



Willmar man charged with assault for allegedly stabbing 2 women. **A3**

**Cards begin section play. B1**

WILLMAR, MINN.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022

WCTTRIB.COM



Photos by Mike Moore / West Central Tribune

Cash Wise Foods store director David Ham holds up massive scissors Wednesday during a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the remodeling of the Willmar store.

## GRAND REOPENING

Willmar celebrates Cash Wise Foods renovations

**By Shelby Lindrud**  
West Central Tribune

**Willmar**

In 2021, Coborn's Inc. celebrated its 100th anniversary and at the same time kicked off a major upgrade at one of its original Cash Wise Foods. The Willmar location opened in 1979, and on Wednesday it celebrated the completion of that renovation.

"We are really excited about this remodel," said Dave Meyer, Coborn's chief operating officer. "It looks amazing."

Meyer was joined by other Cash Wise and Coborn's staff, including Willmar store director David Ham and Coborn's CEO Chris Coborn at the grand reopening ribbon-cutting. Others in attendance included Willmar Mayor Marv Calvin, Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce President Ken Warner and several members of the chamber, as well as store employees and shoppers.



Shoppers meander through the newly renovated Bake Shoppe following a ribbon-cutting for the remodeling of Cash Wise Foods grocery store Wednesday in Willmar.

"The city of Willmar is very fortunate to have you here. We are glad you made the investment here," Calvin said.

The Willmar Cash Wise store holds a special place in Coborn's portfolio of stores. As one of the first Cash Wise

stores in Minnesota and the Dakotas, it became a training ground for store managers across the company and some of the store's employees ended up working for Coborn's for decades, Coborn said. The Willmar store was named Coborn's

store of the year in 2011.

"We are really proud to be in Willmar," said Coborn.

The newly renovated store has a bright look, with major changes to the layout made with the shopper in mind. The bakery, including the made-on-site tortillas, has moved to the front of the store. That is followed by an expanded deli, now called The Kitchen, with pre-made meals. In the meat department Cash Wise is now offering smoked meat.

"We added a smoker," said Ham. "Everything I have tried has been amazing."

The floral department, along with the greeting card selection, is now by the produce section, renamed the Farmer's Market. The store has a full-service pharmacy with a drive-thru and private consultation room. Cash Wise Liquor, which used to be in a separate building, has now been integrated into the main store. And throughout

**CASH WISE:** Page A2

## Search warrants unsealed

**Hennepin County judge lifts seal for papers related to Amir Locke shooting**

**By Deanna Weniger**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — A Hennepin County judge on Thursday lifted the seal on seven search warrants associated with the arrest of Mekhi Speed and subsequent shooting death of Speed's cousin, Amir Locke, by a Minneapolis police officer in a down-



Locke

town apartment. The documents state that police sought a "no knock entry" warrant for the Minneapolis apartment because they feared "the loss, destruction or removal of the objects of the search or to protect the safety of the searchers or the public because ... (the homicide) was a violent robbery where the suspect shot the victim..."

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill approved the no knock entry warrants. They were sought as part of an investigation into the Jan. 10 fatal shooting of Otis R. Edler, 38, in St. Paul.

The warrants were originally filed as confidential because their focus was a juvenile. Hennepin County Judge Mark Kappelhoff opted to release the warrants because "any interest the subject of the warrants has in keeping the warrants confidential is outweighed by the public's interest in access to the information," he wrote in an order timestamped 4:49 p.m. Feb. 9.

As part of the release, he redacted the names, birth dates and addresses of any minors identified in the documents, "to protect the privacy interests of the minors."

### Shooting investigation

In the charges against Speed, authorities say Elder was shot during a robbery or attempted robbery. Speed is alleged to be the shooter.

Six of the search warrants were for apartments in the Bolero Flats complex at 1117

**WARRANTS:** Page A2

## 'Rattlesnake James' killed Minn. woman

James murdered 5th wife, Mary Busch, which led to his execution in California



Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press  
A picture of Mary Busch from an article in the Alexandria Citizen, written around the time of her death.

**Editor's note:** This is another installment of The Vault series, which examines crimes, missing persons, mysteries and other cases. Information is based on archived newspaper accounts. Warning: This story includes graphic accounts of violence.

**By Thalen Zimmerman**  
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA, Minn. — Robert James, born Raymond Lisenba of Alabama on March 6, 1894, would be dubbed "Rattlesnake James" during his murder trial of his fifth wife, Mary Busch of Alexandria, Minnesota, for his first cruel attempt at her death. But not his first alleged killing.

### Barbered beginnings

Raymond Lisenba was born in Hale County, Alabama, in

1894 to a low-income family and worked as a sharecropper until his brother-in-law paid for him to attend barber school in Birmingham.

According to a 2017 article from Los Angeles Magazine, he was described as a pale, portly man with "beady, red-rimmed and green eyes, a high nasal voice," and red hair greased to the back of his head. "His neighbors said he was 'less than a half-wit'" as he never strived in the world of academics. But where he lacked intelligence, he made up with charm as he was popular with women.

### Maud Duncan

During his time in Birmingham, James met Maud Duncan and formed a relationship

with her. On Oct. 8, 1914, the two became husband and wife until his dark tendencies led to their divorce.

James' desire for sadistic "activities" from Duncan startled her and drove a wrench into their relationship, and not long after the two were married, Duncan filed for divorce.

After his divorce, Lisenba started calling himself Robert James, moved to Kansas, and opened a barbershop, where he met his second wife.

### Vera May

According to 1925 Kansas State Census records, while in Kansas, James married Vera May and lived a quiet life

**MURDER:** Page A5

# Dust collector fire extinguished at West Central Steel building

**West Central Tribune**  
WILLMAR — A dust collector fire was discovered and extinguished Thursday morning at a building on the West Central Steel campus in west Willmar. Smoke was reported to be coming from a vent on the south side of the west building, according to a news release from Willmar Fire Chief Frank Hanson. When Willmar Fire Department

units responded to the scene at approximately 11:42 a.m. Thursday, firefighters removed the dust collector filters, which were on fire. It was later determined an employee had observed the smoke coming from the building vent. He returned to the building and activated the fire extinguishment system on the dust collector. Firefighters remained at the

scene until about 1 p.m. Thursday. The only damage at the scene was to the filters of the dust collector. There were no injuries reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The Willmar Fire Department was assisted by CentraCare Emergency Medical Services-Willmar; Blomkest, Kandiyohi and Spicer fire departments; and the Willmar Police Department.

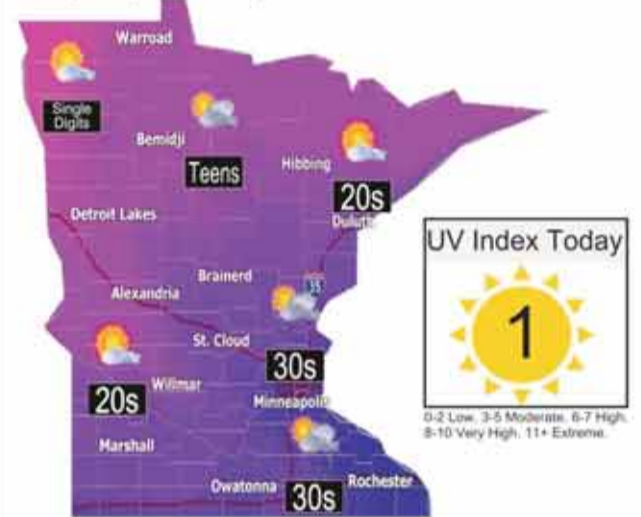


Jared Piepenburg, Jesse Ritka, Chief Meteorologist John Wheeler, Lydia Blume, Robert Poynter

## StormTRACKER WILLMAR FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
23/-14 Cloudy/Wind	8/-12 Mostly Cloudy	10/9 Mostly Cloudy	15/8 Partly Cloudy
Wind: NW 27 mph	Wind: W 7 mph	Wind: SW 14 mph	Wind: NW 11 mph
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
33/19 Cloudy	24/4 Cloudy	15/5 Partly Cloudy	27/12 Partly Cloudy
Wind: SE 17 mph	Wind: NW 15 mph	Wind: NW 14 mph	Wind: W 14 mph

\*Average wind speed for each day



Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow	Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow
Bemidji, MN	12 / -21	1 / -22	Marshall, MN	27 / -5	20 / -8
Duluth, MN	25 / -13	6 / -11	Minneapolis, MN	33 / -6	7 / -8
Eau Claire, WI	36 / -5	8 / -7	Rochester, MN	37 / -2	6 / -5
Fargo, ND	12 / -12	6 / -6	Sioux Falls, SD	33 / -1	27 / -1
International Falls, MN	9 / -26	0 / -29	St. Cloud, MN	26 / -13	6 / -13

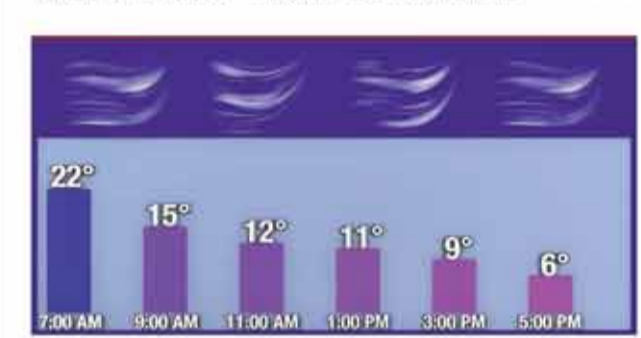


## StormTRACKER Forecast

Colder today with cloudy skies. Highs in the low 20s.

Almanac Through 6 pm Thursday		
Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	37°	10°
Avg. Wind Direction Thursday SW		
Peak Wind Speed Thursday 20 mph		

Sunrise: 7:27 a.m. Sunset: 5:42 p.m.  
Moonrise: 12:46 p.m. Moonset: 5:15 a.m. Feb. 12



## TODAY'S INFO

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**Corrections**  
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Winning numbers drawn Thursday night are:  
Daily 3: 1-9-3  
Northstar Cash: 5-7-10-27-28  
Lucky for Life: 8-16-25-28-48  
Lucky ball: 9  
For more information, go to mnlottory.com.

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## CASH WISE

From Page A1

the store there have been additional food choices of all kinds added to the shelves. "We are trying to update our stores, to enhance the experience of our customer, by adding new things to the store, room for different assortments that customers are looking for," Coborn said. "We are trying to be as relevant as we can to our customer needs and still make the shopping experience a pleasant experience and a friendly one too."



Chris Coborn, CEO of Coborn's Inc., talks to attendees during a ribbon-cutting for the remodeling of Cash Wise Foods on Wednesday in Willmar.

Coborn, Meyer and Ham all thanked the various staff from Coborn's and the Willmar store, along with the contractors for their help and patience during the long remodeling process. It was a challenging time. "None of this would have happened without you," Ham said. "You guys were troopers the whole way."



A shopper browses newly renovated food coolers following a ribbon-cutting for the remodeling of Cash Wise Foods on Wednesday in Willmar.

With the renovation completed, the cash registers ringing and the ribbon cut, the hope is that the work was worth it.

"It is a really great place and I know people will enjoy shopping here," Calvin said.

## WARRANTS

From Page A1

Marquette Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Three were filed two separate days, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Apartment 1402 is rented to a woman who lists Mekhi Speed as a child who lives with her. She was not present during the searches. Apartment 1403 is rented to Abdulaziz Ibrahim Robe, 26. Police had information that Mohamed Ibrahim Robe, 22, and Isaak Ibrahim Robe, 22, are Abdulaziz Robe's brothers and frequent that address. Police had video evidence and other documentation putting one or more of the brothers at the scene of Elder's murder with Mekhi Speed and in a stolen Mercedes related to the shooting. They were not present during the search.



Courtesy / Minneapolis Police Department via St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minneapolis police officers execute a "no knock" search warrant, seen in an image from body camera footage, on Feb. 2 in Minneapolis. The video, released Feb. 3, shows the fatal shooting of Amir Locke, 22, by police executing a search warrant in a St. Paul homicide investigation. St. Paul police sought a "knock and announce" warrant, but Minneapolis police said they would not carry out the warrant unless it was "no knock," law enforcement sources said Feb. 4.

warrants. One other address is listed in the warrants, 2740 Minnehaha Ave., apartment. 308, in Minneapolis. It was not clear in the warrants who may have been at this address.

listed as a suspect vehicle in two other armed robberies that day and one law enforcement agency noted a Somali man with a gun was seen near the vehicle. It was used in another theft on Jan. 4. On Jan. 7, the car was involved with the theft of a Maserati at 2620 24th Ave. in Minneapolis. The victim of the theft found a photo online of the stolen Maserati. The photo was taken in a garage. An Instagram account tagged in the photo of the stolen Maserati, led police to the Robe brothers. Video footage taken on Jan. 10 of the Bolero Flats parking ramp shows two people matching the suspects involved in Elder's murder exiting the Mercedes. One was a juvenile, the other one was Speed. On Jan. 21, the Mercedes was located by an off-duty University of Minnesota police offi-

cer in the Leamington parking ramp at 1001 Second Ave. The vehicle was secured and towed to the St. Paul Police impound lot. Mekhi Speed's fingerprints were found on the Mercedes.

## Stolen Mercedes Benz

The warrants also spell out the activity of the stolen 2014 gray Mercedes Benz with a Massachusetts plate that was at the scene where Elder was shot. It has an illuminated front Mercedes-Benz emblem, a recognizable feature in surveillance video. According to the warrants: On Nov. 27 the car was stolen after it was taken for a test drive. It was seen again Dec. 1 near Fifth Avenue and Franklin. On Dec. 6, it was used in an armed robbery at the Ted Mann Concert Hall parking lot. On Dec. 28, it was

Other Instagram accounts linked with the one showing the stolen Maserati showed videos of the suspects in a Mercedes and several photos of Speed displaying guns and cash. On Monday, Speed was located in Winona about 3:45 p.m. He was a passenger in a vehicle, which officers found at a gas station, according to Winona police. He tried to run away and an officer grabbed his jacket, which he struggled out of. Police arrested him and found a loaded gun in his jacket, according to the petition. Speed was taken to the Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center. He did not speak with investigators.

# Willmar man charged with stabbing 2 women

By Linda Vanderwerf  
West Central Tribune



Polanco-Castro

had been stabbed. When they arrived, officers found two victims.

Polanco-Castro was charged last week in Kandiyohi County District Court with two felony counts of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon and two misdemeanor counts of domestic assault while inflicting

or attempting to inflict bodily harm.

At his first court appearance, he was granted a public defender, and bail was set at \$150,000 cash or bond. He was not given the option of paying a lower bail for release under a set of conditions. His next court date is Feb. 9.

Court records indicate that Willmar Police Department officers found a woman who had been stabbed in the shoulder and another

who had been stabbed in the back of the neck. They were told the suspect had fled on foot without a shirt.

Polanco-Castro was later found walking toward a building next door. After he ignored commands from several officers, he was taken down to the ground and arrested.

One woman had a shoulder wound that was no longer actively bleeding. A second woman had a large bloodstain

on the upper back of her shirt and had a cut in the middle of the back of her neck which was also no longer bleeding.

The woman with the neck wound said they had been drinking when Polanco-Castro went out of control. The woman said she was afraid of him and feared he would hurt her as he followed her around the house. She said he had a knife and yelled multiple times, "I'm going to stab you," according to the

court file.

When she was facing away from him, he allegedly stabbed her in the back. She ran to the other woman, and Polanco-Castro followed. The woman with the shoulder wound said she was in her bedroom playing on her phone when she heard arguing.

She told police that Polanco-Castro attempted to stab her in the chest, but she turned, and the knife cut her left shoulder.

# Minnesota Senate to consider \$1M pro-police marketing campaign

By Dana Ferguson  
West Central Tribune

ST. PAUL — A Minnesota committee on Thursday, Feb. 10, advanced a \$1 million proposal to launch a pro-police marketing campaign around the state, teeing up a vote on the plan in the Minnesota Senate.

Republican senators proposed the campaign as part of a larger package of proposals aimed at recruiting and retaining law enforcement officers

around the state. They said amid a surge of violent crime in Minnesota, lawmakers needed to more to keep police on the job. And a public appreciation campaign could do that, GOP lawmakers said. The bill was also amended to include a \$1 million appropriation to a program to help recruit people of color into law enforcement positions.

"You talk to your police officers in your community and this is what they're going to tell

you, 'We need more officers on the street.' The only way we're going to reduce crime in Minnesota is to get more police officers out there," Sen. Karin Housley, R-Stillwater, said. "So this ad campaign will do that."

The six Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee voted to advance the bill, while the four Democrats on it said it was inappropriate coming a week after Minneapolis police shot and killed Amir Locke while executing a no-knock

warrant in a homicide investigation. Locke was not a suspect in the homicide.

"I think that the timing is highly insensitive," Sen. John Marty, DFL-Roseville, said. "Saying that we're going to run an advertising campaign a week after that and saying we're going to put \$1 million into saying, 'Police are great' ... there are lots of wonderful police officers but let's try to address the problems."

Senate Majority Leader

Jeremy Miller, R-Winona, on Thursday said he expected the Senate would vote on the proposal on Monday, Feb. 14.

Another Senate panel on Thursday took up two other bills that would spend \$20 million on scholarships for Minnesotans hoping to obtain an associate's degree in law enforcement and another \$20 million in grants for students already studying to enter the field.

Locke's family and

advocates for eliminating no-knock search warrants gathered at the state Capitol on Thursday to urge lawmakers to rewrite policing laws. Democrats in the Minnesota House of Representatives have put forward a plan to limit when the unannounced searches can be used to allow them only when a life is at risk.

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

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## TACKLING TOXIC TIRES

### Scientists seek funding to look for chemical in Minnesota waters

By Dan Gunderson  
MPR News

#### Moorhead

Minnesota scientists are seeking funding to investigate if a toxic chemical from tires is harming popular fish species.

Scientists in Washington spent years unraveling the mystery of unexplained deaths of coho salmon in urban streams.

They eventually linked the fish kills to a previously unknown chemical that enters the environment from tire rubber.

"The toxicity data in coho salmon says this is among the five or six most toxic compounds yet known," said Ed Kolodziej, a University of Washington researcher.

A chemical called 6PPD has been used in tires for decades to protect them from oxidation, essentially keeping the rubber from cracking and crumbling.

But when exposed to oxygen and ozone in the environment, that tire protecting chemical transforms into another, called 6PPD-quinone, and that's what researchers in Washington found is highly toxic to the salmon.

"So we have this combination of incredibly high toxicity and incredibly widespread use. And to me, those factors together are pretty substantial cause for concern," said Kolodziej.

Scientists still have more questions than answers about how widespread the chemical is, and what aquatic species are most susceptible to it.

But many agree on the potential risk.

"I would actually place this (as) one of the priority contaminants of concern right now,"

said Markus Hecker, professor and Canada Research Chair at the University of Saskatchewan.

"I haven't seen a chemical with similar dramatic effects over such a short period of time in such low concentrations, for quite some time," he said.

Researchers in Saskatchewan found the toxic chemical in stormwater runoff and in snowmelt in 2019 and 2020 at levels similar to those that were toxic to the coho salmon in Washington.

Research also found the chemical in runoff in a highly urbanized watershed near Toronto.

Hecker has tested the toxicity of 6PPD-quinone on trout species related to salmon.

The research is under review prior to publication.

"It seems that there actually are other salmonid species that are relatively sensitive at comparable or at slightly higher levels than the coho salmon, so there may be other species we are concerned about," said Hecker.

But scientists in Washington also found puzzling differences in response among fish to the chemical during stormwater runoff events.

"Sometimes there was chum salmon right there in the same storm, and the chum were apparently totally fine," said Kolodziej. "And yet the coho salmon died. And so we know there's the substantial differences in their sensitivity."

"So this is unique from my perspective that you have such a vast difference between toxic or not toxic," said Hecker. "It's almost like a switch to turn on and off and say it's toxic or it's not toxic."

It also appears



Mark Stone / Courtesy of University of Washington

A team led by researchers at the University of Washington Tacoma, the University of Washington and Washington State University Puyallup have discovered a chemical that kills coho salmon in urban streams before the fish can spawn. Zhenyu Tian, left, a research scientist at UW Tacoma; Jenifer McIntyre, right, an assistant professor at WSU's School of the Environment; and Edward Kolodziej, right background, an associate professor at UW, are at Longfellow Creek, an urban creek in the Seattle area.

the chemical is not persistent at toxic levels, but is directly related to stormwater runoff in rain events.

"It's not present at high concentrations all the time. We see concentrations pretty low before a storm, and then the storm happens and then the concentrations shoot way up within an hour or two," explained Kolodziej. "And then a few hours later, they drop back down. Concentrations go up and down quickly in storms. And that always makes sampling hard."

Much of the limited research done so far has focused on salmon species. Minnesota has three salmon species that have been introduced over the years in Lake Superior and its tributaries, including coho salmon.

At a congressional hearing in July, a tire industry official said the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association supported additional research to learn more about the recently discovered transformation chemical.

#### Looking in Minnesota

University of Minnesota associate professor Nick Phelps wants to find out if more prominent Minnesota species like walleye, bass or bluegill are susceptible to the chemical.

"Given the acute toxicity at very low concentrations, it got a lot of people's attention. And I think it's well-deserved," said Phelps. "I am very confident we will find the chemical here in Minnesota. The extent of the problem is still unknown. And the impact it might have on our local species is a question."

Phelps and a team of scientists submitted a proposal for research funding to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to first test for the chemical in urban waterways, and establish the level of sensitivity for ecologically and economically important fish species in the state.



Dan Gunderson / MPR News

Researchers say vehicle tires shed a chemical toxic to some aquatic life when rain or snowmelt carries it into streams.

Phelps has studied fish kills across the state and he found many that are unexplained.

