

BRAINERD DISPATCH

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INNOVATOR

VIDEO
For video, see www.brainerddispatch.com/

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Allison Larsen, the technology and innovation teacher at Cuyuna Range Elementary School in Crosby, was surprised Thursday with the 2022 Innovative Teacher of the Year award from Innovative Schools Project. Larsen earned a \$1,000 grant for her classroom, where she works with students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Crosby teacher wins Innovative Teacher of the Year award

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

Crosby

She built the plane while flying it. That's how Cuyuna Range Elementary School Principal Kurt Becker describes Allison Larsen. Formerly a fifth grade teacher and a technology coach, Larsen worked as the school's technology and innovation teacher for the last five years, essentially building a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, or STEAM, program from the ground up.

She works with students in kindergarten through sixth grade, implementing elements of STEAM into their education. And she does it so well she won the 2022 Innovative Teacher of the Year award from Innovative Schools Project.

"It's so exciting. It's amazing," Larsen said after being surprised with the announcement during a class Thursday, May 12.

INNOVATIVE: Page 9

Aitkin County assesses Wednesday storm damage

By Renee Richardson
Managing Editor

AITKIN — Wind creates strange damage patterns at times and the storm cells that went through Aitkin County were a prime example.

The wind picked up in the late afternoon across the lakes region but the most severe damage from the storm fronts Wednesday, May 12, hit the Aitkin area. After 4:30 p.m., the wind gusts hit, downing privacy fences across the city and just north of Aitkin. Toppled trees damaged a building, crashed on a car, blocked roads and knocked out power lines.

At the Aitkin County Fairgrounds there were three new buildings in a row. One had its door blown in with some damage to items stored inside. The second building was untouched. The third building was destroyed.

The Aitkin County sheriff's boat and water building, which is used to store equipment, was flattened. Reached by phone, Sheriff Dan Guida said the wind pulled the roof off the storage building and pulled the green auger system off the feed store roof in town. Some of the steel blew off the

DAMAGE: Page 9



Contributed / Sheriff Dan Guida

An Aitkin County fair building lies in ruins after a Wednesday storm brought damaging winds to the area.

Minnesota fishing opener approaches

By Tim Speier
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — The Minnesota fishing opener is upon the state once again as anglers put their ice shacks away and begin mixing up the 2-cycle boat gas while the industry prepares for another busy year.

Anglers looking to nab a trophy walleye Saturday, May 14, could be in for some long days this year as they search the old hot spots, looking for those early season bites.

With the lakes final-

ly transitioning to open water, Sherree Wicktor, owner of S&W Bait by North Long Lake, is looking forward to one of her busiest days of the season, Minnesota's fishing opener.

S&W Bait will be open 41 hours for opening day, from 5 a.m. Friday, May 13, to 10 p.m. Saturday and returning to regular hours Sunday.

"I think we're gonna be busy and I think the crappies are really gonna be biting," Wicktor said.

OPENER: Page 8

Severe weather in lakes area downs trees, takes out power

By Chelsey Perkins
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — An ominous-looking shelf cloud portended the arrival of severe weather Thursday night, May 12, in the Brainerd lakes area, which was soon followed by multiple reports of trees down across power lines and roadways.

The cloud, which is associated with a thunderstorm gust front and often appears turbulent, boiling or wind-torn, marched quickly through the sky in Baxter and Brainerd just after 8 p.m. The storm to which it was attached prompted tornado warnings in its path, including in Todd, Morri-

son and Wadena counties beginning shortly before 8 p.m.

It was the first line of severe weather to move in Thursday night, expected to be followed by more stormy skies throughout the night into Friday morning. As the storm front made its way into the area, a 911 caller

reported a tornado east of Pillager and a funnel cloud was reported near Nisswa. The National Weather Service had not confirmed any tornadic activity as of Thursday night.

Campers and others sought refuge from the storm in various shelters

STORM: Page 9

Brainerd mayor dons cucumber costume for kids

Badeaux promotes health benefits 'Vegetable of the Year'

VIDEO
For video, see www.brainerddispatch.com/

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

BAXTER — It's not often children welcome the sight of vegetables.

But they did at the Warrior Early Learning Center in Baxter when Brainerd Mayor Dave Badeaux appeared in

their halls as a life-sized cucumber on Thursday, May 12.

"Who likes cucumbers?" Badeaux asked the more than two dozen children before reading to them "When Cucumber Lost His Cool" by Michelle Robinson.

The mayoral visit in costume was the first

community outreach event of the year by Crow Wing Energized to promote the cucumber's win as Crow Wing County's Vegetable of the Year.

"One of the points is really to build awareness," said Karen Johnson, a Crow Wing Energized community health specialist. "We want

people to grab that vegetable of the year — especially the younger ages — instead of different food choices, like perhaps chips."

One Vegetable, One Community
The zucchini, green

CUCUMBER: Page 8

Free cucumber seeds locations

- ▶ Brainerd Family YMCA, 602 Oak St., Brainerd.
- ▶ Brainerd Public Library, 416 S. Fifth St., Brainerd.
- ▶ Crosslake Chamber of Commerce, 35446 Crow Wing County Road 3, Crosslake.
- ▶ Crow Wing County, Laurel Street, Brainerd.
- ▶ Visit Brainerd, 706 Laurel St., Brainerd.

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Boys Tennis

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Warriors stretch conference winning streak



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To catch your limit on Saturday's opener, increase your walleye IQ

By Dennis Anderson
Star Tribune



Dreamstime / TNS

Lake Cass, Kabetogama, Lake of the Woods, Leech, Winnibigoshish, Upper Red, Mille Lacs, Pepin, Rainy and Vermilion account for about 40% of Minnesota anglers' annual walleye harvest.

Mille Lacs, Pepin, Rainy and Vermilion. These 10 lakes account for about 40% of Minnesota anglers' annual walleye harvest.

Keep in mind: Whether fishing in spring, summer, fall or winter, water temperature, light penetration and oxygen levels are key determinants in locating walleyes.

The best walleye fishing often occurs beneath cloudy skies when a ripple — commonly known as a walleye chop — roils a lake surface. Sunny days with lakes that are mirror flat often make fishing tougher.

Yet in walleye fishing as in all fishing, exceptions to "rules" are common. Walleyes, for example, often feed without regard to conditions. Best as a result to keep a line in the water as often as possible, changing baits, locations and water depths — or all three — as often as necessary.

Keep in mind also that walleyes, like other fish, often hang out on weed edges and along other changes in "structure."

But no one bottom type is productive at all times. Sometimes walleyes can be found on rock piles, other times along drop-offs and still other

times, as on Mille Lacs, on mud flats.

Some walleyes could still be spawning on some northern Minnesota lakes when fishing begins at 12:01 a.m. Saturday. Spawning can begin under lake ice, Radomski notes. But peak walleye spawning occurs when water reaches 42 to 50 degrees.

Male walleyes appear at spawning sites before females and hang out there long after the egg-depositing females have departed for deeper water. This is why most opening-day anglers who fish shallows used for spawning primarily catch male walleyes, which are smaller than females.

Survival rates from fertilization to hatching range from 1% to 60%. This results either in bountiful "year classes" of walleyes in Mille Lacs and other key Minnesota walleye producing lakes, or, if survival conditions are sketchy, small year classes.

By early summer, newly hatched walleyes, or "fry" have reached "fingerling" stage, with scales and fully developed fins. Fingerling walleyes are bigger and faster than similarly aged yellow perch, a prima-

ry food source for young walleyes. Among predators wanting to chomp on young walleyes in addition to older yellow perch are northern pike, burbot, sauger, smallmouth and largemouth bass, and larger walleyes.

By the end of a walleye's third summer, the youngster is about 12 inches long. By the end of its fourth summer, 15 inches. From age 3 to 4, Radomski says, a walleye is most vulnerable to anglers. By about age 5, Minnesota walleyes will sexually mature and their growth will slow. In the southern U.S., walleyes can mature at 2 years old, and in northern Quebec as late as 15 years.

The biggest male walleye in a population might be only three-fourths as large as the biggest female.

If such a claim could be validated, it's likely most walleyes caught on the opener will be fooled by jig-and-minnow combinations. But not all jigs are the same: They come in different colors, shapes and sizes. Minnows differ, too. Fatheads are cheapest and generally a good bet. Shiners can be (but aren't always) more productive for walleyes. And red tail chubs often are best (but are costly and can be difficult to find).

To avoid detection by bigger fish and to help them prey on smaller fish, when seen from above a walleye's dark dorsal fin blends with a dark lake or river bottom, while from below, a walleye's white or yellowed white underbelly blends against a lake's light-diffused surface.

In Mille Lacs, biologists found that walleyes primarily eat yellow perch year-round. Larger walleyes eat other walleyes, particularly in fall, and cisco when available.

How popular is walleye fishing? About 1% of the U.S. population fishes for walleyes specifically, Radomski says, and about 12% of American anglers target walleyes primarily. In Canada, walleyes represent about 26% of the national sportfish catch.

Catch-and-release walleye fishing — like that imposed in most instances on Mille Lacs anglers — can sometimes conserve a population. But because walleyes tend to live near lake bottoms, practicing catch and release can under some circumstances have little or no benefit to a fishery. Fishing methods (no deep hooking, as can often happen with sliding-sinker rigs), water temperature (can't be too warm) and depth at which walleyes are hooked must be "right" for catch and release to benefit a resource.

Regarding walleye stocking and how much is too much, a lake's walleye population can't be continually enlarged by adding fry or fingerlings. A lake has only so much biological carrying capacity, which must be shared by all life within it.

A walleye's peak light sensitivity is for wavelengths in the green portion of the spectrum, which is the same portion of the spectrum that penetrates deepest into lakes. This makes sense, Radomski notes, given that walleyes spend most of their time seeking prey near lake and river bottoms.

Walleye anglers who spend increasing amounts of time on the water often change how they define "successful" fishing.

A morning, afternoon or evening spent on a lake or river is in many ways its own reward and reinvigorating — regardless of the number of fish caught.

Also, as with all time spent in nature, a renewed appreciation of the value — and fragility — of land and water

often results, and with it an understanding of the need to conserve.

"For walleye and the rest of nature, the will to survive is stronger than the desire to give up," Radomski concludes in, "Walleye. A Beautiful Fish of the Dark," adding: "I take solace that life moves forward and that

tomorrow could be better. Near the shore, I see walleye fry struggling to rise up from the cobble-strewn lake bottom — free of the detritus. In communion with walleye, we too leave our past in the detritus. We are all betting that tomorrow will be better."

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WEATHER OUTLOOK



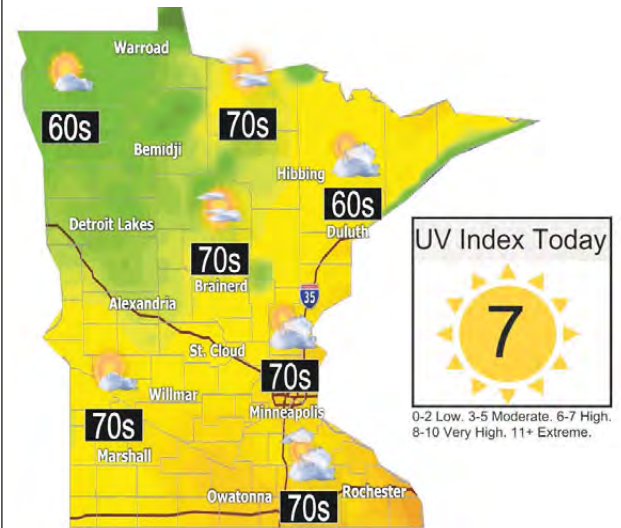
Jared Piepenburg, Jesse Ritka, Chief Meteorologist John Wheeler, Lydia Blume, Robert Poynter

StormTRACKER

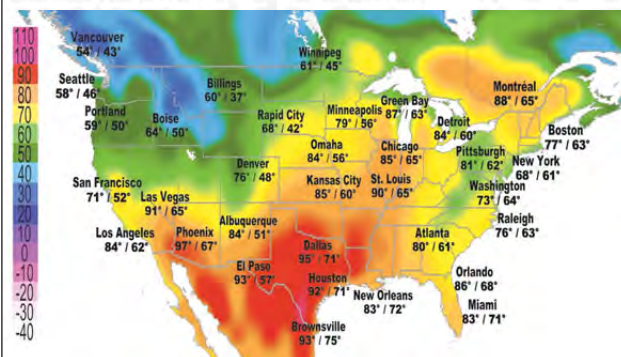
BRAINERD FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
73/50	69/46	69/45	62/41
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Wind: SW 18 mph	Wind: W 14 mph	Wind: W 15 mph	Wind: NW 13 mph
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
61/45	67/50	68/50	66/52
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	AM Showers	Isolated Thunderstorms
Wind: N 6 mph	Wind: S 7 mph	Wind: SW 10 mph	Wind: E 12 mph

*Average wind speed for each day



Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow	Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow
Bemidji, MN	Hi: 68, Lo: 46	Hi: 62, Lo: 43	Marshall, MN	Hi: 74, Lo: 51	Hi: 71, Lo: 49
Duluth, MN	Hi: 68, Lo: 53	Hi: 69, Lo: 47	Minneapolis, MN	Hi: 79, Lo: 56	Hi: 79, Lo: 51
Eau Claire, WI	Hi: 82, Lo: 55	Hi: 80, Lo: 50	Rochester, MN	Hi: 79, Lo: 57	Hi: 78, Lo: 52
Fargo, ND	Hi: 70, Lo: 46	Hi: 64, Lo: 45	Sioux Falls, SD	Hi: 76, Lo: 52	Hi: 74, Lo: 50
International Falls, MN	Hi: 72, Lo: 48	Hi: 62, Lo: 42	St. Cloud, MN	Hi: 74, Lo: 52	Hi: 72, Lo: 48



StormTRACKER Forecast

Sunny skies and windy with highs in the low 70s.

Almanac Through 6 pm Thursday		
Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	69	56
Normal	67	41
Record	88 in 1940	23 in 1946
Precipitation	In Inches	
Thursday	.21"	

Sunrise: 5:45 a.m. Sunset: 8:41 p.m.
Moonrise: 5:47 p.m. Moonset: 5:00 a.m. May 14

Constantly updated forecasts online
www.brainerddispatch.com



A rainbow after the rain

Weather drawing by Trooper Radtke of Mrs. Olson's first grade class at Garfield Elementary School

Attention teachers: Don't forget to submit your students' weather drawings to the Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974, Brainerd, MN 56401

Starting conversations.

Listening to all sides.

Providing perspective.

Telling your life's stories.

Sharing community news.

Local news works for you.

BRAINERD DISPATCH

BRIEFS

Crow Wing SWCD releases conservation report

BRAINERD — Crow Wing County landowners and community groups implemented projects last year for clean water and habitat.

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District released the 2021 conservation report showing the “excellent conservation work being done in the Brainerd lakes area,” according to a news release.

“Citizens and community groups planted native trees in their yard, repaired shoreline erosion and created pollinator habitats,” stated Melissa Barrick, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District district manager, in the news release.

