



Police need help to find missing teen. **A3.**

**RCW gets a forfeit win. B1.**

WILLMAR, MINN.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

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Forum file photos

North Dakota State University students gather near the Babbling Brook on campus for a candlelight vigil in memory of freshman Tom Bearson, whose body was found in Moorhead on Sept. 23, 2014.

## Cracking down on scammers

Renville County board to vote on joining financial crimes task force against scams

By Tom Cherveney  
West Central Tribune

OLIVIA — Thousands of dollars are leaving Renville County by the week to destinations unknown as scammers use the internet to prey on residents, many of them senior citizens.



Hable

It's one of the reasons that Sheriff Scott Hable is seeking approval from the County Board of Commissioners for the county to join a Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force administered by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The sheriff told the commissioners at their meeting Sept. 21 that being part of the task force would assist the Sheriff's Office in a variety of financial crimes investigations.

If the county joins the task force, it would have access to a forensic accountant to assist with investigations of financial crimes. It could also obtain reimbursement for overtime hours involved with financial crimes investigations.

The resources would benefit investigations into financial crimes, including the growing plethora of scams and frauds perpetrated over the internet.

"You'd be shocked by the amount of money that leaves the county every week due to scams and fraud," Hable told the commissioners.

Internet scams and frauds waged on ordinary citizens often go unsolved. The victims almost always wait too long to report the crime to law enforcement, he said.

Many of the criminals target senior citizens, and especially, widows and widowers who are lonely.

SCAMS: Page A2

# Answers elusive

Investigation still active 7 years after Sartell native's death

By Robin Huebner  
The Forum

Fargo

The father of a college freshman who died seven years ago this week is again making a plea to those responsible to identify themselves because a guilty conscience is a heavy burden to carry.

Greg Bearson, father of 18-year-old Tommy Bearson, said the only way those involved can overcome guilt is by coming forward and telling everyone what happened.

"Until then, you will never find peace in your life," he said.

Tommy Bearson went missing sometime in the early morning hours of

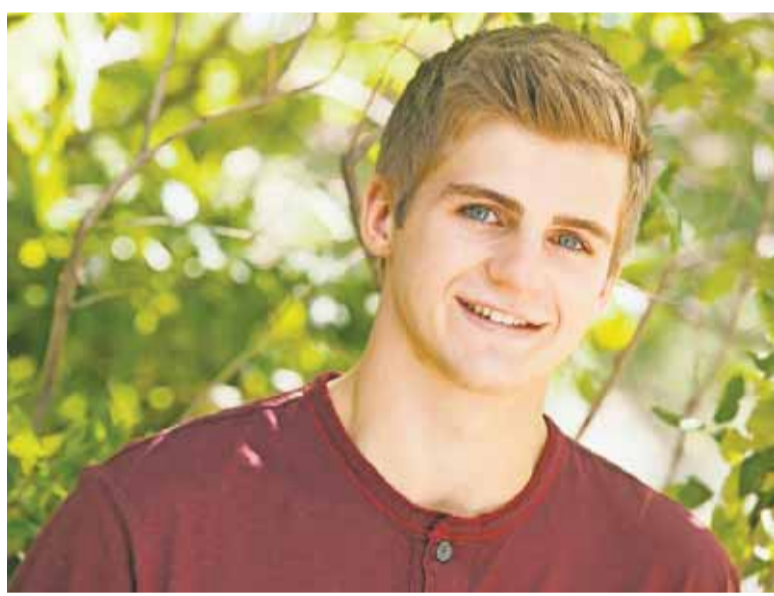
Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014, after leaving a house party near the North Dakota State University campus in Fargo.

A cryptic tweet, posted at 1:23 a.m. on Bearson's Twitter account by one of the people he may have been with, hinted that someone might be in danger.

Bearson's body was found three days later, on Sept. 23, on the ground of an RV dealership parking lot in Moorhead, about 5 miles from the house in Fargo.

His cellphone and the left tennis shoe he had been wearing were never found.

BEARSON: Page A2



NDSU freshman Tommy Bearson went missing Sept. 20, 2014, and was found dead three days later in a Moorhead RV lot. Seven years have passed and no arrests have been made in his death, but the case remains open and active.

# Funding coming for Prinsburg broadband

Kandiyohi County puts federal stimulus money toward infrastructure project

By Shelby Lindrud  
West Central Tribune

PRINSBURG — As has been the common theme over the past 18 months, residents in Prinsburg have grown to learn just how important high-speed internet can be. And like so many communities, the city has found what the local providers have to offer isn't enough.

"They are just not able to meet our needs," said Roger Ahrenholz, Prinsburg mayor, at Tuesday's Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Prinsburg is considered underserved by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, with available wireline broadband internet speeds of at least 25 megabits download and 3 megabits upload. However, that is below the state standard of 100 megabits download and 20 megabits upload speeds to be considered served.

"It is a digital world today,"

and cities such as Prinsburg need the internet speed to meet it, said Connie Schmoll, broadband consultant for the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission.

To try and bridge that gap and offer the higher speeds to residents, Prinsburg is partnering with Arvig Enterprises to construct a \$1 million fiber-optic broadband system for the city. When complete, every premises within the city limits would have access to the state standard broadband speeds.

Arvig has committed to funding \$450,000 toward the

project, as well as providing all costs above \$1 million. The city of Prinsburg will be using \$45,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act economic stimulus funds for the project and will also be providing another \$175,000 plus city legal and accounting fees.

"It falls in line with other projects we are looking at," Schmoll said of the cost.

Kandiyohi County will be funding the remaining \$330,000 for the project through its own American Rescue Plan Act allocation.

BROADBAND: Page A2

"This is a prime time to get some infrastructure down, much needed broadband, because of the (American Rescue Plan Act) funds."



CONNIE SCHMOLL, BROADBAND CONSULTANT FOR THE KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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# Tribes to government: Restart DAPL environmental review

By Adam Willis  
The Forum

BISMARCK — The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is calling on President Joe Biden's administration to scrap its ongoing environmental review of the Dakota Access oil pipeline and start over, alleging that the federal government has overseen a biased process and botched its tribal obligations.

In a letter sent to the Department of the Army's Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Jaime Pinkham on Wednesday, Sept. 22, Standing Rock said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "is already gravely off track" in its court-ordered environmental review of Dakota Access and laid out a series of requests for a revamped study.

The Army Corps' environmental review, which began last September and is slated for completion in September 2022, was first mandated after a federal district court judge last year revoked the pipeline's permit at its Missouri River crossing just off the Standing Rock reservation. The tribe has long argued that the pipeline endangers their water supply.

As a party to the environmental review, Standing Rock is privy to draft versions of the study. The tribe said the draft reveals the Army Corps has routinely shielded key information from them in the early stages of the process and ignored technical and cultural information that they submitted.

The Army Corps did not respond Wednesday to a request for comment on the tribe's allegations and requests.

The announcement from Standing Rock comes just two days after the operators of Dakota Access turned to the U.S. Supreme Court in a bid to nix the environmental review completely. Attorneys for Dakota Access argued in a petition to the nation's

highest court that the requirement for additional review set a dangerous precedent for energy and infrastructure projects and leaves the pipeline "at significant risk of being shut down."

While Indigenous and environmental opponents have so far come up short in their push to shutter Dakota Access, the completion of the Army Corps review could reignite litigation over the pipeline's operations.

The letter also includes a series of requests. Among them, Standing Rock insisted on full transparency to documents and data informing the environmental review process and asked that the Army Corps end its contract with Environmental Resources Management. The tribes also called for the Department of the Interior to be included as a participating party, arguing that the Army Corps "has consistently demonstrated an institutional lack of sensitivity" to tribal concerns.

Readers can reach reporter Adam Willis, a Report for America corps member, at [awillis@forumcomm.com](mailto:awillis@forumcomm.com).

# BROADBAND

From Page A1

The County Board approved allocating the funds at Tuesday's meeting.

"Our board is very committed to broadband," said Commissioner Corky Berg. "We do want to see the whole county eventually get it."

The County Board has seriously been considering earmarking the vast majority of its \$8 million American Rescue Plan Act allocation to broadband projects across the county. It has already approved funding for a few projects, including \$1.3 million to a project that will expand high-speed broadband to Dovre, Mamre, St. Johns and Arctander townships.

"This is a prime time to get some infrastructure down, much needed broadband, because of the (American Rescue Plan Act) funds," Schmoll said.

Construction for the Prinsburg project is estimated to start in spring and be completed in December.

Over the next several months, Schmoll has been tasked to find as many broadband providers and projects as she can, to try and fill as many internet gaps as possible in the county. She has also been applying for large grants, such as the state's Border to Border broadband project and the National Telecommunications and Information Association grant.

"Get this (broadband) deployed throughout the county," Schmoll said.

The County Board will also continue to assist making the project possible, as it remains a priority.

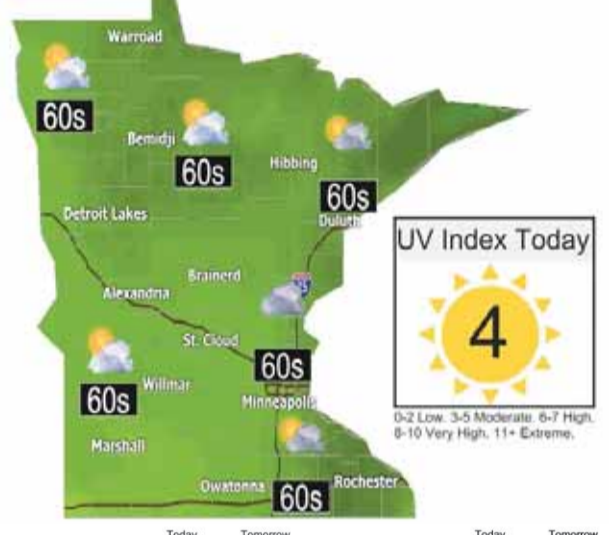
"It is good to get moving on these projects," said Commissioner Duane Anderson.



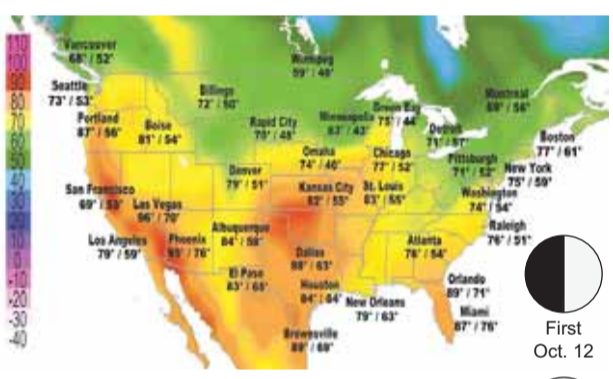
## StormTRACKER WILLMAR FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
66/38 AM Clouds/PM Sun Wind: NW 15 mph	71/48 Mostly Sunny Wind: W 12 mph	81/51 Mostly Sunny Wind: S 6 mph	79/51 Sunny Wind: E 5 mph
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
83/55 Sunny Wind: SE 9 mph	81/57 Partly Cloudy Wind: SE 13 mph	75/55 AM Showers Wind: SE 11 mph	74/54 Mostly Cloudy Wind: SE 10 mph

\*Average wind speed for each day



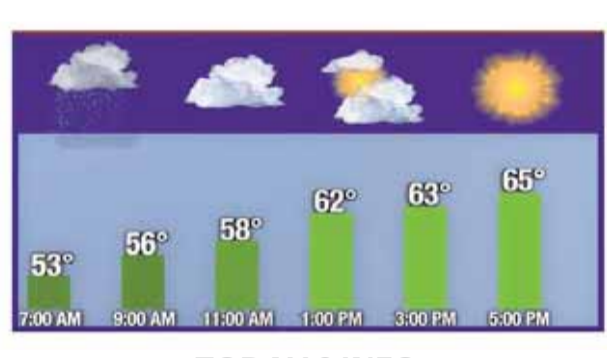
Regional Weather	Today	Hi	Lo	Tomorrow	Hi	Lo
Bemidji, MN	61	41	65	46	66	43
Duluth, MN	61	44	63	46	63	43
Eau Claire, WI	67	40	66	44	67	42
Fargo, ND	64	42	72	48	70	41
International Falls, MN	60	41	61	42	64	40
Regional Weather	Today	Hi	Lo	Tomorrow	Hi	Lo
Marshall, MN	66	43	73	54	63	43
Minneapolis, MN	63	43	68	48	67	42
Rochester, MN	67	42	66	49	70	41
Sioux Falls, SD	70	41	75	53	64	40
St. Cloud, MN	64	40	67	45	67	45



## StormTRACKER Forecast

Cool and breezy today. Warming trend starting Sunday and lasting most of next week.

Almanac Through 6 pm Thursday		
Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	75°	43°
Avg. Wind Direction	Thursday	
Peak Wind Speed	Thursday	15 mph



## TODAY'S INFO

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Carrie Snyder / The Forum

Police investigators gather in an RV dealership lot in Moorhead after the discovery there of NDSU student Tommy Bearson's body on Sept. 23, 2014.

# BEARSON

From Page A1

Jake Wenzel, a high school classmate of Bearson in Sartell, Minnesota, lived in the house where the party was held along with Cody Mead, who reportedly met Bearson for the first time that night, according to previous stories.

Wenzel is believed to have sent the tweet from Bearson's phone and tagged Mead in it. "... dude it's jake come pick us up. We are so lost and we are going to die. Just get somebody," the tweet read.

Wenzel has not responded to repeated requests for comment over the years. Mead has said police have what they need from him, and that "it's better to let them do their job and not compromise anything with their investigation."

Early on, the only explanation given for Bearson's death was that he was a victim

of homicidal violence. He did not die from an overdose of drugs or alcohol, either, police said.

His death record revealed Bearson died of asphyxia, meaning he was somehow deprived of oxygen until he died.

A forensic investigator said death by accident, suicide or natural causes could be ruled out.

Police officers from Fargo, NDSU, Moorhead and investigators with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension all worked on the case initially, but the Moorhead Police Department became the lead agency because of where Bearson's body was found.

"Here we are seven years later. ... It's still an active, ongoing investigation," said Moorhead Deputy Chief Tory Jacobson.

Jacobson said he's not working on the homicide case directly but has been the public spokesperson for it since the beginning.

That helped limit the amount and type of information released, he said, a necessity for protecting the details that only the person or persons responsible might know.

"Unfortunately, at least publicly, we don't have this break we've all worked so hard toward," Jacobson said, adding that he hopes those answers are coming.

Investigators still hold team meetings about the case and remain in close contact with Bearson's family, Jacobson said.

A few officers who did a lot of the early work have retired or moved on to other jobs but remain accessible and dedicated to seeing the case resolved, he said.

Tommy Bearson's father said it's been a tremendously difficult seven years, but he's confident a resolution is coming for his son. "The day of reckoning is drawing nearer," Greg Bearson said.

Readers can reach reporter Robin Huebner at [rhuebner@forumcomm.com](mailto:rhuebner@forumcomm.com)

# SCAMS

From Page A1

One of the more common is the "sweetheart" scam, in which an online relationship is formed. The perpetrator will start by asking for a small amount of financial help, but the requests for money go on and on.

It's often hard to convince the victims that the perpetrator is someone with a criminal intent, the sheriff said.

The commissioners will act on the request to join the task force at their next meeting. It comes with no financial obligation, according to Hable.

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# Willmar Police Department seeks help in finding teen

By Mark Wasson  
West Central Tribune



Descheuquet

missing Sept. 11 along with two other juvenile females from a girls group home in Willmar, according to Willmar Police Chief Jim Felt. The girls had run away from the home earlier that day but had been located and returned before running away from the home again. One of the three girls was found Sept. 12 in St.

Cloud, and a second girl was also located in St. Cloud on Sept. 13. According to Felt, it was believed Azure-Descheuquet was also in St. Cloud and law enforcement was working to find her there. The Willmar Police Department received information Sept. 22 that someone who had contact with Azure-Descheuquet indicated she was allegedly "on her way to an unknown location in Oregon," according to Felt. "At this point there is

no specific information regarding Cienna being in danger," Felt wrote in an email. Felt wrote that with the new information about her possibly leaving the state, a crime alert was sent out to help with locating her. "All indicators are that Cienna still does not want to be located at this time," according to Felt. Anyone with information is urged to call the Willmar Police Department at 320-235-2244, case No. 21012509.

## BRIEFS

### Pedestrian killed in Traverse County

WHEATON — A pedestrian was struck and killed Thursday morning in Traverse County, according to the Minnesota State Patrol. According to the crash report, the 24-year-old man from Waite Park was struck by a 2010 Kenworth semitrailer driven by Nicholas Bo Hunter, 37, of Glenwood, that was on 650th Street attempting to back onto state Highway 27 in Lake Valley Township near Wheaton. The name of the pedestrian has yet not been released. Hunter did not have any injuries listed in the report. According to the State Patrol, he was wearing his seat belt and alcohol is not listed as a factor. Road conditions were dry. The Wheaton Fire Department, Police Department and Ambulance, along with the Traverse County Sheriff's Office also responded to the incident reported at 8:39 a.m. Thursday. Highway 27 was temporarily closed due to the crash Thursday morning but reopened at 10:30 a.m., according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

— Mark Wasson

### Osage man killed in Highway 34 rollover crash Wednesday night

BECKER COUNTY, Minn. — A 21-year-old Osage man was killed in a single vehicle rollover crash near Osage on Highway 34 in Becker County late Wednesday, Sept. 22. At 11:19 p.m., Mathew Michael Gibson was westbound near mile marker 61 on Highway 34 in a 2006 Chevy Silverado when his vehicle left the roadway and rolled into the ditch. He was the vehicle's only occupant, according to a Minnesota State Patrol report. The report stated Gibson was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash and law enforcement believe alcohol may have played a role in the crash. First responders believe Gibson died at the scene and an air rescue was canceled a few minutes after being called for, according to the Becker County Sheriff's Office. The pavement was dry at the time of the crash and the airbags of the pickup truck did not deploy during the incident, according to the report.

— Forum News Service

# COVID-19 infections in schools, long-term care continue to grow

By Christopher Magan  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — School-age children continue to be at the center of Minnesota's latest wave of coronavirus infections with more than 4,000 between the ages of five and 19 testing positive for COVID-19 in the last week. There are now 96 school buildings with outbreaks confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Health Thursday, Sept. 23, up from 26 buildings a week ago. Cases in long-term care are also on the rise with 284 facilities reporting infections, up from 267 the week before. Infections

in long-term care had fallen to fewer than two dozen in late June. State health officials say nearly all new cases are driven by the more contagious delta variant, which can also cause more severe disease. Nearly all severe infections are in Minnesotans who are unvaccinated. While breakthrough cases are on the rise, of the 3.1 million Minnesotans who are fully vaccinated 99% have not reported a breakthrough infection. There have been 23,330 breakthrough cases, 1,268 hospitalizations and 118 deaths in fully vaccinated residents. The Minnesota

Department of Health reported 24 new COVID-19 deaths Thursday and 2,434 new infections. The latest deaths to be reported ranged in age from their late 40s to their late 90s. Twenty-two of those fatalities resided in private homes and two in long-term care facilities. Deaths are not reported in a uniform way and the latest reported fatalities include 21 deaths from September and one each from August, January and December. The state's death toll is 8,049 with 4,612 fatalities in long-term care. About 87% of all deaths are people 65 or older.

