

BECKER COUNTY BOARD

New County Recorder appointed

Susan Syvertson is the first in that role since it became a board-appointed position rather than elected

By Nathan Bowe
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Susan Syvertson is the new Becker County Recorder, and the first person to hold the job since the County Board made the position appointed rather than elected.

Syvertson has been with Becker County since 2003 — the first two years in the County Assessor's Office and the rest in the Recorder's Office.

She joined the Recorder's Office and learned the business under longtime County Recorder Darlene Maneval, who retired in 2014.

"She pretty much taught us to do everything — we cross-train and learn to do everything," said Syvertson.

The Recorder's Office was long known for its big bound volumes of documents, though of course more and more documents are electronic and digitized these days. But the basic elements of the job haven't changed: The office keeps all land records, abstracts and torrens (in which a certificate of title is issued by a court) dating back to 1870 and 1871, when the county office first started recording with handwritten deeds.

RECORDER: Page A9

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Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune

The White Rabbit (Matthew Morrison) is worried that he's late for a very important date with the Queen of Hearts; the Cheshire Cat (Lily Sundby, at left) is amused by his predicament in this scene from Detroit Lakes High School's production of, "Alice in Wonderland." Pictured at a dress rehearsal in early April.

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

'Alice in Wonderland' to be staged by Detroit Lakes students this weekend

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Tribune

It's time to take a trip with Alice, down the rabbit hole into Wonderland.

The theater department at Detroit Lakes Public Schools will be presenting three performances of the children's classic, "Alice in

Wonderland," this weekend at Detroit Lakes Middle School's George Simson Auditorium.

Shows are set to take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, as well as at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10.

Directed by Nikki

Caulfield, the three-act play is based on Lewis Carroll's iconic children's book, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." As has often been the case when Caulfield is at the helm, she did much of the work in adapting the show herself.

ALICE: Page A8

If you go

► **What:** "Alice in Wonderland," presented by Detroit Lakes Public Schools

► **When:** Friday and Saturday, April 8-9 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m.

► **Where:** George Simson Auditorium, Detroit Lakes Middle School

► **How:** Tickets are all general admission, available at the door. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.



Contributed / Jim Velde / Detroit Lakes Tribune

This house, formerly located on Detroit Lake, was donated anonymously to the newly-formed Detroit Lakes chapter of Fuller Center for Housing, which provides affordable housing for people in need, through volunteer labor. The chapter is in the process of relocating the house to a new site on Dean Street, after which volunteers will be needed to get the building ready for occupancy.

Habitat for Humanity becomes the Fuller Center for Housing

DL resident anonymously donates house to newly-formed organization

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Tribune

It's been about eight months since a new chapter of the Fuller Center for Housing began meeting in

Detroit Lakes.

While the name is relatively unfamiliar to lakes area residents, its role in the community is not.

"The old Habitat for Humanity chapter...is now the Fuller Center for Housing," explains Jim Velde, who is currently serving as president of the local Fuller Center chapter.

HABITAT: Page A9

'What's New in '22' highlighted at Chamber's economic summit

By Michael Achterling
Detroit Lakes Tribune

New businesses and small business programs were highlighted at the 2022 Economic Development Summit, hosted by the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce on April 1.

The event, held at the Holiday Inn Lakefront in Detroit Lakes, featured speakers from local cit-

"We are focusing on lots of different businesses and entrepreneurship, and just growth in the area."

CARRIE JOHNSTON, CHAMBER PRESIDENT

ies, new businesses and SCORE, a nonprofit small business resource that works cooperatively with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"We try to move this around, and the Holiday

Inn, of course, is going through some remodeling, so what a great time to feature what they are doing," said Carrie Johnston, president of the local chamber.

SUMMIT: Page A7

Wired to be creative

Detroit Lakes wire sculptor, Adam Holzgrove, begins artist residency at the mall

By Barbie Porter
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes recently opened an artist in residency gallery, and local artist



Barbie Porter / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Detroit Lakes artist Adam Holzgrove, who creates 3-D art with wire, is the featured artist in residency at the Washington Square Mall gallery.

Adam Holzgrove is currently featured.

Holzgrove initially applied for a similar residency program at a mall in Fargo, and when he wasn't selected for that program, he approached the general manager of the mall in his hometown, Dawn Livdahl. Livdahl said Washing-

ton Square Mall started its artist in residency program a couple of years ago with Anna Lassonde, a well-known artist in the region. Lassonde recently moved out of the mall and into a new studio, so Holzgrove's timing was near perfect.

WIRED: Page A7

INSIDE

'Meat' the big winners

Lakes Processing wins four awards at state contest
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After success in DL

Schiller's House opening second location in Perham
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COURT NEWS

DL man charged with felony property damage

Larry Marquest Thomas, 44, of rural Detroit Lakes, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony first-degree damage to property. According to court records, on March 2, a deputy was dispatched to Thomas's residence on the report he was breaking out windows on the mobile home. Dispatch added that Thomas was "out of control" and from information believed that he was subject to a court-ordered "no drink" order. When he got there, the deputy saw a window on the south end of the mobile home that was smashed out, and Thomas was walking down a handicap ramp with what appeared to be soup cans in each hand. He was yelling and threw one of the soup cans at a parked vehicle. The deputy saw a large amount of blood on his left arm, and EMS was called. He was arrested without incident. A woman at the residence said that Thomas was highly intoxicated and wanted her to drive him to Detroit Lakes. He got extremely angry when she refused, and went to his bedroom. Then she heard a loud "shock" sound and discovered that Thomas had pulled the internet box off the wall. Thomas was

yelling and swearing, so she ran across the road and called 911; she owns the home and vehicle and rents the lot. The deputy noted the south and west window in the kitchen area had been broken out, and that the sliding glass door on the west side of the residence was completely smashed out and the door frame was knocked out. There was a large amount of glass both outside and inside the home.

Charges filed after stolen truck found in Vergas Trails

Michael James Warren, 25, of Fargo, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony receiving stolen property and felon in possession of ammunition, a felony. According to court records, on March 2, he was found in a stolen 2002 Ford F150 pickup truck on the Vergas Trails just over the county line in Becker County. Warren was alone in the pickup, which had been reported stolen in Clay County, and deputies found several 12-gauge shotgun shells and three .308 caliber rounds inside the truck. He admitted stealing the truck from where it had been parked in a field, but said he didn't know the bullets were inside and

didn't see them after he stole the truck. He was convicted of burglary and possession of methamphetamine in North Dakota in 2021 and is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition for life. On March 4, cash bail was set for Warren at \$1,500, or bond at \$15,000, with standard conditions of release, or \$40,000 bail or bond with no condition.

Woman faces charges after truck stuck in Vergas Trails

Jean Marie Jacobson, 37, of Moorhead, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony receiving stolen property, felony theft, and misdemeanor driving after her license was revoked. According to court records, on March 3 Becker County sheriff's deputies were dispatched to assist Otter Tail County deputies on the Vergas Trail on the county line. Otter Tail County had initially received a call for service about a suspicious woman who had walked up to a residence and asked for help freeing a stuck truck. When deputies arrived, Jacobson was sitting in the driver's seat of a red 2011 Dodge truck, which had been

reported stolen in Fargo. Her driver's license was found to be revoked. On March 4 she was released without bail, under standard conditions of release.

Man charged with drugs, DWI

Edward James Moran, 47, of Ponsford has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony fifth-degree controlled substance crime and misdemeanor DWI. According to court records, on March 4, he was pulled over by a Becker County deputy on County Road 129 for expired license plate tabs. There were two passengers in the vehicle. Moran was sweating and could not keep still. The deputy saw hypodermic needles in the driver's door pocket, and Moran admitted he used marijuana the day prior and also admitted to using meth. A search of the vehicle revealed several hypodermic needles. In the driver's door pocket, three syringes were found that contained fluid and which field-tested positive for meth. Also found was a cellphone box that contained small baggies that tested positive for methamphetamine and weighed a total of 0.66 grams.

Moran's blood sample and items found were sent to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for testing. On March 7, he was released without bail, under standard conditions of release.

Woman charged after meth syringe found in chips bag

Amber Leigh Basswood, 39, of Ponsford has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony fifth-degree controlled substance crime. According to court records, on March 4, she was a passenger in a vehicle pulled over for expired license plate tabs by a deputy on County Road 129 in Becker County. While speaking with the driver, the deputy saw Basswood eating out of a bag of Lay's chips, and during a search of the vehicle a hypodermic needle, containing about 20 mg of fluid, was found in Basswood's chip bag. At the Becker County Jail, staff found a plastic bag in her pocket containing a baggie of meth weighing 0.46 grams. On March 7, Basswood was released without bail, under standard conditions of release.

News Staff

POLICE NEWS

News Staff

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.

Thursday, March 31

- ▶ 5:21 a.m., 100 block Shorewood Drive, Detroit Lakes, assault. A man had marks on his face from the altercation. No medical transport was needed. The case is under investigation.
- ▶ 7:57 a.m., near Summit Avenue and Willow Street, Detroit Lakes, two-vehicle crash. No injuries.
- ▶ 10:20 a.m., Becker County Jail, Detroit Lakes, inappropriate sexual conduct reported.
- ▶ 12:23 p.m., Becker County Jail, Detroit Lakes, medical. A 27-year-old male inmate fell and suffered a possible head injury. He was transported to a nearby medical clinic and then returned to the jail.
- ▶ 2:07 p.m., 13000 block 260th Avenue, Detroit

- Lakes, suicide-related. A male party was making threats of self-harm. The man went to the residence of an acquaintance. No transport needed.
- ▶ 3:22 p.m., 600 block Vigen Lane, Lake Park, disorderly student. The student was transported to their residence.
- ▶ 5:59 p.m., near Wilken County, drug related.
- ▶ 7:39 p.m., near Wisconsin Avenue, Callaway, a 3-year-old Callaway girl was struck by a vehicle while riding her bike and transported to a nearby medical clinic for treatment with unknown injuries. The girl was wearing her helmet. The driver of the vehicle, a 58-year-old Callaway woman, was arrested at the scene.
- ▶ 10:48 p.m., Heights Ridge Lane, Detroit Lakes, physical domestic. No injuries were reported and no arrests were made. The case remains under investigation.

Friday, April 1

- ▶ 12:10 p.m., 100 block Barbara Avenue, Detroit Lakes, shoplifting.
- ▶ 12:29 p.m., near mile

- marker 282 on Highway 59, Ogema, a vehicle was reportedly weaving on the roadway. A 35-year-old Detroit Lakes man was arrested.
- ▶ 12:37 p.m., Walmart, Detroit Lakes, shoplifting.
- ▶ 1:06 p.m., 12000 block east Arrow Lake Road, Audubon, identity theft. The scammer used the information to withdraw an unknown amount of money from the caller's account.
- ▶ 1:27 p.m., near Detroit Lakes, report of inappropriate sexual conduct involving a juvenile. The case is under investigation.
- ▶ 3:20 p.m., at Detroit Lakes High School, two students received threatening messages from another student. The student was advised by law enforcement to stop sending the messages.
- ▶ 5:10 p.m., near County Road 54 and Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, multiple juveniles were reportedly walking down the street without jackets on. The caller believed the juveniles were too young

- to be left unattended by an adult.
 - ▶ 7:52 p.m., 39000 block County Road 34, Ogema, RV burglarized. Unknown items missing.
 - ▶ 9:18 p.m., 200 block Cherry Ridge Drive, Detroit Lakes, report of drug related activity.
- Saturday, April 2**
- ▶ 2:01 a.m., at Holiday Inn Lakefront, Detroit Lakes, a fight was reported. No injuries were reported. A 28-year-old Detroit Lakes man was arrested at the scene.
 - ▶ 9:45 a.m., 10000 block Sherbrooke Beach Lane, Pelican Rapids, smell of gas reported. All occupants evacuated safely. The scene was cleared to return to normal after about an hour.
 - ▶ 12:19 p.m., Bear Clan Drive, Ogema, possible overdose. A female party was unresponsive. One dose of Narcan was administered and the woman responded positively. She was transported to a nearby medical clinic for additional treatment.
 - ▶ 5:07 p.m., Long

- Lake Road, Detroit Lakes, threatening text messages reported. The caller was advised on harassment restraining order procedures.
 - ▶ 6:08 p.m., 21000 block County Road 6, Detroit Lakes, a report of a vehicle backing into a trailer causing minor damage.
- Sunday, April 3**
- ▶ 1:54 a.m., 47000 block Mashkiki Street, Ponsford, medical. A 59-year-old Ponsford woman had a cut on her leg and was transported

- to a nearby medical clinic for treatment.
- ▶ 4:00 p.m., at Height of Land Lake, Detroit Lakes, two pickup trucks were stuck on the ice. One vehicle was able to escape. The second truck was submerged past the height of the cab.
- ▶ 5:50 p.m., at Sulaine's, Detroit Lakes, shoplifting.
- ▶ 7:26 p.m., at Walmart, Detroit Lakes, a customer accosted a Walmart greeter over being asked to see their receipt. The store handled the incident internally.

House DFL proposes billions in education funding aimed at mental health and achievement gaps

By Alex Derosier
The Detroit Lakes Tribune
ST. PAUL — Democratic-Farmer-Labor leadership in the Minnesota House of Representatives on Monday, April 4, announced a proposal to boost education funding by more than \$1 billion in the coming fiscal year, and more than \$2 billion in the following two years. House Speaker Melissa Hortman, DFL-Brooklyn Park, and education committee chairs are calling for the passage of a bill that would provide \$475 million for mental health services they say would allow Minnesota schools to hire 1,000 additional staff including counselors, school nurses and social workers. The proposal would also direct hundreds of millions to address achievement disparities between socioeconomic and racial groups and boost funding by \$500 million over the next three fiscal years for special education and English language learner programs, which DFLers said face budget shortfalls. House Education Finance Committee Chair Jim Davnie, DFL-Minneapolis, told reporters the

state is in a good position to boost education funding with a \$9.25 billion projected budget surplus. DFL Gov. Tim Walz expressed support for similar education spending proposals ahead of this session. "Let us be clear on this: Our proposal was built from the ground up, it utilizes the resources that the state has and uses them to meet our responsibilities as the Legislature to the students of today and the Minnesota of tomorrow," he said. "The House DFL is ready to meet the moment, step up to our responsibilities and I invite the Senate to join us." The DFL wants \$525 million in 2023-25 for the prekindergarten program serving low-income and vulnerable children. Their proposal would also seek to address Minnesota's achievement gap by expanding teaching opportunities for Native Americans and people of color — something backers said would benefit students of those backgrounds as they would have educators who look like them. Minnesota has among the largest racial and income-based educational achievement gaps

in the U.S., with higher-income white students much more likely to perform better than others, according to a 2019 survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. "The goal is to ensure that we are moving forward with a plan that is going to ensure Minnesota no longer ranks among the bottom when it comes to educational outcomes," said House Education Policy Chair Ruth Richardson, DFL-Mendota Heights. "We have an opportunity to do that, and again, an obligation." The education spending proposal comes as the DFL-controlled House and GOP-controlled Senate push to get major spending legislation through committees before a Friday deadline. Republicans are proposing a \$30 million boost to education spending with a focus on providing grants for a training program for teachers on instructing kindergartners through fifth-graders on reading. With control of the Legislature split between two parties, most major spending bills will be a result of a compromise between the chambers. Legislators in both chambers last year agreed

to increase the public schools funding formula and boosted 2022-2023 education funding by more than \$554 million and nearly \$669 million in 2024-2025, the largest increase in 15 years according to DFL lawmakers. In a statement on the DFL proposal Senate Education Chair Roger Chamberlain, R-Lino Lakes, questioned the need for further increases in the education budget pointing to the large increases lawmakers already agreed on the year before. "Schools and students received historic funding in last year's budget. It's obvious now that the worst thing for kids was the isolation and mandates that kept them out of the classroom," he said. "Our top priority is reducing burdens and mandates, stabilizing classrooms, getting kids back in school, and addressing our failing test scores: 40% of kids in Minnesota cannot read at grade level. Reading is equality and we are focused on proven solutions to get kids reading at grade level as soon as possible." Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email aderosier@forumcomm.com.