He said it's important to understand if the toxic tire chemical might be responsible for some of those events.

"We're primarily concerned about these urban areas and massive impulses of water from road runoff. The lake that has the most fish kills over the timespan that we have

data is Lake Calhoun (renamed Bde Maka Ska). Those are the types of places where we're probably going to focus this study," said Phelps.

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources did not recommend a package of research projects for this legislative session, leaving the fate of the request and dozens of other research proposals in doubt.

## Delta Air Lines to resume daily transatlantic service from MSP

By Gita Sitaramiah  
Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — Delta Air Lines will resume daily flights to Europe from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport by summer and expects to be back at pre-pandemic operating levels next year, the airline's top local executive said Wednesday.

"We're starting to see passengers come back but, most importantly, we're seeing our corporates come back," said Mary Loeffelholz, vice president for MSP customer service for Delta.

MSP is the second-largest hub for Atlanta-based Delta. The airline and its regional affiliates account for 7 of 10 flights at the airport.

Business customers often book higher-priced travel, making their return to the skies a positive indicator for airlines and the broader hospitality industry.

Loeffelholz said she is seeing an unofficial

sign that business travel is ramping up: more passengers carrying the Tumi bags popular with corporate travelers.

Delta chief executive Ed Bastian said last month that he expects the carrier will be profitable in 2022 for the first time since the pandemic began.

Executives at Minneapolis-based Sun Country Airlines this week said they were seeing a sharp uptick in bookings for next month's spring break, and they expected demand and fares to be strong for months beyond that.

Delta traffic at MSP is back to about 70% of the pre-pandemic peak.

"I would say by the end of this year, if things continue as planned, we'll be at 80% or 90% capacity restored," Loeffelholz said. "March really starts our growth. Our network activity will start to increase month by month."

The carrier has added nearly 400 employees

since last spring and has more than 1,600 at the airport. Delta lost 500 Twin Cities employees in a rapid voluntary downsizing after the pandemic began.

Delta's transatlantic service will be completely restored in spring in time for summer vacations. Daily nonstop service from the Twin Cities will resume to Amsterdam, Paris, London and Reykjavik. The Amsterdam route also ramps up to twice daily in May and more than twice daily in June. The Iceland route began in May 2021.

"There's nothing better than a nonstop so, alongside the airport, we're very, very excited," Loeffelholz said.

Currently, Delta offers a nonstop to Amsterdam and Paris from Minneapolis-St. Paul but neither is daily. Twin Cities travelers flying Delta to Europe typically are changing planes in Atlanta or at New York's JFK airport.

In the works for next



Star Tribune / TNS file photo

Delta planes on the ground at Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport in June.

year is a new Delta Sky Club Lounge on Concourse G that will offer views of planes landing and taking off over the Minnesota River Valley.

Before the pandemic, Delta was planning for a new Sky Club but had to put nonessential capi-

tal improvements at MSP and its other airports on hold. Delta's new MSP lounge will be more than 17,000 square feet with an indoor-outdoor sky deck. Delta now operates two Sky Clubs at the airport.

Delta also is rebuilding

its hubs at Los Angeles International Airport and LaGuardia Airport in New York.

Delta employees will receive a \$1,250 profit-sharing payment Feb. 14.

## AMERICAN OPINION

### Consider no-fly list to ground unruly passengers

By the Detroit News Editorial Board

Few places have brought out the worst in people during the COVID-19 pandemic more than airplanes. In-flight confrontations have soared over the past two years and airlines are worried they will impact safety. The threat of fines aren't working to deter unruly passengers. Perhaps keeping those who can't behave themselves grounded will. Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian is asking Attorney General Merrick Garland to support a no-fly list for those who disrupt flights with bad behavior.

It's a request that should be considered. Airlines already keep their own list of travelers who are unwelcome on their flights because of inappropriate behavior. A universal list maintained by the federal government could prevent those ill-mannered passengers from jumping from one airline to another.

Better protecting passengers and crew from those who go nuts when they get in the air is an issue that must be addressed.

Airlines reported more than 6,000 incidents of violent or disruptive passengers in 2021. The FAA opened 1,100 investigations into unruly behavior last year, compared to just 146 in 2019.

In January, there were 323 reports of unruly passengers across all airlines; 205 started over the refusal to wear masks on boards.

Objections to mask-wearing trigger the majority of in-flight incidents. There's absolutely no justification for this. Passengers are fully informed of the mask mandate before they board the plane. If they have such serious objections to masking up, they shouldn't buy an airplane ticket.

Yet too many insist on taking off their masks, or wearing them improperly, once they settle into their seats.

Many of the outbursts reported to the FAA have been violent. Passengers have physically attacked crew members or fellow travelers. Some have had to be restrained in their seats. Several flights turned around or made unscheduled landings to remove out-of-control passengers.

As Bastian notes in his letter to the Justice Department, crew members who are preoccupied with unruly passengers may be unable to perform the in-flight duties that keep the airplane operating safely.

Unlike other environments, those inside an airline can't walk away from a confrontation. The no-fly list is a possible solution for those who disrupt a flight.

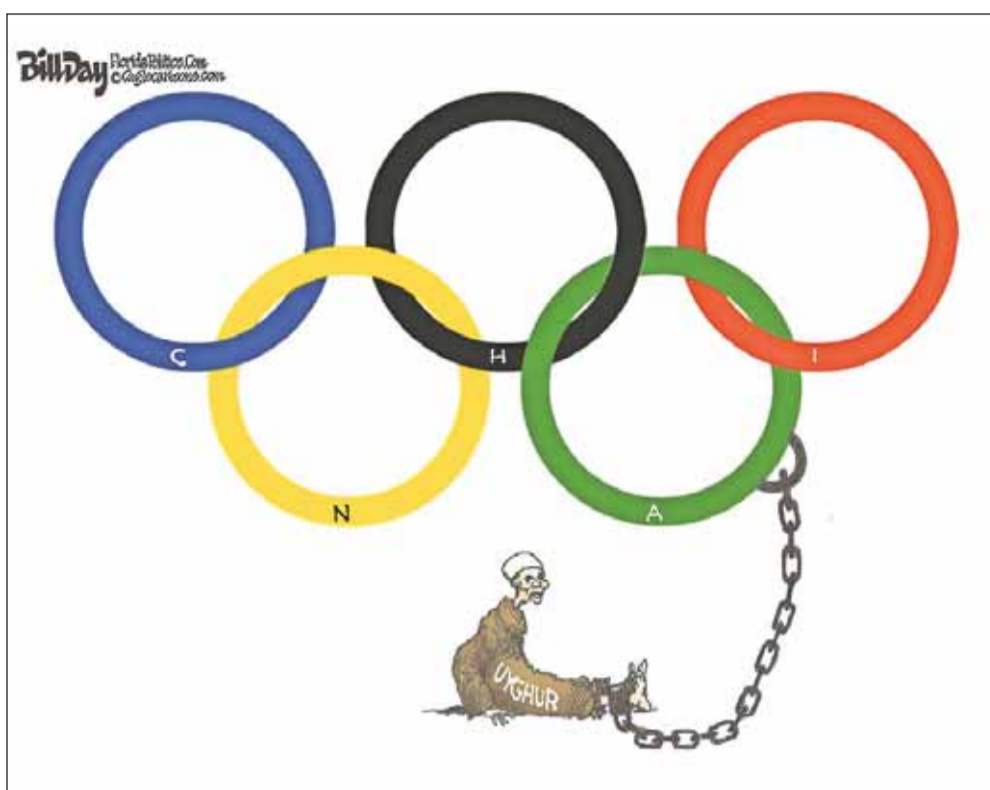
Before such a registry is adopted, however, serious attention must need to be paid to due process and it should apply only to dangerous or threatening behavior. Someone who walks on a plane a little cranky and insults a flight attendant is one thing. A passenger who physically assaults someone else is another. There must be due process protections. What constitutes behavior that will land someone on a no-fly list should be clearly defined. A no-fly list should be reserved for truly abhorrent and provable misbehavior.

Those whose names are placed on the list should be informed of their status and given a right to appeal. The FAA already can propose civil penalties of up to \$37,000 for each violation. The FAA has so far proposed collective fines of over \$1.3 million since enacting its zero-tolerance policy for unruly passengers last January. Travel bans should also have an expiration date.

Flying is already a stressful experience for many people. And the memories of the 9/11 terrorist hijackings still impact the way passengers react to outbursts on an airplane.

The potential for tragedy is too great to tolerate violent or threatening behavior. Keep those who can't behave themselves on the ground.

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### Enough. Here's our plan to solve gun violence

By Joe Biden  
New York Daily News

In the recent weeks, New York City has paid tribute to two of its finest, Detectives Wilbert Mora and Jason Rivera. They represented who and what we want law enforcement to be: brave, idealistic and deeply committed to service. Their bright futures were cut short by a man with a stolen gun and a 40-round drum magazine.

Six NYPD officers have been victims of gun violence so far this year. Nationally, 64 children have been injured by gun violence already this year; 26 children killed. Every day in this country, 316 people are shot; 106 killed.

It's time for all of us to say: enough. There are steps we can take to turn pain into purpose, and that is what I was in New York on this day (Feb. 3) to announce.

Mayor Eric Adams and I agree: The solution is not to defund our police, it's to give them the tools, training and funding to be the partners and protectors our communities need. The answer is not to abandon our streets. It's for police and the community to come together to make them safer through policing that treats everyone with dignity and respect.

That's why I've called on Congress to pass a budget later this month that provides cities an additional \$300 million for community policing. We need more police on the street, walking the beat and making communities safer.

I've also asked Congress to provide \$200 million for community violence intervention programs like the one I visited in Queens, where trusted community members work directly with the people most likely to commit or become victims of gun crimes. These programs can reduce violence by up to 60%.

That's a half-billion dollars for proven strategies we know will reduce violent crime. That, along with the increased funding I've requested for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals, is essential to my comprehensive, nationwide strategy to prevent gun crime.

First, we're cracking down on the flow of firearms used to commit violence. That means going after rogue gun dealers who illegally sell to criminals. We're also sending additional prosecutorial resources to shut down the so-called "iron pipeline" that brings guns from other states into New York City. Gov. Kathy Hochul has created an interstate, interagency task force to stem the flow of illegal guns. Efforts like this will

make a big difference.

We're also going after people who use "ghost guns" to commit crimes. These are the guns that can be assembled from a kit but can't be traced when they're used in a crime because they don't have serial numbers. So we're launching an intensified national ghost guns enforcement initiative to deter criminals from using those weapons to cover their tracks. If someone commits a crime with a ghost gun, not only will state and local prosecutors come after them, they should expect federal charges and prosecution.

Second, we're funding smart law enforcement and gun crime prevention efforts. New York City has identified a few hundred individuals in a city of 8.8 million who are repeatedly involved in gun violence. Every weekday, the city brings together federal, state and local law enforcement sharing intelligence so that we can get these shooters off the street. I visited a meeting of this "Gun Violence Strategic Partnership" during my trip and saw how effective it is when everyone is working together against gun violence. The U.S. Department of Justice is going to help more cities adopt the same model.

Third, we're investing in community violence intervention and prevention strategies that work, like violence interrupters, summer and after-school programs for teens, jobs for young adults (as the saying goes, "an idle mind is the devil's workshop"), school counselors and nurses, and mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Fourth, when someone finishes their time in prison, we can't just hand them \$25 and a bus ticket. We need to ensure they can access job training, stable housing and a second chance at a better life.

I will keep doing everything in my power to make our communities safer, but Congress also needs to do its part. Pass universal background checks. Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Close loopholes to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and repeal the liability shield for gun manufacturers, because there's no reason that they should be the only industry in America that's exempt from being sued. These are all commonsense steps that will save lives.

We can never bring back those we've lost. But we can come together to fulfill the first responsibility of our government and our democracy: to keep each other safe. I am committed to working with the people and leaders of New York to do just that.

Joe Biden is president of the United States. This piece first appeared in the New York Daily News. ©2022 New York Daily News. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



Brendan Smialowski / AFP / Getty Images / TNS

From left, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, President Joe Biden and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul participate in a Gun Violence Strategies Partnership meeting Feb. 3 at the New York Police Department Headquarters in New York.

### The power to ignore

Once in TV journalism there were people called assignment editors and news directors. Among their responsibilities was to instruct reporters and camera crews which stories they were to cover that day. Their choices were based on several factors that included what they regarded as news, viewer interest (i.e., ratings) and much more subtly, their own biases. When I began my journalism career

as a reporter, there were only three broadcast networks and local TV and radio stations. The radio stations played music and reported local news. The news was what these gatekeepers said it was. When the broadcast TV networks went from 15-minute newscasts to 30 minutes, some expressed fear there wouldn't be enough news to fill the time.

Then, the news was considered serious business. We would cover congressional hearings and presidential press conferences. There would be stories about crime, and news from Europe and Asia reported by "bureau chiefs" who were full-time correspondents. Mostly, though, it was subjects considered of importance to America, a type of "eat your vegetables" approach. Yes, the times changed and much of the media today appears to be more opinion than facts, more infotainment than news.

In 1987, the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine, which required broadcasters to present "fair and balanced coverage," contributed to the rise of "alternative media." These cable networks and some print publications began carrying stories ignored by the once dominant major media. They quickly attracted the loyalty of conservative political and religious people who felt their beliefs and values were being ignored.

The power to ignore is still the greatest power major media has and few issues demonstrate that more than the trouble at our southern border.

Fox News and The New York Post have been the only media entities to consistently cover the flood of undocumented migrants entering the country illegally. Critics usually dismiss anything carried by these outlets as coming from "right-wing media" and thus inherently untrustworthy.

The latest example is reporting by Angie Wong in the Post. Wong traveled to Mission, Texas, and reported that after being "processed," migrants are given color-coded folders to the city of their destination. She says she saw airplane tickets to Atlanta, Houston, Newark, and New York. The folder, she writes, also includes "...a U.S. passport looking booklet, cash, prepaid credit cards, travel itineraries and an English translation card," which asks people to help the migrant find the right flight.

Furthermore, observed Wong, each migrant receives "a set of clothing...a blanket, a pillow-sized bag of shelf-life food and a carry-on travel bag. Some have received cellphones."

All of this is presumably paid for by American taxpayers. Wong further notes "their handlers get through immigration and security with just a flash of documents, whereas all other passengers had to show identification." She says she was told the handlers are members of non-government organizations and churches.

Why isn't this news? It is, of course, but it doesn't fit the narrative of a media whose members are, according to numerous surveys over many years, predisposed to Democratic politicians. They ignore what in other circumstances might be called an invasion. Again, ignoring something that is newsworthy is the greatest power they have. No wonder their trust level is, according to Gallup, at its second-lowest level on record.

Cal Thomas can be reached at cthomas@wctrib.com.

SERVICES LISTING

RECORDS

**Doris Bakken**, 91, of Kerkhoven, died Feb. 6. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 11 at Kerkhoven Lutheran Church. Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

**Jean Prior Blouin**, 88, of Fargo, North Dakota, formerly of Renville, died Jan. 26. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 12 at First Lutheran Church, Renville. Dirks-Blem Funeral Home, Renville.

**Scott Bolstad**, 58, of Willmar, died Feb. 5. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 11 at Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

**Donna Friedlein**, 90, of Willmar, died Jan. 12. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 12 at Salem Covenant Church, rural Pennock. Harvey Anderson Funeral Home, Willmar.

**Elaine Johnson**, 97, of Atwater, died

Feb. 4. Service 11 a.m. Feb. 11 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Atwater. Peterson Brothers Atwater Funeral Home.

**Duane Sweep**, 84, of Clara City, died Jan. 28. Service 1:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Clara City.

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

MURDER

From Page A1

for a short while, as no records show any dubious doings.

That is until, one day, a rage-fueled man confronted James with the business end of a shotgun for allegedly impregnating the man's daughter behind May's back.

During this time, James received \$4,000 from his uncle's death as he was the sole beneficiary of his life insurance policy.

James abandoned May and hit the road for Fargo, North Dakota, where he opened up in yet another barbershop and married his third wife, who would prove not to be as lucky as the first two.

Winona Wallace

James met Winona Wallace after opening his Fargo barbershop in 1932. The two married, and he immediately took out a life insurance policy on her of \$14,000 — possibly inspired by his newly weighted bank account, thanks to this uncle's death. Three months after Wallace and James wed, the two took a trip down to Colorado Springs for their honeymoon, where things took a turn for the worse.

With Wallace behind the wheel, the newlyweds visited Pike's Peak, the highest summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains just outside of Colorado Springs.

According to a statement made by James presented in a legal document, *Lisenba vs. People of State of California*, during their descent, Wallace lost control of the vehicle and drove off the side of the peak. James jumped out of the car in time, but his wife hurdled down, trapped inside their vehicle.

James fetched help, and by the time they reached Wallace, they found her unconscious but alive outside of the vehicle. Her head was badly wounded, and a bloody hammer laid in the back of the automobile.

Wallace spent two weeks in a Colorado hospital until she could finish her recovery in their Colorado Springs vacation rental. She had no recollection of the accident.

During her recovery, James walked to a grocery store for supplies and asked the grocer for a lift back to his wife. They found Wallace lying on her back in a water-filled tub, dead.

According to a medical examiner, James said she was self-conscious about her head wound and wanted to wash her hair, against the advice from her doctor, and that she must have slipped into the tub in her attempt after he left.

Her death was ruled an accidental drowning, and James collected the insurance money.

It wouldn't be until his murder trial of his fifth wife that a request



ROBERT S. JAMES Resorts to Snakes?

Contributed

A headshot of Robert James printed in the Oroville Mercury-Register

to exhume Wallace's body would reveal she received two skull fracturing blows to the head. Blows caused by a hard, moving object, like a hammer, rather than her head hitting against a hard object that a medical examiner would expect from a car accident.

An incestuous affair

With a small fortune, James returned to Alabama, where he took up a sexual relationship with his 18-year-old niece, whose father is the one that put James through barber school.

James convinced his niece to run away with him to California. He opened another barbershop where she could work as a manicurist.

Along the way, in an attempt to increase his fortune, he married a fourth woman, Ruth Thomas, in New Orleans, 1934. Their marriage was the shortest of all of James' as he annulled it right after she refused to take out a life insurance policy. She is reported saying, "People who take out a life insurance policy shortly end up dead."

However, James was able to add to his finances, thanks to his accident-prone nephew, Cornelious Wright, who, while home on leave from the military, was convinced by his uncle to take out a life insurance policy with James as the beneficiary.

James loaned Wright his vehicle, and Wright ended up driving off a cliff, killing himself. The mechanic who examined the vehicle afterward said it looked like someone tampered with the steering wheel.

James collected his money and continued with his niece to California.

Mary Busch

Mary Busch was a tall and beautiful blonde, according to newspaper accounts at the time. Brittany Johnson, director of the Douglas County Historical Society in Alexandria, said a 1920 Douglas County census record shows that Busch spent her teenage years growing up in Hudson Township, modern-day Forada, south of Alexandria.

Eventually, she moved to California and answered an ad for a manicurist at a large barbershop run by James in March of 1935.

James convinced Busch to marry him a month after taking the job. James took out a \$10,000 policy on her, and three months later,

she was pregnant, and James was looking to cash in.

Documents show that Charles Hope, a financially burdened ex-sailor and fry-cook customer of James', was convinced by James to conspire in the murder of Busch by promising him half of her insurance money, but they had to be creative as not to be suspicious. It had to appear like a death that couldn't be linked to them.

Their first attempt was to poison Busch with black widow spiders, which ultimately failed. Then Hope had an idea; he knew a guy named "Snake Joe" who would sell them rattlesnakes.

Lightning and Lethal

Hope sought out Snake Joe and purchased two diamondback rattlesnakes from him. He told Joe he had a rabbit problem and thought rattlesnakes might be the best way to fix it. Joe was skeptical but didn't read too much into it and sold two snakes — Lethal and Lightning — to Hope.

By the pond

According to court documents of the case, *Lisenba vs. People of State of California*, on Aug. 4, 1935, James blindfolded and tied Busch to a table and said a doctor would be arriving to perform an abortion, which James convinced her to have. Instead of a doctor, Hope came in with a box housing the two snakes.

Hope and James poured whiskey down Busch's throat, grabbed her leg and put it through an opening in the box. Busch suffered three strikes from the rattlers, satisfying her killers enough to end the torture and wait for the venom to set in.

Hope waited inside a car in the garage, and James would give him occasional updates.

After the venom failed to do its job, an impatient James hauled his wife to their bathroom and drowned her in the tub, according to court documents.

James went to Hope and said, "Well, that's it," according to later testimony from Hope.

Hope said he walked in and saw Busch lying on the floor outside the bathroom, dead. He helped James by grabbing her head while James grabbed her feet, and together they laid Busch's body next to a fish pond in the backyard.

The next day at his barbershop, James invited friends of his and Busch's to have dinner. They expected Busch to be home, possibly cooking supper, and were alarmed when she wasn't. Playing the worried husband, he told the friends how he hadn't seen Busch and that they should set out through the neighborhood to search for her.

After searching the neighborhood, James suggested checking out by the pond. They found Busch dead, with a black and blue punctured leg. The authorities came and dubbed the death an accidental drowning. James was in the clear, but not for long.

A bugged house

James attempted to seek double indemnity for the death of his wife but the insurers refused to pay, which resulted in lawsuits. The buzz around this attempt to collect money started a new investigation into Busch's murder and an examination of Wallace's old wounds, where they found she was struck with a hammer prior to her cliff-side crash.

The authorities bugged his house with audio recorders. They heard James engaging in acts with many women, including his niece, which was enough to arrest him for incest, a felony offense in California at the time.

In the meantime, Hope, drunk at a bar, bragged about how he and James got away with murder. The bartender informed the police, and soon Hope was arrested as well.

