



The Detroit Lakes Tribune

Contributed
A preliminary conceptual design for proposed Kent Freeman Arena expansion.

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ARENA'S PRELIM PLANS UNVEILED

Detroit Lakes to upgrade Kent Freeman Arena in coming years

By Michael Achterling
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Kent Freeman Arena in Detroit Lakes could see a major facelift in the coming years after preliminary plans were unveiled to members of the Detroit Lakes City Council on Dec. 21.

Chad Carblom, chairman of the city's arena commission, said the potential upgrade paves the way for a community attraction, and possible partnerships, that are not solely focused on

hockey games, but a usable space for many different types of events.

"We really tried to explore the opportunity of how can we partner with other people to make this a win, win, win, win for everybody, the community, corporate partnership and the facility down there," said Carblom. "At this point, the unknown is always a bit of an apprehension for people when they first start looking at things, but ultimately I hope people

can take it as a unique opportunity for us to be able to really improve a city asset that is in need of some upgrade and improvement. And it allows us opportunity to be more diverse as a community in what we can offer the people - I hope they hear it out as this process continues to proceed forward."

Carblom said, while the plans are extremely preliminary, the city needs to start digging into these potential renovations, because they will take years to become finalized and

constructed. Currently, there is no estimated project cost, but it is expected to be high, which is why a business partnership for the proposed training center makes sense, since it could bring in annual funds for the city and the renovated building.

"As we come out of COVID here, there has been a unique opportunity in being able to get some corporate buy-in as far as naming rights, as well as the ability to lease the space so that we can get some

additional revenue to pay for this stuff," he said. "We know we have these growth needs and space needs to accommodate our existing operations down there with the high school programs and youth programs and ... what we are giving to the community isn't just an addition to a hockey arena, but it's the opportunity to have additional venues down there and additional types of things we can promote, whether it's home and boat shows or MMA fights."

Carblom also said it's really more of a "community-oriented" project instead of just a hockey project. He added the city has three main paths forward in regards to the arena. First, they could continue to operate the arena in a 1960s format, which is what they are doing now. They could expand with funding entirely from the city, or they could expand with community support or outside partnerships.

ARENA: Page 12

Essentia, Mahube team up for yearlong racial equity initiative

Jan. 7 signup deadline set for 'Building Equity' workshop

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Tribune

In an effort to promote diversity, equity and inclusion within the Detroit Lakes community and beyond, Essentia Health and Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership are teaming up to sponsor a 12-month leadership development initiative.

Led by Victoria McWane-Creek of the Organization 4 Full Participation, the year-long initiative is titled "Building Equity: A Community of Practice," and its goal is to create lasting change by equipping leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve racial health equity in their workplaces and communities.

"There are significant (health care) disparities for people of color, and we have a lot of work to do, as an organization and as a community, to improve that," says Karen Pifher, community health manager for Essentia Health's west service region.

Pifher noted that Essentia Health's leadership has taken "a strong stand" when it comes

to improving diversity, equity and inclusion within its organization, which is how this initiative came about.

She said that Becker County Energize's community health needs assessment, which is in the process of being finalized, has really brought awareness of existing racial health disparities in the region into sharper focus.



Michael Achterling / Tribune
Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership is one of the co-sponsors of the "Building Equity" leadership development training initiative that launches this month in Detroit Lakes. Monthly virtual meetings will be held during the yearlong training process.

EQUITY: Page 11

Finger fatigue? Get ready for 10-digit dialing in the 218 area code

By Nathan Bowe
Detroit Lakes Tribune

If you live in the northern half of Minnesota, including Detroit Lakes, Perham, Wadena, Moorhead and Park Rapids, get ready to start dialing 218 in front of every local call.

The 218 area code is switching to 10-digit dialing. So if you live

in Detroit Lakes and want to call the Tribune newspaper office in Detroit Lakes, you'll have to dial 218-847-3151, just like it was a long distance call. You won't just be able to dial 847-3151 anymore. If you do try to stick with the shorter seven-digit number, you'll get a message saying your call cannot be connected.

The change is necessary to make room for a new three-digit (988) National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline (and textline) that goes into effect July 16.

Some cell phone service providers have already made the switch to 10-digit dialing. Arvig Communications plans to make the switch on

Jan. 17.

"The big change is going to be 10-digit dialing," said Arvig Marketing Director Lisa Greene. "The reason we're doing it now is so people can get used to it - so it's not a cold change on that date. So people don't get confused."

There was some flexibility, but some of the timing for the switch

was also mandated by administrators with the North American Numbering Plan, charged by the Federal Communications Commission with making room on the telephone grid for the new national three-digit suicide and veterans hotline, Greene said.

"We decided to do it the first of the year, after Christmas," she said.

"That was the cleanest break we could make for most people."

Not all area codes have to switch to 10-digit dialing. In Minnesota, only the 218 prefix, which covers the northern half of the state, and the 952 prefix in Bloomington will have to go to 10-digit dialing.

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Great American Walk-off

Why US workers are leaving in droves

Editor's note: It's called "The Great Resignation," a seismic upheaval in the workforce that is reshaping today's economy. Forum Communication Co. reporters are looking at The Great Resignation's profound effects on workers and businesses across the region in the multi-part series, "Help Wanted." This story kicks off that series

By Tammy Swift
Forum News Service

In western North Dakota, a young RN who always



longed to see the world decides to leave a steady job in Bismarck, pack up her young family and take a \$90-an-hour position as a travel nurse.

A Fargo teacher, frustrated with trying to connect with students via remote learning, decides to change careers completely and pursue a nursing career.

Down in Arizona, a North

Dakota snowbird who has worked in marketing for over 45 years notices that her client load keeps getting lighter - and decides she doesn't mind. She'd rather play pickleball and ease into retirement.

These are just a few of the work stories around the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has been like a giant boot kicking over an anthill - and we are the ants, running frantically, seeking some sense of order and wondering if the world around us will ever look the same.

WALK-OFF: Page 12

POLICE NEWS

News Staff

Detroit Lakes Tribune

The following reports were compiled from the Becker County Sheriff's Office and Detroit Lakes Police Department from an official with knowledge of the cases, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

6:04 a.m., 200 block Barbara Avenue, Detroit Lakes, a plow struck a parked vehicle during a declared snow emergency causing minor damage.

8:42 a.m., near Heille's Ridge Road, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

8:54 a.m., near Highway 10 and McHugh Road, Detroit Lakes, single-vehicle crash. No injuries.

8:57 a.m., near Detroit Lakes, weapons-related task force action.

8:59 a.m., near County Road 6 and Highway 59, Detroit Lakes, a fuel truck was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

9:17 a.m., near mile marker 51 on Highway 10, Becker County, two-vehicle crash. Minor injuries were reported and one person was transported to a nearby medical clinic for treatment.

10:12 a.m., near Highway 10 and Jackson Avenue, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

10:32 a.m., 200 block Main Avenue, Callaway, shoplifting. An individual was captured on video stealing an \$0.89 pie.

11:23 a.m., near Highway 10 and Corbett Road, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

11:40 a.m., 200 block Stone Creek Drive, Detroit Lakes, a vehicle was repossessed.

1:00 p.m., near Highway 10 and Wine Lake Road, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

2:09 p.m., 800 block Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, reported burglary. Caller will compile a list of stolen items. The case is under investigation.

2:32 p.m., at M and W in White Earth, gas pump drive-off.

4:58 p.m., near Highway 10 and Highway 59, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

6:05 p.m., 21000 block County Road 21, Detroit Lakes, multi-vehicle crash. No injuries.

10:30 p.m., near Richwood Road and north Tower Road, Detroit Lakes, a vehicle struck a mailbox and left the roadway. No injuries.

11:20 p.m., 21000 block County Road 21, Detroit Lakes, suicide related. A 16-year-old male was transported to a nearby medical clinic for evaluation after making self-harm threats.

► RELATED: For more information on local Crime and Court news, check out our Crime and Courts section.

Thursday, Dec. 30

6:59 a.m., 400 block Main Street, Ogema, an Amazon truck struck the Ogema Post Office causing minor damage.

8:47 a.m., at Lakes Liquor at 200 east Holmes Street, Detroit Lakes, past action, shoplifting.

12:30 p.m., near Frazee Street and McKinley Avenue, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

2:07 p.m., 27000 block 125th Street, Detroit Lakes, threats. The caller's mother was reportedly threatened by a male party. They were advised to seek a harassment restraining order or a trespass order.

6:45 p.m., 40000 block County Road 34, Ogema, mobile phone theft.

7:57 p.m., near County Road 39 and 427th Avenue, Frazee, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

9:00 p.m., 200 block east Oak Avenue, Frazee, medical. A 32-year-old man was found unconscious of a possible drug overdose. The man was taken by ambulance to a nearby medical clinic for treatment.

9:30 p.m., 20000 block County Road 21, Detroit Lakes, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

9:53 p.m., 40000 block 408th Avenue, Waubun, past action burglary. A chainsaw was stolen among other items. The caller will make a list of the missing items.

10:00 p.m., 200 block Laura Avenue, Detroit Lakes, domestic incident surrounding use of a phone card. One person was arrested on an unrelated warrant.

10:31 p.m., 300 block West Main Avenue, Frazee, theft. Flash drives were stolen by an "estranged wife."

Friday, Dec. 31

8:44 a.m., 300 block Lake

Avenue, Detroit Lakes, a threat was made against a person on social media. The caller was advised to seek a harassment restraining order.

10:18 a.m., 600 block Bowling Avenue, Detroit Lakes, past action, theft of two guns. One of the guns has since been recovered, but one handgun is still missing.

10:33 a.m., 1200 block East Shore Drive, Detroit Lakes, propane leak was reported. The leak was outside. Utility officials responded and cleared the scene.

4:08 p.m., near Big Floyd Lake, a vehicle's rear tires are in the water near the boat access and can't get out. No injuries.

4:12 p.m., near County Road 40 and County Road 119, Menahga, a vehicle was reported off the roadway.

4:24 p.m., at Walmart at 1583 Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, shoplifting.

4:27 p.m., 1300 block Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

5:46 p.m., 400 block 2nd Street, Ogema, a vehicle struck a deer. No injuries.

7:21 p.m., 32000 block County Road 10, Frazee, abandoned snowmobile.

11:10 p.m., 200 block east Main Avenue, Detroit Lakes, physical domestic involving two male parties. A 44-year-old man was transported to a nearby medical clinic due to severe intoxication.

11:53 p.m., 1000 block Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, disorderly patient. A 44-year-old man who was previously transported for severe intoxication was unruly at the clinic. The man was subsequently arrested.

Saturday, Jan. 1

12:43 a.m., at Holiday Inn Lakefront at 1155 Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, a 31-year-old man reported being pushed by a 44-year-old woman during an altercation.

12:58 a.m., near Highway 34, east of County Road 21, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. Vehicle appears to be abandoned.

1:01 a.m., 42000 block 165th Street, Frazee, domestic incident. No injuries were reported. A 39-year-old man was arrested in connection with the incident.

2:12 a.m., at Holiday Inn

Lakefront at 1155 Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, parking lot fight involving multiple parties. A vehicle window was broken during the altercation.

6:58 a.m., 35000 block County Road 21, Ogema, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

9:10 a.m., 28000 block County Road 35, Rochert, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. The vehicle appears to be abandoned.

12:55 p.m., 600 block West Holmes Street, Detroit Lakes, a parked vehicle was sideswiped by another vehicle in an apparent hit-and-run.

3:19 p.m., near Lake Street and Willow Street, Detroit Lakes, a parked vehicle was struck by another vehicle causing minor damage.

3:46 p.m., at Walmart at 1583 Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, shoplifting.

6:23 p.m., 39000 block Bald Eagle Haven Road, Waubun, fire. A crack in a chimney was reported with flames and smoke coming out of it. Extinguished. No apparent damage.

6:34 p.m., near Gull Road, Ogema, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

6:48 p.m., near County Road 21 and Whiskey Creek Drive, Detroit Lakes, a vehicle was reported in a roadside ditch. The vehicle appears to be abandoned.

7:51 p.m., 1500 block Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

8:10 p.m., 1100 block Jackson Avenue, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.

8:12 p.m., 28000 block County Road 35, Rochert, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. The vehicle appears to be abandoned.

9:14 p.m., 13000 block 450th Avenue, Frazee, a barn fire was reported. No one appears to be home. Extinguished after about 40 minutes.

9:33 p.m., 15000 block County Road 19, Detroit Lakes, hazmat. A strong natural gas smell is coming from the substation. A utilities technician responded to the scene.

10:47 p.m., 200 block Heights Ridge Lane, Detroit Lakes, a fight was reported involving multiple parties. No injuries.

Sunday, Jan. 2

2:28 a.m., near County Road 56 and County Road 117, Fra-

zee, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. The vehicle appears to be abandoned.

10:07 a.m., 16000 block 305th Avenue, Detroit Lakes, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

12:39 p.m., 16000 block west Little Cormorant Road, Audubon, mailbox damage from an unknown vehicle.

3:08 p.m., 300 block Pelican River Road, Detroit Lakes, a tool box was stolen from a locked garage. The incident is under investigation.

3:26 p.m., 800 block Summit Avenue, Detroit Lakes, drug related. The caller believes someone might be smoking marijuana at the Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center. The incident is under investigation.

5:53 p.m., 400 block Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, a suspicious party was seen pacing outside the Burger King. One person was arrested on an unrelated warrant.

7:09 p.m., 28000 block County Road 35, Rochert, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

9:40 p.m., 15000 block Maple Ridge Road, Audubon, a vehicle struck a mailbox. The incident is under investigation.

9:43 p.m., near County Road 43 and 120th Street, Menahga, a vehicle was reported off the roadway. No injuries.

10:52 p.m., 500 block Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, disorderly at the Northside Bar. A male party was reportedly going behind the bar and turning on the beer taps. The party was asked to leave and they left.

11:18 p.m., 500 block Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, disorderly at the Northside Bar. Multiple people were involved in an altercation. Management kicked everyone out of the bar and the patrons all dispersed.

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COURT NEWS

Waubun man gets five years in prison on gun charge

Dustin Alan Jackson, 27, of rural Waubun has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony third-degree burglary and a felony gun charge.

Felony first-degree and second-degree burglary, felony second-degree assault and misdemeanor fleeing a peace officer on foot were all dropped in a plea agreement.

According to court records, the gun charge stems from a May 31, 2021, incident at the Roundhouse apartments in White Earth. Jackson was caught on surveillance camera holding a shotgun owned by an older relative and arguing with another man who held a handgun. Both men were physically fighting and one of the guns went off inside an apartment. Nobody was shot, and the two continued physically fighting.

Jackson was convicted of third-degree assault on Oct. 30, 2014, and is not allowed to possess firearms or ammunition.

On Dec. 17, Becker County District Judge Jay Carlson sentenced Jackson on the gun charge to 60 months in prison at St. Cloud. He was fined \$50 plus \$200 in court fees.

The burglary happened in September of 2020, when Jackson tried to sell nine vehicle tires taken from the White Earth vehicle fleet. He told a woman he would sell her all the tires for \$325 or \$350. Access was gained by cutting a hole in the east wall at the rear of the building. The tires taken were: five, Laufenn tires; three, Nankang tires; and one, Toyo Tire.

On the burglary charge, Jackson was sentenced to 18 months in prison at St. Cloud, to be served at the same time as the first

sentence. He was also ordered to pay a \$50 fine, \$200 in court fees, and \$2,502 restitution. Credit was granted for 201 days served in jail.

Callaway man sentenced for felony domestic assault

William Nakia Webster Sr., 46, of rural Callaway has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony domestic assault by strangulation.

According to court records, on June 14, law enforcement was called to a residence in Callaway, where Webster had pushed down a woman with whom he had a relationship, and used his legs to squeeze her midsection until she couldn't breathe and thought he was going to kill her.

He was previously convicted of misdemeanor domestic assault in 2016.

On Dec. 17, Becker County District Judge

Jay Carlson stayed imposition of sentence and ordered Webster to serve 19 months in prison at St. Cloud, stayed four years.

He was ordered to serve 30 days in jail, with credit for eight days served.

He must pay a \$1,000 fine and \$1,150 in court fees, and get a chemical dependency evaluation and domestic abuse counseling/treatment and follow the recommendations, including aftercare. He was placed on supervised probation for four years.

A misdemeanor or domestic assault charge was dropped in a plea agreement.

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Nathan Bowe/Tribune

A Detroit Lakes city worker runs a Zamboni over the ice at the outdoor rink at Peoples Park.

Outdoor skating rink reopens at Peoples Park

Nathan Bowe
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The outdoor skating rink at Peoples Park in Detroit Lakes reopened Monday after being closed for three days due to extreme cold Dec. 31 through Jan. 2.

Warming house hours for the outdoor rink through January are:

Monday through Friday: 3-5:30 p.m. and 6-8:30 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays: Noon to 5 p.m. and 6-8:30 p.m.

On Jan. 17 there is no school and the rink will be open from noon to 5 p.m. and 6-8:30 p.m.

