kids,” the bill’s author Sen. Michelle Benson, R-Ham Lake, said. Benson is also running for governor on the GOP ticket. “We’re giving parents visibility to understand what their child will be learning in the month and in the year to come. ... I hope this syllabus requirement becomes a tool to help

parents and teachers be partners.”

Democrats pushed back on the need for the bill and cited concerns from Education Minnesota — the state’s largest teacher’s union — noting that the requirement would be onerous on educators who are already stretched thin.

“These are unnecessary mandates. There are already over 40 elements in statute that remind us, require us to communicate with our parents as teachers,” Sen. Mary Kunesch, DFL-New Brighton, said. “Yes, our parents should and do already share their curriculum. ... This bill and

the bill we heard last week are going to require teachers who are already overworked to do even more.”

The Minnesota School Boards Association, Association of Metropolitan School Districts and Minnesota Association of School Administrators in written testimony said they supported efforts to get parents involved in the classroom but hoped lawmakers would avoid “time-consuming and costly new mandates.”

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Thursday, April 21st | Friday, April 22nd

**Life Connections**

*Free Admission*

**WILLMAR CIVIC CENTER**  
2707 Arena Dr, Willmar, MN 56201

Friday's  
Featured  
Speaker  
**MARK ROSEN**

For more information, sponsorship information, and/or to reserve a booth call, Christie Steffel, at

**t: 320.214.4317**  
**e: csteffel@wctrib.com**

**WEST CENTRAL\*\*\***  
**Tribune**

**SIGN UP FOR**  
**EZ \$ PAY**

Get a **FREE MONTH** added to your subscription & be entered to win a \$200 gas gift card!

Already use EZ Pay?  
You're already entered to win!

**\$200 GAS CARD**

**Enroll in EZ Pay today!**

**Call us: 320-235-1154**

**Online: wctrib.news/ezpay**

**Please mail to: West Central Tribune**  
**PO Box 839, Willmar, MN 56201-0839**

☐ **YES!** I authorize West Central Tribune to initiate EZ Pay and I have selected the automatic payment option I would like to use.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **EZ Pay from Credit Card**  
I would like to pay with my credit card every:  
☐ month ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ year

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name on card:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

☐ **EZ Pay from Bank Account** **Must include a voided check**  
☐ Debited from account on the 5th of every month  
☐ Debited from account on the 20th of every month

**Financial Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**9-digit routing number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checking account number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_



Olivier Douliery / TNS file photo  
The Minnesota Department of Education has now barred or suspended funding to the state's top three providers that claimed the most summer meals: Youth Leadership Academy of Minneapolis, Feeding Our Future in St. Anthony and Partners in Nutrition in St. Paul.

# ANOTHER FOOD FRAUD CASE

## State bars third major provider of meals to needy kids in Minnesota

By Kelly Smith, Jeffrey Meitrodt  
Star Tribune  
Minneapolis

After claiming to serve more meals to needy children last summer than any other group in Minnesota, a new nonprofit has been booted by state regulators for breaking the rules, recently released records show.

Youth Leadership Academy, which collected more than \$21 million in federal reimbursements for serving 7 million meals last summer, was rejected from serving school-year meals in December — one month before the FBI publicly revealed its massive investigation into child nutrition program fraud in Minnesota. Regulators found that the group had severely mismanaged its finances.

With the denial, the Minnesota Department of Education has now barred or suspended funding to the state's top three providers that claimed the most summer meals: Youth Leadership Academy of Minneapolis, Feeding Our Future in St. Anthony and Partners in Nutrition in St. Paul.

At Youth Leadership Academy, also known as Gar Gaar Family Services, Priya Morioka, the chief operating officer and chief financial officer, and Khadija Ali, its executive director, declined interview requests.

"As we are now in the midst of an administrative process, we are not able to comment further at this point in time," Ali said in a statement.

### Connected to others

While Youth Leadership Academy and Gar Gaar Family Services weren't named in the FBI's unsealed search warrants in January, the organization has multiple ties to Feeding Our Future, which began shutting down last month after the FBI accused the group of being part of a "massive" fraud scheme involving the misappropriation of at

least \$48 million. So far, no charges have been filed and Feeding Our Future's leader denies wrongdoing.

Two of Youth Leadership Academy's founders, Morioka and Martin Mohamed, both operated meal sites for Feeding Our Future in early 2021. Also, state records show that Youth Leadership Academy has operated at least partly out of a historic Minneapolis mansion at 2722 Park Av. That's the address of a property that FBI search warrants allege was purchased with \$2.8 million misappropriated from the meals program by owners of Safari Restaurant, one of Feeding Our Future's sites. Efforts to reach Safari Restaurant owners have been unsuccessful.

Besides Morioka and Ali, Youth Leadership Academy's board includes Minneapolis chiropractor Zeynep Tuzcu and former Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, who leads Global Minnesota, a Minneapolis nonprofit. Ritchie didn't respond to questions.

"I have no role in anything that's happening," said Tuzcu, who joined the board in November and hasn't been invited to a board meeting. "I have no idea what happened there."

A public relations firm representing Youth Leadership Academy also declined to answer questions, citing "multiple pending actions."

Gar Gaar Family Services and Youth Leadership Academy launched in 2020 as schools began wrestling with the pandemic. In her statement, Ali said the organization's mission is to "ensure Somali and other at-risk communities around the entire state were able to access programming, which might also include providing students with meals." "Gar gaar" means "help" in Somali.

Last summer, Youth Leadership Academy was reimbursed for providing 7 million meals — more than three times the number of meals St. Paul Public Schools provided during the same

time period.

"Where are these kids coming from?" said Ellie Lucas, executive director of Hunger Impact Partners, a Minneapolis advocacy and research organization, adding that 260,000 Minnesota children ages 5 to 18 qualified for free- and reduced-price school meals in 2021.

The summer program spiked in Minnesota during the pandemic. Last summer, providers reported to the state that they dished out 37.3 million meals, up from 21.9 million meals in 2020 and 3.5 million meals in 2019. Part of that rise is because schools could extend the summer program during the school year amid the pandemic.

"It was curious to me to look at all of the organizations that were new to the space. They were serving high concentrations of kids ... In my experience, these programs scale over time," Lucas said. "Growing overnight, to me, is a surprise."

Mohamed said he wasn't surprised by the state's action against Youth Leadership Academy because he became concerned about the group's ability to supervise a large operation when it became a sponsor last year.

"Within three weeks, it became apparent to me that I couldn't work with them, so I left," said Mohamed, who has a financial background and said he helped start more than 60 nonprofits in Minnesota. "I did not like the behavior ... They gave me nightmares for months."

Mohamed declined to give details.

### Denying funding

According to state regulators, the problems at Youth Leadership Academy were so widespread and severe that the organization was declared "seriously deficient" — a rare designation the Education Department usually makes just a few times each year.

Youth Leadership Academy appealed its denial, but an internal appeals panel upheld the decision Feb. 25 and gave the organization

60 days to challenge it at the Minnesota Court of Appeals. In a letter barring the group from serving additional meals, regulators cited Youth Leadership for paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to vendors last summer who weren't properly licensed or didn't have contracts.

One of those vendors, "The Produce," received \$939,960 in September, two weeks before it received a license from the state, according to the education department. The company is managed by Fahad M. Nur, who was convicted of felony first-degree burglary in 2011 and released from probation in 2013, court records show.

Nur did not respond to calls or letters left at his home and business.

The Education Department, which oversees the state's child nutrition meal programs, faulted Youth Leadership Academy for packing food in bags that didn't meet federal nutrition rules and mismanaging its finances, not keeping invoices for all transactions, failing to withhold at least \$210,000 in payroll taxes and other errors. In one day in August, the organization reported "miscellaneous debits" of \$650,019.

The nonprofit also was cited for proposing to serve meals at sites already operating with other sponsors, prompting complaints Youth Leadership was trying to steal those sites from other groups. The organization also failed to demonstrate it was filling an "unserved need," the department said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer Food Service Program is meant to provide children in low-income areas with free meals when school is out. A second program called Child and Adult Care Food Program reimburses organizations for providing up to two meals per day and one snack in non-school settings such as at child care centers.

Mohamed said he was disappointed by the group's failure because he started Youth Leadership Academy

after becoming convinced that the Somali community needed to create its own network of meal providers instead of relying on outsiders such as Feeding Our Future, which is led by a white woman.

Feeding Our Future Executive Director Aimee Bock said Mohamed shut down his site shortly after she conducted a surprise inspection that revealed very few children being fed, despite the site's claim it was feeding about 1,700 children a day in March.

"It is alarming to not see traffic," Bock said. "We went in and couldn't find attendance records or anything like that."

Bock said she didn't report her concerns to the Education Department because Mohamed never sought reimbursement for any meals he may have served at the site. She said Mohamed's group, the U.S. African Chamber of Commerce, withdrew in April after he expressed his surprise at an inspection with no notice or supervision from state regulators.

Mohamed disputed Bock's account, saying his decision to shut down his site and start over with a new group had nothing to do with Bock's visit. He said he decided that Feeding Our Future was the wrong place to operate a program aimed at connecting Somali food vendors with Somali children.

"It was clear to me that this organization was going to fail the Somali community," Mohamed said. "And that is exactly what happened."

Youth Leadership Academy grew quickly, from zero summer meals in 2020 to 7 million meals last year at sites across the Twin Cities and in Faribault, Rochester and near St. Cloud.

Youth Leadership Academy is registered with the IRS, but hasn't registered with the Attorney General's Office as required by charities soliciting donations. No tax Form 990, which tax-exempt nonprofits must file, was available.

©2022 StarTribune. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

# Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth end masking orders for city buildings

By Andrew Krueger  
MPR News

ST. PAUL — Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth are ending mask requirements for city-owned facilities as COVID-19 case counts continue to trend downward in Minnesota.

Duluth lifted its face covering mandate for city

buildings on Wednesday; Minneapolis and St. Paul followed suit on Thursday.

All three cities had previously ended broader mask mandates for indoor public spaces but had held on to those rules for city facilities — until now.

"We are entering a

new, promising phase of our recovery," St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter said in a news release. "While we still have work to do, I'm glad we are in the place to safely wind down emergency masking measures."

Officials in all three cities said they made their decisions based on local

and state COVID numbers, as well as guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We continue to make policy decisions based on current data," Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said in a news release. "Minneapolis is sustaining a downward trend in case

and hospitalization rates, and the new CDC indicators reflect a low community level classification in Hennepin County. Thanks to the dedication of our employees, we've reached the necessary benchmarks to safely lift this requirement for our workforce and buildings."

Minnesota is now averaging fewer than 700 new COVID cases a day — down from more than 3,000 a day in mid-February.

The average test positivity rate in Minnesota is around 3.3%, below the 5% level that health officials call concerning.

## AMERICAN OPINION

### High gasoline is a small price to pay to fight against tyranny

By St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial Board

President Joe Biden's announcement Tuesday banning Russian oil imports presents what may be the most difficult test yet of Americans' willingness today to sacrifice for the nation's greater good. Already-high gas prices are sure to spike further with the ban, frustrating drivers and giving Republicans an opportunity to further demagogue the issue. The GOP should resist that urge — and all Americans should remember sacrifices that earlier generations made in times of war.

Pain at the pumps is real, but it pales against the pain of sending American soldiers into armed conflict against another superpower. Yet allowing Russia's invasion of Ukraine to go unanswered is also an unacceptable option. What's left is for this divided country to come together and accept the approaching economic pain as the price of standing up to tyranny.

That principle — standing up to tyranny — is the answer to the short-sighted voices suggesting the U.S. has no national interest in defending Ukraine. If Ukraine or any other fledgling democracy can simply be brought under the thumb of a neighboring autocrat for no reason but that he decides he wants it, then democracy isn't safe anywhere. America's special place as a beacon of democracy and freedom gives it a special responsibility to stand up to such unprovoked aggression.

But America must do so responsibly, and risking a shooting war between nuclear superpowers would be the height of irresponsibility. That effectively takes direct U.S. military action in Ukraine off the table. However, America's economic might, and its ability to rally other economies of the free world, can be the most effective weapon short of war. That is the weapon that Biden deployed with unprecedented force on Tuesday.

Banning all oil, natural gas and coal imports from Russia won't be crippling to America's economy — Russian energy is a modest portion of the U.S. supply — but it will be felt in the form of higher fuel and transportation prices. It will be, as Biden aptly called it, "Putin's price hike."

Unfortunately, some political voices in the U.S. have already been spreading misinformation that will complicate the issue. The often-heard Republican claim that Biden has diminished U.S. domestic oil production is simply false — lower production was the choice of oil companies because of a steep decline in demand during the pandemic. It takes time to ramp production back up. Given that these Republicans are among the critics who have been demanding that Biden "get tough" with Russia, this would be a good time for them to set aside this partisan opportunism and start pulling for the same team.

Regular Americans should take inspiration from the World War II generation, which lived through not only higher prices but rationed gasoline, butter, sugar, meat, dairy and other staples. They were doing their part to defend the world against tyranny. Now it needs defending again.

This American Opinion editorial is the opinion of the editorial board of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

## READER OPINION SUBMISSIONS

We welcome letters to the editor on topics of public interest. Your letter should be clear and concise. Letters exceeding 350 words will not be considered. Letters may be edited for grammar, clarity, length and style. Submit letters preferably by email to letters@wctrib.com, by fax to 320-235-6769 or mail us at Letters to the Editor, West Central Tribune, P.O. Box 839, Willmar, MN 56201.0839.



### NATO must protect Ukraine's skies

By Trudy Rubin  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Watching TV shots of Vladimir Putin's army deliberately bombing and shelling civilians is like watching a movie of the London Blitz in 1940, when Adolf Hitler's air force rained death down from the air.

No wonder the British Parliament jumped to its feet in applause when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed them virtually Tuesday and paraphrased Winston Churchill. He insisted: "We will not give up, we will fight on the sea, on land, whatever the cost. ... We will not lose."

But then came the painful punch line, repeating the plea Zelenskyy has been making over and over — to no avail — to the Europeans and to President Joe Biden: "Please make sure our Ukrainian skies are safe."

The White House and NATO allies must respond to that plea, even if they reject Zelenskyy's request for a NATO no-fly zone over Ukraine. They must think outside the box on how to stop Russia's slaughter from the skies.

No matter how bravely Ukrainian ground forces are fighting the Russian Goliath, they are still unable to stop the rain of Russian missiles, rockets, and bombs that are smashing cities and civilians, including those trying to flee. Nor will more economic sanctions on Russian banks and oil — while necessary for the long term — halt Putin's vicious air campaign.

A NATO no-fly zone would require U.S. or European planes to destroy Russian air defenses and confront Russian planes. Understandably, the West does not want to go to war with Russia to defend a non-NATO member, Ukraine.

But there are other ideas out there for protecting Ukraine's skies.

"Right now we are in a group think," I was told by retired Air Force general and former NATO commander Philip Breedlove. "We need to consider other tools."

He and former U.S. Ambassador to NATO Kurt Volker have proposed a humanitarian no-fly zone that could extend over western Ukraine, which Russia hasn't yet heavily attacked and where hundreds of thousands of refugees are taking shelter. Perhaps it could be extended over Kyiv. It would be designed to protect civilians and permit the delivery of humanitarian aid and the safe exit of refugees.

"A traditional no-fly zone is an act of war, but we are thinking of different rules of engagement," says Breedlove. "You tell the enemy, we won't fire on you if you don't fire on us as we escort people out."

Of course, it is easy to imagine the objections to such an idea, starting with, "What if the Russians refuse?" Yet, the alternative is for NATO to sit by and watch Putin turn Ukrainian cities into death zones.

Instead, why not think creatively, and perhaps try to get the United Nations General Assembly to authorize such a humanitarian air corridor? That would give an international green light to the project.

"There is a risk here, but there are no options that are zero risk," Breedlove says. "There is already a risk of nuclear exchange. If the Ukrainians do too good a job on the ground, Putin may pop a battlefield nuclear weapon, just because he's making no progress."

Russia's attacks on Ukrainian nuclear reactors already constitute a nuclear threat.

Indeed, Putin is constantly playing the nuclear card, hinting at nuclear war and claiming sanctions mean the West is at war with Russia. "If we are going to constantly accede to his demands, it will be a long 20 years [before Putin steps down]," Breedlove says.

Volker also warns of the danger of the U.S. "sending [Putin] a signal that so long as you have nukes, you can do whatever you want. That is an incentive for anyone in the world to try to get nukes. It is an incentive for

conflict," he told me.

Instead, Americans should remember that the United States has faced down the Russian nuclear weapons before, during the Berlin airlift and the Cuban missile crisis. "We've been in a nuclear standoff during the Cold War and have faced the Russians for decades," I was told by retired Adm. James Stavridis, also a former NATO commander.

"It is critical to the Western order [in which dictators don't launch unprovoked wars and destroy other countries] that Putin not be rewarded for his actions. We should be prudent, but demonstrate the U.S. and its allies are capable of dealing with his threats."

Beyond a humanitarian no-fly zone, there are other ideas for protecting Ukraine's air space that haven't been tried yet.

Poland unexpectedly agreed Tuesday night to transfer 28 used MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine, whose pilots know how to fly them. There are still big hurdles, like how to get the planes to Ukraine and how to fulfill U.S. pledges to replace them. But Washington should try to get these planes delivered with utmost speed.

The White House should also be focused on how to send Ukraine ground-based air defense systems that are capable of hitting Russian planes and missiles at medium and high altitudes. "You want to get air defenses up higher than Stingers," says former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, referring to the ground-to-air missiles we belatedly are sending to Ukraine.

The bottom line: As fast as the West has awakened over the past two weeks, it must act even more swiftly to prevent Putin from wreaking destruction from the air that rivals what Hitler did to London. If Putin's nuclear blackmail prevents us from saving Ukraine, who knows where he will threaten next.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may email her at trubin@phillynews.com. ©2022 The Philadelphia Inquirer, LLC. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



Marcus Yam / Los Angeles Times / TNS  
Firefighters respond to a fire Tuesday caused by a Russian bombardment on a storage facility, sending a dark plume of smoke into the forested area on the edge of Kalynivka, Ukraine.