The death of Rattlesnake James

During his trial, which began on June 22, 1936, the media sensationalized James, referring to him as "Rattlesnake James" and the "Barbershop Casanova." They overlooked the cruelty he put women through and focused more on the novelty of the snakes and his looks.

They even had him pose for photos in his jail cell. One picture shows him trying to cut away at his cell bars with a saw, while another shows him sitting with a cigar in his hand and a smile across his face, with the prison bars in the background.

On May 2, 1942, Robert James became the last man to be hanged in the state of California in San Quentin Prison. He suffered as the rope was too long, which caused him to struggle for 10 minutes, according to newspaper accounts.

His eyes barely shifted as his last appeal was denied; all he said was, "I can take it. Let's just say that Rattlesnake Bob James is not afraid to die."

Sources used for this story

Research materials were compiled by the director of the Douglas County Historical Society, Brittany Johnson.

Sources used:  
► An article from the Fargo Forum, March 22, 1939

► Brenner, Anita La Cañada's First U.S. Supreme Court Case

► *Lisenba v. People of the State of California*, 314 U.S. 219 (1941)

► *Murder & Mayhem in the Crescenta Valley* By Gary Keyes, Mike Lawler

► LA Times article, A Lady-Killer Ensnared by a Rattlesnake by Cecilia Rasmussen

► Los Angeles Magazine article, In One of L.A.'s Most Outrageous Murder Cases, a Rattlesnake Was the Weapon by Hadley Meares

► An article from The Kansas City Star, July 5, 1936

► An article from The Daily Times, Thursday, May 7, 1936

► An article from the Alexandria Citizen News Email reporter Thalen Zimmerman at tzimmerman@echopress.com

Arrest

WILLMAR — A 33-year-old man was arrested for domestic assault Wednesday evening in the 1100 block of Second Street Southeast.

The man was in custody in the Kandiyohi County Jail as of Thursday afternoon, awaiting a court appearance facing pending charges of felony domestic assault by strangulation and misdemeanor fifth-degree assault and domestic assault.

Fraud

NEW LONDON — A New London resident reported Thursday morning that she had fraudulent charges on her credit card and packages delivered that were not hers.

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

LOCAL MARKETS

Local Corn Contracts				Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Oats
	Feb	Mar	Apr	Benson			
Farm Ser. Willmar	6.27	6.30	6.336.30	Bird Island	6.24	15.09	NA
Jennie-O TS, Atwater	6.24	6.26	6.386.40	Clara City	6.23	15.28	9.12
Country Pork, Prins	6.20	6.21	6.22	Hanley Falls	6.24	15.14	9.12
Bushmills, Atwater	6.22	6.22	6.366.36	Holloway	6.18	15.21	NA
Granite Falls Energy	6.41	6.41	NB	Montevideo	6.24	15.14	9.12
CVEC, Benson	6.15	6.18	6.276.30	Murdock	6.18	15.21	NA
				Renville	6.24	15.14	NA

TODAY'S ALMANAC

Today is the 42nd day of 2022 and the 53rd day of winter.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** In 1945, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin concluded their conference in Yalta, on the Crimean Peninsula.

In 1990, anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela was released from prison in South Africa after 27 years.

In 2011, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ceded power in response to mass protests in Cairo's Tahrir Square, bringing nearly 30 years of rule to a close.

In 2013, the Vatican announced Pope Benedict XVI's intention to step down as leader of the Catholic Church.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Thomas Edison (1847-1931), inventor; Max Baer (1909-1959), boxer; Eva Gabor (1919-1995),

actress; Leslie Nielsen (1926-2010), actor; Mary Quant (1934- ), fashion designer; Burt Reynolds (1936-2018), actor; Sheryl Crow (1962- ), singer-songwriter; Jennifer Aniston (1969- ), actress; Damian Lewis (1971- ), actor; Kelly Rowland (1981- ), singer; Natalie Dormer (1982- ), actress; Taylor Lautner (1992- ), actor.

**TODAY'S FACT:** In 1970, Japan successfully launched its first satellite, becoming the world's fourth space power after the Soviet Union in 1957, the United States in 1958 and France in 1965.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 1990, Buster Douglas knocked out undisputed heavyweight champion and 42-1 betting favorite Mike Tyson in the 10th round of their match in Tokyo, completing one of the biggest upsets in boxing history.

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION NUMBERS

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

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

Are you sick?

To schedule a COVID-19 test call **Carris Health, Willmar** **nurse line:** 320-441-5361, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

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

To talk to someone about my symptoms or

**Questions? Call Minnesota Department of Health public hotlines**

**Health questions:** 800-657-3903, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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

Contact Us

Email: [obits@wctrib.com](mailto:obits@wctrib.com)  
Phone: 866-910-9009  
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekends and holidays.  
Obituaries voicemail will be checked prior to the deadline.  
**Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication.**

Deaths/Services

We request that notices of death come from an official source, such as a funeral home. If provided by a friend or family member, we do require the name of the funeral home or crematorium handling arrangements. Death notices include the following information: name of the deceased, date of birth, age, city of residence, when and where he or she died, and the name and city of the funeral home handling the arrangements. Death notices cost \$10 when submitted through our submission website [www.modulist.news](http://www.modulist.news). If the notice is submitted any other way, this will result in an additional \$5 fee.

Paid obituaries

All obituaries are paid advertisements. The charge for obituaries submitted through our website is \$15.75 per column inch and will print in the West Central Tribune and also be posted on the West Central Tribune website. The charge for obituaries submitted any other way is \$20.75 per column inch. The minimum charge for any obituary is \$105. Only photos of the deceased are allowed in an obituary. Obituaries must be prepaid or charged to a credit card. Obituaries can run an additional time at 50 percent off (within a seven-day period).



Photos by Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

Willmar freshman Gretchen Volk, 6, puts up a shot for a goal in the first period of a Section 6A quarterfinal against Prairie Centre on Thursday at the Willmar Civic Center.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Sabres are too much for Cards

Willmar keeps it close most of the way in 64-55 loss to Sartell

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

WILLMAR — The Willmar boys basketball team fell to the No. 2 team in the Central Lakes Conference on Thursday night at the Big Red Gym.

Sartell prevailed 64-55 in a game that featured nine lead changes and six tied scores.

The Sabres are 9-2 in the CLC. Willmar is now 1-10.

Sartell was led by Logan Clark, Anthony Mahowald and Evan Templin offensively. Clark had 20 points, Mahowald had 19 and Templin 12.

The Sabres led by as much as 12 points and had one 11-0 run.

Samuel Raitz led Willmar with 15 points. Cayden Hansen had five points with a team-leading eight rebounds and five assists.

Willmar plays Little Falls at 2:45 p.m. Saturday at the Big Red Gym.

### Central Lakes

#### Sartell 64,

#### Willmar 55

Sartell (15-4) 31 33 — 64  
Willmar (3-17) 28 27 — 55  
SARTELL - Scoring: Gavan Schulte 5, Parker Knutson 3, Evan Templin 12, Anthony Mahowald 19, Jackson Vos 5, Logan Clark 20 ... 3-point shots: Vos 1 ... Rebound leaders: Mahowald 4, Clark 4 ... Assist leaders: Knutson 3 ... Steal leader: Mahowald 2 ... Block leader: Clark 2

WILLMAR - Scoring: Cayden Hansen 5, Jacob Streed 3, Maxwell Mobley 2, Abdihamid Abdullahi 4, Cade Roelofs 8, Alex Schramm 9, Blake Schoolmeester 7, Harris Duinick 2, Samuel Raitz 15 ... 3-point shots: Schramm 2, Schoolmeester 1, Raitz 2 ... Rebound leader: Hansen 8 ... Assist leader: Hansen 5 ... Steal leader: Streed 2, Abdullahi 2 ... Block leader: Roelofs 1

### Wright County

#### GSL 45,

#### Litchfield 38

Glencoe-Silver Lake rallied from a 24-18 halftime deficit to defeat host Litchfield.

The Panthers' Mitchel Jaskowiak had team highs in points (18) and rebounds (10).

Alex Draeger hit four 3-pointers for a team-high 14 points for the Dragons. Logan King added 10 points in the loss.

Litchfield plays at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Watertown-May-er.

GSL (16-5) 18 27 — 45  
Litchfield (9-13) 24 14 — 38  
GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE - Scoring: Eli Ehrke 12, Mitchel Jaskowiak 18, Spencer Lemke 8, Jacob Bumgarten 7 ... 3-point shots: Ehrke 3, Jaskowiak 2, Lemke 1 ... Rebound leader: Jaskowiak 10 ... Assist leader: Lemke 4 ... Steal leader: Jaskowiak 3 ... Block leader: None  
LITCHFIELD - Scoring: Logan King 10, Jack McCann 2, Tanner Kohls 1, Tyler Pennertz 2, Alex Draeger 14, Dom Dietel 9 ... 3-point shots: King 2, Draeger 4 ... Rebound leader: Dietel 6 ... Assist leader: Blake Aller 3 ... Steal leader: McCann 2 ... Block leader: None

### BASKETBALL: Page B3

# Cards open playoffs strong

Fourth-seeded Willmar blitzed Prairie Centre 8-0 in Section 6A quarterfinals

By Joe Brown  
West Central Tribune

### Willmar

The Willmar girls hockey team opened the postseason with a rout. Outshooting Prairie Centre 76-12, the No. 4-seeded Cardinals advanced with ease with an 8-0 victory over the fifth-seeded Blue Devils. It was the Section 6A quarterfinals Thursday at the Willmar Civic Center.

Willmar was 2-0 against Prairie Centre in the regular season, with a 10-0 win on Jan. 3 in Willmar and a 11-3 victory on Jan. 31 at Long Prairie.

Peppering Blue Devils goalie Kennedy Lemke with shots, Makenna Larson put the first score on the board at 11:12 of the first period. Her wrist shot took a quick bounce out of the net, but not before the referees declared the unassisted goal. Seventy seconds later, freshman Gretchen Volk found some open room in the slot and snapped the puck in net to make it 2-0. Samantha Poe and Chloe Lownsbury were credited with assists on the play.

Midway through the second, the Cardinals put together a flurry of offense over a 73-second span. Lauren Eilers netted a goal at 7:09, followed by Lownsbury at 7:59 and Becca Dawson at 8:21. Already up 5-1, Larson got her second goal of the night with 13 seconds left in the second.

Already playing with running time in the third,



Willmar senior Nina Dawson, 10, takes a shot at the net during the first period of a Section 6A quarterfinal game against Prairie Centre on Thursday at the Willmar Civic Center.

Nina Dawson and Lownsbury each tallied goals early in the final period.

Willmar netminder Halle Mortensen made seven saves. Avery Quinn finished with three assists and Lownsbury and Larson each finished with two goals and two assists.

The Cardinals play at top-seeded Fergus Falls at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The Otters (18-5-2) are ranked eighth in Class A.

Fergus Falls won both regular-season matchups: 4-2 on Dec. 16 at Willmar and 4-2 on Feb. 3 in Fergus Falls.

### CARDS: Page B3



The Willmar girls hockey team lines up prior to the start of the Section 6A quarterfinals against Prairie Centre on Thursday at the Willmar Civic Center.



Matthew Curry / West Central Tribune

KMS ninth-grader Madelyn Luft backs down Dawson-Boyd senior Laney Bartunek before scoring on Thursday in Kerkhoven.

# KMS breaks things open late

Fighting Saints use a strong second half to beat the Blackjacks, 66-45

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

KERKHOVEN — After taking a late 10-point lead over Dawson-Boyd, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg girls basketball won 66-45 on Thursday night.

Josie Gjerde and Madelyn Luft both scored 20 points for the Saints. Luft also totaled three blocks.

KMS previously defeated Dawson-Boyd 81-46 on Dec. 21.

The Blackjacks were led by sophomore Hayley Anderson's 16 points. Sophomore Allison Estling scored 11 points and recorded six steals.

Fouls and turnovers seemed to be constant with both teams being in the bonus at the end of the half.

Both teams seemed balanced throughout the first half, exchanging leads and consistently tying the game.

With the score tied at 21-21, Luft scored an inside bucket which

helped the Saints begin a late run to take a 38-28 halftime lead.

The Saints out-scored the Blackjacks 28-17 in the second half.

KMS plays at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Benson. Dawson-Boyd plays Hancock at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Dawson.

### Camden

#### KMS 66,

#### Dawson-Boyd 45

Dawson-Boyd (1-23) 28 17 — 45  
KMS (9-12) 38 28 — 66  
DAWSON-BOYD - Scoring: Rachel Jorgens 2, Katherine Dahl 10, Hayley Anderson 16, Aylana Hastad 5, Allison Estling 11, Laney Bartunek 2 ... 3-point shots: Dahl 2 ... Rebound leader: Hastad 11 ... Assist leader: None ... Steal leader: Estling 6 ... Block leader: Dahl 2, Hastad 2

KERKHOVEN-MURDOCK-SUNBURG - Scoring: Grace Collins 4, Azelynn Hacker 5, Shaw Fath 2, Elsa Gjerde 3, Emily Wagner 9, Julia Carlson 6, Josie Gjerde 10, Shakira Olson 6, Madelyn Luft 10, Kate Marquardt 2, Hayley Demuth 5 ... 3-point shots: E. Gjerde 1, J. Gjerde 2 ... Rebound leader: Collins 1, Wagner 1, Luft 1 ... Assist leader: None ... Steal leader: Wagner 1 ... Block leader: Luft 3

### CMCS 50,

#### MACCRAY 39

Coco Duinick had 20 points and four steals and Sienna Duinick added 13 points and another four steals as Central Minnesota Christian defeated MACCRAY at Prinsburg.

Molly Mulder had eight points, 11 rebounds and four assists for the Bluejays.

### KMS: Page B2

# Kimball slips past ACGC, 32-29

## Fourth-ranked Cubs knock off fifth-ranked Falcons in conference showdown

**By Joe Brown and Tom Elliott**  
West Central Tribune

GROVE CITY — With both teams looking for some momentum with section tournaments a week away, Kimball was able to prevail over Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City in a battle of two top-five wrestling teams in Class A.

The fourth-ranked and defending state champion Cubs beat the fifth-ranked Falcons 32-29 on Thursday.

Kimball scored three early pins from Mark Schiefelbein (113 pounds), William Serbus (120) and Jack Bollman (126). The Cubs were also 2-0 in matchups with ranked opponents.

At 138, Lucas Jurek (10th, 138) won a 3-1 decision over ACGC's Cole Holien (sixth, 132). Then at 170, Ashton Hanan (first, 170) won a 3-2 decision against Jake Mortensen (seventh, 170).

Braxton Kragenbring (106) and Brady Holien (152) each had falls for the Falcons. Brody Straumann (132) and Jevon Williams (145) also got bonus points, scoring major decisions.

On Friday, ACGC wraps up the regular season with the Quad County quadrangular in Granite Falls. Canby and Fulda/Murray County Central will also compete.

### Duals

#### Kimball 32, ACGC 29

106: Braxton Kragenbring, ACGC, pinned Connor Carlson, time unavailable  
113: Mark Schiefelbein, K, pinned Trey Schmidt, time unavailable  
120: William Serbus, K, pinned Jayden Gulke, time unavailable  
126: Jack Bollman, K, pinned Edwyn Gonzalez, time unavailable  
132: Brody Straumann, ACGC, maj dec James Schiefelbein, 14-2  
138: Lucas Jurek, K, dec Cole Holien, 3-1  
145: Jevon Williams, ACGC, maj dec Brett Schiefelbein, 12-0

152: Brady Holien, ACGC, pinned Caden Guggisberg, time unavailable  
160: Mason Studemann, ACGC, dec Logan Kueske, 3-0  
170: Ashton Hanan, K, dec Jake Mortensen, 3-2  
182: Isaiah Renne, ACGC, dec Hank Meyer, 9-5  
195: Haden Rosenow, K, tech fall Takoda Muccicaro  
220: Carter Holz, K, dec Jaxon Behm, 10-5  
285: Terrell Renne, ACGC, dec Ace Meyer, 2-1

#### Hutchinson Quadrangular

#### Hutchinson 55, NLS 12

New London-Spicer's Marshal Johnson got a first-period fall at 285 pounds in the Wildcats' loss to host Hutchinson.

Reid Holmquist (160) and Brody Duke (182) both won decisions for NLS.

106: Logan Schwanz, H, dec Isaiah Nelson, 7-2  
113: Max Martin, H, pinned Carson Nelson, 2-42  
120: Radon Bipes, H, maj dec Caleb Nelson, 9-0  
126: Cody Tews, H, won by forfeit  
132: Andrew Soderlund, H, pinned Brock Buffington, 7-4  
138: Treyton Card, H, pinned Everett Halvorson, 5-35  
145: Luke Hoag, H, pinned Adam Sandau, 0-32  
152: Jay Rickertsen, H, pinned Brody Lien, 2:29  
160: Reid Holmquist, NLS, dec Micheal Hahn, 4-2  
170: Camden Kron, H, dec Grant Hubbard, 8-1  
182: Brody Duke, NLS, dec Eddie Tristan, 7-1  
195: Brady Andersen, H, won by forfeit  
220: Hayden VanderVoort, H, won by forfeit  
285: Marshal Johnson, NLS, pinned Evan Peirce, 1:00

#### NLS 44, Coon Rapids 18

Reid Holmquist (160 pounds), Grant Hubbard (170) and Marshal Johnson (285) all won by fall for New London-Spicer in a victory against Class AAA Coon Rapids in Hutchinson.

Caleb Nelson (120) and Brock Buffington (132) added bonus points for the Wildcats with major decisions.

106: Isaiah Nelson, NLS, dec Jack Bridenstie, 7-1  
113: Carson Nelson, NLS, won by forfeit  
120: Caleb Nelson, NLS, maj dec Jaden Caffey, 9-0  
126: Tyler Her, CR, won by forfeit  
132: Brock Buffington, NLS, maj dec Gil-

bert Kostuck, 10-2  
138: Everett Halvorson, NLS, dec Tim Horst, 11-6  
145: Adam Sandau, NLS, dec Tristen Hargrave, 7-1  
152: Carter Skradski, CR, pinned Brody Lien, 5:53  
160: Reid Holmquist, NLS, pinned Jackson Smith, 5:00  
170: Grant Hubbard, NLS, pinned Hunter Allen, 1:30  
182: Brody Duke, NLS, dec Kenny Wells, 3-2  
195: David Geebli, CR, dec Sam Gabrielson, 6-4  
220: Octavian Podubni, CR, maj dec Payton Meis, 12-4  
285: Marshal Johnson, NLS, pinned Hayden Skillings, 2:26

#### W-M/ML 56, NLS 9

Marshal Johnson got a second-period fall for New London-Spicer in the second period of his 285-pound match as the Wildcats took the loss to seventh-ranked (Class A) Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran in Hutchinson.

106: Tilan Friederichs, W, dec Isaiah Nelson, 5-2  
113: Parker Jackson, W, pinned Carson Nelson, 4:13  
120: Eli Hamberger, W, dec Caleb Nelson, 8-7  
126: Jonah Hamberger, W, pinned Carson Nelson, time unavailable  
132: Jack Entinger, W, pinned Brock Buffington, 1:20  
138: Owen Christianson, W, maj dec Everett Halvorson, 8-0  
145: Steven Duske, W, dec Adam Sandau, 8-5  
152: Brody Lien, NLS, dec Patrick Duske, 5-4  
160: Bryce Burkett, W, pinned Reid Holmquist, 1:20  
170: Tanner Burmeister, W, maj dec Grant Hubbard, 15-3  
182: Jackson Drahos, W, dec Sam Gabrielson, 9-2  
195: Kyler Burmeister, W, pinned Payton Meis, 4:12  
220: Ashton Congdon, W, won by forfeit  
285: Marshal Johnson, NLS, pinned Hunter Stein, 4:21

#### A/ML Triangular Annandale/ML 38, D-C/Litchfield 33

Annandale/Maple Lake, ranked 11th in Class AA, opened its match with Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield with a 32-6 lead on the way to a victory against its Section 6AA foe at Annandale.

For the Charging Dragons, Victor Franco (120 pounds), Jude Link (160) and Spencer Henke (220) all won by fall.

106: Cassen Brumm, A/ML, pinned Anton Cox, 0:36  
113: Ayden Fitzgerald, A/ML, pinned Gavin Tering, 1:40  
120: Victor Franco, DCL, pinned Xavier Jones, 1:33  
126: Noah Gindele, A/ML, dec Gabe Nelson, 9-2  
132: Mitchell Koss, A/ML, won by forfeit  
138: Cole LaFave, A/ML, pinned Isaac Stead, 0:41  
145: Zach Pribyl, A/ML, tech fall Chase Housman, 21-4  
152: Devin Steinhaus, DCL, dec Shay McClory, 6-1  
160: Jude Link, DCL, pinned Jake Vassar, 3:16  
170: Sam Marx, DCL, dec Carson Cooper, 9-2  
182: Riley Hall, A/ML, pinned TJ Christensen, 2:40  
195: Hayden Hoernemann, DCL, dec Nathan Klatt, 9-4  
220: Spencer Henke, DCL, pinned James Meumissen, 3:36  
285: Brendan Rokala, DCL, won by forfeit

#### D-C/Litchfield 54, Mound-Westonka 27

Dassel-Cokato/Litchfield overcame a 15-0 early deficit to get a Wright County Conference win against Mound-Westonka in Annandale.

Scoring falls for the Charging Dragons were: Gabe Nelson (132 pounds), Chase Housman (145), Jude Link (160), Sam Marx (170), Hayden Hoernemann (195) and Brendan Rokala (285).

