

Laker wrestling coach Rob Ullyott retires after 30 years, PAGE B1



Photos by Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune  
Dressed as the "Morton Salt Girl," Detroit Mountain Pond Skim participant Nicole Bristlin raised her arms in triumph after successfully skimming the entire 75-foot length of the pond.

## END-OF-SEASON SPLASH

8th annual Pond Skim caps off winter at Detroit Mountain



Andy Moen was one of 26 skimmers to successfully make it all the way across the 75-foot pond.

**By Vicki Gerdes**  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

For almost as many years as it's been open, Detroit Mountain Recreation Area has capped off its winter season with a Pond Skim event.

The 8th incarnation of this popular local tradition brought out more than six dozen adrenaline junkies of all ages, who strapped on their skis and snowboards before taking a lift to the top of the mountain, then hurtling back down it again toward a small, man-made pond dug out at the bottom of the slope.

The aim was to use their momentum to skim lightly over the entire 75-foot length of the pond and emerge safely on the other side, mostly dry. Of course, not all of them made it, and some even wiped out in spectacular fashion, sending up a plume of water into the air as they crashed into the shallow, icy pond.

Three spotters waited in the pond to assist those who didn't quite make it all of the way across, assisting skimmers and picking up lost skis.

"This year's skim had the highest success rate, with only 26 not able to

"This year's skim had the highest success rate, with only 26 not able to successfully make it across."

**TONY SCHMITZ,**  
DETROIT MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS MANAGER

successfully make it across," said Tony Schmitz, Detroit Mountain's operations manager. "Some didn't bring enough speed and sunk just short of the exit, some splashed and crashed, some cartwheeled their way to the bottom."

**SPLASH:** Page A8

## New ballot-marking equipment gets thumbs-up

**By Nathan Bowe**  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Voters in Becker County who can't mark an optical scan ballot because of physical impairments will have new equipment to work with, thanks in part to a \$58,000 state grant to help upgrade election equipment.

For years, the county has depended on AutoMARK machines to provide a way for handicapped people to mark ballots in private. Prior to that, voters who

needed help had to bring along a friend or relative to mark their ballots for them, or ask an election judge for help.

The Becker County Board on March 15 agreed to match the \$58,000 state grant, and spend a total of \$98,000 in American Rescue Plans dollars to replace outdated voting equipment and upgrade software from 2006.

That includes buying 30 new OmniBallot tablets to replace the heavy AutoMARK machines.

Like the existing equipment, the new machines will simply mark paper ballots for people who can't do it themselves — they won't tabulate the votes.

"These little tablets don't count anything," said Becker County Auditor-Treasurer Mary Hendrickson. "They mark a paper ballot and then the paper ballot gets counted."

Ballot-marking machines give a voter privacy and independence if they cannot, or

choose not to vote using a pen, according to the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office:

"After you put your paper ballot into the machine, it will display your ballot in large print or with a high-contrast background. It can read the ballot to you through headphones, with or without the screen on. It will prompt you to make choices on a braille keypad, touch-screen (if applicable), or sip-and-puff device."

**BALLOTS:** Page A7



Nathan Bowe / Tribune  
Becker County Auditor-Treasurer Mary Hendrickson checks out an AutoMARK ballot-marking machine at the Becker County Courthouse in 2019. The AutoMARKs are now being replaced with new, lighter ballot-marking equipment for the handicapped.

### INSIDE



Seven gymnasts qualify for regions Sports, B1



Ice fishing winds down as warm weather winds up Page B6

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## Martial arts instructor charged with sex crimes against a minor

**News Staff**  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Patrick Dean Fineday, 65, of Detroit Lakes, has been charged in Becker County District Court with felony first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a minor.

According to court records, on Feb. 25 an investigator with the Becker County Sheriff's Office received

a report from a Becker County elementary school of an alleged sexual assault involving a girl related to Fineday.

The abuse allegedly occurred at Fineday's home, in multiple incidents over a number of years, ending in the fall of 2021.

The girl attended a forensic interview at the Red River Children's Advocacy Center in Fargo on March 3. During the interview, she talked about the sexual abuse and said she did not tell anyone at the

time because she didn't think anyone would believe her.

On March 11, officers interviewed Fineday at the Detroit Lakes Police Department, and he admitted to sexually assaulting the girl in the last two years.

He also admitted to sexually assaulting another girl, also related to him, approximately eight years ago, and said that it had never been investigated by law enforcement.

**CHARGED:** Page A7



Fineday

**POLICE NEWS**

**News Staff**

Detroit Lakes Tribune

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

**Thursday, March 24**

10:44 a.m., 3000 block 3rd Street, Lake Park, report of inappropriate sexual conduct.

10:48 a.m., near County Road 34, Ogema, report of illegal drug activity.

11:55 a.m., 36000 block Marten Drive, Ogema, possible domestic incident. No injuries reported and no transport was required. A 47-year-old White Earth man was arrested on an unrelated warrant.

1:54 p.m., at Detroit Lakes High School, a student was found with a vape pen. The student was disciplined internally.

3:58 p.m., 1000 block West Avenue, Detroit Lakes, domestic assault. Minor eye injuries were reported, but no medical transport was required. No arrests were made. The case remains under investigation.

4:18 p.m., Detroit Lakes, suicide related. A Detroit Lakes man was transported to a nearby medical clinic for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

4:38 p.m., 1100 block Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, fraud involving a scammer claiming to be from Microsoft. The caller exchanged bank account and personal information with the scammer. They are working with the fraud division of their bank to close their accounts and open new ones. No money was lost.

5:47 p.m., River Hills Lane, Detroit Lakes, an item was repossessed. The repossessing official began receiving threatening messages from the item's previous owner.

6:04 p.m., 4000 block 4th Street, Lake Park, illegal burning reported. Extinguished.

8:49 p.m., 25000 block 354th Street, Ogema, officer involved pursuit.

9:59 p.m., 20000 block County Road 21, Detroit Lakes, a caller reported that an individual keeps contacting them from different phone numbers. The caller was advised on restraining order procedures.

**Friday, March 25**

12:48 a.m., near Highway 59 and County Road 26, Callaway, officer-involved pursuit. A PIT maneuver was used to stop a fleeing vehicle. A woman occupant

of the vehicle got out and told officers she had been kidnapped. No injuries were reported and a 30-year-old Frazee man was arrested at the scene. The case remains under investigation.

11:56 a.m., 48000 block Highway 34, Osage, single-vehicle crash. No injuries.

12:22 p.m., near Otter Tail County, drug related.

12:45 p.m., 500 block Central Street, Detroit Lakes, a student reported incidents of bullying. The school is looking into the matter.

3:28 p.m., 20000 block County Road 39, Osage, single-vehicle rollover. No injuries.

3:39 p.m., 38000 block County Road 34, Ogema, report of an assault in a vehicle. The case is under investigation.

4:22 p.m., at L and M Fleet, Detroit Lakes, drug related.

**Saturday, March 26**

12:58 a.m., 17000 block Elm Avenue, Detroit Lakes, report of threatening phone calls.

11:24 a.m., near County Road 29, squad car damage was reported.

12:07 p.m., Walmart, Detroit Lakes, shoplifting.

12:27 p.m., 1000 block Lincoln Avenue, Detroit Lakes, a resident of a senior-living community reported money stolen from their apartment.

6:23 p.m., at the AmericInn and Suites, Detroit Lakes, a 3-year-old girl fell into the pool. She was pulled out of the pool and began sputtering. She was transported to a nearby medical clinic.

6:40 p.m., near Corbett Road and Highway 10, Detroit Lakes, domestic assault involving a man and woman. Both parties alleged assault by the other. The case has been referred to the city prosecutor for possible charges.

**Sunday, March 27**

1:52 a.m., 36000 block Martens Drive, Ogema, a caller reported someone threw an unknown object at their residence, which broke an outer storm window. The incident is under investigation.

3:34 a.m., 22000 block County Road 20, Detroit Lakes, domestic incident involving vehicle damage. No injuries. The case is under investigation.

11:49 a.m., Detroit Lakes, threatening text messages reported; the caller was advised on how to obtain a harassment order for protection.

5:56 p.m., near Detroit Lakes, threatening text messages reported.

**Otter Tail County depts. move to new locations**

**News Staff**

Otter Tail County will be completing building enhancements at the Government Services Center in Fergus Falls. During construction, the Land and Resource Department and Motor Vehicle/Driver's License services will be provided at 914 East Channing Avenue in Fergus Falls, the former Daily Journal building.

It is anticipated that both departments will be returning to

the Government Services Center in the fall.

Probation and Child Support Services will move from the Courthouse to a temporary location in the Government Services Center at 500 W. Fir Avenue in Fergus Falls.

The effective dates for the new locations are below:

► Effective Monday, March 21, Land & Resource Management operations begin at 914 East Channing Avenue.

► Effective Friday, March 25, Probation and Child Support Services operations begin at 500 W. Fir Avenue in Fergus Falls.

► On Friday, April 8, the Motor Vehicle/Driver's License department will be closed to the public to transition to the new location.

► Effective Monday, April 11, Motor Vehicle/Driver's License operations begin at 914 East Channing Avenue.

**COURTS**

**DL man sentenced for 286 grams meth**

Casey James Holt, 27, of rural Detroit Lakes, has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony first-degree controlled substance crime.

According to court records, on Nov. 17, 2021, a Becker County deputy stopped a vehicle driven by Holt near the overpass on Highway 87 and Highway 10 in Becker County. His license was revoked and he was arrested. Two other people were in the vehicle, including a West St. Paul man (also charged) who was suspected of transporting meth from the Twin Cities to the White Earth Reservation.

A search of the vehicle turned up about 286 grams of methamphetamine in the trunk, as well as miscellaneous drug packaging and a digital scale in a backpack in the vehicle. The backpack had an item with Holt's name on it.

On March 4, Becker County District Judge Gretchen Thilmoney sentenced Holt to 75 months in prison at St. Cloud, stayed five years.

He was ordered to successfully complete Becker County Drug Court and serve 54 days in jail, with credit for 54 days served. He was fined \$1,000 plus \$1,150 in court fees, and was ordered to get a chemical dependency assessment and follow the recommendations, including aftercare. Two aggravated charges of felony first-degree controlled substance crime were dropped in a plea agreement, and he was placed on supervised probation for five years.

**Lake Park man sentenced for taking dad's car**

Cole William Halverson, 18, of Lake Park, has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony theft.

According to court records, at about 3 a.m. on Aug. 21, 2021, a Rochert man reported his sons had taken his vehicle without permission. A deputy spoke with the father,

who stated that he had woken up around 1 a.m. and noticed the vehicle and his sons were gone, and he noticed the vehicle keys, which he had hidden under his pillow, were gone.

The deputy spoke with both sons, including Halverson, who was the oldest. The younger son said his brother asked him if he wanted to go for a ride, and he did not know where he got the keys. Halverson told the deputy he took the keys from his parents' bed and that he knew his parents did not want him driving, because he does not have a driver's license. Halverson said he and his brother were "just out for a cruise" and went to a gas station.

On March 4, Becker County District Judge Gretchen Thilmoney issued a stay of adjudgement and continued the case.

Halverson was ordered to serve 10 days in jail, with credit for four days served, and was placed on supervised probation for five years. He was fined \$300 plus \$375 in court fees and was ordered to complete a diagnostic assessment and follow the recommendations. Two counts of felony theft were dropped in a plea agreement.

**Woman sentenced for various thefts**

Rudy Nicole Mercado, 30, no address listed, has been sentenced in Becker County District Court for felony theft.

According to court records, on May 15, 2020 she and another woman (who was also charged) were caught at the Detroit Lakes Walmart under-ringing items at the self-checkout counter. Mercado used a barcode she found in the store, hid it in her hand, and used it to scan items so that \$495 worth of goods rang up at less than \$30.

The other woman admitted she knew what Mercado was doing and helped place items that had not been properly scanned into shopping bags.

On Aug. 2, a deputy was called to Orton's convenience store in Audubon on a shoplifting report. The two had purchased \$399 worth of items there and Mercado handed

the cashier a check, then immediately left the store and took off in a vehicle owned by the other woman. The handwritten amount and the numerical amount on the check did not match.

On Aug. 3, the two went to Food-N-Fuel in Detroit Lakes and the other woman wrote a \$754 check for gasoline and merchandise. When asked for identification, he said she had to get it out of the car, then went to the vehicle and Mercado drove away. They were arrested in the vehicle later that night and gave conflicting statements about to whom the check belonged, according to

the criminal complaint.

On March 2, Becker County District Judge Michael Fritz stayed imposition of sentence and placed Mercado on supervised probation for five years. She was ordered to serve 97 days in jail, with credit for 97 days served. She was fined \$500 plus \$590 in court fees and ordered to pay \$400 in restitution to Orton's in Audubon.

She must get updated chemical dependency and mental health evaluations and follow the recommendations, including aftercare, and must complete a diagnostic assessment if required by her probation officer.



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# DFL seeks candidate to challenge Fischbach

## Redistricting, Lindquist's Ukraine plans leave party searching

By David Olson  
The Forum

MOORHEAD — Candidates have until May 31 to file papers to run for the 7th Congressional District seat in Minnesota, but the state DFL Party currently has no announced candidates to challenge Republican incumbent Michelle Fischbach.

One candidate who had announced as a DFL hopeful for the job, Mark Lindquist, has since said he's putting political aspirations on hold to focus on trying to travel to Ukraine to help resist invading Russian forces.

Lindquist, an Air Force veteran known for singing "The National Anthem" at sporting events, told The Forum: "I can make plans to go out and help people, or I could sit on my couch and tweet about it."

Jennifer Cronin, who chairs Minnesota's 7th Congressional District DFL, said the party expects a candidate will be found soon to run for the seat that was occupied for 30 years by Democrat Collin Peterson.

Fischbach defeated Peterson in his last bid for reelection in November 2020.

Cronin said the party has formed a committee that's been meeting for about a month and has been researching and vetting candidates.

"We have several people we



Special to The Forum

Motivational speaker and entertainer Mark Lindquist has put his political campaign on hold as he works to join Ukrainians in their struggle against invading Russian forces.

have reached out to and others who have contacted us," she said. "I believe in the next few weeks we should be able to have an announcement on that."

Given Peterson's long tenure in Congress, Cronin said fundraising for the next DFL candidate for the 7th Congressional District seat will be different than in past elections. "I believe we have plenty of time to catch up in fundraising," she said.

Cronin said the candidate who emerges will have to be someone "who will be out there to challenge Michelle Fischbach's narrative and to challenge her votes

on several key issues, including veterans."

At one point, the DFL party had two other announced candidates for the 7th District seat besides Lindquist, including Reed Olson, a Beltrami County Commissioner, Cronin said.

But those individuals are no longer eligible to run in the 7th District after the redrawing of Congressional districts in Minnesota.

"We had three candidates and then redistricting happened and — poof!" Cronin said.

Readers can reach Forum reporter David Olson at 701-241-5555.

# Minnesota now provides at-home rapid COVID tests

By Alex Derosier

The Detroit Lakes Tribune

As of this Tuesday, March 29, the state of Minnesota is offering at-home rapid tests for COVID-19 as health officials develop a new strategy for providing more at-home testing in the months ahead.

Minnesota has obtained 500,000 testing kits each containing two rapid tests and will allow residents to order two through an online ordering system, Gov. Tim Walz announced Monday, March 28. Kits will be delivered directly to homes and can be ordered at [mn.gov/covid19/](http://mn.gov/covid19/).

The move comes as the state prepares to end its at-home PCR testing program through Vault Health on March 31. Free home delivery tests have dropped significantly since January when Minnesotans ordered more than 16,600 PCR tests per week, according to state officials. Vault Health delivered just 1,400 last week, and officials hope ending the program will allow the state to focus on other forms of testing.

If the at-home rapid

test program is successful, the state will continue to use it as a testing model in the future, the Walz administration said in a news release. The state has already obtained more than 5 million at-home tests for partners such as schools and child care facilities since September 2021.

Rapid tests for COVID-19 take up to 15 minutes to detect an infection and typically involve a user putting a cotton swab in their nose and applying it to a solution that carries the sample on a paper testing strip that shows one line for a negative result and two lines for a positive result. They differ from the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, which must be processed in a laboratory. It can take up to 48 hours to get a PCR test result from one of the state's community testing sites.