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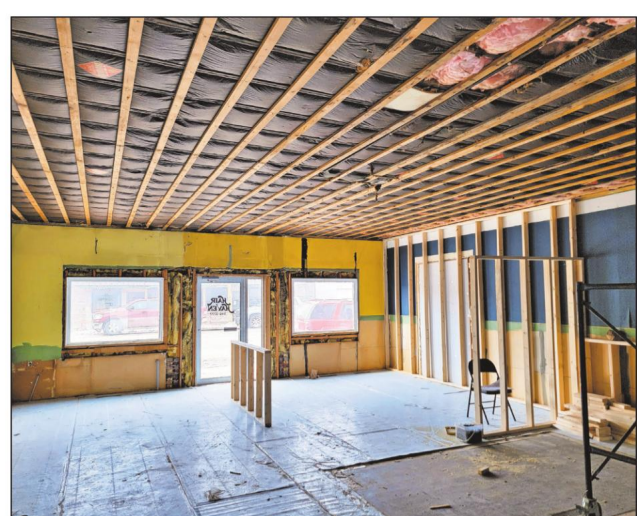
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Photos by Barbie Porter / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Katie Schiller, right, is growing her men's-only salon business with a second location in Perham, set to open yet this spring. She's pictured here at Schiller's House with full-time stylist Emily Bjelland. Both will work at both locations — Detroit Lakes and Perham — after the new shop is open.



The inside of the Perham Schiller's House (formerly the Hair Haven building, on Main Street) is pictured in early April, in the midst of the major remodeling project going on there.



Stylist Emily Bjelland rings up a customer at the front desk of Schiller's House in Detroit Lakes in early April.

Schiller's House opening in Perham

By Barbie Porter
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Schiller's House owner Katie Schiller has had such success with her men's-only salon in Detroit Lakes that she is opening a second location in Perham.

"We are hoping to open in May, at 131 East Main Street," she said. "It depends on when construction gets done."

After almost 20 years of working out of Fargo salons, Schiller began offering her signature men's cuts, beard trims and waxes in Detroit Lakes in 2020. Her services proved to be so popular that she opened her own place in town, Schiller's House, in January 2021.

Since then, her business has continued to see substantial growth.

Her mission for Schiller's House is simple — to provide a salon where men of all ages feel at home and receive luxury service. The business has a reputation as a high-end, "dudes-only" venue that's unique to the area.

"We have a lot of clients who come from

"Get ready to be handsome, Perham."

KATIE SCHILLER, OWNER OF SCHILLER'S HOUSE

Perham, New York Mills and Wadena," Schiller said of her Detroit Lakes location, at 1208 Rossman Avenue. "We are not able to expand at this location and thought it would be a good idea to do the same concept in another town."

With an ever-expanding client list, Schiller added Emily Bjelland to her team in May. Bjelland started as a part-time stylist and was full-time by June. She had been working at an assisted living facility when she saw Schiller's employment ad.

"I went to school for this," said Bjelland. "I always thought a men's-only barbershop would be perfect for me. Working with dudes is really cool, and honestly, this has been a dream come true."

Another part-time stylist, Dani Leach, was brought on soon after Bjelland. When the Perham shop opens, another full-time stylist will be added to the team and Schiller and Bjelland will work from both locations.

The Detroit Lakes Schiller's House has a masculine atmosphere, and the Perham shop will match that look. The look features dark-colored walls, rich wood and brick accents, and modern industrial-style decor. Hanging on the wall in the Detroit Lakes waiting area is a massive moose skull and horns — a piece that's on loan from an appreciative customer of Schiller's.

"A customer went to Alaska and, while hunting caribou, found this moose skull," Schiller explained. "He is letting us show the moose mount, and we are hoping he will let us show a caribou in Perham."

Appointments must

be made online at schillershouse.com.

"We open early in the morning and stay late," Schiller said of herself and her stylists. "When we open in Perham, appointments will need to be made online for there, as well."

The Perham Schiller's House will be open Tuesday through Friday and will offer cuts, beard trims, waxes and more, same as in Detroit Lakes. There will also be packages available for men who want to get spiffed up for a special occasion.

"If people want to fol-

low us on social media, they can have a play-by-play (of the Perham remodel) until our opening," Schiller said.

"Get ready to be handsome, Perham."

Schiller's House has active accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Bill in the MN Legislature might help end unruly fan behavior at games. It's about time.

By Grand Forks Herald Editorial Board

Sports officials are increasingly being targeted by unruly fans. Perhaps a proposal floated last month in the Minnesota Legislature will help rein in some of the abhorrent behavior that seems to be percolating ever more at sports events across the region.

Referees are getting fed up, and we don't blame them. According to a report last year in *businessinsider.com*, referees nationwide are quitting at alarming rates.

"With (the COVID-19 pandemic) on top of it all, it's an epidemic of referee shortages," Brian Barlow, creator of the Facebook page *Offside*, said in the report.

Also in the report, according to a New York Times survey: 70% of referees quit within three years of entering the field and 57% say sportsmanship is getting worse, with parents, coaches and fans causing the most trouble.

Referees — who are spending time away from their families, and most of whom simply want to help promote youth sports — endure this kind of abuse for a few bucks.

Most anyone who attends a game at any level eventually will have some sort of emotional response to an official's call. It's the nature of sports. But the grown-ups in attendance always must remember to take a breath, holster those emotions and rise above the urge to react with insults, intimidation or violence.

Some fans simply cannot resist, and that's why we appreciate efforts in the Minnesota Legislature to try to calm some of this unruly behavior. A bill being pushed by state Rep. John Huot, D-Rosemount, would allow the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to fine unruly fans who verbally or physically assault referees at all events, even including youth sports like Little League baseball and softball.

The bill specifically is aimed at unruly fans — not players, students or coaches — and could see fines up to \$1,000.

Huot is a game official and, during a legislative committee meeting on March 22, said it's "a real sad day to have to bring a bill like this before you, but unfortunately, the time is now."

He said that in recent years, referees are seeing the "angst" at sporting events get worse.

"I am OK with fans saying 'bad call, ref' ... but I'm not OK when they use profanity or vulgar terms or racial epithets. I don't think that's acceptable," he said.

Huot referenced a recent incident in Detroit Lakes — a fan at a game there threw popcorn at a referee, went on the court and yanked off the referee's whistle — and said, "we have to stop this behavior."

We do foresee troubles with uniform enforcement and burden of proof within

the Minnesota bill. Also, existing laws already protect referees from violent behavior. Yet we believe this discussion is good, since something must be done to further protect referees from rising abuse.

Although they are paid, high school referees are essentially volunteers whose presence ensures the ability to conduct interscholastic events. If more referees quit, schools will be forced to scramble to hold events.

Of course high school and youth officials make mistakes, because they — like the athletes they oversee — are not professionals. But who on Earth wants to subject themselves to this kind of abuse?

The Minnesota bill is a good start, and if nothing else, it's a good way to spark more conversations about the disturbing trends we see at so many sporting events.

This is an opinion piece by the Grand Forks Herald Editorial Board. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the Detroit Lakes Tribune. To submit a response for the Tribune's Opinion page, email nbowe@dlnewspapers.com.

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OUR OPINION

Cheers to Minnesota's successful CNA training program — and the long-term care staffing relief that it'll provide

Tribune Editorial Board

Certified nursing assistants are the lifeblood of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities: They help patients eat and take medications; monitor their vital signs and keep an eye on them; groom and bathe them; help them exercise and get in and out of wheelchairs; and make sure their rooms have blankets, pillows, medical equipment and bathroom essentials, among other things.

Nursing home staffing levels are vital, and a shortage of workers means fewer residents can be admitted. That's a problem for people trying to get into a nursing home — some end up in homes farther away from friends and family — and it means less revenue for nursing homes, which is a whole other issue.

Staffing shortages at long-term care facilities and

veterans homes is a problem across Minnesota, so it was nice to hear some good news on the subject: Gov. Tim Walz has exceeded his goal to recruit and train 1,000 new certified nursing assistants.

With long-term care facilities facing staffing shortages throughout the state, The Next Generation Nursing Assistant initiative was launched in January with \$3.4 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds. The program pays the cost of tuition, books, uniforms and certification exam fees for anyone interested in pursuing a career as a nursing assistant.

As of March, 1,278 Minnesotans have participated in the initiative, including 940 people enrolled in free training courses offered by Minnesota State or a private training provider. Another 338 high school students got the training through their local school

districts, with the state paying for their certification exams.

"Training over a thousand Minnesotans in three months is no small feat," said Minnesota Office of Higher Education Commissioner Dennis Olson. "I commend the staff and instructors of Minnesota State and private training providers for their selflessness in scaling up operations and outreach. It was truly awe-inspiring to watch this public-private partnership solve problems in real-time, moving mountains to ensure this program was a success. I truly believe this could be a model for scaling up training in other high-need career areas."

The state has budgeted \$6.7 million to continue the initiative, and Walz is asking for another \$13.3 million for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Students who have

completed their training are now in the process of taking their certification exams. Once certified, the new certified nursing assistants will be ready to go to work at hospitals, nursing homes and veterans homes.

More good news: By reaching this goal, the state is able to continue relieving the 400 members of the National Guard who were deployed as emergency temporary nursing assistants in long-term care facilities and veterans homes across Minnesota, at times including several facilities in the Detroit Lakes area.

Interested in participating? Free courses are still available. Check out the initiative at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education website.

This opinion piece reflects the views of the Detroit Lakes Tribune editorial board. To submit a response, email nbowe@dlnewspapers.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Biden is doing a good job with Ukraine

Lee Purrier, Park Rapids

To the Editor:

Biden is president, Trump isn't. That's good for America. Here's one reason why.

Biden took over a mess created by years of conservative resistance to anything remotely aimed at the "common good," as well as a weakened posture with our allied friends, in favor of leaning toward authoritarian states — like Putin's Russia, in particular. Seems the biggest complaint about Biden is his handling of the Afghanistan withdrawal. Let's review that action.

During the late Trump era, Taliban troops were targeting allied soldiers to collect bounties supplied by Russia. Trump contacted the Taliban, effectively bypassing the official government of Afghanistan, and arranged a deal that would ensure U.S. troop withdrawal by May 2021.

Biden inherited that deal, which severely weakened the Afghan government and military will. Biden extended the date to August 2021 to provide time to evacuate in an orderly manner. Orderly evacuation depended on the Afghan military and government remaining in place. That didn't happen. Once the U.S. pulled its troops, the Afghan government and military folded, and then simply ran off like scared rabbits.

Biden and military advisers had to rush in and conduct the evacuation as swiftly and safely as possible, with no cover from the Afghan forces. These were forces the U.S. spent 20 years



training and supplying armaments to (estimated to cost \$2 trillion) following the war started under President Bush. Two trillion dollars and all we received was thousands of military and civilians making a good living off American goodwill and a windfall for our defense systems manufacturers.

Despite criticisms, the evacuation was performed brilliantly by our military, commercial airlines from several countries, and a few Afghan patriots. Yet, members of both parties seem to blame it all on Biden, whose mistake was trusting the Afghans to do their part.

Yes, he could have let troops remain forever, but someone had to let the

bleeding stop or have the political courage to tell the American people this war will never end.

The strength of Biden's presidency is appointing experienced, talented people to the cabinet, the courts and advisers, listening to them, and including all foreign nations in consultations before taking action. That's where experience and patience pay off.

Biden's trip to visit all interested parties in the Ukrainian massacre was a lesson in world diplomacy and empathy for those displaced and grieving for those left behind. There's a breeze of fresh air we can all breathe.

—Lee Purrier, Park Rapids

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 nbowe@dlnewspapers.com or mail it to Detroit Lakes Tribune, 511 Washington Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.



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HAPPENINGS

The Detroit Lakes Tribune accepts community calendar items for publication online and, space permitting, in our Wednesday and Sunday print editions. 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, April 6

Writers Group: Writers and prospective writers seeking encouragement, feedback and collaboration are welcome to join the Detroit Lakes Public Library's Writers' Group. The group meets regularly to tell their stories, share ideas and discuss writing tips. This event is offered free of charge and is held in the library's main meeting room from 3:30-5 p.m. Visit larl.org or call 218-847-2168 for more information.

Thursday, April 7

Fraze Community Blood Drive: The Frazee community will host a blood drive for Vitalant from 1:45-6 p.m. in the Frazee Event Center. For an appointment contact Mary at 218-849-0645 or go online to vitalant.org and use the donation code FRAZEE.

Navigating Grief Workshop: Hospice of the Red River Valley is hosting a virtual class on "Navigating Grief and Self-Care for Yourself and Others," starting at 11:30 a.m. Free and open to the public, but pre-registration required by April 6. For more information, or to sign up, contact the HRRV Grief Department, 800-237-4629 or grief@hrrv.org.

Lalo's Lunchbox Show for Kids: Celebrate the Week of the Young Child with this sketch comedy, theater and puppet show for kids at the Detroit Lakes Public Library, starting at 4 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

Church Basement Ladies:

The Church Basement Ladies will bring their 20th anniversary musical comedy show to the stage of Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre for two shows, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. There is a cost for tickets. Visit dlccc.org/holmes-theatre.html or call 218-844-7469 for more information.

Multi-day and Recurring Events

Alice in Wonderland: The Detroit Lakes High School spring play, "Alice in Wonderland," will be presented at the George Simson Auditorium, Detroit Lakes Middle School, April 8-10. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10. Tickets are for general admission only and may be purchased at the door.

Compiled by Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Charles "Charlie" Schnell



Charles Scott Schnell, "Charlie," passed away at his home in McLean, VA, on Sunday, March 27. He was 16.

Born in Concord, MA, on July 18, 2005, Charlie spent his early years in New England, making lifelong friends at Nashoba Brooks and Fessenden Schools, before moving with his family to Great Falls, VA, in 2012. He attended Great Falls Elementary School, The Langley School in McLean, and The Landon School in Bethesda. At each, he was quick to make friends, join teams, and win hearts. His bright and contagious smile, blonde and thick wavy hair, and happy and welcoming nature were his trademark.

Charlie was tall and athletic with a commanding presence, but it was his soft and kind heart that defined him. He will always be known best for his loyalty, compassion, and commitment toward friends, his love for and devotion to his family, and his endless desire to join in and lift up. Charlie loved his years climbing the Little League brackets, as much for his chance to play and be with friends as for his success. One of his proudest sports accomplishments was making the Madlax DMV club lacrosse team the summer before high school and joining this special community for the years that followed. This early foundation drove his strong athleticism and sense of community across the football, wrestling, and lacrosse teams at school. Among his many fun accomplishments, friends and family still marvel at the ease with which Charlie did standing front and backflips at 6'2" and 180 pounds - and cherish the spontaneous big energy and silly spirit that made him so inclined.

Off the field, Charlie loved music, dinners with family, social gatherings with friends, and anything Star Wars, conquering the complete Lego series, watching every movie, and collecting ALL clone action figures. He adored time with family on school vacations shooting skeet,

running around a paintball field, and, most recently, sport fishing and parasailing in Key West. One of his favorite places was Lake Melissa in Minnesota. His family always spent summers and holidays in the Midwest. It is here where Charlie embraced water sports. It is here where he learned how to jet ski, surf on a hydrofoil, water tube, and drive a boat. It is here where he will be laid to rest.

Charlie is survived by his parents, Dawn and Scott Schnell, his sister Katherine, and by a rescue dog, he named Mudge.

"My strength is as the strength of ten because my heart is pure" - Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Funeral Services were held at St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean, VA, on Friday, April 1, 2022. Visiting hours with the family was held on Thursday night, March 31, 2022, at Money and King Funeral Home.

