

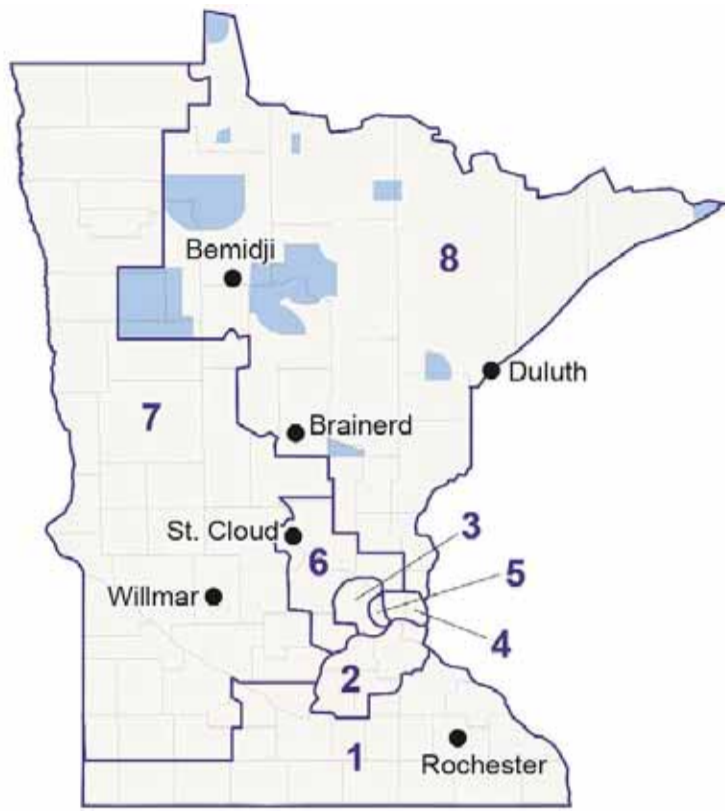
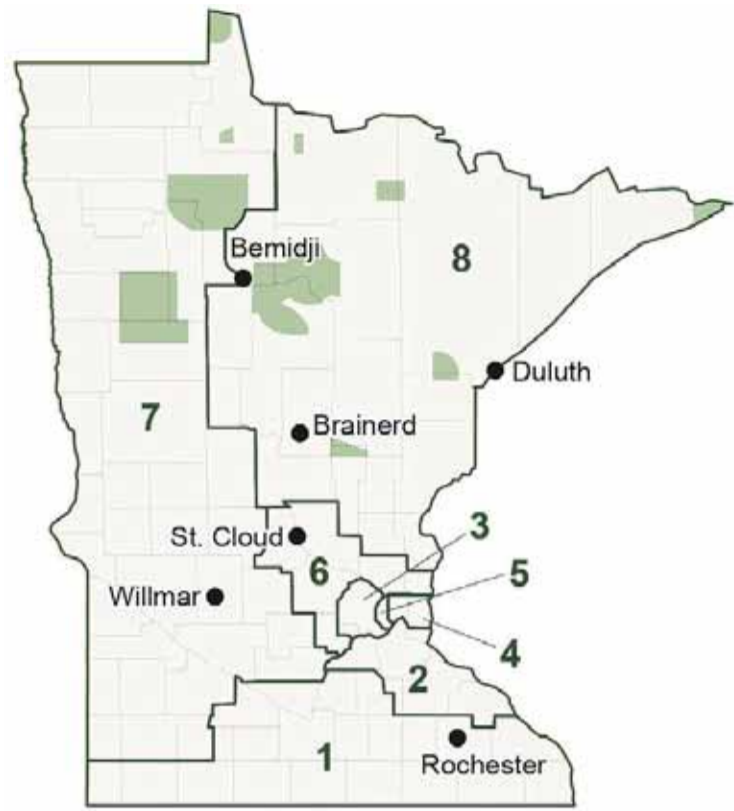
Minnesota River flood risk 'minor' in Montevideo. **A3.**

'Give yourself a little grace'. **C1.**

WILLMAR, MINN.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

WCTRIB.COM



2012 Minnesota congressional districts

2022 Minnesota congressional districts

Indian Reservation

Indian Reservation

Forum News Service

## New maps mean big changes for region

By Shelby Lindrud  
West Central Tribune

WILLMAR — Voters across the region will need to relearn their legislative districts after the new maps were released Tuesday.

To evenly distribute the state's population after the 2020 census, the state's eight congressional districts, 67 Minnesota Senate and 134 Minnesota House districts had to be redrawn. A city or county that was in one district Monday might have found itself in a completely new one on Tuesday.

The region saw changes in both the Minnesota Senate and House districts.

Each Senate district in Minnesota, designated by a number, is made up of two House districts that are designated by the same number with an A or B.

Most of what was Senate District 17 is now District 16 — which includes all of Kandiyohi, Chippewa and Renville counties, including the townships of Birch Cooley and Beaver Falls and the city of Morton. Also added to the district was the western half and a portion of north central Meeker County, including the cities of Litchfield, Cosmos and Watkins.

At the House level, District 16A will represent all of Chippewa and Renville counties, the portion of Meeker County within the new Senate District 16 and the southeastern corner of Kandiyohi County, including the city of Lake Lillian and the townships of Lake Lillian, East Lake Lillian, Lake Elizabeth and Fahlun.

House District 16B covers the rest of Kandiyohi County, including the cities of Willmar, New London, Spicer, Prinsburg, Atwater, Kandiyohi and Raymond.

The northeastern corner of Meeker, with the city of Kingston, is part of Senate District 29 and House District 29A. Portions of central and southeast Meeker County, including the cities of Darwin and Dassel along with the area around Forest City, are part of Senate District 17 and House District 17A.

MAPS: Page A6

# SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

## Redistricting changes Minnesota's political map this year

By Alex Derosier  
and Dana Ferguson  
West Central Tribune

St. Paul

Minnesota's political landscape has shifted in the wake of new legislative and congressional district maps released Tuesday, Feb. 15, by a panel of five judges.

Among the biggest changes are the visible growth of Minnesota's Congressional District 8, which covers most of northeast Minnesota.

The 8th District expands west to include the White Earth and Red Lake nations. All of the state's northern tribal lands are unified in a single district under the new map, something tribal leaders had requested, according to the redistricting panel's ruling. The 8th District, which includes the city of Duluth and spans from the Arrowhead in the east to Bemidji in the west, is represented by Republican Rep. Pete Stauber.

The five-judge panel in a court filing said they'd come up against the deadline for the Legislature to put forward new maps. And since

lawmakers in the divided Statehouse couldn't agree, the panel published the new congressional and legislative maps at noon Tuesday.

"To avoid delaying the electoral process, the panel must now act," the judges wrote.

In the five congressional districts around the Twin Cities Metro area, populations grew over the last decade. Meanwhile the three more rural districts saw their populations decline. As a result, the judges said they remained close to the prior congressional maps but redrew each district to get the boundaries closer to containing an even voter population. The five more populous districts shrunk in terms of geography, while the three more rural ones grew.

"Simply put, we are not positioned to draw entirely new congressional districts, as the Legislature could choose to do. Rather, we start with the existing districts, changing them as necessary to remedy the constitutional defect by applying politically neutral redistricting principles," the panel said.



West Central Tribune file photo

Absentee and mail-in ballots are counted in Kandiyohi County in this undated file photo.

The maps set the new boundaries for Minnesota's eight Congressional districts, 67 Senate districts and 134 House districts, and will be in effect for the 2022 elections. States adjust their representative maps every 10 years based on new data from the Census.

### Reaction

To address population growth, the panel moved the southern rural portion of the

2nd District in the Twin Cities' southern suburbs westward, taking Le Sueur County and handing over Goodhue and Wabasha counties in the east to the 1st District, which contains the cities of Rochester and Worthington. Minnesota's 2nd District tends to be competitive in elections, though could favor Democrats more as it becomes more suburban.

DISTRICTS: Page A2

## Willmar School Board orders construction documents

### After 2-year delay, middle school addition moves forward

This drawing shows the site proposal for an addition to Willmar Middle School. The blue portion of the addition is a gym and alternative learning classrooms. The larger yellow portion will be used by the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative for classes for special education students with high needs.

Contributed / Willmar Public Schools



By Linda Vanderwerf  
West Central Tribune

WILLMAR — An addition to Willmar Middle School is moving closer to a construction date after a two-year delay because of the pandemic.

The Willmar School Board voted Monday to send the plans for the addition to the Minnesota Department of Education for review and ordered the development of construction documents.

The addition was in development two years ago, but was put on hold in March 2020 when the pandemic began. If construction can begin later this year, the addition could open in fall 2024, said

Superintendent Jeff Holm.

The addition will represent a partnership between Willmar Public Schools and the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative on the \$17 million project.

The school district's share of that cost will be about \$5 million.

A variety of funding sources will be used, including the district's undesignated general fund balance, pandemic aid that is approved for that use and lease payments from the cooperative to the district. The cooperative is also seeking state bonding money.

SCHOOL: Page A3

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# How Minnesota's new voting maps took shape

**By Dana Ferguson**  
West Central Tribune

ST. PAUL — The release Tuesday, Feb. 15, of Minnesota's new congressional and legislative maps spurred some candidates to announce their bids for office, while others turned to introspection about whether they'd move or retire from their seats.

Lawmakers blew through a legislative deadline (again) making a Minnesota court panel's input necessary to keep state elections on track in the coming months and into the next decade.

Here's a look at what the judicial panel said informed its decisions around the new maps and what the changes could mean for Minnesota voters.

## How did they decide how to draw the districts?

The five-judge panel in its orders Tuesday said there were a few criteria that helped it redraw the state's voting maps. They tried to:

- ▶ Remain close to a target population to keep districts even
- ▶ Comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as well as the 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution
- ▶ Respect the lands of federally recognized American Indian tribes
- ▶ Respect political subdivisions

▶ Preserve communities of interest (those who share social, cultural, ethnic, occupational or other interests)

▶ Shape districts without the intent of helping or hurting any candidate or political party

▶ Keep the districts reasonably compact

For Congressional districts, the judges aimed to split the state into eight districts with close to 713,312 voters in each. And that meant adjusting each district to add or subtract people depending on how much the district's population changed over the last decade.

The five districts closest to the Twin Cities metro area (Congressional Districts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) saw their populations increase at a greater rate than the statewide average in the last 10 years, which meant they needed to shrink (in population and geography) to meet that new target, the panel said.

Meanwhile, Congressional Districts 1, 7 and 8, needed to grow in geography and people to meet the target.

That means the more urban districts contracted, geographically, to scale down in population size. And rural districts expanded into surrounding areas to grow their populations.

The judges also noted that they took into consideration the representation of Black, Indige-

nous and People of Color around the state. Those communities fueled Minnesota's population growth over the last decade.

## Why did the court have to draw the maps?

Under the Minnesota Constitution, the state Legislature is charged with redrawing the congressional and legislative maps every decade. But political division has prevented that from happening over several decades.

And that means the court has had to intervene to redraw the maps to ensure they represent the state's changing demographics. Parties sued following the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census, alleging the state's maps published in 2012 were "unconstitutionally malapportioned," kick-starting the work of the Minnesota Judicial Branch Special Redistricting Panel in 2021.

The panel took testimony around the state, assessed a variety of competing proposals for the new maps and ultimately shared the new maps on Tuesday.

## Where did the biggest shifts happen (and why)?

Voters in northern and central Minnesota can expect to see the biggest changes following the

changes to the congressional maps.

The judicial panel expanded the state's 8th Congressional District to the west, as well as south down to Washington County. The district is now set to encompass all populated northern Minnesota tribal lands in one congressional district.

Judges said the district will represent mining, timber, outdoor and tourism industries, while its neighbor to the east, the 7th Congressional District, would continue to represent agriculture and the Red River Valley.

The 7th Congressional District also needed to pick up its population to meet the panel's target, so the judges added part of Cottonwood County, more of Stearns County, pieces of Brown and Hubbard counties, as well as Morrison and Wadena counties to the vast western section of the state.

In southern Minnesota, the 1st Congressional District grew to pick up Goodhue and Wabasha counties from the 2nd Congressional District.

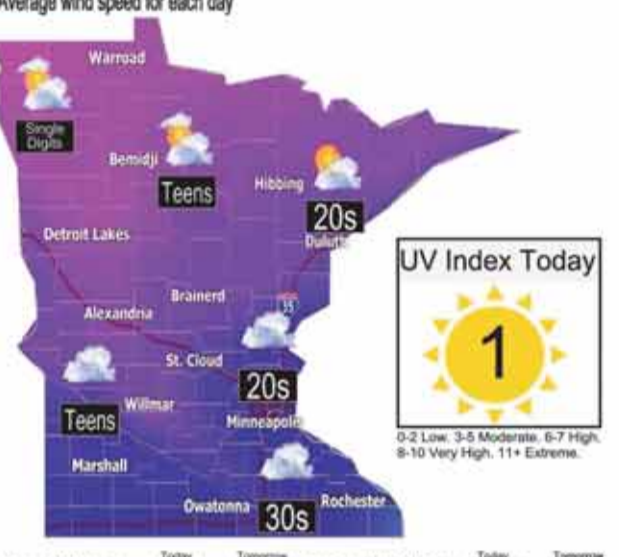
The panel, in an order explaining the changes, noted that while it used the guiding principles to attempt neutrality in redrawing the districts, its approach "does not leave any congressional district unchanged."

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 651-290-0707 or email dferguson@forumcomm.com.



## StormTRACKER WILLMAR FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18/-5 Cloudy	6/-3 Partly Cloudy	34/-3 Cloudy/Wind	33/26 Partly Cloudy
Wind: NW 18 mph	Wind: NW 10 mph	Wind: W 25 mph	Wind: S 17 mph
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
31/8 Mostly Cloudy	14/1 Snow Showers/Wind	10/-2 Snow Showers	5/-7 Partly Cloudy
Wind: N 13 mph	Wind: NE 20 mph	Wind: N 16 mph	Wind: NW 11 mph



Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow	Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow
Bemidji, MN	13/-20	2/-10	Marshall, MN	19/-1	11/5
Duluth, MN	22/-7	9/-8	Minneapolis, MN	27/-1	10/0
Eau Claire, WI	33/3	13/-5	Rochester, MN	33/4	11/-2
Fargo, ND	10/-12	4/0	Sioux Falls, SD	29/3	24/14
International Falls, MN	13/-23	1/-19	St. Cloud, MN	20/-6	8/-5

## DISTRICTS

From Page A1

In a statement, 2nd District Rep. Angie Craig, a Democrat, thanked the redistricting panel for their commitment to a "nonpartisan and transparent process" and announced her reelection bid.

"While I am, of course, disappointed that the new boundaries do not include all of the cities and towns that I currently represent in Congress, I look forward to being the voice of several new communities across Minnesota," Craig said.

Others said they would take time to examine the results before deciding whether to retire, announce reelection bids or move to attempt a run in a different district.

Republican leadership did not rule out challenging the maps but appeared satisfied with the results. At a Tuesday afternoon news conference at the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller, R-Winona, said that, based on initial analysis, Republicans found the maps to be fair. He said it was too early to say what impact the new legislative districts might have for the GOP

going into the 2022 election, but he projected optimism.

"We're confident that our priorities for this session will help us maintain and grow our majority," he said. Republican priorities include boosting funding for police, tougher penalties for violent crime and cutting taxes.

Deputy Majority Leader Mark Johnson, R-East Grand Forks, said Republicans were hoping for the least change possible to districts. He told reporters he thought the panel created a balanced map and did a "good job" of keeping most districts close to their 2012 boundaries.

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Chairman Ken Martin reacted to the new maps in a statement early Tuesday afternoon.

"It will take some time for us to conduct a full analysis of these maps, but we are excited nonetheless to have this process conclude and have a clear sense of the political landscape in front of us," he said. "Across Minnesota, local DFL Party organizing units will be working overtime to endorse our candidates in new districts and ensure our campaign infrastructure is ready to kick into high gear."

## A 50-year tradition

This round of redistricting will mark a half-century of the courts having the ultimate say in Minnesota's political district boundaries, as Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature have consistently failed to reach a compromise on new maps. The Minnesota Supreme Court appointed the five-judge redistricting panel in June.

Minnesota lawmakers started seeking public input and developing new legislative and Congressional maps after receiving new data from the 2020 Census in August — much later than usual. Lawmakers typically expect Census results by February. With a tighter turnaround this year the judicial panel worked concurrently with legislators to develop new maps.

Based on data from the 2020 Census, the ideal population for a Congressional district in Minnesota is now 713,112. Minnesota narrowly held on to its eight districts in the last Census. The ideal legislative district

population in Minnesota increased in the last census from 39,582 to 42,586. Minnesota Senate districts are split into two A and B House districts.

New boundaries for representation can affect elections in a number of ways. Shifting boundaries can change the demographics of a district, which can play to the advantage or disadvantage of candidates. For example, a Democrat in a suburban district on the edge of a metropolitan area could have their district boundaries changed to include larger swaths of potentially more conservative rural areas — meaning a disadvantage in the upcoming election.

Incumbent elected representatives can see map changes that make the district they serve disappear from beneath their feet. Suddenly they'll be in a position where they are running against another incumbent — sometimes of the same party — or will have to move to run for an open seat in an open district.

Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email aderosier@forumcomm.com.



## StormTRACKER Forecast

Partly cloudy and blustery with colder temps in the teens today. NW wind at 10-25mph. Subzero single digit lows tonight.

Almanac Through 6 pm Tuesday		
Temperature	High	Low
Tuesday	30°	12°
Avg. Wind Direction Tuesday	SE	
Peak Wind Speed Tuesday	25 mph	

Sunrise: 7:19 p.m.      Sunset: 5:49 p.m.  
Moonrise: 5:50 p.m.      Moonset: 8:12 a.m. Feb. 17



## TODAY'S INFO

What's happening? Do you know of something that might make a good story or photograph for the newspaper? Just give us a call at 320-235-1150.

**Corrections**  
If you have a question about accuracy of information in a news story, please call the news department at 320-235-1150. If any corrections are necessary, they will be published on this page.

**Lottery results**  
Winning numbers drawn Tuesday night are:  
Daily 3: 8-4-9  
Northstar Cash: 3-9-10-11-22  
Mega Millions: 2-4-15-21-63  
Mega ball: 19  
Lucky for Life: 25-27-28-31-38  
Lucky ball: 9  
For more information, go to mn-lottery.com.

## West Central Tribune

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**FAMILY TIES**  
Terry Crews and son Isiah share a love of acting, football, tailgate food and the high-top fade.

# Tribune

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# First flood outlook 'average' for area

**By Tom Chervey**  
West Central Tribune

MONTEVIDEO — A true sign that spring is coming, and it's a good one.

At this point, there is an "average" or normal risk of spring flooding in Minnesota, according to the National Weather Service's first flood outlook report for 2022. The report released Feb. 10 found average snowpack conditions throughout most basins in the state.

As always, the first report

comes with the caveat: Much will depend on weather patterns in March and early April.

The flood risk in the Minnesota River basin is termed average. The National Weather Service calculates a 13% risk of "minor" flooding in the Montevideo area, which compares to a historical average of 10% in mid February.

In general, snow depth and water content on the landscape through much of Minnesota is within the average parameters for this time of year.

The most snow is found in the headwaters of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. Due to last summer's drought, the National Weather Service reported that there is a lot of room to intercept runoff.

Snowfall amounts recorded from Sept. 1, 2021, to Feb. 9 throughout the state are within 25% of normal ranges.

The season's first measurements show the equivalent of 2 to 4 inches of water on the landscape of northern Minnesota and in the 1- to 2-inch range in southern Minnesota.

## BRIEF

### Carris Health, CentraCare ease visitor restrictions

WILLMAR — Carris Health and CentraCare have updated their visitor guidelines this week.

One healthy adult visitor is now allowed at all Carris Health sites and at all sites of CentraCare, Carris' parent organization.

Two adult visitors are allowed for patients who are minors.

The change is effective at all hospitals, clinics and specialty centers.

The new guidelines do not apply to long-term care facilities because of different regulations for vulnerable populations.

As COVID-19 case numbers decline, the health care providers are cautiously optimistic the new guidelines will offer patients a balance of safety and family support while receiving care, according to a news release from CentraCare.

Visitors must be healthy and not have symptoms of COVID-19. Visitors should not visit for 10 full days following

a positive test for COVID-19 or after a known close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Medical-grade masks are still required at all facilities. Patients and visitors with non-medical grade masks — including cloth masks, gaiters or bandanas — will be offered a medical-grade mask upon arrival.

Visitor guidelines are constantly under review to be sure patient and employee needs are met while keeping everyone safe, the release said.

West Central Tribune

## SCHOOL

From Page A1

Local property taxes will not be affected by the project, Holm said.

The cooperative plans to develop an educational learning center for special education students whose needs aren't met in a traditional school setting. The school district would build a new gym and classroom space for an alternative learning center for middle school-aged students.

The project will be a good addition to the school, Holm said.

"Our Middle School is woefully inadequate in terms of instructional space for (physical education), which impacts schedules and all sorts of things," he said.

The additional space will benefit all students who attend the Middle School and also benefit the community by adding space for recreation programs, he said.

The school district has tried for several years to keep alternative learning students in grades 7 and 8 apart from the high school students at the Willmar Area Learning Center located at Garfield School, Holm said.

Students at the ALC can be up to 21 years of age, he said,

and the school felt the age range was too wide. Students may attend an alternative learning center for a variety of reasons. Some may need to make up missed credits. Others may just not do well in a traditional school setting.

Currently, the Middle School's ALC students attend school in a basement classroom at Jefferson Learning Center. The building also houses preschool programs and the Adult Basic Education program.

Holm said the classroom used at Jefferson is a nice, well-furnished room in "a very lousy location."

The Southwest West Central Service Cooperative currently has an educational learning center in rented space at the MinnWest Technology Campus in Willmar which is not large enough and wasn't built for that purpose.

"We're talking about students with unique and high needs in areas of emotional/behavioral as well as autism sometimes," he said. A regular classroom, even with additional support, is often not a good option for those students, he added.

The cooperative offers many services to schools and communities across the southwest part of the state. It has been working to develop educational learning centers in central

locations around its service area. A new one opened in Montevideo a few years ago.

The hope is that a new center will help meet the needs of students from Willmar and surrounding districts without the long bus rides some now have, Holm said.

The addition would begin on the southeast corner of the school and be built directly south of the school. A parking lot would be added south of the addition, and a playground would be built east of the educational learning center.

Board members commented that the addition would cover a large grassy area often used by physical education classes. "It is a busy space," said board member Mary Amon. "I'm not saying we shouldn't do it, but we will lose some space."

Board Vice Chairman Mike Reynolds pointed out that the school will still have nearly a whole city block of outdoor space to use.

Holm told the board the project is likely to cost more than it would have two years ago, and it could be hit by supply chain issues. The large tip-up concrete panels used for gym walls can take 18 months to be delivered.

The public may see a lot of activity at first and then the site could be quiet, waiting for supplies to be delivered.

## GOOD NEIGHBORS

### Farmers Co-op Oil Company

RENVILLE — The Farmers Co-op Oil Company and Cenex donated a \$5,000 Hometown Pride Grant to Park Moms to complete the renovation of North Park in Renville. The organization has been raising money by selling personalized bricks that will soon create a custom pathway to the park.

### Humane Society

WILLMAR — The 16th annual Save Our Tails fundraiser will be an online auction beginning Feb. 17 and running through Feb. 25 to raise money for the Humane Society of Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties. Go to the website [www.ziemerauctions.com](http://www.ziemerauctions.com) to register and bid.

### Brew Ha Ha 6.0

WILLMAR — The United Way of West Central Minnesota

and Empower: Women United present Brew Ha Ha 6.0 at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at the Barn Theatre in Willmar to benefit local programs including the Imagination Library program. Beer, cider and wine sampling, appetizers and a show by comedian John DeBoer. Tickets are \$35 online at [liveunitedwcm.org](http://liveunitedwcm.org) or by calling the United Way office.

The Tribune will publish news about charities, benefits and nonprofit fundraisers each week in Good Neighbors. Items can be emailed to [news@wctrib.com](mailto:news@wctrib.com) with "good neighbors item" in the subject line. To be published, information must be submitted by the charity/benefit group or representatives of that group by noon Monday of each week and include the phone number of a contact person. Good Neighbors includes a calendar of upcoming events/fundraisers scheduled for the next four weeks, results of fundraisers held the previous week and phone numbers for people to call if interested in learning more about or donating to specific charities or benefits. You may also put your item on the Tribune's online calendar at [www.wctrib.com](http://www.wctrib.com), scroll about halfway down the home page to the calendar and click on "Add an event."

## Lower Sioux tribal member to lead Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives office

West Central Tribune  
ST. PAUL — Juliet Rudie, a tribal member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community and lifelong Minnesota resident, will lead Minnesota's new Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives as its director. It's the first office of its kind in the nation, according to a news release from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

The office will be housed in the Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs and will focus on missing and murdered Indigenous relatives. The office will work with the 11 sovereign tribal nations in Minnesota; federal, state, and local law enforcement; federal and state agencies; and community-based organizations and advocates. Additional staff for the office will be hired in the coming weeks.