The schedule is dependent on the weather and is subject to change.

Signs of winter critters are everywhere

Winter's here, there's no doubt about that. After a long and mild autumn, snow returned to the northland the second week of November and hasn't left us since. I've always maintained the belief that if it's going to be winter, it might as well snow.

Black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, and blue jays have been the primary trio visiting my feeders lately. They arrive daily to feast on black-oil sunflower seeds and suet. All day long, but especially in the early morn and late afternoon, the avian activity at my backyard bird feeding station is bustling.

While most of Minnesota's avian residents have flown the coop for more hospitable climates further south, and American black bears have at last taken refuge beneath boughs of conifers or underneath some other natural structure to sleep the winter away, and ground squirrels such as chipmunks, thirteen-lined ground squirrels, woodchucks and others are hibernating inside snug and warm burrows below the frost-line, other wintertime critters are as active as ever, trying to stay warm and keep their stomachs full.

I've spent considerable time exploring the local forests around my home near Becida this November and December. While many of these explorations were in pursuit of white-tailed deer or ruffed grouse, not lost on me has been the many pleasures of reading the signs in the snow of wild forest dwellers. Mammalian species abound that include fisher, bobcat, wolf, fox, coyote, weasel, and of course deer, snowshoe hare, and



Flickr photo by Courtney Celley/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Midwest Region

Squirrels are dedicated, especially when it comes to finding food. This one was spotted raiding the bird feeder during a heavy snowstorm.

cottontail rabbits. Despite the fact that most of my excursions are solo, I never feel lonely because I'm always surrounded by signs of life. Every track, relatively new, can tell much about not only the species of wildlife that made them, but where they live, hunt and forage, and where they're coming from or going to. This is the time when elusive creatures — the ones rarely observed — are suddenly revealed as if discovered for the first time when, really, they've been here all along. Yet it's the pure white snow that shines the light on them.

Bobcats, which leave a very distinctive track, hunt the thickets for small rodents, squirrels, rabbits, hares, and sometimes even grouse and deer. I enjoy studying their pugmarks in the snow and following them in hopes of catching perhaps a fleeting glimpse of this elusive yet common wild cat. I often wonder as I follow feline footprints, was the bobcat hunting for snowshoe hares or cottontail rabbits?

I frequently encounter wolf tracks as well. On Dec. 3, while poking around in the deep woods near La Salle Lake State Recreation Area, I cut the tracks of a pack of wolves. I counted seven individual animals. Were they hunting for deer? It appeared so, as none of the animals trailed each other. Rather, they roamed

through the timber abreast of one another and separated by roughly 20 to 30 yards while combing the conifers for game.

Rabbits and hares appear to be very abundant this year. It occurred to me that with all the tracks in the snow, why don't I actually see more of the animals than I do? Tracks, droppings, trails, and depressions made in the snow from their bodies during times of rest are everywhere, yet nary a "hare" is usually seen. Alas, Mother Nature's plan for such species is cryptic coats, supreme speed, and the ability to hide.

Weasel and mink tracks, and some fisher and otter tracks, too, have also been observed this winter. Telltale tracks of most members of the mink family reveal their hind-feet falling exactly inside their front tracks as they bound through the snow. And the ever entertaining river otter? They bound just like their brethren, yet also slide on their bellies — unlike any other animal save the slithering snake.

To be sure, observing and reading the signs and stories of wild creatures in the snow is a joy like no other. Such outings in winter wonderlands renews our spirits and brings us happiness, as we get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

Happy Holidays everyone. Peace to you and yours.

Four join the team at West Central Initiative

Staff Report
West Central Initiative has brought on four new team members in the areas of community planning, operations, and accounting.

West Central Initiative, or WCI, has been partnering with communities in the region since 1986.

"We all share a dream of west central Minnesota as vibrant and welcoming, a corner of the world where everyone can experience a very high quality of life," said WCI President Anna Wasescha, in a news release. "Over the past 35 years, the issues that were the catalyst for our founding have evolved. Many of them are more challenging than ever. It is vital that we have the capacity to do more, so we are thrilled that Celeste, Mark, Lisa, and Deb have joined our team."

Celeste Koppe and Mark Kaelke are new assistant community planners, offering services through WCI, which is the federally designated planning organization for the region through the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Koppe lives in her hometown of Detroit Lakes and is a Carleton College graduate who has traveled overseas to earn a master's degree in political science from Central European University in Budapest. Prior to working for WCI, she taught English and political science in Tunisia. She describes herself as a "foodie who can't cook" and enjoys reading fiction books.

Kaelke moved to Underwood, Minnesota from Alaska in the fall of 2019. He worked for Trout Unlimited in Alaska for 12 years before the move. He grew up near the Twin Cities and majored in English at Montana State. Kaelke enjoys hunting, fishing, biking, and kayaking and raises German Wire-haired Pointers.

Lisa Turner is the new executive assistant to President Wasescha. Turner grew up in St. Paul and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in higher education. She embarked on teaching, a career move that took her to the Czech Republic and Japan, but later returned to St. Paul, where she lives and works remotely. She most recently served as coordinator for leadership at Walden University in Minneapolis. She describes herself as a passionate reader and embraces parenthood.

Deb Raasch joins WCI as an accounting specialist. Originally from Granite Falls, Minnesota, Raasch is a Moorhead State University graduate. She worked for the city of Morris for many years but recently moved to



Koppe Kaelke Turner Raasch

Alexandria, where she works from her home. She loves doing puzzles, watching movies, playing cards, and spending time at the lake.

WCI is a regional community foundation and development organization serving the counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens,

Traverse, and Wilkin and the portion of White Earth Nation in Becker County. WCI invests resources in communities for regional success, using the tools of economic development and community development, and by promoting philanthropy. Learn more at wcif.org.

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12 Days of Christmas are a gift

While most of the world is busy winding down from celebrating Christmas and turning their attention to the new year, Christians of yore would have just been getting into their festive moods.

For today's Christians, we've passed through the season of Advent, we have celebrated Christmas, and we're about to hunker down for the seemingly long wait until Easter. But in centuries past, Christians placed much more emphasis on this period in which we're in now, the 12 Days of Christmas.

While many may only recognize the season in passing from the Christmas carol sung at Sunday school

programs — "Five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree!" — the 12 Days of Christmas is of significance to Christians, even if they don't realize it.

Contrary to popular belief, the 12 Days of Christmas actually begins on the day after Christmas Day. In other words, we celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Day, and then the clock starts ticking!

The 12th day of Christmas is then celebrated on Jan. 6, which becomes the Christian celebration of Epiphany, which means "appearance or manifestation." And in this case, we are referring to when Jesus was revealed to the gentiles, or people of the first century who were not Jewish.

Known also as "Three Kings Day," Epiphany is the day when the three magi,

known more popularly as the "Three Wise Men," visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, marking for the first time that Christ would be introduced to those who were not Jewish. Thus, this encounter between these noble pilgrims from the east and baby Jesus demonstrated that his birth was not meant just as a gift to the Israelites, God's first chosen people, but actually to all of mankind.

And this is what Christians used to celebrate during the 12 Days of Christmas! What a momentous milestone for those who profess to be Christians! First, Jesus was born and thus God willingly entered this world in the same mortal flesh and blood in which we live. And second, he revealed himself as a gift not only to his chosen people, but rather as a generous God who welcomed all into his

kingdom, Jews and gentiles equal in his eyes!

Now that is an epiphany!

It's too bad that the celebration of Christmas has been boiled down to basically a one-day celebration of Jesus' birth. While we all love the story of little baby Jesus, swaddled in clothes, and lying in a manger, how much more wonderful is the thought of three wise men, who represented the rest of the world who were not Jewish, arriving at the manger and for the first time catching sight of the creator of the entire universe lying there helpless as any other human ever born!

Devlyn Brooks, who works for Modulist, a Forum Communications Co.-owned company, is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. He serves as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Wolverton, Minnesota. He can be reached at devlyn.brooks@forumcomm.com for comments and story ideas.

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LETTERS POLICY

All letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city of residence will be printed, however. Letters may be edited for spelling and punctuation errors, libel, length and other factors. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters. To submit a letter, email jbeach@forumcomm.com or mail it to Detroit Lakes Tribune, 511 Washington Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.

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Turning over management of the Detroit Country Club to an outstate firm is a bad idea

I was astounded and disappointed to read in last week's DL-Online the Detroit Country Club board of directors has gone to the city's council members and asked to be relieved of their responsibilities and contract with an out-of-state corporation to run the golf course. If the city council approves the DCC board's ill-conceived idea it will represent two bad decisions instead of just one.

Neither the city council or the public has enough information to know whether this is a good idea or bad. The costs of the management contract and any Arizona-based Troon Corporation personnel relocating to Detroit Lakes are unknown. The efficiencies to be gained are unspecified and the impact on the current culture and operations

has not been answered. The DCC board themselves says doing what they propose is "a leap of faith."

Separately, the city council's greatest concern should be how hiring out-of-state management to run the city's golf course changes the relationship with the community.

Right now, Detroit Country Club is known statewide for many things, including the quality of its golf courses, its superior junior programs and making its facilities available to the community.

It is a destination that brings visitors from across the United States. The course is one of the jewels of Minnesota golf. The City of Detroit Lakes is largely responsible for that success. For decades, D.L. city councils have given the Detroit Country Club board a tremendous amount of latitude and freedom, but at the same time demanded that course management commit to providing community members, espe-

cially young people, with affordable access to a sport where costs are spiraling.

Handing over management of one's business can only be paid for by either increasing prices, reducing services or finding efficiencies. DCC board president Sam Rufer, by all accounts a very nice man, said, "if Troon took over they would be in charge of the day-to-day operations, payroll, accounting and finding a professional level replacement for (Mark) Holm." Mr. Rufer specifically cites "increased cart fees." Does it really benefit the City of Detroit Lakes to approve a plan that increases costs for users and ships jobs out of town?

Finally, President Rufer said the board hopes hiring the Phoenix-based Troon Corporation will "ensure a solid future for the course in terms of financial viability and growth." By all appearances, the two Detroit Country Club courses have never looked better, had more rounds played or

been as financially prosperous as they are today. Management has invested significantly in equipment and course improvements the last five years, as well as completed a \$300,000 renovation in the clubhouse dining room. Money is the least of their problems.

It may well be the DCC board needs to hire a general manager. It is their responsibility to do it and not contract out their obligations as board members to a third party. Giving control to a for-profit corporation who does not understand the special relationship between the community, course and its patrons is the last thing the city council should approve. DCC will never be anything more than a line item along with 650 other golf courses managed by Troon.

David Crothers, Detroit Lakes

Crothers has been a member of the Detroit Country Club for more than 30 years, and splits his time between Detroit Lakes and Bismarck

LETTER

PAID POLITICAL LETTER POLICY

The Tribune is publishing paid political letters to the editor on Opinion.

The rate is 10 cents per word, with a 200-word limit. Those 200 words are the body of the letter, not the signature.

Paid political letters now must be submitted online through the website modulist.news

Any election-related letters that advocate for

or against a candidate, ballot measure or political party will be considered paid advertising as a political letter.

Here are a few other things that are important to know:

► Payment for political letters must be made in advance. Cost is 10 cents per word.

► Writers are limited to one letter publication per 30 days – paid or not.

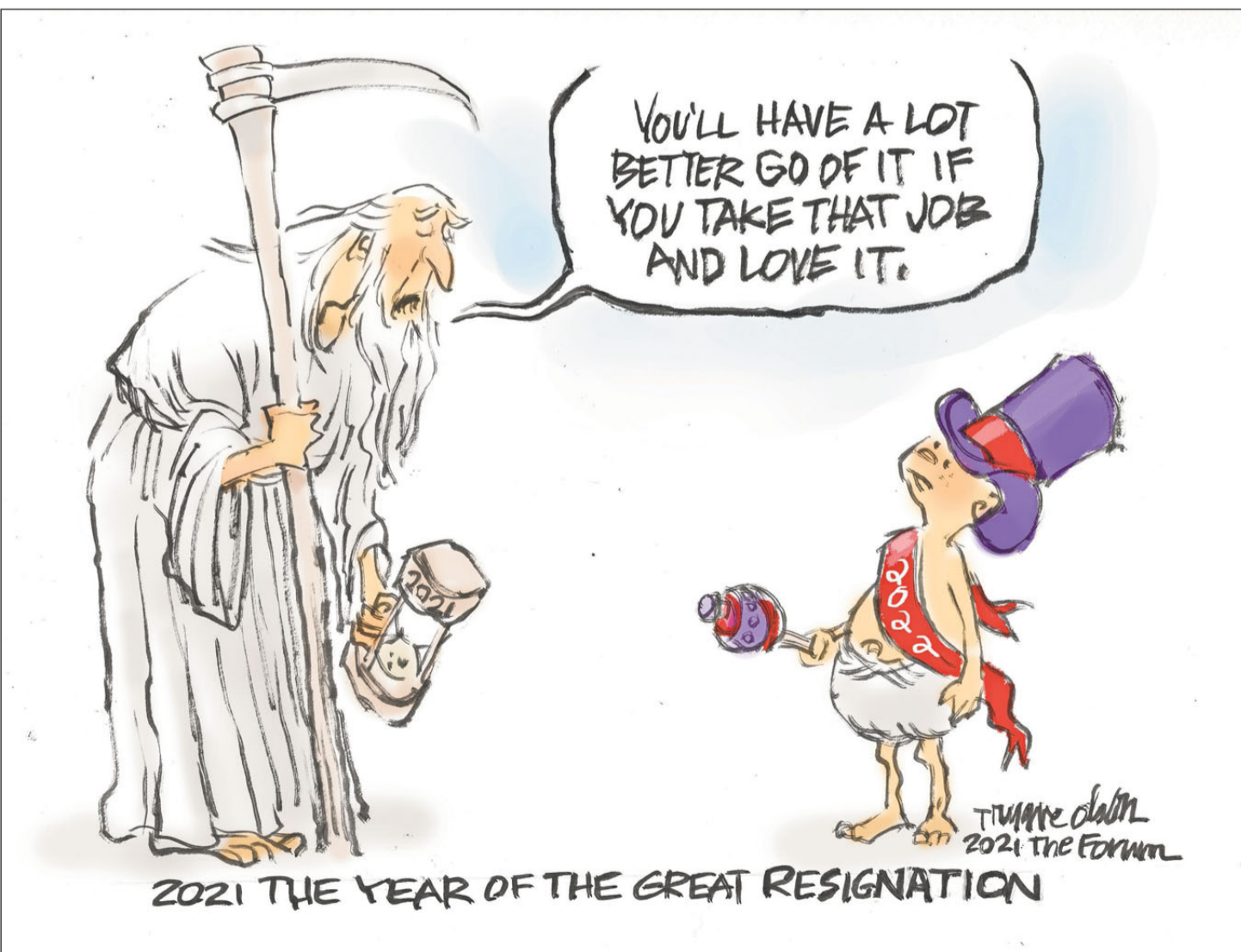
► All letters must include the writer's name,

address and phone number for verification (only the writer's name and city are published).

► Paid political letters will be published on the Opinion page as space allows. They will be noted as "paid" on the page.

The Tribune began charging for letters on May 19, when the first candidate filing period opened.

Regular letters to the editor have a word limit of 250, and there is no charge for their publication.



HAPPENINGS

The Detroit Lakes Tribune accepts community calendar items, for publication online and in our Wednesday and Sunday print editions, space permitting.

Submissions must be made at least a week in advance of the event date, in writing, to either dltribune@dlnewspapers.com or vgerdes@dlnewspapers.com.

Each submission must include the following: Date, time and location of event, whether it is recurring or a one-time happening, and where to go for more information (phone, email and/or website). Also include whether the event is free or paid admission, and how much it costs when applicable.

Wednesday, January 5

Library Writer's Group: Writers and prospective writers seeking encouragement, feedback and collaboration are welcome to join the writers' group at the Detroit Lakes Public Library. The group meets at 3 p.m. to tell their stories, share ideas and discuss writing tips. This event is offered free of charge and will be held in the library's main meeting room.

Thursday, January 6

Movie Musicals at the Library: The Detroit Lakes Public Library will be offering film screenings of popular musicals through the decades, every Thursday in January at 2 p.m. This week's selection is "Annie," released in 1982. Aileen Quinn, Albert Finney, and Carol Burnett star in the story of Annie, a plucky orphan, who dreams of finding a loving family while toiling in an institution run by a mean woman. This film is rated PG and has a run time of 2 hours and 8 minutes. Open to the public.

Finding Joy Amid Grief: This 11:30 a.m. virtual class, hosted by Hospice of the Red River Valley, will help grieving individuals learn how to embrace moments of joy again. Participants will discover the importance of self-care and self-discovery while grieving. The session will help people explore their ability to choose their own path through the grief process. Free and open to the public. Registration is required by one day prior to the class date; call 800-237-4629 or send an email to grief@hrrv.org.