Highlights of the report include:

► 160 Spanish goats grazed 8 acres to help eliminate buckthorn.

► 73 landowners participated in the four free nitrate clinics.

► Landowners protected wildlife habitats and critical shorelines through the Reinvest in Minnesota Conservation Easement Program.

► Individual property owners worked with professional plan writers to develop 48 Forest Stewardship Plans for 4,592 acres of private woodlands.

► Citizens planted over 26,300 trees and 3,000 plants.

► Leveraged over \$3.4 million (state, federal, and contracts) for conservation programs and projects.

Funding for projects was provided in part by local government units, nonprofit groups, citizens, the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Clean Water Fund as part of the Clean Water, Land

and Legacy Amendment, and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

“We cannot do this work without our local partners, it takes a village to do conservation. We are so grateful for all partners, landowners and grantors,” Barrick stated.

To read the complete report, visit bit.ly/3l7mteB, email tasha@cws-wcd.org or call 218-828-6197 for a printed copy.

Crow Wing County watercraft inspectors prep for fishing opener

BRAINERD — The Crow Wing County Land Services Department’s 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species program is ramping up to coincide with the fishing opener Saturday, May 14.

Watercraft inspectors will be active on boat landings within the county beginning Saturday. Almost 16,000 inspection hours on 44 landings are scheduled for the 2022 season, according to a news release.

The 2022 AIS plan focuses on the top priorities identified by area lake associations, citizens and business interests. It includes boat landing inspections, decontamination units, education, awareness and innovative special projects.

Invasive species are a direct serious threat to local economies and recreationists accessing public waters, according to county officials, and preventing and managing the spread of harmful invasive species is up to everyone.

“Crow Wing County is home to some of Minnesota’s best fishing and boating waters. We remind everyone to take action and become part of the solution for protect-

ing our waters,” said Jessica Shea, business manager, in the news release.

Draining all water, removing plants, mud and other debris, and inspecting trailers and watercraft as they are moved from lake to lake, can minimize the risk of spreading AIS. And 21 days of drying time is needed before relocating docks, lifts, or swim rafts into a different water body.

For more information about the county AIS prevention plan, visit www.crowwing.us/ais.

Crow Wing SWCD invites buyers to fairgrounds to pick up purchases

BRAINERD — The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District will host the 23rd landowner tree sale pickup from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 13, at the county fairgrounds.

“We will continue the drive-thru process to pick up your trees. Please follow signage and cones to the curling building,” District Manager Melissa Barrick stated in a news release.

The curling building on the county fairgrounds is located at 2000 SE 13th St. in Brainerd.

Leftover stock will be added online Friday. The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District will accept online orders only at www.cws-wcd.org/shop.

“Help us reach our goal of ‘One Million Trees for Crow Wing County.’ Over the years landowners have planted over 842,652 trees,” Barrick stated. “We are grateful to all our customers that continue to plant trees each year. Little by little, we are making a big difference.”

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BLUEBIRD GUIDED TOURS



ALASKA DISCOVERY TOUR
August 2-15

CANADIAN ROCKIES TRAIN
August 20-29 * | September 13-22

CALIFORNIA OREGON TRAIN
September 7-16

IRELAND & SCOTLAND
September 9-23

WASHINGTON D.C. & NYC
September 26 - October 3

NYC & NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE
October 6-14

* Trip Full / Waitlist Available



Free Virtual Travel Show

May 18, 2022

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For more info visit BluebirdGuidedTours.com/call



Call or Email to RSVP or request our full 2022 schedule!

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info@bluebirdguidedtours.com
www.BluebirdGuidedTours.com



PROMO CODE: BRAINERD

Spring Wine Dot Sale

May 15 - May 28
2 big weeks

Green Dots are 30% OFF

Yellow Dots are 40% OFF

Blue Dots are 50% OFF

All non-dotted, non-sales wines are 20% off

All box wine 3 ltr and 5 Ltr - 20% off

No additional coupons or discounts. While supplies last

Westside Liquor

Offering the best selection of beers and craft beers, wines and liquors in the state. Over 18,000 items!

Due to brewery and distributor shortages, we cannot guarantee inventory of sale items. Rain checks CANNOT be given. We apologize for any issues.



Coors Light, Banquet
24 pk cans 16 oz

\$20.95



Miller High Life
24 pk cans/glass 12 oz

\$15.95



E&J XO Brandy
1.75 L

\$18.95



Tito's Vodka
1.75 L

\$27.95

BEER

- Leinenkugel orig., light 24pk cans, 12oz... \$15.95
- Deschutes 12pk cans/glass..... \$14.95
- Bells 12pk cans/glass..... \$16.95
- Lagunita Disorderly Tea House 6pk cans..... \$7.95
- Smith Works Hard Seltzer 12pk cans..... \$12.95
- Earthrider 12pk cans..... \$17.95

LIQUOR

- R&R Reserve 1.75 L..... \$13.95
- Rikaloff Vodka 1.75 L..... \$9.95
- Evan Williams Bourbon 1.75 L..... \$18.95
- Mr & Mrs T Bloody Mary Mix Original, Bold & Spicy 1 L..... \$2.95

May Monthly Feature

MN BUY LOCAL BEER OF THE MONTH
Third Street Crafts

12 pk cans \$11.95

BEER OF THE MONTH

Sierra Nevada
12 pk cans/glass..... \$13.95

SCOTCH OF THE MONTH

Jura 10 yr Scotch
750 ml..... \$32.95

BOURBON OF THE MONTH

Old Foster Bourbon 86 pf
750 ml..... \$19.95

WINE FEATURE

Bogle (all varieties, excluding Phantom & Juggernaut) 750 ml \$7.99

These prices good Sunday, May 15 thru Saturday, May 21 - 15807 Audubon Way, Baxter - 218-822-4190

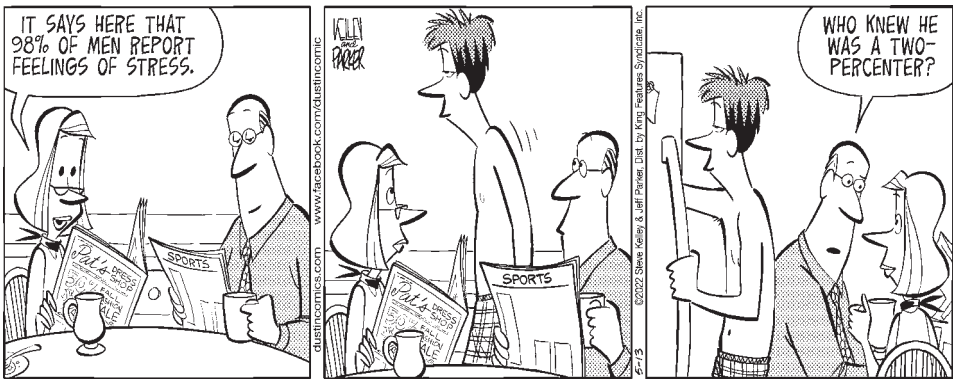
westsideliquor.com

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 8AM - 10 PM - SUNDAY 11 AM - 6 PM

ALBERTVILLE, BAXTER, LITTLE FALLS, RICE, SARTELL, SAUK CENTRE, ST CLOUD, WAITE PARK

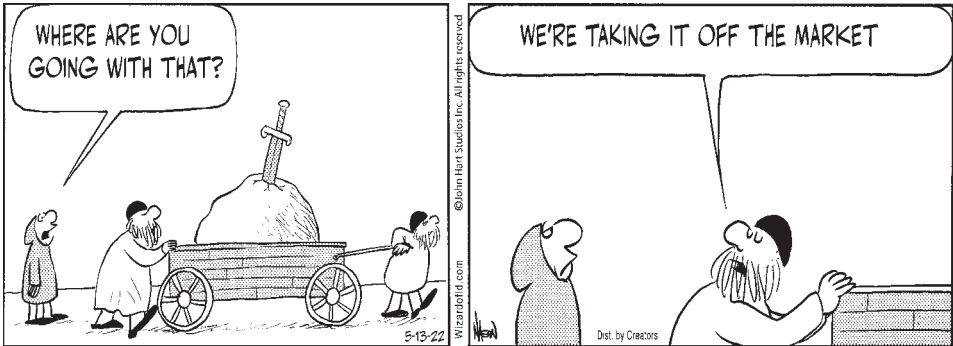
DUSTIN

By Steve Kelly & Jeff Parker



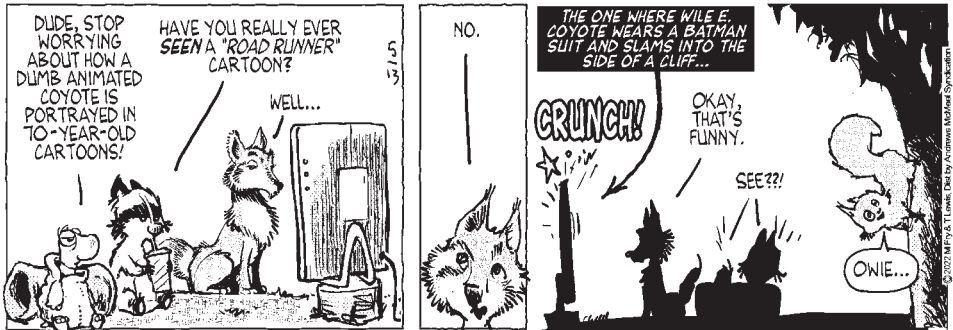
WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker



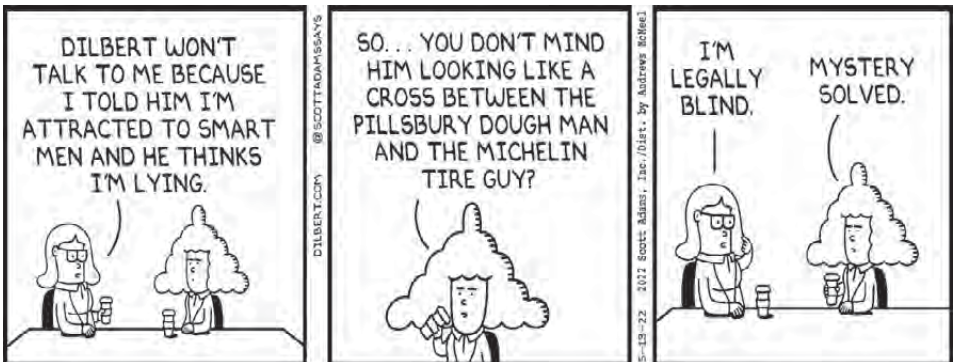
OVER THE HEDGE

By Michael Fry & T Lewis



DILBERT

By Scott Adams



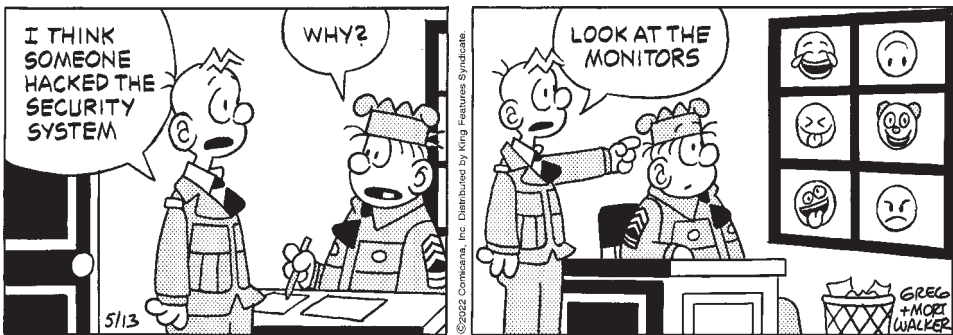
BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



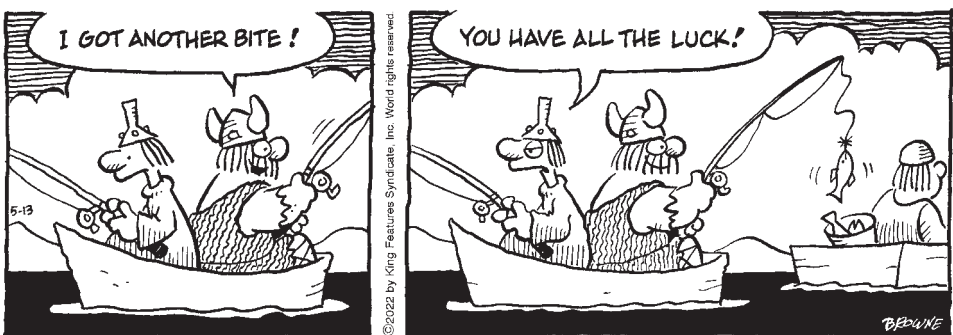
BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



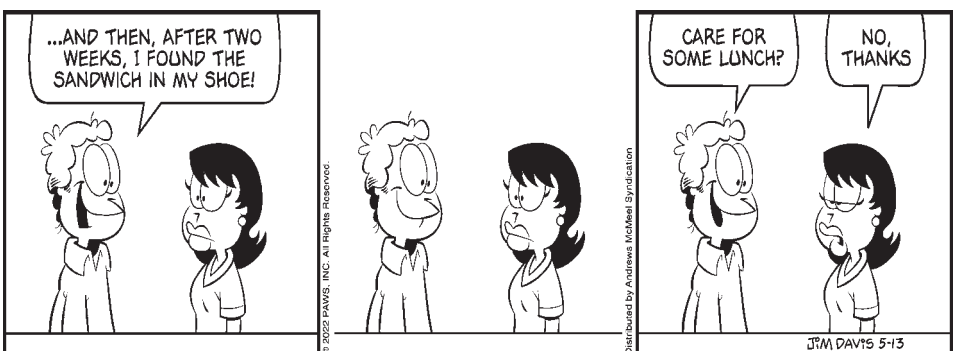
PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz



GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



It's written in the stars

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone may open the door so you can gain a foothold in their heart. Your charm and attractiveness are enhanced, making this a good day to meet new people and impress them with your talents and skills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do not risk launching any new plans or projects today, and keep your ambitions on the back burner throughout this weekend. You may find lighthearted social activities most enjoyable if you hang out with your favorite people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may indulge in romantic fantasies or spend time discussing cheerful subjects with loved ones. Refuse to let social activities distract you from a business agenda. Friends could eagerly support your special projects.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If the words and actions don't match, believe the actions. People might pay lip service to try to win concessions, so guard against being flattered into giving in. Keep your money in your pocket for the next several days.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone close may be under scrutiny or struggle to stay afloat when their ambitions are frustrated. You can be supportive without becoming dragged down by association. Avoid controversies and do not start new projects.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Practice what you preach. Process emotions so you can be mindful and non-reactive about your activities at work or on the job. Someone may be difficult to handle or impose unreasonable rules and restrictions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Social activities can offer some unexpected excitement. This is a great time to mix with others and make new acquaintances. It may be an even better time to have an intimate dinner for two with a romantic partner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can examine the facts, but the information might not be relevant or accurate now, so be calm and patient. This weekend is not a good time to argue with a partner, take action, or make major decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't derail your reputation by omitting an essential piece of information, even if it seems very tempting to do so. Long-range good happens when you stick with the cleanliness of honesty and the resulting good karma.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your business plans on hold and yield to the call of homegrown fun. Make sure all your bills are paid and tasks completed before you become involved in a family outing. Put plans for a major purchase on hold.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is a day for keeping everything you do above reproach — don't give anyone any reason to criticize your performance. Stay late if necessary to meet a deadline, and you'll eventually reap gratitude and respect.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You tend to rise above pettiness and may not believe that anyone has ulterior motives. A partner could provide the wise advice that you need to achieve your goals. Be alert to last-minute job requests and requirements.

