

Photos by Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune  
Billy Crane, center, of Frazee, analyzes the cards in the game area during the first Ultima Dragon Highlander tournament event at Ultima Gaming in the Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes on Saturday.



# the Detroit Lakes Tribune

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## GRATEFUL GAMERS

Gaming store holds tournament 8 days after neighboring fire

By Michael Achterling  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

A majority of ceiling panels were removed. And the store was closed Monday to clean the carpet due to minor smoke and water damage.

But, overall, Ultima Gaming, located in the Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes, considered themselves lucky by being located on the opposite end of the mall from the areas that suffered greater smoke and water damage from a neighboring fire on Sept. 10.

The store reopened for business on Tuesday, Sept. 14, and held its first Ultima Dragon Highlander event on Sept. 18., drawing in nearly 30 participants to compete for a split of the \$800 purse.

"It's been a trying week, so it's nice to have everyone in the store playing," said Dave Jopp, owner of Ultima Gaming. "The whole point of the store is we want to create a space where people can come and just play. Just get away from everything



Dane Weber of Detroit Lakes looks over a card during the Ultima Dragon Highlander tournament event at Ultima Gaming in the Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes on Saturday.

and this (event) is, to my knowledge, the first of its kind event with a format that is usually not played competitively."

Jopp said he was out of town when he heard news of the fire that had broken out in an apartment above Mattison's Barbershop on Washington Avenue.

"I had one of my

weekend staff covering and I got a call just saying that everyone was being evacuated and that was pretty much it," he said. "I was three hours away unfortunately, but we knew it was on the other end and all the fire crews were getting it under control."

Cleaning and inspection crews have been in and

out of the store all week and recommended they remove their ceiling tiles for customer health, he said. There are also air purifiers running throughout the mall to soak up any excess moisture from the firefighting efforts.

Many of Ultima Gaming's regular customers called the store and were concerned after learning about the fire nearby.

"I was kind of wondering if the store was going to go up, or not," said Billy Crane, of Frazee. "So, I was worried because I come here quite often."

Crane said he comes to the store every Wednesday to play in Magic: The Gathering league nights, but some weeks he could spend three or four nights at the store playing a variety of games.

He added that he has made friends with some of the people who go to event nights, and, without Ultima Gaming, he may never have met them.

"It's just a big friendly community we have in here and it's awesome," said Crane. "If you want to have fun and just meet cool people, come play, we'll teach anybody how to play games, any game."

Jopp said they are trying to cultivate a something-for-everyone community at the store and wants to host more league nights for any number of the strategy games people are currently playing. He added the PC-area of the store will also be back up next week for customer use and monthly pass holders.

"We definitely have our locals, our regulars, and they are absolutely what keeps (the store) churning," said Jopp. "The purpose of the (Ultima Dragon Highlander event) was to offer a little bit of a cash prize, maybe get some more competitive players and draw some more people out of the region."

**GAMING:** Page A7

## Examining a Minn. mystery

Geologist, TV host to discuss Kensington Runestone in DL

By Vicki Gerdes  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Scott Wolter believes that the Kensington Runestone is a real historic artifact of the 14th century — and that he has the scientific evidence to prove it. He will be presenting that evidence as part of a Friday, Oct. 1, appearance at Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre.

A forensic geologist and petrographer by trade, Wolter has spent much of his professional life examining rock and concrete failure issues in the construction industry.

"It's basically performing autopsies on concrete and rock," he said in a recent interview. "That's the layman's description of what I do."

Yet it is his work on



Submitted photo

Kensington Runestone expert Scott Wolter, at left, his wife and research partner Janet Wolter, and Darwin Ohman, the grandson of Olaf Ohman — who first discovered the runestone on his Douglas County farm back in 1898 — were at the site of that discovery back in July for a Knights Templar of Minnesota gathering, where the two men were presented with awards for their roles in the preservation of the runestone's history.

the Kensington Runestone, a 202-pound rock with an inscription that tells of European visitors to Minnesota in 1362, that has brought Wolter his most lingering fame.

"In July of 2000, which is now 21 years ago ...

this large slab of rectangular-shaped rock was brought into my laboratory," he said. "I didn't know what this rock was. Of course it was the Kensington Runestone,

**RUNESTONE:** Page A8

DETROIT LAKES SCHOOL BOARD

## School Board OKs 2.17% decrease in proposed levy

By Vicki Gerdes  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Detroit Lakes Public Schools lost 238 students during the 2020-21 academic year, and even though this month's opening-day enrollment figures showed an encouraging rebound, declining enrollment was the chief factor behind the school board's approval of a preliminary district property tax levy that is roughly \$196,000 less than the previous year's total.

At its Monday, Sept. 20, meeting, the Detroit Lakes School Board certified a maximum 2021, payable 2022 preliminary levy, which at the time of the meeting was \$8.82 million, a decrease of 2.17% from the previous year's levy of just over \$9 million. The final district levy figure for next year will be

certified at the board's December meeting.

Jason Kuehn, the school district's new finance and operations director, said that there will likely be some adjustments made before the levy is finalized in December. The final levy certification will take place after a public hearing on the proposed 2022 levy and budget, which is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 20.

After the proposed levy certification, Superintendent Mark Jensen had some encouraging news for the board regarding this year's enrollment.

As of Thursday, Sept. 9, first day enrollment figures for the district stood at 2,833 (not including non-residential students attending school in Detroit Lakes via a tuition agreement). Though K-12 enrollment

in the district has not yet reached 2019-20's total of 2,954 students, "we are bringing them back, which is nice to see," Jensen said.

Also at Monday's meeting, district resident Gary Coson spoke during the public "comments and requests" portion of the agenda, talking about "critical race theory" and how "some form of it has been taught (in American schools) for decades."

Coson talked about the importance of the Civil Rights Act, and how CRT "totally violates" the intent of that act, by teaching African Americans and other minority students that they should not be treated equally, but better than their non-minority counterparts.

**LEVY:** Page A7

### INSIDE

Smoothie operator

Nourish opens inside 180 Balance Page A5



Battle for the Paddle

Lakers travel to Perham on Friday Page B2



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## Otter Tail River Watershed open house packs a crowd

By Nathan Bowe  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Penny for your thoughts?

There were lots of people at the Otter Tail River One Watershed One Plan open house Monday, Sept. 20, and on the way in, they all got three pennies to vote on four general priorities for water projects. They could drop all three in one jar or spread them out over three jars.



Nathan Bowe / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Darren Newville with the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, right, talks to a man at the open house on Monday.

**OTTER TAIL:** Page A7

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**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, Sept. 16**

1:59 a.m., at the Becker County Jail at 1428 Stony Road, Detroit Lakes, a female inmate fell. She was transported to a nearby medical clinic for treatment.

6:59 a.m., 48000 Pow Wow Highway, Ponsford, male looks to have been the victim of an assault. The victim fled when approached by law enforcement. They were transported to a clinic for evaluation.

10:55 a.m., 100 block Veteran's Memorial Parkway, Detroit Lakes, bicycle theft.

12:10 p.m., at the Becker County Jail at 1428 Stony Road, Detroit Lakes, an inmate suffered a cardiac issue. They were transported to a nearby medical clinic for treatment and returned.

12:17 p.m., 23000 block 350th Circle, Ogema, three guns were stolen from a vehicle that was unlocked within the last four days.

12:28 p.m., at the Becker County Jail at 1428 Stony Road, Detroit Lakes, an inmate suffered a health incident involving hallucinations. They were transported to a nearby medical clinic for treatment and later returned.

2:11 p.m., at Walmart at 1583 Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, personally identifiable information was taken from a vehicle glove box while the vehicle was being serviced.

6:46 p.m., 23000 block County Road 123, Osage, domestic assault involving a father and a 14-year-old boy. The incident occurred in Park Rapids and is under investigation.

9:33 p.m., 18000 block 175th Street, Audubon, a vehicle struck a cow in the roadway. Minor damage was done to the passenger side of the vehicle and the animal wandered off.

**Friday, Sept. 17**

9:02 a.m., 20000 block County Road 103, Audubon, personal information given over the internet. The scammer claimed the victim had some unauthorized charges on their account and needed their information to verify it. The victim has contacted banking and Social Security authorities and made them aware of the situation.

10:51 a.m., 500 block Broadway Avenue, Detroit Lakes, motor vehicle theft. A black, 2004 Pontiac Grand Prix was borrowed to an individual in June and never returned.

11:28 a.m., 1000 block Roosevelt Avenue, Detroit Lakes, suicide related. A caller reported concerning conversations they had with a friend. After talking with the officer, no medical evaluation was needed.

11:42 a.m., 30000 block Mill Pond Road, Ogema, attempted theft of a tractor. The case is under investigation by White Earth police.

3:23 p.m., 800 block Rossman Avenue, Detroit Lakes, rental scam involving Facebook marketplace. The person soliciting the rental was

not the homeowner and the posting was taken down.

4:50 p.m., at Walmart at 1583 Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, purse stolen

6:58 p.m., 35000 block Mission Road, Ogema, tire fire. An officer extinguished the fire and advised they no longer burn tires.

11:28 p.m., near County Road 34 and County Road 111, Ogema, a vehicle struck a calf. No injuries were reported. The status of the calf is unknown.

**Saturday, Sept. 18**

1:59 a.m., 36000 block Marten Drive, Ogema, two sisters were assaulted by an unknown number of assailants. The victims were bleeding from the head and used personal transport to a nearby medical clinic for treatment. The case is under investigation by White Earth police.

10:27 a.m., 32000 block County Road 143, Ogema, burglary occurring within the last three weeks. Various items were stolen.

3:00 p.m., 36000 block County Road 46, Park Rapids, a gun was stolen from a residence. Two male suspects were arrested in connection with the burglary and one female was arrested on an unrelated warrant.

4:00 p.m., 36000 block Perrine Drive, Rochert, scam involving PayPal. The scammer claimed there were \$3,000 in fraudulent charges on their PayPal account, but the caller informed the scammer they had never opened a PayPal account.

6:41 p.m., 32000 block County Road 143, Ogema, a lock was cut from a storage shed. Unknown if any items were missing.

7:15 p.m., near 120th Street and County Road 102, Lake Park, a train struck a vehicle. Both occupants of the vehicle were able to escape before the collision without injury. The case is under investigation.

**Sunday, Sept. 19**

9:00 a.m., 1100 block Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, hacked Google account.

1:40 p.m., at Walmart at 1583 Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, disorderly conduct. A female party was upset and was reportedly swearing and yelling. They refused to give their identification to law enforcement, claimed they were being discriminated against and left the store.

2:08 p.m., 12000 block Carow Circle, Frazee, mailbox damage. Multiple other mailboxes were also damaged in the area.

6:01 p.m., near 400th Avenue and west Island Drive, Rochert, single rollover crash. An 18-year-old passenger in the vehicle suffered minor hand and elbow injuries. The 18-year-old driver was unharmed. Both occupants were wearing their seat belts. No medical transport was required.

7:47 p.m., 36000 block Marten Drive, Ogema, assault occurring two days ago. No medical attention was needed. One person was arrested in connection with the incident.

10:23 p.m., 1000 block Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, a juvenile male was reported as a runaway. Law enforcement has issued an attempt-to-locate notice for the boy.



Clint Austin / 2021 file / caustin@duluthnews.com

Enbridge's Line 3 oil pipeline under construction near the intersection of Hohensee and West Moorhead roads in Carlton County in January.

# Enbridge fined \$3.3 million

By Jimmy Lovrien

jlovrien@duluthnews.com

DULUTH — Minnesota regulators have fined Enbridge \$3.32 million for breaching an aquifer near Clearbrook when it deviated from its construction plans of the Line 3 oil pipeline, leading to the release of more than 24 million gallons of groundwater.

In a news release Thursday, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced it was issuing the fine and would be referring the matter to the Clearwater County Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution because Minnesota law bars the taking of "waters of the state without previously obtaining a permit from the commissioner."

"Enbridge's actions are clear violations of state law and also of public trust," DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said in the release. "This never should have happened, and we are holding the company fully accountable."

According to the DNR, Enbridge deviated from construction plans it submitted to the agency near its Clearbrook Terminal that were meant to avoid a calcareous fen wetland, which "is a unique type of wetland, with stringent statutory protections, that relies upon upwelling of mineral rich groundwater to thrive," the DNR said.

Instead of digging an 8- to 10-foot-deep trench as planned, the company dug an 18-foot-deep trench and

installed a sheet piling to a depth of 28 feet. That breached the artesian aquifer's confining layer, the DNR said, leading to "an uncontrolled flow of groundwater into the trench." Enbridge then "failed" to notify the agency, the DNR said.

"Enbridge began work at the Clearbrook Terminal site in early 2021 but did not follow the construction plans it had provided to DNR," the DNR said. "The DNR relied upon these plans in determining that proposed work at the Clearbrook Terminal could proceed without effecting nearby calcareous fen wetlands."

Through Sept. 5, approximately 24.2 million gallons of groundwater have been released from the aquifer, the DNR said.

The DNR said excess water in the trench was first observed in January 2021 but it wasn't until June when it was determined the company had not followed its plans. The DNR said it approved a plan from Enbridge last month to stop the groundwater flow.

Of the DNR's \$3.32 million in fines, it ordered \$2.75 million be placed in escrow to restore and mitigate any damage to the calcareous fen wetlands. Additionally, \$300,000 is for "initial mitigation funds to pay for the loss of groundwater resources," \$250,000 is for the DNR's monitoring of the wetlands near the breach and \$20,000 for an administrative penalty order.

In an emailed statement to the News Tribune, Enbridge spokesperson Juli Kellner said the company had just heard from the DNR and was "in the process of reviewing the document." She did not answer questions on whether Enbridge leaders thought the amount was fair or if they planned to appeal the fine.

"Enbridge has been working with the DNR since June to provide the required site information and approval of a corrective action plan which is currently being implemented," Kellner said. "We share a strong desire to protect Minnesota waters and the environment and are committed to restoration. We will continue to work closely with the agency on the resolution of this matter."

Construction is nearly complete on the 340-mile-long pipeline across northern Minnesota. It is expected to go into service by the end of this year.

Once complete, the new pipeline will carry 760,000 barrels of oil per day from Alberta, Canada, to Enbridge's terminal in Superior. The new lines in North Dakota, Canada and Wisconsin are already complete.

Opponents of Line 3 have long argued it violates treaty rights and poses a risk to the environment.

"No pipeline should have been built this way," the Resist Line 3 Media Collective tweeted Thursday evening. "We need to #StopLine3."

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## COURT NEWS

## Ponsford man gets over 5 years for DWI, fleeing officer

News Staff

Daryl Wayne Moran Jr., 40, of Ponsford has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony DWI and felony fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle.

According to court records, at 9:13 p.m. on Nov. 27, 2018, a state trooper on patrol in Becker County saw a vehicle driven by Moran fail to signal a turn. The trooper followed and clocked the vehicle going 60 mph in a 30 mph zone. He activated his emergency lights and pulled the vehicle over. As the trooper approached, Moran took off at slow speed, moving around a great deal inside the vehicle as if to hide illicit items. Moran then took off running, tripped and was caught by the trooper.

A bag containing hypodermic needles was found near the vehicle, and more needles with drug residue were found inside the vehicle. Moran smelled of alcohol and a blood sample was sent to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension lab for testing. Moran was wanted on a felony warrant and his license was canceled as inimical to public safety.

On Aug. 26, Becker County District Judge Jay Carlson sentenced him on the DWI charge to 65 months in prison at St. Cloud and ordered him to pay a \$50 fine and \$230 in court fees. Restitution was reserved.

On the fleeing charge, he was sentenced to 20 months in prison at St. Cloud, to be served at the same time as the first sentence, plus an additional \$50 fine and \$200 in court fees.

## Unlicensed contractor charged with felony swindle after botched tile job

Ronald Allen Solberg Jr., 49, of Dent, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony theft by swindle.

According to court records, On June 8, a Becker County sheriff's

investigator spoke with a woman who owns a lake property on Township Road 81 on Lake Melissa.

The woman said she had been looking for someone to tile a shower and had come across an ad for RS14 Construction, LLC, owned by Solberg.

She paid him \$1,200 to do the work. The job was supposed to be done in two days, but it ended up taking four days, and the woman said the work was very bad: There were holes in the grout and there was a mess everywhere.

The woman said that Solberg told her that he was licensed, but she later found out that he is not licensed and that the Department of Labor has a cease-and-desist order against him.

On July 15, the investigator spoke to the woman again. She said Solberg never came back to fix the work and will not return her calls or text messages. The woman said that she had two other contractors evaluate the shower and was told by both of them that the tile work would need to be torn out and redone.

On Aug. 31, Becker County District Judge Gretchen Thilmoney issued a summons for Solberg to appear in court.

## Waubun man accused of threatening to kill woman with pickaxe

Scott Edward Warren Jr., 20, of rural Waubun, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon, felony threats of violence, misdemeanor domestic assault, and misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

According to court records, On Aug. 25, about 2 a.m. a White Earth tribal police officer responded to a domestic assault in rural Waubun in Becker County.

A woman there told the officer that Warren had a pickaxe and had held it over his head and threatened to kill her with it. She said Warren was standing about 6 feet from her at the time, and that she was scared

and believed he would hit her with the pickaxe. Warren and the woman are related and both live at the residence.

A witness told the officer that he saw Warren take the pickaxe and use it to smash the woman's car windshield. Warren fled from the residence before police arrived, but he was seen walking nearby and arrested.