Rudie's career in public safety spans almost 28 years. She began as a patrol officer with the St. Paul Police Department in 1990, later serving as a sergeant assigned to various divisions including Juvenile Investigations, Missing Persons and the Director of Training. She joined the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office in 2011, serving as an inspector, undersheriff of the Administration Division and chief deputy.

Rudie will begin her new duties as director of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office on Feb. 28.

"For far too long, Native women and girls, men and boys, and two-spirit relatives have been disproportionately impacted by violence. It is through generations of advocacy from elders, mothers, sisters and friends that we are able to launch the first-of-its-kind Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office," said Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan in the news release.

The office was a recommendation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Task Force, which found that while Native Americans make up 1% of Minnesota's population, they account for approximately 9% of all murdered girls and women in the state during the last decade. Anywhere from 27 to 54 Indigenous women and girls were missing in Minnesota in any given month from 2012 to 2020.

This new office "continues the work of addressing the root causes of the epidemic of violence faced by Native women, girls, and two-spirit relatives," said Gov. Tim Walz.

Legislation to establish the office was signed into law by Walz in 2021. The office will also help develop and implement future legislation and transformative social justice policies.

For more information on the work of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force, visit the Office of Justice Programs website at [ojp.dps.mn.gov](http://ojp.dps.mn.gov).

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## AMERICAN OPINION

"We all were here. We saw what happened. It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election from one administration to the next. That's what it was."

SENATE MINORITY LEADER  
MITCH MCCONNELL

## Follow Mitch's lead: He now shows some backbone

By New York Daily News  
Editorial Board

Properly translating the Republican National Committee's Orwellian statement that the Jan. 6 Capitol marauders and rioters were "ordinary citizens engaged in legitimate political discourse," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell dropped the Newspeak and said in plain English: "We all were here. We saw what happened. It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election from one administration to the next. That's what it was." What a crying shame this seems to be a minority view in today's GOP.

Yes, it was a "violent insurrection" egged on by a president who had lost and was trying to cheat and steal in order to illegally and unconstitutionally cling to power. But his ever-loyal vice president, showing a welcome spasm of principle after years of servility, refused to go along, even with the rampaging mob howling, "Hang Mike Pence!" It took Pence a year to summon the courage. He now says plainly, "President Trump is wrong. I had no right to overturn the election."

Correct. To make it clear to everyone, even Donald Trump and his zombie-like followers, the antiquated, confusing and contradictory Electoral Count Act must be clarified and modernized before the 2024 presidential election. McConnell must put his full weight behind this needed repair, joining the bipartisan effort in the Senate.

Written in 1887, a full decade after a deal to resolve the disputed 1876 election, the Act has an early "safe harbor" provision from the horseback courier days that a GOP-favoring U.S. Supreme Court used in 2000 to stop the Florida recount, handing victory to George W. Bush over Al Gore. It also has the vice president announce the winner, which the Trumpers claimed (and still claim) grants the veep authority to discard results.

Fixing the law would push back the calendar on when states can report their results and clearly strip the veep of any meaningful involvement — so next time Congress counts the votes, the mob can stay home.

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Michael Reynolds / Pool / AFP / Getty Images / TNS

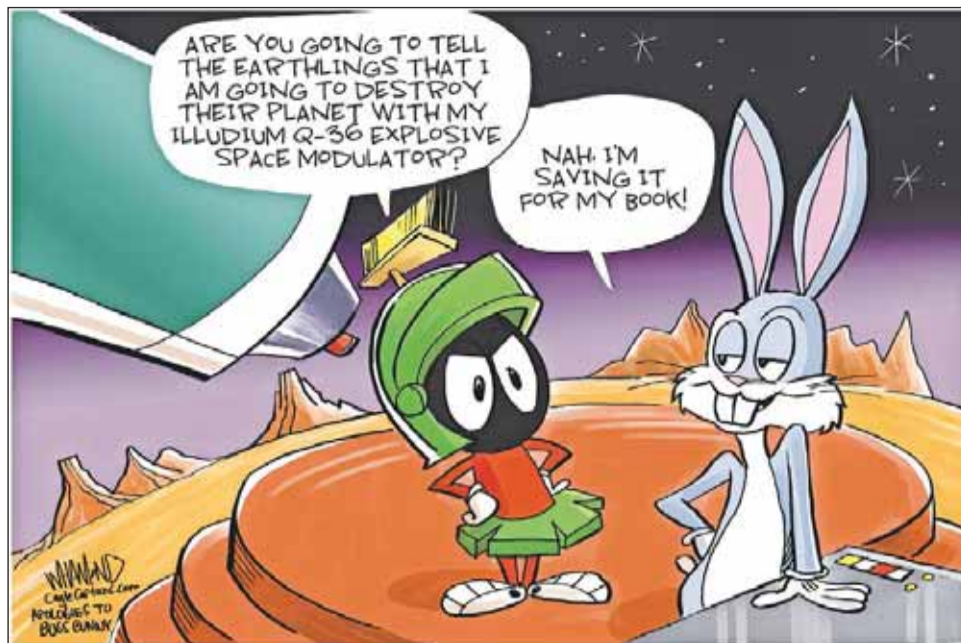
U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, left, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell watch a police motorcade follow a hearse carrying the remains of Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick on Feb. 3 after "lying in honor" in the Rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

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## READER OPINION

### Time to support Summit Carbon Solutions

Ethanol has been a cornerstone of the Minnesota economy for decades. However, with small-refinery waivers, electric vehicles, and the pandemic hampering the industry, the future of Minnesota biofuels is full of obstacles.

Considering ethanol contributes roughly \$5 billion to Minnesota's GDP and supports 12,686 jobs statewide, its viability must remain a top priority.

Fortunately, despite the challenges facing ethanol, there is light on the horizon as producers seek new markets. Consumer trends are evolving across the country, and several states are now willing to pay a premium for low-carbon fuel.

Through carbon capture and sequestration, ethanol plants can lower their emissions and become competitive for decades to come.

Six Minnesota plants have already partnered with a project to capture carbon dioxide from the fermentation process, transport the material to North Dakota, and safely store it underground.

The project developer, Summit Carbon Solutions, understands agriculture and is based in the Midwest.

It plans to employ up to 17,000 workers during construction, create hundreds of permanent jobs, and pay property taxes along the project's entire route. So far, more than 30 plants across

five states have signed agreements with Summit Carbon Solutions.

Minnesota stands to benefit tremendously.

With more E85 stations than any state in the U.S. and nearly half of our corn crop going to ethanol, our state's success is closely tied to the ethanol industry. As ethanol thrives, so does Minnesota.

I encourage all Minnesotans to support Summit Carbon Solutions as it works to create a brighter future for ethanol, agriculture, and Minnesota.

Steve Veverka  
Marshall

### Congratulations to the Vikings' running back Dalvin Cook

Congratulations to the Vikings' running back Dalvin Cook.

According to news reports, he recently graduated from Florida State University. Although he left school early to join the NFL, he still continued his education.

Not all professional athletes do that, but he did. If possible, he can now do something during the off-season.

And once his career in the NFL is over, he already has another career waiting for him.

Thank you, Dalvin Cook, for being an inspiration to young people, by completing your education.

Kent Syverson  
Willmar

## Latinx's meant to be inclusive. It got lost

### San Diego

In writing about Latino issues for more than 30 years, there is not much I haven't seen. In fact, there have even been a few things that I wish I could unsee.

And now, as I digest the current telenovela over the term "Latinx," I've caught a glimpse of three familiar threads.

First, there's the complex relationship that Latinos have toward our own identity. Many of us are conflicted or confused. It's why so

many of us have such strong views about how we should be identified. There aren't enough couches in the whole Southwest to allow millions of Mexican Americans to sort out whether we are "Mexican" or "American." Many Puerto Ricans in New York ("Nuyoricans") can't relate to those who grow up on the island of Puerto Rico. And how Cuban Americans see themselves depends on whether they grew up in Cuba or the United States, and — if they came as refugees — in what wave they arrived. Many Latinos know their way around an identity crisis, but it's not a smart idea to use cultural insecurities as a motivator for creating new terminology.

Next, there is the memory of how many people of Spanish origin shunned the word "Hispanic" while others embraced it. In the early 1970s, the Nixon administration — with help from my friend, Grace Flores-Hughes, who worked at what was then called the Department of Health, Education and Welfare — settled on the word "Hispanic" as the preferred term to describe people of Spanish origin. In the 1980s, the word appeared on the official U.S. census form. Some of the "described" accepted the term, but many did not. Some hated the term because it was imposed by the government, and by a Republican administration at that. Others disliked that it harkened back to Spain. In time, someone proposed an alternative: Latino. What's in a name? Experience tells us: Not much.

Finally, then there is the fact that White liberals can't resist their colonial instincts to tell us who we are, what to think and even what we should be called. There is an ongoing debate about who birthed the term "Latinx," though most experts seem to agree

that it arrived in the American lexicon in the mid-2000s. Some of those who embrace the term insist that it came from left-wing activists who wanted an "inclusive" term that welcomed the LGBTQ community. Others say the term came from within the Holy Trinity of White American elitism: media, academia and politics. In my case, when I heard Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., use "Latinx," that was my cue to avoid the term like store-bought tortillas.

Apparently, I'm not the only one. Let's "x-amine" the resistance — among Latinos — to "Latinx."

In December 2021, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest Latino civil rights group in the country, banned the word from its official communications and correspondence. Domingo Garcia, LULAC president and an old friend, told NBC News at the time: "The reality is there is very little to no support for its use and it's sort of seen as something used inside the Beltway or in Ivy League tower settings, while LULAC always rep Jose and Maria on Main Street in the barrio and we need to make sure we talk to them the way they talk to each other."

In November 2020, Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., tweeted out a provocative response to a Democrat who asked how the party could "improve our work with the LatinX community" and prevent "republican LatinX voters." Gallego responded: "First start by not using the term Latinx."

In 2020, a study by the Pew Research Center found that only 3% of Latinos — most often young women — use the term. In 2021, a survey by Bendixen & Amandi International, a Democratic firm that specializes in Latino outreach, put the percentage of Latinos who use "Latinx" at 2%.

It appears that, when you have a product or project aimed at Latinos, slapping "Latinx" on it is a good way to kill it. The word tells actual Latinos: *This isn't for you. This is for White folks who want to pretend they're you.*

The term is silly and self-indulgent. The debate over it is a waste of time. As 62 million Latinos get ready to run America, there is a whole ocean of bigger fish to fry. It's time to cast our lines and light up the grill.

Ruben Navarrette can be reached at ruben@wctrib.com. © 2022, The Washington Post Writers Group

## Is the virus really over? We each get to decide

As even Democratic governors race to ease face mask and vaccination requirements, and the number of new COVID-19 cases plummets, one might reasonably ask: Is it over?

Public health officials offer a variety of answers. But on the personal level, each of us is fashioning our own private policy.

I'm truly done with the coronavirus. But is the virus done with those I care about, to which I'll add myself?

I am triple vaccinated and circulate among mostly vaccinated people, so I don't worry much anymore. If I have a breakthrough infection, especially from the omicron variant, it is almost certain to be mild, if noticed at all.

I will continue to wear masks without complaint on airplanes, buses and trains. And I'll do so voluntarily in crowds of people. It has come to my attention that ever since this masking business began, I haven't caught a cold, much less the flu.

At the same time, I am tired of having to wear masks in uncrowded stores. That said, even when I disagree with these policies, I follow them to make life easier for the workers tasked with enforcing them. Those who harass these stressed employees are jerks.

Some health officials say, wait a minute. Hospitalizations for COVID-19 remain high, and about 2,000 Americans still die from it every day. But the vast majority are unvaccinated, which makes their illness and death self-inflicted. This is not early 2021, when vaccinations were harder to come by.

Peter Hotez, head of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College in Houston, is not as relaxed. He warns that another wave may hit the South and Texas this summer.

"I'm hearing the messaging, 'It's starting to look like the flu,'" he said. "To me, that all becomes an excuse for inaction."

Is the massive wave of omicron infections creating some kind of herd immunity? How long any protection afforded by the weaker variant will last remains an open question. Also, the low vaccination rates in poorer Asian and African countries create opportunity for other variants to arise.

The politics of this matters, because Democratic leaders are more aggressive about getting their population vaccinated. That is the best way out of this. But the groans unleashed by such White House pronouncements as, "The president's goal is to defeat the virus" (press secretary Jen Psaki, last month) are going to hurt Democrats.

A Cynal poll of swing states found their voters are more worried about how COVID-19 might hurt the economy than how it might hurt their health. Another poll, from Monmouth University, has half the respondents saying they fear catching the virus, but 70% thinking it's time to accept its presence and move on.

The Democratic governors of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and New York are backing exit strategies for bringing daily life back to "normal." Requiring masks in schools stopped making sense some time ago.

Look, the threat posed by the coronavirus is currently low among people who've gotten their shots and high among those who haven't. Today, each of us may decide whether we obtain protection from a vaccine and how we approach crowds, masked or unmasked.

We may not "defeat" the virus anytime soon, but the vaccinated majority can feel they've "contained" it. For them, the pandemic may be over. For the others, maybe not.

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



BRIEF

**DNR stops environmental review of Twin Metals**

DULUTH — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has stopped working on the state's environmental review of the proposed underground copper-nickel mine near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This came shortly after the Biden administration canceled two federal mineral leases for Twin Metals in late January.

"The DNR will close the administrative record and reassign staff resources to other high priority projects," the DNR said in a statement Tuesday afternoon.

The DNR also sent a letter outlining the next steps for closing out the project contracts.

Twin Metals issued a statement on the cancellation, stating its determination to continue to pursue the project.

"Twin Metals Minnesota is working to determine the next steps to continue to advance our underground copper, nickel, cobalt and platinum group

metals project," read the statement. "A pause on the environmental review process is necessary and appropriate while we defend our project and our mineral rights in court. "We remain committed to the communities of northeast Minnesota and to advancing a modern mine that will produce the minerals necessary for combating climate change, strengthening domestic supply chains and creating American jobs."

This isn't the first time the leases have been rescinded. They were first issued in 1966 and later rescinded in the final days of the Obama administration in 2016. The Trump administration then reinstated the leases in 2017 and renewed them in 2018 and 2019.

The final renewal in 2019 is the main point of contention with the recent cancellation. The Department of the Interior wrote in January that the Trump administration violated Bureau of Land Management regulations and did not prepare an adequate analysis of the renewal.

Duluth News Tribune

**Cleveland-Cliffs to idle Northshore Mining for months**

**Company using more scrap metal, fighting royalty fees**

By Jimmy Lovrien  
Duluth News Tribune

DULUTH — Cleveland-Cliffs will idle its Northshore Mining operations in Babbitt and Silver Bay amid a royalties dispute and as the use of scrap metal in its electric arc furnaces reduces the need for its pellets.

The Silver Bay pellet plant and the Babbitt mine will idle May 1 and last into at least the fall as the company moves production of direct-reduced grade pellets to its Minorca Mine in Virginia, Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves said in a year-end earnings call with investors Friday morning.

Layoffs are expected for 410 of Northshore's 580 employees, Cliffs spokesperson Pat Persico said in an email to the News Tribune. Some will be hired at Cliffs' other Minnesota operations, she added.

The announcement intensifies Cliffs' efforts to get out of what it has called "absurdly high" royalty fees it pays to Mesabi Trust, a publicly traded trust that collects royalties from Cliffs based on the volume of shipments

from Northshore, the price of taconite and the amount of taconite that was mined from land owned by the trust — namely the Peter Mitchell Mine in Babbitt, which supplies Northshore with ore.

"Because we are now able to produce (direct-reduced) grade pellets at Minorca, and mainly due to the ridiculous royalty structure we have in place with the Mesabi Trust, we will be idling all production at our Northshore Mine. ... No production, no shipments, no royalty payments," Goncalves said in the call.

It came in the same call where Cliffs announced a record profit of \$3 billion in 2021 on a record revenue of \$20.4 billion.

In October, the company announced it was moving production of its direct-reduced, or DR, grade pellets to its Minorca Mine in Virginia and away from its Northshore Mining plant in Silver Bay to avoid Mesabi Trust's royalty fees.

The October announcement came just weeks after an arbitrator ruled in favor of Mesabi Trust on unpaid royalty fees.

Mesabi Trust's Deutsche Bank manager declined to comment on the idling of Northshore.

In its quarterly



Clint Austin / News Tribune file photo  
Cleveland-Cliffs' Northshore Mining in Silver Bay.

report filed Jan. 28, Mesabi Trust said it received nearly \$21 million in royalty payments from Cliffs during the fourth quarter of 2021.

Asked if Northshore would keep running if Mesabi Trust were to lower its royalty fees, Persico said: "Cleveland-Cliffs has adjusted its full-year iron ore pellet production volume expectation to correspond to internal steelmaking needs for this year. This adjustment of iron ore pellets reflects our internal use of hot-briquetted iron (HBI) production and increased use of scrap in our steelmaking. We will be curtailing iron ore pellet production and temporarily idling Northshore Mining."

Cliffs spent \$100 million on Northshore's direct-reduced or DR-grade pellet plant, which opened in 2019, and can produce 3.5 million tons of DR-grade pellets per year.

Goncalves has said he never would have built the plant at Northshore, which also produces traditional pellets meant for blast furnaces, if

he had known that Cliffs would buy ArcelorMittal USA and its Minorca Mine in 2020.

The DR-grade pellets supply Cliffs' new Toledo hot briquetted iron plant, which in turn feeds electric arc furnaces.

Because the company uses more scrap metal in its electric arc furnaces, the idling could be prolonged, Goncalves said.

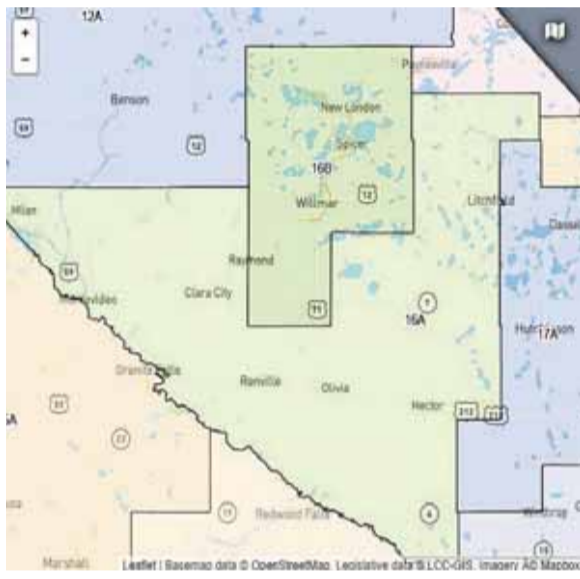
Babbitt Mayor Andrea Zupancich told the News Tribune that she was "stunned" by Friday's announcement.

She said that the only positive she got out of it was that it would idle mostly during the summer — and hopefully not any longer.

"It's not only the miners that are affected, it's absolutely everyone else in town that's affected," Zupancich said. "It's the school that's affected, it's the government that's affected, it's the businesses in town that are affected, it's the bars and restaurants in town that are all affected. So it's a massive trickle-down effect."

Voters in the region will have to get used to a new legislative district, as most of what was District 17 has been changed to District 16, with some changes.

Contributed / Minnesota Legislative Coordinating Commission, OpenStreetMap and Mapbox



**MAPS**

From Page A1

Brown and a portion of Blue Earth counties make up District 15. The city of Paynesville is now in Senate District 13 and House District 13A.

Every representative and senator is up for election this year due to the redistricting.

All of Swift County has now been placed in Senate District 12. Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lyon, Redwood,

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# 'It's part of who I am'

**Rising health needs drive new effort to draw Native students to medical school**

By Dan Kraker  
MPR News

DULUTH — Medical student Fred Blaisdell has a few months to go before anyone calls him doctor, but the Oneida Nation tribal member has already learned one lesson around the importance of Native physicians serving Native patients.

During a recent psychiatry rotation at a Minneapolis clinic, he introduced himself to a patient who lit up when she heard him speak Ojibwe.

"After that, the patient really opened up and started to talk about a lot more things that she hadn't really engaged with us before," recalled Blaisdell, 27, who's from the Detroit area but chose the University of Minnesota's medical school in Duluth for its national reputation training doctors from Native populations.

School leaders say the need for doctors like Blaisdell is huge and growing in an era of COVID-19 and other health worries. It led the university to launch a new effort to boost the number of Native physicians and other care workers in Minnesota and across the country.

Last year, nearly 21,000 students graduated from medical schools in the United States. Only 160 of those new doctors — fewer than 1% — were Native American.

"It's not just physicians, right? We don't have enough Native PAs (physician assistants).

We don't have enough Native nurses. We don't have enough Native pharmacists," said Dr. Mary Owen, director of the U's Center of American Indian and Minority Health. "We tend to work in teams, so it's hugely important that we develop all these different health professions."

## 'I talk to newborn babies about medical school'

Owen and others seeking to recruit Native students for medical schools say part of the challenge is to create better pathways between two-year tribal colleges and four-year institutions.

"Students have a history of feeling like the university isn't for them. They doubt that jobs are for them, because they don't see themselves in careers," said Anna Fellegly, vice president for academic affairs at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, Minn.

"And so it takes a different type of service to (get) the students to just allay some of that fear," she said, "take the mystery out of processes and get the ground firmly underneath their feet."

The work also needs to start much earlier. In Minnesota, only about 56% of Native high school students graduate in four years.

Dr. Arne Vainio, a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe who has practiced on the Fond du Lac reservation for the past 24 years, said he's always encouraged young people to pursue careers in medicine but now he starts even earlier.

"I talk to newborn babies about medical school," he said. "The



Courtesy / Ivy Vainio

Dr. Arne Vainio sees a patient at the Min-No-Aya-Win Human Services Clinic on the Fond du Lac reservation.

parents always listen. But I make sure that I'm talking directly to the baby about that. And, you know, let them know they have options. And then when they come in for visits, we talk about that again."

When young people see him, a Native American doctor, it allows them to envision themselves in the same position, he said, adding that when he was a little kid, a lot of the Native men he saw were truckers. "And that's all I wanted to be."

He credits a group of people who always encouraged him and held him accountable. "They're the ones that derailed my dream of being a truck driver, and I ended up in medical school instead."

## Growing doctors close to home

Owen, 56, said her journey to become a physician began when she was a patient at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, in

the late 1980s. "I didn't see any Native doctors or even Native nurses at that time," she recalled.

A member of the Tlingit Nation in Alaska, Owen said that played a role in pushing her to go to medical school. "That anger propelled me, actually — anger at our lack of representation."

She went on to earn her medical degree from the University of Minnesota. She then returned to Alaska to serve her tribal community. She came back to the University of Minnesota in 2014 in part to address the same issue she recognized 30 years ago.

Last year, Owen assembled hundreds of Native American health professionals for a summit on the issue. That led to the creation of regional hubs that are working to grow the number of Native health care professionals in specific areas around the country.

That's critical because some areas have more

severe shortages than others. For example, she says Indian Health Service facilities in the Upper Midwest have a nearly 50 percent vacancy rate for physicians.

"I think if we can grow, if we can get more Native students from this area, through school, into practice, they're more likely to serve and stay in this area," said Owen, who's also board president of the Association of American Indian Physicians. "We know that Native students like to go to school in areas closer to their homes."

That includes University of Minnesota medical student Genevieve Bern, who counts Vainio as a mentor. Watching how he interacts with his young patients has inspired her to also encourage young

patients to pursue careers in health care.

"That's something that I hope someday I'll be able to have those conversations with Native youth," she said.

Bern, 28, grew up in Worthington, Minn. She's Native Alaskan, but she said her culture wasn't a big part of her childhood growing up. She's since enrolled in her tribe and started to learn the language, and when she graduates, she plans to work in some way with Native people.

"It's part of who I am," she said, "and it just has always felt like it's like what I'm supposed to give to my community."

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## OBITUARIES

**Richard Allen  
“Dick” Carlson**

Richard Allen “Dick” Carlson, 79, of Murdock, died Saturday, February 12th at St. Cloud Hospital. His funeral will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, February 18th at Kerkhoven Lutheran Church in Kerkhoven with interment in Frank Lake Covenant Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 pm, Thursday, February 17th at the church and continue one hour prior to the service on Friday. Funeral arrangements are with Harvey Anderson Funeral Home. [www.hafh.org](http://www.hafh.org)

Dick was born December 20, 1942, in Hayes Township, Swift County, Minnesota, the son of Reynold and Juliette (Gronseth) Carlson. He grew up on the farm and graduated from Kerkhoven High School in 1960. Following high school, he continued to farm with his father.

On November 27, 1960, he was united in marriage to Lorna Lindquist at Monson Lake Lutheran Church. Following their marriage, they spent the next 60 years farming in Hayes Township. Dick even was in the field working during the fall of 2020.

