

The line for Zion Lutheran Church's Halloween Trunk or Treat on Sunday curled all the way through a side parking lot and out onto the street on the opposite side of the church for most of the two-hour event.

Photos by Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune



The Detroit Lakes Tribune

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HAUNTINGLY HUGE

More than 1,000 kids show up for Zion's Halloween Trunk or Treat

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Though the first Halloween Trunk or Treat event hosted by Detroit Lakes' Zion Lutheran Church seven years ago exceeded expectations — with between 500-600 kids showing up rather than the anticipated 300 — that amazing inaugural turnout was eclipsed by the numbers seen this Sunday, Oct. 31, when more than 1,000 costumed kids showed up to collect all the tasty treats, toys and other gifts handed out during the two-hour event.

"We didn't really keep track (of numbers)," said Guy Roberts, senior pastor of Zion Lutheran. "But one of our volunteers said they gave away all 1,000 pencils they had — with one pencil per kid

— and there were more than 800 tacos served."

Roberts noted that Zion Lutheran members — and La Barista owners — Brooke and Courtney Wenzel had not only sponsored a taco-themed "trunk" for this year's event, but they also brought their Epic Taco food truck along and handed out free tacos to all participants, regardless of whether they came in costume or not.

"That was very generous of them," he added.

The Wenzels took one of the "best trunk" prizes home for their efforts, added Katelyn Haarstick, the church's family life coordinator. "We had three prizes, for spookiest, tastiest and best designed — they were voted the tastiest."

The other prizes went to a

Jurassic Park-themed entry, for "spookiest," and a Cookie Monster-themed trunk for best designed.

"It really looked like the Cookie Monster," Haarstick said of the latter entry. The judging was done by a "secret" panel of three judges, who quietly made their rounds to check out all 27 trunks included in the event.

"We had a few 'firsts' this year," said Askelson, noting that the church had opted not to serve their usual ham-and-cheese sandwiches due to the addition of the taco truck to this year's lineup, and they also invited local businesses to contribute "trunks" for the first time, instead of just including church members.

HALLOWEEN: Page A7



Brooke Wenzel and her kids dressed up as tacos and salsa for the Halloween Trunk or Treat event held Sunday at Detroit Lakes' Zion Lutheran Church. The Wenzels also won the "tastiest trunk" entry for bringing along their Epic Taco food truck to the event and distributing free tacos for all, giving out more than 800 of them.



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

The 2021 Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce Splash Awardees smile for a photograph after a ceremony Oct. 28 at the Holiday Inn - Lakefront.

Community pillars

Detroit Lakes Chamber of Commerce honors 2021 Splash awardees

By Michael Achterling
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Seven local leaders and businesses were awarded the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce 2021 Splash Awards on Thursday, Oct. 28 for their impact and community involvement in the lakes area.

Carrie Johnston, president of the chamber, said the purpose of the

awards is to showcase people who make the community better.

"Whether it's a volunteer in the community, or a business that gives back to the community, that's who we really want to honor," said Johnston. "(The awardees) are all nominated from their peers. We asked for nominations from the community, from other chamber members, they can nominate their own business, we take all nominations and then we really want to honor people who are giving back to the community, that's the whole point."

SPLASH: Page A8

How smashing! Becker County has a new option for its glass recyclables

By Nathan Bowe
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Glass is the weakest link in Becker County's recycling chain — it's heavy, expensive to transport, and doesn't have a lot of value as a commodity.

"Glass is dense, heavy and hard to get rid of," said Becker County Environmental Services Director Steve Skoog.

So far this year the county has shipped 560 tons (up from 429 tons last year) of jars, bottles and other glass recyclables to Strategic Materials, a company with national reach that operates a recycling facility in St. Paul.

There, the glass is fine-ground, sifted, run through magnets and vacuum systems to remove impurities and otherwise processed into usable material.

Companies buy it to make things like glass



Nathan Bowe / Detroit Lakes Tribune

A mound of glass recyclables awaits processing outside the Becker County Recycling Center at the transfer station.

containers; fiber-glass insulation; high-way bead for reflective striping; abrasives (used to blast steel and aluminum and to restore everything from pre cast concrete to log homes to automobiles); as fillers in paints, flooring and caulking, as well as being used in

lubricants and in metal fabrication work.

"It's a huge place, they suck (glass recyclables) in from all over," Skoog said.

Becker County is now "close to breaking even" on the cost of hauling its glass there, Skoog said.

GLASS: Page A7

DL church hosts chili cook-off

By Michael Achterling
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Thirteen different chili recipes lined the pop-up tables at New Hope Church in Detroit Lakes on Sunday.

The Oct. 31 event followed their afternoon service and kept many of the parishioners eating, and socializing, long after the last prayers were said.

"It smells good in here," said Zach Priddy, lead pastor at New Hope Church. "I preached fast today. It's probably my shortest (sermon) in a long time."

Priddy said his church tries to do these com-



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Sarah Harden, right, of Detroit Lakes, serves herself one of 13 chili recipes at New Hope Church's chili cook-off on Sunday.

community events once per month and encourages members of the congregation to bring a friend

to see the kind of special religious community they've crafted.

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INSIDE

Big ideas
Rural Minn. CEP hosts trade-teaching trailer
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Lakers advance
Detroit Lakes beats defending champs in football playoffs
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Bismarck man gets 51 months in prison on Becker County sex charge

News Staff
Robert Joseph Ferguson, 31, of Bismarck, N.D., has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. A felony second-degree charge of criminal sexual conduct was dropped in a plea agreement.

According to court records, on May 28, Ferguson inappropriately touched a girl under the age of 14 and attempted to digitally penetrate her, then asked if she wanted to "take it to another room." The girl repeatedly struggled and resisted him until he finally left. She said she was scared because he was so much bigger than her.

On Oct. 20, District Judge Michael Fritz sentenced Ferguson to 51 months in prison at St. Cloud and ordered him to pay a \$50 fine and \$200 in court fees.

Man gets 41 months for felony stalking

Beaux Michael Duvall Jr., 33, of Ponsford has been sentenced in Becker County District Court on a felony stalking charge.

According to court records, on Sept. 12, he went to a woman's apartment in Ponsford who had a restraining order against him. She reported he was trying to break her windows with chunks of asphalt. When her car alarm went off, she assumed he had hit the car with chunks of asphalt, too. A piece of asphalt was found on the driver's side floor. Two other witnesses confirmed Duvall had been there.

On Oct. 27, District Judge Jay Carlson sentenced him on the stalking charge to 41 months in prison at St. Cloud. He was ordered to pay \$200 in court fees, and credit was granted for 45 days served in jail. A gross misdemeanor charge of violating a restraining order was dropped in a plea agreement.

Detroit Lakes man accused of felony involving former girlfriend

Edward Jonathan Beaulieu Jr., 27, of Detroit Lakes, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony first-degree burglary and misdemeanor violating a restraining order.

According to court records, at about 3 a.m. on Sept. 10, police

were called to his former girlfriend's apartment in Detroit Lakes after Beaulieu came in uninformed about an hour earlier. He pushed his way in and took her phone away. She ran into the bathroom, crying, and he told her to stop crying or he would "stuff a knife in her throat," according to the criminal complaint. When she couldn't stop crying, he held a hand over her mouth and plugged her nose so she couldn't breathe. She saw that he had a knife, and he told her he also had a gun. He left about 2:40 a.m.

A domestic abuse no-contact order had been issued against Beaulieu to protect the woman on July 9 and was still in effect.

On Oct. 20, cash bail for Beaulieu was set at \$4,000 or bond at \$40,000, under standard conditions of release, or \$100,000 bond with no conditions.

Woman sentenced for her part in Orton's theft in Audubon

Nakita Ione Eischens, 24, of Mahanomen, has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony third-degree burglary.

According to court records, on Nov. 29, 2018, a woman reported the theft of a black 2004 Nissan Altima to White Earth tribal police. She woke up to find it gone. Police told her it was recovered as part of a burglary investigation early that morning.

At 3:34 a.m. a Becker County deputy had been called to Orton's convenience store in Audubon on the report of a burglary. An employee there saw a person in a black mask in the store near a supply room. The man fled by smashing out a rear glass door with an ice pick. Surveillance video showed three people enter a walk-in cooler on the back side of the building and take food.

The deputy followed the vehicle tracks from the gas station to rural Becker County, where he found the Altima in a ditch. Eischens was identified as the driver of the car. Her shoe print matched a shoe print found in the walk-in cooler, and a milk crate from Orton's, containing four gallons of milk and a large package of pepperoni, was found in the car.

On Oct. 20, District Judge Michael Fritz stayed imposition of sentence and placed her on supervised probation for five years.

Eischens was ordered to serve 59 days in jail, with credit for 59 days served, and pay a \$1,000 fine plus \$1,165 in court fees and \$743 in restitution.

A felony charge of receiving stolen property was dropped in a plea agreement.

Detroit Lakes woman meets conditions, felony charge dismissed

A felony charge of aiding an offender on probation or parole has been dismissed in Becker County District Court against Georgette Suzanne Maxfield, 33, of Detroit Lakes.

According to court records, in November of 2017, she falsely told police at her doorstep that her boyfriend at the time was not at her home. Police later saw him through a window sitting on a couch in the living room, got a warrant, and found him hiding in the attic.

On Oct. 13, the charge against Maxfield was dismissed because she successfully completed the conditions of her sentence: Serve 15 days on electronic home monitoring, pay a \$500 fine and \$665 in court fees, get a mental health evaluation and follow the recommendation, and successfully complete four years of supervised probation.

Detroit Lakes woman accused of felony domestic abuse

Katrina Marie Elmore, 27, of Detroit Lakes, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony domestic abuse — violating an order for protection within 10 years of previous convictions.

According to court records, on Sept. 18 a Becker County deputy pulled over the car she was riding in for erratic driving in Detroit Lakes. The driver was a man that she had been court-ordered not to have any contact with since 2019.

On Sept. 20, cash bail for Elmore was set at \$200 or bond at \$2,000, under standard conditions of release, or \$20,000 bond with no conditions.

POLICE NEWS

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

Thursday, Oct. 28
10:09 a.m., 27000 block Linden Road, Rochert, runaway. A 17-year-old boy was reported missing.

10:45 a.m., at Central Market at 310 east Frazee Street, Detroit Lakes, a 55-year-old man violated a harassment restraining order in the parking lot. No injuries were reported and the case is under investigation.

2:43 p.m., 10000 block County Road 29, Frazee, gasoline being stolen from stored boats on a property. The caller will put out trail cameras. The case is under investigation.

4:31 p.m., 1100 block Riverview Road, Detroit Lakes, phone scam. The caller said they divulged their name and date of birth to the scammer, but no other information.

5:26 p.m., 11000 block County Road 43, Menahga, missing person. A 56-year-old man was reported missing by his wife. The man has been missing for 5 days and shut off his phone. His vehicle is a 2002 blue Volkswagen.

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

Friday, Oct. 29
8:42 a.m., 12000 block Carow Circle, Frazee, mail scam.

11:22 a.m., 1100 block Randolph Road, Detroit Lakes, multiple catalytic converters stolen from parked vehicles at a business.

2:39 p.m., 54000 block 115th Street, Menahga, an unknown amount of cash was stolen from a vehicle.

6:21 p.m., 1100 block south Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, gas

pump drive-off. 6:41 p.m., 900 block Highway 34, Detroit Lakes, pursuit. One arrest was made and the vehicle was impounded by the Becker County Sheriff's Office.

Saturday, Oct. 30
7:11 a.m., 18000 block 175th Street, Audubon, domestic assault. A 41-year-old woman suffered head injuries from an assault involving a 50-year-old man and was transported to a nearby medical clinic for treatment. The man was arrested.

1:35 p.m., 39000 block north Elbow Lake Road, Waubun, tire damage reported.

2:31 p.m., 500 block Jennifer Street, Audubon, a 46-year-old woman was behaving erratically and spray painted profanity on a shop floor. No medical attention was needed. The case is under investigation.

8:02 p.m., 26000 block Crane Road, Ogema, smoke reported in a trailer.

10:18 p.m., 600 block west Birch Avenue, Frazee, a green, 8-foot fiberglass ladder was stolen.

Sunday, Oct. 31
2:22 a.m., 700 block Bowling Avenue, Detroit Lakes, assault. A 52-year-old woman was assaulted by a 34-year-old woman. No report of injuries. The 34-year-old woman was arrested.

7:25 a.m., 40000 block Lyman Lakes Road, Menahga, overdose. Six doses of Narcan were administered before the 43-year-old man responded. He was transported to a nearby medical clinic for further treatment and evaluation.

6:36 p.m., 25000 block Brandy Lake Boulevard, Detroit Lakes, shed on fire.

8:15 p.m., 1900 block Longview Drive, Detroit Lakes, suicidal threats. A boy was taken via private transport to a nearby medical clinic for evaluation.

Send your tips to: newsroom@dlnewspapers.com

Menahga city administrator suspended

By Shannon M. Geisen
The Detroit Lakes Tribune

Menahga City Administrator Curt Kreklau is suspended, with pay, for an undetermined amount of time.

The Menahga City Council held a closed meeting on Oct. 20 "for preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an individual subject to its authority," per Minnesota Statute.

The council held an emergency meeting on Oct. 22 to define and assign duties in the "temporary absence" of Kreklau "until the issue is resolved."

At the directive of the city attorney, the council decided to change all locks on all city buildings, remove Kreklau from the bank signature card, plus suspend all passwords and access to all city accounts. The motion passed 3-2, with council members Art Huebner and Robyn Keranen opposed.

Kreklau's emails are to be redirected to Jesine Kurtti, the temporary administrative support technician, for review and assignment.

Kurtti was also assigned the following duties in Kreklau's absence:

- ▶ develop, review and provide information to the city council
 - ▶ serve as liaison with various external organizations and agencies
 - ▶ attend public meetings and make presentations
 - ▶ evaluate potential economic development and other projects, programs and services to determine feasibility and community impact
 - ▶ make recommendations to the city council
 - ▶ serve as the city's zoning administrator and secretary of the planning commission
 - ▶ issue building permits
 - ▶ participate in work sessions and specials.
- This motion passed, with Huebner and Keranen opposed.
- Finally, the council suspended the use of GoToMeeting for all future meetings.
- Huebner and Keranen

held a bizarre, two-hour "public forum" on GoToMeeting at 3 p.m. Oct. 20.

They announced that Mayor Liz Olson and council member Durwin Tomperi were unable to attend due to prior commitments. Council member Dan Warmbold, still at work, was also unable to appear.

Lack of a quorum meant it couldn't be a

legal city council meeting. But that didn't prevent Huebner from spewing various allegations, like "ridiculous witch hunts," "frivolous audits" and "astronomical public data requests" that he claimed were designed to keep city staff "busy so they couldn't do their jobs."

The closed meeting was officially scheduled and held at 5 p.m.

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Cutting out the middle man

Rancher lets customers process own bison

By Jeff Beach
Agweek

OGEMA, Minnesota — A bison rancher in northwest Minnesota has a unique way of serving customers — letting them butcher the animal themselves.

“We definitely cut out the middleman,” said Steve Roberts, who has been raising bison near Ogema, north of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, for 30-plus years.

Roberts is referring to not only letting customers butcher their own bison, but for the operation in general, which prides itself on making his pasture-raised bison affordable.

“At beef prices or a little below,” Roberts said.

The operation also offers state-inspected bison meat, processed at a meat locker in nearby Perham, Minnesota. Or Roberts can line up a butcher for custom processing.

But when COVID-19 temporarily shut down several slaughter facilities last year, meat lockers experienced a sudden boost in popularity, and it continues to be difficult for Roberts to get animals into a meat locker.

“We have had to mold our whole operation around the fact that ... we can't get into locker plants,” said Roberts, who currently has about 80 head of bison.

That includes letting customers process a bison themselves after he puts the animal down, bleeds it, and sells it at live weight.

Customers can then quarter the animal at his ranch and then haul it elsewhere to finish the job themselves or take it to a meat locker.

“I compare it to a deer ... it's just bigger,” Roberts said.

And buffalo aren't as big as many people imagine, Roberts said: “Some people think a buffalo is like a mammoth.”

But the average cow that gets slaughtered is 1,000 to 1,200 pounds.

There's no need to rent a trailer, he said; the back of a pickup truck will do fine.

For customers doing their own butchering, he is on hand to offer help and advice.

“I will help you, but not do it for you,” he said.

He said he doesn't know of any other bison producers letting customers process their



Jeff Beach / Agweek

Steve Roberts discusses raising bison at his Ogema, Minnesota, ranch on Oct. 25. Roberts is unique in letting customers process their own bison meat.



Trevor Peterson / Agweek

Left: Steve and Patrice Roberts market state-inspected bison at their Ogema, Minnesota, ranch. The meat is processed at Perham, Minnesota. **Right:** Steve Roberts walks among his bison at Ogema, Minnesota, on Oct. 25.

own animal.

Roberts doesn't bother with a website or much of a marketing budget, mostly relying on free online ads and word of mouth, but he manages to attract customers from as far away as the Twin Cities.

He said paying for custom printed labels would just drive up the price, something he is determined not to do.

Roberts and his wife, Patrice, only recently came up with a brand name, In the Woods Bison.

“I'm not planning on going national,” Roberts said. “I'd rather take money and keep costs down for my customers.”

He said the bison industry has struggled because of the premium price most customers must pay for the meat.

He also keeps his margin small. “We're not making much, let's put it that way,” he said.

But his methods have

sustained the operation for more than 30 years, weathering boom and bust cycles that drove out some bison producers.

“I've kept my head above water when everyone else was falling apart,” Roberts said. “I've been thinking out of the box for 32 years.”

Staying small allows him to raise the bison the way he wants on carefully managed pastures,

using cover crops for the herd to feed on during the winter months and avoiding hormones and vaccines.

He said he's made a lot of mistakes and learned a lot over the decades and at age 66 is more interested in scaling down than up.

He does say that if he had to do it over again, he would have built a small slaughter facility at the ranch to pro-

vide an inspected product without relying on a meat locker.

For those that process their own bison, it's a memorable experience.

“When they're 80 years old, they're going to forget a whole lot of things they did in their life, but they're never going to forget that, and that's the truth, Roberts said. “It's just something that most people will never do.”