On Aug. 26, Becker County District Judge Gretchen Thilmoney set cash bail for Warren at \$500, or bond at \$5,000, under standard conditions of release, or \$40,000 bond with no conditions.

## Jamestown (N.D.) man sentenced for harassing Becker County woman

Jeremy Todd Copeland, 32, of Jamestown, N.D., has been sentenced in Becker County District Court on two misdemeanor counts of violating an order for protection.

A felony stalking charge was dropped in a plea agreement.

According to court records, Copeland called, texted, and contacted a protected Becker County woman via Snapchat and Facebook multiple times March 13-14 of this year. There were 26 missed calls from two phone numbers associated with Copeland, two texts believed to be from his "burner phone," and a number of voice-mails left about how the woman had ruined his life, and how he was going to post her photos and videos on a free pornography site.

Copeland is also believed to have created a fake Facebook account that he used to harass the woman and her family. He made numerous phone calls to her parents, badmouthing her and saying things like she was a thieving meth head and a bisexual who was going to hell.

After Copeland found out law enforcement had been contacted, he complained about how "vengeful" she was, left multiple Facebook messages from the fake account, and called 21 times from a restricted number in about 45

minutes. He threatened repeatedly to kill the woman and her entire family, and called her father, insulting the woman and threatening to kill the whole family.

Copeland was accused of violating a domestic abuse no-contact order issued Dec. 3 by a North Dakota court.

On Aug. 26, Becker County District Judge Jay Carlson sentenced him on the misdemeanor charges to serve 90 days in jail, with credit for 90 days served. He was fined \$50 plus \$125 in court fees and was placed on unsupervised probation for one year.

## In other Becker County District Court action:

► Chelsea Rose Ann Shore, 23, of Frazee, has been charged with felony fifth-degree controlled substance crime. According to court records, On Aug. 26, she was in the driver's seat of a car parked at the Detroit Lakes Boys & Girls Club and was found to be in possession of just over half a gram of meth hidden in a cigarette pack, and several used syringes in the driver's side door handle. On Aug. 27, an order of detention was signed by District Court Judge Michael Kirk.

► Anna Joesetta Donner, 21, of rural Ogema, has been charged with felony check forgery. According to court records, on Feb. 10, she forged and deposited an \$800 check, from a checkbook stolen earlier from a rural Frazee woman, into her account at Midwest Bank in Detroit Lakes. She then went to a different Midwest Bank branch and withdrew the \$800. Donner can be seen on video requesting to withdraw \$800 and providing the teller with a picture ID. On Aug. 26, Becker County District Judge Gretchen Thilmoney issued a summons for Donner to appear in court.

► Leroy Allen Flath, 43, of Menahga has been charged with felony fifth-degree controlled substance crime. According to court records, On Aug. 26, he was the driver of a vehicle

pulled over near Detroit Lakes for non-functioning license plate lights. There was enough evidence of drug use to bring in a drug-sniffing dog, which located about nine-tenths of a gram of meth in a baggie in a black zippered pouch, wrapped in a handkerchief in the driver's door. On Aug. 27, District Judge Michael Kirk authorized Flath to be released without bail, under standard conditions of release, or \$5,000 bond with no conditions.

► Amanda Marie Bosch, 38, of Minneapolis, has been charged with felony fifth-degree controlled substance crime. According to court records, On Aug. 5, she was pulled over on Highway 59 because the rear license plate was missing portions of the numbers and letters and had no numbers or information on the tabs. A search of the vehicle revealed two baggies of methamphetamine in the door pocket with a total weight of 4 grams. On Aug. 26, District Judge Gretchen Thilmoney issued a summons for Bosch to appear in court.

► Tyler Wade Leu, 34, of Callaway, has been charged with felony fifth-degree controlled substance crime and misdemeanor DWI. According to court records, On Aug. 25, he was pulled over for erratic driving in Detroit Lakes. He was found to have a baggie with about a half-gram of meth in his pocket. On Aug. 26,

District Judge Gretchen Thilmoney authorized him to be released without bail, with standard conditions of release, or \$12,000 bond with no conditions.

► John Hermel Klotz, 35, of rural Detroit Lakes has been charged with felony fifth-degree controlled substance crime. According to court records, On Aug. 24, he was present at a residence when a search warrant was executed by the Becker County Sheriff's Office. During the search a wallet was found in the living room area, containing Klotz' driver's license and five small baggies of methamphetamine with a combined weight with packaging of 7.1 grams. Klotz was arrested and transported to the Becker County Jail. On Aug. 25, District Judge Jay Carlson set cash bail at \$500 or bond at \$5,000, with standard conditions of release, or \$10,000 bond with no conditions.

► Carol Ann Lincourt, 55, of Peoria, Ariz., has been charged with being a fugitive from another state, a felony. According to court records, On Aug. 23, she was arrested in Becker County and was found to have an active Department of Corrections warrant issued in Arizona. Lincourt admitted to being the same person as in the Arizona warrant, and on Aug. 25, she waived extradition rights and agreed to return to Arizona to face the charges.

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## OTHER VIEW

# Survey shows need for mental health support

As disruptive as the pandemic was during the 2020-21 school year, students still learned and accomplished academic goals — more than some initially thought.

According to a University of Minnesota analysis of the new Minnesota Safe Learning Survey, the extent of how much coursework was perceived to be higher than the spring of 2020, but lower than pre-pandemic times.

The statewide survey of 10,500 educators, families and students was conducted in May and June. The goal was to provide a broad picture of how those most impacted by the state's Safe Learning Plan actually experienced it in practice.

Here are some major points from the study, as cited by university leaders:

### Support is needed for mental health

When asked to name their top three challenges during the school year, educators in all roles including administrators, teachers and support professionals,

cited “taking care of my own mental health” and “supporting student mental health” as their top challenges. Families and students reported mental health support as their third greatest challenge. These findings were the same in the winter 2021 survey.

“The most salient finding between the Winter and Spring Safe Learning Surveys was that educators, families and students are concerned about mental health,” said Katie Pekel, the principal in residence at the University of Minnesota. “As we prioritize our return to school planning, this is a finding that cannot be overlooked.”

### Learning occurred

As in winter, all three groups surveyed — students, educators and parents — felt that learning did occur during the 2020-21 school year. However, as grade levels increased, families felt that their students were learning less. Additionally, all groups continued to believe there was more learning taking place pre-COVID and that more

learning occurred this school year than spring 2020 when the state shifted entirely to distance learning.

### Student engagement shows mixed results

While findings suggested that there were successes in student engagement, researchers also found challenges. Teachers reported “engaging students in learning” as their third-highest challenge, while students reported that “keeping up with my school work” and “understanding my school work” were their top two challenges. This may indicate that there were successes in reaching surface levels of learning during the 2020-21 school year, but challenges in achieving the support needed for deeper engagement in learning.

### Moving forward

The Spring Minnesota Safe Learning Survey added questions related to support needed moving forward. All respondent groups reported mental health and engagement among their top concerns and reported a

desire to return to in-person schooling as much as possible.

► Educators discussed school infrastructure needs, including a more manageable workload and more funding, staffing and resources.

► Students generally desired changes that would help them feel less stressed and worry less about their grades, including a more manageable workload and more meaningful assignments.

► Family respondents, who largely expressed frustration with COVID-19 restrictions, reported their top concerns as student social interactions and relationships and students being behind academically.

Read the full report of the spring Minnesota Safe Learning Survey at [www.cehd.umn.edu/research/safe-learning-survey](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/research/safe-learning-survey). The survey will be distributed to districts across Minnesota one final time, from October to November.

**This other view is the opinion of the editorial board of our sister publication, the Alexandria Echo Press.**

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## LETTERS POLICY

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# the Detroit Lakes Tribune

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It's time to take first-timers hunting. The 2021 youth white-tail deer hunting season runs Sept. 17-26 in North Dakota. Two new youth deer hunters include Anika and Elizabeth Pinke, who practiced their shooting in preparation.

Katie Pinke / Agweek



# Continue hunting traditions with the next generation

My daughters, ages 12 and 13, will hunt in their first-ever youth antlerless whitetail deer season Sept. 17-26.

My husband, Nathan, spent a recent Sunday afternoon at a local sporting

goods store deciding which deer rifles would be best for each daughter to have their own. He called me a few times as we do before big purchases and said, “I think they each can deer hunt with these for the rest of their lives.”

After sports practices on a recent Friday night, we drove out to the farm for some shooting practice with Nathan and their sharpshooter Uncle Mike, who had targets set and ready for practice. Neither of our daughters have been gun shooters in the past but both have been active in 4-H archery for many years. Elizabeth also has participated in a National Archery in Schools Program the past two school years, which Anika will join this year. Archery experience gave our girls some confidence in shooting their new deer rifles. Nathan explained later as we ate a family supper together in my parent's farmhouse how each girl overcame some



If hunting isn't a part of family traditions now, start a new tradition of hunting as an annual family activity and shared experience. Before hunters education and gaining their first youth deer licenses, the Pinke girls walked alongside their family members in past hunting seasons to learn about the sport. Shown are Nathan, Elizabeth and Anika Pinke in November 2018.

nerves and improved to hit the bullseye several times. There will be another target practice or two, and then it's onto their first youth deer season in the coming days.

I can list plenty of other commitments that we could use to justify not having time to teach our kids to hunt: elementary basketball games, junior high volleyball matches, piano lessons, pep band, church confirmation commitments, along with work and family commitments my husband and I hold.

Except, we're losing a generation of hunters,

several generations possibly, if we don't start engaging and taking first-timers hunting.

Hunting is a way of life I don't want to lose. First, hunting is wildlife management. Hunting represents our heritage. Hunting holds family tradition for many of us.

Do not let a hunting lifestyle and tradition die with your generation. Continue hunting traditions with the next generation and lead by example.

It's time to take first-timers hunting. Who first took you hunting? Like my

grandpa, uncle, dad and mom took my siblings and me hunting decades ago. I simply walked for years and never hunted. I was along for the fresh air and camaraderie. As an adult I finally enrolled in a hunter education course alongside one of my kids.

No one took you hunting? Start a new family tradition of hunting as an annual family activity and shared experience. Yes, you can take a hunters education course as an adult. You and your spouse can attend together or as a whole family when your kids are 11 years old in the calendar year or older. I married a pheasant hunting man 15 years ago, and every year since, he's been a whitetail deer hunter too. It's also not too late to expand what, where and how you hunt.

Pry kids away from screens. Keep a couple of fall weekends open when you sign up for licenses in the spring and commit to hunting each fall or spring in the season of your choice.

Waterfowl, pheasant, deer, elk, turkey hunting, whatever you choose. Let's change the trajectory of declining hunters and bring back family traditions and shared experiences of hunting in the wide-open spaces with permission from landowners or on the public lands of our countryside.

**Pinke is the publisher and general manager of Agweek. She can be reached at [kpinke@agweek.com](mailto:kpinke@agweek.com), or connect with her on Twitter @katpinke.**



# Smoothies for the soul

## Nourish opens inside 180 Balance in Detroit Lakes

By Dawn Duncan  
Special to the Tribune

When Misty Lamppa first launched her Detroit Lakes yoga studio, 180 Balance, her goals stretched far beyond just offering yoga classes. A 20-plus-year veteran of the fitness and nutrition world, Lamppa, a Duluth native, wanted to bring something unique to the Lakes Area: a full, integrative, intuitive health center for people of all ages and abilities.

Now, after being a local studio owner for six years, including two in her current Washington Square Mall location, Lamppa has teamed up to start a new business with fellow yoga instructor Roz Howery. Nourish: Food for the Soul, a new smoothie bar inside 180 Balance, opened in late May and hosted its grand opening celebration in late August. In early September, Lamppa and Howery launched an offshoot of that enterprise: Nourish Kids.

Offering 'nutrition in a cup' through toxin-free, gluten-free, soy-free protein smoothies, Nourish is aimed at feeding the community one shake at a time, in a way that sets it apart from others. With awareness and education in nutrition, Lamppa and Howery serve up healthy smoothies with healthy ingredients, nothing sugar-laden.

Lamppa, reflecting on how Nourish has come together, said, "I am thrilled to see this vision come to life. It is exciting to hear people say they feel energized and sustained when drinking our protein smoothies."

Ever since she started teaching nutrition more than 20 years ago, it has been Lamppa's intention to help people learn to listen to their bodies and heal from the inside out.

"I encourage people — the next time they are eating — to really stop, feel, and listen; to notice if what they ate is serving them," she said. "Reading their digestion, skin, energy level, and more shows us that food is medicine or poison, and learning what serves the body best is so useful."



Dawn Duncan / Special to the Tribune  
Nourish-Food for the Soul owners Roz Howery, left, and Misty Lamppa, with their daughters Hadley and Steele.

Nourish's grand opening celebration was the smoothie bar's busiest day yet. It included reiki and oracle reading sessions as well as gift cards and other prizes.

"Our hearts were so full," said Howery. "Misty and I want to keep the momentum going with monthly events, including Nourish Kids, where we provide toddlers and preschoolers with activities and kids' protein smoothies."

The two want to provide a space where parents can get a little breather and kids can enrich their minds, bodies and souls. The first Nourish Kids event was September 14 and included a storytime, dance and yoga, and smoothies.

Howery said her interest and involvement in Nourish is rooted in her own personal health journey as a young mother.

"I needed to figure out how to feel my best, so I could be the mom and wife I wanted to be," she explained. "I grew up the Midwest way: meat, potatoes, bread and butter, canned vegetables, and convenient frozen and boxed meals. You ate what tasted pleasing. I had no clue what my body needed to stay healthy and

feel good and energized."

Fast-forward to the birth of her daughter, now seven years old and Howery's second child. Howery was once again a new mom, with two young children, working a full-time job in corporate sales.

"I was a mess, emotionally, physically and spiritually," she said. "I had zero energy, my stomach was in knots, I struggled with heartburn, anxiety, crazy emotions, and a new symptom developed — migraines."

As the next few years went by, the frequency of the migraines increased, until Howery was experiencing an average of 21 migraine days a month. Numerous doctor visits, medical tests and prescription medications were of little help.

Finally, Howery decided to tackle the issue on her own. She started learning about the potential healing properties of nutrition, and began experimenting with her diet. She eliminated known allergens and added in foods she thought would help her body heal and feel energized.

"After four years of slapping Band-Aids on my medical issues, I was migraine-free, all because I did a few detoxes and changed the way I ate a majority of the time," she said. "I was amazed and thought I need to help other people make these changes to heal themselves and make themselves feel their best."

Howery and Lamppa connected during a yoga teacher training at Lamppa's studio, forming a friendship. Lamppa later approached Howery with the idea of adding a smoothie bar to the 180 Balance space, and Howery knew it was meant to be.

As Nourish grows and evolves, the two said, more products will be added to the menu. A juice bar, protein smoothie bowls, and healthy soups are being considered.

Find more information on the Nourish-Food for the Soul Facebook page, or by calling 218-325-1733 or emailing nourishdetroitlakes@gmail.com.



Detroit Lakes file photo

BTD Manufacturing has been adding a variety of equipment across all four of its locations, including new fiber sheet and tube lasers, press brakes, robotic welders and tube benders.

## BTD Manufacturing expands Lakeville facility

### Staff Report

BTD Manufacturing, a metal fabrication company headquartered in Detroit Lakes, has recently acquired an additional 40,000 square feet to expand its Lakeville, Minn. production facility. The expansion allows BTD to expand capacity and introduce new technology and capabilities.

"We've made significant investments in our equipment and our facilities over the last year," said Paul Gintner, BTD Manufacturing president, in a recent press release. "We're excited to be able to grow with the evolving needs of our customers, so we can continue to provide the high-quality metalwork they've come to know us for."

BTD Manufacturing has added a variety of equipment across all four of its locations, including new fiber sheet and tube lasers, press brakes, robotic welders and tube benders.

The additional space in Lakeville plays a pivotal role in the expansion of BTD's stamp-



Contributed / Tribune

The additional space in Lakeville plays a pivotal role in the expansion of BTD's stamping capabilities. Pictured is a stamping press.

ing capabilities. It also helps the company enhance its fabrication capacity, allowing it to focus on increasing machine availability and broadening its automation offerings in the marketplace.

"Market conditions are strong in the custom metal fabrication space," Gintner said. "Continuing to improve our equipment line-up and broaden our offerings ensures we're ready for it."

Named second on The Fabricator's FAB 40 list in 2021, BTD employs more than 1,300 people at four locations in Minnesota, Georgia and Illinois.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Essentia Health offers 24/7 scheduling for primary care appointments, receives \$1M federal grant for telehealth care

To better serve patients, scheduling for primary care appointments at Essentia Health is now available by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Patients seeking a primary care appointment can schedule by calling their local clinic both during and after normal business hours. Local clinic phone numbers can be found online at [EssentiaHealth.org](https://www.essentialhealth.org), click on "Locations & Facilities" and then filter by city. Primary care encompasses family medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine.

Patients also can schedule appointments through the

MyChart patient portal.

Essentia hopes to expand this enhanced scheduling option to appointments for specialties by early 2022.

In other Essentia news, the organization was recently awarded nearly \$1 million of federal funds to continue providing high-quality care via telehealth. The Federal Communications Commission gave \$981,204 to Essentia to acquire remote moni-

toring devices, video charts with peripheral cameras, to increase broadband coverage at eight of our clinics and to purchase additional equipment.