The federal government is also offering free at-home rapid COVID-19 tests that can be ordered at [covidtests.gov](http://covidtests.gov). The state of Minnesota also continues to offer PCR tests at free community testing sites.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Contributed / South Dakota Department of Health  
The Minnesota Department of Health plans to distribute 500,000 million free COVID-19 antigen rapid home tests.

recommends getting a test for COVID-19 if:

- ▶ You have symptoms of the virus.
- ▶ You have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- ▶ You are returning from international or domestic travel.
- ▶ You attended a high-risk event.
- ▶ You work in a setting that has regular, close contact with many people.

Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email [aderosier@forumcomm.com](mailto:aderosier@forumcomm.com).

## Child care facility grants open through April 12

Pioneer Journal staff  
Child care facility revitalization grants are available through First Children's Finance.

The grant program will operate for the next two years, with applications accepted every three months between spring 2022 and spring 2024. The first application period is March 29 to April 12. Applications are available on the First Children's Finance website.

Facility revitalization grants can be used by Minnesota child care centers, family child care providers, certified child care centers and legal unlicensed providers registered with CCAP to address facility improvements and related equipment. Pro-

viders can receive grant amounts depending on the center type.

The grants can be used towards completing facility improvements, minor renovations, and related equipment and services, such as assistance to meet licensing requirements to establish, maintain, or expand licensed and legal unlicensed child care sites, according to the First Children's Finance website. Grant funds may not be used for construction or major renovation of facilities.

For more information, visit [firstchildrens-finance.org/for-business/grants](http://firstchildrens-finance.org/for-business/grants) or call the grant help line for technical assistance at 612-473-6020.

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## Oil feeds dictator addictions

Late stage addiction is a drag. I think a lot of us know how this looks on family and friends, between the opioid plague and alcoholism. It's as if the person cannot make a rational decision. That's a problem for our society.

Oil addicts and dealers are not the best policy makers, nor are Russian dictators. Here's a thought Bill McKibben recently shared in The Guardian:

"Imagine a Europe that ran on solar and wind power, whose cars ran on locally provided electricity, and whose homes were heated by electric air-source heat pumps. That Europe would not be funding Putin's Russia, and it would be far less scared of Putin's Russia - it could impose every kind of sanction and keep them in place until the country buckled. Imagine an America where the cost of gas was not a political tripwire, because if people had to have a pickup to make them feel sufficiently manly, that pickup would run on electricity that came from the sun and wind. It would take an evil-er genius than Vladimir

Putin to figure out how to embargo the sun."

Then there's the oil companies, in their big profit mode after having lost their butts for a bit. That's to say that Exxon dropped out of the blue chip stocks a few years back. The big dogs in the economy are the tech guys. But they are intent on getting back up for sure. Oil markets from Russia to Venezuela are central political battles in the fossil fuels addiction economy and, surprise, the oil companies are gouging consumers.

Think about it this way: As the price of gas hits \$5 a gallon or more, take good note of the 8.6 million barrels of oil exported daily. It's all about the money. Dealers don't really care about addicts.

Like the rest of us, I have spent my whole life in the fossil fuel economy. And, basically, I'm ready to move along, before the ecosystems collapse and oil is in all the water. I think of this as a graceful transition.

So, how to start? I'm going to put myself on a bit of a carbon/fossil fuels diet, and get as much from solar and renewables as I can. I'm working to cut my travel budget (Zoom helps a great deal). And then, I will start with the

hoe and the horse. I'm a farmer and want to get a little more simple. We do some horse farming here and we are about to expand that, from the horse-drawn manure spreader to putting in some corn, hemp and row crops. I like that relationship and that the horse has more power than I do in the gardens.

It turns out that small scale farming is efficient, cost effective and environmentally sound with a team of horses. And that hemp is the best way to sequester carbon - about 10 times as fast as anything else. *Maybe one day, we won't be wearing fossil fuels as clothing.* That would be healing for Mother Earth.

I'm also going to cut the fuel bill for my food, which means rather than move tomatoes 1,400 miles to my dinner table I'm going to grow some, and then dry them for the winter, I'll eat root vegetables, and I am going to work on getting more local foods, from hard cider to cheese, to meat. All of that can be purchased in the North Country.

Then there's that electric thing, let's use less and make it renewable. Time to quit with the gas-guzzling vehicles. The combustion engine is only 16% efficient, and an electric engine is 60% efficient. *That's some simple math.* I

am so ready to send off the last fossil fuels truck into the sunset.

My new favorite is the Lightning, the electric F-150 from Ford. Those trucks are in big demand. In the world of clean energy, few areas are as dynamic and growing as the electric car market. In the whole of 2012, about 130,000 electric cars were sold worldwide. Today, that many are sold in the space of a single week, according to the World Economic Forum. There's a rebirth in the American car industry, and it's electric. More than that, we actually need some electric trains to get between, say Minneapolis and Fargo and Duluth, or lots of places. We can do better, and really we must, or else we are going to spend the rest of our lives in crisis.

I say it's time to move along, and not worry about that Russian oil. It's called the "vagaries of the fossil fuel market." Put it this way, the price of wind did not go up this winter. And, it's going to keep coming our way. Time to move on and send all those dictators, dealers and bullies packing.

Winona LaDuke is executive director, Honor the Earth, and an Ojibwe writer and economist on Minnesota's White Earth Reservation. She is also owner of Winona's Hemp and a regular contributor to Forum News Service.

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### LETTERS POLICY

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

## The problem is Russia, not Russians

Tchaikovsky has been canceled. At least in some parts of the world.

It gets worse from there. In the Czech Republic, where residents are, understandably, viewing Putin's violence in Ukraine through the lens of the Soviet Union's horrific 1968 invasion of their country, social media campaigns have suggested that Russians "should be visibly marked, maybe with a red star."

A Prague university professor has declared that he won't teach Russian students.

Netflix has pulled a planned adaptation of Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina" and other Russian-themed projects.

The New York Times reports that Russian-owned restaurants and businesses are struggling with backlash.

Even when their owners are vocally against Putin's war.

Even when their owners are Ukrainian.



**ROB PORT**  
Say Anything

This is too far. The global outpouring of support for Ukraine has been inspiring, but we are in danger of it turning into a form of xenophobia. Our hatred for what Vladimir Putin is doing to Ukraine, and to his own people, must be tempered with a love for all the beautiful things Russians have given us. The same is true with China.

A recent article by Grand Forks Herald reporter Sam Easter took a close look at the local debate over a corn milling plant to be built by a company, the Fufeng Group, which is based in China.

Many of the concerns about this plant are entirely justified, and I'm not just talking about things like smells and noise and

traffic. Americans, from the White House down to the most local of government, are grappling with the commerce and investments we have with belligerent and oppressive nations like Russia and China.

That's a healthy debate to have.

Unfortunately, righteous concerns can quickly be obscured by more unsavory motivations. Easter's article describes acts of hate and intimidation that are utterly counterproductive.

If your goal is to raise awareness of problems with a project like the Fufeng plant, trying to scare people, or acting like a jerk, is only going to distract from your argument.

The discussion about what the limits should be on our economic interactions with countries that put millions of people in forced labor camps, or who bomb schools as a tactic in an expansionist war, is difficult enough without racism muddying the waters.

The problem with Russia

is Putin, that reheated Soviet relic, and his cronies. Not Russians.

The problem with China is its communist government, not the Chinese people.

Hollywood superstar and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently published a video opposing Putin's war in harsh terms, but he began it with a lengthy intro describing his love of the Russian people and Russian culture.

"The strength and the heart of the Russian people have always inspired me," he says. "That is why I hope that you will let me tell you the truth about the war in Ukraine."

We must follow Schwarzenegger's lead. We have a lot of very difficult debates in front of us.

Let's engage in them from a place of love, not hate.

Rob Port is a columnist, news reporter and podcast host for Forum News Service. Reach him at rport@forumcomm.com.

### LETTERS

#### Cheers to DL girls' basketball team for a great season

To the Editor:  
As a former Detroit Lakes High School athlete (Class of 1966) I want to congratulate the DLHS girls' basketball team for their gritty and thrilling run to the state tournament. What is unfair is the Minnesota State High School League allowing private schools, which give scholarships to good athletes to draw them away from our public schools, to compete against public school athletes. These often elite, recruited teams often play in a 2-A or 3-A class, based on student body size, but recruit athletes not just from their school but surrounding schools.

Look at any of our high school state tournaments over the past few years and you will always see Holy Angels, Benilde-St. Margare

ret's, Hill-Murray, Blake, Breck, DeLaSalle, Christs Household of Faith, Cretin-DerhamHall, and on and on, including Totino-Grace, with their stars picked off

from public schools with scholarships often thinly disguised as only need-based.

Fair? I don't think so. Way to go DLHS girls.

Against all odds and an unfair playing court, you were superb.

- Howie Anderson, Ponsford



## The Detroit Lakes Tribune

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## OBITUARIES

### Maury E. Hanson



Maury E. Hanson, 87, passed away Saturday, March 26 with his family by his side after a short battle with Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Maury was born on September 25, 1934, to Ernest and Hilda Hanson at their homestead near Toad Lake. He attended school in Frazee and went on to the Merchant Marines for 1 year before enlisting in the Air Force. He served for 5 years where he became an aircraft maintainer. After a stint of driving Euclids in the Iron Range in northern Minnesota, he bought his own semi and trailer and began his career as a heavy haul Truck Driver. Maury married Alice Thompson on September 7, 1968, in Sisseton, SD and they made their home in the Detroit Lakes area.

Maury retired in 1996 and that left him more time to concentrate on his passion...Golf. You could find him at the golf course any chance he got. Maury bought his first Harley Davidson motorcycle in 1982 and his many travels with family and friends began. He made his 40th continuous trip to the annual Sturgis motorcycle rally this past August. Maury was an avid hunter and was well known as the best shot around! Duck hunting was his favorite and that was what sharpened his shooting eye, but he also made several trips to Montana to hunt elk with this brother and made numerous pheasant hunting trips with his daughter to North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa through the years.

Traveling and adventure was in his blood, and he lived life to the fullest. Maury had charisma and a charm that was infectious. He always saw the positive in every situation and his smile would light up any room. Everyone that knew Maury, loved him.

He had a special relationship with each of his kids and grandkids. He thoroughly enjoyed the many trips with his wife, kids and grandkids.

Maury is survived by his wife Alice, son Jay Hanson of Moorhead, MN; daughter Lynne Hanson of Detroit Lakes, MN; and 3 grandchildren, Samantha, Danielle and Cameron. Four brothers: Milt (Joyce) Hanson of Detroit Lakes, MN; Jim (Rosalyn) Hanson of Spokane, WA; Howard (Jackie) Hanson of Nisswa, MN; Randy (Monica) Hanson of Frazee, MN; One sister: Nancy (Dwight) Murphy and sister in-law Vicki Hanson of Detroit Lakes, MN.

Maury is preceded in death by his parents and 1 brother: Marvin Hanson.

Services will be held Friday, April 1 at 2:00 p.m. at the West-Kjos Funeral Home with visitation 1 hour prior. The services will continue at the Sandbar for a "toast to Maury".

### Patrick "Pat" Richards

Feb. 8, 1956 -  
March 27, 2022

NEW YORK MILLS, Minn. - Patrick "Pat" Richards, 66, New York Mills, Minn., died Sunday, March 27, in his home.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial Mass at 11 a.m., Monday, April 4, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church near Perham, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

### Marlys Pederson

March 29, 1947 -  
Jan. 1, 2022

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. - Marlys Pederson, 74, Detroit Lakes, Minn., died Saturday, Jan. 1, in Oak Crossing Nursing Home.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at West-Kjos Funeral Home in Detroit Lakes.

Arrangements by West-Kjos Funeral Home.



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*The Detroit Lakes Tribune accepts community calendar items for publication online and, space permitting, in our Wednesday and Sunday print editions. Submissions must be made at least a week in advance of the event date, in writing, to either dltribune@dlnewspapers.com or vgerdes@dlnewspapers.com.*

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

### Wednesday, March 30

**Seed Starting Open House:** In partnership with the Becker County Master Gardeners, the Detroit Lakes Public Library is offering a Seed Starting Basics Open House from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Learn how to make a newspaper pot and why they are ideal for starting seedlings, and plant seeds at the library's recycled container station. To-go snack provided by Becker County Friends of the Library. Any questions call 218-847-2168.

### Thursday, March 31

**El Zagal Shrine Circus:** The El Zagal Shrine Circus visits Detroit Lakes' Freeman Arena for shows at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. There is a cost for tickets; they may be purchased at Central Market in Detroit Lakes.

### Friday, April 1

**Economic Development Summit:** The Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce will host its 2022 Economic Development Summit from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Lakefront. There is a cost to attend. Contact the chamber at 218-847-9202 for more information.

**Lenten Fish Fry:** The Knights of Columbus, Council 3166 will be sponsoring a Lenten fish fry from 5-7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church Parish Center, 1023 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes. Fish, potatoes, coleslaw, baked beans, bun and dessert, for \$10.

**Bob Dylan Tribute:** Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre will host "The Times They Are A-Changin': The Words and Music of

Bob Dylan," presented by VocalEssence, at 7:30 p.m. A local choir will also be featured. There is a cost for tickets. Visit dlccc.org/holmes-theatre.html or call 218-844-7469 for more information.

### Saturday, April 2

**Book Signing:** Mainstream Boutique in Detroit Lakes will be hosting a book signing with Lisa Selijevold, author of "My Two Dads," from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to the public.

**Aeromodelers Swap & Show:** Detroit Lakes' Washington Square Mall will host its 20th Annual Aeromodelers Swap & Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Features remote-controlled planes, automobiles, boats and more. Open to the public.

**Live Music:** The Pit 611 restaurant in rural Audubon will host live music by Tim Eggebraaten & Friends, 7-10 p.m. Classic rock and blues, featuring slide guitars, harmonica and 4- or 5-part harmonies. Open to the public.

### Sunday, April 3

**Lift Up Bobby Pancake Breakfast:** The Knights of Columbus, Council 3166 of Detroit Lakes will be sponsoring a pancake, French toast and sausage breakfast from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Holy Rosary Parish Center, 1027 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes. All proceeds go to the Lift Up Bobby fundraiser for longtime Knights member Robert Heimark, who is in need of a lift for his vehicle to assist with mobility issues caused by arthrogyposis multiplex congenita (AMC).

### Monday, April 4

**Ask a 'Techspert':** Do you have a phone, tablet,

laptop, iPad, Kindle or other device that you're struggling to use? Visit the Detroit Lakes Public Library, 1000 Washington Ave., at 4 p.m. to learn more about your device, plus learn how to download eBooks and eAudiobooks free of charge.

### Tuesday, April 5

**Family Fun Craft Night:** Fun for the whole family at the Detroit Lakes Public Library, starting at 4 p.m. Join the library's staff for a fun night of crafting as you learn how to make origami animals, paper flowers, or your own masterpiece with provided art supplies. This program is appropriate for all ages.

### Virtual Midwest Cookbook Author Panel

Join Lake Agassiz Regional Library for a 7 p.m. virtual panel featuring Minnesota cookbook authors Zoë François ("Zoë Bakes Cakes," "Artisan Bread in 5 Minutes a Day") and Beth Dooley ("In Winter's Kitchen," "The Northern Heartland Kitchen"). Hear how these authors' work has been influenced by the produce, flavors, traditions and seasons of the upper Midwest. Admission is free and registration is not required. A recording will be available until April 12. Join the panel via the library's website at larl.org/midwestcookbooks.

### Wednesday, April 6

**Writers Group:** Writers and prospective writers seeking encouragement, feedback and collaboration are welcome to join the Detroit Lakes Public Library's Writers' Group. The group meets regularly to tell their stories, share ideas and discuss writing tips. This event is offered free of charge and is held in the library's main meeting room

from 3:30-5 p.m. Visit larl.org or call 218-847-2168 for more information.

### Thursday, April 7

**Frazee Community Blood Drive:** The Frazee community will host a blood drive for Vitalant from 1:45-6 p.m. in the Frazee Event Center. For an appointment contact Mary at 218-849-0645 or go online to vitalant.org and use the donation code FRAZEE.

### Navigating Grief Workshop

Hospice of the Red River Valley is hosting a virtual class on "Navigating Grief and Self-Care for Yourself and Others," starting at 11:30 a.m. Free and open to the public, but pre-registration required by April 6. For more information, or to sign up, contact the HRRV Grief Department, 800-237-4629 or grief@hrrv.org.