### The cost of the Russian war keeps rising

From the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. stock market, which has been "stumbling since the beginning of the year," writes the New York Times, is down "10.3 percent from its most recent peak on Jan. 3," and the cost of gas is rising rapidly. Near record high oil prices — it briefly topped \$130 per barrel on Monday.



CAL THOMAS

The stock market's decline is hurting retired people who rely on their 401k and IRA investments.

The Biden administration is engaging in mostly symbolic gestures and rhetoric, promising to bring down the price of gas, but without results. What's needed is obvious, including the restoration of the Keystone Pipeline and drilling for oil on federal land. During the previous administration, gas prices were more than \$2 a gallon lower on average than today, though it was due largely to supply and demand during the pandemic.

While many environmentalists want to wean us from fossil fuels in favor of green energy, the problem for them — and the rest of us — is that fossil fuels are in virtually everything we buy and need.

When it comes to the electric vehicles, here are some fun facts.

An electric vehicle battery, like all batteries, doesn't make electricity. It only stores it. The electricity must be produced primarily by coal, uranium, natural gas-powered plants, or diesel-fueled generators. The claim that EVs produce no emissions may be technically true, but there are emissions from substances that go into making them.

The greens ought to be concerned that these toxic components come from mining needed for batteries. For example, to manufacture each EV auto battery requires 25,000 pounds of brine for the lithium, 30,000 pounds of ore for the cobalt, 5,000 pounds of ore for the nickel and 25,000 pounds of ore for the copper. That's a lot of mining for a single battery.

Windmills, which along with EVs and solar panels, are not a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Not only can't they meet our energy needs, they also contribute to environmental destruction. Each blade lasts only 15 to 20 years at which time they must be replaced. There is also the harm caused by the spinning blades to birds, bats, sea life and migratory insects.

If fossil fuels are to be replaced, or our reliance on them reduced, technology must precede politics and wish lists. Otherwise, prices will continue to rise.

Former Obama administration U.S. Treasury official Mark Mazur has revealed the goal of the greens. "We don't want lower prices for fossil fuel buyers, we prefer higher prices" to achieve "climate change goals." Americans are supposed to change our way of life based on a dubious claim about "climate change"? They told us something similar in the '70s when "experts" were certain a new ice age was coming.

Voters, who are paying more at the pump, are likely to make the politicians responsible for increased gas prices and inflation pay at the polls come November.

Cal Thomas can be reached at cthomas@wctrib.com.

# Minnesota public defense attorneys, staff authorize strike for first time

**By Alex Derosier**  
West Central Tribune

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The union representing public defenders across the state of Minnesota overwhelmingly voted Thursday, March 10, to authorize a strike.

More than 650 lawyers and legal support staff with the Teamsters Local 320 have been negotiating a contract with the state's Board of Public Defense for the past six months. The union rejected the board's "last best and final" offer Thursday, saying it failed to address extreme caseloads, high turnover, low morale, and pay inequities.



Clint Austin / caustin@duluthnews.com

Tables for the prosecution and defense have been placed in the jury box of a fourth-floor courtroom at the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth.

The dispute now goes to the state Bureau of Mediation Services. If the parties don't reach an agreement within 10 days a strike will begin. It would be the first time in Minnesota's history that the attorneys, paralegals, investigators, and other public defense staff would go on strike.

"Caseloads are incredibly high in public defense," said Local 320 Secretary-Treasurer and Principal Officer Brian Aldes, who explained that part time public defenders average 500 hours a year more than they are contracted to perform. A January survey by the Local 320 found that 70% of attorneys working as public defenders reported working conditions that make it "hard or impossible" to meet

ethical standards set by the state. The conditions also hurt staff retention, said Anne Marcotte, an assistant part-time public defender in northwest Minnesota's Ninth Judicial District.

"It should be acknowledged that public defenders are attorneys at law. We hold the same license as all other attorneys in the state, however, we are compensated at a rate that is far less than private attorneys, prosecuting attorneys and other state attorneys such as the attorney general's office," she said at a Tuesday afternoon news conference announcing the strike authorization. "These low wages and harsh working conditions are driving staff turnover and vacancy

rates across the state."

Court-appointed public defenders represent 80-90% of defendants in Minnesota. A 2021 survey by the Minnesota Board of Public Defense found an 11.6% resignation rate in district public defenders offices around the state, Forum news Service previously reported.

In a statement, the Minnesota Board of Public Defense said while news of the strike was disappointing, its members are ready to continue negotiating in good faith and hope to reach an agreement with the union members.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees a right to legal defense, and court-appointed public defenders represent 80-90% of defendants

in Minnesota.

"While we share the belief that Public Defenders statewide are underpaid, and that we are understaffed, the Board of Public Defense is constrained in its negotiations by the resources provided by the state to provide these constitutionally mandated services across Minnesota," the statement said.

The Public Defense Board told Lawmakers it would need \$50 million from the state to get staffing up to national standards. The Minnesota Legislature is considering a proposal to appropriate that money.

Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email aderosier@forumcomm.com.

RECORDS

Break in  
WILLMAR — An apartment on the 1400 block of 19th Avenue Southeast, Willmar, was broken into, it was reported Thursday.

Theft  
WILLMAR — Diesel fuel was reported stolen Thursday from a location on the 2100 block of Gorton Avenue Northwest, Willmar.

The Tribune publishes Records as part of its obligation to inform readers about the business of public institutions and to serve as a keeper of the local historical record. All items are written by Tribune staff members based on information contained in public documents from the state court system and from law enforcement agencies. It is the Tribune's policy that this column contain a complete record. Requests for items to be withheld will not be granted.

SERVICES

Gary Anderson, 70, of Maynard, died March 6. Service 1 p.m. March 19 at Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

Norman Baker, 83, of Willmar, died March 6. Service 11 a.m. March 15 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Willmar. Peterson Brothers Funeral Home, Willmar.

Patricia Christenson, 67, of Paynesville, died March 3. Service 5 to 7 p.m. March 18 at Johnson Funeral Home, Paynesville.

DeWayne Lien, 89, of Belgrade, died March 7. Service 11 a.m. March 12 at Grace Lutheran Church, Belgrade. Johnson Funeral Home, Belgrade.

David Lueck, 87, of rural Renville, died Jan. 18. Service 10:30 a.m. March 16 at Middle Creek United Methodist Church, rural Redwood Falls. Redwood Valley Funeral Home, Redwood Falls.

Stacy Meraz, 18, of Willmar, died March 2. Service 1:30 p.m. March 12 at Church of St. Mary, Willmar. Peterson Brothers Funeral Home, Willmar.

Iola Pearson, 89, of Appleton, formerly of Kandiyohi and Milan, died March 1. Service 11 a.m. March 11 at Kviteseid Lutheran Church, Milan. Zniewski Funeral Home Vaala Chapel, Appleton.

Walter Roeder, 81, of Belgrade, died March 7. Service 4 to 7 p.m. March 13 at Johnson Funeral Home, Belgrade.

Ila Strand, 83, of Belgrade, died March 4. Service 2 p.m. March 14 at Grace Lutheran Church, Belgrade. Harvey Anderson & Johnson Funeral Homes, Belgrade.

This funeral services listing is presented as a public service by the West Central Tribune.

LOCAL MARKETS

Local Corn Contracts	Mar	Apr	May	June	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Oats
Farm Ser. Willmar	NB	7.03	7.07	7.11	Benson.....6.95	16.09	NA	NA
Jennie-O TS, Atwater	NB	NB	NB	7.00	Bird Island.....7.02	16.00	NA	NA
Country Pork, Prins	7.02	7.03	7.04	7.09	Clara City.....7.05	16.12	9.87	NA
Bushmills, Atwater	7.06	7.11	7.42	7.26	Hanley Falls.....7.01	16.05	9.95	NA
Granite Falls Energy	NB	NB	NB	NB	Holloway.....6.98	16.09	NA	NA
CVEC, Benson	6.96	6.96	7.16	7.16	Montevideo.....7.01	16.05	9.95	NA
					Murdoch.....7.03	16.09	NA	NA
					Renville.....7.11	15.05	NA	NA

# Karpeles museum founder leaves behind legacy

**By Abigail Keely Smith**  
Duluth News Tribune

**DULUTH** — David Karpeles, founder of Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum at 902 E. First St., died Jan. 19 in Santa Barbara, California. He was 85 years old.

Two of his children, Mark Karpeles and Cheryl Alleman, will assume the positions of president CEO and vice president chief operating officer, respectively, of the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums in Duluth and 13 other locations in the U.S.

"I think that Duluth can expect things to continue in the way that they have been," Matthew Sjelin, director of the Karpeles Manuscript Museum in Duluth, said. "I believe because there are more minds involved with direct operations at the museum, you'll see ideas manifest more quickly."

Mark said some new ideas include an additional location in St. Augustine, Florida. Mark wanted the new location to match the historical essence of the Karpeles museums. The Duluth location could undergo exterior repair, Mark said.

"I've always known that I would be even-



Karpeles

tually taking over. He wouldn't talk about death ever, but, he did tell me a tidbit here and there," Mark said. "He did tell me what he wanted. We're adding another location. My dad was about having a lot of locations."

According to the Karpeles Manuscript Library website, the library is the world's largest private holding of important original manuscript documents.

The Duluth museum, founded in 1983, features a rotating exhibit designed for attendees to study up to 26 documents at one time on a plethora of topics, such as history, music, science, literature and art. Admission is free at all of the Karpeles libraries.

"He would work all day, every day," Mark said. "Even when my mom had guests over, she'd have to push him to go talk to them. I would say he was at his desk for 12-16 hours a day — and he loved it. He became a true scholar in history."

David Karpeles was born in Santa Barbara on Jan. 26, 1936, and moved to Duluth in 1942. He



Contributed / John Shirley

The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum is located at 902 E. First St., Duluth.

graduated from Denfeld High School at age 17 before enrolling at the University of Minnesota Duluth as an undergraduate student in mathematics and physics. In 1956, he graduated cum laude after just three years, then attended the University of Minnesota to continue studying mathematics, and also studied at the University of California and San Diego State University.

He also worked at General Electric, where he invented a bank-check handwriting program. The program automatically read handwritten figure amounts on checks, printed them on the margin, and verified signatures.

David earned a mas-

ter's degree in mathematics and two doctorates in religion and history. He then started investing in real estate in 1968 and his investments grew to over 300 homes. He offered his tenants "creative financing" so they could buy homes they rented, which enabled people to become first-time homeowners, Mark said.

While working in real estate, he also began collecting manuscripts from across the globe.

"He was buying from 1978 until his last days," Mark said. "His goal was to encourage children to learn."

Sjelin said David's passion for sharing his love for knowledge touched



Clint Austin / File / Duluth News Tribune

Mike Shannon, of Duluth, examines a manuscript from Bill Pagel's collection of Dylan memorabilia in 2017. Pagel shared pieces from his estimated 12 tons of Dylan history during a month-long exhibition at Karpeles Manuscript Museum.

communities across the nation.

"It's meaningful work; it's absolutely important to pass this knowledge down," Sjelin said. "From my perspective, I got the impression that he was a quiet, modest genius. An absolutely brilliant man that did not have an ego — he'd say, 'Don't call me Dr. Karpeles — it's David.'"

David's mission will continue the way it always has, Sjelin said.

"I didn't speak to him often, but he was a joy to work for and it'll be a joy to work for his children," he said.

Mark said Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums are located in

- mid-size cities to provide greater access to smaller populations:
- Duluth
  - Santa Barbara, California
  - Jacksonville, Florida
  - Fort Wayne, Indiana
  - Rock Island, Illinois
  - Shreveport, Louisiana
  - St. Louis, Missouri
  - Great Falls, Montana
  - Buffalo, New York
  - Gloversville, New York
  - Newburgh, New York
  - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
  - Charleston, South Carolina
  - Tacoma, Washington

TODAY'S ALMANAC

Today is the 70th day of 2022 and the 81st day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1861, delegates from seven states adopted the Constitution of the Confederate States of America.

In 1888, the "Great Blizzard of '88" struck the Northeastern United States, killing more than 400 people.

In 2004, 191 people were killed when terrorist bombs exploded on rush-hour commuter trains in Madrid.

In 2011, a magnitude 9.03 undersea earthquake triggered a tsunami that struck Japan, killing nearly 16,000 people and causing meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

In 2020, the World Health Organization officially announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Lawrence Welk (1903-1992), bandleader; Ralph Abernathy (1926-1990), civil rights leader; Rupert Murdoch (1931- ), business leader; Sam Donaldson (1934- ), TV journalist; Antonin Scalia (1936-2016), U.S. Supreme Court justice; Douglas Adams (1952-2001), author; Peter Berg (1964- ), actor/filmmaker; Terrence Howard (1969- ), actor; Johnny Knoxville (1971- ), actor; Thora Birch (1982- ), actress; Anton Yelchin (1989-2016), actor; Anthony Davis (1993- ), basketball player.

TODAY'S FACT: According to Forbes, News Corp. CEO Rupert Murdoch's net worth was \$21.9 billion as of late February 2022.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1979, Randy Holt of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings was penalized nine times for a record total of 67 minutes.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "He felt that his whole life was some kind of dream and he sometimes wondered whose it was and whether they were enjoying it." — Douglas Adams, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 44 — countries that received the \$50 billion in funds and military goods made available under the Lend-Lease Act, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on this day in 1941.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter moon (March 10) and full moon (March 18).

NEWS  
SPORTS  
ENTERTAINMENT  
SHOPPING

WEST CENTRAL  
Tribune  
www.wctrib.com

# The Lakers knock off the Cardinals

Detroit Lakes edges Willmar in 3AA title game

**By Tom Elliott**  
West Central Tribune

ALEXANDRIA — It was a game they really, really wanted, since a victory meant they'd achieve one of their top priorities of the season. And for five senior starters on the Willmar girls basketball team, it also meant the last opportunity to get to state since they began playing together as fourth-graders. "We were this close," said Willmar senior forward Ella Shinn as she held her finger and thumb about an inch-and-a-half apart. "But it slipped away from us a little bit."

Detroit Lakes won the Section 8AAA championship Thursday night at Jeffer-

son High School, beating the Cards 46-43. It enabled the third-seeded Lakers to earn their first state Class AAA tournament berth since 2009. And they did it after falling 54-26 to Willmar on Jan. 7. And they did it Thursday with not a single senior getting on the floor during the game. "We've been known as the young team all year," said Detroit Lakes head coach Rachel Johnson. "It definitely showed right away when we started off 1-7. "But I told them that my expectations from the girls was once February hit, your excuse of being young doesn't work anymore."

Detroit Lakes has won five in a row and eight of its last nine games. It was the top-seeded Cardinals who started strong. They led 21-9 with 4:55 to go in the first half and were clicking on all cylinders. Willmar's inside game dominated, with Shinn scoring 10 of her 12 points. "We started out with a lot of energy and just playing our game," Shinn said. "And they just started hitting some key shots and that just gave them the edge to take over the game. "I think that's where their momentum started building. It was a different game after that."

**LAKERS:** Page B2



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune  
Willmar's Sammy Christoffer is guarded closely by Detroit Lakes' Jacee Hauser, 44, on Thursday at Alexandria. Detroit Lakes beat Willmar 46-43 to win the Section 3AA girls basketball championship.



Photos by Macy Moore / West Central Tribune  
New London-Spicer junior Aedan Andresen dives for a loose ball as the Wildcats take on West Central Area during a Section 3AA-North boys basketball semifinal game at Willmar High School Thursday.

# WEST CENTRAL AREA RACES PAST NLS

16-0 second-half run helps Knights topple Wildcats in 3A-North semis

**By Joe Brown**  
West Central Tribune

Willmar

All it was going to take was a run. West Central Area and New London-Spicer battled to a 24-24 tie at halftime in their Section 3AA-North semifinal matchup at the Big Red Gym in Willmar Senior High School. And when the two teams came back onto the court, they traded the lead on five straight possessions. On that final switch, the Knights got their opening with a 34-33 lead. And off they ran, scoring the next 16 points to take a 48-33 lead with 5:26 to play. Third-seeded West Central Area advanced with a 54-44 victory over second-seeded NLS.



New London-Spicer sophomore Grant Paffrath drives the ball around West Central Area defender Cole Anderson Thursday during a Section 3AA-North boys basketball semifinal game at Willmar High School.

"I thought it was a battle; we knew they were a good team," said Wildcats head coach Skip Wright. "It was an interesting contrast of styles. There were a couple times where I thought we were going to make a run on them and we did. Then they bounced back. "What happened is they made that final run and

that's playoff basketball." NLS jumped ahead 28-24 in the second half with buckets from Mason Delzer and Aedan Andresen. But West Central Area came ahead with a post bucket from Jacob Strunk and a

Cole Anderson 3-pointer. Then, Delzer put the Wildcats back ahead with a jumper. Then, Cole hit another 3-pointer in the corner. Peyton Coahran countered for the Wildcats with a 3-pointer of his own.

After missing some chances to grab a lead in the first half, Knights head coach Kraig Hunter wanted to see his guys just grab a lead and hang on for good.