IF MAY 13 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The optimism that buoys up your spirits during the next two weeks should be paired with good judgment and an opportunity to improve your life. Conversely, the first half of June could emphasize unrealistic fantasies and bring out a lack of caution, so wait until the second half of the month, when you are more practical, to make changes or decisions that affect your financial stability. Anything worth having is worth working hard to get, but you may not be at the top of your game in July, August or September. That is a time to maintain a low profile, be scrupulous about paying your bills, and avoid making crucial decisions and starting anything new, like a new job or serious investment. Get a vacation or a romantic fling in the books in late September when you may have a break from your stringent schedule.

CROSSWORD

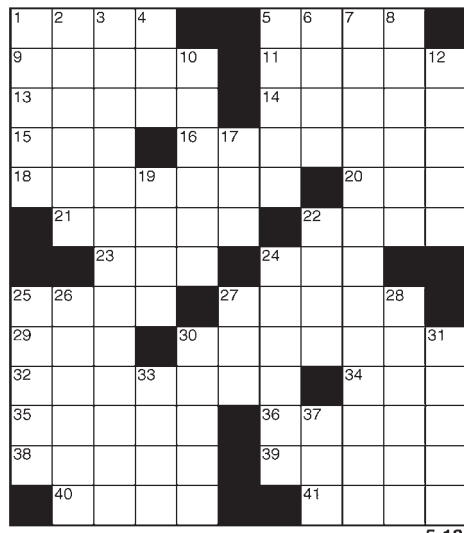
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Vortex
 - 41 Lofty poems
 - 1 Wedding words
 - 5 Strike
 - 9 Clarifying words
 - 11 Tennis setting
 - 13 Quartet member
 - 14 Famed fur tycoon
 - 15 The works
 - 16 Sweetly charming
 - 18 Takes back
 - 20 Playfully shy
 - 21 Bullfight bulls
 - 22 Fling
 - 23 Fresh
 - 24 That woman
 - 25 Swindles
 - 27 Fruit basket items
 - 29 Mine yield
 - 30 Ermines and minks
 - 32 Stylish set
 - 34 Corp. VIP
 - 35 "See ya!"
 - 36 ATM button
 - 38 Teakettle output
 - 39 "Superman" star
- DOWN**
- 1 Parish head
 - 2 Egg dish
 - 3 Having powerful friends
 - 4 Actor Mineo
 - 5 Digitizes, as a page
 - 6 Defeat
 - 7 Changed by a spell checker
 - 8 TV spots
 - 10 Gentle reproach
 - 12 Deuce beaters
 - 17 "— been real!"
 - 19 God of war
 - 22 Pekoe and oolong
 - 24 Forward fall
 - 25 Spring feature
 - 26 Decorative
 - 27 Chapel sight
 - 28 Shirt part
 - 30 Like bad apples
 - 31 Tender spots
 - 33 Peruse
 - 37 "The Matrix" hero



Yesterday's answer

- 12 Deuce beaters
- 17 "— been real!"
- 19 God of war
- 22 Pekoe and oolong
- 24 Forward fall
- 25 Spring feature
- 26 Decorative
- 27 Chapel sight
- 28 Shirt part
- 30 Like bad apples
- 31 Tender spots
- 33 Peruse
- 37 "The Matrix" hero



Contract Bridge

Two double-dummy problems

1. Spades are trump, and it's your lead with the South hand. How would you make all the tricks?

- NORTH**
- ♠ 5
 - ♥ K 7 4 3
 - ♦ K
 - ♣ K
- WEST**
- ♠ 7
 - ♥ 6
 - ♦ Q 5 3
 - ♣ 9 4

2. You are on the lead with the South hand and, with diamonds as trump, must make five of the last six tricks. How would you proceed?

- NORTH**
- ♠ A 2
 - ♥ A Q 6
 - ♦ Q
 - ♣ —
- WEST**
- ♠ K Q
 - ♥ 10
 - ♦ —
 - ♣ K 5 3
- EAST**
- ♠ 3
 - ♥ K J 8
 - ♦ —
 - ♣ A Q
- SOUTH**
- ♠ 4
 - ♥ 2
 - ♦ K
 - ♣ 6 4 2

Cash the diamond ace and lead the jack. If West covers with the queen, ruff in dummy, overtake the king of clubs with your ace and play the queen of spades, placing East under severe pressure.

He cannot spare a heart, which would make all of dummy's hearts good; he cannot spare the diamond ten because you'd then cash your eight, squeezing him again; nor can he spare the club queen because you'd cash your ten, continuing the remorseless squeeze.

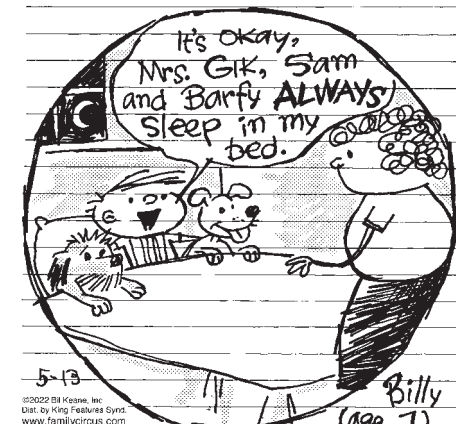
If West ducks the diamond jack, you discard a heart from dummy, ruff the diamond eight, overtake the club king and play the queen of spades, placing East once again in the same hopeless predicament.

Tomorrow: Handle with care.

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Find Friday's Sudoku answers in Sunday's TV Week

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Life at home goes on as usual, according to Daddy's understudy.

THE LOCKHORNS

By Bunny Hoest & John Reiner



"WHEN WE WERE DATING, I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED WHEN LEROY SAID, 'IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME.'"

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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Powerball: 5-7-61-63-69
Powerball: 18
Jackpot: \$68 million
Next drawing: Saturday
Lotto America: 26-29-32-36-48-7
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Minnesota House passes legal sports betting bill

By Alex Derosier
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — Legal sports betting passed a major milestone in the Minnesota Legislature Thursday night, May 12, with the House of Representatives voting to approve a bill that would allow a practice already permitted in all surrounding states. But as the legislative session nears its close, the Senate has still not taken action on its version of the gambling proposal, dimming the odds of the state changing the law.

The bipartisan proposal authored by Reps. Zack Stephenson, DFL-Coon Rapids, and Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington, would allow tribal casinos to provide in-person and mobile sports betting within the state of Minnesota. Tax revenue from sports betting would go to gambling addiction programs, youth sports and gambling law enforcement efforts.

Stephenson and Garofalo have argued that sports betting is already happening in Minnesota but is currently happening on the black market, which offers no protec-



File photo

A screen shows sports wagering odds.

tion to consumers. "Ultimately this is an issue whose time has come," Stephenson said as he urged fellow House members to vote yes Thursday night. "Minnesotans want us to have this conversation. They want this to be legal, this is a step in the right direction."

The House approved the bill 70-57 with bipartisan support. Amendments adopted on the floor included

increasing state-funded problem gambling counseling time from 12 to 60 hours, and preventing gambling apps from sending push notifications to phones unless the company suspects fraud.

Even with legalized sports betting in Minnesota closer to reality than ever before, it still faces a major hurdle in the Senate. Lino Lakes Republican Roger Chamberlain introduced

a sports betting bill that would also allow two Twin Cities-area horse tracks to provide betting services, but the Senate has not taken it up. Lawmakers have until May 22 to pass any bills.

"Sports gambling is still a work in progress," Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller, R-Winona, said Tuesday. "I think that if the stakeholders can come together and try to find some common ground,

where there are opportunities available at the tribal casinos, as well as the tracks, and perhaps if there's something we can do to help benefit our charities, I think you could still get it done this session. But we're running out of time for that to happen."

The fortunes for legal sports betting have appeared better than ever during the 2022 legislative session. Before lawmakers convened in January, Democrats and Republicans in key leadership positions in both the House and Senate expressed interest in getting a bill passed.

The prospects appeared better still after the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association expressed support for Stephenson's bill. However, the gaming association did not issue a statement of support for a senate legal sports betting proposal that would allow horse tracks to provide the service as well. Gov. Tim Walz said he would not sign a sports betting bill without tribal support.

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

Minn. state workers press Senate to approve contracts

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — State employee unions representing roughly 50,000 workers around Minnesota on Thursday, May 12, called on the Senate to approve their contracts in the week remaining in the legislative session.

The contracts were negotiated last year and the Minnesota House of

Representatives ratified them. But the Senate delayed similar action, setting up a potential rollback of 2.5% cost-of-living increases and other benefits without a vote.

Minnesota lawmakers funded the increases as part of the state budget they approved last year and state employees have already seen the raises applied to their salaries. Without quick

action, union leaders said, tens of thousands could see a pay cut.

"We have all provided much-needed services like health care, corrections, college faculty and care for our state's veterans, seniors and the most vulnerable," Minnesota Association of Professional Employees President Megan Dayton said. "Passage of these contracts simply means that we can

continue to provide services to these people around the state."

A spokeswoman for the Senate Republican Caucus said that leaders in that chamber hoped to take up the contracts next week.

The union groups said they would continue pressing leaders to take up the contracts ahead of the May 23 close of the 2022 legislative session.

"With just a week left in the legislative session, it would be criminal to not pass this and potentially have a pay cut," Minnesota Nurses Association President Mary Turner said. "This is not the way to honor the heroes of our pandemic."

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

Counties urged to take look at proposed carbon pipeline

Summit Carbon Solutions proposing a \$4.5B, 5-state project

By Tom Cherveney
West Central Tribune

GRANITE FALLS, Minn. — West-central Minnesota counties are being urged to take a hard look at the proposed Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline for the possible risks and financial burdens it may bring.

Peg Furshong, operations and director of programs for the Montevideo-based nonprofit Clean Up the River Environment, told the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday that the organization has a number of concerns about the proposed pipeline.

Summit Carbon Solutions of Ames, Iowa, is proposing a \$4.5 billion, five-state project to transport carbon dioxide from ethanol plants for sequestration in North Dakota.

The company is pro-

posing just over 200 miles of pipeline in Minnesota, including connections to the Granite Falls Energy ethanol plant in Granite Falls and the Bushmills Ethanol plant near Atwater.

"We've never had a project like this before in the state. There are a lot of unknowns," Furshong told the commissioners.

The CURE organization — which works in areas that include climate, energy and water — has two chief concerns: What Furshong said was a lack of transparency by company officials, and the risks that a pipeline rupture, spill or leak could create.

While the company has held public meetings in the area, the only people who have been invited to them have been the people from whom the company is seeking to acquire easements for the pipeline, Furshong told the commissioners.

She said the pipeline would carry liquefied carbon dioxide at high pressure, between 1,200 to 2,800 pounds per square inch, or more than twice the pressure used for natural gas pipelines. Carbon

dioxide is an odorless and invisible gas that is heavier than air. It can asphyxiate by displacement of air.

Emergency medical services personnel could be put at risk when responding to any spill or rupture, said Furshong.

Most local responder units don't have the equipment they would need to respond to these types of emergencies, according to Furshong. Their vehicles would not operate in a carbon dioxide pool of air.

CURE is raising concerns about both the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline and a separate pipeline project known as Navigator. The organization initiated the request for the state to perform an environmental review of the two projects. The state is determining whether to classify them as either an energy, agricultural, waste, transmission or pipeline project. Each of these classifications carry different requirements, she said.

Furshong said CURE has been hosting meetings for affected landowners. The easements sought by Summit Carbon Solutions are permanent, and could be

sold by the company if the pipeline project does not occur.

She said there have been instances where the out-of-state company has attempted to purchase some farmland that has come up for sale at auctions, including one sale in Yellow Medicine County. This had made some landowners disgruntled, she said.

Furshong said counties should also be mindful of the costs they could incur in inspecting a pipeline and responding to concerns from landowners and others. Counties in some states have discussed assessing annual "community benefits" fees on the company as compensation for the costs.

Furshong said she has read accounts indicating that the process of capturing and transporting carbon dioxide could require nearly as much energy as the ethanol being produced. She also said there is no certainty that carbon dioxide can be permanently sequestered underground as described by the Summit Carbon Solutions project.

An ADM facility in Illinois currently has the only large-sized

sequestration system, she said. Other projects are pumping carbon dioxide underground to push up oil in shale deposits for oil wells.

"Rural communities are front-line communities," Furshong said. "We want to be sure if this pipeline happens, rural communities aren't compromised so out-of-state companies can make millions of dollars."

Commissioner Greg Renneke's district includes much of the 13.96 miles of pipeline proposed in Yellow Medicine County. He said he has heard concerns from a landowner who wants to protect native prairie from being trenched for the pipeline.

Commissioner Gary Johnson questioned CURE's opposition to the pipeline and noted that without a pipeline, the carbon dioxide would continue to be emitted into the atmosphere. He also noted that hazardous materials — from propane to anhydrous ammonia — are routinely transported today, and that first responder and law enforcement units are trained to respond to emergencies involving them.

Minn. Democrats try to force Senate votes on codifying abortion

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Senate on Thursday, May 12, blocked a series of votes on bills aimed at codifying the right to an abortion and funding family planning and leave programs.

Senate Democrats sought to move the proposals from committees to the floor for a vote, citing an urgent need

to address the bills due to the impending U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion. A leaked draft opinion showed the court sat poised to overturn the landmark decision in Roe v. Wade.

The minority caucus members said they hoped to debate the bills on the floor since few had received a committee hearing in the GOP-led chamber.

"We are under attack when it comes to our

privacy rights. Roe v. Wade is just the beginning," Senate Minority Leader Melissa López Franzen, DFL-Edina, said. "We are just very concerned with the lack of urgency in this body to move these bills forward."

The proposals would codify the right to have an abortion and to access birth control, eliminate a requirement in state law that physicians read a script

to patients before an abortion, and create a state paid family leave program.

They would also call for a study of maternal death rates, allow a pregnant woman to designate a support person, fund additional family planning programs and voluntary home visits for families with infants and set a criminal penalty for removing a condom during sex without a

partner's knowledge.

None of the bills received the 41 votes needed to be taken up on the floor and they were set aside one by one after they failed to meet that threshold. Republicans in the chamber voted against motions to bring them to the floor without comment.

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

OTHER OPINION

The frustration with the new US disinformation board? Too little information

The most troubling problem with the Biden administration's new Disinformation Governance Board is how little information the government has released about it.

