

1,500 trout ready to be caught in St. Peter pond



MSU gives Cinderella current vibe with new friends

Wolves fighting for playoff position

The Free Press

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TO OUR READERS

As many of you know, we are having difficulty switching over to a new circulation system, and many of you have experienced a disruption in service. We're making this switch because it will vastly reduce costs of operating this system.

We are working around the clock to fix the problem. We are getting hundreds of inquiries a day and are doing our best to respond by phone or email. We will continue to make our email inbox operable so it can take messages, but it will say it's full from time to time. The best number to call is 507-344-6374 and you can also email us at readerservice@mankatofreepress.com

The new system requires an email address for the user name, so we will work with you to get that set up if you don't have a current email on file with us.

Meanwhile, we have made our complete e-edition pdf available free on our website each day without the need for you to log in. Just click on it to read the entire edition.

We thank you for your patience and your loyalty.

— Steve Jameson, publisher

ONLINE EXTRA

No one wants to blink first in tariff war

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tariff fight between the world's two largest economies spiraled into greater peril Wednesday as President Donald Trump tried to narrow his global trade war into a direct — and risky — faceoff with Beijing.

Read this story at www.mankatofreepress.com/extra, or by scanning the QR code below.



PAGEFINDER

Business	A3
Comics	B4
Corrections	A2
Currents.....	B7-8
Marketplace.....	B5
Nation & World	A4
Obituaries	B2
Puzzles	B6
Public Records.....	B6
Sports.....	A6-7

For lottery numbers, visit mnlottery.com.

WEATHER

Typical spring day

Clouds and sun with showers.
Hi 65, low 40.



Full forecast on Page B3.

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Photos by Casey Ek

Mick Glackler-Riquelme, one of several speakers who took up the microphone Wednesday at Minnesota State University, delivers remarks to the gathered attendees at a demonstration against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, whose recent activity in Mankato has led to the arrest of one student and the revocation of visas for several others.

'HANDS OFF OUR MSU STUDENTS'

Protesters decry federal targeting of international students

BRIAN AROLA
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MANKATO — International students at Minnesota State University are fearful of being targeted by federal immigration agents following a recent detainment and termination of student visas, said demonstrators at a protest on campus Wednesday.

Organized by the Mavericks for Change student group, the demonstration outside Centennial Student Union drew participants holding signs with slogans ranging from “keep students in class, not cells,” to “hands off our MSU students,” to “defund ICE.” Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, has been silent on why it detained the MSU student on March 28. The student was in good academic standing and had a valid visa, according to the Students United group.

Demonstrators decried the federal actions against international



Mankato resident Lee Ganske, front left, joins Minnesota State University students and members of the public Wednesday in support of the university's international students, many of whom face uncertainty amid ICE activity in the city.

students, which included revoking legal statuses for five MSU students last week. South Central College sent out an email Tuesday stating a student there had

their visa revoked as well.

Organizers of the Wednesday event discouraged international

See **STUDENTS** on A2

MSU students react to ICE-detained student

EMMA JOHNSON
SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS

Anger. Fear. Sadness.
“I'm scared they will throw me back to my country or send me to a detainment center and my friends and family won't know where I am and I won't be able to contact them,” said an international MSU student who requested anonymity because she fears for her safety given the current political climate.

These have been the most common emotions several international students have felt since a student was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement on March 28.

In a joint Instagram post on April 2, the Student Government and International Student Association said the detained student was “in good academic standing and had a valid student visa” at the time of the detainment.

Student Government President Roshit Niraula said the Student Government has been in discussion with the student's family who has declined to speak with the press. Niraula said there's been a range of emotions students and their academics has been a big balance,” Niraula said.

“We've had students come in and share concerns about going to classes or walking home alone

and we've had people on the flip side say ‘Hey, if there's anyone feeling scared, I'll walk with them or host dinners for them,’” Niraula said.

Safety and timing are two of the main concerns Niraula said he's seen.

“We're five weeks away from graduation and the mental health of students the last few weeks of the semester, the stress of Visa revocations and only having 60 days to leave the country while trying to take care of themselves and their academics has been a big balance,” Niraula said.

See **REACT** on A2

Market soars as Trump limits tariffs

JOSH BOAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Facing a global market meltdown, President Donald Trump on Wednesday abruptly backed off his tariffs on most nations for 90 days even as he further jacked up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%.

It was seemingly an attempt to narrow what had been an unprecedented trade war between the U.S. and most of the world to a showdown between the U.S. and China. The S&P 500 stock index jumped 9.5% after the announcement, but the drama over Trump's tariffs is far from over as the administration prepares to engage in country-by-country negotiations. In the meantime, countries subject to the pause will now be tariffed at 10%. The president hit pause in the face of intense pressure created by volatile financial markets that had been pushing Trump to reconsider his tariffs, even as some administration officials insisted the his reversal had always been the plan.

As stocks and bonds sold off, voters were watching their retirement savings dwindle and businesses warned of worse than expected sales and rising prices, all a possible gut punch to a country that sent Trump back to the White House last year on the promise of combatting inflation.

The global economy appeared to be in open rebellion against Trump's tariffs as they took effect early Wednesday, a signal that the U.S. president was not immune from market pressures. By early afternoon, Trump posted on Truth Social that because more than 75 countries had reached out to the U.S. government for trade talks and had not retaliated in meaningful ways, “I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE, and a substantially lowered Reciprocal Tariff during this period, of 10%, also effective immediately.”

Trump later told reporters that he pulled back on many global tariffs — but not on China — because people were “yippy” and “afraid” due to the stock market declines. He added that while he expected to reach deals, “nothing's over yet.”

The president said he had been monitoring the bond market and that people were “getting a little queasy” as bond prices had fallen and interest rates had increased in a vote of no confidence by investors in Trump's previous tariff plans.

“The bond market is very tricky,” Trump said. “I was watching it. But if you look at it now, it's beautiful.”

The president later said he'd been thinking about his tariff pause over the past few days, but he said it “came

See **TARIFFS** on A2



Seth Wenig | Associated Press

John Bowers works on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

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NEWS TO KNOW

Mom investigated for child-monkey trade

A Missouri foster mother has been charged with child abuse and endangerment as authorities investigate whether she traded an adopted daughter to someone in Texas for a monkey and mistreated other children in her care.

The 70-year-old woman from Winfield has been jailed on \$250,000 bond since her arrest over the weekend, with her next court appearance set for next Tuesday. The Associated Press is not identifying her in an effort not to identify her child.

No attorney is listed for the woman in online court records. The 1,500-person town Winfield is about 45 miles (72.42 kilometers) northwest of downtown St. Louis.

CORRECTIONS

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

The Free Press

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STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM A1

students from attending due to the risks of being targeted. ICE has detained students who were involved in activism protesting Israel's military campaign against Palestinians on other campuses, and participants Wednesday suspect social media posts by the MSU student contributed to his detention.

The risks to international students make it imperative for their peers to stand up for them, said student Elena Woods.

"It's important that we use our voices to speak for those who cannot," she said.

Woods has an international student friend who's anxious about ICE's recent activity in Mankato. For students not familiar with the situation, the demonstration made it hard to ignore, Woods said.

"Being here forces them to confront a reality that maybe they don't want to confront," she said. "That's the most important thing is telling them what is happening, why you should care, and that these people are just like us but from a different country."

Axel Vassar, a Postsecondary Enrollment Options student at MSU, said demonstrating is his way of showing solidarity with international students.

"Fighting for your neighbors and fighting with your friends is very important," he said.



Casey Ek

Pat DiMartino embraces daughter Laura Harrison at Wednesday's demonstration against ICE.

One student at the event has a green card and is originally from a country in Asia. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, he said he's going through the process of gaining American citizenship and is worried he'll have the rug pulled out from under him.

Losing his status could mean having to return to a country he hasn't lived in since he was a child.

International students and faculty are feeling overwhelmed and tired right now in response to ICE's presence around college campuses, said Jameel Haque, a professor at MSU

REACT

CONTINUED FROM A1

STUDENTS REACT TO DETAINMENT

An exchange student, who wished to remain anonymous, said his initial reaction was anger.

"I feel like people deserve to know, especially because I'm in a group that could be a potential target, but they didn't release the information right away," the student said.

Since the news about the international student was released, the exchange student said he's altered his behavior like many other international students at MSU.

"I had to change my social media account names and make them private which was a big change because I like to share my opinion and spread news, but I can't do that anymore," the student said.

He said he didn't think something like this would happen when he came to the U.S. to receive his education. "I didn't think I'd be paranoid to walk on the streets because I'll see people getting out of their cars and I feel like they are here to detain me."

He also said his perspective on the U.S. has changed.

"I'm very disappointed. It's like the same thing the United States did during the second World War when they launched a nationwide crackdown on Japanese Americans where they threw them in detention facilities with no lack of due process."

He said he's been in contact

with his mother about the situation and said she's concerned for his safety.

"She told me to be safe, don't go to protests and to not share what I think for my safety," he said. "I feel like all of these burdens are being dumped on students."

A female international student, who also wished to remain anonymous, said she's "really scared" about the situation.

"Being somebody who's so outspoken for my entire life and not being able to speak out is killing me on the inside," she said.

Her reaction turned to anger, expressing all the steps international students have to go through to come to America for an education.

"We have to pass our exams, go for a visa, interview, prove it to those officers we deserve to be here and then we come here following all the rules you have and now you're trying to take us away for speaking about issues?" the student said. "That is so f—ked up."

She said she also feels bad for the international students who are spending thousands of dollars to come to America to receive an education, only to be concerned for their safety or fear of being told to go home.

"Nobody wants to leave their families and come here by themselves, but they came here for a reason. Think about how much money and effort that person has given," the international student said.

In January, MSU was

and director of its Kessel Peace Institute. Chaos seems to be the point, he added, pointing out he knows of people looking for work outside the U.S. in response to it.

"It seems like the intention is to cause confusion," he said of ICE's silence. "And that's working."

Along with The Free Press' multiple requests for information from ICE, MSU President Edward Inch last week said the university was receiving no response to its inquiries. MSU has been in touch with elected officials for help.

In an emailed statement, Democratic U.S. Sen. Tina Smith said she's pushing for answers on recent student arrests in Minnesota.

"This is becoming a deeply alarming pattern, where ICE detains students with little to no explanation, first at the University of Minnesota and now at Minnesota State University-Mankato," she stated. "I'm tracking each situation closely and my office has been in touch with MSU Mankato President Dr. Inch and Minnesota State system leadership. I will keep pressing the administration for information about these arrests, but it is unacceptable that people are being swept up from the streets and their rights to due process are being ignored."

Republican U.S. Rep. Brad Finstad's office has been in contact with the Department of Homeland Security and had no further information than what had been reported, according to an email from his communications

outside."