### Lalo's Lunchbox Show for Kids

Celebrate the Week of the Young Child with this sketch comedy, theater and puppet show for kids at the Detroit Lakes Public Library, starting at 4 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

### Church Basement Ladies:

The Church Basement Ladies will bring their 20th anniversary musical comedy show to the stage of Detroit Lakes' Historic Holmes Theatre for two shows, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. There is a cost for tickets. Visit dlccc.org/holmes-theatre.html or call 218-844-7469 for more information.

Compiled by Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune

## Have You HEARD?

Presented by Brian Hillesland, BC-HIS



### IS IT TIME FOR A NEW HEARING AID?

Hearing aids can be expensive and are not always covered by medical insurance, so it is understandable that wearers want to maximize their devices' life expectancy. It is therefore important to pay attention to warning signs and replace a hearing instrument when necessary in order to ensure that the best possible outcome is attained. Changes in a person's health or hearing may require more powerful devices or those that are better equipped for any new health challenges. This also holds true for certain lifestyle changes such as engaging in more rugged activities such as swimming or hiking. Hearing aids that are more than five years old will likely need replacing very soon.

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P.S. Just as when you first started experiencing hearing loss, you may not immediately notice that your hearing aid is dying.

Source: healthyhearing.com (HEARINGGog/03/2020LC)

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# Property values in Otter Tail County rise

**Property owners can expect to see 15-30% increase**

By Michael Achterling  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Otter Tail County property owners can expect to see their estimated market values rise between 15-30% this year as they begin opening their tax assessments from the county, according to a report from the county assessor's office.

The higher valuations for 2022 across all property types are the result of property selling for higher prices last year, but, while many residents may be scared of what their new sticker values may do to their property taxes, Kevin Scheidecker, chief deputy assessor for Otter Tail County, said the higher values doesn't mean their property taxes will go up.

"Just because your values are going up 15%, 20%, 30%, that does not necessarily equate to a tax increase of the same percentage," said Scheidecker. "(The Otter Tail County Auditor)

sets the tax capacity rate based on what all these jurisdictions need to collect to satisfy their budgets."

Additionally, if property value goes up across the county, the county auditor could lower the taxable capacity rate on properties, based on jurisdiction, which could keep property taxes for residents at roughly the same amount even if their estimated market value increased up to 30%. It could also benefit homeowners who didn't see larger increases in their property value because, if their valuations were roughly the same as last year and the taxable capacity drops county-wide, they could actually pay less in property taxes.

"In my position, you start to look at, is it residential or seasonal properties, is it commercial properties, is it industrial properties, is it (agricultural) properties, it's everything. Everything was going up," said Scheidecker. "It's what people are willing to pay for things and we see lots of dif-

ferent things going on, and some we can put our finger on, like we know there is short supply, there's no inventory out there for certain types of property."

He also said one of the other reasons for the short supply could be investors pulling their money out of the bank and stocks, and putting it into property because the return can be higher with the increasing values.

"What's my money getting me if I have it in the bank, nothing," said Scheidecker. "Some of the accounts are 0% percent interest, they are paying you back, so I'd imagine some folks are looking for a better investment."

Estimating market value begins with deciding what the value of certain types of land are, he said, adding that all of their county land types saw increases in value, including irrigated land, which doubled in value from 2020 to 2021.

"When we do set values in our office, we start with those county-wide types of things

first, like the tillable, the pasture, the woods, those site acres ... that's where we start to see what kind of increases we need to do there first" said Scheidecker.

"Farmers in the county know better than we do, what the market is dictating on these things, so they aren't surprised that values are going up. They won't be surprised because they know what it's worth, they know what farmers are paying for it and when that is going on, we have to come up accordingly. We had to raise those irrigated values, over-all tillable values and I don't think those folks will be at all shocked at what's going on."

The value of tillable land in Otter Tail County increased about \$700 per acre, while highly wooded and high-grade pasture land increased \$800 and \$300 per acre, respectively.

Scheidecker also said the state mandates that the county keep their estimated market values of properties within 90-105% of what homes actually sell for

in that jurisdiction to be in compliance, which meant many properties needed to have their valuations increase.

Some of the biggest increases in valuations were lake properties. Across 207 Otter Tail County lakes, only 15 lakes saw their lakefront footage valuations stay the same from 2021 to 2022. The highest increases in Otter Tail County per lakefront foot were:

► Fish Lake — \$3,600 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$5,900 in 2022.

► Otter Tail Lake — \$3,200 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$4,900 in 2022

► Pelican Lake — \$6,400 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$8,000 in 2022

► Clitherall Lake — \$1,900 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$3,300 in 2022

► Bigpine Lake —

\$1,700 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$2,900 in 2022

► Jewett Lake — \$1,600 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$2,800 in 2022

► Rush Lake — \$2,050 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$3,200 in 2022

► West Battle Lake — \$3,250 per lakefront foot in 2021, to \$4,400 in 2022

He added that last year's record home sales differed from the sales seen before the 2008-2009 recession because more cash is being offered at closing, along with larger down payments.

"It is a 'wow,' it is absolutely a 'wow' and we've all felt that," he said. "It is just almost mind boggling when you see what these values have done in that one year."

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

# USDA to aid Minnesota poultry producers following H5N1 cases

By Dana Ferguson  
The Detroit Lakes Tribune

ST. PAUL — A federal emergency response team had been activated to help Minnesota respond to reported cases of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in three poultry flocks, Gov. Tim Walz announced on Monday, March 28.

The illness poses a low risk to humans and no cases of influenza have been detected in humans in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Walz in a news release said a team of United States Depart-

ment of Agriculture emergency responders is set to work with Minnesota's Agricultural Incident Management Team to quarantine infected flocks in Meeker, Mower and Stearns counties and work in disease surveillance. The team is set to arrive on Wednesday, March 30, and spend at least three weeks assisting Minnesota producers.

"Armed with years of preparation for this incident, our state's Agricultural Incident Management Team is working quickly and decisively to respond to the cases of H5N1 in Minnesota," Walz said.

"Within hours of the first confirmed cases, our Board of Animal Health requested emergency support from the USDA. These federal partners will bring targeted expertise to contain this virus and ensure that our state's poultry industry remains the strongest in the nation."

Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state in the country and boasts more than 660 turkey farms that raise 4.0 million birds annually.

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

# House DFL takes aim at Amazon in promoting warehouse safety bill

By Alex Derosier  
The Detroit Lakes Tribune

ST. PAUL — Amazon distribution center employees joined Democratic-Farmer-Labor lawmakers at the state Capitol Monday, March 28, to share their experiences ahead of a House vote on legislation aimed at improving warehouse worker safety.

A bill introduced by Rep. Emma Greenman, DFL-Minneapolis, would require warehouses with more than 250 employees to provide workers with written notice of productivity quotas and would ban quotas that would interfere with breaks. It would also require employees to provide work speed and quota data to any employee upon request.

Citing a report from the National Employment Law Center, Greenman said that one in nine Amazon warehouse employees is hurt on the job, a rate twice that of non-Amazon warehouses in Minne-



Alex Derosier / Forum News Service

Mohamed Mire Mohamed describes his experiences as an Amazon distribution center employee, during a news conference Monday at the Minnesota Capitol.

sota and four times the injury rate across all industries in the state.

Amazon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Work shouldn't hurt. But for many Minnesota workers in Amazon warehouses, it does," Greenman said. "Workers report pushing themselves to the brink, often skipping rest, bathroom and prayer breaks to meet quotas that are constantly changing and often not even disclosed."

Mohamed Mire

Mohamed and Tyler Hamilton, who work at the Amazon distribution center in the Twin Cities suburb of Shakopee, said the pace of work at the warehouse is hard to keep up with and leads to injuries. Mohamed described Amazon workers as "blood donors."

Hamilton, who has been an employee at the warehouse for more than four years, said work pace expectations are often unclear. He said that encourages employees to work at unsafe paces to

keep ahead.

"Systematically, people are not set up for success," Hamilton said. "If you go in a warehouse it looks so clean, it looks so nice compared to other warehouses. And yet the injury rate tells a completely different story."

During floor debate on the bill Monday afternoon, Republicans questioned the need for a bill when the state already has workplace safety standards. They also criticized the bill for appearing to have a narrow focus on Amazon.

Rep. Tony Jurgens, R-Cottage Grove, said he agreed Amazon needs to improve its conditions but wasn't sure if Greenman's proposal was the best way to address concerns. He ultimately voted in favor of the bill.

The House passed the bill 72-60 on mostly partisan lines.

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

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# BALLOTS

From Page A1

"After you make your choices, the machine will fill in the correct ovals on your ballot and return your ballot to you. You can then place the ballot into the ballot box," according to the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office.

OmniBallot is not an online voting technology. It always generates a paper ballot for tabulation, and the OmniBallot portal is a document storage system that stores ballots in a federally approved cloud, according to the company's website.

The OmniBallot cloud (AWS) has been FedRAMP approved for use by nearly every federal agency, including the FBI, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Defense. Every voter has the option to print and mail their ballot.

The Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) is a government-wide program that provides a standardized approach to

security assessment, authorization, and continuous monitoring for cloud products and services.

Like the existing AutoMARK machines, the new OmniBallot tablets will be used in precincts across Becker County, as well as at the courthouse. Seventeen precincts have gone to all-mail voting, and all those that haven't will receive the new equipment, Hendrickson said. Voters in those 17 mail-in precincts can still vote in person at the courthouse, where the new OmniBallot tablets will also be available if needed.

"None of our (vote counting) equipment can be put online, it doesn't even have the capability of being put online, absolutely not," Hendrickson said in answer to a question from Commissioner Ben Grimsley at the March 15 County Board meeting.

Hendrickson looked across the room to the county's information technology director, Stacie White, for affirmation, and White agreed.

"None of our

(vote-counting) equipment ever touches the Internet," Hendrickson added. The only time the Internet is ever involved, she added, is when the county sends election results to the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office, and there are paper ballots to back up every vote, for auditing purposes.

That's a lot more than some states can say: Louisiana, for instance, uses only electronic voting machines with no paper ballot backup at all.

Other states, including Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee and Texas, use hand-marked paper ballots, but also use electronic voting machines that have no paper ballot backup, according to the online elections site Ballotpedia, based on voting equipment used in the 2020 general election.

"The conspiracy theory is that something in the machines is connected online and the results get changed," said Commissioner Barry Nelson. "That's not an unreasonable thing to be concerned

about — even doorbells are online these days."

Minnesota's paper-ballot system is considered the gold standard for election security, since the ballots can easily be tracked, recounted and audited — something that can be a concern in those states that don't have paper ballots or paper backups, Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon said in an earlier story.

The paper ballot "is a comfort," Grimsley said. But making sure new election equipment is completely secure "should be a concern moving forward," he added.

The bulk of the \$142,500 total cost is for the 30 OmniBallot tablets, which cost \$115,350.

Another \$6,750 will go for hard-sided, stackable transport cases. Since all election equipment is kept in a secure room in the courthouse when not in use, it must be transported to and from the

polling places for each election. And another \$6,750 will pay for the software license fees. The rest of the cost is for printer toner, thumb drives, recycling the old AutoMARK equipment, training, shipping, and similar things.

OmniBallot is one of four ballot-marking devices in use in Minnesota, and is now used in Cass, Hubbard, Todd, Douglas, Blue Earth, Isanti, Itasca, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Lake of the Woods, Meeker, Pipestone, Polk, Rock, Roseau, Swift, Waseca and Wilkin counties, according to the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office.

# CHARGED

From Page A1

Fineday formerly ran Pat's Martial Arts Tae Kwon Do School and was a longtime martial arts instructor in the Becker County area.

He is currently being held at the Becker County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bail. If convicted, he faces up to 30 years in prison.

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## BRIEF

### Congressional art competition open to grades 9-12

High school students across the country are invited to participate in the annual Congressional Art Challenge.

Each U.S. representative chooses a winner in their district, and winning submissions will be displayed for one year in a tunnel to the U.S. Capitol, where it will be viewed by thousands of visitors, tourists, and members of Congress.

The competition is open to all public, private, charter, and home school students grades 9-12.

Students in Douglas County live in

Congressional District No. 7, which covers a wide swath of western Minnesota up to the Canadian border, and is held by Rep. Michelle Fischbach, R-Minnesota. The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. Monday, May 2.

Students are invited to submit two-dimensional artwork that measures no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and four inches deep when framed, and weighs no more than 15 pounds.

Submissions should be e-mailed to ArtCompetitionMN07@mail.house.gov.

For more guidelines, visit Fishbach's website.

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**SPLASH**

From Page A1

"This year's best crash went to Nolyn Mears, as a Care Bear who cartwheeled his way into the pond on a snowboard," Schmitz added. "Best Crossing went to 3-year-old Lola Januszewski, who slowly worked her way down Bad Medicine (the name of the ski slope) with dad Jake Januszewski following, and surprised spectators" when they saw that she was actually heading for the water.

The young skier successfully navigated the pond with assistance from Tri-State Diving's "pond wranglers," Schmitz added, explaining that "they caught Lola at the entrance and carried her across the pond, with the support of the crowd cheering her on."

Not all of the skimmers were there for the adrenaline rush: At least one participant signed up because they had lost a bet.

The Bristlin family had a particularly large group of spectators on hand for the festivities, and they were eager to tell the story of how Tristan Bristlin had bet his mom, Nicole, that he would make it to the Can-Am alpine skiing championships in Maine — essentially the sport's "junior nationals" — this winter. If he made the team, she would have to participate in the Pond Skim alongside him on

Saturday.

"He made it, so she had to jump," one of the family members said.

The mother and son took back-to-back turns, both of them safely navigating the entire length of the pond.

Costumes were also

a big part of the fun during the celebration, with skiers and snowboarders dressed up as everything from Scooby Doo and Tony the Tiger to sorcerers and pink bunnies. Best costume honors went to Dylan Bekkerus for his "freaky clown" apparel.

Awards were also given for Detroit Mountain's most frequent visitors. Pass holder Howard Lomdale took first with 65 visits out of a total 71 days that the mountain was open this season, while Bruce Hein took second with 63 visits.

"Bruce (Hein) also has the most passholder visits since 2014, with 438 days," Schmitz said, adding that Griffin Disse took the second place pass holder spot, with

297 visits since 2014. Fargo's WDAY television station was also on hand to take video of the event, which was featured in its evening broadcast.



Photos by Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune

**Top:** Dressed as "Merica Man," Eli Pinske successfully crossed the pond during Detroit Mountain Recreation Area's season-ending Pond Skim on Saturday, March 26. **Bottom:** Detroit Mountain Pond Skim participant Johnny Mack, also known as "Scooby Doo," got some style points for his exit from the pond after skimming its entire 75-foot length.

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Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Lakers' head coach Rob Ulyott walks through the practice plan at the beginning of a Detroit Lakes wrestling practice on Nov. 30, 2021, at Detroit Lakes High School. Ulyott resigned as head coach in a Facebook post earlier this week.

## WRESTLING

# 'I CAN TELL THAT OUR PROGRAM MADE A DIFFERENCE'

### Ulyott resigns from coaching Laker wrestling after 30 years

By Jared Rubado  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

**W**hen Rob Ulyott took over the Detroit Lakes wrestling head coaching position in 1996, he was determined to build a culture that would impact student-athletes positively.

As Ulyott steps down from the job 26 years later, it's safe to say

the program is in a better place than when he found it.

Ulyott announced he was resigning from the head coaching role in a Facebook post this week — putting an end to a combined 32 years of coaching wrestling.

"There were a lot of contributing factors," Ulyott told the Tribune of his decision to resign. "I think change is good. If we want to take further steps with our program and grow, I think new blood is an important thing. You can only build something so far, and

it takes a lot of energy and new ideas to help programs continue to grow. I think our program might benefit from a change in leadership."

Ulyott got his start in his hometown of Walhalla, North Dakota, in 1990 as an assistant coach. He then moved to Detroit Lakes to take a teaching job in 1992, which led him to the Laker wrestling program. After five years of being a Detroit Lakes assistant coach, he took his first and last head coaching gig.

"Our goal has been

to provide a great experience for kids," Ulyott said. "We also want to put a program out there that's competitive. We've done that, but I think to take the next step, it will need another brand of energy and ideas."