The Department of Homeland Security announced the board in late April, yet little has been forthcoming about what the board is supposed to do or how it is supposed to do it.

Lack of transparency has put Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on the hot seat as a target for conservatives, civil libertarians and Republican members of Congress, some of whom have called for the board to be disbanded.

Critics draw unflattering comparisons of the new bureau to Big Brother's "Ministry of Truth" in George Orwell's "1984." Two professors noted in a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed the unfortunate resemblance of the Disinformation Governance Board's initials to those of the Soviet Union's super-secret KGB.

Questions surrounding the new board begin not only with, "What is it?" but also, "Do we need it?"

The lines between falsehoods and truthfulness are drawn in the civilian sector, not by government. So are the age-old but still critical distinctions between two often-conflicting values: freedom and security.

"We in the Department of Homeland Security," Mayorkas said in a CNN interview, "don't monitor U.S. citizens."

But, yes, they do. Created in response to the security failures that led up to the Sept. 11 attacks, DHS has broad authority to track and collect data on U.S. citizens, powers that the department has repeatedly been accused of abusing.

Just as worrisome is the legislative process

in which partisans in Congress and elsewhere try to steer government watchdogs away from favored constituencies who feel particularly shy about government scrutiny.

A bracing example occurred in April 2009 when DHS officials warned police departments nationwide that "right-wing extremists will attempt to recruit and radicalize returning veterans in order to exploit their skills and knowledge derived from military training and combat."

DHS also warned, "These skills and knowledge have the potential to boost the capabilities of extremists — including lone wolves or small terrorist cells — to carry out violence."

Republican lawmakers howled that President Barack Obama's administration was slandering our servicemen and women. Although the Obama administration issued a similar warning about left-wing extremists months earlier — and the George W. Bush administration initiated similar notices — Obama's DHS secretary Janet Napolitano apologized, noting the warning was only an assessment, not an accusation.

Then, as now, one person's "facts" can be another person's "paranoid fantasies." The larger overarching question is whether and how well can our deeply divided lawmakers calm their partisan fears and ideological differences to work together on the same side against our country's real enemies?

We must begin with a DHS that is as transparent as possible in letting the rest of us know what it is doing, how it is doing it and whether it needs to be done in the first place. The stakes could hardly be higher.

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THIS WAS BRAINERD

MAY 13 20 years ago (2002)

After hearing testimony from both sides, the county board unanimously adopted its first dog ordinance. It requires the dog to be on its owners property, obedient to voice command, in a vehicle or on a leash. Fines for violation can range up to \$300. There were a number of rural people who said the new law wasn't needed, just common sense.

30 years ago (1992)
After discussing concerns about parking and trying to define how long is temporary, the city planning commission recommended approval of a conditional use permit for portable classrooms near Washington Middle School. Two portable buildings will accommodate four classrooms and will be placed on permanent foundations.

40 years ago (1982)
(Photo) Harvey Shew, 63, is retiring as principal at Franklin Junior High after a 40-year career. He says he "started at the bottom" as a student and worked his way up to principal. He's taught about every possible course, coached a championship football team, and even took off three years to serve as

a PT boat commander in WWII.

60 years ago (1962)
The Minn. Dept. of Education has turned down five proposed plats for school consolidation from this area. These include Pequot Lakes with Nisswa, and south Nisswa with Brainerd. The commissioner of education says there are a number of irregularities that need correcting before approvals can be given.

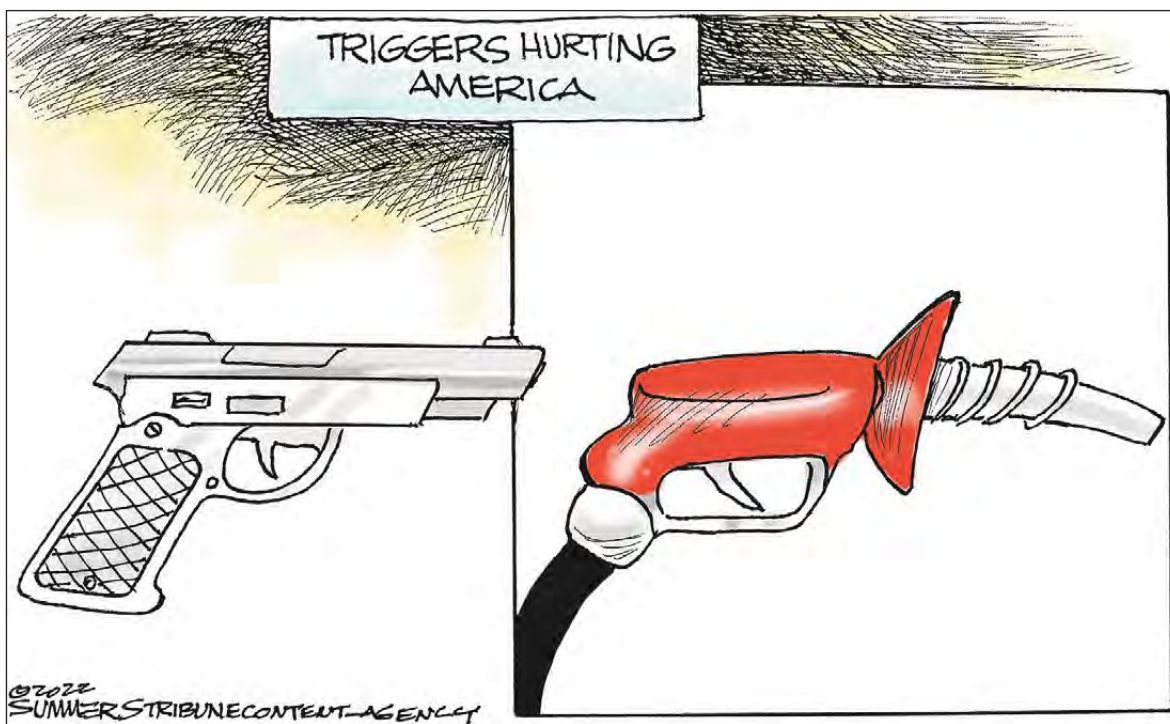
80 years ago (1942)
(Adv.) Remember — For Fun It's Bar Harbor! Opening for the season on May 29th. Dance to "Cec" Hurst and his 10- Piece Orchestra — with dancing every night. Engage our big 25-passenger Chris Craft Cruiser for boat trips. Also, it will bring your party to Bar Harbor from any resort on Gull Lake.

100 years ago (1922)
The bird house that has been on display at the Chamber of Commerce office was recently bought by the Brainerd Musical Club. They gave it to the park board to install in Gregory Park to house purple martins. The club will purchase similar bird houses for the park board to install in other parts of the city.

—Compiled by Terry McCollough—

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GUEST OPINION

Shoes can be a method of escape, and also a tool for taking action

By Barbara Steinmetz
The Fulcrum

I recently gave a lecture to students at the University of Colorado about my childhood experiences as a refugee survivor from the days of the Holocaust. Aside from relating my story, I had a message to deliver: "Vote. Talk to your friends, parents, neighbors and anyone who will listen. Your country is at stake!"

The sole purpose of telling my family's story is to awaken students to what happens in a dictatorship country to ensure that "Never again" means "Take action."

I can't seem to concentrate on the shoes in which I walked during my life. Whenever I try, my mind races back to when I was 4 years old and shoes were put on me in haste to run from bombs, from soldiers, from tanks, from buildings crumbling, from fires blazing. Those shoes were used to escape as mothers grabbed their children in terror. Shoes determined one's fate — life or death. Shoes are a method of escape and a tool for taking action.

Such shoes are on display in Holocaust museums, piled high in containers, left behind by victims who were directed to disrobe. The shoes were then collected, summarily thrown into bins while the wearers either marched to their death or tripped on their way, their bare feet on frozen ground.

I see the shoes lined up as a sculpture, a memorial to the events along the beautiful blue Danube, where, in January 1945, Jews were hauled to the shores, forced to disrobe and leave their shoes along the banks. Then, as if that was not bestial enough, they were tied two by two with a rope, standing there in the frozen air, as one of each pair was shot. The bundled pair were kicked into the frozen river, the dead victim pulling the live one under the frozen water to drown in the most inhumane way.

These are the visions of shoes for me.

Try as I might to think of all the shoes I stood in, the view in my mind's eye quickly changes to the shoes hastily gathered today, in 2022, by fellow human beings once more running

for their lives, grabbing their terror-stricken children. To run away from their homes, their lives, their traditions, their homeland. Running on their shoes. Running with their children in their arms, leaving their lives, possibly forever ... again. Didn't we say, "Never again"? But once again, some tyrant is turning the world order upside down. When is enough finally going to be enough?

I go into my closet to see the shoes that I haven't been able to throw out, and I ask myself, "Why?" They are not used anymore, the leather is cracked, the color is faded. Yet, I still have those shoes. My mother's silver dancing shoes that she probably had in the 1920s, a wonderful time in Europe. She brought them with her, packed them when she ran from persecution, packed them as we escaped from country to country, tucked them in the back of how many closets in places we lived? But she always brought them with her. Shoes — a reminder of a past, a reminder of joy, of celebration, of laughter without concern, of a life with already dark shadows lurking, ready to change her world without her even having a clue. I have those shoes.

As I'm trying to downsize, I look at those shoes, but I can't put them in the Goodwill bin. How many people in Ukraine took a special memento with them as they ran toward the trains and buses to get them out of there, to take them out of harm's way? How many took a memento of their lives, as a reminder of a different time, a place they called home?

The scenes of the people running, with absolutely no control over their lives, is terrifying.

We have to tell the story because even more terrifying is the misinformation that has spread like a dark cloud over certain parts of the world. The denial of reality that has prevailed in our land clears the path to tyranny, discrimination and intolerance. I have a heavy heart. It is hard for me to see the rays of sunshine pouring through the dark clouds of chaos. It is hard for me to turn to celebration amidst frenzy. These are the shoes I wear today, and I can't remove them. They are tied

tight to my feet. I can't budge them. I can't.

But don't think I'm on the way down the well without an escape.

I was given shoes wherever my family went, some old, and musty, some tight and too short where we had to cut the leather off the top for my toes to stick out. But I did get the shoes, and because of the generosity of so many who helped our family, today we are able to have another generation ... the next generation made possible by those who had shoes, those who ran hard and fast, those who were lucky, like myself.

I became a great-grandmother in recent days, to a tiny little girl called Esther Ivy, named for Esther, of a long ago story, who was the hope, the strong resolute woman who rose up to save a people. Today, a guy named Zelenskyy rose from the ranks, a plain simple man, a young Moses of the 21st century, rising from nowhere, donning his battle-ready boots, to save his countrymen from a tyrant.

Now, as I watch world events with 85-year-old eyes, I feel like I don't really know which pair of shoes to put on for this time. But, actually, I do know which shoes to wear: the shoes of action, of involvement, of voice, of speaking to anyone and everyone who will listen. I assert myself to do my part to save our democracy.

We are in trouble and everyone who holds choice, freedom, our system of justice, our Constitution in their hearts must put on the shoes of personal engagement by taking to the streets, galvanizing support, speaking out everywhere, donating, writing letters, making phone calls. Be a bystander, a silent watcher, and your rights will be snatched away by legislators, leaders, authoritarians who only want power to control, turning our country back to a time when some of our population didn't have choices or rights or safeguards.

Vote! Write! Speak! Your voice counts. Your voice, along with all the others, will make a difference.

Barbara Steinmetz is a Hungarian-born Jew whose family moved across Western Europe as refugees avoiding the Holocaust. She now lives in Boulder, Colorado.

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Contact: https://stauber.house.gov

Woman's long-held opinion of BIL comes out

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I have always been close. She's married to a man I have always thought is domineering and arrogant. I also suspect that he's emotionally abusive from things she has confided over the years. These include days of the silent treatment, refusing to celebrate her birthday because he doesn't believe in it and discouraging her from taking a job she was interested in. He refuses to go to counseling and says whatever problems there are between them are her fault. I hold my tongue and try to tolerate him because



JEANNE PHILLIPS
Dear Abby

she has chosen to stay with him.

He recently participated in a marathon and was connected to us and many others through social media so we could follow the entire two-day event from start to finish. After a day of constant "dinging" on my phone, I found his need for attention over the top and stopped following. My sister

was very upset about it. She said she was embarrassed and hurt. When she asked why I stopped, I told her the truth.

Now our relationship is damaged. I apologized and tried to smooth things over, but she's now fully aware of my true feelings about him after seeing and hearing how he has treated her over the years. Should I have "kept the peace," as my dear departed mother always said, and continued to keep my mouth shut, or should I have been honest about my feelings? — PROTECTIVE OF SIS

DEAR PROTECTIVE:

Because you say you and your sister are close, I am surprised you held your tongue about her husband's behavior for so long. You did nothing wrong by tuning out of the marathon updates. You should not have been expected to be held hostage for two days because your brother-in-law's ego needed bolstering. You were honest with your sister and, in my opinion, did nothing that requires an apology.

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I have been in a long-distance relationship for about a year. After I did some casual social media

stalking, I learned he still lives with his ex-boyfriend, in spite of the fact that he continually complains to me about his "roommate," whom he never refers to by name.

On top of that, we made a commitment over the last year to phone each other at least once a day. For the past three weeks, there are times I haven't heard from him at all, despite seeing him active on social media (especially on weekends). It's to a point where I stay awake until all hours, hoping to hear from him. Should I approach

him about this, or is this just the end to the "honeymoon phase"?

— WAITING BY THE PHONE IN CANADA

DEAR WAITING: Not only is it the end of the "honeymoon phase," but it may also be the beginning of the end of this romance because it appears your "partner" isn't as eager to contact you as you are to hear from him. Long-distance relationships can be challenging, and you may be happier if you couple up with somebody local.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



John Myers / File / Duluth News Tribune

Two boats on Fish Lake north of Duluth on the 2021 Minnesota fishing opener. Most lakes in northern Minnesota were ice-free at midweek, except for larger-deeper lakes in northern St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties.

Most Minnesota lakes are ready for the fishing opener

Only larger, deeper lakes in the Arrowhead still have ice

By John Myers
Duluth News Tribune

DULUTH — Two weeks of warm weather and plenty of solar radiation was all it took to get rid of the ice on most northern Minnesota lakes and make them fishable for Saturday's annual fishing opener.

Data from the Minnesota State Climatology Office and recent satellite photos show nearly all Minnesota lakes ice-free except for the larger, deeper lakes in northern St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties.

Upper Red Lake became ice-free on May 10, 10 days later than its median date but short of the all-time record of May 17.

Leech Lake lost its ice May 9, 11 days later than its median ice-out date but well

short of the May 23 record. Lake Winnibigoshish lost its ice May 5, nine days later than the median date but well short of the May 17 latest ice out record.

Pokegema was ice free on May 8, nine days later than the median date.

Big Sandy officially lost its last ice May 6, more than two weeks later than the median date.

All lakes in the Duluth area also were ice-free this week.

Lakes that continued to carry at least some ice included those along the Minnesota-Ontario border, like Saganaga and Gunflint. Lake of the Woods was ice free in many areas, although large rafts of ice were floating around the main lake at midweek. Lake Vermilion was at least partially ice free but had some ice in open areas.