Her perspective on the U.S. has also changed.

"We always saw America as a country where we can dream and lives are the best, but we don't have freedom like you do and that's sh—ty," the student said.

International students aren't the only ones who found the news shocking. A traditional student, who wished to remain anonymous, said it was "earth-shattering" to hear the news.

"You're kind of in this bubble on campus and while everything's on the federal level, there's a feeling that it wouldn't happen here and it did," the student said.

From what he's heard, he said his friends who are international students said they aren't concerned about being told to go home, but rather to be detained.

"There are times where they can be held there for weeks or months without anyone to advocate for them. They might not have food or a place to sleep and we don't know a lot about them," the student said.

The Kearney International Center posted a statement on its Instagram account April 3 saying they are "actively working with necessary personnel" to help international students receive assistance and support. They referred students to a presentation they and KIVU Law Firm emailed to students about their rights. It also encouraged student to contact them with any questions

or concerns.

Niraula said international students should be mindful of the content they interact with, utilize the Kearney International Center for resources and be mindful of their mental health.

"This is a challenging time, so having them check on their friends, even if it's just sending a text can be really impactful for them," Niraula said. "They have packed their life up into suitcases and moved across the world for an education, so any message of support can be helpful for them."

"We reaffirm our commitment to fostering an environment where all students are welcomed and supported," the post reads. "We see you. We value you. And we stand with you."

The exchange student said he wants the university and other students to speak up on behalf of international students.

"We don't have the power to speak up because we feel scared. We don't have those privileges right now to do so," the exchange student said. "If students let their dissatisfaction with what's happening be known loudly and clearly, it would force the administration to do more."

The international student had similar thoughts.

"Please use your voice to talk about these issues, because you can," the international student said. "We cannot. We do not have that independence or the freedom like you guys have."

TARIFFS

CONTINUED FROM A1

together early this morning, fairly early this morning."

Asked why White House aides had been insisting for weeks that the tariffs were not part of a negotiation, Trump said: "A lot of times, it's not a negotiation until it is."

The 10% tariff was the baseline rate for most nations that went into effect on Saturday. It's meaningfully lower than the 20% tariff that Trump had set for goods from the European Union, 24% on imports from Japan and 25% on products from South Korea. Still, 10% represents an increase in the tariffs previously charged by the U.S. government. Canada and Mexico would continue to be tariffed by as much as 25% due to a separate directive by Trump to ostensibly stop fentanyl smuggling.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that the negotiations with individual countries would be "bespoke," meaning that the next 90 days would involve talks on a flurry of potential deals. Bessent, a former hedge fund manager, told reporters that the pause was because of other countries seeking talks rather than brutal selloffs in the financial markets, a statement later contradicted by the president.

"The only certainty we can provide is that the U.S. is going to negotiate in good faith, and we assume that our allies will too," Bessent said.

The treasury secretary said he and Trump "had a long talk on Sunday, and this was his strategy all along" and that the president had "goaded China into a bad position."

Prior to the reversal, business executives were warning of a potential recession caused by his policies, some of the top U.S. trading partners were retaliating with their own import taxes and the stock market was quivering after days of decline.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the walk back was part of Trump's negotiating strategy.

She said the news media "clearly failed to see what President Trump is doing here. You tried to say that the rest of the world would be moved closer to China, when in fact, we've seen the opposite effect. The entire world is calling the United States of America, not China, because they need our markets."

The head of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, said the trade war between the U.S. and China could "could severely damage the global economic outlook" and warned of "potential fragmentation of global trade along geopolitical lines."

Market turmoil had been building for weeks ahead of Trump's move, with the president at times suggesting the import taxes would stay in place while also saying that they could be subject to negotiations.

Particularly worrisome was that U.S. government debt had lost some of its luster with investors, who usually treat Treasury notes as a safe haven when there's economic turbulence. Government bond prices had been falling, pushing up the interest rate on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note to 4.45%. That rate eased after Trump's

reversal.

Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities, said before the announcement that markets wanted to see a truce in the trade disputes.

"Markets more broadly, not just the Treasury market, are looking for signs that a trade de-escalation is coming," he

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Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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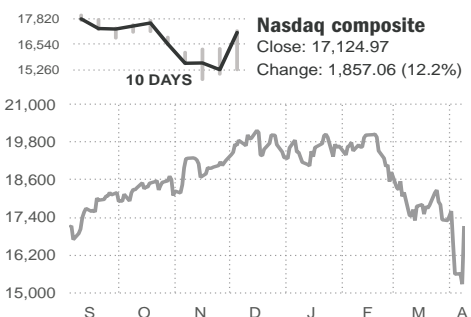
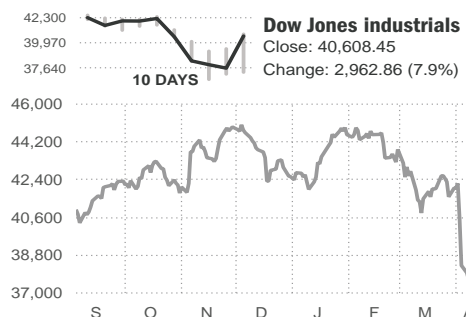
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BUSINESS

DOW 40608.4 2962.86	NASDAQ 17125 1857.06	S&P 500 5456.9 474.13	EURO 1.09473 -0.00097	CRUDE OIL 62.35 2.77	GOLD 3056.5 88.1	6-MO T-BILLS 4.21 0.08	30-YR T-BONDS 4.74 -0.018
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Local Stocks

NAME	TICKER	LO	RANGE	HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR	YTD CHG	1YR RTN	VOL (Thous)	P/E	DIV
Fastenal Co.	FAST	61.36		84.88	76.47	+5.27	+7.4%	+2.8%	-1.4%	-1.4%	+4.56	+0.8%	7857	38	1.72
Xcel Energy Inc.	XEL	51.97		73.38	68.58	+1.54	+2.3%	+1.0%	-3.1%	-3.1%	+1.04	+26.1%	6497	20	2.28
Archer Daniels Midland Co.	ADM	40.98		66.08	44.38	+2.59	+6.1%	+2.4%	-7.6%	-7.6%	-6.17	-30.6%	5976	12	2.04
Crown Holdings Inc.	CCK	71.61		98.46	83.39	+4.92	+6.2%	+0.1%	-6.6%	-6.6%	+67	+3.5%	1887	23	1.04
Polaris Inc.	PII	30.92		95.42	36.68	+4.71	+14.2%	-0.6%	-10.9%	-10.9%	-21.12	-62.6%	3623	19	2.68
Wells Fargo & Co.	WFC	50.15		81.50	66.33	+4.25	+7.0%	+8.9%	-7.5%	-7.5%	-3.80	+15.4%	41120	12	1.60



Interest Rates



The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 4.335%.

Yields affect interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

TREASURIES	LAST	PVS	NET CHG	WK	MO	QTR	1YR
3-month T-bill	4.35	4.29	+0.06	▲	▲	▲	4.64
6-month T-bill	4.21	4.13	+0.08	▼	—	▼	4.45
1-year T-note	4.03	3.83	+0.20	▼	▲	▼	4.18
2-year T-note	3.93	3.75	+0.18	▲	▲	▼	3.95
5-year T-note	4.06	3.88	+0.18	▲	▲	▼	3.88
10-year T-note	4.33	4.29	+0.05	▲	▲	▼	4.09
30-year T-note	4.74	4.76	-0.02	▲	▲	▼	4.40

Stocks Recap

	NYSE	NASD	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR	YTD
DOW	40,778.70	37,275.69	40,608.45	2962.86	+7.87%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-4.55%
DOW Trans.	13,982.42	12,505.61	13,913.01	+1275.97	+10.10%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-12.47%
DOW Util.	989.08	928.75	983.11	+29.23	+3.06%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	+0.04%
NYSE Comp.	18,484.44	16,926.38	18,398.48	+1210.02	+7.04%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-3.66%
NASDAQ	17,202.94	15,272.56	17,124.97	+1857.06	+12.16%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-11.32%
S&P 500	5,481.34	4,948.43	5,456.90	+474.13	+9.52%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-7.22%
S&P 400	2,814.45	2,526.16	2,798.78	+237.85	+9.29%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-10.32%
Wilshire 5000	54,511.14	49,212.05	54,303.64	+4742.11	+9.57%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-7.91%
Russell 2000	1,930.80	1,732.99	1,913.16	+152.45	+8.66%	▲	▼	▼	▼	▼	-14.21%

	PRIME RATE	FED FUNDS
YEST	7.50	4.38
6 MO AGO	8.00	4.88
1 YR AGO	8.00	4.88

Area markets: Grain prices at Wednesday's close (Crystal Valley, Madelia). Corn 4.41; Soybeans 9.54.

Tariff news ignites burst of buying

BLOOMBERG NEWS

Donald Trump's pledge to pause tariffs on some trading partners ignited the biggest burst of buying Wall Street has seen since 2008.

After narrowly avoiding a bear market, the S&P 500 staged a historic bounce from a selloff that wiped out trillions from global share prices amid

the specter of a full-blown trade war that fueled fears of a U.S. recession. The equity benchmark soared 9.5%, the most since the global financial crisis, while the Nasdaq 100 surged 12% as euphoria gripped markets after four days of bruising, high-volume trading. Nearly every stock in major gauges rose.

More than 30 billion shares

worth \$1.5 trillion changed hands across U.S. stock venues, a record in Bloomberg data going back to 2008.

"It's been a roller-coaster ride for the past week and we know one thing is for certain: if there's any certainty in investing, that one certainty is that markets and investors don't like uncertainty," said Ryan Nauman at Zephyr.

"That's what we've seen — the tariffs have been unpredictable. And now we're seeing the bounce today, which I think is really a relief rally, buying the dip."

Treasuries staged a tentative return to normalcy as investors dumped havens on fear of missing out on the great risk rebound. Two-year U.S. yields briefly spiked past

4% as traders pared expectations for Federal Reserve rate cuts this year.

Trump announced a 90-day pause on higher reciprocal tariffs that hit dozens of trade partners after midnight, while raising duties on China to 125%. The market continued to notch new highs on signs he'll look into tariff exemptions for some companies.

Amid the volatility of previous sessions some market-watchers counseled caution in reading too much into the bull case. Trump's tariff threats may have damaged the ability of corporate managers to plan for the future and dented international relations to a point where global economic growth remains in lasting doubt.

Easter Worship Guide

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FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 7 PM
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH AT 10 AM
EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY APRIL 20TH AT 10 AM
EASTER SERVICE

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 A.M.
Maundy Thursday 6:30 P.M.
Good Friday 6:30 P.M.
Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 A.M.