Funeral services in Fargo, ND, will be held at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral, 3600 25th St. S, Fargo, ND, on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

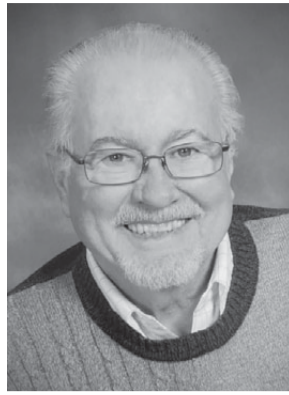
Visiting hours will be held at Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home, 215 S. 7th St. Fargo, ND, on Monday, April 4, 2022, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Fargo, ND, following the funeral service on Tuesday.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.hansonrunsvold.com

Arrangements entrusted to Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home - Fargo, ND

Lowell "Skip" Lee



Lowell "Skip" Lee, of Battle Lake, MN, formerly of St. Louis Park, MN, died peacefully Friday, April 1, 2022. Funeral services will be Saturday, April 9, at 11am at First Lutheran Church of Battle Lake with visitation one hour prior to the service. The service will be livestreamed at First Lutheran Church Battle Lake, MN YouTube or their Facebook page. Inurnment will be at Glenwood Lutheran Cemetery. Arrangements are with Hoplin-Hitchcock Funeral Home in Glenwood.

Lowell Edward Lee, son of Eddie and Mildred Lee, husband of Marcia, was born on March 9, 1937 on the family farm in Georgetown Township, Minnesota. He was the younger brother to Glenise Donley. Lowell was given the nickname Skip in early childhood and that is what we called him. The family moved to Audubon, Minnesota, where Skip was confirmed at First Lutheran Church. He was graduated from Audubon High School in 1955 as the class Valedictorian. He is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where he earned a Master's Degree, cum laude.

Skip was united in marriage to Marcia Odland on June 14, 1959, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. In 1961, Skip and Marcia moved to Brainerd, Minnesota, where he taught German and English for two years at Brainerd Senior High School. Twin daughters, Krista and Kari, were also born that year.

In 1963, the Lee family moved to St. Louis Park, Minnesota, where Eric was born in 1966. Skip taught for thirty years in the St. Louis Park school system, retiring in 1994. The family were faithful members of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, where Eric was baptized.

After Marcia survived a debilitating stroke in 1981, Skip became her primary caregiver for the rest of her life. Upon retirement, they moved to their East Battle Lake home, and became active members of First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake, the surrounding community, and participated in many social activities. The two traveled to Europe and throughout North America many times in their retirement.

Skip was a kind, generous, warm-hearted man. People who met him remembered him because of his gracious demeanor, sense of humor and wonderful story telling. Strangers quickly became friends.

Our deep gratitude to the staff of Lakeview Senior Living in Battle Lake, Minnesota, where Skip and Marcia lived the last decade of their lives.

Skip was preceded in death by his wife, Marcia, his parents, Eddie and Mildred Lee, his sister, Glenise Donley, and many other family and friends. He is survived by his children, Krista Lee, Kari Lee, and Eric (Eve) Lee; his grandsons, Jack Schultenover, Matthew Schultenover, and Eddie Lee; his nieces, Karla (Vernon) Boehm, and June (Bill) Steffi; nephews Kyle (Mandy) Ellison, Kurt Vaaler, Dan Donley, Shane (Martha) Donley, and Harry Donley.

Sybil Moen/Rossmiller

Sybil Moen passed away on Friday, March 4th 2022 in her home filled with love by her husband, Orv. She is survived by her three children Erik, Bryan and Diane as well as three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by both of her parents, Bryan and Alice.

Sybil grew up in Vergas MN, and graduated from Fergus Falls High School. Upon completion of college, Sybil worked as a teacher before devoting her life to being a full-time mother.

Sybil was active in her community and politics. She loved to travel and enjoyed her summer months at her cottage at the lake.

The family will have a private memorial per Sybil's wishes at her beloved cottage where the roses flourish in her honor.

Delores Kilbury

Aug. 6, 1935 - March 31, 2022
MENAHA, Minn. - Delores Kilbury, 86, Menahga, formerly Henning, Minn., died Thursday, March 31, in Green Pine Acres Nursing Home.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m., Saturday, June 4, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Henning. Interment will be in Girard Union Cemetery in Henning.

Arrangements by Belmont-Karvonen Funeral Home.

Carol Pearson

Jan. 23, 1942 - April 1, 2022
DEER CREEK, Minn. - Carol Pearson, 80, Deer Creek, Minn., died Friday, April 1, in her home.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. Friday, April 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Deer Creek.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Duane Johnson

March 23, 1948 - April 1, 2022
FARGO, N.D. - Duane Johnson, 74, Lengby, Minn., died Friday, April 1, in Sanford Medical Center.

Arrangements are pending with Carlin Funeral Home in Fosston, Minn.

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Jigsaw puzzle fundraiser set for Saturday

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Lakes Trail Blazers Saddle Club is hosting a unique fundraising event this Saturday, April 9 at Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes. Two competitive sessions will be held, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., with awards going to the top three fastest teams in each session.

Teams of up to four people will compete to be the fastest to finish a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle. There will be a different puzzle for each session, but all of the teams within each session will start with the same puzzle, explained organizer LeAnn Vetter.

The puzzles will be kept under wraps until the competition starts. Each team will have up to two hours to complete the puzzle.

"The teams can use the (picture on the) box as a guide, but that's the only aid they will have," Vetter said.

Even that tool will come with a bit of an added challenge, however: "The puzzles are made by a company called Puzzle Twist," Vetter said. "The 'twist' is that the picture on the box isn't exactly the same as on the puzzle."

Cost to participate is \$40 per team, with proceeds to benefit the saddle club.

"The Lakes Trail Blazers Saddle Club is a family friendly club that puts on four horse shows during the summer in Detroit Lakes," Vetter

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Lakes Trail Blazers Jigsaw Puzzle Competition
- **When:** Saturday, April 9, with two sessions at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Zion Lutheran Church, 1100 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes
- **How:** Must preregister; maximum of nine teams per session, or 18 teams total. Cost is \$40, with a maximum of four people per team. To sign up, contact LeAnn Vetter at 218-849-7484 or leannjayt@hotmail.com.

said, adding, "Our shows are for all ages and riding abilities."

A jigsaw puzzle aficionado since she was young, Vetter said it's long been a dream of hers to host a competitive puzzle-solving event as a fundraiser for the club. So when she and her fellow Trail Blazers heard about a puzzle competition being held in Fargo last year, they decided to sign up as a team and take part.

"We went to try one out, see how it was run and find out if it was something we could do here," she said. "It looked like it was pretty simple to organize, and it has been."

Vetter said this inaugural competition is limited to nine teams per session, or 18 teams total.

"We still have openings for seven teams, as of today (Monday, April 4)," she said.

Preregistration is required to participate.



Photos by Barbie Porter / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Baxter Bachmann holds two of the four awards Lakes Processing brought home from the 80th Minnesota Association of Meat Processors Convention in mid-March, 2022.

'Meat' the big winners: Lakes Processing brings home four awards from annual convention

By Barbie Porter
Detroit Lakes Tribune

A uniquely sweet summer sausage, tasty bacon, smoked pork and other specialty meats made by Lakes Processing left judges salivating at the 80th Minnesota Association of Meat Processors Convention in mid-March.

The Detroit Lakes business returned from the St. Cloud, Minnesota convention with four awards: First place in the Minnesota Grown Product category; second place in Bacon; third in Cooked and Smoked Pork, and; fourth in Specialty Whole-Muscle item.

Their top-honors Minnesota Grown creation — a summer sausage seasoned with a secret recipe and enhanced with wild rice — started with a notable flavor that received nods of approval from customers, but Lakes Processing's summer sausage meat artist, Baxter Bachmann, was not satisfied.

"There was a little something missing that would bring it to the next level," Bachmann explained, adding that at some point pure maple syrup was tested as that additional 'magic' ingredient. "It made a huge difference."

Each category within the competition had a list of things that

judges looked for in every entry — some were more open-ended while others were specific. The Minnesota Grown Product entries, for example, were required to contain a meat ingredient and have at least 80 percent of the ingredients grown in-state.

While the Bachmann family believed they had contenders in several categories of the competition, they never presumed to be the best of the best.

"When we went down there, I was confident we may get in the Top 10," Bachmann said. "Then, after looking at all the products and what others brought, I told my mom I just wanted to go back to the hotel. We're a little ma and pa shop in northern Minnesota competing against some giants."

The Minnesota Association of Meat Processors is one of the largest and most active organizations of its kind in the state, and thus its contest winners are held in high regard. It is common to see each category at the competition have upwards of 50 entrants.

Bachmann is the son of Sarah and the late Brad Bachmann. His brothers, Hesston and Tanner, also work at Lakes Processing, and



Lakes Processing took first place at a recent meat processing competition with a specialty summer sausage that incorporates Minnesota grown ingredients like wild rice and maple syrup.

their mom, the owner of the business, was beaming with pride because of the awards her sons collected.

"I'm very proud," she said. "They have big shoes to fill, but I believe in them. Honestly, when they won, it took everything in my power not to cry."

The shoes she was referring to are her husband's. He won

many awards himself before his death in October 2021 at the age of 56. The family noted that in the wake of their loss, the support they found from customers and the community was as vital and appreciated as the assistance they received from close confidantes.

Lakes Processing is located at 18776 Highway 59 in Detroit Lakes.



Contributed / LeAnn Vetter / Detroit Lakes Tribune

The 'Mama Mares' team, including Lakes Trail Blazers Saddle Club members (left to right) Crystal Shepersky, Lauranna Jennen, LeAnn Vetter and Saran Hudson, took part in a jigsaw puzzle competition last April at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Fargo. They're now hosting a similar event at Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes on Saturday, April 9.

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SUMMIT

From Page A1



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Jennifer Taves, marketing professional at Sanford Health, talked to business leaders about Sanford Health Equip, a health accessories store coming to Detroit Lakes this summer, during the 2022 Economic Development Summit, hosted by the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Holiday Inn Lakefront on April 1.

patrons and, while she doesn't plan on offering coffee at the store, there are three coffee shops on the same block as her new shop.

Sanford Health plans to open a Sanford Health Equip location this summer at the old Snap Fitness in Detroit Lakes. The store will stock all the medical accessories a patient could need, including prosthetics, hospital beds and accessories, breast pumps and supplies, and other health-related accessories.

Jennifer Taves, market-

ing professional for Sanford Health, said this new initiative is a push from the healthcare provider to meet patients where they are, which may eliminate the need for Detroit Lakes patients to travel 45 minutes to Fargo for healthcare accessory items.

"We're really trying to make it convenient," said Taves. "It's not all walkers and wheelchairs, though we have plenty of those, everything you need to age comfortably in your home. We know that healthcare is definitely going in that

direction, that we want to make our homes somewhere we can stay for longer, so we have all of those supplies that make that possible."

Bucks Mill Brewing plans to open its Washington Avenue location sometime this summer in Detroit Lakes. During the event, the brewery's four founders promoted their desired partnerships with local businesses. Henry Vanoffelen, co-founder of the brewery, said they plan on being a family-friendly place that offers a variety of beverages, including non-alcoholic options.

"Once we get rolling, we do want to be a true community asset," said Vanoffelen. "We are really committed to quality. We have Maltwerks (Malting Company & Premium Ingredients) in town. There is a local maltster in the industrial park that will be a major supplier for us."

The brewery is also trying to recruit local businesses to create their own branded beer through a series of partnerships, and to encourage membership to its Founders Club, which offers a lifetime of different benefits at the brewery.

Also discussed at the

summit was the Detroit Lakes amateur baseball program, which is returning to the Washington Avenue Ballpark this summer. Brandon Johnson, manager of the local Amateur Baseball Club, said the club will donate the season's proceeds to Detroit Lakes Youth Baseball at the end of every season.

"Our mission is to use this nation's pastime to actively engage our community," said Johnson. "Off the field we look to volunteer and engage our community at events, but also on the field we'll play hard and have fun and hopefully be an example of sportsmanship, teamwork and work ethic."

SCORE, a nonprofit small business resource affiliate, also presented during the event. The organization offers free business mentorship, workshops and seminars, and various business tools and templates for small businesses to use. Del Carver, a mentor and co-chair of SCORE Mentors Fargo, said their volunteer mentors have more than 600 different

areas of expertise to help small business owners with any questions or concerns they might have during the various stages of business ownership.

"We're a nationwide network of 250 chapters and we serve about 1,500 communities across the United States, and we have over 10,000 volunteers who volunteer their time to help small businesses," said Carver. "Our mission is to foster vibrant, small business communities through mentoring and education, and our vision is to make sure that every person has the support they need to become a successful small business."

In addition to the businesses and resource programs that presented at the summit, city leaders from Frazee and Detroit Lakes also spoke, highlighting the upcoming projects each city is working on, including road projects, commercial space availability, and updates on facility projects to be completed in coming years.

Send your story tips to Michael at: machterling@dlnewspapers.com

WIRED

From Page A1

"I have a mind that gets going way too fast. Focusing on my hands and bending wire slows my mind down and I can think."

ADAM HOLZGROVE

tree," he said. "I went with it, and it took a few hours."

The creation lifted weight from his shoulders and brought peace to his mind. He has been twisting metal ever since.

"I have a mind that gets going way too fast," he said. "Focusing on my hands and bending wire slows my mind down and I can think."

Over time, his skills improved and he upped the ante.

"I tried moving from sculpting two-dimensional trees to three-dimensional trees," he said. "After a couple hundred trees, it worked out."

The copper and stainless steel wires he initially used took a toll on his fingers — as he wrapped what would become tree trunks and bent the branches and leaves, calluses and cuts developed. So he searched for another kind of wire to use.

"I found dead soft wire," he said, noting that this kind of wire lends itself to bending with one's hands. "It comes in many colors, too, and is a good wire."

As his wire trees evolved into more prominent



Barbie Porter / Detroit Lakes Tribune

One of Holzgrove's wire art pieces, a copper-colored tree set in a gold pot.

art displays, Holzgrove began enhancing the pieces with a variety of bases. He visited local thrift stores to collect wood bowls, plant pots, jewelry boxes and picture frames. He also began painting backgrounds to fill out the inside of the frames. He noted that this new hobby of painting has a long way to go, but even adding basic

shapes and textures adds to his artwork.

Holzgrove's artist's store hours in the mall are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. on weekdays. Weekend hours were undetermined at press time. Contact Holzgrove at adam_holzgrove@hotmail.com.

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Meet the cast

- ▶ **Alice:** Leah Flugel
- ▶ **Margaret/Queen of Hearts:** Eden Schmitz
- ▶ **White Rabbit/March Hare:** Matthew Morrison
- ▶ **Cheshire Cat:** Lily Sundby
- ▶ **Dormouse:** Abby Perry
- ▶ **The Caterpillar:** Victor Jimenez
- ▶ **Humpty Dumpty:** Ben Sundby
- ▶ **Tweedle Dee:** Jenna DeRemer
- ▶ **Tweedle Dum:** Emma Mitchell
- ▶ **The Playing Cards:** Andrew Nunn (Five); Lucian Hesebeck (Six); Stewart Annette (Seven)
- ▶ **The Flowers:** Brenna Dahlen (Rose); Valentine Vella (Tigerlily); Akira Olp (Violet)
- ▶ **The Duchess:** Aliyah Thompson
- ▶ **Cook/Knave of Hearts:** Anna Yost
- ▶ **Mad Hatter:** Ashton Anderson
- ▶ **King of Hearts:** Ethan Hendrickson



Alice (Leah Flugel, center) is very confused by her encounter with the White Rabbit (Matthew Morrison, at left) and the Mad Hatter (Ashton Anderson, right) during a tea party in one of the opening scenes of "Alice in Wonderland."