The Minnesota fishing season for walleye, northern and bass begins at 12:01 a.m.

May 14.

Opening day forecast: Sunny start

The National Weather Service in Duluth is calling for mild temperatures and sunny skies to start Saturday, with highs in the lower 70s in most areas but upper 60s near Lake Superior. There's a chance of rain after 1 p.m. Winds Saturday are expected to start light-and-variable and increase from the southwest to 5-10 mph with gusts to 20 mph in the afternoon. Sunday is forecast to be mostly sunny, with highs in the mid-60s and a west wind 10 to 15 mph and gusts as high as 20 mph.

Flooding occurring along border

Anglers are warned that lake and river levels along the Rainy River watershed, from Lake Vermilion to Lake of the Woods, are very high and approaching flood stages

due to recent heavy rains and rapid snowmelt. Currents are very strong in the area and flooding in low areas already is occurring. Boat landings may be affected.

Get your license

Check out various license options and buy your license online at dnr.state.mn.us/fishing, or buy a license by phone at 888-665-4236 or at many sporting goods stores statewide. The basic resident adult fishing license for a year is \$25; \$51 for nonresidents.

Find a fishing lake on the mobile app, online

Get lake-specific information, including regulations, fish species, stocking reports, boat landing locations and lake maps at maps1.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefinder/mobile. You can search by lake name, on a map or find lakes near where you are.

BRIEF

Avian influenza confirmed in fox, marking first case in wild mammal in Minnesota

ST. PAUL — The virulent strain of avian influenza that has sickened domesticated and wild birds in Minnesota has infected a wild mammal in the state for the first time.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, a wild fox from Anoka County recently tested positive for the highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI.

On Wednesday, the agency said that the infection in the juvenile fox was detected by the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and confirmed this week by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

The DNR said that two juvenile red foxes tested positive for HPAI last week in Ontario, marking the first reported cases in a wild mammal in North America.

The HPAI outbreak this year has led to the culling of nearly 40 million chickens and turkeys in U.S. farms since February. Nearly 3 million of those birds were in Minnesota. And unlike a large 2015 outbreak, hundreds of wild birds, including bald eagles and other raptors, have been sickened in the U.S., including in Minnesota.

Health officials say HPAI doesn't represent a significant health risk to people, even though one human case of the disease was confirmed in Colorado last month. Officials say people are unlikely to catch the virus unless they have prolonged direct exposure to infected birds, which was the case in Colorado.

"Wild animals can sometimes transmit diseases to humans, and while we typically think of rabies or other well-known diseases as the primary concerns, this shows that there are other risks to keep in mind as well," Joni Scheffel, the state public health veterinarian with the Minnesota Department of Health, said in the DNR's announcement Tuesday. "The best advice we have for Minnesotans is to avoid contact with wildlife that appear sick or injured and contact your health care provider if you are bitten or have other close contact with wildlife."

St. Paul Pioneer Press



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OPENER

From Page 1

“You know, nice weather is actually predicted other than this rain here and there. But the walleyes, they’re gonna be in shallow (waters).”

Marc Bacigalupi, the Brainerd area fisheries supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, agreed on a good crappie bite this weekend but said the warmup will help with the bite. Fish will be more active and feeding if the water temperatures are into the 50s as opposed to in the 40s.

“It has been a late spring,” Bacigalupi said. “So people fishing for walleyes might be keying in on post-spawn locations in areas with current, maybe the side of the lake that’s a little warmer.”

Ready for the opener with plenty of bait, Jason Bahr, owner of Tutt’s Bait & Tackle on Mille Lacs Lake in Garrison, is concerned about maintaining his supply of leeches at an affordable price. Tutt’s Bait & Tackle will be open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Sunday, it will be open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will return to normal business hours Monday.

“Right now, everything’s fine. The spottails had a good run and we’re going to have plenty of shiners, but the concern now is leeches,” Bahr said. “Leeches might be hard to get in and therefore, if that happens, leeches are going to get expensive, unfortunately. But right now that’s the only one that we’ve heard that could be a bit of a challenge.”

Though bait shops are supplied by different distributors, they rely on water temperatures for baitfish as well. The late start to spring is setting the supply of bait back as water temps begin to rise.

Wicktor said she likes to have a good supply of bait about a week before the opener as she has a few customers who get their bait early as they will be traveling to go



Tim Speier / Brainerd Dispatch

Sherree Wicktor, owner of S&W Bait, talks about the supply of leeches this year on Wednesday as she prepares for the fishing opener.

fishing. She usually has about 300 to 400 pounds of leeches before the opener, but is currently sitting on 30 pounds.

“I’m seeing the guys every day with something, but I’m not happy yet,” Wicktor said, adding she’s worried about the amount of bait coming into her store.

Besides predicting some tough catching for walleye, Col. Rod Smith, DNR director of enforcement, said there may be an increase of people on the lakes this year as a lot of people haven’t had a chance to try out their boats or anything, so it could end up a little hectic at the landing.

Smith said allowing enough time to be delayed is always a good plan for opening weekend. With the varying degrees of skill when it comes to backing boats and boat trailers into the access into the water, patience is key as the lake accesses are limited.

“Safety is always in season and so with the fishing opener, we hope that folks take some time and prepare before they hit the water,” Smith said. “That means going through and checking your equipment on your boat before getting out on the water.”

On Mille Lacs Lake, there are concerns over the number of anglers who may visit the area with additional restrictions in place.

For Terry Thurmer, owner of Terry’s Boat Harbor on Mille Lacs Lake in Garrison, the last few years have seen a downturn in the number of people around the lake with the walleye restrictions.

Terry’s Boat Harbor will be open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, returning to normal business hours Monday.

“Not being able to keep fish in the summer on Mille Lacs has been devastating for these businesses,” Thurmer said of the area.

The open water walleye restriction on Mille Lacs, including all tributaries from the mouth upstream to its posted boundaries, has a possession limit of one walleye and all walleye shorter than 21 inches or longer than 23 inches in length must be immediately released, except one walleye 28 inches or greater, from Saturday through May 31.

How many fish one can keep has changed over the years, Bahr said as he talked about growing up fishing with his grandfather, though a change to the way things are done may not always be a negative.

“When I used to go fishing with my grandpa, you caught a fish, it was in the bucket, no matter what,” Bahr said. “It didn’t matter if it was 4 inches long or if it was 40

inches long, we’re keeping it. These younger guys and gals are totally about catch and release. They want to go out and catch a walleye to take a picture for their Instagram page or Snapchat and then guess what. The walleye — it goes back (in the water). So I don’t get overly concerned about it.”

With restrictions possibly changing from lake to lake and the threat of invasive species, the DNR recommends its LakeFinder app, which has everything from vegetation reports to fishing regulations for most Minnesota lakes.

Smith wanted to remind anglers to get their new 2022–23 fishing license and to carry it with them, which is easier now with cellphones.

“People can also buy them right off their phone and then store them on their phone electronically ... and most people always have their phone on them,” Smith said.

With all the advances in technology to help anglers get out onto the water, the DNR’s aquatic invasive species unit supervisor Heidi Wold reminded those planning to enjoy Minnesota’s water to take five minutes to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

“Clean, drain, dispose, and then wash and dry” your boat before leaving the lake, Wolf said, referencing Minnesota’s drain plug law.

“Draining things like bait buckets and any kind of equipment where water is held,” Wolf said. “If they can do that, it’s for the best, and then disposing of any unwanted bait in the garbage.”

For those looking for something different, Bacigalupi said the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area will have trout stocked and don’t forget about the Mississippi River and the Crow Wing River, which “around here, that can have some really good early season spots.”

TIM SPEIER, staff writer, can be reached on Twitter @timmy2hyme, call 218-855-5859 or email tim.speier@brainerddispatch.com.

Mille Lacs Lake

2022 restrictions

- Walleye**
May 14-31:
 ▶ Possession limit is 1.
 ▶ All walleye shorter than 21 inches or longer than 23 inches in length must be immediately released, except one walleye 28 inches or longer may be kept.
June 1-30:
 ▶ All walleye must be immediately released.
July 1-15:
 ▶ Walleye fishing is closed.
 ▶ Walleye may not be targeted.
July 16-Aug. 31:
 ▶ All walleye must be immediately released.
Sept. 1-Nov. 30:
 ▶ Possession limit is 1.
 ▶ All walleye shorter than 21 inches or longer than 23 inches in length must be immediately released, except one walleye 28 inches or greater may be kept.
 ▶ Northern pike: For angling and spearing, all longer than 30 inches must be immediately released. Limit of three from Saturday, May 14, through Friday, March 31, 2023. Spearing season coincides with the statewide spearing season.
 ▶ Smallmouth and largemouth bass: All bass longer than 17 inches must be immediately released during the harvest season. Limit of three in combination. Angling seasons follow statewide fishing seasons.
Night closure
 ▶ May 16-June 3: No fishing for any species 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
 ▶ June 4-Aug. 31: 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., no fishing allowed. See exemptions.
 ▶ Sept. 1-Nov. 30: Midnight to 6 a.m., no fishing allowed. See exemptions.
Exemptions:
 ▶ Muskellunge and northern pike: Beginning June 4, these species may be targeted with artificial lures longer than 8 inches or sucker minnows longer than 8 inches. While fishing during the night closure, people may not possess or target any species other than muskellunge or northern pike.
 ▶ Bowfishing for non-game fish: People may not possess angling equipment while bowfishing and only non-game fish may be in possession.
Bait restrictions
 ▶ July 1-15: Anglers targeting northern pike and muskellunge can use sucker minnows longer than 8 inches. But anglers targeting all other fish species may not use live, dead, preserved or parts of minnows, night crawlers, worms, leeches or crayfish.
Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

CUCUMBER

From Page 1

beans, the cucumber, onions and peas were in the running for Vegetable of the Year. Of the 174 votes cast, 33.9% went for the cucumber and 33.3% went for green beans, according to Carolyn McQueen, a SNAP-Ed educator at the University of Minnesota Extension.

“Voting was done electronically,” Johnson said of the voting in which peas and onions tied for last place in the third county Vegetable of the Year contest. “Community members were able to vote for the vegetable from Dec. 1, 2021, to Jan. 28, 2022.”

Crow Wing Energized launched the One Vegetable, One Community initiative to encourage healthy eating. The latest Crow Wing County Community Health Survey found 2 out of 3 adults in the county are not eating the recommended five or more fruits and vegetables a day.

“Usually why vegetables have bad reputations is just how they taste, so we have some good recipes that you can make with cucumbers,” Kara Schaefer said.

Schaefer is a Crow Wing Energized community health educator and helped provide cucumber samples to the children in the form of pickles to taste at the Baxter outreach event.

“I really do tell the kids that their taste buds on their tongue, they change, so don’t be afraid to keep on trying foods in a different way and you’ll learn to like them,” McQueen said.

Badeaux the cucumber will be at the Brainerd Public Library at 10:30 a.m. May 24 for storytime to spread the gospel of good eating.

“We anticipate voting for the Vegetable of



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd Mayor Dave Badeaux reads to Early Childhood Family Education students Thursday at the Warrior Early Learning Center in Baxter as part of Crow Wing Energized’s community outreach event promoting the cucumber as Crow Wing County’s “Vegetable of the Year.”

the Year in 2023 to be in person at the Crow Wing County Fair,” Johnson said.

Early exposure to healthy eating

Badeaux and others who were dressed as a carrot and a pepper visited those in the Early Childhood Family Education program Thursday to promote the Vegetable of the Year.

“Did you notice that we have some vegetables back here?” asked Tahnee Flowers, a staff member, of the young children who babbled excitedly.

Badeaux said, “Anytime that I can get out in front of kids and try to connect with them, I think it’s super important. I think growing up in this area the thing that stuck out to me the most was the leaders and the amount of time they spent trying to connect with kids.”

The One Vegetable, One Community initiative strives to unite the community by encouraging gardeners to plant, grow, cook and/or share a single vegetable.

“We provide the seeds. ... We have the instructions. We want to make it as simple as possible so that they’re able to plant whatever vegetable

it is and then to try that vegetable,” Johnson said.

Crow Wing Energized’s stated mission is to improve the health and wellness of county residents by focusing in part on mental fitness and workplace wellness. Early childhood education about healthy eating can have benefits that last a lifetime.

“I think it’s really important not just as community members but as leaders that we get in front of kids ... to share with them the importance of paying attention to what they’re eating, and how what we eat and what we put in our bodies affects us,” Badeaux said.

Johnson said of the cucumber, “Hopefully, they’ll recognize that vegetable when they’re shopping with their parents. And then, hopefully, the word gets back to the parents as to the benefits ... why should you reach for that instead of chips, and just how nutritious it is for you.”

Cucumbers have nutrients, such as potassium and vitamins K and C, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and are a low-calorie food that are primarily water, making them great for reaching hydration goals.

you’ve got the chop it up, put it on a sandwich or a salad, you’ve got to soak it in the oil with the onions, (which) is always a good option. But I will admit that when it comes to cucumbers, I’m a little partial to the pickle.”

Vegetable appeal

Crow Wing Energized will be encouraging the community to increase their consumption of vegetables in 2022 by distributing seed packets, sharing recipes and promoting healthy eating.

“You always got to find creative ways to get people to eat vegetables,” Badeaux said. “Fruit? Not a problem. Vegetables? You’ve got to be creative.”

Cucurbitacins are a natural compound found in cucumbers and some other vegetables, such as squash, according to the USDA, and multiple variations of cucurbitacins work together to inhibit cancer growth, but some people simply cannot get

over the taste or the texture of vegetables.

“I always tell people to roast their veggies,” Schaefer said. “If you don’t like a veggie, put it in the oven — just put a little bit of oil and salt and pepper on it — and it makes it more into maybe a french fry. It’s a little bit crunchy. It’s not mushy.”

Badeaux asked the children seated at Thursday’s event if they liked pickles and many responded enthusiastically with their tiny arms up in the air.

“I actually used to do stand-up comedy, and I love crowds and love being in front of people, but more so I just love entertaining,” Badeaux said of life as a giant cucumber. “Hopefully, it’s something they remember as they become adults as well.”

FRANK LEE may be reached at 218-855-5863 or at frank.lee@brainerddispatch.com. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchFL.

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STORM

From Page 1



Contributed / Sheila Miller

A shelf cloud on Thursday on Big Pine Lake in Crosslake.



Contributed / Joshua Thomas

A shelf cloud on Thursday in Pillager.

throughout the area as the storm bore down. A dispatcher was heard on the scanner asking someone with a key to meet people in need of shelter at the Deerwood Auditorium, which was apparently locked. At 8:14 p.m., a 61 mph wind gust was reported in Brainerd, according to a local storm report to the weather service.

At 8:18 p.m., Minnesota Power reported 65 outages affecting 5,270 customers, with the majority of those outages occurring to the west and south of Brainerd and some in the Pillager area. At the same time, Crow Wing Power reported numerous outages as well, with more than 1,000 customers impacted in the Baxter area. The number of those affected appeared to grow throughout the night.