**HOOPS:** Page B2

# Tigers click to down Dragons

Top-seeded Morris/Chokio-Alberta beat Litchfield 67-42 in 3AA-North semifinal

**By Joe Brown, Tom Elliott and Donna Middleton**  
West Central Tribune

WILLMAR — Morris/Chokio-Alberta found the right defensive formula against Litchfield the first time around. When the Tigers and Dragons faced off on Dec. 9, the Tigers switched their three-quarters press to man-to-man in the second half. That resulted in holding Litchfield to 10 second-half points in a 43-32 victory. And with the season on the line in the Section 3AA-North semifinals, Morris/CA's defense pulled through again. The top-seeded Tigers held the fifth-seeded Dragons to 13 first-half points en route to a 67-42 victory at the Big Red Gym at Willmar Senior High School. "We made the decision after watching a lot of tape that man-to-man was going to be our best," said Morris/CA head coach Mark Torgerson. "We thought we had good matchups." It also helps having a 6-foot-8 center and Minnesota Mr. Basketball semifinalist Jackson Loge roaming the paint. The future Augustana Viking had five blocks to go with six rebounds and a steal. "Our man-to-man was amazing in the first half," Loge said. "We knew if we kept it up with the pace we were playing at, we'd win the game. "We won the game because of defense. We could have shot half as good as we did and we still could have won because of our defense." On the offensive end, Loge scored 13 of his game-high 30 points in the opening half. The Tigers built a 33-13 lead at the break. Thomas Tiernan provided some extra punch for the Tigers with 22 points. Most of his damage came from the perimeter with six 3-pointers. As a team, Morris/CA made nine 3-pointers. "They made threes in this game; they didn't make threes against us the first time," said Litchfield head coach Matt Draeger. "We knew if they made threes that it was going to be a tall task."

**TIGERS:** Page B2

AREA ROUNDUP

# Toros take Game 1 from WarHawks

## Willmar can't hold onto a 3-1 lead in 6-4 loss to Mason City

**By Tom Elliott**  
West Central Tribune

MASON CITY, Iowa. — The Willmar WarHawks got off to a great start, but couldn't hang onto it in their NA3HL playoff series with the Mason City Toros.

Mason City rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat Willmar 6-4 in Game 1 of the best-of-three Western Division series.

Some 485 fans at Mason City Arena saw

the Toros score three second-period goals to erase a 3-1 deficit against Willmar.

The WarHawks got goals from Mikhail Kukareka, Brady O'Brien and Colin Kerchoff to erase an early 1-0 Mason City lead.

Willmar didn't score again until 6:44 of the third period when Willmar native Elbridge DeKraai connected to cut the WarHawks' deficit to 5-4.

It was a physical game, with 16 penalties and two ejections for fighting.

The teams resume their series at 7:10 p.m. Friday at the Willmar Civic Center Arena. A third game, if needed, is Saturday in Mason City.

**Junior Hockey**

**Mason City 6, Willmar 4**

Willmar 3 0 1-4  
Mason City 1 3 2-6

**FIRST PERIOD** — (1) MC: Luke Stevens (Blake Ulvey, Carter Newpower) 7:30, PP ... (2) W: Mikhail Kukareka (Mason Hendrickson) 11:53 ... (3) W: Brady O'Brien

(Blake Keller) 12:45 ... (4) W: Collin Kerchoff (unassisted) 16:37. **PENALTIES:** (1) W: Nickita Moiseev (slashing-minor, 2 min) 6:02 ... (2) MC: Colin Hedland (holding-minor, 2 min) 8:52 ... (3) W: Michael Sweetland (cross checking-minor, 2 min) 13:52 ... (4) W: Ben Luedtke (cross checking-minor, 2 min) 19:21 ... (5) MC: Cal Levis (hooking-minor, 2 min) 19:21.

**SECOND PERIOD** — (5) MC: Ulve (Shota Kaneko, Derek Humphreys) 12:03, PP ... (6) MC: Seta Isogai (Newpower, Ulve) 15:09 ... (7) MC: Newpower (Matt Kochanowski) 17:02. **PENALTIES:** (6) MC: Easton Tok (hooking-minor, 2 min) 2:51 ... (7) W: Enzo Tarducci (cross checking-minor, 2 min) 10:12 ... (8) W: Nolan Grier (cross checking-minor, 2 min) 17:27.

**THIRD PERIOD** — (8) MC: Ulve (Newpower, Isogai) 2:3 ... (9) W: Elbridge DeKraai (Marcus Mack) 6:44 ... (10) MC: Humphreys (Luke Robertson, Ethan Peterson) 11:06. **PENALTIES:** (9) W: Patrick Wyers (kneeing-minor, 2 min) 1:19 ... (10) MC: Koneko (interference-minor, 2 min) 3:13 ... (11) W: Sweetland (fighting-major, 5 min) 4:49 ... (12) W: Sweetland (fighting-ejection, 20 min) 4:49 ... (13) MC: Kochanski (fighting-major, 5 min) 4:49 ... (14) MC:

Kochanski (fighting-ejection, 20 min) 4:49 ... (15) W: Luedtke (roughing-minor, 2 min) 19:56 ... (16) MC: Cullen Hogan (roughing-minor, 2 min) 19:56.

**GOALIE SAVES/SHOTS** — Willmar: Cooper Olson 22/28 ... Mason City: Owen Carlson 25/29

**College Baseball**

**Erie CC 16, Ridgewater 7**

Ridgewater lost its first game Thursday to Erie Community College of New York in Auburn-dale, Fla.

There was no result from the Warriors' second game Thursday.

Ridgewater is 2-3 so far on its season-opening road trip.

The Warriors have two more games scheduled with Genesee Community College of New York on Friday to conclude their Florida trip.

**Erie** 204 133 3-16 19 1  
**Ridgewater** 002 500 0-7 11 0

**Hitting - Erie:** Adam Rankie 5-6 r-4, Carter Whitehead 3-4 r-4 bb-2, Isaiah Sales 2-3 r-3 rbi-2 bb-2, Greg Hare 2-5 rbi-4 bb, A. Karosas 2-4 rbi-3 bb-2, Tyson Kovats 2-4 r-2 rbi-2 bb, Liam McMurray 1-4, Harold Torres 0-4 r rbi bb, Ethan Stevens 2-5 r rbi-2, Andrew Nantau 0-0 R ... **Ridgewater:** Stats not available.

**Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - Erie:** Dylan Moorhouse 3.1-7-6-0-3, Tyler Keri (W) 3.2-2-0-0-1-4 ... **Ridgewater:** n/a

## LAKERS

From Page B1

The Lakers took advantage of three Willmar turnovers in the final 2:01 of the first half to close the deficit to 21-17.

From there, it was close, back-and-forth and intense, with loud student sections, bands from both high schools playing and a good-sized crowd at the 2,528-seat gymnasium.

"Willmar did a good job of making some adjustments (in the second half) and we made some adjustments," Johnson said.

Detroit Lakes grabbed its first lead of the second half on a 3-pointer by Ella Okeson at 13:55 that made it 24-23.

Things went back and forth after that, with each possession seemingly more important than the last.

Willmar tied it up at 32-32 on a 3-pointer by Ellary Lange. The grabbed their a lead at 41-38 on a 3-pointer by Zoe Schroeder, who finished with 12 points.

But, Detroit Lakes tied it up at 41-41. Willmar went back up 43-41 on an inside basket by Shinn off a pretty pace by Sammy Christoffer with 3:37 to go. Christoffer got into traffic in the lane and found Shinn for the lay-in.

The Lakers' Abby Larson then drained a 3-pointer to take a 44-43 lead with 2:33 to play.

That's where it seemed to stay forever with missed opportunities for both sides.

The Cards couldn't get a shot to fall and the scrappy Lakers were hustling for every rebound and tying up Willmar players for them if they didn't get there first.

"We just weren't able to finish tonight," said Willmar senior guard Jaida Reiman, whose smile belied the tears she shed afterward. "We had some turnovers that led to some points for them. It was tough."

After a miss, Willmar was forced to foul with 15.9 seconds left. The Lakers' Grace Gunderson made the first free throw, but missed the second to give Detroit Lakes a 46-43 lead.

Then, there was another Cardinal turnover and another foul. Willmar stole it back with 9.7 seconds left, but missed

again. They had the ball with 3.7 seconds to go, but a long 3-point attempt bounced off the rim. The season was over.

"It was tough," Shinn admitted.

"I mean, it's hard," Reiman said. "It's kind of been our goal the whole season to that game and as I've said before, the five seniors have been together since Booster ball (as fourth-graders)."

"I'm proud of this team and what they've been able to do. I'm grateful for the season we've had."

The state Class AAA quarterfinals are Wednesday at the Maturi Pavilion on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis. Pairings will be announced after coaches seed the teams this weekend.

"Heartbreaker tonight,"

Willmar head coach Dustin Carlson said. "(I) just feel sick for our girls."

"They prepared hard and did what we asked them to do. (I'm) at a loss for words. ..."

"I feel awful for this group to fall short of their goal, especially for these seniors," Carlson said. "These girls aren't just players, they are like our daughters. This one is going to rip at our hearts for awhile."

Detroit Lakes 46, Willmar 43

**Detroit Lakes (13-12)** 17 29 — 46

**Willmar (19-8)** 21 22 — 43

**DETROIT LAKES - Scoring:** Abby Larson 12, Helena Daggett 7, Ella Okeson 9, Elle Bettcher 4, Grace Gunderson 5, Jackie Hauser 9 ... **3-point shots:** Larson 2, Daggett 1, Okeson 2, Hauser 3

**WILLMAR - Scoring:** Brielle Ogdaahl 5, Ellary Lange 10, Zoe Schroeder 12, Kenedee Salonek 3, Jaida Reiman 1, Ella Shinn 12 ... **3-point shots:** Ogdaahl 1, Lange 2, Salonek 1, Schroeder 2

**Rebound leaders:** Shinn 10, Reiman 7 ... **Assist leaders:** Shinn 3, Reiman 3 ... **Steal leaders:** Sammy Christoffer 2, Lange 2 ... **Block leader:** Four players with 1

## HOOPS

From Page B1

"We got up by four a couple times, and with about a minute to go (in the first half) we threw the ball away twice on layups to give away the lead," Hunter said. "I just said at halftime that if we get a four-point lead, let's make it 10 and then we don't have to be in a hurry. We talk all the time about being poised."

Cole scored a bucket in the post to put the Knights ahead 34-33. He followed that up with a pair of free throws.

Then it was the hot

shooting of Camden Anderson that gave West Central Area some distance. The 6-foot sophomore guard scored three straight buckets: a 3-pointer, a reverse layup and another 3-pointer.

Camden scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half.

"He's a great player and he's capable of doing that all the time," Hunter said of Camden. "He doesn't want to be in the spotlight but when he needs to, he's done that all year in big games."

It was seven-and-a-half minutes before NLS finally hit a bucket when Grant Paffrath scored a layup with 5:12 remaining. By that point, the Knights had a

48-35 lead.

"We had some empty possessions down there," Wright said of his team's second-half struggles. "We had a couple times down the floor where we weren't able to get anything on offense. They came down and made some shots. They had three or four 3s there down the stretch that really turned the game around."

Wright added, "I have to give them credit; they had some good stops where we weren't able to make something happen. I give them a lot of credit; their defense was really solid."

After leading scorer Brycen Christensen scored 10 points in the first half, the Knights

held him to two over the final 18 minutes.

"We're a pretty small team so we talk about rebounding all the time. We were trying to in the first half but they're a really athletic team. We kept re-emphasizing at halftime that that's the key to the game is we have to rebound."

West Central Area now prepares for the North sub-section championship against top-seeded Morris/Chokio-Alberta. The Knights and Tigers square off at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the R/A Facility at Southwest Minnesota State in Marshall.

NLS closes out the season with a 14-13 record. They lose one senior from their

roster in Coahran, who was a three-year starter at guard.

"I've just loved coaching this group," Wright said. "They're all pulling for each other, everyone works hard in practice and we have great chemistry. We're going to really miss Peyton; he's been a great teammate and leader. But we like what we see down the road."

Section 3AA-North

West Central Area 54, NLS 44

**West Central Area (22-4)** 24 30 — 54

**NLS (14-13)** 24 20 — 44

**WEST CENTRAL AREA - Scoring:** Cole Anderson 18, Camden Anderson 17, Jacob Strunk 9, Ryder Staples 8, Bryce Kjesbo 2 ... **3-point shots:** Ca. Anderson 3, Co. Anderson 2 ... **Rebound leader:** n/a ... **Assist leader:** n/a ... **Steal leader:** n/a ... **Block leader:** n/a

**NEW LONDON-SPICER - Scoring:** Brycen Christensen 12, Aedan Andersen 10, Peyton Coahran 6, Mason Delzer 6, Grant Paffrath 6, Gabe Rohman 2, Paul Meier 2 ... **3-point shots:** Christensen 2, Coahran 2 ... **Rebound leader:** n/a ... **Assist leader:** n/a ... **Steal leader:** n/a ... **Block leader:** n/a

## TIGERS

From Page B1

Morris/CA shot 58.1% from the field (25 of 43).

"We really shot well and I think that's thanks to our ball movement," Loge said. "We cut and we drove to the hoop, we made our threes, which helps because we've struggled the last couple games. This was a great turnaround for us."

Logan King was the Dragons' top scorer with 11 points. Beau Weseloh followed up with nine.

Looking to win the section title for the second straight year, the Tigers play third-seeded West Central Area for the North championship at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the R/A Facility at

Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

**Section 3AA-North**

**Morris/CA 67, Litchfield 42**

Litchfield (12-16) 13 29 — 42  
Morris/CA (25-2) 33 34 — 67

**LITCHFIELD - Scoring:** Logan King 11, Beau Weseloh 9, Alex Draeger 7, Dom Dietel 6, Blake Ailer 2, Creighton Huhner 2, Caleb Hoffman 2, Elijah Schacherer 2, Jacob Dietel 1 ... **3-point shots:** Draeger 1 ... **Rebound leader:** n/a ... **Assist leader:** n/a ... **Steal leader:** n/a ... **Block leader:** n/a

**MORRIS/CHOKIO-ALBERTA - Scoring:** Jackson Loge 30, Thomas Tiernan 22, Brandon Jergenson 5, Cole Wente 4, Tyler Berlinger 2, Toby Gonnemann 2, Sam Kleinwollerink 2 ... **3-point shots:** Tiernan 6, Loge 3, Jergenson 1 ... **Rebound leader:** Loge 6 ... **Assist leader:** Jergenson 7 ... **Steal leader:** Tyler Berlinger 2, Tiernan 2 ... **Block leader:** Loge 5

**Section 2A-North**

**BOLD 56, BLHS 53**

With 23 points from senior Maxwell Marks, BOLD was able to thwart upset-minded Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart at the Section 2A-North

semifinals at St. Peter.

The sixth-seeded Mustangs started the tournament with an upset over third-seeded Lester Prairie on Tuesday, 60-54.

Along with Marks' big night, Ryan King had a double-double for the second-seeded Warriors. He finished with 18 points and 17 rebounds. Freshman Jack Gross added 14 points in the victory.

In the sub-section finals, BOLD faces top-seeded Sleepy Eye St. Mary's. The Knights beat fourth-seeded New Ulm Cathedral on Thursday, 63-59.

BOLD and SESM play at 6 p.m. Tuesday back in St. Peter.

BLHS (11-13) 27 26 — 53  
BOLD (20-8) 26 30 — 56

**BUFFALO LAKE-HECTOR-STEWART - Stats not available**

**BOLD - Scoring:** Jack Gross 14, Ryan King 18, Hudson Vosika 1, Ethan Sullivan 8, Cole Visser 8, Maxwell Marks 23 ... **3-point shots:** Visser 2, Gross 1, Sullivan 1, Marks 1 ... **Rebound leader:** King 17 ... **Assist leader:** Gross 3, King 3, Sullivan 3 ... **Steal leader:** Sullivan 2 ... **Block leader:** Gross 1

figures. Ethan Bulthuis led the way with 17 points, followed by 15 each by Ben Van Eps and Caleb Vander Beek. Case Mulder chipped in with 14 points.

The Bluejays will face third-seeded Dawson-Boyd for the North championship at 8 p.m. Saturday back at the R/A Facility.

In the South sub-section, fifth-seeded Westbrook-Walnut Grove upset top-seeded Southwest Minnesota Christian, 64-56. In the other game, second-seeded Russell-Tyler-Ruthton beat third-seeded Tracy-Milroy-Balaton, 65-58.

LQPV (17-9) 19 38 — 57  
CMCS (24-3) 27 34 — 61

**LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY - Stats not available**

**CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN - Scoring:** Ethan Bulthuis 17, Case Mulder 14, Ben VanEps 15, Caleb Vander Beek 15 ... **3-point shots:** Bulthuis 1, Mulder 1, VanEps 1 ... **Rebound leader:** Brayden Marcus 6, VanderBeek 6 ... **Assist leader:** Mulder 3 ... **Steal leader:** Mulder 3

Nathan Fenske was the Lakers' top scorer with 12 points.

**Dawson-Boyd (18-8)** 27 35 — 62  
**Lakeview (22-6)** 9 40 — 49

**DAWSON-BOYD - Scoring:** Keegon Wicht 22, Aiden Swenson 10, Braxton Hahn 4, Brayson Boike 10, Collin Swedzinski 4, Levi Olson 8, Carter Bowen 4 ... **3-point shots:** Wicht 2, Hahn 1 ... **Rebound leader:** Boike 11, Wicht 6, Swenson 5 ... **Assist leader:** Wicht 4, Hahn 3 ... **Steal leader:** Wicht 4, Hahn 3 ... **Block leader:** Boike 3, Bowen 1

**LAKEVIEW - Scoring:** Kiegan Marczak 3, Owen Louwagie 8, Tiiven Isaacson 10, Nathan Fenske 12, Ethan Schwanki 6, Kyran Neuman 2, Ethan Staab 2, Koltin Mulder 6 ... **3-point shots:** Isaacson 1, Marczak 1 ... **Rebound leader:** Isaacson 5, Fenske 5, Schwanki 4 ... **Steal leader:** Louwagie 4, Fenske 3

**Section 6A-South**

**BBE 67, Benson 41**

Keeping Benson out of double figures in the first half, top-seeded Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa cruised to victory in the Section 6A-South playoffs in Brootten.

Luke Dingmann (15), Kaden Pieper (14) and Ashton Dingmann (12) all finished in double figures for the Jaguars. Pieper also snagged 10 rebounds for the double-double.

The eighth-seeded Braves ended the year with a 4-24 record.

