



Hector man in prison for 6th violation of predatory offender registration. **A3.**

**Stingers look for home sweep. B1.**

WILLMAR, MINN.

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Photos by Macy Moore / West Central Tribune

Cam Othoudt is bucked from his bull Wednesday during the Kandiyohi County Fair bull riding event at the fairgrounds in Willmar. For more photos from the event please visit page A2.

## BULL RIDING CAPS WEDNESDAY EVENTS AT KANDIYOHI COUNTY FAIR

**By Macy Moore**  
West Central Tribune  
**Willmar**  
The boots of cowboys and cowgirls stirred the dust surrounding

the rodeo arena at the Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds in Willmar on Wednesday evening as folks gathered for a fun night to watch some of the best

bull riders from around the state do their best to stay on a raging bull as long as possible. Wednesday kicked off a large portion of offerings

at the Kandiyohi County Fair. To see what fun events are coming up through this weekend, visit [www.kandifair.com/schedule.html](http://www.kandifair.com/schedule.html).



Maci Schneider, 7, watches Kandiyohi County Fair bull riding from atop the crow's nest at the fairgrounds Wednesday in Willmar.



A bullfighter prepares to move away from a bull Wednesday during the Kandiyohi County Fair bull riding event at the fairgrounds in Willmar.



Cowboys mill around the corrals prior to the start of the Kandiyohi County Fair bull riding event Wednesday at the fairgrounds in Willmar.

## Renville County poised to approve sales tax

**By Tom Cherveney**  
West Central Tribune

OLIVIA — The Renville County Board of Commissioners is expected to approve a local option sales tax at its next meeting.

The commissioners indicated their support for the proposal after hosting a public hearing on it at their meeting Aug. 9.

The commissioners since last spring have been discussing the possibility of a local option sales tax to raise funds for road improvements. During those discussions, they have indicated that they were hoping to hear public comments on the idea before acting on it.

The public hearing provided no such opportunity. There were no members of the public present at the meeting or online to offer comments.

Board Chair Randy Kramer and commissioners indicated that they have heard some comments from constituents during casual conversations, but the issue has apparently not generated any strong sentiments.

The chair noted that the comments he has heard generally were along the lines of while people did not want a new tax, they realized the need and desired to see roads improved.

That's exactly what is intended.

The resolution the commissioners plan to adopt will specify that revenues raised by the local option sales tax will be dedicated toward reconstructing a nine-mile stretch of County Road 11 between its intersections with County Road 6 north of Renville and U.S. Highway 71 north of Olivia. The road is an important east-west artery for moving

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## What will it mean for the state?

### Minnesota lawmakers survive challenges from political firebrands

**By Dana Ferguson**  
West Central Tribune  
ST. PAUL — Several Minnesota state lawmakers vying for re-election on Tuesday, Aug. 9, bucked challenges from more extreme members of their political parties to advance to the general election. A pair of Republican senators hoping to return to the Legislature came out ahead in Tuesday's primary elections after they lost local endorsing contests to anti-establishment candidates backed by Action 4 Liberty. The group and candidates it supports advocate against many state COVID-19 mitigation measures and is in support of false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. In Senate District 5, state Sen. Paul Utke, R-Park Rapids, overcame a challenge from

GOP-endorsed and Action 4 Liberty supported Bret Bussman, who ran as a "Christian Constitutional Conservative," and Dale A.P. Anderson. Utke advances to face Democrat A. John Peters in November. Incumbent Eric Pratt, R-Prior Lake, edged out Republican-endorsed candidate and nurse Natalie Barnes who campaigned on being "pro-health freedom" in Senate District 54. Pratt is set to face DFL-er Alicia Donahue in the general election. More traditional conservative groups threw their support behind Utke and Pratt in the contests and ultimately blocked their opponents from moving forward. Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller, R-Winona, on Wednesday, Aug. 10, said the contests yielded good results for his party. "Our incumbents were successful because they worked incredibly hard and we have a great field of newcomers who will be moving on from the primary," Miller said. "People

are struggling with President Biden's cost of living increases and people are concerned about crime. Republicans are focused on giving money back to the people by eliminating the social security tax and lowering taxes so hardworking Minnesotans have more money in their pockets every single paycheck, week after week, month after month, year after year." And a handful of other lawmakers from both parties also managed to fend off opponents on Tuesday. Incumbent Sen. Jeff Howe, R-Rockville, bested Ashley Burg to move forward to the general election. In Senate District 15, incumbent Gary Dahms trumped challenger Larvita McFarquhar. Sen. Gene Dornink beat out Lisa Hanson, an Albert Lea wine bar owner who was found guilty of defying executive orders requiring restaurants and bars to close for in-person service.



Steve Kuchera / Duluth News Tribune

Election official David Hagemann hands a ballot to voter Brittany Bowen on Tuesday at Duluth's Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Sen. Omar Fateh, DFL-Minneapolis, emerged victorious in a contest with Shaun Laden in District 62. In District 65, Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul, overcame Sheigh Freeberg and Zuki Ellis to move on to the general election. In the House, incumbent Erik Mortensen, an anti-establishment lawmaker who was removed from an offshoot GOP caucus, bested former

Rep. Bob Loonan. Mortensen had the support of Action 4 Liberty. With a few exceptions, the prior officeholders emerged victorious and now face less intense races in November. Their wins start to give voters an idea of what the Statehouse could look like in 2023, after all 201 state legislative seats and statewide offices are on **CHALLENGE:** Page A2