106: Mason Merritt, MW, dec Anton Cox, 9-2  
113: Cole Munstersteiger, MW, pinned Gavin Tering, 1:48  
120: Jack Nelson, MW, won by forfeit  
126: Victor Franco, DCL, won by forfeit  
132: Gabe Nelson, DCL, pinned Carter Nelson, 1:04  
138: Roo Wheeler, MW, pinned Isaac Stead, 1:59  
145: Chase Housman, DCL, pinned Maguire Musselman, 1:30  
152: Devin Steinhaus, DCL, won by forfeit  
160: Jude Link, DCL, pinned Dylan Helman, 3:50  
170: Sam Marx, DCL, pinned Nolan Shwz, 1:55  
182: TJ Christensen, DCL, won by forfeit  
195: Hayden Hoernemann, DCL, pinned Luke Rodellus, 0:32  
220: Sam Dioszeghy, MW, pinned Spencer Henke, 3:52  
285: Brendan Rokala, DCL, pinned Ryan Butler, 0:52

#### F/MCC Triangular United 53, Windom/ML 25

Dawson-Boyd/Lac qui Parle Valley/Montevideo secured bonus points in all nine of its wins over Windom/Mountain Lake

106: Ben Gunlogson, U, pinned Teague Meyer, 1:29  
113: Daniel Gunlogson, U, pinned Torin Clarke, 2:23  
120: Kameron Sather, U, pinned Noah Mathiowetz, 3:04  
126: Zander Clausen, U, tech fall Quinten Lewis, 19-4 (3:01)  
132: Ethan Moravetz, U, dec Denver Ash, 6-3  
138: Owen Olsem, FMCC, pinned Tyler Schickedanz, 3:49  
145: Aiden Lorenzen, FMCC, pinned Mason Pederson, 0:37  
152: Dain Mortenson, U, won by forfeit  
160: Avery Wittnebel, U, dec Carter Banda, 8-3  
170: Holt Larson, U, pinned Carson Klein, 1:24  
182: Christian Kubal, FMCC, pinned Nolan Kwilinski, 1:16  
195: Ryder Henning, FMCC, dec Landon Olson, 7-1  
220: Zach DeBeer, U, won by forfeit  
285: Keaton Haas, U, pinned Rylan

#### in the Fulda/Murray County Central triangular at Fulda.

Kameron Sather (113 pounds), Daniel Gunlogson (120), Zander Clausen (126), Dain Mortenson (160), Avery Wittnebel (170) and Brady Rhode (285) all won by fall for United.

Tyler Schickedanz (138) added a tech fall.

106: Preston Xayachak, W/ML, dec Ben Gunlogson, 9-6  
113: Kameron Sather, U, pinned Jared Hunter, 0:57  
120: Daniel Gunlogson, U, pinned Thavien Xayachak, 3:17  
126: Zander Clausen, U, pinned Aiden Holmberg, 3:09  
132: Tucker Renquist, W/ML, maj dec Ethan Moravetz, 12-1  
138: Tyler Schickedanz, U, tech fall Noah Holmberg, 17-1 (4:25)  
145: Caden Swoboda, W/ML, pinned Mason Pederson, 0:30  
152: Eagan Maras, W/ML, pinned Noah Meyer, 2:54  
160: Dain Mortenson, U, pinned Montgomery Bjorklund, 1:41  
170: Avery Wittnebel, U, pinned Matthew Ekstrom, 1:13  
182: Holt Larson, U, won by forfeit  
195: Micah Holmberg, W/ML, pinned Landon Olson, 4:15  
220: Keaton Haas, U, won by forfeit  
285: Brady Rhode, U, pinned Cytus Bjorklund, 0:35

#### United 53, Fulda/MCC 21

United completed the sweep on Thursday, beating host Fulda/Murray County Central at Fulda.

Ben Gunlogson (106 pounds), Daniel Gunlogson (113), Kameron Sather (120), Holt Larson (170) and Keaton Haas (285) all netted falls in the victory while Zander Clausen won by tech fall in the second period.

106: Ben Gunlogson, U, pinned Teague Meyer, 1:29  
113: Daniel Gunlogson, U, pinned Torin Clarke, 2:23  
120: Kameron Sather, U, pinned Noah Mathiowetz, 3:04  
126: Zander Clausen, U, tech fall Quinten Lewis, 19-4 (3:01)  
132: Ethan Moravetz, U, dec Denver Ash, 6-3  
138: Owen Olsem, FMCC, pinned Tyler Schickedanz, 3:49  
145: Aiden Lorenzen, FMCC, pinned Mason Pederson, 0:37  
152: Dain Mortenson, U, won by forfeit  
160: Avery Wittnebel, U, dec Carter Banda, 8-3  
170: Holt Larson, U, pinned Carson Klein, 1:24  
182: Christian Kubal, FMCC, pinned Nolan Kwilinski, 1:16  
195: Ryder Henning, FMCC, dec Landon Olson, 7-1  
220: Zach DeBeer, U, won by forfeit  
285: Keaton Haas, U, pinned Rylan

#### Minneota 59, Quad County 15

Minneota knocked off Quad County (MACCRAY, Renville County West, Yellow Medicine East) at Pipestone.

Quad County got victories on the mat from Jasen Jansen at 182 pounds and Jacob Savig at 195 and a forfeit at 120 to account for its points.

Minneota also beat Pipestone 51-27 in the triangular.

106: Quinton Anderson, M, won by forfeit  
113: Adam Deslaemnick, M, tech fall over Gage Wilke, 16-1  
120: Tarrick Rupp, QC, won by forfeit  
126: Troy Van Keulen, M, won by forfeit  
132: Kade Lozinski, M, pinned Gage Corner, 2:34  
138: Brock Fier, M, won by forfeit  
145: Zach Fier, M, dec, Javier Jackson, 6-1  
152: Eli Gruenes, M, won by forfeit  
160: Alex Depestel, M, dec, Nolan Hildahl, 6-0  
170: Jonah Gruenes, M, pinned Hunter Ridler, 1:22  
182: Jasen Jansen, QC, dec, Brandon Johnson, 8-3  
195: Jacob Savig, QC, pinned Kyler Lozinski, 2:46  
220: Hudson Scholten, M, won by forfeit  
285: Jackson Esping, M, won by forfeit

#### Pipestone 43, Quad County 33

Javier Jackson (145 pounds), Nolan Hildahl (160) and Hunter Ridler (170) all grabbed six points with falls for Quad County in a loss to host Pipestone.

The Arrows opened the match with a 34-0 lead.

106: Haden Mulvihill, P, won by forfeit  
113: Brayden Burmeister, P, won by forfeit  
120: JJ Martens, P, maj dec Tarrick Rupp, 8-0  
126: Hudson Burnett, P, won by forfeit  
132: Davis Budden, P, pinned Gage Corner, 1:45  
138: Nate Bobendrier, P, won by forfeit  
145: Javier Jackson, QC, pinned Gavin Olson, 0:36  
152: Carlos Saenlouanraj, P, won by forfeit  
160: Nolan Hildahl, QC, pinned Bod Bruns, 0:57  
170: Hunter Ridler, QC, pinned Xavie Bangko, 1:52  
182: Jackson Melcher, P, dec Jasen Jansen, 7-4  
195: Jacob Savig, QC, dec Aiden Voss, 7-5  
220: Easton Jaenisch, QC, won by forfeit  
285: Evan Friese, QC, won by forfeit

### KMS

From Page B1

Breille Janssen had 16 points and three blocks and Ella Bourne had 12 points for the Wolverines, who got 13 rebounds from Gabby Randt.

MACCRAY plays Hancock at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Clara City.

MACCRAY (11-11) 18 21 — 39  
CMCS (18-7) 33 17 — 50

MACCRAY - Scoring: Ella Bourne 12, Sydney Thein 11, Brielle Janssen 16, Elsie Sumner 2, Annie Bourne 7, Gabby Randt 2 ... 3-point shots: E. Bourne 2, Janssen 1, A. Bourne 2 ... Rebound leaders: Randt 13, Sumner 7 ... Assist leaders: E. Bourne 2, Thein 2, Randt 2, Sumner 2 ... Steal leaders: E. Bourne 4, Randt 2 ... Block leader: Janssen 3

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN - Scoring: Sienna Duinick 13, Maaike Duinick 3, Natasha Erickson 2, Molly Mulder 8, Lauren Taatjes 4, Coco Duinick 20 ... 3-point shots: S. Duinick 2, C. Duinick 2 ... Rebound leader: Mulder 11 ... Assist leader: Mulder 4 ... Steal leaders: S. Duinick 4, C. Duinick 4 ... Block leader: Mulder 3

### LQPV 59, RCW 17

Lac qui Parle Valley took a 35-point lead into halftime in the road win against Renville County West.

Taylor Shelstad and Camryn Lee combined for 25 points in the win for LQPV. Lee led the team in blocks with two and was second in rebounds with six.

LQPV plays Murray County Central at 11 a.m. Saturday at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. RCW plays at 7:30 p.m. Monday at MACCRAY in Clara City.

RCW (3-20) 5 12 — 17  
LQPV (17-5) 40 19 — 59

RENVILLE COUNTY WEST - Scoring: Addyson Tanner 3, Holly Hinderks 4, Bailee McLagan 2, Jennifer Bratsch 2, Emily Lippert 3, Rachel Jackels 3 ... 3-point shots: n/a ... Rebound leader: n/a ... Assist leader: n/a ... Steal leader: n/a ... Block leader: n/a  
LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY - Scoring: Rylee Lund 9, Ayiana Gipson 7, Isabel Gendes 3, Addy Bonn 9, Taylor Shelstad 13, Camryn Lee 12, Tori Bungard 2, Jaylin Lee 2 ... 3-point shots: Lund 3, Gendes 1, Bonn 3 ... Rebound leaders: Bungard 7, Lee 6 ... Assist leaders: Shelstad 9, Bonn 3 ... Steal leader: Gipson 3 ... Block leader: Lund 1, Lee 2

### Canby 46, YME 45

The Canby Lancers hit a last-second shot to beat Yellow Medicine East at Granite Falls.

Senior forward Aidyn Bruns led the Lancers with 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Shelby Mortenson, a 6-foot senior center, led all scorers

with 30 points and also had 12 rebounds for the Sting.

YME plays at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at Westbrook-Walnut Grove.

Canby (12-10) 36 10 — 46  
YME (10-10) 24 21 — 45

CANBY - Scoring: Elysa Wollum 2, Paige Nelson 4, Kortney Leppke 6, Ryann Hansen 8, Brynn Kockelman 3, Camryn Utikin 3, Aidyn Bruns 17, Maya Wente 3 ... 3-point shots: Kockelman 1, Utikin 1 ... Rebound leaders: Bruns 12, Wente 10 ... Assist leaders: Wente 4 ... Steal leaders: Nelson 1, Hansen 1 ... Block leader: none  
YELLOW MEDICINE EAST - Scoring: Yansi Flores 2, Stella Schuler 8, Aria Peters 4, Hannah Stark 1, Shelby Mortenson 30 ... 3-point shots: Schuler 1 ... Rebound leader: Mortenson 12 ... Assist leader: Flores 4 ... Steal leaders: Schuler 5, Flores 5 ... Block leader: Flores 1

### Wright County NLS 69, Dassel-Cokato 26

State-ranked New London-Spicer got up 48-15 at halftime to cruise past host Dassel-Cokato.

Avery Rich had 18 points, four assists and three assists for the Wildcats, who are ranked seventh in Class AA. Dakota Rich added 14 points.

Addison Quern led the Chargers with nine points.

NLS plays Glencoe-Silver Lake at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in New London.

NLS (20-2) 48 21 — 69  
Dassel-Cokato (5-17) 15 11 — 26

NEW LONDON-SPICER - Scoring: Nyla Johnson 5, Jaden Coahran 8, Avery Rich 18, Izzy Schmieing 2, Kaylee Thorson 2, Ellary Peterson 7, Dakota Rich 14, Brooke Adelman 2, Ava Carlson 4, Delaney Hanson 3, Audrey Schneider 4 ... 3-point shots: Johnson 1, Coahran 2, A. Rich 4, D. Rich 4, Hanson 1 ... Rebound leaders: Peterson 8, Schmieing 8, Hanson 5 ... Assist leaders: Coahran 6, A. Rich 4, Schmieing 3, Carlson 3 ... Steal leader: A. Rich 3, Coahran 3 ... Block leader: Schneider 1, Peterson 1, Zoe Arnold 1  
DASSEL-COKATO - Scoring: Bailey Quern 5, Lily Kraemer 1, Addison Quern 9, Amelia Travis 8, Grace Lundeen 2 ... 3-point shots: A. Quern 3 ... Rebound leader: n/a ... Assist leader: n/a ... Steal leader: n/a ... Block leader: n/a

### Litchfield 52, GSL 32

Litchfield Izzy Pennertz and Maggie Boerema accounted for 30 of Litchfield's points in the Dragons' victory over Glencoe-Silver Lake at Litchfield.

Pennertz, a 6-foot-1 junior forward, had 18 points. Boerema, a 6-2 senior forward, had 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Dragons, who out-scored the Panthers 27-11 in the second half.

GSL (14-9) 21 11 — 32  
Litchfield (18-6) 25 27 — 52

Mylea Monahan led GSL with 12 points.

Litchfield plays Watertown-Mayer at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Litchfield.

GSL (14-9) 21 11 — 32  
Litchfield (18-6) 25 27 — 52

GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE - Scoring: Kendall Guerrero 6, Mylea Monahan 12, Hannah Graf 3, Brooklyn Christianson 2, Audrey Petersen 9 ... 3-point shots: Guerrero 2, Monahan 1, Petersen 2 ... Rebound leader: n/a ... Assist leader: n/a ... Steal leader: n/a ... Block leader: n/a  
LITCHFIELD - Scoring: Adalia Bruning 1, Ryaana Steinhaus 2, Kylie Michels 11, Greta Hansen 5, Izzy Pennertz 18, Maggie Boerema 12, Morgan Falling 3 ... 3-point shots: Michels 3 ... Rebound leader: Boerema 15 ... Assist leader: Steinhaus 4 ... Steal leader: Falling 3 ... Block leader: none

### Central Minnesota Kimball 79, ACGC 33

Kimball improved to 16-6 with the victory over Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City at Kimball.

The Falcons fell to 3-18.

ACGC plays Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop at 7 p.m. Monday at Grove City.

Maple Lake (5-15) 15 12 — 27  
Paynesville (5-16) 22 24 — 46

MAPLE LAKE - Scoring: Gwen Geyen 11, Kayla Paumen 3, Sophia Pribyl 2, Kass Fynboh 4, Bryn Elsenpeter 7 ... 3-point shots: Geyen 1, Paumen 1, Elsenpeter 1 ... Rebound leader: n/a ... Assist leader: n/a ... Block leader: n/a  
PAYNESVILLE - Scoring: Grace Roberg 3, Emma Flanders 9, Maddie Hentges 7, Aubrie Spanier 3, Mikayla Roberg 5, Rayna Spanier 3, Katie Uhlenkamp 16 ... 3-point shots: G. Roberg 1, Flanders 1, Hentges 1, Spanier 1, M. Roberg 1 ... Rebound leader: n/a ... Assist leader: n/a ... Steal leader: n/a ... Block leader: n/a

### BBE 59, Royalton 57 (OT)

Belgrade-Broton-Elrosa rallied to beat Royalton in overtime at Belgrade.



Matthew Curry / West Central Tribune  
Dawson-Boyd sophomores Rachel Jorgens (1) and Ayiana Hastad (14) battle with KMS ninth-grader Madelyn Luft following a free throw attempt on Thursday in Kerkhoven.

### Paynesville 46, Maple Lake 27

Katie Uhlenkamp's 16 points helped lead Paynesville past Maple Lake at Paynesville.

Gwen Geyen led the Irish with 11 points.

Paynesville plays Minnewaska at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Paynesville.

Maple Lake (5-15) 15 12 — 27  
Paynesville (5-16) 22 24 — 46

### BBE 59, Royalton 57 (OT)

Belgrade-Broton-Elrosa rallied to beat Royalton in overtime at Belgrade.

ROYALTON - Scoring: Brooklyn Fischer 6, Shelby Anderson 3, Anna Jaeger 2, Tiyana Schwinghammer 28, Allison Dingmann 4, Kailey Fischer 3, Harley Roering 11, Bree Thieschafer 2 ... 3-point shots: Schwinghammer 1, Roering 1 ... Rebound leaders: Roering 8, Schwinghammer 7, Dingmann 7 ... Assist leaders: K. Fischer 2, Roering 2 ... Steal leaders: Schwinghammer 6, Thieschafer 5, Jaeger 4, K. Fischer 3 ... Block leader: none

### BBE 59, Royalton 57 (OT)

Belgrade-Broton-Elrosa rallied to beat Royalton in overtime at Belgrade.

ROYALTON - Scoring: Brooklyn Fischer 6, Shelby Anderson 3, Anna Jaeger 2, Tiyana Schwinghammer 28, Allison Dingmann 4, Kailey Fischer 3, Harley Roering 11, Bree Thieschafer 2 ... 3-point shots: Schwinghammer 1, Roering 1 ... Rebound leaders: Roering 8, Schwinghammer 7, Dingmann 7 ... Assist leaders: K. Fischer 2, Roering 2 ... Steal leaders: Schwinghammer 6, Thieschafer 5, Jaeger 4, K. Fischer 3 ... Block leader: none



SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

Professional NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB.

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Rutgers scores and statistics.

FOOTBALL

Professional NFL Pro Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6 table.

HOCKEY

Professional NHL Eastern Conference Atlantic Division table.

LOCAL CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 11
Boys Basketball
Dassel-Cokato at New London-Spicer, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 12

Boys Basketball
Little Falls at Willmar, 2:45 p.m.
Montevideo vs. Laverne, 7 p.m.

College men: Connecticut at Xavier, 6 p.m. FS1
NBA: Denver at Boston, 6:30 p.m., NBATV

Saturday, Feb. 12

Basketball:
College women: Navy at Army, 10 a.m., CBSN
College men: 11 a.m., ESPN

SPORTS ON TV

Friday, Feb. 11

Basketball:
College women: Kent State at Akron, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Soccer:

Premier League: Norwich City vs. Manchester City, 11:30 a.m., NBC

College

Big Ten Conference table with columns for Conference, AllGames, W, L, Pct, WPct.

Tuesday's Games

Columbus 5, Washington 4
Ottawa 4, Carolina 3
Pittsburgh 4, Boston 2

Thursday

Football
NCAA Football
Michigan - Promoted quarterbacks coach

Transactions

Michigan - Promoted quarterbacks coach Matt Weiss to co-offensive coordinator.

Wednesday's Games

Chicago 4, Edmonton 1
Dallas 4, Nashville 3
Dallas 6, Vegas 0

Friday's Games

Winnipeg at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

GOLF

Professional PGA

Money leaders Through February 7

Table with columns for Trn, Money, listing top golfers like Hideki Matsuyama.

Money leaders Through February 7

Table with columns for Trn, Money, listing top golfers like Justin Thomas.

CARDS

From Page B1

The 6A final is Friday, Feb. 18 at the Runestone Community Center in Alexandria.

Willmar 8,

Prairie Centre 0

Prairie Centre (5-17-1) 0-0
Willmar (14-12) 2-4 2-8
FIRST PERIOD - (1) W. Makerna Larson (unassisted), 11:12 ...

Northern Lakes 4,

MBA 0

Third-seeded Northern Lakes advanced in the Section 6A quarterfinals with a shutout victory over sixth-seeded Morris/Benson Area at Breezy Point.

It makes the second shutout victory for the Lightning over the Storm.

Back on Feb. 3 in Pequot Lakes, Northern Lakes beat Morris/Benson 11-0. The Lightning (15-10-1) play second-seeded River Lakes (14-12) at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Richmond.

The Storm wrap up the season with a 2-21-1 record.



Willmar seventh-grader Ryah Gorans, 17, skates with the puck in the Prairie Centre zone during a Section 6A quarterfinal game on Thursday at the Willmar Civic Center.

Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

BASKETBALL

From Page B1

West Central

Morris/CA 74,

Benson 36

Led by Jackson Loge's 24 points and 11 rebounds, third-ranked (Class AA) Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta cruised to a West Central Conference win at Benson.

The Tigers are now 7-0 in the West Central while the Braves are 0-7.

Benson plays host to Upsala at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Morris/CA (18-1) 37 37-74
Benson (2-17) 22 14-36
MORRIS/CHOKIO-ALBERTA - Scoring: Durgin Decker 3, Tyler Berlinger 3, Cole Wente 2, Brandon Jergenson 20, Jackson Loge 24, Trey Hunt 2, Ayden Schmidgall 2, Toby Gonnerman 10, Sam Kleinwelterink 5, Kyle Fehr 3 ...

Melrose 52,

Minnewaska 34

Melrose earned the West Central Conference victory over Minnewaska at Melrose.

The Lakers were led by Hunter Kostelecky's 17 points.

Minnewaska has a 3-17 record. The Dutchmen are 10-11.

Minnewaska plays at 7:15 p.m. Monday at St. Cloud Cathedral.

Minnewaska (3-17) 16 18-34

Melrose (10-11) n/a n/a-52
MINNEWASKA - Scoring: Tate Reichmann 7, Ethan Quelle 3, Damon Uhde 5, Andrew Mnnak 2, Hunter Kostelecky 17 ...

Camden

RCW 54,

MACCRAY 50

Tyler Froland had 37 points and 15 rebounds to help Renville County West beat MACCRAY at Renville.

Adam Schrupp added 11 points and four assists for the Jaguars, who got 13 rebounds from Jaden Serbus.

Isaac Post led MACCRAY with 12 points. Brooks Asche had 12 rebounds and Jordan Warne had seven points, six rebounds and 10 blocks.

MACCRAY won the first meeting with RCW, 77-63 on Dec. 16 in Clara City. MACCRAY plays Lac

qui Parle Valley at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Madison. RCW plays Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Renville.

MACCRAY (8-13) 23 27-50
RCW (7-14) 27 27-54
MACCRAY - Scoring: Isaac Strommer 6, Isaac Post 18, Gavin Husman 9, Sawyer Janssen 2, Brooks Asche 8, Jordan Warne 7 ...