He was a board member of Hillcrest Cemeteries Association for many years. He also served on the Board of Directors of United Farmers Elevator, Kerkhoven Lutheran Church Council and was a member of the Swift County Extension Committee.

Dick had many traits including being a hard worker, determined, independent and had great love for the land, of which he shared and taught his sons.

Surviving are his wife, Lorna; sons: Robbin (Jean) Carlson of Murdock, Reid (Becky) Carlson of Kerkhoven, Ross (Beth) Carlson of Murdock, Leif (Bonnie) Carlson of Murdock and Lane Carlson of Murdock; 14 grandchildren: Brett, Bailey (Brady) Wersinger, Brooke (Cody) Simonson, Ryan (Jessi), Darrin (Kayla), Sarah (Tyler) Eckenrode, Mallory (fiancé Ryan Vos), Regan, Tyler (Jessica), Ashley (Hunter) Weddington, Zachary (Maddi), Jacob, Jared and Julia; and 15 great grandchildren. Also surviving is his sister, Sharon Bowman of Benson.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

**Christy B. Olson**

Christy B. Olson, FCAS (Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society), 52, of Farmington, beloved wife of Adam B. Olson, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family, Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 after a short battle with cancer. Born January 2nd, 1970 in Plainfield, New Jersey, she was the daughter of Norm and Myra (Levinson) Schreck of Glen Gardner, New Jersey.

Christy graduated from Boston University in 1992. Upon graduating she moved to St. Paul, MN and shortly after this began what would be a 29 year actuarial career with Travelers Insurance. Her career also included stays in London and NYC. She was last working as Vice President, Business Insurance Loss Analytics & Reserving in Hartford, CT. She was honored in 2018 as Mentor of the Year by the Int'l Assoc. of Black Actuaries. She was New Britain High Finance Academy Advisory Board Chair and volunteered with Scout Troop 170 and as mentor/advisor/budget coach to disadvantaged women in CT.

Christy was a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient who enjoyed outdoor adventures. She was always up for a hike, a bike ride, a walk with friends, a lake/river paddle, skiing, yoga and watching her boys' baseball games. She was a foodie who loved sitting by a fire with a glass of wine. Her abilities around the kitchen and with restaurant menus will be missed. Christy was a lifelong learner, curious about people, nonjudgmental, accepting, modest, generous and stood up for her beliefs and those whom she felt deserved a shot, especially woman and people that didn't look like her.

Christy is survived by her three sons, Matthew, Tyler and Carter, her parents Norm and Myra Schreck, sisters Kathy Schreck of Scottsdale, AZ, Amy Piano of Branchburg, NJ and Mary-Beth Schreck of Anchorage, AK, her mother and father in-law, Charles and Sharon Olson of Naples, FL, her sisters-in-law, Molly K. Olson and her husband Mike Seeber of Stillwater, MN and Amy Olson of Bayport, MN, her nephew, Nicholas Piano of Branchburg, NJ and her niece, Molly & husband Charlie Sandifer of Palmer, PA. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Irwin & Edith Levinson-Rhams and F. Norman & Kathryn Schreck and her sister-in-law, Carrie Olson Baalson.

Friends may call at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Unionville on Friday, February 18th, 2022 from 4:00-6:00pm. We respectfully request that masks be worn. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, February 19th, 2022 at 10:00am in the Church of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Unionville. All are kindly asked to meet directly at church. In lieu of flowers please consider donations to Healing Meals - [healingmealsproject.org](http://healingmealsproject.org), Gifts of Love - [giftsoflove.com](http://giftsoflove.com), Farmington Valley Trails Council - [fchtrail.org](http://fchtrail.org), or the Jimmy V Foundation - [v.org](http://v.org). To send online condolences to the family, please visit [www.ahernfuneralhome.com](http://www.ahernfuneralhome.com).

**John Hendricks**

John Hendricks, 57, of Raymond, died Saturday, February 5, 2022, at his home in Raymond.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Harvey Anderson Funeral Home in Willmar, [www.hafh.org](http://www.hafh.org).

John Floyd Hendricks was born February 21, 1964, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of Harry and Margaret (Estes) Hendricks and grew up in Fridley, Minnesota. He later moved to Raymond, Minnesota and worked as a welder at Advanced Processing Technologies since they opened.

John enjoyed hunting, fishing, classic rock, going for drives, and hanging out with his friends at Cheers. He was creative and often helped his daughter, Becca, with school projects. He dearly loved his dog, Jenna.

He is survived by his daughter: Becca Hendricks (and Alex Mulder) of Willmar; his granddaughter: River Mulder; siblings: Doug Hendricks, Kenneth Hendricks, Kathy Paron, Nancy Lundstrom, and Phillip Hendricks; many nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Harry Hendricks and Margaret Ruud; stepfather: Charles Ruud; and his longtime partner: Cindy Pollock.

**Louis Orlin  
“Lonnie”  
Needham**

Louis Orlin “Lonnie” Needham, 76, of Litchfield, died Sunday, January 16th at Bethesda Grand in Willmar. His memorial service will be 2:00 pm, Saturday, February 19th at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake with visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery in Willmar with Military Honors by American Legion Post #167 of Willmar. Funeral arrangements are with Harvey Anderson Funeral Home in Willmar. [www.hafh.org](http://www.hafh.org)

Lonnie was born September 16, 1945, in Oakland, CA, the son of Louis and Rachael (Dixon) Needham. He grew up in Lake Preston, SD, where he attended school. Following that, he served in the United States Air Force.

He was united in marriage on February 15, 1969, to Brenda Kruger in Minneapolis. To this union two daughters, Stacey and Stephanie, were born. For the next 40 years, Lonnie drove a semi-truck, working many of those years over road. He worked as an owner/operator hauling for many different companies racking up MILLIONS of miles. Traveling to 49 of the 50 states and had a story to tell about each one. He took his girls along with him on many trips. He later moved to California for a few years before returning to Minnesota to be near his family.

Lonnie hauled for many different companies over the years including L & D, Long Haul, & Hard Drive before retiring from C.S. McCrossan Construction in 2009

He was an honored member of Teamsters #120 and was recognized for the thousands of miles traveled without an accident or infraction.

On September 1, 1993, he was united in marriage to Joyce Nieman in Rapid City, SD. They enjoyed taking trips with their camper, including the Black Hills and California. They also enjoyed doing the daily crosswords together. They remained friends after their separation. They lived in Ramsey until he retired in 2009. He then moved to New London to be closer to his daughter and grandchildren. With Joyce even moving to the area after she retired. He later moved to Litchfield.

Lonnie was a strong, intelligent, hardworking man, who could be a tad bit stubborn and cantankerous at times. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and completing the daily crosswords, playing cribbage and backgammon. Most of all, he was a diehard Vikings fan, never missing a game. He even had his Freightliner painted purple & gold with the Vikings emblem on the sides. He literally “bled” purple. He was a fantastic cook with a chili recipe that he prided himself on and everyone loved. He was quick witted & loved telling jokes and overall just enjoyed making people laugh. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Lonnie was a member of First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake where he cherished his many visits with Pastor Wayne whom he affectionately nicknamed, “Padre,” and was very thankful and grateful to him for always being available on his “Royal Telephone.”

Surviving are his daughters, Stacey (and Larry Harms) Cornell of Spicer and Stephanie Needham of Litchfield; four grandchildren: Tiffany Needham, Danielle (Chris) Eischens, Taylor (Michal Medina) Cornell and Ashley Needham and his brother, Thomas Needham; eight great grandchildren: Elizabeth, Cameron, Jeremiah Peterson, Brooklyn Hookom, Aiden Needham, Parker and Brenna Eischens, Carter and Levi Medina and his 2nd wife, Joyce Nieman, of Willmar.

He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife, Brenda Needham, in 2014, great-grandson, Wesley Needham, great-granddaughters, Hailey Peterson and Rachael Peterson.

**Jim Berg**

James “Chief” Calvin Berg, 59, of New London, died Saturday, February 12th at St. Cloud Hospital. His memorial service will be at 11:00 am, Friday, February 18th at The Open Door Christian Church in Spicer. Visitation will be from 4-7:00 pm, Thursday at Harvey Anderson

Funeral Home in Willmar and continue one hour prior to his service at church. Interment will be in Oak Hill Cemetery in New London. [www.hafh.org](http://www.hafh.org)

James “Chief” Calvin Berg was born November 19, 1962, to Calvin and Geraldine (Canaday) Berg in Willmar. He was baptized and later confirmed at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar. Jim attended school in Willmar until the 9th grade and graduated from Atwater High School in 1981. He worked at Trinity Steel in New London for many years before they closed and then went to work for Lange Ag Systems where he worked for 26 years. While working at Lange Ag he traveled all over Iowa and South Dakota installing live stock equipment. On June 11, 1988, Jim was united in marriage to Shelly Warne at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church. This union was blessed with two boys: Cody and Dylan. They made their home in New London. Jim developed a passion for hunting waterfowl which he passed down to his son, Dylan. Together with their friends they would hunt in nine states and also two Canadian provinces where they shot over 14,000 birds! Jim also loved to go camping with his family. He was hardworking, kind, patient, loving and Godly. Jim would give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. Jim was a proud PaPa. He would go to all of his grandson's hockey and baseball games (Liam) and would be at every “learn to skate” times with his youngest grandson, Gage. He loved his family, and his grandsons always had a special place in his heart.

Jim is survived by his wife, Shelly; son, Dylan (Dana) Berg of Kandiyohi and their children: Liam and Gage; sister, Debby (Butch) Zeiner of New London; and brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Jeff (Lynne) Warne of Nashville, TN, Dave (Cindy) Warne of Park Rapids, and Kelly (Mark) Dahlseid of Willmar. Mother-in-law, Janet Warne, Spicer; stepfather, John McPherson of Randolph, KS; stepmother, Carole Berg, Paynesville; stepbrother, Mike (Jodi) Evenson, Princeton; and stepsister, Jane (Dan) Faight, of Arizona. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his loving son, Cody in 1999; parents: Calvin Berg and Geri McPherson; and father-in-law, Tex Warne.

**Rose Baune**

Rose Baune, 72, of Willmar Minnesota, unexpectedly passed away peacefully on February 14, of a brief but serious medical condition.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11a.m. on Saturday, February 19, at the Church of St. Mary in Willmar. Interment will be at the St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery in Wabasso. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, February 18, at the Peterson Brothers Funeral Home in Willmar and will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Diocese of New Ulm Priest Care Fund. [www.petersonbrothers.com](http://www.petersonbrothers.com)

She was born November 20, 1949, to Clarence and Marie Baune, and raised in Wabasso, MN. She was baptized and a life-long Catholic. As the youngest, she enjoyed being an aunt from a young age.

She married Harlan Petersen and raised their children. They lived in the Wabasso area for most of their 21 years of marriage. She later married Terry Nelson of Spicer, and moved to the Spicer area. When that marriage ended, she moved to several locations in Kandiyohi and Willmar.

After graduating from St. Anne's high school, she worked at Loretto Hospital in New Ulm, and then at Control Data. After the birth of her first three children, she began as housekeeping at the Nursing Home, and then as a Nursing assistant. After her move to the Willmar area, she did factory work before returning to being a nursing assistant and long-term care facilities and then at group homes. She loved serving others.

She was a woman of great compassion, quiet prayer, and fierce independence. Many called her Ma Rose. She loved so many, and was loved by many more. She had so many hobbies: reading, writing poetry, baking, sewing, embroidery, games, thrift stores, laughing. She found joy in caring for others. She was a loving friend and managed a number of deep friendships.

She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings and in-laws Virginia and Thomas Condon, Dolores and Leslie Schroeder, Alvin Baune, Gerald and Jean Baune and later Barb, James Buechner, Bernard and Cathy Baune, and Barb Baune.

She is survived by her four children, Tim Petersen, Fr. Todd Petersen, Rachel Petersen, Amanda Petersen; grandchildren Kayla and Ethan Dallmann; Airianna and Gaige Knuteson, and Madison, Siblings, Elaine and Alf Jenniges, Theresa Buechner and Sy Baune, besides many nieces and nephews.



OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Mary Barbara Yost

Oct. 27, 1924 - Jan. 18, 2022  
 WILLMAR, Minn. - Mary Barbara Yost, 97, Murdock, Minn., died Tuesday, Jan. 18, in Copperleaf Senior Living. Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 24, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Murdock. Interment will be in the church cemetery. Arrangements by Zniwski Funeral home in Benson, Minn.

Lucille Olson

May 1, 1930 - Feb. 14, 2022  
 WILLMAR, Minn. - Lucille Olson, 91, Belgrade, Minn., died Monday, Feb. 14, in Bethesda Grand. Visitation will be from 9:30-11 a.m., followed by a funeral at 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 19, at Grace Lutheran Church in Belgrade. Burial will be in Grace West Cemetery in Belgrade. Arrangements by Johnson Funeral Home in Belgrade.

Riley J. Shea

Oct. 7, 1989 - Feb. 13, 2022  
 GRANITE FALLS, Minn. - Riley J. Shea, 32, Atwater, Minn., died Sunday, Feb. 13, in his mother's home. Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by a celebration of life at 11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 21, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Atwater. Arrangements by Peterson Brothers Funeral Home.

► **More obituaries on Page A8**

David Wilson

Nov. 5, 1947 - Feb. 12, 2022  
 OLIVIA, Minn. - David Wilson, 74, Renville, Minn., died Saturday, Feb. 12, in Olivia Hospital. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 19, at Dirks-Blem Funeral Home in Renville. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by Renville American Legion and V.F.W. Arrangements by Dirks-Blem Funeral Service of Renville.

SERVICES LISTING

**Rose Baune**, 72, of Willmar, died Feb. 14. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 19 at the Church of St. Mary, Willmar. Peterson Brothers Funeral Home, Willmar.

**James "Chief" Berg**, 59, of New London, died Feb. 12. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 18 at The Open Door Christian Church, Spicer. Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

**Richard "Dick" Carlson**, 79, of Murdock, died Feb. 12. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 18 at Kerkhoven Lutheran Church, Kerkhoven. Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

**William "Bill" Draheim**, 76, of Willmar, died Feb. 11. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 19 at Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar. Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

**Hector Hernandez**, 37, of Willmar, died Feb. 7. Service 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 16 at Peterson Brothers Funeral Home, Willmar.

**Louis "Lonnie" Needham**, 76, of Litchfield, died Jan. 16. Service 2 p.m. Feb. 19 at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake. Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

**Lucille Olson**, 91, of Belgrade, died Feb. 14. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 19 at Grace Lutheran Church, Belgrade. Johnson Funeral Home, Belgrade.

**Riley Shea**, 32, of Atwater, died Feb. 13. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 21 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Atwater. Peterson Brothers Funeral Home, Willmar.

**David Wilson**, 74, of Renville, died Feb. 12. Service 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 19 at Dirks-Blem Funeral Home, Renville.

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

LOCAL MARKETS

Local Corn Contracts	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Farm Ser. Willmar	6.23	6.26	6.30	6.27
Jennie-O TS, Atwater	6.21	6.23	6.35	6.37
Country Pork, Prins	6.16	6.17	6.19	6.19
Bushmills, Atwater	6.18	6.18	6.33	6.33
Granite Falls Energy	6.38	6.38	NB	NB
CVEC, Benson	6.12	6.15	6.24	6.27

	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Oats
Benson	6.10	15.00	NA	NA
Bird Island	6.18	14.86	NA	NA
Clara City	6.19	15.05	9.23	NA
Hanley Falls	6.20	14.98	9.13	NA
Holloway	6.13	15.00	NA	NA
Montevideo	6.20	14.98	9.23	NA
Murdock	6.15	15.00	NA	NA
Renville	6.20	14.91	NA	NA

TODAY'S ALMANAC

Today is the 47th day of 2022 and the 58th day of winter.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** In 1923, archeologist Howard Carter unsealed the burial chamber of the recently discovered tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen.

In 1959, Fidel Castro was sworn in as prime minister of Cuba.

In 1968, the United States' first 911 emergency phone system went into service in Haleyville, Alabama.

In 2005, the Kyoto Protocol for the reduction of greenhouse gasses took effect for 141 ratifying nations.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Henry M. Leland (1843-1932), Cadillac and Lincoln Motor Co. founder; Edgar Bergen (1903-1978), ventriloquist.

RECORDS

Thefts

WILLMAR — A 2005 Ford F-150 pickup was reported stolen from the 400 block of Litchfield Avenue Southeast on Tuesday morning. It had been taken sometime after 11:30 p.m. Monday.

WILLMAR — An iPad and other items were taken from a car parked on the 1400 block of Becker Avenue Southeast, as reported Monday evening.

WILLMAR — Someone went through an unlocked car parked on the 13000 block of Sixth Street Southwest, as reported Tuesday morning.

WILLMAR — A patron removed a bottle of tequila from its box and left a store at 5:43 pm. Monday on the 700 block of 19th Avenue Southeast.

WILLMAR — A victim reported that a woman used her name to take her food at a location on the 2100 block of U.S. Highway 12 East at 4:33 p.m. Monday.

Break-in

WILLMAR — A resident reported that someone had broken into her garage and left in a silver Taurus on the 100 block of High Avenue Northeast at 1:43 p.m. Monday.



Courtesy of the St. Paul Police Department via St. Paul Pioneer Press

St. Paul police released surveillance photos Tuesday of a minivan. They say a man in the vehicle shot at a man in another vehicle, Jeff Mintz, on Dec. 16, 2020. Mintz was killed, and the case remains unsolved.

Who fatally shot former Rochester man as he drove in St. Paul in 2020?

New surveillance photo released, reward offered

By Mara H. Gottfried  
 St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — The death of a 55-year-old man who was shot by another driver in St. Paul more than a year ago was "a senseless" crime, police said Tuesday as they released surveillance photos and announced a \$10,000 reward in the case.

Jeff Mintz, formerly of Rochester, was shot in the back as he drove in the area of Snelling and University avenues on Dec. 16, 2020, at 9:43 p.m.

Police said Tuesday that the man who shot Mintz was in a minivan, which was seen in surveillance videos. Mintz died a couple of hours later at Regions Hospital.

"Everything we've learned about this case, he was absolutely innocent and was just driving down the road," said Sgt. John Keating, an investigator working on the case.

Police are asking anyone who recognizes the minivan, knows who the driver was, or heard who pulled the trigger to call investigators at 651-266-5650.

Trespassing

WILLMAR — A homeless man who had been sleeping in a laundry room in a building on the 400 block of 15th Avenue Southwest shortly before 10 a.m. Tuesday was ordered to leave and given a courtesy ride. The individual was also informed he was prohibited from entering a building on the 100 block of High Avenue Northeast, where he had been ordered to leave on Monday afternoon for sleeping in a lobby and leaving behind drug paraphernalia.

Found vehicle

WILLMAR — A vehicle, possibly stolen, was found abandoned and running in the parking lot of the Redeemer Lutheran Church on the 400 block of 16th Avenue Southwest at 7 p.m. Monday. The initial report classifies the incident as a theft.

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.

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION NUMBERS

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

Are you sick?

To schedule a COVID-19 test call **Carris Health, Willmar 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  
 To talk to someone about my symptoms or 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

Transporting beer cans clearly for recycling is not 'open container'

Question: Can you get an open container violation if you are on your way to a recycling center with empty bottles, cans, plastics, etc.? This assumes that some of the contents being recycled are opened/empty beer, wine and liquor containers? I am assuming that the driver has not been consuming any alcohol but simply going to recycle the cans, bottles and plastic containers?



**Answer:** The "open bottle law" states "possession" means either that the person had actual possession of the bottle or receptacle or that the person consciously exercised control over the bottle or receptacle.

From my experience and common sense, it's pretty obvious if bottles, cans or other containers in a box or bag are intended



West Central Tribune

Transporting beer bottles that are clearly intended for recycling would not be an "open bottle" offense in Minnesota. But a half-open can of beer in your console will be a different story

for recycling and are not a violation. If a person says they were planning to recycle the half empty can of beer sitting in the center console once they finish it — that's a different story.

If you are simply transporting a half empty bottle of wine or liquor, keep it in the vehicle's trunk, if equipped. If you don't have a trunk, cargo area, pickup box, etc., place the container in another

area not normally occupied by the driver and passengers. Be aware that a utility compartment (center console) or glove compartment is considered within the area occupied by the driver and passengers.

Questions concerning traffic-related laws or issues in Minnesota may be sent to Minnesota State Patrol Sgt. Jesse Grabow at 1000 Highway 10 W., Detroit Lakes, MN 56560. You can follow him on Twitter @MSPIO\_NW or email him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us



# Mayo stops scheduling out-of-network Medicare Advantage patients

**Capacity concerns cited but dispute with large insurer remains**

By Christopher Snowbeck  
Star Tribune

ROCHESTER — Mayo Clinic is not scheduling appointments for seniors in certain Medicare Advantage health plans because their insurers haven't negotiated contracts for in-network access to the world-renowned medical center.

The clinic said it stopped making appointments for these patients this winter to address capacity concerns. But the change also hints at a financial dispute over payment rates between Mayo and UnitedHealthcare, the health insurance giant based in Minnetonka.

In recent years, Mayo Clinic has seen a significant uptick in patients coming to Rochester with coverage from "non-contract" Medicare Advantage health insurers — so much so, in fact, that clinic officials say the increase threatens to crowd out patients covered by in-network insurers.

"There was not a change in policy, but a change in enforcement due to ensuring Mayo has access for our contracted plans (not just Medicare) and those who truly need Mayo's medical expertise," Karl Oestreich, a Mayo Clinic spokesman, said in a statement to the Star Tribune.

"The impact is to non-contract Medicare Advantage plans. Mayo does not have contracts with these plans so there should not have been any expectation of access to the Mayo Clinic by

these plans." Non-contract Medicare Advantage plans are those where insurance companies have not negotiated payment rates with Mayo to provide health care services. The clinic is considered out-of-network for enrollees in these plans.

In the past, many with UnitedHealthcare coverage used their out-of-network benefits to receive treatment from Mayo physicians, a company spokesman said in a statement to the Star Tribune. The insurer says it has been negotiating to bring Mayo in-network for its Medicare Advantage subscribers.

"We understand how difficult this situation is for some of our members..." UnitedHealthcare said in a statement. "We are committed to reaching an agreement at an affordable cost for the people we serve."

Clinic officials said that between 2019 and 2021, the number of Minnesota patients coming to Mayo with coverage from non-contract Medicare Advantage insurers nearly doubled — cresting 3,200 people last year.

And that's just patients from Minnesota. During that same two-year period, Mayo also saw a 42% jump in out-of-state patients coming to Rochester with non-contract Medicare plans, for a total last year of more than 7,000 people.

At least half of the growth comes from seniors with UnitedHealthcare coverage, Mayo said.

The clinic says that non-contract Medicare Advantage plans usually reimburse the hospital at a lower rate than contracted



Forum News Service file photo

Mayo Clinic's Gonda Building in downtown Rochester. The clinic is not scheduling appointments for seniors in certain Medicare Advantage health plans because their insurers haven't negotiated contracts for in-network access to the world-renowned medical center.

plans. "Mayo is open to entering new contracts, but also must keep in mind the impact on capacity to ensure that we can continue to see those patients (regardless of payer) who are in the greatest need of the care Mayo provides," he said. "We understand that affected patients may be disappointed and frustrated."

**'In limbo'**

Lois Briese says she is "very disappointed" with Mayo and not sure what to do.

The 72-year-old Minnetonka resident has coverage through a UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage plan. After her doctor suggested in January that Briese see a specialist at Mayo, she learned from the clinic that she couldn't make an appointment.

Now Briese must decide whether to seek care from a

different in-network specialist, or drop the Medicare Advantage plan she likes and pick a new one with in-network access to Mayo.

"I'm in limbo here, trying to figure this out," Briese said.

Networks are a common feature in health plans, often impacting what people pay for medical care. The financial terms under which doctors, clinics and hospitals will provide care to health plan members are negotiated between the insurers and health care providers.

Patients who use out-of-network health care providers usually must pay more in co-pays and deductibles. Typically with Medicare Advantage plans in Minnesota, patients have no problem visiting out-of-network providers, said Chad Levis, an insurance agent who is president of the Minnesota Associa-

tion of Health Underwriters. Minnesota seniors have been forced to think more about these networks since 2018 when Medicare Cost health plans — a popular type of coverage with looser network rules — were shut down in most counties. Since then, insurers have pushed their Medicare Advantage plans, which tend to have stricter rules on patient choices.

Among the state's largest Medicare Advantage insurers, Mayo Clinic is out-of-network at UnitedHealthcare, HealthPartners and Allina Health Aetna. As of January, more than 111,000 beneficiaries in Minnesota were enrolled in Medicare health plans from the three companies, according to federal data.

Seniors are currently in the midst of Medicare Advantage open enrollment, so those concerned that their health plan lacks in-network access to Mayo Clinic can make a change, up until March 31, said Kelli Jo Greiner, the Medicare program manager at the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Mayo is in-network for Medicare Advantage plans from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Humana, Medica and UCare.