Photos by Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune



The Cheshire Cat (Lily Sundby, left) laughingly illustrates how the Queen of Hearts will have the White Rabbit's (Matthew Morrison, right) head chopped off for being late during a scene from "Alice in Wonderland," played out during a recent dress rehearsal.

ALICE

From Page A1

"I purchased five different stage versions of the show," said Caulfield, adding that she had to find a way to adapt the script so that Alice (played by freshman Leah Flugel) did not need to be on stage for every minute of every scene, as is the case in many popular theatrical adaptations of the story.

"Alice is still in most of the scenes," Caulfield said, though the other roles are much more balanced. "It's an ensemble-style show. With the exception of Alice, most of the roles are pretty much the same size."

Detroit Lakes High School seniors Lily Sundby and Ashton Anderson are pretty happy with their roles in the production.

Sundby, who plays the Cheshire Cat, is a veteran of past local spring productions.

"I've been in it every year except the one where we didn't have a spring play because of COVID," Sundby said (a limited-audience fall presentation of the dramatic play "Dracula" was held during the 2020-21 school year).

She is reveling in the opportunity to play the mischievous cat with the big grin.

"I love being a vaguely threatening nuisance," she said, noting that the Cheshire Cat serves as a catalyst, often driving



the characters' actions even when not on stage.

"My face has gotten really good at doing a crazy smile, and my evil cackle has gotten pretty good, too," she added.

Anderson, meanwhile, is taking on his first major acting role as the Mad Hatter.

"I've been an extra before (in the 2019 Detroit Lakes High School fall musical, 'Mamma Mia'), but this is the first time I've acted in anything," he said. "It's a lot of fun — I get to jump up on a table and kick stuff around; of course, that's fun."

Anderson noted that his character is "crazy" — but also challenging, because his actions and reactions change so

constantly, even within the same scene.

Caulfield noted that she's very proud of the work her cast has done in getting ready for this year's spring production.

"I let them play with it," she said of the script. "They crack me up. Last night (at rehearsals) I was laughing so hard I teared up."

"My only request

is that they make the role their own, do not copy anyone else," she said, adding that the cast was up to the challenge: "That's how the Macarena ended up in it."

Where, and how that dance is incorporated into the script is something audiences will have to wait and see for themselves.

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RECORDER

From Page A1

The recorder's office also handles vital statistics — birth, death and marriage certificates. But not divorces. The court administration office handles those. The office also handles passports and passcards, among other responsibilities.

There are four full-time and two part-time positions there, and with the retirement of longtime deputy recorder Karen Wenner, and the ascension of Jeanne Sandland to replace her, there are now two full-time openings in the department.

"It takes about two years of training to really learn the job," Syvertson said. "We're hoping

to find someone with a legal description background."

Syvertson was appointed by the County Board last month to fill the vacancy left by the death last year of Patricia Swenson, who was elected recorder in 2014 after many years in the county's planning and zoning department.

Syvertson grew up on a farm north of Lake Park,

and was a member of the last graduating class of Lake Park High School, in 1989, before the district consolidated with the Audubon School District to form LP-A. She earned a legal secretary certificate from what was then Moorhead Tech, and worked in billing and payroll for nine years at R&R Transportation in Audubon. She also did some home health-

care work before landing with Becker County. After 15 years in the County Recorder's office, she knows all aspects of the work well.

She and Michael Syvertson have been married for 25 years and have a daughter, Isabella, age 21, and a son, Cole, 24.

When things settle down a bit, Syvert-

son hopes to make some progress toward digitizing those historic bound volumes that haven't been done yet, mostly from the 1870s to the 1970s.

"I was just going through those early books," she said. "They were handwritten in cursive back then — it's going to be interesting."

HABITAT

From Page A1

While the national Habitat for Humanity organization is still quite active, the local Habitat chapter is not; the reason for the name change, Velde explained, is that while the two organizations are similar in purpose, their requirements are different.

The local chapter didn't have a large enough volunteer base to meet the requirements for Habitat membership.

"In order to stay an active Habitat chapter, you have to build a new house once every three years," Velde said. "That was one requirement we couldn't meet."

It was a national Habitat representative who suggested the Detroit Lakes chapter look at becoming a Fuller Center member instead.

What is the Fuller Center for Housing?

The Fuller Center for Housing is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing.

"It was started in 2005, by the same person who co-founded Habitat for Humanity, Martin Fuller," Velde said. "They are a 501(c)3 organization, and we operate under their umbrella."

According to its informational brochure,

"It was started in 2005, by the same person who co-founded Habitat for Humanity."

LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENT JIM VELDE, ON THE HISTORY OF THE FULLER CENTER

the Fuller Center is "unashamedly Christian and enthusiastically ecumenical."

"What the poor need isn't charity, it's capital," the brochure states. "We provide that capital — cash, materials, volunteer labor and construction expertise — to help those in need create a simple, decent place to live. We believe that handouts are often detrimental to the recipients but that a hand up is a blessing, so those we work with help with the construction and pay the costs on terms they can afford, over time and with no interest charged."

"This way, they are true partners in the work, have meaningful ownership of the home and are enhanced rather than diminished by their partnership with us."

Making the transition

After spending a few months working on the transition, "the official date that we became a Fuller Center for Housing covenant partner was Aug. 31, 2021," Velde said.

"We've spent most of the past year focusing on the transition, but we're pretty much done with that now," he added.

A small board of eight members was recruited, with the possibility of adding a few more, as well as volunteer labor for its first project.

"We had a home donated to us last summer by a local resident," Velde said.

Though the home was donated, the land upon which it sat was not, so the chapter is in the process of relocating the house to a new site on Dean Street.

"It's on the north edge of Detroit Lakes," Velde said. "We already have the foundation and crawl space area laid, and we're waiting for the weather to cooperate so we can move it (onto the foundation)."

Once the home is in place, some improvements will need to be made before it's ready for occupancy.

"We're in the process of seeking applications for a new family," Velde said. "The applications are due April 30."

Families that meet the Fuller Center's financial requirements can apply via the website at fullercenter.org.

To help raise money for the organization, Fuller Center volunteers will continue Habitat's tradition of providing food

for Tuesdays in the Park, serving up fresh-grilled burgers and brats every Tuesday, June through August, in conjunction with the free concerts staged in the City Park Bandshell by the Historic Holmes Theatre. Picnics in the Park donations will go to the Fuller Center.

In addition, the group is currently selling raffle tickets, for a drawing to be held April 25. Prizes include a pair of Bose ear buds and four passes to the Detroit Lakes Community & Cultural Center; a pair of Historic Holmes Theatre show passes and a \$100 gift certificate for The Fireside; and \$50 cash.

"Tickets are available from any board member, or call me at 218-234-3981," Velde said. "The goal is to raise \$1,000."

Those who would prefer to make their donation in the form of sweat equity are invited to sign up through the website, as well.

"It's all volunteer labor," Velde said. "You don't need to be a contractor to join."

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SPORTS



From left to right: Mason Carrier, Brandon Marsh, Ethan Carrier and Charlie Kalina practice relay hand-offs at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse on Mar. 31.

Photos by Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

READY TO RUN

Lakers eager to prove themselves under new head coach

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Detroit Lakes

The Detroit Lakes track and field team welcomed a familiar face as its new head coach for the 2022 season.

Dylan Surface has his hands on several athletic programs at Detroit Lakes high school. After spending time as an assistant track coach, as well as directing the high school's speed and strength program and coaching the football team's offensive line, Surface feels ready to take the reins as head coach of the Laker boys track team.

"It taught me how to handle having a lot on my plate," Surface said of previous head coaching experiences. "If I wasn't busy doing something, I don't know what I'd be doing. We're (three) and a half weeks in now, and it's gone really well. We've had good turnout and really good buy-in from our kids."

The Lakers are in a new-look section 8-2A this season after the Minnesota State High

School League did a state-wide reshuffling last summer. Detroit Lakes will compete with Albany, Alexandria, East Grand Forks, Fergus Falls, Little Falls, Melrose, New London-Spicer, Pequot Lakes, Rocori, Thief River Falls and Willmar.

Despite some snow on the ground, the Lakers have two indoor meets at Concordia-Moorhead under their belt. Even though they weren't at full strength, Surface appreciated a chance to set the tone for a group eyeing season-long improvements.

"It's a good early measuring stick," Surface said of the first indoor meets. "We have some guys that can't be there, but it's good to have our athletes learn how to compete and see how a track meet flows. We have so many new bodies out here. Even some of the older bodies haven't experienced a normal track season."

Even though the end goal is to see athletes compete for state berths, Surface wants to see his team take steps forward every

day.

"I like to approach things from the standpoint of each day being an opportunity to get better," Surface said. "We talk about it every day. You have an opportunity to get better or worse. You'll never stay the same. How you do something is how you do everything. We're working on making sure we do all of those little things right."

"The best part about track is improvement is measurable," Surface said. "It's all time and distance. For this year, you can talk about winning championships or sending teams to the state meet, which are things we are more than capable of doing. Ultimately, the goal is to be as good as we can become."

Surface was a track and field athlete at Concordia College in Moorhead before transferring to Minnesota State University-Moorhead after one year. Even though he decided he was done competing, his love for athletics pushed him right into coaching.

TRACK: Page B2



Detroit Lakes boys track and field head coach Dylan Surface walks through a drill during a practice on Mar. 31 at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse.

TRACK AND FIELD

Both Detroit Lakes boys and girls track teams take third at Moorhead indoor

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

MOORHEAD – The Detroit Lakes track and field teams each took home a third-place finish in their second indoor meets of the season.

The Detroit Lakes girls were led by five four-place finishes. Abby Larson took the top spot in the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.65 seconds. She also anchored the Lakers' first-place 4x200-meter relay team with Jerzie Horner, Ella Paulson and Annie Paulson.

In the 55-meter hurdles, Rylee Johnson paced the pack with a time of 9.82 seconds. Jacee Hauser won the shot put event with a distance of 33-feet, 5-inches.

Horner took second in the pole vault with a height of 8-feet. Morgan Hausten was right behind her in third place at 7-feet. Grace Gunderson capped off an impressive field day with a third-place finish in the high jump (4-feet, 7-inches).

Fargo Davies finished first overall with a team score of 101.5. Minnewaska Area (91.5) and Detroit Lakes (90.5) rounded out

the top three spots.

The Lakers also took third overall in the boys competition. Staples-Motley won the event with an even 100. Minnewaska (88) and Detroit Lakes (78) were right behind.

Alexander Fletcher won the high jump at the height of 5-feet, 8-inches. He also won the pole vault at 10-feet, 6-inches.

In the 55-meter hurdles, Zach Olson took second in 8.98 seconds. Olson picked up another second-place finish in the 4x400-meter relay with Brayden Francis, Jack Pace and Joseph Skinner at a time of 4:00.16.

The throwers capped off an impressive field day. Braydon Sjoblom took second in the shot put at 38-feet, 11-inches. Lawson Greene (37-feet, 11-inches) and Charlie Zok (37-feet, 9-inches) took sixth and seventh, respectively.

DETROIT LAKES BOYS TEAM SCORES: 1- Staples-Motley 100, 2- Minnewaska 88, 3- Detroit Lakes- 78, 3- Fargo Davies 48, 5- Moorhead 61.5, 6- Sargent County 38.5, 7- LPGE 32, 8- Maple River- 31, 9- NCE/ UH Titans 27, 10- Enderlin, 11- Ashby-Brandon-Evansville
DETROIT LAKES BOYS TOP 10 FINISHERS- 800M RUN- 1st- Jace England (Moorhead) 2:17.99, 4th- Xander Jessen 2:26.76
1600M RUN- 1st- Maeson Tank (Minnewaska) 5:19.36, 5th- Brayden Francis 5:27.96

55M HURDLES- 1st- Denver Piechowski (Davies) 8.3, 2nd- Zach Olson 8.98, 4th- Alexander Fletcher 9.24
4x200M RELAY- 1st- Staples-Motley 1:39.23, 6th- KaDan Smith, Ethan Lundberg, Gage Hatch, Tyler Ostlie 1:50.10
4x400M RELAY- 1st- Minnewaska 3:56.34, 2nd- Francis, Jack Pace, Joseph Skinner, Olson 4:00.16
4x800M RELAY- 1st- Minnewaska 9:38.00, 3rd- Hunter Hanson, Hunter Olson, Jessen, Lane Yliniemi 10:26.19
HIGH JUMP- 1st- Alexander Fletcher (Detroit Lakes) 5'8", 9th- Lawson Greene 5'0", 9th- Z. Olson 5'0"
POLE VAULT- 1st- Fletcher (Detroit Lakes) 10'6"
LONG JUMP- 1s Evan Richman (Maple River) 20'6", 4th- K. Smith 17' 10.5"
SHOT PUT- 1st- Christopher Andrade (Moorhead) 39'1", 2nd- Braydon Sjoblom 38'11", 6th- Greene 37'11", 7th- Charlie Zok 37'9"
GIRLS TEAM SCORES: 1- Fargo Davies 101.5, 2- Minnewaska 91.5, 3- Detroit Lakes- 90.5, 4- Moorhead 67.5, 5- LPGE- 61, 6- Staples-Motley 49, 7- A-B-E 42, 8- Maple River 25.5, 9- Sargent County 21, 10- Enderlin 20.5
DETROIT LAKES GIRLS TRACK TOP 10 FINISHERS- 55M DASH- 1st- Abby Larson (Detroit Lakes) 7.65
200M DASH- 1st- Hailey Bjerke (Davies) 28.28, 7th- Ella Paulson 29.74
1600M RUN- Annika Stroh (Sargent County) 5:26.49, 10th- Maria Foltz 6:44.07
3200M RUN- 1st- Kyanne Burton (Staples-Motley) 12:22.98, 3rd- Julia Steffl 13:11.77
55M HURDLES- 1st- Rylee Johnson (Detroit Lakes) 9.82
4x200M RELAY- 1st- Jerzie Horner, Ella Paulson, Annie Paulson, Larson (Detroit Lakes) 1:52.64
4x400M RELAY- 1st- Minnewaska 2:26.38, 4th- Maddie Blahut, Grace Gunderson, Malory Fishcher, Lille Baethke 4:50.93
4x800M RELAY- 1st- Minnewaska 10:42.42, 4th- Blahut, Sadie Johnson, Marin Johnson, Maria Foltz 11:40.68
HIGH JUMP- 1st- Danica Felland (Moorhead) 4'9", 3rd- Grace Gunderson 4'7"
POLE VAULT- 1st- Azalea Jorgenson (Davies) 9'0", 2nd- Jerzie Horner 8'0", 3rd- Morgan Hausten 7'0"
LONG JUMP- 1st- Rachael Bergstedt 14'11", 4th- M. Fischer 14'4"
TRIPLE JUMP- 1st- Lucae Wales (A-B-E) 33'1.5", 7th- A. Paulson 29'5"
SHOT PUT- 1st- Jacee Hauser (Detroit Lakes) 33'5", 3rd- Brenna Skadsem 31'5.5", 10th- Lexi Gerdes 29'3"
Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@detroitlakestribune.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

BOYS BASKETBALL

Cihak named team MVP for 2021-22 season

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

DETROIT LAKES – The Detroit Lakes boys basketball team handed out its team award following the 2021-22 season.

Nate Cihak was given the Most Valuable Player award. The senior guard scored 381 points on 141-of-304 shooting from the field. He also made 40% of his three-point attempts at 47-of-117. Cihak collected 88 rebounds, 123 assists and 42 steals in his final year as a Laker. He also won the Mr. Assist award. Mason Omberg was named JV MVP as well.

Christian Solberg took home the D-Stopper award. His 78 rebounds, 40 steals, and seven blocks helped set the tone for Detroit Lakes defensively this season.