Telehealth is a virtual way of caring for patients that eliminates transportation barriers, improves rural access and streamlines care options. It is especially convenient for patients who live in rural areas or underserved

communities. It saves time and money and, especially in the winter, is a safe alternative to driving through hazardous weather. It is not for emergencies.

Since March 2020, Essentia has conducted more than 588,000 virtual visits.

The FCC funding comes from a pool of nearly \$4.2 billion allocated by the federal government through the CARES Act.



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# OBITUARIES

## OBITUARIES

## DEATH NOTICES

## HAPPENINGS

## NEW ARRIVAL

### Eldor Huwe



Funeral Services were held for Eldor Huwe age 94, of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota (formerly of Wolf Lake, Minnesota) on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Corliss, rural Perham, Minnesota with Pastor Jared Nies officiating. Congregational hymns were accompanied by Amy Sobieski. Pallbearers were Jason Hendrickx, Gannon Huwe, Blake Huwe, Scott VonRuden, Andy VonRuden, and Derek Huntziger. Military Honors were provided by Wolf Lake V.F.W. #8165 of Wolf Lake, Minnesota. Eldor was laid to rest at Spruce Grove Union Cemetery, rural Menahga, Minnesota.

Eldor Herbert Huwe was born on April 24, 1927, to Albert and Emma (Janke) Huwe and grew up on the family farm in Corliss Township. He was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Corliss Lutheran Church.

On February 16, 1946 Eldor was inducted into the United States Army and served in the Pacific Theater. After his discharge, Eldor returned home and began farming near Wolf Lake, Minnesota. On May 17, 1950, Eldor was united in marriage to Margaret Beck who he always called "a wonderful woman". Their marriage was blessed with five children: Linda, Connie, Laurie, Tim, and Jane.

Eldor was a lifelong member of the church and was very active on the church councils. He also served as a Wolf Lake Township Supervisor, a member of the local V.F.W. and was instrumental in starting the Wolf Lake Fishing Derby. Eldor was a member of the Lions Club, a board member of the Menahga Forest Products, and the West Central Telephone Association. Margaret and Eldor were awarded Valley Farmer and Homemakers from Minnesota Red River Valley Association.

In the early days, living in Wolf Lake, he played on the baseball team. Lifetime interests were fishing, playing cards, square dancing, hunting, and traveling.

Known for his wise-cracking and quick sense of humor he poked fun all his life. He especially loved saying, "respect your elders!"

On September 14, 2021, Eldor passed away at Oak Crossing Center in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Eldor was the last survivor of Albert and Emma Huwe. He was preceded in death by his sisters: Thelma Dickson, Leona Matz, and Helen Anhorn; brothers: Raymond, Kenneth, Arnold, Norman, and Albert; wife: Margaret; and daughter: Connie.

He is survived by his children: Linda Huwe; Laurie (John) Hendrickx; Tim (Brenda) Huwe; and Jane (Robert) VonRuden; 10 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; many other relatives and a host of friends.

Please visit [www.karvonenfuneralhome.com](http://www.karvonenfuneralhome.com) to leave memorials and condolences on Eldor's Tribute Wall.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of New York Mills, Minnesota.

### Marie Wentzel

Sept. 18, 1926 - Sept. 19, 2021  
FERGUS FALLS, Minn. - Marie Wentzel, 95, Fergus Falls, Minn., died Sunday, Sept. 19, in Pioneer Heritage Cottage.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., Friday, Sept. 24, at Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls. The Rev. Craig Wentzel will officiate. The service will be livestreamed on the funeral home's website. Interment will be in Knollwood Memorial Gardens in Fergus Falls. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Samaritans Purse, "Heal our Patriots" PTSD Project, or Knute Nelson Hospice.

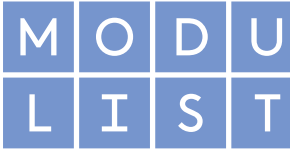
Arrangements by Olson Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

### Stanley Lehmann

May 26, 1956 - Sept. 19, 2021  
FARGO, N.D. - Stanley Lehmann, 65, Frazee, Minn., died Sunday, Sept. 19, in Sanford Broadway Medical Center.

Visitation will be from 3-6 p.m., with a time of sharing at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 27, at David-Donohewer Funeral Home in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Arrangements by Furey Funeral Home.



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### Marvin Fiskari

Feb. 11, 1931 - Sept. 19, 2021  
NEW YORK MILLS, Minn. - Marvin Fiskari, 90, New York Mills, Minn., died Sunday, Sept. 19, in Mills Manor.

Visitation will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by a funeral at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 23, at Apostolic Lutheran Church in New York Mills. Burial will be 2 p.m. Thursday, in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

### Dale Leitch

Dec. 5, 1974 - Sept. 10, 2021  
FARGO, N.D. - Dale Leitch, 46, Fargo, N.D., died Friday, Sept. 10, in Sanford Broadway Medical Center from COVID-19.

Services will be at a later date.



### Caleb Joseph Bergstrom

Samantha & Cody Bergstrom, of Ponsford, Minn., are happy to announce the birth of their son, Caleb Joseph Bergstrom. Caleb was delivered by Tonya Diggins, Midwife, CNP at Perham Health on August 26, 2021, at 7:54 a.m. He weighed 6 pounds, 0 ounces and was 19 inches long. Caleb is welcomed home by grandparents Lora & David and Emily & Todd; and great-grandparents Valarie & Rick.

### Thursday, September 23

#### Library Quilters Group:

Here is your chance to quilt and help out your community! Come to the Detroit Lakes Public Library at 6:30 p.m. and join other quilting enthusiasts in making a difference. Block kits will be supplied, you just need your sewing machine. All finished quilts will be donated to the Lakes Crisis Center. Call 218-847-2168 for more information.

#### Detroit Lakes Class of 1951 Reunion:

The Detroit Lakes High School Class of 1951 will meet for their 70th Class Reunion at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. Spouses, caregivers and friends are welcome. Responses to Pru at 218-969-0369 would be appreciated but not necessary to attend.

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# Fergus Falls starts construction of county glass storage facility

## News Staff

The Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department is in the process of constructing a glass storage facility at the Fergus Falls Transfer Station. The project began in spring and is set to be completed at the end of the year.

The Otter Tail County recycling program collects approximately 750 tons of glass each year. Glass, like other recyclable materials collected in the county, is sent to a recycling company for additional processing before getting made into a new product.

Compared to other recyclables, glass is very heavy, making transport to a recycling company in the Twin Cities more costly than the revenue generated by the sale of the material. Environmental benefit from recycling glass also diminishes when the environmental impact of transport is considered. The Solid Waste Department first began thinking of a different solution for handling glass several years ago and found an effective method.

"After reviewing national trends and market conditions, it became obvious we were waiting for things to change that



Submitted

A glass storage facility is being constructed at the Fergus Falls Transfer Station.

weren't changing. Creating a local solution will give us better control of our operations and provide an environmentally friendly solution," said Chris McConn, the Otter Tail County solid waste director

The glass storage facility includes a 65 by 144 foot fabric storage building, large enough to contain several years-worth of collected glass at a time. The building,

recently approved by the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, will improve storm water quality at the facility. Glass from Otter Tail County will be stockpiled at the location and may eventually include glass from other counties in the region.

The Otter Tail County Highway Department will use the recycled material in road construction projects where

the glass can be used in the road base.

Starting in early 2022, glass from the Otter Tail County recycling program will be brought to the glass storage facility, reducing both the costs and environmental impacts of transportation. For more information about the Solid Waste Department and Recycling visit [ottertail-countymn.us/department/solid-waste/](http://ottertail-countymn.us/department/solid-waste/).

## GAMING

From Page A1

The store specializes in strategic card games, like Magic: The Gathering, but also deals in retro video games and some table top board games as well.

"We do Smash Bros. tournaments every Saturday and the goal is

to do free events so we can get as many people in to have fun," said Jopp.

Ultima Gaming hosts weekly gaming nights featuring: Dungeons and Dragons groups and Warhammer 40K on Tuesdays, and Magic: The Gathering Commander league nights on Wednesday.

Send your story ideas to Michael at: [machterling@dlnewspapers.com](mailto:machterling@dlnewspapers.com)



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune  
Amelia Heinecke, of Pine River, Minn., decides which card to play during the Ultima Dragon Highlander tournament event at Ultima Gaming in the Washington Square Mall in Detroit Lakes on Sept. 18.

## LEVY

From Page A1

After his remarks, which lasted a little over five minutes, the board members did not make further comment, and no one else in the audience spoke.

In other business, the board:

► Discussed superintendent, school board, and professional devel-

opment goals for the upcoming year.

► Approved construction change orders of \$38,409 for improvements at the middle school and high school.

► Heard a report from Luisa Walz, the new student representative on the school board, who talked about how some pigeons had accidentally gotten loose in the high school building this past week, but were captured and removed without incident.

## OTTER TAIL

From Page A1

By eyeballing the pennies dropped into jars at the community room of the Detroit Lakes Police Department, planners could get a look at what people at the meeting consider the most pressing Otter Tail River basin water issues: They could choose among habitat continuity; groundwater quality and quantity; agricultural land management; or lake and stream water quality.

"Through this whole process we're hoping people come and tell us what they want in the watershed," said Ben Underhill, water planner with the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District. "We can use it to hone in on things that people in the watershed really care about."

Another station at the open house explained what the One Watershed One Plan concept is all about. Pete Waller, a conservationist with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in Detroit Lakes, was manning that station.

One Watershed, One Plan is designed to plan and pay for water proj-

ects — things like erosion control, wetland restoration, aquifer replenishing, wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, keeping phosphorus out of lakes, and many other projects — based on the geographic boundaries of river watersheds.

Deciding which projects get priority will be a committee made up of one representative from each of the local units of government — counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts — within that river watershed. Most of the watershed is in Becker and Otter Tail counties.

At the open house, there was a water taste test at another station, giving people the chance to sample city water from Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls, along with private well water, and water from other sources. It gives people a chance to "learn about where your drinking water comes from," Underhill said.

Another station featured a pair of oversized maps of the Otter Tail River basin, and people at the open house could put colored stickers on the maps to show where they live. They could also note particular issues of local concern on post-it notes.

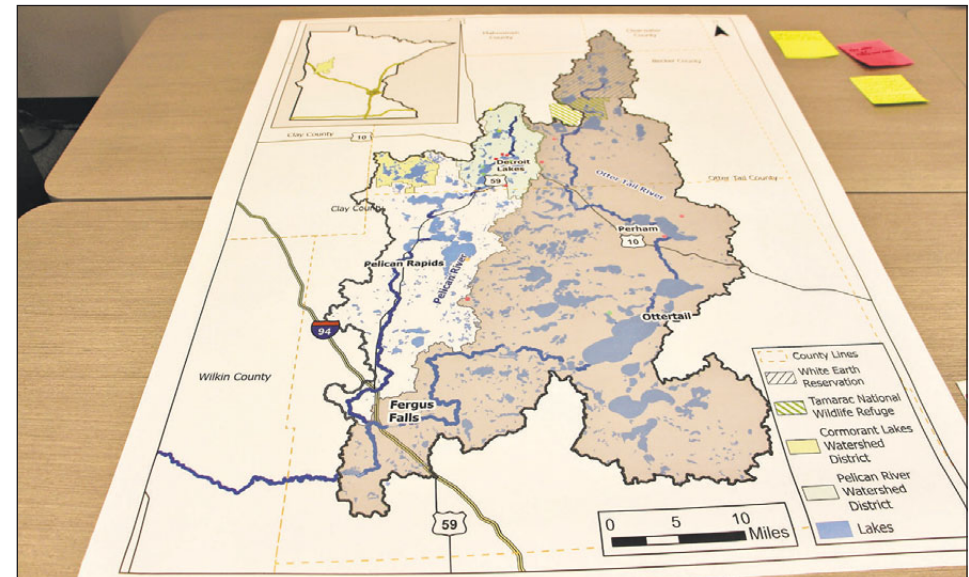
And the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency manned a station to explain the agency's watershed restoration and protection strategy report for the Otter Tail River basin.

That report incorporates water quality assessment, watershed analysis, public participation, planning, implementation, and measurement of results into a plan that addresses both restoration and protection, according to the MPCA.

Overall, the Otter Tail River basin is in pretty good shape, but there are localized areas that need improvement, and the WRAPS report has two parts: Strategies to restore impaired waters, and strategies to protect clean waters.

Moriya Rufer, a consultant with Houston Engineering of Fargo, is helping write the water plan for the new Otter Tail River One Watershed One Plan unit. She expects the plan to be finished by late next year, a process that will include at least four public meetings, she said.

Another Otter Tail River 1W1P open house will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at the AmericInn in Fergus Falls.



Nathan Bowe / Detroit Lakes Tribune

A map of the Otter Tail River Watershed.

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## RUNESTONE

From Page A1

but at the time I'd never heard of it."

The slab was discovered in 1898, entrenched in the roots of an aspen tree by Olof Öhman on his farm near Kensington, Minn., about 15 miles southwest of Alexandria. But some claim Öhman's find to be a hoax and debate over the stone's authenticity has gone on for decades.

Though the person who brought the runestone to him "was clearly an advocate of the stone," Wolter said, he warned the man that he was not — that he would present any scientific evidence he found, whether it was in favor of the stone's authenticity, or not.

"I said, 'Look, you need to understand something; I'm an independent. I'll do this analysis for you, but ... when I come back, I may give you news that you're not going to like,'" he recalled. "I just wanted him to understand I'm not an advocate for anybody; I'm an advocate for the truth."

What Wolter discovered has inspired more than two decades of scientific research — and the publication of several books, both on his own and with research partners like the late Richard Nielsen.

Nielsen, a respected runic scholar, co-authored the book, "The Kensington Runestone: Compelling New Evidence" with him in 2005.

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Sons of Norway Vikingland Lodge 1-495 presents Scott Wolter

**When:** Friday, Oct. 1, 2 p.m.

**Where:** Historic Holmes Theatre, 806 Summit Ave., Detroit Lakes

**How:** Tickets are \$10 for adults, free for students, with a discount of 10% for groups of 10-19 people and 15% for groups of 20 or more. To reserve your seat, call the Holmes Theatre Box Office at 218-844-7469 or visit the website at dlccc.org/holmes-theatre.html.

### 'I trust the rocks'

By comparing the runestone with some old tombstones of similar mineral composition that could be definitively tied to a specific point in time, Wolter said, he concluded that "the weathering of the inscription on the runestone is older than 200 years" — which, he further concluded, meant that claims of the runestone being a late-19th century hoax, rather than a mid-14th century artifact, could not be true.

"Therefore, the only other conclusion you can draw is that it has to be genuine," Wolter added. "It has to be what it says it is. And I wrote that in my report."

Runestone skeptics loudly protested his findings. "That's when the trouble started," he said. "I was questioned, I was criticized, I was attacked. And I said, 'Look, I'm not perfect. I make mistakes like anybody else. Where did I make a mistake? Point out the parts that you have a problem with, and if I made a mistake, I'll fix it. Well, I didn't make a mistake.



Submitted photo

The Kensington Runestone has been the subject of intensive study — and controversy — since its discovery by farmer Olaf Ohman on his farm in Kensington, Minn., back in 1898.

That wasn't the issue. They just didn't like the result."

### What is on the Kensington Runestone?

The generally accepted translation of the runes found on the stone reads: "We are 8 Goths and 22 Norwegians on an exploration journey from Vinland through the West. We had camp by a lake with 2 skerries [small rocky islands], one day's journey north from this stone. We were out and fished one day. After we came home we found 10 of our men red with blood and dead. AVM [Ave Virgo Maria, or Hail, Virgin Mary] save us from evil. We have 10 of our party by the sea to look after our ships, 14 days' journey from this island. Year 1362."

Wolter "had no idea" that there was any controversy surrounding the runestone when

he did his initial analysis. But that discovery didn't deter him. In fact, it made him decide to dig even deeper.

"Being a former linebacker, who went to (University of Minnesota Duluth) on a football scholarship, I don't back down when people challenge me," Wolter said. "I work in a hard science discipline, and I'm good at it. I trust the rocks — the rocks have never, ever lied to me."

In the 20 years since, Wolter has consulted with some of the world's top forensic scholars and researchers, discovering what he believes to be definitive evidence that the runestone is linked to the medieval Knights Templar.

His research has taken him all over the United States, and the world, eventually leading him to international fame as

both a published author and television host. In 2008, Wolter was asked to host a TV documentary titled "The Holy Grail in America," which was so successful that it led to a television Channel series "America Unearthed," from 2012 to 2015.

In 2015, he joined the Freemasons, and continued his studies as part of that organization. What he ultimately found, he says, is definitive evidence that the Templars came to America with Norse explorers in the mid-14th century, seeking a sanctuary where they could live free from tyranny and religious persecution.

"I have an answer for everything," he says, "because logic and evidence has proved that it's real. The rock has spoken — and I trust the rocks."