Mayo will still see all patients for emergency care. The clinic serves more people with Medicare coverage than any other category of insurance, Oestreich said, and Mayo is one of the nation's largest providers of health care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Star Tribune staff reporter Mary Jo Webster contributed to this report. ©2022 Star Tribune. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, April 21st | Friday, April 22nd

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# Ex-officer Thao takes stand in civil rights case for Floyd death

By Rochelle Olson, Chao Xiong  
Star Tribune

ST. PAUL — Breaking his public silence for the first time since George Floyd's killing, ex-Minneapolis police officer Tou Thao took the witness stand Tuesday morning and testified about his abusive childhood and Minneapolis police training techniques.

Thao was the second witness called as the defense opened its case in his civil rights trial. His former colleagues — J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane — have said they will also testify when their attorneys present their cases after Thao. The three are being tried jointly in federal court; they are accused of violating Floyd's constitutional right to be free from unreasonable seizure by failing to provide him aid.

Thao and Kueng are also charged with failing to intervene on Floyd's behalf to stop ex-Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin from kneeling on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes during a May 25, 2020, arrest.

Under questioning by his defense attorney Robert Paule, Thao testified that he decided to pursue his childhood interest in becoming a police officer after flunking out of Anoka-Ramsey Community College in his first semester and a stint working at Cub Foods. Thao choked up as he recounted how he first encountered Minneapolis police when he was 7

or 8 and his father beat him and his younger brother with an extension cord to break up the boys' fight.

When their mother intervened, Thao said, their father beat her with the cord and then retrieved a gun and threatened to kill them. The family fled to an aunt's house where they called 911.

Thao said he accompanied police back to the family home where he used a key to open the door so police could arrest his father. Thao is the third oldest of seven children.

His father's time away from the home was "the two most peaceful days of my childhood," he said in a strained voice.

Assistant U.S. Attorney LeeAnn Bell objected to Thao's testimony a few times, but was overruled by U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson, who said Thao could testify about his life and background.

Thao testified that he was born in St. Paul but spent much of his childhood in north Minneapolis before his family moved to Fridley when he was 10. He is married and has daughters ages 5 and 2 and a 1-month-old son.

During Floyd's arrest outside of Cup Foods in south Minneapolis, Thao stood watch over increasingly angry bystanders as Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck. Kueng and Lane helped pin Floyd stomach-down in the street while he was handcuffed. Jurors convicted Chauvin of murdering Floyd last April in state



Star Tribune / TNS file photo  
Former Minneapolis police officer Tou Thao arrives with his attorney Robert Paule for a Sept. 11, 2020, hearing at the Hennepin County Family Justice Center in Minneapolis.

court. Chauvin later pleaded guilty in federal court to violating Floyd's civil rights.

Thao testified that pinning a suspect to the ground with a knee was within his training protocol. Thao, who was 5 feet 6 inches tall and 150 pounds at the time of his academy training, said he was used as "an example of things" because of his size.

Paule showed jurors several photos from Thao's academy training that showed multiple recruits using their knees on different parts of actors' backs to pin them stomach-down on the ground while handcuffing them. One photo from a 2009 training showed Thao with another recruit positioned over an actor prone with their hands behind their back. Thao explained that he and his classmate used their knees to restrain the actor.

"Just to be clear, is this something that was typically taught at the academy when you were

there?" Paule asked.

"Yes," Thao said. Paule asked Thao if academy trainers ever corrected recruits for using their knees to pin actors.

No, Thao said. In a different picture, Thao said a recruit appeared to have his knee on the neck of an actor who was stomach-down on the ground.

In an effort to show that other lines were not crossed in training, Paule asked Thao about demonstrations that recruits witnessed but did not replicate.

Thao told the court that recruits observed trainers wrapping their legs around actors' necks to restrain them, but that recruits were prohibited from performing the technique.

Just before noon Thao began testifying about the night of Floyd's arrest and killing. Kueng and Lane arrived at the scene first. Thao and Chauvin arrived as backup.

Thao said he and Chauvin wanted to pro-



Courtesy Hennepin County via MPR News  
A still photo from the body camera of then-Minneapolis police officer Tou Thao on May 25, 2020, when officers detained George Floyd outside a neighborhood store in south Minneapolis. Thao, and two other former Minneapolis police officers -- J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane -- are facing federal charges of abusing their position as police officers to deprive Floyd, who later died, of his constitutional rights when another officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes.

vide Kueng and Lane with security "just in case things got out of hand because it sounded like they were in a struggle" with Floyd and he was worried it could get out of hand.

Thao said they were told about a struggle with Floyd, so they activated their lights and sirens on the drive to the scene. Halfway there, they were informed the scene was OK so they turned off the lights and sirens and slowed down.

Dispatch called them off the call, Thao testified, but they continued to Cup Foods. Paule asked why.

"From my experience Cup Foods is hostile to police," Thao said. "It's a well-known Bloods gang hangout."

In his eight years as an officer, Thao said he had "not seen this much of a struggle" to get someone inside a squad. He testified that officers at the scene decided not to use a "hobble" to restrain Floyd's legs. It

would have complicated matters for the ambulance crew that was on its way to the scene if Floyd had been "tied up like a Christmas present," he said.

Thao testified that at the scene he positioned himself in the street as a "human traffic cone" so vehicles on the road would give his colleagues a wider berth as they passed.

He said that based on his experience working security at a local hospital he believed Floyd was on drugs and in a state of "excited delirium."

Paule asked Thao why he didn't participate in the restraint or medical evaluation of Floyd.

"Because at that point I have a different role," he said, adding that he was doing "crowd control" as several bystanders gathered nearby and urged officers to stop restraining Floyd and to check his pulse.

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Photos by Matthew Curry / West Central Tribune

River Lakes Stars eighth-grader Abby Storms battles for the puck with Northern Lakes' Jasmyn German on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 in Richmond.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Royals hand Litch a loss

Watertown-Mayer beats Dragons, 41-36

By Joe Brown and Tom Elliott  
West Central Tribune

LITCHFIELD — The Watertown-Mayer girls basketball team knocked off conference-leading Litchfield, 41-36 Tuesday night.

Litchfield is now 11-2 in the Wright County Conference West Division and 18-7 overall. Watertown-Mayer is 9-4 in the conference and 15-8 overall.

The defeat sets up a showdown for the division championship Friday night. Litchfield is host to New London-Spicer, 10-2 in the Wright County West, at 7 p.m. Friday.

Tuesday, Lyndsey Penegeor had 11 points to lead the Royals. Greta Hansen had 11 points, two assists and five steals to lead the Dragons.

Izzy Pennertz had nine points and seven rebounds for Litchfield, which trailed 20-18 at halftime.

### Wright County

#### Watertown-Mayer 41, Litchfield 36

Watertown-Mayer (16-8) 20 21 — 41  
Litchfield (16-7) 18 18 — 36

WATERTOWN-MAYER - Scoring: Eleanor Rundell 1, Carly Kilian 7, Bella Barden 9, Lyndsey Penegeor 11, Abby Otterness 5, Mercedes Burmeister 4, Malory Cziano 4 ... 3-point shots: Kilian 1, Barden 1, Penegeor 1, Otterness 1 ... Rebound leader: n/a ... Assist leader: n/a ... Steal leader: n/a ... Block leader: n/a

LITCHFIELD - Scoring: Ryanna Steinhaus 6, Greta Hansen 11, Izzy Pennertz 9, Maggie Boerema 4, Morgan Felling 6 ... 3-point shots: Steinhaus 2, Hansen 1, Felling 1 ... Rebound leaders: Pennertz 7, Boerema 5 ... Assist leaders: Pennertz 2, Hansen 2 ... Steal leader: Hansen 5 ... Block leader: none

#### GSL 52, NLS 46

Glencoe-Silver Lake picked off New London-Spicer at New London.

The Panthers, 8-5 in the Wright County Conference West Division, got 15 points apiece from Kendall Guerrero and Hannah Graf.

NLS, 10-2 in the Wright County West and ranked sixth in the state in Class AA, got 16 points from Avery Rich and 13 points from Jaden Coahran. Rich also had four assists and three steals. Ellary Peterson pulled down 13 rebounds for the Wildcats.

NLS plays conference-leading Litchfield on Friday at Litchfield.

GSL (14-9) 36 16 — 52  
NLS (20-2) 25 21 — 46

GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE - Scoring: Kendall Guerrero 15, Mylea Monahan 11, Hannah Graf 15, Brooklyn Christianson 3, Lydia Simons 5, Audrey Petersen 3 ... 3-point shots: Guerrero 5, Monahan 1, Christianson 1, Simons 1 ... Rebound

ROYALS: Page AB2

# BACK IN THE FINAL

River Lakes earns a 6A title game berth with a 2-1 win in OT

By Matthew Curry and Joe Brown  
West Central Tribune

### Richmond

It took nearly three full periods and a combined 64 shots on net before second-seed River Lakes' ninth-grader Sophia Hess scored the first goal of the game against third-seed Northern Lakes in its Section 6A semifinal on Tuesday.

The Stars eventually took the win in overtime, 2-1, with a goal by senior captain Kianna Roeske. They play for the Section 6A championship against top-seeded Fergus Falls on Friday at the Runestone Community Center in Alexandria. At stake is a berth in the state Class A tournament in St. Paul.

The Stars won the Section

6A championship last season to make their first state tournament appearance.

"I'm in awe right now," Roeske said. "I'm so grateful for this team. I'm grateful for our coaches, I'm grateful to be back in the section final."

River Lakes head coach Alexis Klatt stated: "They played all the way through and didn't give up on each other."

"I don't think it should have got to that point but we made it work with the bed we made and came out on top."

In the battle of goalies, Northern Lakes junior Katherine Stephens saved 49 of 51 shots. River Lakes' ninth-grader Kaydene Roeske saved 23 of 24.

"They had a very solid

FINAL: Page AB3



River Lakes Stars ninth-grader Sophia Hess fires a shot on net against Northern Lakes on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 in Richmond.

# Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa tops Eden Valley-Watkins

By Joe Brown  
West Central Conference

BROOTEN — Once Ashton Dingmann got rolling, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa went right along with him.

Leading Eden Valley-Watkins 44-40 in a Central Minnesota Conference boys basketball game, the Jaguars senior hit a 3-pointer with 7 minutes, 54 seconds left to play. Over that final stretch, Dingmann scored 12 of his 20 points in helping the fifth-ranked (Class A) Jaguars to a 63-49 home victory.

With the win, BBE maintains its place atop the CMC with a 9-1 record (18-3 overall). They lead second-place Paynesville by two games. EVW is tied for

fourth in the CMC at 7-4 (12-10 overall).

Tied at 30-all at halftime, the Jaguars and Eagles were tied in a two-possession game until Dingmann went on a hot streak. Started by Dingmann's 3-pointer that made it 47-40, BBE went on a 13-2 run to pull ahead 57-42.

Dingmann, a 6-foot-4 forward, went 8 of 18 shooting and also grabbed 11 rebounds.

The Jaguars' top scorer was Kaden Pieper with 21 points on 9 of 15 shooting.

BBE's perimeter defense came up strong in the second half, holding EV-W without a 3-pointer after halftime. The Eagles were 3 of 21 from out-

side.

Noah Stommes, a 6-foot-8 sophomore, was EVW's top performer with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Caden Neiman followed with nine points.

BBE is on the road Thursday for a 7 p.m. game against Royalton.

### Central Minnesota

BBE 63, EVW 49

EVW (12-10) 30 19 — 49  
BBE (18-3) 30 33 — 63

EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS - Scoring: Wyatt Moehrle 4, Alex Haag 4, Landon Neiman 2, Nolan Gelsinger 3, Tyler Starwick 2, Myles Dziengel 2, Caden Neiman 9, Parker Schultz 2, Noah Stommes 21 ... 3-point shots: Neiman 3 ... Rebound leaders: Stommes 12, Neiman 10 ... Assist leader: Moehrle 2 ... Steal leader: n/a ... Block leader: Stommes 1

BELGRADE-BROOTEN-ELROSA - Scoring: Kaden Pieper 21, Will Van Beck 6, Gannon Walsh 2, Ashton Dingmann 20, Easton Hagen 2, Luke

TOPS: Page AB2



Mike Moore / West Central Tribune

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa sophomore Luke Dingmann drives the ball to the basket as the Jaguars were host to the Eden Valley-Watkins Eagles on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022.



SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Professional NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic and Western Conference, and College NCAA Basketball At a Glance.

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, Friday's Games, and Tuesday results.

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Men's and Women's NCAA Basketball scores.

LOCAL CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Wrestling Section 8AAA team tournament: 7-Willmar at 2-Willmar, 6 p.m. College Men's Basketball Ridgewater at MN West, 7:30 p.m. in Worthington.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Boys Basketball ACGC at Kimball, 7 p.m. BBE at Royalton, 7 p.m. Maple Lake at Paynesville, 7 p.m. New London-Spicer at Albany, 7:15 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona qualifying, 7 p.m., FS1. Basketball: College men: St. John's at Xavier, 5:30 p.m., CBSN.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Series: Duel at Daytona 1 and 2, 6 p.m., FS1. Basketball: College men: Minnesota at Penn State, 3 p.m., BTN.

Monday's Games

Nebraska 72, Indiana 55. Ohio St. 86, Illinois 67. Maryland 81, Iowa 69. Tuesday's Games Michigan St at Wisconsin, 6:30 p.m.

Florida at Carolina, 6:30 p.m.

Anaheim at Calgary, 8:30 p.m. Colorado at Vegas, 9 p.m. Thursday's Games St. Louis at Montreal, 6 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday

Baseball National League Washington Nationals - Announced 1B Ryan Zimmerman has retired. Football National Football League Atlanta Falcons - Signed TE Ryan Beck.

HOCKEY

Professional NHL

Table with columns: Conference, Team, GP, W, L, OT, SO, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Eastern Conference Atlantic Division and Western Conference Central Division.

Monday's Games

Minnesota 7, Detroit 4. Toronto 6, Seattle 2. Chicago 3, Winnipeg 1. Edmonton 3, San Jose 0.

Tuesday's Games

NY Rangers 2, Boston 1. St. Louis 5, Ottawa 2. Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 3. Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 4.

Wednesday's Games

Minnesota at Winnipeg, 6 p.m. River Lakes senior Kianna Roeske helped the Stars return to the Section 6A championship with an overtime goal over Northern Lakes on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 in Richmond.



Matthew Curry / West Central Tribune

River Lakes senior Kianna Roeske helped the Stars return to the Section 6A championship with an overtime goal over Northern Lakes on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 in Richmond.

Kianna Roeske got the only penalty in overtime, a two-minute minor for cross-checking.

"I was frustrated (with the penalty call)," Roeske said. "It was like, 'I'm a senior, this is not how I want my high school career to end.'"

"As I sat in the box I took a deep breath and realized there was still a lot of game left. I trusted my teammates and they got the job done (and) killed off the power-play."

Fresh out of the penalty box, Roeske thanked her teammates by scoring the game-winning goal at 4:21 to advance to the Section 6A championship.

"I just skated hard and got a lucky shot on net," Roeske said.

Despite the win, and the chance of returning to state in sight, Klatt says the team will be solely focused only on Friday.

"We've been there before but we've only had success to get (to state) once," she said. "A lot of people have been talking about tradition. But you have to do things repeatedly to make it a tradition. So we still have a lot of statements to make. The girls have had a lot of work put in and they know that they're not done yet."

Girls Hockey

Section 6A

River Lakes 2, Northern Lakes 1 (OT) Northern Lakes (15-11-1) 0 0 1 0 -1

Willmar came into the game on a six-game win streak. The Otters won the previous two matchups: 4-2 on Dec. 16 in Willmar; and 4-2 on Feb. 3 in Fergus Falls.

The Cardinals conclude the 2021-22 season with a 14-13-0 record. Four seniors — Nina Dawson, Kessa Mara, Katie Hagen and Brynn Grieger — played in their final game.

Boys Hockey

Litchfield/D-C 5, Sauk Rapids 3

While Sauk Rapids scored three third-period goals, Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato kept pace with three goals of their own to preserve a non-conference win at the Litchfield Civic Arena.

The Dragons took a 2-0 lead in the second period with goals from Gavin Hanson and Jack Hillmann. Hillmann's mark came while shorthanded.

Then in the third, the two teams traded goals, with Jaxon Gustafson, Hillmann and Gavyn Lund all tallying goals for Litchfield/D-C.

Travis Halonen finished with 24 saves for the 15th-ranked (Class A) Dragons.

Litchfield/D-C plays Princeton at 7 p.m. Thursday at Litchfield.

Sauk Rapids (5-19) 0 0 3 -3. Litchfield/D-C (15-8-1) 0 2 3 -5. FIRST PERIOD - No scoring. SECOND PERIOD - (1) LDC: Gavin Hanson (Grant Haataja, Ryan Schuetz), 3:40 ... (2) LDC: Jack Millmann (Hanson), 5:58 SH.

THIRD PERIOD - (3) SR: Owen Arndt (unassisted), 1:38 ... (4) LDC: Jaxon Gustafson (Connor Taber), 1:47 ... (5) SR: Will White (Cayden Christensen), 6:21 ... (6) LDC: Hillmann (Gavyn Lund), 11:57 ... (7) SR: Luke Pakkala (Caleb Euteneuer, Noah Jensen), 13:32 PP ... (8) LDC: Lund (unassisted), 14:23.

GOALIE SAVES/SHOTS - Sauk Rapids: Zander Parker 30/35 ... Litchfield/D-C: Travis Halonen 24/27.

MBA 6,

Breckenridge-Wahpeton 0

Morris/Benson Area bumped its record over the .500 mark following a shutout win over Breckenridge/Wahpeton at Wahpeton, North Dakota.

The Storm are now 12-11-1 on the year. The Blades drop to 0-20-0.

MBA plays Prairie Centre at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Sauk Centre Ice Arena.

FINAL

From Page AB1

goaltender and she had a great game," Klatt said. "There's only so much that you can do about that except to keep hammering away and hope that one gets in."

Both teams played determined to keep their seasons alive with solid defense, near goals and an increase in physicality occurring throughout each period.

River Lakes managed to have more puck control than the Lightning but were never able to connect with a goal.

"It was primarily rebounds; we didn't really get our rebounds," Hess said. "We were getting plenty of shots as the board shows, but the rebounds (were) really where it was."

After two scoreless periods, and the third period coming to a close, the thought of overtime quickly became more and more of a reality.

Finally, after the Stars had out-shot the Lightning 42-21, Hess managed to score on a rebound off a shot by Roeske on the left corner on the 64th total shot of the night.

"Kianna was coming over the top circle and I was like, 'oh this might be my chance to get a rebound,'" Hess recalled. "Then it was just perfect."

The Stars looked to have the game at hand as the final minute struck, but the Lightning managed to get the puck and dart down the ice.

With 36.6 seconds left, Northern Lakes junior forward Rose Aldridge managed to tie the game at 1-1, forcing overtime.

"My sister (Kaydene Roeske) is the goalie," Kianna said. "So I was thinking, 'gosh darn it Kaydene.' But it wasn't her fault. I know she takes a lot of the pressure for that. And I knew she wasn't going to get down on herself because she never has. But it was obviously very frustrating and very nerve-racking."



Bruce Kluckhohn / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Timberwolves guard D'Angelo Russell celebrates his three point basket against the Charlotte Hornets in the first quarter Tuesday at Target Center in Minneapolis.

# KATs scores 39 points in the Timberwolves' OT win

**Field Level Media**  
MINNEAPOLIS — Karl-Anthony Towns had 39 points and 15 rebounds as the Minnesota Timberwolves rallied from a 13-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Charlotte Hornets 126-120 in overtime on Tuesday in Minneapolis.

Towns had seven points in overtime and scored with 1:57 left to put the Wolves ahead 120-113. Minnesota secured the victory at the foul line in the final minute and extended its home winning streak to seven games.

D'Angelo Russell had 18 points and 11 assists, Jaden McDaniels added 18 points, Patrick Beverley scored 15 and Jarred Vanderbilt had 10 points and 14 rebounds for Minnesota, which has won two straight and seven of its last nine.

Miles Bridges paced Charlotte with 28 points, 13 rebounds and seven

assists. Terry Rozier scored 25 points, LaMelo Ball added 22 points, and Mason Plumlee had 14 points, 17 rebounds and a season-high nine assists.

Minnesota star Anthony Edwards exited the game late in the second quarter with a right ankle sprain and did not return. Edwards had nine points and four rebounds in 18 minutes.

Montrezl Harrell scored 12 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. added 11 points for Charlotte, which has lost eight of its past nine games, including two straight.

The Hornets led by 13 early in the fourth quarter, but Minnesota battled back and pulled within 102-98 with 3:52 remaining.

Towns drilled a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 1:30 left to give Minnesota its first lead since late in the second quarter at 105-104.

After Towns made another trey with 55.4 seconds left, Bridges answered with a 3-pointer and tied the game at 108 after making one of two foul shots with 9.0 seconds left.

The teams headed to overtime after Russell's 3-point attempt fell short at the buzzer.

Charlotte opened the game with five straight points before Minnesota responded with a 19-2 run. The Wolves led 27-24 after a sluggish first quarter that saw the teams shoot a combined 5 of 29 from 3-point range.

Minnesota led by six midway through the second quarter before Charlotte closed on a 25-13 run to move ahead 58-52 at the break.

Both teams struggled from 3-point range. Minnesota was 13 of 55 (23.6 percent) while Charlotte was 8 of 33 (24.2 percent).

# Timberwolves putting Las Vegas point totals to work

By Jace Frederick  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves' propensity to score and surrender points is causing the oddsmakers to reconsider over-under numbers.

The over-under is the number of total points bookmakers believe will be scored between both teams during a game. The over-under for Minnesota's game against Charlotte was 244 points. Meaning if you took the "over" you would need more than 244 points to be scored.

That's the highest over-under line the bookmakers have put on an NBA game all season. The two previous highs came in Minnesota's previous two games — Sunday in Indiana and Friday in Chicago — with over-unders of 239.5 and 240.5, respectively. And the actual game totals from both of those games soared over the betting lines.

That's what happens when a team like the Wolves can't stop anyone, but can't really be stopped, either.

## Rotation spins

Taurean Prince didn't see action in Minnesota's win Sunday over Indiana. That wasn't the plan, Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said.

"It had a lot to do with Ant's hot hand. I wanted to get back to (Edwards) as quick as I can. Rotation-wise, the team I had out there was playing hard," Finch said. "I expect (Prince) to be back in the

rotation. I'm trying to find minutes for Jaylen back in the rotation, too. It's difficult right now, with the healthy bodies. It's a good problem."

Finch said it's more difficult to manage too many available bodies than not enough.

"Because with the other situation, you gotta play whoever is available, and hope they play well," Finch said. "And, for the most part, our guys played really well. Which has put us in the position we are in now. I know Jaylen's got to be super frustrated. Was never our intention not to play TP the other night. Just got to stay ready. Every game is going to be different. Now we're getting down to this part of the season, the stretch run, we could be very situational in what we do, matchup-wise. And that could trigger any type of combination on the floor."

## Using the break

Previously in his career, Jarred Vanderbilt used his all-star break to work out and work on his game. That's what happens when you aren't a part of your team's rotation and aren't seeing game minutes.

Things have changed for the Wolves' energizing forward. Perhaps no one needs the few days off to charge their batteries more than him.

"This is actually my first year needing the all-star break," Vanderbilt said. "I'm actually going to rest a little bit, just rest a couple days and then get back to it."



Bruce Kluckhohn / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) works around Charlotte Hornets forward P.J. Washington (25) in the third quarter Tuesday at Target Center in Minneapolis.

# Gophers falter in second half and fall to Ohio State

By Andy Greder  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State scored its fewest first-half points of the season on Tuesday against the Gophers. Similar to this match-up in January, the opening 20 minutes gave Minnesota hope against a ranked Buckeyes squad.

Minnesota's defense, which mixed in zone to try to limit star E.J. Liddell, forced the Buckeyes into eight first-half turnovers and other failures to convert on the offensive end.

Minnesota weathered its own drought and led 25-23 at the break; it was the fewest points the Gophers have allowed in a first half in Big Ten play this year.

Those hopes were hung out soon after the second half started.

Everything that was challenging for Ohio State in the opening 20 minutes came easy in the final 20 in a 70-45 win at Value Center Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

No. 18 Ohio State (16-6, 9-4) broke loose with 47 points after the break to remain unbeaten at home (11-0). After being limited to four points in the first half, Liddell had a 12 in the second.

Minnesota, coming off a win against Penn State on Saturday, experienced an up-and-down game which ended in an all-too familiar way. The Gophers fell to 12-11 overall, 3-11 Big Ten. The Gophers had more



Photos by Joseph Maiorana / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Golden Gophers forward Jamison Battle (10) defended by Ohio State Buckeyes guard Eugene Brown III (3) during the first half Tuesday at Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

turnovers (8) than baskets (6) after halftime; it was the lowest scoring game for Minnesota this season.