As the first round of storms began to dissipate after 8:30 p.m., downed tree reports came fast and furious.

At 8:25 p.m., multiple trees larger than 12 inches in diameter were reported down along Hessman Hill Road in Pine River. At 8:39 p.m., a tree was down on a power line and on fire in Manhattan Beach, which prompted the Crosslake Fire Department to respond.

In Baxter, a spotter reported eight trees down between their location and the next door neighbor on Red Sand Lake. The trees fell over a period of five minutes at the onset of the storm,

according to the report. Several trees were also downed by the winds near the North Memorial Health Ambulance station in Brainerd.

The National Weather Service in Duluth issued an update Thursday evening, noting periods of strong storms, damaging winds and heavy rain were expected. Some areas of the Northland were expected to see multiple rounds of storms, and with heavy rainfall as a threat, a flood warning remained in effect.

Strong to severe storms started in southwestern Minnesota, then spread northeast across much of central and eastern Minnesota into western Wisconsin. Damaging wind gusts and large hail were the primary threats, though a few tornadoes

could not be ruled out. Severe weather potential was highest in western and central Minnesota, with that threat diminishing moving eastward, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen stated.

Numerous severe thunderstorms were possible in Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Mille Lacs counties, along with most of Cass and Aitkin counties and other western Minnesota counties were expected to see widespread severe thunderstorms. A tornado watch for Wadena and Todd counties was issued at 5:35 p.m. and was in effect until midnight.

"Tonight's storms will likely be stronger and pose more of a damaging wind threat — especially near Brainerd," the

weather service stated Thursday.

The Storm Prediction Center produced a map showing the areas of the state most at threat for damaging winds. Much of the Brainerd lakes area had a 30% probability and was within an area the center marked as likely to see the strongest winds.

The lakes area was also at higher risk than the Arrowhead for flash flooding. Excessive runoff from heavy rains was expected to result in flooding of low-lying and flood-prone areas, along with areas with poor drainage and urban areas.

Based on the conditions as of 5:30 p.m. Thursday, the Mississippi River near Aitkin was forecast to rise to 14.4 feet by the weekend, maintaining its minor flood stage designation. At 13 feet, the boat ramp at the Aitkin city park floods and a few driveways in the Cedarbrook area are covered in water. Minor flooding of farmland also occurs in the area. At 15 feet, a few homes in the Cedarbrook neighborhood near Eagle Road become surrounded by water and the Aitkin city park becomes flooded.

INNOVATIVE

From Page 1

A nonprofit working with the Region Five Development Commission and Sourcewell, Innovative Schools Project aims to inspire innovation in students by providing matching funds or grants to public school classrooms within the five-county region of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena. The nonprofit works to remove financial barriers to educational resources and materials that promote hands-on, experiential learning. Last year, Innovative Schools Project started

the Innovative Teacher of the Year award, recognizing a teacher who has demonstrated innovative practices with students. The award comes with a \$1,000 grant for the winning teacher to use in their classroom.

"I'm going to put the money to good use, continue to do innovative things, I'm excited," Larsen said.

Clark Marshall, board chair of the Cuyuna Lakes Educational Foundation, nominated Larsen for this year's award.

"What she's done has had a remarkable impact and visibility, I think," Marshall said, noting Larsen undoubtedly played a role in the school's honor as the inaugural 2018 STEM

Innovation Award winner from the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association four years ago.

"She also participates in educational conferences throughout the country," Marshall added. "... She passes on her knowledge and experiences to others, which is an important part of what she does."

Over the past five years, Larsen looks back on a lot of 3D printing projects that have been popular with her students, along with laser engraving, ukulele building, circuitry and coding.

"It's really valuable for them," Larsen said of teaching students STEAM subjects early on in their education. "Especially because some

students don't thrive in the traditional classroom. This is something that they can excel at and I want them to be exposed to all different types of STEM concepts so that maybe if that's something that they're interested in, they could pursue it into their high school years and then beyond because it's something they're good at and something they might not normally figure out in a traditional classroom."

For more information on Innovative Schools Projects and its available grants and programs, visit ispmn.org.

Theresa Bourke may be reached at theresa.bourke@brainerddispatch.com or 218-855-5860. Follow her on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchTheresa.

and dented with windows or protective screens shattered. One snowmobile was smashed and other equipment sustained damage. The storage building itself was sizable but is a total loss.

"It's flat," Guida said. "There's nothing really salvageable from it."

At the fairgrounds buildings, which include winter storage, a pontoon was blown on its side.

Thankfully, Guida said, no one was in the buildings and everyone was safe.

"The plan is to obviously rebuild them and get them back," Guida said of the public buildings and hopefully get them done by fair time, which in recent years has been in July. Last year had a robust return to the fair after events were canceled during the pandemic.

Guida said last year's fair was probably one of the highest attended fairs they've ever had. "And so, we're hoping to have another great event this year," Guida said. "So we've got some work to do."

Thursday afternoon, with the second round of predicted storms, Aitkin County already had reports of small hail. Guida said they are hoping the tree damage will

be limited to the losses from Wednesday.

"Ironically, we've had two Skywarn weather spotter classes in Aitkin County this year," Guida said of the classes, which are hosted by the National Weather Service. The classes train people on what to watch for with severe weather and provide numerous ways to report what they see. Guida said they purchased 100 weather radios and all are now out in the county.

"And we are getting lots of great reports from people out in the communities," Guida said. "That's a benefit for us. We can kind of keep an eye on these storms that the radar to kind of find."

The National Weather Service announced there was a chance for storms in two waves, Wednesday and Thursday. But the damaging winds Wednesday seemed to blow up suddenly and specifically with force when the storm moved through Aitkin County. Guida said it seemed like a real low storm that didn't set off alarms as it ripped through north of Crosby on its way to Aitkin. Guida said they were able to get the alarms sounded and get McGregor students, who were on buses sitting outside, back into

the school building where they were safe.

"For the most part, it was pretty isolated little pockets of hard wind that knocked trees over," Guida said. "...But, all in all, considering the amount of energy there was at the fairgrounds, the rest of the county fared pretty well."

With rainfall, they are also keeping an eye on the Mississippi River at Aitkin where minor flooding was already occurring. The river appeared to have crested and was beginning to recede before rising again.

"So we're concerned about that but we're watching it, Guida said. "I think we've got a really good crew out there."

Guida said the Aitkin city departments were on top of it Wednesday night.

"They did a great job," he said, noting crews responded within minutes after power poles were knocked down to make sure everyone was safe.

"I'm glad it was daylight," Guida said of the storm's weekday timing.

Renee Richardson, managing editor, may be reached at 218-855-5852 or renee.richardson@brainerddispatch.com. Follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchBizBuzz.

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BOYS TENNIS



Photos by Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd's Noah Madsen returns the ball against Willmar on Thursday at Brainerd High School.

WINNING STREAK

Warriors stretch conference wins to 7



Brainerd's Beck Barber returns the ball against Willmar on Thursday at Brainerd High School.

By Conrad Engstrom
Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd

The sun was shining on the Brainerd Warriors as they continued to be undefeated in Central Lakes Conference play with a 7-0 win over Willmar Thursday, May 12.

Three singles players won their matches 6-0, 6-0 including No. 1 singles player Beck Barber, No. 2 single player Matthew Moraghan and No. 3 singles player Eli McConkey.

"We were really happy to play because the weather did not look good and we've had a lot of different cancellations and reschedules and they were

ready to play," Warriors head coach Ellen Fussy said. "It's really encouraging me because we have some big matches coming up."

Fussy was impressed with No. 1 doubles team Karlton Anderson and Noah Madsen in how they dispatched their opponent 6-1, 6-2.

"They had a little bit of a slow start," she said. "But they came out and decided to play hard."

Clark Haglin and Will Aadland won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles and Riley Pike and Jalen Emslander won at No. 3 doubles 6-2, 6-1.

At No. 4 singles, Gavin Jacobsen completed the sweep for the Warriors with a 6-1,

WARRIORS 7, WILLMAR 0

Key: Warriors make things look easy against Willmar.

Conference: Brd 7-0, Wil 0-8.

Overall: Brd 11-7, Wil 2-11.

Next: Brainerd at Alexandria 4 p.m. Friday, May 13.

6-2 win.

"I told them to come out and play hard," Fussy said. "They had to think about where they were going to put the ball and just always be thinking and I think they came out with an aggressive attitude and took care of business."

TENNIS: Page 13

Reynoso lifts Loons to Open Cup victory

By Andy Greder

St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — Emanuel Reynoso displayed his brilliance on a sun-splashed afternoon Thursday.

After Minnesota United's U.S. Open Cup round of 32 match resumed roughly 14 hours after a severe thunderstorm flooded Allianz Field and postponed the game on Wednesday night, the Loons' best player showed up when the goals had dried up.

Reynoso's beautiful footwork weaved through Colorado Rapids defenders and he finished with his special left foot in the 85th minute to produce a 2-1 victory that advances Minnesota into the Open Cup's Round of 16, with the draw coming Thursday

night. The other teams in the central region are Sporting Kansas City, Houston Dynamo and USL League One side Union Omaha.

The Cup game restarted in the 18th minute with the score tied 1-1, and it looked like Minnesota would be lucky to finish regulation deadlocked after center back Brent Kallman was booked with his second yellow card and sent off in the 83rd minute.

But when you have that Argentine No. 10, you can play with 10 men.

The Loons made four substitutions in the 65th minute, three of them attacking-focused and with a goal in mind — Reynoso, Robin Lod and Bongsi Hlongwane.

LOONS: Page 13



Matt Blewett / USA Today Sports

Minnesota United forward Abu Danladi (18) is congratulated by defender D.J. Taylor (27) after scoring on the Colorado Rapids in the first half on Wednesday at Allianz Field in St. Paul.

SOFTBALL

Warriors finish their conference season with another win



Tautges

FERGUS FALLS

— Olivia Tautges and Maren Ceynowa each homered as the Brainerd Warriors went unbeaten in Central Lakes Conference play with a 20-0 win over Fergus Falls Thursday, May 12.

Kasia Kroll and Emma Tautges each had three-hit days for the Warriors. Olivia Tautges eached base four times and finished with four RBIs.

Meghan Smith, Josie Kappes and Ceynowa each tallied two hits.

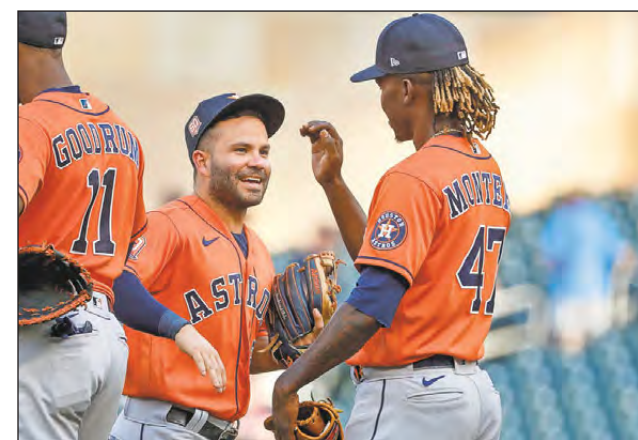
Mya Tautges pitched a perfect game in the circle and struck out five.

The Warriors improved to 15-0.

Brainerd 20 16 0
Fergus Falls 0 0 3

WP: Mya Tautges. 2B: Brd-Meghan Smith, Elsa Borchert, Josie Kappes, Emma Tautges. 3B: .

HR: Brd-Maren Ceynowa, Olivia Tautges. Conference: Brd 8-0, FF 2-7. Overall: Brd 15-0, FF 2-9. Next: Brainerd hosts Champlin Park noon Saturday, May 14.



Matt Blewett / USA Today Sports

Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve (center) celebrates with relief pitcher Rafael Montero (47) after defeating the Minnesota Twins in Game 2 of their doubleheader on Thursday at Target Field in Minneapolis.

Astros sweep the Twins in battle of AL division leaders

By John Shipley

St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS

The Minnesota Twins have done well to stay atop the American League Central with a large handful of rookies in the lineup and some of their best veterans on the injured list. But a meeting with the AL West-leading Astros showed them that against the big leagues' best, they're

going to have to be better.

Starting six players with less than a full year of major league experience under their belts on Thursday — and some well under that — the Twins struggled in a 5-0 loss to Houston to cap a rough day.

Yordan Alvarez was 3 for 5 with two homers and three RBIs, and the Astros chased

rookie starter Josh Winder after just 3 1/3 innings as Houston completed a three-game sweep in front of 16,918 on Thursday at Target Field.

It was the first time this season the Twins have been swept and lost three straight, although they remained atop the Central by 1 1/2 games

TWINS: Page 13

AREA SOFTBALL

Pierz splits with Zimmerman

PIERZ — Frankie Seelen pitched five innings of no-hit ball to lead Pierz to a 4-0 win, and Britney Schommer gave up two earned runs on just three hits but was the hard luck loser in a 2-1 win for Zimmerman in Game Two Thursday, May 12.

The game was suspended because of weather with the players playing kickball in the gym hoping for the weather to pass.

The hitting start for the Pioneers in

Game One was Kiara Olesch who was 1-2 with two RBIs. Seelen struck out seven and got the win.

In Game Two, it was Alyssa Sadlovsky with a 2-2 day with a run scored and three stolen bases in the 2-1 loss.

Game One Zimmerman 0 0 3 Pierz 4 3 0 WP: Frankie Seelen... Game Two Pierz 1 3 0 Zimmerman 2 3 1 LP: Britney Schommer. Overall: Prz 11-3. Next: Pierz hosts Foley 4 p.m. Friday, May 13 (2).

AREA GIRLS GOLF

Birkeland, Patriots tame Owatonna

OWATONNA — Freshman Genevieve Birkeland cleared the field by three strokes and the Pequot Lakes Patriots won the Owatonna Invite by 27 strokes Thursday, May 12, at the Owatonna Country Club.

Birkeland fired nines of 40-44 for her first-place 84. She birdied the 110-yard par 3 seventh hole.

Morgan Krieger shot 90, Charlee Sullivan 98 and Annie Neva 100 for Pequot's 372 team score.

Team scores: 1-Pequot Lakes 372, 2-Albert Lea 399, 3-Lakeville South 414, 4-New Prague 425, 5-Owatonna 426, 6-Lakeville North 449

Individual medalist: Genevieve Birkeland (PL) 84 Pequot Lakes results: Genevieve Birkeland 84, Morgan Krieger 90, Charlee Sullivan 98, Annie Neva 100, Kate Stephens 111

Next: Pequot Lakes in Cardinal Invite at The Vintage at Staples 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 13.

Pillager competes

LONG PRAIRIE — Kimberly Keefe shot a 120 for the Pillager Huskies as they placed third in a Quad County Conference meet Thursday, May 12, at Long Prairie Country Club.

Team scores: 1-Ottertail Central 312, 2-Hillcrest Lutheran, 3-Pillager 422

Individual medalist: Sophie Hillman

(OTC) 93 Pillager results: Kimberly Keefe 120, Rya Glas 139, Haley Hall 163

Next: Pillager in Cardinal Invite at The Vintage at Staples 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 13.