"Another part of it is the timing of things," he added. "When you look at bringing in new coaches, you need to have some openings. Our school has some teaching positions available. My hope is that those teaching positions, along with the head coaching position, might



Detroit Lakes Tribune file photo

Rob Ulyott coaches the Detroit Lakes wrestling team during the 2011-12 season. Ulyott is stepping away from coaching after 32 years.

attract the quality people we're looking for."

### Changing the culture

Detroit Lakes didn't exactly have the most storied program in its early days. From the inaugural 1958-59 season through the next 30 years or so, the Lakers had a losing record. After just two

winning seasons in the late '60s, the school dropped its wrestling program entirely from 1982-1986.

The program began to change under Ulyott's leadership. During his years as an assistant coach, he worked with wrestlers at the middle school level. By the time

**ULLYOTT:** Page B2

## GYMNASTICS

# Flyers compete in state championships

By Jared Rubado  
Detroit Lakes Tribune

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics team had seven girls compete at the Minnesota State Championships last weekend.

Kate Taves, Ady Laux, Morgan Hausten, Olivia Gag and Maya Schlauderaff took part in the Level 7 state events, while Kiera Schlauderaff and Tatum Gatheridge competed at Level 6. All seven gymnasts qualified for the regional event April 22-24 in Minneapolis.

**MINNESOTA FLYERS GYMNASTICS STATE PLACE WINNERS**  
LEVEL 7: Maya Schlauderaff- All-Around- 2nd, Beam- 2nd, Vault- 3rd, Floor- 3rd; Kate Taves- Bars- 1st, All-Around- 3rd, Beam- 5th; Morgan Hausten- Bars- 2nd, All-Around- 9th, Vault- 9th; Ady Laux- Beam- 2nd, Floor- 4th, Vault- 9th, All-Around- 10th; Olivia Gag- Vault- 9th;  
LEVEL 6: Kiera Schlauderaff Beam- 4th, Floor- 7th, Tatum Gatheridge- Floor- 7th, Vault 11th

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



Contributed photos / Leesa Lindgaard

From left to right: Kate Taves, Ady Laux, Morgan Hausten, Olivia Gag and Maya Schlauderaff compete at the Minnesota State Championships in Minneapolis Mar. 18-20.



Kiera Schlauderaff, left, and Tatum Gatheridge qualify for regionals at Level 6 after competing at the Minnesota State Championships in Minneapolis Mar. 18-20.

BOYS BASKETBALL

# 'I hope they had fun and enjoyed the ride'

## Perham's season comes to an end in state consolation semifinals

By Jared Rubado  
Perham Focus

ST. PAUL — Perham head boys basketball coach Dave Cresap knows that his team's run to the Class 2A state tournament won't be defined by Wednesday's consolation semifinal loss to Pequot Lakes. Instead, it will be a group remembered for its ability to grow and do what's best to achieve the ultimate goal.

The Patriots (25-7) erased an eight-point first-half lead on their way to a 58-38 win at the Gangelhoff Center at Concordia-St. Paul. The win gave Pequot Lakes a shot at bringing home hardware in the consolation championship, while simultaneously packing Perhams' (18-12) bags for the winter.

"Amazing team," Cresap said. "This is an amazing group of young men that overachieved all the way. We're not going to look at this last game as something that takes away from this season. We looked tired and out of sync. Give Pequot credit. When we were in the locker room, we reminisced about all of the good things that happened with this team and how important we are to each other. I hope they had fun and enjoyed the ride."

Perham found itself in the consolation bracket after a 51-40 loss to Caledonia on Tuesday night at the Target Center. Pequot Lakes, the champions of Section 7-2A, fell to third-seed-

ed Annandale in to set up a rematch between the Yellowjackets and the Patriots.

On Feb. 17, Perham beat Pequot Lakes 52-35 on the road in a statement Class 2A win. Through 11:39 of the first half, it looked like Wednesday would be more of the same. Senior Chas Melvin nailed a three-point-er on top of a pair of triples from junior Soren Anderson to give the Yellowjackets a 22-14 lead.

From there, it was all Pequot Lakes. Junior Eli Laposky scored six of his game-high 23 points in the final 3:37 of the first half as the Patriots tied the game with a 10-2 going into the locker room.

The second half didn't get any better for the Yellowjackets. The 10-2 run grew to a 30-8 stretch and a 44-30 lead for Pequot Lakes. The Patriots' ability to rotate 10 players compared to Perham's six was the difference.

"They were gassed. We had three of them sucking air there in the second half," Cresap said. "It was tough (competing with Pequot's depth). We also had to exert a lot of energy against that Caledonia pressure. I didn't know what we'd have coming back today, and I found out we didn't have a lot. We were pretty good in the first half, but we ran out of gas, and they took advantage of it when we did."

Perham never climbed back within single digits. Pequot Lakes carried the

lead into the final three minutes, where Cresap called a timeout to pull his starters from the game. Perham, a team that typically plays six players in close games, found time on the court for 13 guys as the season came to a close.

Juniors Micah Thompson, Jacob Daniels and Anderson came out of the game with 2:17 left on the clock. In a moment of humility, three of Perham's starters stood tall on the end of the bench to cheer on the reserves as they took the floor in a state tournament game. In the final seconds, Michael Schwantz banked the ball off the glass and in from 10-feet out as time expired. His teammates rushed the court to celebrate with the senior in his moment.

"That I was fantastic. I didn't tell them to do that. They did that on their own," Cresap said of the starters cheering on reserve players in the final minutes. "They stood up and cheered for their teammates as hard as their teammates cheered for them. For Mikey Schwantz to come in and score a basket at the buzzer in the state tournament was awesome. They won't remember this loss. They'll remember this experience."

Schwantz is one of six Yellowjackets who took off their uniform for a final time.

"We have six great seniors," Cresap said.



Jared Rubado / Perham Focus  
Perham's Soren Anderson shoots a three-pointer in the first half of the Yellowjackets' consolation semifinal game against Pequot Lakes in the Class 2A state tournament on March 23 at Concordia-St. Paul.

"Connor Kostynick is a great teammate that didn't get to play all year because of an injury. Then you have Mikey Schwantz and Austin Aanenson, who played limited minutes for us. We obviously had Marcus Belka and Chas (Melvin), who played a lot of minutes for us as starters and had Josh Peterson come off the bench. He hit a shot on the Target Center floor last night. Those seniors are something."

Every senior class impacts a team's success, but Perham's was instrumental. For a team that was primarily led by juniors, it took a commitment to understanding the roles laid out for each senior on the roster to row the boat in the right direction all season long.

"It's really hard when you have a lot of seniors that aren't playing a ton that are still posi-

tive with the other guys. They did that," Cresap said. "We wouldn't have been where we're at if these seniors didn't settle into their roles. They were always there, came to practice and were ready to work. It's easy to do that when you're playing. It's not easy to do that when you play a sport since second grade, and you don't play a whole lot. Those six guys stuck with us. I commend them on their ability to accept their role and be good teammates."

Like all of the top teams in Section 8-2A, Perham's scoring isn't going away. Thompson, Anderson, Daniels and Alex Ohm are expected to return to the lineup next winter as the Yellowjackets go through the gauntlet with a target on their back.

"We're hoping this keeps them hungry,"

Cresap said of getting the state experience. "We could be pretty good again, but you know as well as I do that if they don't commit to getting better when it's time to get back to work, then the potential is lost. I think we'll get that leadership we need from the juniors that will be seniors. We have some hungry sophomores. I think we'll be OK, but time will tell. We'll be in the thick of it again."

PERHAM 24 14 - 38  
PEQUOT LAKES 24 34 - 58  
TEAM TOTALS - PERHAM: 13-36 FGA, 4-1 3PA, 8-12 FTA, 21 rebounds, 7 assists, 3 steals, 1 block, 14 turnovers; PEQUOT: 22-42 FGA, 7-18 3PA, 7-11 FTA, 28 rebounds, 11 assists, 10 steals, 3 blocks, 7 turnovers  
PERHAM - 10 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal; Jacob Daniels 5 points, 3 rebounds; Chas Melvin 3 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal; Soren Anderson 16 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 block; Marcus Belka 1 rebound; Alex Ohm 2 rebounds; Evan Kovash 1 rebound; Michael Schwantz 2 points, 1 rebound; Noah Novotny 1 rebound  
PEQUOT LAKES SCORING - Eli Laposky 23, Cruz Megazzini 3, Sam Rysavy 12, Brayden Spiczka 11, Grant Loge, Leo Marc Bolz Andolshek 1, Connor Quale 2, Gavin Kennen 2

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

## ULLYOTT

From Page B1

he took the head coaching job, those kids were wrestling on the varsity team.

"When I came here, the Staples, Frazees and Wadenas were just unbelievably dominant," Ulyyott said. "They were top five in the state every year. Staples and Frazee won multiple state championships... I used to tease the kids that the water that runs through the Frazee school is the same water in the pipes that runs through Detroit Lakes. We're all drinking the same water. If they can do it, so can we. It took a real special group to understand the changes we needed to make."

The Lakers went 13-7 in his first year as head coach and posted a winning record every season until 2005-06. In his second year with the program, Ulyyott led the Lakers to their first section championship appearance.

"We talk about this a lot with our current teams; each kid is a part of this history and part of the culture," Ulyyott said. "If you go back to the beginning, we were so fortunate with the kids we had in the beginning that bought into the thought that we could be competitive... You have to credit that team for setting the bar we could build from."

Ulyyott watched three of his teams lose in the section championship

before he coached during Detroit Lakes' first trip to state in the 2003-04 season.

"The thing about that '04 team...is we won the section title on a pin from Andy Lundberg at heavyweight," Ulyyott said. "It's that special moment that symbolizes a bigger deal. All of these guys bought in and became such a close group of wrestlers. I think back to that dual where we beat Roseau, and there were four or five matches that went to overtime, and we only lost one of them. When Andy gets that pin, everybody on the team gets that pin."

Detroit Lakes made it back to state again the following year before going yet again in 2019-20. Ulyyott coached in 11 section championships throughout his career.

Ulyyott has seen dozens of wrestlers go to state individually and as a team. Each trip to the Twin Cities is one he looks back on fondly. But there's a regular-season moment from 2016 that will always stick out with the favorites from his coaching career.

"Another favorite memory of mine was beating Frazee," he recalled. "That came in 2016, so it only took me 20 years to beat Frazee. The reason it's one of my favorite moments is because I have such tremendous respect for Clay Nagel and that program. The older fellas, too. They've been leading that program for so



Detroit Lakes Tribune file photo  
Rob Ulyyott steps down as Detroit Lakes wrestling head coach, leaving the position open for the first time since 1996.

many years. To finally get over the hump and beat them was a huge accomplishment because they always set the bar so high."

Ulyyott said he has a tremendous amount of respect for the programs around West Central Minnesota that help make it one of the most prolific wrestling regions around the state.

"We've been in the section finals 11 times, with a lot of them coming against Perham," Ulyyott said. "They had some tremendous teams come through, especially recently. You talk about wrestling in this particular area — there've been some good teams for a very long

time that have built rich traditions."

### What kept him coming back

When he first started coaching, Ulyyott dreamed about what he would do if Detroit Lakes won a state wrestling championship.

"I pictured getting in my truck, going to the wrestling facility and loading it up with all the guys with a shovel," Ulyyott said. "We were all going to go outside of town, put a post in the ground and it's going to say 'State Champions.' We never did achieve those goals, but the kids understood the work ethic it was going to take to be competitive and catch area teams."

Ulyyott found his motivation for coaching early on. He understood that for as impactful as winning can be, the lessons learned as a student-athlete last far longer than six minutes on the mat each match.

"When you first start, you're competitive, and you want to win. I think that drives you in the early years," Ulyyott said. "You prepare with Xs and Os. There's a lot of scouting and things like that. When you develop that, you start to develop a sense of the people you work with. It became a big goal of mine that our program made a difference. Whether they were state champs or never won a match, what mattered was our program made a difference and impacted their life."

For Ulyyott, making memories was the greatest pleasure of his 32 years of coaching. He feels fortunate enough to share so many of them with his loved ones along the way.

"I have family that was part of the program," Ulyyott said. "I had

three older daughters — most of them were statisticians. They helped out, and it allowed me to spend time with them in our program. My last two children were boys. Brody graduated last year, and Tyson will be a senior next year. They were part of everything we did for a lot of years. A huge part of my enjoyment in coaching has been being able to spend time with my family for a lot of years."

Ulyyott isn't sure what's next for him in terms of coaching. He said he's willing to help whoever takes the helm next in any capacity. For now, he's going to look back fondly on what his program accomplished on and off the mat.

"When I run into somebody I coached 20 years ago while I'm having supper at Zorbaz, I can tell that our program made a difference," Ulyyott said. "I felt like we moved in that direction, and that kept me coming back more than anything."

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- EXPERIENCE:**
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STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF BECKER SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Estate of Nancy Kay (Viestenz) Anderson, Decedent
Court File No. 03-PR-22-531 NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (ANCILLARY PROCEEDING)

District Court Seventh District
Court File Number: 03-PR-22-531 I Case Type: Formal Unsupervised Notice of Remote Zoom Hearing

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## On the way to their breeding grounds, snow geese are now hopscotching the continent

Oh, glorious spring, my favorite time of the year! After a seemingly endless winter, nothing could be more welcome than lots of sun and warmth and melting. Springtime is the best time.

**BLANE KLEMEK**  
North Woods

Northland are common now. American robins, red-winged blackbirds, sandhill cranes, Canada geese, and trumpeter swans have arrived, and soon many more migrant wild birds will join them.

As well, songbirds such as common redpolls and dark-eyed juncos will be on their way further north to the Arctic Circle and other places in the northern hemisphere to breed and nest.

And one of the most abundant species of birds on the planet — certainly among the most populous of waterfowl — snow geese are hopscotching the continent on their way to their Arctic

breeding grounds, too. This beautiful species of goose is a marvel of success and ancient beginnings, what with their massive numbers, migratory feats and primordial vocalizations.

My first close encounter with snow geese occurred in the spring of 2000. A good friend and I decided to try our luck at hunting snow geese during the then-new “spring white goose” hunting season that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service authorized. The hunt, which continues yet today, was allowed because the snow goose population was so high that the birds were damaging their breeding and nesting grounds. In essence, the hunt was implemented to help reduce the population.

The awe-inspiring migratory spectacle that we observed that spring, and subsequent springs since, have all been throughout the Prairie Pothole Region and grasslands of the Dakotas.

I remember one memorable day in the month of March, with scarcely a hint of a breeze or a cloud in the sky, watching endless flocks of migrating waterfowl, mostly

snow geese, streaming northward high above our heads. What a sight!

This incredible migratory event was the result of a several-day layover because of stormy weather that kept most birds grounded. But on that day when the weather broke, it was as though floodgates of feathers were opened. I couldn't help but feel the sense of urgency observing these migrating birds as I stared skyward at the wondrous sight of hundreds of thousands of waterfowl of nearly every kind, horizon to horizon, flying north to their nesting grounds.

One of the interesting features of snow geese is that not all of them are white. You've probably heard of “blue geese,” or “blue morph,” which is simply a common color phase of the snow goose. Snow goose and blue goose are terms used to describe the same species, just different colors, and they all travel, breed and nest together.

As mentioned, snow geese breed and nest in large numbers in the Arctic Circle. From the tundra of Alaska



Flickr photo by Derek Bakken  
A couple of snow geese (center) swimming in Silver Lake in Rochester, Minnesota.

and across Canada to sub-Arctic to high Arctic, this prolific species of goose is abundant. Some population estimates have the snow goose population at over 5 million birds worldwide.

What's more, even despite hunting seasons in the spring and fall, the population continues to increase. Snow goose numbers have increased more than 300% since the 1970s. Incredible to say the least.

Like all geese, snow geese are primarily grazers. Voracious foragers, snow geese feed on a wide variety of grasses and other wetland and tundra plants such as sedges and rushes and a host of other plants that includes all the parts — stems, seeds, leaves, tubers and even roots. It's no wonder that millions of these birds can have such a profound effect on the environment.

Long-lived, snow geese

can reach ages of 12 to more than 20 years. The oldest snow goose on record was a wild goose shot in Texas in 1999 that was 27 years old. As with most migratory species of birds, older, more experienced mature birds lead younger birds to and from nesting grounds and wintering grounds each year. These migration routes become entrenched in younger birds' memories that in turn are passed onto other geese.

It's hard to believe the snow goose population was in such peril almost 100 years ago that hunting was stopped. But by the mid-1970s, hunting seasons resumed because of population recovery. Every year since then, snow goose populations have continued to increase and expand.