Minnesota has diagnosed 694,320 coronavirus infections since the pandemic began in March 2020. Of those, 668,574 people who tested positive have recovered enough they no longer need to be isolated. There are 777 patients hospitalized including 214 in critical condition. Nearly 17,000 people with active cases are recovering at home. Health officials maintain that vaccines are the best way to avoid a severe infection. The state has administered 6.3 million doses of vaccine and 3.3 million people have gotten at least their first shot.

# Public defenders get more flexibility after criticism of office mandate

By Tom Olsen  
Duluth News Tribune



Tyler Schank / Duluth News Tribune file photo

The Northeastern Minnesota public defender's office is headquartered on the 14th floor of downtown Duluth's Alworth Building. The staff was recently ordered to return to the office, over the objections of several employees.

eastern Minnesota's 6th Judicial District, previously expressed concern and frustration about the office policy, saying they were concerned for their own health and that of vulnerable family members. Additionally, several public defenders said the policy was limiting their ability to handle their already heavy caseloads, forcing hearings to be postponed and at least a few defendants to end up with arrest warrants, as staff members were prohibited from doing any work if they were unable to report to the office. Officials had defended the policy, with 6th District Chief Dan Lew saying, "We serve the clients best when we work as a team," and citing a number of safety precautions in the workplace designed to prevent spread.

Teamsters Local 320, which represents non-managers across the state, had a meeting planned with Board of Public Defense officials last week, but several representatives said it was scrapped after it was learned a person with COVID-19 had been in the Duluth office.

protocols, including implementing a mask mandate and requiring that all employees adhere to social distancing guidelines when in common spaces," she wrote. "However, more must and can be done to protect our public defense employees, as the safety of all staff and clients should remain the top priority. I recognize that in-person communication is preferred but it is simply not safe to do so at this time." Ward and Kajer stressed in their Monday email to staff that public defenders perform a "critical function of government" and that "the obligation to meet with clients and to appear with clients has not changed." They said chiefs, managing attorneys and office managers would still be expected to physically report, as well as other employees when necessary.

The possible exposure on Sept. 3 didn't come to light until last week, and the office was temporarily shuttered to allow for cleaning and testing of employees who may have been impacted. Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn, DFL-Roseville, chair of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee, expressed her "serious concerns" about the lack of a telework option in a Sept. 15 letter to public defense leadership, citing the Duluth office closure. "I appreciate your office's continued effort to implement safety

protocols, including implementing a mask mandate and requiring that all employees adhere to social distancing guidelines when in common spaces," she wrote. "However, more must and can be done to protect our public defense employees, as the safety of all staff and clients should remain the top priority. I recognize that in-person communication is preferred but it is simply not safe to do so at this time." Ward and Kajer stressed in their Monday email to staff that public defenders perform a "critical function of government" and that "the obligation to meet with clients and to appear with clients has not changed." They said chiefs, managing attorneys and office managers would still be expected to physically report, as well as other employees when necessary. "We understand that given the current court schedules there will be work that must be done in the office, in the field, at detention facilities and at the courthouses," they wrote. "The offices will remain open just as they have been."

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## MIDWEST OPINION

# It remains still the forgotten border

Once again, the United States has extended restrictions on crossing the U.S.-Canada border, meaning Canadians still cannot enter the U.S. for nonessential travel.

And once again, we're left to shake our heads and wonder: What the heck is going on?

In early August, Canada opened its border to nonessential travel, allowing U.S. citizens to cross provided they have proof of vaccination and a recent negative COVID-19 test. President Joe Biden's administration has not reciprocated and, Monday, it was announced the U.S. restrictions have again been extended — this time to at least Oct. 21. If the border opens on that day — and the way things are going, there is no reason to assume it will — it will be 19 months since Canadians have been able to drive, walk or row to the United States for nonessential reasons.

Notice the lack of the word "fly," since Canadians can come here by plane.

As reported recently by Reuters, four U.S. Senators last week wrote a letter to Biden, urging him to reopen the border. It's nothing new — federal lawmakers, hearing the pleas of their constituents — have basically been begging Biden to relax the restrictions, but to no avail.

In their letter last week, Sens. Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Jon Tester of Montana and Angus King of Maine questioned the loophole that allows Canadians to fly here but not drive.

Notably, Hassan, Shaheen and Tester are, like Biden, Democrats. King is an independent.

"We struggle to understand the public health rationale for the disparate treatment in modes of travel," the senators wrote, as reported by Reuters.

Good point. Further, they wrote, "a plan with some indication of when your administration would feel comfortable lifting border restrictions based on public health data would provide clarity to businesses and families along the northern border."

We emphasize the phrase "the northern border," since it's apparent it is a geographic location that doesn't appear on maps in the current White House. There seems to be no great urgency or interest in helping the many, many people whose businesses and family interests have been greatly disrupted by the pandemic and the restrictions that continue to limit Canadians' access to our country.

Even amid COVID-19, life continues here in the northern reaches of the nation. We are having concerts, parades and sporting events. We know COVID still is a health risk, but we also are moving forward, we hope with care about our health and for the health of others.

Canadians in our midst will not risk our health, and especially Canadians who can prove their vaccination status and their overall health. At present, more than 70% of Canadians have had at least one COVID-19 vaccination shot.

It's time to open the border, and any more delays simply show a lack of empathy for those of us who live near Canada and miss their friendship and their business.

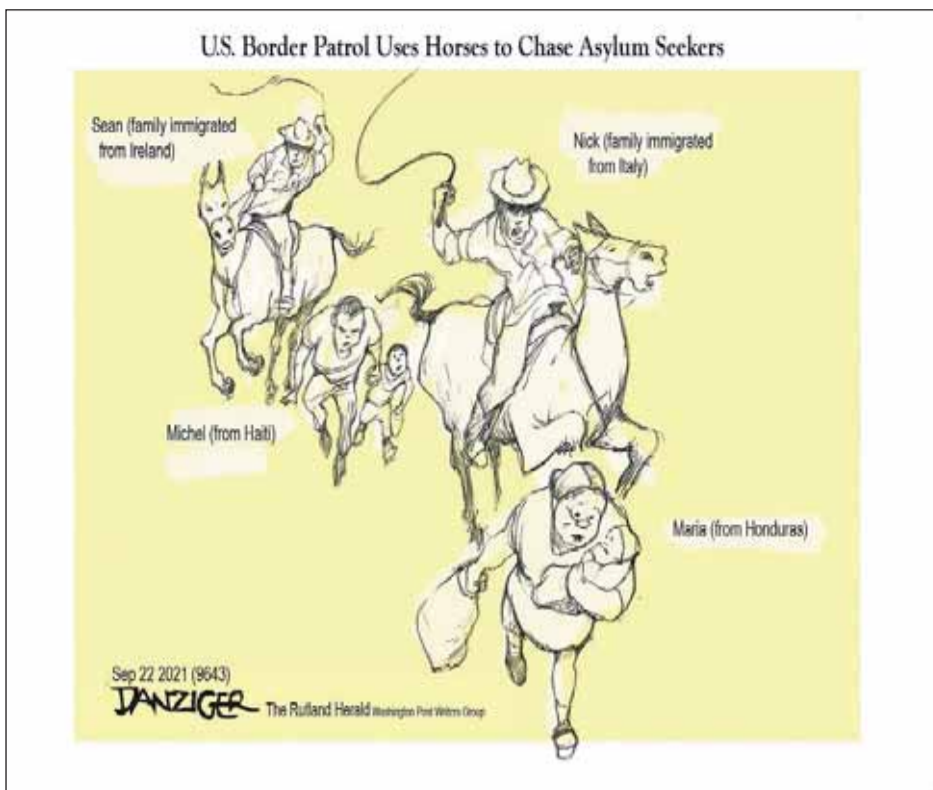
This Midwest Opinion editorial is the opinion of the editorial board of our sister publication, the Grand Forks Herald.

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# How to help school boards

By Andrea Gabor  
Bloomberg Opinion (TNS)

School boards are in the news again as culture-war battlegrounds and forums for public-school bashing. That's good reason to make them stronger, not weaker or more fearful.

Boards are ground zero for conflicts over mask and vaccine mandates and curricular battles over U.S. racial history.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis withheld salaries from districts that voted to defy his ban on mask mandates, even as he encouraged parents to use new school-voucher laws to flee public schools for private and religious institutions.

In Tennessee, health-care workers who advocated for mask mandates were threatened by a mob at a school board meeting. In Nashua, New Hampshire, the far-right Proud Boys crashed local school board meetings to protest teaching intended to combat racism. Already this year, there have been 64 recall efforts against school board members — far more than the previous two years combined.

Stronger boards could deal more effectively with the challenges facing public schools. Beyond that, they should become better equipped for their role as the institutions where many citizens first become civically engaged and run for local office.

Nearly half of American school boards are nonpartisan at a time of political tribalism. The boards — with 44% women and 28% Black or Latino members — are far more diverse than Congress. Yet even that representative arithmetic lags the school population, with over half of school children today members of minority groups. Some of the backlash against teaching lessons on race have occurred in districts with sizeable minority populations but all-white school boards.

A major challenge is to make boards more resilient against the agendas of myriad ideological groups by improving the know-how of school board members and by passing laws that increase voter participation and attract diverse local candidates.

Long before the Proud Boys invaded school board meetings, outside interests channeled hundreds of millions of dollars into national organizations that sought to control school boards. This effort was anything but local. Some of the money went to oust board members who lacked enthusiasm for charter schools. It also supported state and mayoral takeovers aimed at reforming underperforming districts. Takeovers "had the most negative effects on black communities," wrote Domingo Morel, a Rutgers University political scientist in his 2018 book, "Takeover." Among takeover districts, states abolished elected school boards in 33% of majority-Black districts versus just 4% of majority-White districts.

Another key challenge is that board elections are typically held during odd-numbered years instead of coinciding with presidential and congressional contests. Originally intended to keep education above the political fray, off-cycle elections depress turnout, and shift power

to those "best organized and well resourced," said Morel — including philanthropists and unions. In Michigan, for example, turnout for off-cycle school-board elections in 2000, was under 8% of registered voters, compared to a typical turnout of about 65% during presidential elections. As recently as 2019, only 10 states aligned municipal races with presidential and congressional-midterm elections.

Lawmakers should follow the lead of Nevada and Phoenix, which recently shifted to an on-cycle election calendar for school boards, and California and Arizona, which are requiring cities with low turnout to do the same.

Shifting election calendars would have the added benefit of increasing minority representation and addressing the achievement gap between Black and white students, which tends to be larger in districts with sizeable minority populations but mostly-white boards. One reason may be that these school board members, many of whom do not have children, face less political pressure in the districts where the gaps are largest.

In addition, localities should lower the voting age, following the example of California and Maryland. In Takoma Park, Maryland, the first U.S. city to give 16-year-olds the vote, nearly half of registered voters between 16 and 18 turned out in 2013, when the law went into effect, compared to just one in 10 adults. Nationwide, at least 15 states now allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries where the general election will be held by the time they reach 18.

High school seniors also should be allowed to represent their classmates on school boards, a practice now permitted in dozens of districts from Virginia to California. Especially in poor cities, where up-to-date textbooks are scarce and private fundraising pays for supplies, students have a special stake — and valuable perspective — on resource-allocation and education decisions. In Oakland, for example, student representatives helped focus the board's attention on improving programs that help students who have fallen behind complete the classes they need to graduate.

Expanding the electorate and school-board participation represents a chance to deepen democratic participation among ordinary citizens and to "develop the intellectual muscles to be effective community members," as Jack Schneider, an education-leadership professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, put it.

School board members also need better training. Massachusetts provides a model, with instruction on budgeting, data analysis and communication strategy, as well as how to avoid micromanaging. Paying board members would help, too, by bringing in younger and economically diverse candidates.

Andrea Gabor, a former editor at Business Week and U.S. News & World Report, is the Bloomberg chair of business journalism at Baruch College of the City University of New York and the author of "After the Education Wars: How Smart Schools Upend the Business of Reform." ©2021 Bloomberg L.P. Visit bloomberg.com/opinion. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

# France's agony over sub deal could not be helped

About France and its submarines: Australia's decision to cancel a \$60 billion contract to buy them and purchase American nuclear subs instead had to hurt. In response,

France's foreign minister called the U.S.-backed move a "stab in the back."

The backstory should take precedence over the drama flowing from the rift between America and its oldest ally. It centers on a growing alarm at Chinese aggression in the Pacific and

how seriously the U.S. and its Pacific allies are taking it.

Australia's Defense minister denied charges that the United States and Australia schemed in secret to cut France out of the sale.

Any diplomatic failure aside, the harsh reality is that American submarines are the superior machine for patrolling the Pacific.

What about President Joe Biden's predecessor? Former President Donald Trump was, in many ways, a gift to the Chinese. He did ban U.S. investment in Chinese companies tied to China's military or surveillance, a policy Biden has largely continued. But much of his confrontation with China took the form of verbiage.

Chinese elites saw him accelerating what they considered America's decline. They considered Trump "ignorant, erratic and tiresome," according to The Economist.

It must have also pleased them that Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The trade deal was designed to help its members — which included Canada, Japan and Australia — compete with China.

Biden has vowed to engage in "extreme competition." China is plowing huge amounts of government money into building a massive semiconductor industry. You can't have a modern economy without them, and a semiconductor shortage is hobbling American manufacturing.

The U.S. is joining with Japan, India and Australia in developing their own semiconductor supply chains. One reason we and our allies need strong defense capability in the Pacific is fears that China would invade Taiwan, which produces over 60% of the world's computer chips.

The administration seeks to greatly expand American manufacture of lithium-ion batteries. China has 93 "gigafactories" that make them. The U.S. has four.

Australia has had its own battles with China. When it called for independent investigators to be let into Wuhan to study the origins of the virus, China retaliated against billions in Australian exports. The Biden administration called the move "economic coercion."

What pains France must also pain the U.S. France does join our fights. In August, a French drone strike in West Africa took out an Islamic State mastermind of attacks that killed four U.S. soldiers and six French aid workers. France maintains a significant military presence in the Indo-Pacific.

You can understand the blow to France's arms industry and pride in having such a huge submarine contract so publicly ripped up. But defense needs should be the No. 1 consideration. The United States has concluded that China has graduated from mere economic competitor to military rival and must act accordingly.

Froma Harrop can be reached at fharrop@wctrib.com or on Twitter@FromaHarrop.



FROMA HARROP  
National commentator

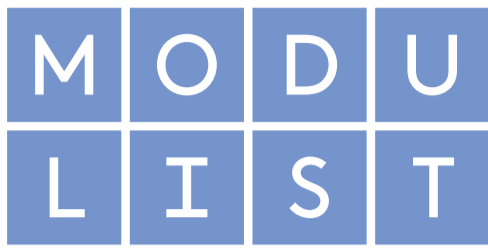
DEATH NOTICE

Jacqueline Pillatzki

Aug. 20, 1953 - Aug. 26, 2021

NEW LONDON, Minn. - Jacqueline Pillatzki, 68, New London, Minn., died Thursday, Aug. 26, in her home from cancer.

A service will be 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 1, at Church of Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer, Minn.



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SERVICES LISTING

Herbert Baumann, 91, of Willmar, died July 10. Service 2 p.m. Sept. 25 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Willmar. Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

Atwater. Peterson Brothers Atwater Funeral Home.

Jacqueline Pillatzki, 68, of New London, died Aug. 26. Service 11 a.m. Oct. 1 at Church of Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer.

Evelyn "Evie" Erenberg, 96, of Benson, died Sept. 7. Service 11 a.m. Oct. 1 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Benson. Zniwski Funeral Home, Benson.

Stanley Roeser, 92, of Litchfield, died Sept. 4. Service 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 25 at Fiddler's Green, Litchfield. Johnson-Hagglund Funeral Service, Litchfield.

Mary Ann Filzen, 89, of Renville, died Sept. 19. Service 10:30 a.m. Sept. 24 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Olivia. Dirks-Blem Funeral Home, Olivia.

Art Tostenson, 85, of Madison, died Sept. 20. Service 11 a.m. Sept. 24 at Faith Lutheran Church, Madison. Zahrbock Funeral Home, Madison.

Wayne Madsen, 93, of Moorhead, formerly of Atwater, died Aug. 11. Service 11 a.m. Sept. 30 at Immanuel Lutheran Church,

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

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION NUMBERS

Here are contact numbers concerning coronavirus provided by the Kandiyohi County Health and Medical Group:

mar nurse line: 320-441-5361, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

Carris Health, Redwood nurse line: 507-637-1730, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays

Are you sick?

To schedule a COVID-19 test call Carris Health, Will-

find care options call CentraCare Connect: 320-200-3200, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Questions? Call Minnesota Department of Health public hotlines Health questions:

800-657-3903, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

School/Child care questions: 800-657-3504, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kandiyohi County Public Health: 320-231-7800, press 4, ask for intake, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays

RECORDS

Ulloa was transported to Carris Health — Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar by ambulance.

According to the State Patrol, Ulloa was northbound on County Road 5 when the motorcycle crashed at the intersection roundabout and he was ejected from the motorcycle.

The crash remains under investigation, according to the State Patrol.

Arrests

WILLMAR — A Willmar man turned himself into the Willmar Police Department early Thursday morning on charges that he raped a 14-year-old juvenile female and paid her for intercourse in late June.



Mire

Abdijab Muhumed Mire, 23, appeared Thursday morning in Kandiyohi County District Court, charged with felony third-degree criminal sexual conduct and felony prostitution with a victim between 13 and 15.

He was ordered to have no contact with the alleged victim and the court ordered \$60,000 bail or bond with no conditions or a \$5,000 non-cash bond with conditions or a \$500 cash bail with conditions.

According to the complaint, Mire picked up the juvenile at a Willmar gas station and drove her to a wooded

area in town. He then offered to pay her for sex before allegedly raping her.

Afterward, Mire drove her to a local pharmacy and bought her Plan B emergency contraception.

During questioning, Mire told law enforcement he had intercourse with the girl but denied knowing she was 14.

His next court date is set for Jan. 4.

WILLMAR — A 35-year-old woman was arrested Wednesday night for a Swift County warrant during a traffic stop near the intersection of Litchfield Avenue Southeast and Highway 12 East.

According to the report, the woman was also cited for giving a false name to police and driving after revocation.

As of Thursday afternoon, she was in custody in the Kandiyohi County Jail for charges related to the incident.

WILLMAR — A 40-year-old man was arrested Wednesday evening on the 200 block of 28th Street Southeast for two Kandiyohi County warrants.

As of Thursday afternoon, the man was in custody in the Kandiyohi County Jail awaiting charges related to his warrants.

WILLMAR — A 22-year-old woman was arrested Wednesday evening on a warrant during a traffic stop near the intersection of Becker Avenue and 11th Street Southwest.

As of Thursday after-

noon, the woman was in custody in the Kandiyohi County Jail for a charge related to her warrant.

Theft

WILLMAR — The theft of a trailer and lawn mower was reported Wednesday night from the 1100 block of County Road 9 Northeast.

Homecoming shenanigans

WILLMAR — A homeowner told law enforcement Wednesday night that their home on the 1400 block of 16th Street Southwest was hit with toilet paper.

The homeowner requested an extra patrol.

SPICER — A caller reported that their fence had been shot full of paint Wednesday night on the 10000 block of 11th Street Northeast.

According to the report, the caller heard three pops and when they went outside to investigate, they saw the fence covered in paint.

The caller told law enforcement that she just wanted to let them know the "homecoming crew was out and about again."