BBE plays fourth-seeded Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg in the sub-section semifinals at 1 p.m. Saturday at Minnewaska High School in Glenwood.

In other 6A-South action Thursday, No. 2 Ashby beat No. 7 Parkers Praire, 49-41. No. 3 Hancock advanced with a 72-55 win over No. 6 Brandon-Evansville.

**BBE (23-4)** 35 32 — 67  
**Benson (4-24)** 8 33 — 41

**BENSON - Stats not available**

**BELGRADE-BROOTEN-ELROSA - Scoring:** Kaden Pieper 14, Brady Birch 2, Will Van Beck 4, Tanner Shelton 8, Gannon Walsh 3, Ashton Dingmann 12, Samuel Mastey 2, Easton Hagen 1, Luke Dingmann 15, Gavin Kampen 4 ... **3-point shots:** Shelton 2, Walsh 1, Dingmann 1 ... **Rebound leader:** Pieper 10, Hagen 7, L. Dingmann 7, A. Dingmann 6 ... **Assist leader:** Van Beck 7 ... **Steal leader:** Shelton 4 ... **Block leader:** L. Dingmann 1

**KMS 49, W/H-N 47**

With 13 seconds left to play, a bucket by senior Alex Call gave Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg a 49-47 edge on Wheaton/Herman-Norcross.

The fifth-seeded Warriors had the final shot, but Clint Determan's 3-pointer didn't fall, giving the fourth-seeded Fighting Saints the Section 6A-South victory at Kerkhoven.

"Call played really well for us," KMS head coach Matt Fragodt said. He added, "Give W/N-H credit. (They were) tough defensively all the way through. (They're) hard to match up with."

Call paced KMS with 20 points along with six rebounds, five assists and three blocks. Isaac Rudningen tallied 12 points in the victory

**W/H-N (17-9)** 24 23 — 47  
**KMS (17-9)** 28 21 — 49

**WHEATON/HERMAN-NORCROSS - Scoring:** Dylan Bainbridge 20, Zach Braaten 8, Brayden Hofer 2, Andrew Walker 8, Clint Determan 9 ... **3-point shots:** Bainbridge 3, Walker 2

**KERKHOVEN-MURDOCK-SUNBURG - Scoring:** Alex Call 20, Isaac Rudningen 12, DeAndre Holloway 6, Jared Cortez 2, Gavin Thorson 3, Gage Thorson 2, Hunter Kallstrom 4 ... **3-point shots:** Call 2, Gavin Thorson 1 ... **Rebound leader:** Kallstrom 7, Call 6, Rudningen 5 ... **Assist leader:** Call 5, Cortez 4 ... **Steal leader:** Call 1, Drew Johnson 1 ... **Block leader:** Call 3



Photos by Macy Moore / West Central Tribune

Litchfield senior Dominic Dietel is heavily guarded by Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta senior Jackson Loge during a Section 3AA-North semifinal boys basketball game at Willmar High School on Thursday.

# After massive brawl, Wild earn shootout win over Red Wings

By Dane Mizutani  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

DETROIT — Cam Talbot made a beeline from his crease with fists flying nearly 200 feet away from him.

A tense battle between the Wild and Red Wings had just erupted into a street fight on the other end and Talbot wasn't about to let his teammates go at it alone.

It started with goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic taking a full swing at Jordan Greenway with no time on the clock. That ignited complete chaos that featured Greenway ready to drop the gloves with anyone willing to accept his invitation, Talbot picking a fight with Nedeljkovic to no avail, and Matt Dumba pummeling rookie sensation Lucas Raymond with a series of haymakers that left a pool of blood on the ice.

When the dust settled, and the blood got scraped from the surface, the Wild and the Red Wings actually had to finish a hockey game.

In the end, the Wild prevailed 6-5 in a shootout, an anticlimactic way to decide a highly entertaining game.

It was a fast start for



Rick Osentoski / USA Today Sports

A fight breaks out at the end of in the second period between the Detroit Red Wings and the Minnesota Wild on Thursday at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

the Wild with Matt Boldy cashing in a couple of minutes into the game to make it 1-0. Not long after that, Jakub Vrana helped the Red Wings tied the game at 1-1 with a rising shot that beat Talbot.

The scoring continued

midway through the first period when Joel Eriksson Ek put the Wild in front 2-1. Kinda. Though he technically gets credit for the goal, Eriksson Ek can thank Nedeljkovic, who essentially scored on himself when his clearing attempt acci-

dentally knocked the puck into the back of the net.

Give the Red Wings credit for not folding at that point. They tied the score at 2-2 with a goal from Raymond a couple of minutes later, then moved in front 3-2 when

Vrana hammered home a wide-angled shot.

The deficit grew for the Wild early the second period as Raymond scored for the Red Wings to make it 4-2. Mats Zuccarello responded with a goal to make it 4-3, then the Wild appeared

to tie the game before a goaltender interference penalty wiped the goal off the board.

As the second period came to a close, the Wild and Red Wings got into the aforementioned brawl. The officials assessed a handful of penalties, including roughing minors on Greenway and Dumba, roughing minors on Nedeljkovic and Raymond and a penalty against Talbot for leaving his crease.

That put the Wild on the penalty kill to start the third period, and after killing the penalty with relative ease, the Wild tied the game at 4-4 when Boldy found the back of the net once again. Then, after shaking off a series of big hits, Kirill Kaprizov put the Wild in front 5-4 with a clutch goal.

While it looked like it might be enough for the Wild, Jordan Oesterle helped the Red Wings tie the game at 5-5 with a snipe in the waning minutes.

That forced overtime and the ensuing shootout where the Wild came out on top.

## SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

Professional NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	40	24	.625	—
Boston	40	27	.597	1.5
Toronto	35	30	.538	5.5
Brooklyn	33	33	.500	8.0
New York	28	38	.424	13.0
Central				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	42	25	.627	—
Chicago	40	26	.606	1.5
Cleveland	38	27	.585	3.0
Indiana	22	45	.328	20.0
Detroit	18	48	.273	23.5
Southeast				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	44	23	.657	—
Charlotte	32	35	.478	12.0
Atlanta	31	34	.477	12.0
Washington	29	34	.460	13.0
Orlando	17	50	.254	27.0
Western Conference Northwest				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	41	24	.631	—
Denver	40	26	.606	1.5
Minnesota	38	29	.567	4.0
Portland	25	40	.385	16.0
Oklahoma City	20	46	.303	21.5
Pacific				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	53	13	.803	—
Golden State	44	22	.667	9.0
L.A. Clippers	34	33	.507	19.5
L.A. Lakers	28	37	.431	24.5
Sacramento	24	44	.353	30.0
Southwest				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	45	22	.672	—
Dallas	40	26	.606	4.5
New Orleans	27	39	.409	17.5
San Antonio	25	41	.379	19.5
Houston	17	49	.258	27.5
Central				
Wednesday's Games				
Boston 115, Charlotte 101				
Chicago 114, Detroit 108				
Phoenix 111, Miami 90				
Milwaukee 124, Atlanta 115				
Houston 139, L.A. Lakers 130, OT				
Minnesota 132, Oklahoma City 102				
Orlando 108, New Orleans 102				
New York 107, Dallas 77				
Toronto 119, San Antonio 104				
Utah 123, Portland 85				
Denver at Sacramento, 9 p.m.				
Washington at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.				
Thursday's Games				
Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.				
Golden State at Denver, 9 p.m.				
Friday's Games				
Minnesota at Orlando, 6 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.				
Detroit at Boston, 6:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at Miami, 7 p.m.				
Dallas at Houston, 7 p.m.				
New York at Memphis, 7 p.m.				
Charlotte at New Orleans, 7 p.m.				
Utah at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.				
Toronto at Phoenix, 8 p.m.				
Washington at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Minnesota at Miami, 7 p.m.				
Cleveland at Chicago, 7 p.m.				
Indiana at San Antonio, 7 p.m.				
Milwaukee at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.				
Toronto at Denver, 8 p.m.				
Sacramento at Utah, 8 p.m.				
Washington at Portland, 9 p.m.				
College Men				
Big Ten Conference				
	W	LPct	W	LPct
Wisconsin	15	5.750	24	6.800
Illinois	15	5.750	22	6.733
Purdue	14	6.700	25	6.806
Iowa	12	8.600	22	9.710
Ohio St.	12	8.600	19	10.655
Rutgers	12	8.600	18	12.600
Michigan St.	11	9.550	20	11.645
Michigan	11	9.550	17	13.567
Indiana	11	9.550	16	12.600
Maryland	9	13.350	15	16.484
Northeastern	7	13.350	14	15.483
Penn St.	7	13.350	12	16.429
Minnesota	4	16.200	13	16.448
Nebraska	4	16.200	10	21.323
Wednesday's Games				
Northwestern 71, Nebraska 69				
Penn St. 60, Minnesota 51				
Thursday's Games				
Indiana vs Michigan, at Indianapolis, IN, 10:30 a.m.				
Northwestern vs Iowa, at Indianapolis, IN, 1 p.m.				
Maryland vs Michigan St., at Indianapolis, IN, 5:30 p.m.				
Penn St. vs Ohio St., at Indianapolis, IN, 8 p.m.				
Women				
BIG TEN CONFERENCE				
	W	LPct	W	LPct
Iowa	14	4.778	23	7.767
Ohio St.	14	4.778	23	6.793
Michigan	13	4.765	22	6.786
Maryland	13	4.765	21	8.724
Indiana	11	5.688	22	8.733
Nebraska	11	7.611	24	8.750
Northeastern	8	8.500	17	12.586
Michigan St.	8	9.471	15	15.500
Purdue	7	11.389	16	14.533
Minnesota	7	11.389	14	17.452
Penn St.	5	13.278	11	18.579

### LOCAL CALENDAR

Friday, March 11	
Girls Basketball	
Section 3AA championship: Montevideo vs. Luverne, 8 p.m. at SMSU	
Baseball	
Ridgewater vs. Genesee CC, 11:30 a.m. (DH)	
Saturday, March 12	
Boys Basketball	
Section 3AA-North championship: TBD, 2:30 p.m. at SMSU	
Section 3A-North championship: TBD, 8 p.m. at SMSU	
Section 6A-South semifinals: TBD, 1 p.m./2:45 p.m. at Glenwood	
Sunday, March 13	
No events scheduled	

### SPORTS ON TV

Friday, March 11	
Basketball:	
College men: Big Ten quarterfinal, 10:30 a.m., BTN	
College men: Atlantic 10 quarterfinal, 11 a.m., USA	
College men: SEC quarterfinal, 11 a.m., ESPN	
College men: Conference USA semifinal, 11:30 a.m., CBSSN	
College men: American Athletic quarterfinal, noon, ESPN2	
College men: Big Ten quarterfinal, 1 p.m., BTN	
College men: SEC quarterfinal, 1:30 p.m., ESPN	
College men: Atlantic 10 quarterfinal, 1:30 p.m., USA	
College men: Conference USA semifinal, 2:30 p.m., CBSSN	
College men: American Athletic quarterfinal, 2:30 p.m., ESPN2	
College men: MAC semifinal, 4 p.m., CBSSN	
College men: Atlantic 10 quarterfinal, 5 p.m., USA	
College men: Big East semifinal, 5:30 p.m., FS1	
College men: Big Ten quarterfinal, 5:30 p.m., BTN	
College men: ACC semifinal, 6 p.m., ESPN	
College men: Big 12 semifinal, 6 p.m., ESPN2	
College men: MAC semifinal, 6:30 p.m., CBSSN	
NBA: New York at Memphis, 7 p.m., NBA TV	
College men: Atlantic 10 quarterfinal, 7:30 p.m., USA	
College men: Big East semifinal, 8 p.m., FS1	
College men: Big Ten quarterfinal, 8 p.m., BTN	
College men: Mountain West semifinal, 8:30 p.m., CBSSN	

HOCKEY	
Professional NHL	
Eastern Conference Atlantic Division	
GP	W L OT S O Pts GF GA
Florida	57 40 13 2 3 85243 170
Tampa Bay	57 37 14 2 4 80197 166
Toronto	58 37 16 4 1 79217 176
Boston	58 35 18 3 2 75177 158
Detroit	58 24 27 5 2 55170 218
Ottawa	57 21 31 4 1 47151 183
Buffalo	59 19 32 7 1 46157 210
Montreal	57 15 35 7 0 37140 217
Metropolitan Division	
GP	W L OT S O Pts GF GA
Carolina	57 40 12 5 0 85193 134
Pittsburgh	58 34 15 4 5 77168 156
NY Rangers	58 36 17 3 2 77173 150
Washington	59 31 18 8 2 72193 166
Columbus	58 28 27 1 2 59190 216
NY Islanders	54 22 24 3 5 52143 152
New Jersey	58 21 32 1 4 47177 207
Philadelphia	57 18 29 6 4 46144 199
Western Conference Central Division	
GP	W L OT S O Pts GF GA
Calgary	57 35 15 7 0 77201 140
Los Angeles	58 32 19 5 2 71172 162
Vegas	59 32 23 3 1 68186 172
Edmonton	58 31 23 4 0 66189 186
Vancouver	58 29 23 3 3 64169 168
Anaheim	60 27 24 5 4 63176 191
San Jose	56 24 25 5 2 55145 179
Seattle	60 17 37 5 1 40155 217
Wednesday's Games	
Edmonton 4, Washington 3, OT	
Vancouver 5, Montreal 3	
Thursday's Games	
Boston 4, Chicago 3	
Buffalo 3, Vegas 1	
Arizona 5, Toronto 4, OT	
Ottawa 4, Seattle 3, OT	
Minnesota 6, Detroit 5, OT	
Florida 6, Philadelphia 3	
Winnipeg 2, New Jersey 1	
Carolina 2, Colorado 0	
NY Islanders 6, Columbus 0	
St. Louis 6, NY Rangers 2	
Nashville 4, Anaheim 1	
Calgary 4, Tampa Bay 1	
San Jose at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.	

College men: ACC semifinal, 8:30 p.m., ESPN	
College men: Big 12 semifinal, 8:30 p.m., ESPN2	
NBA: Washington at Los Angeles Lakers, 9:30 p.m., NBA TV	
College men: Pac-12 semifinal, 10:30 p.m., FS1	
College men: Mountain West semifinal, 11 p.m., CBSSN	
Golf	
PGA Tour: The Players Championship, 11 a.m., GOLF	
Hockey:	
NHL: Minnesota at Columbus, 6 p.m., BSN	

Final, 8:30 p.m.,	8:30 p.m.,
Semifinal, 8:30 p.m.,	College m
Los Angeles Lakers,	10:30 p.m.
Semifinal, 10:30	<b>Golf:</b>
h West semifinal, 11	PGA Tour:
g Championship, 11	noon, NBC
umbus, 6 p.m.,	<b>Hockey:</b>
<b>March 12</b>	NHL: Phila
s: Qualifying Phoe-	ABC
Qualifying Phoenix,	<b>Lacrosse:</b>
IRA Top Fuel All-	College m
FOX	2:30 p.m.
s: Race at Phoenix,	<b>Soccer:</b>
championship, 9	Premier L
h East champion-	a.m., USA
10 semifinal, noon,	MLS: Seat
semifinal, noon,	Galaxy, 2:
final, noon, ESPN	<b>Auto racing:</b>
championship, noon,	NASCAR
h Athletic semifinal,	500, 1:30
10 semifinal, 2:30	<b>Basketba</b>
semifinal, 2:30	College m
final, 2:30 p.m.,	10 a.m., E
h Athletic semifinal,	College m
ference USA cham-	11 a.m., C
BSSN	College w
h West champion-	onship, 11
championship, 5	NBA: New
championship,	College m
championship, 6:30	a.m., ESP
mi, 7 p.m., BSN	College w
lden State, 7:30	noon, ESP
ce USA champion-	College w
N	ship, 1 p.m.
championship, 7:30	College m
championship, 8	onship, 1:
d championship,	College m
	p.m., CBS
	NBA: Dall
	NBA: Los
	p.m., ESP
	<b>Bowling:</b>
	PBA: WSC
	a.m., FOX
	PBA: US
	p.m., CBS
	<b>Golf:</b>
	PGA Tour:
	a.m., NBC
	<b>Gymnasti</b>
	College m
	p.m., BTN
	<b>Hockey:</b>
	NHL: Tor
	NHL: Nash
	BSN
	<b>Soccer:</b>
	Premier L
	Villa, 8 a.m.
	Premier L
	City, 10:30
	MLS: Minn
	Red Bulls,
	MLS: Atl
	2:30 p.m.
	USL Chan
	vs. Tamp

# The MLB lockout is set to end

Players, owners agree to new contract terms

By Bill Shaikin  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Better late than never: Play ball!

Can the Dodgers get back to the World Series? Can Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani carry the Angels into the playoffs? Was last year's epic pennant race between the Dodgers and San Francisco Giants a onetime classic, or the start of another stellar chapter in the storied rivalry?

A long winter reduced to debates about tax rates and bonus pools has ended, and baseball's spring finally has dawned. Three months after major league owners locked out players and declared not another game would be played without a new collective bargaining agreement, the league and the players' union agreed Thursday on the outline of a deal.

The deal still must be ratified by owners and players, but the news sparked an immediate scramble for teams to open training camps and players to get there. Major league camps had been set to open the week of Feb. 14, and exhibition games had been scheduled to start Feb. 26.

The players who show up in camp in coming days do not figure to



Fans enter Target Field for the Opening Day game April 3, 2017, between the Kansas City Royals and Minnesota Twins.

include all the ones who will break camp with teams. Clayton Kershaw, Freddie Freeman and Carlos Correa headline the group of about 200 remaining major league free agents — that is, more than six free agents for every team. Many will be left with a minor league contract to get into camp this year, and hope for a guaranteed deal next year.

All the trade talk put on hold when the lockout hit can resume. The Oakland Athletics, for instance, could cut costs by trading a raft of core

players, including first baseman Matt Olson, third baseman Matt Chapman and pitchers Chris Bassitt, Sean Manaea and Frankie Montas. The Cincinnati Reds have dangled pitchers Luis Castillo and Sonny Gray.