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OTHER VIEW

Doctor should not have been fired for offering his opinion

Let's slow down on ostracizing, condemning or firing those who voice their opinion about masks, vaccines or parental choice. Consider what happened recently in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, when Dr. Jeff Horak lost his job after he spoke at a school board meeting, urging parental freedom on deciding whether students should wear masks at school. "This mandate across the board, that's a tough place to go," Horak told the board on Oct. 11. "Who does God put in charge of their kids? Their parents. God gave each one of these kids to their parents. Their parents speak for them, and they may be wrong, dumb or perfect in their decision-making, but it's still their responsibility. It's their responsibility, not yours." His comments were applauded by many in attendance and have been

quoted often in the weeks since. Due to a clause in his contract, Horak and his former employer can't discuss details about why he's no longer at the Fergus Falls hospital. The head of the hospital's Medical Group Board said the decision about Horak was made by peer doctors who serve on the board and "not by Lake Region Healthcare." Either way, Horak is out. A few days after the school board meeting, he said he was informed he could either resign or be terminated; he chose the latter. Not surprisingly, many in Fergus Falls have rallied around him. On Monday, Oct. 25, upward of 300 people gathered outside the hospital in protest. And we're left to wonder: What has happened to freedom of speech? What has happened to voicing dissenting opinions, and peacefully at that? Horak wasn't some

wild-eyed firebrand at the board meeting, but simply stepped to the podium to politely voice his opinion. Apparently, he's out of a job because of it. Let's be clear about one thing: Numerous entities – ranging from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mayo Clinic and the North Dakota Department of Health – say wearing a mask helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. But should Horak have been fired for voicing his opinion at a board meeting? We don't see it, and we worry this is treading on dangerous ground, not only as the pandemic and the opposing views on COVID-19 continue ad infinitum, but as all things political seem to be boiling in America. To us, it doesn't sound as if Horak was speaking for the hospital in general, but just adding his voice to a debate that is consuming so many communities across the region. It was his

opinion, and it concerned "parental freedom." That's something we all should be able to discuss. "I wouldn't do it differently," Horak recently said in an interview with WDAY. He shouldn't have to. If he broke some written policy by voicing his thoughts at the board meeting, a lesser punishment would have sufficed. Horak didn't verbally attack anyone. He didn't resort to name-calling or any sort of derogatory speech or action that embarrassed his employers. From what we have seen, he simply advocated for parental choice on masks. If he lost his job over that, it seems harsh and shows a lack of empathy for his personal beliefs. Further, it's an example of what can happen when people simply have no patience for differing views. This other view is the opinion of the editorial board of our sister publication, the Grand Forks Herald.



Fed action helped millions to get health coverage during pandemic

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
The Open Enrollment Period at Healthcare.gov started Monday, and a new report released from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows that Medicaid and health insurance from the federal Marketplace helped to prevent major coverage losses in 2020-2021 — despite downward economic pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. HHS's analysis showed that efforts taken by the Biden-Harris Administration, such as the 2021 Special Enrollment Period, helped ensure health care for Americans remained in reach. "The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives in many ways, yet today's report shows we made significant strides to protect Americans' health," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "Over 2.8 million Americans gained coverage during the Special Enrollment Period. We will double down on these gains by launch-

ing Open Enrollment season on Monday (Nov. 1) with the most affordable health coverage options to date." "Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, health care coverage is more affordable and accessible than ever. This Open Enrollment, consumers will have access to more affordable plan options, with more help, for an even longer period of time," said Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "I urge individuals and families in need to sign up today at Healthcare.gov for comprehensive, affordable health care coverage for themselves and their loved ones." The report, conducted by researchers at HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, details how safety net programs like Medicaid, which enrolled individuals during the pandemic, and efforts such as the 2021 Special Enrollment Period, which netted another in new cover-

age gains, helped to stabilize health coverage during the pandemic. However, federal surveys also indicate continuing disparities in coverage among Black and Latino individuals, lower-income families, and people living in Medicaid non-expansion states. Addressing such disparities is a top priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. This year, thanks to the American Rescue Plan and enhanced tax credits, people shopping for health insurance through the Marketplaces will find the widest variety of options at the lowest prices ever. They will also benefit from a longer period to shop for coverage with the Open Enrollment deadline being extended to Jan. 15, 2022. Open Enrollment will launch with four times more Navigators than last season, with around 1,500 Navigators available for consumers who use HealthCare.gov. The Administration is also

making record investments and employing a robust local strategy to reach the remaining uninsured and help reduce disparities in coverage. These efforts include launching an to spread word about Open Enrollment. For the first time, these advertisements will be available in an expanded number of languages including Hindi, Korean and more. CMS is quadrupling the number of Navigators available to help consumers sign up for coverage, and re-launching the "Champions for Coverage" program, which will enlist over 2,000 local organizations to support outreach and public education efforts and help enroll individuals in coverage. To find the ASPE report, visit: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/tracking-health-insurance-coverage> To find out more and get ready for the 2022 Open Enrollment period, visit HealthCare.gov or your state's Marketplace website.

U of M has good news for Native students

Detroit Lakes Tribune
Good news for tribal students: According to an MPR story by Dan Kraker, the University of Minnesota plans to extend "substantial financial support," including in many cases completely free tuition, to enrolled members of the state's 11 federally recognized tribal nations beginning next fall. University of Minne-

sota President Joan Gabel announced the creation of the Native American Promise Tuition Program in a memo to the state's tribal leaders, calling it a "significant expansion of Native American student tuition support." The new program expands on a tuition waiver program for American Indian students that's long been in place at the University's Morris cam-

pus, where more than 6,000 waivers have been awarded since Morris joined the U of M system in 1960. Starting in the fall of 2022, the program will be expanded to the remaining four system campuses, although it's still unclear which students will be eligible for free tuition. It will apply to first-year undergraduate students and transfers from tribal colleges.

In the memo, Gabel called the expansion a "significant achievement" and said it will place the U of M's program "among the nation's most comprehensive free and reduced tuition programs for Native American students." We hope local students are able to take advantage of what looks like a golden opportunity for a more affordable education.

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LETTERS POLICY

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



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Rural Minnesota CEP hosts virtual trade-teaching trailer in Detroit Lakes

By Michael Achterling
Detroit Lakes Tribune

A virtual classroom of trade skills stopped at Rural Minnesota CEP in Detroit Lakes on Monday in an effort to spark interest in learning a trade.

The classroom, a traveling trade experience from Big Ideas of New Ulm, Minn., held three virtual reality stations, and an extra pop-up tent outside giving students from the Detroit Lakes Area Learning Center four different stations to experience a trade.

Virtual experiences included: performing an oil change; using a commercial paint sprayer efficiently; learning basic welding; and a CAT scan simulator. Andrew Kish, lead welding instructor for Big Ideas, said the company is getting close to its 100th tour stop and thinks it's sparking an interest for many of the students who have made their way through the stations.

"A lot of our instructors are from many different areas, from many different professions," said Kish. "It's a really cool experience because kids get to use the technology and see what it's like, but then they get to ask us questions about what it's like to actually be in the trades."

Kish also said he tells the students that he's living proof that you don't need a four-year degree to make a six-figure income.

"You can go as far as you want in trades," he said. "You want to go home every night and not have any responsibil-



Left: Caleb Sundstrom, a student at Detroit Lakes Area Learning Center, experiences a virtual CAT simulator during an event hosted by Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program in Detroit Lakes on Monday. The event featured a traveling virtual trade skill classroom from the nonprofit Big Ideas of New Ulm, Minnesota. **Right:** Lexi Stiyyer, left, a student at Detroit Lakes Area Learning Center, experiences a virtual commercial painting simulator during an event hosted by Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program in Detroit Lakes on Monday. The event featured a traveling virtual trade skill classroom from the nonprofit Big Ideas of New Ulm.



Photos by Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

ities, you can be a laborer. You want to be a supervisor and have more responsibilities, the pay increase with that, or do you want to own your own business, you can learn how to do that too. It's just how determined you are."

Students from Detroit Lakes ALC seemed interested in getting their hands on the CAT simulator controls, but were equally impressed with the scoring system in the virtual welding experience

"It's good experience, I mean, it's not the same as in real life, but it still helps," said Lexi Stiyyer, a Detroit Lakes student. "I've never welded, but my whole family pretty much welds."

She added she wants to do something with horses after high school, but learning how to weld would be a great skill to have, especially when you're on a farm.

Dennis Weaver, science teacher at Detroit Lakes ALC, said, "It's all about what you enjoy doing and a lot of times kids don't realize that you don't have to go on to school, you just have to get a skill. And that skill is the most important"

Weaver added that learning skills pushes people forward and, with each skill they learn, it creates more opportunity and experiences they need for continued success after high school.

Kelley Nowell, team leader for Rural Minnesota CEP in Detroit Lakes, said the mobile, virtual teaching trailer is a great way to give free experience into these in-demand, hands-on fields.

"It's an interactive way for people to experience in different areas," said Nowell. "What we're trying to do is get some of our customers and clients knowledge and information, and getting excited about maybe going into these industries."

Nowell also said Rural Minnesota CEP is valuable community resource for employment education and training in the Detroit Lakes area.

are to help people transition from being unemployed to employed, in whatever path that may be" said Nowell. "We have programs from people 14 (years old) to 100."

The Big Ideas trailer will make additional stops across northern Minnesota this week, including:

► Tuesday, Nov. 2: Bagley from 8 a.m. to noon. Park Rapids from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

► Wednesday, Nov. 3: Wadena from 8 a.m. to noon. Brainerd from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

► Thursday, Nov. 4: Little Falls from 8 a.m. to noon. Alexandria from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Realtor association announces incoming board

During their meeting on Oct. 19, the Lakes Country Association of Realtors voted to elect their new 2022 leadership board.

The new leadership team will include past-president Bryan Domholt of eXp Realty, and incoming-president Lori Ellefson of Jack Chivers Realty.

Additional 2022 board members are:

► Alexis Peters, Counselor Realty, Secretary/Treasurer

► Paula Okeson, RE/MAX Lakes Region, Director

► Stacy Scott, Counselor Realty, Director

► Chris Nord, The Real Estate Company, Director

► Lara Burnside, eXp Realty, Director

► Jack LaBarre, ERA Northland, Director

► Jason Bristlin, The Real Estate Company, Director

The group also announced their 2021 association award winners, including:

► REALTOR of the Year - Deanna Sinclair,



Sinclair



LaBarre

ERA Northland Realty

► Rookie of the Year - Nicholas Fairbanks, eXp Realty

► Distinguished Service Award - Patty LaBarre, ERA Northland Realty

Members of the Lakes Country Association of Realtors strives to promote the highest ethical and professional standards and cooperation among its members; Provide products, programs and services to meet the evolving needs of the real estate industry and consumers; and serve as a leading advocate of private property rights and community involvement, according to the group's website.

Local accounting firms merge

Detroit Lakes-based certified public accountant, Haga Kommer, has announced their merger with Bekkerus Schott Helmeke DeConcini

Johnson, Ltd., effective Nov. 1.

The new merger will expand Haga Kommer's business into the Perham market, according to a news release from the company.

With the new expansion, the current Detroit Lakes office of Haga Kommer will move into the current offices of Bekkerus Schott Helmeke DeConcini Johnson, Ltd., located on Hwy 59 in Detroit Lakes. The Perham office will remain in its current location on 3rd Avenue.

"We are excited about this merger because Haga Kommer shares the same values we do," said Judi Johnson, new operations supervisor for the Detroit Lakes office. "With this merger, we know we can continue our tradition of excel-

lent service, while adding significant resources and specialized expertise for our clients and associates."

Chris DeConcini, operations manager in Perham, said, "The more we learned about Haga Kommer the more we knew that we wanted to move into the future with them."

Haga Kommer is a full-service accounting firm with offices in Fargo, Bismarck, Mandan, Detroit Lakes and St. Cloud. Inc. Magazine included Haga Kommer as one of the fastest growing private companies in the United States for the fourth year in a row, according to the company's news release.

Send us your local business story tips at newsroom@dlnewspapers.com.

Neurosurgery expert now serving Sanford Health Detroit Lakes

News Staff
Dr. Behzad Sabit is now providing outreach services at Sanford Health Detroit Lakes.

He practices neurosurgery, specializing in minimally invasive spine surgery and complex spine procedures, and treats adult degenerative deformity, radiculopathy and spinal stenosis.

Other services include obtaining detailed history and physical exams to diagnose and manage patients with neck and back pain, as well as other neurological issues, and providing recommendations for conservative management and surgical man-



Sabit

agement when appropriate with post-operative follow-up. Dr. Sabit attended graduate school at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and medical school at McGill University Faculty of Medicine in Montreal. He did his residency at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and his fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle.

To schedule an appointment in Detroit Lakes call 218-846-2000.

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OBITUARIES

Ryan D. Whitworth

Heavy are the hearts that announce the passing of Ryan David Whitworth, 40, of Cohasset, MN. He left us too soon with many questions unanswered. Ryan was a patient father, a devoted husband, a loving son, a beloved brother in blood, and a trusted brother in arms, and so much more to so many. Born in Fargo, Ryan grew up in Detroit Lakes where he excelled in football and baseball. While attending NDSU, he continued to enjoy playing baseball. However, he found a true talent when he began working construction; building with his hands and mind gave him great satisfaction. Ryan served proudly in the Army, deploying to Afghanistan in 2012. He was left with lasting scars, inside and out, but, despite them, never regretted his choice to serve. In 2013, Ryan married the love of his life, Molly Flaherty. As a stay at home dad to their two children, Finn (5), and Fiona (3), Ryan was kind, enduring, strong, loving, and supportive beyond expectation. Molly and Ryan built a happy life that beamed with love. Ryan is survived by his parents, Warren and Kristen Whitworth, brothers Reid (Lisa) Whitworth, Wade (Julie) Whitworth, sister Katie (Spencer) Wander, parents in law Dan and Donna Flaherty, brother in law Ryan (Lisa) Flaherty, nieces Gabby and Keela, and nephews Carter, Brodryk, Laytham, and Cullen.

His family invites those who knew Ryan to join in a Celebration of his Life at 2:00 PM on Monday, November 8th at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2901 US 169, Grand Rapids, MN with a visitation beginning at 1:00 PM at the church. Following the service, a gathering is encouraged at the American Legion in Grand Rapids where memories, laughs, and libations can be shared.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Ryan's name to The Head Strong Project (getheadstrong.org) or TAPS-Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (taps.org). Any cash gifts directed to the family will be placed in a trust for Finn and Fiona.

Arrangements are with the Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids, MN. To sign the online guestbook or send condolences visit www.rowefuneralhomeandcrematory.com.

Jerry Triebenbach

Sept. 23, 1940 -
Oct. 31, 2021

WADENA, Minn. - Jerry Triebenbach, 81, Deer Creek, Minn., died Sunday, Oct. 31, in Fair Oaks Lodge.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 5, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Deer Creek. Visitation will continue from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, at the church.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service in Wadena.

James "Jim" Peters

Nov. 12, 1946 -
Oct. 31, 2021

WADENA, Minn. - James "Jim" Peters, 74, Wadena, Minn., died Sunday, Oct. 31, in Fair Oaks Lodge.

Visitation will be from 9:30-11 a.m., followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church in Bluffton, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

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Ada Kujala

Jan. 3, 1941 -
Oct. 29, 2021

PERHAM, Minn. - Ada Kujala, 80, Perham, Minn., died Friday, Oct. 29, in Perham Health.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at Apostolic Lutheran Church in New York Mills, Minn. Visitation will continue from 10-11 a.m., followed by a funeral at 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 5, at the church.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Joanne Dean

Aug. 16, 1952 -
Oct. 26, 2021

TRUMANN, Ariz. - Joanne Dean, 69, Trumann, Ark., died Tuesday, Oct. 26, in her home.

Visitation will be from noon to 1 p.m., followed by a funeral at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3, at Karvonen Funeral Home in Wadena, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Randy Hamilton

Aug. 24, 1954 -
Oct. 30, 2021

FARGO, N.D. - Randy Hamilton, 67, Frazee, Minn., died Saturday, Oct. 30, in Essentia Health.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 5, at Karvonen Funeral Home in New York Mills, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.



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HAPPENINGS

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

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

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

Thursday, November 4

Detroit Lakes Library Board: The governing board of the Detroit Lakes Public Library will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the library's main meeting room at 1000 Washington Ave.

Saturday, November 6

Art from the Start: Parents and guardians with children between ages 3-5 are invited to bring their budding artists to the Holmes Art Cellar at 10 a.m. for a one-hour "Art from the Start" class on how to make story totems; learn about indigenous totem poles and the stories they tell. Cost is \$15; pre-registration is required. Instructor is artist Courtney Stanley. To sign up, visit dlccc.org/artcellar.html or call 218-844-7469.

Monday, November 8

Ogema VFW Auxiliary: The Ogema VFW Auxiliary will meet at the VFW Hall in Ogema. This is our annual inspection meeting, with all officers/trustees to be in attendance. Inspection by Amanda Weller, District 9 Senior Vice, will take place at 3 p.m., with regular meeting following at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, November 9

Teen Writers Group: Teens interested in pursuing writing are invited to join this group from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Detroit Lakes Public Library for inspiration and support. Grab a snack, do a writing prompt, learn writing tips, and hear feedback from your peers. Visit larl.org or call 218-847-2168 for more information.

Watercolor Painting Class: Come to the Holmes Art Cellar at 806 Summit Ave., Detroit Lakes, for a 6 p.m. watercolor painting class featuring "winter greenery" — wreaths and holly berries, seeded eucalyptus, pine branches and pine cones, and a juniper branch, for a variety of applications. All materials included in the \$40 program fee. To sign up, visit dlccc.org/artcellar.html or call 218-844-7469.

Wednesday, November 10

Library Knitting Group: Knitters of all experience levels are invited to join this group at the Detroit Lakes Public Library from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Bring new and ongoing projects and share experience and inspiration with fellow knitters. We will be meeting in the main meeting room of the library. Call 218-847-2168 for more information.

Friday, November 12

Square Dancing: The Park Rapids Friendly Squares will host a dance at the Century School in Park Rapids from 7:30 pm to 9:30 p.m. The caller will be Brian Freed. Spectators are welcome. For more information contact Karen at 218-732-3853.

Saturday, November 13

Annie Mack Concert: Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre will host a 7 p.m. concert by blues singer-songwriter Annie Mack, presented by the Minnesota Music Coalition's Caravan du Nord.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for students, and can be purchased online at dlccc.org/holmes-theatre.html or by phone at 218-844-7469.

Miscellaneous

Newsies: The Detroit Lakes High School fall musical, "Newsies," will be presented in five performances at Detroit Lakes Middle School's George Simson Auditorium. Performance dates and times are Thursday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 7, 3 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 13, 7:30 PM. All tickets are \$10 and reserved seats are available for advance sale at the Central Market courtesy counter in Detroit Lakes. Tickets will also be sold at the door starting approximately one hour in advance of each show.

Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Minnesota State Community & Technical College is presenting five performances of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare-Abridged," at the Waage Theatre on M State's Fergus Falls campus. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 5, 6, 12 and 13, as well as 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14. This production will feature Detroit Lakes' own Jeremiah Kratzke. All performances free and open to the public; however, theater goers should be aware that face coverings are required on all M State campuses at this time.

Roses from Rotary: The 29th Annual Roses from Rotary rose sale will be held on Nov. 4, 5 and 6. Buy a ticket from a Breakfast Rotarian, or just stop by DL Floral (inside Washington Square Mall), 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; the lobby of Holiday Inn Lakefront, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; or the North Shore Travel Plaza, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., while supplies last. (No roses at Bergen's this year due to road construction.) Cost is still just \$20 per dozen; blooms come in a variety of colors. Proceeds go to support local and area hunger, wellness and literacy initiatives.