Payton Willis, Eric Curry and E.J. Stephens combined for seven points on 3-of-

21 shooting.

As a team, Minnesota went 1-for-11 shooting over seven minutes midway through the first half, but the Gophers defense kept the Buckeyes from extending a big lead.

Minnesota then had a 10-0 run to take a 23-17 lead with under three minutes left in the half.

In the Buckeyes' 75-64 win over the Gophers on Jan. 27, Ohio State out-rebounded Minnesota 48-22, including 20 on

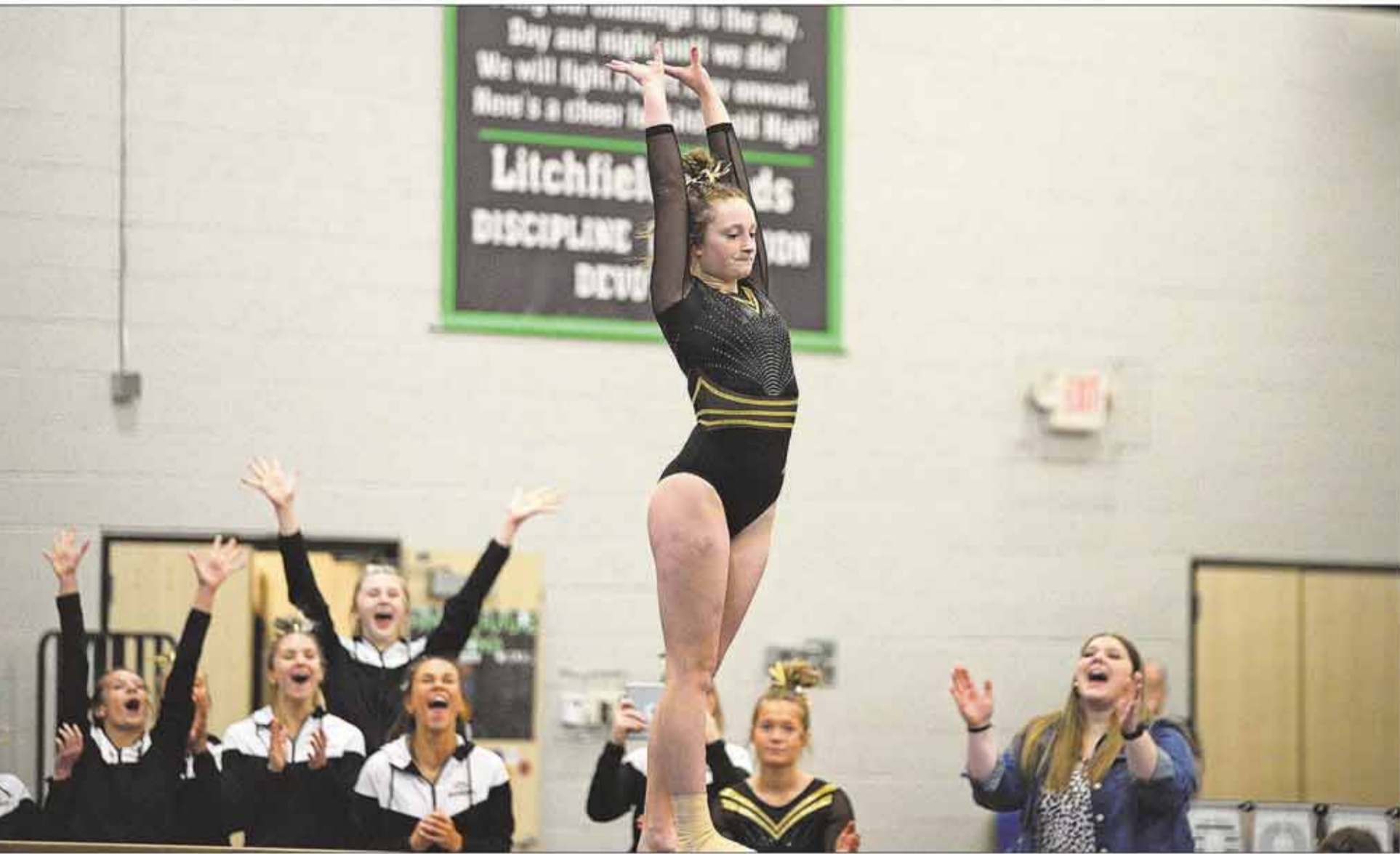
the offensive glass. It led to 27 second-chance points for Ohio State.

On Tuesday, the Buckeyes had two offensive rebounds on the first possession of the game, but none in the rest of the first half. They

had seven offensive rebounds in the second half to aid their surge.

In that first matchup, the Gophers really missed center Eric Curry, out with an ankle injury. They kept that one close, down only 32-30 at the break.





Photos by Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

New London-Spicer freshman Kaitlyn Preheim competes Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Section 6A championship meet in Litchfield.

## Ready for the bright(er) lights

**By Joe Brown**  
West Central Tribune  
St. Paul  
New London-Spicer gymnastics is ready to hit the big stage at state.

Yes, the Wildcats won the Section 6A championship in 2021. But due to precautions over the COVID-19 pandemic, the state meet was held at Champlin Park High School with no tickets sold to the general public.

This time around, NLS will hear the roar of the crowd at Roy Wilkins Auditorium as one of eight teams vying for the Class A championship at 6 p.m. Friday.

"The venue's different this year; it's in a real spot," said Wildcats freshman Abby Knudsen. "It'll be more of an experience than last year."

Coming off a school record score of 143.850 at the Section 6A championship last Saturday in Litchfield, NLS is one of five teams making a

return to state in 2022. Those returning teams include: Mankato West, Worthington, Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran and Big Lake.

Other teams in the state field include: Byron, Mahtomedi and Detroit Lakes.

W-M/M-W is the returning state champion in Class A and is the top-ranked team in the state with a final average score of 146.650. Big Lake (second, 145.617), Worthington (third, 144.525), NLS (fourth, 142.792), Mahtomedi (sixth, 141.742), Mankato West (seventh, 141.475), and Detroit Lakes (eighth, 140.783) are all ranked in the top 10.

NLS' rotation will begin with floor exercise, followed by vault, uneven bars and balance beam.

Last year, the Wildcats took fifth with a team score of 142.400.

During the individual meet at 6 p.m. Saturday back at

Roy Wilkins, the Wildcats have five individuals in the mix: Anderson (all-around), Knudsen (uneven bars, balance beam), Kaitlyn Preheim (beam, floor exercise), Kamryn Quenemoen (bars) and Kaisa Williams (floor).

"I'm really excited," said NLS sophomore Ciera Anderson, who placed seventh in all-around last season. "Going a second year in a row is pretty crazy. I kind of know where I'm at and it's more fun now because we got (sections) over with and so we can just go out there and have fun."

Benson/Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg junior Libby McGeary has the distinction of being the only returning state champion in the Class A field. She won the beam in 2021 with a score of 9.6.

On Saturday, McGeary won the section all-around title

**GYMNASTICS:** Page B2



Benson/KMS junior Libby McGeary, middle, won the all-around championship with a combined score of 37.125 at the Section 6A championship meet on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022 in Litchfield. Maple Lake's Elizabeth Borget, left, was second at 36.675. NLS' Ciera Anderson, right, was third at 36.525.

## If they can, they will play

**Towns, Edwards share disdain of missing games**

**By Jace Frederick**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Anthony Edwards had been hurt for a month.

The second-year star said he couldn't slide, jump or generate a burst of speed. He sat in sadness in his hotel room in Sacramento after a game Tuesday night in which he scored just five points. Not sad because of the scoring output, but rather that he didn't feel like he could be there entirely for his team.

He woke up Wednesday finally feeling better for the first time in weeks. In wasn't until then that he disclosed the extent of the knee troubles. They didn't show up on the team's injury report until Tuesday.

Beyond that, sans the occasional mention of sore knees — which often came nonchalantly in passing — there was no indication that he was battling anything. Because he was always on the floor.

Edwards is *always* on the floor.



**Mark J. Rebilas / USA Today Sports**

Minnesota Timberwolves forward Anthony Edwards (1) celebrates with Karl-Anthony Towns (32) against the Phoenix Suns in the second half on Jan. 28 at Footprint Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

"I don't like missing games," the 20-year-old said.

He and Karl-Anthony Towns share that disdain, and Towns admires that about his running mate.

"It's something we haven't talked about, but he's been playing through this (injury) for a while. You got to give

him a lot of credit for the way he's performed on it and he's done an amazing job of not only playing well on it, but I look at him as a star player, a superstar in the making," Towns said. "The most valuable thing your star player can give you is availability. So for him to be available

**WOLVES:** Page B2

## Once more, with feeling

**US vs. Canada once again set to determine Olympic women's hockey supremacy**

**By Helene Elliott**  
Los Angeles Times

To the surprise of no one and the delight of anyone who can appreciate an impassioned rivalry no matter the sport, the U.S. and Canada will meet again to decide supremacy in women's Olympic hockey.

The two superpowers have faced off in every women's Olympic gold medal game except 2006 in Turin, where the U.S. lost to Sweden in the semifinals and went on to win a bronze medal. The U.S. won the first women's hockey gold at Nagano in 1998 and the most recent, at Pyeongchang in 2018, in a shootout. Canada won the other four.

The rest of the world has improved a bit, but no other team has enough resources or has developed enough depth to push them for more than a period or two.

"These are the games we live for, the games we dream for," U.S. captain Kendall Coyne

Schofield said Monday night after the Americans scored twice in the second period and twice in the third in a 4-1 semifinal victory over Finland at Wukesong Sports Centre. "Everyone is going to have to take their game up a notch."

Canada has blasted through to Thursday's final on the strength of a fearsome and balanced offense. They've outscored their opponents 54-8, including a 4-2 preliminary-round decision over the U.S. They have the top six scorers in the tournament, led by Sarah Nurse's 16 points. They clinched their berth in the gold medal game with a 10-3 rout of Switzerland earlier on Monday.

"I think we know that history, but we're going to give ourselves a blank slate," said Canada forward Brienne Jenner, who leads the tournament with nine goals. "We looked at it as an opportunity to go out there and claim a gold rather than looking at the history books and what has happened."

The Americans, held back during this tournament by a

**HOCKEY:** Page B2

# HOCKEY

From Page B1

surprisingly fitful offense, lost only to Canada in the preliminary round. They've scored 28 goals and given up eight. The upside to their offensive woes is that they've learned to be patient and rely on grit when the goals aren't flowing and games are close.

"I think we're in a great place. Our backs have been up against the wall a couple times and we've had to really dig deep and find a way to score," said defenseman Cayla Barnes, a native of Eastvale in Riverside County. "I think it's been really great. We've grown a lot and I'm happy with the way we're heading."

Goaltender Alex Cavallini ensured that the first period against Finland on Monday would be scoreless when she managed to stop two close-in shots by four-time Olympian Michelle Karvinen in the closing seconds. She was particularly sharp in extending her left pad to stop Karvinen's second attempt.

Her teammates rewarded her efforts by providing her some offensive support in the second period. Gifted a power play on a phantom tripping call against Finland's Tanja Niskanen, the Americans capitalized when Barnes took a crisp pass from Hannah Brandt and whipped a shot from the lower edge of the right circle to beat goalie Anni Keisala at 3:39 of the second period Hilary Knight, who tied the U.S. women's Olympic record by appearing in her 21st game, converted the rebound of a shot by Savannah Harmon for a 2-0 lead at 18:53.

Hayley Scamurra tipped a shot by Barnes for a 3-0 lead at 15:20 of the third period, which proved important when Finland's Susanna Tapani got a lucky bounce and cut the U.S. lead to 3-1 at 19:34. Abby Roque put the game away with an empty-net goal with five seconds left in the third period.

"To get to this point and have the performance that we did tonight is awesome," said Cavallini, who made 25 saves. "It was really fun to watch the team working at the other



Harry How / Getty Images / TNS

Goaltender Ann-Renee Desbiens (35) of Canada defends her net as Hilary Knight (21) and Kendall Coyne Schofield (26) of the United States vie for the loose puck in the low slot area with Blayre Turnbull (40) and Claire Thompson (42) of Canada during the Group A Women's Preliminary Round ice hockey match Feb. 8, 2022, between the United States and Canada at Wukesong Sports Centre in Beijing.

end, continuing to get shots, continuing to create opportunities. Defensively they were awesome, blocking shots, picking up sticks, making my job pretty easy.

"It's exciting now to be able to put that game past us with a big win and move on

to the next game and set out for what we've been here to accomplish."

The Americans never get tired of testing themselves against the only other country that has won a women's Olympic or world title. "I think it's one of the best

rivalries in sports," Barnes said. "I'm definitely looking forward to playing against a great Canadian team."

Knight, a four-time Olympian, never gets tired of seeing Canada, either. "It's wonderful hockey, it's the most beautiful rivalry in sport," said Knight, who tied Jenny Potter and Angela Ruggiero for most Olympic contests played in U.S. hockey history with her 21st appearance. Knight also moved into second place in U.S. career scoring with 26 points, behind Potter's 32.

"It gets the best and the worst out of both of us at the same time," Knight said. "It's a wonderful game."

And no less wonderful because it was expected. "I'm confident. I told our group I like the way we're playing. I know that we're going to be prepared," U.S. coach Joel Johnson said. "I just feel really good about how we match up against Canada."

Once more, with feeling, for a rivalry like few others. Once more, with feeling.

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Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

Willmar sophomore Kylie Porttiin launches herself off the vault during the Section 6A championship meet on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022 at Litchfield.

# GYMNASTICS

From Page B1

with a combined score of 37.125.

A three-time state entrant, McGeary kept it simple when looking at the week ahead after winning the top spot at sections.

"I just got to remember to relax and everything will go right," she said.

Litchfield senior Grace Borowicz will make her first appearance at the state tournament, competing in the balance beam. She qualified after finishing in a tie for fifth at sections with an 8.8.

Willmar sophomore Lyndi Koosman will compete at state in three events. She was the section champion on floor after scoring a 9.4 on Saturday. She also competes on bars and vault.

And she won't be alone for the vault as two other Cardinals — sophomore Kylie Porttiin and eighth-grader Mallory Beier — made the cut.

"That's super exciting," Koosman said about not going to

## Class A state gymnastics

**When:** Team championship: 6 p.m. Friday; Individual championships: 6 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Roy Wilkins Auditorium, St. Paul

**Tickets:** Must be purchased online at [mshsl.org/tickets](http://mshsl.org/tickets)

**Streaming:** Two-day pass available for \$19.99 on [prepspotlight.tv](http://prepspotlight.tv)

**Teams:** Byron, Mankato West, Worthington, Mahtomedi, Watertown-Mayer/Mound-Westonka, New London-Spicer, Big Lake, Detroit Lakes

### Area Individuals:

#### NLS

Ciera Anderson (all-around); Kaitlyn Preheim (beam, floor); Abby Knudsen (bars, beam); Kamryn Quenemoen (bars); Kaisa Williams (floor)

#### Benson/KMS

Libby McGeary (all-around)

#### Litchfield

Grace Borowicz (beam)

#### Willmar

Lyndi Koosman (floor, bars, vault); Kylie Porttiin (vault); Mallory Beier (vault)

state alone.

Said Willmar head coach Josie Kent, "Our vaults were a definite highlight (at sections). We had five pike tsuks (quarter-turn on the horse, followed by a back flip) and they all stood them up. That hasn't happened yet this year. So it was a really, really good time (and) a really good vault set."

Section 6A competitors will have a

rotation of beam, floor, vault and bars.

W-M/M-W has two of the top returning gymnasts from last season's state meet. Senior Anna Mielke was second in the all-around and vault and was third on floor. Another senior, Reagan Kelley, was the runner-up on bars. Byron junior Amber Robie is also back after finishing runner-up to McGeary on the beam.

# WOLVES

From Page B1

and ready to go on the court and everything, it speaks volumes to who he is as a professional, who he is as a basketball player and the type of leader he's growing into being."

Edwards didn't miss a game as a rookie, and the only time he was out this season was for time spent in health and safety protocols. He even flew separately from the team while battling the flu earlier this season to play a game in Washington. Towns played every game in each of his first three seasons, and has only been sidelines but COVID-19 and serious injuries since. This while they easily lead Minnesota in minutes per game, with each averaging more than 34 minutes per contest.

If Minnesota's best two players can play, they will.

"You talk about greatness, that's what greatness is, you got to be on the court to show greatness," Towns said. "When you're available we get to go out there and show why we're so coveted in this league and why we feel that we so good, you know?"

Towns and Edwards have both shared sentiments about wanting to play for the fan who made a long trip or scrounged up just enough money to see them play for the first time. They can't imagine a kid in that scenario showing up to find out Edwards or Towns was resting or missing the game with a minor bump or bruise.



Kelley L Cox / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) and forward Anthony Edwards (1) battle for the loose ball against Golden State Warriors forward Kevon Looney (5) during the first quarter on Jan. 27 at Chase Center in San Francisco, California.

"That kid is coming for a one-time show," Towns said, "and you got to be able to go out there and perform."

"The Wolves fans who've given my family a dream life and given all of us a chance to play this game professionally for a living. Just trying to be available for them is not only important for our team and for the chances of winning, but for the morale of our city and the community we're driving every single day through our game."

It is pretty important for the team too, though. Timberwolves coach Chris Finch has noted the correlation between availability and success.

"You look around the league, Chris Paul, James Harden ... these guys play like all the time," Finch said. "That's one of the reasons their teams win all the time. ... Guys who play, love the game ... and their teams win at a high level. There's a simple correlation."

Yeah the likes of Paul — who at 36 years old has played every game this season, averaging 33 minutes a night for the NBA's best team in

Phoenix — are a dying breed. No one, Finch noted, is "allergic to injuries. But he said it's become "a badge of honor" for players in the league to miss games for rest. Some occasionally get that designation, while others maybe take an extra game or two off before coming back from a minor injury. At some point, that has an impact on a team's culture.

That's why it's so important for Minnesota, who's trying to reach heights rarely visited by this organization, to have leaders like Towns and Edwards bringing it on a near nightly basis, whether they're full-go or not.

"At this point in the season, nobody is going to be 100 percent, and it's all about how you feel and what kind of pain management you're able to tolerate," Finch said. "When you have guys that are able to play every single night and are reliable, from a coach and a team point of view, it gives you great confidence, especially when they're your best players and you don't even have to think about it."

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TO: Kandiyohi County

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Providing Hope. Inspiring Change





Bill Streicher / USA Today Sports

Philadelphia 76ers guard James Harden (1) and head coach Doc Rivers pose for a photo after speaking with the media at the Philadelphia 76ers Training Complex on Tuesday in Camden, New Jersey.

## 'Philly was my first choice'

### Harden says he wanted to go to the Sixers last season

**By Keith Pompey**  
The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Philadelphia

James Harden says the 76ers were his preferred destination a season ago. "When I was going through everything I was going through in Houston, Philly was my first choice," he said. "It just didn't happen."

At the time, the perennial All-NBA selection was traded from the Houston Rockets to the Brooklyn Nets in a three-team trade on Jan. 13, 2021. "It's just the details, I

don't really want to get into the Brooklyn situation," Harden said Tuesday during his introductory press conference. "I just knew for a very long time this was a perfect fit and obviously you had a big man, the best big man in the league in Joel [Embiid] and obviously the coaching, just top to bottom it makes sense. I'm just happy and blessed that I'm here."

"As Doc [Rivers] and everybody knows and everybody wants to win, and be the last team standing.

So I'm excited for the opportunity."

So are the Sixers, who acquired Harden and Paul Millsap from the Nets in exchange for Ben Simmons, Seth Curry, Andre Drummond, and two first-round picks on Thursday.

Harden said he will opt in to his \$47.3 million contract for next season and can sign a four-year, \$223 million extension at the start of free agency.

On paper, Harden and Embiid are the NBA's best guard-center tandem.

Harden can get a bucket, finish isolation plays, take opponents off the dribble, and drain step-back 3-pointers.

However, he's averaging 22.5 points and shooting a career-low 33.2% on 3-pointers, but he is averaging 10.2 assists this season. It is his lowest scoring average since averaging 16.8 points per game as a member of the Oklahoma City Thunder during the 2011-12 season. The 32-year-old, who is a 10-time All-Star, had a four-point performance in a Feb. 2

road loss to the Sacramento Kings and has been sidelined the last three games with hamstring tightness.

Some have questioned the severity of the hamstring injury, noting that Harden wanted out of Brooklyn. A league source thinks a change of scenery will enable Harden to go back to him being the player who averaged 29.6 points and shot 36.2% on 3-pointers during his nine seasons in Houston.

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## Djokovic will skip future Grand Slams if vaccine mandates remain

**By Sarah Valenzuela**  
New York Daily News

Novak Djokovic would rather stop chasing tennis history than get the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I understand that not being vaccinated today, I'm unable to travel to most of the tournaments at the moment. That is the price that I'm willing to pay," the Serbian tennis star told BBC News in an interview posted Tuesday morning.

He then replied "yes" when asked if he'd be willing to pay the price of missing the next two Grand Slam tournaments, the French Open (scheduled for May 22-June 5) and Wimbledon (scheduled for June 27-July 10).

The unvaccinated Djokovic was deported from Australia last month after losing a last-ditch effort to stay in the country and play in the Australian Open. The tournament organizers had given him an exemption to their COVID-19 entry rules under the guise Djokovic had antibodies after recovering from the coronavi-



Daniel Pockett / Getty Images / TNS  
Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a forehand during a practice session ahead of the 2022 Australian Open at Melbourne Park on Jan. 14 in Melbourne, Australia.

rus in December. The exemption was overturned by the Australian government and courts, which canceled his

visa after a 10-day battle with Djokovic's legal team.

Making his first public comments since the Australia

debacle, Djokovic said he understood and knew the consequences of his decision not to get vaccinated and "was

prepared not to go" to the Australian Open.

"I understand and support fully the freedom to choose whether you want to get vaccinated or not," he said. "I was never against vaccination. I understand that globally everyone is trying to put a big effort into handling this virus and seeing, hopefully, an end, soon, to this virus. And vaccination is probably the biggest effort that was made ... and I fully respect that."

"But I've always represented and supported the freedom to choose what you put into your body. And for me it's really the principle of understanding what is right and what is wrong for you. And me as an elite professional athlete, I've always carefully reviewed, assessed everything that comes in from supplements, food, water that I drink, sports drinks, anything really that comes into my body as a fuel. Based on all the informations that I got, I decided not to take the vaccine as of today."

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## Four former Angels testify to opioid, cocaine use in Eric Kay trial

**Field Level Media**

Free-agent pitcher Matt Harvey and three other former Los Angeles Angels testified Thursday that an ex-team employee provided them with opioids.

Pitchers Harvey, Mike Morin and Cam Bedrosian and first baseman C.J. Cron all said they received the pills from Eric Kay, the Angels' former communications director who allegedly provided the drugs

that contributed to the death of pitcher Tyler Skaggs.

Kay is on trial in federal court in Fort Worth, Texas, charged with drug distribution and conspiracy. Skaggs was found dead in a Texas hotel room on July 1, 2019, as the Angels were in the area to play the Rangers. Skaggs was 27.

The autopsy revealed Skaggs died of asphyxia and had oxycodone, fentanyl and alcohol found in his system.

The players testified that Kay was their source of oxycodone.

ESPN investigative reporter T.J. Quinn shared the testimony via social media from the courtroom.

Harvey was granted immunity for his testimony, and he admitted on the stand to using cocaine in the early years of his career — an admission he said he recognized could threaten his career.

He said he shared Percocet

pills — a mix of oxycodone and acetaminophen — with Skaggs during the 2019 season, but that, otherwise, he believed Skaggs got them from Kay.

Harvey said he used the opioids in both the clubhouse and dugout. Skaggs, he said, told Harvey that he crushed the pills on the toilet paper dispenser in the clubhouse bathroom and snorted them.

Harvey didn't accompany the team to Texas because of

an injury, but he recounted how he had left a pill supplied by Kay in his locker in the Anaheim clubhouse before the team departed for the road trip. After Skaggs' death, he retrieved it and disposed of it.

Harvey testified that oxycodone was prevalent among major leaguers then.

"In baseball you do everything you can to stay on the field," he said.

## PODCASTS:

Corey Millen, coach of the NAHL's St. Cloud Norsemen, talks about his team's 10-game winning streak, the Olympics and more on The Rink Live podcast.

[THERINKLIVE.COM](http://THERINKLIVE.COM)

### THE RINK LIVE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is more annoying: long video reviews or several delays to dropping the puck?

**Mick Hatten (Huskies):** Most of the time, the long video reviews are deciding major penalties or goals. Those are pretty major elements in a game. The nit picking on faceoffs throughout a game is more bothersome.

**Christian Babcock (Beavers):** I would say the faceoff delays are more annoying. Not only do I understand why they do the replay reviews, in the CCHA, they'll actually explain to you what they're looking at, which is very helpful. I hope they'll implement that for the WCHA.