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

LOCAL MARKETS

Table with Local Corn Contracts and other market data including Farm Ser, Jennie-O TS, Country Pork, Bushmills, Granite Falls Energy, CVEC, Benson, Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Oats.

TODAY'S ALMANAC

Today is the 267th day of 2021 and the third day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1789, Congress passed the First Judiciary Act, which provided for the Supreme Court and the office of attorney general.

In 1960, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, was launched.

In 1968, "60 Minutes," American prime-time television's longest-running program, premiered on CBS.

In 2005, Hurricane Rita hit Texas and southwestern Louisiana.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: John Marshall (1755-1835), chief justice of the United States; F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940), author; Jim McKay (1921-2008), sportscaster; Jim Henson (1936-1990), puppeteer; Linda McCartney (1941-1998),

singer; Lou Dobbs (1945-), journalist; Phil Hartman (1948-1998), actor; Nia Vardalos (1962-), actress/screenwriter; Rafael Palmeiro (1964-), baseball player; Eddie George (1973-), football player/sportscaster.

TODAY'S FACT: Motorcycle builder Soichiro Honda founded the Honda Motor Company in Hamamatsu, Japan, on this day in 1948. Before finding success with motorcycles, Honda tried manufacturing weaving machines, frosted glass windows and bamboo roof panels.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the gold medal in the 100-meter dash at the Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea. Johnson tested positive for steroids three days later and was stripped of the medal.

Keith Helgeson appointed as new judge in Eighth Judicial District

By Mark Wasson West Central Tribune



Helgeson

low Medicine County," Walz said in the release.

"Mr. Helgeson will be a familiar face and a great addition to the Granite Falls bench," Flanagan said in the release. "He has served his community with pride for over 25 years, and I am excited to see him excel in his new position."

Minnesota's Eighth Judicial District encompasses Big Stone, Chippewa, Grant, Kandiyohi,

Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Pope, Renville, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Wilkin, and Yellow Medicine counties.

Helgeson is currently the Yellow Medicine County Attorney and was a law clerk for Judge Bruce Christopherson. He is also an adjunct professor at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

As county attorney, Helgeson represents Yellow Medicine County in criminal, juvenile, child protection and civil court matters. He also advises the County Board and various

county departments.

Helgeson has volunteered and worked with several different community organizations, including the Yellow Medicine County Restorative Justice Advisory Council, the Chemical Health Coalition, and the Prairie Lakes Advisory Board. He currently serves as president of the Tri-County Law Library Board and as a mock trial coach.

Previously, Helgeson was a member of the Granite Falls City Council and Granite Falls Hospital Board.

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# FARMLAND AUCTIONS - COMING SOON

**PRIME FARMLAND AUCTION IN SWIFT COUNTY**

## AUCTION

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 • 1:00 P.M.**

**160.06+/- SURVEYED ACRES, 152.42+/- TILLABLE ACRES, CPI=91.4, LOCATED IN KILDARE TWP., SWIFT COUNTY**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**  
The Southwest Quarter of Section 9, Township 121, Range 38.

**LAND LOCATION:**  
From DeGraff, go north on 80th Ave SE (31) for approximately 2.5 miles. Watch for auction signs.

**AUCTION LOCATION:**  
McKinney Community Center, 300 14th St. S.

**CPI=91.4**  
**THIS LAND HAS BEEN SURVEYED**  
**THIS LAND HAS TILE**



Live Auction with Online Bidding Option

**Auctioneer's Comments:** Here is a beautiful farm with a great story. In 1902 the Kennelly family's great grandfather, M.F. Mullan, purchased this property. Now, after 119 years of ownership by the Kennelly family, the time has come that another area farmer or investor will have the chance to call this land their own. With over 152 tillable acres in one field that lays nice and has strong soils; this is a high quality tract that will add value to your operation or your other land holdings. The farm has been surveyed, has tile and possession will be immediately after the Fall harvest. Please call, text or email with questions. On behalf of the Kennelly family and ours, we appreciate your interest. Glen Fladeboe cell: 651-208-3262 or Glen@FladeboeLand.com *-the Fladeboe Land Team*

**Kennelly Family, Owners**

**FLADEBOE LAND**

**Kristine Fladeboe Dulnick**  
- Broker - 320-212-9379  
**Glen Fladeboe** 651-208-3262  
**Dale Fladeboe** 320-894-9392  
2013 MSAA Hall of Fame Auctioneer

**Auction Terms:** The successful bidder will pay down \$50,000 as earnest money on auction day in the form of a cashier's check. The non-refundable check should be made out to Fladeboe Land Trust Account. The successful bidder will enter into a non-contingent, AS-IS purchase agreement on auction day. Buyer's premium will apply. Final price will be calculated by the number of deeded acres as per the survey. Closing will be executed on or before November 2, 2021, with attorney Wilcox Law Office, in Bemont, MN. Announcements made auction day take precedence over printed material. For info packet call Glen at 651-208-3262 or email him at Glen@FladeboeLand.com  
**www.FladeboeLand.com**  
*Sellers, auctioneers and brokerage are not responsible for accidents.*

**PRIME FARMLAND AUCTION IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY**

## AUCTION

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 • 11:00 A.M.**

**TWO PARCELS OF PRIME FARMLAND • 322+/- TOTAL DEEDED ACRES**

**PARCEL 1**  
115.78 +/- Surveyed Acres;  
103.21 +/- Tillable Acres;  
CPI=89.8

**PARCEL 2**  
206.23 +/- Surveyed Acres;  
148.5 +/- Tillable Acres;  
CPI=88.7, 17.25 CRP Acres

**Legal:** Parcel 1 - The SE1/4 lying East of the ditch; Parcel 2 - The SE1/4 lying West of the ditch; SE1/4 of SW1/4, GL 2 & 3 and Parcel E of Plat of Visser Lake; All in Section 26, Twp 119, Range 36, St Johns Twp, Kandiyohi Co. See survey for exact legal descriptions.  
**Land Location:** From Highway 23 in Priam; North on County Road #116 (75th St SW) one mile to southeast corner of Parcel 1. Watch for auction signs.  
**Auction Location:** Pennock Community Center, 305 Dakota Ave NE, Pennock, MN



Live Auction with Online Bidding Option

**Auctioneer's Notes:** Folks, the Family of Byron Ahrenholz has decided the time has come to offer another family the chance to farm the land that their family has owned since the 50's. This is a great opportunity for you to purchase quality farmland in the heart of Kandiyohi County. The soils on this farm are very good to excellent. These parcels have tile and a prime drainage outlet with the ditch running through this farm. If you are looking to add quality ground to your operation or holdings, don't miss out on this opportunity. We appreciate your interest. Call or text Kristine with any questions you may have at 320-212-9379 or email her at Kristine@FladeboeLand.com. *-the Fladeboe Land Team*

**Byron Ahrenholz Estate, Delores Ahrenholz, Owner**

**FLADEBOE LAND**

**Kristine Fladeboe Dulnick**  
- Broker - 320-212-9379  
**Glen Fladeboe** 651-208-3262  
**Dale Fladeboe** 320-894-9392  
2013 MSAA Hall of Fame Auctioneer

**Auction Terms:** The successful bidder(s) will pay down \$50,000 per parcel as earnest money on auction day in the form of a cashier's check. The non-refundable check should be made out to Fladeboe Land Trust Account. The successful bidder(s) will enter into a non-contingent, AS-IS purchase agreement on auction day. Buyer's premium will apply. Final price will be calculated by the number of deeded acres as per the survey. Closing will be executed on or before November 30, 2021, with MJ&K Law Office, in Willmar, MN. Announcements made auction day take precedence over printed material. For info packet call Kristine at 320-212-9379 or email her at Kristine@FladeboeLand.com  
**www.FladeboeLand.com**  
*Sellers, auctioneers and brokerage are not responsible for accidents.*

**PRIME FARMLAND AUCTION IN McLEOD COUNTY**

## AUCTION

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 • 2:00 P.M.**

**PARCEL 1-A:** 59.99 +/- Surveyed Acres, 56.7 +/- Tillable Acres; CPI=92.2;

**PARCEL 1-B:** 35.70 +/- Surveyed Acres, 10.1 +/- Tillable Acres; Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 24 & Part of Government Lot 1 in Section 25, all in Twp 117, Range 30 all located in Acoma Twp, McLeod County.

**PARCEL 2:** 41.31 Deeded Acres Including Building Site, 12.5 +/- Tillable Acres; CPI=94.1; Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, Section 24, Twp 117, Range 30, Acoma Twp, McLeod County. (See survey for exact legal descriptions.)  
Parcel 2 Building Site Address: 19282 210th St, Hutchinson, MN 55350

**LAND LOCATION:** Hutchinson - From intersection of Highway 7 & County Road #15 go north approximately three miles to 210th St, go west (left) approximately one mile to the northeast corner of Parcel 1. The road is the dividing line between the two parcels. Watch for Auction Signs.

**AUCTION LOCATION:**  
Hutchinson VFW  
247 1st Ave SE, Hutchinson, MN 55350

**Auctioneer's Notes:** This is a rare opportunity to own a high quality farm located close to Hutchinson, MN. This land has been in the Prieve Family since 1919. You won't want to miss your chance to bid on land that hasn't been offered for sale for over 100 years. Parcel 1 offers 56.7 +/- tillable acres with a CPI=92.2. Parcel 1 is divided into Parcel 1-A & Parcel 1-B. The successful bidder of these parcels will receive a Warranty Deed for Parcel 1-A. The final price paid will be calculated by the number of surveyed acres in Parcel 1-A only. The successful bidder of Parcel 1-A will also receive a Quit Claim Deed for the land in Parcel 1-B at no additional cost. Parcel 2 consists of a building site with a beautiful, mature grove and includes 12.5 +/- tillable acres and a CPI=94.1. Both parcels are located in Acoma Township, McLeod Co. This land has been surveyed. Possession of the building site will be immediately after closing. Possession of the tillable land will be after the 2021 harvest has been completed. We look forward to seeing you on auction day! Call or text Kristine with any questions you may have or to make an appointment to view property at 320-212-9379 or email her at Kristine@FladeboeLand.com. *-the Fladeboe Land Team*



Live Auction with Online Bidding Option

This Land Has Been Surveyed

**Willard Prieve Estate, Owners**

**FLADEBOE LAND**

**Kristine Fladeboe Dulnick**  
- Broker - 320-212-9379  
**Glen Fladeboe** 651-208-3262  
**Dale Fladeboe** 320-894-9392  
2013 MSAA Hall of Fame Auctioneer

**Auction Terms:** The successful bidder(s) will pay down \$30,000 as earnest money per parcel on auction day in the form of a cashier's check. The non-refundable check should be made out to Fladeboe Land Trust Account. The successful bidder(s) will enter into a non-contingent, AS-IS purchase agreement on auction day. Buyer's premium will apply. Final price will be calculated by the number of deeded acres as per the survey. Closing will be executed on or before November 12, 2021, with McLeod Co. Abstract & Title Services in Hutchinson, MN. Announcements made auction day take precedence over printed material. For info packet call Kristine at 320-212-9379 or email her at Kristine@FladeboeLand.com  
**www.FladeboeLand.com**  
*Sellers, auctioneers and brokerage are not responsible for accidents.*

**PRIME FARMLAND AUCTION IN REDWOOD COUNTY**

## AUCTION

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 • 2:00 P.M.**

**THREE PARCELS OF PRIME FARMLAND - 233.51 TOTAL SURVEYED ACRES LOCATED IN KINTIRE TOWNSHIP, REDWOOD COUNTY.**

**Parcel 1** - 82.89 Deeded Acres; 82.56 +/- Tillable Acres; CPI=93.5 The SE 1/4 north of the RR ROW.

**Parcel 2** - 88.26 Deeded Acres; 81.14 +/- Tillable Acres; CPI=93.2 The SW 1/4 south of the RR ROW.

**Parcel 3** - 62.36 Deeded Acres; 58.23 +/- Tillable Acres; CPI=91.7 The SE 1/4 south of the RR ROW, exc building site.

**Land Location:** From Belview - 2 Miles east of Belview on County Highway #9 (380th Ave); From Delhi - 1.75 miles west of Delhi on County Highway #9 (380th Ave); From Redwood Falls - West on Highway #19 approximately 4 miles to County Road #6, north 4 miles to County Highway #9 (380th Ave) in Delhi, west 1.7 miles. Watch for Auction Signs.

**Auction Location:** Belview Community Center, 202 S Main Street, Belview, MN



Live Auction with Online Bidding Option

**Auctioneer's Comments:** We're proud to announce our upcoming auction of the Hines Family Farm. This farm has been in the Hines Family for over a century having been purchased by Obadiah A. Hines in 1881. You will not want to miss the opportunity to call this farm your own. This farmland is located in Kintire Township, Redwood Co., with a total of over 220 tillable acres, and an excellent average CPI=92.9. You will have the opportunity to purchase any or all of these parcels. This land has been surveyed. Possession will be immediately after the closing. We hope to see you on auction day! Call Kristine at 320-212-9379 or Glen at 651-208-3262 with any questions you may have. *-the Fladeboe Land Team*

**Hines Family Farm, Owners**

**FLADEBOE LAND**

**Kristine Fladeboe Dulnick**  
- Broker - 320-212-9379  
**Glen Fladeboe** 651-208-3262  
**Dale Fladeboe** 320-894-9392  
2013 MSAA Hall of Fame Auctioneer

**Auction Terms:** The successful bidder will pay down \$35,000 per parcel as earnest money on auction day in the form of a cashier's check. The non-refundable check should be made out to Fladeboe Land Trust Account. The successful bidder will enter into a non-contingent, AS-IS purchase agreement on auction day. Buyer's premium will apply. Final price will be calculated by the number of deeded acres as per the survey. Closing will be executed on or before November 21, 2021 with Kraft Walker Law Office in Olivia, MN. Announcements made auction day take precedence over printed material. For info packet call Kristine at 320-212-9379 or email her at Kristine@FladeboeLand.com  
**www.FladeboeLand.com**  
*Sellers, auctioneers and brokerage are not responsible for accidents.*

# NOVEMBER AUCTIONS

**TUES., NOV. 2, 2021 AT 2 PM**  
Farmland Auction in Swift Co.  
80.1 Surveyed Acres located in West Bank Twp., Swift Co.  
**Kent Molde, Owner**

**TUES., NOV. 9, 2021 AT 2 PM**  
3 Parcels of Prime Redwood Co. Farmland 233.51 Total Surveyed Acres Located in Kintire Twp., Redwood Co.  
**Hines Family Farm, Owners**

**NOVEMBER OF 2021**  
Prime Farmland in Lac qui Parle Co.  
83.21 Surveyed Acres Located in Hantho Twp., Lac qui Parle Co.  
**Moen Family Farm, Owners**

**THUR., NOV. 4, 2021 AT 11 AM**  
3 Parcels of Prime Kandiyohi Co. Farmland 260.39 +/- Deeded Acres Located in Whitefield Twp., Kandiyohi Co.  
**Butler Family, Owner**

**NOVEMBER OF 2021**  
Prime Farmland in Kandiyohi Co.  
80.5 Surveyed Acres Located in Holland Twp., Kandiyohi Co.  
**Jim & Debra Hillenbrand, Owners**

**NOVEMBER OF 2021**  
Farmland Auction In Kandiyohi Co.  
115.9 +/- Surveyed Acres Located in Mamre Twp., Kandiyohi Co.  
**Holmgren Trust, Owners**



**FLADEBOE LAND**

For more information contact  
Kristine at 320-212-9379  
Glen Fladeboe 651-208-3262  
Dale Fladeboe 320-894-9392

Go to [Fladeboeland.com](http://Fladeboeland.com) for details & drone videos

## RCW will take a forfeit win over BLHS

### Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart pulls out of Friday's game because of injuries

By Tom Elliott  
West Central Tribune

DANUBE — The Renville County West football team really wanted to play Friday, if for no other reason than to wash away the sting from two straight tough losses.

And while the Jaguars will be awarded a forfeit victory, they aren't exactly celebrating.

"We're stuck with it," RCW head coach Ryan Hebrink said.

RCW was scheduled to play Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart. BLHS announced Wednesday it would not be able to field a team.

"Due to low numbers, for various reasons, the football game this Friday at RCW

has been canceled," stated a tweet from the Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Activities Twitter account.

BHLS (0-3) started the season with 13 varsity players. Hebrink said he watched video of the Mustangs' 44-18 loss to Westbrook-Walnut Grove last Friday and saw one player in uniform standing next to the coach for the 9-Man game.

RCW tried to find a replacement for Friday's game, which happened frequently last year because of the pandemic. But no 9-Man teams were to be found. Instead, the Jaguars will practice to get ready for their next game at 7 p.m. Oct. 1 at Hills-Beaver Creek (3-0).

"Fortunately, for us, it's still another week of practice," Hebrink said. "We can go back to some things during two-a-days that we were working on that maybe we hadn't quite gotten down."

"It is what it is. We need to find something positive out of it. We'll make the most of the extra practice time."

The Jaguars are 1-2. They opened with a 26-8 victory over Westbrook-Walnut Grove, then lost to No. 1-ranked Mountain Lake 26-12 on Sept. 10 and fell 18-16 to Red Rock Central on Sept. 17.

Hebrink said his team believed they could have won both games, especially against RRC.



Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

RCW wide receiver Isaac Haen races down the field after coming up with a catch in the second quarter of a game against Sleepy Eye St. Mary's on Oct. 16, 2020 in Danube.

"We don't feel like we played very well," he said. "It was definitely a game we should've won."

"Mountain Lake has a great program."

FOOTBALL: Page B4



Photos by Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

Willmar sophomore Cate Brogren extends out during the backstroke portion of the 200-yard medley relay during a Central Lakes Conference meet against Sartell on Thursday at Willmar High School.

## Sabres too much for Cards

### Sartell swims past Willmar in Central Lakes Conference meet

By Joe Brown and Tom Elliott  
West Central Tribune

Willmar

Facing off against one of the powers of the Central Lakes Conference, the Willmar girls swimming and diving team took a 100-80 loss to Sartell on Thursday.

The Sabres go to 4-1 in the CLC this year while the Cardinals drop to 0-4.

Willmar got a win in the

100-yard backstroke when senior Ava Brogren hit the board with a time of 1 minute, 2.83 seconds. She beat Sartell's Sienna Albjerg, who was second at 1:05.29.

Brogren also took second in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:18.83 while the Sabres' Holly Lenarz won with a time of 2:13.95. Lenarz also won the 500 freestyle at 5:22.55.

Also getting two wins

apiece for Sartell were: Madeline Francois (50 free, 25.62; 100 free, 56.58); and Emma Yao (100 butterfly, 1:03.79; 100 breaststroke, 1:10.02).

Megann Jobin (200 free, 2:06.86) and Hailey Westrup (diving, 219.25 points) also locked up individual wins for the Sabres.

Kaylee Hurley (100 butterfly, 1:10.79) and Kylie Portiin (diving, 171.75)

each took second in their respective events for Willmar.

The Cardinals return to action at 6 p.m. Tuesday against Marshall at Southwest Minnesota State University.