Kids' Art Club: Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre is hosting a weekly Art Club for kids in grades 3-12, every Monday through Nov. 22. There will be two sessions held each Monday, 4:30 to 6 p.m. for grades 3-6 and 6:30-8 p.m. for grades 7-12. Artist Courtney Stanley will be the club's facilitator. Cost is \$140; pre-registration is required, and all materials are included in the program fee. To sign up, call the Holmes Box Office at 218-844-7469 or visit the website at dlccc.org/holmes-theatre.html.

Cornerstone for Kids: Kids from preschool age up through high school students can come to the Detroit Lakes First Baptist Church, 300 Central St. East, every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for a chance to learn about your faith, understand God and develop a life lasting relationship with Him. There will also be an adult Bible study held at the same time. For more information call 218-847-4571 or send an email to DLFirstBaptistChurch@gmail.com.

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

Baby Poems: Songs, stories, and action poems for infants, toddlers and their caregivers are offered every Monday at the Detroit Lakes

Public Library, starting at 10:30 a.m. Program runs about a half hour including playtime and chatting with other caregivers. For ages 0-18 months. Call 218-847-2168 for more information.

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

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

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

Lakes Area Farmers Market: The Lakes Area Farmers Market is open every Tuesday and Saturday through the end of October at Detroit Lakes' Peoples Park (behind Zorbaz). Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information visit [Facebook.com/LakesAreaFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/LakesAreaFarmersMarket) or call 661-345-7450.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Here is the meeting schedule for the Detroit Lakes Alano Club at 827 Summit Ave. — Sundays at 1 p.m., 12x12 open meeting; Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Big Book open meeting; Wednesdays at 12 noon, Grapevine open meeting; Wednesdays at 6 p.m., women's open meeting; Thursdays at 7 p.m., Intro to AA open meeting; Saturdays at 7 a.m., men's open meeting; Saturdays at 9 a.m., Women's Big Book closed meeting; Saturdays at 8 p.m., open topic meeting. There are no dues or fees for meetings. For more information, call the Detroit Lakes Alano Club at 218-844-9970, or the District 3 AA Helpline at 877-833-2327.

Overeaters Anonymous: Do you find yourself turning to food for comfort? Is your eating affecting your health or the way you live your life? Do you find your mind preoccupied with thoughts of food? If any of these describes you, then Overeaters Anonymous may be for you. No diets to follow, no weigh-ins, no fees — just a 12-step program for those who struggle in their relationship with food. The OA Serenity Group meets Tuesdays at noon in Detroit Lakes' Holy Rosary Catholic Church (1043 Lake Ave.); please use the south parking lot entrance. The Freedom From Bondage OA Group meets on Sundays at 6 p.m. in the Community Alliance Church, 408 West Elm St., Detroit Lakes. Please use the east door.

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



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Vicki Gerdes / Tribune

This Jurassic Park-themed trunk was a popular stop Sunday during the Halloween Trunk or Treat event hosted by Detroit Lakes' Zion Lutheran Church. Event organizers also judged this entry as the "spookiest" trunk out of the 27 included in this year's event.

HALLOWEEN

From Page A1

"It started when Mahube (Otwa) called us and asked if they could have a trunk there," said Sally Askelson, who co-chaired the planning for this year's Trunk or Treat, along with Amanda Sieve.

Haarstick noted that other businesses and organizations sponsoring trunks for this year included the aforementioned La Barista as well as Snappy Company, Health Resources, Hospice of the Red River Valley and the Detroit Lakes Fire Department — though the firefighters had brought their fire trucks to the event before, Roberts added.

Askelson said that they had planned for big numbers, due to the fact

that this year's event was held on Halloween, instead of the Sunday preceding it (as had been the case for previous Trunk or Treat events).

Nevertheless, they barely had enough candy to satisfy all the hungry trick-or-treaters, Roberts noted.

"We had one small bag (of candy) left at the end," Haarstick said. "But we didn't run out."

All in all, organizers were quite happy with the event turnout, and how it went overall.

"A lot of the comments I heard were about how it was great not to have to go from house to house, all over the place, and they still covered a lot of ground," Askelson said, adding that a lot of homes around the church saw large numbers of trick-or-treaters as well.

"It was a safe, fun place for families to go," Haarstick added.

GLASS

From Page A1

So far this year, Becker County has spent about \$21,000 to ship the glass and received about \$12,500 for it, according to information from Skoog.

Last year, Becker County spent about \$15,000 to ship its glass recyclables, and received about \$10,600 in revenues for the commodity.

The amount of glass

that flowed into the county recycling center this year ranged from a low of 19.6 tons in February (traditionally the lowest month) to a high of 57.8 tons in July, which is traditionally the highest-volume month.

But now there may be some competition for Becker County's glass. Otter Tail County has started stockpiling recycled glass at a facility now under construction near the Fergus Falls Transfer Station, with

the building expected to be open for business in a few months.

By early next year, that glass will start being used by the Otter Tail County Highway Department as part of the road base for road construction projects.

Neighbors like Becker County may be able to haul their recycled glass to Fergus Falls instead of St. Paul, potentially saving some money.

That could be the way to go. "It depends on economics," Skoog said.

"They would stockpile it and use it on rural projects as needed," he added.

The other thing to consider is how the recycled glass will be used. Skoog likes the way Strategic Materials turns old glass into a wide array of new products, as opposed to just "burying it in the roadbed."

Not that there's anything wrong with that. "As long as it's clean, roadbed is an acceptable use for that commodity," he said.



Nathan Bowe / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Becker County Environmental Services Director Steve Skoog outside the recycling center.

CHILI

From Page A1

"We want it to be like a community, we want it to be like a family and just love each other and love God," he said. "We want to be a church that gives people a fresh start."

Priddy pointed out the sign displayed near the entry door reads: "Hope starts here."

"When people walk in, I

want them to know that no matter what their past was, they get a fresh start," he said.

Samantha Jerger, a New Hope Church chili contestant, said it's fun to make chili, but it's better when it's for a competition.

"I actually use a different recipe every time," said Jerger. "I feel like it's just bringing everybody together and having so much fellowship."

She added that she makes her chili gluten-free because

her children suffer from celiac disease, a condition that causes an immune reaction in the body from gluten.

"You just have to make sure that the broth you use, or anything you use in it, doesn't have wheat," said Jerger. "Otherwise, it's just a normal chili."

Jerger has also started a program through the church called Trauma Reboot, in an effort to get more people comfortable with talking about traumatic events and

build a community with others who may have had similar experiences.

"The one we are doing right now is just for trauma in general, but there are other courses that we'll offer in the future," she said.

The winners of the event were:

- ▶ First Place - Zach Priddy
- ▶ Second Place - Jim Jensen
- ▶ Third Place - Joe Graham

After the contest, Jim Jensen shared his secret for

making outstanding chili.

"It's that extra touch of brown sugar," said Jensen. "I started it yesterday afternoon, it's a slow cook, a good 12 or 13 hours."

He added that people making chili should not be afraid of cumin either, which is an important part of Jensen's chili.

"(The cook-off) was awesome and this church is awesome," said Jensen

Send your story ideas to Michael at: machterling@dnewspapers.com

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Photos by Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Left: Seven 2021 Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce Splash Awards sit ready to be awarded members of the lakes area community Oct. 28 during a ceremony at the Holiday Inn - Lakefront. **Right:** Mary Beth Gilsdorf, left, and Hans Gilsdorf, right, speak to the crowd Oct. 28 after receiving a 2021 Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce Splash Award during a ceremony at the Holiday Inn-Lakefront.

SPLASH

From Page A1

The third annual event was held at the Holiday Inn-Lakefront in Detroit Lakes and featured an “after-hours” social event for the nominees, awardees and their co-workers.

Andy and Sandy Lia, two longtime Detroit Lakes public figures, hosted the event and previewed each award before it was presented during the ceremony.

The Accelerator Award - Given to an individual who motivates their friends, family, colleagues and community to get involved.

WINNERS: Hans and Mary Beth Gilsdorf

The Gilsdorfs are responsible for numerous art and sculpture projects around Detroit Lakes, including: The “Sunny in DL” sunfish, Detroit Lakes sailboat sculpture at the City Park, the 150 Sails Up public art project commemorating the 150th birthday of Detroit Lakes and the Polar Fest ice palaces.

“When Carrie called and told us we were nominated, she read the Accelerator Award, and I kind of laughed because at the end I could’ve added, ‘whether you wanted us to do that, or not,’” said Mary Beth Gilsdorf.

Hans Gilsdorf added, “With

the ice palace, our motto is kind of, ‘for the community, by the community,’ and it really does take a community to make these things happen and ... we always come together to do the greatest things.”

The Ripple Award - Given to a club, group, or non-profit that motivates people around them to be engaged and contributing members through events, volunteer projects, or service.

WINNER: Essentia Health

“In 2017, Essentia Health started a program to encourage its employees to volunteer in the community,” said Andy Lia. “Since then, employees have recorded 8,000 volunteer hours, and even during the pandemic, employees found ways to volunteer, from helping a neighbor to donating blood.”

The Launch Award - Recognizes an individual in the community whose leadership, volunteerism, energy and willingness to serve propels projects, and the community, forward.

WINNERS: Terry and Sandi Kemmer

The Kemmers are volunteers at First Lutheran Church, the Detroit Lakes chamber leadership program, the downtown Street Faire at the Lakes, and at the Historic Holmes Theatre.

“We’ve been here since 2021 ... and we have found that the best way to get acclimated to a

city is to volunteer,” said Terry Kemmer. “And it just teaches you about the community, you learn so much about the community in the volunteer efforts, and you get to know people and you recognize faces, and it’s just a wonderful way become a part of a community.”

The Wave Award - Recognizes a current chamber member that sets an example for promoting and investing in regional tourism and hospitality industry.

WINNER: The Friends of Tamarac

“This volunteer group has a long history of supporting (Tamarac National Wildlife) Refuge activities and for creating innovative programming and partnerships,” said Andy Lia. “Their work to build the Discovery Center ... and school (environmental) curriculum will leave lasting impressions and a love of nature for all ages.”

The Beacon Award - Given to an individual who is a long-standing volunteer and repeat performer for their willingness to always step up, participate and lead.

WINNER: Beth Pridday

“T, G, I, P, thank god it’s Pridday, that’s what they say when Beth shows up, I’m just saying,” said Sandy Lia.

Pridday has encouraged local entrepreneurship and has advocated, and volunteered,

for the Humane Society of the Lakes, Essentia Health, the Detroit Lakes Chamber, the Detroit Lakes Kiwanis, the City of Detroit Lakes, Becker County Museum, Propel DL and more, Andy Lia added.

“Honestly, I never thought long-standing and me would be in the same sentence,” said Pridday. “We have embraced all things Detroit Lakes and I’m a firm believer in, if you want to make a change, you should start by making it yourself, and I’m super proud to volunteer with a lot of other people in this community to make it an amazing place to live, work and play.”

The Lighthouse Award - Recognizes a business, or organization, that consistently shows their enduring commitment and long-standing service to the region.

WINNER: BTD Manufacturing

Over the last 40 years, BTD has supported local schools, non-profits and local events through financial donations and allowing their employees to volunteer. In 2021, BTD was responsible for building the 150 small and moderate-sized sailboats for the city’s 150th birthday celebration (i.e., 150 Sails Up), said Andy Lia.

“They donated all the labor and the materials too,” he added.

The Skipper Award - Given

to an individual who demonstrates great leadership within a company, or organization, and has gone above-and-beyond to help the community in the past year.

WINNER: Kelcey Klemm

Klemm, the city administrator for Detroit Lakes, led a team of city staff in projects, including: the new police department, the Detroit Lakes-Becker County Airport runway expansion and improvement project, a new South Shore park, and spearheaded the city’s 150th birthday celebration.

“All of this was a lot of committee efforts, talk about the 150th and Hans and Mary Beth were a part of that, and South Shore Park ... it really was a group effort, and I got to thank my wife and family for putting up with me,” said Klemm. “Thank you so much, I’m really, really surprised.”

A request for nominations for the 2022 Splash Awards will be sent out by the chamber in the spring.

“Just keep an eye out for people who are doing good,” said Johnston. “And if that’s yourself, great, look for our nomination to come out in the spring and we welcome anybody to either nominate someone else, or if you want to nominate you, or your business.”

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

VOLLEYBALL

Tiger tamers

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The start of the section playoffs is a chance for teams to wipe the regular-season slate clean and start fresh. That's exactly what the Detroit Lakes volleyball team did on Thursday night.

The fifth-seeded Lakers (10-16) eliminated fifth-seeded St. Cloud Tech (8-15) in straight sets.

"This feels amazing," sophomore Grace Gunderson said. "We were supposed to lose, but we came out and upset them. It was awesome."

After pulling away to win the first two sets, the Lakers opened up a 15-4 lead in set three. However, with the Tigers' season on the line, they gave one last push for a comeback. Tech brought the set within three with an 8-1 run. Detroit Lakes head coach Lynnsey Machakaire called a timeout to settle down her team in a big moment.

"In watching film on Tech, we noticed that every game they got better," Machakaire said. "They get better every set. I wanted our girls to know that it isn't over until it's over. They're not going to sit back and hand roll over for us on their home court. I needed to bring them in to just compose them down so they could do their jobs fundamentally right. We don't need to be fancy to finish games."

The Lakers put their foot on the gas to close out the sweep with a 25-19 third-set victory.

Sophomore Rylee Johnson ended the match with a left-handed swat into the forearms of two Tech defenders for the win.

Lakers third set win

The difference between Detroit Lakes and Tech on Thursday night was the unforced errors or lack thereof for the Lakers. Without a missed serve and strong support play defensively, Detroit Lakes suffocated a struggling Tigers unit.

"I don't think we missed a serve," Machakarie said. "I expect our girls to serve 97% if they're going to serve on my court. That's just our expectation, and we work really hard on that. I'm really proud of what the girls did tonight. The motto on the back of their shirts is, 'With each other, for each other.' That's the way they played tonight."

Tech had the upper hand early on. The Tigers opened the first set with a 4-0 run to pin the Lakers on their heels early. That's when Grace Gunderson caught fire. She buried five of her 10 kills in the first frame to set Detroit Lakes with a 25-20 win.

Lakers first set win

In the second set, it was Jalynn Gunderson who stole the show. She put home almost half of her team-leading 13 kills en route to a 25-18 set win. Grace and Jalynn Gunderson played nearly every point on Thursday night.

TIGERS: Page B2



Photos by Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Ethan Carrier runs in a 16-yard touchdown in the first half of Detroit Lakes' 21-20 win over Rocori in the Section 8AAAA semifinals on Friday.

Halloween havoc

Lakers knock off defending state champs in 8AAAA semifinals

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

After a run of 729 days, Class AAAA will have a new state football champion. All because Detroit Lakes said so.

The third-seeded Lakers hit the road to spoil Rocori's (5-4) bid at back-to-back state championships with a 21-20 win in the Section 8AAAA semifinal round. For the second straight game, Detroit Lakes overcame a two-touchdown deficit with its bend-don't-break defense and an offense determined to win every play.

"I'm just proud," Lakers' head coach Reed Hefta said. "I'm proud of the boys, and I'm proud of the way they played. We came out here and played a dang good Rocori team. Nothing is given. We had to fight for everything we got today. I'm very proud of that."

Rocori started the second quarter with a touchdown to take a 14-0 lead. Senior Brady Blattner ran in a one-yard score to pin the Lakers on their heels.

Rocori 14-0
On Detroit Lakes' next drive, senior quarterback Brady Swiers hit Christian Solberg streaking down the center of the field for a 58-yard catch-and-run touchdown. Junior Evan Thomas nailed the first of his three point-after-touchdown kicks to cut Rocori's lead in half.

"We got off to a slow start again, and that's something that will have to change going into the



Charlie Kalina (left) and Brandton Marsh (right) celebrate Christian Solberg's (middle) touchdown in the second quarter of Detroit Lakes' 21-20 win over Rocori in the Section 8AAAA semifinals on Friday.

section championship," Swiers said. "You can point to this or that or whatever, but it was our attitude. Our attitude changed, and we wanted it. We talked about who wanted it more, and it was us. We wanted it more tonight."

Rocori drove deep into Laker territory on its next possession but turned the ball over on downs after senior Caden Yliniemi broke up Jack Spanier's pass to Hunter Nistler in the end zone.

"We switched to man coverage and started locking them down," Yliniemi said. That helped us to quit letting them have the short routes. We just played well from there. I knew he was going to go out and up. I kind of anticipated it, went up and hit it away."

Detroit Lakes tied the game 14-14 on its next possession with

- ▶ **WHAT:** #3 Detroit Lakes (6-3) vs. #1 Becker (9-0)
- ▶ **WHERE:** Alexandria High School
- ▶ **WHEN:** Friday, 7 p.m.

a 16-yard touchdown run from junior Ethan Carrier. Solberg got the Lakers in the red zone with a 30-yard run a play earlier.

The Spartans nicked and dined their way down the field for the third straight possession to end the first half. With 37 seconds left on the clock, Spanier dropped back to pass, but tucked the ball for a six-yard touchdown run to give Rocori a six-point halftime lead.

Rocori 20-14
On Rocori's final drive of the first half, Solberg was helped off the field. He returned in the second half despite favoring his leg. Swiers knew it would take a

lot more for one of his favorite targets to sit out the rest of Saturday's game.

"He's awesome, and he's a great option to go to all the time," Swiers said. "You know he's playing his hardest no matter what. When he went down, I knew he would come back, or someone would step up. I have all the confidence in these guys."

The Lakers forced a three-and-out on Rocori's first possession of the third quarter but were pinned at their own 17-yard line on a rolling punt. After a couple of first downs, the Lakers needed eight yards to move the chains on fourth down from midfield. Yliniemi, the punter, kept the ball for himself and ran it 10-yards to keep the drive alive.

FOOTBALL: Page B2



(Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune)

Jalynn Gunderson splits to Tiger defenders for a kill in the second set of Detroit Lakes' 3-0 win over St. Cloud Tech in the first round of the Section 8AAA tournament on Thursday.

GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Lakers bring home hardware at Mid-State

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Detroit Lakes girls swimming and diving team came away with four all-conference winners and a podium finish in all 12 events on Thursday night at the Mid State meet in Park Rapids.

The Lakers kicked off the swimming portion with a win in the 200-yard medley relay. Marin Westrum, Madi Gerdes, Cora Martin and Lexi Gerdes brought home the first all-conference honor with a time of 2:03.46. Faith Hamm took first in the 200-

yard freestyle with a time of 2:05.01, while Lexi Gerdes won the 100-yard butterfly (1:05.37). Madi Gerdes rounded out the all-conference finishes with a 1:12.82 time in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Every second and third-place finish was named an all-conference honorable mention. The Lakers had 14 podium finishes in total.

"The Lakers had some impressive performances Thursday night," Detroit Lakes head coach Carol Fischer said. "Our divers, once

again, started us out with some solid dives. Juniors and seniors led the swimmers. A couple of our younger swimmers had some decent time drops—Marian Martin in the 200-yard IM and the 100-yard freestyle, and Emmery Wheeling in the 500 free."

"As we head into the post-season, we have an idea of who we will be up against in two weeks at the Section 8A Championship," Fischer said. "The meet will be very competitive, and there will

SWIMMING: Page B2



Vance Carlson / Forum News Service

Marin Westrum swims to a third-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke in Detroit Lakes' second-place team finish at the Mid State Conference championships on Thursday.

