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16 pages

Volume 134, No. 182

IN SPORTS, A6

# **MSU DOMINATES CCHA AWARDS**

# IN LOCAL & STATE, B1 TIDY CLEAN **EXPANDS IN AREA**

# IN FOOD, B7 **SPROUTED WHOLE GRAINS**

# Today's **O**BITUARIES

- Elaine L Larson
- Gerald 'Jerry' Coopman
- Linda Hanson

# **O**PINIONS

**Bipartisanship** A willingness to compromise by both parties will serve Minnesotans best. — A4

> More **O**NLINE

# **COVID** has killed as much as Spanish flu

COVID-19 has now killed about as many Americans as the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic did — approximately 675,000.

The U.S. population a century ago was just onethird of what it is today, meaning the flu cut a much bigger, more lethal swath through the country. But the COVID-19 crisis is by any measure a colossal tragedy in its own right, especially given the incredible advances in scientific knowledge since then and the failure to take maximum advantage of the vaccines available this

Read this story on mankatofreepress.com

# **LOTTERY**

Monday's Daily 3

6-3-2 Monday's Gopher 5

1-7-21-23-44 Monday's Powerball 37-51-54-58-60 and 18

Saturday's Lotto America

15-25-27-37-49 and 6 Monday's Northstar Cash

11-12-14-26-28

Friday's Mega Millions 17-32-40-59-61 and 18

# PAGEFINDER

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WEATHER, PAGE B8

# Partly sunny

High of 66. Low of 42.



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Mankato, Minnesota

# Teen leaves hospital in time to see fatally ill dad

**By Jordan Smith** 

jsmith@mankatofreepress.com

# **NORTH MANKATO**

— Having spent nearly four weeks reeling from COVID-19 in the intensive care unit of the Mankato hospital, Kian Olson returned home Thursday.

For his mother, Nissa Sugden, it meant relief from a struggle to comfort him while he lay in a hospital bed. The teen was met with a colorful lawn sign welcoming him back to the family's North

Mankato home.

The reprieve was shattered for both of them, however, by a different source of grief.

Mark Olson, Kian's father, told The Free Press on Sept. 3 that doctors said nothing more could be done to battle the pancreatic cancer that had plagued him for six years.

He died early Saturday morning. He was

Kian had brought Mark from a hospital to his home, in upper North Mankato, for hospice care in mid-August. Mark had been COVID-positive at the time and was likely the source of Kian's infection.

Mark watched over Zoom as his 19-yearold son, whose longest hospital stay began Aug. 21, went from unresponsive and reliant on a ventilator to capable of holding slow conversations.

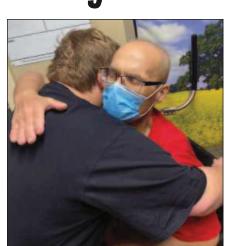
Sugden said Monday that while Kian was in the hospital, he

couldn't focus on his own recovery because he was anxious about his father's declining health.

"I was in a weird situation where I had Kian who was doing everything he could do to get out and see his dad one last time, then I had his dad who was hanging on long enough to see his son one last time," Sugden said.

Because it was an end-of-life scenario,

Please see TEEN, Page A2



Courtesy Nissa Sugden

Too weak to stand. Mark Olson closes his eves and embraces his son, Kian Olson, at St. James Medical Center. Mark died of pancreatic cancer Saturday at age 49.

# A long portage

Man carrying canoe across state for suicide prevention



Pat Christman

Evan Hansen portages his canoe along a county road near Blue Earth. Hansen is carrying the canoe 313 miles across Minnesota to raise money and awareness for suicide prevention.

# **Bv Pat Christman**

pchristman@mankatofreepress.com

The gravel crunches under Evan Hansen's feet with every step he takes along a quiet county road outside of Blue Earth. That sound and the everpresent wind are all he hears as he walks, carrying his 15-pound Wenonah canoe across the state to raise money and awareness for suicide prevention.

The 26-year-old former Boundary Waters canoe guide is collecting more than money on his journey, which he will donate to the southeast Minnesota chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. He adds the names of those who've lost their lives to suicide on the hull of the canoe at the request of

Please see PORTAGE, Page A8



A video and photo gallery accompanies this story mankatofreepress.com

Evan Hansen carries a canoe with the names of people who have lost their lives to suicide during his 313-mile fundraising portage across Minnesota.