Friday, January 7

Live Music: Tim Eggebraaten performs live at the Sandbar II, 1150

Randolph Road, Detroit Lakes, at 6:30 p.m. Open to the public.

Saturday, January 8

ULTRA Classic Cruise: The Detroit Lakes ULTRA Snowmobile Club will be holding its first "Classic Cruise" of the season from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This will be a ride for vintage and classic sleds, 1980 and older, but is open to anyone who wants to ride, regardless of year of sled. No show, just a ride, meeting at 9 a.m. in the M State Detroit Lakes parking lot and departing at 10 a.m. Ride is to Curly's on Cotton Lake, then north to Richwood, then back to Detroit Lakes with a final stop at Sunlite Bar and Grill. Everyone is welcome to ride with no matter the age of sled. Call Wayne Schlauderaff at 218-849-3069 for more information.

Sunday, January 9

Pancake Feed: The Callaway Lions Club will host a pancake feed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Callaway Community Center. All are welcome.

Youth Free Throw Competition: All area youth, ages 10-14, are invited to participate in a local basketball free throw contest on Sunday, Jan. 9 at the Holy Rosary Parish Center, 1043 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes. Registration begins at noon, with the competition to begin at 1 p.m. Parents will need to be present to register their children. District competition will be held in February. Sponsored by the local Knights of Columbus.

Tuesday, January 11

Bike Maintenance Clinic and Social: Join members of Lakes Area Mountain Bikes And Trails (LAMBAT) and the DL Bike Shop to learn more about on-the-trail bike maintenance and socialize with other bikers. Event will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. at the DL Bike Shop, 829 Washington Ave. For more information, contact Matt Davis at 701-388-1886.

Thursday, January 13

Defensive Driving Class: A four-hour, in-person defensive driving course will be held from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the ITOW (In Their Own Words) Veterans Museum, 805 W. Main, Perham. Cost is \$20. To register please call Denise Lillis at 218-346-3336.

Movie Musicals at the Library: The Detroit Lakes Public Library will be offering film screenings of popular musicals through the decades, every

Thursday in January at 2 p.m. This week's selection is "Newsies," which was released in 1992 and features Christian Bale and David Moscow. It loosely follows the story of the New York newsboy strike of 1899. This film is rated PG and has a run time of 2 hours and 5 minutes. Open to the public.

Saturday, January 14

Live Music: The Cropdusters at Detroit Mountain Recreation Area, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; LeAnn Rimes, Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomon, 8 p.m.

Monday, January 17

HSL Membership Meeting: The annual membership meeting of the Humane Society of the Lakes will take place at 5:30 p.m. at Seven Sisters Spirits, 25275 South Melissa Drive, Detroit Lakes. Attendance can be in-person and online. Please visit our website, humanesocietyofthelakes.org or call 218-847-0511 for more information.

Miscellaneous

Minnesota's Changing Climate: Visit a free climate change exhibit at the Detroit Lakes Public Library, now through Wednesday, Jan. 12. This display showcases what communities and organizations are doing throughout Minnesota to address climate change. Another component of the exhibit illustrates the effects that climate change is already having on Minnesota. Call 218-847-2168 or visit larl.org for more information.

Lakes Area Chorale: The Lakes Area Chorale will begin weekly rehearsals on Sunday, Jan. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, continuing every Sunday through March 27. Concert will take place Sunday, April 3 at the Historic Holmes Theatre. Open to singers of every skill level. Participation fee is \$25, and includes the cost of all sheet music used as well as singer-friendly masks. For more information, call or text chorale director Barbara Schramm at 218-443-0697 or send an email to lakesareachorale@gmail.com.

Cornerstone for Kids: Kids from preschool age up through high school students can come to the Detroit Lakes First Baptist Church, 300 Central St. East, every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for a chance to learn about your faith, understand God and develop a life lasting relationship with Him. There will also be an adult Bible study held at

the same time. For more information call 218-847-4571 or send an email to DLFirstBaptistChurch@gmail.com.

Library Storytime: The Detroit Lakes Public Library will offer weekly storytime sessions this fall, every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to join library staff for stories, flannel boards, finger plays, songs and more. This early literacy experience explores a different theme each week and is a great way to encourage young children to enjoy reading. The library is located at 1000 Washington Ave., Detroit Lakes. Call 218-847-2168 for more information.

Baby Bounce: Songs, stories, and action poems for infants, toddlers and their caregivers are offered every Monday at the Detroit Lakes Public Library, starting at 10:30 a.m. Program runs about a half hour including playtime and chatting with other caregivers. For ages 0-18 months. Call 218-847-2168 for more information.

GED/Adult Diploma Class: If finishing high school is still on your to do list, it is never too late! Lakes Area Adult Education is open and ready to help you meet your goals. Orientation sessions for GED or Adult Diploma classes are held twice a month, so call 218-844-5760 or email slandsem@detlakes.k12.mn.us to register.

Driver's License Exam Preparation: Lakes Area Adult Education is offering a new driver's license preparation class. This class is designed to help unlicensed adult drivers become familiar with vocabulary, signs, and rules of the road so they can successfully pass the written portion of the Minnesota Driver's License Exam. The class will be offered virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct. 19-Nov. 18. Each session takes place from 5:15-6:45 p.m. Call 218-844-5760 or email slandsem@detlakes.k12.mn.us for more information.

English Language Instruction: Lakes Area Adult Education is offering free English language instruction for adults, every Monday through Thursday. The schedule is flexible and individualized. Call 218-844-5760 or email slandsem@detlakes.k12.mn.us for more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Here is the meeting schedule for the Detroit Lakes Alano Club at 827 Summit Ave. — Sundays at 1 p.m., 12x12 open meeting; Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Big Book open

meeting; Wednesdays at 12 noon, Grapevine open meeting; Wednesdays at 6 p.m., women's open meeting; Thursdays at 7 p.m., Intro to AA open meeting; Saturdays at 7 a.m., men's open meeting; Saturdays at 9 a.m., Women's Big Book closed meeting; Saturdays at 8 p.m., open topic meeting. There are no dues or fees for meetings. For more information, call the Detroit Lakes Alano Club at 218-844-9970, or the District 3 AA Helpline at 877-833-2327.

Overeaters Anonymous: Do you find yourself turning to food for comfort? Is your eating affecting your health or the way you live your life? Do you find your mind preoccupied with thoughts of food? If any of these describes you, then Overeaters Anonymous may be for you. No diets to follow, no weigh-ins, no fees — just

a 12-step program for those who struggle in their relationship with food. The OA Serenity Group meets Tuesdays at noon in Detroit Lakes' Holy Rosary Catholic Church (1043 Lake Ave.); please use the south parking lot entrance. The Freedom From Bondage OA Group meets on Sundays at 6 p.m. in the Community Alliance Church, 408 West Elm St., Detroit Lakes. Please use the east door.

Lake Country Woodcarvers: Anyone interested in wood carving or woodworking is welcome to bring their latest projects to the Holmes Art Cellar every Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. and enjoy a free woodworking session. Pattern books and other resources are available in the Woodcarvers' library for checkout. There is no cost to participate. Call Dale Wavra at 701-371-5204 for more information.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Ann Ruehling



Mary Ann Ruehling, age 62, of New Prague, died peacefully with her husband at her side, on Christmas Day 2021 at Mayo Clinic Health System Hospital in Rochester. Mary Ann was born on July 20, 1959 in Detroit Lakes to Arthur and Mary Jane (Lundeen) Kiehl. Born and raised in Detroit Lakes, she graduated from Detroit Lakes High School. She met the man who would become her soul mate and life partner, John B. Ruehling, three years before they married on August 13, 1988 at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lanesburgh. On that day, John's father said he gained a daughter, not a daughter-in-law! Mary Ann was the right hand throughout life on the farm and the family, truly walking hand in hand. She exuded congeniality and grace with an ability to pick up a conversation with anyone she came into contact with. She was a second mom to her children's friends, welcoming them into the home and making sure they never left hungry. Her generosity knew no bounds and she always had a smile on her face! Her motto was always "to look at the shiny side of the penny, not the tarnished!" Her family was the center of her life and she lived for her grandkids. Her kindness, positivity, and constancy has left a void in their lives but a gratitude for having had her for this long.

Mary Ann is survived by her loving husband, John of New Prague; children, Maggie (James) Hauser of Montgomery, Curtis Ruehling (Rebecca Monton) of Montgomery, Adam Ruehling (girlfriend, Alexis Flowers) of New Prague; grandchildren, Levi, Tucker, Opal, & Adaline; siblings, Bernice (Jerry) McCann, Kathy "Sis" (Ken) Jarandson, Kenny (Diane) Kiehl, Barb (Dave) Maresch, Nancy Poverud, Rod (Sue) Kiehl, Vickie McCollum; brother-in-law, Martin Ruehling; sister-in-law, Ruth Mickelson (Richard Loch); many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents; parents-in-law, Caldwell & Leona Ruehling; infant brother, Dennis; sister, Darlene in childhood; sister-in-law, Ann Ruehling.

Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Noon at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church (28983 281st Ave, New Prague, MN 56071) with Pastor Henry Koch officiating. Visitation will take place Friday from 3-6 PM at Bruzek Funeral Home and at church 1 hour prior to service. Burial will take place in Friedens Lutheran Cemetery followed by lunch in the church hall.

Charles Braun

Aug. 12, 1934 -
Dec. 15, 2021
ROCHESTER, Minn. - Charles Braun, 87, Kasson, Minn., died Wednesday, Dec. 15, in Rochester.

Visitation will be from 9-10 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 8, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Kasson. Father John Lasuba will officiate. Inurnment will be in South Zumbro Lutheran Church Cemetery, followed by luncheon. Military honors will be provided by the Kasson American Legion Post 333.

Arrangements by Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes.

James "Jim" Pearson

Sept. 27, 1947 -
Dec. 29, 2021
FARGO, N.D. - James "Jim" Pearson, 74, Vegas, Minn., died Wednesday, Dec. 29, in Sanford Medical Center.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, at Furey Funeral Home in Frazee, Minn. A celebration of life will follow at Billy's Bar in Vergas.

Arrangements by Furey Funeral Home.

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Rosalie Louise Thorson



Rosalie Louise Thorson of Pine City, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2021 at The Estates at Rush City at the age of 80.

Rosie was born September 28, 1941 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to Donald and Helen Danielson. She was raised on the family farm in Lake Park. Rosie was the oldest of 3 sisters and one brother. She was baptized and confirmed at Lake Park Lutheran Church. Rosie attended country school near the family farm through the sixth grade. She then began school at Lake Park High School, from which she graduated in 1959.

After high school Rosie moved to Minneapolis where she took classes for nursing as well as business classes. She then got her start working in the secretarial field.

In 1963, Rosie met the love of her life, Oscar Thorson. They were married October 10, 1964 at Lake Park Lutheran Church. Rosie and Oscar then started their married life in Pine City, where they continued to live up until the time Rosie moved to the nursing home. Two daughters, Heidi and Laura were born to Rosie and Oscar. Rosie loved attending her children's activities and later her grandchildren's activities.

Rosie worked as an administrative assistant at the Pine County Sheriff's office for more than 30 years; retiring in 1999. After retiring she loved being able to help out with providing daycare for her grandchildren. She also enjoyed flower gardening, traveling, playing cards, cheering for the Twins and spending time with her family and friends. Rosie was a long time member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pine City.

Rosie was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She will be deeply missed.

Rosie is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Oscar Thorson of Pine City; daughter Heidi Hatfield (Tom Hatfield) of Bemidji; daughter Laura Nelson (Chris Nelson) of Rush City; grandchildren, Logan, Tanner, Allison, Megan, Matt (Alexa), Holly, and Avaya; sisters Karen Knudtson, Esther Stanley, Keith Danielson (Marion Froemming), and Kathy Steinkuhler (Mitch); along with nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Donald and Helen Danielson.

Pastor John Stiles officiated a funeral service for Rosie Monday, January 3rd at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pine City. A time of visitation for friends and family was held Sunday, January 2nd at the Swanson Funeral Chapel in Pine City and also one hour prior to the service at the church. The interment took place at Hilltop Cemetery in Pine City.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to: Funeral and Cremation Service of Pine City-Swanson Chapel. www.FuneralAndCremationService.com

Mavis Pfeiffer

April 12, 1933 -
Dec. 29, 2021
DETROIT LAKES, Minn. - Mavis Pfeiffer, 88, Vergas, Minn., died Wednesday, Dec. 29, in Ecumen - Emmanuel Nursing Home.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by a funeral at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 4, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Vergas.

Arrangements by Furey Funeral Home.

Ryan Sandmeyer

Dec. 23, 1983 -
Dec. 31, 2021
EAGLE BEND, Minn. - Ryan Sandmeyer, 38, Eagle Bend, Minn., died Friday, Dec. 31, in his home.

A celebration of life and open house will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7, at Karvonen Funeral Home in Wadena, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

BRIEFS

Aitkin teen killed in head-on snowmobile crash

AITKIN, Minn. - A 16-year-old Aitkin boy died Sunday, Jan. 2, after his snowmobile was struck head-on by a snowmobile on a snowmobile trail, adjacent to State Highway 169.

The Aitkin County Sheriff's Office responded to the crash, reported at 6:16 p.m., south of Aitkin on a

groomed snowmobile trail.

According to the report, the preliminary investigation indicates 16-year-old Isaac Fulton and 18-year-old Westin Justen, both of Aitkin, were both traveling on the west side of Highway 169 when the collision occurred.

Fulton was pronounced dead at the scene.

Fulton was traveling northbound and Justen was traveling south-

bound when they collided head-on, causing serious injuries to both individuals.

The trail in that location is straight, level, and groomed on both sides of Highway 169. Both parties were wearing helmets.

Justen was airlifted to Hennepin County Medical Center and is in critical condition.

The crash is under investigation.

- Forum News Service

What's in store for ag in 2022?

Inflation and the Great Resignation: The stakes are higher for the 2022 growing season

By Jeff Beach
The Detroit Lakes Tribune

Every year is a gamble in agriculture, with the cards being revealed in due time.

But economic inflation, which closed out 2021 rising to levels not seen in about four decades, is raising the stakes for farmers and the other players sitting at the ag table.

"Most all production costs are going to be higher," says Bryon Parman, North Dakota State University economist, from crop inputs, to equipment to labor. "There are inflated costs down the line."

Farmers, and the co-ops to which many of them belong, are having to ante up considerably more for inputs such as fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide.

"Being positioned ahead of the time of need is critical to being a reliable supplier, but then that puts the risk on us," says Jim Hlatky, general manager of the Pro-Ag Farmers Co-op, which serves the Alexandria-area of west-central Minnesota.

"And the reward," he adds. "If you guess right, it's rewarding."

Co-op members are relying on managers like Hlatky to lay in supplies to be ready for spring planting, but at a reasonable price.

Parman sees the runup in fertilizer and other input prices as a game-changer for co-ops if fertilizer prices should drop dramatically in the spring.

"If they're left holding the bag, that could potentially put some of them out of business," Parman said.

Pro-Ag and other co-ops have to deal with those risks. "Especially in a rising market, you don't want to be long," Hlatky said. "You don't want to have more inventory than you can sell, because when that thing drops, it could drop \$50 to \$100 a ton."

Pro-Ag Farmers Co-op has about 1,200 members and sells about 25,000 tons of fertilizer annually. So a \$10 move in the market could mean \$250,000. And if it moves \$100, that's \$2.5 million.

"We're in a market that's moved up several hundred dollars," Hlatky said.

That runup prompted some farmers in the southern Red River Valley to apply fertilizer in the fall instead of spring, says Brad Van Overbeke, general manager of the Farmer's Union Co-op of the Southern Valley at Fairmount, North Dakota.

"A few guys who would have been waiting until the spring but moved up," Van Overbeke said.

Farmers in more northern areas who are late to plant face the possibility of being caught short on

fertilizer, Parman said.

"It could be a 'while supplies last,' kind of a thing," Parman said.

If there is a shortage, it would be "devastating" on corn yields, he said.

Hlatky said prices won't fall until after the 2022 crop is in the ground, but could drop after that when a lull could allow manufacturers to catch up.

"It would be very easy for a retailer to lose \$100 a ton on the remaining tons he has on inventory, maybe even \$200," he said.

"I think there will be a reset in fertilizer prices," Hlatky said. "My gut says 2023."

Planting mix

There is no doubt fertilizer supplies are tight and prices are high, but there is still global demand. While there was some speculation that high fertilizer prices might drive down corn acres, corn remains king.

Van Overbeke said there are about 5% of growers in his co-op that might go all beans. Most are sticking with their normal rotation and biting the bullet on fertilizer prices.

Spring wheat is an option in North Dakota and Hlatky's area of Minnesota.

But Van Overbeke said wheat needs almost as much nitrogen as corn and soybeans require more spraying. With herbicide and pesticide prices also on the rise, "the math still goes to corn," Van Overbeke said.

