

# Makers gonna make

### 2022 Studio Hop features 9 artists in 5 studios in Kandiyohi County

By Macy Moore  
West Central Tribune

KANDIYOHI COUNTY — A slew of area studios, where local artists hone their crafts and create their wares, were put on public display over the weekend, as the annual Lakes Area Art Studio Hop was featured in local communities including Svea, Willmar, New London and Spicer.

From potters to painters and everything in between, nine artists in total took part in this year's event, which began Friday evening and continued through 5 p.m. Saturday.

Some artists opened up their homes, where their studios reside, while others filled loca-



Macy Moore / West Central Tribune

Claire Anderson, 6, reacts to an art display at DEMO Inc. south of Willmar on Friday during the 2022 Lakes Area Art Studio Hop. This year's event featured five studios and nine artists who shared their work with community members.

tions including the Barn Theatre in Willmar and Little Theatre in New London.

The event, which was structured as an open-

door studio tour, created an opportunity for community members to speak with the artists about their creations in a peaceful, laidback

environment.

The event is funded, in part, by a grant from the Willmar Arts Fund of Willmar Area Community Foundation.

## ST. MARY'S

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### School history

St. Mary's Catholic School was founded in 1897, when the Sisters of St. Joseph came to Bird Island to run the brand-new school, which was to be part of St. Mary's Church. St. Mary's offered K-12 education until 1972, when the last class of seniors graduated. Since 1973 the school has provided K-8 grade education. Each year, a graduation ceremony is held for the eighth-graders.

According to trivia from Father George Schmidt, the smallest high school graduating class was that of 1919, when there were only two. The largest number of graduating seniors was 36 in 1949, 1968 and 1969.

Other school history highlights shared by Schmidt included the champion girl's basketball team of 1922 and Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton's visit to the

school as a thank-you to McKaia Ryberg in 2012.

St. Mary's has lived in four different buildings over its 125 years of operation.

In 1897, it held its first classes in the parish house, as the new school building, opened in 1898, was being built. The school quickly outgrew that first building and a larger school would follow in 1913. A small piece of the 1913 school still exists, as the statue, cornerstone and pillars from the school are now part of the school's digital sign at the front of the building.

The present-day school, located right beside the church, was built in 1915 and was originally St. Mary's High School.

Over the past few years, maintenance projects have been done to keep the 107-year-old building in good condition. There are new floors on the main floor and the original hardwood floors on the second floor were refinished. The roof was replaced in 2018, and upcoming

projects include tuckpointing the brick exterior, new windows and an upgraded playground. And, of course, the technology has continued to change with smart boards having replaced chalkboards and students now with tablets instead of paper and pencils.

"We are so, so fortunate to have people believe in us like they do. It is mind blowing to me how amazing people are to us. Your hearts are huge," Bertrand Sigurdson said.

If it wasn't for the community of Bird Island and members of the church, the school never would have taken place or existed for so long and so successfully, Bertrand Sigurdson said.

"This all started because you or your family members were here, or your parents were here or your grandparents were here. You made this happen," Bertrand Sigurdson said. "The next 125 years, the sky is the limit, and who knows what it will bring."

## RACISM

From Page A1

often mentioned in housing advertisements, continued even after 1948, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the clauses unenforceable.

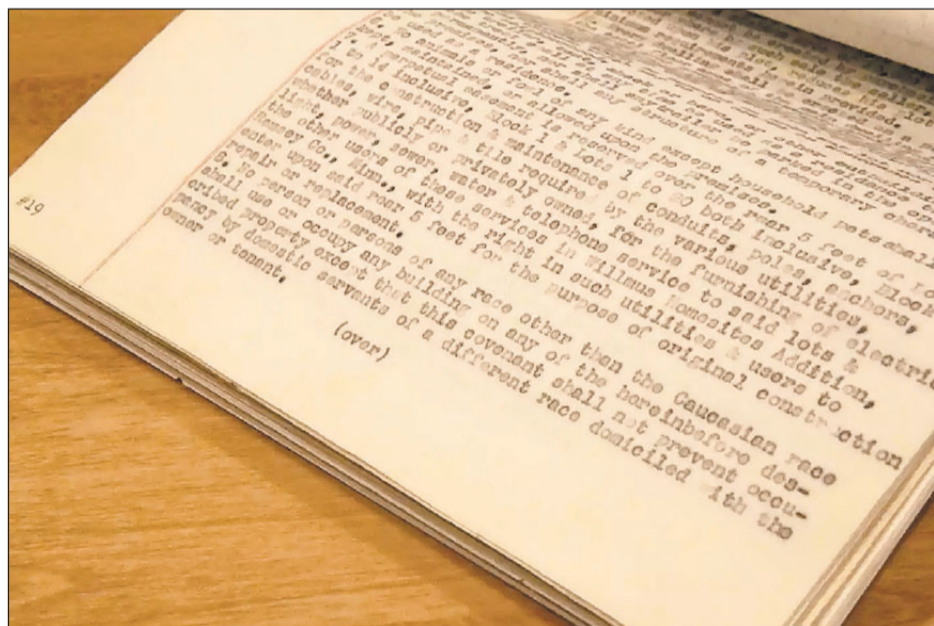
"Covenants were often put on these properties as a way to attract white buyers," Corey said. "And unfortunately they didn't think anything of throwing a lot of people out and under the bus to attract people to those properties."