Since 1995, when owners surrendered on the pursuit of a salary cap, baseball had enjoyed labor peace. However, the rise of analytics and the failure of the union to react accordingly in negotiations for the previous labor agreement set up a confronta-

tion when time came to negotiate a new deal.

Revenues had risen, but salaries had not. Analytics showed the prudence of paying a player for what he was projected to do in coming years rather than for what he had done in past years, encouraging owners to emphasize younger, cheaper players. The vast majority of owners treated the luxury tax threshold as a de facto salary cap, even as players agreed to cost controls for draftees and international signees.

The owners, of course,

were content with the old system. The players demanded major change: more money to the younger players that provided owners with the greatest value, and relaxation of the threshold so teams could not routinely cite the luxury tax as an obstacle to acquiring talent.

Initially, the players asked owners to lower eligibility for salary arbitration from three years to two, and for free agency from six years to five.

Labor law allows employers and employ-

ees to continue negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement while working under the terms of the old one, but the owners locked out the players as soon as the old agreement expired. Better to have a labor dispute in the offseason, the owners said. The timing also reflected financial considerations: In the absence of a lockout, and if negotiations sputtered, owners feared players might strike during the season, putting the owners' substantial postseason television revenue in jeopardy.

"We hope that the lockout will jumpstart the negotiations," Commissioner Rob Manfred wrote in a letter to fans Dec. 2.

Instead, the owners did not make another proposal to the players until Jan. 13. The two sides met sporadically thereafter. On Feb. 21 — one week after players were scheduled to report to spring training, and four days after the league called off the first week of exhibition games — owners and players launched daily negotiations.

Those collapsed, and Manfred said the first week of the regular season would be called off too. On Wednesday, the league said a second week of games was canceled.

©2022 Los Angeles Times. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

## With MLB's lockout over, what's next for Twins?

By Betsy Helfand  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A new collective bargaining agreement has been agreed upon. The lockout is over. Baseball is back.

So, what comes next?

A frenzy of activity is expected over the next few days as preparations for the 2022 season resume. Opening Day is scheduled for April 7 at Target Field, just shy of a month from now, and there is much to be done before then.

"We're all just excited to get going," Twins President of Baseball Operations Derek Falvey said Thursday night. "... Once we knew everything was good, we ordered in food and said, 'We might be here awhile.'"

Twins players will begin descending upon Fort Myers, Fla., to report to camp, which is set to officially kick off on Sunday. A handful of players live in the

area and are expected to report on Friday.

Some members of the coaching staff, including manager Rocco Baldelli, are already on site, as are members of the front office.

As the Twins ready for the beginning of spring training, though, there's still plenty of roster building that must happen. First on the list of priorities: Building a starting pitching rotation, be it via free agency, trade or filling some spots internally.

Last we left off, the Twins had locked in superstar center fielder Byron Buxton long term, doling out a seven-year, \$100 million extension to keep him in the Twin Cities through 2028. Hours after making that news official, and shortly before the lockout began, the Twins brought in starting pitcher Dylan Bundy on a one-year deal with a club option. Bundy joins a rotation in need

of work.

The Twins appear to be banking on Joe Ryan and Bailey Ober stepping up and filling spots in the rotation. But the two of them have just a combined 25 games of major league experience in between them.

Other options for the back of the rotation, like Randy Dobnak and Lewis Thorpe, are on the roster, though both spent a bulk of last season injured — a finger injury for Dobnak, a shoulder issue for Thorpe. The Twins also have a young crop of pitching prospects they are excited about who could impact the rotation later in the season, but who have no major league experience.

"I think we made no secret that's a focus and an area we need to spend some time on and we're going to. We've talked about the trade and free agent market," Falvey said. "...We know we need some veteran pres-

ence, too, so that's going to be a focus of ours here. We're going to contact as many teams and agents as possible to work that market."

A flurry of moves preceded the lockout, many of the premium arms coming off the board. Hours before the lockout began, Falvey had said they were more focused on the trade market than on free agents.

While the Twins could turn to more creative options to eat up some innings, it's no secret to anyone that the front office will be spending plenty of time in the upcoming days looking to shore up the rotation. Patching up the bullpen should be another area of focus, though that'll take on less importance in the coming days than starting pitching and the Twins' other big need: a starting shortstop.

While the Twins could theoretically move Jorge Polanco back over, Polanco thrived

defensively at second base last season after being shifted across the infield. When asked if he believed the opening day shortstop was currently on the roster, Falvey said it would be an area of focus for them and they would "work that hard to understand it a little bit more here in the near term."

This year's free-agent shortstop class headed by Carlos Correa, Corey Seager, Marcus Semien, Javier Báez and Trevor Story represented likely the best shortstop crop to hit the market in a long time, but all but two have signed and the Twins weren't expected to be swimming at the top of the market anyway.

The Twins are also without a full-time designated hitter after trading away Nelson Cruz last season, but it seems likely they could opt to move players in and out of the role on a daily basis. That would help

get players off their feet for a day, which could come in handy particularly for 36-year-old third baseman Josh Donaldson.

No matter what the Twins do, the next few days — and weeks — are bound to be hectic. But everyone involved is happy to welcome baseball back after lengthy, back-and-forth negotiations over the new CBA.

"I'd be lying if I told you it hasn't been a bit of a rollercoaster, particularly over the course of the last couple weeks," Twins president Dave St. Peter said. "... We were very hopeful when the negotiations were going on in Florida (last week), that we were going to get a deal and when that didn't happen, it was a gut punch. And then yesterday, I would say it was probably a gut punch times two. To be here today with a deal, I think is just a huge sense of relief."

### MINNESOTA CLASS AA BOYS HOCKEY STATE TOURNAMENT

#### Thursday's quarterfinals

##### Prior Lake 6, Cretin-Derham Hall 0

ST. PAUL — Playing in the school's first Minnesota boys hockey tournament didn't faze Prior Lake as the Lakers overwhelmed second-seeded Cretin-Derham Hall to open the Minnesota Class 2A boys hockey tournament quarterfinals Thursday.

Alex Bump, who is committed to play for Vermont next season, tallied three goals in the first period for a hat trick. Bump added two more goals, his 45th and 46th of the season, in the third period as the Lakers cruised into the semifinals with a 6-0 win.

The Cretin-Derham Hall Raiders entered as

the state's top-ranked team in Class 2A, though they received the No. 2 seed for the tournament.

The Lakers (19-10) will face No. 3-seeded Maple Grove at 6 p.m. Friday to determine a berth in the state title game.

##### No. 3 Maple Grove 5, Edina 2

Joshua Giuliani finished with two goals and two assists in Maple Grove's 5-2 win over unseeded Edina in the quarterfinals of the Class AA Boys Hockey Tournament.

The No. 3 Crimson will face unseeded Prior Lake in the semifinals at 6 p.m. Friday night. It will be Maple Grove's first appearance in the semifinals.

The Crimson's Finn Brink traded goals with



Maple Grove forward Finn Brink (27) flips in a backhand goal over Edina goaltender Robbie Clarkowski (1) during the first period Thursday in the State Hockey Tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

Edina's Eddie Revenig in the first period but Landen Gunderson broke the tie 4:50 into the second.

Giuliani and Blake

Steenerson tacked on two more goals for the Crimson, backed by Toby Hopp's 29 saves.

Wyatt Wurst scored a late third-period goal for

the Hornets and Edina goalie Robbie Clarkowski made 24 saves.

##### No. 1 Hill-Murray 3, Lakeville South 2

The top-seeded Hill-Murray Pioneers received goals from three players and survived a late push by Lakeville South to advance with a 3-2 win.

Tanner Ludtke gave Lakeville a quick lead, striking just 10 seconds into the game.

But Hill-Murray received first-period scores from Axel Begley and Leo Gruba to lead after one frame. Gianni Hurley pushed the Pioneers lead to 3-1 with a goal in the second.

Lakeville countered with a Tyler Lafferty goal to cut the deficit to 3-2 in the third. The Cougars had several chances to

score in the final minute of regulation, but Hill-Murray cleared the puck each time to secure the win.

Jack Erickson stopped 32 shots for Hill-Murray, while Jack Hochsprung garnered 28 for Lakeville.

##### No. 4 Moorhead vs. No. 5 Andover, 8 p.m.

Andover won the game 2-1 with a goal in the second overtime at press time.

#### Friday's semifinals

Prior Lake vs. No. 3 Maple Grove, 6 p.m.

No. 1 Hill Murray vs. No. 5 Andover, 8 p.m.

#### Saturday's final

Winners of Friday's semifinals, 7 p.m.

Ukraine Paralympians appeal for peace with banner at Beijing Games

By Dhruv Munjal  
Reuters

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — Ukrainian athletes and officials made an appeal for peace at the Beijing Winter Paralympics on Thursday, unfurling a banner, observing a minute of silence and appealing for an end to the war triggered by Russia’s invasion of their country.

Led by national paralympic committee president Valerii Sushkevych, the entire 20-member delegation held up a “peace for all” message, accompanied by raised fists. “This one minute is about the thousands of

people, including children and others with disabilities, back in Ukraine,” said Sushkevych. “If mankind is civilized, then this war must be stopped. People, women and children deserve to live, not die.”

Head coach Andriy Nesterenko said that many cities had been destroyed and added that seven members of the team belonged to Kharkiv, which has been under siege by Russian forces.

“The Russians have bombed many hospitals and schools ... we need your support today, not later. People who attack civil-

ian areas cannot be human ... we kindly ask for a safe sky over Ukraine.”

Russia calls its action in Ukraine a “special operation” and it denies firing on civilians.

Ukraine have thrived at the Paralympics despite almost not making it to the Chinese capital because of the war, claiming six gold medals to sit third in the table behind hosts China and Canada.

Teams from Russia and Belarus, which has been a key staging area for Russian forces, were not allowed to take part.



Thomas Lovelock/OIS/Handout via Reuters  
Valerii Sushkevych, President of the Ukraine National Paralympic Committee, and the Ukraine delegation raise their fists and pose with a banner after a speech to the media at the Paralympic Village on Thursday in the Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympic Games.



Photos by David Yeazell-USA TODAY Sports  
Tommy Fleetwood lines up a putt during the first round of THE PLAYERS Championship golf tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

FANS BACK IN FULL FORCE

Players Championship welcomes back spectators to best field in golf

By Edgar Thompson  
Orlando Sentinel

Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. The Players Championship in many ways has become as much as about the fans, just not lately.

The PGA Tour’s showcase event will once again pair one of golf’s best fields and spectating experiences this week at the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course.

Designer Pete Dye created large, sloping mounds to give onlookers unobstructed views of the action. Over the years, fans have witnessed final-round flourishes, fantastic finishes and plenty of heartbreak.

Yet in 2021, the hillsides at the iconic 17th hole island green — normally packed with people sitting shoulder to shoulder — were sparse with spectators, many wearing masks. The COVID-19 shutdown in sports canceled the 2020 Players after just 18 holes.

The 40th Players staged at Pete Dye’s distinguishable design will once again feature tens of thousands of fans spread across the property.

Yet many patrons and players could be seeking cover.

Last week, the hot and dry conditions produced a fast, firm and treacherous test at Orlando’s Bay Hill Club and Lodge. At TPC Sawgrass, golfers could face a rain-soaked slough during another unpredictable late winter in northeast Florida — one of



Will Zalatoris hits from the fairway during the first round of THE PLAYERS Championship golf tournament.

the risk-reward calculations of moving the tournament from May back to March.

“You run into this potential of the weather that it looks like we might have this week, but hopefully we’ll get lucky,” defending champion Justin Thomas said. “Although it’s just two months apart, it does feel like two totally different golf courses.”

Thomas said he’s heard “horror stories” from two-time Players champions Tiger Woods and Fred Couples. Blustery conditions can force a player to club up to a 6-iron or even a 5 at the 135-ish yard 17th.

“When you get wind and cold temperatures like that, it’s just a different animal,” Thomas said. “It’s really just a survival-type thing.”

During favorable conditions,

Thomas dismantled TPC Sawgrass last March, going 12-under during the weekend for a 1-shot victory over Lee Westwood.

Thomas now aims to become the first repeat winner in tournament history. In fact, since 2004 winner Adam Scott tied for eighth in 2005, no defending champion has finished in the top 10.

“It’s just really hard to win a golf tournament when you have most of the top 100 players in the world,” Thomas said.

Thomas nevertheless is enjoying the spoils of victory. Upon his arrival, the 28-year-old got turned around on his way to the locker rooms. He made his customary right turn until realizing to the left is the small locker area reserved for champions.

Another change was the Tour’s decision to turbocharge the richest purse on Tour to \$20 million — an increase of \$5 million. The winner will take home \$3.6 million, or \$2 million more than the entire purse at this week’s Honda LPGA Thailand tournament.

A lucrative new TV deal is the impetus. The windfall also fostered the Player Impact Program, a competition rewarding players on their ability to engage fans.

This week, though, three of the top-five finishers in the PIP will not compete at TPC Sawgrass — winner Tiger Woods, runner-up Phil Mickelson and fifth-place finisher Bryson DeChambeau. Woods is recovering from a life-threatening car accident in February 2021 while DeChambeau continues to struggle with a left hand injury.

Meanwhile, Mickelson is trying his heal his reputation after his involvement with a proposed Saudi Golf League.

“The PGA Tour is moving on,” commissioner Jay Monahan said Tuesday. “We have too much momentum and too much to accomplish.”

Another noticeable absence this week is 2015 winner and fan favorite Rickie Fowler, whose struggles with this game have dropped him to No. 122 in the world and outside the field.

©2022 Orlando Sentinel. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

WNBA draft to be held in person

By Sarah Valenzuela  
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Roll out the orange carpet: The 2022 WNBA draft will look a little more normal this year.

Members of this year’s class will get to hear names called live and in person on April 11 from Spring Studios in TriBeCa, the league announced Thursday afternoon. It will be the first time the draft will be held in person since 2019 (before the coronavirus pandemic moved the show virtual).

Previous in-person drafts held in the City were at Nike HQ (2018-19) and at Samsung 837 (2016).

The draft will also air live on ESPN at 7 p.m. that night.

“Coming off of an incredibly successful 2021 season,” WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert’s statement started, “and in the wake of our recent announcement regarding the largest-ever capital raise for a women’s sports property, the WNBA continues to build momentum for the future of the league. And what better way to ramp up the momentum for the tip-off of our 26th season, than with WNBA draft 2022.”

The Washington Mystics secured the No. 1 pick in this year’s draft in the league’s draft lottery, held in December.

The Minnesota Lynx will have four picks: No. 8 in the first round, No. 13 and 22 in the second round and No. 28 in the third round.

Last season, the Lynx had just one pick, selecting Rennia Davis of Tennessee in the first round. Davis was sidelined for the entire season due to a stress fracture in her foot.

Back in 2020, when the pandemic shut down sports and threw into question the safety of running of in-person events, the WNBA became the first major professional sports league in the country to host its draft fully remote.

WNBA training camp begins later in April with the regular season tipping off on May 6.

©2022 New York Daily News. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.





HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Anthony Davis, 29; Thora Birch, 40; Johnny Knoxville, 51; Terrence Howard, 53.

**Happy Birthday:** Formulate your thoughts and create a plan that will help you structure what you want to accomplish this year. Abide by rules to avoid setbacks. Timing will require impeccable execution to get satisfactory results. Be innovative, think big, and present and promote with vision, but recognize what is and isn't doable. Home improvements will make your life easier. Your numbers are 4, 16, 20, 23, 34, 38, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Self-assertive action will impress someone who can help speed up whatever you pursue. Get involved in projects that are meaningful to you, and focus on better health, relationships and overall success. Take care of contractual matters quickly to curb stress and uncertainty. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Express your desires, and follow through with your plans. Don't let what others do influence you to make decisions that are not right for you. Take a secretive approach in order to dodge interference. Share only with those who share your aspirations. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Speak to whoever is in charge, and you'll bypass the nonsense that goes along with lineups and jumping through hoops. Getting the lowdown before you begin something new will allow you to act quickly and secure your position. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Educate yourself before you take on something foreign to you. Go directly to the source, ask questions, take notes and head in the direction that offers hope and promise. Share your thoughts, and someone will clear up any uncertainty you harbor. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Discuss money matters, contracts and health issues with someone who can shed light on situations that baffle you. Don't feel you have to initiate a sudden change because someone else does. Test your strength and courage, and do your own thing. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Hang out with people who have something to contribute. Gather knowledge and experience, and be open to suggestions and doing things differently. You will make worthwhile connections with people who inspire you to expand your skills and aspirations. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Keep emotions in check when dealing with professional matters and discussions that can influence your reputation and goals. If you want to get ahead, discipline and hard work are the paths to your success. Love and romance are in the stars. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Take care of personal matters, finances, home and family. Listen to complaints and offer solutions. Build a place of comfort and convenience that friends and family find welcoming. Express concerns and share, and happiness will follow. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Document what's being said, and get what you want in writing. Someone will try to mislead you if given a chance. Live up to your promises, and expect others to fulfill their obligations. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Consider what you do for a living and the way you earn and spend your money. You are overdue for a change, and updating your skills and qualifications will help you explore new possibilities. A challenge will boost your confidence and enthusiasm. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Do something creative. Turn something you love to do into a profitable pastime. Don't deny yourself the chance to grow personally, financially and emotionally. Take the initiative to build the life that makes you feel good. Romance is featured. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Concentrate on home, family and building a life of comfort and convenience. Take responsibility for your happiness, and bring about the changes necessary to help you excel. Be secretive about your plans until you have everything in place. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are benevolent, sincere and generous. You are creative and entertaining.

Eugenia Last may be reached at 1-900-451-5571 or [www.eugenialast.com](http://www.eugenialast.com).