### Girls Swimming

#### Sartell 100, Willmar 80

200 MEDLEY RELAY — (1) Sartell 1:54.71 ... (2) Willmar (Cate Brogren, Ava Brogren, Grace Bjur, Noelle Becker) 2:06.65

200 FREESTYLE — (1) Megann Jobin, S, 2:06.86 ... (2) Joslynn Stewart, S, 2:14.74

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — (1) Holly Lenarz, S, 2:13.95 ... (2) A. Brogren, W, 2:18.82

50 FREESTYLE — (1) Madeline Francois, S, 25.62 ... (2) Janie Martin, S, 27.29 ... (3) Becker, W, 28.15

DIVING — (1) Hailey Westrup, S, 219.25 ... (2) Kylie Portiin, W, 171.75

100 BUTTERFLY — (1) Emma Yao, S, 1:03.79 ... (2) Kaylee Hurley, W, 1:10.79

100 FREESTYLE — (1) Francois, S, 56.58 ... (2) Stewart, S, 1:01.22

500 FREESTYLE — (1) Lenarz, S, 5:22.55 ... (2) Jobin, S, 5:43.35

200 FREESTYLE RELAY — (1) Sartell 1:46.76 ... (2) Willmar (Bjur, C. Brogren, Hurley, Aubrey Schueler) 1:52.45

100 BACKSTROKE — (1) A. Brogren, W, 1:02.83 ... (2) Sienna Albjerg, S, 1:05.29

100 BREASTSTROKE — (1) Yao, S, 1:10.02 ... (2) Hailey Cota, S, 1:18.64

400 FREESTYLE RELAY — (1) Sartell 3:56.32 ... (2) Willmar (A. Brogren, C. Brogren, Becker, Schueler) 4:00.37

Hutchinson 56, Litchfield 44

Litchfield dropped to 3-4 in dual meets this season after Hutchinson got the Wright County Conference win at Litchfield High School.

SWIMMING: Page B4



Willmar freshman Kaylee Hurley races down the lane during the 200-yard freestyle in a Central Lakes Conference meet against Sartell on Thursday at Willmar High School.

## Here come the Thunder Hawks

### Montevideo sweeps Minnewaska 25-13, 25-9, 25-21 in West Central win

By Matthew Curry, Joe Brown and Tom Elliott  
West Central Tribune

MONTEVIDEO — After suffering a three-set loss to Paynesville on Tuesday, the Montevideo Thunder Hawks rebounded on Thursday with a sweep of its own against the Minnewaska Lakers.

With the majority of the Montevideo gym being Thunder Hawks' supporters, including a packed and energized student section, Montevideo pushed through for a 25-13, 25-9, 25-21 West Central Conference volleyball victory.

"The girls came with a mission and we accomplished it," Thunder Hawks' coach Ashley Palmer said. "Coming off a tough loss against Paynesville we wanted to come out fighting with a strong start and we did."

Avery Koenen was a dominant force for Montevideo. The 6-foot-2-inch junior hitter finished with 19 kills, 17 digs and five blocks.

"(Koenen) works really hard and is a great leader both on and off the court," Palmer said. "After graduating eight seniors last year we knew we had to fill in some holes, so a lot of girls are looking to learn how to compete in varsity volleyball. (We're) so thankful to have her."

Montevideo's strong was evident in the 25-13 first-set victory.

The Thunder Hawks' led the second set 11-2, forcing Minnewaska to call a timeout. Montevideo's streak continued with Minnewaska calling another timeout after trailing 20-5.

Montevideo claimed the set 25-9.

Montevideo went on to take the third set by its closest margin 25-21.

VOLLEYBALL: Page B4



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# Twins deal Jays costly defeat in wild-card race

**Field Level Media**  
Rookie Nick Gordon hit a three-run homer to highlight a four-run fifth inning and lead the Minnesota Twins to a 7-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in the opener of their four-game series on Thursday night in Minneapolis.

Toronto (85-68) took its third consecutive loss and fell a full game behind the idle New York Yankees for the second American League wild-card spot. The Blue Jays, who host the Yankees in a three-game series next week, are one game ahead of the Seattle Mariners (84-69) which completed a four-game sweep of the Oakland A's earlier on Thursday.

3-for-4 with four RBIs, his fourth career three-hit game and second in the past three games. Mitch Garver went 3-for-4 with a double, a run and an RBI, and Byron Buxton doubled and had two hits and a walk for Minnesota (68-85), which won its third straight game.

Michael Pineda (8-8) picked up the win, defeating the Blue Jays for the second time in the span of seven days. Pineda allowed two runs on eight hits over five innings. He struck out two and walked one.

Ralph Garza Jr. got George Springer to line out on a comebacker with the bases loaded in the eighth and picked up his first career save with 1 1/3 scoreless innings of



**Jordan Johnson / USA Today Sports**  
Minnesota Twins center fielder Byron Buxton (25) slides into third base during the first inning Thursday against the Toronto Blue Jays at Target Field in Minneapolis.

relief.

Teoscar Hernandez homered, doubled and scored twice and Marcus Semien had two hits for Toronto, which fell for the third time in its past

Toronto took a 1-0 lead in the second inning when Hernandez led off with a double and scored on a double into the left-center-field gap by Lourdes Gurriel Jr.

Minnesota took a 2-1 lead in the third. Buxton led off with a double and scored on Jorge Polanco's single. Polanco advanced to second on a walk to Josh Donaldson and then scored on a Garver single.

The Blue Jays tied it 2-2 in the fourth when Hernandez led off with his 30th homer of the season, a 363-foot drive down the left field line. The Twins then took a 6-2 lead in the fifth.

Donaldson led off with a walk and advanced to third on Garver's double to left-center. Luis

Arraez drove in Donaldson with a groundout to second to give Minnesota a 3-2 lead.

After Miguel Sano struck out, Brent Rooker walked with Hatch then departing due to his injury. Gordon then hit his fourth home run of the season, off Julian Merryweather, a 394-foot drive into the plaza behind the right field bleachers to make it 6-2.

The Twins extended the lead to 7-2 in the seventh on Gordon's RBI single, driving in Rooker, who had doubled.

Gurriel exited in the fifth inning after his right hand was stepped on during a play in the outfield. He received two stitches, but X-rays were negative.

## Garver ponders future with Twins' direction uncertain

**By Betsy Helfand**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Mitch Garver could see it coming in May — he had seen it before in 2018 and sensed it could happen again: if the Minnesota Twins didn't turn things around quickly, the team would be picked apart at the trade deadline.

Indeed, that's what happened in late July. Nelson Cruz was shipped out. José Berríos, J.A. Happ and Hansel Robles followed.

As the Twins plot their course moving forward, the catcher wonders often about his own future. He won't be a free agent until after the 2024 season and with the Twins' direction uncertain — at least publicly — could he be dealt next?

"I think about it every night," Garver said. "But, it's hard to keep those thoughts aside because I still have a job to do. I have a big off-season in front of me with my family, and we want to enjoy every part

of that. Can't look too far into the future. But yes, it could go different ways. We don't really know exactly what's going to happen."

Garver's 2021 season has been, as he put it, "wrecked" by injuries. Garver took a foul tip to the groin on June 1. It required emergency surgery and the catcher didn't return until July 19. The 30-year-old catcher returned to the injured list on Aug. 27 with low back tightness, which kept him out of action until Tuesday.

All told, he has played in just 63 games this season.

"At least from the opportunities that I had, I think I did a lot of them," Garver said. "The time I was healthy, I think I produced pretty well. I was able to perform at the level I wanted."

He just wasn't healthy as often as he would have liked to be.

Garver, rebounding from a truncated 2020 season in which he dealt

with an injury and only played in 23 games, entered Thursday hitting .251 with a .358 on-base percentage and .529 slugging percentage, spending parts of the season looking much like the guy who won a Silver Slugger Award in 2019.

"Statistically he's probably one of the best offensive catchers in the game when he's healthy," third baseman Josh Donaldson said. "... A lot of teams don't get a lot of production from that position, and he's one of those spots to where we normally feel like we have an advantage from the offensive side when he's in the game."

Catcher Ryan Jeffers is both younger and under club control for longer than Garver. The Twins entered this season planning on splitting playing time between the two about 50-50. Under that arrangement, both of their numbers suffered at the beginning of the year before the club

eventually sent Jeffers to Triple-A.

How the Twins plan to move forward with the catching position remains to be seen. As does their direction in general after shipping their best starting pitcher, Berríos, to Toronto.

"You never really know what the organization is thinking," Garver said. "You saw it in '18, they traded away some homegrown guys that had been a staple in the lineup for a long time. And you saw what we did in '19 when we turned it around, won 100 games with the lineup that we have, added a few pieces and we were a really good team. Who knows what could happen?"

### Berrios returns

During the season,

Berríos only allows himself a cheat day two days after he starts. So he's planning ahead.

Berríos said Thursday he has already ordered food for his new Blue Jays teammates for Sunday to try to "give (them) something special from Minnesota." Berríos will start against the Twins at Target Field on Friday, the second time he will face his former teammates in less than a week. Last time out, he gave up three runs in 6 2/3 innings in Toronto.

Before the series opener on Thursday, the Twins played a video tribute to commemorate his time with the organization, which included a 55-43 record over six seasons and two All-Star Game selections.

"I walked this morning from the hotel to the

ballpark," Berríos said. "The ballpark from the other side, it's crazy. It's crazy. I talked to my family — I'm going to enjoy this weekend here, obviously, and try to have fun with my guys again."

### Briefly

Blue Jays manager **Charlie Montoyo** received a one-game suspension after MLB determined reliever Ryan Borucki intentionally hit Rays outfielder **Kevin Kiermaier** with a pitch Wednesday. Montoyo served that suspension on Thursday night against the Twins. ... Manager **Rocco Baldelli** said the Twins are pleased with how **John Gant** (abdominal strain) has progressed and they hope to get him back before the season ends.

## Suggs would have been two-sport Gopher, if Pitino recruited him harder

**By Andy Greder**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Jalen Suggs was on the verge of becoming a two-sport athlete for the Gophers, the West St. Paul native revealed on the "Road Trippin' " podcast this week.

Suggs, a four-star quarterback at Minnehaha Academy, had a good relationship with Minnesota football coach P.J. Fleck in the recruiting process, but the five-star point guard said he didn't get a strong enough vibe from former Minnesota men's basketball coach Richard Pitino.

"So, sophomore year going into junior year, I am ready to commit to Minnesota," Suggs said. "I'm like ready to go. I'm ready to do both sports. I'll play with P.J. The basketball — I'll do it. I just need a little bit. I need a little more from the basketball side."

Former NBA player Richard Jefferson, one of the podcast's hosts, then asks, "What do you mean? You need more attention?"

"I didn't care about that. ... They didn't come to recruit," said Suggs, the first Minnesota high school player to be named Mr. Football and Mr. Basketball in the same year. "They didn't come to many games. Like, they weren't at practice."

In the video of the podcast, Jefferson's reaction goes from wide-eyed to seemingly confused — perhaps like a lot of Gopher fans while reading this.

"When you (live) that close, and especially I never really had too much interaction with Pitino," said Suggs, who signed with Gonzaga instead and led the Bulldogs to the NCAA championship game in April in his one season of college basketball. "He's cool, the times we did talk. He's good people, but I wish if he would have just came a little more, showed interest and like he actually wanted me to be there. Then it would have been easy and I would have

chopped it up and committed late my junior year to ... Minnesota."

Rochester's Matthew Hurt shared a similar story to the St. Paul Pioneer Press a few years ago — Pitino not showing enough interest. But there has to be more to the story both for Suggs and Hurt, who went to Duke. How could a Big Ten coach not want premier talent, especially the in-state variety?

Yet once Suggs' interview made the rounds on Twitter, other Minnesotans added their desires to stay home in follow-up tweets, including Champlin Park's McKinley Wright, who went to Colorado and is now with the Timberwolves, and DeLaSalle's Tyrell Terry, who played Stanford and is now a member of the Dallas Mavericks.

But there was enough of a disconnect between Pitino and recruiting players from the state of Minnesota for Gophers Athletics Director Mark Coyle to cite in-state recruiting as one of the reasons he fired Pitino last spring. New coach Ben Johnson recruited top in-state guard Tre Holloman, but the Cretin-Derham Hall product already had established a connection with Tom Izzo, and that led Holloman to Michigan State. Since his hiring last spring, Johnson has received commitments from a few in-state players.

Suggs, of course, ended up at Gonzaga, where 6-foot-4, 205-pound player had a stellar freshman season in 2020-21. He banked-in a 3-pointer to prope the Zags to an overtime win in the national semifinal, before Baylor ended their perfect season in the title game.

After his award-filled freshman year, the Orlando Magic selected Suggs fifth overall in the NBA Draft. So even if he would have stayed home in Dinkytown, it likely would have been short-lived.

Yet given his immense talent, it's hard not to think about what might have been.

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# Vikings get rare chance to play Russell Wilson at home

By Chris Tomasson  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

As a 23-year-old rookie, Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes in Seattle's 30-20 victory over the Vikings on Nov. 4, 2012. And he hasn't slowed down since.

The quarterback, now in his 10th season with the Seahawks, has appeared in two Super Bowls, winning one, and been named to seven Pro Bowls. He also hasn't let up in his domination of the Vikings.

The Seahawks have beaten the Vikings seven straight times, all with Wilson at the controls. He also has led Seattle to wins over Minnesota in the regular season in 2013, 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and in a play-off game after the 2015 season.

Wilson will try to make it 8-0 when the Seahawks (1-1) visit U.S. Bank Stadium at 3:25 p.m. Sunday for Minnesota's home opener. The Vikings (0-2) are going for their first win over Seattle since a 35-9 victory at the Metrodome in 2009.

"It's not ideal,"

Vikings safety Harrison Smith, a rookie in 2012, said of all the losses to Seattle. "(Wilson's) made some great plays in those games, so he's a big part of that success. ... We have to find ways to win."

At least the Vikings are feeling better about one thing. After losing to the Seahawks at Lumen Field in each of the past three seasons, they finally get to play them at home.

"I thought they signed a contract for us to go over there," quipped running back Dalvin Cook. "It's been crazy. ... We've been dealing with their fans quite a bit, so now it's time for them to deal with ours."

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, there actually were no fans at Seattle's 27-26 victory over Vikings in Week 5 last season at Lumen Field. Facing fourth-and-goal at the Vikings' 6-yard line, the Seahawks won on a touchdown pass from Wilson to D.K. Metcalf with 15 seconds left.

That was the second-most painful loss the Vikings have experienced against Seattle. In the playoff game at then-



Joe Nicholson / USA Today Sports

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) passes against the Minnesota Vikings during the second quarter at CenturyLink Field in Seattle on Oct. 11.

named TCF Bank Stadium, the Seahawks won 10-9 when Blair Walsh shanked a 27-yard field goal with 22 seconds left.

"Each game is different," Mike Zimmer said of the five losses he has absorbed at the hands of Wilson since taking over as Vikings coach in 2014. "We missed a field goal in the playoff game. We got them in fourth-and-10 last year (and) fourth-and-6, and they convert twice (on the final drive)."

One thing that usually hasn't been different is Wilson coming up big

against the Vikings. In his seven games against them, he has thrown for 14 touchdowns.

Wilson did have a career-low 72 yards passing in a December 2018 game against Minnesota, but he made up for it by rushing for 61 yards in Seattle's 21-7 win. After the game, Zimmer fired offensive coordinator John DeFilippo for not running the ball enough.

In a December 2019 game, the Vikings were prepared to run but Cook suffered a chest injury that sent him to the

bench midway through the third quarter in Seattle's 37-30 win. Then in last year's game, Cook got hurt again, knocked out on the first play of the second half with a groin strain.

"We have had a few in Seattle," quarterback Kirk Cousins said of the losses there. "Tough place to play, so being at home will be outstanding."

With the NFC North Vikings playing the NFC West Seahawks for the fourth straight season, co-defensive coordinator Andre Patterson joked that "we might as well be in their division." But Patterson knows it will be no joke trying to contain Wilson, who in Seattle's first two games has completed 40 of 54 passes (74.1 percent) for 597 yards with six touchdowns and no interceptions.

"He's one of the best quarterbacks in the league," Patterson said of Wilson, who will be making his first Minnesota appearance since that epic playoff game. "He manages their whole offense. ... He's a tremendous challenge for us on Sunday."

At least the Vikings have some players now who have actually been on teams that beat the Seahawks. Defensive tackle Dalvin Tomlinson was with the New York Giants last season when they recorded a 17-12 upset at Seattle. And when Patrick Peterson played for Arizona from 2011-20, the Cardinals went 8-11-1 against division foe Seattle.

"It's always a fun battle whenever I have the opportunity to go against Russell Wilson," Peterson said. "There's greatness in front of you whenever you line up across from a guy like that. I put him in that same boat and era as Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Peyton Manning."

At least Peterson sees one possible advantage now in going against Wilson, 33. He might not be quite as mobile as he once was.

"It just gives us that little bit more relief knowing that he's a little more cautious in taking off with the ball versus trying to make that big play down the field," Patterson said.

# Wild's Fiala 'very, very motivated' to prove himself

By Dane Mizutani  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minnesota Wild winger Kevin Fiala isn't worried about the past, only the future.

He doesn't care about Kirill Kaprizov's 5-year, \$45 million contract that makes him the highest-paid player in franchise history in terms of annual salary. Or about Joel Eriksson Ek's 8-year, \$42 million contract that provides him stability well into his prime.

Well, maybe Fiala does care

about both of those things, considering he had to settle for a 1-year, \$5.1 million contract this offseason. That said, Fiala took the high road Thursday at TRIA Rink in downtown St. Paul.

"I don't want to go into details right now," he said. "Just excited to get going. To be a normal full (82-game) season. That's my focus right now."

Still, it's hard to imagine the 25-year-old winger from Switzerland isn't a little per-

turbed by his current contract. Though the money he's getting for this season isn't chump change, in an off-season during which general manager Bill Guerin signed Kaprizov and Eriksson Ek to long-term deals, Fiala didn't get that type of commitment from the organization.

Instead, the Wild actually opted for arbitration themselves, a rarity for an NHL team, before settling with Fiala.

"I don't think it's a bad

thing for Kevin," Guerin said last month. "I think he's going to be motivated. You know what? I do think Kevin's the kind of guy that probably wants to prove me wrong and say, 'You know what? You screwed up.'"

Asked about his current contract, Fiala said he doesn't mind that it's a short-term deal.

"I like it," he said. "It's a great opportunity for me to do another great year and then we will see what hap-

pens after that."

After a few more questions about the same topic, Fiala finally let his guard down, if only for a moment. He admitted that he's looking forward to proving himself this season, and in turn, proving the Wild wrong for not signing him to a long-term deal.

"I'm very, very motivated," Fiala said. "I got (the) fire in my eyes. I'm looking forward to this season badly."

Maybe next offseason the Wild will regret their decision.