Since it started in 2016, Mapping Prejudice has identified more than 25,000 covenants in Hennepin County. For the last three years they've partnered with the Welcoming the Dear Neighbor? project at St. Catherine University on a similar effort in Ramsey County, where they've confirmed about 2,400 covenants so far. Corey said that's likely a significant undercount because of missing or unreadable deeds.

He said the process begins by feeding microfilmed records through optical character recognition software, which looks for racist language. Anything the computer flags then goes to a group of volunteers. It's a laborious process.

"Combined between Ramsey County and Hennepin County we've had over 6,000 volunteers work on this data," Corey said

Cindy Schwie is among the group of volunteers. Like Djevi, Schwie lives in Roseville and said she became interested in the project after spotting



Matt Sepic / MPR News

The deed to Cindy Schwie's house in Roseville, Minnesota, includes language forbidding "persons of any race other than the Caucasian race" from purchasing or renting the home.

"disgusting" language in the title abstract for the home that she purchased with her husband in 1974.

The clause says that "No person or persons of any race other than the Caucasian race shall use or occupy any building on any of the hereinbefore described property except that this covenant shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants of a different race domiciled with the owner or tenant."

Even though the clause has been illegal for decades, Schwie said she's working to discharge it, in part to send a message to her home's future owners.

"As homeowners, we do not want this on there," Schwie said. "It's not what we believe in. And we want other people to know in history that we did not believe in this."

Carol Gurstelle lives

near Schwie in a mid-century subdivision where all the homes have racially restrictive covenants. Gurstelle said the clause on her property deed is specific and explicit; it bans "Negroes," as well as Jews and people of Asian descent.

Gurstelle said she learned about the clause when she purchased the home nearly five decades ago. Gurstelle said she long considered it a curious bit of archaic legalese.

"Since then, with the rising awareness of prejudices in this country, and how practices such as racial covenants have shaped the way our cities have grown, I'm more offended by it now than I was then."

Besides Roseville, the new map shows pockets of covenants scattered across St. Paul, Maplewood, White Bear Lake and other cities.

St. Catherine University sociologist Daniel Williams said the effort to identify restrictive covenants is not just about nullifying racist language. Its larger goal is to illustrate how the pernicious influence of that language remains.

"Segregation was not inevitable," Williams said. "But once segregation happened, it did effectively racialize space, and that had consequences that were really never ending."

Because covenants and other racist policies restricted homeownership, Williams said that Black people have had far fewer opportunities than others to build wealth and pass it to future generations. He points to a 2021 Federal Reserve study that pins the median net worth of white households in Minnesota at \$211,000. For Black households, that figure is \$0.

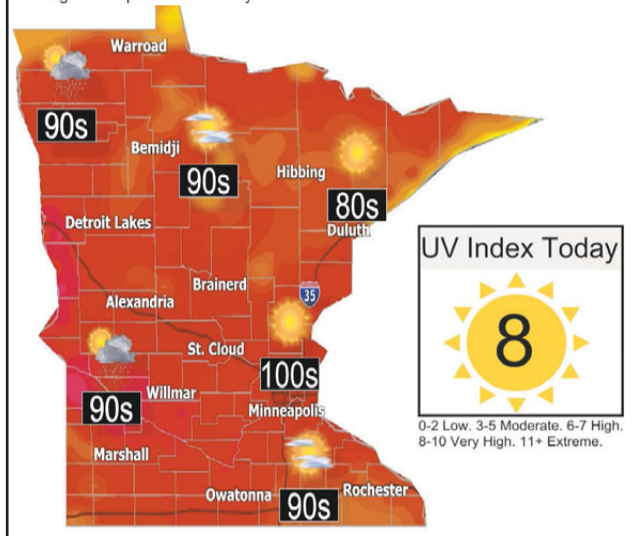


Jared Piepenburg, Jesse Ritka, Chief Meteorologist John Wheeler, Lydia Blume, Robert Poynter