Blane Klemek is a Minnesota DNR wildlife manager. He can be reached at [bklemek@yahoo.com](mailto:bklemek@yahoo.com).

## With deteriorating ice conditions, make this your last week of ice fishing on local lakes

What a difference a week can make with warm weather, longer daylight hours, above freezing nights and sunny days!

The snow pack on the lakes is gone, but slush is an issue now, especially along shoreline areas.

The ice thickness remains good for this time of the year and will support sled, wheeler, and side-by-side travel for about another week.

No truck travel is recommended now — several trucks broke through the ice on several different lakes this past weekend. Even though ice thickness remains pretty good



**BRAD LAABS**  
Fishing Lines

on main lake areas, the quality of the ice, and its weight-supporting qualities, have diminished significantly (and will continue to every day).

Shoreline areas can be a mess before getting to better ice. The areas close to shore get bad first as the ground leeches the heat to the lake and breaks down the ice. The lake will “pull away” from the shoreline, making access

to the lake challenging even when the main lake ice can still support some activity.

Not as many anglers are getting out at this time of the ice season, but the hardcore ice anglers that continue to get out on the lakes are having success with crappies and gills in shallower water, and tullibee continue to bite in the deeper water over soft bottom areas. Pan fish will continue to gather in groups in areas that still have some green weeds present. They will also stage at the mouths of bays, or areas of the lake that are traditional spawning areas. They can get spooked easier

in the shallower water, so less noise can help keep fish in an area longer. If spooked, move in, out, or along the edge to re-locate the schools of fish.

My recommendation is that the prudent thing to do now is to make this the last week of your ice angling season here on our local lakes. It is best to error on the side of caution, and common sense and safety need to trump your addiction to late ice angling.

We will be entering the “tweener time” between ice fishing and open water fishing. This gives you time to put away your ice gear and get prepped for your



Forum News Service file photo  
The ice is beginning to get slushy and melt off of local lakes, and thus fishing columnist Brad Laabs is encouraging anglers to make this their last week ice fishing for this season.

open water season.

There are also other options for those who want to continue on the ice (like Lake of the Woods or Devils Lake) or travel to open water on the major rivers that are now all open and have active fishing (like the Fox in Wisconsin, the Missouri in North and South Dakota,

Pools 4 and 5 on the Mississippi, and it look like we might get a week on The Rainy River).

Open water will also be available early at Big Stone and Traverse on the Minnesota/Dakotas border. Make good decisions and live to fish another day.

Brad Laabs owns Brad Laabs Guide Service in Detroit Lakes.

## Support Becker County Food Pantry

Investing in people, building community



March is a big month for the Becker County Food Pantry. During this time the pantry receives an incentive award from the Greater Minneapolis Community Connections based on the amount of cash and pounds of food it collects through April 10.

Donations by check can be mailed to 1308 Rossman Ave, Detroit Lakes, 56501. If you prefer your donation to be used exclusively for food purchases, instead of an unrestricted gift, please make note in the memo line of your check. You may also donate by credit card online at: [www.givemn.org/organization/Becker-County-Food-Pantry](http://www.givemn.org/organization/Becker-County-Food-Pantry). Learn more about this year's campaign at [gmcc.org/march-campaign](http://gmcc.org/march-campaign).

Thank you to these businesses for helping to bring awareness to the great need in Becker County.

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Don Young, longest-serving Republican, lies in state  
**Page 2**

Grim new developments  
**Page 3**

Washington to encourage filming  
**Page 4**

Vegetable gratin is a hearty, cheesy dish  
**Page 5**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022 | NATION PLUS - A FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXTRA

By Jonathan Spicer and Gleb Garanich  
Reuters

Istanbul/Kyiv Outskirts/  
Mariupol, Ukraine

Russia promised on Tuesday to scale down military operations around Kyiv and another city but the United States warned the threat was not over as Ukraine proposed adopting a neutral status in a sign of progress at face-to-face negotiations.

Talks took place in an Istanbul palace more than a month into the largest attack on a European nation since World War Two that has killed or injured thousands, forced nearly 4 million to flee abroad and pummeled Russia's economy with sanctions.

Russia's invasion has been halted on most fronts by stiff resistance from Ukrainian forces who have recaptured territory even as civilians are trapped in besieged cities.

"A decision was made to radically, by a large margin, reduce military activity in the Kyiv and Chernihiv directions," Russian Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin told reporters on Tuesday.

He made no mention of other areas that have seen heavy fighting, including around Mariupol in the southeast, Sumy and Kharkiv in the east and Kherson and Mykolaiv in the south.

Russia has started moving very small numbers of troops away from positions around Kyiv in a move that is more of a repositioning than a retreat or a withdrawal from the war, the Pentagon said on Tuesday.

"It does not mean that the threat to Kyiv is over," spokesman John Kirby told a news briefing.

A total of 10 U.S. F-18 aircraft and more than 200 troops are being deployed to NATO member and Russian neighbor, Lithuania, and U.S. troops in Poland are "liaising" with Ukrainian forces as they hand over weapons to them, he added.

Russia calls its assault a "special operation" to disarm and "denazify" Ukraine. The West says it launched an unprovoked invasion.

Some analysts noted that Russia's promise to reduce fighting mostly covered areas where it has been losing ground.

"Does 'we'll drastically reduce military operations around Kyiv' = 'we're getting our (expletive) kicked, transitioned to a hasty defense?'" tweeted



Marko Djurica / Reuters File Photo  
A Ukrainian serviceman sits inside a Russian tank captured after fighting with Russian troops Tuesday in the village of Lukyanivka outside Kyiv, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues.

## Russia scaling down military operations

### Russia pledges to reduce attack on Kyiv, but US warns threat not over



Gleb Garanich / Reuters  
A Ukrainian service member rests on the front line Tuesday near Kyiv as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues.

Mark Hertling, a retired U.S. lieutenant general and former commander of U.S. forces in Europe.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said only a concrete result from the talks can be trusted.

"We can say the signals we are receiving from the talks are positive but they do not drown out the explosions of Russian shells," he said.

#### Proposals

Ukrainian negotiators said that under their proposals, Kyiv would agree not to join alliances or host bases of foreign troops, but would have security guaranteed in terms similar to "Article 5," the collective defense clause of the transatlantic NATO military alliance.

They named Israel and NATO members Canada,

Poland and Turkey as countries that may give such guarantees. Russia, the United States, Britain, Germany and Italy could also be involved.

The proposals, which would require a referendum in Ukraine, mentioned a 15-year consultation period on the status of Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014.

The fate of the southeastern Donbas region, which Russia demands Ukraine cede to separatists, would be discussed by the Ukrainian and Russian leaders.

Kyiv's proposals also included one that Moscow would not oppose Ukraine joining the European Union, Russia's lead negotiator Vladimir Medinsky said. Russia has previously opposed Ukrainian membership of the EU and especially of NATO.

Medinsky said Russia's delegation would study and present the proposals to President Vladimir Putin.

To prepare a peace agreement, Medinsky later told the TASS news agency, "we still have a long way to go."

President Joe Biden spoke by phone about Ukraine with

the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

A source familiar with the situation told Reuters the allies discussed more financial aid of up to \$500 million for Ukraine.

#### Scavenging

On the ground, reports of attacks continued.

A shell hit a temporary Russian military camp near the border with Ukraine late on Tuesday, Tass news agency said and cited a source as saying preliminary data showed it had been fired from the Ukrainian side.

Tass issued the report shortly after a senior local official reported a series of explosions outside the city of Belgorod, close to the border with Ukraine. Reuters could not immediately verify the details.

In Mariupol, besieged for weeks by Russian forces, thousands of civilians may have died, the head of the United Nations human rights mission in the country told Reuters on Tuesday, providing its first estimate of the toll.

Those who remain there are suffering.

"We are eight people. We have two buckets of potatoes, one bucket of onions," said Irina, an engineer, in her apartment where windows had been blasted out. Her group boiled soup on a makeshift stove in the stairwell.

Elsewhere, however, Ukrainian forces have made advances, recapturing territory from Russian troops on the outskirts of Kyiv, in the northeast and in the south.

One recaptured area on a road towards the village of Rusaniv was littered with burnt-out tanks and bits of Russian uniforms. Surrounding houses were destroyed.

In the southern city of Mykolaiv, a missile blasted a hole through the main administrative building. Authorities said at least 12 people were killed and 33 injured.

The Moscow-backed self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic in eastern Ukraine may consider joining Russia once it controls all of Ukraine's Donetsk region, its leader was quoted as saying. Kyiv has said any such move would have no legal basis.

Several European Union countries on Tuesday expelled dozens of Russian diplomats, some for alleged spying, in what the Irish prime minister said was a coordinated move. Russia vowed retaliation.

## 'Serious questions'

Thomas should recuse himself from Capitol riot cases, Schumer says

By Moira Warburton  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer on Tuesday said Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas should recuse himself from any cases about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol by Donald Trump's followers.

Schumer became the most high-ranking Democrat to make that request of the conservative justice after the Washington Post and CBS News reported on text messages showing that Thomas's wife Virginia Thomas, a conservative activist

who goes by Ginni, urged Mark Meadows, Trump's then-chief of staff, to work to overturn Democrat Joe Biden's November 2020 election win.

"I do think he should recuse himself," Schumer said of Thomas. "The information we have right now raises serious questions about how close Justice Thomas and his wife were to the planning and execution of the insurrection."

Thousands of supporters of then-President Trump stormed the Capitol in an attempt to stop Congress from certifying the election, which Trump in a speech that morning falsely claimed was the result of widespread fraud.

The House of Representatives Select Committee on Jan. 6 may seek

to interview Ginni Thomas, a source familiar with the matter said on Monday.

Neither Thomas could be reached for immediate comment on Tuesday.

Ginni Thomas has previously denied any conflict of interest between her work as a conservative activist and her husband's as a judge.

Clarence Thomas was the lone dissenting voice in January when the Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, rejected Trump's request to block the release of White House records sought by the committee.

On Monday, 24 Democrats from both the Senate and the House of Representatives sent a letter to John Roberts, chief justice of the Unit-



Reuters File Photo  
Virginia Thomas (R), wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas (2nd L), shakes hands with a member of the clergy as they exit the Red Mass, a service to mark the beginning of the 2014 Supreme Court term, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington.

ed States, asking that Thomas recuse himself.

The committee has made more than 80 sub-

poenas public, including many issued to Trump aides and allies, and interviewed more

than 560 witnesses. The texts were given to the committee as part of Meadows' testimony.

## Biden signs anti-lynching Emmett Till law

By Nandita Bose and Jeff Mason  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed into law the first federal legislation to make lynching a hate crime, addressing a history of racist killings in the United States, after the Senate passed the bill earlier this month.

The law is named for Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black boy who was brutally

murdered in Mississippi in 1955. The bill makes it possible to prosecute as a lynching any conspiracy to commit a hate crime that results in death or serious bodily injury.

Till's death, and an all-white jury's dismissal of charges against two white men who later confessed to his killing, drew national attention to the atrocities and violence that African Americans face in the United States and became a civil rights rallying cry.

With the bill signing, the president was addressing both "unfinished business" and "horror" in America's history, Vice President Kamala Harris said from the White House Rose Garden after the bill signing.

Harris, the country's first Black and Asian American vice president, co-sponsored the bill while serving as a U.S. senator from California.

"Lynching is not a relic of the past. Racial acts of ter-

ror still occur in our nation. And when they do, we must all have the courage to name them and hold the perpetrators to account," she said.

In August, the FBI said the number of hate crimes in the United States had risen the previous year to the highest level in more than a decade, driven by a rise in assaults against Black victims and victims of Asian descent.

Biden, whose support from

Black voters helped propel him to the presidency, said the law was not just about addressing crimes of the past.

"It's about the present and our future as well," he said, mentioning a rally of white nationalists in Virginia in 2017. "Racial hate isn't an old problem. It's a persistent problem."

The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent and the House of Representatives by a vote of 422-3.

## Congressman was 'revered and feared'

### Don Young, longest-serving Republican, lies in state

By Jim Saksa  
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — It was freezing out the morning Don Young, the dean of the House, returned to the Capitol one last time.

As much as it was unseasonably cold for Washington on Tuesday, it was fitting for Young, a California native who made his home in tiny Fort Yukon, located seven miles above the Arctic Circle. And Young himself could be bitingly frosty with his colleagues at times, though he was better known for his passion.

"Donald Edwin Young was larger than life, both belligerent and beloved, revered and feared," House Chaplain Margaret Kibben said in her eulogy for the Republican, who died March 18 at age 88.

Members of Young's family greeted his casket at the top of the House stairs, then entered Statuary Hall to take their seats in the first row. Young's widow, Anne Walton, sat the closest, her right hand over her heart.

"Alaska's third senator" was remembered by the Last Frontier's other two, Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski. Both shared stories of Young's colorful personality.

"He could hold his own in a debate with the best minds of the world, and even hold

a knife to the throat of the speaker of the House," said Sullivan, referencing an incident during which Young, in the heat of an argument with then-Speaker John Boehner, pulled a knife on his fellow Republican. Boehner later served as best man at Young's wedding.

"He was gruff, but he had a soft spot. He could be so caring, so compassionate," said Murkowski. "He was not just a colleague to me, but he was a mentor, he was my friend. He truly has been my congressman for all my tenure, and again, congressman for all of Alaska, for so many Alaskans' lives."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy spoke, followed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Young's family wept as the U.S. Army Chorus sang "Amazing Grace."

Over his 25 terms in the House, Young made more friends than enemies, and many paid their respects Tuesday as he lay in state. Shortly before Young's casket arrived, Republican Reps. Steve Scalise and Fred Upton could be seen chatting with Democratic Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez and Sen. Ben Ray Lujan. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland was there to say goodbye to the man who introduced her at her confirmation hearing.



Greg Nash / Pool / Abaca Press / TNS

U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) gives a remembrance of Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) as he lies in state in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. Young died at the age of 88, serving 49 years in the House. He was the longest-serving Republican in the House of Representatives.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg was also there. Young was a top-ranking member of the House Transportation Committee for years and voted for the bipartisan infrastructure bill signed by President Joe Biden in November.

Dozens of other lawmakers from both parties attended Tuesday's ceremony.

Biden was expected to stop by and pay his respects Tuesday afternoon while Young lies in state under the Capi-

tol Rotunda. Later Tuesday, the House will consider a bill named after the long-serving representative: the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022.

Young served in the chamber for almost a half-century, roughly three-quarters of the time Alaska has been part of the union. He came to Congress in 1973.

He passes on the title of dean of the House to GOP Rep. Hal Rogers, who has represent-

ed his Kentucky constituents for more than 40 years. The dean is the current member with the longest continuous service, a tradition that dates back to the early 19th century.

These days, the title is seen as a mark of respect and comes with a key ceremonial duty — administering the oath of office to the House speaker at the beginning of each Congress.

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## Experts sound warning for quake-hit island

By Catarina Demony and Pedro Nunes  
Reuters

SAO JORGE, Portugal — Experts warned on Tuesday that the earthquake-hit volcanic island of Sao Jorge, in Portugal's Azores archipelago, could see an eruption like that of Spain's La Palma, which destroyed thousands of properties and crops over 85 days.

The lush mid-Atlantic island has been rattled by more than 20,000 small earthquakes, which reached a magnitude of up to 3.3, in the past 11 days.

The tremors could herald a volcanic eruption for the first time since 1808, or a powerful earthquake, said the region's CIVISA seismo-volcanic surveillance center.

Elderly people and those with reduced mobility have

been evacuated from Velas, the municipality where most of the seismic activity has been recorded, and many locals have left the island in fear.

"The magnitude of the earthquakes has reduced slightly... but the population must stay alert, they should not relax," said Eduardo Farias, head of Azores' Civil Protection authority.

At a school in Velas, classes were suspended and some of the school's rooms will be turned into a health center.

Francisco Fonseca, president of Sao Jorge's health service, said health workers with experience working in natural disasters have been deployed to the island.

"This whole situation is a challenge," he said. "It is



Pedro Nunes / Reuters

A cleaning worker works in Velas on Monday as small earthquakes have been recorded in Sao Jorge island, Azores, Portugal.

distressing and out of the ordinary." Sao Jorge's sudden increase

in seismic activity is reminiscent of the earthquakes detected before the eruption

of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on Spain's La Palma island last year, some 1,400 km (870 miles) southeast of the Azores.