Sophomore Mason Carrier did a good job of cleaning up the glass, and was recognized with the Chairman of the



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Nate Cihak, left, looks for a way around Michah Thompson in the first half of Perham's 81-57 win over Detroit Lakes on Jan. 4, 2021, at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse. Cihak was named team MVP after his all-conference senior season.

Boards award. He led the team with 195 rebounds, including 74 of them on the offensive end. Carrier also led the team in points with 466 on the season.

Caeden Yliniemi took home the Laker award. Yliniemi came off the bench in most games before suffering a season-ending injury. He grabbed 19 rebounds, 14 assists and 15 steals through-

out his senior season. Cihak and Carrier were named to the Mid-State All-Conference team following the Lakers' 11-15 season. Solberg and senior Chris Breded were honorable mentions. Breded scored 207 points with 45 made three-pointers this season. She shot 38% from beyond the arch.

CIHAK: Page B2

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Lakers look to shake things up in new-look section

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

DETROIT LAKES – A handful of Detroit Lakes girls track and field athletes were mere seconds from clinching sports at the state meet last year at the Section 8-2A championships. It's what's fueled the start of a promising 2022 campaign.

The Lakers competed in two indoor meets at Concordia-Moorhead. It's a large group of new faces led by seniors that are ready to prove themselves in a different-looking Section 8-2A than in years past.

"One of the things that stands out about this team is there are so many ninth and 10th graders," Detroit Lakes girls head coach Maggy Doll said. "We have some really great senior leaders that have their own experiences. A lot of them haven't had a normal season because of the pandemic. The ones that have had it were freshmen when they did."

Abby Larson finished two places outside of a state bid in the 100-meter dash last spring at the Section 8-2A championships in Fergus Falls. The Lakers had a pair of top-eight relays and an eighth-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles from Rylee Johnson.

Detroit Lakes didn't send a track and field athlete to the state meet



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune
Detroit Lakes' Ella Paulson practices the pole vault during a Mar. 31 girls track and field practice at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse.

at St. Michael-Albertville High School in 2021. This year, Doll is confident that will change.

"We had a couple of girls that came really close, and you can already see them working so hard because they know what it's going to take to get there," Doll said. "The kids are really hungry. I want us to be the team that loads the bus up full of Lakers and competes for state championships. I think we're closer to that this year. We have a girl in every spot, and we haven't had that in a few years."

What will also help the Lakers' chances at sections is the departure of teams like Moorhead and Bemidji. A third track and field class was added during the Minnesota State High School League's statewide section realign-

ment. That leaves Detroit Lakes with Alexandria, East Grand Forks, Fergus Falls, Little Falls, Melrose, New London-Spicer, Pequot Lakes, Rocori, Thief River Falls and Willmar.

"I think the girls feel like there's more opportunity coming into this season," Doll said. "There were times where we went into meets, and we knew we were going to have a hard time competing with the Moorheads. There are still some really strong teams like Alexandria and Rocori, and they will be really good."

Both the boys and girls teams are benefiting from the newly built Lakeshirts Fieldhouse. It's changed the way track and field teams can practice while the Minnesota weather keeps them inside.

"You have no idea how

much better it is to have this space this year," Doll said. "We were practicing in hallways and on the street. The fact that we can pole vault in here is amazing. We are so fortunate to have the facilities we have, and I think that's another reason why our athletes were excited to get to practice."

As excited as Doll is to get the outdoor season underway, she's thrilled to be back with her team in a normal capacity for the first time in two seasons.

"We didn't get a season two years ago, and last year was a challenge in a lot of ways," Doll said. "All of our meets were dual meets. We lost the normal flow of a track meet. There's nothing like being at a meet with hundreds of kids and feeling that energy only track provides... I'm most excited for normalcy. It feels like things are coming together for us in a lot of ways at the right time."

DETROIT LAKES TRACK AND FIELD SCHEDULE

- Mar. 25 at Concordia-Moorhead invite, 5 p.m.
- April 1 at Concordia-Moorhead invite, 5 p.m.
- April 5 at Fergus Falls invite 3 p.m.
- April 12 at Fergus Falls invite, 4 p.m.
- April 19 at Rocori invite, 4 p.m.
- April 23 at Pequot Lakes invite, 11 a.m.
- May 3 at Alexandria invite, 4 p.m.
- May 5 Home invite, 4 p.m.
- May 10 True Team Section at Fergus Falls 12 p.m.
- May 17 at Park Rapids invite 3:30 p.m.
- May 21 at State True Team at Stillwater, 3 p.m.
- May 23 at Bemidji invite, 4 p.m.
- June 1 Section meet at Detroit Lakes High School, TBD
- June 4, Section Championships at Alexandria, 9:30 a.m.
- June 9-11 State at STMA

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

TRACK

From Page B1

"I coached ninth-grade football and the weight lifting team at Moorhead High School in my first year of college," Surface said. "I did track for a year in college, and I was just ready to be done being an athlete. I switched over to the coaching side of things."

Last year, the Detroit Lakes boys track and field team was a few steps behind the top teams in Section 8-2A. The Lakers finished 16th out of 16 teams with just two top-10 finishes at the section championships.

However, Surface sees a group that's hungry to prove doubters wrong.

"There's so much potential for Laker track," Surface said. "We have such a talented group of kids. Last year was kind of a weird year, and things didn't quite go our way. I could tell early on the season there was a fire under our whole staff to really put a good team together. It's been cool to see that over these first few weeks. To see that fire with our staff and in these kids to come out here and want to get better is exactly what we want."

The new facility for practices while the weather keeps them inside is getting Laker athletes excited. The state-of-the-art

Lakeshirts Fieldhouse can support training for almost all events, including throwing and pole vaulting.

"It's huge. Having this kind of space is game-changing," Surface said. "Even when I was in Moorhead, we didn't have this kind of space. Kids are going to realize how lucky they are to have this kind of space because not many kids in this state have stuff like this."

Even though indoor practices are better than they've ever been, the Lakers are still eager to get outside for good. It's a spring that bodes potential for a boys team that can only go up.

"I'm excited to see what we can do," Surface said. "We have a lot of talented kids that can do some really cool things. We have some kids that come to mind when we talk about competing with the best. We also have some kids that will surprise me, and I think that's what I'm looking forward to the most."

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CIHAK

From Page B1

Cihak was also named to the 2021-22 Academic All-State team for Classes

3A and 4A by the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association. The Lakers won the Section 8-3A academic championship as well.

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

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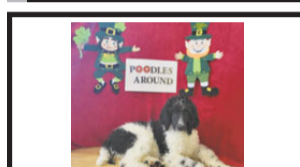
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SUDOKU

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Sudoku grid with numbers: 1 4 3 9 5 7 2, 7 1 6, 9 4 8, 5 9 6 7 3, 7 4 9, 2 4, 1 4 7 6 8, 6 4, 8 5 2 3 9

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

TODAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED grid showing the solved 9x9 sudoku puzzle.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-53 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS 1. Aerosol spray 5. Tricky 8. Marble slice 12. At a standstill 13. Stick for billiards 14. Wear down 15. Sports group 16. Exit's opposite 18. Packing down 20. Vill 21. Eden dweller 22. Mentally healthy 23. Pushy 26. Broom's relative 27. Hurried 30. Litter's littlest 31. Title 32. Folder 33. "You Sixteen" 34. Grass-covered ground 35. Moved slowly 36. Heroic poem 38. Rightful 39. Shaving need 41. Got slimmer 45. Oversight 47. Dam 48. Clamors 49. In fashion 50. Unzip 51. Brink 52. Tissue layer 53. Disarray

PUZZLE SOLUTION grid showing the completed crossword puzzle.



Biden launches long COVID plan, Page 2

Unbridled inflation, Page 3

'Sorry if I've offended' Page 4

Pack in the protein, Page 5

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA



'THIS IS NOT RUSSIA, THIS IS A MONSTER' UKRAINE DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RUSSIAN 'WAR CRIMES' AS WEST PREPARES SANCTIONS

By Michelle Nichols and Pavel Polityuk
Reuters

United Nations/Lviv, Ukraine
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday that Russia must be held accountable for what he and many Western leaders have called war crimes, as the United States and its allies prepared to expand sanctions. Six weeks into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Western countries will move to isolate the Russian economy further on Wednesday by adding sanctions targeting Russian financial institutions, state-owned companies and government officials, as well as banning new investment in Russia, the White House said. The West's punishment of Moscow over its actions in Ukraine has been given new impetus this week following the discovery of civilians shot dead at close range in the Ukrainian town of Bucha seized from Russian forces.

Between 150 and 300 bodies might be in a mass grave by a church in Bucha, north of the capital Kyiv, Ukrainian human rights ombudswoman Lyudmyla Denisova said on Tuesday.

In a live video address from Kyiv, Zelenskyy questioned the value of the 15-member Security Council, which has been unable to take any action over Russia's Feb. 24 invasion because permanent member Moscow is a veto power.

"We are dealing with a state that turns its veto at the U.N. Security Council into the right to (cause) death," Zelenskyy said. "Russia wants to turn Ukraine into silent slaves."

Responding to Zelenskyy, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the Council that Russian troops were not targeting civilians.

The Kremlin said allegations that Russian forces had executed civilians in Bucha were a "monstrous forgery" staged by the West to discredit it.

Russia says it launched a "special military operation" in Ukraine to demilitarize and "denazify" a country that President Vladimir Putin regards as an illegitimate state.

The Kremlin's position is rejected by Ukraine, a parliamentary democracy, and the West as a pretext for an unprovoked invasion that has uprooted a quarter of the country's population.

The ambassador for Russia's strategic partner China told



Zohra Bensemra / Reuters

A woman carries her cat as she walks past buildings that were destroyed by Russian shelling amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine in Borodyanka on Tuesday in the Kyiv region of Ukraine.

“
We are dealing with a state that turns its veto at the U.N. Security Council into the right to (cause) death. Russia wants to turn Ukraine into silent slaves.

VOLODOMYR ZELENSKYI,
Ukrainian president

the Security Council the reports and images showing civilian deaths in Bucha were "very disturbing" but said the circumstances should be verified and any accusations should be based on facts.

Ambassador Zhang Jun urged the United States, NATO and the EU to pursue dialogue with Russia rather than further sanctions he said were not effective in solving the crisis.

South and east

The tense Security Council meeting came amid heavy fighting in Ukraine's south and east as Russia shifts its offensive away from Kyiv after failing to capture any

major cities.

In the besieged southern port of Mariupol, where tens of thousands are trapped with scant access to food or water, a Dominica-flagged cargo ship sank on Tuesday after being targeted by Russian missile strikes, the vessel's flag registry said.

One of the 12 crew members required medical treatment while the others were evacuated onto nearby vessels, the registry said. The ship was believed to have been without cargo.

Russia did not respond to a request for comment. Its armed forces said on Tuesday they had shot down two Ukrainian military transport helicopters that were trying to leave the city. Ukraine's armed forces general staff said attacks in Mariupol were continuing, but did not give any details.

In the east, where Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv has been among Russia's main targets, the general staff said Ukrainian forces had destroyed three Russian tanks and around 20 other armored vehicles.

Burying the dead

Reuters has seen at least four victims shot through the head in Bucha, one with their

hands tied behind their back. Residents have recounted cases of several others slain, some shot through their eyes and one apparently beaten to death and mutilated.

On Tuesday, Ukrainian Serhii Lahovskyy buried the corpse of a childhood friend who had been shot through the mouth at very close range after disappearing when Russian troops occupied the town.

Lahovskyy and others grabbed shovels and dug a shallow grave on a grass verge. They used a carpet to carry the remains, placing him in a ditch before covering him with wooden boards and shoveling earth on top.

"Why did these animals shoot him so?" Lahovskyy said, sobbing. "This is not Russia, this is a monster."

Reuters could not independently verify the details of Lahovskyy's account or who was responsible for the killings in Bucha.

Casting sanctions net wider

U.S. officials said new economic restrictions on Russia following Bucha would be taken in "lockstep"

with other Group of Seven advanced economies and the EU.

Proposed EU sanctions, which the bloc's 27 member states must approve, would bar Russian imports worth 9 billion euros (\$9.8 billion) and exports to Russia worth 10 billion euros, including semiconductors and computers, and stop Russian ships entering EU ports.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it was working on banning oil imports, too.

Europe, which obtains about a third of its natural gas from Russia, has been wary of the economic impact a total ban on Russian energy - which Ukraine maintains is vital to securing a peace deal - would bring.

A proposed EU ban on Russian coal would be worth around 4 billion euros a year, von der Leyen said - tiny in comparison with last year's 100 billion euros in oil and gas imports from Russia.

But signaling strengthening EU resolve, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the coal ban was the first step towards an embargo on all fossil fuel imports from Russia.

Sacramento police arrest second suspect

By Dan Whitcomb and Brendan O'Brien
Reuters

A 27-year-old man who was seriously wounded in a shooting in Sacramento over the weekend that left six people dead was arrested on Tuesday for illegal possession of a firearm and possession of a machine gun.

Police in California's capital city took Smiley Martin into custody at a local hospital, the Sacramento Police Department said in a statement. Authorities will book the suspect after doctors determine that he is fit for incarceration.

Martin is the brother of Dandre Martin, 26, who was taken into custody on Sunday as a "related suspect" in

the case, police said. Dandre Martin was booked on suspicion of assault and illegal possession of a firearm.

Police did not elaborate on the men's alleged roles in the shooting and it was not clear if additional suspects remained at large. Police Chief Kathy Lester has said that "multiple" shooters were involved in the massacre that killed six people and injured 12 others.

A third man, 31-year-old Daviyonne Dawson, was taken into custody on Monday on suspicion of being a felon in possession of firearm, police said, but he was not accused of being involved in the mass shooting.

The gunfire erupted at about 2 a.m. local time (0900

GMT) on Sunday near the Golden 1 Center, home of the National Basketball Association's Sacramento Kings.

Police believe the shooting followed an altercation at a nearby nightclub and asked for the public's help in obtaining videos of that incident that had been posted on social media.

Investigators said they found more than 100 spent shell casings at the scene and a stolen handgun was found to have been converted to a weapon capable of automatic gunfire.

Of the 12 victims who survived, police said they were "suffering from gunshot wounds ranging from minor to critical but stable."

The violence took place in



Fred Greaves / Reuters

Dandre Martin, 26, who was taken into custody on Sunday as a "related suspect" in a shooting in Sacramento over the weekend that left six people dead, appears in state superior court Tuesday in Sacramento, California.

an area recently revitalized as an entertainment center and just hours after rapper Tyler

the Creator had performed at the Golden 1 Center on Saturday night.

Michigan governor kidnap plot jury ends 2nd day of deliberations

Reuters
A federal jury ended a second day of deliberations on Tuesday in the trial of four men charged with plotting to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, weighing whether they are guilty of domestic terrorism or victims of entrapment and prosecutorial overreach.

In closing arguments on Friday, a government prosecutor described the defendants as “paranoid” and bent on sparking a civil war by abducting Whitmer and

holding her accountable for placing restrictions on social and business activities due to COVID-19.

Defense attorneys said their clients were coerced into discussing the plot by FBI informants and never made concrete plans on their own.

The case has cast a spotlight on two of the militant right-wing organizations that have emerged in the years since former President Donald Trump’s election in 2016. It also highlights the extent to which the pandemic and

government efforts to control it have become a wedge issue in U.S. politics, pushing some people to extremes.

All four of the defendants – Adam Fox, Brandon Caserta, Barry Croft Jr. and Daniel Harris – have been charged with kidnapping conspiracy. Fox, Croft and Harris were also charged with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction.

If convicted the men could spend the rest of their lives in prison.

On Monday, the 12-person

jury ended the first day of deliberations without reaching a verdict.

At about 3 p.m., jurors asked U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker, “What’s a weapon?” – an apparent reference to the weapon of mass destruction charge.