# **More Information**

To donate to Evan Hansen's cause, or to add a name to the canoe, go to https://www.4giving.com/donation/ccc2?fbclid=lwAR0jSTAe3ls4QdK\_ NzBpxRW7HBYISOyqt4z\_7LtA\_TOnSwu0G1AjTelu4Ns.

You can also follow his portage on Facebook at https://www.facebook. com/portageforapurpose.

# Pfizer: **Vaccine OK** for children

# Authorization in U.S. sought

**The Associated Press** 

Pfizer said Monday its COVID-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek U.S. authorization for this age group soon — a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioN Tech already is available for anyone 12 and older. But with kids now back in school and the extra-contagious delta variant causing a huge jump in pediatric infections, many parents are anxiously awaiting vaccinations for their younger children.

For elementary schoolaged kids, Pfizer tested a much lower dose — a third of the amount that's in each shot given now. Yet after their second dose, children ages 5 to 11 developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as teenagers and young adults getting the regular-strength shots, Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president, told The Associated Press.

The kid dosage also proved safe, with similar or fewer temporary side effects - such as sore arms, fever or achiness — that teens experience, he said.

"I think we really hit the sweet spot," said Gruber, who's also a pediatrician.

Gruber said the companies aim to apply to the Food and Drug Administration by the end of the month for emergency use in this age

Please see PFIZER, Page A8



# **Register To Win**

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# **2021 Emmy ratings** up to 7.4M viewers

**NEW YORK** — The Emmys accomplished what is becoming a rarity for awards shows these days, by actually increasing its viewership over the previous years.

The Nielsen company estimated that 7.4 million people watched Sunday night's show, where the comedy "Ted Lasso" and streaming service Netflix were the big winners.

That's up from the 6.1 million people who watched a ceremony sharply curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic last year. The previous year, 6.9 million people watched the show that celebrates television programming.

CBS estimates the viewership number should increase slightly when Nielsen's count of people who watched outside of their homes is included. Those numbers weren't immediately available on Monday.

The Associated Press

# **CORRECTIONS**

Questions or concerns about Free Press news coverage can be directed to Managing Editor Joe Spear at 344-6382.

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# Stocks drop the most since May

#### **The Associated Press**

Stocks on Wall Street closed sharply lower Monday, mirroring losses overseas and handing the S&P 500 index its biggest drop in four months.

Worries about heavily indebted Chinese real estate developers — and the damage they could do to investors worldwide if they default — rippled across markets. Investors are also concerned that the U.S. Federal Reserve could signal this week that it's planning to pull back some of the support measures it's been giving markets and the economy.

The S&P 500 fell 75.26 points, or 1.7%, to 4,357.73, it's biggest drop since May. At one point, the benchmark index was down 2.9%, the biggest decline since last October. The S&P 500 was coming off two weeks of losses and is on track for its first monthly decline since January. The S&P 500 has gone an unusually long time without a pullback of 5% or more.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 614.41 points, or 1.8%, to 33,970.47. The blue-chip index was briefly down 971 points. The Nasdaq fell 330.06 points, or 2.2%, to 14,713.90. The Hang Seng, Hong Kong's main index, dropped 3.3% for its biggest loss since July. European markets fell about 2%.

"What's happened here is that the list of risks has finally become too big to ignore," said Michael Arone, chief investment strategist at State Street Global Advisors. "There's just a lot of uncertainty at a seasonally challenging time for markets.'

The worries over Chinese property developers and debt have recently centered on Evergrande, one of China's biggest real estate

developers, which looks like it may be unable to repay its debts.

The fear is that a potential collapse there could send a chain reaction through the Chinese property-development industry and spill over into the broader financial system, similar to how the failure of Lehman Brothers inflamed the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession. Those property companies have been big drivers of the Chinese economy, which is the world's second-largest.

If they fail to make good on their debts, the heavy losses taken by investors who hold their bonds would raise worries about their financial strength. Those bondholders could also be forced to sell other, unrelated investments to raise cash, which could hurt prices in seemingly unrelated markets. It's a product of how tightly connected global markets have become, and it's a concept the financial world calls "contagion."