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messiahnorthmankato.com

THE Episcopal CHURCH

St. John's Episcopal Church

6 AM Sunrise Service

St. John's, Mankato with Easter Fire

9:30 AM Easter Eucharist

St. John's, Mankato
302 Warren Street
Mankato, MN 56001
www.stjohnsmankatomn.com

Holy Week

Worship Schedule
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

PALM SUNDAY - 9:30 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY - 6:00 PM
GOOD FRIDAY - 6:00 PM
EASTER SUNDAY - 9:30 AM

"Bethlehem is an inviting community that is growing in Christ, loving our neighbors, and serving God's world."

**720 S. Second Street,
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 388-2925 blcmankato.org**

Need some Rise and Shine in your life?

Easter Sunday
4/20, Service at 9:30 am
Breakfast 8:15 am
Egg Hunt!!
After the service
Maundy Thursday
4/17, Dinner Church at 6 pm

We are:
Jesus-loving,
LGBTQ-affirming,
Immigrant-welcoming,
Committed to disability inclusion

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Mankato, MN
mankatoucc.org

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER (SJW)
423 W 7TH STREET, MANKATO

HOLY FAMILY (HF)
211 N. HUNT STREET, LAKE CRYSTAL

Holy Thursday (April 17)
7:30PM Mass @ SJW

Good Friday (April 18)
12:05PM Service @ SJW
5:30PM Service @ HF

Easter Vigil (April 19)
8:00PM Mass @ SJW

Easter Sunday (April 20)
8:30AM Mass @ HF
10:30AM Mass @ SJW

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Access the live stream online at ctkmankato.org/watch

Palm Sunday - April 13
8am & 10am Worship
Celebrate Palm Sunday with our usual worship services, enhanced by the joyful tradition of waving palms to honor Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday - April 17
6pm Worship
Join us for a heartfelt service that blends traditional and contemporary elements, as we celebrate the gift of First Communion.

Good Friday - April 18
12pm & 6pm Worship
Experience the solemnity of Good Friday with us through two traditional worship services at 12 PM and 6 PM.

3pm Children's Service
Join our special interactive service, designed especially for children yet welcoming to all ages, as we reflect on the day's meaning together in a hands-on and engaging way.

Easter Vigil - April 19
5:30pm Worship
Join us for a reverent Easter Vigil, a traditional worship service embracing the hope & joy of the resurrection.

Easter - April 20
7am Worship
Begin your Easter morning with a traditional worship service featuring the organ and special music, offering a reflective and serene celebration of the resurrection.

8-9am Breakfast
Enjoy a delicious breakfast in the community room. Free-will offerings collected during this time will support our summer youth trips.

9am & 11am Worship
Celebrate Easter joyfully with our worship choir, band, organ, and brass in vibrant services filled with music and praise.

10am Egg Hunt
All kids are invited to join the fun at our Easter egg hunt, an exciting and family-friendly activity for the morning.

NATION & WORLD

Trump pushes Congress for tax breaks

LISA MASCARO AND
KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — With a shove from President Donald Trump, House Republicans were working to hoist their budget framework to approval late Wednesday, trying to flip conservative GOP holdovers who had raised grave misgivings over allowing trillions of dollars in tax breaks without deeper spending cuts.

Speaker Mike Johnson almost dared the Republican hardliners to defy Trump and risk upending what the president calls the “big, beautiful bill,” which is central to his agenda of tax cuts, mass deportations and a smaller

federal government. The GOP speaker cannot afford many defections from his slim majority, when faced with unified Democratic opposition.

“Stop grandstanding!” Trump had admonished Republicans during a black-tie fundraising dinner at the National Building Museum Tuesday night.

Trump told them, “Close your eyes and get there.”

But by Wednesday afternoon, the conservative Republicans stood firmly against the plan, throwing the schedule in flux. Several of them met privately with Senate GOP leaders to insist on deeper cuts. Johnson later pulled a group of Republicans into a private meeting room

off the House chamber.

“The intention is to have the vote by this evening, and we’ll see when that time is,” Johnson told reporters at the Capitol. “Very positive, productive discussions. Everybody is moving forward.”

Pushing the budget framework forward would be a milestone for Johnson, who had set a deadline of the congressional spring break recess Thursday for advancing the resolution. But a failed vote, particularly as the economy is convulsing over Trump’s trade wars, would prove a major setback for the embattled speaker and the Republican agenda in Washington.

It’s coming as Trump’s tariff onslaught has left lawmakers

on edge. Hours before the House was ready to vote, Trump paused much of his ambitious tariffs scheme, giving financial markets a bounce after days of turmoil and warnings of a U.S. recession.

“We are at a critical inflection point, with a generational opportunity,” said Rep. Jodey Arrington, R-Texas, the chair of the House Budget Committee, at a rules meeting ahead of voting.

But House GOP conservatives, including several of those who met personally with Trump at the White House this week, remain concerned that the Senate GOP’s blueprint, approved last weekend, does not slash spending to the

level they believe is necessary to help prevent soaring deficits.

“The Math Does Not Add Up,” Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, posted on social media. He said he would not support it.

In an unusual move, Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., the chair of the ultraconservative Freedom Caucus, and others walked across the Capitol to meet with Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and other Senate GOP leaders.

Sen. John Barrasso, the GOP whip, exited a short time later calling it a very positive meeting. “The House and the Senate Republicans are all on the same page, and we’re all committed to serious and significant savings for the

American taxpayers,” Barrasso said.

Wednesday’s vote would be another step in a weeks, if not months, long process. The House and Senate must resolve their differences with more votes ahead on the final product later this spring or summer.

Democrats, in the minority, do not have enough votes to stop the package, but have warned against it.

Pennsylvania Rep. Brendan Boyle, the ranking Democrat on the budget committee, said whether the House or Senate version, the proposed GOP budget cuts would deeply harm Medicaid, the health care program used by tens of millions of Americans.

Trump firings can take effect

Supreme Court rules agency leaders can be let go until cases resolved

MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Trump administration to oust two board members who oversee independent agencies, for now. The action seems to signal the court’s support for President Donald Trump’s effort to remove limits on his power to hire and fire.

Chief Justice John Roberts signed an order pausing a ruling from the federal appeals court in Washington that had temporarily restored the two women to their jobs. They were separately fired from agencies that deal with labor issues, including one with a key role for federal workers as Trump aims to drastically downsize the workforce.

Roberts handles emergency appeals from the nation’s capital. He called for the two board members, Gwynne Wilcox of the National Labor Relations Board and Cathy Harris of the Merit Systems Protection Board, to weigh in by early next week.

It’s not clear why Roberts would have paused the appellate ruling unless he and his colleagues believe it was likely wrong.

The immediate issue confronting the justices is whether the board members, both initially appointed by Democratic President Joe Biden, can stay in their jobs while the larger fight continues over what to do with a 90-year-old Supreme Court decision known as Humphrey’s Executor. In that case from 1935, the court unanimously held that presidents cannot fire independent board members without cause.

The ruling has long rankled conservative legal theorists, who argue it wrongly curtails the president’s power. Roberts was part of the current conservative majority on the Supreme Court that already has narrowed its reach in a 2020 decision.

Soon the high court could narrow it further or jettison it altogether.

In its emergency appeal, the administration also suggested the justices should take up and decide the broader issue of presidential power. The court could hear arguments at a special session in May and issue a decision by early summer, Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit voted 7-4 to return Wilcox and Harris to their jobs while their cases play out. The action of the full appeals court reversed a judgment from a three-judge panel that had allowed the firings to go forward.



Uncredited photos | South Bow

This image provided by South Bow shows a spill from the Keystone oil pipeline that occurred Tuesday near Fort Ransom, N.D.

147,000 gallon spill

Cleanup underway of the Keystone oil pipeline

JACK DURA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BISMARCK, N.D. — Trucks and workers started cleaning up the Keystone oil pipeline spill in rural North Dakota, though its cause and the project timing is unclear.

The pipeline ruptured Tuesday morning in southeastern North Dakota and was shut down within two minutes by an employee who heard a mechanical bang. An aerial photo released Wednesday shows a black, pondlike pool of oil suspended in a partially snowy field that’s traversed by tire tracks.

A farmer told The Associated Press he could smell the scent of crude oil, carried by the wind.

South Bow, a liquid pipelines business that manages the pipeline, estimated the spill’s volume at 3,500 barrels, or 147,000 gallons. Keystone’s entire system remains shut down.

CAUSE?

That’s not yet known. The company is investigating what caused the spill and how long repairs might take, spokesperson Kristin Anderson said Wednesday.

The spill is not a minor one, said Paul Blackburn, a policy analyst with Bold Alliance, an environmental and landowners group that fought the pipeline’s extension, called Keystone XL.

The estimated volume of 3,500 barrels, or 147,000 gallons of crude oil, is equal to 16 tanker trucks of oil, he said. That estimate could increase over time, he added.

Blackburn said the bigger picture is what he called the Keystone Pipeline’s history of spills at a higher rate than other pipelines. He compared Keystone to the Dakota Access oil pipeline since the latter came online in June 2017. In that period, Keystone’s system has spilled nearly 1.2 million gallons (4.5 million liters) of oil,



This photo provided by South Bow shows workers gathered to respond to the Keystone oil pipeline spill that occurred Tuesday near Fort Ransom, N.D.

while Dakota Access spilled 1,282 gallons (4,853 liters), Blackburn said.

In its update, the company said the pipeline “was operating within its design and regulatory approval requirements at the time of the incident.”

The 2,700-mile (4,350-kilometer) pipeline originates in Alberta, Canada, and carries heavy tar sands crude oil south across the Dakotas and Nebraska before splitting to carry oil both to refineries in Illinois and south to Oklahoma and Texas.

The \$5.2 billion Keystone Pipeline was built in 2010. TC Energy built the pipeline which is operated by South Bow as of last year.

RESPONSE

The spill is contained to an agricultural field. In an update Wednesday, South Bow said it has multiple on-site vacuum trucks beginning to recover the oil. Continuous air quality monitoring is underway. The pipeline’s affected segment is isolated, and the company said it’s evaluating plans for

a return to service.

Phone messages and emails were left Wednesday with the state Department of Environmental Quality and the Ransom County sheriff about the spill and response.

Myron Hammer, an adjacent landowner who farms the land affected by the spill, said it hasn’t yet adversely affected him, aside from the smell of crude oil or sulfur carrying when the wind blows in a certain direction. The pipeline company appears to be doing its due diligence to fix the problem, he said.

There’s been a lot of truck traffic bringing equipment to the scene, he said. His house is about 1.75 miles (2.82 kilometers) away.

“It’s become a beehive of activity in the proximity there,” Hammer said. Some of his property is being used as a staging area for equipment.