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Puzzle Corner

Conceptis SUDOKU by Dave Green Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 9/24 Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Schaffer Solution time: 25 mins. 1 Itty-bitty 41 Annoy 2 Hosp. section 21 Appre- hend 43 Camp bed 3 Coffee substitute head 6 Spigot 44 "Don't rub —!" 4 Move, in 24 Sun. talk 9 Merit badge org. 45 Baby lingo 26 Pitching in 12 Yearned 47 Actor/ dancer 5 "Strange to say ..." 28 Muffler before Hines 49 Belt 6 Capital of 30 "No seats" 14 Tease 15 Screen holders 52 Smack 7 Hertz sign 16 Smoking wood 53 Cote cry rival 32 "We won!" 18 Hues 55 Prof's muscle 33 Tokyo, once 20 Singles helpers 9 Big Apple borough 34 Court divider 21 Ultramod- 56 Hostel 10 Yes or no 36 Juddical 23 Singer 57 Eric Clapton hit 11 Void quorum 24 Jazz band 17 Eucalyptus 38 Correct eaters 39 Places in the heart 25 Taj Mahal city 19 Nebraska 40 Regiments 42 Super- man, at birth 27 Photog- rapher Adams 45 Persia, today 29 Like Peter Pan 46 Asta's feeder 31 Cowardly 35 Pulitzer category 48 Kimono closer 37 Faction 50 D.C. figure 38 CBer's device 51 Span. lady

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Yesterday's answers: 9 1 3 7 6 8 5 2 4 6 4 7 2 3 5 8 9 1 5 2 8 9 4 1 3 6 7 8 6 1 5 7 9 2 4 3 3 9 4 1 2 6 7 5 8 7 5 2 3 8 4 9 1 6 1 8 5 6 9 7 4 3 2 4 3 6 8 5 2 1 7 9 2 7 9 4 1 3 6 8 5 Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/23 9-24 CRYPTOQUIP ZXT LE AEF G KSEKNS PEMFULSD OVOPCF SF QSDT LSKSMLOVNS LSQUP SF? TEC POM ONZOTF PECMG EM GXSA. Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHAT DO YOU RECKON SHOEMAKERS MIGHT LIKE TO LISTEN TO AS THEY'RE DOING THEIR WORK? SOLE MUSIC. Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals C

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57

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**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Erin Chambers, 42; Candace Kita, 54; Nia Vardalos, 59; Kevin Sorbo, 63.

**Happy Birthday:** Laboring over something you have no control over will not help you get ahead this year. Step outside your comfort zone. Use your intelligence, not your brawn, to get things done. Broaden your horizons to avoid being trapped. It's up to you to enjoy life's journey. Don't avoid the things you need to do; act and move forward.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Bartering is to your advantage. You'll captivate through imagination and spark interest in what you want to pursue. A partnership looks promising. The more you talk, the easier it will be to convince others to join the conversation.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** An unexpected change will result if you make demands or let someone push you. Keeping a balanced lifestyle will help you ward off anyone trying to infiltrate your plans. Be secretive; you'll complete what you set out to do without interference.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Work diligently behind the scenes where no one will bother you. Aim to accomplish the most in the least amount of time, and move on to activities that offer mental and physical stimulation. Engage in social events that are safe and captivating.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Stick to what and who you know. Avoid outsiders; stay within your inner circle to avoid mistrust and harsh words. Put your emphasis on improvements and doing things in your unique fashion. Set trends rather than follow them.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Hold on to your emotions. Refuse to give someone the upper hand by showing your true feelings. Keep your life simple, and stay focused on what you can accomplish without giving too much away. Do things your way, and avoid meddlers.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Alter the way you do things, and you will learn something valuable. A change will revitalize your outlook and introduce you to a life choice you hadn't considered in the past. A friend or relative will give you something to think about.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** An energetic approach to life will catapult you past anyone who interferes. Your desire to win will keep you revved up and ready to excel. Taking on a partner will slow you down. Go it alone, and shoot for the stars.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A change is overdue. Put your plans in motion. Forgo the past, and move forward without looking back or letting any hurdles faced deter you from taking the first step. Embrace life and take charge of your future.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Sharing too much information will slow you down. Be sure you take care of the necessary details to ensure your plans unfold without a hitch. Timing is everything, and letting outside interference intervene will disrupt the outcome. Focus on preparation and presentation.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Spend more time at home or working alongside people who share your goals and interests. A change at home will make your life easier and help eliminate stress. Learn from the experience you encounter, and you'll achieve the happiness you deserve.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Stop and take inventory. Remember what's happened in the past, and make the necessary changes to prevent making the same mistake twice. Trust your intelligence, not your emotions, and you will figure out the best way to move forward.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Put your energy where it counts, and you'll find a position that intrigues you. Revamp your resume to fit trends. Self-improvement projects are favored, and spending time with someone you love will bring you closer together.

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

# Help, I'm out of touch

**Dr. Wallace:** I've lost touch with so many friends because of the COVID-19 pandemic and now I truly feel like I've forgotten how to socialize. It's as if my muscle memory in this department has atrophied somewhat. How can I best move forward again to get my social life back to the way it used to be? I miss the social life I used to have. I'm at the point now where I could use a few suggestions about how best to rebuild my stagnant social life. — Somewhat Socially Distant



**ROBERT WALLACE**  
Tweener  
12 and 20

**Somewhat Socially Distant:** I imagine that many people are in a very similar situation to the one you presently find yourself in, given the social isolation that the pandemic has caused. In fact, I would even go so far as to assume that several of your friends are probably feeling the exact same way you do.

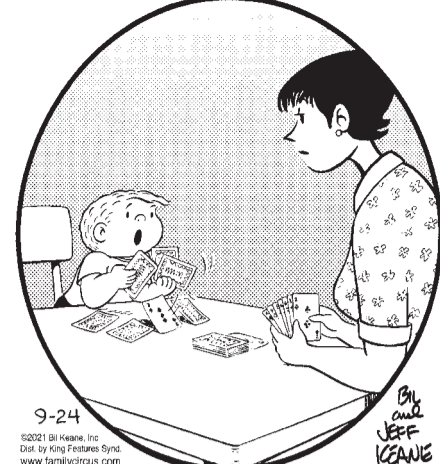
When experiencing loneliness, people often tend to respond by withdrawing further into their comfort zones and doing what feels safe. From the position of their comfort zones, they are protected from the possibility of rejection, but they thereby also often unconsciously set themselves up to

experience even greater feelings of isolation. The solution in this type of situation is to do the opposite of what your intuition would normally tell you to do. Therefore, instead of withdrawing from others and being fearful of reengaging socially, I urge you to reach out! Be the first to call or send a text message to a friend that you have not contacted in a while, and ask the individual for an update on life, school or any other relevant topic. Rather than wait for someone to reach out to you and ask you what you need, be proactive and do the same for someone else. Focusing on altruism allows you to get outside of yourself and it positions you to be more open to meaningful, genuine connections. I trust many of your acquaintances will turn into friends once a dialogue is started.

I also encourage you, to the extent that it is safe, to prioritize in-person meetings and gatherings wherever and whenever appropriate. As you mentioned, you might feel that your social skills may be lacking right now, but the only way to reengage and improve them is through practice. Be willing to take a risk and remember that anything valuable and worth pursuing in life will require you to step outside of your comfort zone.

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

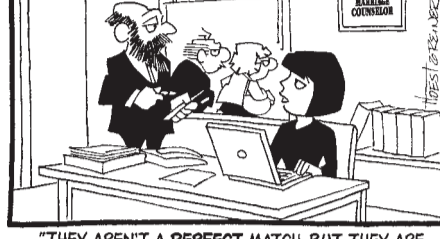
**FAMILY CIRCUS | BY BIL KEANE**



9-24  
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**"As soon as my hands grow up I'll be able to play cards better."**

**LOCKHORNS | BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER**



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**"THEY AREN'T A PERFECT MATCH, BUT THEY ARE EVENLY MATCHED."**

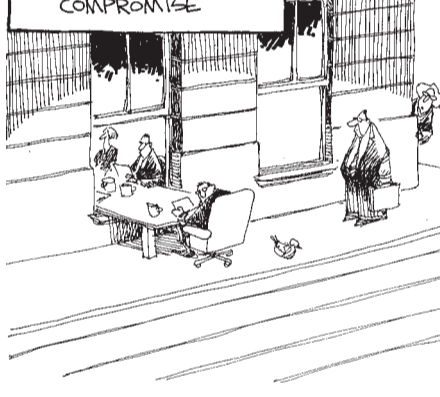
**MARMADUKE | BY BRAD ANDERSON**



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**"You just couldn't resist one loud bark, could you?"**

**NON SEQUITUR | BY WILLEY MILLER**



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# Affair unforgiven for 50 years

**Dear Annie:** For close to 50 years, my friend "Chloe" and I have met for dinner once a week, and she always discusses her husband's past affair, which occurred over 50 years ago and lasted a year. They are still married and had a few children after the affair ended. She seems to refuse to believe he has told her "everything" and still asks him questions about it.



**ANNIE LANE**  
Dear Annie

I empathize with her pain and repeatedly tell her that forgiveness is about her being happy again within herself and that it does not mean she condones her husband's past behavior. She has been very mean to him all these years and says hateful things to him, which distresses their daughters.

They have been to couples therapy a few times, but nothing has changed with her. I am at a loss to figure out why she keeps this up after all these years. I need some

understanding of why she repeatedly expresses hate for her husband but continues to live with him. Does she need to be a victim? — Concerned and Confused

**Dear CC:** You are a good friend with wise advice, and Chloe is lucky to have you on the receiving end of her weekly pity parties.

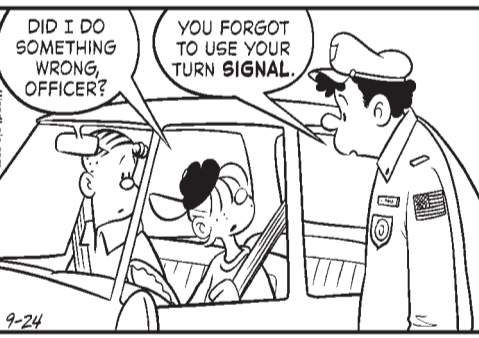
It sounds like Chloe is using a "victim mentality" to avoid dealing with deeper relationship problems. If she forgives her husband's infidelity, she'll have to assume some responsibility for the failures in her marriage. It's far easier to just lay the blame on him.

Still, it is clear she has some unresolved feelings of rejection. Fifty years is a long time to be carrying around so much anger, and she must be tired. Chloe has two options here: leave her husband, or forgive him.

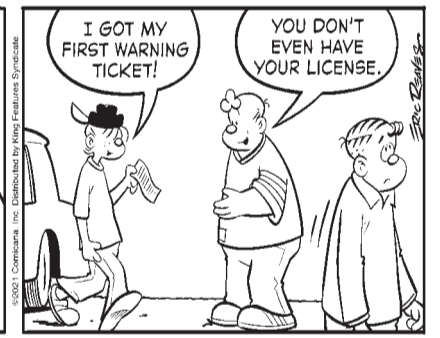
If she chooses to forgive, remind her once more that forgiveness is not a stamp of approval for his actions; it is merely an acknowledgement that their marriage and their family are more important than a mistake he made 50 years ago.

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

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



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**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | BY LYNN JOHNSTON**



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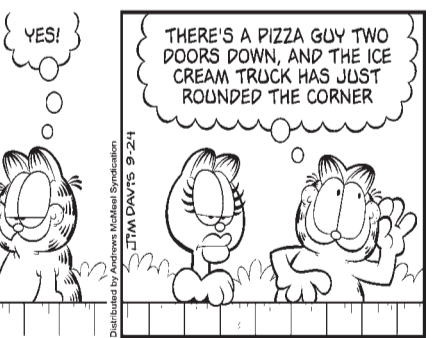


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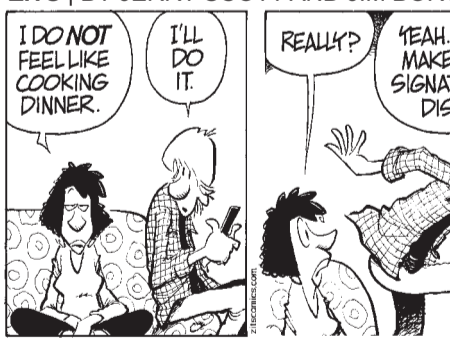


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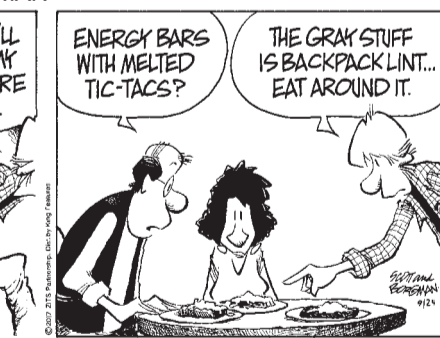


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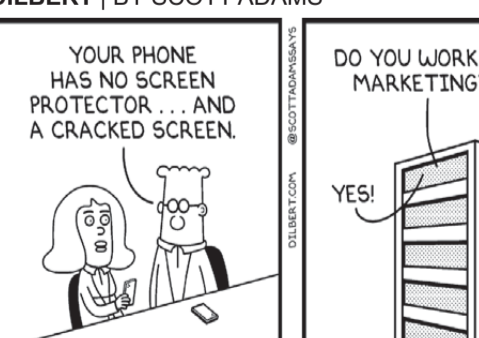


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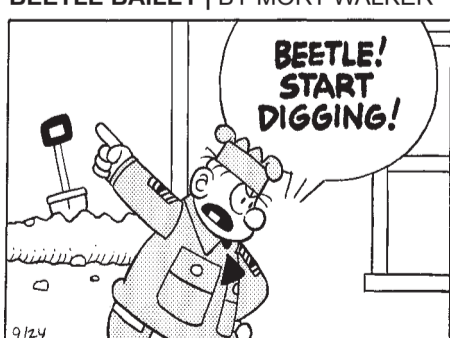


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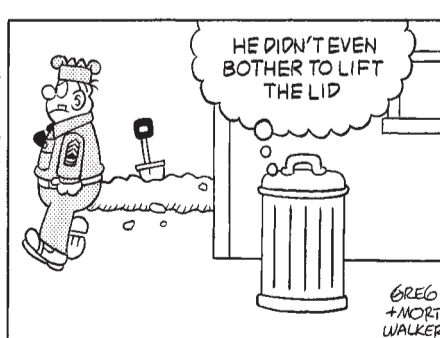


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**MARY WORTH | BY KAREN MOY AND JOE GIELLA**



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Eruption on La Palma threatens banana crop, [Page 2](#)

Ukrainian lawmakers pass law on oligarchs, [Page 3](#)

Comcast launches XiOne, [Page 5](#)

Prosecution wraps up closing argument in R. Kelly's trial, [Page 6](#)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA

## SPECIAL ENVOY TO HAITI RESIGNS

### FOOTE BLASTS MIGRANT DEPORTATIONS FROM BORDER CAMP

By Daina Beth Solomon and Humeyra Pamuk  
Reuters

Ciudad Acuna, Mexico/Washington

The U.S. special envoy to Haiti resigned in protest in a letter that blasted the Biden administration for deporting hundreds of migrants back to the crisis-engulfed Caribbean nation from a camp on the U.S.-Mexican border in recent days.

Daniel Foote, a career diplomat named to his post in July, said the "collapsed state" was unable to support the infusion of returning migrants.

"I will not be associated with the United States' inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees and illegal immigrants," Foote said in a letter addressed to Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, has been hit in recent weeks by a presidential assassination, gang violence and a major earthquake.

The United States has returned more than 1,400 migrants from the camp in Del Rio, Texas to Haiti, including families, and moved over 3,200 people for processing away from the encampment, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials said on Thursday. At its peak on Sept. 18 there were some 15,000 people at the camp, around two-thirds of those families, the officials said.

Many of the migrants say they hope to stay in



Marco Bello / Reuters

Migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. walk towards a bus to Houston from Val Verde Border Humanitarian Coalition after being released from U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Thursday in Del Rio, Texas.

the United States and seek asylum. But an expulsion policy in place since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic means most may not get that opportunity. Some are being loaded onto flights back to Haiti while others are being released into the United States to pursue their immigration cases in court.

At least four deportation

flights to Haiti were scheduled for Thursday, according to a flight tracking website and activists who track deportation flights.

Foote submitted his resignation to Blinken on Wednesday, a State Department spokesperson said, adding that Washington was committed to the long-term well being of Haiti, as well as offering immediate

help to returning migrants.

Foote's decision was interpreted and welcomed by rights groups as a stern criticism of the administration's immigration strategy.

Biden's handling of the situation at the border, where record numbers have been detained this year, has led to growing disillusionment from

migration advocates who hoped for an end to deterrent measures brought in by his predecessor Donald Trump.

Julian Castro, a former housing secretary, wrote in a tweet that "it's baffling and disappointing that President Biden has not spoken out about the mistreatment and continued deportation of Haitian asylum-seekers."

## US Democrats report deal to pay for spending plans

By Richard Cowan and David Morgan  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - The top two Democrats in the U.S. Congress on Thursday said they had reached a deal to pay for President Joe Biden's sweeping social agenda, as the White House warned federal agencies to begin preparing for the possibility of a government shutdown.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi provided no details on how they would pay for Biden's proposed \$3.5 trillion social spending plan.

The party remains deeply divided about the bill, with moderates objecting to its size and progressives saying they won't accept anything smaller.

Even as that intra-party fight is playing out, Congress faces a pair of critical fast-approaching deadlines.

Funding for federal agencies will run out on Oct. 1 if lawmakers don't act, which would prompt a partial shutdown of the federal government. The U.S. Treasury has also warned that unless Congress raises or temporarily lifts the nation's borrowing limit it will run out of money to pay the government's bills by mid-October, which could cause a historic default. Republicans, who see the



Elizabeth Frantz / Reuters

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) speaks to reporters Thursday during her weekly news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

debt ceiling debate as a way to derail or scale back Biden's agenda, have vowed to oppose the debt ceiling and government funding measure that passed the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

The White House characterized its warning to federal agencies to prepare for a possible government shutdown as a formality.

"It's just a reminder," White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters. "We're seven days out, and we need to be prepared, of course, in any event of any contingency."

Still, even with those risks approaching, Pelosi and

Schumer sought to present Thursday's deal as a victory the morning after Biden met with congressional Democrats to try to hash out an agreement on the size of the package.

"We know that we can cover the proposals that the president has put forth," Pelosi said at a news conference. "This is a giant step forward."

Neither she nor Schumer offered details about the agreement or the overall price of the legislative package. Multiple members of the Democratic rank and file said they have not yet seen the framework.

## CDC advisory panel suggests booster shots

Recommended for people 65 and older or those at high risk

By Michael Erman and Manojna Maddipatla  
Reuters

A U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advisory panel on Thursday recommended a booster shot of the Pfizer and BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for Americans aged 65 and older and some adults with underlying medical conditions that put them at risk of severe disease.

The panel by a vote of 9-6 declined to recommend boosters for adults ages 18 to 64 who live or work in institutions with high risk of contracting COVID-19, based on individual risk.

The guidelines voted on by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices still need to be signed off on by agency Director Rochelle Walensky. The recommendations are not binding, and states and other jurisdictions could disregard them.

The recommendations also are considered interim and the committee has plans to meet to consider other issues twice in the next month.

Still, the vote by the group, following U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorization clears the way for a booster rollout to begin as soon as this week for millions of people who had their second dose of the Pfizer shot at

least six months ago.

The CDC said that some 26 million people in the United States received the second Pfizer/BioNTech shot at least six months ago, including 13 million age 65 or older.

Last month, President Joe Biden and eight top health officials said they hoped to start booster shots the week of Sept. 10 for all people eight months after they had been vaccinated.

A group of independent FDA advisers last week overwhelmingly rejected recommending a broader approval of booster doses and instead recommended a narrower authorization.

Dr. Paul Offit, a member of the FDA advisory panel, said he believed the CDC advisers were worried that recommending boosters based on employment would make it difficult to limit who got them at a time where there was not enough data.

More than 180 million people in the United States are fully vaccinated, or about 64% of the eligible population.