**Jess Myers (Gophers):** I'm a huge proponent of video review. Get the call right using all available tools at your disposal. But I'd be in favor of a 90-second clock on the review process, and after 90 seconds, the call on the ice stands.

**Matt Wellens (Bulldogs):** The Bulldogs have had to sit through a number of long, strange video reviews this season, including a goal review during a shootout that lasted four and a half minutes. That's four and a half minutes of our precious short lives we'll never get back for a shootout goal.

**Brad Schlossman (Fighting Hawks):** The NCAA Rules Committee might have to take a look at forcing coaches to put their challenges/timeouts on the line to get video reviews instead of reviewing everything.

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



Team USA forward Abbey Murphy skates with the puck during the Feb. 11 quarterfinals against the Czech Republic at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. George Walker IV / USA Today Sports

## Olympic growth excites Gophers

Underclassman Abbey Murphy's international experience will be a bonus for team

By Jess Myers  
Forum News Service

Minneapolis

Late nights and early mornings are pretty typical in the life of a college student. But if members of Brad Frost's Minnesota Gophers women's hockey team have been up before dawn or wide awake after midnight lately, it is not for study sessions or late night carousing.

There are eight former or future Gophers skating for Team USA at the Winter Olympics in Beijing, as well as a future Gopher who played for Finland another who played for Sweden. With most games starting at either 7 a.m. or 10 p.m. locally, it is never too early, or too late, for hockey.

While six of the Gophers in red, white and blue are alumni, two of them – forwards Grace Zumwinkle and Abbey Murphy – can and likely will return to campus to play for the U of M next season. Frost has liked what he has seen from both so far, and raves at the experience that Murphy, who was a Gophers freshman last season, is getting versus international competition.

"It's exciting. I thought she was one of the best players on the ice last night for either team," Frost said the morning after Team USA's 4-2 loss to Team Canada in the prelims. Those same two teams will play Thursday for the gold medal.

Murphy, who hails from suburban Chicago, already has a collection of gold and silver medals from international tournaments before she got to Minneapolis. In her one season with the Gophers, she was second (to Zumwinkle) in scoring and led all WCHA rookies offensively.

"So fast, always on the puck. She's playing appropriately aggressive, which is what



Team USA's Abbey Murphy (37) pats teammate Alex Carpenter (25) after practice Dec. 19, 2021, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Jason Wachter / The Rink Live

she has to do to be effective. She has to go to the line but not cross it, and she's been doing a really nice job of that throughout the Olympics," said Frost, who has dealt with what he calls a "big on-ice personality" from Murphy since she got to Ridder Arena. "She's a South Side Chicago kid, and they deal with things differently there. Somebody looks at you cross-eyed, you punch them in the face."

For the current Gophers players, losing a few hours of sleep here and there is a fair trade to get to see friends chase their Olympic dreams.

"You've got to sacrifice to watch some of the best hockey in the world, and it happens once every four years, so why not," said Gophers forward Taylor Heise, who has been named the WCHA's forward of the month twice this season, most recently in January. "It's awesome seeing their hard work pay off. Obviously with

Murphy, knowing her for a year and getting to know her personality, it's fun to see her out there, using her big body to an advantage."

### Knies joins the summer camp craze

If you are looking to send your son or daughter to a hockey camp run by a Gopher next summer, you now have a choice between hot and muggy, or really hot and dry. After the success Gophers co-captain Sammy Walker had in the summer of 2021 running a multi-day camp for kids in Richfield, there is another Gopher bringing summer hockey camps to the desert.

Before he left to play for Team USA in Beijing, Gophers freshman forward Matthew Knies announced the first Knies & Doan Hockey Academy, which will be held June 27-30, 2022, at the Coyotes Community Ice Center in Mesa, Arizona (where high

temps in the triple digits are routine at that time of year).

Knies, from Phoenix, will run the camp with Arizona State freshman forward Josh Doan, who is the son of long-time NHLer Shane Doan. The Knies & Doan camp is open to players from mites to high school.

Before making the announcement, Knies picked Walker's brain about what works and the challenges of running a kids' camp.

"It's super cool that he's able to do that down there. Honestly, I was like, 'You're going to love it. It's super fun,'" said Walker, who will hold his second annual camp Aug. 8-12, 2022, at Richfield Ice Arena. The NCAA's ruling that allowed current student-athletes to benefit from their name, image and likeness allowed players like Walker and Knies to hold camps under their own names.

**JOIN THE RINK LIVE MONDAY REWIND SHOW AT NOON ON INSTAGRAM**



Aleksandra Szmigiel / Reuters

Kamila Valieva of the Russian Olympic Committee in action in the women's figure skating short program during the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games on Tuesday at Capital Indoor Stadium in Beijing.

## Valieva dominates

### Russian teen leads women's short program

By Julien Pretot, Gabrielle Tétrauld-Farber and Chang-Ran Kim  
Reuters

Beijing

Russian teenager Kamila Valieva dominated the Olympic ice on Tuesday night, fighting back tears as she completed a skate that put her at the top of the short program standings with a doping cloud hanging over her.

The 15-year-old has been engulfed by a doping scandal in Beijing, but was cheered by spectators as she took to the ice for first time since news of her failed drugs test.

For two minutes and 40 seconds, millions around the world watched her every move, her music, In Memoriam by Kirill Richter, almost drowned out by the clicking of cameras.

Valieva tested positive for a banned heart drug after the national championships on Dec. 25, but the result was not revealed until Feb. 8, after she and her Russian Olympic Committee team mates had competed in the team competition in Beijing.

After dazzling the fans with a near-perfect free skate on Feb. 7, Tuesday's routine got

off to a less than perfect start. Valieva had been expected to execute three high-flying triple jumps. But in front of her coach Eteri Tutberidze and doctor Filipp Shvetsky, also now in the harsh spotlight, she stumbled on the opening triple Axel - having fallen twice as she attempted that jump during afternoon practice.

Alina Zagitova and Evgenia Medvedeva, gold and silver medalists at the previous Winter Games in Pyeongchang who were also trained by the formidable Tutberidze, were also watching from the stands at the Capital Indoor Stadium.

Valieva, wearing a flowing crystal-encrusted purple dress, completed her triple Lutz-triple toeloop combination, but her score of 82.16 was below the 90.18 score she got at the team event.

Such is her dominance, however, that it was still enough to put her ahead of fellow Russian Anna Shcherbakova, the world champion, on 80.20, and third-placed Kaori Sakamoto of Japan with a score of 79.84.

Alexandra Trusova, also representing the Russian Olympic Committee, was

fourth earning a score of 74.60, leaving the 'Quad Squad' with hopes of a medals sweep by the Russians, the first in women's figure skating history at the Olympics.

It would also be Tutberidze's personal hat trick as she also trains the 17-year-olds Shcherbakova and Trusova.

Valieva did not attend the post-event news conference while Shcherbakova declined to comment on her team mate's situation.

The leading skaters progress to the free skate on Thursday, where no medals will be awarded if Valieva, whose positive drug test has cast a shadow over the entire Beijing Games, finishes in the top three.

"I feel sorry for anyone who gets on the podium. They won't get that experience, and it is such a big part of the Olympic Games - to get the medals," said British skater Natasha McKay.

"I can only speak for myself and that I advocate for clean sporting," said U.S. skater Mariah Bell.

"That's the whole idea of the Olympics and our careers, in general."



Evgenia Novozhenina / Reuters

Kamila Valieva of the Russian Olympic Committee in action during the women's figure skating short program during the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games on Tuesday at Capital Indoor Stadium in Beijing.

## Shiffrin remains upbeat despite poor results

### World's top female skier still looking for first medal

By Nathan Fenno  
Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — The 1.7-mile downhill course plunges through barren brown hillsides, past haggard trees and towering gray rock faces, all transformed by a coating of snow from a storm that passed through a few days earlier.

As Mikaela Shiffrin raced through the wintry showcase at the Yanqing National Alpine Centre on Tuesday, she seemed to have been transformed too.

The world's top female skier didn't win the downhill or even come close.

But after an inexplicable start to the Winter Olympics left her searching for an explanation and struggling to know the path forward, the downhill run without any expectations left her smiling and relaxed after crossing the finish line.

Shiffrin finished 18th in 1



Tom Pennington / TNS

Mikaela Shiffrin of Team United States skis during the Women's Downhill on day 11 of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games at National Alpine Ski Centre on Tuesday in Yanqing, China.

minute 34.36 seconds, about two and a half seconds back from gold medalist Corinne Suter of Switzerland.

"I think it was pretty solid," Shiffrin said. "It's really hard to expect much from results right now with downhill because I haven't done a lot of it."

The event served as preparation for Thursday's com-

bined — one run of the slalom and one run of the downhill — that is the final individual event and one in which she will contend for a medal.

"I'm really happy that I was able to race today," Shiffrin said. "It's in a pretty good spot. Try to maybe turn down the thinking a little bit and try to bring in a little more instinct and see what happens

with that."

The Games haven't unfolded as she expected. She didn't finish the giant slalom or the slalom — the signature event where she has won more World Cup races than any man or woman in history — and was as baffled by what had happened as those watching.

Even before the difficulties last week, medaling in the downhill had been a long shot. The last time Shiffrin raced the event — early December in Lake Louise, Canada — she finished 38th. Though she has five career World Cup podiums in the downhill, she's competed in it just four times during the last two years.

"If you ask any athlete who's had medals or podiums, your mind is never away from that, there's always some part of you that's thinking, 'maybe there's a chance,'" Shiffrin said after the downhill training session Monday.

"I'm not focusing on the medal anymore. It's just trying to do my best execution every day."

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### OLYMPIC MEDAL TABLE

As of Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022

Country	G	S	B	T
Norway	12	7	7	26
ROC	4	7	9	20
Germany	9	6	3	18
USA	7	6	4	17
Canada	2	4	11	17
Austria	6	6	4	16
Japan	2	5	7	14
Netherlands	6	4	3	13
Italy	2	6	5	13
China	6	4	2	12
France	3	7	2	12
Sweden	5	3	3	11
Switzerland	5	0	5	10
Slovenia	2	3	2	7
South Korea	1	3	1	5
Australia	1	2	1	4
Finland	1	1	2	4
Hungary	1	0	2	3
New Zealand	1	1	0	2
Czech Rep.	1	0	1	2
Belarus	0	2	0	2
Slovakia	1	0	0	1
Spain	0	1	0	1
Belgium	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	1	1

COMMENTARY

# Does one win make Stafford great?

## Rams quarterback joins an impressive list of one-time Super Bowl winners



Wally Skalij / Los Angeles Times / TNS

Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford (9) throws the ball during the first quarter of the Super Bowl against the Cincinnati Bengals at SoFi Stadium on Sunday, in Inglewood, California.

the best pure passer ever, would grace many more Super Sundays. He did not. Only twice over the next 15 seasons did his team reach the AFC title game.

Trent Dilfer "won" a Super Bowl. Mark Rypien "won" a Super Bowl. Brad Johnson "won" a Super Bowl. Those three reached a total of five Pro Bowls. Marino made nine. We can't call him a beautiful loser, given that his Dolphins had just one losing season over his 18 years. But he wasn't a Super Bowl champ, and there are those who hold a quarterback can't be deemed great without a ring.

If that's true — I contend it's not — Stafford is now a great quarterback. By that logic, he'd have been rendered not-great had Burrow's final pass gone for a touchdown. At a time when advanced analytics have taught us to look beyond a baseball pitcher's "wins," we haven't managed to do the same with quarterbacks. We should at least try, don't you think?

Mark Bradley is a columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. ©2022 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

By Mark Bradley  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

If what follows sounds like a scolding, be advised I'm also scolding myself. Because I do it, too. In unguarded moments, I resort to the ESPN-fueled shorthand of judging quarterbacks by Super Bowl "wins."

Matthew Stafford has "won" as many Super Bowls as Aaron Rodgers/Drew Brees/Russell Wilson. Stafford has "won" one more Super Bowl than Matt Ryan/Philip Rivers. Ergo, Stafford belongs among the upper crust of 21st century quarterbacks, even though it took him 13 seasons and a change of employers just to "win" a playoff game.

If not for Aaron Donald and Von Miller and Leonard Floyd, Stafford wouldn't have "won" anything Sunday. The quote marks around "win" and "won" should give us — again, I'm including myself — pause, but it's so convenient to speak in terms of a quarterback's "wins" that we fail to grasp the obvious.

A quarterback cannot

throw the ball to himself. A quarterback cannot block for himself. Unless/until the NFL produces its version of Shohei Ohtani — he pitches and hits! — every mention of a quarterback "winning" should be taken with a tub of salt.

Tom Brady's team faced Peyton Manning's team 17 times; not once were they on the field for the same play. Pro-Football-Reference provides a column of numbers under the heading "QBrec." Counting playoffs, Brady's career QBrec was 243-73. He's considered the GOAT by some distance, but does that mean he's the greatest NFL player? Better than Jerry Rice? Lawrence Taylor? Jim Brown?

Going by Sunday's stats, Stafford was slightly the lesser quarterback. Joe Burrow's passer rating was 100.9 to Stafford's 89.9. Burrow threw no interceptions; Stafford threw two. Burrow had the better completion percentage and averaged more yards (7.97 to Stafford's 7.08) per pass. The Rams didn't

win because Stafford outplayed Burrow; they won because they made it harder on Burrow than the Bengals could make it on Stafford.

Burrow was sacked seven times to Stafford's two. This wasn't a shock. Burrow was sacked nine times in the Bengals' Round 2 upset of top-seeded Tennessee. At times over these playoffs, we saw the Bengals weren't a fully formed team, which made sense. Over their first two years under Zac Taylor, they were 6-25-1.

We spent 12 NFL seasons wondering how Stafford, the No. 1 draftee in 2009, might look if he played somewhere other than Detroit, which never won its division over those dozen years. (And yes, he had the incomparable Calvin Johnson for seven seasons.) The Rams made the playoffs three times under Jared Goff, who never quite fit the definition of Franchise Quarterback.

The belief was that Goff's team was better than Goff himself. That contention has been

validated. Grafting a high-level NFL quarterback onto a high-level NFL team produced the desired effect. Stafford made the throws he needed to make and orchestrated the drive that won the game. Having crossed midfield with 54 seconds remaining, the Bengals didn't gain another yard. Burrow's final fling came as the great Aaron Donald spun him around.

The easy postgame story: In his 189th NFL game, Stafford proved his worth — even though this was the 36th fourth-quarter comeback he'd engineered. We'll never know what would have happened had Stafford swapped NFC

North franchises with Rodgers 13 years ago. To borrow a Rodgers line, that will forever remain a beautiful mystery.

As for Burrow: The knee-jerk response to the Bengals' narrow loss was to suggest this splendid quarterback has more Super runs in him. In sports, though, who can ever know anything? If you're wondering why Dan Marino, who last threw an NFL pass on Jan. 15, 2000, was trending Monday on Twitter, there's your answer.

Like Burrow, Marino reached the Super Bowl in his second NFL season. His Dolphins lost to Joe Montana's 49ers. We all figured Marino,

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**Conceptis SUDOKU** by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/16

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Scheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Austen heroine  
 5 Task  
 8 Transcript stats  
 12 Swedish auto  
 13 Coach Par-seghian  
 14 Expel  
 15 Sucker  
 17 Nick and Nora's pooch  
 18 Physicist Tesla  
 19 Very popular  
 21 Aries  
 22 Monumental  
 23 Zing  
 26 Reunion gp.  
 28 Diarist Nin  
 31 Make — for it (flee)  
 33 Co. with a peacock logo  
 35 Clench  
 36 Caravan stops

**DOWN**

1 "NFL Live" aier  
 2 Hawaiian island  
 3 Mardi Gras wear  
 4 Loathe  
 5 Fossil discovery of 1891  
 6 Tramcar contents  
 7 Dance studio  
 8 Needling  
 9 Vendor's vehicle  
 10 Re-garding  
 11 Doc's "Now!"  
 20 Clean air org.  
 23 Kung — chicken  
 24 Historic time  
 25 Cork-board stickers  
 27 CEO's degree, maybe  
 29 Sundial numeral  
 30 Hot tub  
 32 Least messy  
 34 Bright red  
 37 "Keep it down!"  
 39 Mediocre  
 42 Skiers' mecca  
 44 Neighbor of Chad  
 45 Arp's art  
 46 Love god  
 48 New Mexico resort  
 49 Farmland unit  
 50 Furniture brand  
 53 Dos predecessor

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

O	A	K	S	S	E	C	H	I	T	S	
A	M	A	S	C	O	O	G	R	E		
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D	O	R	M	E	G	G	O	T	I	O	E
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Yesterday's answer 2-16

**Yesterday's answers:**

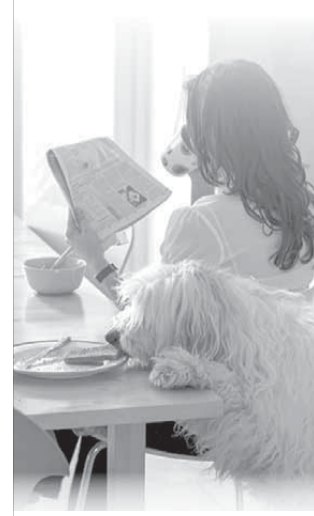
1	6	9	2	7	8	3	4	5
3	2	7	9	5	4	6	8	1
4	8	5	1	6	3	7	9	2
9	5	1	6	3	2	4	7	8
2	3	6	4	8	7	1	5	9
7	4	8	5	1	9	2	3	6
5	7	2	8	4	1	9	6	3
8	1	3	7	9	6	5	2	4
6	9	4	3	2	5	8	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/15

**2-16 CRYPTOQUIP**

Z ` C E K N D D Q D Z J K P G M K K  
 N S P G E M S G P P R D N Q N  
 F N L R Z E K Z B N L G F Z K . P T K B  
 T K ` C U K N U N J I D N C E N S I D N .  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE REGULARLY GET PAID TO SNUGGLE UP TOGETHER, I'D SAY THAT'S PROFESSIONAL NESTLING.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E

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to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is October 5, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

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This full time, benefit eligible position will provide oversight of the new WillmarWorks (previously called DT&H) Program and the Employment Services Program at Divine House, Inc. The position will provide guidance to individuals related to skill development, socialization, and integration into the community along with developing

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Qualifications for this position include a degree in a field of study related to vocational rehabilitation (VR) such as counseling, social work, psychology, disability studies, business administration, human resources, special education, supported/customized employment, and 2-5 years of paid or unpaid

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Apply online at [www.divinehouse.org](http://www.divinehouse.org) or call Brian Redmond at 320-231-2738.

# SHOWCASE

C1 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 | WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE, WILLMAR, MINN.

WCTRIB.COM

Instructor Kristin Allen swaps out paintbrushes while teaching Jan. 31 at Greenwater Garage + Gallery. Mike Moore / West Central Tribune



## PAINTING CLASS DRAWS ATTENTION TO IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY

By Carolyn Lange  
West Central Tribune

New London

The green thumb that serves me well in the vegetable garden immediately turns into 10 very clumsy thumbs when it comes to picking up a paint brush or pencil in any attempt to create a piece of visual art.

The extent of my talent ends at the formula for drawing a cat that I learned in first-grade: A big circle on the bottom for the body, a smaller circle on top for the head, add triangles for the ears, a curve for a tail and straight lines for whiskers. Voila! A cat.

Any artistic attempt beyond that is more than cringe-worthy.

So when Kristin Allen, who teaches painting classes every Monday night and drawing classes every Tuesday night at her studio, the Greenwater Garage + Gallery in New London, said her classes are open to people of all levels of skills I decided to give it a try.

I knew she had her work cut out for her. So on a recent Monday night, I joined Allen and three other women in the studio while a half-dozen others joined remotely from as far away as Portland, Oregon and Austin (both Texas and Minnesota) for a class on painting folk art.

"Leave your intimidation at the door," said Allen, with the cadence of a Zen master. "Give yourself a little grace," she said.

With small palettes holding colorful dabs of gouache — an opaque water-based paint — Allen instructed the class to start the warm-up session by drawing straight lines. Next was making lines while rolling the brush back and forth, and then came delicate leaves and flowers made by pressing down the fat part of the brush and lifting it up at



Middle: Amanda Raetzman, of rural Pennock, said she had "zero" ability as a painter when she first started coming to Allen's classes in 2017. She completed this painting on a recent Monday night. Above: Artist Kristin Allen teaches painting classes every Monday night out of her New London studio, Greenwater Garage + Gallery. On a recent Monday night, she taught her class — including those who have never painted before and those who have painted many things — how to paint a sampling of flowers. Contributed / Kristin Allen

the fine point. I ended up with squiggles and blobs.

"Failure is 50% of making art," said Allen, as I lamented my results.

"It's probably more, probably a greater percentage than 50%, but I like to say 50 because at least it sounds a little bit optimistic," said Allen, with a laugh.

But creating art isn't necessarily about what ends up on the paper, she said. It's about belonging and being part of a community.

"I believe the process of making art is transformative and that when we gather around the same work table, art-making has the power to build community," she said. "The most important thing about what I'm doing here is not necessarily getting you to paint, but getting you to connect," she said. "And then you belong to something. We belong to each other." Those in the laughy

night painting class included newbies and oldies.

Holly Mossberg, of Spicer, just started coming a couple of weeks ago, and Shannah Anderson, the woman from Oregon who found the class on Eventbrite, has attended every class online for an entire year.

Some clearly had painting skills before enrolling, but Amanda Raetzman, of rural Pennock, said she had "zero" ability as a painter when she first started coming to Allen's classes in 2017.

"I didn't think I was capable at all," said Raetzman, who wow'd the class Monday with her folk art painting of flowers in a teacup.

Raetzman had been into knitting but, while being a caretaker to her mother, who died in 2019, Raetzman found it too difficult to concentrate on her textile craft and started painting. "It was what my heart

needed in general," said Raetzman of the painting classes.

Allen said there's something powerful about using your hands to make art.

"It's not as much about what gouache you use, and what paper, and did you do the brush stroke correctly but (rather) it's part of you doing something with your hands," she said. "And this is what my grandmother would have told me — if you do something with your hands it will ease your mind. It softens the struggle."

Naomi Noeldner, an accomplished artist from New London, said Allen's ability to draw people into making art.

"Kristin is not only an incredible encourager of people of any skill, she's constantly encouraging people to just start," Noeldner said. "You can have no plan of wanting to do art, but spend a little time with her, she'll

help you find what clicks with you and the next thing you know your creativity has been unleashed," Noeldner said.

"She just starts a spark," she said. "It might not be this art form, but she's got so many tricks up her sleeve, she's an absolute gift to this community."

Although my attempts at leaves and flowers looked like nothing more than blotches of paint, the draw of belonging to a community of creativity was strong enough that I just might walk through the door again, remembering to leave my intimidation on the other side.

For more information about the weekly painting and drawing classes at the Greenwater Garage + Gallery, go to the website [www.greenwatergarage.com](http://www.greenwatergarage.com) or email at [kristin@greenwatergarage.com](mailto:kristin@greenwatergarage.com).

West Central Tribune reporter Carolyn Lange wrote this story prior to her retirement in early February.



HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Bounce ideas around in your head for a while. Consider the pros and cons, and come up with the best approach to life, love and happiness.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pull yourself together and target what you must accomplish. Show resilience, regardless of the distractions you encounter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a low-key position when working in groups, and pay attention to detail. You want to make sure that what you present to others far exceeds their expectations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put more emphasis on home and family. If your surroundings are easy to navigate and your relationships copacetic, it will make it easier to manage your responsibilities.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't take everything others say to heart. Take on a project that requires ingenuity and creativity. Discuss your intentions with someone you love, and the input you receive will give you the push you need to move forward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on whatever brings the highest returns financially, professionally and contractually. Take a leap of faith, and enforce change that alters your course.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Share your feelings, concerns and plans with someone you love. Personal growth will lead to a better understanding of life, love and how to achieve happiness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Fancy footwork is required if you want to make a domestic home. Controlling your environment, overhead and future will be easy if you let others think they have a say.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Deal with red-tape issues. Having a clear path forward will make it easier to reach your goal. Think outside the box, and you'll develop a foolproof plan that is well-received by others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put everything in place, and leave no room for unnecessary adjustments. Establish what you want to do, and refuse to let anyone stand in your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let depression consume you. Shared expenses are not a good idea, and don't invest in someone else's future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider what's possible and forge ahead. Don't wait for someone to step in and take over. Do your own thing, and take credit for what you accomplish.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Rely on the information you receive firsthand. Trust in your instincts, common sense and experience to know what to take on and what to leave alone.

Birthday Baby: You are fine-tuned, unique and unpredictable. You are intriguing and diehard.

Eugenia Last may be reached at 1-900-451-5571 or www.eugenialast.com.

We have different interests

Dr. Wallace: I've been dating my current boyfriend for about six months now, and things have been pretty great. We get along really well, and I feel as though I can be my true, authentic self around him and tell him anything.