CROSS COUNTRY

FOOTBALL

Thunderbirds punch ticket to 8A final

By Jared Rubado
 Detroit Lakes Tribune

Mahnomen-Waubun will get its rematch against Ada-Borup-West on Oct. 1 by a score of 33-13. The Cougars are 8-1 this season and the top seed in Section 8A championship game.

The Thunderbirds (8-1) Stymied Polk County West (8-2) 12-3 in the 8A semifinal on Saturday afternoon to get one game closer to state. Will Starkey and Dennis Ashley punched in first-half rushing touchdowns while the Mahnomen-Waubun defense allowed only three points.

Starkey led all rushers with 123 yards on 24 carries. Tanner Pazdernik ran for 100 yards on 28 carries and threw for 27 yards. Starkey led the team in tackles with 4.5.

The Thunderbirds out-gained Polk County West 286 yards to 134. Most of Mahnomen-Waubun's yards came on the ground.

The Thunderbirds' only loss of the season was on the road at Ada-Borup-West on Oct. 1 by a score of 33-13. The Cougars are 8-1 this season and the top seed in Section 6A. They took care of Red Lake County at home by a final of 42-14.

Kickoff is at 8 p.m. at the Fargodome, where the winner advances to the Class A state tournament.

POLK COUNTY WEST 0 3 0 0 - 3
 MAHNOMEN-WAUBUN 6 6 0 0 - 12
 SCORING- FIRST QUARTER- MAHNOMEN-WAUBUN- Will Starkey 5-yard TD run, Tanner Pazdernik two-point conversion pass no good, 6-0, 1:17; SECOND QUARTER- POLK COUNTY WEST- Cullen Rohrich 23-yard FG, 6-3, 10:23; MAHNOMEN-WAUBUN- Dennis Ashley 10-yard TD run, two-point conversion run no good, 12-3, 5:58
 MAHNOMEN-WAUBUN TEAM TOTALS- 286 yards total offense, 27 passing yards, 259 rushing yards, 5 penalties for 50 yards, 1 turnover, 1 sack, 18 first downs, 8/13 third down, 0/2 fourth down
 MAHNOMEN-WAUBUN OFFENSE- RUSHING- Will Starkey 24 carries, 123 yards, TD; Tanner Pazdernik 28 carries, 100 yards; Dennis Ashley 3 carries, 36 yards, TD; PASSING- 2-2, 27 yards; RECEIVING- Ashley 1 catch, 21 yards; Loden Clark 1 catch, 6 yards

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



Photos by Eric Morken / Forum News Service

Isla Pender (left) and Julia Steffl pace the Detroit Lakes girls cross country team to an eighth-place finish at the Section 8AA meet in Alexandria on Thursday. Steffl (20:48) and Pender (20:39) finished one second apart and took 22nd and 23rd place.

Seffl, Pender and Weber pace Lakers at sections

By Jared Rubado
 Detroit Lakes Tribune

Julia Steffl and Isla Pender set the tone for the Detroit Lakes girls cross country team to end the season on a high note with an eighth-place finish at the Section 8AA championships.

Steffl (20:48) and Pender (20:49) finished one second apart in 22nd and 23rd place in the field. They gave the Lakers the boost they needed to climb inside the top eight with a team score of 208.

Lilly Baethke and Sadie Jordan did their best Steffl and Pender impressions by also finishing one second apart. Baethke clocked in at 23:04, which was good enough for 53rd place. Johnson's time of 23:05 earned her 54th.

Kira Wolf completed the top five with a time of 23:21. Marin Johnson (23:34) and Karli Skarie

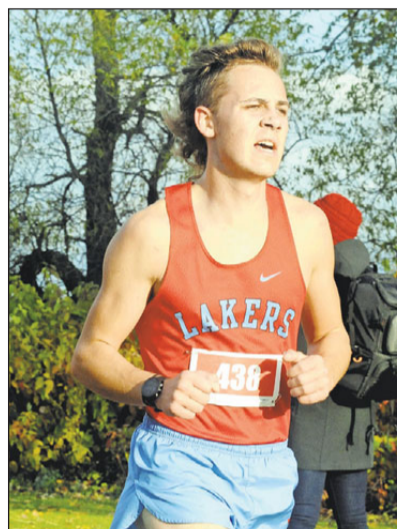
(23:56) both finished under the 24-minute mark.

Senior Cole Weber notched a top 20 finish in his final race as a Laker to lead the boys team to a 12th-place team score of 306. Webber clocked in at 18:09, which was two minutes faster than the next Laker.

Micah Barberg finished in 67th with a time of 20:09. Joe Skinner (20:20), Xander Jessen (21:08) and Hunter Olson (22:00) rounded out the top five. Avery Brown (22:21) and Declan Jessen (23:14) took 80th and 83rd.

SECTION 8AA TEAM SCORES
 GIRLS TEAM SCORES - Willmar - 45; Alexandria - 55; Rocori - 62; Pequot Lakes - 134; Little Falls - 160; Albany - 185; Fergus Falls - 187; Detroit Lakes - 208; New London-Spicer - 232; Thief River Falls - 245; Melrose Area - 269; East Grand Forks - 314
 BOYS TEAM SCORES - Willmar - 71; Pequot Lakes - 90; Alexandria - 95; Fergus Falls - 96; Rocori - 127; Little Falls - 132; East Grand Forks - 140; Albany - 219; New London-Spicer - 234; Melrose Area - 277; Thief River Falls - 285; Detroit Lakes - 306

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



Detroit Lakes' Cole Weber paces the Lakers with a time of 18:09 at the Section 8AA championships in Alexandria on Thursday. Weber took 17th in his final meet as a Laker.

SWIMMING

From Page B1

be some great racing as individuals set their eyes on the State meet. I think everyone is excited to have a two-day section meet again."

Sections will be on Nov. 12 and 13, with the preliminary races on day one leading into the finals on day two at the Detroit Lakes Commu-

nity and Cultural Center.

DETROIT LAKES TOP THREE FINISHES
 200Y MEDLEY RELAY- 1st- Marin Westrum, Madi Gerdes, Cora Martin, Lexi Gerdes 2:03.46; 200Y FREE- 1st- Faith Hamm 2:05.01; 200Y IM- 3rd- Madi Gerdes 2:33.88; 50Y FREE- 3rd- Marin Westrum 27.11; DIV- ING- 3rd- Hope Hamm 329.80; 100Y FLY- 1st- Lexi Gerdes 1:05.37; 2nd- Cora Martin 1:08.57; 100Y 2nd- Faith Hamm 56.84; 500Y FREE- 3rd- Quinn Rogstad 6:18.40; 200Y FREE RELAY- 2nd- Faith Hamm, Cora Martin, Quinn Rogstad, Rylie Wendt 1:51.72; 100Y BACK- 3rd- Marin Westrum 1:10.44; 100Y BREAST- 1st- Madi Gerdes 1:12.82; 2nd- Lexi Gerdes 1:14.57; 400Y FREE RELAY- 2nd- Faith Hamm, Rylie Wendt, Quinn Rogstad, Marin Westrum 4:00.00

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

TIGERS

From Page B1

Lakers second set win

"They're two phenomenal athletes," Machakaire said. "They both can put the ball down, but they can also be very smart with the ball. That's what we talked a lot about in practice."

Both Jalynn and Grace Gunderson are no strangers to making an impact on the court. Freshman Logan Fredrickson, however, notched a breakout game defensively

with seven blocks.

"I was proud to see her stay away from the net," Machakaire said. "She's a freshman. We're working on somebody controlling stuff with her. I didn't care how many blocks she got tonight because she stayed out of the net. Her not giving up any net errors is what I was most proud of her for. When you stay out of the net, you're able to get more of those blocks. I'm very proud of her performance."

Grace Gunderson said it was the defense that allowed the Lakers to settle in offensively and was blown away with the

performance of the freshman middle hitter.

"Our defense was unreal tonight," Grace Gunderson said. "We all played as a team. (Logan) was huge tonight. We needed her to get this win."

"Defensively, they have to set up our offense. Otherwise, our offense can't play," Machakaire said. "Our passing was Phenomenal tonight for how we've been passing this season. This is the best passing I've seen all season. I told them this week that if we can't pass, we can't run these plays."

Detroit Lakes is a better team on the road than at home,

which is why Machakaire wasn't too upset with losing a razor-thin tiebreaker margin for the fourth seed.

"If we would've won one more game in Fergus Falls last Thursday, we probably would've had a home game," Machakaire said. "It was so close, but I really can't complain because we've been playing so well on the road, and we got a win. Now we know we can go on the road in this section and take a team out on their home court."

The Lakers were quick to put their 9-16 regular-season record behind them. They

knew the section tournament was a chance to prove many people wrong and showcase how good they could be when they put it all together.

"I was really proud of the girls because we worked so hard this week," Machakaire said. "I know some people probably don't appreciate this, but I'm not really worried about my regular-season record. We show up at sections, and both teams are 0-0. It's whoever is going to show up and perform that's going to win. Tonight, we showed we were ready to perform."

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

FOOTBALL

From Page B1

"I looked at Hefta and gave him a nod," Yliniemi said. "We knew right then that we were going to run that play. It feels great to know they have the confidence in me to get the first down there."

Detroit Lakes' gutsy play-calling paid off as the offense punched in a one-yard touchdown run with 2:47 left in the third quarter. The Lakers ran a formation where all 11 guys on offense sprinted to the line of scrimmage. Swiers gave a quick handoff to sophomore Mason Carrier, who got the one-yard needed for the game-tying touchdown. Thomas put the Lakers ahead with the PAT.

Detroit Lakes used the hurry-up formation three times on Saturday. The first two worked for first downs, while the third provided the game-winning touchdown.

"Get up to the line, get the ball in our big guys' hands and make sure it's quick," Hefta said of the offensive formation on Mason Carrier's touchdown. "If you're quick and you know you can get a push, it keeps teams on the ropes."

DL 21-20



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Jacob Ehnert celebrates a Rocori three-and-out in the fourth quarter of Detroit Lakes' 21-20 win over Rocori in the Section 8AAAA semifinals on Friday.

The Detroit Lakes defense had another tale of two halves. The Lakers closed out the final two quarters without giving up a point after getting torched by Rocori's dynamic offense in the first 24 minutes. The Spartans turned the ball over on downs three times in the final 12 minutes, with two of those drives ending inside the Lakers' 28-yard line.

"These schemes stayed the same, but the

intensity got better," Hefta said. "Our guys really started to buckle down and do the things we ask them to do. It's tough to play man coverage against some of the best receivers in the section."

While a one-point cushion ended up being enough, it certainly wasn't comfortable. The offensive play calling went from high risk, high reward to ball security and clock

management. Detroit Lakes put a laboring Solberg at quarterback in the wildcat formation on its final two drives on first and second downs.

"Isn't he a warrior? He just went out there and battled for this team tonight," Hefta said of Solberg. "I'm just so proud of the grit in these guys and how they go out there and just battle. You have to be so proud of that as a coach or a fan watching that."

With under a minute left, the Lakers got the game-clinching first down inside the Rocori 20-yard line.

"They're such a resilient group of young men," Hefta said of his team completing another comeback. "We ask a lot out of them, and there's a lot of time delegated to this throughout the year. They handle adversity well. There are bumps in every road. We had a group of young men that had some good passes thrown at them. (Rocori) has a great quarterback and receivers. Our guys did a good job of responding to them and continued to be consistent. We were able to get after it and play Laker football."

For the seniors, each playoff game is another chance to buy 48 more minutes on the field. While Saturday's

outcome looked bleak early on, the Lakers banded together to buy 11 kids at least one more game.

"Man, these younger kids just stepped up for us seniors today," Yliniemi said. "It feels great, and now we get to go up against Becker and hope for the best. If we practice hard this week, good things will happen."

"It didn't really hit me until this morning that this could be my last (game)," Swiers said. "It makes you play a little harder and a little better. It was definitely in my mind tonight."

Following each playoff win, the hill gets steeper. For Detroit Lakes, the hill might be the steepest it's ever been as they go head-to-head with Class AAAA's No. 1-ranked Becker (9-0). The top-

seeded Bulldogs took care of business on Saturday against fourth-seeded St. Cloud Apollo by a score of 51-7.

"The job is not done," Hefta said. "We have to know that we can hang with teams regardless of who they are, but we have to be physical. Becker is going to be a team that's going to put us on the edge. We have to be so smart and so sound. We have got to keep playing physical, Laker football."

DETROIT LAKES 0 14 7 0 - 21
 ROCORI 8 12 0 0 - 20
 SCORING- FIRST QUARTER- ROCORI- Mason Dahl 26-yard TD run, Brady Blattner two-point conversion run, 8-0, 5:43; SECOND QUARTER- ROCORI- Blattner 1-yard TD run, conversion no good, 14-0, 10:41; DETROIT LAKES- Bradley Swiers 58-yard TD pass to Christian Solberg, Evan Thomas PAT good, 14-7, 9:51; DETROIT LAKES- Elhan Carrier 16-yard TD run, Thomas PAT good, 14-14, 2:16; ROCORI- Sparrier 6-yard TD run, conversion no good, 20-14, 0:37; THIRD QUARTER- DETROIT LAKES- Mason Carrier 1-yard TD run, Thomas PAT good, 21-20, 2:47

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

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'Dune' lives up to lofty expectations

When the movie delays started early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the film I was most bummed about having to wait and see was "Dune." But I can finally say it was worth the wait.

Denis Villeneuve is one of the best filmmakers on the planet right now. When I heard he was behind the "Dune" reboot, I was over the moon. He's made some of the best sci-fi movies ever, and there's nothing more sci-fi than "Dune."

The original is a 1984 picture that didn't live up to expectations. It was a frail comparison to a much more beloved sci-fi franchise in Star



JARED RUBADO

Wars. Since then, it's become a cult classic. Both the original and rebooted "Dune" films are adaptations of the novel series. A small pocket of "Dune" fans would go to war for the books and the old movie.

"Dune" is the story of Paul Atreides, a teenager born into a family destiny that's greater than he understands. His coming-of-age story is heightened in a trip to the most volatile planet in the

universe to protect his family lineage. Nations battle over spice, the most valued resource in existence—those who control the spice control the political landscape. After Paul sees his family ties in the spice game start to crumble, it's up to him to be the savior he was meant to be.

I gave "Dune" a 98/100. It's the best new release I've seen since "Parasite." This is part one of a two-part saga, and it hits on every single point for me.

This is the most visually stunning movie I've ever seen. If you choose to see this at home instead of in theaters, you are doing yourself a disservice.

This film is the reason why theaters exist. Do not watch this on HBO Max before making a trip to the theater. It's beyond worth it.

Hans Zimmer is the best in the game when it comes to directing a movie's music. The score for this film was some of Zimmer's best. There's so much weight behind the music that adds to how tense "Dune" feels. It's supposed to make you understand how life-or-death the predicaments the characters find themselves in, and I believe Zimmer delivered.

The acting is top-notch. You won't see a cast this stacked for a long time. Timothee

Chalamet, Zendaya, Rebeca Ferguson, Jason Momoa, Oscar Isaac, Stellan Skarsgard, Dave Bautista, Javier Bardem and Josh Brolin all star in "Dune." Every single one of these people is more than qualified to be a leading role in a film. To have most of these actors take supporting roles for this movie is so awesome. I've seen some complaints about the lack of depth in character development. While I don't agree in this instance, it is a common problem with stacked casts. That's up to the interpretation of the viewer.

"Dune" is not a movie for people who don't like sci-fi. If

you couldn't get into something like Star Wars, you shouldn't watch "Dune." If you love projects like Lord of the Rings, this is right up your alley.

Even in my highest expectations, "Dune" found a way to exceed them. Villeneuve's style of filmmaking combined with the lore of a deep sci-fi story is my kind of movie. Villeneuve also made "Blade Runner: 2049" and "Arrival," which are two of the best movies I've ever seen. I think "Dune" has a chance to be the best of the three.

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Forum file photo

Blind Joe.

Blind Joe pushes his anti-mask anthem, 'I Will Not Comply'

By John Lamb
The Forum

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Country singer Blind Joe is gaining some fans with his new single, "I Will Not Comply."

A video of him performing the anti-mask anthem was posted to YouTube in February, where it has received more than 63,000 views. Recently he has been posting clips to other streaming platforms and talking it up on his social media accounts.

Responses have been positive, with viewers in Australia and Europe applauding.

The singer and guitarist, born Joe Bombersbach, is a 2000 graduate of Fargo North High School. He first garnered national attention in 2015 when he was a contestant on "The Voice." He moved to Nashville in 2019.

In the song he sings: "Quit tryin' ta take me to task cuz I don't

wanna wear a mask "Or take a vaccine that could maybe make me die

"They've got no scientific evidence to back that crap up

"All they do is feed us lie after lie "That's why I will not comply."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Wearing masks can help communities slow the spread of COVID-19 when worn consistently and correctly by a majority of people in public settings and when masks are used along with other preventive measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing and cleaning and disinfecting."

In March 2020, Blind Joe posted a video to YouTube for a song, "We Won't Catch Corona," encouraging people to stay home and "play on your phones" to avoid contracting the coronavirus.

REVISITING HIS ROOTS

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

Some high school graduates are so determined to move away from home as soon as they're old enough that they don't stop to think about what their hometown means to them. Perham native Cory Hepola was one of them.

Now 40 years old and a WCCO radio host and two-time Emmy Award winner, Hepola has made it in the big city, just like he always dreamt. He lives in the Twin Cities with his wife and kids, and has a good life. But recently, he started thinking more about his youth in Perham, about what he may have missed out on by moving away.

"I have a passion and love for Perham and Otter Tail County," Hepola said. "I've been really reflective and nostalgic for my youth and all these things in Otter Tail County I never even bothered to do or try to learn about. (When I was young) I was so laser-focused on where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do."

So, when Otter Tail County reached out to Hepola to ask him if he wanted to help promote the county through a film documentary, he said 'Yes.' And the 7-part video series, "Rural By Choice," started to take form.

Throughout "Rural By Choice," Hepola explores even the most rural corners of Otter Tail County, interviewing residents, trying his hand at fishing, learning about farming, and discovering all the reasons why people love to live here. He took the opportunity to learn more about his home county — the parts he never explored in his youth — and all the reasons why people choose to stay.

"I just realized there was so much beauty I hadn't explored," Hepola said.

Directed by Micah and Jenna Kvidt of Kvidt Creative, and co-produced by Hepola and Otter Tail County's Rural Rebound Initiative Coordinator Erik Osberg, "Rural By Choice" premiered its first episode at the Comet Theater in Perham on Sept. 11 before being released online the following day. Since then, the ensuing episodes have been released weekly on the Otter Tail Lakes Country YouTube channel, and they've gained thousands of views from people across the country.

Recently, it was announced that the series was selected to be showcased at the Twin Cities Film Festival, among other distinguished entries: "I was totally humbled," Hepola said.



Contributed / Cory Hepola / Perham Focus

Cory Hepola stands with his family at the premiere of "Rural By Choice," at the Comet Theater in Perham on Sept. 11.