Many analysts say they expect China's government to prevent such a scenario, and that this does not look like a Lehman-type moment. Nevertheless, any hint of uncertainty may be enough to upset Wall Street after the S&P 500 has glided higher in almost uninterrupted fashion since October.

Besides Evergrande, several other worries have been lurking underneath the stock market's mostly calm surface.

In addition to the Fed possibly announcing that it's letting off the accelerator on its support for the economy, Congress may opt for a destructive game of chicken before allowing the U.S. Treasury to borrow more money and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to weigh on the global economy.

# **Area markets**

Grain prices at Monday's close. (Crystal Valley, Madelia) Corn Soybeans

#### **Meat futures** CHICAGO (AP) — Futures trading on the Chi-

Settle Open High Low CATTLE CATILE 40,000 lbs.; cents per lb. Oct 122.37 122.95 121.80 Dec 126.95 128.27 126.20 Feb 131.00 131.82 130.25 122.77 128.07 134.50 135.20 133.77

129.27 129.82 128.60 130.65 131.00 130.10 Feb 136.67 136.67 136.67 136 Est. sales 45,813.Fri.'s sales 44,191 Fri.'s open int 290,868 FEEDER CATTLE

50,000 lbs.; cents per lb 154.17 155.40 153.77 155.00 155.77 157.02 154.95 156.67 155.27 154.82 156.97 157.60 155.80 156.55 158.82 +.10 159.52 160.20 160.20 161.30 162.12 160.70 Est. sales 12,968.Fri.'s sales 14,725

Fri.'s open int 42,641, up 847 HOGS,LEAN 40,000 lbs.; cents per lb 85.82 75.22 78.40 —1.25 —1.05 90.85 90.67 75.97 76.60 74.15 69.85 71.50 69.85 —.55 —.43 Feb 75.75 —.57 Est. sales 37,703.Fri.'s sales 36,042

40,000 lbs.; cents per lb. No open contracts.

Fri.'s open int 240,797

### **Grain futures**

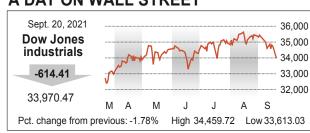
CHICAGO (AP) - Futures trading on the Chi-OpenHighLowSettleChg. WHEAT

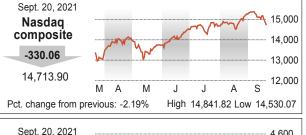
5,000 bu mi 718¾ 722 701½ Mar May Jul Sep Dec Mar May Jul Sep Dec Mar May Jul 7093/4 715  $--7\frac{3}{4}$ 7041/2 6993/4 703 709¼ 7091/ 702 7081/4  $-3\frac{1}{2}$ 7073/4 7101/4 7071/2 7101/4 --2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 679<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 6761/4 6793/4 6761/4 6693/4 -21/4 -21/4 682 682 627 Est. sales 51,836.Fri.'s sales 47,661 5,000 bu min num; cents per bushel

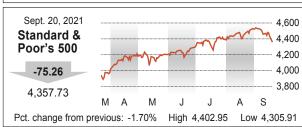
534¼ 538 534¼ 538 Mar May Jul Sep Dec Mar May Jul Sep Dec 528 5341/2 5361/4 5361/4 5263/4 505 502¾ 4971/4 5031/2 5013/4 5103/ 505 5083/4 513¾ 511 5131/4 4781/4 4631/2 476 +1½ 438 436 4363/ Fri.'s open int 1,381,617,up 4,177

OATS 5,000 bu n 542 537 536 525 471 545 540 536 525 474 Dec Mar May Jul Sep Dec Mar May Jul Sep Jul 5321/4 5261/4 531 4583/4 4583/4 458¾ 458¾ 458¾

# A DAY ON WALL STREET







**NYSE** diary NAME 3-month T-bill Advanced .04 532 6-month T-bill .05 Declined: 2,798 52-wk T-bill .07 Unchanged: .83 5-vear T-note 108 10-year T-note 1.31 Volume: 5 b 30-year T-bond 185 Nasdaq diary