# Timberwolves stand pat at trade deadline

By Jace Frederick  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves' players established a strong chemistry while its roster showed a few cracks leading up to Thursday's NBA trade deadline. Minnesota has been one of the hottest teams in the NBA over the past month, feasting on a relatively easy schedule.

That vaulted the Wolves even further into contention for a top six seed in the Western Conference playoffs, which would allow them to bypass the play-in round. It also further strengthened bonds between players on a team that feels as though they're taking the next step together.

So, do you make a move or roll forward with a young, growing group?

Minnesota elected for the latter route Thursday, standing pat as the trade deadline came and went.

The Timberwolves had a firm grasp of their needs heading into this week, and did pursue potential options to add front-court depth and physicality. But nothing came to fruition, leaving the Timberwolves' roster in the same form it maintained when the week began. Now, everyone's attention shifts to the buy-

out market, as players become available after they come to a financial agreement to sever ties with their current teams and are free to sign elsewhere.

But exactly who that market includes is still to be determined. And markets like Minnesota always face an uphill battle to convince such players to choose the Timberwolves over sexier destinations or teams with higher probabilities of making a playoff push.

There are positives to stability, as Minnesota can continue to move forward with a group that's out-performed expectations and is littered with young, improving players without any disruptions.

But it will remain to be seen if it's a group capable of truly contending with any of the League's big guns. The Timberwolves have talked about wanting to not only make the playoffs, but make noise when they arrive at that destination. The current roster hasn't often shown an ability to punch above its weight class.

Rosters often need to evolve to grow. Minnesota stayed in neutral Thursday, putting more pressure on Chris Finch and Co. to continue to maximize every bit of talent available to allow the Wolves to continue to ascend as they've hoped to.



Kelley L Cox / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Timberwolves head coach Chris Finch during a timeout Wednesday against the Sacramento Kings during the fourth quarter at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento.

# Wild's Foligno suspended 2 games for kneeing

By Dane Mizutani  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — For the first time in his 11-year NHL career, Minnesota Wild winger Marcus Foligno has been suspended.

The supplemental discipline came down on Thursday afternoon when the NHL Department of Player Safety announced it had suspended Foligno for two games for his actions in the Wild's 2-0 loss to the Jets in Winnipeg on Tuesday night.

As the rivalry game reached a boiling point, Foligno dropped the gloves with Jets winger Adam Lowry following a scrum near the benches. With both players on the ice

surface, Foligno appeared to knee Lowry in the head while the officials tried to break up the scuffle.

Asked about the action postgame, Foligno claimed it wasn't intentional.

"I saw them complaining about maybe I got my leg in there or something," he said. "That was me just kind of ticked off and trying to get at him. There was no intent to not throw with my fist or use another body part."

Unfortunately for Foligno, the league did not agree.

"This is an intentional decision by Foligno, and not a player accidentally falling or stumbling onto his opponent," the NHL Department

of Player Safety stated. "He clearly and intentionally uses his knee to inflict force on the head of his vulnerable opponent."

"We have heard Foligno's argument that this was not a violent knee strike, or an exceptionally forceful blow, and we agree," the NHL Department of Player Safety continued. "It is only the relative lack of force on this play that keeps Foligno from being subject to much more severe discipline for an action that is unacceptable for an NHL player to perform."

The suspension means Foligno will miss two games, both at Xcel Energy Center — against Carolina on Saturday

and Detroit on Monday. He is eligible to return to the Wild lineup on Wednesday night during a rematch with the Jets in Winnipeg.

Get the popcorn ready.

## Duhaime elevated

While the Wild were hoping for the best when it came to Foligno's suspension, they were clearly preparing for the worst.

Instead of skating Foligno on his regular line during Thursday's practice, coach Dean Evason opted to elevate rookie winger Brandon Duhaime to play alongside center Joel Eriksson Ek and opposite winger Jordan Greenway.

"Just an opportunity to get

Duhaime a few more touches with that group," Evason said. "We just wanted the touches to go that way today."

Those touches will pay off now that Foligno is officially suspended.

## Dumba returns

The good news for the Wild is defenseman Matt Dumba appears to be on the mend. He participated in Thursday's practice after missing the past couple of games with an upper-body injury.

Will he be ready to go this weekend?

"We will have to see how he comes out of it today," Evason said. "He looked real good."



James Carey Lauder / USA Today Sports

Linesman Kory Nagy watches as Minnesota Wild left wing Marcus Foligno, left, and Winnipeg Jets center Adam Lowry (17) fight in the third period Tuesday at Canada Life Centre in Winnipeg.



Sam Navarro / USA Today Sports

Miami Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel speaks during a press conference at Baptist Health Training Center on Thursday in Miami Gardens, Florida.

## 'NO RED FLAGS'

### New Dolphins coach shrugs off Flores discrimination lawsuit

By Frank Pingue  
Reuters

Newly-hired Miami head coach Mike McDaniel said on Thursday that the lawsuit filed by his predecessor against the NFL and three teams, including the Dolphins, did not cause him to think twice about accepting the job. McDaniel was hired on Sunday to replace Brian Flores, who was fired by the Dolphins in January and last week filed the lawsuit alleging discrimination against Black candidates for top level coaching and management jobs. Flores also accused Dolphins owner Stephen Ross of offering him \$100,000

for every loss in 2019 as incentive to help the team land a higher draft pick and said his refusal to throw games ultimately cost him his job. McDaniel said that in his experience, Dolphins ownership is focused on winning. After delivering opening remarks at his introductory news conference, McDaniel was promptly asked whether the allegations raised in the Flores lawsuit raised any red flags. "Red flags? I can honestly say there was absolutely no red flags, and the reason why was because I was stepping into an organization with a boss that — I don't think people give it its proper

due," said McDaniel, who previously served as offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers. "When I walked in that door, you look at every single detail within this building, you look at the people that are hired, you look at just all the extents that there is nothing — there is no cost too high for winning for (Ross)." "When you're in multiple organizations, you realize that's not always the case. The city of Miami really is lucky to have an owner that right, wrong or indifferent, all he cares about is winning. And as a coach, that's all you're literally looking for. That's all. So red flags? No, there's no red flags for me."

Miami's decision to fire Flores, who is Black, was one of the more surprising head coach decisions following the 2021 NFL season, given the Dolphins won eight of their final nine games after a 1-7 start. In addition to the NFL and the Dolphins, the Denver Broncos and New York Giants were named in Flores' lawsuit, which contended his interviews for their vacant head coach positions were a sham aimed at satisfying a league rule that minority candidates must be considered for top coaching and staff jobs. The NFL, Dolphins, Broncos and Giants have all denied Flores' accusations.

McDaniel, who is biracial and was the first minority head coach hire in the 2022 cycle, called it both an honor and privilege to be the 14th head coach in Dolphins history. "Any man standing at a podium like this would be honored. It is a tremendous accomplishment and you'd feel great about that," said McDaniel. "But that's not why you get into coaching — standing at this podium. You get into coaching because you love to coach football, you love to teach and you love to make people better. That's exactly who I am, who I have been and who I will be as the head coach of the Miami Dolphins."

## Coyotes make temporary move to ASU arena

Field Level Media

The Arizona Coyotes are heading back to school. Following nearly two decades of a tempestuous relationship with the city of Glendale, Ariz., the Coyotes announced Thursday they will move to a multipurpose venue at Arizona State University for at least three seasons, starting in the fall. The Arizona Board of Regents approved a plan to add NHL-quality facilities to

a new ASU arena in Tempe, which seats only 5,000 spectators. Adding the NHL-quality upgrades reportedly will require removing as many as 1,500 seats from the arena, originally designed for the Arizona State hockey team. The Coyotes announced they will play their home games for the next three seasons in the building and hold an option for the 2025-26 season. In August 2021, Glendale informed the Coyotes that it

was ending its longstanding year-to-year lease at Gila River Arena effective June 30, following years of stalled negotiations and charges that the team was behind on its payments. The team paid the state \$1.4 million in lapsed taxes in December. "We are thrilled that we have arranged to play our home games in Arizona State University's new multi-purpose arena starting next season," said Coyotes president and

CEO Xavier A. Gutierrez. "This will be an incredible, intimate and exciting fan experience in a state-of-the-art new arena in a fantastic location in the heart of Tempe." The team continues to work with the city of Tempe toward building a reported \$1.7-billion arena and entertainment center that would include a 16,000-seat arena not far from the ASU campus. As suggested by the 3-4 years contracted with ASU,

the larger new development remains far from reality, and until the Coyotes are able to secure a new arena, they remain in the speculation mill for franchise relocation. Last week, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman endorsed the plan to move to ASU, presuming a deal can be arranged for a full-sized arena. Bettman said in December the league was intent on keeping the team in the Phoenix area.

## Billionaires starting to circle Broncos

By Gillian Tan and Heather Perlberg  
Bloomberg News

Billionaires are starting to circle the Denver Broncos. Clearlake Capital Group co-founders Behdad Eghbali and Jose Feliciano, and Feliciano's wife Kwanza Jones, are weighing a bid for the NFL team, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Josh Harris, co-founder of Apollo Global Management, is separately considering his options, one of the people said. Representatives for Harris, who is already a minority owner of the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Eghbali, Feliciano and Jones group declined to comment. The Broncos offer a rare opportunity to enter an elite club of owners. Fewer than

a dozen NFL franchises have changed hands over the past two decades, with the last coming in 2018, when hedge fund manager David Tepper paid a record \$2.3 billion for the Carolina Panthers. Media mogul Byron Allen was the first person to publicly declare he's preparing a bid for the Broncos, which went up for sale earlier this month. If successful, it would make him the first Black majority owner of an NFL team. The investor group led by Allen could pay \$3 billion to \$4 billion, Bloomberg News has reported. Eghbali, Feliciano and Jones have previously pursued a team investment. They sought to acquire 40% of the franchise now known as the Washington Commanders for \$900 million, a deal that was ultimately blocked by team

majority owner Dan Snyder, according to the Washington Post. Eghbali was born in Iran and Feliciano in Puerto Rico. Jones is Black. Harris, who is White, has left his day-to-day role at alternative-asset manager Apollo. He has a personal net worth of \$7.8 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Harris would have to offload his minority ownership of the Steelers if he won the bid for the Broncos. He also has stakes in the Philadelphia 76ers, New Jersey Devils and Crystal Palace FC of the English Premier League. The Broncos began interviewing bankers in November in advance of a potential sale and the Pat Bowlen Trust, established by the late Broncos owner, announced this month it had started a sale

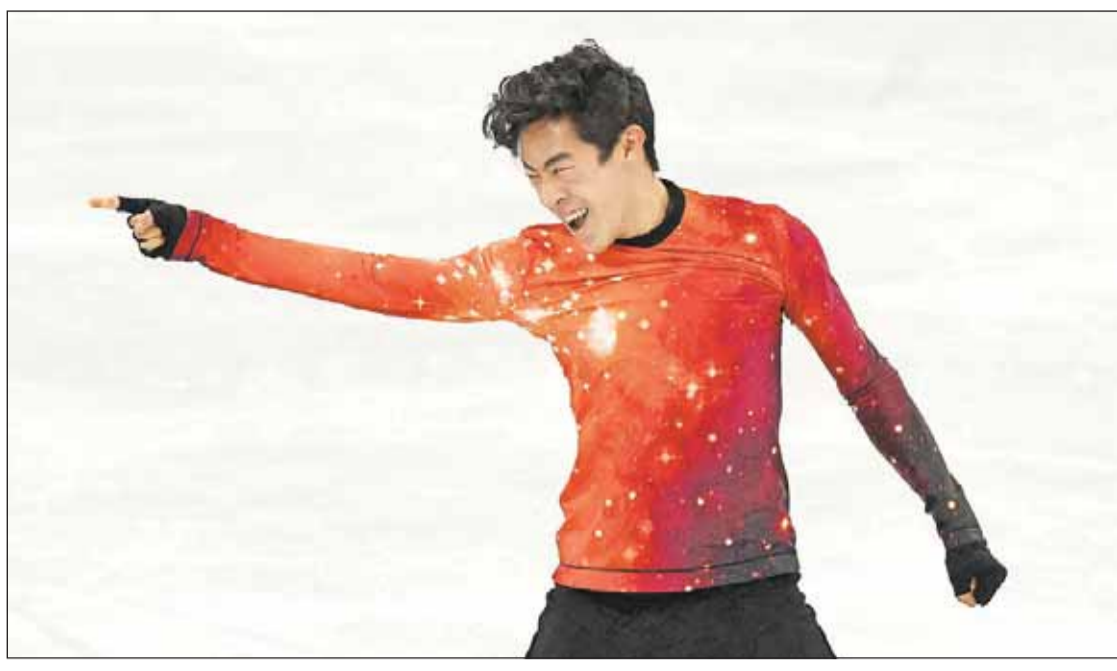


Mitchell Leff / Getty Images / TNS

Owner of the Philadelphia 76ers, Joshua Harris, speaks at the podium prior to the team unveiling a sculpture to honor Charles Barkley at their practice facility on Sept. 13, 2019, in Camden, New Jersey.

process run by Allen & Co. Robert Smith, who is worth \$8.9 billion, had been viewed as another potential bidder. But a person with knowledge

of the matter said the chief executive officer of Vista Equity Partners, who is Black, currently isn't interested. ©2022 Bloomberg L.P. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



Jonathan Ernst / Reuters

Nathan Chen of the United States competes in the men's singles free program during the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games on Thursday at Capital Indoor Stadium in Beijing, China.

## Destined for gold

Nathan Chen's sense of purpose, and great skating, help him win in Beijing

By Helene Elliot  
Los Angeles Times

**Beijing**  
Nathan Chen's figure skating talent was apparent at a precocious age, surfacing quickly after he followed his hockey-playing older brothers out to the ice and realized he enjoyed the tickling breeze on his face and the problem-solving satisfaction of conquering a tricky jump or intricate spin. His resolve was obvious at an early age, too, never wavering despite his occasional bruised knee or bruised ego.

That unshakable sense of purpose was a key reason he commanded the ice this week and became an Olympic champion, the seventh American man to win an Olympic singles figure skating gold medal. It was the eighth gold medal won by American male singles skaters, including those that Dick Button won in 1948 and 1952. In addition, seven American women have won Olympic singles gold medals.

Clearly, Chen is in rare and exalted company. "I actually didn't know it was that few. That's amazing," he said on Thursday, after he landed five quadruple jumps in his Elton John-themed free skate performance and defeated Yuma Kagiyama of Japan by a staggering 332.60 points to 310.05.

"I don't really have too many words for that. Just so thrilled," Chen said. "I can't believe this happened, honestly." Shoma Uno of Japan, the 2018 Olympic silver medalist, won bronze here with 293.00 points. Yuzuru Hanyu, who became an idol in Japan while winning two straight Olympic titles and was expected to battle Chen for supremacy, narrowly missed his brave attempt to become the first skater to land a quadruple axel jump and finished fourth with 283.21 points.

Chen ended Hanyu's reign with emphatic wins in both phases of the competition. To Jason Brown, who became the only other American male singles entrant after Vincent Zhou tested positive for the coronavirus and withdrew before the event, Chen's excellence was no surprise.

"I'm just so proud of him. No one deserves it more," said Brown, who finished sixth without any quadruple jumps but with an appealing display of artistry. "I've been competing alongside him for over a decade. He just is like no one else."

Chen's energetic fist pump after his "La Boheme" short program expelled the last lingering sour memories of his stumbles in the short program at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics, which kept him out of medal contention. He rose from 17th place to fifth and wondered if he'd get another chance at Olympic gold.



Tyrone Siu / Reuters

Nathan Chen of the United States celebrates his gold medal on the podium at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games on Thursday at the Beijing Medals Plaza.

He was much better prepared when that chance came. With three world championships to his credit, the wisdom of experience and the aid of a sports psychologist he began seeing about a year ago, Chen approached the Beijing Games with optimism, not the dread he felt four years ago. His confidence got an additional boost during the first week in Beijing when he performed an excellent short program that helped the U.S. win a silver medal in the team competition.

The ghosts were gone. "I saw him in 2018 and then I saw him this season and he's just a completely different person now," said U.S. women's champion Mariah Bell, who trains with Chen at Great Park Ice in Irvine and became a trusted part of his support system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without a little help, Chen's dreams might have withered before they could blossom.

Figure skating is an expensive sport, and his immigrant parents, Beijing-born Hetty Wang and Zhidong Chen, didn't have a lot of money to spend on skates, lessons and competition costumes for the baby of their five children.

They tried to support him as best they could. For a while, that meant Hetty drove Nathan from the family's home in Salt Lake City to Lake Arrowhead several times a year so he could work on his skills with renowned coach Rafael Arutyunyan. Hetty and Nathan would live in their car.

Arutyunyan said their collaboration works because he is honest. Chen said in a recent conversation it's because Arutyunyan teaches skaters to be independent and not rely on him for everything.

"Which is honestly a little bit strange, but he teaches us how to be individual athletes, how we need to address our own careers, how we should take responsibility for our own careers," Chen said. "I think the most important thing with that is that ultimately you're on the ice, you're by yourself. You're

not being held by the hand by your coach. Being able to be almost autonomous and know exactly what I need allows us as athletes to come to a competition and have confidence that we know what we're doing."

Chen's success will give him a larger platform to inspire Asian skaters in the way he was inspired by seeing Michelle Kwan, who won nine U.S. championships, five world titles, and Olympic medals in 1998 (silver) and 2002 (bronze). Kwan, also a child of immigrants, briefly was coached by Arutyunyan.

"For me growing up in Salt Lake City and having a face like Michelle Kwan was really inspirational," Chen said. "And I know that having athletes that look like you certainly gives you the hope that you can do the same, and Michelle Kwan certainly was that for me. If I can hopefully do something similar — of course I'll never really reach Michelle Kwan stature, but just to be able to have someone like that when I was growing up was really powerful and that goes back to the power of representation right now."

Chen's lone regret was that his parents and siblings couldn't be here because COVID restrictions imposed by Games organizers barred overseas visitors from entering China.

"My mom grew up in Beijing, so to even think that my mom as a young kid grew up in this location and now I'm here, in 2022, competing at the Olympics and skating the way that I did, it certainly means a lot to me," he said. "And of course, my dad spent a lot of time in Beijing as well and met my mom here. It just means the world."

Arutyunyan evoked Hetty's presence when Chen, knowing he had clinched the gold, skated off the ice and went to the kiss-and-cry area to await his score. "As soon as I sat down, he was like, 'Thank your mom on TV,'" Chen said.

In case he forgot, thanks, Nathan's mom.

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## Americans go big and go home with freestyle skiing gold

By Mitch Phillips  
Reuters

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — The United States knew the only way they were likely to be able to beat China in Thursday's Olympic freestyle skiing aerials mixed team event was to take some risks, and their bold approach paid off spectacularly and brought them the ultimate prize.

China were the favorites for the first running of the three-person event at the Olympics, qualified top from the preliminary final and led after the first of three runs in the medal round.

Then, Chris Lillis took his position at the top of the hill, drew a deep breath as he visualized the testing routine ahead of him, a high risk-high reward Back Double Full-Full-Double Full with a difficulty rating of five.

He nailed it brilliantly to earn a huge score of 135 points to leapfrog the hosts. Justin Schoenefeld then delivered a 114.48, creating too big an advantage for the final Chinese skier Qi Guangpu to make up.

Canada took the bronze medal, saying they had taken a relatively conservative approach and concentrated on making their landings, but Lillis said his team knew they had to go big to challenge for gold.

"The Chinese team is formidable, and we knew that we had to execute if we were going to be able to beat them because they are incredible jumpers," he said.

"That's been our plan for weeks now," he said of going for high difficulty jumps. "We wanted the gold and maybe we took a more aggressive approach and that was part of the game plan, me putting down the quint twist."

"And we have that capability with Ashley (Caldwell) being one of the only females in the world that can do that triple triple," he said. "I was happy with that plan and it worked really well."

Caldwell agreed: "The Chinese team has been good for a long time and that's why we had to come out here swinging

OLYMPIC MEDAL TABLE				
As of Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022				
Country	G	S	B	T
Austria	4	5	4	13
Norway	5	3	4	12
Canada	1	4	7	12
ROC	2	3	6	11
USA	4	5	1	10
Germany	6	3	0	9
Netherlands	4	3	1	8
Italy	2	4	2	8
Sweden	4	1	2	7
Japan	1	2	4	7
China	3	3	0	6
France	1	5	0	6
Slovenia	2	1	2	5
Switzerland	1	0	3	4
Finland	0	1	2	3
Australia	1	0	1	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
South Korea	1	0	1	2
Hungary	0	0	2	2
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
Slovakia	1	0	0	1
Belarus	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	0	1

and be ready for to go all in," she said.