Jonker answered that a weapon is anything that can be used to “destroy, injure or kill someone or something, as opposed to something you would use for fun,” the Detroit Free Press newspaper reported.

Fox allegedly ordered \$4,000 worth of explosives from an undercover FBI agent posing as a co-conspirator, according to the indictment. The document also accused Fox and Harris of making payments for the explosives.

Two other men who were initially charged – Ty Garbin and Kalen Franks – struck plea deals and served as star witnesses for the prosecution during the trial. Garbin is currently serving a six-year sentence, while Franks awaits sentencing.

Border push complicates COVID aid \$10B package stalls as Republicans, Dems make competing demands

By David Morgan
Reuters
WASHINGTON — The prospects of a \$10 billion U.S. COVID-19 relief package were complicated on Tuesday by Senate Republicans’ demand to link the bill to a vote on border restrictions and concerns by some House Democrats that the proposal did not provide international aid.

The competing demands come as top Democrats were aiming to pass the bill, which is less than half the \$22 billion President Joe Biden had sought, before a two-week recess starts late this week.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell told reporters that a resolution to keep in place Title 42 restrictions on border crossings imposed by then-President Donald Trump early in the COVID pandemic be among several amendments his caucus wants to consider when the Senate eventually moves to pass the COVID bill.

“There will have to be an amendment on Title 42 in order to move the bill,” McConnell said at a news conference, adding that his Democratic counterpart, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, would need to agree on an amendment process before proceeding.

It was not clear what other amendments Republicans want to vote on.

Schumer pushed back on the idea of twinning COVID-

19 funding to immigration, telling reporters, “It should not be held hostage for an extraneous issue.”

Senate negotiators led by Republican Mitt Romney on Monday had unveiled the bill, which dropped international aid from the package. That bill would provide more funding for making vaccines available at no cost and boost surveillance and testing.

It met mixed reviews from Democrats in the House of Representatives due to its lack of an international aid provision. The House would take up the legislation if it passed the Senate.

Prominent progressive Representative Rashida Tlaib said she was not sure it made sense to pass a bill she considered too small and made comments suggesting that Democrats could have trouble passing the measure in the House that they control by a narrow 221-209 margin.

Tlaib told reporters she has not decided whether to support the bill, arguing that the United States has an obligation to ensure adequate global resources in the fight against COVID-19.

“A lot of the success that we can have in crushing COVID-19 is making sure we understand that this is a global issue, just like climate,” said Tlaib, a member of the progressive group known as “The Squad.”

Some House Democrats offered grudging support for



Kevin Lamarque / Reuters file photo
President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the coronavirus disease before receiving a second COVID-19 booster vaccination March 30 in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building’s South Court Auditorium at the White House in Washington.

the bill.

“I’ll support it. But I think it kind of sucks,” House Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern told Reuters.

An amendment vote on Title 42 could further complicate the path forward for COVID aid, if a Senate amendment vote made the restrictions became part of the legislation. It was not clear whether passing a Title 42 amendment would require a supermajority of 60 votes in

the 100-seat chamber.

U.S. health officials are expected to end the sweeping, pandemic-related expulsion policy that has effectively closed down the U.S. asylum system at the border with Mexico. The restrictions were set in place in March 2020 under Trump.

Early this month, Congress failed to pass a \$15.6 billion relief bill amid Republican opposition to new federal spending. Many Democrats,

meanwhile, rebelled against taking back some money earmarked to help state and local governments in order to pay for the new round of coronavirus relief.

The House was also expected to vote later this week on legislation replenishing a fund created last year that provides federal grants to restaurants and other small businesses hurt by the COVID pandemic.

Biden launches plan to help patients with long COVID

By Ahmed Aboulenein and Julie Steenhuisen
Reuters
WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Tuesday tasked the U.S. health department with developing a national action plan to tackle the looming health crisis of long COVID, a complex, multi-symptom condition that leaves many of its sufferers unable to work.

Long COVID, which arises months after a COVID-19 infection, affects nearly 7% of all U.S. adults and 2.3% of the overall population and has cost an estimated \$386 billion in lost wages, savings and medical bills, according to an analysis by the Solve Long Covid Initiative, a non-profit research and advocacy group.

More than 200 symptoms – many lasting for months

– have been associated with the condition, including pain, fatigue, brain fog, breathing difficulty and exhaustion after minimal amounts of physical activity.

“Long COVID is real, and there is still so much we don’t know about it,” Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, who will lead the government response, said on Tuesday.

“Americans of every age and background are experiencing long COVID,” he added at a press briefing. “To be clear, we are going to use every tool we have to be there for these Americans.”

The plan will expand research, care and disability services for people suffering from the condition, the White House said. Becerra will release the jointly developed National Research



Amir Cohen / Reuters file photo
A patient suffering from long COVID is examined Feb. 21 in the post-coronavirus disease clinic of Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Action Plan within 120 days, Biden said in a presidential memorandum.

It addresses some concerns raised by patient advocacy

groups, which have criticized the slow speed of the National Institutes of Health’s \$1.15 billion RECOVER research program, and aims to accel-

erate the enrollment of 40,000 people with and without long COVID.

Under the new plan, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will invest \$20 million next year to investigate how health-care systems can best help those with long COVID, mentor primary care practices, and develop multi-specialty clinics across the country.

The plan calls for allocating an additional \$25 million to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from Biden’s 2023 budget – in addition to the agency’s \$50 million investment – to better understand and find solutions to characteristics, risk factors, underlying mechanisms, and health impacts of long COVID.

BRIEFS

Biden to extend student loan repayment pause to Aug 31
WASHINGTON – The Biden administration is expected to announce on Wednesday an extension of the student loan repayment pause through Aug. 31, an administration official familiar with White House’s decision making said on Tuesday.

The repayment moratorium has been extended multiple times since it was first put in place in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The current pause was set to expire

on May 1.

Nearly 41 million borrowers have benefited from a freeze on interest accruals and about 27 million borrowers have not had to pay their monthly bills since the forbearance began.

Ex-Proud Boys leader Tarrío pleads not guilty to charges tied to US Capitol attack
WASHINGTON – Enrique Tarrío, the former top leader of the right-wing group the Proud Boys, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to criminal charges accusing him of conspiring to block Congress

from certifying President Joe Biden’s 2020 election victory ahead of last year’s attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Tarrío’s attorney entered the not guilty plea on his behalf during a virtual hearing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The judge also announced a postponement in the planned May 18 start to the trial.

Tarrío, 38, is one of the most high-profile of the more than 775 people criminally charged for their roles in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump on the

day Congress convened to certify Biden’s victory. Tarrío and five other members of the Proud Boys are charged with conspiring to block the certification.

Early voting in Ohio begins despite ongoing fight over US congressional map
Early voting began in Ohio on Tuesday for the May 3 primary elections, all but ensuring that voters will pick their candidates for the U.S. Congress using a Republican-backed congressional map despite ongoing litigation

over its legality.

The state Supreme Court in January threw out a previous iteration of the map, ruling that it violated a state constitutional provision barring congressional districts drawn to benefit one party over another, a practice known as gerrymandering.

In response, the Republican-controlled state redistricting commission, including Republican Governor Mike DeWine, approved a second map last month that made some changes but still gave the party an edge.

Reuters

UNBRIDLED INFLATION

Costs likely to soar well into 2023 as wages fall behind, a new report finds

By David Lyons

South Florida Sun Sentinel

Wherever they go, consumers are seeing spikes in prices as they buy everything from homes to insurance to airline tickets.

More likely than not, spiraling inflation will continue to feast on wallets well past 2022, according to a Florida Atlantic University economist.

Around the nation, “the real value of wages for workers will likely fall even further as the Federal Reserve shows no signs of neutralizing worse-than-expected inflation,” said William Luther, an economist and associate professor at FAU’s College of Business.

In a new monthly inflation report, Luther and student Morgan Timmann predict that prices will be 11.8% higher in January of next year than they were in January 2020, two months before COVID-19 took down the state and national economies.

What does that mean for wage earners?

Consider the car, one of the biggest and most important purchases most consumers generally make. For a vehicle that cost \$50,000 in January 2020, the cost would rise to \$53,060 in January 2023 if the Fed hit is inflation target of 2%. If it averaged 3%, as the central bank forecast last December, the car would cost \$54,700 in January of next year.

“At 3.7%, as the Fed is now projecting, it would cost \$55,900,” Luther said. “We’re not paying more because the car is any better. It’s the same car. Rather, we’re paying more because the dollars we’re spending are worth so much less.”

The picture doesn’t get any better in other categories such as home-buying, where prices continue to head for the stratosphere, with car insurance and with the price of air travel, which is being pushed by higher fuel costs.

At the moment, it’s hard for consumers to play

defense. Although federal and state labor officials note that wages are on the rise in some sectors, as there are more jobs than willing workers to fill them, pay is not rising fast enough to keep pace with prices.

“I think that over the near term it’s pretty clear inflation has outpaced the Fed’s projections and certainly the wages that workers contracted a year or more ago,” Luther said. “Until those workers can renegotiate their wages, you will continue to see the goods and services they can afford with their pay will decline.”

In the interim, there are some measures consumers may take as they re-examine their personal budgets in selected key areas:

Northbound mortgage rates
Home buyers in the nation’s hottest real estate markets know that spiraling home prices aren’t reversing course anytime soon. The median price of a home in the tri-county region of South Florida is \$547,000, up 37% year over year, according to Realtor.com.

But now, mortgage rates are moving up — toward the rarefied air of 5%.

“The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with conforming loan balances (\$647,200 or less) increased to 4.8% from 4.5%,” the Mortgage Bankers Association in Washington, D.C., reported last week. (A conforming loan is also known as a conventional mortgage which meets standards for purchase and sale by the government-sponsored companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.)

“There is really not much you can do,” said Jeff Ostrowski, a real estate analyst for Bankrate. “Shop as hard as you can for your mortgage and make sure the house you are buying is realistically within your budget.”

Ostrowski, who lives in Palm Beach County, Florida, said he was shocked to see a 2,000-square-foot home in the Lake Worth Beach area on



Daniel Krylov / Dreamstime / TNS

The cost of homes, cars and insurance will continue to outpace wage increases, according to a new report by a Florida Atlantic University economist.

the market for \$1.7 million. A teardown “McMansion” was on the market for \$1.3 million.

“If a homebuyer is paying \$1.5 million or \$2 million they are not that sensitive to interest rates,” he said. That’s principally the province of first-time buyers or those seeking to buy a “move-up” home.

“These prices seem ridiculous, but these houses keep selling for prices that are ridiculous,” he said.

Late last week, the MBA reported mortgage applications decreased 6.8% from the week before.

“Mortgage rates jumped to their highest level in more than three years last week, as investors continue to price in the impact of a more restrictive monetary policy from the Federal Reserve,” Mike Fratantoni, the

association’s chief economist said in a statement.

“Not surprisingly, refinance application volume declined further, as fewer borrowers have an incentive to apply at rates that are significantly higher than a year ago,” he said. “Refinance application volume is now 60% below last year’s levels, in line with MBA’s forecast for 2022.”

Bundle insurance

With homeowners and car insurance becoming increasingly more expensive to buy, consumers might try to put all of their eggs in the same company basket, says Sarah Foster, an analyst at Bankrate.

“There are lots of ways consumers can trim how much they spend, especially when it comes to auto insurance,” she said. “One of the most important steps to take, and it ultimately gets

you the biggest cash savings, is to bundle your insurance.”

On Monday, Bankrate released its annual True Cost of Auto Insurance Report showing that nationally, drivers spend an average of \$1,771 a year on auto insurance which is 2.57% of the average household income.

South Florida drivers, the report shows, are spending an average of \$3,508 or 5.58% of their annual incomes.

One move to avoid, the report suggests: adding a teen driver to a policy, which “can be the most expensive life event for auto insurance consumers, causing an increase of \$2,081 to the average auto insurance premium.”

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Florida stuck with \$300M in Russian investments

Democrats want to divest, but state official says hands are tied

By Skyler Swisher

Orlando Sentinel

A \$300 million slice of Florida’s nearly \$200 billion public pension portfolio is invested in Russian companies, even as the pariah nation faces mounting accusations of genocide and other war crimes in Ukraine.

Democrats want Florida to divest that tiny part of the fund, arguing the state’s leaders should act swiftly to dump Russian investments. Florida’s holdings include Russian oil producers, mining companies and the country’s largest bank, according to a review from late January.

Florida’s chief investment officer says the state’s hands are tied because Russia has blocked foreigners from markets, and leaders are taking a “deliberative approach.”

Officials in 25 states have issued orders to divest any Russian-held investments or examine Russian investments, according to Stateside, a government consulting firm that tracks legislation. Lawmakers in at least 19 states have introduced legislation to divest.

While Florida has not moved to divest, lawmakers did order a review of state contracts to check for any taxpayer dollars that could be going to Russia-based businesses. The findings must be reported to the Legislature by Dec 1.

Q: Why is Florida investing in Russia?

Sean Snaith, an economist at the University of Central Florida, said it’s “standard



Amy Beth Bennett / Sun Sentinel / TNS

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, who is running for governor as a Democrat, meets with Black owners and entrepreneurs at Pots and Pans Cafe in Oakland Park on Feb. 9.

operating procedure” for large public pension funds to invest in “emerging markets” as a way to diversify, which includes investments in Russia before the war.

“It is a pretty small percentage overall,” Snaith said. “Just as mutual funds or pension funds will diversify across a sector of the economy within a given country, they also diversify across countries. It is a way of mitigating country-specific risks. It is a fairly common practice.”

The State Board of Administration, which is in charge of the state’s retirement funds, has about \$300 million in Russian investments out of \$195 billion in assets, Dennis MacKee, the board’s spokes-

man, said shortly after the war started in late February.

The value of those investments has likely declined significantly with U.S. and international sanctions battering Russia’s economy.

MacKee did not have an estimate of what the Russian investments are worth now.

Q: Can Florida divest?

Severing Florida’s financial ties with Russia is complex, Snaith said.

Russia’s stock market has reopened, but foreigners are banned from selling shares. Pension managers are “unable to liquidate even if they wanted to,” Snaith said.

Lamar Taylor, the State Board of Administration’s interim executive director and

chief investment officer, said at a Florida Cabinet meeting on March 29 that Russia’s equity markets have been shut to foreign investors since Feb. 25.

“If we were forced to divest today ... even if we could ... the only thing that would do would be to ensure a realized loss for the Florida Retirement System defined benefit pension plan,” Taylor said. “That is an outcome that we are seeking to mitigate by taking a more deliberative approach and making sure that our managers are acting as a fiduciary in the best economic interests of the plan.”

Taylor said his agency is complying with all U.S. sanctions.

The State Board of Administration is overseen by three trustees elected by Florida voters: Gov. Ron DeSantis, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and Attorney General Ashley Moody.

During the Cabinet meeting, DeSantis asked Taylor if it would violate the state Board of Administration’s fiduciary duties “if you liquidated at massive losses for political reasons, rather than for the best interest of the beneficiaries.”

Taylor said it would. DeSantis suggested the Legislature may act to provide policy direction to avoid investing in countries hostile to U.S. interests when state Rep. Paul Renner becomes House speaker after the November elections.

Q: What are Democrats saying?

Democrats running for governor say Florida should act more urgently to punish Russian President Vladimir Putin by at least attempting to pull the state’s investments.

“Unfortunately, we have a governor who was slow to react to the invasion, slow to condemn Putin and has been very soft on Russia,” said Nikki Fried, the state’s agriculture commissioner and only statewide-elected Democrat.

She added, “Florida has a responsibility to the people of our state to stand in solidarity with the fight for a democracy.”

U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist and state Sen. Annette Taddeo, two other Democrats running for governor, have also called for Florida to divest.

Fried said she thinks DeSantis does have the authority to act and could be more vocal, citing the state’s stance on China.