Worried about discussing this

**Dr. Wallace:** One of my close friends lives out of town, and I recently went to visit for a weekend and stayed at her house. While I was there, I noticed that after eating meals together, she



ROBERT WALLACE  
"Tween  
12 and 20"

would spend a lot of time in the bathroom, and sometimes I thought I heard her throwing up. At first, I thought she might have just had an upset stomach, and since she didn't mention anything, I didn't bring it up. One night, however, I noticed a bottle of laxatives sitting on the counter in her bathroom, and this made me even more suspicious. I'm back home from my trip now but can't stop worrying that my friend is struggling with an eating disorder. I have no idea how to ask her about it because it did seem somewhat clear to me that she was trying to hide it from me when I was with her — at least that's the impression I was left with.

Is it my place to get involved? If so, what should I do? — Concerned Friend

**Concerned Friend:** Since you are a close friend of hers and she is of yours, think for a moment if the situation were reversed. Would you want her to mention anything to you?

In the short run, you likely wouldn't, but over the long run, you likely would. But this example I'm running through only applies if she's experiencing a problem or disorder.

Only you know how she would react to you if you were to bring this up to her in error. By this, I

mean if she actually does not have a disorder and was taking this medication for a valid reason, how would she likely respond to your mention of a potential problem?

If you are quite sure she would just laugh it off, you'd then have a pretty limited downside in bringing something up. However, if a false, incorrect accusation might set her off unnecessarily, then you should absolutely tread quite carefully and do more research and observation before you say anything. Keep in mind that you also don't know her current medical history or if she's planning to go through any medical tests in the near future.

One way to perhaps keep a close eye on her would be to visit her again when appropriate or invite her to spend some time at your house. Then if the same activity occurs again, you could find the most appropriate way to bring it up to her. Carefully engage her in conversation about it and be diplomatic with your comments according to her reply.

This is absolutely a delicate situation for you, but think about how you feel about your friend and how your friend feels about you. Do your best to carefully research how she's doing and bring it up to her as carefully as you can at the appropriate time. If you spend time with her overnight a few more times in the future and nothing further occurs, you may be able to dismiss the event entirely. But then also keep a close eye on her physical health, just like you would for a sibling or parent of yours. In the end, you're doing nothing wrong by continuing to look out for someone you deeply care about.

Dr. Wallace may be reached at [rwallace@thegreatestgift.com](mailto:rwallace@thegreatestgift.com).

Messy habits may mean more

**Dear Annie:** I am a licensed professional counselor writing in response to "Cleaning the Chaos," the woman who was sick



ANNIE LANE  
Dear Annie

of cleaning up after her boyfriend. The boyfriend, "Denny," the apparent slob, has the classic signs of attention deficit disorder. Does he lose things? Does the wife spend time helping him find things?

A counselor who specializes in ADD would be able to discern whether there is a physical reason behind the mess. A diagnosis would not be an excuse

but an explanation. If a diagnosis is made, there are proven ways to help Denny and his wife work together to put some order in their lives if they both are willing to work on the problem. — Seen It Before

**Dear Seen It Before:** Thank you for your valuable perspective. I have heard from readers who say that taking medication has been like night and day in terms of making a difference in their ability to focus. I'm sure your letter struck a chord with readers who may also be experiencing frustration with "messy" partners. Seeking professional advice is always a good idea.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

FAMILY CIRCUS | BY BIL KEANE



"Do you use this little table and chairs very much when we're not here, Grandma?"

LOCKHORNS | BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER

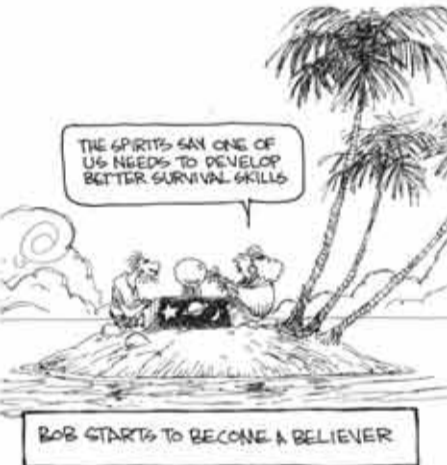


"LET'S GO IN... THEY DON'T KNOW OUR PAYMENT HISTORY."

MARMADUKE | BY BRAD ANDERSON



NON SEQUITUR | BY WILLEY MILLER



WILEY MILLER: (LEFT) WILEY MILLER, (MIDDLE) WILEY MILLER, (RIGHT) WILEY MILLER, (BOTTOM) WILEY MILLER

HI AND LOIS | BY BRIAN AND GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



GARFIELD | BY JIM DAVIS



DILBERT | BY SCOTT ADAMS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | BY CHRIS BROWNE



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | BY LYNN JOHNSTON



ZITS | BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BEETLE BAILEY | BY MORT WALKER



MARY WORTH | BY KAREN MOY AND JOE GIELLA





'You got rich off our dead bodies'  
Page 2



VP supports war crime probe  
Page 3



First gay couple weds in Chile  
Page 4



Seattle eviction ban has lifted  
Page 5

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA

## WEEK THREE

### BESIEGED UKRAINIANS ENDURE BOMBARDMENTS WITH NO BREAKTHROUGH IN TALKS

By Pavel Polityuk and  
Tuvan Gumrukcu  
Reuters

Lviv, Ukraine/Antalya, Turkey

Hundreds of thousands of civilians remained trapped in Ukrainian cities on Thursday, sheltering from Russian air raids and shelling as talks between Ukraine and Russia's foreign ministers made little apparent progress.

With Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine entering its third week, officials in Mariupol said Russian warplanes again bombed the encircled southern port city where a maternity hospital was pulverized on Wednesday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukrainian authorities had managed to evacuate almost 40,000 people from the cities of Sumy, Trostyanets, Krasnopillya, Irpin, Bucha, Hostomel and Izyum, but Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said not a single civilian was able to leave Mariupol on Thursday as Russian forces failed to respect a temporary ceasefire to allow evacuations.

Efforts to send food, water and medicine into the city failed when Russian tanks attacked a humanitarian corridor, Zelenskyy said.

"This is outright terror ... from experienced terrorists," he said in a televised address.

Russia's defense ministry said earlier that it would declare a ceasefire on Friday and open humanitarian corridors from Mariupol as well as Kyiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Mariupol and Chernihiv.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has so far failed to reach its stated objectives, but has caused thousands of deaths and forced more than 2 million people to flee Ukraine, where several cities are under siege.

It has also hit the world's economy, still emerging from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the war and the massive sanctions imposed on



Maksim Levin / Reuters

A Ukrainian soldier hides from a helicopter airstrike amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Thursday near Demydiv, Ukraine.



Russia as punishment have triggered a contraction in global trade and sent food and energy prices sharply higher, which will force the IMF to lower its global growth forecast next month.

She said she expected mounting pressure on Russia to end the war, given the spillover effects it is having on economies globally.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told a CNBC on Thursday that a further rise in U.S. inflation as Russia's invasion of Ukraine propels

energy and other commodity costs higher.

Putin, facing global condemnation and increasingly isolated, said Russia would emerge stronger after overcoming the difficulties caused by the sanctions.

He told a government meeting there had been no alternative to what Russia calls its special military operation in Ukraine.

"There are some questions, problems and difficulties but in the past we have overcome

them and we will overcome them," he said.

#### No breakthrough

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Ukraine's Dmytro Kuleba met in Turkey in the highest-level talks since Putin ordered the invasion on Feb. 24.

Kuleba said afterwards that Lavrov had refused to promise to hold fire to allow aid distribution and the evacuation along humanitarian corridors of civilians trapped in Mariupol and elsewhere.

Lavrov showed no sign of making any concessions, saying the operation was going to plan and repeating Moscow's accusations that Ukraine posed a threat to Russia, which wants Kyiv to drop any aspirations of joining the NATO alliance.

A ceasefire was not meant to be on the agenda at Thursday's talks in Antalya, Lavrov added.

While there was no apparent progress towards a ceasefire, analysts said the fact the ministers were even meeting left a window open for ending the war.

The road ahead for any negotiation would be

difficult, but Moscow's slower-than-expected military progress and the stinging cost of sanctions had potentially opened an opportunity for a compromise, they said.

In Washington, Central Intelligence Agency director William Burns said Putin did not appear to have a "sustainable" end-game in Ukraine and might soon try to find a way to end the fighting.

Others, however, cautioned that Putin could still seek to escalate.

"We have moved the dial for the process from zero to at least having the possibility for a discussion. But the indications of troop movements toward Kyiv may indicate that the worst may still be ahead of us," said Jonathan Eyal at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

A senior Ukrainian official said on Thursday that Russian planes bombed an institute in the city of Kharkiv that is home to an experimental nuclear reactor. The official said a hostel near Institute of Physics and Technology was on fire.

The Interfax Ukraine news agency said the fire service was extinguishing a blaze in a five-story hostel which covered a total of 1,100 square feet.

Reuters could not immediately verify the reports.

The Ukrainian parliament's official website had earlier said fighting close to the institute was continuing.

Russian forces last week captured the nuclear power station at Zaporizhzhia after an attack during which an adjacent training facility was set on fire.

Earlier, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said Ukraine had told it on Thursday it has lost all contact with the radioactive waste facilities at Chernobyl next to the defunct power plant at the site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986, which is now held by Russian forces.

## TAIWAN EYES UKRAINE

### Ukraine is model for Taiwan defense should China violate its 'sovereignty'

By Michael Martina  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Ukraine's stiff resistance against the invasion by Russian forces could be a model for Taiwan to defend itself should China choose to violate the island's "sovereignty" by attacking, a senior U.S. defense official told a Senate hearing on Thursday.

The United States, like most countries, does not have formal ties with Taiwan but is its main arms supplier, and has long urged it to buy cost-effective and mobile defense systems — so-called "asymmetric" weapons — to



Ann Wang / Reuters

Soldiers drive M60 tanks on a street as part of a military drill in November 2020 in Taichung, Taiwan.

counter China's more powerful military.

"I think the situation we're seeing in Ukraine right now is a very

worthwhile case study for them about why Taiwan needs to do all it can to build asymmetric capabilities, to get

its population ready, so that it can be as prickly as possible should China choose to violate its sovereignty," said Mara Karlin, assistant secretary of defense for strategy, plans and capabilities.

Under the United States' "one China" policy, Washington only acknowledges China's stance that the island belongs to it, but takes no position on Taiwan's sovereignty.

China bristles at any reference to democratically self-governed Taiwan as independent, and Beijing's ambassador to Washington warned in January that U.S. encouragement of inde-

pendence could trigger a military conflict between the two superpowers.

Asked about Karlin's remark to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a spokesman for China's embassy in Washington, Liu Pengyu, said some in the United States have abetted forces for Taiwan independence in a bid to hold back China's rejuvenation.

"This would not only push Taiwan into a precarious situation, but also bring unbearable consequences for the U.S. side," Liu said in an email.

Jessica Lewis, assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs,

told senators that the United States continues to urge Taiwan to procure asymmetric systems, which had been "used to great effect in Ukraine."

Taiwan needs to prioritize short-range air defense, naval sea mines and coastal defense and cruise missiles, Lewis said, adding that the United States and Taiwan were increasingly seeing eye-to-eye on what qualified as an asymmetric system.

"We're working with them on that today. I think we have a much deeper understanding of that right now," Lewis said.

# Census undercounts several racial groups

Latino, Black and Native people undercounted, Census Bureau data shows

By Joseph Ax  
Reuters

Black people, Latinos and Native Americans were undercounted during the 2020 national census, new U.S. Census Bureau data showed, potentially affecting political representation and federal funding for communities with significant minority populations.

The once-a-decade national population count is used to draw both U.S. congressional and state legislative seats in each state, as well as to help distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds for everything from public housing to Medicare to highway construction.

Thursday's report from the Census Bureau relied on statistical analyses to test the accuracy of the census results. The census has overcounted white people while undercounting people of color for decades, but those trends accelerated during the 2020 census, the report showed.

The net count of the Latino population was likely 5% too low, more than three times the undercount estimated for the 2010 census, the bureau said. Black people had a net undercount of more than 3%, while Native Americans and Native Alaskans on reservations were undercounted by more than 5%, both more than in 2010.

Non-Hispanic white people and Asians were overcounted, the bureau said.

Advocacy groups warned the undercounts would deprive disadvantaged communities of the resources they need most. "Many of the federal programs are designed to help the most vulnerable populations

- children, people who are low-income - and those are precisely the people the census bureau counted less well in 2020," said Arturo Vargas, chief executive of the NALEO Educational Fund, which promotes Latino political participation.

Robert Santos, the Census Bureau's director, acknowledged the undercounts at a news conference but said the overall data was "consistent with recent censuses" and could be relied upon for "many uses."

The analysis found the national count of 323.2 million was largely accurate.

The 2020 census faced several challenges, including the coronavirus pandemic, which forced the bureau to suspend its door-to-door operations temporarily and may have made some households more reluctant to speak to interviewers.

Civil rights groups and demographics experts also said failed efforts by the Trump administration to ask census respondents whether they were U.S. citizens and to exclude illegal immigrants from census counts may have dissuaded Latino populations from responding.

"Overall, the numbers released today show that the 2020 census suffered from the same problems that previous censuses have," Kelly Percival, senior counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice in New York, said in an interview. "You can't have an accurate census without having an equitable census."

The census results published last year showed an increasingly diverse nation, with the non-Hispanic white population declining for the first time in history.

The data released on Thursday included only national estimates. A more detailed state-level analysis is expected this summer.

# US, Iran at loggerheads over nuclear deal

Iranian officials say key issues remain unresolved

By Parisa Hafezi, John Irish and Francois Murphy  
Reuters

DUBAI/VIENNA - Iran and the United States were at loggerheads over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal on Thursday after Tehran suggested there were new obstacles and Washington said hard issues remained.

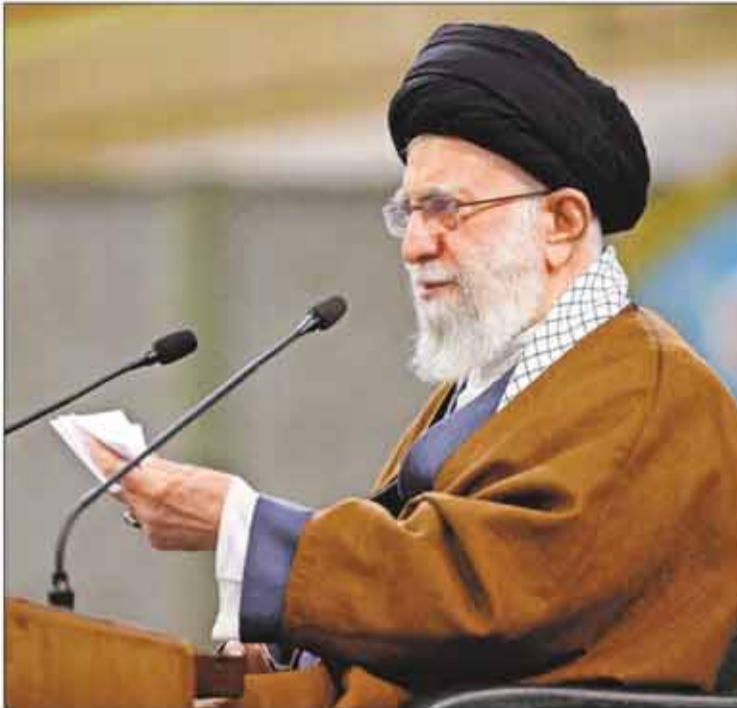
The differences emerged just as Western powers were already grappling with last-minute Russian demands that threatened to torpedo otherwise largely completed talks.

A week ago preparations were being made in Vienna for a weekend meeting to conclude an agreement bringing Iran back into compliance with the deal's restrictions on its rapidly advancing nuclear activities and bringing the United States back into the accord it left in 2018 by re-imposing sanctions on Tehran.

Then last Saturday Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov unexpectedly demanded sweeping guarantees that Russian trade with Iran would not be affected by sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine - a demand Western powers say is unacceptable and Washington has insisted it will not entertain.

Russia's demand initially angered Tehran and appeared to help it and Washington move towards agreement on the few remaining thorny issues, diplomats said, but a sudden volley of public comments by Iranian officials including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Thursday suggested the wind had turned.

"US approach to Iran's principled demands, coupled with its unreasonable offers and unjustified pressure to hastily



Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader / WANA West Asia News Agency / Handout via Reuters

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting via video conference with people from East Azarbaijan Feb. 17 in Tehran, Iran.

ly reach an agreement, show that US isn't interested in a strong deal that would satisfy both parties," Khamenei's top security official Ali Shamkhani said in English on Twitter on Thursday morning.

"Absent US political decision, the talks get knottier by the hour," said Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Shamkhani did not specify what the demands were but that there were any at all contradicted what four Western officials had said - that a final draft text had been agreed which only needed minor adjustments with the exception of the open question about Russia's sweeping demand for guarantees.

The text does, however,

include a similar but much narrower guarantee covering nuclear cooperation between Russia and Iran outlined in the agreement, diplomats said.

The United States on Thursday reiterated that it had no intention of accommodating Russia's last-minute demands, which it has said have nothing to do with the Iran talks and added that a small number of outstanding and difficult issues were still yet to be resolved for a deal to be reached.

"We also have no intention of offering Russia anything new or specific as it relates to sanctions nor is anything new required to successfully reach an agreement on a mutual return to full compliance with the JCPOA," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

# 'You got rich off our dead bodies'

## Opioid victims confront Purdue's Sacklers in emotional hearing

By Tom Hals and Dietrich Knauth  
Reuters

Victims of America's opioid epidemic confronted members of the Sackler family that owns Purdue Pharma on Thursday with wrenching stories of suffering they said was caused by the painkillers that built the company fortune.

"You got rich off our dead bodies and told us it was our own fault for dying," Ryan Hampton told Richard Sackler, a former board member, during a Zoom hearing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The emotional court hearing stemmed from a \$6 billion settlement between the Sacklers and state attorneys general that could resolve claims over the family's role in the crisis without taking them to trial.