# Pumpkin Fest 2021

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6:00pm - 8:00pm Burger Night @ Legion - last one for the year!  
7:00pm Pumpkin Carve and Cork - "21 yr and over" event at LP Liquor Store

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

5:00pm - 7:00pm Pumpkin/Scarecrow Contest Registration @ City Center  
5:00pm Judging Yard Decorating - 1st place-\$50 / 2nd place-\$30 / 3rd place \$20  
7:00pm Lil' Miss Pumpkin Fest Pageant @ LPA HS theatre

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:00am Harvest Breakfast at LP Legion  
9:00am - 1:00pm Garden Club Vegetables, Plants & Crafts Sale @ Firehall  
8:00am - 4:00pm Pumpkin Contest Display @ Firehall  
9:00am - 2:00pm Craft & Vendor Show @ High School -  
9:00am - 1:00pm Weigh-In Largest Pumpkin Contest-between LP Ins & LP & Cuba Ins bldg-sponsor Ron & Melissa Mattson  
9:00am 5K Pumpkin Trail Run/Walk & Youth Fun Run - meet at city firehall-hosted by LPA Cross Country Team  
9:00am - 2:00pm Classic Car Show - participants door prizes drawings at 1:30 - sponsored by Midwest Rod & Custom  
9:00am - 12:00pm "PUMPKIN PLAYGROUND" @ city park - youth pumpkin games  
10:00am - Until gone "Old fashioned Pie and Ice Cream Social" @LP Historical Museum - downtown  
10:00am - 2:00pm Open House @ LP Historical Museum

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:30am - 11:00am Pumpkin Dessert Bake-off - Sampling and voting by the people - Freewill donation to participate in tasting and voting - to register call Julie Zacharison 238-5741. Dessert entries must be dropped off at the FireHall by 9:00  
9:30am - 1:30pm Tractor Display @ Bus Garage  
9:30am Face Painting @ the Gazebo by The Painted Turtle  
10:00am Dunk Tank and 100 Second Hang - UCB Wrestling Fundraiser @ between LP Ins. And LP and Cuba Ins buildings  
10:00am - 12:00pm LP Lutheran church Lefsa Making Demonstration and Sale - Firehall  
10:00am - 12:00pm Helmets for Kids - at Park Shelter  
10:00am - 12:00pm Open House @ One Room Schoolhouse  
10:00am - 2:00pm Wagon Rides - loading by the fire bay  
10:00am - 2:00pm Corn Maze - Fun for all ages - East of the Legion - sponsor Lakeview g/REA Hybrids  
10:00am - 12:00pm Barrel Train Rides - @ the city park -sponsored by area farmers  
11:00am - 2:00pm NINJA ANYWHERE obstacle course @ the city park- minors must have a signed waiver to participate https://www.ninjaanywhere.com/waiver  
11:00am - 2:00pm BBQ's @ American Legion  
11:00am Harvest Pie Walk @ - Nelson Quonset (south of legion) sponsored by LP Garden Club  
11:00am - 1:00pm Junior Fireman's Obstacle Course - sponsored by the LP Firemen @ the city park - Ages 6 to 12  
12:00pm Pitchers, Puzzles and Pizza - @ LP Liquor Store 4 person per team \$10/per person entry fee- prizes for the top 3 teams  
12:30pm Pumpkin cleaning and carving contest @ Fire Bay  
2:15pm Kiddie Parade-Line up at 2:00 at the gazebo -parade goes north to 2nd & Liberty St  
2:30pm Parade - 2nd St - parade entrants meet at LP Lutheran for parade line-up by 2:15  
3:30pm - 5:00pm Firemen's Brat feed @ LP Legion - freewill donation - support your local fire department  
8:30 pm - 12:30am DJ at LP liq store

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# DOMINATING ON DEFENSE



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Gavin Smith, left, wraps up a Thief River Falls ball carrier with Ethan Carrier coming in for an assist in Detroit Lakes' 28-0 win over the Powlers on Friday. Smith blocked a punt in the third quarter and helped lead the Lakers' defense to their first shutout of the season.

## SPORTS

B1 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 | DETROIT LAKES TRIBUNE

DL-ONLINE.COM

### Lakers shut out Thief River Falls ahead of rivalry game in Perham

By Jared Rubado  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

To say the Detroit Lakes defense was dominant on Friday night against Thief River Falls would be an understatement. The Lakers didn't allow the Powlers into the red zone a single time.

Detroit Lakes has allowed seven points in its last eight quarters after a 28-0 win over TRF. According to senior Ty Jones, the defensive dominance boils down to the work put in day in and day out.

"It's about effort, man," Jones said. "Effort everywhere. We preach it

all the time and in every practice. When you put in that effort to get better, it works out. It's there every single week."

Jones plays in the secondary for the Lakers, which has drastically improved since several week-one blunders against Fergus Falls. Head coach Reed Hefta was impressed with the way the secondary looked against TRF.

"This goes back to the 50/50 plays we looked at against Fergus Falls and East Grand Forks," Hefta said. "There have been balls in the air that have gotten the better of us. Our kids have

realized they need to be aggressive at the point of the ball. All of our guys buy into our coaching. They need to be able to adjust not to make them 50/50 balls, but instead make them 100% ours."

While the Lakers maintained a no-fly zone on defense, senior quarterback Bradley Swiers found a groove through the air on offense. He connected with Jones for a 13-yard touchdown pass on the first play of the second quarter. Junior Evan Thomas nailed his first of four extra points.

"It felt amazing," Jones said on catching his first touchdown pass of the

season. "We came out strong knowing that we were going to throw the ball today. It worked out great. It's amazing to get that first one of my senior year. There's more to come."

Detroit Lakes was driving again late in the second quarter. Senior running back Christian Solberg kept the drive alive by catching a deflected ball on third-and-long to set up a fourth-and-inches opportunity. Solberg would get the first down, which set up Swiers second passing touchdown of the game.

Swiers found senior Chuck Kalina, who made a catch

over the back of the TRF defender to take a 14-0 lead. Hefta was impressed with the way Kalina stopped up to make a big-time play 30 seconds before halftime.

"The play before he jumped offside and set us back," Hefta said. "It was cool to see him go out there a play later and redeem himself. He's a gritty kid. He goes out there and just competes for that ball. That's something where you put him in that situation 10 times out of 10. It's fun to see him go out there and have that success."

The third quarter was all about the Laker defense.

FOOTBALL: Page B2

#### FOOTBALL



Detroit Lakes Tribune file photo

Mahnomen-Waubun quarterback Tanner Pazdernik attempts to elude Frazee's George Flynn (4) and Jack Hall (22) during the first half of a close, overtime victory for the Thunderbirds on Nov. 5, 2020. Pazdernik scored three touchdowns against Warroad.

### Mahnomen-Waubun cruises to third straight win

By Jared Rubado  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Mahnomen-Waubun football team continued its dominating start to its season with a 41-6 win over Warroad on Friday night.

The Thunderbirds (3-0) put up 28 first-half points, including two touchdown runs from Tanner Pazdernik. Justin Littlewolf and Dennis Ashley also found the endzone in the first two quarters to put Mahnomen-Waubun up by four touchdowns.

Warroad scored its only touchdown of the game on its opening drive of the second half but allowed Pazdernik to score for a third time four minutes later to go

up 35-6. Loden Clark put the finishing touches on the game with a three-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter.

The Thunderbird racked up 355-yards of total offense on 49 plays. Of those yards, 345 of them came on the ground. Pazdernik led all rushers with 124 yards. Ashley wasn't too far behind with 117-yards on the ground.

Ashley and Rolando Ellis led the defense with 4.5 tackles each. Ashley also pulled down an interception in the win. Warroad had four turnovers, while Mahnomen-Waubun had two. Pazdernik was 1-for-4 passing for 10 yards with an interception.

Friday will be the Thunderbirds' most significant test of the season so far. They travel to Ada-Borup-West to take on the 3-0 Cougars. Both teams, along with Polk County West, are undefeated in Section 8A play through three games.

The Thunderbirds have allowed just 14 points in three games. The offense averages 36.3 points per game. The Cougars are coming off a 39-0 win over Walker-Hackensack-Akeley last week and average 36.6 points per game. Ada-Borup-West has allowed combined points this season.

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlinewspapers.com

#### CROSS COUNTRY

### Lakers compete against some of the state's best runners in Little Falls

By Jared Rubado  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Thursday night was a chance for the Detroit Lake cross country teams to show what they're made of against some of the top runners in the state. Despite being shorthanded, boys head coach Bill Kvebak was proud of the way his runners stepped up.

The Detroit Lakes boys took 20th place out of 21 teams. Senior Cole Weber led the Lakers with a time of 19:37.8.

"Cole has been awesome with the team this year," Kvebak said. "Yesterday, he had to pick up some of the senior load as both Casey Parks and Joe Skinner missed the meet due to illness. He has been really solid at the top of the lineup. Our goal is to find a couple of guys to join him."

Weber took on the leadership role in the absence of two varsity runners. He was the only Lake to finish with a sub-20 minute time.

Sophomores Francis Braydon (20:29.08) and Micah Barberg (20:54.8) were the second and third fastest runners for Detroit Lakes.

"Braydon and Micah both had good races yesterday and are steadily improving," Kvebak said. "Next week, they need to be ready to help out Cole at the front and hopefully continue to get better."

LAKERS: Page B2



Photos by Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Cole Weber, middle, runs for Detroit Lakes at the Lucky Lindy event in Little Falls on Thursday. Weber finished with a time of 19:37.8.



Julia Steffl runs to a 35th-place finish for Detroit Lakes at the Lucky Lindy event in Little Falls on Thursday. Steffl led all Laker girls runners with a time of 21:36.6.



FOOTBALL

# Lakers look to keep the paddle in Detroit Lakes

By Jared Rubado  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

It's the biggest week of the regular season for both the Detroit Lakes and Perham football teams. In the "Battle of the Paddle," the Lakers hope to keep the traveling trophy on their side of Highway 10.

Detroit Lakes (2-1) is coming off its most prominent win of the season in a 28-0 drubbing of Thief River Falls (0-3).

"This is a very improved Thief River Falls team," Lakers' head coach Reed Hefta said after Friday's game. "They're going to be dangerous in the future. Their coaches have them going in the right direction."

Perham was in a similar game at Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton on Friday night, but ended up on the wrong side. The Yellowjackets fell 48-0 on the road to fall to 2-1 on the season.

The Lakers are coming off their second win in a row behind their



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Caden Yliniemi runs for a first down in the first quarter of Detroit Lakes' 28-0 win over Thief River Falls on Friday. Yliniemi hopes to help the Lakers beat Perham in the "Battle for the Paddle" on the road Friday.

standout defense, which will be tested against Perham senior quarterback Colton Hackel. Hackel committed to play Division I foot-

ball at the University of North Dakota on Sunday. Hefta understands that Perham's star player is going to make his presence known.

WHO: Detroit Lakes @ Perham  
WHERE: Meinhover Field  
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.

"You just have to know that he's going to make plays every now and then," Hefta said. "We have to make sure that we rally to the football. He's a kid that can make a play out of everything. He kicks for them, he's played wide receiver for them in the past and he's just a tough-nosed athlete. He's a kid that we've been familiar with for a very long time, and he's just an amazing young man. It's fun to compete against one of those highlight athletes in the area."

When Perham and Detroit Lakes hit the gridiron, all bets are off. Lakers' senior Ty Jones, who caught his first touchdown of the season on Friday against TRF, is excited to play against the familiar faces from down the road one more time.

"This game is every-

thing," Jones said. "We talk all year long about this game. We're all friends, and we play with these guys in the summers and stuff, but once it's game time, we're ready to go."

While the "Battle for the Paddle" is a rivalry game, there's a mutual level of respect and friendship between the two schools.

"For the last nine years, or at least since I've been here, we've had traveling trophy," Hefta said. "It's the game on Highway 10. There's nothing bigger in the regular season. These kids know each other, and they grew up together. They have a really great foundation there. Coach (Aaron) Velde is a guy that I've leaned on as we're both new head coaches in the area."

In games like this, it doesn't matter where each team sits in the regular season. The record books are thrown out on the opening kickoff, and both teams prepare for a dog fight.

"They've always played us tough," Hefta said. "It doesn't matter how each team has played in the games before this one. Everybody rises to the occasion. We can never overlook anything about Perham. They do such a good job of highlighting their athletes and setting them up to be successful. We need to make sure that we're so disciplined in everything we do. If we aren't, they'll make something happen."

After Friday's win over TRF, Hefta already had the juices flowing thinking about the crowd at Perham High School. Hefta smiled from ear to ear, talking about the atmosphere when these two teams meet once a year.

"It's fun to see these communities at this kind of a game," Hefta said. "It will probably be one of the crazier atmospheres we'll play in all year. It's intense. It's the Highway 10 Super Bowl."

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com

## GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

# Lakers bring home nine first-place finishes at Crookston quad

By Jared Rubado  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Detroit Lakes girls swimming and diving team took care of business at the Crookston quadrangular on Thursday night. The Lakers finished first in nine out of 12 events to beat

Crookston, Warroad and Thief River Falls.

Quinn Rogstad finished in the top three in four events. She won the 200-meter freestyle (2:36.45), took third in the 100-meter free (1:10.17) and was part of two first-place relays. The 200-meter free-

style relay team of Faith Hamm, Marin Westrum, Rogstad and Madi Gerdes took first with a time of 2:04.31. The 400-meter freestyle team of Westrum, Lexi Gerdes, Rogstad and Hamm also finished in first (4:39.11)

Lexi Gerdes took first in the 200-meter IM

with a time of 2:47.02. She also won the 100-meter butterfly (1:14.33) and swam as the third leg in the 200-medley relay with Rylie Wendt, Madi Gerdes and Cora Martin.

Hope Hamm led all divers with a score of 176.65. Ava Funk took

third with her score of 152.85.

DETROIT LAKES TOP THREE FINISHERS  
200 MEDLEY RELAY- 1st- Rylie Wendt, Madi Gerdes, Lexi Gerdes, Cora Martin 2:20.16; 200 FREE- 1st- Quinn Rogstad 2:36.45; 2nd- Marin Westrum 2:47.02; 2nd- Cora Martin 2:58.81; 3rd- Emily Peterson 3:02.15; 50 FREE- 2nd- Rylie Wendt 31.24; DIVING- 1st- Hope Hamm 176.65, 3rd- Ava Funk 152.85; 100 FLY- 1st- Lexi Gerdes 1:14.33; 2nd- Faith Hamm 1:14.56; 3rd- Cora Martin 1:18.99; 100 FREE- 2nd- Marin Westrum, 3rd- Quinn Rogstad 1:10.17; 400

FREE- 1st- Madi Gerdes, 2nd- Emily Peterson 5:64.87, 3rd- Olivia Schmidt 5:54.16; 200 FREE RELAY- 1st- Faith Hamm, Marin Westrum, Quinn Rogstad, Madi Gerdes 2:04.31; 100 BACK- 2nd- Faith Hamm 1:20.09; 100 BREASTSTROKE 1st- Madi Gerdes 1:12.96; 3rd- Rylie Wendt 1:29.37; 400 FREE RELAYS- 1st- Marin Westrum, Lexi Gerdes, Quinn Rogstad, Faith Hamm 4:39.11, 2nd- Cora Martin, Emily Peterson, Marian Martin, Rylie Wendt 4:51.27

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com

## LAKERS

From Page B1

Junior Xander Jessen finished with a time of 21:27.8 before freshman Hunter Zehner rounded out the top-five Detroit Lakes place finishers with a time of 23:02.5.

"The boys are really young this year, and we need to continue to build and get faster times," Kvebak said. "By the end of the season, I'd like our team to be more competitive in meets and challenge to place in the top half of the section and conference."

Bemidji took first in the boys race with a team score of 93. St. Cloud Cathedral and Minnehaha Academy also finished on the podium. The Lucky Lindy is a unique event where runners clock in fast times against some of the best competition around the state.

"The best part of the Little Falls meet is the speed of the course," Kvebak said. "It's relatively fast, and coming off our home meet the kids really like to see faster times. It's a great confidence builder for our athletes."

### Girls take 17th

On Thursday, Julia Steffl continued her impressive season with a 35th-place finish out of 135 runners in the girls varsity race.

The junior continues to lead the Lakers girls in every meet and helped Detroit Lakes earn 17th place out of 19 teams. Steffl finished with a time of 21:36.6.

Freshman Karli Skarke ran the 5000-meter race in 24:21.6 while Lilly Baethke finished in 25:39.5. Junior Kira Wolf (25:39.6) and freshman Jessa Hunt (26:03.5) rounded out the Detroit Lakes top five.

Alexandria finished with the lowest team score of 73. That was good enough to beat out Rocori for first place. Albany sophomore Olivia Goebel ran the fastest time of 18:50.6.

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com

## FOOTBALL

From Page B1

"You approach coaching a defense as a teacher would," Hefta said. "You install the base and get people comfortable. As we get good knowledge and feel comfortable, we start to add steps. We want to make sure that we keep diversifying our defense so they can pin their ears back and play."

Senior Gavin Smith led the Detroit Lakes pass rush against TRF quarterback Brayden Spears. Smith also came up big on special teams in blocking a punt to set the Lakers up on the Prowlers' 10-yard line midway through the third quarter.

"He's a fun kid," Hefta said of Smith. "He's the definition of coachable. If you tell him to make an adjustment, he can do it on the fly. He will tell other people about those same adjustments. It's fun to see him have success as a leader. He's a program kid. He didn't play for a little bit one year and had to work his way back into the program. That's the kid that you show off to your community that loves Laker football."

Detroit Lakes had problems in the red zone on Friday. The blocked punt resulted in a turnover on downs near the goal line. The Lakers also lost two fumbles within 20 yards of the end zone to halt lengthy drives.

"We've left points on the board in every game we've played this year," Hefta said. "You sit there happy that you get these kids excited, and you get the ball rolling the way you want it to go, but we have to clean up some things. Whether it's missing tackles, breaking coverage or putting the ball on the

ground, that keeps teams in the game. Everybody gets better as the year goes on."