PRB stopped after 7 holes

VIRGINIA — The Pine River-Backus girls golf only got through seven holes before weather stopped them at the Rock Ridge Invite Thursday, May 12, at Virginia Golf Course

The invite will not be finished.

Next: Pine River-Backus in Northern Pine Conference meet at Castle Highlands Golf Course 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 17.

AREA BOYS GOLF

Pierz collects 5th-place then finishes in Kimball

KIMBALL — Logan Herold led the way for Pierz with an 81 as the Pioneers placed fifth in the Ken Helling Invite Thursday, May 12, at Kimball Golf Club

Lanced Omtremba fired an 85 and Alex Banick an 87 as well for Pierz.

Tyler Theis shot 92 for the Pioneers.

Team scores: 1-Osakis 339, 2-BBE 340, 3-Paynesville 342, 4-Albany 343, 5-Pierz 345, 6-Kimball 355, 7-Litchfield 359, 7-Big Lake 359, 9-Zimmerman 384, 10-Rocori 390

Individual medalist: Gannon Walsh (BBE) 75 Pierz results: Logan Herold 81, Lance Omtremba 85, Alex Banick 87, Tyler Theis 92, Jacob LeBlanc 103, Connor Gotvald 104

Next: Pierz in Granite Ridge Conference meet at Blackberry Ridge Golf Club 8:30 a.m.

Pillager gets 3rd

LONG PRAIRIE — Braedyn Berent shot a

97 for the Pillager Huskies who placed third Thursday, May 12, in a Quad County Conference meet at Long Prairie Country Club.

Team scores: 1-Underwood 358, 2-Hillcrest 397, 3-Pillager 404, 4-Ottertail Central 420, 5-LPGE-Brownville 444

Individual medalist: Trevor Swonger 76 Pillager results: Braedyn Berent 97, Brenden Brichacek 99, Evan Imgrund 102, Jackson Camacho 106, Drew Berent 108, Owen Pantzke 115

Next: Pillager in Quad County Conference meet at Tiptinah Mounds 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 18.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Munoz fires 60 to open Byron Nelson

Sebastian Munoz did that 60 thing again.

Munoz topped the leaderboard at the Byron Nelson Classic with an opening-round 60 on Thursday, becoming the first player in PGA Tour history with multiple rounds of 60 or lower in the same season.

"It's a great feeling when everything is clicking," Munoz said after draining his ninth birdie of the first round in McKinney, Texas.

The University of North Texas product made few mistakes with a 12-under round at TPC Craig Ranch, opening a four-shot lead over Mito Pereira of Chile and American Peter Malnati through the morning wave.

Needing his third eagle of the day on No. 18 for a 59, Munoz went wide of the green on his approach but was able to get an up-and-down birdie to seal the 60.

Munoz bogeyed the par-4 eighth but sandwiched two birdies between eagles on No. 9 — with a 15 1/2-foot putt — and No. 12 and recorded a 28 on the back nine. Munoz eagled 9 and 12 in the first round of the event in 2021.

The 29-year-old Colombian also scored a 60 in the first round of the RSM Classic in November on a par-70 course.

Lakers want to interview

Bucks assistant Lee

Milwaukee Bucks assistant Charles Lee is the latest name on the radar in the Los Angeles Lakers' coaching search.

The Athletic reported Thursday that the Lakers have requested permission to interview Lee, 37, who has been on coach Mike Budenholzer's staff in Milwaukee since 2018.

He is the second Bucks assistant linked to the Lakers' vacancy, along with Darvin Ham. Toronto Raptors assistant Adrian Griffin and former NBA head coaches Terry Stotts and

Mark Jackson are also said to be under consideration.

Los Angeles fired coach Frank Vogel last month after finishing 33-49 and missing the playoffs.

The defending champion Bucks hold a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series with the Boston Celtics. Game 6 is Friday night in Milwaukee.

Lee previously worked as an assistant coach for the Atlanta Hawks (2014-18) and at his alma mater Bucknell (2012-14). He was the Patriot League's Player of the Year in 2005-06 and a two-time conference tournament MVP.

Grizzlies' Kleiman is NBA Executive of Year

Memphis Grizzlies general manager Zach Kleiman was named the 2021-22 NBA Executive of the Year on Thursday.

Kleiman, 33, is the youngest recipient of the award, presented annually since 1972-73 and voted on by his peers.

Kleiman, who is also the team's executive vice president of operations, helped to assemble a Memphis roster that finished 56-26 this season. The Grizzlies matched a franchise record for wins and earned their highest seed (No. 2) ever in the Western Conference playoffs.

He received 16 first-place votes and 85 total points. Tied for second with 27 points each were Cleveland Cavaliers president of basketball operations Koby Altman and Chicago Bulls executive VP of operations Arturas Karnisovas.

Kleiman is the second Grizzlies executive to win the honor, joining Jerry West (2003-04).

Memphis routed Golden State 134-95 in Game 5 on Wednesday night but still trails the Warriors 3-2 in the best-of-seven conference semifinal series. Game 6 is Friday night in San Francisco.

—Field Level Media

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Professional MLB table with columns: American League, East, W, L, Pct, GB

Central table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB

West table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB

National League table with columns: East, W, L, Pct, GB

Central table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB

West table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB

American League Wednesday's Results table

Thursday's Results table

Friday's Games table

Saturday's Games table

National League Wednesday's Results table

Thursday's Results table

Friday's Games table

Saturday's Games table

Interleague Wednesday's Results table

Thursday's Results table

Friday's Games table

Houston 11, Minnesota 3 table

Minnesota 3, St. Louis 2 table

Los Angeles 5, Pittsburgh 3 table

Florida 5, Washington 3 table

California 3, Texas 1 table

Atlanta 5, Boston 3 table

St. Louis 10, Baltimore 1 table

AREA EVENTS

- Friday, May 13 BASEBALL Rush City at Crosby-Ironton 4:30 p.m. Little Falls at Milaca 5 p.m. Pequot Lakes at Detroit Lakes 4 p.m. (2) Pillager vs. Ottertail Central at Henning 4:30 p.m. Osakis at Staples-Motley 4:30 p.m. Sebeka at Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale 4:30 p.m. Wadena-Deer Creek vs. South Ridge at New York Mills 3:30 p.m. Wadena-Deer Creek at New York Mills 6:15 p.m. SOFTBALL McGregor at Crosby-Ironton 4 p.m. Little Falls at St. Cloud Cathedral 7 p.m. Pequot Lakes at Royalton 4:30 p.m. Foley at Pierz 4 p.m. Kimball at Pierz 5:30 p.m. Staples-Motley at Pillager 4 p.m. Pine River-Backus at Northland 4:30 p.m. Swanville at Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale at Upsala 4 p.m. Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale at Upsala 5:30 p.m. Long Prairie-Grey Eagle at Wadena-Deer Creek 2 p.m. BOYS GOLF Brainerd in Presection 8-3A meet at Headwaters Golf Course 10 a.m. GIRLS GOLF Brainerd in Central Lakes Conference and Presection 8-3A meet at Rich Spring Golf Course 10 a.m. Crosby-Ironton/Aitkin, Pequot Lakes, Pillager, Wadena-Deer Creek at Cardinal Open at The Vintage at Staples 9:30 a.m. TRACK AND FIELD Crosby-Ironton at Duluth Denfeld 3 p.m. Pequot Lakes, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale at Pillager 4 p.m. BOYS TENNIS Brainerd at Alexandria 4 p.m. Aitkin at Duluth Marshall 4:15 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL Region 13 Tournament At St. Cloud Central Lakes vs. TBA

- TV AND RADIO Friday, May 13 BASEBALL: College: Xavier at Connecticut, 6 p.m., FS1 MLB: Cleveland at Minnesota, 7 p.m., BSN, KKKI-FM (94.3), KUAL-FM (103.5), WYRQ-FM (92.1), KWAD-AM (920) College: Mississippi at LSU, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2 BASKETBALL: NBA playoffs: Boston at Milwaukee, if necessary, ESPN NBA playoffs: Memphis at Golden State, if necessary, ESPN GOLF: DP World Tour Golf: Soudal Open, 6 a.m., GOLF LPGA Tour: Cognizant Founders Cup: 9:30 a.m., GOLF PGA Tour Champions: Regions Tradition, 12:30 p.m., GOLF PGA Tour: AT&T Byron Nelson, 3 p.m., GOLF FOOTBALL: USFL: 7 p.m., USA HOCKEY: NHL playoffs: New York Rangers vs. Pittsburgh, 7 p.m., TNT NHL playoffs: Florida vs. Washington, 7:30 pm. NHL playoffs: Calgary vs. Dallas 9:30 p.m., TNT SOFTBALL: Big Ten semifinal, 1 p.m., BTN SEC Tournament semifinal, 2 p.m., ESPN2 Big Ten semifinal, 3 p.m., BTN SEC Tournament semifinal, 4:30 p.m., ESPN2

GOLF table with columns: Player, Score, Opponent

Cognizant Founders Cup Clifton, NJ table

BASKETBALL

Professional NBA Playoffs table

Wednesday's Games table

Thursday's Games table

Friday's Games table

Saturday's Games table

Wednesday's Games table

Thursday's Games table

Friday's Games table

Saturday's Games table

Wednesday's Games table

Thursday's Games table

Baldelli, Arraez return from Twins' COVID-19 list

By John Shipley
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli and infielder Luis Arraez were back for the Twins on Thursday after missing five games on the team's COVID-19 injured list.

Baldelli managed both of Thursday's games against the Astros, and Arraez played first base in the second after being officially activated from the IL.

Baldelli, Arraez and pitcher Dylan Bundy spent three days quarantined in the Baltimore Four Seasons before flying back to Minnesota on a small medical plane Sunday. The manager said he suspected they were infected during a three-game series at Tampa Bay's Tropicana Field.

"It's hard not to think the Trop was the spot," he said. "And there were a lot of people there not feeling well when we were there."

The Cleveland Guardians, due in Minnesota on Friday for a three-game weekend series at Target Field, had their Wednesday game against the White Sox in Chicago postponed because of multiple positive COVID tests.

"We're just planning on



Bruce Kluckhohn / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Twins left fielder Mark Contreras (55) slides into third base from first on a single by right fielder Alex Kirilloff (not pictured) against the Houston Astros in the first game of their doubleheader on Thursday at Target Field in Minneapolis.

playing," Baldelli said. "You wish you didn't have to deal with that after coming back, and I know Oakland was dealing with some things, I think, staff-wise, as well. I think the reality is there's going to be a

lot of teams dealing with this moving forward."

To make room for Arraez on the 26-man active roster, the Twins optioned catcher José Godoy to Triple-A St. Paul. The team also trans-

ferred Chris Paddack from the 15-day to the 60-day injured list with right elbow inflammation.

Rare feat

Nick Gordon did something

you don't see often on Thursday.

After pitching a scoreless ninth inning in Game 1, he made a highlight reel in center field in the second inning, laying out for a diving catch to rob Jose Altuve of at least a double with two on in the second inning.

Big league debuts

Although on the mound and ready to go on Wednesday, Yennier Cano had to wait a little longer to make his major league debut. He pitched the first 2.3 innings of a resumed game on Thursday as Houston completed an 11-3 victory that was suspended after three innings because of Wednesday night's violent storms.

Cano, 28, pitched two 1-2-3 innings before giving up a solo home run to Kyle Tucker to start the sixth. He left after allowing singles to Jose Siri and Martin Maldonado, both of whom scored after Cano was replaced by Cody Stashak.

Outfielder Mark Contreras also made his big league debut, starting Thursday's first game in left field. He hit a sacrifice fly in his first major league at-bat and scored a run after reaching on an error in the seventh.

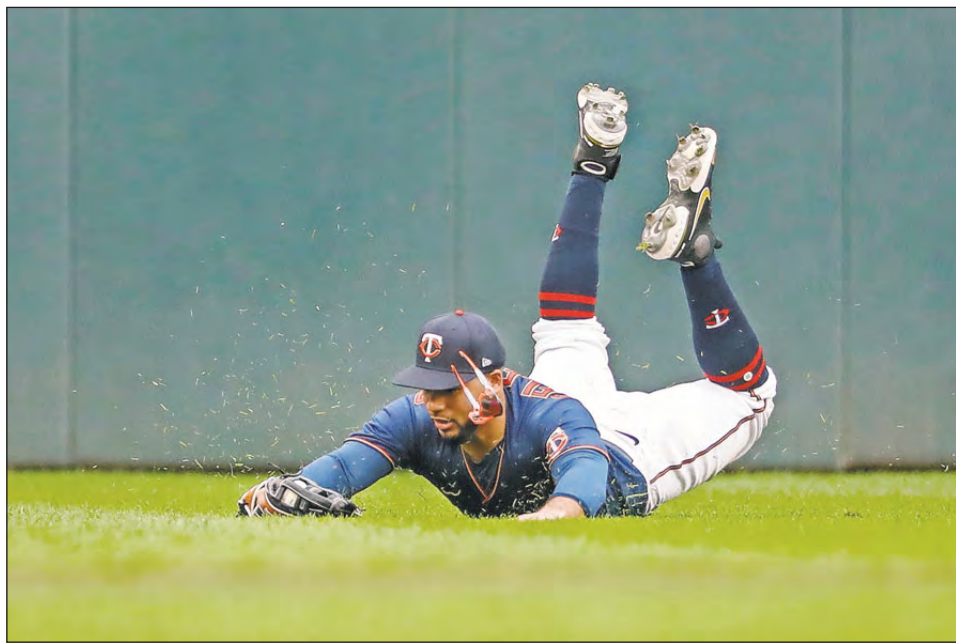
TWINS

From Page 11

over second-place Chicago before the White Sox's night game against the New York Yankees.

"The team looks, certainly, different than it did early on, (but) we always have to find ways to win," manager Rocco Baldelli said. "It doesn't matter if we're playing one of the best teams in baseball, as we were this week. I think we can look all around at the games that we just played and can say we need to pitch better and we need to swing the bats a little bit better."

With veteran shortstop Carlos Correa (thumb), first baseman Miguel Sano (knee) and outfielder Kyle Garlick (calf) on the injured list, as well as starting pitchers Chris Paddack (elbow) and Dylan Bundy (COVID), the Twins sent Winder out to the mound for his fourth major league start and started first baseman Jose Miranda and shortstop Royce



Bruce Kluckhohn / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Twins center fielder Gilberto Celestino (67) dives to catch a ball hit by Houston Astros left fielder Yordan Alvarez (not pictured) in the fifth inning of Game 1 of their doubleheader on Thursday at Target Field in Minneapolis.

Lewis for their 10th and sixth big-league games respectively.

In Thursday's first game, a resumption of the Wednesday night game suspended by storms, outfielder Mark Contreras and de facto starter Yennier Cano were making their major

league debuts. The Twins lost that one 11-3.