Purdue Pharma allegedly downplayed the addiction risks of its OxyContin painkill-



George Frey / Reuters File Photo

Victims confront Sackler family in emotional court hearing over opioid deaths Thursday.

er, helping to fuel a healthcare crisis that has claimed more than 500,000 opioid overdose deaths over two decades.

Members of the Sackler family have denied wrong-

doing. They said last week in a statement that they "sincerely regret" that OxyContin "unexpectedly became part of an opioid crisis."

The 26 speakers were chosen

by the official committee that represents creditors in Purdue's bankruptcy, including the thousands of people who filed personal injury claims against Purdue Pharma.

Their stories included the loss of a twin, a Korean War veteran begging his grandson for pills and anguished parents struggling to cope with loss and anger directed at the Sacklers.

David Sackler and Theresa Sackler attended by Zoom and David's father Richard Sackler did not appear on the video but told the court he was listening by phone. The Sacklers were not permitted to respond to the victims' statements and Hampton said they did not appear to react.

Kristy Nelson of Indiana played a recording of the emergency call she placed when she discovered her overdosed son and can be heard screaming, "Oh my god he's

dead!" as the operator tries to extract information about her location.

While many U.S. overdose deaths were caused by illicit drugs such as heroin and fentanyl, often victims became addicted to opioids through pain medicines such as OxyContin prescribed for high school sports injuries or recovery from surgery.

Photographer Nan Goldin said an OxyContin addiction that began in 2014 almost ended her 50-year career, reducing her to a "hermetic state" in which she barely left her room for three years. She said the Sacklers should not be allowed to buy respectability through naming agreements with museums like the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Louvre, calling it "toxic philanthropy."

"Their legacy is forever tainted," Goldin said.

### BRIEFS

#### US Justice Dept taps chief prosecutor to lead COVID fraud probes

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Justice Department on Thursday tapped federal prosecutor Kevin A. Chambers to lead the department's efforts to help investigate fraudsters who used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to bilk government assistance programs.

Chambers' appointment as the Justice Department's chief pandemic fraud prosecutor was previewed by President Joe Biden during last week's State of the Union address.

Chambers currently serves as the associate deputy attorney general, according to his LinkedIn profile.

#### Islamic state confirms death of its leader, names new chief

CAIRO - Islamic State confirmed on Thursday the death of its leader Abu Ibrahim Al-hashemi Al-Quraishi and its spokesperson Abu Hamza Al-Quraishi, and announced Abu Al-Hassan Al-hashemi Al-Quraishi as its new chief.

Quraishi, a religious scholar and soldier in former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's army who led IS from the shadows for a little over two years, died in a U.S. special forces raid in northern Syria in February when he detonated a bomb that killed him and family members, the U.S. administration said.

#### Mexico president says criticism over journalist killings is part of 'soft coup'

MEXICO CITY - Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Thursday that criticism he has faced over a string of journalist killings is part of a campaign to undermine his administration and tantamount to a "soft coup" orchestrated by media firms.

Local activists, international groups and U.S. lawmakers have called on Lopez Obrador to do more to rein in violence and protect reporters, as at least six journalists have been killed in Mexico so far in 2022, an ominously deadly start to the year for media workers with homicides already near record levels.

#### Two young American women rescued from Yemen's Houthis in US-Saudi operation

WASHINGTON - Saudi Arabia and the United States mounted a joint operation in January to rescue two young American women who were held captive by the Iran-backed Houthi movement in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, a source with knowledge of the matter said on Thursday.

The Yemen-born women, aged 19 and 20, were flown from the Yemeni capital to the southern city of Aden and then to the Saudi capital of Riyadh, where they underwent health checks and other care, said the source, who requested anonymity.

#### Actor Jussie Smollett sentenced to probation, jail time for staging hate crime

CHICAGO - A Chicago court on Thursday sentenced actor Jussie Smollett, one-time star of the TV drama "Empire," to 30 months probation and 150 days in jail for staging a hate crime against himself.

A jury in December found Smollett, 39, guilty of five of the six felony disorderly conduct counts he faced, one for each time he was accused of lying to police.

On Thursday, Cook County Circuit Court Judge James Linn also ordered Smollett to pay over \$120,000 in restitution and fined him \$25,000.

# Garland: ‘We treat cases alike’

## Garland says he won’t duck politically sensitive cases

**By Sarah N. Lynch**  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland on Thursday said the Justice Department will not shy away from controversial or politically sensitive cases, apparently responding to critics who want criminal charges against former President Donald Trump and his allies.

Garland, a day before his first anniversary as the top U.S. law enforcement official, addressed the issue in comments to reporters ahead of a meeting with senior department officials.

“We do not shy from cases that are controversial, or sensitive or political,” Garland said, without mentioning specific investigations. “We treat like cases alike, without regard to the subject matter. What we will avoid and what we must

avoid is any partisan element of our decision-making about cases.”

The House of Representatives select committee investigating last year’s Capitol attack by Trump supporters seeking to block formal congressional certification of his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden accused the former president last week of illegal conduct. In what may be a prelude to formally asking the Justice Department to bring charges, the panel said in a court filing Trump potentially engaged in a conspiracy to defraud the United States and may have obstructed an official proceeding.

The Justice Department already has charged more than 775 people, including the leaders of far-right groups such as the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers, in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021, riot.

None of Trump’s close allies have been charged directly in connection with the attack, though his former chief White House strategist Steve Bannon is facing misdemeanor charges of obstructing the committee’s investigation by refusing to testify or provide records.

Garland also has confirmed that the National Archives has informed the department that Trump took classified materials with him down to his Florida resort Mar-a-Lago after leaving the White House. Garland has stopped short of confirming whether the department will investigate the matter.

Some congressional Democrats have painted Garland as too timid. For instance, U.S. Representative Ruben Gallego in January called Garland “extremely weak” and said that more of the Jan. 6 organizers should be arrested.



Kevin Lamarque / Reuters Pool

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and Deputy U.S. Attorney General Lisa Monaco applaud federal prosecutor Kevin Chambers (R) after appointing him to be the Justice Department’s chief pandemic fraud prosecutor, during a meeting of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Fraud Enforcement Task Force on Thursday at the Justice Department in Washington.



Saul Loeb / Pool / AFP via Getty Images / TNS

Vice President Kamala Harris and Polish President Andrzej Duda hold a press conference at Belweder Palace Thursday in Warsaw, Poland.

# VP supports war crime probe

## Harris called for investigation of hospital bombing

**By Noah Bierman and Tracy Wilkinson**  
Los Angeles Times

WARSAW, Poland — Vice President Kamala Harris said Thursday that Russia’s bombing of a civilian hospital in Ukraine should be investigated as a potential war crime, becoming the highest-level U.S. official to condemn an attack that has drawn worldwide outrage and ratcheted up calls for Moscow to back off its all-out invasion.

The vice president said she was shocked when she saw news coverage of carnage from the maternity hospital in the southern city of Mariupol, saying the Kremlin should be held accountable more broadly for its “aggression and atrocities” in its two-week-long invasion of Ukraine.

“Just limited to what we’ve seen: pregnant women going for health care being injured in an unprovoked, unjustified war,” Harris said during a

joint press conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda at the Belweder Palace in Warsaw.

Speaking through a translator, Duda called the bombing “an act of barbarism that bears the mark of a genocide.” Harris’ call for an investigation came in response to a question from a Polish reporter over whether the attack should face a war crimes probe.

Widely circulated images of the bombing, which emerged on Wednesday, have shown emergency responders carrying a bloodied pregnant woman through a courtyard littered with mangled cars and a heavily damaged building still smoldering.

The joint press conference was intended to highlight Harris’ two-day trip to Eastern Europe to convey unity among NATO countries on its eastern flank. Harris is meeting with the leaders of Poland and Romania over the next two days. The two countries,

which border Ukraine and were former Soviet republics, have expressed unease over Russia’s intentions.

In their joint press conference, Harris and Duda had to address a rare crack in the diplomatic relationship over whether and how to send Polish fighter jets to Ukraine.

Duda’s government on Tuesday caught U.S. officials off-guard by announcing a plan to convey the planes to the United States for delivery to Ukraine, a move that risks escalating Russia’s aggression. The U.S. ultimately rebuffed the offer, saying there was no way to safely get the planes into Ukraine. Russia had said that such a transfer of planes would be considered an act of war.

Duda said at the press conference that his country was trying to balance its own desire to help Ukraine with its broader obligation to consult with allies in the 30-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

“There were requests addressed to us. Those requests were addressed to us by the Ukrainian side as well as, to some extent, the media,” he said, adding that “we decided to put those jets at the disposal of NATO, not expecting anything in return.”

Harris tried to glide over the issue. “I want to be very clear,” she said. “The United States and Poland are united in what we have done and are prepared to do to help Ukraine.”

As part of her visit, Harris announced the U.S. would spend an additional \$53 million on humanitarian aid for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Duda said his country has now absorbed almost 1.5 million people, mostly in the last 10 days.

Duda said he told Harris in their private meeting “in a very blunt way that Poland is in a refugee crisis.”

©2022 Los Angeles Times. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

# US farmers improving climate friendly practices

**However, a Department of Agriculture report finds there is still work to do**

**By Leah Douglas**  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - Farmers in the United States have adopted conservation strategies that have led to gains for climate-friendly agriculture in recent years, but the Department of Agriculture has “more work to do” as it attempts to tackle climate change, according to a new report from the agency.

The findings, released on Thursday, are based on a survey by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service of farming practices between 2013 and 2016. The report compares those findings to a prior survey that collected data between 2003 and 2006.

“We’re seeing the level of conservation practices go up, we’re making significant gains in terms of the practices that producers are adopting,” said Robert Bonnie, USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. “At the same time, there’s still challenges. We’ve got more work to do.”

In the decade between the two surveys, farmers implemented more structural practices, like building buffers or wind breaks around fields, which prevent soil erosion and the runoff of fertilizers into waterways.

Farmers also used conservation tillage techniques, which reduce disturbance of the soil, on more than 210 million acres nationwide, a 34% increase since the first survey. More than 33% of all cultivated cropland is now managed with no-till practices, allowing farmers to use less fuel for farm equipment and release less carbon emissions from turned-up soil.

The adoption of other conservation practices has been slower. Cover crops are planted on only about 6% of cultivated cropland, and application rates of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers increased between the two surveys.

Agriculture contributes about 10% of total U.S. greenhouse gases, and conservation programs are one of the main tools USDA is using to reduce the climate impact of farming. The agency said this report will help guide future strategies to address the climate crisis.

# Compassionate inmate release varies by region

**By Sarah N. Lynch**  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - Requests by federal prisoners for compassionate release soared following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but approvals were granted far less often in conservative-leaning multistate U.S. judicial regions than in more liberal-leaning ones, an analysis released on Thurs-

day showed.

The report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an independent agency of the federal judiciary, examined how the legal landscape for compassionate release changed in 2020, as COVID-19 swept through the country.

For instance, federal courts in the liberal-leaning 1st Circuit, which includes Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico and

Rhode Island, had a grant rate of 47.5%. Federal courts in the conservative-leaning 5th Circuit, which includes Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana, had a grant rate of 13.7%.

After criminal justice reform advocates complained that the federal Bureau of Prisons rarely granted compassionate release requests, Congress in 2018 passed legislation allowing inmates

to appeal directly to federal courts for release.

The Sentencing Commission is responsible for defining what constitutes “extraordinary and compelling.” But shortly after it laid out its compassionate release policy, the agency lost its quorum - the minimum number of members required to conduct business or take a vote - in 2019 and has been unable to update it since.

# N.Y. grants first cannabis retail permits

**By Jonathan Allen**  
Reuters

NEW YORK - The first licenses to open the newly legalized marijuana retail outlets coming to New York later this year will be reserved for people with prior marijuana-related convictions, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced on Thursday.

The policy, approved by the state's Cannabis

Control Board earlier in the day, is intended to give people punished during prohibition the first chance to benefit from legalization of the drug, ahead of the U.S. corporations planning to capitalize on a valuable new retail market.

In voting to legalize marijuana in March 2021, some lawmakers in the Democrat-controlled state legislature noted that laws banning

the possession and sale of marijuana had disproportionately targeted Black and Latino users, even though white New Yorkers used marijuana at similar rates.

Hochul, a Democrat, said in a statement the policy was "righting the wrongs of the past."

"The regulations advanced by the Cannabis Control Board today will prioritize local farmers and entrepreneurs,

creating jobs and opportunity for communities that have been left out and left behind," her statement said.

New York is the largest U.S. state after California to legalize marijuana for adults over 21 years old. Sixteen other states have legalized recreational marijuana, all in defiance of federal law, which still prohibits marijuana use.

The state's first 100

to 200 marijuana retail licenses will be reserved for "social equity" applicants, namely New York residents with marijuana-related convictions, or their immediate family, who can show they have experience running a business.

The licenses will allow them to sell marijuana products from New York farmers in stores slated to open by the end of the year.

Nearly a million people were arrested in New York over the last 20 years for marijuana offenses, Chris Alexander, the cannabis board's executive director, said at a news conference. Almost 90 percent of those arrests were for lower-level offenses.

"That's the individual getting arrested for a single joint or a small baggie," he said.



Kim Hong-Ji / Reuters File Photo

People watch a TV broadcasting a news report on North Korea's firing a ballistic missile off its east coast on March 5 in Seoul, South Korea.

# US sees 'escalation' by N. Korea

## North Korea launches missiles using their new ICBM system

**By David Brunnstrom and Steve Holland**  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - North Korea deployed a relatively new inter-continental ballistic missile system in Feb. 26 and March 4 test firings, a senior Biden administration official said on Thursday, calling it a serious escalation requiring a united global response.

North Korea froze its ICBM and nuclear tests in 2017 after launching its first missiles capable of reaching the United States. It has not conducted a nuclear weapons test since, but leader Kim Jong Un has warned of a return to testing both.

The new system involved an "ICBM-capable platform" but did not demonstrate inter-continental ranges in the launches, which were likely meant to test elements of the system before a full-range launch, potentially disguised as a space launch, the U.S. official told reporters,

speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said the missile system was unveiled at an Oct. 10, 2020, parade in North Korea and at a defense exhibition in Pyongyang in October 2021.

On Thursday, North Korean state media quoted Kim Jong Un as saying that North Korea would launch a number of reconnaissance satellites in coming years to provide real-time information on military actions by the United States and its allies.

Experts say North Korea appears to be preparing to launch a reconnaissance satellite that would involve use of the same banned ballistic missile technology used in ICBMs.

**A 'serious escalation'**

The U.S. official called the recent North Korean launches a "serious escalation."

"The United States decided to reveal this information publicly and share it with other allies and partners because

we prioritize the reduction of strategic risks and believe firmly that the international community must speak in a united voice to oppose further development of such weapons," he said.

The official said the U.S. Treasury, which has imposed a range of sanctions on North Korea over its weapons programs, will announce new actions on Friday to help prevent North Korea "accessing foreign items and technology that enable it to advance its weapons programs."

These steps would be followed by a range of further actions in coming days, the official said.

At the October exhibition cited by the U.S. official, Kim Jong Un said North Korea's weapons development was necessary in the face of hostile policies from the United States and a military buildup in South Korea.

The U.S. Directorate of National Intelligence (DNI) said in its annual Worldwide Threat Assessment released on Monday that North Korea's recent missile tests could be groundwork for a return to nuclear as well as ICBM tests.

This would pose an addi-

tional headache for a U.S. administration already grappling with the Ukraine crisis.

The U.S. official said the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command had ordered intensified intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance collection in the Yellow Sea and enhanced readiness among U.S. ballistic missile defense forces in the region.

He reiterated that U.S. President Joe Biden was open to meeting Kim Jong Un when there was a "serious agreement" on the table based on working-level talks, but added that North Korea had not responded to U.S. calls for dialog.

On Thursday, South Korea elected conservative Yoon Suk-yeol to be its new president and experts believe this could be a nail in the coffin for outgoing President Moon Jae-in's policy of engagement with North Korea, which failed to make meaningful headway throughout his term.

Yoon has pledged a muscular military strategy and said pre-emptive strikes may be the only way to counter an imminent launch by North Korea's new hypersonic missiles.

# First gay couple weds in Chile

## Javier Silva and Jamie Nazar tie the knot in historic marriage

**By Fabian Cambero**  
Reuters

SANTIAGO - Chile's Javier Silva and Jaime Nazar became the first two men to tie the knot in the South American country's history on Thursday after a law allowing same-sex marriage went into effect.

In December, Congress approved legislation guaranteeing legal rights for same-sex couples in a milestone for the conservative nation after a decade-long battle by LGBTQ communities and rights groups.

"Being the first couple to get married in Chile for us is an honor, something to be proud of," Silva told reporters after the civil ceremony. "We did it! It's something we didn't think could happen."

Silva and Nazar have been together for seven years and have two young children. They have had a civil union for the last three years, but marriage is a significant step forward for their whole family.

"Now our children have the same rights (as other families) and they will be able to have, we hope, a better future, that they will not be discriminated against for having two parents who love each other," Silva added.

Despite its long conservative tradition, Chile has been making progress in recent years in recognizing LGBTQ rights.

"My congratulations to Jaime and Javier for being the first couple to marry under the new #EqualMarriage law. To continue advancing for a Chile with equal rights and freedoms for all people," President-elect Gabriel Boric, who takes office on Friday, said on Twitter.

Same-sex marriage legislation was first discussed in 2017 and pushed by former President Michelle Bachelet, but was delayed until last year.

Before that, starting in 2015, same-sex couples were able to register a Civil Union Agreement (AUC), which allowed some legal benefits.

"I think we're putting ourselves at the level the rest of the world is living in, which is great," Nazar said. "I know our society is very conservative, but I also know we have a promising future as a country."



Ivan Alvarado / Reuters

Chilean couple Javier Silva and Jaime Nazar prepare their daughter to take a nap on Tuesday, a day before their wedding, as the same-sex marriage law goes into effect in Santiago, Chile.