The spill site is north of Fort Ransom, a tiny town in a hilly, forested area known for scenic views and outdoor recreation. A state park and hiking trails are nearby.

GAS PRICES

They very well might, though energy experts have different outlooks.

The pipeline’s shutdown could quickly raise gas prices in the Midwest and could have more effects on diesel and jet fuel because refineries will have less of the crude oil they need, said Ramanan Krishnamoorti, vice president for energy and innovation at the University of Houston.

Higher-priced diesel could lead to higher grocery prices because diesel trucks transport those products, he said. Other experts said the refineries likely have a supply of crude oil already on hand that would help protect against immediate impacts of the shutdown.

“Even if the pipeline gets cut off completely for, say, 2 or 3 weeks, they have enough crude (oil) to continue refining for gasoline,” said Mark LaCour, editor-in-chief of the Oil and Gas Global Network.

Gas prices increased for a third consecutive week in the U.S., but that could change as oil prices drop amid the escalating global trade war.

Judges halt additional deportations

VALERIE GONZALEZ AND
LARRY NEUMEISTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

McALLEN, Texas — Judges in Texas and New York on Wednesday said they would temporarily bar the U.S. government from deporting Venezuelans jailed in parts of those two states while their lawyers challenge the Trump administration’s use of a rarely-invoked law letting presidents imprison and deport noncitizens in times of war.

The judges took actions after civil rights lawyers sought to protect five men identified by the government as belonging to the Tren de Aragua gang, a claim their lawyers dispute. But the judges said some others in their judicial districts similarly situated would also be protected from deportations relying on the Alien Enemies Act.

The judicial moves were the first to occur after the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday ruled the administration can resume deportations, but deportees must be afforded some due process before they are flown away, including reasonable time to argue to a judge that they should not be deported.

The rulings did not address the constitutionality of the act. The American Civil Liberties Union is asking the judge in Texas to decide on whether it is lawful to use the Alien Enemies Act.

The United States is not at war with Venezuela, but President Donald Trump’s administration has argued the U.S. is being invaded by members of the Tren de Aragua gang.

U.S. immigration authorities already have deported more than 100 people and sent them to a notorious prison in El Salvador without letting them challenge their removals in court.

Civil liberties lawyers brought lawsuits on behalf of three men detained in a facility in Texas and two held in an Orange County, New York, facility.

Judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr. signed a temporary restraining order in Texas while Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein said at a New York hearing that he planned to sign a temporary order Wednesday to block removals while court challenges proceed.

In Texas, Judge Rodriguez said anyone similarly situated at the El Valle Detention Center will be protected. In New York, Judge Hellerstein said his order will protect Venezuelans in the Southern District of New York, which includes the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, along with Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan and Westchester counties.

In Texas, the three plaintiffs include a man who is HIV positive and fears lacking access to medical care if deported.

The men were identified as gang members by physical attributes using the “Alien Enemy Validation Guide,” in which an ICE agent tallies points by gesturing on tattoos, hand designs, symbols, logos, graffiti, and manner of dress, according to the ACLU. Experts who study the gang have told the ACLU the method is not reliable.

OPINIONS

Editorials are the institutional voice of The Free Press and independent of the newsroom reporting staff.

ANOTHER VIEW

Reform university research funding

Six months before World War II ended in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote a letter to his top science adviser. Could the wealth of technical knowledge developed for combat, he asked, spur the peacetime economy and improve public health? The resulting treatise, presented to Congress in 1945, established the nation's commitment to funding university research.

Today, the federal government covers more than half of universities' R&D spending, much of which flows through the National Institutes of Health. The agency spent more than \$35 billion on almost 50,000 grants in 2023. NIH-funded research has supported lifesaving innovations from the hepatitis B vaccine and cancer therapies to MRI scans and gene-editing technology.

According to the current White House, drastic changes are needed to this system. Too much federal money is being wasted on "facilities and administration," officials say, when it should be supporting research directly. Their basic criticism isn't crazy. But their proposed solution threatens to impede essential scientific research without achieving its stated goals.

NIH grants are divided into direct and indirect costs. The former are expenses tied to a specific project, such as equipment and materials. The latter might include costs shared across various grant proposals — utilities at a lab, for example — but also expenses such as administrator salaries.

The average so-called indirect cost rate, negotiated by universities and federal officials, has risen to 39% from a uniform 8% in the 1950s. At some schools, it's more than 65%. (In practice, this means a \$1 million grant is awarded an additional \$650,000 for overhead.) More than a quarter of NIH funding dollars went toward indirect costs last year.

Some of the expenses covered by indirect costs are critical for the advancement of science. Others are more tenuous. Clerical staff and IT workers, parking lots and paint jobs — all can qualify as indirect costs. At some universities, meanwhile, administrators have started to outnumber faculty.

Sorting out essential expenses from administrative bloat isn't easy. The painstaking rate negotiations between universities and the federal government attempt to do so, but they more often bog down the process and encourage school officials to inflate their needs. In theory, a flat rate would curb this perverse incentive, simplify the process, save money and thus free up funding for direct costs. (President Barack Obama's administration considered a similar idea in 2012.) Better yet, a tiered system of flat rates would address discrepancies in costs by geography and type of research — an oft-cited reason for individualized rates.

It's possible the administration had some version of this in mind when it proposed cutting the indirect rate to 15% last month, citing the standard for philanthropic grants. If so, it should've announced the policy in tandem with a commitment from Congress to increase funding and speed up the review process. (To qualify for grants, universities must show they're compliant with dozens of rules.) Such a plan, gradually phased in to minimize chaos, might've resulted in a more prudent and transparent allocation of taxpayer funds.

Instead, by issuing so-called supplemental guidance, the White House circumvented Congress, which opposed a similar proposal in 2017. The administration has since been sued by 22 states and the cuts have been blocked. (The administration intends to appeal.) Universities, some of which stand to lose tens of millions of dollars annually, are preemptively reducing staff and putting clinical trials on hold. Suffice it to say, this isn't the way to encourage American innovation.

A flat rate for indirect costs is a reasonable way to contain overhead and ensure that taxpayer funds support core research. But getting the details right, as any scientist will tell you, is essential. If it wants to ensure the U.S. remains the world's leader in cutting-edge research, the administration should withdraw this heedless guidance and try again.

— Bloomberg Opinion

OTHER VIEW

High gas prices and government central planners

Bad policies have consequences. Nevada Democrats who look to California for inspiration would do well to keep that simple truism in mind.

Two years ago, Golden State Gov. Gavin Newsom made a show of signing legislation to crack down on Big Oil for "price gouging." California consistently has the highest gasoline prices in the country and has long been prone to spikes that can push pump prices beyond \$6 a gallon.

"Open your books and prove that you're not price gouging," said then-state Sen. Nancy Skinner, a Democrat (surprise!) after Newsom endorsed the bill she sponsored that gave regulators the power to cap oil industry profits. "Otherwise, you — Big Oil — will pay the price, not consumers."

Since the legislation passed, however, the state "has been unable to prove" that oil companies were intentionally raising prices to boost their profits, the Sacramento Bee reported last month. "The state hasn't leveled any penalties on oil refining companies ... and has even stopped posting the data it required."

It turns out, not surprisingly, that Newsom and the meddlers in the California Legislature have been searching in the wrong place in their quest to find the culprits for the state's high gasoline prices. A recent study out of the USC Marshall School of Business places the blame on Skinner and her fellow central planners in the state Capitol.

"It is uniformly acknowledged that California has the most stringent regulatory ... environment, for oil and gas companies in the world," the study concludes. "Regulatory oversight, irrespective of one's perspective, is layered into and accumulates throughout the supply chain, ultimately adding to the cost burdens of compliance for oil and gas industry operators, which, in turn, contribute to higher consumer prices at the pump."

The study's author, Michael Mische, an associate professor of the practice of management and organization at USC, also noted that California's oil production has steadily declined in recent decades. Once the top oil-producing state, it now ranks seventh and will continue to lose refineries. This isn't an accident. It's a direct result of dozens of policy decisions made by the progressives who run the state.

"These are costs only associated with California," a petroleum analyst told KTLA in Los Angeles. "California has done a terrific job chasing (refineries) out of the state and suddenly wondering why they don't have enough gasoline or why prices skyrocket."

In addition, California's gasoline tax is the most punishing in the nation, further boosting prices.

Newsom is right about one thing: There's greed involved when it comes to his state's high gasoline prices. But it's not coming from the executive suites of the major oil producers. Instead, it permeates the legislative halls of Sacramento.

— Las Vegas Review-Journal Editorial Board



YOUR VIEW

Enact tax policy that works for people

I appreciate the work that Greater Mankato Growth does in the areas of economic development, local promotion and tourism. However, their recent editorial, "Extending 2017 tax law vital for economy" neglected to address the unintended consequences that have arisen from previous tax cut policies of this size.

Research from the Brookings Institute, Forbes and the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities all agree — both the 2003 Bush and the 2017 Trump tax cuts failed to deliver the hypothetical eco-

nomie benefits that were promised and significantly increased the national debt.

The 2017 tax cuts did not create an investment boom or noticeably accelerate business expansion or employment. Instead, corporations used a vast majority of the tax cuts to buy back their own shares, pay larger dividends and keep shareholders happy. Corporate tax rates were decreased from 36% to 21%, which reduced the revenue needed for community investments, health care, education, transportation and scientific research.

In 2024, the Tax Policy Center estimated that households with incomes in the top 1% had received an average tax cut of \$61,000. In

comparison, households in the bottom 60% received a tax cut benefit less than \$500. Extending these tax cuts will add \$4.5 trillion in deficit spending and put the fiscal future of the next generation in jeopardy.

Tax policy should be amended periodically — especially to legitimately encourage capital investment and job creation. Changing demographics and the aging of our society also necessitates a responsible plan for the future.

Now is the time to enact effective and productive tax policy that works — and not to renew tax policy that falls short of its goals.

Roxanne Johnson, Mankato

America's emerging police state

Until three weeks ago, Kilmar Abrego Garcia was a 29-year-old father supporting his family as a sheet metal worker in Maryland. He is an immigrant from El Salvador, here in America legally.

But on March 12, while driving home with his 5-year-old son in the back seat, federal ICE agents stopped him, told him he was being deported, then called his wife to tell her she had 10 minutes to get her son.

The young father was permitted no lawyer, no hearing, no contact with his family, then flown off to a prison in El Salvador known for its brutality.

After two weeks, President Trump's press secretary finally admitted Garcia's deportation had been, in her words, "an administrative error." Then she said there was nothing the U.S. government could do to bring him home. When Garcia's wife went to federal court to demand her husband's return, Trump sent in federal lawyers to try and stop her.