Experts at the Canary Islands Volcanology Institute, Involcan, which monitored the La Palma eruption, said on Tuesday about 20 million cubic meters of lava could be spewed out on Sao Jorge if an eruption takes place.

Luca D'Auria, director of Involcan's volcanic surveillance department, told Reuters a soil deformation caused by the volcanic activity had been detected in Sao Jorge.

"It could either end in nothing (...) or it could end in a volcanic eruption," he said.

Farias said CIVISA would analyze Involcan data but asked Sao Jorge's about 8,400 residents not to panic.

### BRIEFS

#### Omicron sub-variant BA.2 accounts for about 55% of COVID variants in US

The U.S. national public health agency said on Tuesday that BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron was estimated to account for more than half the coronavirus variants in the country.

A resurgence of COVID-19 cases in parts of Asia and Europe has raised concerns that another wave could follow in the United States, but the country's health experts believe it is unlikely.

Evercore ISI analyst Michael Newshel said the 7-day rolling average for COVID cases

bottomed a week ago at just under 29,000 and has stayed at about the same level.

#### Wildfire threat puts parts of Texas, Oklahoma on alert

The potential for significant wildfires fueled by parched vegetation in parts of Texas and the U.S. Plains put the region on high alert on Tuesday as gusty winds and bone-dry humidity were in the forecast.

Red Flag Warnings, signaling that fires could start and spread easily, were issued for an area spanning western Texas, southern Nebraska and parts of Kansas, Oklahoma

and New Mexico, the National Weather Service said.

#### Haiti protesters burn plane belonging to US missionary group

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haitian demonstrators protesting against crime in the city of Les Cayes on Tuesday burned a plane belonging to U.S. missionary group Agape Flights, according to local media reports and an Agape spokeswoman.

The protesters entered the local airport in Les Cayes even though police fired tear gas at the group, according to a video of the inci-

dent filmed by online media group Cayes Infos.

The video shows dozens of people approaching the plane and pushing it down the tarmac. The plane is later seen on a street, apparently near the airport, where it was set on fire.

#### Group of 21 US states ask judge to halt federal transportation mask mandate

WASHINGTON — A group of 21 states led by Florida on Tuesday asked a U.S. judge to block a federal COVID-19 mandate requiring masks on airplanes and other forms of

transportation.

The lawsuit is the latest in a series of recent legal challenges to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) public health order and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) directive that have been in place since February 2021 covering airports, trains, buses, ride-share vehicles and transit hubs.

The administration of President Joe Biden said earlier this month it would extend the transportation mask requirements through at least April 18 and is reviewing if they should be extended again.

Reuters





Eve Edelheit / Tampa Bay Times / TNS

Damage from Hurricane Irma in Big Pine Key, Florida, in 2017. Citizens Property Insurance Corp., Florida's state-owned "insurer of last resort," has been attracting customers in droves because its policies are so cheap. Officials want to change that.

## Grim new developments reveal more trouble in Florida home insurance market

By Ron Hurtibise

South Florida Sun Sentinel

Florida's home insurance availability crisis continues to claim new victims, and worries are mounting that more companies could be declared insolvent as this year's hurricane season draws near.

The industry's financial storm clouds have prompted fears of collapsing companies and the massive growth of state-owned Citizens Property Insurance Corp., the insurer of last resort:

—Last week, the president and CEO of Demotech, which rates the financial stability of about 50 Florida-based insurers, sent a letter to the governor and leaders of the House and Senate imploring them to call a special session and enact reforms to stem financial losses and litigation. Without reforms, he said, Demotech will likely downgrade financial stability ratings of "a number" of insurers.

—About 37,000 customers of failed Avatar Property & Casualty are scrambling to find new insurers before losing coverage on April 13. But about 2,000 have open claims against the company that won't be resolved for months. Just about all insurers, including state-run Citizens Property Insurance Corp., have underwriting guidelines disqualifying from coverage anyone with unresolved open claims.

—Meanwhile, Lexington Insurance Co., which specializes in covering homes with replacement values of \$1 million or more, announced last week that it's discontinuing its home insurance division, which will force 8,000 Florida property owners to find new insurers. Most of them are not eligible for Citizens, which only insures homes up to \$700,000 in most parts of the state.

Last week, Gov. Ron DeSantis said he'd "welcome" a special session to enact insurance reforms, but indicated he would not call one on his own. Instead, he left the proposal up to leaders of the state Senate and House.

So far, there's been no indication that Senate President Wilton Simpson and House Speaker Chris Sprowls plans to call a special session, said Sen. Jeff Brandes, a Tampa-area Republican who has repeatedly warned that the state faces an insurance crisis

that could undermine Florida's booming real estate market.

The Senate passed a bill in the recently completed regular session aimed at curbing the number of "free roof" claims and related lawsuits that insurers say are driving up costs for all of their customers. But the House refused to consider any major insurance reforms.

The foreboding letter in Demotech's March 23 letter to DeSantis, Simpson and Sprowls, five Demotech executives, including its president and co-founder Joseph Petrelli, warned that failure to enact reforms before the June 1 start of hurricane season would lead to grave consequences.

"The conditions of the property insurance marketplace in Florida are unsustainable," the letter said, "and without the necessary corrective action, many Florida insurers will struggle to maintain adequate surplus, efficient capital sources will avoid the market, private reinsurance costs will become prohibitively expensive, and consumers will ultimately bear the cost."

Longtime leaders in the insurance industry believe that some companies won't have enough cash, financing, or investment capital to purchase reinsurance, which is required so insurance companies have the ability to cover claims likely to roll in after a 1-in-100-year storm event, such as a major hurricane.

Insurers that fail to maintain an adequate surplus of claims-paying capital could be declared insolvent by state insurance regulators, and their policyholders would likely be forced into Citizens.

Citizens' growth always prompts worries: If it grows too much and cannot pay all claims after a major hurricane, assessments could be levied against nearly all insurance policies in the state to make up the shortfall.

Citizens, which was down to 419,000 policies in 2019, has been quickly swelling with new customers who can't get covered in the private market. As of August 25, Citizens was up to 807,910 policies.

Four Florida-based insurers have been declared insolvent since April 2021. Many others have stopped writing policies in high-claims areas of the state, such as South Florida, and declined to renew policies covering older homes or homes with roofs older than 10

years.

Insolvencies could also result from Demotech withdrawing companies' financial strength ratings or downgrading companies' ratings from A for "acceptable" to S for "satisfactory."

A downgrade effectively puts a company out of business, either by prompting state insurance regulators to declare the company insolvent and transfer it to a receiver, or, in the case of any rating lower than A, disqualifying the insurer from covering any property backed by a federal mortgage guarantor, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Demotech's letter warned lawmakers to expect ratings downgrades if no special session is called. "If current market conditions remain in place, we anticipate that we will downgrade Financial Strength Ratings of a number of companies in the coming weeks," the letter said.

Simpson has called the idea of a special session to address insurance "a possibility," according to a March 11 statement relayed by a spokeswoman. Sprowls' office on Monday did not respond to questions about a special session.

More companies might have to fail before the Senate and House leaders call a special session, Brandes said.

"Sometimes you have to force a crisis to get the legislature to act," he said.

Replacement policies hard to find with open claims

A former Avatar policyholder says she's already facing a crisis.

Mimi Bright, a homeowner in Parkland, has been trying to find coverage since learning her Avatar policy would expire in mid-April.

But she has an open damage claim with Avatar, and her agent told her that no insurer, including Citizens, will cover her until the claim is resolved.

That could take several months. Under terms of Avatar's liquidation, the company's open claims will be resolved by the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, which is working its way through about 2,000 open Avatar claims.

She doesn't understand why state law does not require Citizens to offer coverage to policyholders left in limbo when their insurers are declared insolvent. "The state should be doing something to protect consumers," she said.

Despite what its

underwriting guidelines say, Citizens is willing to cover Bright and other Avatar customers with open claims if they provide documentation that the claim has been submitted and repairs are in progress, says Citizens spokesman Michael Peltier and Kyle Ulrich, president and CEO of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents.

"Obviously, [the Avatar dissolution] happened quickly, and we will be as flexible as we can be," Peltier said. Homeowners will have to provide proof, such as a repair contract showing that repairs have been scheduled or proof that the repair process is underway, he said.

Agents have to be tenacious and offer to provide the documentation, which could also include price estimates from contractors, Ulrich said.

Citizens, Ulrich says, understands that "It's in no one's interest to have homeowners go without coverage for a period of time."

Corey Neal, executive director of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, said FIGA is willing to work with agents to provide information needed to help displaced homeowners secure replacement coverage.

Some private-market companies, and not just Citizens, will cover a stranded homeowner when FIGA or a policyholder's agent reaches out, Neal said.

"If the underwriter wants more information about a loss, we'll absolutely help them. One of our first priorities is to help find replacement coverage. Hardship claims go to the top of the list."

The key, he said, is for agents not to accept "no" for an answer from a company's underwriting staff and to appeal to a higher level, such as an underwriting department manager. Agents needing help can reach out to FIGA directly, he said.

Information about the Avatar liquidation can be found at avatar-liquidation.com.

Paul Handerhan, president of the consumer focused watchdog group, Federal Association for Insurance Reform, said consumers whose insurers decline to renew them also face difficulties finding replacement coverage if they have open claims.

"It's becoming a real problem, especially with the growing number of non-renewals," he said. Progressive

Insurance recently announced plans not to renew 56,000 Florida homes with roofs older than 15 years.

FAIR would like to see a state law requiring Citizens to cover displaced policyholders with open claims. The law could allow Citizens to exclude the damaged section of those homes from coverage until repairs are complete.

Lexington pullout to affect wealthy

Lexington Insurance Co.'s decision to stop insuring private homes as of Aug. 1 could be a signal that costly claims are also affecting viability of the so-called surplus lines market that typically caters to wealthier clients with homes worth \$1 million or more.

Most of Lexington's policyholders don't have the option to get coverage from Citizens because Citizens only insures homes with replacement values of \$700,000 or less in all counties except Miami-Dade and Monroe, which caps eligible replacement values at \$1 million.

Lexington told agents last week that it plans to terminate its personal lines coverage program as of Aug. 1.

Lexington's parent company, AIG, declined to comment on the decision.

Handerhan said he was told that Lexington is pulling out of the homeowner market across the country.

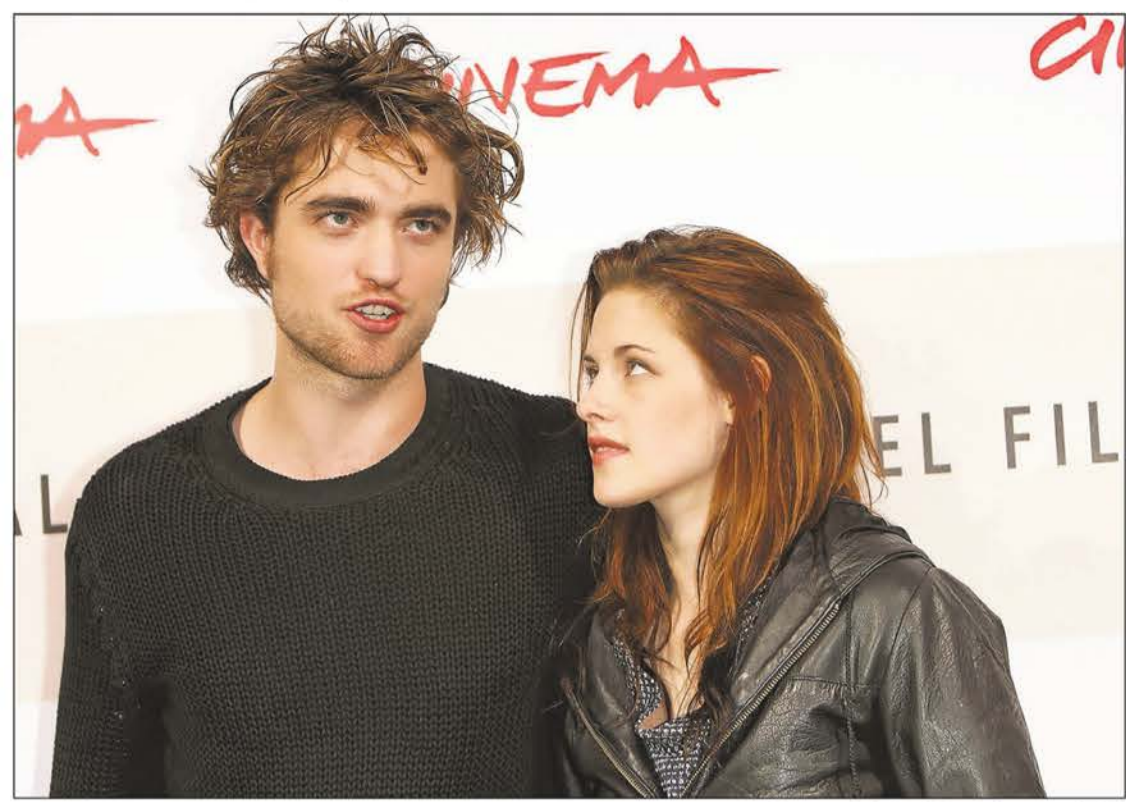
Lexington insures 8,000 homes in the state with replacement values totaling more than \$90 million, Handerhan said.

Ryan Papy, president of the Palmetto Bay-based Keyes Insurance agency said Lexington's decision could prove costly to the growing number of Florida homes valued at \$1 million or more.

Lexington customers who must look elsewhere will find "that market is almost empty," Papy said, adding other surplus lines carriers, such as Chubb and Pure "have no appetite for new business."

Cost increases "could be substantial — 100% to 200% even," he said. "Maybe more."

"The market turmoil is going to begin to affect a different type of customer," he said of the wealthier homeowners. "That may push things closer to reform."



Actors Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart attend the "Twilight" photo call during the 3rd Rome International Film Festival held at the Auditorium Parco della Musica on Oct. 30, 2008, in Rome, Italy. The hit movie is set in the town of Forks, Washington, but was actually filmed mostly in Oregon.

# Washington to encourage filming

Lawmakers pass bill upping incentives for moviemakers

By Sarah Kahle  
The Seattle Times

Seattle  
What first comes to mind when you hear the name Forks, Washington?

Chances are it could be the "Twilight" saga, the notorious vampire franchise that captivated teen girls in the late 2000s.

But despite the series' intrinsic connection to the former logging town and the Olympic Peninsula at large, there was no such loyalty to Washington behind the scenes. The Forks you see on the big screen is in fact the town of Vernonia, Oregon, and the majority of the first movie was filmed around Portland. Only two scenes were shot in Washington, and not a single one in Forks.

But that could possibly change.

A bill that passed the state Legislature this month would increase the annual tax break cap for filmmakers to \$15 million, quadrupling the limit to the amount of money that Washington businesses could deductively donate to support the state's film industry.

For years, Washington's moviemaking tax breaks have lagged behind nearly every other state. Of the 33 states with film industry tax incentives, Washington's annual cap of \$3.5 million — the statewide total that businesses could receive in tax write-offs — is higher than only Nevada's \$1 million. Meanwhile, California's \$330 million and Oregon's \$20 million tax caps end up drawing away movie producers with meaningful Washington stories, according to film industry professionals.

In 2002, the state Legislature created the Motion Picture Competitiveness Program to manage the funds and promote Washington's potential to film movies, TV shows and commercials.

According to Amy Lillard, executive director of the legislatively commissioned nonprofit Washington Filmworks, the first questions producers usually ask when they're deciding where to film are about the state's financial perks.

"The production incentive program is the best tool we have in our toolbox to get the bigger-budget productions to come through and film in Washington," Lillard said.

The bill, modeled after another tax incentive

program called the Main Street Tax Credit Program, allows businesses donating to the MPCP to receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against a business tax liability of up to \$1 million per calendar year, with a total amount of donations not to exceed the new \$15 million cap.

To qualify for funding assistance from the MPCP, movies and TV shows must invest money into the state's economy and, depending on their budgets, would be eligible for reimbursements of their total state investment.

Movies that invest at least \$500,000 in Washington's economy could receive 30% of it back with the stipulation that all funds awarded may only be used for employee benefits or costs associated with the film's production. Washington Filmworks typically spends about half of its funds on wages and benefits. The other half is used for expenditures like wardrobe, set design, vehicle rentals and location fees, all of which funnels money back into local economies.