Though he, along with Osberg and the Kvidts, politely thanked the callers who gave them the news about their series being featured at the festival, Hepola admitted that, as soon as the call was over, they were yelling and jumping and celebrating in excitement.

"Rural By Choice" will be screened in-person at the Showplace ICON Theatre in Minneapolis as part of the festival, on Oct. 24 at 4 p.m., as well as online. After the showing, Hepola and the other filmmakers will host a Q&A. For tickets and more information about the festival, visit twincitiesfilmfest.org.

What he saw and learned

Throughout his time filming the series, Hepola had the opportunity to speak with a wide variety of people throughout the county. He kept the interviews casual, letting himself simply see where the conversations went — and he found that they ended up going in quite interesting directions.

"I planned to go fishing (with Erik Osberg), but I didn't know where the conversation would go or lead," Hepola said. "Fishing was great, but the conversation was the truly memorable part."

It stood out to him how different Osberg's life is from his own. Due to his job and urban

environment, Hepola is very connected to his phone. He was shocked to see that when Osberg goes fishing, which he does whenever the weather is nice, he completely disconnects. That's something Hepola is hardly able to do himself, and he admires it.

Hepola also had the opportunity to delve into deeper, more difficult topics in his conversations for the series, such as the cultural and political divides between rural and urban Minnesota. He began to realize how these divides often stem from stereotypes. As he explains in his docuseries, for example, he had preconceived notions about farmers. Despite his mother growing up on a farm, he thought farmers lived simple lives and did a lot of dirty work. But after spending a day working on Otter Berry Farm for the docuseries, he realized that his idea of farming was all wrong; he didn't know anything about farming or the hard work that goes into it.

"This is the danger of stereotypes," he said. "When people are willing to listen and try to empathize, a great dialogue comes up."

"There's this belief about the rural and urban divide, that we're so different and that we can't get along, but that's inaccurate," he continued. "Let's celebrate our differences. If people go in with an open ear and mind, we learn so much from each other... There are great people from all over."

Hepola said people have been reaching out to him about "Rural By Choice" and telling him how inspirational they find it. He's even received emails from viewers in Washington and Texas who were able to relate to it.

Everyone has a home and a place where they grew up, and Hepola believes "Rural By Choice" encourages everyone to look back at their youth and reconsider the people and places around them. What did you miss? Who or what did you take for granted? You'll find that you grew up in a really special place, he said.

Filming the series has only enhanced Hepola's love for his hometown and county.

"(Otter Tail County) is a special community," he said. "That's been kind of humbling — the amount of people from home who are proud that one of us was able to tell this narrative... I want everybody from Perham and Otter Tail County to know just what a special place it is."

Elizabeth Vierkant is a reporter for the Perham Focus. She can be reached at evierkant@perhamfocus.com

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We didn't let our oldest of four sons watch Power Rangers when he was young, even though he desperately wanted to. And the reason was, I dunno, maybe he might confuse the magic and power of the Rangers with the power of Christ or something like that, or maybe they're bad role models?

Yeah, well good for us, because in 2008 when our youngest son was six years old all he could talk about was his love for the Red Power Ranger. We had caved. It was also the summer of 2008 when our third son was eight and came home from "Explore the World" Day Camp with exciting news: "Mom, there's this place with books you can get for free with really cool information and stories about the world. We even have one in our town! It's called the library." I didn't get "Mom of the Year" in 2008.

Now, I think of the access to all sorts of news, information and "stories" via the handheld device in their hands. The Internet has been a godsend, as well as one of the most harmful places for our children (and ourselves) to fall prey to. We start to wonder and compare: Who does the world say we are? Are we good looking, successful and 'doing it right,' and how many 'likes' is good enough? Sadly, we compare ourselves to others in the world while trying to find our own identity.

But listen: Our real identity comes from who God says we



DEBBIE GRIFFITH
Everyday Matters

are. We are his kids, fearfully and wonderfully made, and he loves us for who we are and not for what we do. There are no conditions to His love. He just loves us. Think about it! You are created in the image of God himself; by a creator who doesn't make mistakes. ALWAYS remember you are not a mistake, even though you make mistakes.

Zero judgement from me if you've used media on any device as a pacifier. You are not a bad parent. You're a parent. It's trying, tiring and frustrating at times. The Internet has helped and saved you. I get it. It's helped me too. We must simply establish healthy boundaries, for our children and ourselves.

Know Jesus. Know what the gospel is about. It will save you. He will save you. As Christians, we are supposed to be telling people the gospel, which is the good news about who God is, and what he has done for us to bring us into a right relationship with him despite our lack of curiosity about him, and our focus on ourselves instead of him. The precondition to loving God and sharing the gospel is to know him.

Most people are born into

a certain religion, or learn it from their parents or their culture, and they either adopt it without thinking or they reject it without thinking. They are not interested in investigating who God is, using reason and evidence, including scientific and historical evidence. That does not mean the evidence isn't there. A good start is reading Josh McDowell's book, "Evidence that Demands a Verdict," Lee Strobel's "The Case for Christ," or C.S. Lewis's "Surprised by Joy" and "Mere Christianity."

The best investment of your time is to investigate whether God is real. If he isn't, who cares what he says? If He is, we should all care what he says. It's wrong to say that investigating doesn't matter or that all religions are the same. God has left clues of who he is in the natural world and in history — he expects us to be looking for him. He is as real as any other person you know, and his character is as defined as that of any other person you know.

He says, "He who seeks me diligently will find me." (Proverbs 8:17) He doesn't say you will find him if you seek him flippantly. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

I recently connected with this. We have made a very fatal error in our search for meaning and significance. In our frenzy to reach the "top," whatever or wherever that is,

we mistake prominence with significance. Humanity has deluded itself into thinking that if I am well known, well liked, in great demand and prominent, then I will find true meaning. The brokenness and heartache of places like Hollywood would beg to differ. Mistaking prominence with significance and meaning is a very deadly error. It results in a mad rat race as people, desperate to fill the emptiness, scurry to the 'top.' No thought is given to whether they will actually find what they're looking for. No consideration is given to the thousands of people who made it to the world's idea of "top" and then were bitterly disappointed.

"The top" just doesn't cut it. Position and prominence will never fill the eternity God has put in our hearts. As with so many things regarding the kingdom of God, the road to significance and meaning is the direct opposite of the world's path. Jesus said that if you want to be great, if you want to know that you're making a positive contribution, if you really want to find meaning, then stop trying to be important.

Jesus's answer to a world frantically searching for meaning is this: Learn to serve! In being a servant — someone who seeks to lighten the load of others — we find fulfillment and freedom.

Find the freedom. Find the identity in who God says you are. Let your children find him, and along the way you

may be surprised at what else they find.

I believe through all the trenches of parenting, social media and Power Rangers that our four sons have all "found" Jesus. They know him personally. The pull of media can be bad, but there are also a million ways to find the blessings within good boundaries.

During the summer of 2018, only two of the four boys remained at home, and the one would leave for college in the fall. For some reason, I remember focusing on my role as a mom that summer, and there was God, always ready to show me that despite my "bad mom" moments, he has been there all along with his grace and parenting in my life as his child. That is such comfort. As I was journaling on the couch about my mom habits, David announced he was headed out to the library.

"Dave, why are you going to the library? Are you just going to meet up with someone?"

"Ah no Mom. I'm going to check out a book."

"Really?"

Really. And he did and he does, and he reads them. Joey does too. Who knew? God does. He knows us. He knows His kids and all the crazy things of this world and with all of it, he loves us like crazy too.

This column is a regular feature of the Faith page. Debbie Griffith is a Detroit Lakes-born speaker, radio personality and writer who now resides in International Falls, Minn.

'The Second Death' a concept that's not without hope

Fargo Through the "Bible in a Year" podcast, I've recently been reading Sirach, one of seven deuterocanonical books in the Catholic canon of the Old Testament not included in Protestant versions.

The book comprises the stalwart advice of a parent, Ben Sira, a Jewish scribe, to his son.

Though Sirach permeates with wisdom, it can be humbling. In Chapter 10:9, we get a solid sense of that through these words: "How can he who is dust and ashes be proud?"

Podcast guide Father Mike Schmitz said it's easy for us to place ourselves at the center, forgetting that our lives are fleeting; that we are mere dust. Later, in Verse 17, we read of whole kingdoms being extinguished from the face of the earth.

Father Mike recalled here a conversation he once had with his spiritual director, who told him that, eventually, no one would remember him, just as many of



ROXANE B. SALONEN
Faith Conversations

us have forgotten the names of our great-great grandparents.

Eventually, our names, too, will fade out of consciousness, and no one on the earth will remember or know we ever existed. The world will move on.

Father Mike then shared a concept he once came across introducing the idea of "The Second Death," or, "the last time someone utters your name." Remembering this, he said, can keep us from pride.

Pondering the idea, I fast sensed my own littleness. In the end, I will make only a small dent on this earth, and even that will quickly dissipate.

But then I realized something else. While it's true our names will be forgotten by those on the earth, the one who

calls us each by name has an eternal memory that never fades. God holds us and our names near always, and if we reach the ultimate goal of eternal life with him, we will hear our name called by him forever.

Having been called into existence, we can never be erased from God's mind.

It's like the resurrection, which conquered death. Life eternal means we cannot be extinguished; not by God, anyway. What hope we find here!

I also called to mind my father's nickname for me as a little girl: "Rock." Though it seemed only an endearing shortcut then, I now see more. Perhaps in this name, my father wanted to impart to me his desire that I be strong, at least internally, and use that strength for good, remembering, and holding fast to, the true Rock.

Our names are a huge part of our identity, and God calls us by them, summoning us to

himself. On the earth, our names will become as nothing in time, but we can be assured God holds our name and our essence very close to him for all eternity.

Or, as it was put in

a Lenten reflection: "We are dust, yes, but precious dust in God's eyes."

May we live with the realization of our fleeting nature and our eternal value, allowing each to

bring us closer to our ultimate destination.

Salonen, a wife and mother of five, works as a freelance writer and speaker in Fargo. Email her at roxanesalonen@gmail.com, and find more of her work at Peace Garden Passage, http://roxanesalonen.com/

Fate of religious exemptions for vaccine mandates uncertain

By Paul John Scott
The Detroit Lakes Tribune
ROCHESTER, Minn. — A lawyer representing more than 100 Mayo Clinic employees seeking religious exemptions to mandatory COVID-19 vaccination believes the health care industry will soon face lawsuits for denial of such requests.

In late September, Minneapolis attorney Gregory Erickson filed a suit against a collection of large providers on behalf of 200 anonymous health care employees. The goal was to block vaccine mandates within hospitals, but U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Brasel declined to take that step. Erickson said most of those suing were by then granted religious or medical exemptions from their employers, placing the lawsuit on hold.

Employees can file an application for religious

exemption with their employer, which employers can then reject — but that opens the employer to being sued for religious discrimination.

Now he has 300 clients — 100 of which are Mayo employees. Erickson believes there are currently thousands of requests for religious exemptions that have been honored statewide.

"In my experience, that number is in the hundreds," he said, "and I represent a tiny fraction of employees in the state of Minnesota." Of the 100 Mayo employees he now represents, Erickson says that "they have retained me in the event that their employer turns down their request for a religious exemption."

"Mayo Clinic recognizes that some employees have deeply held religious beliefs and medical reasons that will lead them

to seek exemption from COVID-19 vaccination," Mayo spokesperson Kelley Luckstein said.

"In compliance with established laws, Mayo is offering employees the option to request a medical or religious accommodation. Employees have started submitting medical and religious exemption requests, some of which have been approved."

Erickson anchors the religious opposition to the vaccine in the use of decades-old fetal cell lines during testing.

"A lot of the Christian and Catholic type employees have a major objection to the fact that the vaccines are created with the use of fetal cells, and they don't feel comfortable putting something in their body that's associated with abortion," Erickson explained.



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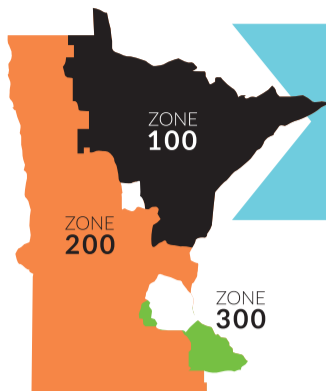
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On the bottom of that page, click on the button that looks like this:

TAKE ME TO THE DEALS PAGE

THE HUNT IS ON

The firearms deer season in Minnesota is highly valued for recreation and the economy. Deer hunting revenue supports many wildlife programs. Here is a primer for the 2021 season:



2021 FIREARM SEASON INFORMATION

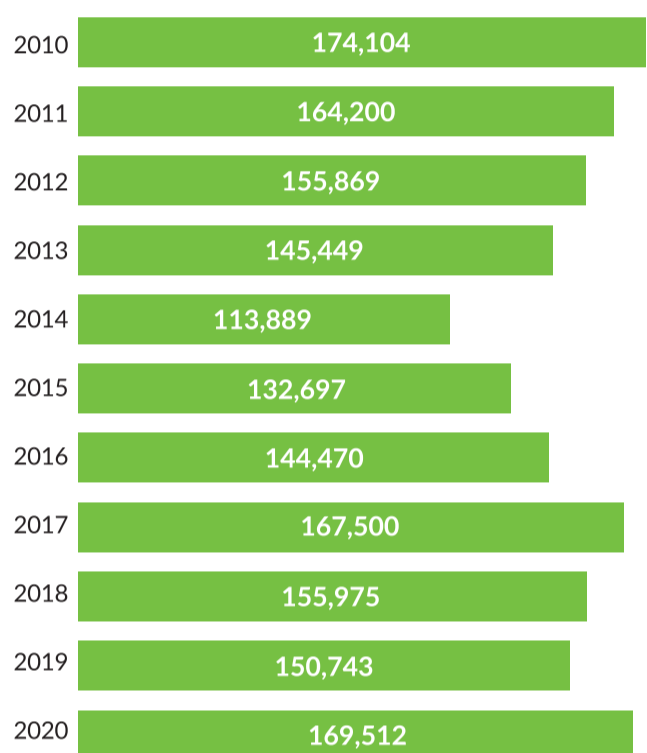
SATURDAY NOV. 6 TO SUNDAY NOV. 28

Dates for the firearm season differ by deer management zone.

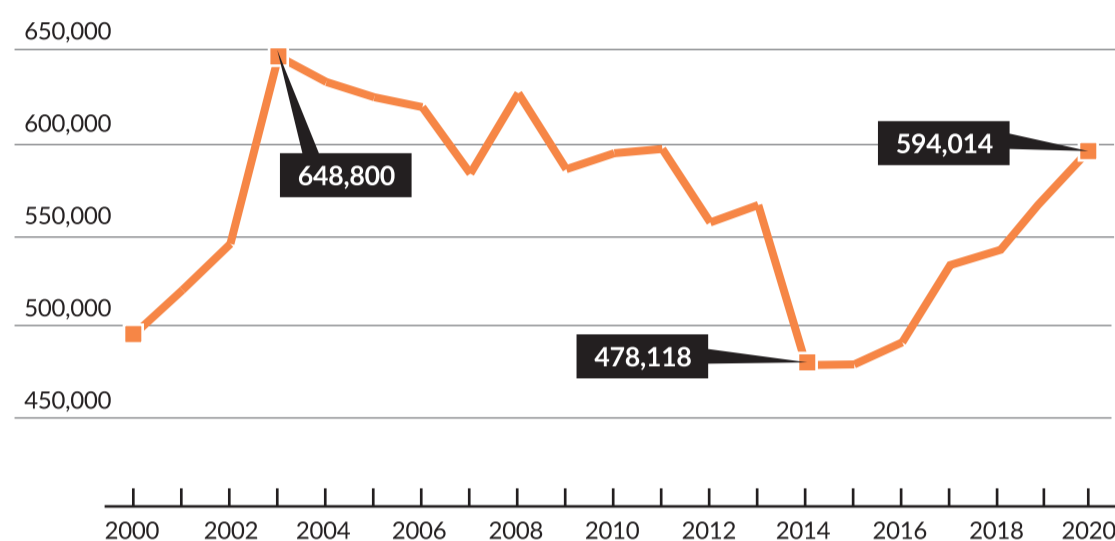
- ZONE 100: Nov. 6 - Nov. 21
- ZONE 200: Nov. 6 - Nov. 14
- ZONE 300: (A) Nov. 6 - Nov. 14 (B) Nov. 20 - Nov. 28

- More than 85% of hunters in Minnesota hunt deer.
- Over 500,000 deer hunters in Minnesota, about 1 out of every 10 people.
- Hunting is the primary method used to manage the deer population.
- Minnesota ranks 8th in the U.S. for likelihood of a deer-vehicle collision.

MINN. 2010-2020 FIREARM DEER HARVEST

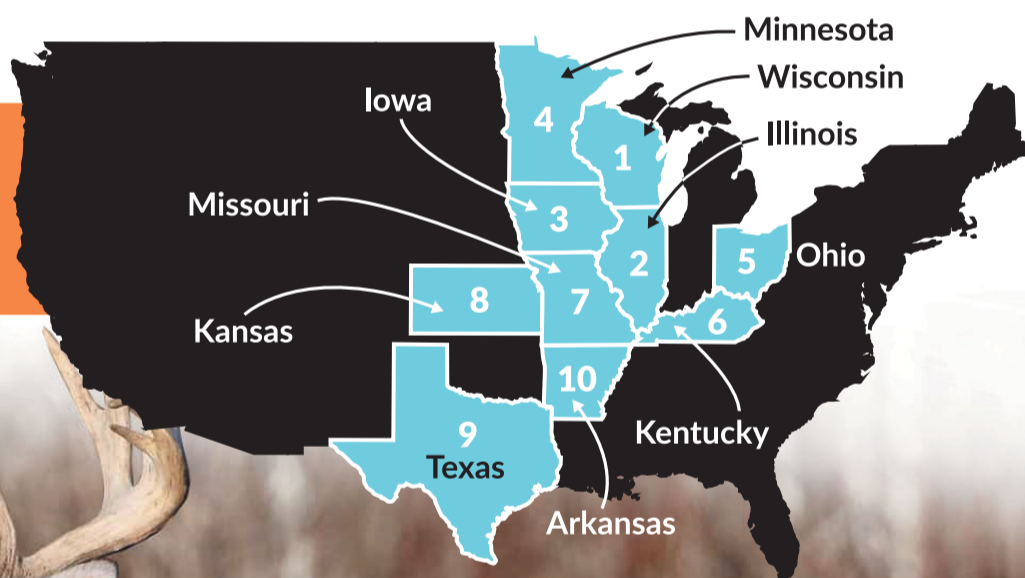


MINN. FIREARM LICENSES SOLD 2000-2020



2020 TOP 10 WHITE-TAIL STATES

For years, hunters have debated which states were the best bets for big bucks. American Hunter based its list on the most Boone & Crockett record book entries since 2000.



SAFETY FIRST

All hunters must display blaze orange or pink on the visible portion of the person's cap and outer clothing above the waist. Blaze orange or pink camouflage patterns are allowed and must be at least 50% blaze orange or pink within each square foot.