I lived in Latin America for two decades. They have a name for this: To be disappeared.

You might be at work, or school, or home (or in your car with your son) and large men without identification suddenly take you. There is no process. There is no hearing. They take you and you are gone. In Bolivia, I have a friend who lost a brother this way. He was never heard from again.

Here we are in Trump's new America, marching down that same dangerous road.

Until a month ago, Rumeysa Ozturk was a 30-year-old doctoral student at Tufts University outside Boston. She is from Turkey, here in the U.S. on a student visa to study child development. On March 8, while speaking on the phone with her mother, federal agents surrounded her on the sidewalk outside her apartment.

They wore plain clothes and face



Jim Shultz
GUEST COLUMNIST

masks. They seized her phone and her backpack. Then they handcuffed her and pushed her into an unmarked car. Horrified witnesses thought she was being kidnapped. In fact she was, by federal agents dispatched by the Trump administration.

By the time her lawyer located her, Ozturk was hidden away in a federal detention prison in Louisiana, where she remains.

Her crime? Last year she co-authored an opinion article published in the Tufts University newspaper, criticizing Israel's bombing of Palestinian families in Gaza. In the precise words of Donald Trump's State Department, this student article was evidence that Ozturk was "actively supporting a foreign terrorist organization that relishes the killing of Americans." Off to prison you go.

This is not what America is supposed to be. In America if you are accused of a crime, you have the right to make your case and to be heard. That is how we keep the innocent from falling into hell because of someone else's bigotry and "an administrative error." This is how we keep the government from labeling someone a terrorist simply because they voiced an opinion that President Trump doesn't care for.

Here, where I live, in western New York, you don't have to look far to find more episodes of Trump's police state.

On March 27, federal ICE agents raided a small dairy farm in Sackets Harbor, a village of less than

1,400 people on the shore of Lake Ontario. The agents said they raided the farm looking for pornography, then arrested a mother and her three children. The youngest is in the third grade. Without a hearing they were sent off to a detention prison in Texas. They were there for more than a week before giant protests by their village neighbors brought them home.

Just up the road, at the two bridges that connect Niagara County to Canada, federal officials are now detaining immigrants for weeks, including children. The government is refusing to disclose any information about who is there, for how long, and why. In at least one case a family in the U.S. legally was taken into custody when they made a wrong turn, crossed into Canada by accident, and was returning back home.

Americans have lots of excuses for why we look away and ignore all this: "They aren't from here, they don't look like me, who cares?" ... "I'm too busy with work and taking care of my children to pay attention to something that doesn't affect me."

This Trump policy of disappearing people off to foreign jails and detention prisons has only just begun. It is already aimed at non-citizens who legally live here in the United States. It won't be a big leap before it gets used on citizens as well. This is how it begins.

Masha Gessen, a journalist who was raised under Soviet repression and fled to the U.S., wrote recently. "While we are still capable of looking, we have to say what we see: The United States has become a secret police state. Trust me, I've seen it before."

So have I.

Jim Shultz is an occasional CNHI columnist and founder/executive director of the Democracy Center. He resides in Lockport, N.Y. Reach him at: jimshultzthewriter@gmail.com.

Contact your legislators

State representatives

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District 18B: Rep. Luke Frederick (DFL), Mankato. 651-296-3248; rep.luke.frederick@house.mn

District 22A: Rep. Bjorn Olson (R), Fairmont. 651-296-3240; rep.bjorn.olson@house.mn.gov

District 19B: Rep. Tom Sexton (R), Waseca. 651-296-5368; rep.tom.sexton@house.mn.gov

State senators

District 18: Sen. Nick A. Frenz (DFL), North Mankato. 651-296-6153; sen.nick.frenz@senate.mn

District 22: Sen. Rich Draheim (R), Madison Lake. 651-296-5558; sen.rich.draheim@senate.mn

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The
Free Press

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BRIEFS

MSU softball team splits with Winona

WINONA — The Minnesota State softball team split an NSIC doubleheader with Winona State, losing 4-2 and winning 4-1 Wednesday.

Cheyenne Behrends finished with three hits for the Mavericks in the 4-2 loss, while Sophia Del Vecchio tossed 3 1/3 shutout innings.

In the 4-1 win, Brianne Stone tossed a complete game and Hannah Tong had two RBIs.

The Mavericks (31-13, 15-3 in NSIC) host Minnesota Duluth Saturday.

— The Free Press

MSU baseball wins one of two

WINONA — The Minnesota State baseball team beat Winona State 15-6 and fell to them 6-5 in an NSIC doubleheader on Wednesday.

Jake Berkland had three hits for MSU in its win, while Zach Stroh added two hits, two runs scored and two RBIs.

In the loss, Ike Mezzenga had two hits and an RBI, while Aidan Bryne also had two hits.

The Mavericks (26-3, 20-2 in NSIC) host Bemidji State Saturday.

— The Free Press

Hill involved in domestic dispute

SUNNY ISLES BEACH, Fla. — Miami Dolphins wide receiver Tyreek Hill and his wife were involved in a domestic dispute at their South Florida high-rise condominium, but no charges were filed, according to a police report.

Sunny Isles Beach officers responded to the home Monday following a call from Hill's mother-in-law, who began living with the couple in November, shortly after her granddaughter was born, according to the report.

The mother-in-law told responding officers that Hill, 31, was aggressive and impulsive and that she was afraid for her daughter, according to the report. She said Hill threw a laptop on the floor and grabbed his baby before walking toward the balcony.

Hill's agent didn't immediately respond to a telephone message seeking comment.

Hill's wife told police the two had been arguing recently and attending couple's therapy. She said therapy had not been working out and that she was in the process of filing for a divorce.

Hill told officers he had just returned from training and sat down to talk to his wife about their therapy. The discussion escalated after she told him he was not involved enough with their daughter.

Hill and his wife both stated the argument never turned physical, but officers reported a bruise on the woman's upper chest. She replied that it had probably happened accidentally when he grabbed the baby from her.

Officers observed that the baby was in good health. Hill's wife declined to write a statement.

— The Associated Press

Guerrero Jr., Toronto finalize huge deal

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the Toronto Blue Jays finalized their \$500 million, 14-year contract that starts in 2026, a deal with a record \$325 million signing bonus that protects the money from a possible work stoppage in 2027.

Toronto announced the deal Wednesday and scheduled a news conference for Monday at the Rogers Centre ahead of its next home game.

The 26-year-old Guerrero admitted there was a sense of relief in getting the long-term deal done.

"If I tell you that it's not a big relief, I'd be lying to you," he said. "It's always been my goal to be here. And I feel like I accomplished that, and I'm very, very happy to stay here and to be a Blue Jay."

"It wasn't that hard. Like, I would say maybe, I was just trusting the process, every step with my family, my agents, my close ones. I mean, have faith, everything, the outcome was going to be good. So, I mean, trust, I was trusting everything. But thank God, it went well."

— The Associated Press



Milwaukee Bucks' Bobby Portis, right, strips the ball from Minnesota Timberwolves' Rudy Gobert during the second half of a game Tuesday.

Photos by The Associated Press

TIGHT RACE

Wolves in middle of congested West standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE — Regular-season defeats don't get much more brutal than the one the Minnesota Timberwolves suffered Tuesday.

The wide-open nature of the Western Conference playoff race doesn't give them much time to stew over what went wrong.

Minnesota blew a 24-point lead by getting outscored 39-8 in the final 10 minutes of a stunning 110-103 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks that snapped a five-game winning streak.

The Timberwolves, who started the game in a four-way tie for fifth place in the West, are now alone in eighth.

"I have every confidence that we'll be able to bounce back," Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said. "We've got good guys. They'll shake it off. We've had some tough losses before in the season. We didn't expect to go undefeated over our last 10 games."

But they sure didn't expect to lose this one after leading 95-71 in the fourth quarter.

According to Sportradar, this marked only the fifth time that a team has won a game it trailed by at least 24 points in the fourth quarter since 1996-97, which is when the NBA started tracking play-by-play data. It was only the third time that one of those comebacks didn't require an overtime session.

It has happened one other time this season, and Minnesota was on the other end of it, rallying to win 131-128 at Oklahoma City in overtime after trailing 106-81 with 10:33 left in the fourth quarter.

"We played great basketball for three quarters," guard Donte DiVincenzo said. "We have to acknowledge what happened, but you don't let the world blow up just because of this."

The Timberwolves had no trouble explaining their collapse. The Bucks went to a zone in the fourth quarter, and the Timberwolves couldn't solve it.

They shot 4 of 20 overall and



Minnesota Timberwolves' Donte DiVincenzo (0) drives to the basket against Milwaukee Bucks' AJ Green during the second half Tuesday.

2 of 12 from 3-point range in the fourth quarter while committing eight turnovers.

"It was hard for every last one of us to get a look when they were in the zone," All-Star guard Anthony Edwards said. "It messed us up."

Minnesota forward Julius Randle noted that the Timberwolves have fared well against zones in the past. They just didn't do it Tuesday.

He was asked whether he expected other team to start using zones against them more often.

"If teams are smart, probably," Randle replied. "I ain't going to give them the blueprint."

Minnesota still has reason to believe it can work its way out of the play-in tournament, in which the teams that finish seventh through 10th compete for the West's final two playoff berths.

In fact, the Timberwolves are fighting for fourth place, which would give them home-court advantage in the opening round. They have the best cumulative record against the pack of teams

they're fighting with to avoid the play-in games and a better overall Western Conference record than the Los Angeles Clippers, Memphis Grizzlies, Denver Nuggets and Golden State Warriors.

The Timberwolves finish a five-game trip Thursday at Memphis. The Grizzlies just lost starting guard Jaylen Wells to a broken wrist from a scary fall in the game at Charlotte on Tuesday.

Then the regular season wraps up for Minnesota with home games against lottery-bound Brooklyn and Utah on Friday and Sunday, when the Warriors face the Clippers in a game that will guarantee a loss for one of the competitors. The Grizzlies also host the Nuggets on Friday, ensuring another loss for one of them.

So the Timberwolves still have time to improve their playoff position. It starts by bouncing back and winning Thursday.

"The next game," Edwards said, "is the biggest game of the season."

Denver looks to defend title

Penn State, Western Michigan newcomers to Frozen Four

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — If big-game experience counts for anything, Denver hockey coach David Carle was encouraged how the defending champion Pioneers dealt with their share of second-half adversity to make it back to the Frozen Four.

"We've learned and grown up through every challenging experience," the seventh year coach said of a season in which the Pioneers (31-11-1) won their first 12 games but are 17-7-1 since the Christmas break.

That includes blowing a 3-0 third-period lead in a NCHC tournament championship final 4-3 OT loss to Western Michigan, who they'll meet in the semifinals Thursday.