The Twins' young players did some good things at times — Gilberto Celestino was 2 for 4 with a great catch in center, outfielder Nick Gordon went 2 for 2, pitched a scoreless inning and made a highlight-reel catch in

center, for instance — but were unable to string any runs together.

"We saw some things, but they're just too spread out," Baldelli said. "They're there, we just have to pile them on top of each other."

Astros starter Luis Garcia (3-1) gave up five hits and two walks in

five innings but worked out of trouble with a career-high nine strikeouts. Minnesota struck out 12 times through the first six innings and finished the game 0 for 5 with runners in scoring position.

Six of their seven hits were singles, and they left nine runners on base. Since a May 4 loss at Baltimore, the Twins are 8 for 47 (.170) with runners in scoring position and are 3-5 in those eight games.

On the other end, an Astros team that has played in the past five AL Championship Series and two World Series — including a win in 2017 — showed what a good, veteran lineup can do against a talented young pitcher.

Winder (2-1), who started the day with a 1.62 earned-run average and just four walks in 22 1/3 innings, struggled to get the Astros to offer at his borderline pitches. He gave up four runs, three earned, on six hits — including Alvarez's two-run homer to dead center in the third inning

— and three walks.

"I mean, it's a really good lineup," Winder said. "They control the zone really, really well. ... We've just got to do a better job of being really good in the zone and making really quality pitches — and that's never a bad thing to work on. So, it's kind of a good reset for us. Kind of refocus and be better next time out."

Against Cano and Cody Stashak in the first game, Kyle Tucker hit a solo home run and a run-scoring double — one of the Astros' four in the inning — in the sixth inning alone.

One of Winder's base runners scored when Thielbar, fielding a slow roller, backhanded his throw well over the head of first baseman Luis Arraez to allow Jason Castro to score.

"It was a tough day today, in a lot of different ways," Baldelli said. "We just couldn't get over the hump to actually get tight enough in these games to give ourselves a chance."

LOONS

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Minnesota had played on the front foot for most of the second half, but couldn't capitalize, continuing a trend that had belabored the team throughout its 10 MLS games this season.

For the postponement, U.S. Soccer said both teams needed to keep the same 11 players Thursday that clubs had on the field when Wednesday's game was postponed.

For MNUFC, that meant manager Adrian Heath's experiment with a three-man back line in a 3-4-3 formation continued. Bakaye Dibassy, Brent Kallman, Michael Boxall were center backs; Oniel Fisher, Joseph Rosales, Kervin Arriaga, D.J. Taylor had places in in midfield; and attackers were Franco Frapagane, Abu Danladi and Adrien Hunou.

Goalkeeper Tyler Miller, who hasn't played in MLS since March 6, started his second straight cup game after helping produce a clean sheet in a 2-0 win over Forward Madison in the third round of the U.S. Open Cup on April 20.

The Loons will resume MLS play Sunday at Seattle, where they are 0-7-0 all-time in league games. The Sounders, which won the CONCACAF Champions League last week, were bounced out of the Open Cup 10-9 in penalty kicks by San Jose and were able to rest Thursday.

Minnesota will train at the National Sports Center on Friday before flying to Washington state.



Matt Blewett / USA Today Sports

Minnesota United defender Bakaye Dibassy (12) defender Michael Boxall (15) defender Brent Kallman (14) and midfielder Kervin Arriaga (33) line up in front of goalkeeper Tyler Miller (1) to block a free kick by Colorado Rapids forward Diego Rubio (11) in the first half on Wednesday at Allianz Field in St. Paul.

TENNIS

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Thursday's match started a busy stretch for the Warriors, who play Friday, Saturday and Monday.

Friday is a conference match against Alexandria while Saturday is a section triangular against Cambridge-Isanti and Blaine. Then, Monday is a rematch against St. Cloud, who Brainerd beat 4-3 earlier in the season.

"You want to play

better each practice, each match," Fussy said. "You want to see improvement on the things you are working on. I'm really proud of the guys because they have really started to gel."

The Warriors sit 7-0 in conference right now

and 11-7 overall. Fussy said she's found a good lineup combination for her team.

"We have our three lineups that we are going to use at sections in," Fussy said. "We played around with our lineups and now we have those

three lineups. Any of those three give us a good chance to win against any opponent we see."

Brainerd 7, Willmar 0
Singles
No. 1: Beck Barber (Brd) def. David Thaden 6-0, 6-0
No. 2: Matthew Moraghan (Brd) def. Josh Jensen 6-0, 6-0
No. 3: Eli McConkey (Brd) def. Miguel Garcia 6-0, 6-0
No. 4: Gavin Jacobsen (Brd) def. Mateo

Engan 6-1, 6-2
Doubles
No. 1: Karlton Anderson-Noah Madsen (Brd) def. Andrew Ziebarth-Jorge Velasquez 6-1, 6-2
No. 2: Clark Haglin-Will Aadland (Brd) def. Aaron Marthaler-Brandon Valladaves 6-1, 6-0
No. 3: Riley Pike-Jalen Emslander (Brd) def. Ryan Newberg-Gabe LaRue 6-2, 6-1

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Vikings sign 5, including Gophers' Otomewo

By Chris Tomasson
St. Paul Pioneer Press

University of Minnesota edge rusher Ezezi Otomewo said he was "ecstatic" when selected last month by the Vikings in the fifth round of the NFL draft. And now he's under contract.

Otomewo, selected with the No. 165 overall pick, signed his deal Thursday. He got a four-year, \$3.97 million contract with a signing bonus of \$309,048 and will count \$782,262 on the 2022 cap.

The Vikings, who had 10 draft selections, announced that four others have signed deals on the eve of Friday's first day of a two-day rookie minicamp. That includes safety Lewis Cine, who was taken out of Georgia with the No. 32 in the first round and had agreed to terms Wednesday.

Also signing were running back Ty Chandler, taken out of North Carolina with the No. 169 pick in the fifth round, wide receiver Jalen Nailor, who went No. 199 in the sixth round out of Michigan State, and tight end Nick Muse, selected No. 227 in the seventh round from South Carolina. Muse had agreed Wednesday to terms.

Chandler got a four-year, \$3.96 million contract with a signing bonus of \$298,840 and will count \$779,710 on the 2022 cap. Nailor received a four-year, \$3.84 million



Nick Wosika / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Golden Gophers defensive lineman Ezezi Otomewo celebrates a stop against the Nebraska Cornhuskers on fourth down during the fourth quarter on Oct. 16, 2021, at Huntington Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

deal with a signing bonus of \$180,659 and will count \$750,165 on the 2022 cap.

Also Thursday, a source said tackle Vederian Lowe, selected No. 184 by the Vikings in the sixth round out of Illinois, agreed to terms. He is in line for a four-year, \$3.86 million contract with a signing bonus

of \$197,873 and will count \$754,468 on the 2022 cap.

Remaining unsigned are cornerback Andrew Booth, a second-round pick from Clemson, guard Ed Ingram, a second-round pick from LSU, linebacker Brian Asamoah, a third-round selection out of Oklahoma, and cornerback

Akayleb Evans, a fourth-round pick from Missouri.

Sources said that contract negotiations with Ingram and Asamoah are not close and that both players are expected to take part in the minicamp under an injury protection agreement. All of Minnesota's draft picks are expected at the

minicamp.

Otomewo became the first Gophers player drafted by the Vikings since linebacker Nate Triplett went in the fifth round in 2010. Otomewo said when he was selected on April 30 he was moved to tears.

Numbers game

When Cine was introduced to the media in Minnesota on April 29, the day after his selection, he was given jersey No. 6 and said No. 16, which he wore at Georgia, was unavailable. But the Viking announced on Tuesday that Cine would wear No. 16 after all.

However, according to Cine's agency, Roc Nation Sports, he has decided to stick with No. 6 for 2022. As of Thursday night, Cine was still listed on the roster at No. 16 and punter Jordan Berry was listed at No. 6. Berry wore No. 3 last season but gave up that number when cornerback Cameron Dantzle switched from No. 27 to No. 3. Cine was asked when he was introduced in Minnesota about No. 6.

"I wanted to pick 16, but the option wasn't there, so the closest thing to 16 was the six without the one," he said. "So yeah. And, plus, single digit: sell a whole lot, so why not?"

Appearing this week on the podcast of longtime star cornerback Richard Sherman, Cine reiterated those thoughts on a single-digit number.

Vikings to open with Packers, host Patriots on Thanksgiving night

By Chris Tomasson
St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN, Minnesota — The Minnesota Vikings opened the 2020 season against Green Bay at home. When they next do so, there will be fans on hand.

The NFL revealed the full schedule on Thursday, and it includes the Vikings beginning the regular season against the Packers on Sept. 11 at 3:25 p.m. at U.S. Bank Stadium. When the teams played in the opener two years ago, no fans were allowed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The game will mark the debut of first-year Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell.

Another big game on the schedule has the Vikings playing on Thanksgiving. And it won't be at Detroit or Dallas.

The Vikings will face the New England Patriots at 7:20 p.m. on Thanksgiving (Nov. 24) at U.S. Bank Stadium in a game that will be televised nationally by NBC. It will be the first NFL Thanksgiving game in



Stew Milne / USA Today Sports

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick shakes hands with Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins following the game at Gillette Stadium on Dec. 2, 2018, in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

Minnesota.

The Vikings have played eight previous games on the holiday, five at Detroit and three at Dallas. Those teams traditionally have hosted Thanksgiving games during the day. The NFL added a third Thanksgiving game in prime

time in 2006.

The Vikings last played on Thanksgiving at Detroit in 2017 after also playing there on the holiday in 2016. Before that, their most recent Thanksgiving game was at Dallas in 2000.

New England last played in Minnesota in 2014. O'Connell was

selected by the Patriots as a quarterback in the third round of the 2008 draft and played one season with them.

Prior to Thursday, it was announced that the Vikings would play at Philadelphia in Week 2 on Sept. 19 on Monday Night Football and as the road team in Week 4 on

Oct. 2 against New Orleans in London.

Due to the game in London, the Vikings will play just seven true road games and will have nine home games during the NFL's second 17-game season. And, unlike in their trips to London in 2013 and 2017, the Vikings won't have a bye the week after going overseas. They will play Chicago at home in Week 5 on Oct. 9.

The Vikings, who will play Detroit in Week 3 on Sept. 25 at U.S. Bank Stadium, will have only one true road game in the first five weeks of the season. But they will end up closing the season with two games on the road, Jan. 1 at Green Bay and Jan. 8 at Chicago.

The Vikings long had known their opponents for 2022 before all dates became official on Thursday. Here's their regular-season schedule:

Sept. 11 Green Bay, 3:25 p.m., Fox
Sept. 19 at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m., ABC
Sept. 25 Detroit, noon, Fox
Oct. 2 New Orleans in

London, 8:30 a.m., NFL Network

Oct. 9 Chicago, noon, Fox

Oct. 16 at Miami, noon, Fox

Oct. 23 Bye

Oct. 30 Arizona, noon, Fox

Nov. 6 at Washington, noon, Fox

Nov. 13 at Buffalo, noon, Fox

Nov. 20 Dallas, 3:25 p.m., CBS

Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving) New England, 7:20 p.m., NBC

Dec. 4 New York Jets, noon, CBS

Dec. 11 at Detroit, noon, Fox

Dec. 17/18 Indianapolis, TBD, TBD

Dec. 24 New York Giants, noon, Fox

Jan. 1 at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m., CBS

Jan. 7/8 at Chicago, TBD, TBD

The Vikings' preseason schedule also was released Thursday, but not any dates. In their first game, the Vikings will play in Las Vegas for the first time against the Raiders. That will be followed by a home game against San Francisco and a game at Denver.

Lightning's OT win pushes Maple Leafs to Game 7

Field Level Media

Brayden Point scored at 18:04 overtime and the Tampa Bay Lightning defeated the visiting Toronto Maple Leafs 4-3 Thursday night to force a seventh game in their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Point, who also had an assist, scored his second goal of the best-of-seven series when he knocked in a rebound during a scrum around the goal. The tally occurred after Toronto came close at the other end.

The decisive Game 7 will be played Saturday in Toronto.

Toronto overcame a 2-0 deficit with three consecutive second-period goals. Auston Matthews started the surge, and John Tavares completed it by scoring twice 26 seconds apart in the final minute.

Nikita Kucherov tied the game midway through the third period while Tampa Bay had a two-man advantage.

William Nylander added two assists for the Maple Leafs, who have not won a first-round playoff series since 2004.

Ondrej Palat and Anthony Cirelli also scored for the Lightning, who got 30 saves from Andrei Vasilevskiy.

Jack Campbell stopped 31 shots for the Maple Leafs.

Alexander Kerfoot's turnover with the teams playing four-on-four allowed Palat to break in and score on a 23-footer to Campbell's blocker side at 17:38 of the first period. Palat's third goal of the series put Tampa Bay up 1-0.

Cirelli scored a short-handed goal at 10:46 of the second period to double the lead. He stole the puck in the neutral zone, broke in to beat Campbell with a spin-around shot.

Matthews answered 54 seconds later with his fourth goal of the series, deflecting Mark Giordano's shot.

Tavares scored at 19:26 of the second on a shot from the left circle, then added his third goal of the series at 19:52 from the left circle on Nylander's pass.

Kucherov tied the game from the slot at 9:20 of the third period with his second goal of the series while Tampa Bay was on a five-on-three power play. David Kampf and Kerfoot were serving high-sticking penalties.

Tampa Bay's Brandon Hagel missed an open net with about three minutes left in regulation.

Tampa Bay led 30-24 in shots on goal after three periods.

Toronto had a 9-5 edge in shots on goal in overtime.

Bruins pull away from Hurricanes, force Game 7

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins forced a deciding Game 7 in their Eastern Conference first-round series, scoring twice in the second period and three times in the third en route to a 5-2 win over the Carolina Hurricanes on Thursday night.

The home team has won all six games in the series. Game 7 is Saturday in Raleigh, N.C.

Brad Marchand and Charlie Coyle each had a goal and an assist, Derek Forbort, Erik Haucla and Curtis Lazar also scored and Tomas Nosek dished out two assists for Boston.

Bruins goalie Jeremy Swayman made 23 saves in his fourth consecutive start. He stopped all 11 shots he faced in the first period.

Andrei Svechnikov scored both Carolina goals, including one on the power play to end the home team's three-goal run during the final frame.

Antti Raanta recorded 29 saves in the loss.



Kim Klement-USA Today Sports

Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88), defenseman Zach Bogosian (24), defenseman Erik Cernak (81), defenseman Cal Foote (52) celebrate after defeating the Toronto Maple Leafs in overtime of Game 6 of the first round of the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs on Thursday at Amalie Arena in Tampa.

Carolina trimmed Boston's lead to 2-1 early in the third, but the hosts broke the game open with goals at the 7:08 and 10:43 marks. Haucla netted the first of those tallies, redirecting in Charlie McAvoy's pass from the slot after the defenseman

retrieved a loose puck. Forbort then tipped home Nosek's point shot to make it a 4-1 game, his first goal since Nov. 20.

Lazar added an empty-netter at 15:43 before Svechnikov tallied a consolation goal at 17:30.