ROBERT WALLACE 'Tween 12 and 20

My boyfriend absolutely loves sports, for example, and watches football games religiously, but I don't care for football at all and have always been more of an artsy person than an athlete.

I've read online that differences in relationships can be healthy, and for the most part, I feel like that has been the case in our relationship. Even though I often find myself wishing that we could bond over shared interests, I love my boyfriend for the person he is and wouldn't want to try to change him.

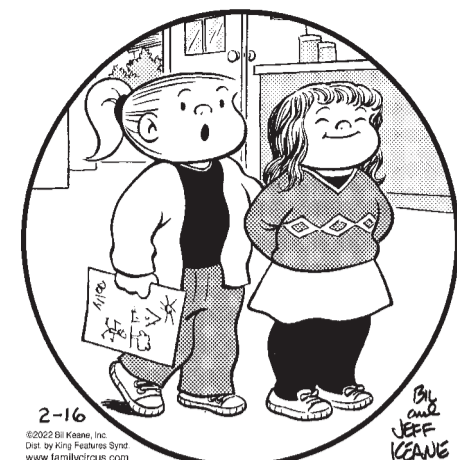
us to have a strong, long-lasting relationship despite the fact that we are total opposites in some ways? — A Hopeful Romantic

A Hopeful Romantic: I think it is perfectly fine that you and your boyfriend have different interests, as long as both of you choose to respect these differences. You don't have to care for sports, for example, but you should encourage your boyfriend to engage in the hobbies and pastimes that he enjoys.

Couples typically enter into dangerous territory when they begin to mock each other's interests out of frustration, and so I would encourage the two of you to avoid doing this at all costs. If one of you begins to feel jealous about the time that the other is spending on their hobbies, have an honest conversation about it and find ways to achieve greater balance between time spent together and time spent apart.

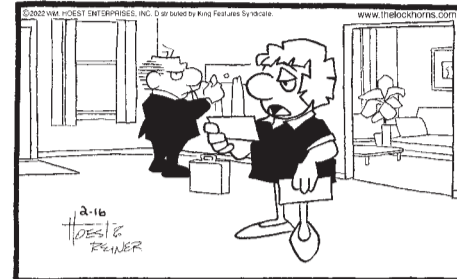
Dr. Wallace may be reached at rwallace@thegreatestgift.com.

FAMILY CIRCUS | BY BIL KEANE



"Whitney is lucky. She's been schooled at home and gets to use her own bathroom."

LOCKHORNS | BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



"IS THIS LIKE ONE OF THOSE MAGIC EYE PICTURES THAT IF YOU STARE AT IT LONG ENOUGH YOU SEE A RAISE?"

MARMADUKE | BY BRAD ANDERSON



"I put his supper dish in there because he wanted to feel like he is roughing it."

Reflections on customer service

Dear Readers: You overwhelmed me with interesting replies to "Too Impersonal," the letter saying that there is a lack of customer service today. Here is a sampling:



ANNIE LANE Dear Annie

Dear Annie: I'm younger and, on the flip side, most people of my generation hate talking on the phone and also find the internet easier and better for many reasons.

all answers to your questions are typed out and on record, so you won't accidentally be screwed by a person giving you a wrong answer. You also can go back and reference them when

needed. I see all of these things as customer service, just a different form. I honestly get very frustrated when I email a question and get called back, because then I have no record of what I was told, and if it was wrong, I'm stuck with no recourse or defense. — Millennial

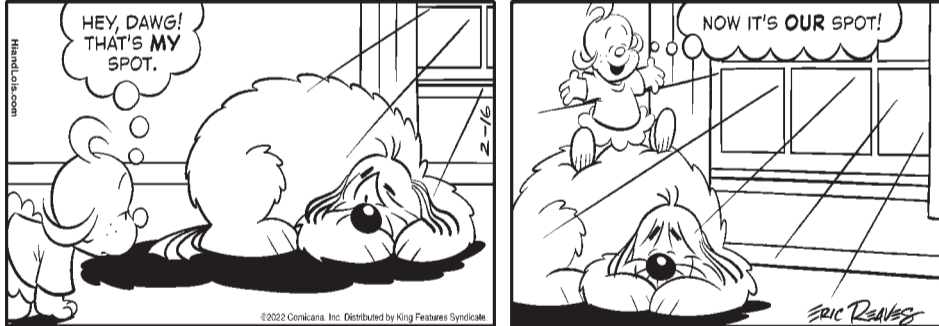
Dear Annie: I am approaching my 40s and have worked in customer service my whole life. What many call "efficiency" is essentially taking resources away from the workers at the bottom — call centers, grocery stores, doctor's offices — in the name of cost effectiveness.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

NON SEQUITUR | BY WILLEY MILLER



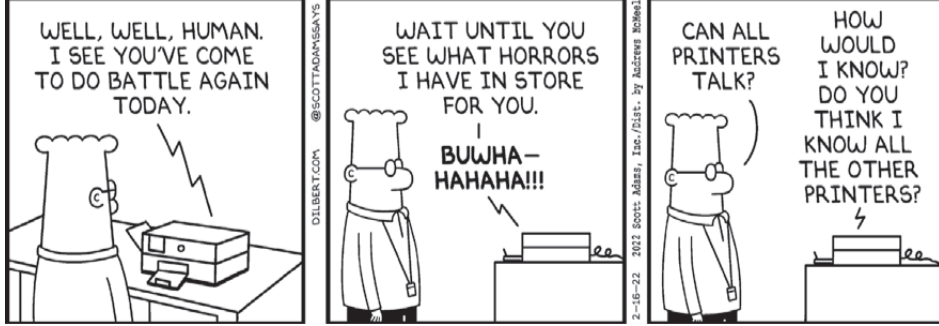
HI AND LOIS | BY BRIAN AND GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



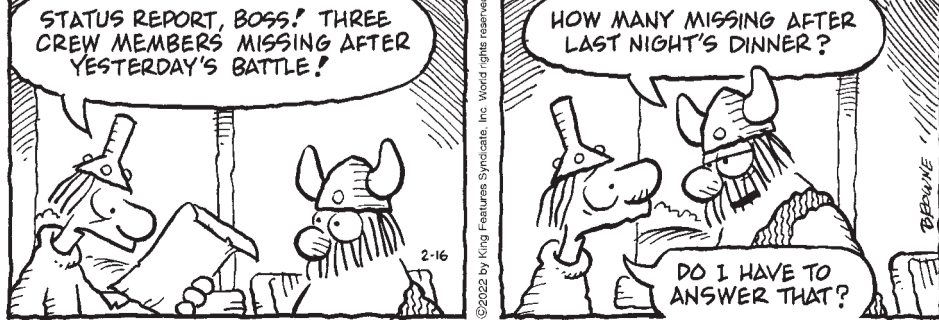
GARFIELD | BY JIM DAVIS



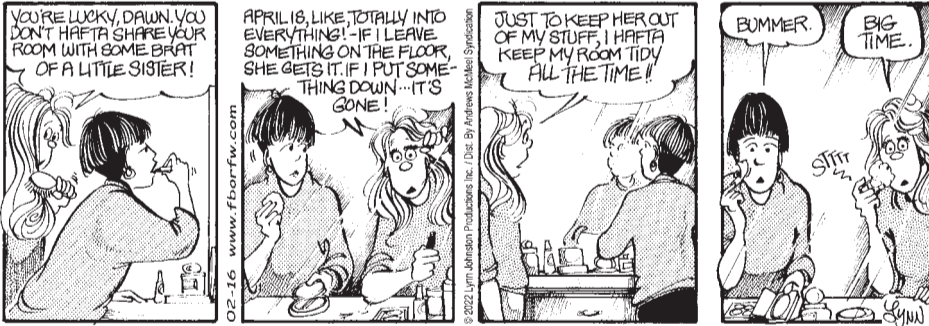
DILBERT | BY SCOTT ADAMS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | BY CHRIS BROWNE



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | BY LYNN JOHNSTON



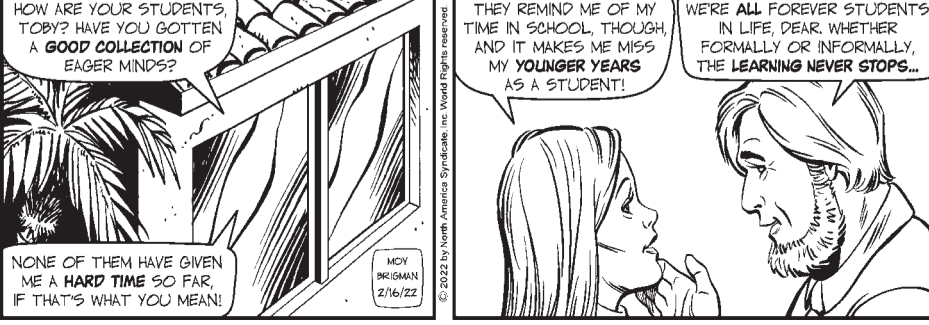
ZITS | BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BEETLE BAILEY | BY MORT WALKER



MARY WORTH | BY KAREN MOY AND JOE GIELLA







US sea levels rising at alarming pace, Page 2

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Baldwin sued for death, Page 4

How to lower your grocery costs when prices are soaring, Page 5

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA

## Biden to Putin: Step back from the brink of war

# Invasion still a strong possibility as some Russian troops reportedly withdraw

By Trevor Hunnicutt and Steve Holland  
Reuters

Washington President Joe Biden made an impassioned appeal to Russian President Vladimir Putin to step back from war with Ukraine on Tuesday, speaking starkly of the "needless death and destruction" Moscow could cause and international outrage Putin would face.

In a nationally televised speech, Biden said the United States estimates that 150,000 Russian troops now encircle Ukraine, a higher number than previous estimates of about 100,000. He said reports that some forces had withdrawn were welcome, but they were unverified and an invasion remained very much a possibility.

Biden said diplomacy remains a live option to wind down the crisis and urged Russia to engage. If Russia invades Ukraine, the United States and its allies are prepared to respond with penalties aimed at exacting



People gather at the Pantheon to call for peace between Ukraine and Russia on Tuesday in Rome. Guglielmo Mangiapane / Reuters

economic pain and global isolation, he said. "The United States is prepared no matter what happens," he said. Much of Biden's remarks were aimed squarely at Putin, who has demanded that NATO not accept Ukraine as a member

and stop any further eastward expansion. Biden's threats of repercussions for Russia have yet to persuade Putin to back down. "The United States and NATO are not a threat to Russia. Ukraine is not threatening Russia. Neither the U.S.

nor NATO have missiles in Ukraine. We do not, do not have plans to put them there as well. We are not targeting the people of Russia. We do not seek to destabilize Russia," said Biden. The American president also appealed directly to Russian

citizens. "To the citizens of Russia: you are not our enemy, and I don't believe you want a bloody, destructive war against Ukraine," Biden said. The human and strategic costs would be "immense" for Russia

if it attacks, he said. "The world would not forget that Russia chose needless death and destruction," Biden said. The president said the United States is "not seeking direct confrontation with Russia" and that American soldiers were not going to fight in Ukraine. But, he said if Russia were to attack Americans in Ukraine, "we will respond forcefully." He warned that a Russian invasion would cause "consequences here at home," including energy costs. The speech came on a day that Ukraine said it had been hit by a cyberattack and appeared to blame Russia. Biden issued a warning for Russia not to engage in cyberattacks. "If Russia attacks the United States or our allies through asymmetric means like disruptive cyberattacks against our companies or critical infrastructure, we're prepared to respond," he said.



Elizabeth Frantz / Reuters U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) pauses while speaking to reporters following the Senate Republicans weekly policy lunch Tuesday at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Biden's Fed nominees are in limbo after Republicans boycotted a key vote.

## Biden's Fed nominees in limbo

Republicans boycott vote in protest of Biden's pick for Wall Street regulator

By David Morgan, Pete Schroeder and Lindsay Dunsmuir  
Reuters

U.S. Senate action on President Joe Biden's five nominees to the Federal Reserve stalled Tuesday after Republicans boycotted a key vote over objections to Sarah Bloom Raskin, the White House's pick to be the central bank's Wall Street regulator.

Senate Banking Committee Chair Sherrod Brown delayed a vote on the slate, which includes Fed Chair Jerome Powell, after none of the 12 Republicans showed up for a scheduled vote Tuesday afternoon.

Senator Pat Toomey, the top Republican on the committee, had called on fellow Republicans to skip the vote, citing what he said were unanswered questions about Raskin's past role on the board of a fintech company.

The development comes as the U.S. central bank is gearing up to raise interest rates to combat the highest inflation in 40 years.

"Instead of showing up to work, to do their job, Republicans have walked out on the American people," Brown said to the other 11 Democratic senators on the 24-member panel who gathered for the vote.

White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said the decision by Republicans to boycott the meeting was "extreme" and promised to work with Brown on a path forward for the nominations.

As of late Tuesday, that path was not clear, with Brown adamant he would not split Raskin's nomination from the rest, a solution that Toomey had proposed.

"Democrats will argue that Republicans are being hypocritical by complaining about inflation while also blocking votes on these nominees," Isaac Boltansky, policy director for brokerage BTIG, said in an email exchange. "Republicans will argue that Democrats are being unreasonable by refusing to pause on Bloom Raskin's nomination."

It is unclear, he said, "which side will blink first." Separately, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell met with Powell on Tuesday to discuss inflation and the economy.

## More data on Canadian 'Freedom Convoy' donors leaked

The anti-gov. protests have raised more than \$2M in donations

By Christopher Bing and Anna Mehler Paperny  
Reuters

WASHINGTON / TORONTO - The leak website Distributed Denial of Secrets on Tuesday said it has posted more donor files from the fundraising platform GiveSendGo relating to the Canadian movement of people opposed to pandemic health measures, including COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

On Sunday, the DDoS website, which is devoted to disseminating leaked data, said it was releasing donor information relating to the "Freedom Convoy 2022" campaign, which raised more than \$2 million in donations. It includes funds raised from several Canadian business owners.

Tuesday's leak contains donor information about a similar "Adopt-a-Trucker" campaign, which says it is operating "in partnership with the Freedom Convoy." The Adopt-a-Trucker effort appeared to raise less money and involved fewer donors.

The funding of the Canadian protests has emerged as a key point of interest as authorities in Ottawa and elsewhere try to get a grip on rallies led by truckers since late January that have blocked cities and border



Patrick Doyle / Reuters A person stands in front of trucks blocking Wellington Street as truckers and their supporters continue to protest against coronavirus disease vaccine mandates Tuesday in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

crossings across Canada with demands that include deposing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

GiveSendGo did not immediately respond to a request for comment about any hack or the status of its campaigns.

The Sunday data from the U.S.-based Christian fundraising site included names, email addresses, ZIP codes and internet protocol addresses. Tuesday's leak offered similar material in addition to payment details, based on a review of the data.

The new GiveSendGo data also came from a "hack" according to DDoS, which did not provide further information. The Adopt-a-Trucker campaign has pulled in nearly \$600,000, according to GiveSendGo.

DDoS said that because the donor information contained sensitive personal information, it would not be making the data available publicly but would instead be offering it to journalists and researchers. DDoS describes itself

as a nonprofit devoted to enabling the free transmission of data in the public interest.

GiveSendGo became a prime conduit for money to the protesters after mainstream crowdfunding platform GoFundMe blocked donations to the self-declared Freedom Convoy. Earlier this month the group said it had raised \$8 million for the protests.

The Ontario government obtained an injunction last week freezing GiveSendGo's "Freedom Convoy 2022" and "Adopt-A-Trucker" campaign funds. L1N2UL3GW GiveSendGo said at the time it was not subject to Canadian law and continued to fundraise.

Brad Howland, president of EasyKleen Pressure Systems Ltd, which is headquartered in New Brunswick and manufactures high-pressure cleaning systems, donated \$75,000 to GiveSendGo's "Freedom Convoy" on Feb. 9, according to leaked information confirmed by Reuters.

## Third person reported cured of HIV

By Julie Steenhuisen  
Reuters

CHICAGO - A U.S. patient with leukemia has become the first woman and the third person to date to be cured of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant from a donor who was naturally resistant to the virus that causes AIDS, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The case of a 64-year-old woman of mixed race, presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportu-

nistic Infections in Denver, is also the first involving umbilical cord blood, a newer approach that may make the treatment available to more people.

Since receiving the cord blood to treat her acute myeloid leukemia - a cancer that starts in blood-forming cells in the bone marrow - the woman has been in remission and free of the virus for 14 months, without the need for potent HIV treatments known as antiretroviral therapy.

The two prior cases occurred in males - one white and one Latino - who had received adult stem cells, which are more frequently used in bone marrow transplants.

"This is now the third report of a cure in this setting, and the first in a woman living with HIV," Sharon Lewin, President-Elect of the International AIDS Society, said in a statement.

The case is part of a larger U.S.-backed study led by Dr. Yvonne Bryson of the Univer-

sity of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. It aims to follow 25 people with HIV who undergo a transplant with stem cells taken from umbilical cord blood for the treatment of cancer and other serious conditions.

Patients in the trial first undergo chemotherapy to kill off the cancerous immune cells. Doctors then transplant stem cells from individuals with a specific genetic muta-

tion in which they lack receptors used by the virus to infect cells.

Scientists believe these individuals then develop an immune system resistant to HIV.

Lewin said bone marrow transplants are not a viable strategy to cure most people living with HIV. But the report "confirms that a cure for HIV is possible and further strengthens using gene therapy as a viable strategy for an HIV cure," she said.

## Prince Andrew settles abuse case

### Royal watchers say his reputation will likely never recover

By Andrew MacAskill  
and Kate Holton  
Reuters

LONDON - Prince Andrew's decision to settle a claim that he sexually assaulted a teenage girl decades ago may bring an end to his legal difficulties but the damage done to his reputation means he is unlikely to ever play a role in public life again.

The settlement by the 61-year-old Duke of York includes an undisclosed payment to Virginia Giuffre, a woman who had accused him of sexually abusing her when she was a teenager. The settlement, revealed on Tuesday in a Manhattan court filing, said he had never intended to malign her character.

That marked a stunning reversal after his lawyers previously accused Giuffre of seeking a payday with a "baseless" lawsuit, a strategy that drew condemnation from women's rights groups. Andrew had said as recently as late January that he wanted the case to be heard before a U.S. jury.

Royal biographers and commentators said after the settlement that Andrew would likely not be able to resume a public role, while Britons who spoke to Reuters said the case had done huge damage to the whole family.

Insurance worker Anthony Joho, 21, said the allegations had shredded the mystique of a family that is supposed to

represent the nation.

"Once the flaws come out and you see the actual human within them, which is the allegations, the problems they've had, I think that's the problem now. It's hard to maintain their actual role as a royal family," he said.

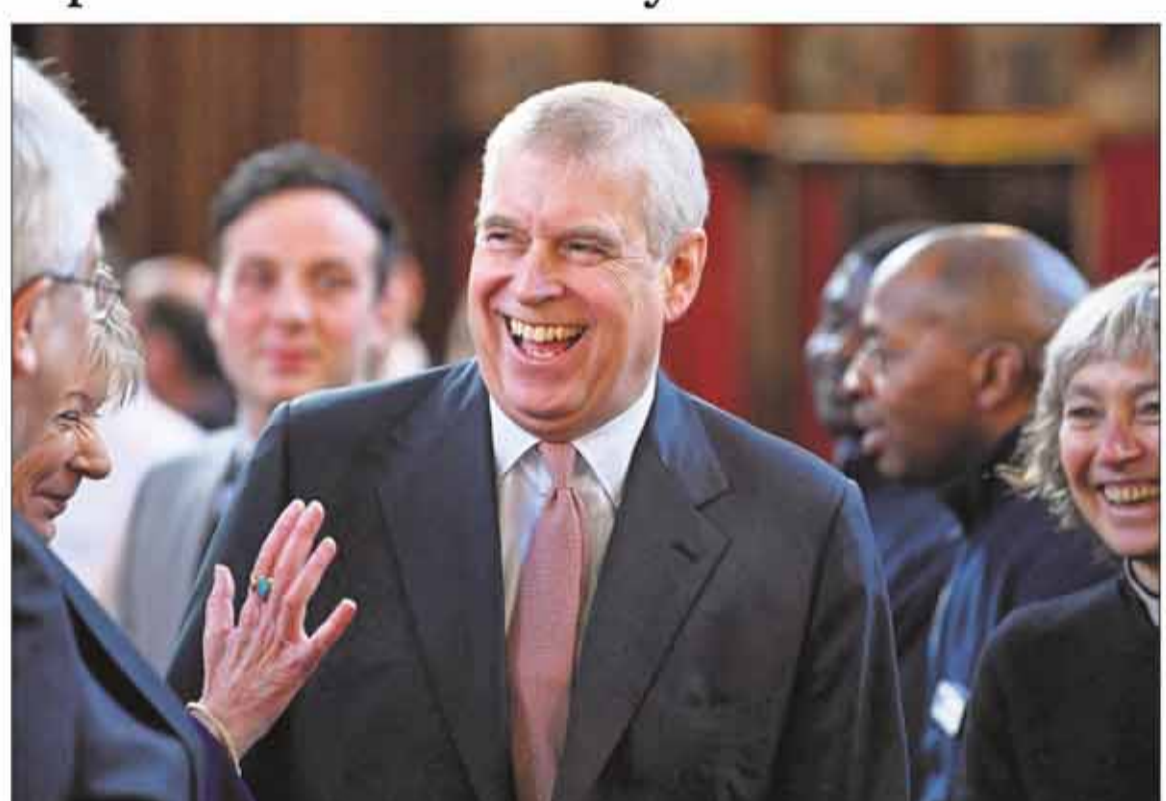
At the heart of the case was the late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a friend of Andrew's through his associate Ghislaine Maxwell. Giuffre had accused Epstein of trafficking her for sex.

Maxwell was found guilty of helping Epstein sexually abuse teenage girls in December.

Royal biographer Penny Junor told Reuters that Andrew's previous failure to show any support for Epstein's victims had been unforgivable. "He came across as a really unsympathetic figure," she said.

Andrew has always denied that he forced Giuffre to have sex more than two decades ago at the London home of Maxwell, Epstein's mansion in Manhattan, and Epstein's private island in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The prince did not admit wrongdoing in the settlement.

In a bid to put the matter to rest, he gave a rare and disastrous interview to the BBC in 2019, saying he had no recollection of Giuffre and that he did not regret ties with Epstein because of all the business people he had met in the process.



Toby Melville / Reuters File Photo

Britain's Prince Andrew, pictured in 2018, who was accompanying Queen Elizabeth, will likely never recover his reputation after settling a claim that he sexually abused a teenage girl, royal watchers say.

Asked if he had questioned why young women were also traveling with Epstein, Andrew replied that while he did not "wish to appear grand," he had grown up in a palace with staff.

"As far as I was aware, they were staff," he said.

Shortly afterwards Andrew stepped back from royal duties, and in January he was

further stripped of his military links and royal patronages, and gave up his "Royal Highness" title.

Charles Rae, a former royal correspondent at the Sun newspaper, said the settlement would at least prevent a potentially lurid court case from taking place in the same year Queen Elizabeth celebrates her 70th year on the

throne.

"I should imagine that there is a big sigh of relief at Buckingham Palace," he said.

Andrew's very public fall from grace has come at a difficult time for the British royal family, which has also faced accusations of racism in the household from the queen's grandson Prince Harry and his wife Meghan.

## US sea levels rising at alarming pace, NOAA finds

By Steve Gorman  
Reuters

The United States is expected to experience as much sea level rise from climate change over the next 30 years as occurred in the previous century, according to a Tuesday report led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The study projects that sea levels along the U.S. coastline will rise 10-12 inches on average by 2050, leading to a "profound" increase in the frequency of coastal flooding, even in the absence of heavy rains or storms.

In addition to bouts of coastal inundation associated with storm surges, rising sea levels are leading to increasing episodes of flooding from

high tides alone.

Damaging floods typical of today's sea levels, weather conditions and infrastructure are expected to occur more than 10 times as often in the next 30 years, Nicole LeBoeuf, director NOAA's National Ocean Service, said in a summary of the report.

Put another way, she said, a single flooding event likely to damage property or commerce in coastal areas of the Southeastern United States every four to five years on average will be expected to strike four to five times a year by 2050.

"I can tell you with complete confidence, that these are not the kind of changes that we grew up with," LeBoeuf, a native of the Texas Gulf Coast. "Make no mistake,

sea level rise is upon us."

The study is designed as a planning tool to mitigate and adapt to rising sea levels predicted with a high degree of certainty over the next three decades, regardless of any efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet, NOAA officials said.

"This report is a wakeup call to the United States," NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad told reporters.

Gina McCarthy, the White House national climate advisor to U.S. President Joe Biden agreed.

"This new data on sea rise is the latest reconfirmation that our climate crisis - as the president has said - is blinking 'code red,'" McCarthy said in a summary of the study.



Ray Acevedo / USA TODAY Sports

The U.S. is expected to experience as much sea level rise from climate change over the next 30 years as occurred in the previous century, according to a NOAA report released Tuesday.