How much that familiarity helps in Denver's quest to win its third title in four years and NCAA-leading 11th overall, remains to be seen.

"Now you're playing teams that I think have all been through the grinder, and I'm not sure how much that matters anymore," Carle added. "All four teams are peaking at the right time."

Boston University (23-13-2), making its 25th Frozen Four appearance, faces Penn State (22-13-4) in the other semifinal of a final four that features a decisive split in tournament experience.

With a combined 15 titles, Denver and BU bring championship pedigree to St. Louis. And then there's Frozen Four first-timers in Western Michigan (32-7-1), the lone No. 1 seed left in the field, and Penn State (22-13-4), which launched its program 14 years ago.

Western Michigan might be new to the championship round, but no strangers to tournament play.

The Broncos have earned NCAA berths in each of coach Pat Ferschweiler's four seasons, have a nation-leading and school record-matching 32 wins, and went 2-0-1 against Denver this season.

"To feel like a favorite against Denver, the defending national champions, a team that's a known quantity, returning much of their lineup, I don't want to go favorite or not," Ferschweiler said. "But what we are is confident in ourselves."

At Penn State, there's very little experience coach Guy Gadowsky can draw upon for a program making only its fourth tournament appearance, and now 4-3 in tournament play after beating Maine and Connecticut in the regional round.

"We're going into this fresh. We're certainly going to enjoy every aspect of it," Gadowsky said.

"As it pertains to our opponent, really, no matter what happens, you're going to be playing a great team who is playing extremely well no matter what way you slice it," he said of a Terriers team making its third straight Frozen Four appearance.

What's been missing for BU, which last reached the final in 2015 and last won in 2009, is a semifinal win after losing in overtime to Denver last year and Minnesota in 2023.

"Obviously, the last two years haven't gone the way we wanted," junior assistant captain Quinn Hutson said. "I'm personally going to use that a lot. ... I think it's a big moment,

See FROZEN on A7

Masters ends wait for golf's most anticipated major

For a sport renowned for moving slowly, the Masters can't get started fast enough

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGUSTA, Ga. — For a sports renowned for moving slowly, the Masters can't get started fast enough.

Wednesday at Augusta National was filled with anticipation, not to mention a bit of pollen from a glorious spring day in the South, as players filed out of the clubhouse for a final dress rehearsal at what has become the most anticipated major of the golf season.

Rory McIlroy walked out of the clubhouse through a crowd under the live oak tree

and headed out for a quick nine holes in his bid for an elusive Masters green jacket, the final piece of the career Grand Slam. He played a money game with Tommy Fleetwood, Jon Rahm and Shane Lowry before heading over to the Par 3 Tournament.

The Masters is so different from the other four majors.

It has the smallest field (95 players) on the prettiest property (home of a former nursery that now boasts more than 80,000 plants of 350 varieties) and is the only major referred to as a "tournament" instead of a "championship."

And the final act Wednesday afternoon is for players to walk over to the Par 3 course with their toddlers dressed in white coveralls to play a tournament no one wants to win — the Augusta National course

See MASTERS on A7



The Associated Press

Golfers putt on the 16th hole during a practice around at the Masters Wednesday.

SCORECARD

WEEK IN SPORTS

THURSDAY

Mankato East boys golf vs. Coon Rapids, 9 a.m., Bunker Hills Golf Club
 Mankato East softball at Albert Lea, 4 p.m.,
 Mankato East boys tennis at St. Peter, 4:30 p.m.
 Mankato East girls lacrosse at Lakeville North, 6 p.m.
 Mankato West boys, girls track and field home meet, 4:30 p.m. Todnem Stadium
 Mankato West boys tennis at Austin, 4:45 p.m.
 Mankato Loyola/Cleveland boys, girls track and field meet, 4:30 p.m., JWP

FRIDAY

Mankato East girls, boys track and field meet, 4 p.m., New Prague
 Mankato boys lacrosse vs. Hutchinson, 6 p.m., Kennedy Elementary School
 Mankato Loyola baseball at St. James, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY

Minnesota State men's, women's track and field home meet, all day, Mark Schuck Outdoor Track and Field Complex
 Minnesota State softball doubleheader vs. Minnesota-Duluth, noon, 2 p.m.
 Minnesota State baseball doubleheader vs. Bemidji State, 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
 Minnesota State women's tennis vs. Winona State, 3 p.m., St. Peter
 Mankato East boys tennis triangular, 9 a.m., East courts
 Mankato East baseball doubleheader at Rochester Mayo, noon
 Mankato East softball vs. Rochester Century, noon, Thomas Park
 Mankato West softball at Rochester Mayo, noon
 Mankato West baseball vs. Rochester Mayo, 1 p.m., Wolverton Field

TV TODAY

Thursday, April 10

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL (MEN'S)
4:35 a.m.
 FS2 — AFL: Geelong at Adelaide
4:35 a.m. (Friday)
 FS2 — AFL: Sydney at Collingwood

BASKETBALL AFRICA LEAGUE

11 a.m.
 NBATV — Al Ittihad vs. Stade Malien, Rabat, Morocco

2 p.m.
 NBATV — FUS de Rabat vs. Rivers Hoopers BC, Rabat, Morocco

COLLEGE BASEBALL

6 p.m.
 ACCN — Wake Forest at North Carolina
 SECN — Missouri at Florida

7 p.m.
 ESPN — South Carolina at Texas A&M

COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)

4 p.m.
 ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament: Denver vs. W. Michigan, Semifinal, St. Louis

7:30 p.m.
 ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament: Penn St. vs. Boston U., Semifinal, St. Louis

COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)

5 p.m.
 BTN — Johns Hopkins at Ohio St.

7 p.m.
 BTN — Southern Cal at Rutgers

GOLF

2 p.m.
 ESPN — PGA Tour: The Masters, First Round, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Ga.

7 p.m.
 ESPN — PGA Tour: The Masters, First Round, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Ga. (Taped)

HORSE RACING

12 p.m.
 FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

IIHF HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)

4 a.m.
 NHLN — IIHF World Championship Group Stage: Japan vs. Norway, Group B, Ceske Budejovice, Czechia

8 a.m.
 NHLN — IIHF World Championship Group Stage: Sweden vs. Hungary, Group B, Ceske Budejovice, Czechia

12 p.m.
 NHLN — IIHF World Championship Group Stage: Canada vs. Finland, Group A, Ceske Budejovice, Czechia

4 a.m. (Friday)
 NHLN — IIHF World Championship Group Stage: Hungary vs. Japan, Group B, Ceske Budejovice, Czechia

MLB BASEBALL

12 p.m.
 MLBN — Regional Coverage: Chicago White Sox at Cleveland (1:10 p.m.) OR L.A. Angels at Tampa Bay (1:10 p.m.)

1 p.m.
 FDSN — Kansas City at Minnesota

3 p.m.
 MLBN — Regional Coverage: Toronto at Boston (4:10 p.m.) OR Milwaukee at Colorado (3:10 p.m.)

6 p.m.
 MLBN — Philadelphia at Atlanta (7:15 p.m.)

NBA BASKETBALL

6 p.m.
 TNT — Cleveland at Indiana

8:30 p.m.
 TRUTV — Cleveland at Indiana (DataCast)

9 p.m.
 TNT — Minnesota at Memphis

9 p.m.
 TRUTV — Minnesota at Memphis (DataCast)

SOCCER (MEN'S)

11:40 a.m.
 CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: Lazio at Bodo/Glimt, Quarterfinal — Leg 1

2 p.m.
 CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: Athletic Club at Rangers, Quarterfinal — Leg 1

TENNIS

4 a.m.
 TENNIS — Monte Carlo-ATP Early Rounds

5 a.m.
 TENNIS — Monte Carlo-ATP Early Rounds

9 p.m.
 TENNIS — BJK Cup Qualifier: Colombia vs. Kazakhstan

4 a.m. (Friday)
 TENNIS — Monte Carlo-ATP Quarterfinals

5 a.m. (Friday)
 TENNIS — Monte Carlo-ATP Quarterfinals

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	5	.583	—
Toronto	7	5	.583	—
Boston	6	6	.500	1
Tampa Bay	4	6	.400	2
Baltimore	5	8	.385	2½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	7	5	.583	—
Kansas City	6	5	.545	½
Cleveland	5	6	.455	1½
Minnesota	3	8	.273	3½
Chicago	2	9	.182	4½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	9	4	.692	—
Los Angeles	7	3	.700	½
Houston	5	7	.417	3½
Athletics	5	8	.385	4
Seattle	5	8	.385	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	7	3	.700	—
New York	8	4	.667	—
Miami	6	6	.500	2
Washington	5	7	.417	3
Atlanta	2	8	.200	5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	7	3	.700	—
Toronto	6	4	.600	—
St. Louis	5	5	.500	—
Chicago	4	6	.400	—
Pittsburgh	3	7	.300	—

Chicago	9	6	.600	—
Milwaukee	6	5	.545	1
St. Louis	5	7	.417	2½
Cincinnati	5	8	.385	3
Pittsburgh	5	8	.385	3

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	10	3	.769	—
San Francisco	9	3	.750	½
Los Angeles	10	4	.714	½
Arizona	7	6	.538	3
Colorado	2	8	.200	6½

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games

Detroit 5, N.Y. Yankees 0
 Cleveland 1, Chicago White Sox 0
 Toronto 6, Boston 1
 L.A. Angels 4, Tampa Bay 3
 Kansas City 2, Minnesota 1
 Chicago Cubs 10, Texas 6
 Arizona 4, Baltimore 3
 Athletics 10, San Diego 4
 Houston 2, Seattle 1, 12 innings

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 4, Detroit 3
 Texas 6, Chicago Cubs 2
 San Diego 2, Athletics 1
 Arizona 9, Baltimore 0
 Seattle 7, Houston 6
 Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 2
 Toronto at Boston, (n)
 L.A. Angels at Tampa Bay, (n)
 Minnesota at Kansas City, (n)

Thursday's Games

Chicago White Sox (Cannon 0-1) at Cleveland (Williams 0-0), 12:10 p.m.
 L.A. Angels (Soriano 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Littell 0-2), 12:10 p.m.
 Minnesota (Ober 0-1) at Kansas City (Wacha 0-2), 1:10 p.m.
 Toronto (Bassitt 1-0) at Boston (Buehler 1-1), 3:10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Kansas City at Cleveland, 5:10 p.m.
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 6:05 p.m.
 San Francisco at N.Y. Yankees, 6:05 p.m.
 Toronto at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m.
 Boston at Chicago White Sox, 6:40 p.m.
 Detroit at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.
 L.A. Angels at Houston, 7:10 p.m.
 Texas at Seattle, 8:40 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets at Athletics, 9:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Mets 10, Miami 5
 St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 3
 Washington 8, L.A. Dodgers 2
 Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 5
 Chicago Cubs 10, Texas 6
 Milwaukee 7, Colorado 1
 Cincinnati 1, San Francisco 0
 Arizona 4, Baltimore 3
 Athletics 10, San Diego 4

Wednesday's Games

Miami 5, N.Y. Mets 0
 Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1, 13 innings
 Texas 6, Chicago Cubs 2
 San Diego 2, Athletics 1
 Arizona 9, Baltimore 0
 San Francisco 8, Cincinnati 6, 10 innings
 L.A. Dodgers 6, Washington 5
 Philadelphia at Atlanta, (n)
 Milwaukee at Colorado, (n)

Thursday's Games

Milwaukee (Priester 0-0) at Colorado (Feltner 0-0), 2:10 p.m.
 Philadelphia (Luzardo 2-0) at Atlanta (Schwellenbach 1-0), 6:15 p.m.