The United States is averaging about 128,000 new COVID-19 cases per day, off an August high of about 160,000. The recent wave of U.S. COVID-19 hospitalizations, primarily among the unvaccinated, may also have peaked, although the nation was still recording some 1,500 COVID-19 deaths a day over the last week, according to CDC data.



## Low-lying nations implore faster action

### Leaders speak at UN about 'existential threat' of climate change

By Daphne Psaledakis and Michelle Nichols  
Reuters

UNITED NATIONS - Faced with what they see as an existential threat, leaders from low-lying and island nations implored rich countries at the United Nations General Assembly this week to act more forcefully against a warming planet.

The failure by developed economies to effectively curb their greenhouse gas emissions contributes to rising sea levels and especially imperils island and low-lying nations at the mercy of water.

"We simply have no higher ground to cede," Marshall Islands President David Kabua told leaders in a pre-recorded speech at the high-level gathering on Wednesday. "The world simply cannot delay climate ambition any further."

Countries agreed under the 2015 Paris Agreement



Spencer Platt / Pool via Reuters / File Photo

Guyana's President Mohamed Irfaan Ali speaks Thursday during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the U.N. headquarters in New York.

on climate change mitigation to attempt to limit the rise in global temperatures to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, the threshold scientists say would head off the worst impacts of

warming. To do that, scientists say, the world needs to cut global emissions in half by 2030, and to net-zero by 2050.

"The difference between 1.5 degrees and 2 degrees is a

death sentence for the Maldives," President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih told world leaders on Tuesday.

Guyana President Irfaan Ali criticized large polluters for not delivering on promises to curb emissions, accusing them of "deception" and "failure" and warning that climate change will kill far more people than the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We hold out similar hope that the world's worst emitters of greenhouse gases that are affecting the welfare of all mankind will also come to the realization that, in the end, it will profit them little to emerge king over a world of dust," Ali told world leaders on Thursday.

He said small island states and countries with low-lying coastlines, like Guyana, will bear the full brunt of the impending disaster despite being among the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases.

"This is not only unfair, it is unjust," he said.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director at the International Crisis Group, said there had been a "sense of existential crisis" running through the annual gathering at the United Nations.

"Both Beijing and Washington want to show they are leading the fight against global warming. If the small islands' leaders can't get people to listen at this General Assembly, they never will," Gowan said.

President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he would work with Congress to double funds by 2024 to \$11.4 billion per year to help developing nations deal with climate change.

The funding would help achieve a global goal set more than a decade ago of \$100 billion per year to support climate action in vulnerable countries by 2020.

## Lawmakers, air industry call for action on unruly passengers

By David Shepardson and Doina Chiacu  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - U.S. lawmakers, aviation unions and others on Thursday pushed for new actions to try to deter the rising reports of unruly passenger incidents.

Delta Air Lines wants other U.S. airlines to share lists of passengers who have been banned during the COVID-19 pandemic for disruptive behavior to help deter aggressive behavior.

"We've also asked other airlines to share their 'no fly' list to further protect airline employees across the industry," Delta said in a memo

seen by Reuters. "A list of banned customers doesn't work as well if that customer can fly with another airline."

Delta said since the COVID-19 pandemic it has put more than 1,600 people on its "no fly" list. United Airlines has banned more than 1,000 people.

House Transportation Chairman Peter DeFazio asked at a hearing Thursday on "air rage" if there are legal impediments to airlines sharing "no fly" lists. He said the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) could potentially create a list from airline input.

The rate of unruly airline passenger incidents has

dropped sharply but remains twice as high as last year, the FAA said Thursday.

Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson, a Democrat, asked why the Justice Department is not doing more to prosecute unruly air passengers.

"The Department of Justice has been slow to conduct criminal investigations or seek indictments," said Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA) at the hearing. "We do need ... Congress to encourage DOJ to take those (enforcement) actions."

A Justice Department spokesman noted interfer-

ence with flight crew members is a federal offense carrying a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

The department "treats interference with flight crew members the same as every other case we investigate. We use prosecutorial discretion in deciding which cases are appropriate for federal prosecution."

Some fliers have balked at a federal face-mask mandate imposed amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which was recently extended into early 2022. Thousands have been banned from some airlines for refusing to comply and some face \$9,000 federal civil fines for defying mask

requirements.

In June, Airlines for America and aviation unions asked Attorney General Merrick Garland to prosecute the growing number of disruptive and violent air passengers.

Lauren Beyer, a vice president at Airlines for America, suggested lawmakers contact the Justice Department "and urge them to direct federal prosecutors to dedicate the resources to handle these cases."

To date this year, there have been 4,385 reports of unruly passenger incidents, including 3,199 that were mask-related. The FAA has issued more than \$1 million in proposed fines.

#### BRIEFS

### Tenn. supermarket shooting leaves 2 dead, 12 injured

(Reuters) - A gunman opened fire at a supermarket in suburban Memphis, Tennessee, on Thursday, killing one person and wounding at least 12 before apparently taking his own life, the police chief said.

Law enforcement officers swarmed to the scene just after the shooting unfolded at a Kroger grocery store in Collierville, Tennessee, and began helping victims and others found hiding inside the supermarket, chief Dale Lane told reporters.

Live reports on local television showed a crowd of Kroger employees and customers standing outside the building after the shooting. "I'm a little shaky but I'm OK," Kroger employee Brignetta Dickerson told WREG-TV. "I got God on my side."

The gunman, who was believed to have acted alone, was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a parking lot outside the store, Lane said. Local media reported the suspect's body was discovered inside his vehicle.

The gunman, who was believed to have acted alone, was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a parking lot outside the store, Lane said. Local media reported the suspect's body was discovered inside his vehicle.

He called the gun violence "the most horrific event that has occurred in Collierville history."

### President: Belarus has found spies working for West

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said some employees at state-run factories were secretly working for the West against his government on Thursday after human rights activists reported the detention of 14 workers at a fertilizer plant.

The plant, Grodno Azot, is one of several placed under Western sanctions in response to a violent crackdown on protesters by Lukashenko after a contested election last year. The factory was also a hub of those same mass protests.

Lukashenko did not mention the plant or go into specifics in his comments, saying only that state employees were passing on information about how the government was nullifying the effect of the sanctions.

### Russian spy chief accuses Britain of lies

MOSCOW (Reuters) - A Russian spy chief on Thursday accused Britain of lies and trying to divert attention from other issues after British police said a third Russian suspect had been identified in the 2018 Novichok murder attempt on a former double agent.

The attack on Sergei Skripal, who sold Russian secrets to Britain, caused one of the biggest rows between Russia and the West since the Cold War, leading to the tit-for-tat expulsion of dozens of diplomats after Britain blamed Moscow.

Britain on Tuesday said another Russian had been charged in absentia with the attack, which led to the death of a woman from Novichok poisoning, and said the three suspects were Russian military intelligence operatives.

### Japan, South Korea meet, restate positions in dispute

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi met his South Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong on Thursday and the two restated positions in a dispute, but agreed to accelerate consultations to resolve the issue, Japan's account of the meeting said.

A historic feud over Japan's 1910-1945 occupation of Korea including over "comfort women," Japan's euphemism for mostly Korean women forced to work in its wartime brothels, has long soured bilateral ties between the two important U.S. allies.

The dispute in recent years has brought tit-for-tat export curbs and threatened security cooperation between the neighbors, despite the shared threat they face from North Korea.

## Eruption on La Palma threatens banana crop

Over 200 houses have been destroyed since Sunday

By Nacho Doce and Marco Trujillo  
Reuters

LA PALMA, Spain - Jets of red hot lava shot into the sky on Spain's La Palma on Thursday as a huge cloud of toxic ash drifted from the Cumbre Vieja volcano toward the mainland and jeopardized the island's economically crucial banana crops.

Walls of lava, which turns black when exposed to the air, have advanced slowly westward since Sunday, engulfing everything in their path, including houses, schools and some banana plantations.

Farmers near the town of Todoque raced to save as much as possible of their crop, piling their trucks high with sacks of the green bananas, on which many of the islanders depend for their livelihood.

"We're just trying to take everything we can," said a farmer who gave his name as Roberto.

Some 15% of La Palma's 140 million kilogram annual banana production could be at risk if farmers are unable to access plantations and tend to their crops, Sergio Caceres, manager of producer's association Asprocan, told Reuters.

"There is the main tragedy of destroyed houses — many of those affected are banana producers or employees — but their livelihood is further down the hill," he said. "Some farms have already been covered."

Caceres said the farm-



Nacho Doce / Reuters

Lava and smoke rise following the eruption of a volcano Thursday on the Island of La Palma, Spain. Picture taken with drone.

ers were already suffering losses and warned that if lava pollutes the water supply it could potentially cause problems for months to come.

The island produces around a quarter of the Canary Islands's renowned bananas, which hold protected designation of origin status.

With more than 200 houses destroyed and thousands of evacuated people unable to return home, the Canary Islands' regional government said it would buy two housing developments with a combined 73 properties for those made homeless. Spanish banks jointly announced they would offer vacant homes they hold across the Canaries as emergency shelter.

Property portal Idealista estimated the volcano had so far destroyed property worth around \$102 million.

Experts had originally predicted the lava would hit the Atlantic Ocean late on Monday but its descent has slowed to a glacial pace of around 4 meters per

hour and authorities say it may stop before reaching the sea.

Volcanologists have said gases from the eruption are not harmful to health. But a plume of thick cloud now extends some 2.6 miles into the air, raising concerns of visibility for flights. The airport remains open but authorities have created two exclusion zones where only authorized aircrafts can fly.

Prevailing winds are expected to propel the cloud northeast over the rest of the Canary archipelago, the Iberian peninsula and the Mediterranean, according to the European Union's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service.

National weather service AEMET said air quality had not been affected at surface level and ruled out acid rain falling over the mainland or the Balearic Islands and was even unlikely in Canary islands.

Local authorities have warned people to clean food and clothes to avoid ingesting the toxic ash.

## Handling of assault changes in military

**New special victims prosecution office to take control of cases by 2027**

By Andrew Dyer  
The San Diego Union-Tribune

In a move long sought by critics of how the military handles allegations of sexual assaults and harassment, those cases will be removed from the military chain of command and handed over to a new special victims prosecution office by 2027, the Defense Department announced Wednesday.

The change is one of several the Pentagon plans to make based on recommendations from an independent review commission on military sexual assaults launched just weeks after the inauguration of President Joe Biden and the appointment of Lloyd Austin III as defense secretary.

"This administration has placed an unprecedentedly high priority on this challenge," said Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks. "We have now created that way ahead called the implementation road map, and Secretary Austin has approved it in its entirety."

The road map features sweeping changes to how the military handles sexual assault and harassment complaints from service members, from how the offenses are investigated and prosecuted to the support systems for victims.

The changes will come via a four-tiered system, with each tier dependent on the implementation of the previous. Each branch of the military must begin implementing their plans for the first tier by Dec. 15. Full implementation of the first tier must be completed by 2027; implementation of the full slate must be accomplished by 2030.

The priority recommendations under the first tier include removing the prosecution of

sexual assaults and related crimes from the military chain of command and establishing the Offices of Special Victims Prosecutors to handle the cases. For sexual harassment cases, it also calls for independent trained investigators and the mandatory discharge of those who engage in sexual harassment.

Another big change is taking the jobs of command-level sexual assault response coordinators and making them permanent, specialized positions.

Other changes include those affecting the military justice process specifically, such as a revision to how court-martial panels are selected.

Advocates have long agitated for these changes. But the leader of one prominent advocacy group said that without legislative changes, it might be difficult to make effective, permanent reforms. Those legislative changes are included in next year's proposed defense spending bills now in the House and Senate.

"There's a sense that we've achieved a lot in the survivor community," said Don Christensen, president of Protect our Defenders, a nonprofit human rights organization focused on eliminating military sexual assault. "I applaud (the Pentagon) for saying they're going to do this but they need legislative fixes."

Christensen, a retired Air Force colonel who once served as the service's chief prosecutor, said that unless changes are also made to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, it could be difficult to convict offenders under the Pentagon's plan.

"Our military appellate courts have held military and government prosecutors to a very high standard," he said. "You run the risk of having cases thrown out if they don't do it right."

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## Ukrainian lawmakers pass law on oligarchs

Comes after assassination attempt on top aide

By Pavel Polityuk and Natalia Zinets  
Reuters

KYIV - Ukraine's parliament passed a law on Thursday to order "oligarchs" to register and stay out of politics, a day after an attempt to kill a top aide to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, which officials said could have been a response to the reform.

The law provides a definition for an oligarch and gives a body headed by the president, the National Security and Defence Council, the power to determine who meets the criteria.

Oligarchs would be forbidden from financing political parties or taking part in privatizations. Top officials, including the president, prime minister and head of the central bank, would be required to declare dealings they had with them.

Zelenskiy says it is necessary to protect the country from powerful businessmen who have corrupted its political system for decades. His opponents say they fear it will be applied selectively to concentrate more power in the president's hands.

"Thanks to the anti-oligarch law, Ukraine gets a historic chance to build a civilized and clean relationship between big business and the state," Zelenskiy said in a statement.

"Yes, many politicians do not like it. Yes, they want to live as before, working for the oligarchs. Yes, there was a lot of pressure on our deputies, a lot of intrigue and even blackmail. But the law was passed."

The law passed a first reading in July. Thurs-



Ruslan Kaniuka / Reuters

Opposition lawmakers argue with the first deputy parliament speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk on Thursday during a parliament session to vote for a law that order "oligarchs" to register and stay out of politics, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

day's second reading, which passed with 279 votes in the 450-seat parliament, means it now goes to Zelenskiy for approval.

Zelenskiy's team has suggested anger at the law could be behind an attempt to assassinate Serhiy Shefir, a top aide and close friend of the president. Shefir's car was sprayed with gunfire on Wednesday by unidentified attackers as he traveled between two villages outside the capital.

Shefir was unharmed though his driver was wounded. Police are searching for the weapon and interviewing possible witnesses who were picking mushrooms nearby, Interior Ministry spokesperson Artem Shevchenko said on Thursday.

Zelenskiy, a former TV comic, won a landslide election in 2019 promising to tackle corruption and curb

the influence of tycoons who have dominated business, the media and politics since the end of the Soviet era. Opponents say he owes his own rise to the tycoon whose TV channel backed his earlier career.

Opposition lawmaker Oleksiy Goncharenko, from former President Petro Poroshenko's party, said by giving a presidential body the authority to determine who is an oligarch, the law "creates huge scope for corruption."

Kira Rudyk, the leader of the Voice party, said the bill was designed "only to strengthen the power, strengthen the position of the president and make it so that he can, together with the National Security and Defence Council, actually decide who can have control over the media and who cannot."

## Fawn fire quickly spreads in California

Windy fire spurs more evacuations as giant sequoias remain in danger

By Hayley Smith  
Los Angeles Times

The Windy fire swirling around California's giant sequoia trees spurred additional evacuation orders, while a new blaze in Shasta County sent residents fleeing from thick smoke and encroaching flames on Thursday.

Dubbed the Fawn fire, the new blaze emerged in the Mountain Gate area near Redding on Wednesday afternoon and had swelled to 800 acres by the following morning.

The fire, which is burning near Fawndale and Radcliff Roads northeast of Shasta Lake, was 5% contained Thursday morning, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Cal Fire Shasta-Trinity spokeswoman Cheryl Buliavak said the cause of the fire was still under investigation, but she confirmed that a



Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times / TNS

Smoke fills the sky in the Sequoia National Forest above a giant sequoia on the Windy fire on Sept. 16 near the Tule River Reservation in Sequoia National Forest, California.

woman was arrested Wednesday night on "fire-related charges." Additional details would be released later, she said.

The fire started in steep, rugged terrain and is burning

in heavy timber.

"Between the terrain, the vegetation being extremely dry — overnight we had some windy conditions that caused the fire to spot in multiple areas — there are a lot of

factors that are challenging firefighters," Buliavak said.

Meanwhile, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office ordered the evacuation just before 8 p.m. Wednesday of several areas near the Windy fire, which is burning in Sequoia National Forest and on the Tule River Reservation.

"You're going to be able to smell smoke," operations section chief Seth Mitchell said during an evening update. "You're going to be able to see flame from the community of Camp Nelson."

The fire had swelled to 43,745 acres and was 6% contained Thursday morning, officials said.

Incident spokesman Steve Rasmussen attributed the fire's latest run — a substantial 12,000 acres — to a dry airmass that brought low humidity and winds to the area, which helped fan the flames as they fed on critical-

ly dry vegetation.

For days, the Windy fire has threatened the Trail of 100 Giants inside Long Meadow Grove, where at least one giant sequoia known as the Bench Tree was damaged by fire atop its crown.

Crown fires can be catastrophic even for the fire-adapted trees, with last year's Castle fire decimating an estimated 10% to 14% of the world's sequoia population.

Just north of the Windy fire in Sequoia National Park, the KNP Complex grew to 33,046 acres Thursday with no containment.

The towering trees inside Giant Forest remained relatively unscathed Thursday, officials said, and the nearby historic cabin communities of Mineral King, Cabin Cove and Silver City are still a top priority as the fire pushes east.

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## US: Window open for Iran nuclear talks, but not forever

By Arshad Mohammed and Humeyra Pamuk  
Reuters

WASHINGTON/UNITED NATIONS - The window is still open to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal but won't be forever, a senior U.S. official said on Thursday, saying Iran has yet to name a negotiator, set a date for talks or say whether it would resume where they left off in June.

Washington was prepared to be patient, the U.S. official told reporters, but said at some point Iran's nuclear advances would overtake the deal and the United States

and its partners would have to decide whether Iran was willing to revive it.

"We're still interested. We still want to come back to the table," the senior U.S. State Department official said in a telephone briefing. "The window of opportunity is open. It won't be open forever if Iran takes a different course."

Tehran signaled on Tuesday that negotiations would resume in a few weeks without giving a specific date. Despite Iran's need to bolster its economy by negotiating an end to U.S. sanctions, insiders expect its new government to

adopt a tougher line if talks resume.

Under the 2015 deal, Iran curbed its uranium enrichment program, a possible pathway to nuclear arms, in return for the lifting of economic sanctions. Then-U.S. President Donald Trump quit the deal in 2018 and re-imposed harsh sanctions.

The U.S. official declined to say what the United States might do if Iran refuses to return to negotiations, or if a resumption of the original deal proves impossible. Such U.S. contingency planning is often called "Plan B."

"The 'Plan B' that we're

concerned about is the one that Iran may be contemplating, where they want to continue to build their nuclear program and not be seriously engaged in talks to return to the JCPOA," he said, in a reference to the deal's formal name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Iran and the United States in April started indirect talks on salvaging the nuclear agreement, but those stopped two days after Ebrahim Raisi was elected Iran's president in June.

On Tuesday, Raisi echoed Iran's longstanding position that nuclear weapons "have

no place in our defense doctrine and deterrence policy."

Western powers have said time is running out as Iran's nuclear program is advancing well beyond the limits set by the deal.

"Time is not on our side with respect to a potential agreement because Iran is taking advantage of the delays in order to compound its nuclear violations, making a return to the JCPOA increasingly complicated," said French foreign ministry spokeswoman Anne-Claire Legendre.