Hlatky agreed that there was just a "slight shift to soybeans and wheat, not huge. Maybe a 5% move right now."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has pegged U.S. corn plantings for 2022 at 92 million acres (down from 93.3 million in 2021), with soybeans at 87.5 million acres (up from 87.2 million) and wheat at 49 million acres. (up from 46.7 million).

So a 5% increase in wheat would be in line with those estimates.

Herbicide - pesticide

Some of the same factors that are driving up the cost of chemical fertilizer — high natural gas prices, lack of exports from China and other supply chain issues — also are driving up the costs of herbicide and pesticide.

"It's a very similar conversation to fertilizer ... but the raw inputs that go into some of those other chemicals are not as difficult to come by as fertilizer inputs are," said Shelby Myers, economist for American Farm Bureau Federation.

Co-op managers say the two most popular herbicides, Liberty and Roundup, are both on allocation from the manufacturers. And when those are in short supply, it creates more demand for other options.

Another driving force behind the inflated input costs is another carry-over from 2021, what economists are referring to as the "The Great Resignation."

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BOYS SOCCER

25 YEARS STRONG

Wegleitner honored for his commitment to Detroit Lakes soccer for two and a half decades

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Detroit Lakes

Justin Wegleitner showed up to the Detroit Lakes boys soccer banquet excited to celebrate the 2021 season and send off a special group of seniors. Little did he know the players, parents and coaches had a surprise for him.

This fall marked 25 years since Wegleitner and David Carter started the Detroit Lakes soccer programs. Carter manned the girls head coaching position while Wegleitner took over the boys. For the last two and a half decades, Wegleitner has been the face of boys soccer in Detroit Lakes.

At the banquet, the team gave him a plaque to celebrate his achievements in the area.

"It was an honor," Wegleitner said. "The banquet has always been a chance for me to honor the kids for the long season they put in. For the group to come out when I was about to hand out some student awards and give it up for them, they interrupted my program. It was a big surprise, and it was really cool to see that happen at the end of the night."

In the mid-1990's Wegleitner moved from St. Cloud to Detroit Lakes to finish his education in his early 20s. One night, he took a bag of soccer balls to the park by himself to take some shots on the empty soccer goal. It was there he met Carter.

"I saw a set of goals down at the Lincoln fields. I never saw anybody using them," Wegleitner said. "I guess I was just bored. I didn't know anybody here. David Carter was on the other end of the field playing around. That's where we met. He was in the process of trying to get the youth program going some more. He and I turned the youth program into a competitive team. We started scrimmaging teams from other towns and playing in a league. Our numbers grew exponentially."

The growth Wegleitner and Carter saw led to the idea of a boys team at the high school level. To do that, a girls team would also need to start because of Title IX. Both programs began in the fall of 1997. Carter retired two years ago while Wegleitner is still going strong.



Detroit Lakes file photo

Justin Wegleitner talks with his team after a game in 2012. Wegleitner has coached the Detroit Lakes boys soccer team since the fall of 1997, and was honored for his time at the most recent Detroit Lakes boys soccer banquet.



Contributed

Justin Wegleitner was honored for coaching soccer in Detroit Lakes at the boys soccer banquet this fall.

"David agreed to be the interim girls head coach until they found someone else. He ended up coaching for over 20

years," Wegleitner said. "It's something that kind of sticks with you. You meet all of these great kids, and you start to be part of their

lives. You get invitations to their graduations, which, down the line, they turn into weddings and all of that stuff. It's a big soccer family. It's just really hard to walk away from, which is why I'm here after 25 years."

Building a program from the ground up comes with rough patches. There's a lot of losing and lessons learned before teams catch up to the rest of the already established programs. For Wegleitner, the biggest challenge was managing his own expectations early on.

"It was a bit of a culture shock for me to see the level of soccer I was coaching," Wegleitner said of the early Laker teams. "I know I had a lot of talented kids, but nobody had a competitive background. I played at St. Cloud Apollo in high school. We came up this way and beat Fergus Falls 14-0 my senior year. Five years later, I'm coaching a Detroit Lakes High School team, and we lose to Fergus 13-1. I'm going, 'How in the heck can we be that bad?'"

"I was 22-years-old and wanting to have that competitive excitement again," Wegleitner said. "The emotional part of the game always takes over. I've learned the control that a

coach needs to have. I've been the coach that gets too excited and too vocal on the sidelines. I learned that developing great athletes into great soccer players takes time. That time needs to be in practice. It was hard to make the change from being a player to a coach on the sidelines."

Growing as a coach was hard, but seeing the youth soccer programs amass numbers was fairly easy. Kids were excited about the prospect of a new sport in the area, and Wegleitner helped deliver.

"I think kids were just looking for another outlet," Wegleitner said. "Kids wanted to keep coming out and trying. Detroit Lakes has been an awesome community for this. We boast more programs than any other town of our size. Not everybody can be your prototypical big and strong football player or a volleyball player that's super tall that can jump through the roof. There are other positions in those sports, but soccer offers another place for kids to be competitive."

"We've seen so much growth in this sport in our community," Wegleitner said. "We started with

WEGLEITNER: Page 8

BOYS HOCKEY

Lakers knock off seventh-ranked Otters to win Fergus invite

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Detroit Lakes boys hockey team capped off a Holiday Classic Tournament championship in Fergus Falls with its best win of the season so far.

The Lakers knocked off Fergus Falls, the seventh-ranked team in Class A according to *Let's Play Hockey*, by a score of 6-3. Detroit Lakes overcame a two-goal deficit to win its sixth straight game.

The Lakers scored four unanswered goals in the final 17:03. Beau Boehne scored twice, while Riley Engum and Spencer Bergman added goals in the final frame to hand the

Otters their third loss of the season.

After Fergus Falls scored early in the first and 28 seconds into the second period, the Lakers tied the game with goals from Cole Larson and Carter Bellefeuille. Larson had a three-point night with one goal and three assists. Elijah Blow made 16 saves in goal. Detroit Lakes outshot Fergus Falls 28-19.

On Wednesday, Detroit Lakes found some late-game heroics against New Ulm. Jordan Fields scored with two seconds left in regulation to lift the Lakers over the Eagles 3-2. Larson and Jacob Thomas scored early to put the Lakers up 2-0 before Bryer

Lang and Austin Uecker tied it for New Ulm early in the third period.

Wednesday's win followed a 5-3 victory over Kittson Central. Boehne scored a hat trick while Cole Deraney and Fields added goals. Josh Mack made 11 saves in net.

DETROIT LAKES 0 3 3 - 6
FERGUS FALLS 2 1 0 - 3
SCORING- FIRST PERIOD- FF-Kellen Stenstrom (unassisted) 1:09; SECOND PERIOD- FF- Andrew Johnson (Micahel DeBrito) 0:28; DL- Cole Larson (unassisted) 1:05; DL- Carter Bellefeuille (Larson) 12:28; FF- Cole Wentworth (DeBrito, Carter Thielke) 12:41; DL- Riley Engum (Larson, Spencer Bergman) 16:57; THIRD PERIOD- DL- Beau Boehne (unassisted) 8:30; DL- Spencer Bergman (unassisted) power play, 13:18; DL- Boehne (Jordan Fields) 14:06; PENALTIES- DL- 6 minutes on 3 infractions; FF- 2 minutes on 1 infraction; GOALTENDING- DL- Elijah Blow, W, 16 saves, 3 goals allowed; FF- Ben Swanson, L, 22 saves, 6 goals allowed

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DtribSports



Via Twitter (@ChriFields)

The Detroit Lakes boys hockey team won the Holiday Classic Tournament in Fergus Falls on Dec. 30, 2021. Detroit Lakes won three games in three days, including a 6-3 victory over seventh-ranked Fergus Falls.

GIRLS HOCKEY



Submitted by Scott Piepkorn

The Detroit Lakes girls hockey team competed at the Super Rink in Blaine in the Herb Brooks Holiday Classic Dec. 27-28. The Lakers went 0-2, with losses to Waconia and University School of Milwaukee.

Lakers go 0-2 in Blaine

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Detroit lakes girls hockey team played two games in the Herb Brooks Holiday Classic down in Blaine last Tuesday and Wednesday in the silver division. Playing for the first time in 17 days after postponing three games, the Lakers fell 9-1 to Waconia and 7-0 to the University School of Milwaukee.

Emma Coley scored the lone goal of the holiday tournament for Detroit Lakes. She's up to 19

on the season now, which is tied for 18th in the state. Luverne's Kamryn Van Batavia, a Minnesota State University-Mankato commit, leads the state with 49 goals in 15 games.

Emma Wahl scored both games in goal for the Lakers. She made a combined 64 saves in the two contests.

DETROIT LAKES 0 1 0 - 1
SCORING- FIRST PERIOD- Waconia- Mia Kelley (Kendra Borland) 2:35; Waconia- Maya Lindstrom (Ella Schluck) 2:41; Waconia- Lindstrom (unassisted) 9:06; SECOND PERIOD- Detroit Lakes- Emma Coley (Adi-syn Strand) 7:03; Waconia- Kelley (Sophia Braverman, Annika Mielke) 11:25; Waconia- Kendall miller (unassist-

ed) 12:44; Waconia- Kelley (Braverman, Mielke) 15:36; THIRD PERIOD- Waconia- Mielke (unassisted) 0:57; Waconia- Lindstrom (unassisted) 3:36; Waconia- Isabella Wozniak (Avery Hoyer); PENALTIES- Detroit Lakes- 2 minutes on 1 infraction; Waconia- no penalties; GOALTENDING- Detroit Lakes- Emma Wahl, L. 31 saves, 9 goals allowed; Waconia- Abigail Elvebak, W. 17 saves 1 goal allowed
DETROIT LAKES 0 0 0 - 0
USM 3 3 1 0 7
FIRST PERIOD- USM- Eileen Carey (Molly Guenther) 2:33; USM- Rachel Gauthier (Ena Hines) 3:00; USM- Justine Cieslak (Charlotte Fetherston, Guenther) 6:52; SECOND PERIOD- USM- Fetherston (unassisted) 4:57; USM- Carey (unassisted) power play, 7:33; USM- Guenther (Fetherston) 11:19; THIRD PERIOD- USM- Carey (Gauthier, Valimont) 1:28; PENALTIES- Detroit Lakes- 4 minutes on 2 infractions; USM- 4 minutes on 2 infractions; GOALTENDING- Detroit Lakes- Emma Wahl, L. 33 saves, 7 goals allowed; USM- Sammy Stommel, W. 20 saves, 0 goals allowed

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

ALPINE SKIING

Lakers compete in first-ever MSHSL meet

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

DETROIT LAKES- The Detroit Lakes Alpine Skiing team hit the slopes in a competitive meet for the first time on Thursday at Mount Ski Gull at the Brainerd invite.

The Laker girls were led by Olivia Smith, who recorded the sixth-best time of 58.77. Kennedy Weyer finished eighth with a time of 59.36. Merida Jansen took 15th (1:07.39) to round out the three Detroit Lakes girls to complete two attempts.

Tristin Bristlin took sixth in the boys standings with a time of 53.11. Owen Anderson (56.56), Dylan Bekkerus

(1:00.64) and Brayden Aldinger (1:24.44) finished 10th, 14th and 25 for the Lakers.

Both Detroit Lakes teams took third in the three-team meets. Brainerd won both the boys and girls competitions, while Hopkins took second. Thursday was the first ever Minnesota State High School League event for the Detroit Lakes alpine skiing team.

GIRLS TEAM SCORES- 1st- Brainerd 85, 2nd- Hopkins 60, 3rd- Detroit Lakes 43
BOYS TEAM SCORES- 1st- Brainerd 110, 2nd- Hopkins 78, 3rd- Detroit Lakes 64

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

WEGLEITNER

From Page 7

around 120 kids in the youth program way back in the start. That grew to 500. Now we have kids playing from ages 3-18, and it's just incredible to see how far it's come. To think that I've had a part in this is something special."

The Lakers are still searching for their first trip to state. While each season has ended in heartbreak, Wegleitner appreciates his chances to be a part of the emotional moments.

"My favorite days are the first and last days of the season," Wegleitner said. "It's just so exciting to see a fresh start every year. The last game is always so much fun to see all of the hard work that you and the athletes have put in. I remember playing my last game as an athlete, and I remember thinking that it was it for me in soccer. There are a lot of tears and hugs, and now I do that every season. It hurts every time, but it's good to see the pride of these kids."

Wegleitner has kept an open mind for the future. He's not sure when he'll decide to hang up the clipboard.

"The future hasn't really written itself," Wegleitner said. "A lot of times, you get asked as a coach about which kid is yours. I started coaching when I didn't have kids. My son and



Contributed

Justin Wegleitner, middle, was surprised with an achievement award for coaching soccer in Detroit Lakes for 25 years this past fall at the Detroit Lakes boys soccer banquet.

"It's something that kind of sticks with you. You meet all of these great kids, and you start to be part of their lives. You get invitations to their graduations, which, down the line, they turn into weddings and all of that stuff. It's a big soccer family. It's just really hard to walk away from, which is why I'm here after 25 years."

JUSTIN WEGLEITNER

daughter came through the program when they were young. My daughter decided not to play soccer, but my son played on the varsity team. He's off having a life of his own now. I'm still going, and I don't know what the next step is. I'm just taking it one year at a time."

Wegleitner didn't get into coaching for the accolades or the

recognition. He saw it as an opportunity to stay attached to the sport to which he devoted much

of his life.

"I love teaching the passion and love I have for this game," Wegleitner said. "I love seeing these kids grow and become great Laker citizens. We want these kids to be successful in life, not just on the soccer field. You kind of learn what's important over the years. It's not about a winning record all the time. It's about seeing great kids become great men."

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

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EQUITY

From Page 1

As Essentia began developing its own strategies for improving racial equity, she added, its leadership started to realize that change needed to happen within not just their organization, but the community as a whole.

"In order to improve community health, we can't ignore the racial health disparity, and we can't do that work by ourselves," Pifher explained. "One of the really important things that we discussed is that we can't go out

We can't go out and change things until we've done our own personal work — we need to understand what biases we have, both implicitly and explicitly.

KAREN PIFHER, COMMUNITY HEALTH MANAGER, ESSENTIA HEALTH WEST REGION

and change things until we've done our own personal work — we need to understand what biases we have, both implicitly and explicitly."

It's not just about figuring out what biases exist, she added, but also how those biases inform day-to-day actions, and the impact that has on people within

the community.

Throughout the year, participants will start to understand, identify the importance of, and invest in developing racial health equity; the process is based on the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI).

"Over the past six months, we (Essentia Health) have facilitated the IDI and intercultural development planning with more than 60 of our senior leaders," said Mary Engels, senior director of organizational learning and development at Essentia, who is leading the DE & I effort. "It's so important when starting the DE & I journey in an organization to begin with creating a strong foundation

of self-awareness and self-discovery — that is the beauty of the IDI. Expanding these conversations to include our collaborative partners aligns with this best practice."

Victoria McWane-Creek, the founder of Organization 4 Full Participation, is a 2020 Minnesota Women's Press Changemaker and performance-improvement specialist, and is a 2021 Facing Race Awards honoree. She holds a master's degree in instructional design and performance improvement from the University of North Dakota, and has been designing, hosting and facilitating "conversations that matter" for 15 years. McWane-Creek

has worked closely with organizations throughout the region.

Anyone interested in registering for "Building Equity: A Community of Practice" can con-

tact Chandler Esslinger, community health specialist at Essentia Health, by phone at 605-254-8893 or email at Chandler.Esslinger@EssentiaHealth.org.

Advertisement for Garage Sale with text: 'They will come... but first, you must TELL THEM!' and contact info for The Tribune.

DIALING

From Page 1

It varies by state. There are four area codes in Wisconsin that are affected, but none in North Dakota, for example.

In all, more than 80 area codes in the United States are affected by the new 988 crisis line. The 218 prefix in Minnesota, and those other area codes across the country, all have three-digit "central office code protection numbers" that conflict with the new crisis line.

In the administration of the North American Numbering Plan, central office code protection is a numbering policy for maintaining local seven-digit dialing in certain communities.

At any rate, the change to 10-digit dialing means more than just the inconvenience of dialing three extra digits for a local call.

It also means all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed to complete calls to 7-digit local numbers will need to be reprogrammed to complete calls to 10-digit numbers.

Some examples are: life safety systems or medical monitoring devices, PBXs, internet dial-up numbers, fax machines, fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates, speed dialers, mobile or other wireless phone contact lists, voicemail services, call forwarding settings, and other similar functions.

Arvig advises customers to check their website, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks, contact information, personal or pet ID tags, and similar items to make sure the area code is included.

On the plus side, Arvig said, many things will

remain the same:

Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.

The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the dialing change.

What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.

You will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for all long distance calls.

You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services).

Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611 or 811 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their 3-digit codes.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can still be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The new 988 line won't go into effect until July 16.

Arvig wants businesses to be aware that their Business Phone Systems & Hosted PBX will be affected by the change.