Males regrow their antlers every year.

Deer have two-color vision with blue and yellow primaries. Thus, it is hard for them to see bold oranges and reds.

Odocoileus virginianus
White-tail deer

The most humane place to shoot a deer is the epicenter of the circulatory system just above the heart.

The white-tail raises its tail when alarmed.

Males weigh between 150-200 pounds. Females are in the 88-198 pound range.

Sources: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Whitetail, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Troy Becker / Forum News Service

Temporary off-highway vehicle restrictions begin with firearms deer opener

News Staff

Recreational use of off-highway vehicles will be restricted in some areas where hunters may use rifles during the firearms deer hunting season, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Vehicles affected by the restrictions include all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and registered off-road vehicles such as four-wheel drive trucks that

are not being used in conjunction with deer hunting by a licensed deer hunter.

The restrictions apply to designated OHV recreational riding trails on state land. These include grant-in-aid trails and state forest trails and access routes, but not state forest roads.

"Recent riding seasons have seen many new OHV enthusiasts hitting the trails for the first time, and many of them may not be familiar

with these longstanding temporary closures," said Bruce Lawrence, recreational vehicle coordinator for the DNR Enforcement Division. "The goal of these closures is simple: To protect public safety and reduce potential conflict between riders and hunters."

Licensed deer hunters may still use these routes in conjunction with their hunting activity:

- Before legal shooting time.

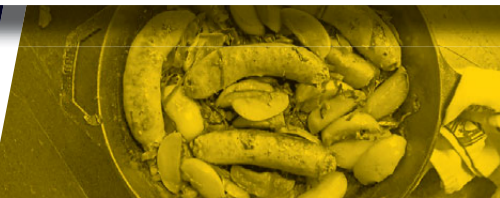
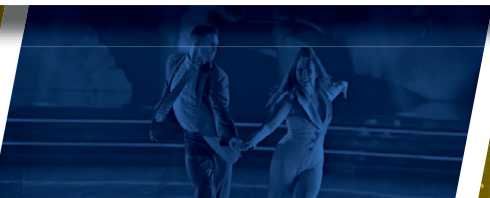
- From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- After legal shooting hours.

Effective dates of the recreational riding restrictions are:

- Nov. 6 - 21 for the northeastern Minnesota 100 Series deer season.
- Nov. 6 - 14 for the Minnesota 200 Series deer season, in those permit areas where hunters may use rifles. The restrictions do not apply in the shotgun zone

of the 200 Series of permit areas, or in southeastern Minnesota, where recreational OHV trails close by Nov. 1 each year.

Visit the DNR website for specific trail closure information. For more information, see the 2021 deer season map online or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 651-296-6157 (888-646-6367 toll free).



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It's time to embrace the cast-iron skillet, Page 5

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA

US UNVEILS CRACKDOWN ON METHANE OIL, GAS METHANE EMISSIONS AT CENTER OF EPA PLAN

By Valerie Volcovici and Nichola Groom
Reuters

The United States on Tuesday unveiled a plan to slash emissions of the greenhouse gas methane from oil and gas operations as part of its strategy to crack down on climate change, drawing cautious support from both environmental groups and drillers.

The announcement coincided with the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, where the United States, the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, is seeking to reclaim leadership on the world stage by demonstrating tangible steps to curb emissions at home.

President Joe Biden has set a target to slash greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% by 2030 but is struggling to pass climate legislation through a deeply divided Congress, making policies by federal agencies more crucial.

His administration and the European Union are also seeking to lead a new international pact to reduce methane economy-wide by 30% by 2030, drawing participa-



Jeff J Mitchell / Pool via Reuters

President Joe Biden greets European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during the "Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment" session at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) on Tuesday in Glasgow, Scotland.

tion from over 100 countries.

Methane is the second-biggest cause of climate change after carbon dioxide. Its high heat-trapping potential and relatively short

lifespan in the atmosphere means cutting its emissions can have an outsized impact on the trajectory of the world's climate.

At the center of the U.S. plan to tackle meth-

ane domestically is an Environmental Protection Agency proposal that will for the first time require oil and gas operators to aggressively detect and repair methane leaks. Oil and gas

operations account for a third of methane emissions.

"The timing of this is critical. As we speak, world leaders are gathering right now in Glasgow and they are looking to

the United States for true leadership," EPA Administrator Michael Regan told Reuters in an interview.

Specifically, the proposal will require companies to monitor 300,000 of their biggest well sites every three months, ban the venting of methane produced as a byproduct of crude oil into the atmosphere, and require upgrades to equipment such as storage tanks, compressors, and pneumatic pumps.

The rules will most likely take effect in 2023 and will be aimed at slashing methane from oil and gas operations by 74% from 2005 levels by 2035, an amount equivalent to the emissions created by all U.S. passenger cars and planes in 2019, according to the summary.

The new EPA rules are expected to add "pennies" to the cost of a barrel of oil or thousand cubic feet of gas, according to the EPA's analysis. But oil industry group the American Exploration & Production Council said they could add "significant new costs associated with compliance."

Build Back Better makes progress in US House

Sticking points remain for \$1.75T infrastructure plan

By Richard Cowan and Makini Brice
Reuters

WASHINGTON - One day after Senator Joe Manchin appeared to stymie efforts to advance a bill that is a centerpiece of President Joe Biden's legislative agenda, the measure showed new promise for moving to the full House of Representatives for a vote on passage.

Democrats on Tuesday sought to conclude negotiations surrounding Biden's Build Back Better plan, a \$1.75 trillion framework on social spending and climate change that he unveiled last week. On Monday, influential Democrat Manchin refused to commit to support the legislation,

rebuffing a previous demand by progressives.

Yet in the House, the bill showed signs of moving forward following a series of stops and starts in closed-door negotiations.

Democratic Representative Jim McGovern, the chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee, told reporters the bill could be ready for his panel to process and send to the full House this week.

"Not today, but maybe tomorrow," McGovern said of the possible timing.

His comments came as Democrats cited progress on two controversial items that had been sticking points - prescription drug pricing and loosening a cap on state and local tax deductions, often referred to as SALT, which is important to high-tax

coastal states that help comprise the Democratic Party's base.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told a news conference that Democrats had reached a deal to lower prescription drug pricing.

The agreement included measures to impose a cap on annual out-of-pocket spending and to allow Medicare, the American health insurance program for the elderly, to negotiate drug prices.

Elsewhere, Jimmy Gomez, a California congressman and a member of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, said he thought a measure changing the 2017 cap on state and local tax deductions - imposed during a tax overhaul signed by then-President Donald Trump - would be inserted into the bill.

Following a closed-



Mike Segar / Reuters

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.); Sharon Greenberger, president & CEO of the YMCA of Greater New York, and others applaud as Vice President Kamala Harris concludes her remarks promoting the Biden administration's infrastructure plans Oct. 22 during a visit to the Northeast Bronx YMCA in the Bronx borough of New York City.

door meeting of House Democrats, some lawmakers said Pelosi might seek House passage as soon as Thurs-

day on both a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package passed earlier in the summer by the Senate and the

Build Back Better legislation, although it was not certain that such a swift schedule could be achieved.

CDC director backs COVID vaccine for kids ages 5 to 11

By Michael Erman and Julie Steenhuisen
Reuters

The director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday backed broad use of Pfizer's and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5 to 11, clearing the way for shots to go into young arms as soon as Wednesday.

The announcement comes hours after the advisers to the U.S. CDC unanimously support-

ed the move, saying the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks. Much of their discussion stemmed from rare cases of heart inflammation that have been linked to the vaccine, particularly in young men.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization of the vaccine in 5- to 11-year-olds on Friday.

The FDA authorized a 10-microgram dose of Pfizer's vaccine in young

children. The original shot given to those age 12 and older is 30 micrograms.

"We know millions of parents are eager to get their children vaccinated and with this decision, we now have recommended that about 28 million children receive a COVID-19 vaccine," CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said in the statement.

At the outset of the meeting, Walensky said that pediatric hospi-

talizations had surged during the recent wave driven by the delta variant of the coronavirus.

The risk from COVID-19 "is too high and too devastating to our children and far higher than for many other diseases for which we vaccinate children," she said.

Walensky said school closures have had detrimental social and mental health impacts on children.

"Pediatric vaccination has the power to help us

change all of that," she said.

President Joe Biden described the authorization as a turning point in the battle against COVID-19.

"The program will ramp up over the coming days, and fully up and running during the week of November 8. Parents will be able to bring their children to thousands of pharmacies, pediatrician's offices, schools, and other sites to get vaccinated," Biden said

in a statement.

The CDC presented data suggesting that every million shots of the vaccine administered could prevent between 80 to 226 hospitalizations in children age 5 to 11. Once authorized, some 28 million children will be eligible for the shot.

Pfizer and BioNTech said their vaccine showed 90.7% efficacy against the coronavirus in a clinical trial of children aged 5 to 11.

US House panel subpoenas Big Oil

4 companies, 2 lobbying groups must turn over papers in deception probe

By Timothy Gardner
Reuters

WASHINGTON - The head of a U.S. House panel on Tuesday subpoenaed four major oil companies and two lobbying groups for documents related to their actions on global warming as part of a year-long probe into potential climate deception by the energy industry.

Representative Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat and the chairwoman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, issued subpoenas to Exxon Mobil Corp, Chevron Corp, BP America and Shell Oil, and to industry body the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The committee had asked the companies and organizations on Sept. 16 for documents on issues including their role in contributing to climate change, their marketing and lobbying efforts, and



Joshua Roberts / Reuters / Pool / File Photo

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) presides during a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing Oct. 7 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

any funding of third parties to spread disinformation on climate.

"To date, none of the entities has substantially complied with the Committee's requests" Maloney said on

Tuesday in a memo to fellow members of the committee about the subpoenas.

Maloney had announced last week at the end of a hearing on Big Oil and climate disinformation that she would

subpoena the companies and organizations, saying much of what the committee had received were publicly-available documents.

Maloney and other Democrats on the committee say oil companies have reaped huge profits for decades while they misled the public on climate change and prevented action to curb it. The companies and organizations deny the assertions.

The panel has received some documents from former Exxon lobbyist, Keith McCoy, who was secretly recorded by environmental group Greenpeace, saying the company's support of a carbon tax was a ruse, since the company believed the idea would never become law.

Democrats are modeling the probe on the Big Tobacco hearings of the 1990s which took place over many months and eventually revealed that companies buried evidence that cigarettes are addictive

and harmful.

In response to the subpoena, Exxon spokesperson Casey Norton said the company has now provided almost 130,000 pages of documents "including internal emails."

Shell spokesperson Curtis Smith said Shell will continue to cooperate with the committee.

J.P. Fielder, a BP America spokesperson said BP is reviewing the subpoena and will continue working with the committee. BP has provided more than 17,000 pages of documents including internal materials.

Matt Letourneau, spokesperson for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said "we will review" the subpoena.

API spokesperson Bethany Aronhalt Williams said the group will work with the committee.

Chevron did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Facebook will shut down its facial recognition system

By Sheila Dang
and Elizabeth Culliford
Reuters

Facebook Inc announced on Tuesday it is shutting down its facial recognition system, which automatically identifies users in photos and videos, citing growing societal concerns about the use of such technology.

"Regulators are still in the process of providing a clear set of rules governing its use," Jerome Pesenti, vice president of artificial intelligence at Facebook, wrote in a blog post. "Amid this ongoing uncertainty, we believe that limiting the use of facial recognition to a narrow set of

use cases is appropriate."

The removal of face recognition by the world's largest social media platform comes as the tech industry has faced a reckoning over the past few years over the ethics of using the technology.

Critics say facial recognition technology could compromise privacy, target marginalized groups and normalize intrusive surveillance. IBM has permanently ended facial recognition product sales, and Microsoft Corp and Amazon.com Inc have suspended sales to police indefinitely.

The news also comes as Facebook has been under

intense scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers over user safety and a wide range of abuses on its platforms.

The company said more than one-third of Facebook's daily active users have opted into the face recognition setting on the social media site, and the change will now delete the "facial recognition templates" of more than 1 billion people.

The removal will roll out globally and is expected to be complete by December, a Facebook spokesperson said.

Privacy advocacy and digital rights groups welcomed the move.

Alan Butler, executive

director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said, "For far too long Internet users have suffered personal data abuses at the whims of Facebook and other platforms. EPIC first called for an end to this program in 2011," though he said comprehensive data protection regulations were still needed in the United States.

Adam Schwartz, senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said that although Facebook's action comes after moves from other tech companies, it could mark a "notable moment in the national turning-away from face recognition."

Facebook added that its automatic alt text tool, which creates image descriptions for visually impaired people, will no longer include the names of people recognized in photos after the removal of face recognition, but will otherwise function normally.

Facebook did not rule out using facial recognition technology in other products.

The company's facial recognition software has long been the subject of scrutiny. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission included it among the concerns when it fined Facebook \$5 billion to settle privacy complaints in 2019.

BRIEFS

Freight train derailed, burned in southern Chile

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - A freight train in southern Chile was derailed and some of its cargo units burned by unknown assailants on Tuesday, officials said, amid tensions between the state and the local Mapuche indigenous group demanding the return of ancestral lands.

The attack on the train, which had been carrying cellulose used to make paper, happened in the South Macrozone area of Victoria, which has been under a state of emergency due to the conflict.

The official said that so far no one had claimed responsibility for the attack.

CIA director makes rare trip to Moscow

MOSCOW (Reuters) - CIA director William Burns is making a rare visit to Moscow to discuss U.S.-Russia relations, the latest in a series of high-level contacts that show both sides want to keep talking despite mutual distrust and a long list of disputes.

A U.S. Embassy spokesperson said Burns was leading a delegation of senior U.S. officials to Moscow on Tuesday and Wednesday at President Joe Biden's request.

Russia's Security Council said Burns, a Russian-speaker and former ambassador to Moscow, held talks with Nikolai Patrushev, the council's secretary and a former head of Russia's FSB intelligence service.

Taliban ban use of foreign currency in Afghanistan

Kabul (Reuters) - The Taliban announced a complete ban on the use of foreign currency in Afghanistan on Tuesday, a move sure to cause further disruption to an economy pushed to the brink of collapse by the abrupt withdrawal of international support.

The surprise move came hours after at least 25 people were killed and more than 50 wounded when gunmen

attacked Afghanistan's biggest military hospital after two heavy explosions at the site in central Kabul.

The use of U.S. dollars is widespread in Afghanistan's markets, while border areas use the currency of neighboring countries for trade.

Nigeria building collapse kills at least 16

LAGOS (Reuters) - Rescuers combed through the rubble of a high-rise building in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos in search of survivors on Tuesday, a day after it collapsed while under construction, as the death toll rose to 16 with scores reported missing.

The Lagos state government said it had put its chief architect on indefinite suspension and launched an independent investigation of the causes of the collapse of what was to have become a high-end apartment block.

Emergency services braced for a second night of work as earth-moving equipment lifted chunks of masonry at the site in the affluent neighborhood of Ikoyi. Large trailers were brought in to help move debris, blocking one of Ikoyi's main roads.

Mexico's National Guard kills migrant, wounds 4

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - A Cuban migrant was shot dead by the Mexican National Guard and four others were wounded after the vehicle they were in did not stop when ordered to do so, Mexican authorities said on Tuesday.

The shooting occurred early on Sunday in the southern state of Chiapas, in an area where a caravan of migrants was heading towards the U.S. border. About 3,000 people set off on foot last month from the city of Tapachula on the Guatemalan border.

Mexico's Human Rights Commission (CNDH) said it had opened an investigation into the shooting, which it said apparently took place when a vehicle ferrying migrants did not adhere to National Guard troops' requests to stop.

GOP Youngkin leads VA governor's race

Race could signal which party has 2022 edge

By Joseph Ax,
Gabriella Borter
and Jason Lange
Reuters

FAIRFAX - Republican Glenn Youngkin was leading Democrat Terry McAuliffe on Tuesday night in the closely watched Virginia governor's election, which could offer clues about which party holds the early advantage in next year's congressional elections.

With nearly three-quarters of the state's precincts counted, political newcomer Youngkin held a 10-point lead over McAuliffe, a long-time Democratic fixture who served as the state's governor from 2014 to 2018.

The race was expected to tighten as more votes were tallied, but election analysts on Twitter favored Youngkin to hold on for a victory.

A McAuliffe loss in Virginia, which Democratic President Joe Biden won by a double-digit margin over Republican then-President Donald Trump last year, would represent a demoralizing setback for national Democrats. McAuliffe saw his lead in public polls evaporate in the campaign's closing weeks.

"We all knew from the beginning it's gonna be a tight race," Biden said about the Virginia election earlier on Tuesday, predicting that McAuliffe would win. "The off year is always unpredictable."

The Republican candidates for lieutenant governor and state attorney general were also leading their races in Virginia, while Republicans appeared poised to recapture control of the state's House of Delegates. The state Sen-



Tom Brenner / Reuters

Adrienne Schweer casts her vote beside her children, Georgia and Sully, during the Virginia Governor's Race Tuesday at Chesterbrook Elementary School in McLean, Virginia.

ate, which Democrats control, did not have any elections this year.

Cultural issues dominated the gubernatorial race, with Youngkin promising to give parents more control over how public schools handle race, gender and COVID-19 protocols, and McAuliffe vowing to protect abortion access and voting rights.

Polls leading up to Election Day showed that Youngkin closed the gap with McAuliffe by appealing to independent voters - a group that was alienated in 2020 by Trump's firebrand style of politics but was more drawn to Youngkin's congenial manner - despite McAuliffe's attempts to tie Youngkin to the former president.

"Comparing him to President Trump really didn't resonate with me," Jacob McMinn, a program manager at a defense contractor, said after casting his vote for the Republican in Fairfax, just outside Washington.

Schools say they do not

include the theory in elementary and high school curriculums, but are trying to respond to the needs of an increasingly diverse U.S. population.

Youngkin's strategy could offer a road map for Republicans trying to woo back suburban moderates in the 2022 elections, where control of Congress and the fate of Biden's agenda will be at stake, without alienating the hard-liners who backed Trump.

But Trump's role in the race still loomed in the minds of many voters after the former president endorsed Youngkin, a former private equity executive.

Voters cited the economy as their top concern, according to a CNN exit poll, ahead of education, taxes and the pandemic.

The winner will succeed Democratic Governor Ralph Northam, who is barred by Virginia's term limits law from serving two consecutive terms.



Sam Wasson / Getty Images / TNS

A sign directs people to the road that leads to the Bonanza Creek Ranch where the movie "Rust" is being filmed on Oct. 22 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

SAFETY ON SET: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Nearly 200 hurt or killed on US sets in 30 years

By Jon Healey and Ada Tseng
Los Angeles Times

As the tragic shooting on the "Rust" set reminds us, filmmaking is not just a risky business but also a potentially dangerous one. Although there are no industrywide statistics about mishaps, an Associated Press investigation found that at least 43 people had died and more than 150 people had suffered "life-altering injuries" in film and TV shoots in the United States from 1990 to 2016.

That's why many other countries around the world require a dedicated safety officer on each set. In the United States, though, there is no such requirement.