In December, DeSantis and other Republican leaders ordered an audit of the state’s investments in China that could lead to divestment. In a news release, DeSantis said the “Communist Party of China is not a vehicle that we want to be entangled with.”

Florida lawmakers will meet for a special legislative session from April 19-22, but the state’s Russian investments are not on the agenda.

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Singer Britney Spears arrives for the premiere of Sony Pictures' "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" in 2019 at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California. Valerie Macon / AFP via Getty Images / TNS

'SORRY IF I'VE OFFENDED'

Britney Spears confirms that she is writing a memoir she calls 'therapeutic'

By Christi Carras
Los Angeles Times

Britney Spears confirmed Monday that she is writing a book about her past in a lengthy Instagram post that has since been deleted.

According to transcripts from the Hollywood Reporter, the pop musician described the writing process as "hard," "healing" and "therapeutic." Her announcement comes more than a month after Page Six reported that she had signed a \$15 million book deal with publisher Simon & Schuster.

"I'm writing a book at the moment and ... it's actually healing and

therapeutic... it's also hard bringing up past events in my life... I've never been able to express openly," Spears wrote on Instagram.

"I can only imagine that I do sound childish but I was extremely young with those events took place ... and addressing it now ... I'm sure it seems irrelevant to most and I'm completely aware of that !!!"

The "Circus" singer also took aim at her younger sister, Jamie Lynn Spears, the actor and singer who published her own memoir, "Things I Should Have Said," in January. While promoting the title, the "Zoey 101" and "Sweet Magnolias" star spoke publicly about her sister's conservatorship, which

ended last year.

In a January interview with ABC News, Jamie Lynn Spears said she was happy when the conservatorship dissolved and claimed she was involved in the legal arrangement only when her sister wanted her to be. Upon its release, Britney Spears accused Jamie Lynn of penning and selling her memoir "at my expense."

More than a decade ago, the matriarch of the Spears family, Lynne, also co-wrote a memoir about her daughters with Lorilee Craker titled "Through the Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World."

In Monday's Instagram message, Britney Spears said she's "never felt

heard" by her family members, whom she has repeatedly criticized via social media.

"Sorry if I've offended anyone by writing these stories," the "Lucky" artist continued in her post.

"But just as my sister can legally mention my name in her book over 200 times ... cry on TV ... and get a heartfelt 'awww' from most ... I also have the right to share a couple of paragraphs on my Instagram."

While discussing her family's behavior, Spears also name-checked her ex-boyfriend, Justin Timberlake, who apologized to her and fellow musician Janet Jackson in the wake of FX's bombshell

documentary "Framing Britney Spears."

Spears did not reveal a release date or publisher for her forthcoming book.

"Instead of using my heart ... I'm using the intellectual approach as Justin so respectfully did when he apologized to Janet and me ... although he was never bullied or threatened by his family ... he took the opportunity to apologize 20 years later !!!" the Grammy winner wrote, according to Billboard.

"Timing is EVERYTHING !!! Good timing is the B— !!! Anyway ... I wanted to just let people KNOW I CARE !!! AND I'M SO SORRY !!!"

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Aly & AJ caught in shooting crossfire

Pop duo reveals they sheltered in place in tour bus downtown

By Jessica Schladebeck
New York Daily News

Pop duo Aly & AJ revealed they were forced to shelter in place during a mass shooting in Sacramento, California, over the weekend that left six people dead and several others wounded.

The former Disney darlings, Allison and Amanda Michalka, had just wrapped up a performance at the Crest Theatre in the California city's downtown area not long before the gunfire broke out early Sunday. The show was part of their 2022 "A Touch of the Beat Tour," which resumed on Monday.

"Our bus was caught in the crossfire but we sheltered in place and everyone in our

touring group is ok. Thank you for everyone reaching out," the sisters said in a tweet Sunday.

"A reminder to keep your loved ones extra close today. We have to do something about gun violence in this country."

The pair added that they have been left "distracted" since the incident and that they are thinking of "the families of those who lost their lives and those recovering today. We're praying for the health care workers caring for them."

"We hope all our fans made it home safe," the pair concluded.

Gunfire erupted in Sacramento around 2 a.m. on Sunday. According to authorities,

more than 100 bullets were unleashed following a large fight in the downtown area.

Three men and three women were killed, including Sergio Harris, 38; Johntaya Alexander, 21; Melinda Davis, 57; Yamile Martinez-Andrade, 21; Joshua Hoye-Lucchesi, 32; and De'vazia Turner, 29.

Several more people were wounded in the chaos, including four with critical injuries, police said.

On Monday, authorities announced the arrest of Dandrae Martin in connection with the massacre. He's facing charges including assault with a firearm and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

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Jose Carlos Fajardo / Bay Area News Group / TNS
Sacramento police crime scene investigators place evidence markers on 10th Street on Sunday at the scene of a mass shooting in Sacramento, California.



White quinoa stands in for breadcrumbs in these savory, garlicky chicken meatballs served with roasted carrots. Gretchen McKay / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette / TNS

PACK IN THE PROTEIN

Try chicken meatballs with quinoa and pan-roasted carrots

By Gretchen McKay
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

There's a certain magic in a meal that can be pulled together on the stovetop, with just a handful of everyday ingredients and not a whole lot of brain power.

Put this healthy meatball dish on your list of fuss-free favorites you'll want to make again and again. As flavorful as it is easy, it requires just five ingredients (if you don't include oil or salt and pepper), and the most common of kitchen utensils: a saucepan and nonstick skillet.

Meatballs need to be bound with some sort of filler to hold the meat together while cooking. Often it's eggs, crackers, panko or bread soaked in milk. This recipe goes gluten-free by using a mix of cooked quinoa and hummus as a binder.

A member of the goosefoot

family, which includes beets, spinach and chard, quinoa is a complete protein that contains all eight essential amino acids. It's also rich in fiber and various vitamins and minerals, making it a "superfood." Hummus, which is made from chickpeas, also boasts some nutritional heft.

Added to ground chicken, the result is a plant protein-packed dish that's not only light and healthy, but also incredibly satisfying.

Charred carrots add a touch of sweetness, and you'll definitely also taste the garlic. If you're not a fan, substitute lemon or plain hummus. White quinoa cooks up fluffier than red, so try not to substitute.

A small squeeze of lemon before serving will brighten the flavor.

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CHICKEN MEATBALLS WITH QUINOA AND PAN-ROASTED CARROTS

PG tested

- 1 1/2 cups prewashed white quinoa
- 3/4 cup garlic hummus, divided
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 1 pound ground chicken
- 1 pound carrots with their greens, carrots peeled and sliced thin on bias, 1/3 cup greens chopped
- 1/4 cup plus 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Salt and pepper

Heat quinoa in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until very fragrant and making continuous popping sounds, around 7 minutes.

Stir in 1 3/4 cups water and 1/2 teaspoon salt and bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until quinoa is tender and water is absorbed, 18 to 22 minutes, stirring once halfway through cooking. Remove pot from heat and let sit, covered, for 5 minutes, then gently fluff with fork and set aside to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, whisk 1/2 cup hummus, lemon juice and 4 teaspoons olive oil together in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper to taste; set sauce

aside until ready to serve.

Combine chicken, 1 cup cooled quinoa, lemon zest, 1/2 teaspoon each salt and pepper and remaining 1/4 cup hummus in large bowl. Using damp hands, gently mix until combined. Roll mixture into 20 tightly packed 1 1/2-inch meatballs.

Heat 3 tablespoons oil in a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add meatballs and cook until well browned and cooked through, 9 to 11 minutes, turning gently as needed. Transfer meatballs to platter and tent loosely with aluminum foil to keep warm.

Add carrots, 3 tablespoons water and a generous pinch of salt to now-empty skillet. Cover and cook over medium heat for 2 minutes. Uncover and cook until carrots are tender and spotty brown, 3 to 4 minutes. (Mine took about 8 minutes to char.) Stir in remaining 3 cups cooled quinoa, reduce heat to medium and cook until quinoa is warmed through, about 2 minutes.

Stir in remaining 1 tablespoon oil and season with salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle carrot greens on top, along with a drizzle of olive oil, if desired. Serve with meatballs and hummus dressing drizzled on top, or on the side for dipping.

Serves 4.

— "Five Ingredient Dinners: 100+ Fast, Flavorful Meals" by America's Test Kitchen (2021)



Nedim Bajramovic / Dreamstime / TNS
Ground sumac packs a lemony punch.

Sumac has deep roots in Minnesota

By Nicole Hvidsten
Star Tribune

Use it to flavor everything from lamb to lemonade.

Sumac might be best known for flavoring Middle Eastern cuisine, but its roots run deep in Minnesota.

Long used in Indigenous cooking, staghorn sumac, with its clusters of bright-red berries, is easy to spot growing throughout the Upper Midwest. (Stay away from those with white berries — they're poisonous.)

While plenty of foragers pluck, dry and grind

the berries themselves, ground sumac is widely available in supermarkets and co-ops. Sumac's sweet-sour taste packs a lemony punch, and its assertiveness complements other flavorful friends like allspice, thyme and cumin.

It plays a starring role in za'atar, another of-the-moment seasoning. Sprinkle sumac on hummus, use it to bolster soups and stews and to season meat and vegetables. Or play up its pucker power and use it to flavor teas, lemonades and marinades.

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Walnut crust adds flavorful crunch to chicken dish

By Linda Gassenheimer
Tribune News Service

It's easy to dress up boneless, skinless chicken thighs with this nutty walnut crust. It keeps them juicy and adds a flavorful crunch. The recipe also works with boneless, skinless chicken breasts. While the chicken bakes in the oven, the rigatoni and broccoli cook together on the stove.

Helpful Hints:

— You can use pecans or macadamia nuts instead of walnuts.

— You can use any type of short cut pasta such as penne.

Countdown:

— Place a large pot of water on to boil for the pasta.

— Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

— Make chicken.

— Cook pasta and broccoli.

Shopping List:

To buy: 3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs, 1 bottle cayenne pepper, 1 small package broken walnuts, 1 container panko breadcrumbs, 1/4 pound rigatoni pasta and 1/2 pound broccoli florets.

Staples: olive oil, egg, salt and black peppercorns.

Linda Gassenheimer is the author of over 30 cookbooks, including her newest, "The 12-Week Diabetes Cookbook." Listen to Linda on www.WDNA.org and all major podcast sites. Email her at Linda@DinnerInMinutes.com.

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Linda Gassenheimer / TNS

Walnut-crusted chicken.

WALNUT-CRUSTED CHICKEN

Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer

- 3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 3 tablespoons coarsely chopped walnuts
- 2 tablespoons panko breadcrumbs
- 1 egg lightly beaten

1 tablespoon olive oil
Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a baking tray with foil. Remove visible fat from chicken and pound until about 1/2-inch thick. This can be done with the palm of your hand or the bottom of a sturdy skillet. Mix salt, cayenne pepper, walnuts and panko breadcrumbs together on a plate. Place egg in a bowl and lightly beat it with a fork. Dip chicken into the egg and then roll in the walnut mixture, making sure both

sides are coated with the mixture. Place on the foil lined tray. Place in the oven for 4 minutes. Remove from the oven and turn chicken over. Return tray to the oven and bake 5 minutes. A meat thermometer should read 165 degrees.

Yield 2 servings.
Per serving: 388 calories (51% from fat), 22.1 g fat (3.4 g saturated), 7.4 g monounsaturated, 203 mg cholesterol, 38.3 g protein, 6.2 g carbohydrates, 1.2 g fiber, 514 mg sodium.

BROCCOLI RIGATONI

Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer

- 1/4 pound rigatoni pasta
- 1/2 pound broccoli florets (3 cups)
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Bring a large pot with 3 to 4 quarts water to a boil. Add pasta and cook 5 minutes. Add broccoli and continue to cook 5 minutes.

Drain, leaving about 1/4 cup water in the pot. Add the olive oil, to the saved cooking water. Return pasta and broccoli to pot and toss to mix well. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Yield 2 servings.
Per serving: 283 calories (18% from fat), 5.8 g fat (0.9 g saturated), 2.3 g monounsaturated, no cholesterol, 11.3 g protein, 47.7 g carbohydrates, 4.4 g fiber, 32 mg sodium.

'WE'RE PROBABLY ALL A LITTLE OVERWHELMED'

KANSAS' COMEBACK ONE FOR THE AGES

By Gary Bedore
The Kansas City Star

New Orleans

Kansas' men's basketball team concocted a comeback for the ages in Monday's national championship game at the Caesars Superdome.

The Jayhawks, who trailed by as many as 16 points in the first half, rallied to claim a 72-69 victory over North Carolina.

KU pulled off the largest comeback in a win in title-game history. Loyola Chicago trailed Cincinnati by 15 points in a 60-58 title win in overtime in 1963. KU on Monday also had the biggest comeback from a halftime deficit in title-game history.

Kentucky trailed Utah by 10 at the break in the Wildcats' 78-69 win in 1998.

"I think we're probably all a little overwhelmed and spent," KU coach Bill Self said. "I don't know that I've ever had a team flip the script like we have probably in the NCAA Tournament, whether it be Miami in the Elite Eight or whether it be this game."

In their Elite Eight victory and again in Monday night's championship game, the Jayhawks struggled in the first half only to excel in the second. KU trailed Miami by six points at halftime, ultimately beating the Hurricanes by 26 points in the regional final.

"It would be special to win regardless," Self said. "But to win when your team had to fight, and come back the way they did and show that much grit, makes this one off the charts. I thought this would be good. And this is a heck of a lot better than I thought it would be."

The Jayhawks didn't panic at halftime on Monday, down 40-25.

In fact, power forward David McCormack actually was smiling in the locker room at the break.

"He was looking at me, and I was like, 'Why are you smiling, dude? We're down 15,'" said KU guard Christian Braun, who scored 12 points with 12 rebounds. "He was telling me, 'Keep your head up, keep going, we'll be all right.' I was like, 'Man, I



Jamie Squire / Getty Images / TNS

Kansas players celebrate after defeating North Carolina 72-69 during the 2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament National Championship Game at Caesars Superdome on Monday in New Orleans.

don't know if I've ever been here before. Down 15 in a national championship game. I've definitely never been there."

Braun praised McCormack for his play down the stretch, including two big buckets in the final minute and a half.

"We're just proud of him and he kept us going," Braun said, "and then obviously hit a really big shot."

Asked about his halftime demeanor, McCormack, who finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds plus a block and a steal, said: "I was in the locker room telling the guys, 'Just believe in yourself, have fun with it. It's our last game regardless. Do what you need to do because that's how we got here in the first place. Don't doubt yourself.'

"And we came out in the second half. Juan (teammate Dajuan Harris) dictated the game on defense. Everybody else just followed suit. He's

a floor general. He can lock up anybody on the court. And he just came out with great energy, and we followed the same way."

Harris' defense was roundly cited by teammates as initiating KU's comeback in the final half.

"It was Dajuan. He sparked it in the second half. Coach said it in the locker room," senior Ochai Agbaji said. "Just his defensive pressure rubbed off on everyone else. That's where we got that momentum from on the defensive end and everything else fell in place on the offense."

Asked about his defense, Harris said: "I just wanted to go. I didn't want to lose. When I came to college, I came to college with them (gesturing to the teammates sitting next to him at the podium). I just wanted to give it my all for them. That's all it was."

The Jayhawks trailed in

many games this season.

"I would say it kind of just took us back to when we were at K-State," said Agbaji. The Jayhawks trailed the Wildcats by 16 points in the first half of a 78-75 KU win in Manhattan, Kan.

"The message was obviously different," Agbaji continued. "Coach, he obviously challenged us and he was amped up in there (locker room Monday). But it was a matter of us playing our game and executing in the second half and taking away what they were getting at in the first half."

Senior forward Mitch Lightfoot, who had two points and a rebound in seven minutes, said: "It's kind of hard to see us get rattled. And I think we bounced back at halftime. Coach had a great message for us, and he challenged us to be better and to have more pride. And we did that."