# Envoys warn of 'grave danger' in Sudan amid killings

**By Khalid Abdelaziz**  
Reuters

KHARTOUM - Sudan needs to reach a new political agreement by June, United Nations and African Union envoys warned on Thursday, as medics said two protesters had been killed in the latest round of anti-military demonstrations since a coup in October.

Political deadlock in Sudan following the coup has contributed to new pressure on a crippled economy and a stand-off between protesters and security forces.

"All indications show the country is in grave danger,"

African Union envoy Mohamed Hassan Lebat told reporters, as he announced a joint effort to push for talks in partnership with the United Nations.

On Thursday protesters turned out once more in the capital Khartoum and medics aligned with the protest movement said two civilians had been shot by security forces, bringing the total of those killed since the coup to 87.

There was no immediate comment from the police or the military.

Military leaders have said peaceful protests are allowed

and that protest casualties will be investigated.

The Sudanese pound was trading at some banks at more than 600 pounds to the dollar on Thursday, having lost about a third of its value in recent weeks.

"We don't have much time, and we've seen in the last four months the deterioration of the security, political and economic situation," said U.N. Special Representative Volker Perthes.

Perthes said a deal needed to happen by June, in order for Sudan not to risk losing international economic assistance

suspended after the coup.

The U.N. mission in Sudan has conducted consultations with some political groups since January which Perthes said produced many points of consensus. But some factions declined to take part, and leading civilian groups say they refuse to negotiate with the military.

Lebat was a mediator during negotiations in 2019 between the military and civilian groups following the overthrow of former leader Omar al-Bashir. Those talks produced a power sharing agreement ended by the coup.

Seattle eviction ban has lifted, and landlords are taking action

By Heidi Groover  
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Trevor Rigdon has a plan for the next week: Pick up as many Instacart and DoorDash trips as he can, looking to average 10 to 12 hours of work each day.

“I’ll have to get on that ... and just work as hard as possible,” Rigdon said.

Rigdon is counting down the days because last week his landlord issued him a 14-day notice to pay the month’s rent he owes or leave his Capitol Hill micro-studio. Even with an array of new city and state protections, including the right to a payment plan, the notice is a source of anxiety because it’s the first step toward potential eviction.

“I’m extremely worried, of course,” Rigdon said.

For nearly two years, Seattle’s eviction moratorium helped tenants who fell behind on rent avoid eviction and drew criticism from landlords who said they were struggling to cover their own bills. Rent assistance was sometimes slow to come by, frustrating advocates on both sides.

Last week, the moratorium expired, opening a new chapter: the return of payment-related eviction notices, new demand for financial and legal help and a test of new tenant protections meant to keep people housed.

Because of sometimes lengthy legal processes, the scale of evictions won’t be clear for some time. But the days just before and after the end of the moratorium have brought an uptick in calls for help, service providers say.

“Everyone’s in panic mode of what to do and who’s going to get served” with remaining rent assistance funds, said Lauren McGowan, associate vice president of United Way of King County.

The Housing Justice Project, which represents King County tenants facing eviction, is receiving 150 to 200 calls a day, up from 40 to 50 about six months ago, said senior managing attorney Edmund Witter. Many callers are looking for help catching up on their rent, but HJP only has the resources to help people actively facing eviction.

The city’s Renting in Seattle hotline has also seen an influx of calls. In 2021, the hotline averaged about 270 calls per month, according to data from the Department of Construction and Inspections. In January, it received 343 calls and in February the number jumped to 527. Weekly data shows call numbers rose from around 82 calls weekly during the first five weeks of the year to an average of 153 the last four weeks, starting the week Mayor Bruce Harrell announced the end of the moratorium.

With an array of new state and city laws in effect, both landlords and tenants are unsure of their rights, said Neal Simpson, spokesperson for Solid Ground, which runs a tenant message line.

“Everybody’s kind of confused about what they can and cannot do,” Simpson said. “And our message really is that renters still have rights. There are still protections in place. There are still options.”



Photos by Steve Ringman / Seattle Times / TNS

Trevor Rigdon, pictured on Tuesday, is a renter in Seattle’s Capitol Hill neighborhood, living in a micro studio apartment. He just received a 14-day notice to pay or vacate because his rent is late this month.

Rent assistance running out

A key piece of the safety net for tenants like Rigdon throughout the pandemic has been hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds for emergency rent assistance. Those funds flowed to local governments, and payments were distributed directly to landlords.

Rigdon said he lost work at the Westin downtown early in the pandemic when hotels and restaurants were hard hit by shutdown orders. The well-paid front-of-house work he depended on still hasn’t fully returned to pre-pandemic levels, he said. During the last two years, he has relied on gig work and, for a time, another restaurant job to make ends meet.

But expenses add up each month, especially for the car and phone necessary for delivery work. Rigdon fell behind on rent for months and received about \$16,000 in rent assistance last year, he said.

Without that, “I would be homeless — not a question about that one,” Rigdon said.

Tens of thousands of tenants have applied for rent assistance, but local officials will run out of funds before serving all of them.

King County has spent \$227 million in federal funds on rent assistance since last year. About 47,400 households have applied for help, and the county no longer takes applications because it expects to run out of money before serving everyone who has applied. Officials expect 7,000 to 8,000 tenants who applied to be left without help.

For tenants who are actively facing eviction in court, the Housing Justice Project has a pool of about \$13 million in county funds for rent assistance. The vast majority of those funds are still available.

The city of Seattle alone has invested nearly \$59 million toward rental assistance using general funds and federal funding during the last two years. Payments are distributed to tenants by United Way and other community groups and through payments to nonprofit affordable housing providers, according to the Seattle Office of Housing.

But most of those funds are already spoken for before evictions resume.

“As of now, the majority of these funds have



Trevor Rigdon, pictured on Tuesday, is a renter in Seattle’s Capitol Hill neighborhood, living in a micro studio apartment. He is trying to work more in the next couple of weeks to make his rent.

been disbursed or otherwise obligated through city partners,” said Stephanie Velasco, communication director for the Office of Housing.

The remaining funds, Velasco says, will be distributed by the end of March to Seattle households — through the King County Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program — that applied before Feb. 28.

Now, Velasco says Seattle and other cities are looking to the state and federal government for more money.

Eventually, more funds could arrive. Before the legislative session ends this week, state lawmakers are still debating their budgets in Olympia, where House Democrats have proposed spending an additional \$55 million on rent assistance. Once the state runs out of onetime COVID funds, a new, permanent rent assistance program will distribute about \$40 million each year, according to the Department of Commerce.

How evictions will work now

In Seattle, tenants will continue to have some protections, including two defenses in court, if they fell behind on rent during the pandemic.

One city law says that for the next six months, tenants can raise a defense in court if they can certify they suffered financial hardship because of the pandemic. Another says tenants can at any time raise a similar defense if they are being evicted for rent debt accrued during the civil emergency declared citywide and for six months after the emergency. The city’s emergency declaration is still in place. Landlords are required to include this information on 14-day notices.

Tenants who miss rent payments within six months of the civil emergency order (not the moratorium) ending are entitled to installment plans to repay their debt, under a 2020 council ordinance. Tenants who owe one month of rent or less can repay the amount in three monthly installments, while those who between one and two months of rent can pay in five installments and those who owe more than two months can pay with six monthly installments. Landlords are required to notify tenants of the installment option.

All of this means that for Seattle tenants “falling behind on bills because of financial hardship, you should be OK, at least for the time being,” Witter said. “The problem that we have is I don’t think a lot of people are going to access that. When we require tenants to make the affirmative step, tenants often tend to struggle with a lot of other barriers.”

Tenants who don’t go to court will be at more risk. Before the pandemic, between 30% and 50% of Washington tenants facing eviction defaulted, meaning they did not respond in court.

Statewide, tenants do not have those defenses in court, but have some other protections. For evictions because of rent owed during the pandemic, landlords must offer tenants a payment plan with monthly payments of no more than a third of the rent. Tenants have 14 days to respond to that offer.

Landlords also must notify a dispute resolution center in their county. There, mediators will attempt to reach the tenant and broker a deal between the two sides. Once the dispute resolution center certifies

that a landlord has gone through that process, the court case can go ahead.

Evictions for lease violations do not have those requirements, meaning those eviction cases can move faster.

While it’s too soon to know how many evictions will be filed in Seattle now that the moratorium is over, the King County Dispute Resolution Center has seen a steady stream of landlords issuing 14-day notices. In the last two weeks of February, before the moratorium ended, the center received 679 cases. In the first three days of March, after the Seattle moratorium ended, another 202 cases arrived.

In other parts of the country, a feared “tsunami” of evictions has largely not materialized, likely because of a combination of government assistance programs, court backlogs and people who move out without going to court.

Advocates, attorneys and mediators will begin to get a better idea of the scale of Seattle evictions later this month.

“Like what we’ve seen in most communities, you don’t see this automatic wave of evictions right away because there are a number of tenant protections,” McGowan said. “What you see is stress levels going up. For everyone — landlords and tenants.”

Where to find help

Rent assistance: King County no longer accepts new applications for rent assistance, but smaller organizations and nonprofits throughout the region still have some assistance programs. Call 211 to learn more.

For tenants who have already applied for rent assistance, King County will continue to select

recipients using a lottery system. Tenants who have not yet applied for rent assistance can join United Way’s waitlist at [uwkc.org/renthelp](http://uwkc.org/renthelp).

Legal help: If you receive a pay-or-vacate notice in Seattle, call the city’s Renting in Seattle Helpline at 206-684-5700 to make sure it’s a valid notice. The Eastside Legal Assistance Program can also provide legal help to tenants. Apply online or call their helpline: 425-747-7274 (English) 425-620-2778 (español). Renters can also seek help from the Tenant Law Center at 206-324-6890.

If you receive an eviction summons in King County, contact the Housing Justice Project at 206-267-7069 or email [hjpstaff@kcba.org](mailto:hjpstaff@kcba.org). Because of high demand, the Housing Justice Project cannot currently help tenants earlier in the eviction process, such as upon receipt of a 14-day notice.

Outside King County, tenants seeking legal help can apply online at [nwjustice.org/apply-online](http://nwjustice.org/apply-online) or call the Eviction Defense Screening Line at 855-657-8387. (Interpreters are available.)

Remember, a 14-day notice is the beginning of a legal process that can result in eviction. “Landlords can’t just tell you to get out and change the locks on your doors. That’s illegal,” Simpson said.

More information:

Find information about your rights and how the eviction process works at [washingtonlawhelp.org](http://washingtonlawhelp.org). For questions and general information about tenants’ rights, call Solid Ground’s Tenant Services Message Line at 206-694-6767 or the Tenants Union of Washington State hotline at 206-723-0500 or try [tenantsunion.org](http://tenantsunion.org).

Tenants who feel they have been discriminated against in housing based on one of Seattle’s protected classes can file a complaint with the city’s Office for Civil Rights at [seattle.gov/civilrights/file-complaint](http://seattle.gov/civilrights/file-complaint)

For help negotiating, tenants and landlords can contact the Dispute Resolution Center of King County at [kcdrc.org](http://kcdrc.org)

Landlords can find information about state mitigation programs on the Department of Commerce website.



Walker Scobell, left, and Ryan Reynolds in "The Adam Project."

Doane Gregory / Netflix / TNS

# 'THE ADAM PROJECT' IS FUN-ISH

A time traveler's 12-year-old self saves the world, with help from Ryan Reynolds

By Michael Phillips  
Chicago Tribune

I like Ryan Reynolds. He's fun. He has uniquely quick-witted comic timing, an extremely useful secret weapon for a movie star built for action heroism with a side order of wisecrack. Also, he can well up during sincere bull's-eye moments in ways that rival anything in anime.

I wish I liked "The Adam Project" the same way I like Ryan Reynolds. It's fun-ish. It's an efficiently packed time-waster that doesn't take up much of your life (about 90 minutes without the end credits). This will not hurt its Netflix numbers any.

It has heart, wisecracks, grieving and plentiful PG-13 violence with cool weapons from the year 2050 that make people

crystallize and go away. It name-checks and/or pilfers from "Back to the Future," "The Terminator" and "Star Wars," the last one courtesy of a lightsaber knockoff inspired by the George Lucas toy emporium. The movie has a good shot at a huge streaming audience. But does it have the creative instincts of a good movie? An OK one, yes. It's too bad "The Adam Project" is only that, since the cast isn't dogging the assignment for a second.

The mission here is to save the world from its hideous near-future and to prevent time travel from being invented and exploited, for personal gain, by the all-powerful tech zillionaire played by Catherine Keener. Fighter pilot Adam (Reynolds) hijacks a "time jet" from 2050 and crash-lands in

2022, four years off his target. There, shot up and bleeding, he meets his 12-year-old self (Walker Scobell) not long after Young Adam has endured another humiliating round of physical and verbal bullying at school.

Jennifer Garner plays Adam's mother, coping uneasily with the loss of her physicist husband (Mark Ruffalo). Pursued through space and time by adversarial forces equipped with hoverboards, Future Adam soon meets up with his presumed-dead wife (Zoe Saldana), who joins the Adams in their fight to vanquish the future's hellion-capitalists. Most of this is in the trailer. Director Shawn Levy works from a script credited to Jonathan Tropper, T.S. Nowlin, Jennifer Flackett and Mark Levin; the Nowlin

version came first, and was planned as a Tom Cruise vehicle nearly a decade ago.

The scenes I like best in "The Adam Project" are simplicity incarnate. At one point, Future Adam consoles his mother (she doesn't know it's her son from the future) about the trouble she's having with smart, quippy but sad and angry 12-year-old Adam. That's the movie's aha! moment, in and among the usual digital blasts of firepower. Later, seeing Reynolds and Ruffalo trade fours doing Aaron Sorkin-style walk-and-talks full of expository blah-blah is satisfying in a different way.

The wish-fulfillment bits, such as Future Adam threatening Young Adam's bullying tormentor with grievous bodily harm, arrive regularly and on schedule.

The pathos, tied to the loss of a parent or a loved one, gives the material some semblance of feeling. Just FYI, Future Adam tells his younger self regarding his glib, cold dismissal of his mother, "You still get sick to your stomach every time you remember how you treated her now."

Millions will probably put up with that stuff in order to get to the next digital elimination-round battle sequence. For me, it's the other way around. "We watched too many movies!" says Future Adam to Young Adam not long after their awkward self-meet-self introduction. Yes, they have, and this movie squeaks by thanks primarily to the actor delivering that line.

©2022 Chicago Tribune. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

## Kanye West back to attacking Pete Davidson

West's latest music video shows animated monkey beating Davidson

By Nardine Saad  
Los Angeles Times

Kanye West keeps telling us how he really feels about his soon-to-be-ex-wife's new boyfriend, Pete Davidson.

Just days after the rapper shrugged off criticism for a gory claymation sequence in his "Eazy" music video, Ye took another shot at the "Saturday Night Live" actor in the song's new official animation video. This time, a skinned monkey is doing the rapper's dirty work.

West — who has legally changed his name to Ye — and collaborator the Game debuted the new video Wednesday and it features CGI versions of the recording artists. During Ye's verses, in which he raps about his marital discord (aka "best divorce ever"), a skinned

monkey pummels a person whose face is blurred.

But it's abundantly clear to everyone who's been paying attention to West and Kardashian's prolonged divorce saga who the figure is meant to be. If not, during the latest beatdown, Ye raps "God saved me from that crash so I could beat Pete Davidson's ass." And the figure is wearing a sweatshirt that says "Skete" — Ye's less-than-affectionate moniker for Kardashian's beau.

Fans on YouTube seemed to praise the video's artistry overall and its tribute to gangsta rap pioneer Eazy-E. Few seemed to take issue with the references to Davidson.

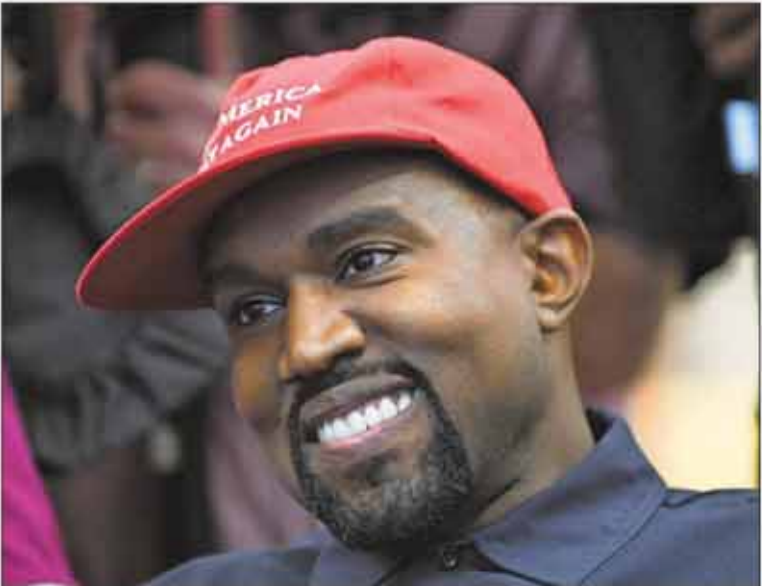
But that wasn't the case last week. Ye removed the original video for "Eazy" from Instagram after he was accused

of threatening and endangering Davidson with the violent imagery that simulated the abduction, decapitation and burial of a figure that looks like the "King of Staten Island" actor. The original video is still alive and well on YouTube, with more than 4.7 million views.

The videos come as Ye has also been accused of harassing Kardashian online and the beauty mogul telling an L.A. court that his social media posts have caused her "emotional distress."

Earlier this month, "The Kardashians" star was declared legally single in court in an effort to help them both move on from their seven-year marriage.

©2022 Los Angeles Times. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



Olivier Douliery / Abaca Press / TNS

Kanye West looks on in the Oval Office of the White House during a meeting with President Donald Trump on Oct. 11, 2018, in Washington, D.C.