All business phone systems, including HPBX (A Hosted Private Branch Exchange is a telephone switching system that's accessible over a network in the cloud) will be affected by this change as well. In addition to standard dialing, many calling features will be impacted, including:

- Fax machines
Speed dialing
Contact lists and pre-programmed numbers
Voicemail services
Call forwarding settings
And other similar functions.

"Automated systems will be the 'gotcha,'" Greene said. "Anytime there's anything working in the background, it's like Y2K, it's something that's going to break."

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8:55 Commissioners Open Forum Reports and Correspondence
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ARENA

From Page 1

“I guess the point of this is having an exercise in seeing what it could look like,” said Kelcey Klemm, city administrator for Detroit Lakes. “Obviously, it’s very preliminary, a lot of discussion has to take place, but it’s got to start somewhere.”

Klemm said the potential arena upgrade could be partnered with a possible Pavilion upgrade on the

lakefront and be the focus of a new local-option sales tax after the Detroit Lakes Police Station is paid off in spring of 2023. The sales tax has worked so well that the police station is expected to be paid off nearly five years early. However, the measure would still need to face a city-wide ballot referendum, possibly as part of the 2024 general election, before any plans could be acted upon.

“Part of the question is: What is the appetite for the referendum?” said Klemm. “While 2024 seems like a long ways off, it’s not. And

I think that this process with the arena, a process that we’re going to have to do with The Pavilion ... but we’re going to have to start diving a little bit deeper into what that actually looks like, and start actually getting some cost estimates so we are ready for something in 2024.”

Features of the potential remodel include:

- ▶ A performance training area with synthetic ice, batting cages, weight training and golf simulator.
- ▶ New varsity and junior varsity locker rooms.

- ▶ A linked lobby area for both arenas.
 - ▶ New seating in arena two.
 - ▶ New concessions and merch shopping area.
 - ▶ New conference rooms with areas for catering.
 - ▶ A new Zamboni garage and storage areas
- “With the project, this initial concept, it looks great,” said Klemm. “It is a pretty sizable expansion and a component of that, too, is that lease space that is something that needs to be vetted, so I think it’s a starting point.”

During the presentation at the council work session, Ron Zeman, Alderman for Ward One, said the city should have been made aware of plans before the arena commission paid for the initial designs, since the commission reports to the council and not the other way around.

▶ **Send your local story tips to Michael at machterling@dnewspapers.com and follow him on Twitter @machterling.**

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WALK-OFF

From Page 1

It’s little wonder, then, that today’s work-scape looks so new and strange. “Help wanted” signs are everywhere, with restaurants and stores cutting hours due to lack of staff. Employment specialists complain that people won’t take a job unless it pays at least \$15 an hour. Since April, workers have been voluntarily leaving their jobs at an unprecedented rate of 4 million people — that’s more people than the populations of the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington metro area — per month.

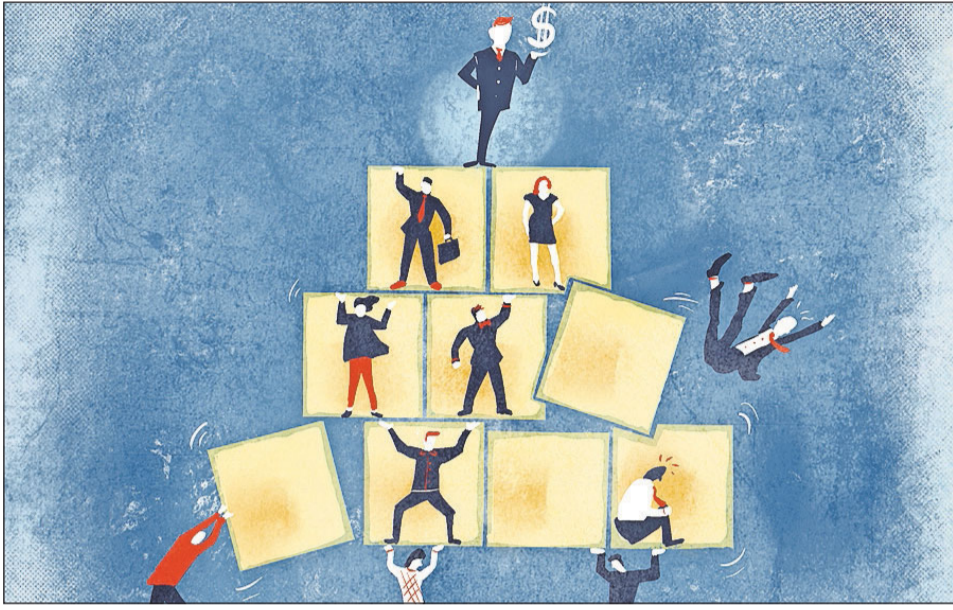
Jill Berg, CEO of Spherion Staffing, which has offices in North Dakota and Minnesota, says this hemorrhage of employees, commonly called The Great Resignation, is unprecedented.

“What we have to do is figure out how we are going to flip that switch and turn that Great Resignation into the Great Retention, because if we don’t, we will not be able to survive as a country,” Berg said during a Concordia College webinar titled “The Big Quit” in November. So what’s the problem? Have American workers grown too entitled? Or is this real culprit a profit-focused corporate culture which left too many employees feeling overlooked, undervalued and expendable?

The answer likely lies somewhere in between. It seems COVID triggered more than a Great Resignation; it also inspired a Great Reckoning. The virus has been a double-edged sword — taking lives, disrupting the economy and spreading fear on one hand, yet stopping the world for long enough that people dared to ask themselves existential questions they may have never asked otherwise.

“People are really seeing things through a different filter here,” says Berg. “They’re seeing what’s important in my life? Is my health important? Is my family important? Is my safety important? What are those things? And it may not be the 12-hour workday or the eight-hour workday.”

In the case of Kari Schaaf, the labor-and-delivery RN who opted to become a travel nurse, the lure of \$90-an-hour wages and the chance to explore different parts of the country were too powerful to resist. Schaaf has wanted to



Troy Becker / Forum News Service

U.S. workers, burned out by the stress of the past two years and wondering if their lives are about more than work, are voluntarily walking away from jobs at an unprecedented rate of 4 million people per month.

travel the world since she was young, even persuading husband, Danny, to spend their honeymoon in Thailand. The adventure of living elsewhere seemed especially enticing after two years of shrouding herself in masks, gloves and gowns; watching her co-workers divide into pro- and anti-vax camps and seeing unvaccinated moms get deathly ill from the virus.

Schaaf says she’ll miss her family in North Dakota and her workplace. But she’s excited about her new job, which starts with a 13-week assignment in Seattle. She doesn’t think this job could have happened without the conditions created by the pandemic. “I’m not sure it would have been possible to support the entire family prior to COVID, as wages skyrocketed for travel nurses because of it,” she says.

Workforce shortage isn’t new phenomenon

North Dakota and Minnesota — known for sturdy work ethics — show some of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. North Dakota has the 13th lowest unemployment rate in the US with a seasonally adjusted rate of 3.3 percent, while Minnesota trails closely at just 3.5 percent, according to November numbers from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“There’s nobody milking that supposed gravy train,” says Carey Fry, director of North Dakota Job Service’s Workforce Development Center in Fargo, in response to criticisms that federal stimulus payments and child care tax credits have turned Americans into free-loaders. “It’s not happening.”

Studies suggest people are leaving for jobs

with higher pay, more flexibility or a healthier work culture. “It’s not just quitting for the sake of quitting, it’s quitting to find better employment,” Gregory Daco, the chief US economist at Oxford Economics, told the New York Times.

Fry also points out that the pandemic only created the tipping point for a workforce that’s been shrinking for years.

People are really seeing things through a different filter here. They’re seeing what’s important in my life? Is my health important? Is my family important? Is my safety important? What are those things? And it may not be the 12-hour workday or the eight-hour workday.

On the one hand, the law of supply-and-demand has given American workers a new surge of bargaining power. Employers must reach deeper into their pockets to pay workers, who may have once juggled several minimum-wage

jobs to pay rent but now can find positions that start at \$15.

Joyce Norals, vice president and chief human resource officer at Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, also spoke at the Concordia webinar on “The Big Quit.” Norals believes that one positive development from the labor shortage is that it has forced the system to pay a better wage to the working poor.

“The benefit of it was it helped organization and public policy around helping set the minimum wage as a livable wage,” she says.

On the other hand, many smaller businesses cannot afford those wages. And the workers who suffer most are those jammed in the middle — the reliable stalwarts who always show up, as well as the middle managers who are caught between meeting organizational goals while picking up the slack left by skeletal staffing.

Causes range from demographic shifts to personal epiphanies

This unprecedented labor shortage has everyone scrambling to find the cause.

Some of it represents a simple demographic shift: Many older workers retired early when COVID hit. At the same time, families are smaller, which means fewer young workers are entering the workforce, Fry says.

And of that smaller demographic, fewer high school and college-age students — who traditionally filled many restaurant and hospitality jobs — are opting to enter the job market these days.

Young people seem to have more academic pressure and extra-curricular choices, or their parents no longer expect them to get a job, Fry says. More college students also are studying remotely from other communities.

And once those young people graduate from North Dakota colleges, it can be an uphill battle to keep them here. Many graduates flock to larger cities, with the promise of higher wages and more social and entertainment options.

“We are competing with every state in this country for workers. What is it that’s going to make them want to come to North Dakota or to Fargo-Moorhead and take a job here?” Fry says.

Other reasons commonly cited for workers exiting are trouble securing reliable child care, vaccine hesitancy, pandemic-related safety fears and the trend of workers quitting to

work for themselves.

But for some, it’s an internal drive to feel valued and like they’re in the right job. The term, “epiphany quitters,” has been coined for those who made drastic career shifts amid COVID.

Fry’s own daughter experienced this after months of struggling to engage students while teaching high school English remotely. After listening to her cousin speak enthusiastically about her nursing degree, Fry’s daughter informed her mom she would finish out the year teaching, but she was also taking the prerequisite classes to get into the accelerated bachelor’s in nursing program through Concordia College.

“She told me, ‘I just re-evaluated what I wanted to do, and I think this is really what I want and so I’m doing it,’” Fry says.

Tammy Swift is a business reporter/columnist at The Forum. She can be reached at tswift@forumcomm.com.

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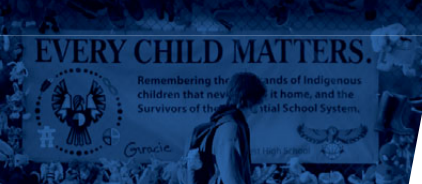
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Canada to compensate Indigenous families for children who were taken
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Toyota overtakes GM in US for first time
Page 3



New comedy 'Abbot Elementary' a worthy successor to 'The Office'
Page 4



Cardamom buns are a Swedish treat worth mastering
Page 5

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA

THOUSANDS OF DRIVERS TRAPPED OVERNIGHT ON VIRGINIA HIGHWAY

DESPERATE MOTORISTS STRANDED IN FREEZING TEMPERATURES WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER

By Katharine Jackson
Reuters

Washington

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine's routine commute from his Virginia home to Washington on Monday turned into a 27-hour ordeal when a blizzard left a major highway south of the nation's capital impassable, stranding him and thousands of other motorists without food and water in the freezing cold.

Interstate 95 — one of the busiest thoroughfares on the East Coast — was closed for hours in both directions near Fredericksburg, about 55 miles (89 km) south of Washington, after the region was blanketed by up to a foot (30 cm) of snow, the Virginia Department of Transportation said on Tuesday.

Traffic on the 47-mile (76-km) stretch of I-95 came to a standstill about 8 p.m. on Monday (0100 GMT on Tuesday) and did not begin moving again until Tuesday afternoon.

For hours overnight and well after daybreak, hundreds of tractor-trailer trucks and cars lined the snow-clogged roadway as their drivers grew increasingly desperate

about their predicament and exasperated by what appeared to be a slow response by authorities.

Kaine, the 2016 Democratic nominee for vice president, was one of the many motorists caught up in the paralysis.

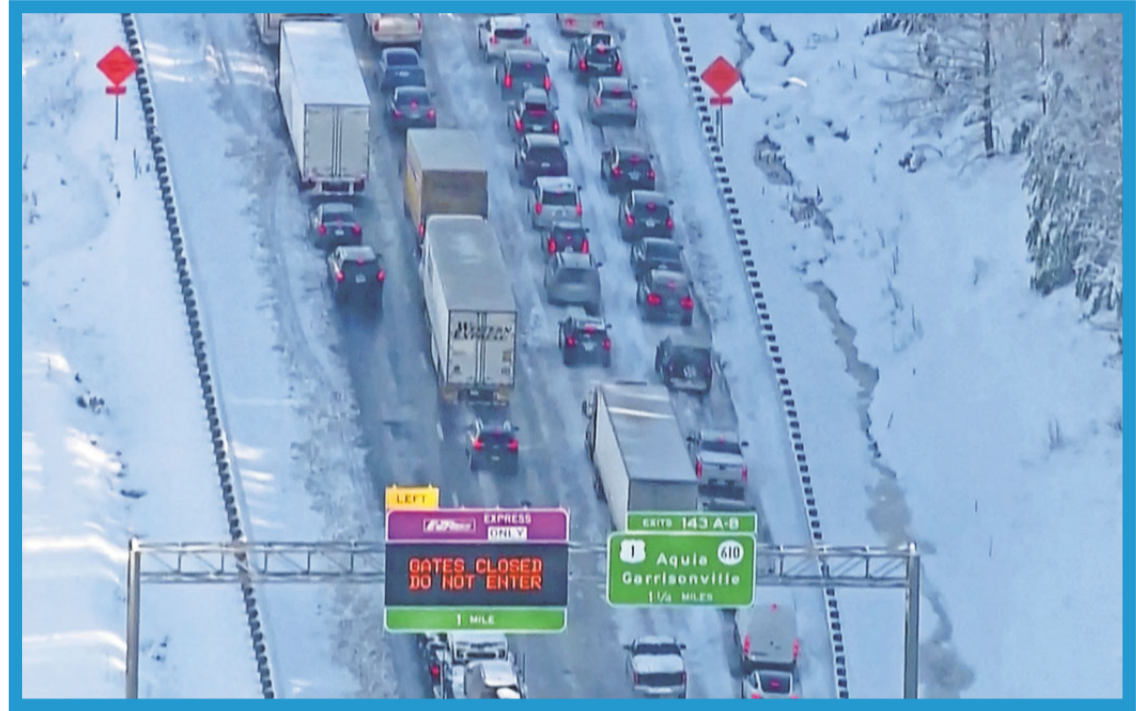
"I started my normal 2 hour drive to DC at 1pm yesterday," he posted on Twitter on Tuesday morning. "19 hours later, I'm still not near the Capitol."

The senator finally arrived in Washington 27 hours after leaving Richmond, his communications director said. Kaine told CNN that he had had nothing to eat or drink since setting out on Monday.

Jim DeFede, an investigative reporter with CBS 4 Miami, found himself stuck somewhere in Prince George County.

"Good morning from I-95 in Virginia where I have been trapped in my car for more than 20 hours," he tweeted just after dawn. "I'm not sure, but I think I now qualify for Virginia residency."

DeFede later reported that fire and rescue teams had finally arrived early on Tuesday afternoon, guiding



ABC / WJLA via Reuters

Vehicles are seen Tuesday in a still image from video as authorities worked to reopen an icy stretch of Interstate 95 closed after a storm blanketed the U.S. region in snow a day earlier, near Garrisonville, Virginia.

his car and other vehicles in reverse to a just-opened exit.

State and local emergency personnel worked through the morning and into the afternoon to clear downed trees, assist disabled vehicles and reroute drivers, Governor Ralph Northam said on Tuesday.

"It's going to take some time to get to these folks. We're trying to get water,

trying to get to warming stations for them, so we're doing everything we can to keep people safe and to get these roads cleared," he said during a telephone briefing.

Northam said he hoped to completely reopen the highway on Tuesday but "we kind of take it one step at a time." He promised to provide frequent updates.

Northam and the Virginia

Department of Transportation came under fierce criticism for the state's response and failure to call in the National Guard. Some urged President Joe Biden to mobilize federal resources to rescue stranded drivers and reopen the highway.

Northam told WTOP radio the National Guard was available, but said it had yet to be mobilized.

US reports 1M COVID-19 cases in one day, setting global record

Numbers have doubled since last week, show no sign of slowing

By Joseph Ax and Lisa Shumaker
Reuters

The United States set a global record of almost 1 million new coronavirus infections reported on Monday, according to a Reuters tally, nearly double the country's peak hit just a week ago as the highly contagious omicron variant shows no sign of slowing.

The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has risen nearly 50% in the last week and now exceeds 100,000, a Reuters analysis showed, the first time that threshold has been reached since the winter surge a year ago.

Overall, the United States has seen a daily average of 486,000 cases over the last week, a rate that has doubled in seven days and far outstrips that of any other country. The 978,856 new infections on Monday includes some cases from Saturday and Sunday, when many states do not report.

The average number of U.S. COVID-19 deaths per day has remained fairly steady throughout December and into early January at about 1,300, according to a Reuters tally, though deaths typically lag behind cases and hospitalizations.