What exactly was Self's message at halftime?

"There wasn't much inspiration," the coach said. "I did tell them before the half was over, I said, 'Which would be harder, being down nine with two minutes left or being down 15 with 20?' And they all said being down nine with two minutes left."

He reminded his players the 2008 national champion Jayhawks had trailed Memphis by nine points in the title game with just over two minutes to play. And KU won in overtime.

"So we can do this," Self recalled telling them, "because that's the way it was in '08. We got three or four stops in a row to start the half. And 15 went to nine like that (snaps fingers), and it was anybody's game. It was special how Juan triggered that to start the second half."

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Five storylines to follow during the 2022 MLB season

By Rory Carroll
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Five storylines to follow as the 2022 Major League Baseball season gets underway with Opening Day on Thursday.

1. Lockout ends, but can sport grow its fanbase?

The 2022 MLB season appeared in jeopardy when owners locked out the players in early December amid disagreements over the terms of a new five-year labor agreement.

The sides ultimately reached a deal and the lockout ended last month without any games being canceled, which was a relief to those worried a prolonged work stoppage would alienate fans.

Instead, fans appear eager to get back to the ballpark. The day the season start date was finalized, online ticket retailer StubHub said they saw ticket sales jump 235%.

While that is good news in the short term, baseball still has to come up with answers to counter its shrinking TV audience and its aging fanbase.



Jim Rassel / USA Today Sports

Max Scherzer of the New York Mets warms up before a spring training game against the Miami Marlins at Roger Dean Stadium.

To do so, it will need to attract the next generation of fans by spotlighting emerging talents like Ronald Acuna Jr., Fernando Tatis Jr. and Juan Soto and play up team rivalries in the crowded North American sports marketplace.

2. Can Braves repeat as champions?

The Atlanta Braves were surprise winners of last year's World Series, taking the best-of-seven series 4-2 over the Houston Astros despite winning just 88 games in the

regular season.

The club lost slugger Freddie Freeman to the Dodgers during the offseason but still have plenty of pop in a lineup that features Acuna, who will look to return in May from a torn right ACL, as well as Marcell Ozuna, Eddie Rosario and Adam Duvall.

The pitching staff that features Max Fried, Charlie Morton and Ian Anderson got a boost with the addition of closer Kenley Jansen last month.

This Braves squad has no obvious holes and all

the pieces it needs to win the NL East and more.

3. Ohtani back-to-back MVPs?

Los Angeles Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani had one of the most awe-inspiring seasons in baseball history last year as both a hitter and pitcher and went on to be named the unanimous winner of the 2021 AL MVP award.

He earned comparisons to Hall of Famer Babe Ruth as he went 9-2 on the mound while hitting 46 home runs. He graced the cover of Sony's "MLB The Show 22" video game.

There is no reason to think he cannot do it again — provided the 27-year-old from Japan can stay healthy.

Ohtani blasted his third home run of Spring Training on Sunday and will be the Opening Day starter for the first time in his MLB career on Thursday against the Astros.

The rulebook has even been changed to reflect his unique talents.

On days that he is pitching, he will also be listed as the designated

hitter, meaning he can stay in the game to bat even after he is done on the mound in what has been dubbed the "Shohei Ohtani rule."

All signs point to Ohtani making even more history this season.

4. Big names on new teams

Some of the game's biggest names will be donning fresh uniforms this season and it will be fascinating to see how they mesh in their new environments and when pitted against their former teams.

Three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer signed a three-year, \$130 million contract with the Mets and the right-hander could face off against his former team the Washington Nationals on Opening Day.

Shortstop Corey Seager signed a massive, 10-year, \$325 million contract with the Texas Rangers that saw him leave the Los Angeles Dodgers, where he won the 2020 World Series MVP award.

Seager will be a pillar for the Rangers along-

side Marcus Semien, who signed a seven-year, \$175 million contract in December to join the Rangers.

Former Brave Freeman will wear Dodger blue and join a team most consider the front-runners to win the title, while the rival San Francisco Giants added former Dodger and Brave Joc Pederson to their lineup.

5. Players coming back from injury

Nine-time MLB All-Star Mike Trout, who is already considered by many to be one of the game's all-time greats, is set to return for the Angels after missing most of last season with a torn calf muscle.

If he is fully healthy, the underperforming Angels team could have a real shot in the AL West, where they will look to make the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

Standing in the Angels way in the division is the Houston Astros and hard-throwing right hander Justin Verlander, who missed all of last season after undergoing Tommy John surgery.

PODCASTS:

Joe Bertagna, who has served as commissioner for multiple leagues and has touched American hockey on every level, is our guest on The Rink Live podcast.

THERINKLIVE.COM

FROZEN FOUR

QUIETLY MAKING NOISE ON GOPHERS' BLUE LINE

Ryan Johnson doing his job shutting down opponents, and teammates take notice



Of the three finalists for the Hobey Baker Award, which one wins it?

By Mick Hatten
Forum News Service

Our question this week for The Rink Live beat reporters is: Of the three finalists for the Hobey Baker Award (MSU-Mankato goalie Dryden McKay, Denver forward Bobby Brink and Minnesota forward Ben Meyers), which one wins?

Those reporters are Mick Hatten, Jess Myers, Christian Babcock, Brad Schlossman and Matt Wellens. Hatten covers St. Cloud State, Myers covers the University of Minnesota, Babcock covers Bemidji State, Schlossman covers the University of North Dakota and Wellens covers Minnesota Duluth.

If you have a question for the group, follow us on Twitter and use #asktherinklive.

Mick Hatten (Huskies): I'm going to go with Dryden McKay for a couple of reasons. Of the three finalists, he's had the most dominant season. With the committee voting after the regionals, McKay picked up a shutout in a 1-0 championship game to get his team to the Frozen Four.

Christian Babcock (Beavers): McKay has had an exceptional season, and it seems like his time this year. So I'll go with him.

Jess Myers (Gophers): Bobby Brink and Ben Meyers have had superlative seasons in leading their teams to their respective conference regular season titles and to the Frozen Four. With all of that said, Dryden McKay's career body of work (34 shutouts!) is eye-popping and it is my hunch that for the third time ever, the Hobey will go to a goalie.

Matt Wellens (Bulldogs): The success Dryden McKay has maintained over his career is no fluke, and I thought he was the best player on the ice over New Year's weekend when the Bulldogs played the Mavericks in a home-and-home. He's had a phenomenal season, and deserves every award he's up for, including the Hobey Baker this year.

Brad Schlossman (Fighting Hawks): Hobey Baker is usually a stats-driven award. Considering that, it's Bobby Brink's. Brink has 15 more points than Meyers and McKay's save percentage is 18 points behind national leader Devon Levi.

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

By Jess Myers
Forum News Service

Boston

The days of the boom box in the middle of the hockey locker room, cranking out Bon Jovi or AC/DC from a cassette to pump up the players before a game disappeared not long after Cooperalls and the two-game total goals series fell out of fashion.

Today, nearly every player preps for a game with headphones or earbuds, picking their own soundtrack to inspire success on the ice. For some that means hard rock, techno or even country tunes. Since-departed goalie Jack LaFontaine would even listen to uplifting instrumental music from movie soundtracks.

If Gophers defenseman Ryan Johnson is listening to a Jimmy Buffett tune called "Quietly Making Noise" before games, it would be perfectly fitting for the role

the junior is playing on the ice during the current playoff run. It seems that on TV, fellow blueliners Brock Faber and Jackson LaCombe get most of the hype, and deserve to do so with their impact plays on both ends of the rink.

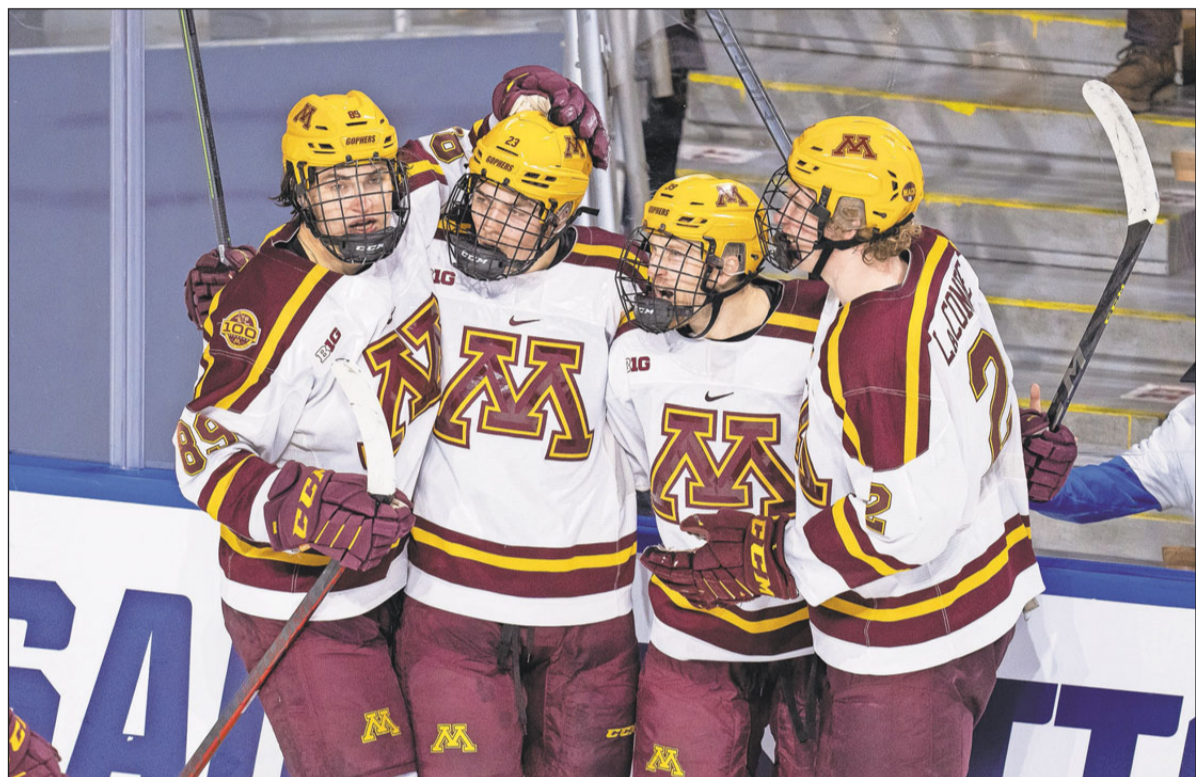
True to his reserved nature, Johnson just eats up minutes, plays a perfect shutdown role and even chipped in with a vital goal in the first round come-from-behind win versus UMass.

"He carries himself like a pro," Gophers assistant coach Garrett Raboin said of Johnson, who was a first round pick (31st overall) by the Buffalo Sabres in the 2019 NHL Draft. "He prepares by putting a lot of work into his craft, and you see that on the ice. He's just so efficient, logging the minutes he logs."

In the overtime win versus UMass, Johnson was on the ice for more than 30 minutes in a game that lasted 68 minutes and 31 seconds. With the Gophers trailing 2-0 late in the first period, a Johnson shot glanced off a UMass player and into the net, getting Minnesota on the scoreboard. Two days later in the regional final, Johnson played nearly 27 of the 60 minutes, as the Gophers shut out Western Michigan and advanced to the Frozen Four.

The extra time on the ice is nothing new for Johnson, a second-generation Gopher from Southern California, who has been known to spend another 30 to 60 minutes on the ice by himself after practice ends, working on small aspects of his game.

"He does a whole skating



Brad Rempel / University of Minnesota Athletics

Minnesota defenseman Ryan Johnson (23) was congratulated by teammates Matthew Knies (left), Ben Meyers (second from right) and Jackson LaCombe (right) after scoring the team's first goal of the NCAA playoffs in the first period of their game versus UMass on March 25 at the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts.

routine for another 30 minutes and you kind of just let him do it," forward Blake McLaughlin said, adding that getting Johnson off the ice is nearly impossible. "We tried his freshman year, but he never leaves early."

One of the more devout Christians on the team, Johnson has been open about his faith and while devoting time to his classes, can also spend hours devouring Bible passages while on a road trip. He is one of the more serious players on the team, but that quiet exterior hides a burning desire to win.

"He's got a fire in his belly, no question, and he competes at as high a level as I've seen," Raboin said. "You don't always see it in the emotions on his face, but you can see it in his game play."

So while second-round draft picks Faber and LaCombe seemingly share the team's defensive spotlight, first-rounder Johnson quietly goes about his business stifling the other team's playmakers, and drawing raves from those with whom he shares a locker room.

"Faber and Comber get a lot of credit, deservedly, but Ryan Johnson is the unsung hero of our group with what he does defensively and his complete game," co-captain Ben Meyers said of Johnson, who has a career-best 19 points and is a plus-5. "He's put up points this year as well. He's a very slept-on player. Everybody on our team knows about it, but he doesn't get a lot of recognition for what he does."

Johnson, a 20-year-old junior, is second on the team in blocked shots (44) and seventh in shots on goal (68).

One trophy at a time is Meyers' plan

When the Hobey Baker Award committee started narrowing the list of 10 finalists down to a "hat trick" of three players in 2002, Gophers defenseman Jordan Leopold was part of that trio, and became the most recent skater from the U of M to win college hockey's top individual honor that year.

The Gophers have had a half-dozen players named to the Hobey top 10 since then — Keith Ballard (2004), Ryan Potulny (2006), Adam Wilcox (2014), Mike Reilly (2015), Tyler Sheehy (2017) and Jack LaFontaine (2021) — but none of them have reached the hat trick stage.

That changed last week when Meyers was named one of the three finalists for the trophy, which will be handed out Friday evening in Boston. True to his team-first nature, Meyers has made winning a trophy in Boston his goal, just not the individual trophy.

"Obviously I was pretty excited," Meyers said of seeing his name on the hat trick list alongside Denver forward Bobby Brink and Minnesota State University-Mankato goalie Dryden McKay. "But at the same time, I didn't set out this year to win the Hobey. We want to win a national championship. If you have a really good team and you play

well, those things come along with it."

If his name is called on Friday, Meyers would be the fifth Gopher to win the Hobey, following Neal Broten (1981), Robb Stauber (1988), Brian Bonin (1996) and Leopold (2002).

Weekend details

Thursday's Gophers NCAA Frozen Four semifinal game versus Minnesota State Mankato at TD Garden in Boston is a 7:30 p.m. CT start and will be televised nationally on ESPNU with John Buccigross, Barry Melrose and Colby Cohen calling the action. On radio, the Gophers can be heard on 1130 AM / 103.5 FM in the Twin Cities with Wally Shaver and Frank Mazzocco behind the microphones. The first semifinal between Michigan and Denver is a 4 p.m. CT start and will be aired on ESPN2.

The Rink Live will also host live blogs during the Frozen Four games.

Postgame interviews with coach Bob Motzko and Gophers players can be seen live, roughly 10 minutes after the final horn at The Rink Live's Facebook page.

The Gophers' in-state rivalry with the Mavericks began Jan. 2-3, 1998, when Minnesota swept a home series versus the program then known as Mankato State. The U of M leads the all-time series with MSU 37-17-6, although the Mavericks won their last meeting 4-0 on March 28, 2021, in the Loveland Regional championship game.



Brian Deutsch / University of Minnesota Athletics

With 12 new players and no numbers or names on their helmets yet, perhaps the biggest challenge for Minnesota Gophers coach Bob Motzko at the team's first skate together Sept. 10, 2019, was getting to know who is who.



Matt Krohn / University of Minnesota Athletics

Minnesota captain Ben Meyers (left) was congratulated by teammates Matt Staudacher (center) and Matthew Knies (right) after a first-period goal in the Gophers' win over Wisconsin on Feb. 26 at 3M Arena at Mariucci in Minneapolis.