One of the fumbles was on the Lakers' first drive of the game. Junior Ethan Carrier redeemed his first-quarter turnover with a 34-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter.

"We always joke about having a goldfish mentality after making mistakes," Hefta said. "It's about having short-term memory. Ethan is a kid that learns from the past and makes adjustments so well. Whether it's on offense or defense, you have to be able to put your miscues behind you while being able to make those adjustments to be better the next time."

Carrier was the fourth different Laker to find the end zone on Friday night. Solberg punched in a one-yard run to go up by three touchdowns early in the fourth quarter.

"It's awesome, man," Jones said on having multiple offensive weapons. "We're so diverse on offense. We feel like we can do a lot of things with how many guys we have. It's a big team, and it's great."

Senior defensive lineman Jacob Enhert recovered a fumble to set up the Carrier touchdown to cap off a great defensive game.

"He's just a fantastic kid," Hefta said of Enhert. "He's the kind of kid that is going to be fixing engines, running tractors and doing everything like that in the future. He's just a fun kid to have out there because he's the definition of grit. He goes out there and makes all of those plays on defense. He's a reliable kid that's also a great leader for us."

Through three games, the Lakers have gotten increasingly more aggressive on both sides of the ball,



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Ty Jones celebrates his first touchdown catch of the season on Friday in Detroit Lakes' 28-0 win over Thief River Falls. Jones was one of four different Lakers to score touchdowns on Friday.

which is due to the success the defense has had. With one of the biggest games of the year coming up in a week at Perham, Hefta is looking to bring that same intensity in the battle for the paddle.

"We talk a lot about being able to be aggressive," Hefta said. "It's much more difficult as an opposing team to play an aggressive team. There's boom-or-bust value

in that, but we want to make sure we're in a spot where we are playing electric. We want teams to know that we're coming for them."

THIEF RIVER FALLS 0 0 0 0 - 0  
DETROIT LAKES 0 14 0 14 - 28  
SCORING- SECOND QUARTER- DETROIT LAKES- Bradley Swiers 13-yard TD pass to Ty Jones. Evan Thomas PAT good 7-0, 0:50; DETROIT LAKES- Swiers 10-yard TD pass to Chuck Kalina/ Thomas PAT good, 14-0; FOURTH QUARTER- DETROIT LAKES- Christian Solberg 1-yard TD run. Thomas PAT good, 21-0, 2:54; DETROIT LAKES- Ethan Carrier 34-yard TD run. Thomas PAT good, 28-0, 8:22;

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## Heart screen may have saved Fargo man's life

### Staff Report

Heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide. Zach Messmer knows all about the importance of finding and treating it early on.

The 44-year-old from Fargo has a family history of heart disease. His father passed away at 53 from a heart attack; his paternal grandfather had triple bypass surgery three times; and an uncle had triple bypass surgery at 34. When he was still employed as a police officer, Messmer, who now sells software to grain companies, started getting flagged for an irregular heartbeat while completing physicals for the force.

Messmer underwent a heart screen in June. A CT scan, to check for small deposits of calcium on the walls of the arteries, revealed a score of nearly 1,000; 400 or higher represents a red flag. Four arteries were blocked, including the left anterior descending, which had 80% blockage.

On July 13, Dr. James Wright, a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon at Essentia Health in Fargo, performed open-heart

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coronary artery bypass grafting on Messmer. Four days later, Messmer was discharged from the hospital. He did cardiac rehab through Essentia and has had regular follow-ups with Wright.

After two months, the father of three says he's feeling great. His confidence has returned, along with his active lifestyle.

He says his family history made the health scare even more daunting for him.

"I explained to my wife that it was almost like a PTSD moment because I kind of lived it with my father," Messmer said in a press release. He was

within 10 years of the age at which his dad died (53).

Looking back, he's grateful he was proactive about his heart health. He's encouraged several friends and family members to get a heart screen.

"You're not going to run from your family history," Messmer said. "I think it saved my life. If this can help somebody that's in the same predicament as me, thinking whether they should get this test done or not, even if it can help one person, that's totally worth it. It was a life-saver and probably going to end up being one of the best decisions I've made."



Zach Messmer, pictured here with his wife, Heather Messmer, got a heart screening in June and now calls it "a life-saver." He says getting the screen is "probably going to end up being one of the best decisions I've made."

Submitted photo / September 2021

## Minnesota announces latest vaccine incentive

By Christopher Magan  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — Minnesota's latest push to get residents vaccinated against the coronavirus will focus on providing incentives to residents living in communities hardest hit by COVID-19.

Gov. Tim Walz announced on Thursday that the state would tap \$4 million in federal aid and \$400,000 from private foundations to offer \$100 worth of rewards for people who complete their vaccination series.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses, spaced weeks apart, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is one shot.

"Every shot in the arm is a critical step



Forum News Service file photo

More than 80,000 residents applied online for \$100 gift cards that were part of incentive programs the state held in early August and at the Minnesota State Fair.

in stopping the spread of this virus, and local organizations around Minnesota know how to best encourage the

communities they serve to get their vaccine," Walz said in a statement announcing the program. "We are tak-

ing every opportunity we can to meet Minnesotans where they are — especially in communities hit hardest by COVID-19."

State and federal data have shown low-income communities, people of color, residents with disabilities and the LGBTQ community have been hard hit by the pandemic, both in terms of increased illness and economic misfortune.

The latest vaccination push will focus on providing incentives in-person, rather than online, at the community clinics and federally funded health centers that serve those communities.

"Our administration is deeply committed to ensuring equity with-

in all aspects of our COVID-19 response," Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan said in a statement. "By providing funds directly to our COVID-19 Community Coordinators, community clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers for culturally-relevant and on-site incentives, we will be able to better serve communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19."

Incentives will include grocery store vouchers, Target gift cards or culturally specific food items.

Previously, more

than 80,000 residents applied online for \$100 gift cards that were part of incentive programs the state held in early August and at the state fair.

Those incentives, worth more than \$8 million, were also paid for with federal pandemic aid, state leaders said.

For more information on COVID-19 services in hard-hit communities visit: [www.health.state.mn.us/cc](http://www.health.state.mn.us/cc). More details about COVID-19 testing and vaccines are available at [mn.gov/covid19](http://mn.gov/covid19).

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SATURDAY SEPT. 25TH, 2021 @ 10 A.M. SELLERS: BILL & MARY JOHNSON LOCATION: 22596 40TH AVE. S. HAWLEY, MN. Selling: Minneapolis Moline Tractors & White 2-85 Tractor; Collector MM Combine; Farm Equipment including, Haying & Tillage; 1989 Chevy 1/2 T. 4x4 P/J; Yard & Shop, including tools, Riding lawn Tractors; Household/Furniture. SEIFERT AUCTIONS & REALTY CO. 218-841-4605, SEIFERTREALTY.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

START DATE, FRIDAY SEPT. 17TH, 2021 @ 5 P.M. CLOSING MONDAY SEPT. 27, 2021 @ 5P.M. SELLERS: DUANE & BARBRA SEIFERT
Selling: Online Auction Only-Lake Lizzie 1 acre lot w/ 250' of frontage and 1.5 acre back lot. Private wooded raw lot located at the dead end of the tarred Seifert Beach Road. Frontage has a hard sand beach with mixed trees, level to slight elevation. Location: From Pelican Rapids, Mn. 5.5 miles north on St. Hwy. 59 to the Seifert Beach Road follow to the dead end (approx. 1 mile). SEIFERT AUCTIONS & REALTY CO. 218-841-4605, SEIFERTREALTY.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

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BOATS

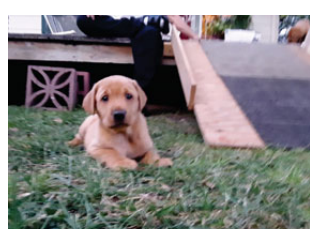
GARAGE SALES

423 Lake St., Lake Park Fri. & Sat., Sept. 24-25, 8-5PM. 3 Party Sale! Seasonal decorations, diningroom chairs, Terry Redlin prints, dishes, baby clothes, Jeep stroller, much misc. HH.

Moving Sale Sept 24-25-26 8am-4pm 27642 Co RD 141, Detroit Lakes Furniture, lots of tools and power tools, saw blades, much misc.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 21, 2021 at 1:00 PM PLACE OF SALE: Becker County Sheriff's Office Lobby, 925 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

FOR SALE
1979 Century Pleasure boat
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4 6 1
6 3
9 7
5 3 7 8
3 1 9
9 2
1 2
8 5 4 9 6

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

DISPLAY AD
DISPLAY AD

CROSSWORD
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20 21
22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31 32 33
34 35 36
37 38
39 40 41 42 43 44
45 46 47 48 49
50 51 52
53 54 55
ACROSS: 1. Snaky curve, 4. Lead actor, 8. As well, 12. Dove's cry, 13. Contend (with), 14. Lived, 15. Deli purchase, 16. Great Barrier, 17. Speed competition, 18. "Carmen," e.g., 20. Explodes, 22. "Sawyer", 23. Riding whip, 24. Hot and dry, 26. Furnaces, 30. Jamaican product, 31. Sobbed, 33. As of now, 34. Bent down, 36. Tariff, 37. Flower receptacle, 38. Favorite, 39. Spicy sausage, 42. Uprisings, 45. Cattle stick, 46. Large truck, 49. Mine shipment, 50. Skin affliction, 51. Wood source, 52. Monkey suit, 53. Cast off, as skin, 54. Hourglass filler, 55. Yo!
DOWN: 1. Repeat, 2. Bath bar, 3. At a future date, 4. Vamoose, 5. Foot end, 6. Monkey's cousin, 7. Hockey official, 8. Sudden, 9. Dancer's jump, 10. Religious faction, 11. Small numbers, 19. Lightning, 21. Path, 23. Scold, 24. Flood boat, 25. Trot, 27. Upper canine, 28. Accelerate in neutral, 29. Swine home, 31. Closemouthed person, 32. Withstands, 35. Avoided, 36. Flower garland, 38. Used a crowbar
PUZZLE SOLUTION
A E H Q N A S D E H S
X U T E T R E N C A
R O I M I S P O R D
S O R I R I M A V A S
L E T L E V E K N E L
L E T L E D C R I E W R
S H S R A T H E H D A R I D
P O P C R O P M O T A R
S I T R U P E R A O P E R A
C V R E F E E F M W H
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For application information visit [www.forumcomm.com/careers](http://www.forumcomm.com/careers) please include cover letter, resume, and relevant work samples.

Application deadline is September 29, 2021



## NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:  
DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 1, 2014  
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$73,150.00  
MORTGAGOR(S): Mark J Markey, a single man  
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.  
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 100146410003678517  
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc.  
SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC  
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 2, 2014, Becker County Recorded, as Document Number 619995, Thereafter modified by Loan Modification Agreement recorded on September 27, 2017 as Document Number 645516  
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.; Dated: November 18, 2015 filed: November 30, 2015, recorded as document number 629540; thereafter assigned to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC; Dated: May 11, 2020 filed: May 11, 2020, recorded as document number 667635  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:  
That part of Lot One (1), Section Twenty-eight (28), Township One Hundred Thirty-eight (138) North of Range Forty-one (41) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Becker County, Minnesota, described as follows, to wit:  
Commencing at a point on the East side of the County Highway formerly known as U.S. Highway No. 59, 878 feet South of the Point of the Intersection of the (old) Highway No. 59 and the North line of Lot 1 with the said (old) highway; thence South along the East line of said (old) highway 248 feet; thence East to the East line of Government Lot 1; thence North 248 feet; thence West to the Place of Beginning, excepting therefrom the following:  
1. The south 150 feet thereof, and  
2. All of the said premises above described that are East of the Westerly boundary line of the now presently existing U.S. Highway No. 59.  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 11833 County Highway 17, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 19.0509.000  
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Becker  
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$92,632.02

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;  
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:  
**DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 21, 2021, 1:00PM**  
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Lobby of Law Enforcement Center, 925 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.  
**TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mort-**

gage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2022, or the next business day if April 21, 2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.  
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."  
Dated: August 26, 2021  
Specialized Loan Servicing LLC  
Assignee of Mortgagee LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP  
By: Melissa L.B. Perter - 0337778  
Gary J. Evers - 0134764  
Joseph M. Rossman - 0397070  
Attorneys for Mortgagee LOGS Legal Group LLP  
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
(952) 831-4060  
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR (Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29; Oct. 6, 2021) 2902452

State of Minnesota  
County of Becker  
District Court  
Judicial District: 7th  
Court File Number: 03-CV-21-1489  
Case Type: Harassment  
Anthony William Christensen  
Petitioner  
vs  
Heidi Morris  
Respondent

**Notice of Issuance of Harassment Restraining Order by Publication**  
**To Respondent:**  
**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that a Harassment Restraining Order has been issued on Order Pending Hearing. A hearing is scheduled of the following date, time, and location:  
Date: September 27, 2021  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Location: Via Zoom  
Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing or to get a copy of the Harassment Restraining Order will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's order.  
September 16, 2021  
/s/ Sarah Schlauderaff  
Court Administrator / Deputy (Sept. 22, 2021) 2905042

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF BECKER  
DISTRICT COURT  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
CASE TYPE: Other Civil  
In re Lake Park Audubon Independent School District No. 2889  
Court File No. 03-CV-21-1597  
Judicial Officer: Gretchen Thilmony

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**  
This matter came before the Honorable Gretchen Thilmony, Becker County District Court Judge, on the petition filed by Lake Park Audubon Independent School District No. 2889 ("Lake Park Audubon"), pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 204B.44, for relief from statutory requirements that would otherwise be applicable for a special election to fill an unexpected school board vacancy. After reviewing the petition, the Court held a hearing on September 7, 2021. Attorney Curtis Ripley appeared on behalf of Lake Park Audubon. Based upon the files, records, and proceedings herein, and the arguments of counsel, the Court makes the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order.  
**FINDINGS OF FACT**  
1. Lake Park Audubon is an independent school district registered with the Minnesota Department of Education serving the communities of Audubon and Lake Park in Becker County.  
2. On June 28, 2021, a member of the Lake Park Audubon school board ("Board") resigned unexpectedly. The resigning member was in the third year of her term at the time of her resignation, and that member's term runs through December 2022.  
3. Minnesota law provides that, when a board vacancy arises, the remaining members of the board shall appoint a temporary replacement. The appointee serves on the board until there is a special election to fill the seat for the remainder of the resigning member's term. That special election must occur "no later than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November following the vacancy." Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 5b(a). In this case, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November following the vacancy is November 2, 2021.  
4. If the vacancy arises less than 90 days before the November election day, the special election can be held the following year. Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 5b(a). In this case, the vacancy arose when the member unexpectedly resigned on June 28, 2021. That is more than 90 days before November 2, 2021. Consequently, this "within 90-day" exception does not apply.  
5. If the vacancy arises less than 90 days before the November election day in the third year of the member's term, no special election is required and the appointed member can serve out the remainder of the term. Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 5b(a). In this case, the vacancy arose in the third year of the member's term, but more than 90 days before November 2, 2021. Thus, this exception also does not apply.  
6. There are also statutory deadlines for candidate filing. In school districts like Lake Park Audubon that do not have primary elections, school board candidates must file an affidavit of candidacy within a 14-day period that begins 98 days before the election and ends 84 days before the election. Minn. Stat. § 205A.06, Subd. 1a.  
7. At least two weeks before the first day of the 14-day period for candi-

diate filing, the school district clerk must publish a notice of the filing period. Minn. Stat. § 205A.06, Subd. 2. Because the candidate filing period starts 98 days before the election, the school district clerk's deadline to publish this notice is 112 days before the election.  
8. In this case, 112 days before November 2 was July 13, 2021. That date has passed. Given the unexpected nature of the member's resignation on the evening of June 28, 2021, Lake Park Audubon's clerk was not in a position to prepare and publish the required notice of candidate filing deadline by July 13.  
9. Because of the timing of the resignation, Lake Park Audubon cannot comply with the requirement to hold a special election in November of 2021, and at the same time also comply with the requirement to publish the notice of candidate filing 112 days before election day.  
10. Due to the impossibility of complying with both requirements, Lake Park Audubon petitioned the Court pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 204B.44 for relief from the requirement to hold a special election in November 2021 for the resigning member's seat, and to allow the Board's appointed to fill out the remainder of the resigning members' term.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**  
1. Minn. Stat. § 204B.44 gives District Courts the authority, in response to a party's petition, to grant relief from otherwise applicable requirements under Minnesota election laws.  
2. Lake Park Audubon established grounds for the Court to exercise its authority under § 204B.44 to grant relief from otherwise applicable election law requirements under the unique circumstances of this case.  
3. Pursuant to the Court's authority under § 204B.44, the appropriate remedy is to exempt Lake Park Audubon from the requirement under Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 5b(a) that the school district hold a special election in November 2021 for the seat vacated by the resigning member, and to permit the appointed replacement member to serve on the Board for the remainder of the term that concludes in December 2022, absent other bases for removal or replacement.  
4. Exempting Lake Park Audubon from the requirement of holding a special election in November of 2021 is in the best interest of all parties, including the school district, potential candidates, and the voting public. Granting this relief will enable Lake Park Audubon to conduct a fair and orderly election and timely comply with all notice and other requirements. This relief will also give potential candidates ample time and opportunity to file a notice of candidacy and will afford the voters sufficient time to evaluate the candidates and make an informed decision.  
5. Furthermore, permitting the appointed member to serve out the remainder of the term will not result in an unelected board member being able to retain the seat for an inordinate amount of time. The resigning board member's resignation came very close to being within 90 days of the November election day in the resigning member's third term. Had the resignation come just 37 days later, no special election would have been necessary, and the Board's appointee could have served out the remainder of the term pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 5b(a).  
6. For these reasons, the Court will grant Lake Park Audubon's petition and will exercise its authority under § 204B.44 to exempt the Board from the requirement of holding a special election in November of 2021 to fill the seat created by the unexpected vacancy.