Omicron appears to be far more easily transmit-



Evelyn Hockstein / Reuters

Press Secretary Jen Psaki holds a media briefing with reduced number of members of the press due to the omicron variant of coronavirus Tuesday at the White House in Washington.

ted than previous iterations of the virus. The variant was estimated to account for 95.4% of the coronavirus cases identified in the United States as of Jan. 1, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Tuesday.

The World Health Organization said on Tuesday that evidence thus far suggests omicron is causing less severe illness. Nevertheless, public health officials have warned that the sheer volume of omicron cases threatens to overwhelm hospitals, some of which are already struggling to handle a wave of COVID-19 patients, primarily among the unvaccinated.

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan declared a 30-day state of emergency on Tuesday and



Mike Blake / Reuters

People line-up outside the Encanto Southern Baptist Church waiting to be tested for COVID-19 on Tuesday in San Diego.

US finalizing purchase of 500M COVID tests

Tests to be distributed for free to Americans who request them

By Trevor Hunnicutt and Nandita Bose
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is finalizing contracts for 500 million rapid COVID-19 tests that it plans to distribute for free to Americans who request them, spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Tuesday.

The omicron variant of the coronavirus has swiftly spread across the United States since its detection on Dec. 1, replacing Delta as the dominant strain and sparking a new wave of infections that pushed recorded daily cases near the 1 million mark on Monday.

Psaki did not share details on how soon the tests will be available. The administration, she said, is in the process of finalizing the contracts and expects the first shipment from manufacturers to come soon.

The website to be used to request the free tests will be up and running later this month, she added.

"This is about making them free and accessible to the people who want them," Psaki said.

President Joe Biden announced the free test initiative in December as the Omicron variant sent Americans scrambling to obtain tests. Tests have become hard to find in many areas, and long lines often form where they are available.

The omicron variant is estimated to account for over 95% of the coronavirus infections circulating in the United States as of Jan. 1, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Tuesday.

The fast-spreading variant was first detected in southern Africa and Hong Kong in November and has since swept through the globe at lightning speed, although signs that it may cause milder symptoms than previous variants have offered some relief.

Canada to compensate Indigenous families

\$31.5B agreement reached with families whose children were taken

By Anna Mehler Paperny
and Ismail Shakil
Reuters

TORONTO - Canada announced on Tuesday two agreements totalling C\$40 billion (\$31.5 billion) to compensate First Nations children who were taken from their families and put into the child welfare system and to reform the system that removed them and deprived them of services they needed.

The agreements include C\$20 billion for potentially hundreds of thousands of First Nations children who were removed from their families, who did not get services or who experienced delays in receiving services. Another C\$20 billion is to reform the system over the next five years.

The agreements come almost 15 years after the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society brought forward a human rights complaint.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal repeatedly



Blair Gable / File Photo

A student walks past a display at Hillcrest High School on Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30, 2021, honoring the lost children and survivors of Indigenous residential schools, their families and communities, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

found child and family services discriminated against First Nations children, in part by under-funding services on reserves so children were removed from their homes

and taken off-reserve to get those services.

Canada admitted its systems were discriminatory but repeatedly fought orders to pay compensation and fund

reforms, including an appeal it filed last year.

Canada is also fighting a class-action lawsuit on behalf of First Nations children that the compensation agreement seeks to resolve.

Justice Minister David Lametti said Tuesday the government will drop its appeals once the agreements are finalized in the months ahead.

The reform deal includes C\$2,500 in preventive care per child and provisions for children in foster care to receive support beyond age 18.

Funding aimed at reform and preventive services should start flowing in April but may not address deep-rooted problems, said Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society.

"I see it as words on paper," she told Reuters.

"I judge victory when I can walk into a community and a child is able to say to me, 'My life is better than it was yesterday.' Nothing in these

words actually changes children's lives until it's implemented."

Lawyer David Sterns, representing harmed First Nations children and families, said during a press conference that this would be the largest class-action settlement in Canada's history.

"The enormity of this settlement is due to one reason, and one reason only. And that is the sheer scope of the harm inflicted on class members," he said.

At the press conference Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu vowed to end discrimination against First Nations children, who are over-represented in foster care across Canada.

"Canada's decision and actions harmed First Nations children, families and communities," she said. "Discrimination caused intergenerational harm and losses. Those losses are not reversible. But I believe healing is possible."

Record quits, hiring slowdown may show Omicron's impact

By Howard Schneider
Reuters

WASHINGTON - Record numbers of U.S. workers leaving their jobs and a slowdown in hiring at front-line businesses may show that the latest COVID-19 wave is denting labor supply, possibly pushing the Federal Reserve further toward concluding that employment is nearing its practical limits.

Hiring data tracked by business payroll managers Homebase and UKG showed employment edging down through December, coinciding with a record outbreak of

coronavirus infections driven by the Omicron variant.

Data from both firms showed larger seasonal dips this year than in 2020, with employment in Homebase's sample of smaller businesses falling around 15% in the last days of 2021 compared to a roughly 10% drop last year.

UKG saw shift work across a variety of industries fall 1.7% in December versus a 0.3% decline in the same period last year and a 0.8% drop in December 2019.

"The data shows a strong downward shift starting in mid-December," wrote Dave Gilbertson, vice president at

UKG.

At the same time, new government data for November showed workers walking away from jobs in record numbers, particularly from lower-paid and often front-line service-sector positions where health risks are considered more acute and work-from-home options less available.

With job openings still near record levels and consumer demand holding up despite the wave of infections, economists say it could mean more pressure on companies to raise wages - and more pressure on the Fed to declare that its goal of "maximum

employment" was close to being met, if not exceeded already.

Meeting that goal is one of the U.S. central bank's precursors to raising interest rates, and policymakers at the Fed's Dec. 14-15 meeting indicated they felt that key benchmark was close. Minutes of that meeting are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, providing more details of a session where the Fed began a more concerted fight against inflation that is running at nearly three times its targeted rate of 2% a year and laid the groundwork for an interest rate increase as

early as March.

In an essay published on the website Medium, Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari, prominent among Fed officials who have wanted to delay interest rate increases in hopes of encouraging more job growth, said that as of last month's meeting he had penciled in two rate hikes for 2022 in part because of doubts about how many people will be willing to return to work soon.

The U.S. Labor Department is due to release its December employment report on Friday.

BRIEFS

New York prosecutor drops sex crime case against ex-governor Cuomo

NEW YORK - A New York prosecutor will not pursue a misdemeanor sex crime charge against former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, saying he could not prove the elements of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt.

Albany County District Attorney David Soares said in a statement on Tuesday that his office had investigated the complaint made by former Cuomo aide Brittany Commisso and that he found her to be "cooperative and credible."

US charges Colombian man with conspiracy to kill Haitian President Moise

U.S. authorities on Tuesday charged a Colombian man with conspiracy to commit murder or kidnapping outside the United States in connection with the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moise, the first official charges in the brazen crime.

Haiti has arrested dozens of people following the July murder that left a political vacuum in the Caribbean nation. But it has not charged anyone, and the investigation has drawn complaints in that country about delays and intimidation of officials.

The U.S. Justice Department said in a statement that Mario Palacios, a former Colombian military officer, was part of a conspiracy that first planned to kidnap Moise but evolved into an assassination plot after conspirators were unable to find a plane to take the president out of Haiti.

Drone attack on US forces foiled west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD - Two explosive-laden drones were shot down on Tuesday by Iraq's air defenses as they approached the Ain al-Asad air base, which hosts U.S. forces, west of Baghdad, an official of the U.S.-led international military coalition said.

U.S. officials in recent weeks

had warned that they expected an uptick in attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria, in part because of the second anniversary of the killing of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.

Biden to honor law enforcement on Jan. 6 anniversary

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden Thursday will mark the one-year anniversary of the deadly Jan. 6 assault at the U.S. Capitol by honoring the bravery of law enforcement on the scene, and outlining the unfinished work the nation needs to do to strengthen its democracy, the White House said.

Paraguay soldier killed by deer antler at presidential palace

ASUNCION - A Paraguayan military officer died after being attacked by a deer that ran an antler through his chest while he was serving in a security detail at the presidential residence in the capital Asuncion, officials said on Tuesday.

Infantry assistant sergeant Victor Isasi Flecha, 42, died on Monday night as a result of "piercing injuries" caused by the animal, said a statement from the military forces of the South American country.

Britain extends pardons to all men convicted under scrapped gay sex laws

LONDON - Gay and bisexual British men convicted over any consensual same-sex relations under now-abolished laws will be able to have their convictions removed from the public record, the government said on Tuesday.

The announcement extends a program launched a decade ago that granted pardons to gay men convicted of "buggery," "gross indecency" and "sodomy." It will now cover all other convictions related to consensual same-sex sexual activity.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said the move was aimed at "righting the wrongs of the past."

- Reuters

Kazakhstan declares state of emergency

Gas price cap protests have turned violent

Reuters

ALMATY - Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has declared a two-week state of emergency in the Central Asian nation's biggest city Almaty and in the western Mangistau province where protests turned violent, his office said early on Wednesday.

The move includes an 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew, movement restrictions, and a ban on mass gatherings, according to documents published on the president's website.

"Calls to attack government and military offices are absolutely illegal," Tokayev said in a video address a few hours earlier. "The government will not fall, but we want mutual trust and dialog rather than conflict."

As he spoke, police in Almaty used tear gas and stun grenades to stop hundreds of protesters from storming the mayor's office, a Reuters correspondent reported from the scene.

The oil-rich country's government announced late on Tuesday it was restoring some price caps on liquefied petroleum gas, after the rare protests reached Almaty following a sharp rise in the price of the fuel at the start of the year.

Many Kazakhs have converted their cars to run on LPG, which is far cheaper than gasoline as a vehicle fuel in Kazakhstan because of price caps. But the government argued that the low price was unsustainable and lifted the caps on Jan. 1.

Price spike

After the price of the fuel spiked, rallies involving thousands of people erupt-



Pavel Mikheyev / Reuters

A view shows a burning police car Wednesday during a protest against LPG cost rise following the Kazakh authorities' decision to lift price caps on liquefied petroleum gas in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

ed on Jan. 2 in the town of Zhanaozen, an oil hub and site of deadly clashes between protesters and police a decade ago.

Demonstrations spread to other parts of surrounding Mangistau province and western Kazakhstan, including provincial center Aktau and a worker camp used by sub-contractors of Kazakhstan's biggest oil producer, Tengizchevroil. The Chevron-led venture said output had not been affected.

In Almaty, police appeared to have taken control of the main square shortly after deploying flashbang grenades, according to online video streams from the area. But explosions were heard for hours on nearby streets and in other parts of the city.

Videos published online showed torched police cars in

the city, as well as armored vehicles moving through one of its main thoroughfares.

On Tuesday evening, the government announced it was restoring the price cap of 50 tenge (11 cents) per liter, or less than half the market price, in Mangistau province.

Public protests are illegal in the country of 19 million unless their organizers file a notice in advance.

Tokayev, the hand-picked successor of Soviet-era Communist boss Nursultan Nazarbayev who stepped down in 2019, faces no political opposition in parliament.

The president said on Twitter on Tuesday that he would hold a government meeting the following day to discuss the protesters' demands. He urged protesters to behave responsibly.



Ryan Garza / Detroit Free Press / TNS

General Motors trucks sit in a gated parking lot in August 2021 next to the Economy Lot across from Bishop International Airport in Flint, Mich.

Manufacturing expectations unmet in US in 2021

However, recent capacity constraints show welcome signs of loosening

By Reade Pickert
Bloomberg News

A measure of U.S. manufacturing fell short of expectations at the end of 2021, reflecting declines in gauges of delivery times and prices that belie an otherwise solid demand picture.

The Institute for Supply Management's gauge of December factory activity fell to 58.7, the lowest level since January 2021, from 61.1 in the prior month, according to data released Tuesday. Readings above 50 indicate expansion and the median forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists called for 60.

The pullback in the headline figure obscures strength in the underlying components. The group's gauges of supplier deliveries and prices paid for materials — while still elevated — both fell to their lowest levels in more than a year.

Improved delivery times and lower input prices typically indicate softer demand. However, the latest declines suggest capacity constraints are beginning to loosen. That's welcome progress for manufacturers who have struggled to keep up with demand because of materials shortages, hiring challenges and transportation bottlenecks.

The ISM's demand indicators remained firm in December, suggesting the manufacturing sector will continue to expand at a healthy pace. The ISM employment gauge rose to an eight-month high, and the new orders index eased just slightly to a healthy 60.4.

"The U.S. manufacturing sector remains in a demand-driven, supply chain-constrained environment," Timothy Fiore, chair of ISM's Manufacturing Business Survey Committee, said in a statement. "Coronavirus pandemic-related global issues — worker absenteeism, short-term shutdowns due to parts shortages, employee turnover and overseas supply chain problems — continue to impact manufacturing."

Fifteen manufacturing industries reported growth in December, led by apparel, furniture and textiles.

The government jobs report, out Friday, is anticipated to show manufacturers added 35,000 jobs in December, following 31,000 a month earlier. Across industries, employers are expected to have added 420,000 jobs, double the prior month's print.

Select ISM Industry Comments:

Business continues to be good, with strong incoming orders from customers. Continue to battle labor, material and transportation pressures.

Furniture & Related Products
"Continued strong demand has our production facilities producing as many vehicles as we have materials for; however, capacity is limited due to the global chip shortage."

Transportation Equipment
"Price increases appear to be slowing. Lead times are shrinking slowly, and inventories are growing."

Fabricated Metal Products
"Construction projects for 2022 and 2023 look very strong for us."

Nonmetallic Mineral Products
"Lowered oil prices due to (the) omicron variant has caused concern around production and capital spend in 2022."

Petroleum & Coal Products
"Supply chain interruptions have dramatically increased in the fourth quarter. Many of our suppliers are unable to deliver product until January or February 2022 or later."

Miscellaneous Manufacturing
The ISM's factory production measure slipped to 59.2, the lowest since July but robust by historical standards.

The omicron variant — now the dominant strain in the U.S. — may impact the report more substantially in the coming months.

TOYOTA OVERTAKES GM

General Motors has been US market leader since Great Depression

By Jamie L. LaReau
Detroit Free Press

In a historic turn, Toyota Motor North America has taken the U.S. sales crown from General Motors for 2021 after the shortage of semiconductor chips severely hampered GM's ability to build enough new vehicles to meet demand.

On Tuesday, GM and Toyota both reported fourth-quarter and full-year new car sales results and, as many analysts predicted, Toyota outsold GM in both categories. GM has been the market leader since the Great Depression, according to Automotive News.

GM reported its fourth-quarter sales plummeted 43% to 440,745 vehicles sold compared with the year-ago quarter. For the full year, GM's new vehicle sales in the U.S. declined 13% to 2.2 million new cars sold.

Meanwhile, Toyota reported it sold 474,378 new vehicles in the fourth quarter, down 28% from the year-ago period. For the full year, it sold 2.3 million vehicles, a 10.4% gain from 2020. Toyota's biggest sellers were the Camry sedan, the RAV4 and Highlander SUVs and the Tacoma pickup.

But Toyota's win is likely an anomaly, said Jessica Caldwell, executive director of Insights for Edmunds.

"Although Toyota should be commended for this accomplishment in the face of the Detroit Three's historic dominance in auto sales, the company shouldn't get too comfortable in the top spot," Caldwell said. "It's unlikely that this will happen again since 2021 was an

extraordinarily unusual year."

But in its sales release, Toyota leaders said the company is positioned to continue to deliver strong sales.

"Despite a second consecutive year of challenges, TMNA focused on delivering an exceptional customer experience, and we remain optimistic as our electrification strategy further evolves," Jack Hollis, Toyota Motor North America's senior vice president of Automotive Operations Group, said in a statement. "Thanks to our phenomenal dealers and world-class purchasing and manufacturing teams, our inventory continues to improve and we're preparing to introduce 21 all-new, refreshed or special edition vehicles in 2022."

Ford Motor Co. releases its results Wednesday. Stellantis' numbers were expected later Tuesday.

GM's top sellers

GM's sales were supported by the Chevrolet Silverado and the GMC Sierra full-size pickups, which sold a combined total of 778,689 units for the year. But they did not top last year's sales. GM sold 248,924 Sierras this year, down about 2% from what it sold in 2020. Likewise, Silverado sales came in at 529,765, an 11% decline from 2020.

GM's President of North America Steve Carlisle said the automaker is poised to recapture market share in the year ahead.

"In 2022, we plan to take advantage of the strong economy and anticipated improved semiconductor supplies

to grow our sales and share," Carlisle said in a statement. "We will also further strengthen our industry leadership in trucks and begin our drive to EV leadership in North America with the rollouts of the GMC HUMMER EV, Cadillac Lyriq and the reveals of the Chevrolet Silverado EV and GMC Sierra EV."

GM's chief economist said economic growth in the U.S. and improving semiconductor availability will help drive U.S. total light industry sales from around 15 million in 2021 to 16 million this year.