## Tropical Storm Sam forms in Atlantic

**By Robin Webb and Chris Perkins**  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Tropical Storm Sam, the 18th named storm of the season, is expected to be at hurricane strength by Friday, and could be a major hurricane with top winds of 111 mph by late Monday, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Sam formed Thursday from Tropical Depression Eighteen and was moving west at 16 mph with maximum sus-

tained winds of 50 mph, as of 11 a.m. Thursday, about 1,745 miles east-southeast of the boundary where the Atlantic Ocean meets the far eastern Caribbean Sea. It is forecast to move west-northwest by Friday.

It will move more slowly over the weekend as it reaches hurricane strength, forecasters said. If its maximum sustained winds reach 115 mph as forecast, it would be at Category 3 hurricane strength, making it the fourth

major hurricane of 2021.

It's too early to tell where it might end up, but the next few days could be crucial toward forecasting its track. A fast-developing storm raises the likelihood it misses Florida.

"The faster that this system strengthens over the next few days, the more likely it is to re-curve east of Florida, and potentially well east of Florida," according to AccuWeather meteorologist Randy Adkins.

"[However] if this storm takes a little while longer to organize and develop into a hurricane, then that will likely keep it on a track that's farther to the south and likely increase the likelihood that Florida could see some impacts from this system."

Adkins said any potential impact from the system wouldn't be felt for another 10 days or so, during the first weekend of October.

Meanwhile, a tropical wave is expected to roll off Afri-

ca's west coast by end of the weekend. It's forecast to move west at 10 to 15 mph and right now chances for its development are low.

There is also a medium chance that the remnants of the former Tropical Storm Odette could redevelop and become a subtropical storm later this week. It is in the northern Atlantic and is no threat to land.

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## Islamic State uses Taliban's tactics

### Internal enemies of government adopt urban warfare tactics

**By Alasdair Pal and Jibrán Ahmed**  
Reuters

A little more than a month after toppling the Western-backed government in Kabul, Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers are facing internal enemies who have adopted many of the tactics of urban warfare that marked their own successful guerrilla campaign.

A deadly attack on Kabul airport last month and a series of bomb blasts in the eastern city of Jalalabad, all claimed by the local affiliate of Islamic State, have underlined the threat to stability from violent militant groups who remain unreconciled to the Taliban.

While the movement's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has downplayed the threat, saying this week that Islamic State had no effective presence in Afghanistan, commanders on the ground do not dismiss the threat so lightly.

Two members of the movement's intelligence services who investigated some of the recent attacks in Jalalabad said the tactics showed the group remained a danger, even if it did not have enough fighters and resources to seize territory.

Using sticky bombs, the attacks targeted Taliban members in exactly the same way the Taliban itself used to hit officials and civil society figures to destabilize the former government.

"In Afghanistan, the return of Taliban is a huge victory for the Islamists. They have celebrated the return of the Taliban, so I think that Afghanistan is the new theater."

**ROHAN GUNARATNA, PROFESSOR OF SECURITY STUDIES AT SINGAPORE'S NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

Islamic State in Khorasan, the name taken from the ancient name for the region that includes modern Afghanistan, first emerged in late 2014 but has declined from its peak around 2018 following a series of heavy losses inflicted by both the Taliban and U.S. forces.

Taliban security forces in Nangarhar said they had killed three members of the movement on Wednesday night and the intelligence officials said the movement still retains the ability to cause trouble through small-scale attacks.

"Their main structure is broken and they are now divided in small groups to carry out attacks," one of them said.

**Funding dried up**

The Taliban have said repeatedly that they will not allow Afghanistan to be used as a base for attacks on other countries. But some Western analysts believe the return of the Islamist group to power has invigorated groups like ISIS-K and al Qaeda, which had made Afghanistan their base when the Taliban last ruled the country.

"In Afghanistan, the return of Taliban is a huge victory for the Islamists," said Rohan Gunaratna, professor of security studies at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. "They have celebrated the return of the Taliban, so I think that Afghanistan is the new theater."

ISIS-K is believed to draw many of its fighters from the ranks of the Taliban or the Pakistani version of the Taliban, known as the TTP, but



Reuters TV / 1TV / File photo  
People carry an injured person to hospital after a suicide bomb attack Aug. 26 at Kabul airport that was claimed by Islamic State.

much of the way it operates remains little understood.

It has fought the Taliban over smuggling routes and other economic interests but it also supports a global Caliphate under Islamic law, in contrast with the Taliban which insists it has no interest in anywhere outside Afghanistan.

Most analysts, as well as the United Nations, peg ISIS-K's strength at under 2,000 fighters, compared to as many as 100,000 at the Taliban's disposal. The ranks of ISIS-K were swollen with prisoners released when Afghanistan's jails were opened by the Taliban as they swept through

the country.

According to a June report by the UN security council, ISIS-K's financial and logistic ties to its parent organization in Syria have weakened, though it does retain some channels of communication.

"Funding support to the Khorasan branch from the core is believed to have effectively dried up," the report said.

However, the report said signs of divisions within the Taliban could encourage more fighters to defect as the wartime insurgency tries to reshape itself into a peacetime administration.

## Bold wild boars invade Rome's mayoral election race

**Reuters**

ROME - All roads lead to Rome, or at least so it seems for wild boar.

Sightings of boars trotting along the streets have become so commonplace in some neighborhoods of the Italian capital that the problem has spilled over into campaigning for Rome's mayoral election.

The animals have been increasingly drawn to the city in recent years, attracted by the piles of stinking trash.

"I am scared ... one time I saw them as I was going to throw the rubbish away. They came after me," Rome resident Rosa Carletti told Reuters TV.

A Reuters video on Wednesday showed

adult boars walking through northern Rome with their piglets, blithely passing cars and pedestrians, without fear or caution.

Mayor Virginia Raggi, a member of the 5-Star Movement, is seeking re-election in the October vote and has sought to shift the blame for the unwelcome visitors onto her political foes.

In a legal suit she filed earlier this month, she accused the Lazio region, which is centered on Rome and is led by the center-left Democratic Party (PD), of failing to keep the animals out of the capital.

The region has denied her accusations, saying management of the animals outside the coun-



Remo Casilli / Reuters  
Wild boars roam a street foraging for food Thursday in Rome, Italy.

tryside that rings the city is up to Roberto Gualtieri, a PD member and one of Raggi's main oppo-

nents in the mayoral race, has said the suit against the region for

the boars is "a joke" and has accused the incumbent administration of mismanagement.

Videos of boar incursions regularly go viral.

In May, six boar were seen harassing a woman in a carpark near Rome, forcing her to drop her shopping bags and flee. Last October, there was outrage after police shot and killed a sow and her six piglets on a playground near the Vatican.

"Instead of being mayor, Raggi has basically been a zoologist," rightist leader Giorgia Meloni said on Wednesday while out campaigning for her candidate in the mayoral race.

## US, Lithuania keep watch on Russia-Belarus training center

**Reuters**

VILNIUS - The top U.S. Army general in Europe said on Thursday the United States and Lithuania would work to preserve the continent's peace "no matter who positions what, where," after Belarus and Russia held war games and set up a military training center.

Christopher Cavoli, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Europe and Africa, added in answer to reporters' questions that the United States and its allies were

paying close attention to the joint Russian and Belarus training and combat center.

Cavoli was speaking on a visit to Vilnius where he discussed regional security with Lithuanian General Valdemaras Rupsys.

The "Zapad-2021" military exercises took place on Russia's and Belarus's western flanks, including sites close to the borders of the European Union, and their proximity has unsettled neighbors including Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin denies the drills are directed against any foreign power and says they are sensible given increased NATO activity near Russia's borders and those of its allies.

Asked about the joint training and combat center established by Russia and ex-Soviet ally Belarus, Cavoli replied the United States and its allies "pay close attention" to it, as part of their overall monitoring of the positioning of forces inside Europe and on its peripheries.

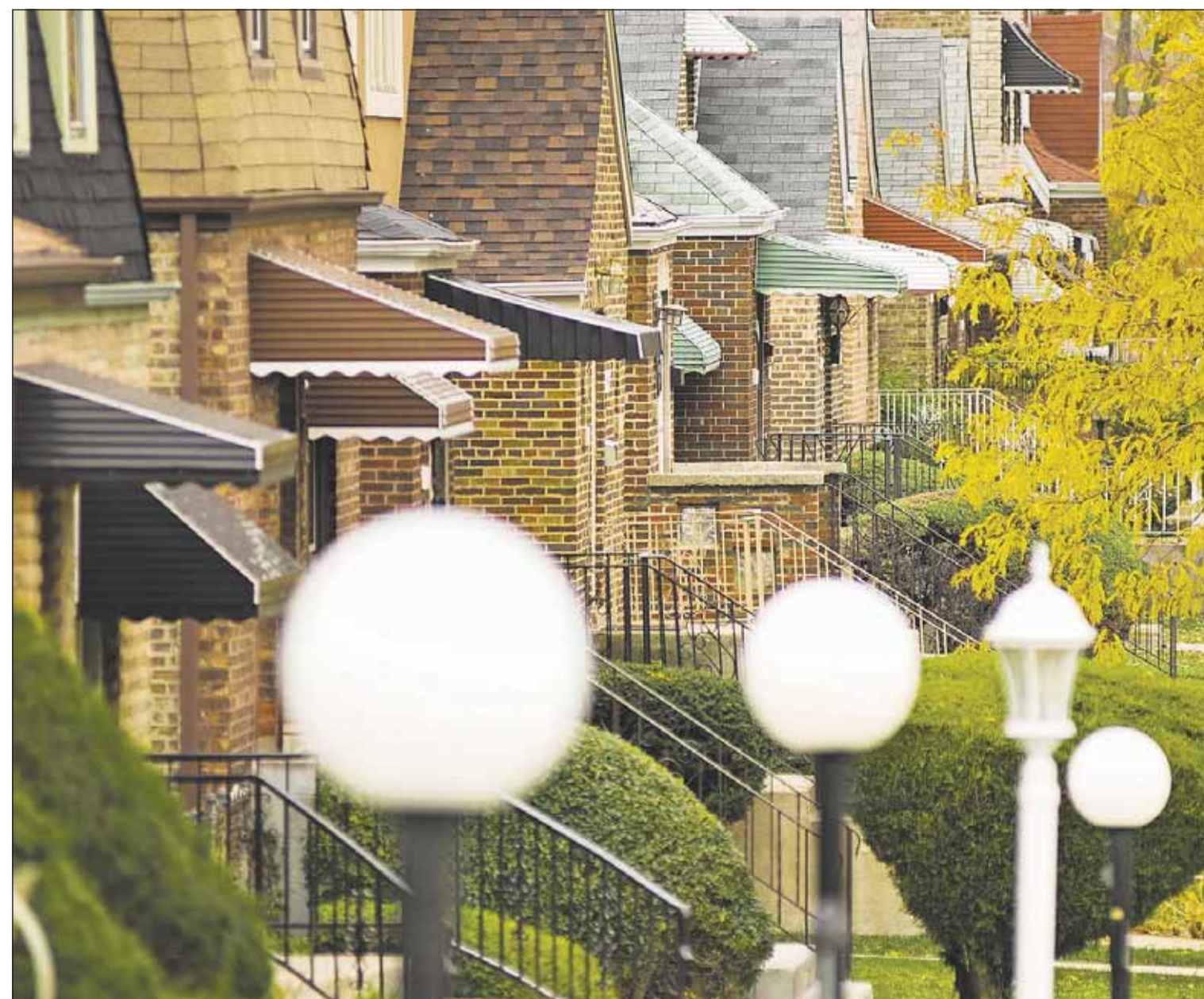
"We keep an eye on things and we make sure that in any eventuality, no matter who positions what, where, that we take that into producing deterrence and continuing peace inside of Europe," he said.

Russia has maintained close military and economic ties with Belarus while Western countries have ostracized the country since Alexander Lukashenko cracked down on mass protests that erupted after he won a disputed presidential election.

Rupsys said he and Cavoli discussed "common actions in case of a crisis or a war."

The United States has deployed a battalion of troops and equipment in Lithuania, including Abrams tanks, in rotations since late 2019.

"We discussed the security situation in region, U.S. forces presence in Lithuania, common exercises and common actions in case of a crisis or war," Rupsys told reporters.



Dreamstime / TNS

Homes on Chicago's South Side. Black homeowners often struggle to build long-term wealth because their properties are undervalued — and there's no straightforward easy way to dispute an appraisal or have it changed.

## 'THIS IS A PERSISTENT PROBLEM'

Black neighborhood home appraisal gap is real, Freddie Mac reports

By Jeff Ostrowski  
Bankrate.com

The racial gap in home appraisals is a real phenomenon, one that sabotages the wealth-building power of homeownership in Black and Latino neighborhoods, mortgage giant Freddie Mac said Monday.

The company released an analysis showing that appraised values are more likely to fall short of the contract price for homes in census tracts with a higher share of Black and Latino households. The conclusion was based on Freddie Mac's examination of 12 million appraisals ordered for purchase transactions from 2015 to 2020.

The appraisal gap matters because it creates a barrier for Black and Latino consumers hoping to buy homes.

"This is a persistent problem that disproportionately impacts hundreds of thousands of Black and Latino applicants," said Michael Bradley, Freddie Mac's

senior vice president of modeling, econometrics, data science and analytics.

### A measurable racial gap

Freddie Mac's study added data points to claims that appraisers might subconsciously undervalue homes in non-White neighborhoods. Valuing a home is an imprecise art, of course, so Freddie compared appraised values to the purchase prices that buyers had agreed to pay.

Its study found that homes in mostly Black and Latino census tracts were assigned appraised values lower than the contract price more frequently than homes in White tracts. While 12.5 percent of homes in mostly Black areas were appraised for less than the contract price, just 7.4 percent of homes in mostly White tracts experienced appraisal shortfalls.

What's more, as the concentration of Black or Latino residents in census tracts increases, the appraisal gap increases, Freddie Mac found.

And the culprit doesn't seem to be a small number of unenlightened appraisers — a large portion of appraisers who completed appraisals in both minority and non-minority areas generated statistically significant gaps, Freddie Mac said.

Its study said the lender will continue to examine "the full root cause of the gap."

### Housing industry takes aim at appraisal gap

Freddie's study reflects new attention to the racial gap by big players in the housing sector. In an earlier finding on the same topic, a 2018 study by the Brookings Institute found that Black-owned homes are undervalued by \$48,000 on average.

And this year Chase committed \$3 million to the Appraiser Diversity Institute. The megabank said its goal is "to root out bias in the residential appraisal process."

In a separate statement Monday, the Appraisal Institute lauded Freddie Mac

for exploring the issue.

"Unconscious bias is real and exists in all industries," the trade group said.

"Appraisal is one piece of a larger ecosystem, and appraisal groups are working alongside consumer groups, real estate brokers and agents, banks, government agencies, think tanks and others to explore where housing inequities may stem from and what combination of solutions should be considered."

Appraisals are just one piece of a stubborn racial divide in the U.S. housing market. Black Americans have less wealth overall, and therefore are less likely to own homes — and when they do own homes, find themselves more likely to pay higher mortgage rates.

Black homeowners often struggle to build long-term wealth because their properties are undervalued — and there's no straightforward easy way to dispute an appraisal or have it changed.

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## Comcast launches XiOne

This is the company's first global streaming device

By Christian Hetrick  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Comcast has launched a new streaming device called XiOne, its first to be available for all of its customers worldwide.

The streaming box and voice remote — which let customers access Netflix, Hulu, Peacock, and other online video subscriptions — is already available in Italy and Germany for customers of Sky, the Comcast-owned European TV provider. The device is starting to roll out in America for new Xfinity Flex customers, who are internet-only subscribers using older streaming boxes.

The XiOne device is the latest move by Comcast to embrace streaming as customers continue to ditch traditional pay TV. Comcast launched the streaming service Peacock last year and recently partnered with ViacomCBS to launch another service in Europe. The Philadelphia cable giant is also reportedly planning to sell internet-connected "smart" TVs.

"When Sky joined the Comcast family, we brought together our engineers to share insights, road maps, talent, and technology to support our global customers," Charlie Herrin, Comcast's president of technology, said in a statement. "The launch of our new XiOne device is a direct result of these efforts and underscores how our collaborative development approach can bring new and innovative streaming products to markets faster and more efficiently."

Comcast officials said the XiOne is faster and has more memory than its previous streaming box, allowing consumers to quickly navigate and switch streaming apps. It's compatible with the latest generation of WiFi and 4K TVs. The voice remote is simpler and smaller, too.

The streaming box will be included at no extra cost for customers, unless they want more than one. Additional devices cost \$5 a month, a Comcast spokesperson said. In addition to Sky and Flex customers, Comcast plans to eventually make XiOne available to its pay TV customers and syndication partners, such as Cox Communications.

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Comcast / TNS  
Comcast launched XiOne, its first streaming device for all of its global customers.

## UAW identifies \$2M in 'improper expenditures'

By Breana Noble  
The Detroit News

The United Auto Workers is hailing its new auditing guidelines as a "deterrent" to corruption after its auditors discovered more than \$2 million in improper expenditures of union dues at Local 412 in Warren, Mich., whose members include Stelantis NV workers.

The Local 412 financial secretary has been suspended, the UAW confirmed. The union's findings have been sent to law enforcement authorities, including the U.S. Labor Department, Frank Stuglin, the UAW's international



Jessica J. Trevino / Detroit Free Press / TNS

The UAW logo.

al secretary-treasurer, said.

The international UAW based in Detroit implemented new monetary control measures amid

a years-long federal investigation into corruption within the union that has resulted in the convictions of 15 people, including two former UAW presidents, and put it under an independent monitor. Stuglin championed the measures as an effective tool to clean up the union.

"We have taken immediate action in this matter," Stuglin said. "We have put together a very enhanced auditing system and while we are outraged that dues were embezzled, we are encouraged that the UAW auditors themselves discovered and reported this misuse of union dues through our

new auditing guidelines.

"We are confident that these new guidelines will identify any similar activity in our union and serve as a deterrent to prevent such activity in the future."

It was not immediately clear for how long the improper expenditures at Local 412 had been made. The local referred comment to the international union. In a letter to members, though, Local 412 President Jerry Witt said he is recommending the local's executive board consider placing the local in administratorship to assist in correcting the breach. The union also is working with the inter-

national to file a bond for its losses.

The enhanced auditing system was put in place by Stuglin's predecessor, now-UAW President Ray Curry. Auditors on staff this summer identified the irregularities. The union hired four additional auditors as part of its financial reforms that also included expanded internal training.

"Our staff was highly trained in detailed audit tracking procedures and uncovered a very elaborate embezzlement scheme by the locally elected officer," Stuglin said.

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## Prosecution wraps up closing argument in R. Kelly's trial

By Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau  
Chicago Tribune

NEW YORK — R. Kelly's defense team is expected to get their chance to explain to a federal jury in New York on Thursday why they think prosecutors have failed to prove that the Chicago-born R&B star is the head of a racketeering enterprise aimed at satisfying his illegal sexual appetites.

After nearly six weeks of testimony from some 50 witnesses, closing arguments in the case began Wednesday, with prosecutors telling the jury the singer for years "used his money and public persona to hide his crimes in plain sight."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Geddes wrapped up her argument, which totaled about 6 1/2 hours, around

midday Thursday, saying, "It is time to hold the defendant responsible for the pain that he inflicted on each of his victims," and listing the six women included in the main racketeering charge each by their first name. "Convict him."

Kelly, dressed in a blue suit and wearing a face mask, was animated at the defense table while Geddes wrapped up, scribbling notes, shaking his head and sometimes rubbing his temples.