Friday's Games

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 5:40 p.m.
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 6:05 p.m.
 San Francisco at N.Y. Yankees, 6:05 p.m.
 Washington at Miami, 6:10 p.m.
 Philadelphia at St. Louis, 7:15 p.m.
 Colorado at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Arizona, 8:40 p.m.
 N.Y. Mets at Athletics, 9:05 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	59	21	.738	—
x-New York	50	29	.633	8½
Toronto	29	50	.367	29½
Brooklyn	26	53	.329	32½
Phila.	23	56	.291	35½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oriando	40	40	.500	—
Atlanta	37	42	.468	2½
Miami	36	43	.456	3½
Charlotte	19	60	.241	20½
Washington	17	62	.215	22½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Cleveland	63	16	.797	—
x-Indiana	48	31	.608	15
x-Milwaukee	45	34	.570	18
x-Detroit	43	36	.544	20
Chicago	36	43	.456	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Houston	52	27	.658	—
Memphis	47	32	.595	5
Dallas	38	41	.481	14
San Antonio	32	47	.405	20
New Orleans	21	58	.266	31

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Oklahoma City	65	14	.823	—
Denver	47	32	.595	18
Minnesota	46	33	.582	19
Portland	35	44	.443	30
Utah	16	63	.203	49

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	48	31	.608	—
L.A. Clippers	47	32	.595	1
Golden State	47	32	.595	1
Sacramento	39	40	.494	9
Phoenix	35	44	.443	13

x-clinched playoff spot
 y-clinched division
 z-clinched conference

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 135, Chicago 113
 Indiana 104, Washington 98
 Orlando 119, Atlanta 112
 Memphis 124, Charlotte 100
 Brooklyn 119, New Orleans 114
 Boston 119, New York 117, OT
 Milwaukee 110, Minnesota 103
 Oklahoma City 136, L.A. Lakers 120
 Golden State 133, Phoenix 95
 L.A. Clippers 122, San Antonio 117

Wednesday's Games

Orlando 96, Boston 76
 Phila. at Washington, (n)
 Charlotte at Toronto, (n)
 L.A. Lakers at Dallas, (n)
 Miami at Chicago, (n)
 Portland at Utah, (n)
 Denver at Sacramento, (n)
 Oklahoma City at Phoenix, (n)
 San Antonio at Golden State, (n)
 Houston at L.A. Clippers, (n)

Thursday's Games

Cleveland at Indiana, 6 p.m.
 New York at Detroit, 6 p.m.
 Atlanta at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
 New Orleans at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at Memphis, 8:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Atlanta at Phila., 6 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Detroit, 6 p.m.
 Orlando at Indiana, 6 p.m.
 Charlotte at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
 Cleveland at New York, 6:30 p.m.
 Miami at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
 Washington at Chicago, 7 p.m.
 Toronto at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Brooklyn at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Memphis at Denver, 8 p.m.

Oklahoma City at Utah, 8:30 p.m.
 Golden State at Portland, 9 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
 San Antonio at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
 Houston at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

No games scheduled.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Toronto	77	47	26	4	98	251	224
x-Tampa Bay	77	45	26	6	96	247	202
x-Florida	78	45	29	4	94	241	210
x-Ottawa	78	42	30	6	90	224	220
Montreal	78	39	30	9	87	236	253
Detroit	77	36	34	7	79	219	242
Buffalo	77	35	36	6	76	256	268
Boston	79	32	38	9	73	212	261

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Washington	77	49	19	9	107	277	211
x-Carolina	77	46	27	4	96	247	210
New Jersey	78	41	30	7	89	233	208

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MORE World-famous cat has a record-setting tail | Stanley Cup-winning GM with Pittsburgh, dies at 62

Nicollet school deficit insured, other shortfalls ahead

HOLLY MARIE MOORE
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NICOLLET — The Nicollet Public Schools Board learned Wednesday that a \$195,627 special education deficit will be insured after human error led to the loss.

The error came from within Minnesota-based organization School Man-

agement Services, which the district contracts with for responsibilities such as reporting special education revenue.

According to a letter from SMS that Supt. Robin Courrier read during the meeting, a coding mistake caused the situation.

The deficit is lower than originally expected; Courrier said last month it could've

been as high as \$325,000.

"We are committed to ensuring the appropriate allocation of resources to support our special education program and are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of financial accountability," Courrier read from SMS's letter Wednesday.

School Management Services owner and President

Todd Netzke was present at Wednesday's meeting and addressed what happened.

"We have never had a situation like this that resulted in lost revenue for a customer," he said.

SMS's letter said the team is collaborating with the Minnesota Department of Education Special Education Finance Team to assess the financial implications of

the mistake and that the district and the organization are working together to establish improved communication and protocols.

Board member Abbi Carleton said she was getting caught up on the ability to trust SMS.

"It's hard, because trust is like fine china. Once it's broken, you can mend it, but it's never the same," she said.

As the special education deficit is in the process of being resolved, the district also learned of an unrelated projected \$1.2 million shortfall over three years, due in part to declining enrollment numbers.

The School Board reviewed a survey Wednesday evening that will soon be sent out to gauge the community's support for a bond referendum.

North Kato gets \$3.3M for 169 project

THE FREE PRESS

NORTH MANKATO — North Mankato got a \$3.3 million grant from the state for enhancements to the reconstruction of the Highway 169 corridor.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation announced the award Wednesday.

MnDOT estimates it will spend at least \$70 million to reimagine the stretch of Highway 169 from Highway 14 to the southwestern part of Mankato.

North Mankato will use the funds toward its portion of a new roundabout at the Highway 169/Webster Avenue intersection as well as a new bike and pedestrian underpass spanning the highway from Range Street to North River Drive.

The \$3.3 million award helps

See **PROJECT** on B2

BRIEFS

Bison calf stillborn at Minneopa State Park

MANKATO — A Minneopa State Park bison had a stillbirth last weekend.

Ashley Steevens, park manager, said their veterinarians told them there was nothing to worry about, that the cow is OK and that the herd's health is good.

"It happens sometimes," Steevens said of stillbirths in bison.

In recent years calves in the Minneopa herd have generally started to be born in early May. Steevens said they're expecting the first calves to come in a week or two.

Last year 11 calves were born, bringing the herd to 33.

Steevens said that besides the cow with the stillbirth, there are 10 other cows that could potentially give birth this year.

— The Free Press

Mankato woman injured in Hwy 22 intersection crash

MANKATO — A 50-year-old Mankato woman was injured in an SUV-pickup crash Wednesday morning in a Mankato intersection.

Betsy Cathryn Mistek was driving a northbound 2023 Hyundai Tucson on Highway 22 at 9:55 a.m. when the SUV and a 2015 Ram 5500 — also northbound on Highway 22 — crashed in the road's intersection with Victory Drive the State Patrol said.

Mistek was treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato. The driver of the Ram, Jordan Phillip Madsen, 29, of New Richland, and his two passengers were not injured, the patrol said.

All vehicle occupants were wearing seatbelts.

— The Free Press



Tim Krohn photos

Brandon Eder, assistant supervisor of the Waterville Fisheries, shows some rainbow trout before they are released into the St. Peter trout ponds Wednesday.

TROUT TIME

1,500 rainbow trout stocked in St. Peter pond ahead of opener Saturday

TIM KROHN
TKROHN@
MANKATOFREEPRESS.COM

ST. PETER — When the state's popular stream trout season opens Saturday, anglers will have good fishing at the trout ponds just east of St. Peter.

The Department of Natural Resources Waterville Fisheries stocked 1,500 rainbow trout in the pond Wednesday.

"They're about a half-pound each," said Craig Soupir, fisheries manager.

He said they expect there will be about 100 anglers at the pond

See **TROUT** on B2



The last of the rainbow trout in a tank start going down a tube opening (lower right) and are then flushed down a tube and into a pond.

Legislation would protect BWCA

SYDNEY KASHIWAGI
STAR TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — A bill that would permanently protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from sulfide mining was introduced by Sen. Tina Smith in the U.S. Senate on Wednesday.

President Donald Trump and his administration have signaled a willingness to open the area back up to mining.

"I think Minnesotans need to understand that ... the Trump administration's determination to allow this kind of mining in the Boundary Waters is a real imminent threat," Smith said in an interview.

The retiring senator helped push former President Joe Biden to withdraw 225,504 acres in the Superior National Forest from new mineral leases for 20 years. Only Congress has the ability to make that withdrawal permanent, the last administration said.

But that withdrawal is now in question with Republicans in control in Washington.

Rep. Pete Stauber, R-Minn., recently introduced a bill that would reinstate the mineral leases Biden canceled and allow new leasing on the more than 225,000 acres of land in the Superior National Forest. Stauber has said he is confident Trump will sign his bill into law if it gets to his desk.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration also has shown a willingness to cancel other mineral leasing withdrawals in Nevada and New Mexico.

Smith said she's all but certain Minnesota may be next.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Donald Trump has the Boundary Waters in his sights," Smith said. "He has spoken publicly about it, and that's one of the reasons that I want to introduce this legislation."

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum also recently directed his department to create a plan to reinstate all mineral, oil and gas leases on federal land canceled during the Biden administration and to examine how mining bans like the one in Minnesota could be reversed.

Smith's bill would prohibit sulfide mining on the 225,504 acres in an area where the BWCA water flows into Voyageurs National Park. It would also permit the U.S. Forest Service to allow the removal of sand, gravel, granite, iron ore and taconite from land within the protected area.

However, the bill would not ban or restrict any current or future mining projects outside of the withdrawal area within the Rainy River watershed or affect any taconite mines in Minnesota, Smith said.

Though Smith opposes mining in this area, she stressed that she is "not opposed to all copper nickel mining, and certainly not all mining."