"For every dollar awarded in funding assistance, the approved production generates an estimated \$10 of economic activity in our statewide economy, and motion picture has touched every district in the state," said Julie Daman, the director of finance and operations at Washington Filmworks.

The bill, currently on the governor's desk, pushes the nonprofit to award 20% of its funding to films being made in rural communities. It's typically more expensive to shoot in rural areas, but as another incentive, Washington Filmworks can also award an additional 10% to the production's original 30% reimbursement, for up to a 40% return on investment — which ends up saving filmmakers thousands of dollars.

The bill also aims to address racial inequity within the film industry, directing the MPCP to prioritize productions that tell the story of marginalized communities. These films would also be eligible for the 10% enhancement incentive, the criteria for which is still being developed. The measure also adds an equity committee and two co-chairs to the Filmworks Board, the bylaws for which are also still in the writing phase, according to the bill's prime sponsor, Rep. Marcus Riccelli, D-Spokane.

The bill also allocates \$500,000 for job training and professional development opportunities for marginalized communities for the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years and \$750,000 every year afterward. Washington Filmworks hopes to use the funds to expand its Media Mentorship Program, a pilot of which ran in 2021, placing aspiring filmmakers of color in one-on-one mentorships and directly on production sets.

"There has been this idea that Hollywood is kind of a network of who you know and that there needs to be ways to break that," said Riccelli. "We thought, if we're going to provide incentive dollars, that we could put some sidebars around it to really encourage both production in some of our rural communities, but also with folks who have been historically left out in some of these big paying jobs to provide them opportunity."

Frances Grace Mortel, a filmmaker and photographer from the Philippines, is a past participant of the Media Mentorship Program. Since moving to Spokane in 2016, she has won numerous awards for her films but initially had difficulties finding opportunities with accessible health care for her family and child support for her 6-year-old son. Considering a move to the west side of the state as the pandemic struck, Mortel says the jobs she's gotten from the Media Mentorship pilot program have inspired her to remain in Spokane.

"With the media mentorship program being able to give access and sort of show the possibility that the barriers can be broken down, I think it has given us hope to stay and also continue our work with the community here," Mortel said in an email.

She also stresses the importance of further diversification in the industry and amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities so that they may tell their own stories.

"I have also been fortunate to find community organizers and activists here that not only advocate for film and arts, but also for other issues such as racial and social equity, because you know, we can't really separate those as part of a nurturing community — a place where I can raise my family," she said.

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# UCLA starts 'Hip Hop Initiative'

**Ambitious program has Chuck D as artist in residence**

By Randall Roberts  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Two years ago at the California African American Museum in downtown Los Angeles, three titans of East Coast rap converged for a roundtable: influential "Paid in Full" rapper Rakim; Public Enemy's cofounder Chuck D; and indie rap royalty Talib Kweli.

Called "Sweat the Technique: The Politics and Poetics of Hip-Hop," the event attracted a standing-room-only crowd in South Los Angeles. Little did they know that the roundtable — which was supposed to be the first in a months-long L.A. Phil series called Power to the People! — would lay the groundwork for UCLA's just-announced Hip Hop Initiative, or that Chuck D would serve as its inaugural artist in residence.

"The room was sweating. It was on fire," recalls says H. Samy Alim, UCLA professor of anthropology and director of the university's new initiative. He said the event set the template for "what we can do when we all come together to showcase hip-hop's power and strength."

Touting itself as "the leading center for Hip Hop Studies globally," the initiative aims to amplify and multiply the conversation on hip-hop culture across artistic disciplines "by way of artist residencies, community engagement programs, a book series, lecture series, an oral history and digital archive project, postdoctoral fellowships and more," according to the initiative's announcement.

The initiative will expand the Hip Hop Studies Series of books published by University of California Press and edited by Alim and Jeff Chang, best known for his essential book on rap, "Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation." It will also build on the university's decades-in-the-making archive, accelerating the researching and documentation of hip-hop in the Los Angeles area.

UCLA has long forged paths in the scholarship of American music. Alumni of its famed school of music include Kamasi Washington, Randy Newman, Carol Burnett, John Fahey and La Monte Young, and its faculty has included Herbie Hancock, Kenny Burrell, Patrice Rushen and the late Barbara Morrison, among many others.

Alim describes the 2020 "Sweat the Technique" roundtable — produced by the Los Angeles Philharmonic with support from the California African American Museum and UCLA's Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies — as indicative of the Hip Hop Initiative's mission.

Noting that it's been a half-century since Bronx disc jockey Kool Herc planted the seeds of hip-hop, Alim asks, "If we're 50 years in, how are

people going to understand culture 50 years, 100 years from now? We have to institutionalize the kind of study and rigorous analysis of the culture so the story gets told."

Tyree Boyd-Pates, the curator and historian who moderated the discussion among Rakim, Chuck D and Kweli, hopes that the initiative will draw new generations of experts who are "actually diving into the inner workings of the techniques of hip-hop and looking at it through a lens of scholarship."

The initiative is part of UCLA's Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, which has long been a leader in rap studies through the work of scholars including Cheryl L. Keyes, Shana Redmond, Bryonn Bain and Robin Kelley (along with Kyle Mays, Adam Bradley and other UCLA professors across all fields of study). "Hip-hop studies has exploded as an area of inquiry," Alim says. In addition to Alim, the initiative will be steered by Bunche assistant director Tabia Shawel and Samuel Lamontagne, Ph.D. candidate in ethnomusicology. Kelly Lytle Hernandez, pictured above, is the director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center.

During a recent call to discuss his forthcoming artist-in-residency, Chuck D said, "All the other musics out there have been understood, interpreted, rolled out, books made about it. So this newest art form of the last 50 years, hip-hop and rap music, is reaching this point where you hear directly from from the sources — the inspiration, the impact and connectivity between the creators and the audiences."

Keyes, chair of UCLA's Department of African American Studies, was a student at University of Indiana in the early 1980s. At the time, academia barely acknowledged hip-hop's existence, focusing instead on blues, rock 'n' roll and folk music scholarship. Spotting an opportunity and obsessed with the emergent culture, the grad student knew she was onto something, from a scholarly perspective.

"My professors would say, 'Why don't you study jazz or gospel music?'" Keyes said. "But persistence is one of the things that I learned from and respect about hip-hop culture. After 20-plus years, we're beginning to see hip-hop center stage as a legitimate area of interdisciplinary study here at UCLA."

"When you look at hip-hop's commodification, you have this dominance in the public sphere," Alim says. "And not just with record sales and charts, but now you have hip-hop in the Super Bowl halftime show. You have breakdancing as a category in the 2024 Olympics. Everything from the music to dance is entering new levels of mainstream dominance. Intellectually — and also historically and politically — we're in this new moment."

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Leading UCLA's Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies new Hip Hop Initiative are, from the left, anthropology professor and Associate Director H. Samy Alim, Director Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Chairwoman Cheryl Keyes and Samuel Lamontagne, doctoral student in ethnomusicology, on Thursday, in Westwood, California.



## Vegetable gratin is a hearty, cheesy dish

By Linda Gassenheimer  
Tribune News Service

Here's a hearty, vegetable gratin with a crunchy, cheesy topping. A gratin is a dish that has a cheese and breadcrumb crust. This is a one-pot vegetarian meal that can be made ahead and rewarmed. You can add any type of vegetables you have on hand and use this recipe as a guide for the amounts.

**Helpful Hints:**

- ▶ You can use any type of mushrooms.
- ▶ You can use pecans or almonds instead of walnuts.

**Countdown:**

- ▶ Prepare ingredients.
- ▶ Preheat broiler.
- ▶ Make the gratin.

**Shopping List:**

To buy: 1/4 pound cauliflower florets, 1/4 pound broccoli florets, 1/4 pound sliced portobello mushrooms, 1 bottle skim milk, 1 package shredded sharp cheddar cheese, 1 small piece Parmesan cheese, 1 bunch fresh thyme or 1 bottle dried thyme, 1 container panko breadcrumbs.

Staples: canola oil, onion, garlic, flour, salt and black peppercorns.

**Vegetable gratin**

Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer  
2 teaspoons canola oil  
1 cup sliced onion  
4 crushed garlic cloves  
1/4 pound cauliflower florets, cut in half if large  
1/4 pound broccoli florets, cut in half if large  
1/4 pound sliced portobello mushrooms  
3 tablespoons flour  
1 1/2 cups skim milk  
1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves or 2 teaspoon dried thyme  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper



Linda Gassenheimer / TNS

Vegetable gratin.

1/4 cup panko breadcrumbs  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
Preheat broiler. Heat oil in an oven proof skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion, garlic, cauliflower, broccoli, and mushrooms. Saute 5 minutes, stirring the vegetables as they cook. Add

flour and stir to combine with vegetables. Add milk, Cheddar cheese and thyme. Stir to thicken the sauce, about 1 to 2 minutes. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Mix breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese together in a small bowl and cover the top of the vegetables with them. Place

the skillet under the broiler about 6 to 7 inches from the heat for 1 minute. The crust should turn a golden brown. Watch to make sure it doesn't burn. Divide between two dinner plates.  
Yield 2 servings.  
Per serving: 542 calories (46% from fat), 27.7 g fat

(14.2 g saturated, 9.1 g monounsaturated), 72 mg cholesterol, 32 g protein, 44.7 g carbohydrates, 5.2 g fiber, 748 mg sodium.  
Linda Gassenheimer is the author of over 30 cookbooks, including her newest, "The 12-Week Diabetes Cookbook." Listen to Linda on [www.WDNA.org](http://www.WDNA.org) and all major podcast sites. Email her at [Linda@DinnerInMinutes.com](mailto:Linda@DinnerInMinutes.com).  
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Panera Bread / TNS

Panera Bread will debut its new Chef's Chicken Sandwiches next week, in signature and spicy varieties.

## Panera Bread rolls out fancy new sous vide chicken sandwiches

Comes in 2 varieties: Signature or spicy

By Gina Salamone  
New York Daily News

Panera Bread is upping its chicken game. The fast-casual restaurant chain is rolling out a new pair of poultry sandwiches on March 30, Panera announced last week. Called Chef's Chicken Sandwiches, the filets used are seared and then sous vide "to lock in flavor, tenderness, and juiciness," according to Panera, unlike the brand's other chicken sandwiches that are made with grilled and smoked meat. Panera Bread will debut its new Chef's Chicken Sandwiches next week, in signature and spicy varieties. The new sammies include the Signature

Take and Spicy Take, each selling for about \$11. "Crafted by our expert bakers and chefs, they bring together high quality, clean ingredients to create a delicious, hearty offering that we believe our guests are going to love and feel good about eating," Sara Burnett, Panera's vice president of food beliefs, sustainability and PR, told the Daily News. "We consider this to be an entirely new category for us — each sandwich is made from a full quarter pound 100% white meat, raised without antibiotics chicken filet that is pan seared and sous vide roasted with our special seasoning," Burnett added. "This filet is served inside a buttery

brioche bun made with real butter." The Signature Take Chef's Chicken Sandwich is topped with a garlic aioli sauce made with olive oil, garlic, and spices. Parmesan crisps are added for crunch and more flavor, and then leafy greens. Those opting for the Spicy Take will have their sandwiches topped with spicy, crispy pickle chips, along with garlic aioli. It's then doused in spicy buffalo sauce, made with aged red cayenne pepper, roasted garlic, honey and molasses. The new menu items will be available at Panera locations nationwide and on the store's app starting Wednesday. ©2022 New York Daily News. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

## Feel like traveling?

Try linguine with lemon pesto, inspired by dreams of the Amalfi Coast

By Gretchen McKay  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Are you getting itchy for travel? Me too, now that the spring is teasing us with warm and sunny weather that just begs for a road trip. In particular, I've been dreaming of Italy after seeing a friend's post about his family's trip to the Amalfi Coast. My husband and I were lucky to visit the cliffside village of Positano years ago for an anniversary, and you don't soon forget places with such stunning scenery and amazing food. There's pasta, of course, but the region also is known for its incredible lemons, which can grow larger than baseballs and are used to make its famed limoncello, along with sorbet, seafood recipes and cake. Its juice also often finds its way into sauces, inspiring me to sate my longing for a trip to Italy with a fresh and fragrant lemony pasta dish I might find on a menu there. I accentuated the lemon flavor with lemon-infused olive oil, and traded slivered almonds for the more traditional pine nuts. (Pignoli are more expensive.) If you can't find fresh English peas (they come in bags at Trader Joe's), frozen are fine. Pesto is traditionally made with crushed basil leaves, garlic, pine nuts and Parmesan cheese blended with olive oil. Here, thin strips of lemon zest are also added to the food processor, along with lemon juice to imbue the sauce with a taste of sunshine. Asparagus adds to the burst of spring flavor. Pesto is often paired with corkscrew pastas such as fusilli because the grooves grab onto the sauce, but I've found it works well with linguine, too. Linguine with lemon, asparagus and peas PG tested 1 cup fresh English peas 1 pound dried linguine 2 organic lemons, zest removed in long strips and juice reserved (about 1/4 cup) 1/2 cup toasted slivered almonds 2 generous handfuls fresh basil or spinach (about 2 lightly packed cups)

1 clove garlic, smashed  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for passing  
Pinch of sugar  
1/4 to 1/3 cup good-quality olive oil (I used lemon-infused oil), plus more for pan  
Salt and pepper  
1/2 pound fresh asparagus, cut into 2-inch pieces  
Bring 2 quarts of generously salted water to a boil. Add peas, and cook for 60 seconds. Remove to bowl with a slotted spoon or hand-held strainer, and set aside. Bring water back to boil and add linguine, and cook at a boil until al dente, about 8-9 minutes. Reserve 1 cup of cooking liquid, then drain pasta and add to a large bowl. While pasta is cooking, make pesto. Place lemon zest, almonds and basil in bowl of a food processor; process until coarsely grated, about 30 seconds. Add garlic, Parmesan cheese, lemon juice and a pinch of sugar (to balance out the lemon's bitterness) and process until the mixture comes together into a thick paste. With food processor running, drizzle olive oil into the mixture in a steady stream. Continue processing until the oil is integrated smoothly, stopping occasionally to scrape the sides of the food processor with a spatula. If you prefer a smoother pesto, add more oil and/or lemon juice to taste. Season to taste with salt and pepper, and set aside until pasta is done. Heat a generous drizzle or two of oil in a cast-iron or other heavy skillet. Add asparagus and saute until lightly browned and tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Add cooked peas and saute another minute, just until warmed through. In a large bowl, pour pesto over hot pasta and toss to coat, adding a little reserved pasta water if sauce needs to be thinned. Add asparagus and peas and toss until well combined. (The peas will try to hide in the bottom of the bowl.) Serve immediately in warmed bowls, with additional Parmesan for passing. Serves 4-6. ©2022 the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



Emilee Chinn / Getty Images / TNS

The Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) acknowledges the crowd after scoring his 500th NHL goal during the first period against the Philadelphia Flyers at PPG Paints Arena on Feb. 15 in Pittsburgh.

## NHL VETS STILL HAVEN'T BEEN DETHRONED

Young stars still have a ways to go to catch up with Crosby, Malkin

By Ron Cook  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh

You might have heard Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby had a great day Sunday against the Detroit Red Wings. Malkin scored a hat trick and finished with four points. Crosby had a goal and two assists. The Penguins crushed Detroit, 11-2, a pretty nice tune-up for their rematch against the New York Rangers on Tuesday night at PPG Paints Arena.

Maybe you didn't hear what Toronto's Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner did later Sunday night in a 5-2 win against the Florida Panthers. Matthews scored his NHL-best 48th goal. Marner had three assists to become the fastest player in Maple Leafs history to get to 300 career assists.

And maybe you didn't hear what Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid did for Edmonton against Calgary the night before. Draisaitl had a hat trick and a four-point game. McDavid added two assists. The Oilers still lost, 9-5.

What a weekend it was for NHL stars, old and young.