Advanced: 788 Declined: 3,695 Unchanged: 154 Volume: 4.9 b ΑP Sep 458¾ -3½

Est. sales 807.Fri.'s sales 377 Fri.'s open int 4,520 SOYBEANS nimum; cents per bushel 1286 1262 1262½ — 12941271¼ 1271¾—21¼ 1294 1305 130512841/4 1286---19 Aug1289¾ 1289¾ 12781278 —18½ Sep 1255 1258 1251 1252½ Nov1255¼ 1255¼ 1236¼ 1240—15¾ 12461238¼ 1239¾—16¼ 12331221¼ 1223¼—15¾ Mav 12191219¾ 12191219¾—15¾

Jul1219½ 12201219½ 1220 —15¾ Aug 1214 —15¾ Sep 1178 —13¾ Nov1183½ 1183½ 11751176½—12¾ Jul 1177¼ —12¾ Nov 1114¾ —12¾ Est. sales 126,257.Fri.'s sales 117,751 Fri.'s open int 658,027,up 602 SOYBEAN OIL

56.39 56.36 54.84 54.80 56.35 56.45 56.54 56.54 55.04 56.02 55.12 55.05 54.75 54.35 Sep Oct Dec 55.07 55.07 54.35 53.48 —.99 —.99

53.38 -..99 LAST PVS CHG AGO .04 .05 .07 .13 -0.05 .88 .29 1.37 -0.06 1.91

NAME      \$ CLOSE      % CHG      CHG				
Arch Dan Mid      60.52      -1.87      -3.0        Best Buy Co      106.67      -2.95      -2.7        Consolidated Comm      9.00      -22      -2.4        Crown Holdings Inc      105.47      -38      -4        Fastenal Co      52.90     06     1        General Mills      58.75     17     3        Itron Inc      76.97      -1.87      -2.4        Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96      -5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WallMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	NAME	CLOSE		
Best Buy Co      106.67      -2.95      -2.7        Consolidated Comm      9.00     22      -2.4        Crown Holdings Inc      105.47     38     4        Fastenal Co      52.90     06     1        General Mills      58.75     17     3        Itron Inc      76.97      -1.87      -2.4        Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96     5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WallMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	Ameriprise Fncl	256.31	-13.24	-4.9
Consolidated Comm      9.00     22      -2.4        Crown Holdings Inc      105.47     38     4        Fastenal Co      52.90     06     1        General Mills      58.75     17     3        Itron Inc      76.97      -1.87      -2.4        Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96     5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WallMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	Arch Dan Mid	60.52	-1.87	-3.0
Crown Holdings Inc      105.47     38     4        Fastenal Co      52.90     06     1        General Mills      58.75     17     3        Itron Inc      76.97      -1.87      -2.4        Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96     5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WallMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	Best Buy Co	106.67	-2.95	-2.7
Fastenal Co      52.90     06     1        General Mills      58.75     17     3        Itron Inc      76.97      -1.87      -2.4        Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96     5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WallMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	Consolidated Comm	9.00	22	-2.4
General Mills      58.75     17     3        Itron Inc      76.97      -1.87      -2.4        Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96     5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WallMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	Crown Holdings Inc	105.47	38	4
Itron Inc      76.97      -1.87      -2.4        Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96     5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WallMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	Fastenal Co	52.90	06	1
Johnson Outdoors      106.11      -3.09      -2.8        3M Company      180.53     96     5        US Bancorp      55.68      -1.33      -2.3        Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WalMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	General Mills	58.75	17	3
3M Company  180.53 96 5    US Bancorp  55.68  -1.33  -2.3    Verizon Comm  54.26 02     WalMart Strs  142.74  -1.99  -1.4	Itron Inc	76.97	-1.87	-2.4
US Bancorp  55.68  -1.33  -2.3    Verizon Comm  54.26 02     WalMart Strs  142.74  -1.99  -1.4	Johnson Outdoors	106.11	-3.09	-2.8
Verizon Comm      54.26     02         WalMart Strs      142.74      -1.99      -1.4	3M Company	180.53	96	5
WalMart Strs 142.74 -1.99 -1.4	US Bancorp	55.68	-1.33	-2.3
	Verizon Comm	54.26	02	
Xcel Energy Inc 63.44569	WalMart Strs	142.74	-1.99	-1.4
	Xcel Energy Inc	63.44	56	9