**JUDGMENT AND ORDER**  
**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**  
1. Lake Park Audubon's petition for relief is GRANTED.  
2. Lake Park Audubon is relieved of any requirement to hold a special election for this seat in November 2021.  
3. Absent other bases for removal or replacement, the individual the Lake Park Audubon Board appoints to replace the resigning member may serve on the Board until the end of the resigning member's term in 2022.  
**LET JUDGMENT BE ENTERED ACCORDINGLY**  
Dated this 10th day of September, 2021

BY THE COURT  
/s/ Gretchen Thilmony  
Gretchen Thilmony  
Judge of the District Court (Sept. 22, 2021) 2904911

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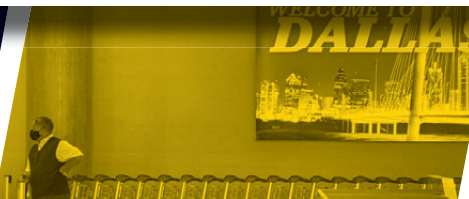
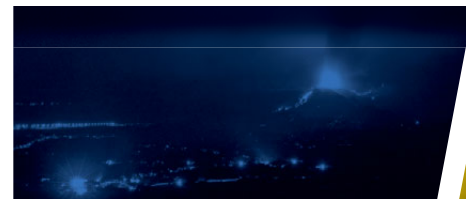
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The Fugees reuniting for first time in 15 years, [Page 4](#)

Churrasco steak that's easy to make, [Page 5](#)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA

## BIDEN PROMISES 'RELENTLESS DIPLOMACY' AT UN

By Trevor Hunnicutt and Steve Holland  
Reuters

United Nations

President Joe Biden mapped out a new era of vigorous competition without a new Cold War despite China's ascendance during his first United Nations address on Tuesday, promising military restraint and a robust fight against climate change.

The United States will help resolve crises from Iran to the Korean Peninsula to Ethiopia, Biden told the annual U.N. General Assembly gathering.

The world faces a "decisive decade," Biden said, one in which leaders must work together to combat a raging coronavirus pandemic, global climate change and cyber threats. He said the United States will double its financial commitment on climate aid and spend \$10 billion to reduce hunger globally.

Biden did not utter the words "China" or "Beijing" but sprinkled implicit references to America's increasingly powerful authoritarian competitor throughout his speech.

He said the United States will compete vigorously, both economically and to push democratic systems and rule of law.

"We'll stand up for our allies and our friends and oppose attempts by stronger countries to dominate weaker ones, whether through changes to territory by force, economic coercion, technical exploitation or disinformation. But we're



Eduardo Munoz / Reuters / Pool

President Joe Biden addresses the 76th Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday in New York City.

not seeking - I'll say it again - we are not seeking a new Cold War or a world divided into rigid blocs," Biden said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, who told the U.N. Tuesday that China would not build new coal-fired power projects abroad, used his video address to obliquely criticize the U.S. as well.

"Recent developments in the global situation show

once again that military intervention from the outside and so-called democratic transformation entail nothing but harm," Xi said.

### US military 'not the answer'

Biden's emphasis on allied unity is being tested by a three-way agreement among the United States, Australia and Britain that undermined

a French submarine deal and left France feeling stabbed in the back.

Biden met Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in New York. His staff has been trying to arrange a phone call between Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron.

"We've ended 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan and as we close this era

of relentless war, we're opening a new era of relentless diplomacy," Biden said.

The United States would defend its national interests, Biden said, but "the mission must be clear and achievable," and the American military "must not be used as the answer to every problem we see around the world."

## More Haitians return to Mexico

Biden faces bipartisan anger over handling of migrant camp

By Daina Beth Solomon  
Reuters

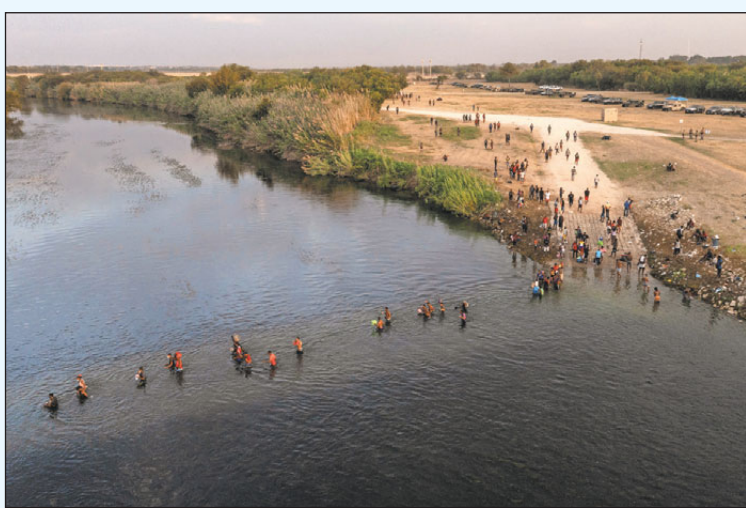
CIUDAD ACUNA, Mexico - President Joe Biden faced bipartisan anger on Tuesday over the handling of an impromptu, mainly Haitian, migrant border camp in Texas, with Republicans saying security was lax and Democrats worried about the humanitarian situation.

The conflicting demands underscored policy challenges the Biden administration faces as it tries to manage record numbers of border arrivals this year that Republican Senator Mitt Romney on Tuesday called a "disaster."

Republican politicians with an eye on 2022 midterm elections have been quick to portray the sprawling camp of some 10,000 people in the shadow of a bridge over the Rio Grande as the result of Democrats' push to end some migration restrictions.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott said a shallow point across the river was an obvious place to reinforce the border with more guards to prevent people reaching U.S. territory.

However, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer also ramped up the pressure on Tuesday, saying it "defies common sense" to expel the migrants to Haiti, and expressing anger over tactics used by border guards



Adrees Latif / Reuters

Migrants seeking refuge in United States on Tuesday cross the Rio Grande river, with bags and children in tow, back into Ciudad Acuna, Mexico from their camp in Del Rio, Texas. Picture taken with a drone.

"People want to stay home, they don't want to leave home, but they leave when they cannot satisfy their basic needs."

KAMALA HARRIS,  
VICE PRESIDENT

to control the crowds.

Several United Nations agencies also voiced concerns about the deportation of migrants to Haiti, citing instability in the poor Caribbean nation, where a presidential assassination, rising gang violence and a major earthquake have spread chaos in recent weeks.

The U.N.'s refugee agency said expulsions without screening for protection needs were "summary," "inconsistent with interna-

tional norms and may constitute refoulement."

Vice President Kamala Harris said the situation was complex and that the United States needed "to do a lot more" to support the basic needs of people in Haiti.

"People want to stay home, they don't want to leave home, but they leave when they cannot satisfy their basic needs," she told reporters.

Several hundred have already been sent to Haiti from the camp in Del Rio, Texas, since Sunday. Thousands more have been moved into U.S. detention for processing and more flights are slated. One arrived in Haiti on Tuesday.

The camp's population peaked at up to 14,000 at the weekend, but has since diminished.

## Debt limit legislation reaches House vote

By Richard Cowan  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - A Democrat-backed bill to fund the U.S. federal government through Dec. 3 and suspend its borrowing limit until the end of 2022 cleared a House of Representatives procedural vote on Tuesday, advancing to a final debate and vote.

Even if the measure passes the Democratic-controlled House when it votes on the full bill later on Tuesday, it faces a major roadblock in the Senate, where Republicans have vowed to oppose it.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer set the stage for a showdown with Republicans on Monday when they said they would combine spending and debt measures in one bill, despite Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell's vow to block an increase in the \$28.4 trillion debt ceiling.

On Tuesday, McConnell reiterated that vow. But he also said:

"I want to repeat once again: America must never default. We never have and we never will."

Democrats likely have the votes to pass the measure in the House. If it fails to win Republican support in the Senate they would have to pass it through reconciliation.

They also plan to use that strategy to pass President Joe Biden's \$3.5 trillion

domestic investment plan.

Congress faces a Sept. 30 deadline to approve stop-gap funding that would avert partial government shutdowns with the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Sometime in October, the Treasury Department will exhaust its borrowing authority unless the debt limit is raised.

The bill would suspend the limit on government borrowing through December 2022.

The current debt ceiling already has been breached, with debt at \$28.78 trillion. It is being financed temporarily through Treasury Department "extraordinary measures" that are projected to be exhausted in October.

As Congress hurtles toward a possible partial government shutdown if a deal is not reached, Democrats and Republicans both have warned of dire consequences.

Republicans said they would support a temporary spending bill to avert a shutdown if the debt limit extension were stripped out of the bill.

If the House narrowly passes the legislation and it is then defeated in the Senate, lawmakers would have to come up with a new strategy or face the twin problems of a government in partial shutdown that is unable to pay its bills and the risk of a default for the first time in modern history.



# US drought linked to climate change

## Report: Current Southwest drought likely to last into 2022 or later

By Steve Gorman  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES - Human-caused climate change has intensified the withering drought gripping the Southwestern United States, the region's most severe on record, with precipitation at the lowest 20-month level documented since 1895, a U.S. government report said on Tuesday.

Over the same period, from January 2020 through August 2021, the region also experienced the third-highest daily average temperatures measured since record-keeping began near the end of the 19th century, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) drought task force.

The study warned that extreme drought conditions are likely to worsen and repeat themselves "until stringent climate mitigation is pursued and regional warming trends are reversed."

The drought emerged in early



David Swanson / Reuters

The Windy Fire burns Tuesday in Sequoia National Forest near California Hot Springs, California.

2020 in California, Nevada and the "Four Corners" states of Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico and has led to unprecedented water shortages in reservoirs across the region, while fueling devastating western wildfires over the past two years, the report

noted.

The study also cited dwindling reservoir levels that have threatened or disrupted drinking supplies, irrigation systems, hydropower generation, fishing and recreational activities.

Much of the record

below-normal wintertime precipitation was likely due to natural weather variations, while research suggests that successive summers of scant monsoonal rainfall may also occur by chance, the NOAA report said.

However, unusually high temperatures coinciding with the Southwest's historic dry spell are symptomatic of human-caused climate change and have intensified the drought, making it "more impactful" in a number of ways, the report's authors concluded.

Above-normal heat helps dry up surface and soil moisture and reduces snowfall in winter, which in turn diminishes dry-season surface water storage from snow-melt runoff, the report said.

Low snowpack and parched soil can also create a "land-atmosphere feedback" that deepens a drought by helping raise ground temperatures while leaving less moisture available to evaporate for future precip-

itation, according to the study.

Extremely high temperatures also sharply boost demand for water, further straining depleted reservoirs and rivers.

The report noted that the drought has been so severe that states sharing the Colorado River, the region's principal river basin, experienced the first ever water delivery shortfall.

The report focuses on drought in six states comprising the American Southwest, but its implications stretch beyond that region, the authors said.

While summer 2021 brought welcome monsoon rains to parts of the Southwest, several years of above-average rain and high-elevation snow are needed to replenish the region's reservoirs, streams and soils.

"This suggests that for much of the U.S. Southwest, the present drought will last at least into 2022, potentially longer," the report said.

# Biden, PM Johnson talk trade, trains in White House meeting

By Jeff Mason and Trevor Hunnicutt  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson discussed the dangers of climate change and bantered about the joys of rail travel on Tuesday during an Oval Office meeting aimed at highlighting the U.S.-British alliance.

Biden told the visiting prime minister, who once worried his warm relationship with former President Donald Trump would hurt relations under the U.S. Democratic leader, that he looked forward to coming to the United Kingdom for a

conference on global warming later this year.

"It's fantastic to see the United States really stepping up and showing a lead, a real, real lead," Johnson said, referring to the issue of global warming. Under Biden, the United States has renewed pledges to cut greenhouse gases and promised to finance projects to combat climate change.

Johnson took the Amtrak train from the United Nations General Assembly in New York to Washington for the meeting. "They love you," Johnson said to Biden, seemingly referring to the U.S. railway

staff.

"We're going to talk about trade," Biden said when asked about a potential UK-US trade agreement, which would be of great significance for post-Brexit Britain.

Johnson first met Vice President Kamala Harris, who said the United States and Britain are more interconnected than ever before. Tackling the pandemic, dealing with climate change and upholding democracy around the world remained top priorities for both countries, Harris said.

Johnson praised the U.S. military's role in the "Kabul airlift" and thanked the U.S.

government for lifting a ban last year on imports of British beef imposed after an outbreak of mad cow disease.

"I want to thank the U.S. government, your government, for the many ways in which we are cooperating now, I think, at a higher and more intense level than at any time I can remember," Johnson said.

Johnson's team regards the visit as a triumph, demonstrating that Britain can thrive on the world stage after its divorce last year from the European Union. It comes amid a U.S. rift with EU rival France.

A submarine deal the United States and Britain recently announced with Australia came at France's expense, prompting France to withdraw its ambassadors to the United States and Australia and cancel a defense meeting with Britain.

France continues to see Britain as the junior partner in the long-running "special relationship" between the United States and Britain, some say, years after former British Prime Minister Tony Blair was ridiculed for supporting U.S. President George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

### BRIEFS

#### EU states breached air pollution limits in 2020

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Most European Union countries broke at least one air pollution limit last year, even as COVID-19 lockdowns improved air quality in many regions, according to provisional European Environment Agency (EEA) data published on Tuesday.

Excessive air pollution has landed around 10 EU countries in court in recent years, and while air quality has improved this decade it remains Europe's biggest environmental health risk.

Most of the EU's 27 member states exceeded at least one of the bloc's limits for air pollutants in 2020, according to provisional EEA data from monitoring stations.

#### Iran: Nuclear talks to resume in a few weeks

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iran said on Tuesday that talks with world powers over reviving its 2015 nuclear deal would resume in a few weeks, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

"Every meeting requires prior coordination and the preparation of an agenda. As previously emphasized, the Vienna talks will resume soon and over the next few weeks," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said, according to IRNA.

The world powers held six rounds of indirect talks between the United States and Iran in Vienna to try and work out how both can return to compliance with the nuclear pact.

#### Hundreds storm Namibia parliament ahead of genocide deal vote

WINDHOEK (Reuters) - Around 300 protesters stormed Namibia's parliament on Tuesday, as the National Assembly was due to vote on a \$1 billion compensation offer from Germany to atone for its 1904-1908 genocide against the Herero and Nama people.

Namibian authorities

announced on May 28 that Germany had agreed to fund projects in the southwest African nation worth that amount over 30 years, to atone for the killings and property seizures in its then colony more than a century ago.

Protesters led by the opposition and traditional leaders from the affected communities marched through the capital Windhoek before climbing over a fence to enter the parliament building, arguing the sum was too small and objecting that they were not involved in the negotiations with Germany.

#### Sudan says coup thwarted, accuses Bashir loyalists

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - Sudanese authorities said they had foiled an attempted coup on Tuesday, accusing plotters loyal to ousted president Omar al-Bashir of a failed bid to derail the revolution that removed him from power in 2019 and ushered in a transition to democracy.

Sudan's military said 21 officers and a number of soldiers had been detained in connection to the coup attempt, and a search continued for others. All affected locations under army control, it said.

The coup attempt points to the difficult path facing a government that has reoriented Sudan since 2019.

#### S.Korean leader repeats call to end Korean War

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - South Korea President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday addressed the U.N. General Assembly and repeated a call for a declaration to formally end the 1950-1953 Korean War.

"I once again urge the community of nations to mobilize its strengths for the end-of-war declaration on the Korean Peninsula," Moon said in a speech to the annual gathering of the world body.

North Korea had long sought a formal end to the Korean War to replace the armistice that stopped the fighting but left it and the U.S.-led U.N. Command still technically at war.

# Families flee as lava nears homes

## Authorities warn of toxic gas as lava hits sea

By Borja Suarez and Marco Trujillo  
Reuters

LOS LLANOS DE ARIDANE, Spain - Families rushed to retrieve belongings from their homes and escape the advancing lava on Tuesday, as sirens sounded and helicopters flew overhead in air filled with smoke from an erupting volcano on the Spanish island of La Palma.

Drone footage showed the lava flowing westwards to the coast in three huge tongues, incinerating everything in their path, including a school.

The largest flow was advancing towards a banana plantation and water reservoir as it crept closer to the main street of the town of La Laguna, traveling at about 200 meters an hour, authorities said.

Lorena, a 42-year-old Laguna resident, raced to salvage furniture and electrical appliances from her parents' home.

"We are nervous, we are taking out the most essential things like mattresses, the fridge," she said.

The town was evacuated on Monday but emergency workers gave residents a two-hour window to return home and save whatever they could.

Nearly a third of the population in the affected areas work in the banana plantation industry, a producers' association said.

One family of three in the town of Los Llanos de Aridane hurried to load a Toyota van with mattresses, a fridge, washing machine and bags stuffed with clothes.