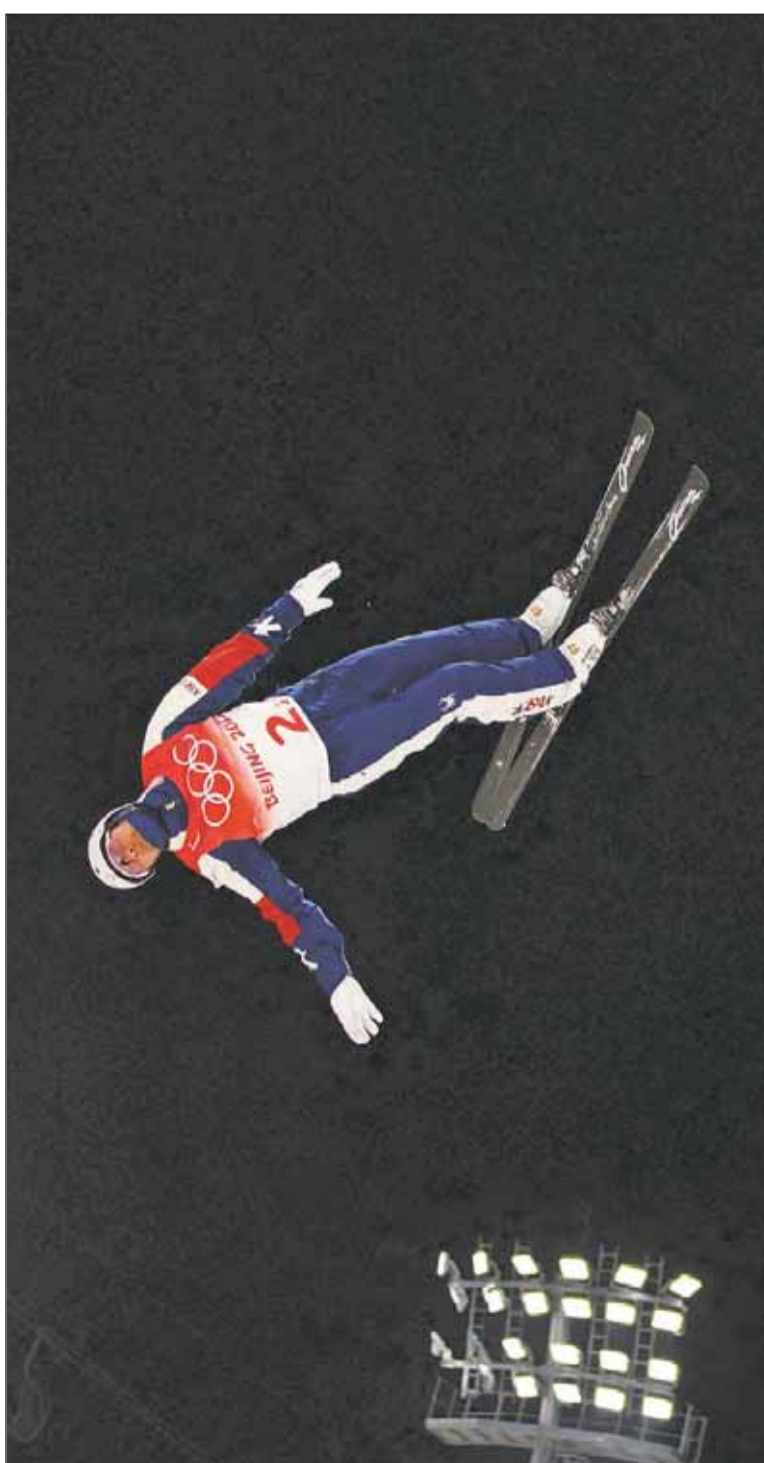
"Doing tricks you've never done before... I always felt like a top level competitive jumper and I proved it today alongside Justin and Chris and it feels surreal."

The success tasted particularly sweet for Lillis, whose dream of appearing alongside his brother in the 2018 Olympics were dashed by a serious knee injury two months before the Games - suffered less than a mile away from Thursday's venue.

"That injury gave me so much motivation," he said. "I was going through a tremendous amount of personal loss at the time (his younger brother had died unexpectedly two months earlier) so I'm not the same young guy I was then."

"I came here with a lot higher expectations than I would have had in 2018," he added.

Caldwell has had a different Olympic journey but was equally delighted with the outcome. "I couldn't be more excited," she said. "This is my fourth Games and I've been hunting for a gold medal my entire career. To do it with these guys is incredible."



Lisi Niesner / Reuters

Justin Schoenefeld of the United States in the Mixed Freestyle Skiing Aerials Team Final during the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games on Thursday at Genting Snow Park in Beijing.

# Team USA finishes strong, beats China, 8-0

By Mick Hatten  
West Central Tribune

BEIJING — After a bit of a slow start, the U.S. men's Olympic hockey team scored seven goals in the last two periods to beat China 8-0 in a Group A preliminary round game at National Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

Sean Farrell, a sophomore from Harvard, had a big game for the Americans with three goals and two assists. Farrell,

a 20-year-old from Hopkinton, Mass., had a goal and an assist in the second period and two goals and an assist in the third period for Team USA. It is the first hat trick at the Olympics for an American male since Phil Kessel in 2014.

The college players on the U.S. roster played a big role in the win.

Michigan sophomore forward Bredan Brisson, Minnesota Duluth senior forward

Noah Cates, Gophers junior forward Ben Meyers, Michigan sophomore Matty Beniers and former Yale forward Brian O'Neill all had goals for the Americans.

Meyers, a 23-year-old from Delano, also had two assists in the game. Matthew Knies, a freshman forward for the Gophers, and Brock Faber, a sophomore defenseman for the Gophers, had assists in the game for Team USA.

Drew Comness, a sopho-

more at Boston University, made 29 saves for the Americans. At 19, Comness is the youngest goalie to start an Olympic game for the men's team.

Jeremy Smith made 47 saves for China, which is participating in Olympic hockey for the first time.

Team USA led 1-0 after the first period with Brisson, a 20-year-old from Manhattan Beach, Calif., picking up a power-play goal at 10:38.

The Americans led 4-0 after the second period after goals by Cates (5:32), O'Neill (11:13) and Farrell (18:07). Farrell added Team USA's first and last goals of the third period to complete the hat trick.

Team USA is likely to get a much tougher test in its next game. The Americans play Canada at 10:10 p.m. Friday. Canada beat Germany 5-1 in its first game of the preliminary round.



Noah Cates (27) of the United States celebrates scoring the Americans' second goal with teammates Sean Farrell (26) and Ben Meyers (39). Farrell, a freshman from Harvard, had three goals and two assists and Meyers added a goal for Team USA in an 8-0 win over China in an Olympic men's hockey Group A preliminary round game on Wednesday at National Indoor Stadium, Beijing, China.   
Annegret Hilse / Reuters

## Vikings to name Donatell defensive coordinator under new coach O'Connell

By Chris Tomasson  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Longtime NFL assistant Ed Donatell will be named the Vikings' defensive coordinator next week under new head coach Kevin O'Connell, a source said

Thursday. Donatell, 65, was defensive coordinator the past three seasons with the Denver Broncos. The Broncos, using Donatell's 3-4 scheme, ranked third in the NFL last season in scoring defense and eighth in

total defense. The Vikings will name O'Connell, the Los Angeles Rams offensive coordinator, as their head coach after the Rams face the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl LVI on Sunday.

Donatell has 31 seasons

of experience as an NFL assistant coach, including 11 as a defensive coordinator. He held that role with Green Bay from 2000-03, Atlanta from 2004-06 and Washington in 2008 before his Denver stint.

It will be Donatell's

third stint in the NFC North. In addition to spending time with the Packers, he was Chicago's defensive backs coach from 2015-18.

"Donatell is loved by players on both sides of the football," said Ryan Harris, a former Cre-

tin-Derham Hall High School offensive lineman who won a Super Bowl with the Broncos after the 2015 season and is now a Denver sports radio broadcaster. "He's a teacher and encourages his players by believing in their hugest ability."

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**HELP WANTED GENERAL**

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**Puzzle Corner**

Conceptis **SUDOKU** by Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/11

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

**Yesterday's answers:**

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

2-11 **CRYPTOQUIP**

SUSCTVNOT NJ KT VINEP AR  
RNIUAJY ZIYSVCZ ZJO  
EZIEXIXR LCNVISKR IAPS KZO.

AG'R KZGM MTRGSCAZ!  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR CANDY BAR BEING MANUFACTURED IN THE SHAPE OF A LEGENDARY LOCH MONSTER: NESSIE CRUNCH.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals Y

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Scheffer

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Sir's counter-part</p> <p>6 Scratch</p> <p>9 Block letters?</p> <p>12 January, to Juan</p> <p>13 Kimono closer</p> <p>14 Actor Linden</p> <p>15 Car sticker</p> <p>16 Fashion variable</p> <p>18 Andean animals</p> <p>20 "The Hajj" author</p> <p>21 Shapiro of NPR</p> <p>23 Like sashimi</p> <p>24 Quilt square</p> <p>25 Harangue</p> <p>27 Yarn unit</p> <p>29 Low-quality</p> <p>31 Arizona resort</p> <p>35 French legislature</p>	<p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Club —</p> <p>2 Hydro-carbon suffix</p> <p>3 Turn down</p> <p>4 Asia's — Sea</p> <p>5 Grinding tooth</p> <p>6 Hudson River feeder</p> <p>7 Fortas and Lincoln</p> <p>8 Brink</p> <p>9 Polo, e.g.</p> <p>10 Freak out</p> <p>11 Skin</p> <p>17 Angola's capital</p> <p>19 Brick worker</p>	<p><b>21 Curved line</b></p> <p><b>22 Fan's cry</b></p> <p><b>24 Diner dessert</b></p> <p><b>26 Mortar-board dangler</b></p> <p><b>28 Perfume compound</b></p> <p><b>30 Favorite</b></p> <p><b>32 Disconnected</b></p> <p><b>33 Scot's denial</b></p> <p><b>34 Verb for you</b></p> <p><b>36 Trembling trees</b></p> <p><b>38 "I — differ!"</b></p> <p><b>39 Dutch exports</b></p> <p><b>40 Texas A&amp;M student</b></p> <p><b>42 West Pointer</b></p> <p><b>45 Ellitist</b></p> <p><b>46 Donned</b></p> <p><b>48 Roth svgs. plan</b></p> <p><b>50 Architect Maya</b></p> <p><b>51 "You bet!"</b></p>
---	---	--

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

BOOR	WAP	GMON
MAMA	ONE	LORI
WHET	RAO	ERAT
SUNHAT	STAPLE	
	OST	ATH
HAWS	CAMPSITE	
IWO	IPO	NAG
TERIGARR	AERO	
AMP	NAM	
DALPAL	IDEALS	
OHIO	PAN	NCAA
BOYS	GIG	DLVI
STYE	ARS	SUED

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Be realistic and honest regarding what you can achieve. Set guidelines that will help you maintain your integrity and honor your promises.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Talk to someone who always has your back. The discussion will deter you from making a mistake.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Leave nothing unfinished. Go over every detail yourself. Once you are satisfied, feel free to kick back and celebrate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Plan your day carefully. Be sure to have paperwork updated to avoid problems with institutions or authority figures.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be realistic about what you have to offer or the direction you want to head. Consider what's required of you to reach your goal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep an open mind, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone is likely to exaggerate or lead you to believe something that will encourage you to make a snap decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make unique plans with someone you love. A social event will allow you to share your ideas and thoughts with someone who can offer suggestions that will motivate you to move forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let anger prevail. Stand back and look at the big picture before you make a move, comment or head into a discussion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Invest more time and money into your home or living arrangements. Think outside the box, and you'll come up with a responsible plan that will help you save money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will surface over trivial matters that you neglected to address. Don't leave anything to chance or think that ignoring something will make it go away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be creative, and take care of your responsibilities efficiently and with finesse. The options you choose will lead to positive changes at home and how you present yourself to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time with people who encourage you to follow your heart and dreams. Be true to yourself instead of letting someone dictate what's possible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be honest, and keep the peace. Use reason and incentives if you wish to reach common ground with friends, relatives or peers.

Birthdays: You are sensitive, unique and caring. You are generous and indulgent.

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

My girlfriend reeks of smoke

Dr. Wallace: I'm a male high school student who's in his senior year right now. I'll turn 18 this summer and I have high hopes of going to a good college. I have a pretty good girlfriend, but she does have one major flaw in my eyes. That flaw is that she smokes cigarettes constantly!



ROBERT WALLACE 'Tween 12 and 20

I play on a couple of athletic teams at our school, so I don't smoke at all. In fact, I've never smoked. It's just not something I wanted to be involved with, especially due to health reasons that are so well-known these days.

My question for you is why do many teenage girls these days smoke cigarettes? I've noticed at my school that very few guys smoke, but I personally know several dozen girls who love to sneak a smoke in the bathroom or in their car between classes.

What's up with this? — Personally Never Puff Personally Never Puff: I have read surveys over the years and been told anecdotally many reasons why teen girls opt to smoke

cigarettes, at least for a brief period in their lives.

The answers range from that it provides them with a vehicle (or prop) to feel like they are more grown-up, to the age-old standby of pure peer pressure.

I've been told directly by teenage girls I've confronted on high school campuses that other reasons for doing it include feeling sophisticated and liberated. Most teens and adults who smoke these days definitely know about the long-term dangers of chronic smoking, yet they delude themselves into thinking that a little smoking here and there won't add up to much in their specific instance.

Perhaps you can suggest to her to quit smoking and that she can help you to identify an annoying habit of yours that you can commit to quitting as well. That way, you can both encourage each other and monitor your mutual progress toward your goals.

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

FAMILY CIRCUS | BY BIL KEANE



"You hafta leave the Band-Aid on or the shot will leak out."

LOCKHORNS | BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



"HE SPENT SO MUCH TIME DECORATING IT, NOW MY COFFEE'S COLD."

MARMADUKE | BY BRAD ANDERSON



"For the last time, quit digging holes deeper than you can get out of."

NON SEQUITUR | BY WILLEY MILLER



They're cut off from grandsons

Dear Annie: My wife and I have three grandsons, 11, 8 and 6. We live in different states. Six years ago, we asked our daughter if the boys could come for a vacation.

That year, the two oldest came, and the following year, all three came to visit for two weeks. When the pandemic hit, we were able to help out by taking care of the three boys for about four months.

Since the first visit, the boys' parents divorced. Now my ex-son-in-law will not let the boys come for a visit. If he has given a reason, we are not aware of it. The boys discuss their upcoming summer break when we call. All three have discussed things they want to do when they come visit. How do we break the news to them that they will not be coming to visit?

Our daughter did say she would

come with the boys for a two-week visit, but it's not the same for us. We just feel the boys are different when it's just us and them, and not their mom. We love our daughter and want to spend time with her, but we want some special time with the boys, too. Are we being too picky? — Sad/Mad Grandpa

Dear Sad/Mad Grandpa: You are not being too picky by wanting some quality time alone with your grandsons. The bond between grandchild and grandparent is a special one, and it's wonderful that you're so close to all three of them.

Tell your daughter how much you value your grandparent-grandson trips, and ask what's preventing her ex-husband from allowing one this year. If she's comfortable, you might want to reach out to him directly and express your feelings to him, too.

If they're still opposed, maybe you fly to their state this summer to maximize time with your grandsons.

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



ANNIE LANE Dear Annie

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



GARFIELD | BY JIM DAVIS



DILBERT | BY SCOTT ADAMS



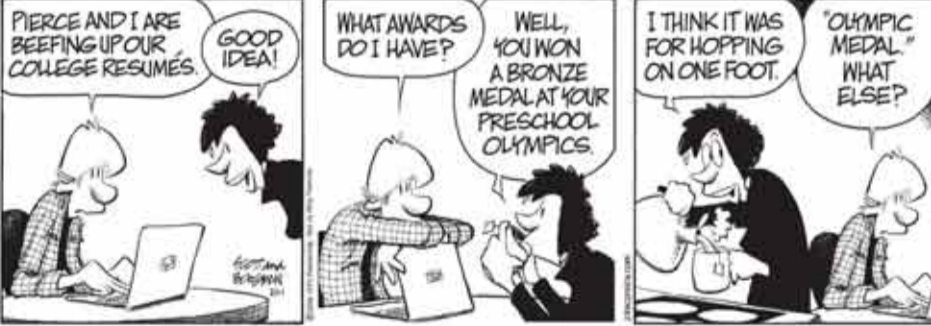
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | BY LYNN JOHNSTON



ZITS | BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BEEBLE BAILEY | BY MORT WALKER



MARY WORTH | BY KAREN MOY AND JOE GIELLA





Go Nakamura / Reuters File Photo

Former President Donald Trump, pictured Jan. 29, was known to be making phone calls during a window when White House phone logs went missing, according to investigators.

## Jan. 6 investigators find gaps in White House call logs

Reuters

The U.S. House committee probing the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on Congress has found gaps in official White House telephone logs on the day of the deadly riot, with few records of calls by then President Donald Trump during the hours investigators know he was making them, the New York Times reported.

Investigators have not uncovered evidence that any

official records were tampered with or deleted, the newspaper reported on Thursday, citing two people familiar with the phone records and noting Trump was known to use his personal cellphone or other people's cellphones.

The call log gaps may complicate House investigators' efforts to get a complete picture of the former Republican president's actions at the time his supporters stormed the U.S.

Capitol.

Still, the House panel has obtained information on calls and other communications as it interviews other witnesses.

In August, investigators told 35 telephone, email and social media companies to preserve any records that could be relevant to the probe. Last month, the panel subpoenaed several social media firms, including Facebook parent Meta, Google parent Alphabet, Twitter

and Reddit.

CNN last month also reported that the panel had subpoenaed and obtained records of phone numbers associated with Trump's son Eric Trump as well as Kimberly Guilfoyle, who is engaged to his other son, Donald Trump Jr.

Trump, in a statement released before the Times' report, again decried the panel and called the probe a political attack against him.

## Biden does 'deep dive' on four potential Supreme Court picks

By Nandita Bose and Andrea Shalal  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden said on Thursday he had done a thorough check on about four potential nominees for the Supreme Court and that he expects whomever he chooses will get some Republican support in the U.S. Senate.

"What I've done is I've taken about four people and done the deep dive on them, meaning ... thorough background checks," Biden told NBC News before meeting at the White House with 10 of the 11 Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Committee Chairman Dick Durbin said the lawmakers shared some of their recommendations with Biden, but conveyed their trust in his judgment. Biden told them he expected to begin meeting



Tom Brenner / Reuters

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) speaks at a microphone beside fellow Judiciary Committee Democrats, following a meeting on Supreme Court nomination process with President Joe Biden Thursday at the White House in Washington.

with potential nominees soon, Durbin told reporters.

"We understand we're mak-

ing history here. His decision to appoint a Black woman to the Supreme Court is literally

going to change the face of the court for the future, for our history in the United States," he said. "We're anxious to get started."

Biden has also spoken with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and is seeking the advice of other Republican lawmakers, the White House said.

Biden has said he will announce his choice to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer by the end of February and has promised to name the first Black woman to the high court. The nomination must be confirmed by the Senate.

"I'm not looking to make an ideological choice," Biden said. "I'm looking for someone to replace Judge Breyer with the same kind of capacity Judge Breyer had, with an open mind who understands the Constitution, interprets it

in a way that is consistent with the mainstream interpretation of the Constitution," he said.

Fourteen Black female lawmakers from the House of Representatives on Thursday urged Biden to pick a candidate with "an established record of working to advance racial justice and eradicating entrenched white supremacy."

"It is long past time for a Black woman to be on the Supreme Court, and we commend your unwavering commitment to correcting this long-standing injustice on the nation's highest court," the group, led by Representative Cori Bush, told Biden in a letter.

They noted that there was not a single Black woman serving in the U.S. Senate who could vote to confirm his nominee.

## Border city seeks court order to remove protesters

Truckers have blocked busy border crossing, the Ambassador Bridge

By Carlos Osorio, David Shepardson and Ismail Shakil  
Reuters

WINDSOR, Canada/ WASHINGTON - A Canadian mayor said on Thursday his city was seeking a court order to remove anti-coronavirus mandate protesters who have blocked a vital U.S.-Canada trade route and forced automakers in both countries to reduce operations.

The closure of the Ambassador Bridge, one of North America's busiest border crossings and a supply route for Detroit's carmakers, has U.S. and Canadian officials scrambling to find alternate routes to limit any economic damage.

Canadian truckers started the protests as a "Freedom Convoy" occupying the capital Ottawa, opposing a vaccine-or-quarantine mandate for cross-border drivers mirrored by the U.S. government. They began blocking the Ambassador Bridge on Monday and have since shut two smaller border crossings.

Canadian federal ministers have called the blockade illegal and asked protesters to return home. Police near the Ambassador Bridge have begun receiving additional manpower, Drew Dilkens, mayor of Windsor, Ontario, which borders Detroit, told CNN.

"(If) the protesters don't leave, there will have to be a path forward. If that means physically removing them, that means physically removing them, and we're prepared to do that," he said.

Dilkens later said Windsor was seeking an injunction from Ontario Superior

Court to have the protesters removed, adding he was striving to resolve the issue peacefully.

"(While) it may be gratifying for someone to see the forced removal of the demonstrators, such action may inflame the situation and certainly cause more folks to come here and add to the protest, and we don't want to risk additional conflict," Dilkens said.

With traffic at times shut in both directions, General Motors Co and Chrysler-parent Stellantis said on Thursday they had to cancel or reduce shifts because of parts short-

ages, tacking on to earlier cuts announced by Ford Motor Co and Toyota Motor Corp.

Toyota said it was suspending production through Saturday at its plants in Ontario and Kentucky, affecting manufacturing of the Camry, RAV4 and other popular models.

Ford is looking at flying in some auto parts to a plant in Windsor that produces engines for popular models, a union official said.

The Ambassador Bridge was completely shut down in both directions on Thursday at 3:15 p.m. EST (2015 GMT), according to a Reuters witness.



## Russia holds military drills in Belarus

### West warns of 'dangerous moment' amid calls for de-escalation

**By Robin Emmott, Tom Balmforth and Vladimir Soldatkin**  
Reuters

BRUSSELS/MOSCOW - BRUSSELS - President Joe Biden said on Thursday the "most dangerous moment" in the West's standoff with Moscow appeared imminent, as Russia held military exercises in Belarus and the Black Sea following the buildup of its forces near Ukraine.

Ukraine also staged war games and the United States urged Americans in the country to leave immediately due to increased threats of Russian military action. But leaders on all sides signaled they hoped diplomacy could still prevail in what British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called Europe's biggest security crisis for decades.