Kelly attorney Deveraux Cannick is expected to use his turn before the jury to argue that Kelly's accusers are lying, motivated by jealousy or profit, and that prosecutors have failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that an enterprise existed or that Kelly used it to facilitate any crime.

Cannick's argument will be followed by the prosecution's rebuttal and then jury deliberations, which are now expected to begin on Friday.

Kelly, 54, was charged in an indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn in 2019 with heading a criminal enterprise that employed agents, runners, bodyguards and others to lure and trap girls and young women to satisfy his sexually predatory desires.

He faces decades in prison if convicted of the main racketeering charge, though the jury could decide to convict on lesser charges of kidnapping or violations of the Mann Act, which prohibits traveling over state lines for illegal sexual acts.

Geddes' argument on Wednesday and Thursday featured a large poster board display set up in the middle of U.S.



Antonio Perez / Chicago Tribune / TNS

R. Kelly appears during a hearing at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse on Sept. 17, 2019.

District Judge Ann Donnelly's courtroom, which included a mug shot of Kelly in the center with various members of

his ever-revolving entourage surrounding him.

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Rob Carr / Getty Images / TNS

Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman speaks during the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 20, in Washington, DC.

## 'CHANGE SINGS'

Amanda Gorman dishes on her 2036 presidential run and unveils her children's book

By Theresa Braine  
New York Daily News

Poet Amanda Gorman had her sights set on the White House long before it tapped her to help inaugurate President Joe Biden.

Her own presidential aspirations started when she was just a hair into her second decade.

"I remember being around 11 years old, and I was in class talking very passionately as I do about things I wanted to change in the world," the nation's first youth poet laureate, 23, told Savannah Guthrie and Hoda Kotb during a Tuesday appearance on "Today." "My teacher said to me quite jokingly, 'Ha ha, you should run for president,' and I said, 'Yes, I should.'"

To Gorman it was no joke. In fact, it's poetry — and then some.

"It became this ambition where, for me, it means that the hopes that I have for making the world a better place, I have to think more expansively beyond

poetry," the Harvard grad said. "It's not just writing, it's doing right as well. And if I can do that while changing political institutions, changing the quality of life in my own home country, I think that's a great extension of poetry."

It was overcoming a speech impediment that gave her the resilience to do something like run for the land's highest office — which she'll be eligible to do in 2036, when she's 35 — and brought poetry into her life.

"I had to put in the work, the labor," she told "Today" of working to overcome the auditory processing disorder she was diagnosed with in kindergarten. "I listened to 'Hamilton' a lot and tried to rap with the actors. Over time that not only engaged my love for poetry but also engaged my love for my own voice to the point that I could have a stage and could hear it with love and acceptance."

Coming out of that, besides two books of poetry

and the international acclaim born of reciting "The Hill We Climb," written for the presidential inauguration, is a new children's book. In fact, poetry will be integral to her presidential campaign, she told The Wall Street Journal's WSJ Magazine.

"Change Sings: A Children's Anthem" was published Tuesday, and her second book of poetry, "Call Us What We Carry," comes out in December. They'll each have print runs of a million copies, The Wall Street Journal reported.

"Change Sings" is about a young girl who leads a group of characters on a musical journey that shows them "anything is possible when our voices join together," publisher Penguin says.

Along the way they learn they have the power to make change, not only in their communities and the world, but also in themselves. It's illustrated by Loren Long, the artist behind President Barack Obama's "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters."

"For me, I wanted to write a children's book in which young readers can see themselves as real agents of change within the world," Gorman told "Today" co-hosts Guthrie and Kotb. "I was speaking with so many family members and guardians who have asked me, 'How do I talk about the world with my child?' And I said, 'First and foremost, by highlighting how important they are to our future. And that's really the core of the message of 'Change Sings.'"

That's the impetus binding all her efforts, she said. And the message is not just for kids.

"I wrote this book because I believe every child has the ability to make a difference and that they are the leaders of the future," Gorman said of her book, according to People. "I hope readers will enjoy 'Change Sings' and remember that all of us have the power to change the world."

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## Andy Cohen to publish book

The book reveals inside story of 'The Real Housewives' franchise

By Karu F. Daniels  
New York Daily News

Believe it or not, there's a lot more "Real Housewives" drama that is seen on television.

And now there's a book about it.

On Wednesday, Andy Cohen Books, an imprint of Henry Holt, announced it will publish "Not All Diamonds and Rose: The Inside Story of The Real Housewives From the People Who Lived It," written by entertainment journalist Dave Quinn.

The 496-page hardcover is set for release on Oct. 19 and has already become a No. 1 bestseller on Amazon in pre-orders.

The tome includes in-depth interviews with over 100 Housewives past and present from Atlanta, Beverly Hills, Dallas, D.C., Miami, New York, New Jersey, Orange Country and Potomac.

"I like to think of Not All Diamonds and Rose as the ultimate reunion," Cohen — the "Real Housewives" kingpin — said with the announcement. "I know readers will be surprised, entertained, and even shocked at what's in store."

The publishing company said the book is the "definitive oral history and includes hundreds of hours of exclusive interviews, candid conversations and never-before-heard details from those involved."

From main cast members and their friends, to producers, network executives, casting directors and more, the author offers readers an exclusive all-access pass to behind-the-scenes dirt of the legendary rivalries, off-camera revelations, and some of the most memorable moments in "Real Housewives" history.

A lifelong Bravo fan since back in the "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" days, Quinn has covered the Bravo hit reality franchise for outlets such as People and Entertainment Weekly.

"As a dedicated viewer of Housewives since day one, it was such a thrill to walk through 15 years of history with the Housewives, producers, executives, and guest stars who helped make this franchise into the cultural phenomenon it is today," he said.

He added, "'Not All Diamonds and Rose' is packed full of delicious drama, tantalizing tea, and surprising secrets that [are] going to leave fans gagged. Get ready to see this franchise like you've never seen it before!"

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Brian Spurlock / USA Today Sports

Duke Blue Devils square off for the opening jump ball against the Kentucky Wildcats in the first half during the 2018 Champions Classic at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

## DUKE, UK VS. EVERYBODY

In changing college basketball landscape, recruiting still a Kentucky vs. Duke world

By Ben Roberts  
Lexington Herald-Leader

Lexington, Ky.

Two terrible seasons, one monumental coaching transition, another program reboot and a changing college basketball landscape apparently can't alter one constant of the past decade.

When it comes to recruiting, it's still Kentucky, Duke and everybody else.

On Monday night, five-star center Dereck Lively II announced his commitment to the Blue Devils, picking Duke over Kentucky in the biggest head-to-head battle between the two blue-bloods in this 2022 recruiting cycle.

It's been quite a year for the two college basketball powers.

Both teams missed the NCAA Tournament last season, one that greatly affected all of the sport due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which likely had an even greater impact on two programs that annually rely on new faces to fuel their on-court success.

In June, legendary Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski announced his retirement, effective at the end of the upcoming 2021-22 season, with longtime assistant Jon Scheyer set to take his place.

Before that announcement, fellow Hall of Fame coach

John Calipari acknowledged a need for changes within his program, ultimately shaking up his recruiting approach, bringing aboard two nationally renowned assistant coaches — Orlando Antigua and Chin Coleman — and, more recently, teasing a new style of play for the future.

The past few months have also seen both programs navigate a new era of immediately eligible transfers and the massive change brought about by NCAA name, image and likeness reforms.

The results on the recruiting trail — despite all that change — will be the same.

Kentucky and Duke will

almost certainly have the top two recruiting classes in the country. It's just a matter of which school ends up on top.

UK already has commitments from shooting guard Shaedon Sharpe (the No. 1 player in the new 247Sports rankings), wing Chris Livingston (No. 5) and point guard Skyy Clark (No. 18).

Right now, that's good enough for second place nationally, behind only Duke.

Lively (No. 2 in the 247Sports rankings) joined a Duke class that already included small forward Dariq Whitehead (No. 4), versatile forward Kyle Filipowski (No. 12) and sharp-shooting guard

Jaden Schutt (No. 54).

The commitment from Lively pushed Duke's class past Kentucky's and into the No. 1 spot. For now.

While Kentucky could land two more star recruits for next season, so could the Blue Devils.

If the plans shake out for Kentucky and Duke, the two programs would be getting a combined eight of the top 12 players in the 2022 rankings, with each team landing four such players.

Such a lopsided, two-team haul has never happened in the modern recruiting era.

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## Ganassi Racing sells headquarters to a competitor

By Alex Andrejev  
and Joe Marusak

The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Chip Ganassi Racing has sold its 22-acre headquarters to a top competitor as the Concord-based NASCAR team shuts down.

A limited liability company whose mailing address is the same as Hendrick Automotive Group in Charlotte bought the Ganassi team property for \$10.2 million on Sept. 3, Cabarrus County property tax records show.

CGR fields two full-time cars in NASCAR's top series based out of its 214,500-square-foot shop at 8500 Westmoreland Dr. NW, near Concord-Padgett Regional Airport. Ganassi also runs IndyCar, IMSA and

Extreme E teams out of its facilities in Indianapolis.

The team's NASCAR branch employs roughly 120 to 150 people. Those workers are expected to lose their current CGR jobs at the end of the season when the team's NASCAR assets transfer to Trackhouse Racing.

Chip Ganassi Racing filed a notice with the N.C. Department of Commerce early this month indicating it would permanently lay off 55 employees starting on Nov. 7, The Charlotte Observer previously reported.

CGR Chief Operating Officer Doug Duchardt sent a letter to the Department of Commerce and Concord mayor Bill Dusch on Sept. 3 in compliance with the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Noti-



James Gilbert / Getty Images/TNS

In this photo from June 26, Kurt Busch, driver of the (1) Monster Energy Chevrolet, and team owner Chip Ganassi talk on the grid prior to the NASCAR Cup Series Pocono Organics CBD 325 at Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Pennsylvania.

fication (WARN) Act, which requires employers to provide

60 days' advance notice of a plant closing or mass layoff.

In the letter, which was obtained by the Observer, Duchardt indicated that CGR would cease operations at its Concord facility on Nov. 8, or within 14 days thereafter. Team owner Chip Ganassi announced in late June the sale of his NASCAR operation to Trackhouse Racing owner Justin Marks and his team at the end of the season. The final race of the season is scheduled for Nov. 7.

Duchardt stated in his letter that the WARN filing was not characterized as a plant closing since Trackhouse purchased CGR's assets, including its two Cup Series charters, and plans to operate from the CGR facility beginning on Nov. 8.

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## Rahm embracing 'juvenile excitement' ahead of Ryder Cup

Field Level Media

World No. 1 Jon Rahm said he's in "really good shape" ahead of his second appearance for Team Europe in this week's Ryder Cup and is ready to play five matches should he be called upon to do so.

"I'm physically ready for it," said Rahm, who had a bumpy start to the season last week at the Fortinet Championship after battling a stomach illness and missing the cut for just

the second time in 2021.

"I know I don't look like it, but I train every day when I'm at home, believe it or not. I'm in really good shape. I have no problem walking 36. I feel like the biggest challenge in an event like this is possibly five rounds of the mental aspect of it, and that's where I think you need to learn to really unwind quickly and get ready when you need to."

The 26-year-old Spaniard,

who owns a 1-2-0 overall record in one previous Ryder Cup appearance (2018, Paris), said that coming into the 43rd edition of the biennial matches as the reigning U.S. Open champion gives him "confidence." However, he's also well aware of the considerable differences between major championships and the team format of the Ryder Cup.

Rahm also showed his soft side Thursday, waxing on

about the influence of fellow Spaniards and Ryder Cup icons Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal, as well as Englishman Lee Westwood, who at age 48 will be making his 11th Ryder Cup team appearance.

"To see all these great people that have accomplished so many things come together with a smile that only a team even like the Ryder Cup can bring to you, a juvenile excitement that you don't usually

expect a 48-year-old to have, it's very unique and it's something that I wish everybody could see because I feel like a lot of times we're missing that in life, and a week like this can definitely give you that youth back in that sense mentally," said Rahm.

Europe is the defending champion and has won nine of the last 12, but the U.S. leads the series 26-14-2 and holds a 17-4 record at home.



Frederic J. Brown / AFP / Getty Images / TNS

Shipping containers are stacked high at the Port of Los Angeles on April 19 where records continue to be set for incoming cargo at the nation's No. 1 container port.

## Shipping disruptions slow Minnesota crop exports, increase food costs

By Dan Gunderson  
MPR News

Moorhead, Minn.

Agriculture exports are important to Minnesota. The U.S. Department of Agriculture ranks Minnesota fourth among states in farm exports, worth more than \$6 billion in 2019.

Tobolt Seed in Moorhead, Minnesota, is a relatively small exporter, sending about 500 shipping containers of specialty soybeans to Japan every year. Those exports are about half of the company's business. The other half is selling seed to farmers in the Midwest.

In the company's warehouse, machines clean soybeans, removing the pods and any discolored beans to provide a high-quality, nongenetically modified crop desired by the food industry in Japan.

Earlier this year Tobolt Seed had to shut down for a couple of weeks when it could not get shipping containers and the warehouse was jammed with soybeans awaiting shipment.

"It was kind of a battle all year, it seemed like, trying to get [containers]. I was on the phone quite a lot trying to schedule to get [the soybeans] out of here," said Brandon Ferris, shipping plant manager. "Usually we have them all shipped out by the end of June, and we went into the middle August this year."

It's a similar story at Fargo-based Healthy Food Ingredients, a company with

processing plants in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. The company exports high-quality grains from Midwest farmers and also imports grains like amaranth and quinoa from overseas.

"It's extremely difficult, we're seeing lead times like we've never seen before in my almost 10 years here," said Chris Wiegert, chief sustainability and business development officer.

"We've got customers we're telling, 'We'll put the stuff on the water as soon as we can', but we're not promising product for four months."

That's a big change from the pre-pandemic model of just-in-time shipping, with quick turnaround on orders to keep production flowing smoothly.

### Exporting air

Delays and significant shipping cost increases are making it difficult to plan, and it's not just affecting exports of crops Midwest farmers grow. The cost of importing specialty grains like quinoa is also up sharply, an impact sure to be felt in the grocery aisles. And Wiegert doesn't see a return to normal any time soon.

"Volatility in the market is the scary situation for all of us, where it would be better if we just kind of knew for the next month what it was going to cost. Every time we call somebody for pricing, it's changed anywhere

from up 50% to 400%," said Wiegert.

"I'm pretty bullish for the next two years. I don't think we've seen the top yet."

So far the company is keeping its international customer base, said Wiegert, because it supplies a high-quality product and has strong relationships with customers.

But many of those customers will need to adjust to the shipping disruptions, perhaps building additional storage facilities so they can keep more grain on hand and aren't as reliant on just-in-time deliveries.

Thousands of containers filled with consumer goods from Asia flow into U.S. markets every day.

But instead of returning filled with grain grown by U.S. farmers, more of the containers are exporting air.

Officials with the Port of Los Angeles, the largest container port in the U.S., said they shipped out a record number of empty containers in August.

International shippers are making a choice based on profits, and in the process are hurting U.S. exporters, said Eric Wenberg, executive director of the Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance, a national trade group based in Mankato, Minnesota.

Ocean-going carriers can make more money by quickly returning empty containers to China for another load of goods for American

consumers.

"Look, there's no argument that businesses should chase a high fee," said Wenberg. "But these carriers agreed through our ocean shipping act, and are obligated in terms of operating in the United States market, to give our companies access to the system."

### 'There's a shock here, and that kind of causes a bottleneck here'

In the Midwest, the current shipping disruptions are compounded by location.

"Minnesota, the north-central states, the Chicago market for transport are kind of at the apogee, at the furthest point from the international system," said Wenberg. "So when it's out of balance like this, it can sure be hard to find the equipment you need to satisfy your order."

"This is increasing prices, contributing to inflation, and making it more difficult for the businesses operating in our neighborhoods that are trying to export," he said.

Congress and the Biden administration should act to force international shippers to make more containers available for U.S. exports, said Wenberg.

This month, more than 70 national agricultural organizations asked the Biden administration to intervene.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021, which was introduced in Congress last month,



Dan Gunderson / MPR News

Tobolt Seed company plant manager Brandon Ferris stands next to equipment that cleans soybeans at the Moorhead, Minnesota, production facility on Monday.

would set minimum service standards for international ocean carriers.

It's a complex issue and there are many factors at play, said Marc Bellemare, professor of applied economics at the University of Minnesota.

Because the international shipping system is so interdependent, something like a COVID-19 outbreak in a shipping port can have a ripple effect across the world.

"There's a shock here, and that kind of causes a bottleneck here. And then it just kind of multiplies, it becomes more and more compounded and complex," he said.

And while ag exporters deal with higher costs and delays, Bellemare said that it's important to remember their competition in other parts of the world face similar challenges.

"This is not like Minnesota producers are hit in a vacuum; this is occurring all over the world. And so the question is, who's going to be the most resilient to those supply chain disruptions?"

### Supply chain disruptions the new normal?

Consumers should expect to pay more for food, perhaps for several years, while the shipping industry adjusts, said Bellemare, and they should prepare for the possibility that supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic or extreme weather might become the new normal.

"Because with climate change, global supply chains become more and more exposed to these disruptions," said Bellemare who believes the pandemic laid bare weak points in the international supply chain.

"We are not ready for prime time," he said. "How can we do better? How can we anticipate shocks that will be coming almost inevitably because of climate change?"

Significant infrastructure improvements are needed to create a more resilient international shipping system, he said, a process that would take political will and years of investment.

## Suspect struck by a squad vehicle after shooting at police has died

By Nick Ferraro  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MOUNDS VIEW, Minn.

— A domestic assault suspect who fired on law enforcement Wednesday, Sept. 22, in Mounds View died after a sheriff's deputy then struck the shooter with a squad vehicle, investigators said.

The suspect's bullets narrowly missed the Mounds View police officer and Ramsey County sheriff's deputy who responded to a call for help Wednesday morning.

At about 10:40 a.m., Ramsey County sher-

iff's deputies assisted Mounds View police with an alleged felony domestic assault that involved a man who fired a gun in a room at the AmericInn by Wyndham at 2200 Mounds View Blvd., according to a sheriff's department statement.

A witness soon reported seeing the suspect walking near the Mermaid Bar & Grill, which is adjacent to the hotel. After getting the suspect's description, an officer and deputy spotted him in the area of the 5200 block of Pine-wood Court, just east of Mounds View Boulevard

and off County Road H2.

The suspect then raised a handgun and fired at the approaching squads, striking a Mounds View police officer's sport utility vehicle just above the driver's side windshield and a Ramsey County deputy's SUV just below the driver's side windshield, according to the statement.

The deputy then struck the suspect with his SUV "to stop the threat," the statement read.

Officers and deputies provided first aid to the suspect, who was taken to Hennepin County Medical Center in Min-

neapolis. Mounds View police reported later Wednesday night the suspect had died.

A cocked handgun was recovered at the scene.

Mounds View police and the sheriff's office will be conducting criminal investigations into the alleged domestic assault and two attempted homicides of peace officers. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will investigate the officer-involved use of force incident.

The identity of the suspect will be released by the BCA.



Contributed / Ramsey County Sheriff's Office via St. Paul Pioneer Press

Bullet holes can be seen in a squad car where a suspect fired upon approaching officers, striking a Mounds View police officer's squad car just above the driver's side windshield and a Ramsey County Deputy's squad just below the driver's side windshield.