Instead, responsibility for overseeing safety rests with someone who has many other responsibilities as well — often the first assistant director, who sets the daily shooting schedule, coordinates with the various department heads and acts as a liaison between the director and the rest of the crew.

Different film sets have different rules, often depending on whether the shooting is being done by union members. And some productions have a mix of union and nonunion workers, further complicating matters.

Here is a rundown of what a film or TV production company is legally required to do regarding safety, what the basic union contract requires, and what other resources are available to cast and crew members who encounter unsafe conditions.

Federal and state agencies

The federal Occupational Health and Safety Act requires employers to provide a "safe and healthful" workplace. But the penalties for violations may not provide much of a deterrent, especially for production companies that are cobbled together for a single film or TV series. For example, after a stuntman on the Georgia set of "The Walking Dead" died while rehearsing a fall in 2017, OSHA hit the producers with the maximum allowable fine: \$12,675.

There's no specific OSHA regime for film and TV shoots; instead, they're subject to the same regulations that apply to most other industries, such as rules for noise, fire prevention, construction safety and personal protective equipment.

Notably, OSHA recommends but does not require film shoots to have a written safety plan for their sites. According to the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the union that represents film and TV crews, "These plans include inspection protocols, emergency medical care, and hazard reporting methods." They also would train employees to identify hazards and identify the people responsible for correcting them, IASTE wrote.

California, which is one of 22 states with its own OSHA program, does require employers to have a written "illness and injury prevention plan" for their worksite and ensure that workers have access to it. As part of that plan, "Employees must be encouraged to inform their employer of hazards at the worksite without fear of reprisal," Cal/OSHA states. The plan also must have "specific methods and procedures for correcting workplace hazards, including unsafe or unhealthy work conditions, work practices, or work procedures, in a timely manner based on the severity of the hazard," as well as "an effective program for instructing employees and their supervisors on general safe work practices and hazards specific to each job assignment."

Federal law guarantees workers the right to report health and safety problems anonymously and request an OSHA inspection "if you believe there is a serious hazard or if you think your employer is not following OSHA standards." The agency adds, however, that a signed complaint is more likely to lead to an inspection than an unsigned one.

Resources on set

A more direct and immediate way to call attention to safety problems is to tell someone on set who's in a position to fix them. Who that person is, though, depends on the production's budget and which unions are involved.

The "basic agreement" between studios, production companies and the Directors Guild of America requires a number of supervisors on DGA-covered film shoots — unit production managers, assistant and associate directors, stage managers — to have received safety training in order to be hired. But it largely refrains from specifying which person is ultimately

responsible for safety on a set.

The exception is for prime-time TV show sets, where the agreement puts the first assistant director in charge of safety, along with more than a dozen other responsibilities. Under that agreement, the first assistant director is to "conduct a safety meeting on the set with cast and crew as required" by the production company, "inspect the set daily for potential safety violations and report any such problems," and "prepare accident reports as assigned."

For low-budget DGA-covered productions, there is a side letter that demands much less in terms of on-set safety. The only mandate is, prior to a DGA member starting work, "The Employer must confirm with the DGA, in writing, that it has established a written safety program to the extent required by applicable law." In many states outside of California, there is no such requirement.

With or without unionized directors, crews and casts, crew members say that it's standard industry practice on films large and small to bring unresolved safety problems to the attention of the head of the department involved, and if that doesn't work, go to the first or second assistant director. And federal law clearly bars employers from retaliating against workers who raise concerns about safety and health hazards; under certain circumstances, workers even have the right to refuse assignments they have reported as hazardous.

Nevertheless, concern about retaliation abounds in an industry where one's next job hinges on having good relationships on set. Workers interviewed by The Times said that they might hesitate to pursue a safety issue up the chain for fear of being branded a troublemaker.

Part of the problem is that there is no independent safety officer on the set, someone whose sole duty is to seek out and respond to health and safety hazards. Instead, crew members say, safety issues are handled by the same people who are trying to keep the production moving and get the filming done on time and on budget — and, in many cases, the same people who will decide whether the person bringing up a safety problem will be hired for the next shoot.

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Theranos trial outcome uncertain after 2 months

Legal experts divided on Holmes' prospects in federal criminal trial

By Ethan Baron
The Mercury News

(TNS) - Two months after Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes' federal criminal trial started in San Jose, legal observers are divided on her prospects.

"It doesn't look good for Holmes," said Neema Rahmani, a former federal prosecutor who's now an attorney at West Coast Trial Lawyers. "I fully expect her to be convicted unless something dramatic happens when the defense puts on their case."

But Bay Area defense attorney Jessica Nall said she believes Holmes "has a fighting shot" to escape conviction. "I'm getting more optimistic for her chances," said Nall, of Baker McKenzie in Palo Alto and San Francisco.

If Holmes — who faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted — is to walk free from what is expected to be a three- to four-month jury trial, she'll have to beat the odds.

"Trials are rare in the federal criminal justice system — and acquittals are even rarer," researchers said in a 2019 Pew report that found rates of acquittal were even lower in jury trials, rather than those decided by a judge alone. Still, said Brian Klein, a defense attorney and former federal prosecutor, "Juries will surprise you."

Through weeks of trial in a U.S. District Court, Holmes has sat upright, flanked by lawyers from high-profile Washington, D.C. firm Williams & Connolly. Her mother, Noel, has been a constant presence in the gallery, often joined by Holmes' partner Billy Evans — the father of her baby — and a shifting cast of friends showing support.

Because the federal government is still making its case, with Holmes' 10-lawyer team defending her via cross-examination until they have a chance to call their own witnesses to testify, "the story is only partially written," Klein said. "A lot could ride on what witnesses are called in the defense."

Prosecutors allege Holmes bilked investors out of hundreds of millions of dollars and defrauded patients with false claims that her now-defunct Palo Alto blood-testing startup's machines could conduct a full range of tests using only a few drops of blood from a finger-stick. She has denied the claims; the prosecution must convince the jury that she intended to defraud the alleged victims.

The government has so far called a number of former Theranos employees to testify as witnesses. "That's always going to be potentially very compelling evidence because you're hearing from people on the inside," said Klein.

Prosecutors have called to the stand one former Theranos employee after another, to testify to the gap "between the way the technology was and the way it was being represented," Nall said.

To overcome jurors' potential belief that ex-employees may have an ax to grind, prosecutors are "really going with the overwhelming approach," Rahmani said, to show the jury that, "even if you don't believe one, there's 10 others there, who are saying the same thing."

However, that insider testimony has not succeeded in getting to the fundamental issue of Holmes' intent, Nall said. "What was in her mind? What was she thinking?"

Holmes' trial fortunes may turn when evidence is presented during her defense about her relationship with former Theranos president Sunny Balwani, whom Holmes has accused of abusing and coercing her. "There's a significant empty chair with Sunny Balwani," Nall said.

Rahmani said he believes Holmes' coercion claim is inconsistent with everything she said and did publicly as the recognized leader of the company. Jurors, for example, heard testimony that Holmes, defending herself and Theranos on national television after a devastating 2015 Wall Street Journal exposé, said, "Anything that happens in this company is my responsibility."

Loving text messages Holmes sent to Balwani and displayed to the jury have also helped prosecutors nip in the bud any potential Holmes claim of coercion, Rahmani said.

With the government focused on Holmes' alleged lies about the capabilities of her startup's machines, the defense during cross-examination has sought to highlight the devices' actual capabilities, such as the tests they could actually perform.

"Any points they score off a government witness where they're able to show that yes, there was something there, that is going to be helpful," Nall said. "They'll be able to show ... that there was existing cutting-edge technology — it just may not have evolved to the level that it needed to be."

Jurors, said Rahmani, could conclude that Holmes engaged in "puffery" but not fraud.

Perhaps the most damning testimony to date relates to a Theranos report — sent to Walgreens executive by Holmes and distributed to investors — imprinted with logos from Theranos and pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer. A former Pfizer scientist told the jury he had probed Theranos, dismissed its technology and was not aware of anyone at Pfizer approving Theranos' use of the logo.

The damage to Holmes' defense from the Pfizer-logo revelations remains to be seen, especially since her lawyers have suggested to jurors that Balwani, not Holmes, ran the Theranos laboratories, Nall said.

If the jury finds that Holmes was herself misled about the maturity of her firm's technology, or that she believed her own hype, jurors could acquit her, Nall said.

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Justin Sullivan / Getty Images / TNS

In this file photo, former Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes arrives at the Robert F. Peckham U.S. Federal Court on June 28, 2019, in San Jose, California.



Eric McCandless / ABC / TNS

Cody Rigsby, left, and Cheryl Burke in a Halloween-themed episode of "Dancing with the Stars."

How an approachable fitness guru became a star

Cody Rigsby is featured in 'Dancing with the Stars' this season

By Meredith Blake
Los Angeles Times

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Cody Rigsby was rarely recognized on New York's Fire Island. It was a sanctuary, a place where "nobody knew my quote-unquote celebrity," says the Peloton instructor, who has been inspiring users to climb imaginary hills since 2014.

"A lot of my demographic are women in the 30-to-50 age range that live in suburbia or middle America," he says, noting that he'd sometimes get noticed while visiting his mom in North Carolina. "There are not a lot of those on a very gay island."

Things changed when COVID-19 struck. As people looked for ways to stay fit at home, Peloton grew exponentially — from 1.6 million users in early 2020 to 5.9 million in June 2021.

So did Rigsby's fame: Something about his exuberant teaching style resonated with people during a period of isolation and uncertainty.

This new reality dawned on Rigsby when he returned to Fire Island this summer, after a year spent doing little besides going to the empty Peloton studio in Manhattan. Instead of the blissful anonymity he once enjoyed, people would come up to him at brunch to ask for a picture. Sometimes they were celebrities.

"I have to put a little bit more of a guard up now," he says via video conference from Los Angeles, where he's capping off a life-changing year with a stint on "Dancing With the Stars." "Because if I'm out with friends and I'm having a good time, which probably includes drinking" — he rolls his eyes for comic effect — "I don't want to be too messy."

This self-deprecating candor is part of what has made Rigsby, 34, an unusually approachable fitness guru — a virtual confidant who helps distract from the pain of a grueling workout by trash-talking Justin Timberlake and sharing cute stories about his boyfriend.

According to social media metrics, he is Peloton's most popular teacher, with nearly a million Instagram followers. His 30-minute Britney Spears

CODY'S ADVICE TO THE STARS

Rigsby is known for his straight talk about celebrities. We asked him to sound off on a selection of famous people and characters.

Carrie Bradshaw: Please fire whoever is the stylist on this new "Sex and the City." What happened to Patricia Field? You let her go to "Emily in Paris" and you guys regret it.

Bennifer: Ben, don't be surprised if you get your heart broken, so don't get rid of your friends so quickly. You might need them.

Kim Kardashian: Girl, haven't you made enough money? Just go

retire, do nothing. And please don't go back to Kanye.

Erika Jayne: I hope she's renegotiating that Bravo contract. She's gonna need more money.

Nicki Minaj: You literally are the best female rapper of all time. I feel that often you forget that and it comes out in insecurities.

Adele: Enjoy the reign you're about to have.

Britney Spears: Do you and live your life. And be happy. Don't worry about being pressured to make music or perform. The fans will still love you. Go have sex with Sam and have babies.

class has been taken 650,000 times and counting — more than any other of the same length. Kristen Welker of NBC News took Rigsby's classes to help her prepare to moderate the second presidential debate in 2020.

Not bad for a job Rigsby took to earn a few hundred bucks while trying to make it as a professional dancer.

Like members of the boy bands that Rigsby so often talks about, each Peloton instructor has a distinct personality type and teaching style: There's the Spiritual One, the Quiet One, the Technical One. Rigsby is the Fun One, effortlessly playing the role of "everybody's gay best friend," as colleague Emma Lovell puts it.

Tall and strapping, Rigsby has Mickey Mouse ears tattooed on his arm. While other instructors focus on form or motivational pep talks, Rigsby peppers his class with kitschy catchphrases, stray pop culture observations and rants about his personal pet peeves. He's been known to sound off on everything from Olive Garden breadsticks to the horrors of the Chuck E. Cheese ball pit. In his popular themed class XOXO Cody, Rigsby spouts sex and love advice to a boisterous pop playlist.

More than anything, he loves Spears. Whenever her music plays during class — which is often — he exhorts his followers, "When we play Britney, we f— s— up."

Rigsby's lighthearted approach has endeared him to users, who upload his humorous diatribes to TikTok and YouTube. On Etsy, you can buy Cody Rigsby prayer candles

and mugs. There's even a fan club.

Still, when Rigsby was announced as a "DWTS" cast member in September, some scoffed at the idea of a spin instructor as a bona-fide "star."

"Celebrity isn't the same celebrity it was when we started this show. It is a much bigger world than just people who are on television," says co-executive producer Deena Katz, who has increasingly cast influencers and other personalities who don't fall into traditional categories of celebrity.

Lovell, who has known Rigsby for about a decade, thinks there is something unique about the intimate yet virtual relationship between Peloton instructors and their audience.

"You're encouraging them, you're making them uncomfortable and out of breath and sweaty. They're trusting you with their bodies, their minds and their hearts. It's a very different experience than just watching somebody on a movie screen."

Part of Rigsby's appeal is his own story of triumph over adversity. His father died of a drug overdose when he was a few months old. He was raised by a single mom — first in Burbank, then in Greensboro, North Carolina. Money was tight, and there were periods of homelessness.

The hardship "forced me to step up to the plate and be responsible for myself at a very early age," says Rigsby, who is more earnest and subdued in conversation than his exuberant Peloton persona would suggest. He speaks

thoughtfully about how therapy helped him work through the emotional baggage of his childhood, and how he relocated his mom, Cindy — who struggles with a variety of health problems — to Brooklyn, "so she can be comfortable and have as much joy as she can."

Rigsby says he was always a natural performer, teaching his sixth-grade classmates the choreography he picked up from Spears' videos. Though there was rarely enough money for dance lessons, he became involved in show choir and musical theater. "I really thrived in those spaces and got to express myself in really conservative North Carolina," he says. "Even though people made fun of me for being gay, I still loved being onstage."

After college, this led him to New York to train as a dancer, juggling professional gigs (performing with Nicki Minaj at a Victoria's Secret fashion show) with whatever side hustle would help pay his bills (cater-waiter jobs).

Lovell, who first bonded with Rigsby when they were hired to dance at a lavish Venetian-themed wedding in Washington, D.C., was immediately struck by his sense of humor. "He says the things you're thinking but would never say out loud, but it's not mean," she says. "It's this delicate balance."

Rigsby was working at the Box, a nightclub on the Lower East Side, when he heard about a new fitness company looking for performers interested in teaching. He sent in a headshot to Peloton, figuring it would be a good side hustle, landing the job after a 10-minute interview. He remembers inviting his friends — "20-something gay New Yorkers who will read you for filth if something's bad" — to an early trial class. Within a year, he was teaching Peloton full time.

"They took a chance on me, and it paid off. And I took a chance on them, and it redirected my life in a big way. It feels very divine, in a way."

Peloton is "fitness meets entertainment," says Rigsby, one of several instructors with a background in performance (British instructor Bradley Rose even appeared in

a Hallmark Christmas movie). "There's a lot of people who can give a credible [fitness] class. But how do you keep people engaged? How do you keep people wanting to come back for more? I think it is the stories that we tell, the vulnerability that we show, the laughter that we share."

"DWTS," where he's competed against Melanie "Sporty Spice" Chisholm, has been the realization of a childhood dream — literally. As a kid, he used to have a recurring dream in which he was friends with the Spice Girls. "I think it stems from watching 'Spice World' so many times," he says.

Still, the "DWTS" experience has been challenging. For the first few weeks, he was flying to L.A. to tape the show, then returning to New York to teach Peloton. Worn down, Rigsby got a breakthrough case of COVID-19 and was forced to compete virtually from his apartment, dancing with partner Cheryl Burke via split screen — to Spears, no less. "I'm still gutted," he says. To maintain his sanity, he's staying put in L.A. for the remainder of the show, teaching from a makeshift studio in Peloton's Pasadena showroom.

The judges have not been particularly kind to Rigsby, but his scores are improving. An avid fan of "RuPaul's Drag Race," Rigsby is savvy enough about reality TV to take it in stride. "I have to remind myself not to be a victim of a television storyline," he says, "and to have fun, because that's what this is all about. To quote myself: 'It's not that deep, boo.'"

However his "DWTS" journey ends, he has been introduced to a larger audience through the show, and it has opened up opportunities beyond the bike.

Rigsby isn't the type to have a five-year plan, but he'd love to do something else on TV, maybe as a judge or host. "If RuPaul is listening, I'm completely open to doing 'Celebrity Drag Race,'" he says. "I just want whatever I do to be rooted in bringing joy and good energy into the world."

It's time to embrace the cast-iron skillet

Enjoy 3 recipes perfect for the kitchen workhorse

By **Gretchen McKay**
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Nonstick pans are a godsend for frying eggs and flipping pancakes, and an enameled Dutch oven will never disappoint while cooking soups, stews and sauces. But when it comes to the workhorse of kitchen equipment, nothing beats a well-seasoned cast-iron pan.

Not only is cast-iron cookware relatively inexpensive — a 12-inch classic skillet from Lodge costs less than \$30 at Target — it's incredibly versatile. You might think grandma used it just for frying chicken or making cornbread, but you also can roast a chicken or sear a steak in a cast-iron pan, use one to make the fluffiest pancakes, bake a deep-dish pizza or loaf of bread in one, or even panfry a delicate piece of fish.

Properly seasoned, cast-iron pans boast a silky, shiny surface that's naturally nonstick, eliminating the need for added fats. It also retains even, constant heat if the pan has been preheated over medium-high heat on the stovetop or in a 500-degree oven.

Not sold? The cookware also can go directly from the stovetop or oven to the table, and if you take care of it properly, cast-iron lasts for generations, earning it points for sustainability.

Cooking on cast iron might even be good for your health, because a small amount of iron is transferred from the pan to your food to your body every time you use it.

Below, we demonstrate cast-iron cookware's versatility with three fall recipes.

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Sweet Italian sausage sizzles in the same pan as sliced apple and red cabbage in this easy skillet recipe.

Gretchen McKay / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette / TNS

PAN-SEARED SAUSAGE WITH APPLES

PG tested

Fall is apple season, and a favorite pairing for the fruit is sweet Italian sausage. This skillet dish comes together quickly, and is full of wonderful autumn flavor. The choice of apple is key: You need to use a firm variety such as Pink Lady or Gala that will hold up to heat well. (Red and Gold Delicious will get mushy.) Serve

with crusty Italian bread and a glass of chianti.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - 4 tart apples, each cored and cut into 8 slices
 - 1/2 red small red cabbage, shredded
 - 4 sweet Italian sausages (about 1 1/2 pounds)
 - 1/4 cup dry white wine
 - 2 tablespoons white wine or Champagne vinegar
 - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Heat oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add apples, cut side down, turning occasionally, until apples are golden brown, 5-8

minutes. Add cabbage and continue to cook until cabbage is wilted, about 4 to 5 minutes. Prick sausages with a fork, then add to skillet. Cook, turning occasionally, until sausage is browned and cooked through, 10-12 minutes. Add wine and vinegar to skillet. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer until sauce is thick enough to coat a spoon, about 4 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with pan juices spooned over, with some crusty bread for sopping up sauce. Serves 4.