"The key constraint for sales continues to be reduced inventory levels as a result of the semiconductor shortage. Those inventory levels are beginning to recover against a backdrop of strong fundamental demand conditions, with ample job openings, high household savings and low interest rates," said GM's Elaine Buckberg.

All automakers struggled in 2021 to keep new-car production running amid the chip shortage that started in February.

GM took severe hits to new-vehicle sales in the second half due to low inventory and production delays as the automaker awaited chip parts. The chips are a key component in a variety of car parts.

To keep inventory flowing, GM made certain vehicles without some amenities such as wireless charging technology or Automatic Stop/Start, the feature that turns off the engine when

a driver stops at an intersection and then automatically restarts it when the driver steps on the throttle.

But GM had some bright spots in the quarter and for the full year especially with its strategy to direct whatever chip parts it could get to the plants that make its more profitable vehicles. Those include big SUVs such as the Cadillac Escalade and its full-size pickups.

Sales of the Escalade rose for the quarter and for the full year. For the quarter, Cadillac sold 9,664, a 2% gain over the year-ago quarter. For the full year, GM saw sales of its redesigned Escalade rise 65% to 40,505 units sold. Other strong sellers were the Chevy Tahoe and Trailblazer SUVs. For the year, GM sold 106,030 Tahoes, a gain of 20% and GM sold 90,161 Trailblazers compared with 34,292 in 2020.

Sales of the all-electric Chevrolet Bolt also rose 20% to 24,828 units sold despite GM having to halt production in late summer at Orion Assembly in Orion Township due to a global recall of 2017-22 Bolts due to defective batteries that could pose a fire threat. That production halt hurt Bolt sales in the fourth quarter with GM selling just 25 of them compared with 6,701 cars a year ago.

GM's results follow a rough 2020. GM's new-vehicle sales dropped 11.8% for the full-year 2020 compared with 2019, largely due to the pandemic-induced eight-week shutdown that year.

FUNNY AND RECOGNIZABLY HONEST

New workplace comedy 'Abbot Elementary' a worthy successor to 'The Office'

By Nina Metz
Chicago Tribune

Fellow TV obsessives: We finally have a worthy successor to "The Office" in ABC's "Abbott Elementary." Created by Quinta Brunson, who also stars alongside a terrific ensemble that includes the great Sheryl Lee Ralph, the show centers on an eclectic group of teachers working at an under-resourced elementary school. Loosely inspired by the 40-year career of Brunson's mother, who worked in the Philadelphia public school system, it begins its regular run Tuesday after a teaser episode aired last month (and is available on Hulu if you need to catch up).

Brunson started her comedy training in Chicago at Second City and was most recently a writer and performer on HBO's "A Black Lady Sketch Show." Here, she plays a young Philly teacher in her second year on the job. Meaning, she is new enough that she isn't jaded — yet. When she sees relatively small things that can and should be fixed — flickering lights in the hallway, say — she rolls up her sleeves: "The older teachers are used to giving in," she tells the camera, "but I, however, am young, sprightly and know where they keep the ladders."

Her well-intentioned efforts end up short-circuiting the school's entire electrical system for the day and the cascading domino effect is as humorous as it is real. Her more seasoned colleagues can only gaze at her with an exhausted-frustrated "I told you so" look in their eyes. "Thank you for trying," one of them finally says, "your hyperactive little heart was in the right place."

Schools — both functional and less so — probably benefit from this kind of young can-do optimism and more seasoned realism mashup, and as a setting for a workplace comedy it's pretty ingenious: This is what it looks like when your job feels absurd but also deeply meaningful. There's nothing wrong with selling stuff, but as "The Office" and "Superstore" later made clear, it can all feel so pointless in the end. "Abbott Elementary" is expert at excavating the small, often petty realities that form any workday — where demoralizing and nonsensical systems are forever thwarting your best efforts — but the



Prashant Gupta / ABC / TNS

Tyler James Williams stars as new teacher Greg Eddie in ABC's "Abbott Elementary."

show, to its great advantage, is about more than just punching the clock. TV Land's "Teachers" (also created by Chicago improv alums) ran from 2016 to 2019 and covered similar territory through an affluent white suburban lens, whereas "Abbott Elementary," which also finds a good deal of humor in the unique personalities within, is set against the backdrop of a perpetually underfunded school system serving Black students. Without being especially hamfisted about it, the show is a hilariously subversive portrait of a profession that's long been underpaid and taken for granted.

It's worth contrasting the success of "Abbott Elementary's" execution with that of another new workplace comedy, NBC's "American Auto," which also premieres Tuesday. Created by former "Superstore" showrunner Justin Spitzer (with "Superstore" alum Jon Barinholtz and Ana Gasteyer

among the cast), it takes place within the executive offices of a fictitious Detroit automaker. The format is the same single-camera mockumentary style as its predecessors (and as well as "Abbott Elementary"), but there's nothing about it that lands. I'm not sure a new comedy about in-person white collar busywork feels especially trenchant amid our ongoing COVID-19 reality. Then there's the running storyline about a young white female executive who sleeps with a Black factory worker, only to then attempt to have him transferred away because his presence makes her uncomfortable. I'm not saying this kind of sexual harassment isn't realistic, I'm saying it's not funny. A workplace comedy has to be more than awkward Jim Halpert glances to the camera and outsized office personalities. It also has to find humor in the day-to-day grind in a way that feels recognizably honest.

Which "Abbott Elementary" absolutely does. The fresh-

faced newbies are Brunson's Janine and Chris Perfetti's dorky Jacob (I appreciate the fact that despite their relative youth, neither seems particularly tapped into pop culture and Janine is a consistently frumpy dresser). They are forever comparing themselves against their more veteran colleagues: Sheryl Lee Ralph's Barbara (an elegant and mostly unflappable kindergarten teacher) and Lisa Ann Walter's Melissa (a tough South Philly broad teaching second grade). There's also the substitute teacher who appears to be settling in for the long haul, played by Tyler James Williams (best known as the title character in "Everybody Hates Chris").

Then there's the school principal played by Janelle James, who is essentially the show's Michael Scott character: A fundamentally self-involved and ridiculous person who is somehow in a position of authority. Two things about this: James has found a very funny way to

inhabit such a broad and insufferable character type, and "Abbott Elementary" itself has good instincts about just how much time this character warrants in any given episode (erring on the side of less rather than more).

"Abbott Elementary" is primarily a showcase for wildly talented and funny women and I'm in the bag for any comedy that has the smarts to leverage Ralph's incredible talents. I was unfamiliar with Walter's previous work but she is exceptional here as a street-wise dame who says things like, "I got plenty of classroom supply plugs to keep me stocked up for whatever I need. It's not my fault you didn't want into the deal."

"To be fair," one of her colleagues chimes in, "none of us said no, we simply had a few questions," to which she replies without missing a beat: "And I said that's a few too many questions."

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Betty White deserves a statue in Minnesota

Late actress brought a love for the state to most iconic characters

By Neal Justin
Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — The sight of Mary Tyler Moore tossing her cap in the air welcomes visitors to Nicollet Mall. Marion Ross, who played Marion Cunningham on "Happy Days," returned to her hometown of Albert Lea last July for the unveiling of her bronze sculpture. Now it's time for Minnesota to honor a third TV icon.

Betty White, who died last week in her Los Angeles home just weeks shy of her 100th birthday, spent most of her life in California. But her most beloved characters had a deep connection to the North Star State.

The addition of Sue Ann Nivens to "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" in the fourth season gave the wholesome gang at Minneapolis' WJM newsroom the perfect foil, a cooking show personality that would make Martha Stewart look like Snow White.

On "The Golden Girls," Rose Nylund was the total opposite of "The Happy Homemaker," a seemingly naive bumpkin. But she often shocked her roommates with the inner toughness she developed by growing up on a farm in fictitious St. Olaf, Minn., a town that held a milk-diving contest and where Eva Braun once taught high-school gym. "I don't know!," she said



ABC / TNS

From left, Estelle Getty, Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan and Betty White in "The Golden Girls."

during the 2010 chat. "I'm not Norwegian, even though both characters leaned that way. I'm Danish. Geographically, I guess that's close enough."

There's not an obvious spot for the statue, but let's consider the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield. It would force students to learn more about why White is a pop-culture icon. Here are just some of the reasons why she earned the title:

She was one of TV's first superstars

In 1949, White began co-hosting "Hollywood on Television," a live variety show that was almost completely ad-libbed. That was quickly followed by "Life With Elizabeth," a sitcom that she

produced, and "The Betty White Show," a talk show in which she also had creative control. None of those projects are remembered as fondly as "I Love Lucy" or "The Tonight Show," but they paved the way for everyone that followed.

She brought sex appeal to prime-time

By today's standards, "MTM" was anything but racy. But the idea that Mary Richards was happily single — and took the pill — was fairly progressive for TV in the early 1970s. And then came Nivens. Her character was a sexual barracuda. In one of the sitcom's most hilarious episodes, she finally beds Lou Grant, played by Ed Asner, who died last August. She didn't have

a lot of scruples (it's hard to forgive her for having an affair with Phyllis' husband) but you had to admire her shameless appetite at a time when women on TV weren't allowed to have primal urges.

She was TV's greatest game-show contestant

This may not seem like much of a title. But remember that the genre once dominated afternoon programming the way courtroom shows do today. White's history of working without a script served her well on popular series like "I've Got a Secret," "To Tell the Truth" and "Tattletales." Her charm and competitiveness caught the eye of "Password" host Allen Ludden; the two were married in 1963 and enjoyed one of Hollywood's most successful marriages until his death in 1981. Ludden is buried in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, just outside of Madison.

During her game-show heyday, women were rarely allowed to serve as host. But White was a pioneer here as well. Her 1983 program, "Just Men!," earned her a Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Game Show Host, the first time the award had gone to a woman.

Her "Saturday Night Live" episode was a classic

White would earn another

Emmy for hosting a Mother's Day episode of "SNL" in 2010. The booking was a result of a Facebook campaign urging producer Lorne Michaels to do the right thing. White would have earned accolades for merely doing an opening monologue and popping up on "Weekend Update." Instead, she appeared in every bit, mixing it up with past cast members like Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph and Amy Poehler.

She refused to act her age

White never had much of a movie career, although you can spot her playing a senator in 1962's "Advise and Consent" opposite Henry Fonda. But she did snag one juicy big-screen role, stealing every scene she could from Sandra Bullock in 2009's "The Proposal." It was the highlight of a third act that was as rich as any actor has ever enjoyed. Her credits after the age of 80 include a popular Snickers commercial, a killer role on "Boston Legal," the popular sitcom, "Hot in Cleveland," and guest hosting "WWE Raw." She had recently taped interviews for a 100th birthday special that will now serve as a life-time tribute. It will screen Jan. 17 in 900 movie theaters.

Purchasing a ticket for the all-star film is a great way to honor the legend. Getting behind a campaign to get that statue erected is even better.



Cardamom buns: A Swedish treat worth mastering

By Rick Nelson
Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — Ruth Raich has happy memories of childhood visits to Sweden, helping her grandmother make kardemummabullar.

What the English-speaking world calls the cardamom bun is a core component of fika, the civilized Swedish practice of a coffee-and-snack break.

What a treat! Cardamom buns are tender but chewy, slightly sweet and ringing with a bracing burst of cardamom. Just looking at these sculpted beauties, their tops glistening with sugar, instantly invokes temptation.

Starting in the late 1980s, Raich's take on the classic kardemummabullar became a trademark item at each incarnation of her popular baking-centric businesses.

Although her Jenny Lind Cafe in Stockholm, Wisconsin, and Smokey Row Cafe in

Red Wing are in Raich's past, she continues — thankfully — to produce cardamom rolls, baking batches of them several days a week in the cozy Jenny Lind wholesale bakery that she built inside a converted chicken coop on the farm near Maiden Rock, Wis., that she shares with her wife.

My husband, Robert, first encountered Raich's cardamom rolls in the 1990s and has craved them ever since. (Call them "rolls" or "buns," the meaning is the same; Raich invokes the former.) He introduced me to their splendors more than 20 years ago, and I've been similarly hooked.

Several months ago, I stumbled upon a copy of "Favorite Recipes of the Jenny Lind Bakery & Cafe," Raich's 2014 cookbook, and was delighted to discover that it included a recipe for her signature rolls.

My first attempts — tough,

TIPS FROM THE EXPERT

Troubleshooting: "When it comes to making cardamom rolls, people usually encounter three problems," said Raich. "They didn't knead long enough, so there's not enough protein structure that allows the dough to rise. Or they added too much flour. Or the liquid was too hot and it killed the yeast."

Kneading, part 1: "When people are kneading by hand, they get tired," she said. "It's always going to be more than you think, especially for beginner bakers, and so I always tell people that when you want to stop, keep going for 2 to 5 more minutes."

Kneading, part 2: Still, Raich advises utilizing a stand mixer fitted with a bread hook. "It keeps you from adding too much flour," she said. At her bakery, in the mammoth 30-quart Hobart mixer she calls "Francine," Raich kneads the dough, on medium speed, for 3 minutes. "But home mixers have less powerful motors, so they should knead longer," she said, which explains the recipe's extended knead time. When it's ready, the dough should feel smooth but stick slightly to the bottom of the bowl.

Warming up: For the first proof, consider placing the covered bowl in an unheated gas-powered oven. "The oven's pilot light will keep it warm enough," she said. For the second proof, place the baking sheets near a radiator, or on tables or counters that are bathed in sunlight.

Air dry: If the dough feels too wet and sticky after the first proof, Raich scrapes it onto a lightly floured work surface and lets the dough sit in the open air, untouched, for about 15 to 20 minutes, then rolls it out.

Working by hand: When spreading butter across the rolled dough, Raich uses her hands rather than a spatula. Also, avoid melted butter. "It's easier to keep it on the dough if the butter is soft — at room temperature — rather than if it's melted," she said.

Flavor booster: Raich grinds whole cardamom seeds, and there's one big reason: The flavor is more robust than using packaged ground cardamom. And there's one caveat: "Cardamom seeds are hard on grinders," she said. A mortar and pestle also work.

Touch test: For those without an instant-read thermometer, rely upon your senses. "The liquid should be 'baby bottle' warm," she said. "It's body temperature."

Egg wash: Don't skip this step. "It keeps the roll from getting dry, and it gives them color," she said. Use milk, and the results will be a soft, brown roll. Use water, and the top will be crispy but not brown. Use an egg wash, and the roll will be brown and delicately crispy on top.

Twist tutorial: Raich has a helpful YouTube video where she demonstrates her technique for twisting spiraled dough into shapely buns, and it's worth watching. Find it at [youtube.com/watch?v=RCNht2N_47Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCNht2N_47Q).

bland, ungainly, sometimes all three — were pallid imitations of Raich's handiwork. What was I doing wrong? My late grandmother Hedvig, the daughter of Swedish farmers, could perform magic with flour and yeast, so you'd think that baking DNA might intervene. Nope.

I called Raich and invited myself to her workplace for a tutorial. Observing this baker in her native habitat was a study in economy of movement. Years of routine means

that Raich can seamlessly and simultaneously turn out scones, cookies and three variations of fist-sized sweet rolls: almond, cinnamon and cardamom, all while coaching an amateur on the ins and outs of handling an egg-rich yeasted dough.

After that invaluable lesson, my next few batches, while not identical to Raich's expert output, were reasonable facsimiles. My kneading abilities are hardly intuitive, and I don't have her practiced

panache when it comes to twisting the dough into beautifully layered buns. But I'm determined to get there.

Thanks to Raich's skill and generosity, my 2022 New Year's resolution is to bake more cardamom buns. You should, too. The recipe may appear daunting, but once you get the hang of it, it's easy — honest — and the effort is so worth it.

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Cardamom buns from Jenny Lind Bakery.

Rick Nelson / Minneapolis Star Tribune / TNS

CARDAMOM BUNS

Makes 1 dozen buns.

Note: This dough must be prepared in advance. Adapted from "Favorite Recipes of the Jenny Lind Bakery & Cafe," by Ruth Raich (\$22).

For dough:

6 tbsp. (3/4 stick) unsalted butter, melted and cooled, plus more (at room temperature) for greasing bowl

1 1/4 c. plus 2 tbsp. whole milk

3 eggs, lightly beaten

1/4 c. plus 2 tbsp. sugar

1 tbsp. instant dry yeast

1 1/2 tsp. salt

5 c. flour, plus more for rolling dough

For filling:

3/4 c. sugar

2 tbsp. ground cinnamon

2 tbsp. ground cardamom

4 tbsp. (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature

For topping:

1 egg

1 tbsp. water

Sanding sugar or pearl sugar

Directions

To prepare dough: Grease a large bowl with room-temperature butter and set aside.

In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the cooled melted butter, milk and 3 beaten eggs, and heat in microwave oven, in 30-second increments, until mixture reaches 100 degrees on an instant-read thermometer (do not exceed 100 degrees).