Residents in Los Llanos de Aridane were given one hour to pack up and flee, a scene



Nacho Doce / Reuters

Lava and smoke rise Tuesday following the eruption of a volcano on the Island of La Palma, in Los Llanos de Aridane, Spain.

played out over La Palma in the Canary Islands since the volcano erupted on Sunday, forcing 6,000 people to evacuate. At least 166 houses have been destroyed so far.

Regional leader Angel Victor Torres said emergency services were powerless to stop the lava's "inexorable" advance to the sea and that more homes, churches and agricultural land would be consumed.

While the total damage remains hard to predict, he said it would far exceed the 400-million-euro threshold needed to qualify for European Union aid.

#### Toxic gases

Authorities have warned that as it hits the sea, the lava could create a cloud of toxic gases and possibly explosions as the molten rock cools rapidly.

Marine authorities were keeping a two-nautical-mile zone offshore closed as a pre-

caution "to prevent onlookers on boats," the island council's chief Mariano Hernandez told Cadena SER radio station, urging people to stay away.

The lava flow was initially expected to reach the shore on Monday, but it is now moving more slowly. More people had to be evacuated late on Monday and early on Tuesday after a new stream of lava started flowing from the Cumbre Vieja volcano.

"The lava on its path to the sea has been a bit capricious and has diverted from its course," El Paso's mayor Sergio Rodriguez told state broadcaster TVE.

The volcano erupted on Sunday, shooting lava hundreds of meters into the air after La Palma, the most northwestern island in the Canaries archipelago, had been rocked by thousands of tremors in the preceding days.





Lynda M. Gonzalez / Dallas Morning News / TNS

CF Wimbish, who manages luggage carts and ground transportation services, stands in a nearly empty baggage claim area Oct. 7, 2020, at Dallas Love Field in Dallas. Airlines shed jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and now they need workers back.

# Airlines struggle to find workers

## Pay raises, bonuses used to entice applicants

By Kyle Arnold

The Dallas Morning News

Southwest Airlines has never had problems recruiting employees because good salaries, hefty bonuses, flight benefits and regular accolades as one of the nation's best places to work were always enough.

But now Greg Muccio and the recruiting team at the Dallas-based airline are working harder to get good applicants and make sure they keep them.

"After 24 hours of radio silence with a candidate, they are going to make the assumption that they aren't a candidate any longer and move on," said Muccio, Southwest's director of talent acquisition. "Basically every day by 3:30 you are going to hear from my team, even if it's to tell you there is no news but you are still in the running."

Once among the country's most coveted companies to work for, airlines are suddenly struggling to find workers at the same time they need thousands of new people to keep up with the new realities of travel. Despite ups and downs, the jobs are among the most stable and turnover is low.

In March 2020, Southwest employees took home an extra \$11,190 on average in profit-sharing bonuses, although there were no bonuses the next year due to losses from the pandemic. The median Southwest worker in 2019 had an average compensation of more than \$101,000.

But oh, how things have changed in 18 months. Across the travel industry, airlines are competing hard for new talent after shedding workers for the first year of the pandemic.

Southwest Airlines is in the middle of a hiring push to get 5,200 new workers by November. Fort Worth-based American Airlines has openings for about 4,000 jobs across the company in addition to the long-term need to hire thousands of pilots in the coming years to keep up with retirements.

Delta is hiring 3,000 flight attendants and JetBlue needs 2,500 flight attendants. Airlines have turned to recruitment bonuses of \$300 to \$500.

Airlines are among the largest employers in the North Texas region, with 30,000 workers at American Airlines and 10,800 at Southwest, including thousands more who work at airports or for one of

dozens of other airlines.

"I don't think a year ago anyone could anticipate that we would be here looking for so many workers," said Thomas Rajan, vice president of global talent and total rewards at American Airlines.

It is a problem, particularly for airlines that ran into problems this summer when the travel season got bumpy and there weren't enough extra pilots, flight attendants and other workers to keep operations running.

Both American and Southwest went through long stretches with hundreds of cancellations due to pilots and flight attendants being out of position and out of hours after weather events.

After complaints from union leaders, both American and Southwest said they would reduce flying schedules in the fall.

Workers may be reluctant to apply for airline jobs for the same reason they aren't flocking to retail and restaurants, said aviation consultant George Hamlin.

"Some people are legitimately worried about going out into the world and getting COVID," Hamlin said.

But getting those new hires on board and into airports will be key for the holiday travel season, a busy time when nearly every airline employee is expected to work.

At Southwest, the biggest need for workers is on the front lines at airports and in call centers, Muccio said. Those are essentially the same workers who are tough to find for restaurants, retailers and other customer service jobs.

Southwest raised its minimum wage to \$15 an hour this summer to attract front-line workers and even behind-the-scenes employees, such as ramp agents who help load luggage onto planes.

"There's a really large group, over 9 million people, that just flat-out have not come back into the workforce, and that's really heavy on folks that work hourly jobs," Muccio said. "But there are challenges on the professional side, too, and the challenge is that some companies are seeing a lot of internal turnover and people not staying for as long."

Southwest Airlines still gets a lot of applicants for jobs, Muccio said. But where it may have received 28 applications for every job opening before

the pandemic, now the company is getting 14.

Southwest and other companies are actively recruiting mechanics — jobs that are essential during peak travel periods.

Emilee Mayfield, who works with recruiting firm HSGI, Inc., said skilled mechanics and technicians are getting sign-on bonuses, higher pay and even paid lodging to jump to new companies or take short-term and long-term contract jobs.

For the first time in more than a decade, aviation recruiter Sharon Ballgae said she got a request from a major regional airline to help find pilots. It's a rare request because airlines usually have their own large recruiting departments that draw from flight schools and military bases for pilots.

Ballgae said airlines have long known there was going to be a need for new pilots. American Airlines will see more than 7,000 pilots retire between 2021 and 2030 due to mandatory age limits set by the Federal Aviation Administration.

There is also growing demand from startup foreign airlines in need of experienced pilots.

American lost an additional 1,000 pilots during the pandemic through early retirements.

"There have been ups and downs for flight crews," Ballgae said. "Some people don't want to deal with what's happening on a plane now when you have to take personal defense classes to handle people upset over masks."

The pay has also spiked for pilots to jump from airlines to corporate jobs or charter services, rising from about \$125,000 a year a decade ago to more than \$175,000, Ballgae said.

But not all jobs are hard to fill. Flight attendant jobs are still getting high interest, said Rajan at American Airlines.

American Airlines opened up hiring for 1,000 flight attendant jobs and got more than 27,000 applications. Southwest got similar interest for the first new class of flight attendants it's hired since the pandemic. Both airlines have reduced the number of flight attendants on staff through voluntary buyouts during the pandemic.

"It's still somewhat of a glamour position," Muccio said.

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# Congress might allow relief for landlords

If measure approved, federal aid would be given without tenant approval

By Kristian Hernández  
Stateline.org

A measure moving through the U.S. House of Representatives would allow landlords to apply without tenant approval for federal aid to cover back rent they are owed.

The bill also would use best practices from states and programs that have successfully curbed evictions to set a national standard for how applications for the federal aid are processed. That would force states to follow U.S. Treasury Department recommendations that some programs have ignored, such as the use of alternative documents to prove income and eligibility.

The main purpose of the bill, supporters say, is to speed up payments from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

"There is no question that the funds are not reaching landlords and renters quickly or widely enough," said U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, a California Democrat, in a news release. Waters sponsored the bill and is chair of the House Financial Services Committee.

She said the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last month to allow the eviction moratorium put in place by the federal Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention to expire has increased the urgency of her measure.

There are no GOP sponsors of the bill, which passed the committee 28 to 22 on partisan lines. The legislation has not been introduced in the Senate.

In the second half of August, 3.6 million renters said they would likely be evicted in the next two months, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. More than 6 million households owed some \$16.8 billion in rent debt, according to census survey data from early August analyzed by the National Equity Atlas, a data and policy tool maintained by the University of Southern California Equity Research Institute and the research firm PolicyLink.

Of the tenants behind on rent, 66% are people of color, 84% have low incomes and 51% are households with children, according to the atlas.

Congress allocated \$25 billion under the first Emergency Rental Assistance program in December. A second program was established by the American Rescue Plan Act on March 11, which allocated an additional \$21.55 billion.

Just \$7.75 billion of the first ERA program has been spent or obligated, according to U.S. Treasury Department data analyzed by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a tenant advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

Earlier this month, Diane Yentel, president of the coalition, told members of the Financial Services Committee that there are proven ways for programs to expedite relief, including hiring more staff, doing robust outreach, simplifying applications, allowing the use of alternative documents for applications and directly providing assistance to tenants.

"The best programs are already doing this," Yentel said.

Shortly after the Supreme Court's ruling, the Biden administration wrote a letter encouraging state and local officials to issue their own moratoriums and pause evictions while rental assistance applications are processed.

But critics say eviction moratoriums are not the best way to keep people facing eviction in their homes.

The National Apartment Association has long held that the CDC's eviction moratorium is unlawful and a detriment to the future of affordable housing because millions of renters are being left with debt.

"Though the moratorium is lifted, it is important to remember that billions in debt remain on renters' records and housing providers' shoulders," wrote Bob Pinnegar, president of the association, in an email to Stateline.

Property owners argue that some renters are unresponsive and do not apply for assistance even when landlords offer to help, according to Greg Brown, the association's senior vice president of government affairs.

Across the country, 65% of tenants who owe back rent have not applied for rental assistance. Of those who have applied, 4% have received assistance, 12% have been denied and 22% are still waiting, according to the National Equity Atlas.

Roselina D'Annuncci, a New York bankruptcy attorney and municipal court judge, said the best way to curb evictions is by providing both public information and easier access to assistance.

New York extended its eviction moratorium until January.

The previous state moratorium was partially struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in August because landlords could not challenge a COVID-19 hardship affidavit submitted by tenants. This prevented property owners from evicting tenants who might have been ineligible for the rental assistance program, D'Annuncci said.

The state's new eviction and foreclosure moratorium allows landlords to contest eviction stays.

The Rent Stabilization Association, a landlord group that successfully challenged New York's previous moratorium, filed a lawsuit in federal court to block the state's new eviction ban, according to court documents.

In its challenge to New York's new eviction moratorium, the association asserts that it is still too easy for tenants to claim a pandemic-related hardship without providing proof.

"The tenant merely checks a box—without specifying what kind or type of hardship he or she claims, and without providing any documentation of the hardship—thereby blocking the filing or prosecution of eviction lawsuits and the issuance of eviction warrants," the association argues.

U.S. Rep. Waters' measure includes a similar "self-attestation" standard, largely to speed up the processing of applications for rental assistance.

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Luis Sinco / Los Angeles Times / TNS

Rep. Maxine Waters, the House Financial Services chairwoman, has sponsored a bill that would allow landlords to apply without tenant approval for federal aid to cover back rent they are owed.



## The Fugees reuniting for first time in 15 years

By Karu F. Daniels  
New York Daily News

Ready or not, here they come – for the first time in 15 years.

Hip-hop group The Fugees has announced that it is reuniting.

The trio – comprised of original members Ms. Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean and Pras Michel – announced Tuesday that they are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their seminal 1996 album, “The Score,” with a 12-city international tour.

“I decided to honor this significant project, its anniversary, and the fans who appreciated the music by creating a peaceful platform where we could unite, perform the music we loved, and set an example of reconciliation for

the world,” Hill said in a statement.

“As I celebrate 25 years with the Fugees, my first memory was that we vowed, from the gate, we would not just do music we would be a movement,” Wyclef added. “We would be a voice for the un-heard, and in these challenging times, I am grateful once again, that God has brought us together.”

The Grammy Award-winning group will kick off Wednesday with an intimate pop-up show in New York City as part of the Global Citizen Live global series of concerts, which will continue until Saturday.

The scheduled event marks their first performance together in 15 years.

Fugees fans can earn

free tickets by accessing the Global Citizen website, which encourages people to take action to end the hunger crisis and protect the planet.

Following the NYC gig, the tour will continue Nov. 2 in Chicago and will make stops in Oakland, California, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Miami, Newark, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C.

The group will then travel abroad to Paris, London, Nigeria and Ghana.

Considered one of the best hip-hop albums of all time by critics and fans alike, “The Score” sold over 12 million copies and earned two Grammy Awards: Best Rap Album, and Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals,



Jeff Wheeler / Minneapolis Star Tribune / TNS

Lauryn Hill early in her evening set at Soundset on May 28, 2017, at the State Fairgrounds in Falcon Heights, Minnesota.

for their contemporary cover of Roberta Flack’s 70s classic “Killing Me Softly.” Tickets for the tour go on sale Friday.

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Ben Platt, left, and Julianne Moore in “Dear Evan Hansen.”

Erika Doss / Universal Pictures / TNS

## Where did it go wrong?

Transition from stage to screen reveals flaws of ‘Dear Evan Hansen’

By Katie Walsh  
Tribune News Service

It didn’t have to be this way. Or maybe, it was always going to be this way. Yet, it’s still incredibly strange to watch the translation from stage to screen of a Tony-winning smash hit musical, “Dear Evan Hansen,” go so horribly awry. Or perhaps, despite the fervent fandom and the awards for best musical, best score, best actor and best actress, this musical about a depressed, isolated teenager who gets caught up in a big, bad lie about a classmate’s suicide was a bit suspect to begin with.

There’s much to unpack, including, of course, the much-ballyhooed casting of star Ben Platt, who originated the title role when the musical premiered 6 years ago, and reprises the role for the film at age 27. Platt strains credibility playing a shy, insecure and lonely teenager not so much because he looks too old, but rather that his trying to seem young is so sweatily effortful.

Indeed, the Evan Hansen who appears onscreen in

the film directed by Steven Chbosky, is one of the most bizarre cinematic portrayals of a teenager, due to all the effort to make Platt, a certifiable hunk, look and seem like a nerdy social outcast with crippling anxiety. From his curly bangs and wan complexion to his awkward postures and constantly darting eyes, it’s a characterization that may have worked on stage but doesn’t in close up. It’s distracting, never allowing the viewer to fully fall into this story, and this particular project requires an incredible amount of goodwill and suspension of disbelief.

Steven Levenson adapts his own award-winning book for the musical to the screen, which is loosely based on an incident that took place at composer Benj Pasek’s high school. The story’s perspective is focused on Evan, an isolated kid with no friends and an overworked single mom (Julianne Moore). He’s highly medicated, and tasked by his therapist with writing cheerful, pep-talk letters to himself. On the first day of school, another student, the

troubled Connor (Colton Ryan), zeroes in on Evan, screaming at him, scrawling his name on the cast of his broken arm, and snatching his letter. Noticing a mention of his sister, Zoe (Kaitlin Dever) Connor pockets the print-out and storms off. When he later commits suicide, and the letter is found on his body, his parents, Cynthia and Larry (Amy Adams and Danny Pino) assume it’s a suicide note to his only friend, Evan. Assumptions and lies tumble out of control, as Evan loves being embraced by this wealthy and warm family, as well as the closeness to his crush, Zoe, while Cynthia loves thinking that her disturbed drug addict son had a friend. It’s an incredibly toxic combo of co-dependency and magical thinking that chugs along until it all blows up in everyone’s faces.

“Dear Evan Hansen” has a serious protagonist problem. Though he may be unlikely, and even unlikable, we still need to root for Evan through 2 hours and 17 minutes of musical melodrama, which means at least one character on

screen needs to like him. “Top Gun” doesn’t work without Goose, and Evan’s got no Goose.

While all of this is happening, characters are frequently breaking into song, tearfully belting earnest ballads written by Pasek and Justin Paul (“La La Land,” “The Greatest Showman”) in kitchens and bedrooms and pep rallies. The leap to the “movie realistic” world on screen removes the veneer of artifice afforded by a theatrical setting, and the film simply cannot sustain that level of cognitive dissonance, combining these songs with Platt’s performance, and the plot, which claims to be about mental health awareness though there’s nary a shred of insight about that issue.

The effort put into making this film work is palpable, but the result is something deeply surreal and strange. Perhaps this story simply can’t work as a film, or perhaps it wasn’t a very good musical to begin with. It’s a question that may be debated for years to come.

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## ‘He will be deeply missed’

Tobias Menzies dedicates Emmy to Michael K. Williams

By Kate Feldman  
New York Daily News

Even Tobias Menzies thinks Michael K. Williams deserved an Emmy.

The “Crown” star took home a trophy Sunday night for supporting actor in a drama series for his role as Prince Philip in Netflix’s royal drama, a category that was a near lock to go to “Lovecraft Country” star Williams, even before his death earlier this month.

“Want to dedicate this to Michael K Williams,” Menzies, 47, tweeted Monday night, saying he was “honored” by his win.

“His performance as Omar in ‘The Wire’ is one of the great screen performances. He will be deeply missed.”

Williams, who died of a suspected drug overdose in his Brooklyn apartment on Sept. 6, received rave reviews for HBO’s “Lovecraft Country,” on which he played Montrose Freeman, Atticus’ violent, cruel father with a lifetime of secrets, and had been expected to earn his first Emmy, albeit a posthumous one.