— Adapted from bonappetit.com

SKILLET SWEET POTATO HASH

PG tested

This easy breakfast dish is a favorite of Lawrenceville resident Mike Sanders, who has been collecting vintage Griswold cast-iron pans for decades. It's super easy and super nutritious, and comes together in minutes.

If a cast-iron pan is properly seasoned (with a dark, semi-glossy finish and no rust or rough spots) neither the potatoes nor the eggs will stick. He adds a simple garnish of Sriracha sauce to spice things up, and parsley to make it pretty.

This recipe uses three pans, but as Sanders points out, clean up is pretty easy in a cast-iron pan — simply wipe interior surface of the still-warm skillet with paper towels to remove any excess food and oil, then rinse under hot water with a sponge or nonabrasive scrubber.

- Olive oil, for pan
 - 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and shredded (about 2 cups)
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - Butter for pan
 - 2 eggs
 - 2 thick slices smoked ham
 - Chopped parsley, for garnish
- Heat a medium cast-iron pan over medium heat and add 1 tablespoon or two of olive oil, swirling to coat the pan. Once sizzling, add shredded sweet potato in a single layer, season generously with salt and pepper and cook, turning every so often



Steve Mellon / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette / TNS

A dish that includes eggs and sweet potatoes, prepared in Griswold cast-iron skillets, restored by Mike Sanders, on Oct. 25 at Sanders's Lawrenceville home.

with a spatula, until the potatoes are soft and nicely browned, and you can't make out the individual shreds. Cover, and keep warm while you prepare the eggs. Heat another pan over medium heat, and then add 1 tablespoon or so of butter. Reduce heat to low, then break 2 eggs into pan. Cover with a lid, and cook until egg white is set, around 3 minutes. While eggs are cooking, heat a flat skillet over

medium heat, then add 2 slices of ham. Pan fry until brown and crispy, about 2-3 minutes per side. Spoon sweet potatoes onto a plate, then top with fried eggs. Place ham beside hash, and drizzle Sriracha sauce over top. Garnish with chopped parsley, and serve immediately. Serves 1.

— Mike Sanders

ROASTED MUSHROOM AND BACON DUTCH BABY

The large, fluffy pancake known as the Dutch baby is often made with sweet ingredients for breakfast or dessert. But the one-pan dish also lends itself to savory preparations, and it's the perfect food to make in a properly seasoned cast-iron skillet. Baked in the oven instead of fried on the stovetop, the pancake is topped with a scrumptious mix of roasted mushroom, crispy bacon and cheddar cheese. Served with a simple green salad, it makes a terrific lunch or light supper.

- For a vegetarian dish, simply omit the bacon.
- 1 pound mixed mushrooms (such as cremini, button or shitake), sliced
- 4 slices bacon, sliced
- 3 large eggs
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, divided
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, spooned

- and leveled
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- Kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme
- 2 ounces cheddar cheese, grated (about 1/2 cup)
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley

Set oven racks in middle and upper positions. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place mushrooms and bacon on a rimmed baking sheet. Place on top rack in oven while preheating, and roast, stirring once, until mushrooms are golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. Place a 10-inch cast-iron skillet on middle rack and heat for 15 minutes. Place eggs and garlic in a blender. Process on high until frothy, 45 seconds. With blender running, gradually add milk and 2 tablespoons butter; stop blender. Add flour, cornstarch, and 1/4 teaspoon salt; process 1 minute. Fold in thyme. Carefully add remaining tablespoon butter to heated skillet and swirl to coat. Immediately add batter. Bake until golden brown and puffed, 14 to 16 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and bake until melted, 3 to 5 minutes. Top with mushroom mixture, scallions and parsley. Serves 4-6.

— Countryliving.com



Gretchen McKay / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette / TNS

Baked in a cast-iron pan, this savory Dutch baby is topped with roasted mushrooms, bacon and shredded cheddar.



K.C. Alfred / San Diego Union-Tribune / TNS

Bob Melvin is introduced as San Diego Padres manager at Petco Park on Monday in San Diego.

'REAL DEAL' MANAGER

Bob Melvin brings temperament, track record to Padres

By Bryce Miller

The San Diego Union-Tribune

The vital selling point that new Padres manager Bob Melvin can connect with oodles of clubhouse characters was tested long before the sides hammered out a three-year deal worth about \$12 million.

In one sit-down with President of Baseball Operations A.J. Preller, Melvin parked across from a guy in a T-shirt and gym shorts with basketballs dotting the backdrop. In another, the 60-year-old kept a straight face as he exchanged philosophical notes with ... Ted Lasso.

Yes, the think-like-a-goldfish star of the hit Apple TV+ series.

"We had an all-employee meeting last Wednesday," CEO Erik Greupner said Monday, following Melvin's introductory news conference at Petco Park. "Since it was close to Halloween, we encouraged everyone to dress up.

"I actually went up and interviewed (Melvin), not in character, but at least in

costume, as Ted Lasso. He asked if I had any coaching advice for him. I said, no, despite the costume, that's not my area of expertise."

As a fresh week began, Greupner's mustache was gone — but Melvin remained.

The offbeat meet-and-greets say a little something about the roll-with-the-punches ease Melvin approaches all types of conversations, from high-maintenance stars to finicky front offices.

San Diego finally got to see Melvin, hear him, gauge his temperament and temperature, while gaining a glimpse of the managerial calm forged from 2,618 big-league games across 18 seasons in both leagues.

He's the been there, done that guy.

Melvin gushed about the city, the ballpark and a random Tuesday in July when the A's played in front of 40,000 at Petco. Then he flashed the perspective and poise the Padres have sorely lacked.

"The roster is the real hook," he said.

If the new manager does not believe in the clubhouse he's being handed, a sub-.500 train wreck in this case, what's the point? It's not about sunshine, craft beer and butts in seats. Melvin, affable and astute, has one job and knows it: Fix this group by first finding its pulse.

The reason there's confidence he can do that, where others have failed? He's been that way since Day 1 in 2003.

"You can't go wrong with a Bob Melvin, just his presence and the tone he sets," said Bret Boone, the former All-Star second baseman who played for Melvin during the manager's first two seasons in Seattle.

"It's a real calming influence with Bob at the helm. There's a lot of stability, the track record, a very accomplished big-league veteran manager. The success he's had gives him instant credibility when he walks into that clubhouse."

"It's all about winning at this point," Melvin reminded. "When you have

a roster like that and have the people who give you the resources and backing to do it, I don't know if there is a better destination in baseball."

Melvin appeared uncommonly comfortable in his own skin Monday, as opposed to the unsettling nervousness of Jayce Tingler's hiring day two years ago. One person glided from one conversation to the next. Tingler, through no fault of his own, seemed like a cat gingerly paw-hopping across a metal roof in August.

Boone spent more time around Melvin as a special assistant to the Mariners a half-dozen seasons ago. Very good had become even better.

"He was very sure of himself," Boone said. "Like a player who comes in with his hair on fire as a rookie, then has some All-Star games, some postseason experience, he has a different demeanor.

"He's a polished product. That's Bob."

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"To be clear, the IIHF is not going to remove the Chinese team from the Olympic Games, the status of the men's national team as a host nation participant in the Olympic ice hockey tournament was confirmed by Congress and remains unchanged."

LUC TARDIF, IIHF PRESIDENT

No plans to remove China hockey

IIHF confirms Chinese men's team plans to compete in Olympics

By Simon Jennings
Reuters

The Chinese men's ice hockey team will not be removed from the tournament at next year's Winter Olympics in Beijing, the International Ice Hockey Federation said on Tuesday.

China is guaranteed a spot in the ice hockey tournament due to its status as host nation, but IIHF president Luc Tardif said in September that the men's team could be prevented from playing due to its "insufficient sporting standard".

Tardif, who had also raised concerns that the possibility of China being comfortably beaten in all their matches in Beijing would adversely affect the tournament and the sport of ice hockey in general, has now rowed back on his earlier comments.

"To be clear, the IIHF is not going to remove the Chinese team from the Olympic Games, the status of the men's national team as a host nation participant in the Olympic ice hockey tournament was confirmed by Congress and remains unchanged," he told the IIHF Council at a meeting in Zurich.

"We are working with the CIHA (Chinese Ice Hockey Association) to confirm their player eligibility according to IIHF rules, and we will continue to assist them as they work towards preparing their team for the Olympic Games."

The IIHF added in a statement that it was working with the CIHA to schedule two games with the Chinese men's team as part of efforts to evaluate their preparations for the Games.

Eligible national Chinese team players will compete as part of the Kunlun Red Star team in Kontinental Hockey League games on Nov. 15 and 17, after which the IIHF Council will reconvene to discuss the next steps forward for the team.

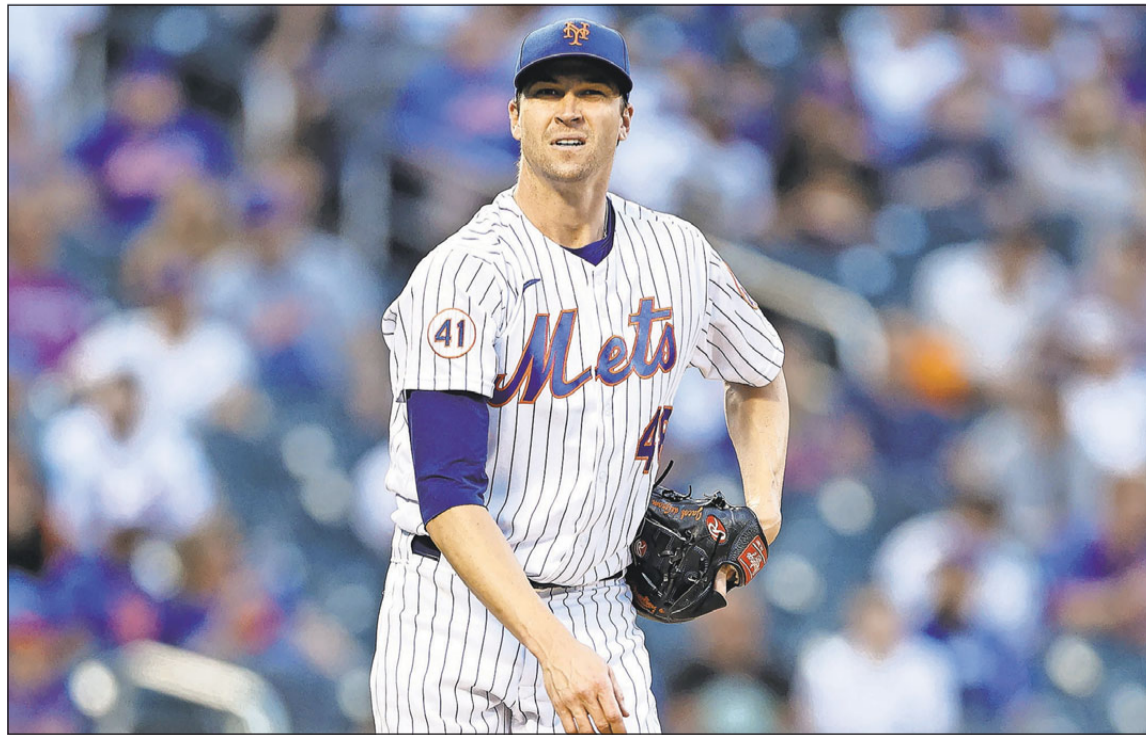
Mets may struggle to keep deGrom healthy

By Deesha Thosar

New York Daily News

In the final months of this past season, the best pitcher in baseball was often seen shagging fly balls in the outfield, goofing around with his teammates and fielding grounders at shortstop. Jacob deGrom, sidelined from viciously competing in the sport that he loves, was obviously bored. His world class talent was wasted in the second half of the 2021 season as the human arm on his made-for-pitching body — a 6-foot-4, 180-pound slingshot hurling triple-digit heaters — prevented him from putting on the best show across the sport.

DeGrom and the Mets would like to avoid another such year of tending to minor injuries — the ace experienced five different maladies in the past six months — and they may have to accept a heartbreaking reality to put him in the best position to succeed. The 33-year-old wondered aloud last season if



Elsa / Getty Images / TNS

In this file photo, New York Mets pitcher Jacob deGrom reacts after a pitch in the third inning against the Chicago Cubs on June 16 at Citi Field in New York.

his increased fastball velocity (deGrom threw harder than he ever has in his eight years

in the majors) was messing with his arm/body health. It's fair to question wheth-

er deGrom can stay healthy for a full season by better controlling his velocity and

throwing fewer 100+ mph fastballs. Perhaps the solution involves shorter outings and limited pitch counts. It's depressing to envision deGrom being pulled from a shutout start, for example, simply to prioritize his durability and longevity. But it may be essential for his continued success.

DeGrom also pinned most of his five injuries in 2021 on swinging at the plate. A former college shortstop who bats left-handed, deGrom hit .364 with a .758 OPS this past season, which resulted in his nomination for a Silver Slugger award. He finished tied for third in MLB in hits as a pitcher, despite missing the second half. If deGrom's aches and pains can be solved with a universal DH, which is expected to be included in the league's new Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Mets may be able to breathe a bit easier when it comes to their ace.

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PODCAST:

While he isn't new to the organization, Joe O'Donnell's voice is. Meet the new Minnesota Wild radio announcer on The Rink Live Podcast.

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With players receiving an extra year of eligibility, should any NCAA or team career records that are set in the next few years have an asterisk by them?

Answers:

Hatten (SCSU): I think that's only fair. The majority of the career records out there have been set by players who have done so in a four-season (maximum) time period. If players break records in that fifth season, there should be some notation about it.

Wellens (UMD): I don't think an asterisk is necessary in this case, as most players who are receiving a fifth year of eligibility played a shortened 2019-20 and 2020-21 season. Last year the maximum number of games played by anyone was 31, with most teams playing under 30. Meanwhile in the 1980s, you had teams playing up to 48 games a season (see the 1984-85 Bulldogs).

Schlossman (UND): Until the 1970s, players only had three years of eligibility because freshmen weren't allowed to play. No distinction is made for players who had three years. None should be made for those who get five.

Myers (Minnesota): Players can't control how many games or seasons they play. All they can control is what they do on the ice. I say that the career scoring records should stand as-is, with no asterisk if a player got an extra season.

Frederick (MSU-Mankato): So if Dryden McKay happens to come back for a fifth season and pushes the men's shutout record to, say, 40, should it have an asterisk? Hmm. I don't know if it necessarily needs one, but its probably worth putting into context for the record-book readers.

Babcock (BSU): I think they should, but there should be some sort of education process tied into it. Everyone who's gone through the COVID-19 pandemic will likely understand what the asterisk means, but future generations probably won't.

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



Photos contributed / Pete Knutson

St. Cloud Norsemen forward Ryan O'Neill recently verbally committed to play NCAA Division I hockey for the University of St. Thomas.

RECRUITMENT JOURNEY COMES FULL CIRCLE

After rededicating himself, St. Cloud's O'Neill heads to familiar territory by committing to St. Thomas

By Mick Hatten
Forum News Service

St. Cloud, Minn.

The recruiting process for some players can be relatively short. Under the new NCAA Division I rules, players cannot be contacted until Jan. 1 of their sophomore year of high school by colleges.

There are players who will commit to a college that next year. Then there are players where the recruiting process can last a few years. St. Cloud Norsemen forward Ryan O'Neill is one of those players.

He first received recruiting looks from Leon Hayward when he was an assistant coach at Colorado College and O'Neill was playing for St. Thomas Academy. O'Neill graduated from high school in 2019 and has begun his third season playing junior hockey for the St. Cloud franchise in the North American Hockey League.

Hayward took a job as an assistant coach at the University of St. Thomas this summer. O'Neill verbally committed to the Tommies on Sunday, Oct. 24.

"Toward the end of last year, when our (Norsemen) team started having some success, he started to watch (me) then," O'Neill said of Hayward. "It just kind of picked up at the start of this year.

"About a week ago, I went and visited (St. Thomas). I just felt like it was right," he said. "I'm really excited about how it's a new (Division I) program and that's going to be cool to be a part of. It's really good academically. It's close to home and it's cool to play that close to home. There's a lot to like. It's a smaller school, but it doesn't necessarily have that feel."

O'Neill said that he knows



St. Cloud Norsemen forward Ryan O'Neill recently verbally committed to play NCAA Division I hockey for the University of St. Thomas. O'Neill leads the Norsemen in assists (9) and points (14) in nine games this season. In three NAHL seasons, he has 35 goals, 80 points and 20 penalty minutes in 112 games.

where everything is at St. Thomas Ice Arena in Mendota Heights and he will "just be moving over one locker room" from where he played high school hockey.

Developing in juniors

O'Neill, who turned 20 in February, has gotten more productive each season in the NAHL. In 2019-20, he had 12 goals, 26 points, six penalty minutes and was a minus-14. Last season, he led the Norsemen in goals (18), was second on the team in points (40), had 14 penalty minutes and was a minus-6. He came on at the end of last season, picking up 10 goals and 19 points in St. Cloud's last 18 games.

This season, he leads the Norsemen in assists (9), points (14), is tied for the team lead in goals (5) and is a plus-5 in nine games.

"Junior hockey is a long process, that's for sure,"

said O'Neill, who is listed at 5-foot-10 and 175 pounds. "My first year, I was new to the whole thing. It was all right, but obviously, I thought I had more in me.

"Toward the second half of last year, I started to figure out more about how much really goes into it and how much hard work you have to do. There's a lot that goes into it and all of the little things that matter. I think it's finally starting to come together."

During last offseason, O'Neill said he worked on his strength and developing good eating and sleeping habits. Norsemen coach Corey Millen said that he had a long exit interview with O'Neill after last season because he wanted to know what more he could do to become a Division I player.

"What you put into it is what you get out of it and I know he put in a real good summer," Millen said. "He

worked hard in the gym and on the ice. He put the work in."

With being in good shape and playing in his third junior season, he is playing with more confidence.

"I can play with speed, I think I have a good hockey IQ and see the ice well," said O'Neill, who is playing wing for the Norsemen. "I think I make my teammates better and give them opportunities to score."

"I think I can play any role whether it's keeping it simple with dump-and-chase (hockey) or if we need to score late in a game."

Millen, a former NHL player and All-American at the University of Minnesota, said that O'Neill has more than one element that he provides to the team.

"Ryan's got a good mix to his game — he's got a good brain, a good stick and he's got offensive ability," Millen said. "When he really competes, it's a good combination with his skill level."

"He's not a burner, but he skates well. He competes hard on pucks. When he does that, he's a horse."

O'Neill said he thinks he will major in finance in college and has been taking at least one class through Century Community College in White Bear Lake.

His commitment to St. Thomas gives the Norsemen six players who have committed to Division I schools. The other five are defenseman Sam Duerr (Maine), goalie Josh Langford (Maine), defenseman John Opilka (St. Cloud State), forward Blake Perbix (Northern Michigan) and forward Nate Warner (Minnesota).

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