In a new round of talks, Britain's foreign minister sparred publicly with her



Maxar Technologies / Handout via Reuters  
A satellite image shows new deployments and military equipment on Thursday in Novoozeroye, Crimea.

Russian counterpart in Moscow, Johnson visited NATO headquarters in Brussels and Germany's leader met his Baltic states counterparts in Berlin, where officials from Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France were also holding

discussions. Russia, which has more than 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders, denies Western accusations it may be planning to invade its former Soviet neighbor, though it says it could take unsp-

ified "military-technical" action unless demands are met.

"I honestly don't think a decision has yet been taken" by Moscow on whether to attack, Johnson told a news conference with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. "But that doesn't mean that it is impossible that something absolutely disastrous could happen very soon indeed."

"This is probably the most dangerous moment, I would say, in the course of the next few days, in what is the biggest security crisis that Europe has faced for decades."

The way forward was diplomacy, Johnson later told reporters in Poland.

Stoltenberg also said it was a dangerous moment for European security, adding: "The number of Russian forces is going up. The warning time for a possible attack

is going down."

In a new point of friction, Ukraine criticized Russian naval exercises that it said were part of a "hybrid war" and had made navigation in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov "virtually impossible."

Nearly nine hours of talks between Ukraine and Russia on Thursday failed to produce a breakthrough on signing a joint document, but both sides agreed to keep talking, the chief of staff to Ukraine's president said after the talks in Berlin.

Russia said the talks with Ukraine, France and Germany on the conflict in eastern Ukraine fell short of any new agreement, and criticized what it called a lack of clarity in the Ukrainian position.

The U.S. State Department urged Americans in Ukraine to leave immediately due to what it called increased threats of Russian military action.

## Biden sees inflation easing this year, touts drug plan

**By Steve Holland**  
Reuters

CULPEPER, Va. - President Joe Biden on Thursday said he expected inflation to start to ease this year as supply chain logjams clear up, while saying that his administration was already helping ease shortages, as new data showed the biggest jump in consumer prices in 40 years.

Biden told NBC News that efforts by his administration to address the shortage of semiconductors that sent car prices soaring last year were starting to pay off.

Rising consumer prices "ought to be able to start to

taper off as we go through this year," Biden said. "In the meantime, I'm going to do everything in my power to deal with the big points that are impacting most people in their homes."

Biden earlier in the day told an event in Virginia that proposals included in his signature Build Back Better legislation would help bring down prices for families. The roughly \$1.7 trillion bill, which includes social spending and climate change provisions, is stalled and Biden has said previously that chunks, rather than the full package, could pass.

U.S. stock indexes ended sharply lower on Thursday after the consumer price data raised fears of a hefty interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve. Consumer prices in the 12 months through January rose 7.5%, the biggest jump since February 1982, according to the Labor Department.

Part of Biden's Build Back Better plan would give the federal government's Medicare program for seniors authorization to negotiate drug prices for the first time.

"The fact is that if we are able to do the things I'm talking about here, it'll bring down the cost for average

families," Biden said.

Noting that Build Back Better had already passed the House of Representatives, Biden said, "Now we just have to get it through the United States Senate. And we're close."

"We can do even more to lower out-of-pocket prescription costs," he said. "Under my proposal, we will hold drug companies accountable for the absurd price increases."

The Democrats hold a razor-thin majority in the Senate, providing little leeway given that Republicans have been opposed to allowing the government to negotiate prescription drug costs.

High inflation and fatigue over the ongoing pandemic have hurt Biden's popularity with Americans, causing concern for his fellow Democrats, who risk losing control of both houses of Congress in the November midterm elections.

Biden was joined by Democratic Representative Abigail Spanberger of Virginia, who could face a tough re-election fight in November, and Xavier Becerra, his secretary of Health and Human Services, who has faced criticism for a low-profile role in the administration's fight against COVID-19.

#### BRIEFS

### French virologist who co-discovered HIV virus has died

PARIS - French virologist Luc Montagnier, who won a Nobel Prize for his part in discovering the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS, has died, French news agency AFP reported on Thursday.

Montagnier, who was 89, shared half of the 2008 Nobel Prize for Medicine with fellow French scientist Françoise Barre-Sinoussi for their role in discovering the virus. The other half was awarded to German cancer researcher Harald zur Hausen.

Montagnier, who sparked controversy in 2020 by saying that he believed the coronavirus was created in a Chinese lab, was born in 1932 in France and gained a PhD in virology at the University of Paris.

He later became Director of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention in Paris.

In the years before the onset of the AIDS epidemic, Montagnier had made significant discoveries concerning the nature of viruses and contributed to understanding of how viruses can alter the genetic information of host organisms.

His investigation of interferon, one of the body's defenses against viruses, also opened avenues for medical cures for viral diseases.

**Guinea-Bissau president says former drug traffickers behind failed coup**

BISSAU - Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embalo said on Thursday that three people arrested by U.S. authorities for drug trafficking in 2013 were behind an attempted coup in Bissau last week.

**Teenager arrested, charged in bomb threats in Washington schools**

A 16-year-old boy was arrested on Thursday and charged with calling in bomb threats at seven predominantly Black schools in Washington a day earlier, the city police department said.

The four high schools and three charter schools, which were

evacuated following Wednesday's bomb threats and later cleared, included Dunbar High School, which was threatened on Tuesday during a visit by U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris' husband.

The teenager from Southeast Washington was charged with making "terrorist threats," the Metropolitan Police Department posted on Twitter. Authorities did not release the suspect's name and said the investigation into the incident was continuing.

But the incidents have further raised fears among Black communities already rattled by a series of bomb threats made last week against at least a dozen historically Black colleges and universities, or HBCUs, nationwide.

No explosives were found at any of the HBCUs, but the threats are being probed by the FBI.

The United States faces heightened threats from extremist groups, underscored by the bomb threats at many HBCUs, among other factors, the Department of Homeland Security said on Monday.

**California sues Tesla over Black workers' allegations of discrimination**

A California state agency has sued Tesla Inc over allegations by some Black workers that the company tolerated racial discrimination at an assembly plant, adding to claims made in several other lawsuits against the electric car maker.

The lawsuit filed in state court late on Wednesday by the state's Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) said Tesla's factory in Fremont, California, is racially segregated and that Black workers claim they are subjected to racist slurs and drawings and assigned the most physically demanding jobs.

Tesla did not respond to a request for comment. The company said in a blog post on Wednesday it was expecting the lawsuit, which it called misguided.

The DFEH said working conditions at the plant are so intolerable that many Black employees have been forced to quit.

## Trump says he is in touch with North Korea's Kim

Trump's claims could not be verified and may not be true, book says

**By David Brunnstrom and Doina Chiacu**  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - Former U.S. President Donald Trump has told associates he has remained in contact with North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong Un since leaving the White House, according to a report on Thursday amid raised tensions over recent North Korean missile tests.

"As we know, he had a fixation on this relationship," New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman told CNN. The revelation is contained in her upcoming book on Trump, "The Confidence Man."

Trump famously declared in 2018 that he and Kim "fell in love" after exchanging letters, but three meetings with the North Korean leader failed to persuade him to give up his nuclear bombs and missiles.

Trump's claims could not be verified and may not be true, Haberman said.

"What he says and what's actually happening are not always in concert, but he has been telling people that he has maintained some kind of a correspondence or discussion with Kim Jong Un," she said.

It is the only foreign leader Trump has said he remains in contact with, she added.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment on the report and when asked if it was aware of such contact and the White House did not immediately respond. A representative for Trump also did not return a request for comment.

The 1799 Logan Act bars private U.S. citizens from negotiating with foreign



KCNA via Reuters  
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends a meeting of the politburo of the ruling Workers' Party in Pyongyang, North Korea, January 19 in this photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

governments without authorization.

Jenny Town, director the Washington-based North Korea project 38 North, said Trump had been known to exaggerate and any messages he had sent might only have been greetings and might not have been reciprocated.

"But if it's true, and there is communication taking place on anything of substance without coordination or consultation with the White House, it could be highly problematic and potentially counterproductive to U.S. interests," she said.

President Joe Biden's administration has repeatedly urged a return to dialog with North Korea, but has avoided pushing for summit diplomacy, favoring detailed lower-level engagement first, an approach that has been rebuffed.

Biden called Kim a "thug" during his 2020 presidential campaign, but has said

he would be willing to meet him under the right conditions - if he agreed to discuss his nuclear program and that their advisers met first to lay the groundwork.

Despite Trump's direct personal engagement with Kim, U.S.-North Korea relations grew frosty after the breakdown of their 2019 summit in Hanoi and Pyongyang said it would not engage further unless Washington dropped hostile policies.

The Washington Post reported that correspondences with Kim were among the presidential records in 15 boxes the National Archives said it retrieved last month from Trump's Florida residence.

North Korea's recent missiles tests, including its first of an intermediate range ballistic missile since 2017, have raised fears it may be preparing for a return to tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear bombs, which it has not conducted since that year.

## President urged to repudiate racist rulings

Century-old rulings allowed government to treat Puerto Ricans differently

By Lawrence Hurley  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - Civil rights groups on Thursday asked President Joe Biden's administration to disavow century-old Supreme Court rulings suffused with racist language that gave the government license to treat people living in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories differently than other Americans.

The 13 groups, led by the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland that the Justice Department should publicly condemn a series of rulings in the early 1900s called the Insular Cases.

The activists pointed to Biden's January 2021 executive order in which he pledged to advance racial equity. Other groups signing the letter included the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the Hispanic Federation, a Latino advocacy group.

The rulings, starting in 1901, came in the aftermath of the acquisition of overseas territories following the 1898 Spanish-American War and established that Puerto Ricans and those living in some other U.S. territories do not possess the same rights under the U.S. Constitution as people living in U.S. states.

One Supreme Court justice at the time referred to territories "inhabited by alien races" and another endorsed the notion that the United States can seize "an unknown island, peopled with an uncivilized race" without conferring citizenship.

The letter from the activists said that the Justice Department's "continued embrace of the Insular Cases cannot be

reconciled with this administration's pledge to affirmatively advance equity and racial justice."

The activists said they were prompted to write the letter by the Justice Department's approach in a November Supreme Court oral argument concerning whether Congress can bar Puerto Ricans from the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program that provides benefits to low-income elderly, blind and disabled people.

During the argument, Justice Neil Gorsuch specifically asked Deputy Solicitor General Curtis Gannon, representing the administration, for its position on the cases.

"Why shouldn't we just admit that the Insular Cases were incorrectly decided?" Gorsuch asked.

Gannon responded that although the "reasoning and rhetoric there is obviously anathema," the Supreme Court did not need to say anything about the cases to decide the question about SSI benefits, thereby missing an opportunity to denounce them, the activists said.

"It's like having laws on the books that don't outlaw lynching," said Laura Esquivel, vice president of federal policy and advocacy at the Hispanic Federation. "Why would the U.S. government want to leave those laws there? Why would they not want to repudiate them?"

Alejandro Ortiz, an ACLU lawyer, said it would be an "easy win" for Biden's administration to condemn the Insular Cases because there is consensus now that they were based on racist reasoning.

"This is one easy example of systemic racism, where racism has been built into the way the federal government treats people who live in the territories, who are overwhelmingly people of color," Ortiz added.

## US to replenish UAE defenses after attacks

Houthis have waged several largely failed attacks

By Phil Stewart  
Reuters

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt - The United States will help the United Arab Emirates replenish interceptors it uses to knock down incoming missiles following a spate of unprecedented attacks by Houthi fighters in Yemen, the U.S. general overseeing Middle East operations told Reuters.

In recent weeks, the Iran-aligned Houthis have waged a string of largely failed strikes on UAE targets that have triggered Emirati and U.S. air defenses and have even seen American troops based there briefly taking shelter.

"We will help with replenishment of interceptors. And we'll do everything we can to assist UAE in defending themselves," General Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, said in an interview after a trip to Abu Dhabi earlier this week.

McKenzie did not offer further specifics. The UAE has privately requested U.S. replenishment of missile defense interceptors, including for its THAAD and Patriot system, a source familiar with the matter said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The latest U.S. move would be in addition to the Pentagon's announcement last week of a deployment of a guided missile destroyer and advanced U.S. F-22 fighter jets to the UAE. It would also stick closely to defensive support, amid stiff opposition to the war in Yemen among many lawmakers in Congress due to civilian deaths.

The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and



Faisal al Nasser / Reuters File Photo

A Saudi security officer walks past Saudi Arabia's Abha airport on June 13, 2019. The US will help replenish missile defense interceptors for a Saudi Arabian-led military coalition that includes the UAE.

caused a humanitarian crisis.

The Houthi attacks have thrown a spotlight on so-far unsuccessful U.N.-led efforts to broker an end to the war in Yemen, which since 2015 has pitted the Houthis against a Saudi Arabian-led military coalition that includes the UAE.

McKenzie, who has also expressed concern about Houthi attacks against ally Saudi Arabia, acknowledged that the United States has been grappling with significant limits on U.S. surveillance capability over Yemen, noting its size.

"We're very limited in ISR over Yemen. It's hard to see into Yemen," McKenzie said, using an acronym for military intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, which include drones.

"It's a large country, and you have to make decisions on priorities."

Experts say it can be difficult to help allies detect and destroy Houthi launch sites without adequate ISR, particularly when dealing with mobile missile launchers.

Aware of their value, Houthis target U.S. drones. The Houthis have shot down two U.S.-operated drones since McKenzie took command in March 2019 and far more drones operated by regional allies.

With tensions simmering around the world, from North Korea to Ukraine, the Pentagon has to deal with competing priorities for ISR resources, which also include satellite imagery.

"I communicate with partners where we are with Yemen. I communicate with our (U.S. defense) secretary all the time about the resources that we need," McKenzie said, without identifying any specific request.

## London Met Police chief submits resignation

First woman chief steps down after losing confidence of London mayor

By Paul Sandle  
Reuters

LONDON - London police chief Cressida Dick resigned on Thursday, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said, after he told her he was not satisfied she could root out the racism, sexism and other problems that still existed within the force.

Confidence in the Metropolitan Police has been shaken by the abduction, rape and murder of a woman, Sarah Everard, by one of its officers, and recent revelations of a culture of bullying, racial discrimination and misogyny in a central London police station.

Khan said he had made clear to Dick the scale of the change he believed was urgently required to rebuild Londoners' trust in the Met and to expunge racism, sexism, homophobia, bullying, discrimination and misogyny from it.

"I am not satisfied with the Commissioner's response,"



Henry Nicholls / Reuters File Photo

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, pictured in September 2021, resigned on Thursday after losing confidence of London mayor.

he said, adding that on being informed of this, Dick had offered her resignation.

"It's clear that the only way to start to deliver the scale of

the change required is to have new leadership right at the top of the Metropolitan Police," Khan said.

Dick said she was left with

no choice but to stand down.

"It is with huge sadness that following contact with the Mayor of London today, it is clear that the Mayor no longer has sufficient confidence in my leadership to continue," she said.

Dick, an experienced counter-terrorism officer, was the first woman to lead London's 193-year-old police force, also known by the name of its Scotland Yard headquarters.

Interior Minister Priti Patel had extended her contract in September.

Dick said Everard's murder and "many other awful cases recently" had damaged confidence, but the force had turned its full attention to rebuilding trust.

Khan singled out Dick's reaction to the report on the behavior of 14 serving police officers at Charing Cross Police for making her position untenable.

"The response from the Commissioner wasn't up to the scale of the change required in the Met Police Service," he told broadcasters.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Twitter that Dick had "served her country with great dedication and distinction over many decades."

Patel, who will be responsible for choosing Dick's replacement, said earlier this month there were problems with the culture of the force.

On Thursday, however, she said Dick had undertaken her duties "with a steadfast dedication to protecting our capital city and its people - including during the unprecedented period of the pandemic."

The choice of her successor has political ramifications because the Met is investigating parties at the center of Johnson's government during the pandemic for breaches of lockdown laws.

## Counterfeit parts found in US nuclear plants, report finds

By Timothy Gardner  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - Counterfeit parts have been discovered in U.S. nuclear plants, potentially increasing the risk of a safety failure, the inspector general of the federal nuclear industry regulator said in a report released on Thursday.

The report is a blow to a U.S. nuclear industry that has shrunk in recent years due to competition from renewable power and plants that burn natural gas and lingering public concerns following high-profile mishaps including a 2011 tsunami at Japan's Fukushima plant.

"Counterfeit parts are safety and security concerns

that could have serious consequences in critical power plant equipment required to perform a safety function," the report from the inspector general's office of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said.

The report, which looked into concerns that the counterfeit parts are present in most, if not all power plants, sampled a plant in each of the NRC four regions and found data showing fake parts were used in a plant in the U.S. Midwest.

In addition, it said a "well placed NRC principal" told the inspector general about two component failures at plants in the U.S. Northeast that plant operators determined

involved fake parts. And a recent inspector general audit report revealed that the parts are present at nuclear operating plants, it said without further details.

U.S. Department of Energy staff had identified more than 100 incidents involving counterfeit, fraudulent or suspect items (CFSI) in agency reactors in fiscal year 2021 alone, the report said.

Counterfeit parts found at reactors have included an emergency service water pump shaft, temperature sensors used to identify steam line breaks, and breaker switches meant to prevent fires, it said. The report did not name nuclear reactors involved or the origin of the parts.

The report added that the NRC may also be underestimating the number of counterfeit parts in plants "because it does not require licensees to report CFSI except in extraordinary circumstances, such as those involving the failure of equipment that performs a significant safety function."

The NRC said it is reviewing the report.

"While the report's findings include the ongoing presence of CFSI at U.S. reactors, nothing in the report suggests an immediate safety concern," said spokesperson Scott Burnell. "The NRC's office of the Executive Director for Operations is thoroughly reviewing the report and will direct the agency's program offices to

take appropriate action."

The Department of Energy did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

An advocacy group said the report shows the NRC needs to work harder to counter the problem.

"This troubling report shows that the NRC needs to do much more to ensure that counterfeit or fraudulent parts with potentially dangerous defects are kept out of US nuclear power plants - including strengthening requirements for plant owners to report and correct such problems as soon as they are discovered," said Edwin Lyman, director of nuclear power safety at the Union of Concerned Scientists, nonprofit group.

## Protesters take to Sudan's streets again

### Citizens decry military coup, arrests, wave of political detentions

**Reuters**  
**KHARTOUM** - Sudanese protesters marched in neighborhoods across the capital and the country on Thursday in protest at October's military coup and a wave of political detentions.

The takeover ended a partnership between the military and civilian political parties, drawing international condemnation and plunging Sudan into political and economic turmoil.

Protests organized by neighborhood resistance committees have drawn hundreds of thousands of people, and at least 79 have been killed and more than 2,000 injured in crackdowns.

On Thursday, hundreds of protesters diverged from planned routes to renew efforts

to march on the presidential palace, but were met with tear gas and a heavy security presence a little more than a kilometer from their goal.

"We will continue demonstrating in the streets until we bring down military rule and bring back democracy," said 22-year-old university student Salah Hamid.

Other protests took place across the Nile in the cities of Omdurman and Bahri, and farther away in Gadarif and Senar.

Sudan's long-standing economic woes have been exacerbated since last month by the blockade of the Northern Artery, a key route for trucks carrying exports from Sudan into Egypt.

That protest, originally

against a rise in electricity prices for farmers, has expanded to reject military rule and demand more support for both farmers and traders, and has trapped hundreds of Egyptian trucks in Sudan.

While some protesters in Khartoum said they were opposing a normalization of relations with Israel that has been spearheaded by the military, others marched for the more than 2,000 people who lawyers say have been arrested since the coup. More than 100 remain in jail, one lawyer said on Thursday.

Two prominent political critics of the military, Khalid Omer Yousif and Wagdi Salih, were arrested on Wednesday.

Brigadier Altahir Abu Haja, media adviser to



Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah / Reuters

A protester marches during a rally against military rule Thursday following coup in Khartoum, Sudan.

military ruler General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, said in a statement carried by state news agency SUNA that their

arrests were not political and that investigations were continuing.

A prosecution statement said that Salih and

others faced charges of breaking laws related to corruption, foreign currency and financial procedures.

## Rifts deepen in Libya

### New PM named as incumbent refuses to yield

**Reuters**  
**TOBRUK, Libya** - Libya's divisions seemed poised to deepen on Thursday as the eastern-based parliament named a new prime minister, with the incumbent refusing to step aside.

The move threatens to plunge Libya back to the split between two warring, parallel administrations that governed from 2014 until a unity government was installed last year as part of a U.N.-backed peace plan.

A spokesman for the parliament said it had chosen former interior minister Fathi Bashagha by a show of hands after the only other candidate withdrew.

However, Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah, who heads the U.N.-recognized Government of National Accord (GNU) has rejected the parliament's moves, saying he will only relinquish power after a national election.

The parliament wants to take control of Libya's political future after the collapse of an election that was planned for December, saying Dbeibah's interim government is no longer valid and pushing any new election back until next year.

Late on Thursday, Bashagha flew to Tripoli with some of the parliament members as he prepared to try to form a new government that could win majority support from parliament.

In a brief speech on arrival in Tripoli Bashagha said he thanked Dbeibah for his work and said democracy ensured a peaceful transfer of power, adding "I am sure the unity government will be committed to these democratic principles."

Although witnesses in Tripoli said armed forces had put new security measures



Esam Omran Al-Fetori / Reuters

Security forces stand guard outside the Parliament building Thursday in Tobruk, Libya.

in place around Dbeibah's office, there was no immediate sign of confrontation between supporters of rival camps.

Eastern commander Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA), which waged a 14-month offensive against a Tripoli government in which Bashagha was interior minister, said it welcomed his appointment.

While Libya has had little peace or stability since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising against Muammar Gaddafi, and split between warring eastern and western factions in 2014, a ceasefire has mostly held since summer 2020.

The installation of Dbeibah's interim unity government last year and the promised march towards election

was hailed as the best chance of peace for Libya in years before it all fell apart.