Pour mixture into the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a bread hook. Add 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, yeast and salt, and mix on medium speed until combined. Reduce speed to low, add 4 3/4 cups flour and mix until the flour is incorporated into the liquid and the dough comes together, about 2 minutes. Increase speed to medium and mix until dough is glossy and elastic and forms a ball but still sticks slightly to the bottom of the bowl (add flour as necessary, 1 tablespoon at a time, up to the remaining 1/4 cup; be careful not to add too much flour), about 5 to 6 minutes.

(Alternately, in a large bowl, combine butter-milk mixture with 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, yeast and salt, and stir to combine. Add 4 3/4 cups flour and stir, vigorously, until thoroughly combined. Lightly flour a clean working surface. Scrape dough onto prepared work surface. Using lightly floured hands, knead into an elastic, smooth dough — not too dry, with good elasticity — about 10 to 12

minutes. If dough is too sticky, lightly add flour as needed, 1 tablespoon at a time, up to the remaining 1/4 cup; be careful not to add too much flour.)

Scrape dough into prepared bowl, cover with a cotton dishcloth, place in a warm area (about 80 degrees) and let rise until almost doubled, about 60 minutes.

To prepare filling: In a small bowl, combine 3/4 cup sugar, cinnamon and cardamom. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

Lightly flour a clean working surface. Using a spatula or scraper, transfer dough to prepared work surface. Using a lightly floured rolling pin, roll the dough — in short, quick, even strokes — into a 20- by 24-inch rectangle that is roughly 1/4- to 1/2-inch thick. Be sure to keep lightly adding flour as needed to the work surface, to prevent the dough from sticking.

Spread the surface of the dough with 4 tablespoons room-temperature butter, working right up to the edges. Sprinkle cardamom-cinnamon mixture evenly over the butter, sprinkling right up to the edges. Starting on the 20-inch side of the rectangle, roll dough snugly into a log, leaving the log seam-side-down on the work surface.

Using a sharp knife, trim uneven ends, then cut the log crosswise into 12 buns measuring about 1 1/2 inches wide. Pick up each bun, with one thumb gripping the top of the dough

and the other one gripping the bottom. Gently make two whole twists, with your hands going in opposite directions, pulling lightly on the dough as you twist. After turning the bun in your hands, tuck one end of the bun under the other end, forming a ball. Place twisted buns 2 inches apart on prepared baking sheets.

Loosely cover the buns with a cotton dishcloth, place in a warm area (about 80 degrees) and let the buns rise until they're puffy, about 30 to 45 minutes.

To prepare topping: When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a small bowl, whisk 1 egg with 1 tablespoon water. Brush the buns with egg wash, then sprinkle with sanding sugar or pearl sugar. Bake until golden (but not too dark, or buns will be dry), about 18 to 20 minutes, rotating baking sheets halfway through baking time. Remove from oven. Serve warm or at room temperature.

To prepare ahead: Once the dough has been twisted into buns, the unbaked buns can be covered in plastic wrap and refrigerated, overnight. When ready to bake, place buns 2 inches apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Loosely cover with a cotton dish cloth, place in a warm area (about 80 degrees) and let buns rise until puffy, about 60 to 75 minutes. Brush with egg wash, garnish with decorative sugar and bake as instructed.



John Sleezer / Kansas City Star / TNS

Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana fires up the crowd during a break in the AFC Championship game Jan. 20, 2019, at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri.

COOL UNDER PRESSURE

Hall of Famer Montana lets guard down with first-ever documentary

By Amy Tenner
Reuters

National Football League Hall of Famer Joe Montana has avoided the documentary spotlight for decades but is letting his guard down this week, as a new series on the quarterback's life and career debuts.

From Michael Jordan's 2020 juggernaut "The Last Dance" to the athlete memoirs that fill bookstore shelves, there is no shortage of sports "tell all" stories available - or voracious fans ready to eat them up.

But the man who epitomized "Joe Cool" over 16 seasons in the NFL and refused every prior attempt to document his life in film, has relented with "Joe Montana: Cool Under Pressure," a six-part documentary that premieres on Thursday on the Peacock streaming service.

"It's always been one of those things, 'Do I really want to do this?'" the three-time Super Bowl MVP told Reuters. "I was always pretty private about a lot of the things... it took a lot of convincing."

The project's premiere coincides with the 40th anniversary of "The Catch," the blockbuster pass to



Reuters / Chris Helgren

Former Super Bowl champion quarterback Joe Montana, who played for the National Football League's San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs, poses during an interview in Toronto, Ontario, on Jan. 22, 2019.

Dwight Clark to win the NFC Championship and set in motion the Niners dynasty that would result in four Super Bowl titles for Montana.

But revisiting the footage

wasn't easy: Clark died in 2018 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or "Lou Gehrig's disease," which the late receiver suspected was caused

from head trauma related to playing football.

"It's just hard when you see some of the film, a lot of the guys in there that are involved in the teams are

gone and way too early, way too young," said Montana, a two-time league MVP.

"You feel fortunate that, you know, I made it through so far without a lot of those things that guys are suffering from also."

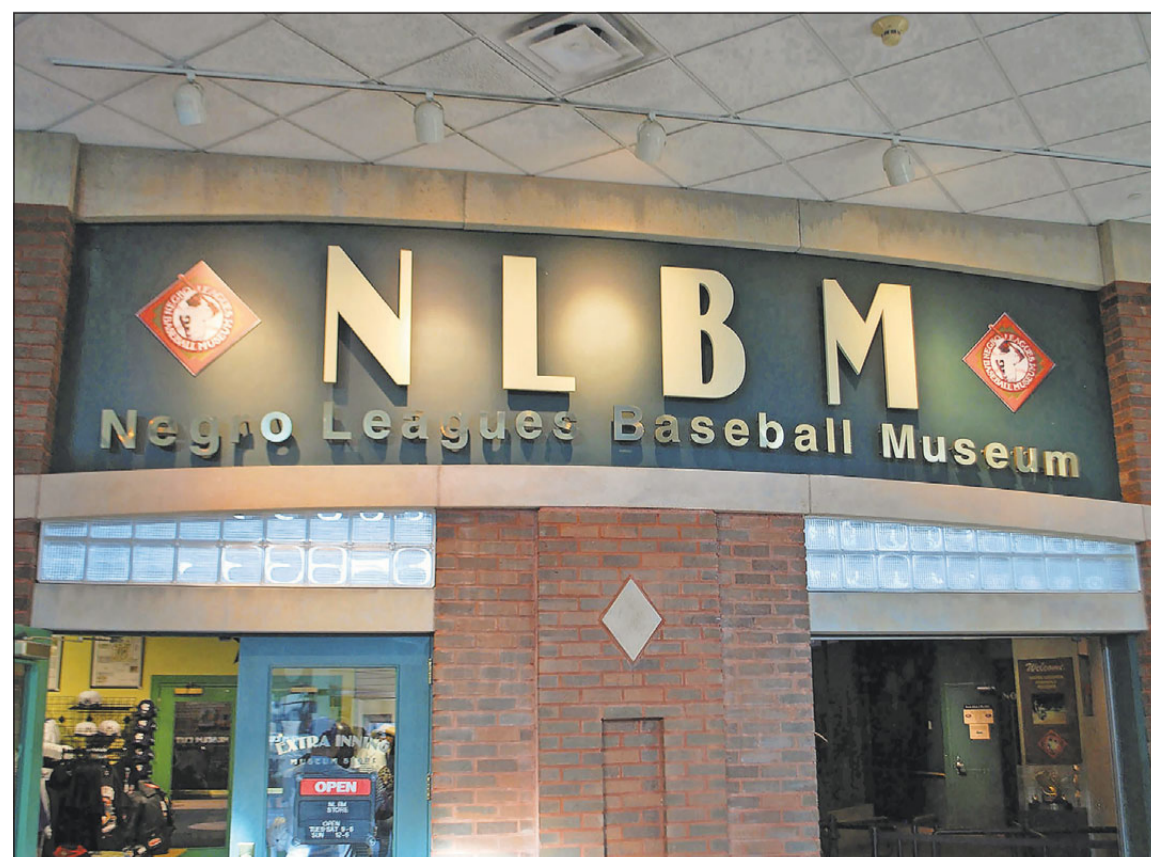
Football exacted a brutal toll on his body, of course, needing more than 20 surgeries but leaving his mind intact after a demanding career in a sport where he sees little chance of eliminating entirely the risk of head injury.

"It's really hard when what causes (injury) was when the brain moves and hits inside your skull. So how do you stop that?" said Montana.

He credits the league with making strides to reduce head injuries, after it expanded its rules on helmet-to-helmet contact in 2018, but sees eliminating head injuries entirely as an enormous hurdle.

"No matter how good the helmet is, you're still moving forward and something stopping you. So inside your brain, it's still moving," he added. "Until they can figure that out, I think we'll always have a problem."

US Mint set to start selling Negro League coin collection



Mark Taylor / Chicago Tribune / TNS

The Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is dedicated to preserving the history of African-American baseball, when black players were prohibited from joining the major league teams.

By Lynn Worthy
Kansas City Star

Commemorative coins recognizing the legacy of the Negro Leagues and raising money for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum will go on sale through the United States Mint on Thursday at 11 a.m. Central Time.

The 2022 Negro Leagues Baseball Commemorative Coin Program honors the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro National League and features \$5 gold coins, \$1 silver coins, and half-dollar clad coins.

Money raised after the cost of making the coins is covered will go to the museum.

The Jackie Robinson silver medal coin mirrors the design of the Jackie Robinson Congressional Gold Medal produced by the Mint in 2003. The Coin and Medal Set will be limited to 15,000 units, and will be available to order during a 30-day window.

The Silver Dollar features a privy mark commemorating the 100th anniversary of Negro League Baseball in 2020. It will be limited to 20,000 units, and will be available to order during

a 30-day window.

Introductory sales prices are in effect until Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. CT.

Surcharges in the amount of \$35 for each \$5 gold coin sold; \$10 for each silver dollar sold; and \$5 for each half-dollar sold, are authorized to be paid to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

"The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is thrilled to partner with the United States Mint on the release of these historic coins that beautifully captures the 'winning spirit' of the Negro Leagues," Negro Leagues Baseball Museum president Bob Kendrick said in a news release. "We hope that collectors and baseball fans alike will purchase these coins and support the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum efforts to ensure that the legacy and important life lessons of the Negro Leagues plays on."

The Mint accepts orders at catalog.usmint.gov/ and 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468).

Hearing- and speech-impaired customers with TTY equipment may order at 1-888-321-MINT.

PODCASTS:

Bemidji State assistant coach Mike Gibbons discusses the Beavers, CCHA, shares college hockey and Bob Peters memories

THERINKLIVE.COM

THE RINK LIVE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

TRL reporters' question: What should be the New Year's resolution for the team you cover?

Hatten (SCSU): The Huskies should resolve to use the recipe more that it used in last weekend's sweep of Bemidji State. SCSU had 10 penalty minutes in the entire series and went 5-for-9 on the power play, which helped it outscore the Beavers 9-3 in the two games.

Wellens (UMD): The Bulldogs need to score some goals. Goaltender Ryan Fanti has been playing phenomenal, so they don't need a lot. They literally just need "some" to pick up points each night.

Schlossman (UND): UND has been great when playing with the lead. But if you include the exhibition game Jan. 1, UND has given up the first goal of the game in seven out of the last eight contests. Playing from behind and chasing games constantly isn't a great recipe for success.

Myers (Minnesota): Like in a cheaply-written holiday movie where an estranged couple finds happiness by learning to trust one another again, the Gophers defense and goaltending would be wise to do the same. Too often in the first half, defensive mistakes ended up in the Minnesota net. Fear of this leads to "safe" play which is unproductive at best, and boring at worst. The Gophers should play a more fearless brand of hockey, trust yourselves, and trust your goalie.

Babcock (BSU): Bemidji State should resolve to get better results at home. It's undeniable at this point that there's a significant discrepancy between the Beavers' success rate on the road (8-3) and home (2-7). If BSU can sweep Lake Superior State this weekend at the Sanford Center, which it did in Sault Ste. Marie in November, that would go a long way toward righting the ship.

Have a question for us? Follow @TheRinkLive on Twitter and use #asktherinklive



Clint Austin / Forum News Service

Kyler Kupka (10) of St Cloud State greets players on the bench after scoring a goal against Minnesota State during the NCAA Frozen Four semifinal game at PPG Paints Arena Thursday, April 8, 2021 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

FINDING A HOME AND A LINE

Kupka has settled in at SCSU after hometown junior experience

Mick Hatten
Forum News Service

St. Cloud, Minn.

For most NCAA Division I men's college hockey players, a lot of the maturing process will take place in the two or three seasons that they play junior hockey. They will live with billet families, oftentimes a long way from home.

Kyler Kupka's junior experience was different. He lived at home while he played for the Camrose Kodiaks of the Alberta Junior Hockey League from 2016-19. So when he joined the St. Cloud State team in the fall of 2019, there were some adjustments.

"The lifestyle wasn't too different from back home (in Canada), but being away from family and friends was the biggest thing," he said. "I didn't billet in juniors because I played in my hometown. That was the big difference — going out and living in the dorms that first year rather than having home-cooked meals every day."

Kupka also had some adjustments he needed to make for playing college hockey. He played in 12 games as a freshman as he made the transition.

"Freshman year was pretty tough for me because I was in and out of the lineup and couldn't really find a role or who I wanted to be at this level to succeed," said Kupka, who had 83 goals and 177 points in 170 junior games.

"The coaching staff brought me along, never gave up faith in me and gave me all the opportunity in the world."

Kupka played wing in 23 of the Huskies' games last season as a sophomore and had three of his eight points in the NCAA tournament, including a goal and an assist in the Huskies' semifinals win over Minnesota State University-Mankato.

This season, he has seven points, scoring a goal in each of the games against North Dakota in early December..

Looking for more

Kupka registered two shots on goal in a series against Bemidji State around New Year's Day.



Eric Hylden / Forum News Service

SCSU's Kyle Kupka checks Colorado College's Zach Berzolla into the boards in the Frozen Faceoff tournament.



Jason Wachter / The Rink Live

St. Cloud State forward Kyle Kupka (10) makes a pass against North Dakota in the second period Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at Herb Brooks National Hockey Center in St. Cloud.

"I kind of relate him to our team: You saw some ups and downs early, but he's a kid who seems to be getting better and I think he played his best hockey in that North Dakota series," Huskies coach Brett Larson said of Kupka. "He's got confidence. He's showing up at the rink every day with a purpose. I see a kid that, hopefully, isn't at the top of his game yet, but is on the way to getting there."

So what is the role that Kupka has worked his way onto with the Huskies? In that series against North Dakota, Kupka played left wing on a line with center Kevin Fitzgerald and right wing Micah Miller. That line started both games and combined for four goals, four assists and a plus-15 in the series.

"I think I got off to a bit of a slow start, but as the weeks went on, playing with Micah and Fitzy — two unbelievable players — they've brought me along and I think I've hit my stride lately," Kupka said. "Looking to keep that going for the second half."

"I think I'm a smart, hard working, two-way forward, responsible in my own end and able to make plays. Playing on a great line like that, you're expected to chip in 5-on-5 (with some offense)."

Getting to SCSU, being a twin

Kupka had a bit of an interesting journey to get to St. Cloud State. He originally verbally committed to play for the University of Alaska,

but de-committed after Lance West was let go as head coach. Former SCSU assistant coach Mike Gibbons watched him play for Camrose and Kupka made his official visit to SCSU on Dec. 27, 2019, and watched the Huskies play an exhibition game against the USA National Development Program Under-18 team.

"At the time, they were No. 1 (ranked) in the country and had all those superstars here," he said of the Huskies. "It was pretty crazy when they start talking to you and it was a pretty easy decision."

"I didn't see much of the city because there was a snowstorm at the time. But there were great facilities, (great) coaching staff, great team and the players made you feel like a part of the team from Day 1."

So Kupka decided to leave the family farm to play for the Huskies. He has an older sister (Ashley) and a twin brother (Kelton). Early on in his life, the Kupkas lived in Hay Lakes, Alberta, a town of less than 500 that is about 20 minutes from Camrose and 35 minutes from Edmonton.

Interestingly, Kyle was the lone hockey player of the siblings.

"He never laced up the skates once," Kyle said of Kelton, who is in college in Kelowna, British Columbia. "It's crazy. My dad loves to tell the story of how I would live at the outdoor rink in our small town. For some reason, my brother never wanted to give it a try."

"We lived in a small town and my dad would make the ice at the outdoor rink every single year. That was pretty cool."

And unlike last Christmas with the border rules tight due to the pandemic, Kupka was able to go home for the holiday.

"It was a little different last year, not going home," said Kupka, who ended up making a road trip with teammate Zach Okabe. Okabe is from Okotoks, Alberta. "(Goalie Joey) Lamoureux's family took us in. Me and Zach drove Christmas Eve. We were on Facetime with Joey and we made a spur of the moment decision just to go there Christmas Day."

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