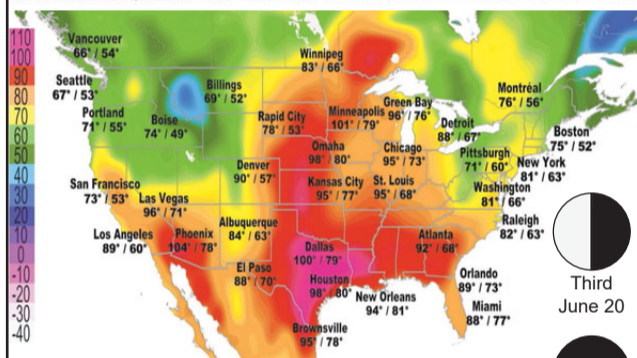
## StormTRACKER WILLMAR FORECAST

Monday 99/72 PM Thunderstorms Wind: S 16 mph	Tuesday 88/63 Mostly Sunny Wind: W 18 mph	Wednesday 86/67 Sunny Wind: NW 10 mph	Thursday 92/71 Mostly Sunny Wind: SW 14 mph
Friday 92/68 Isolated Thunderstorms Wind: S 11 mph	Saturday 82/61 AM Thunderstorms Wind: NW 14 mph	Sunday 80/59 Partly Cloudy Wind: NW 12 mph	Monday 83/61 Sunny Wind: NW 8 mph

\*Average wind speed for each day



Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow	Regional Weather	Today	Tomorrow
Bemidji, MN	94/66	80/53	Marshall, MN	98/72	87/63
Duluth, MN	89/70	86/60	Minneapolis, MN	101/79	92/67
Eau Claire, WI	97/76	93/65	Rochester, MN	96/72	92/72
Fargo, ND	98/67	84/58	Sioux Falls, SD	99/70	87/63
International Falls, MN	94/67	77/54	St. Cloud, MN	100/73	88/62

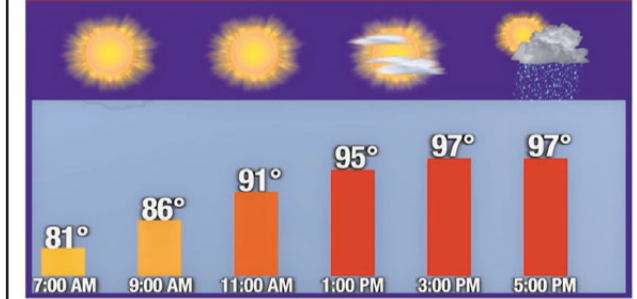


### StormTRACKER Forecast

Partly cloudy with highs in the mid to upper-90s. Scattered t-storms likely during the evening and overnight.

Almanac Through 6 pm Sunday		
Temperature	High	Low
Sunday	99°	73°
Avg. Wind Direction Sunday	SE	
Peak Wind Speed Sunday	18 mph	

Sunrise: 5:32 a.m. Sunset: 9:10 p.m.  
Moonrise: 1:27 a.m. Moonset: 12:45 p.m.



### TODAY'S INFO

#### What's happening?

Do you know of something that might make a good story or photograph for the newspaper? We really appreciate hearing ideas from readers. Just give us a call at 320-235-1150, or stop in our office at 2208 Trott Ave. S.W., Willmar.

#### Lottery results

Winning numbers drawn Saturday and Sunday are:  
Powerball: 10-19-40-45-58  
Powerball: 25  
Estimated jackpot: \$258 million  
Saturday Daily 3: 6-2-8  
Saturday Daily 3: 6-9-4  
Saturday Northstar Cash: 8-14-15-18-22  
Sunday Northstar Cash: 11-18-26-28-31  
Lucky for Life: 2-16-23-38-47  
Lucky Ball: 9

For more information, go to [mnlottory.com](http://mnlottory.com).

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