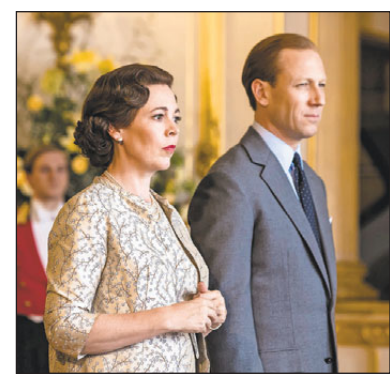
The 54-year-old actor had been nominated four times before 2021, for best supporting actor in a limited series or movie for “Bessie” in 2015, “The Night Of” in 2016 and “When They See Us” in 2019, and for best informational series or special for “Raised in the System” in 2018.

Famously, though, Williams was snubbed for his work on both “The Wire” and “Boardwalk Empire.”

Williams would have been just the seventh posthumous winner in Emmy history, following Ingrid Bergman, Audrey Hepburn, Raul Julia, Diana Hyland, Marion Lorne and Alice Pearce.

Instead, Menzies, who was not present at Sunday’s ceremony, won, also beating “The Handmaid’s Tale’s” O-T Fagbenle, Max Minghella and Bradley Whitford, “The Mandalorian’s” Giancarlo Esposito, “Perry Mason’s” John Lithgow and “This Is Us” actor Chris Sullivan.

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Sophie Mutevelian / Netflix / TNS  
Olivia Colman as Queen Elizabeth II and Tobias Menzies as Prince Philip in the third season of Netflix’s “The Crown.”



# Sunflowers and weeds

## Cooking from your own backyard

By Daniel Neman  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Outdoorsman and writer Euell Gibbons famously said that the naturally sweet flavor of Grape-Nuts cereal “reminds me of wild hickory nuts.” The implication, of course, is that he had eaten wild hickory nuts and that, by extension, you almost certainly hadn’t. Which is true, at least in my case.

Gibbons’ whole schtick was that he went around eating nuts and berries and God knows what else that most of us would never even think of eating, and that they were nutritious and delicious — even if they didn’t remind him of popular breakfast cereals.

That would be funny, though. “This lichen reminds me of Post Toasties.” “The bark of this Giant Sequoia reminds me of Cap’n Crunch.”

Gibbons died in 1975, but his spirit lives on in anyone who sees something growing and thinks, “That’s an unusual plant I might want to eat.”

The fact is, the number of edible plants is far greater than the number of plants that we typically consume. And that is good to know if you are starving and in a forest.

This week, I decided to try some foods scavenged from plants that are reasonably easy to find and turn out to be surprisingly edible.

Such as sunflowers. Sunflowers have recently been discovered to be edible by the world of TikTok, after a viral Facebook post from Missouri’s Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co., and now half the world goes around grilling the heads of sunflowers.

I decided to follow the trend to see if grilled sunflower heads were any good.

It turns out that they aren’t bad at all. Everyone says they are reminiscent of corn, but to me they are more of a cross between an artichoke and a handful of roasted sunflower seeds.

The trick is getting the sunflowers in the right season. The flowers should be well past their



Tomato, Cucumber and Purslane Salad sitting in a bed of white purslane flowers

peak, with the petals falling off, or just about to. You pull off the petals, if there are any, and use your fingers or thumbs to brush away the fuzzy yellow flower part of the flower. What remains is an edible pod holding up to a thousand or more sunflower seeds. The shells on these seeds should still be soft, or it will be unpleasant to eat.

Cooking them is a snap. Just brush the pod with olive oil and season with plenty of salt and pepper. TikTokers like to come up with other toppings, from sundried tomato oil to garlic, but I kept my version simple. Sometimes, simple is best.

One easily foraged food that is surprisingly flavorful, in a good way, is purslane.

Purslane is a weed that grows practically everywhere. It is often found in the cracks in sidewalks or in gravel or just about anywhere that other plants don’t usually grow. My wife grows it in a pot because it is pretty.

But it is also delicious and, because it is absolutely full of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, it is actually one of the most nutrition-dense foods you can eat. It does have a little oxalic acid in it, though, so if you suffer from kidney stones, it is probably best not to eat too much of it.

Purslane is a succulent, and its leaves, stems and flowers are all edible. You can cook it (try scrambling it in eggs) or eat it raw. I chopped mine up raw and put it in a simple cucumber-tomato salad; that way, the purslane’s

pleasant salty and lightly sour flavor really came through.

If there is a weed that is more prevalent than purslane, it is dandelions. Dandelions are more prevalent than anything. After the nuclear apocalypse or the alien destruction, all that will be left on Earth will be cockroaches roaming through the dandelions.

Which is fortunate for them, because dandelion leaves are edible. They were actually in vogue at fancy restaurants a few years ago, and I think we can all agree we are happy that fad is over.

Unless you get them when they first pop up in the spring, dandelion leaves are fairly bitter. They’re not unpleasant, exactly, but neither are they particularly pleasant. Like a less tasty version of arugula, they are best used sparingly, as an astringent counterpoint to somewhat sweeter lettuces.

I served mine with a light vinaigrette, and I used wild strawberries as a visually appealing garnish. Wild strawberries also grow with abandon in poorly tended yards, like mine, and are easily foraged. They taste essentially like nothing, but it’s the taste of nothing with the faintest hint of strawberry.

### Grilled Sunflower Heads

Yield: Depends on size of sunflower  
1 sunflower head, see note  
Olive oil  
Salt and pepper  
Optional toppings such as butter, garlic butter, garlic salt,



Grilled Sunflower Heads  
Photos by Hillary Levin / St. Louis Post-Dispatch / TNS



Salad with Dandelion Leaves

paprika, chopped fresh herbs, sundried tomatoes, vinaigrette or spices.

Note: Pick a sunflower head in late summer, when the flower just starts to droop. There should be seeds under the yellow fuzzy flower part, but the shells should still be soft.

1. Prepare a medium-hot grill.
2. Remove the sunflower’s petals, if any, and use your fingers to brush off the yellow fuzzy flower part. Rinse thoroughly. Brush with plenty of olive oil or flavored olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Add dry optional toppings, if you want: garlic salt, paprika or spices.
3. Place the sunflower head face-down on the grill. Cover and cook 5 minutes.
4. If desired, add optional wet or fresh toppings: butter, vinaigrette, fresh herbs.

Eat as you would a corn on the cob; forks are also suitable.

Ingredients are too variable for nutritional analysis.

Recipe by Daniel Neman

### Tomato, Cucumber and Purslane Salad

Yield: 2 to 3 servings  
1 large cucumber, peeled, seeded and chopped  
1 bunch purslane, thick stems removed, leaves chopped, about 1/2 cup  
1 medium tomato, chopped  
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced  
2 to 3 tablespoons lemon juice  
Salt  
Combine all ingredients in a serving bowl. Salt to taste.  
Per serving (based on 2): 40 calories; 1 g fat; no saturated fat; no cholesterol; 2 g protein; 10 g carbohydrate; 5 g sugar; 2 g fiber; 89 mg sodium; 39 mg calcium

Recipe by Elise Bauer in simplyrecipes.com

### Salad with Dandelion Leaves

Yield: 4 servings  
5 large leaves of romaine lettuce, rinsed and dried  
5 leaves of leaf lettuce (red or green), rinsed and dried  
20 fresh dandelion leaves, preferably in the spring  
12 cherry tomatoes  
1/3 cup sweet onion, diced  
1/3 cup toasted walnuts  
4 large strawberries, rinsed and sliced  
6 tablespoons your favorite vinaigrette  
Mix together all ingredients.  
Per serving: 300 calories; 26 g fat; 4 g saturated fat; no cholesterol; 5 g protein; 19 g carbohydrate; 8 g sugar; 5 g fiber; 303 mg sodium; 87 mg calcium

Recipe by Daniel Neman  
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# Churrasco steak that’s easy to make

By Linda Gassenheimer  
Tribune News Service

Churrasco is a Portuguese name that’s now used for any type of grilled meat. It’s usually topped with chimichurri sauce and is popular throughout South America. Parsley, garlic, red pepper flakes and vinegar are the basic ingredients for the sauce.

I use bought chimichurri sauce that can be found in most supermarkets, making this a quick dinner. I also have given a recipe for making the sauce in case bought sauce is unavailable. It takes only minutes to make in a food processor.

### Churrasco Steak with Chimichurri Sauce

2 tablespoons bought chimichurri sauce (Note:

optional homemade recipe below)

Heat outdoor grill or stovetop grill. Spray the steak on both sides with olive oil spray. Place on the grill for 3 minutes, turn and grill 3 more minutes. A meat thermometer should read 125 degrees Fahrenheit for rare, 145 for medium rare. Remove to a cutting board, let rest while you make the rice and tomatoes, and then slice. Place on 2 dinner plates and spoon chimichurri sauce on top.

Yield 2 servings.  
Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer

### Homemade Chimichurri Sauce

2 teaspoons minced garlic  
3/4 cup fresh parsley leaves  
Pinch red pepper flakes  
1 1/2 tablespoons olive



Churrasco Steak with Chimichurri Sauce and Rice and Tomatoes.  
Linda Gassenheimer / TNS

oil, vinegar and water to a food processor and process to form a thick sauce; it will not be smooth. (If making by hand, chop parsley and

garlic together and mix in the remaining ingredients.)  
Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer

### Rice and Tomatoes

1 package microwave brown rice (1 1/2 cups cooked)  
1 cup reduced-sodium diced tomatoes, drained  
2 teaspoons olive oil  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Microwave rice according to package instructions. Measure 1 1/2 cups rice and reserve remaining rice for another time. Add drained tomatoes, oil and salt and pepper to taste. Toss well.  
Yield 2 servings.  
Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer

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. © 2021 Tribune Content Agency LLC.





Kirby Lee / USA Today Sports

A general overall view as Liga MX president Mikel Arriola and MLS commissioner Don Garber wear face masks during the 2021 MLS All-Star Game on Aug. 25 at Banc of California Stadium in Los Angeles.

## Rinaldo not invited to Jackets camp

**Team has 100% vaccination rate and unvaccinated forward won't join**

By Brian Hedger  
The Columbus Dispatch

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Blue Jackets have a 100% vaccination rate among players invited to training camp, and they weren't going to let Zac Rinaldo ruin it.

Despite Rinaldo signing a one-year, two-way NHL contract with Columbus on Aug. 13, the veteran forward was not invited to camp because he's not vaccinated.

"We're going to have 67 players in training camp, and they're all fully vaccinated, which is really important," Blue Jackets president of hockey operations John Davidson said Tuesday. "It's an important issue for us. It's a team-first issue. We win as a team. We lose as a team. ... Forward Zac Rinaldo, who we signed to a two-way contract this summer, is not vaccinated. Because of that, and that's his decision, the plan is to start him in the American Hockey League and he will not be coming to our camp."

Rinaldo, 31, was signed to add organizational depth to the team's checking forward options. He played last season for the Calgary Flames, skating in four games without recording a point, and spent most of the time on the team's taxi squad.

"We aren't commenting on the matter at this time," said Rinaldo's agent, Todd Reynolds.

The NHL's COVID-19 protocols require coaches and all staff members to be vaccinated in order to work with players this season. Players, who are represented by the NHL Players' Association, are not under the same mandate.

Rinaldo spoke at a political rally supporting People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier last week in Hamilton, Ontario. According to a report in the Hamilton Spectator, Rinaldo gave a short speech in which he opposed the idea of vaccine passports.

"I'm not anti-vax, I'm not anti-mask," Rinaldo said, according to the newspaper. "I'm pro-choice."

The Blue Jackets aren't. They also fired assistant coach Sylvain Lefebvre last week because of his refusal to be vaccinated, replacing him by promoting Steve McCarthy from the Cleveland Monsters of the American Hockey League.

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## GROWING PARTNERSHIP

Liga MX, MLS take next step with World Cup-style tournament

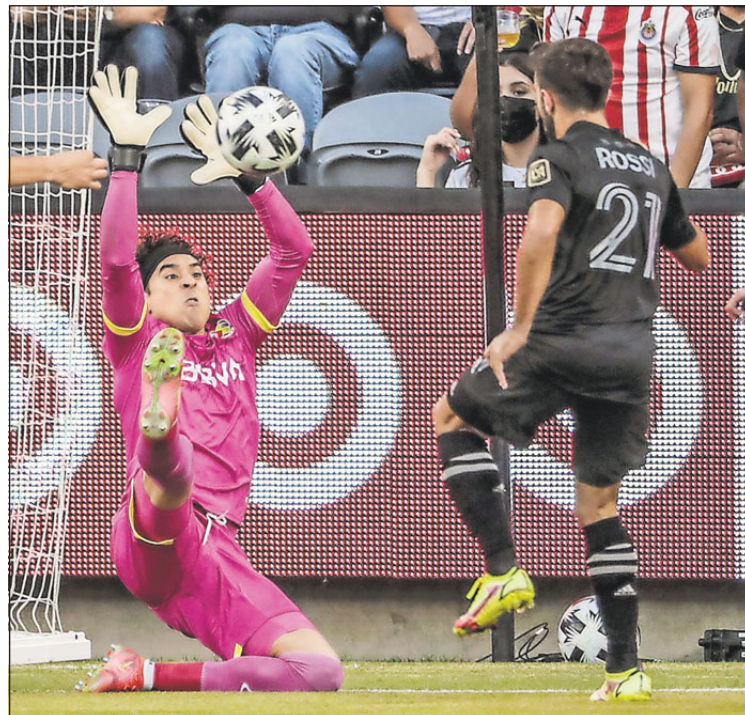
By Kevin Baxter  
Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles

The growing partnership between MLS and Mexico's Liga MX has given birth to two competitive tournaments and a unique All-Star game in the last four years, sparking rumors that a merger could be coming soon. On Tuesday the two leagues revealed what they've really been working on: an annual monthlong, World Cup-style tournament involving all 48 teams from the two leagues to debut in 2023.

The competition, an expanded and reimagined version of the three-year-old Leagues Cup, will be the first major international tournament to feature every team from two top-tier leagues and will require both MLS and Liga MX to pause their respective regular seasons for a month each year.

The creation of the tournament was announced by MLS commissioner Don Garber and Liga MX president Mikel Arriola at a news conference in New York City. The competition will be sanctioned by CONCACAF, the governing body for soccer in North America, Central America and the Caribbean, and its winner will earn



Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times / TNS

MLS forward Diego Rossi flips the ball over Liga MX goalie Guillermo Ochoa toward the goal in the first half of the MLS All-Star Game on Aug. 25 at Banc of California Stadium in Los Angeles.

automatic qualification to the CONCACAF Champions League round of 16. The second- and third-place finishers will qualify for the opening round of the CCL.

"That's not a merger of the two leagues, but it's probably the next best thing because all teams will exclusively be playing in a common competition for a month," said Steven Bank, the Paul Hastings professor

of business law at UCLA and an expert on international soccer. "It also comes at a time when the TV sports schedule is pretty weak in the U.S. and globally in a non-Olympic or [men's] World Cup summer, which likely will encourage media partners and sponsors to highlight these games."

The new tournament is the latest in a series of ambitious endeavors

involving the two leagues. In addition to the original Leagues Cup, the final of which will match the Seattle Sounders against Mexico's Club León on Wednesday in Las Vegas, there is the four-year-old Campeones Cup. And last month teams from both sides of the border met for the first time in a series of All-Star game activities at Banc of California Stadium.

Several questions remain to be answered, chief among them the status of the two leagues' domestic schedules and whether rosters will be expanded to deal with the crush of additional games.

The eight-month, 34-game MLS schedule has grown increasingly crowded in recent years with U.S. Open Cup, the two additional Liga MX competitions, the MLS playoffs and Champions League. The Liga MX season, which consists of two 17-game tournaments plus playoffs, is equally congested. Many players from both leagues also take part in international competitions such as the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the Nations League and World Cup qualifying, appearing in more than 50 games in a calendar year.

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## McIlroy to avoid crowd interaction at Ryder Cup

**Irishman trying to conserve energy, won't get riled up**

By Steve Keating

KOHLER, Wisconsin (Reuters) — Rory McIlroy has a reputation for animated celebrations during Ryder Cup competition but the Northern Irishman said on Tuesday he plans to dial it down this week in a bid to conserve energy when holders Europe face the United States.

The last time the Ryder Cup was played on U.S. soil, McIlroy could not help but get riled up by the patriotic Americans in attendance and spent time interacting with the galleries in what was a hostile environment for Team Europe.

McIlroy enjoyed the villain's role at Hazeltine in 2016 and was perhaps as animated as he's ever been on the course, whether when he cupped his ear in a goading gesture to the spectators or bowed to the crowd after an



Brian Snyder / REUTERS

Team Europe's Rory McIlroy stands on the 10th tee during a practice round for the Ryder Cup on Tuesday at Whistling Straits in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

eagle put to secure a match.

"I certainly will try to not

be as animated and I'll try to conserve some energy,"

world number 15 McIlroy told reporters at Whistling Straits

where play begins on Friday.

"It's a long week. Whether I play all five again, we'll see, but it's a lot of golf. It's a lot of energy just playing, then trying to beat who you're playing against. If you try to beat the crowd, as well, it seems like a bit of an impossible task."

The 32-year-old McIlroy admitted he learned a valuable lesson about conserving energy following the 2016 Ryder Cup and admitted he 'hit a wall' on the back nine of his loss to Patrick Reed in singles on the final day.

McIlroy, a four-times major champion, will be making his sixth Ryder Cup appearance and has become one of Team Europe's most accomplished Ryder Cup players with an overall record of 11-9-4.

Containing emotions could prove a tougher challenge this year during the three-day competition since travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic will make for a decidedly pro-U.S. crowd that will be trying to get under the skin of Team Europe.