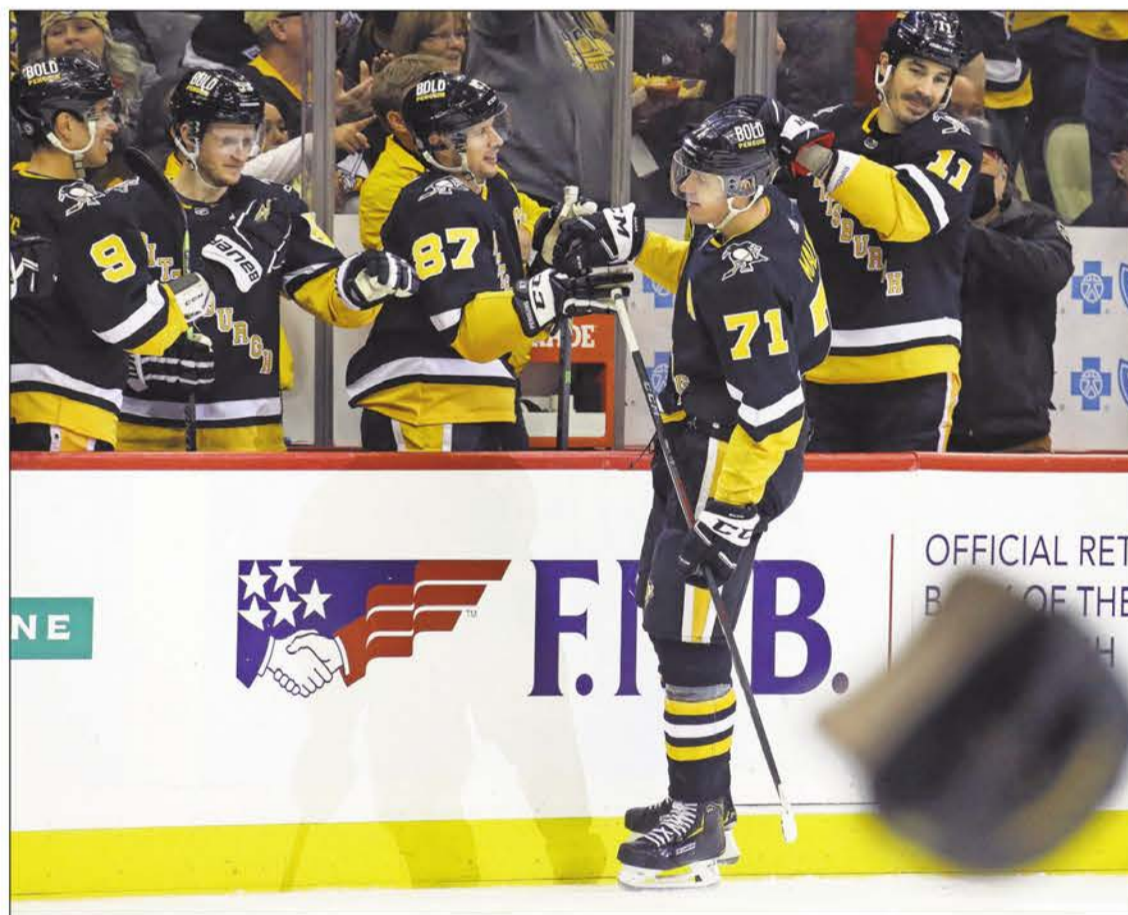
I'm thinking we're pretty lucky here.

That isn't to say Malkin and Crosby are better players. They aren't at this stage of their career. Matthews is a favorite to win the Hart Memorial Trophy as league MVP and has averaged 41 goals a season since coming into the NHL in 2016-17. McDavid was No. 1 in points this season with 97 going into Monday's night game against Arizona and ranked fourth on the all-time points-per-game list with 1.42. Draisaitl had 94 points this season, including 47 goals.

Matthews, McDavid and Draisaitl are fabulous players.

The reason we're so lucky is because Malkin and Crosby have been able to use their terrific individual success to lift the Penguins to the highest of heights.

Do you realize Matthews and Marner have been in



Charles LeClaire / USA Today Sports

Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) congratulates center Evgeni Malkin (71) after Malkin scored a goal to complete a hat trick against the Red Wings during the third period at PPG Paints Arena.

the NHL since that 2016-17 season and that Toronto has yet to win a playoff series with them? It won't be favored to win one this spring, either, because of ongoing goaltending issues.

Do you realize Draisaitl and McDavid have been in the league since 2015-16 and that Edmonton has won just one postseason series with them? The Oilers missed the playoffs in three of their six seasons and are no lock to make it this spring.

Crosby and Malkin have been much more successful, much more quickly.

The two have been teammates since the 2006-07 season. They went to the Stanley Cup final in 2007-08 and won the whole thing in 2008-09. They added two more Cups in 2016 and 2017.

We really have been damn lucky.

The Penguins' achievements in the regular season with Crosby and Malkin also have been extraordinary. The team is headed to the postseason for

the 16th consecutive year, the longest active streak in North American sports. Its record when Crosby and Malkin both play in a game is 486-256-81, according to Penguins historian Bob Grove. What's a crying shame is that Crosby or Malkin or both have missed 401 out of a possible 1,224 regular-season games because of injury or illness. That means they've both played in just 67.2% of the team's games. Feel free to feel robbed in that sense.

It's not surprising the Penguins won Sunday when Crosby and Malkin both scored goals. The team is 94-10-3 when that happens. It's nice to think you were in the Uptown rink to see their magic or at least caught it on television.

Mike Sullivan hasn't just called Crosby and Malkin "generational talents." He has said he considers them to be two of the best players of all time.

Do you feel like arguing? Crosby ranks 42nd on the

NHL's all-time goals list with 510 and is tied for 23rd on the points list with 1,394. Malkin is tied for 15th on the points-per-game list with 1.17.

Both are locks for the Hall of Fame.

The point of this isn't to diminish the accomplishments of Matthews, McDavid and Draisaitl. They likely will join Crosby and Malkin in the Hall one day. It's not as if they don't have a chance to still lead their team to postseason success. The Penguins didn't make the playoffs until Mario Lemieux's fifth season in 1988-89 and didn't win the first of two consecutive Cups until his seventh season in 1990-91.

All I'm saying is there is no guarantee for Matthews, McDavid and Draisaitl despite their individual brilliance. They still have a long, long way to go to match Crosby and Malkin.

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## Will Tiger play the Masters?

It's suddenly not a ridiculous question

By Chuck Schilken  
Los Angeles Times

Tiger Woods wants to play at the Masters.

Of course he does. Many of his signature moments took place at Augusta National, including his first major tournament victory 25 years ago and his 15th major championship, following five major back surgeries, in 2019.

Still, the idea of Woods taking part in the event next week, less than 14 months after the horrific car accident that nearly cost him a leg, if not his life, seems unlikely.

But he appears to be doing everything he can in an attempt to make that happen.

According to multiple media reports, Woods flew to Augusta, Ga., on his private jet Tuesday, nine days before the start of the 2022 Masters, and took part in a practice round. Sports Illustrated reports Woods played in a group that included his 13-year-old son Charlie and former PGA Championship winner Justin Thomas.

Possibly the biggest challenge for Woods would be six days of walking the hilly course at Augusta on a right leg that was surgically repaired for fractures suffered in the upper and lower portions of the tibia and fibula bones when he crashed his SUV in Rolling Hills Estates on Feb. 23, 2021.

He has yet to return to competitive golf, although he and Charlie took part in the two-day PNC Championship in December. That event, however, allows its participants to use a golf cart.

Just last month Woods told reporters he had no idea when he'd be able to compete again, saying things like, "I'm still working on the walking part," and, "My golf activity has been very limited."

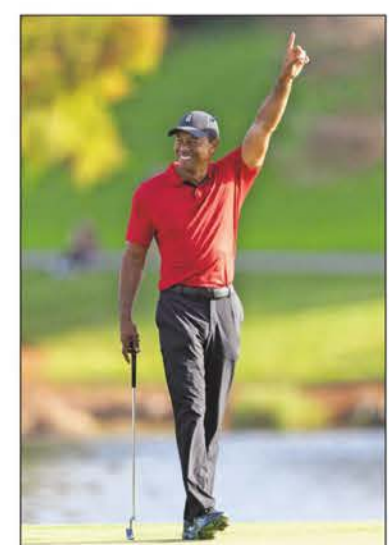
"I was in a cart at the PNC," he said. "I can play weekend warrior golf — that's easy. But to be able to be out here and play six rounds of golf, a practice round, pro-am, four competitive days ... it's the cumulative effect of all that. I'm not able to do that yet."

But speculation of a possible comeback attempt at Augusta has been building, with the recent sight of Woods practicing at his home course, Medalist Golf Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., conjuring memories of him winning the 2008 U.S. Open on a broken leg with a torn ACL.

Plus, Woods is still listed on the online Masters participants page. That doesn't necessarily mean he plans to play — it just means that at this point he hasn't informed anyone otherwise.

Tuesday's reported activities seem to indicate that, at the very least, he hasn't decided yet.

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Jeremy Reper / USA Today Sports/File Photo

Tiger Woods reacting to Cameron Kuchar draining a long putt on the 17th green during the final round of the PNC Championship golf tournament at Grande Lakes Orlando Course on Dec. 19, 2021, in Orlando, Florida.

## PODCASTS:

Kirsten Krull leads the Weekend Rewind on the NCAA regionals wrap-up and Gophers and Mavericks moving on to Frozen Four

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

# AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR

Frozen Four coaches describe what kickstarted their seasons



Jason Wachter / The Rink Live

Minnesota Gophers head coach Bob Motzko talks with players during a break in the first period against Michigan State on Feb. 5 at 3M Arena at Mariucci in Minneapolis.

### Motzko kept believing in freshmen after Gophers' slow start

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Gophers were 10-8 as the new year approached and for weeks head coach Bob Motzko was already feeling the pinch of his team's performance. But in Motzko's words, his team was playing well enough, improving enough and in time, just as those doubters changed their calendars, the team would get rolling.

Now the Gophers are rolling into the Frozen Four.

Their arenas separated by just 83 miles, the Gophers and Minnesota State Mankato will play 1,400 miles away in Boston on April 7 in the semifinals.

The emergence of five new forwards — freshmen Tristan Broz, Matthew Knies, Chaz Lucius, Rhett Pitlick and Aaron Huglen — helped run the Gophers' 2022 record to 18-4.

"Well Knies and Lucius took off out of the blocks as elite players,"

Motzko said Tuesday during a Frozen Four news conference. "Then Huglen started to come, then Pitlick started to come and Broz started to come to mesh with (Ben) Meyers, (Blake) McLaughlin, (Sammy) Walker and our d-corps that were all returning. It took a bit of time for that to come together."

The Gophers and Mavericks have not met since Minnesota State's 4-0 victory in the Loveland Regional final a year ago.

"The fact that we went through the grind last year to win our playoffs, the Big Ten playoffs a year ago and we got to a region championship last year, we drew off that."

This is the seventh time all four Frozen Four teams, including Big Ten foe Michigan and Denver of the NCHC, are from the West.

"The Big Ten takes some criticism and I believe our programs are very strong," Motzko said. "We've beat the snot out of each other, a lot like the NCHC and all the leagues. This is another step forward for us."

— Rob Beer



Contributed / University of Michigan Photography

Michigan coach Mel Pearson, seen here at center in this file photo, is leading the storied hockey program into its 26th Frozen Four, the most in college hockey.

### COVID protocols may have kept Michigan squad together

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — In some ways the "COVID season" of 2020-21 was the worst of times for the Michigan Wolverines. Sure, they managed to win 15 of their 26 games and finish in the upper half of the Big Ten, and they qualified for the NCAA tournament, but there were myriad challenges getting there, and once they arrived at the Fargo Regional, things went seriously sideways.

Positive COVID tests in Fargo meant they flew home without getting to play a NCAA tournament game. It was a harsh end to Mel Pearson's fifth season as their head coach.

In winning the Big Ten tournament this year and making a return trip to the Frozen Four for the first time since 2018, Pearson admits seeing a few of the advantages that COVID might have brought their way. For example, leading scorer Matt Beniers — the only Massachusetts native who will play in the Frozen Four in Boston — was bound for Harvard, before

the Ivy League schools canceled all athletics due to the pandemic. Beniers re-routed to Michigan, and has been a key player in maize and blue.

Also, after a season spent in mostly-empty rinks, top NHL Draft picks like defensemen Owen Power and Luke Hughes, and forwards Kent Johnson and Brendan Brisson, decided to stay another year and get a more "real" college experience. With that in mind, there's a sense this could be the last run with this deep, talented Michigan roster.

"This year we're not sure who's leaving. We've got a really good idea, we just have to make the most of it when those players are here," said Pearson, who was an assistant coach on the 1998 Michigan team which won the program's most recent NCAA title, in Boston. "We weren't sure we'd have Owen Power back. We weren't sure we'd have Matty Beniers back, and a couple other guys, but they decided to return to Michigan and have the experience they didn't have last year."

— Jess Myers



Jason Wachter / The Rink Live

Minnesota State head coach Mike Hastings and players wait for the referee's call while reviewing a play against St. Cloud State in the third period Oct. 8, 2021, at the Mayo Clinic Health System Events Center in Mankato.

### Minnesota State relishing moment as flag bearers of state's southern hockey hotbed

MANKATO, Minn. — Years from now, kids sitting around the campfire at Lake Zumbro or Sakatah Lake or on the banks of the Minnesota River may hear their parents tell stories of the glory days of southern Minnesota hockey, and the amazing winter of 2021-22.

Long before a coach originally from Austin (Minnesota's Bob Motzko) had beaten a coach from Rochester (Western Michigan's Pat Ferschweiler) and a woman from Lake City (Gophers star Taylor Heise) had claimed the top individual honor in women's college hockey, they had somehow crammed 10,000 frostbitten fans into a 6,500-seat football stadium on the Minnesota State Mankato campus to watch the Mavericks beat CCHA rival St. Thomas as the showpiece of Hockey Day Minnesota 2022.

"We had ... people come and enjoy and see what it is now and to understand there's hockey in southern Minnesota, and throughout our borders, that it's not just the Iron Range. Down here in Mankato

the saying was, 'This is how we hockey,'" said Mavericks coach Mike Hastings, who has his roots in the 218, in Crookston. "There's just a lot of quality hockey and a lot of quality hockey people within this state. We're proud to be a part of it, and it just continues to grow the game."

Of course, the biggest accomplishment — which could forever hang on a banner inside the Mavs' rink — would involve getting two more wins (to add to the ridiculous 37 they already have) in Boston and claiming MSU's first Division I national championship. The Mavericks got to Pittsburgh last year, falling to in-state rival St. Cloud State in the semifinals. The luck of the draw has them head-to-head with Minnesota in the semis this year. They're hoping to draw on experience when they face the Gophers, who MSU beat in a regional final last season.

"There's a little bit different vibe because they have had an experience of being in a Frozen Four," Hastings said, admitting that with a full complement of fans in the building and a post-pandemic experience ahead, they're looking forward to having more fun this time around.

— Jess Myers



Contributed / Denver University Athletics

David Carle, seen here in this file photo, has led the Denver Pioneers to one-goal wins over UMass-Lowell and Minnesota Duluth to reach the Frozen Four.

### 2004 NCAA championship a starting point for Denver's Frozen Four run

DENVER — About the time we were worried about the Y2K bug, it would have been fair to call the Denver Pioneers a "once great" hockey program. At the time they had won five NCAA titles but the most recent came before man walked on the moon.

Then, a crazy weekend in Boston changed everything. At the 2004 Frozen Four, the Pioneers trailed Minnesota Duluth 3-1 in the third period before roaring back to beat the Bulldogs and reach the NCAA title game for the first time since Richard Nixon was in the White House.

Watching from home in Alaska as his elder brother Matt — a freshman defenseman for the Pioneers then — played in the championship game, a 14-year-old David Carle saw Denver score one goal. He saw an apparent Maine goal disallowed. He saw two Pioneers whistled for penalties in the final minutes. He saw Maine pull its goalie for a 6-on-3 advantage,

and he saw Pioneers miraculously hold on to claim the national title.

"That championship was a lot for our program and our university," said David Carle, now in his fourth season as the Pioneers' head coach. "One of the more chaotic moments in our school's history, but an unbelievable year and a championship that put Denver back on the map in the modern college hockey landscape."

The Pioneers have won two more NCAA titles since then, claimed the Hobey Baker Award twice (with Matt Carle and Will Butcher winning it) and have made 16 NCAA tournament appearances since 2002. Carle took the Pioneers to the 2019 Frozen Four, and has them back this year after winning the Loveland Regional, beating UMass Lowell and Minnesota Duluth.

"I'm very proud of our team and the efforts. Neither game was easy, both tied going into the third period. We stuck with our game plan and found a way to execute and got two hard-fought one-goal games," Carle said.

— Jess Myers