### BRIEFS

**Ottawa police chief resigns as Canadian border protesters retreat**

OTTAWA/CALGARY, Alberta - Ottawa's police chief resigned on Tuesday after criticism that he did not do enough to stop COVID-19 protests that have paralyzed Canada's capital city and forced Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to invoke emergency powers.

**US to inspect new 787 Dreamliners, says Boeing cannot self-certify**

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Tuesday said it would perform final inspections on new Boeing BA.N 787

Dreamliner aircraft, and will not allow the planemaker to self-certify the jets.

The U.S. aviation regulator said it notified Boeing of the decision that it will retain the authority to issue airworthiness certificates until it is confident "Boeing's quality control and manufacturing processes consistently produce 787s that meet FAA design standards."

**Ethiopia's parliament lifts state of emergency early**

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's parliament on Tuesday voted for an early end to a six-month state of emergency, effective immediately, adding

to signs that a bloody conflict between the government and rebellious Tigrayan forces could be easing.

The war in Africa's second-largest nation has largely ground to a stalemate, and diplomats helping to mediate between the two sides are cautiously optimistic that progress towards peace is being made.

**Seven dead, others feared drowned after Spanish trawler sinks off Canada**

MADRID - At least seven crew from a Spanish trawler have died and three were plucked from a life raft after their ship sank off the Canadi-

an coast on Tuesday, an official said, as rescuers searched for more survivors in the bitterly cold Atlantic waters.

The vessel, the Villa de Pitanxo, with a crew of 26 comprising 16 Spaniards, five Peruvians and five Ghanaians, launched a distress beacon at 0424 GMT, Spain's fisheries ministry said.

**White House, Democrats discussing pause in gasoline tax**

WASHINGTON - The White House and Democratic congressional leaders are discussing a pause on federal taxes on gasoline to help offset rising prices, lawmakers said Tuesday.

**Senate leaders joust over how to tame rising inflation**

WASHINGTON - Raging inflation in the United States took center-stage in the Senate on Tuesday, as Democrats focused on legislative efforts to ease the problem and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell met with Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on the matter.

With public opinion polls highlighting Americans' discontent over rising consumer prices for everything from groceries to gasoline, Senate Democrats met in private to discuss an array of possible moves to address inflation.



Cris Faga / NurPhoto / Zuma Press / TNS

People walk in the commercial center of Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Oct. 18, 2021, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The remote-work revolution has led some U.S. technology companies to seek new hires in Latin America.

## US Energy Dept. plans hydrogen initiatives

**\$8 billion set aside in bipartisan infrastructure bill for hydrogen projects**

By Riley Beggin  
The Detroit News

WASHINGTON — The Department of Energy on Tuesday announced it is requesting information on how to spend billions of dollars in new funding for hydrogen projects approved through the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

The hydrogen initiatives were among several projects announced Tuesday as part of a Biden administration push to decarbonize the industrial sector, including a new “Buy Clean” task force that will encourage low-carbon federal purchases, new guidance and transparency requirements for carbon-capture projects, and funding for industrial energy assessment trainings.

The Energy Department will spend \$8 billion on at least four hydrogen “hubs” across the United States that will build out a network for producing, processing, delivering and storing hydrogen.

“We know that clean hydrogen can reduce emissions in many sectors of the economy, especially in heavy industries like steel manufacturing and fertilizer production, and create brand new jobs and pause every stage of deployment,” a senior administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Under the infrastructure law, the hubs must support different types of hydrogen production and use — including hubs that can produce hydrogen from fossil fuels, nuclear energy and renewable energy. At least one hub must produce hydrogen that can be used in transportation, industry, power generation, and heating.

The focus on multiple types of hydrogen has been controversial, with some environmental groups raising concerns that it would lengthen the life of fossil fuel industries and others arguing it has a role in decarbonizing areas that would otherwise be hard to reach.

Administration officials said they will issue a formal solicitation on spending the \$8 billion after the request for information from companies, environmental groups and other experts, which will help determine how to structure the hubs and how many there should be.

The auto industry has largely turned to electricity as the low-emission fuel of the future, but industry analysts say hydrogen can be useful in cutting emissions in uses where batteries would be too expensive or heavy, such as aviation and long-haul trucking.

Automakers continue to invest in hydrogen fuel cells, including General Motors Co., Stellantis NV, Toyota Motor Corp., BMW AG and Volkswagen AG. GM announced last month that it would supply fuel cell power systems to a generator and rapid-charging company based in Utah.

The Department of Energy also launched a \$1 billion program Tuesday for research into clean hydrogen electrolysis, the method of producing hydrogen from renewable energy such as wind and solar power. It also announced \$500 million for a research and development program for manufacturing and recycling clean hydrogen-related equipment.

DOE is aiming to reduce the cost of clean hydrogen by 80% within a decade to \$1 per kilogram and announced \$28 million for research and development of engineering projects for industrial, electricity and transportation-related clean hydrogen.

## Hunt for home workers

US tech firms search for cheap remote hires in Latin America

By Augusta Saraiva  
Bloomberg News

The remote-work revolution has led some U.S. technology companies, from startups to Coinbase Inc. and Shopify Inc., to seek new hires in Latin America — where they can find qualified people in roughly the same time zone who’ll work for much lower pay.

It’s a logical extension of the pandemic work-from-home drift away from hubs like San Francisco and New York to less expensive locations — including across national borders. And the way currencies have shifted in the pandemic is only reinforcing the trend.

Brazil, in particular, has become steadily more appealing to those with dollars to spend. The Brazilian real has lost more than a fourth of its value since the beginning of the pandemic. Other Latin American currencies including the Argentinian peso and Colombian peso are also among the big underperformers of the past two years.

That’s why when someone like Alexandre Rocco is hired by a Silicon Valley startup, the deal looks attractive for both sides.

The Sao Paulo resident got a LinkedIn message from Brazilian headhunter Revelo in May, asking if he’d ever considered working for a U.S. firm. The 41-year-old said he’d always been curious about the idea, but had thought there’d be complex barriers to overcome. That turned out not to be the case, and within months he was working from his home as

an engineering manager for San Francisco-based startup Walrus Health.

Rocco says he’s aware that he’s likely to be paid less in dollar terms than a U.S. hire would be. But it’s still a good deal for him. He says his pay went up by about 40% when he switched jobs, while declining to disclose his exact salary.

### ‘So, so, so hot’

At the other end of the bargain, Walrus is benefiting from a cheaper labor pool abroad, at a time when U.S. businesses are being forced to raise wages because of inflationary pressures at home. “The Bay Area just got so, so, so hot,” according to Kimball Thomas, the chief executive officer of Walrus.

Thomas had lived in Brazil in the 2010s and knows that — despite some additional bureaucracy — “salaries are dramatically lower there.” He ended up hiring a handful of Brazil-based programmers, including Rocco, who now make up half his development team. “This is not an ad hoc solution,” Thomas said. “We really want it to work long term, and we want to invest in it.”

The idea could prove attractive for a U.S. tech industry that may face a shortage of at least 1.2 million tech workers by 2030, according to a report by consulting firm Korn Ferry.

In recent months, the number of foreign companies hiring from Latin America has increased by 156%, the most of any world region, with software engineers leading the recruiting rally, according

to a report by global hiring company Deel.

Cultural similarities and a qualified pool of talent also help make Latin America a tempting market. This allows employers to “connect right away” with local workers, said Pepe Villatoro, regional head of expansion at Deel. “They hit the ground running.”

The average tech salary fell by 1.1% in major U.S. hubs in 2021, the first decline in five years, according to a report by tech marketplace Hired. Meanwhile the rest of the world was catching up, with global tech pay rising 6.2%.

Salaries for Latin America-based junior positions posted on Revelo’s platform have increased almost 50% to about \$89,000 since the start of the pandemic. If more jobs are subject to international competition, the gap may continue to narrow.

“If I’m hiring a person in Cleveland, why not just hire a person in Bogota?” Josh Brenner, CEO of Hired, said in an interview. “They’re both remote, they’re both on the same time zone. And I can do that in a much more cost-efficient way right now.”

### Job hunting

From the beach town of Florianopolis in southern Brazil, Janaina Coelho makes between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per month working as a quality-assurance developer for Los Angeles-based hospitality startup AvantStay.

Before the 32-year-old developer quit her job at a Brazilian information technology company last year, Coelho said she wasn’t considering switching to a for-

eign company. But then she started getting offers — and the promise of a salary in dollars and the option for remote work sounded attractive.

“Why did I go job hunting abroad? Because foreign companies began reaching out,” Coelho said. “Every week I began receiving new proposals.”

Pia Orrenius, vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, says that offshoring tech positions may not be as easy as it seems. The boom decades ago in overseas business outsourcing relied largely on cheaper English-speaking workforces like India. Replicating that with tech workers in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin America will be harder to do on a large scale.

“Good luck finding people who speak fluent English,” said Orrenius, a labor economist. “There’s a lot of limits on the extent that employers can do this.”

But for Lucas Mendes, co-founder of Revelo, those companies seeking talent abroad now are getting ahead of what will soon become a necessity.

Mendes says the pandemic-driven remote boom has led the Sao Paulo-based recruiting company to expand fivefold, and that has attracted clients ranging from up-and-coming startups to big-name clients, including Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and GitHub Inc.

“The pandemic turned a local market into a global one,” Mendes said. “The genie is out of the bottle.”

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## GM to bring back Bolt production after months-long shutdown

By Kalea Hall  
The Detroit News

General Motors Co. will bring back production of the Chevrolet Bolt EV and EUV the week of April 4 after a months-long shutdown as it worked through a recall on the products, the automaker told employees Tuesday.

GM in August recalled more than 141,000 Bolts for battery fire risk and has kept the Orion Township, MI, plant the week of April 4, 2022,” GM spokesman Dan Flores said in a statement. “We remain committed to Bolt EV and EUV and this decision will allow us to simultaneously replace battery modules and resume retail sales soon, which were strong before the recall.”

Bolts since last fall.

“We appreciate the patience customers have shown throughout the recall. While continuing to complete module replacements, GM will resume production at its Orion Township, MI, plant the week of April 4, 2022,” GM spokesman Dan Flores said in a statement. “We remain committed to Bolt EV and EUV and this decision will allow us to simultaneously replace battery modules and resume retail sales soon, which were strong before the recall.”

GM wouldn’t specify how many battery modules it has

replaced so far, but Flores said: “We’re continuing to complete more replacements each day. As a result of this progress and our supplier’s ability to provide more module production, we feel confident we can balance replacements along with new retail production.”

The Detroit automaker recalled the Bolts, its only electric products at the time, while in the midst of an EV transition. GM aspires to have a zero-emissions lineup by 2035 and wants to deliver 400,000 EVs in North America by the end of 2023.

Since an initial recall on

certain model year Bolts in November 2020, GM has confirmed 18 Bolt battery fires globally. There have been minor injuries and no deaths. GM and battery supplier LG Energy Solution discovered two “rare” manufacturing defects, a torn anode tab and folded separator, as the root cause of the fires. LG’s affiliate company, LG Electronics Inc. of South Korea, agreed to let GM recover \$1.9 billion for the battery fire recall. The cost of the recall is estimated at \$2 billion.

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Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles Times / TNS

A candlelight vigil is held at IATSE Local 80 in Burbank, California, on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, for director of photography Halyna Hutchins. Hutchins' family has filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the producers of the film "Rust."

## Baldwin sued for death

### Family of 'Rust' cinematographer killed on set files lawsuit for wrongful death

By Anousha Sakoui  
Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles

The family of Halyna Hutchins, a cinematographer killed on the set of the movie "Rust," has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the film's producers.

The lawsuit is the latest in a wave of litigation against producers sparked by the shooting in New Mexico that sent shock waves through Hollywood and renewed calls for stricter gun safety measures on film sets.

Hutchins, 42, died Oct. 21 after being struck by a bullet when actor Alec Baldwin fired a gun during a rehearsal. The bullet also hit director Joel Souza but he recovered.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Hutchins' husband, Matthew, an attorney who works out of the LA office of Latham & Watkins, and their son, Aldous, against Rust Movie Productions LLC, Baldwin, 3rd Shift Media and other producers of the film.

The suit, filed in Santa Fe,

New Mexico, also names first assistant director David Halls, armorer Hannah Gutierrez Reed and prop master Sarah Zachry.

"Defendant Baldwin and the other defendants in this case failed to perform industry standard safety checks and follow basic gun safety rules while using real guns to produce the movie Rust with fatal consequences," said the complaint filed in Santa Fe County District Court.

The litigation is the highest-profile claim to date against producers, who've also been sued by crew members who witnessed the incident, including by script supervisor Mamie Mitchell and gaffer Serge Svetnoy.

It also comes amid an ongoing criminal investigation into the incident by the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office that has focused on the actions of Gutierrez Reed, Halls and Baldwin. Investigators have been trying to determine how a live bullet wound up on the set of "Rust."

According to law enforcement documents, during a rehearsal

Halls handed Baldwin a replica of a vintage Colt .45 pistol, pronouncing it "cold" to signal there was no ammunition inside. But the gun contained dummy rounds and at least one lead bullet.

Gutierrez Reed had loaded the weapons that day, according to affidavits filed by the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office. But she told sheriff's detectives that she didn't realize that actual bullets were contained in a new box of ammunition that arrived on set that day.

She told the detectives she checked Baldwin's gun that day before the unscheduled rehearsal, although she "didn't really check it too much," because the weapon had been locked in a safe during a lunch break.

Gutierrez Reed also complained to deputies that she was stretched too thin performing her props role and was unaware that a rehearsal was taking place. Santa Fe County authorities have not said where the live bullets came from.

The family hired the law firm of Panish Shea Boyle Ravipudi, a Los Angeles-based law firm that specializes in personal injury and wrongful death claims.

Originally from the Ukraine, Hutchins was killed just as her career was beginning to take off in a largely male-dominated field.

Hutchins graduated from the American Film Institute Conservatory in 2015 and had been selected as one of American Cinematographer's Rising Stars of 2019.

She was starting to make a bigger name for herself after a string of indie features like "Archenemy," "Blindfire" and "The Mad Hatter."

Before getting into feature films, she worked as an investigative journalist on British documentary productions.

Her death highlighted the difficult working conditions, including long working hours, many crew members face on film sets.

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## Michael Che turns down Kanye's bribe

### West offered to double his salary to stop working with Pete Davidson

By Brian Niemietz  
New York Daily News

"Saturday Night Live" standout Michael Che declined Kanye West's offer to double his salary if he stopped working with actor Pete Davidson. But only because it wasn't enough, he joked on Instagram.

According to Mediaite, the "Gold Digger" rapper posted and deleted a series of posts over the weekend blasting Davidson, who is now dating Kim Kardashian, who is divorcing West. One of those unhinged missives was reportedly aimed at Che.

"I'LL DOUBLE WHATEVER THEY PAYING YOU JUST SO YOU DONT HAVE TO LOOK AT THAT PAWN EVER AGAIN BIG LOVE," the mercurial rapper wrote.

To prove he was in control of his Instagram account,

West also posted video of himself holding a notepad with Sunday's date written on it amid assurance that his social media hadn't been hacked.

Che responded by posting photos of handwritten messages on a notepad similar to West's, starting with one that reads "Sorry Ye, but I would never betray my friends."

But a second photo continues "For anything less than triple salary."

In another note, Che claims that means \$90,000 per year. Subsequent messages add that offer from West would also have to include medical and dental insurance, four weeks' vacation and a corner office.

To sweeten the pot, Che also told West that he'd want a pair of Nike Air Yeezy 2 Red October sneakers from the Grammy-winning musician's collaboration with the sport-

ing brand.

"Size 12," Che added.

Sneakers from that collection sell for tens of thousands of dollars. Not quite finished, Che wrote on his pad "What else, What else."

Too woo Che away, West would need to record some music for Che's band "The Slapp Butts," the funnyman wrote.

He also demanded that West give him advance notice on what he's going to wear so that Che can don the same outfit so that they can look like twins. Only then, Che joked, not only would he ditch Davidson — he'd wash his hands of everyone at 30 Rockefeller Center, where "SNL" tapes.

"You do that for me, I'll Rambo that whole building," he wrote.

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Alex Edelman / AFP via Getty Images / TNS

Comedian Michael Che, pictured in 2019, declined Kanye West's offer to double his salary to stop working with actor Pete Davidson. The offer was a part of West's public harassment of his ex-wife Kim Kardashian, who is dating Davidson.



Shari L. Gross / Minneapolis Star Tribune / TNS

Using leftover pork from earlier in the week, Haley Nelson creates tacos, Feb. 3 in the kitchen of her home in St. Paul, Minnesota. Nelson has run her Cheap Recipe Blog for more than a decade, sharing ways to shop and cook cheaply. One of her tips is cooking meat and repurposing it throughout the week in several recipes.

## How to lower your grocery costs when prices are soaring

By Nicole Norfleet  
Star Tribune

Grocery runs have gotten more expensive. Anyone who has taken a look at their receipts in the last few months can tell that prices have gone up on nearly everything from chicken wings to milk as inflation levels reached heights we haven't seen in decades.

The cost of food that people eat at home rose 6.5% in December compared to the same month the year before. That's well above what people were used to. Over the last 20 years, the cost of supermarket purchases rose about 2% a year on average.

"If you are not careful, you are going to have a full cart and be shocked at how much you spent," said Haley Nelson of St. Paul, Minnesota, who has shared low-cost recipes on her blog Cheap Recipe Blog for more than a decade.

Inflation may slow this spring and summer from last year, but price increases may still be higher than normal.

Here are some ways you can plan and shop to better stretch your grocery budget:

### Plan your trip and don't get distracted

When is the last time you really looked in your pantry? The first step is to take stock of what's in your fridge and cupboards. That will prevent you from buying items you already have.

Do you plan your meals? Or do you pick up whatever strikes you in the store?

"Impulse is the grocer's best friend and temptations are everywhere," said Steven Plant, a financial planner at Raymond James in Wayzata, Minnesota, who owned a local grocery store for 15 years.

### Go to the grocery store with a list.

"This is really not the time to wing it," Nelson said. Having a list helps you stay focused on what you need so you don't

overspend on extra items.

Don't shop while hungry and avoid picking up unplanned processed foods such as frozen dinners.

### Learn your store

Discover your grocery store's hidden finds such as discount sections. Many grocery stores have sections or bins with soon-to-expire food or bruised fruits that are still good to eat, said Jamie Pfuhl, president of the Minnesota Grocers Association.

Two of the best places to get deals is the bulk section of spices at local food cooperatives and the salad bar at grocery stores where you can get a small scoop of ingredients like bacon bits, Nelson said.

Having a better grasp on prices of your everyday items and the pricing of an array of stores instead of relying on just one can also be helpful.

"Broadening your horizons probably could help your household budget," Pfuhl said.

Don't forget about coupons and reward programs offered by your grocer and manufacturers. Whether it's in print or digital, coupons can still save you money, Pfuhl said. Print circulars like the ones in this paper can also alert you to good deals. Most stores also offer incentive programs where buyers can get discounts on food, gas and other perks so don't forget to swipe your card at checkout.

### Stay flexible for good deals

Sometimes you can find similar and cheaper products at another part of the grocery store. "If one doesn't need a fancy cheese from the deli department, they can often save by buying similar cheese from the dairy department," said Plant of Raymond James.

If there are products that your family uses on a regular basis, it wouldn't be a bad idea to grab it when you see it because it is still hard to keep certain popular items stocked, Pfuhl said. But try not to hoard, she warned.

Be flexible on what you buy and try different brands, different sizes of products and even a different product in the same category. "Because of supply-chain issues, if you like product X, you may need to buy product Y," Pfuhl said.

However, pay attention to the price per ounce. "Smaller sizes are another form of inflation," Plant said. For example, ice cream used to come in half-gallon (64 oz.) cartons and now many come in 48- to 56-oz. sizes.

### Stretch your meals and find substitutions

To make meals stretch, repurpose cooked food into other meals throughout the week, Nelson said. She used pork she slow-cooked recently for several meals, including a rice bowl and pulled pork tacos.

When planning meals, identify four or five typically low-cost ingredients you can sub into your diet such as bananas, chicken thighs and beans, Nelson said. "If you can save \$10 twice a week over time, that all just adds up," she said.

One substitution people are talking a lot about these days is going meatless. By far the largest increase in at-home food costs last year in the U.S. was for meat, poultry, fish and eggs — up 12.6% in December compared to the year before.

With the price of meat so high, you can save a considerable amount of money (and likely see some health benefits) if you go meatless one or two days a week or even a few meals per week, Nelson said.

"There are so many ways to make this work, even for people who are big meat eaters," she said. Oats, peanut butter, beans, lentils, rice, eggs, potatoes and other vegetables are great staple ingredients for meat-free diets and are cheap alternatives to manufactured plant-based products.

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## Biscotti are delicious year-round

It's easy to bake these traditional Italian cookies

By Carole Kotkin  
Miami Herald

Biscotti, traditional Italian cookies, are delicious treats to enjoy not just during the holidays but throughout the year.

The word "biscotti" (the singular is biscotto) is composed of two words, "bis" meaning twice, and "cotto" meaning cooked. Indeed, biscotti are typically baked in a log shape, then sliced and baked once more. It is the two-part baking process that gives biscotti its distinctive crisp texture and allows it to be dunked into coffee, tea, or vin santo (sweet wine) without immediately disintegrating.

Despite their elegant appearance, you can easily bake them yourself. The variations are endless. Some are jammed full of nuts, some have none at all; some are dipped in chocolate; others are made with dried fruit.

If you are adventurous, you can start with a basic recipe and use your imagination. The finished biscotti can be served as is, or drizzled with white or dark chocolate (or both), or sprinkled with confectioners' sugar.

### Tips:

— Take advantage of biscotti's long shelf life and bake two batches; saving one for storage. Be sure the cookies are completely cooled before storage to ensure that all the moisture has escaped. Store in an airtight container for up to one week. If they lose some crispness, reheat in a 250-degree oven for five minutes. You can freeze them for six months.

— If you want to try different combinations of fillings, cut the dough in half or thirds and add a different ingredient to each (nuts in one, chocolate chips in another, and so on).

— Biscotti dough is rather sticky so use a rubber spatula and floured hands to divide the dough into two portions for shaping into logs about 8 to 14" long. If the dough is too soft to shape, place it in the refrigerator for 20 to 30 minutes or until it's firm enough to handle. Moistening your hands slightly can make shaping easier.

— Italian-style biscotti are not made with butter so they are super-crunchy for dunking. American-style biscotti made with butter, though not ideal for dunking, are lighter and more tender.

— Allow the logs to cool for ten minutes after the first baking. Use a sharp serrated knife to cut the baked log on the diagonal into 1/2-inch slices. The more slanted the angle of the diagonal, the longer the biscotti. Cutting the logs crosswise will produce shorter biscotti.

— Brush the top of the biscotti after its first bake with an egg white

wash (1 egg white plus 1 tablespoon water) for a shiny crust.

— Replace the slices on the cookie sheet for the second baking 1/2-inch apart so air can circulate.

### Hazelnut and milk chocolate biscotti

This recipe is adapted from "One Tin Bakes Easy" by Edd Kimber, Kyle Books (\$19.99).

Vin Santo, a sweet dessert wine, is traditionally paired with biscotti, but a bubbly Risata Sparkling Rosé (\$14.99) is a good option.

Kimber writes, "This version, made with gluten-free flour, uses the perfect pairing of milk chocolate and hazelnuts, making that mug of coffee an extra special treat."

2 1/8 cups gluten-free flour (or all-purpose flour), plus extra for dusting  
3/4 teaspoon baking powder

3/4 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

Zest of 1 large orange  
2 large eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3/4 cup toasted hazelnuts (or nut of your choice)

9 ounces milk chocolate, melted

Cacao nibs, for sprinkling (optional)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Line the base of your 9 x 13-inch baking tin with parchment paper.

Place the flour, baking powder and sugar in a large bowl and mix to combine. Make a well in the middle and add the melted butter, orange zest, eggs, vanilla and hazelnuts and stir to form a firm dough. Tip it onto a well-floured work surface and cut in half. Roll each half into a sausage shape roughly 8 inches long. Place in the prepared tin and press flat so that each 'sausage' is roughly 2 inches wide.

Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until golden brown. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Carefully transfer the biscotti logs to a board and use a serrated knife to cut each into thin diagonal slices about 1/2 inch thick. Place the biscotti, cut-side down, back in the tin and bake for a further 15 minutes, or until dried out and golden. Set aside to cool completely.

Pour the melted chocolate into a glass and dip the biscotti half-way in. Let the excess chocolate drip back into the glass, then place the biscotti on a sheet of parchment paper. Sprinkle the chocolate areas with cocoa nibs, then chill until the chocolate has set.

Stored in a sealed container, the biscotti will keep for up to a week.

Yield: 20-25

Carole Kotkin is manager of the Ocean Reef Club cooking school and co-host of Food & Wine Talk on southfloridagourmet.com.

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