53.04 53.04 -.96 -.96 -.96 -.45 53.03 53.14 Est. sales 73,868.Fri.'s sales 104,489 Fri.'s open int 386,010,up 815

SOYBEAN MEAL

-1.07

100 tons; dollars per ton Oct 338.60 338.80 335.00 336.10 —2.40 Dec 342.20 342.60 338.60 339.80 -- 2.40 Jan 344.30 344.70 340.80 342.40 -Mar 346.10 347.10 343.30 345.30 -May 348.00 350.20 346.50 348.90 -- 1.00 Jul 351.20 353.60 349.90 352.20 -Aug 351.20 353.10 349.70 351.90 Sep 349.10 351.20 347.70 350.10 -

Oct 343.30 346.00 343.30 345.70 -Dec 344.10 347.00 343.90 346.20 -.40 —.80 —.80 —.80 329.60 Est. sales 58,575

Fri.'s sales 60.517

# TEEN: Mark lived to hear news of his son's return home and then see him

# Continued from Page A1

she managed to arrange for Mark, who is her exhusband, to visit Kian in the hospital a week before his death. There was a feeling it might have been the final time they would see each other.

But Mark had told Sugden he wasn't going anywhere until his son left the hospital. He would wait to let go until he knew Kian would be all right.

He lived to hear news of his son's return home and then see him, one last time, in person. Sugden, Kian and his sister, Nadine, visited Mark in St. James Medical Center on Friday.

Too weak to stand, Mark closed his eyes and embraced his son while seated in a wheelchair.

"Yesterday was full of long and short drives, tears, high anxiety, hugs & final 'Good Byes,'" Sugden wrote of Kian and Nadine's final moments with their father.

Family members are relieved that Mark is no longer in pain, she said.

"He fought for so long that reality hasn't really set in," Sugden wrote of Mark's death.

Mark had told The Free Press he understood he was going to die soon. He felt almost "numb to everything," he'd said. "I'm kind of near the

end," he said. But he wasn't expecting his last days to coincide with his son's severe illness. Kian's condition, how-

ever, has steadily im-

proved since the first week attention span and physiof September.

On Sept. 10, Sugden posted a photo of her smiling face next to her son's, his head resting on a University of Minnesota pillow on his hospital bed. Another picture showed posters full of photos of Kian beneath labels reminding him who he is outside of that room: "Gamer." "Poker player." "Fighter."

That same evening, Sugden wrote Kian was in a panic because he wanted out of the hospital. Specifically, he wanted to go and see his father.

Six days later he had exchanged his white hospital gown for a red hoodie and black shorts, capping a 26-day stay at the Mayo Clinic Health System's Mankato hospital.

A photo posted by Sugden shows him smiling just outside the hospital doors. In another he is standing behind the "Welcome home Kian!" sign in Sugden's yard.

Adapting to life out of the controlled hospital room hasn't been easy for Kian, Sugden said. Too much noise triggers

him, as do multiple conversations happening at once. He struggles even to sit still and watch a movie, she said.

And though Kian is grateful for the support his family has received from nurses as well as friends and acquaintances, he doesn't want to be a spokesperson for coronavirus survivors.

He wants to regain his

cal strength. He wants to see his friends. He wants to begin planning his return to college.

The Monday after he was admitted to the ICU was supposed to be the first day of his sophomore year at the University of South Dakota.

"He just wants back to normal," Sugden said.

"It's hard because we're dealing with a double load," she added. "He's dealing with coming out of the COVID fog, then also dealing with his father's death.'

She asks that friends and family check in with her before visiting.

One of the last remarks Mark Olson made to The Free Press was that everyone should get vaccinated. He wished he had done more to persuade Kian against his prior opposition to a vaccine.

Breakthrough infections are still rare, and a vaccine is a bulwark against severe illness. Mark noted it's difficult to predict who will be severely affected by the coronavirus. As Kian gradually

recovered and Mark lay in bed at home, fighting to remain alive so he could see his son "at least one more time," he added one last note for publication. "Just ... put in there Dad

loves Kian so much and the fact that I'd do anything for him," he said, emotion gripping his voice for the first time during the interview. "And I hope every parent feels the same way."



Courtesy Nissa Sugden

Nissa Sugden visited her son, Kian Olson, in the hospital Sept. 10 after weeks of speaking to him solely on the phone.