However, while rival armed forces have mobilized inside Tripoli in recent weeks, analysts say this political crisis will not necessarily translate into fighting soon.

The stance of foreign states may prove critical. During the last war, Russia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates backed the eastern side while Turkey supported the Tripoli government.

International recognition for that government also meant it was impossible for the parallel eastern administration to easily trade oil to finance its operations despite holding the main fields.

So far, the U.N. Libya adviser and Western countries have said Dbeibah's

Government of National Unity remains valid and have urged the parliament to focus instead on bringing elections forward.

Egypt on Thursday said it valued the measures taken by Libya's parliament, which it said has the power to grant legitimacy to the executive government and oversee it.

Nearly 3 million Libyans signed up to vote in the December election, and the political jostling and delays that have followed have infuriated and frustrated many of them.

Critics of eastern-based Parliament Speaker Aguila Saleh have previously accused him of chicanery in pushing through laws or decisions without proper votes.

## NYT free to publish documents, court rules

### Appeals court will allow newspaper to print Project Veritas documents

By Jonathan Stempel  
 Reuters

**NEW YORK** - A New York state appeals court freed the New York Times to publish documents concerning the conservative activist group Project Veritas, putting on hold a lower court ruling that alarmed First Amendment advocates.

In an order made public on Thursday, the Appellate Division in Brooklyn stayed a December ruling that blocked the Times from publishing memoranda from an in-house Project Veritas lawyer, and required the newspaper to turn over or destroy the memos.

Critics called the ruling by Justice Charles Wood of the state Supreme Court in Westchester County an unconstitutional prior restraint. Project Veritas has said the memos are protected by attorney-client privilege.

While not setting aside Wood's ruling, Thursday's order means it will not be enforced during the Times' appeal.

Elizabeth Locke, a lawyer for Project Veritas, said she was pleased the court denied the Times' "overreaching request" to vacate the ruling, and was confident it would find that the Times "violated Veritas' substantial rights by acquiring and publishing attorney-client privileged materials in the midst of ongoing litigation."

The Times welcomed the order. "The use of prior restraint to prohibit newsgathering and block the publication of newsworthy journalism is unconstitutional," spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said. "No libel plaintiffs should be permitted to use their litigation as a tool to silence press coverage about them."

Led by James O'Keefe, Project Veritas has used what critics view as deceptive tactics to expose what it describes as liberal media bias.

The Times obtained the disputed memos in connection with coverage concerning a U.S. Department of Justice probe into Project Veritas' possible role in the theft of a diary from President Joe Biden's daughter Ashley.

Project Veritas objected to a Nov. 11 Times article that drew from the memos, calling it an attempt to embarrass a litigation opponent.

The group is suing Times for defamation over an unrelated September 2020 article describing a video it released about alleged voter fraud in Minnesota.

## Boy Scouts wins key support in abuse settlement

By Maria Chutchian  
 Reuters

The Boy Scouts of America won pivotal support from a committee representing sexual abuse victims for a \$2.7 billion settlement of their claims against the youth organization as it seeks to emerge from bankruptcy, according to a court filing on Thursday.

Ahead of a Feb. 22 hearing before a U.S. bankruptcy judge in Delaware, the official committee representing victims in the Boy Scouts' Chapter 11 case agreed to drop its long-standing objections to the settlement in exchange for new terms that include

enhanced child-protection measures for scouts.

More than 82,000 abuse claims have been filed against the Boy Scouts, which has called the deal the largest sexual abuse settlement in history. The Boy Scouts, founded in 1910, has apologized for the abuse and committed itself to equitably compensate people who were abused as children.

The Irving, Texas-headquartered nonprofit organization, which had earlier secured separate backing from tens of thousands of abuse victims, still needs U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein to approve the settlement.

"We offer our heartfelt thanks to the (committee) and all supporting parties whose perseverance and significant time commitment to mediation was instrumental in the formation of this agreement," the Boy Scouts said in a statement.

In a vote tally bankruptcy announced in January, 73.57% of claimants supported the settlement plan, short of the 75% threshold the organization had been seeking. The Boy Scouts organization has been working to bring in more support in recent weeks. The official committee is now urging abuse claimants who voted against the settlement

to change their votes to support it.

While the assent of two-thirds of creditors is all that is typically required for a Chapter 11 plan, judges often look for "overwhelming" creditor support in large, complex Chapter 11 cases before signing off on them.

Under the deal, the Boy Scouts would establish a \$2.7 billion trust to compensate men who have said they were sexually abused as children by troop leaders. The new settlement terms include enhanced child-protection procedures and greater oversight by the official committee of the victim compensation process.

## Controversial home-ownership model gains steam

### 'Tenancy-in-common' homes gaining popularity in LA neighborhoods

By Andrew Khouri  
Los Angeles Times

A new housing model that landed in Los Angeles several years ago made home ownership more affordable in pricey neighborhoods, a welcome option in a housing-starved region.

It also had a major flaw, according to critics: Investors often displaced tenants in cheaper rentals to renovate their units and resell them.

Now, an L.A. developer has a new approach to the so-called tenancy-in-common, or TIC, model, in which residents share ownership of the property. Instead of converting old, rent-controlled buildings into TIC properties, the developer is replacing single-family homes with new townhomes.

That adds less costly housing stock to the area with fewer chances of displacement since most single-family houses are owner-occupied.

"I thought this wasn't something I could afford," said Ricky Howard, a 34-year old buying his first home, a three-bedroom townhouse in Arlington Heights with stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops and central air conditioning.

"I was ... questioning why was it priced at \$749,000," he said, "and it's new construction."

At TIC developments, rather than own an individual unit on a lot like a condominium, residents own a share of the overall lot and have exclusive rights to live in their unit, with homeowners association dues covering the property's upkeep. They are similar to New York City co-ops and came to L.A. from San Francisco, where they had been budding for decades.

B&A Group LLC, the builder of the four-unit project in Arlington Heights, has several more on the way, and at least one other developer is planning similar projects. Some real estate experts said the model could help the region's gaping affordable-housing problem, particularly after a new state law opened more areas to similar development.

B&A has finished three projects so far; the others are in West Adams and Westlake.

In Arlington Heights, the three-bedroom homes went up for sale between \$749,000 and \$849,000 — at least \$159,000 less than the typical three bedroom in the central Los Angeles neighborhood, and cheaper than most newly built condos and townhomes in the city, according to a Times analysis of Zillow data and listings.

Aldo Cali, who runs B&A with his sister Brisa Acosta, said they focus on replacing single-family homes with new construction because they don't want to displace anyone. And it's hard to make projects work financially when demolishing multi-unit structures to build just a few new units.

The new TICs from B&A preceded Senate Bill 9, the state law that allows up to four units



Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles Times / TNS

A new tenancy-in-common development on 16th Place in the Arlington Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, pictured in November 2021, sells at a discount to both new townhomes and single family houses, offering a relatively cheaper for-sale option in a growing number of neighborhoods.

on most lots formerly zoned for one single-family house. Some single-family houses in the city already sat on parcels zoned for more units, often times a maximum of four, enabling projects such as B&A's.

"Being able to take one home and turn it now into four homes that could give someone the opportunity to own a home in Los Angeles ... we like that whole idea," Acosta said.

In the debate over the new construction enabled by SB 9, some opponents raised concerns developers would demolish relatively affordable single-family homes and replace them with expensive rentals.

Cali and Acosta said the old homes they buy often need significant work that would put them out of reach for many first-time buyers. Most of the new TIC townhomes, on the other hand, have sold to first-time buyers, according to the real estate agent handling the deals.

Except for one single family house built as part of a three-unit TIC development in West Adams, B&A's new townhome units are all three bedrooms with roughly 1,500 square feet and a rooftop deck or a small yard.

All 10 of those townhomes were first listed between 9% and 26% less than the typical price for a three bedroom in those neighborhoods, or the equivalent of \$81,000 to \$259,000 cheaper.

New homes at a discount

Howard, who is under contract for a unit at the TIC project in Arlington Heights, said he had grown tired of paying \$3,000 a month in rent for a one-bedroom apartment near work and wanted to start building equity.

The owner of a streetwear store in downtown L.A., he said the only homes he could afford in his desired neighborhoods were fixer-uppers, or one-bedroom and studio condos. It took six months of searching and roughly three lost offers before he came across B&A's townhomes.

One home he had bid on had 20 competing offers, he said. By comparison, buying a newer, nicer TIC has been a breeze.

"I think it's smart for when I get older," Howard said, of owning an asset rather than spending money on rent. "I can have something that I own."

How his opportunity came to be is a story of zoning and economics.

In recent years, developers including B&A have demolished single-family houses that sat on L.A. lots already zoned for two to four units.

According to interviews with developers and a Times analysis of city records, the hundreds of new two- to four-unit projects that developers built were primarily for lease, with just a smattering of for-sale condos and a type of for-sale housing known as small lots — homes that look like townhomes, but are actually detached single-family houses.

Some of the new rental units were pricey, high-end units, while others were cheap enough to qualify as Section 8 housing.

Most projects are rentals because it takes too long to get city approvals to sell units individually as condos or small lots, developers said.

By 2019, though, investors had started to convert old rental housing into TIC units, which unlike small lots and condo conversions required no special city approvals and could be done quickly — a major plus for them since time is money.

L.A. real estate agent Skyler Hynes, who was working with B&A at the time to lease rentals, said he and the developer eventually figured they could use that new model to sell off individual townhomes and potentially make more money than selling an entire property to a landlord.

Cali said they bought all houses on the open market and make a point of asking the listing agents whether anyone would be displaced with the sale, something he said the

agents said wouldn't happen.

"That's not what we are about," he said.

According to county records and an interview with one previous owner, at least five of the seven houses B&A bought had been owner-occupied. One house had been rented before the sale, according to the tenant, who said the landlord let him move into another rental she owned for the same rental price.

Multiple industry insiders believe B&A was the first developer to offer newly built TICs in the L.A. market, with others since taking up model.

Isaac Davidi, a prominent developer of two- and four-unit rentals in Los Angeles, said he has about 40 new TIC buildings planned, with the first one expected to be finished in West Adams in about three months. "It's more profitable," he said.

Future B&A projects are planned in West Adams, Westlake, Mid City and North Hollywood.

All of the townhomes B&A has finished so far were listed and sold, or are still available, in the \$700,000s and \$800,000s. Hynes said the list price is roughly a 10% to 20% discount to what a similar newly built condo or small lot would cost in that location.

Several B&A homes actually sold under the original list price, including the one Howard is buying.

B&A can still make a profit selling the homes at a lower price: The developer saves time because special city approvals aren't necessary in TIC cases, Hynes said.

The particular features of TICs — the shared ownership structure, for example, and the lack of fixed-rate financing options for them — also mean they aren't swamped with buyer-interest the way most California homes are these days.

Adding supply If newly built TICs prove reasonably profitable for developers, and the model takes off, it could have a "substantial

impact" on improving housing affordability, UCLA professor Paavo Monkkonen said.

As developers build more TICs, more for-sale units will become available — the supply will grow — potentially easing the bidding wars between buyers that characterize today's market.

SB 9 has also opened up many more lots to two- and four-unit development, adding opportunities for others to try the single-family-home-to-TIC pathway.

Larry Gross, executive director for the tenant rights group Coalition for Economic Survival, said the way B&A is developing TICs has the potential for less tenant displacement compared with the more common rental conversions.

But if the model catches on, he said, he worries other developers will pressure low-income homeowners to sell en-masse, then build and sell homes for far more than B&A prices. A familiar cycle would then begin, he said, with high-earners moving in and driving home prices up further.

"This could be devastating," he said.

Even the discounts B&A's projects now offer are a concern for Steven Meeks, president of the neighborhood council for West Adams. The area has seen prices skyrocket in recent years as higher income, often white households, move into the mostly working-class Latino and Black neighborhood.

"Cheaper for who?" he said of the new townhomes. "What person in this neighborhood is going to afford that?"

Cali said he worries "about everybody's concerns," but he feels his projects are helping affordability, including in West Adams where he sold two, three bedroom townhomes for \$780,000 and \$795,000, far less than the typical three bedroom now valued at over \$1 million.

"It's bringing back a little piece of the middle-class, figuring out how to even get into something," he said.

UCLA's Monkkonen said it's also important to consider what could've happened absent B&A's purchase of the old houses: It's common for investors to purchase old, rundown homes and renovate them to much higher values — something that doesn't add any additional units and happens frequently in West Adams and across the city.

B&A's projects, meanwhile, are adding housing that is cheaper than many options in the surrounding area, a quicker way to expand affordability than waiting for more supply to trickle down, Monkkonen said.

All but one of the 10 new townhomes B&A has built can be considered less expensive than the old houses they replaced, records show.

According to public records, B&A paid \$850,000 in 2019 for the single-family house in Arlington Heights it demolished to build four townhomes.

Those four new townhomes went on the market between \$749,000 and \$849,000, meaning all four were available for less than B&A paid for the original house two years prior. Some buyers are in escrow below those list prices, an even steeper discount.

It's a more complicated case with the developer's other projects. Those townhomes sold for more than what B&A paid in 2019 for the houses they replaced. But as any observer of the nation's housing market knows: real estate appreciates.

A home's price doesn't rise in exact tandem with the market. But if B&A never demolished the old houses and their value climbed exactly as estimated by Zillow for the typical house, all but one of B&A's six remaining townhomes sold for less than the theoretical value of the houses they replaced.

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Barry Wetcher / Universal Pictures / TNS

Jennifer Lopez, left, and Owen Wilson in "Marry Me," directed by Kat Coiro.

## LOPEZ, WILSON STEP INTO ROM-COM FORMULA

Famous gal meets regular Joe formula falls flat in 'Marry Me'

By Nina Metz  
Chicago Tribune

**'M**arry Me" starring Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson asks that age-old question: Do you, viewer, take this romantic comedy to be your next cinematic diversion, to have and to hold from this day forward, or at least for the next two hours?

The answer, I'm afraid, to borrow from another well-known phrase: Let's call the whole thing off.

Decked out in an eye-catching and impressively fun wardrobe, Lopez is Kat, a pop star who is about to marry her amor (also a pop star, played by the singer-songwriter Maluma) at her next concert. That we're meant to believe this concert-as-wedding is not a blatantly self-promotey choice — nuptials as business write-off, anyone? — is just the first of the movie's many emotionally disingenuous beats. Moments before she's set to make her bridal entrance, the bad news comes in a flash on everyone's phones — hoo-boy, this movie is obsessed with social media — and it's a video showing her fiance cheating with her assistant. Stunned and humiliated, Kat rises up from the stage floor in her massive, glittery, crystal-covered wedding gown. And suddenly all that heavy stage makeup betrays her. No matter how much highlighter is slathered on those exquisite cheekbones, her glow is gone.

And then she spots a random guy in the audience — a junior high school math teacher and divorced dad

"Absent any chemistry or heat, Lopez and Wilson come across like respectful colleagues who have a pleasant working relationship. Scenes don't really develop and an inordinate number of them feature Kat singing one song or another, rather than focusing on the ways people connect and fall in love, and when they finally do kiss for the first time it's like ... huh. Shrug."

NINA METZ, CRITIC

named Charlie, played by Wilson, who is so low-key as to be no key — holding a sign with the name of her current hit: "Marry Me." She takes that as her cue and impulsively weds this nobody on the spot and rom-comery ensues. In theory, at least.

Director Kat Coiro (whose credits include the Peacock's "Girls5eva") has mostly assembled all the necessary ingredients — plus a whole bunch of unnecessary ones as well — but they never cohere into a story that actually hangs together. It's a ridiculous premise, but that's not the issue; Lopez has stepped into her fair share of nonsensical stories and made them work largely because she has the chops and screen presence to elevate a light, fizzy script if it has decent bones. And I like the reverse-energy of the setup, which has the central couple falling for one another after they've tied the knot.

But the screenplay from Harper Dill, John Rogers and Tami Sagher is weirdly shapeless and has no real momentum driving these two crazy kids into one another's arms. I say kids, but it's actually unusual — and I appreciate this — to see a rom-com starring actors in their early 50s and their middle-agedness

isn't an explicit part of the story. They never once refer to themselves as old; their ages never even come up and really, why would they? (It's fascinating to watch this play out coming off "And Just Like That's" approach wherein 50-plus means you're over the hill.)

Rom-coms require an internal machinery and most tend to follow certain basic rhythms because those rhythms work so well. Unless you're willing to upend that with some compellingly inventive alternatives — and to be clear, that's not what is happening here amid the "Notting Hill" of it all — the end result is going to be as lifeless as the hairpiece Kat casually removes from her head one night as she and Charlie kinda sorta get to know one another.

Absent any chemistry or heat, Lopez and Wilson come across like respectful colleagues who have a pleasant working relationship. Scenes don't really develop and an inordinate number of them feature Kat singing one song or another, rather than focusing on the ways people connect and fall in love, and when they finally do kiss for the first time it's like ... huh. Shrug. There's no convincing build up. That said, Lopez

has a brief but legitimately funny moment attempting to run in a gorgeous red dress with a very narrow skirt. More of those kinds of throwaway jokes, visual or otherwise, might have helped buoy this thing a bit more.

There are a lot of narrative shortcuts employed here — if I never see a montage of news reporting to set up a scene again it will be a happy day — and the actors themselves are forever shoved into chaotic Instagram Live feeds that crowd the screen, perhaps to distract audiences from the fact that the movie looks so conspicuously underpopulated. I don't know if this was due to the budget or COVID, but "Marry Me" feels small in ways that a big commercial rom-com frequently doesn't and maybe that's why you can't fully shake the feeling that this Universal Pictures project is really just a marketing scheme cooked up to highlight Lopez's real-life music career and some NBCUniversal properties, including the frequent cutaways to a decidedly unfunny Jimmy Fallon, which may be, ironically, the movie at its most honest.

**'MARRY ME'**  
2 stars (out of 4)  
MPAA rating: PG-13 (for some language and suggestive material)  
Running time: 1:52  
Where to watch: In theaters and streaming on Peacock Friday

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## 'I love her so much and I still do'

Elton John pays tribute to Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin during show

By Maureen Feighan  
The Detroit News

DETROIT — Superstar entertainer Elton John paid tribute to the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin during one of two dynamic shows at Little Caesars Arena this week, saying even as she battled cancer, she performed at one of his shows.

Wearing his signature sparkly glasses and sitting at his piano Wednesday for his second Detroit show during his "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour, John said one of Franklin's final performances was at one of his concerts and she "was so ill." Franklin died in 2018 after battling pancreatic cancer. She was 76.

"I love her so much and I still do," said John. "I have so much respect for her."

John, 74, who last performed in Detroit in 2018, recalled how not long after he and songwriting partner, Bernie Taupin, released "Border Song (Holy Moses)" in 1970, Franklin covered it and released on her 1972 album "Young, Gifted and Black." John and Taupin were thrilled. After sharing his love for Franklin, John, who said he's performed 25 times in Detroit, sang "Border Song" again.

The legendary superstar who tested positive for COVID less than a month ago cranked out nearly all of his hits during a dynamic 2-hour show Wednesday, including "Bennie and Jets," "Candle in the Wind," "I'm Still Standing" and "Rocket Man."

During an encore while wearing a purple robe with sparkly cats on the back, John sang his latest hit, "Cold Heart," a remix with star Dua Lipa.

"Now I'll sing my first hit," said John, ending the concert with his first hit, 1970's "Your Song."

John's "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour is crisscrossing the country after kicking off in September 2018. Delayed because of the pandemic, it's supposed to be John's final tour. At the end of his concert Wednesday, a video showed him walking off into the sunset on a yellow brick road.

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Doug George / Chicago Tribune / TNS

Elton John in concert at the United Center in Chicago on Feb. 4, as part of his Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour.

## No proof of vaccination at Oscars

Film academy will loosen restrictions at this year's ceremony

Nardine Saad  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Attendees of the 94th Academy Awards next month reportedly won't be required to show their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Instead, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hosts the Oscars, intends to require a negative PCR test or a negative rapid antigen test on the day of the event, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Representatives for the film academy did not immediately respond Thursday to the Los Angeles Times' request for comment. Nor did the academe-

my comment in the THR story.

The Oscars will take place on March 27, later than usual due to the winter omicron surge of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ceremony also will return to its usual venue, the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, leaving last year's downtown L.A. spot at Union Station, where the show was held amid stringent COVID-19 testing requirements.

Although COVID-19 vaccines have become readily available and mandated in public places in Los Angeles County since last year's Oscars, Hollywood insiders speculated that strict restrictions on the glitzy

ceremony would preclude high-profile industry figures — and potentially some of the nominees — from attending the Oscars, THR said. The academy has not yet released its official COVID-19 protocols for the ceremony.

Other awards shows — such as the Screen Actors Guild Awards on Feb. 27 and the Critics Choice Awards on March 13 — will still require proof of vaccination. The Critics Choice Awards also will require a negative PCR test within 48 hours of the event, Critics Choice Association Chief Operating Officer Joey Berlin, told the publication.

As the omicron variant recedes, however, California state officials on Tuesday announced plans to lift universal mask mandates for vaccinated residents next week. But L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said the region is probably weeks away from lifting its indoor mask mandate, regardless of vaccination status. Ferrer said the order could ease by the end of April unless a new coronavirus variant poses a threat.

The California Department of Public Health is moving to relax the mask requirement statewide starting Feb. 16, but L.A. County public health offi-

cial — in whose region the Oscars take place — say they don't believe it's appropriate for them to follow suit. The county goals match the recommendations issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Meanwhile, the Recording Academy, whose marquee Grammy Awards honor the best in music, has seen its rescheduled show leave the state altogether. The performance-driven ceremony has been relocated from L.A. to Las Vegas. Originally set to take place Jan. 31, this year's Grammys have been rescheduled to April 3.