Republicans control both chambers of Congress, and Smith knows her bill likely faces an uphill battle.

But its introduction comes at a time when some Republicans in the Senate have shown a willingness to push back

See **BWCA** on B2



Help us recognize a teacher in your community.

Each month The Free Press will take community nominations for Teacher of the Month. One teacher will be chosen each month and recognized in The Free Press and on our website. The winning teacher each month will get a \$200 gift card that they can use for school supplies! Nominate someone for Teacher of the Month today! Go to www.mankatofreepress.com/contests or scan the QR code!



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OBITUARIES & RECORDS/NEWS

World-famous cat has a record-setting tail

SAM STROOZAS
MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO

It's not uncommon for Mr. Pugsley Addams to be fawned over. The nearly two-year-old Maine coon cat is often the center of attention in the Cameron household and lives among three other equally as beautiful Maine coons. But Pugsley, Puggy for short, has something that makes him stand out from his siblings — the world's longest tail on a living domestic cat.

Measuring in at 18.5 inches, Pugsley's tail was officially crowned number one by the Guinness World Records in March. Amanda Cameron of Orono said it started when friends, family and even the veterinarian would comment on the length of his tail. Soon, she and her kids decided to check out what the record was.

"I submitted the record a year ago, and we just remeasured it a month ago and it's grown another two centimeters. It just keeps growing. The vets don't know what's going on," she said.

The previous longest tail measured at 16.07 inches, belonging to a cat in Michigan.

It's possible the tail is so long due to extra or abnormally long vertebrae, but it doesn't seem to be in the way — except for when family members step on it accidentally. After a lot of paperwork, witnesses and a notary, the Cameron's got word that



Mr. Pugsley Addams poses for a photo with his family members, left to right, Finn, Amanda, and Joie Cameron at their home in Orono, Minn., on April 3.

Liam James Doyle for MPR News

Pugsley had made the world record and soon, the rest of the world found out too.

USA Today, People Magazine and more covered Pugsley's story as the news spread to the U.K., Pakistan and Turkey.

"It's been all over. It's kinda

crazy," Amanda Cameron said. "I think people are really hungry for news that doesn't suck right now."

The family got their first Maine coon, Dutchess, in 2022. The Camerons' daughter Joie had been asking her parents for

a cat since she could talk.

"I love them so much," said Joie, now 10 years old. "I just feel like they're really pretty and I would just choose them over dogs."

Joie had a vision for her cat: she wanted it to be the world's

fluffiest white cat. Amanda Cameron started looking and found a Maine coon from a breeder in Ukraine. While going through the process, she decided she wanted a cat for herself too, so Dutchess and Winifred flew to Minnesota.

Then came Gomez. He was re-homed from Wisconsin but originally from Russia. And finally, the baby of the family, Pugsley. If you're sensing a theme, you would be right.

The movies "The Addams Family," "The Aristocats" and "Hocus Pocus" inspired the names. And each member of the family has a cat that they're a little bit closer to. For Pugsley, that is 12-year-old Finn.

He and Joie said it was hard not to tell people at school the big news when the family found out, and now, Pugsley is getting his time in the limelight the family feels like he's always deserved.

"It's been super exciting. They're just nice pets to have around," Finn said of the four Maine coons.

Pugsley is described, like the character, as mischievous, curious and very smart. He will never turn down a cuddle.

The Cameron family doesn't plan to get more cats at the moment, as they're at the city limit, but Pugsley's tail is set to keep growing, at least a bit longer.

"Maine coons aren't fully grown until they're four or five, and they don't grow a whole lot after they are about one and a half or two, but they fill out. I think it'll probably grow another centimeter or two," Amanda Cameron said.

BWCA

CONTINUED FROM B1

against the Trump administration. Four Republicans recently joined Democrats to narrowly pass Sen. Amy Klobuchar's resolution that would undo parts of Trump's tariffs on Canada.

"There's always a chance," Smith said.

It's the first time legislation like Smith's has been introduced in the U.S. Senate since Minnesota's late Sen. Hubert Humphrey introduced the 1978 Boundary Waters Act in the upper chamber, which former President Jimmy Carter later signed.

In the U.S. House, Rep. Betty McCollum, D- Minn., has been carrying similar legislation to protect the BWCA for the last decade. She reintroduced that bill earlier this year and applauded Smith's effort in the Senate.

"Minnesotans are leading the charge to permanently protect the BWCA," McCollum said.

Ingrid Lyons, executive director of Save the Boundary Waters, said Smith's bill marked a "good and important day for the Boundary Waters."

It's unclear where Stauber's legislation stands, but its approval could be a boost for the Twin Metals project, which proposes to extract copper and nickel from an underground mine near Ely. Twin Metals is a subsidiary of the Chilean mining giant Antofagasta.

The project's mineral leases are inside the area where Biden barred new mining after a federal study determined hard rock mining risked polluting the Boundary Waters.

The Biden administration also canceled Twin Metals' mineral leases. The company has been arguing in federal appeals court to keep alive a lawsuit that seeks to overturn that decision.

Chloe Johnson of the Minnesota Star Tribune contributed to this report.

PROJECT

CONTINUED FROM B1

offset the nearly \$4.8 million the city of North Mankato is budgeted to spend on the project overall.

"The award of these grant funds will enable residents and visitors to realize a unique opportunity to connect lower North Mankato with the beautiful Minnesota River, the Rex Macbeth Trail, and the businesses on the east side of Highway 169," stated Luke Arnold, North Mankato public works director, in a news release.

The reconstruction of Highway 169 is scheduled to begin in 2027 and be completed in 2028.

The funding awarded to North Mankato comes from the state's Surface Transportation Program — Small Urban as well as the MN Transportation Alternatives Solicitation.

Stanley Cup-winning GM with Pittsburgh, dies at 62

Longtime NHL executive Ray Shero has died

STEPHEN WHYNO
AP HOCKEY WRITER

Longtime NHL executive Ray Shero, the general manager of the Pittsburgh Penguins when they won the Stanley Cup in 2009, has died. He was 62.

The Minnesota Wild announced Shero's death Wednesday. A spokesperson for the New Jersey Devils confirmed the team found out in the morning, USA Hockey said Shero died Tuesday night.

Further details, including cause of death and where Shero was, were not available.

"Our hearts go out to his family and friends and the countless people he impacted in the hockey community throughout his successful career," the Wild said in a statement. "Ray was the best. He will be greatly missed by all of us. The Shero family asks for privacy during this difficult time."

Shero had been a senior adviser to Wild general manager Bill Guerin. The son of Hall of Fame coach Fred Shero, Ray worked in the league since the mid-90s with Ottawa, Pittsburgh, New Jersey and Minnesota.

"Ray Shero's smile and personality lit up every room he walked into and brightened the day of everyone he met," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "Widely respected



Paul Sancya | Associated Press

Pittsburgh Penguins general manager Ray Shero holding up the Stanley Cup after the Penguins beat the Detroit Red Wings 2-1 to win Game 7 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup finals, in Detroit, June 12, 2009.

throughout hockey for his team-building acumen and eye for talent, he was even more beloved for how he treated everyone fortunate enough to have known him. ... It was clear he loved what he was doing, and I always marveled at his infectious enthusi-

asm." Sidney Crosby, who captained the Penguins to the Cup in '09, said Shero was a big part of the early days of his career.

"He gave me a lot of opportunity as a young captain and supported me

throughout his time," Crosby said. "He did so much for our organization, and my memories with him are special. I am grateful for our time spent here and that we were able to share a Stanley Cup championship together."

The Predators, for whom Shero worked from their inaugural season in 1998-99 through 2006 when he got the job with Pittsburgh, called him "one of the most influential people in our sport."

Tom Fitzgerald, who was Shero's assistant with the Devils and succeeded him as GM, said the organization was stunned and saddened by his death.

"Ray was a highly-respected executive, enthusiastic mentor, and most importantly, tremendous friend to many during his time in New Jersey," Fitzgerald said. "Ray came from a family that dedicated themselves to the game, and he continued to pass that commitment on. The organization is extremely grateful for the impact Ray had during his tenure in New Jersey, and it is without question that his fingerprints are on the current group we see today both on and off the ice."

Agent Allan Walsh posted on social media: "There are no words to describe how devastated I am at the news. We had epic battles but always respected each other. He was a great GM and an amazing person. We had so many great times together over so many years. I love you, Ray, and will miss you terribly. Rest easy my friend."

Slaughterhouse cleaning loses pork plant contract

BROOKS JOHNSON
STAR TRIBUNE

The Wisconsin-based sanitation services company that hired minors to clean slaughterhouses has lost another contract at a Minnesota meat-packer.

Quality Pork Processors (QPP) in Austin, Minn., recently notified Fortrex it is hiring another company to sanitize the pork plant.

"The unforeseen business circumstances related to Qual-

ity Pork Processors' decision to immediately cease [Fortrex] operations at its plant is not something that we anticipated," the company wrote in a letter to employees.

Fortrex notified the state this week that 72 employees will be relocated or laid off as of May 3. The company had provided cleaning services at Quality Pork Processors, located near Hormel Foods headquarters, since 2013.

A message left with QPP was not immediately returned

Wednesday. Fortrex declined further comment.

Fortrex, formerly known as Packers Sanitation Services Inc. (PSSI), illegally employed at least 102 minors to work in slaughterhouses around the country in 2022, according to a federal investigation. The company has lost several contracts in the years since.

The department found nearly two dozen teens working at the JBS pork plant in Worthington, Minn., as well as minors employed at Tur-

key Valley Farms in Marshall, Minn., and Buckhead in St. Cloud.

The U.S. Department of Labor did not allege wrongdoing at Quality Pork Processors.

Federal law requires anyone working in a slaughterhouse to be 18 or older because of the dangerous nature of the work.

JBS has cut ties with Fortrex and has started an in-house cleaning service. The Pilgrim's Pride poultry plant in Cold Springs, Minn., has also ended

its contract with the company.

Minnetonka-based Cargill, one of the nation's largest beef producers, cut ties with Fortrex in 2023.

PSSI changed its name to Fortrex in January. The company's CEO, Tim Mulhere, said in a statement at the time the change reflected "a renewed commitment to leading the food safety and sanitation industry in compliance, standards, scientific innovation and attracting top-tier talent."

TROUT

CONTINUED FROM B1

Saturday morning and the numbers are predicted to stay high on Sunday.

Soupir said fishing will be good at the pond for several weeks to come. The DNR will stock 1,500 more trout in the pond next week and continue adding fish over the coming weeks for a total stocking of 5,000 trout.

Seven Mile Creek is the other area spot for stream trout fishing. The Hutchinson Regional Fisheries stocked the creek Tuesday with brown trout that are about two-thirds of a pound each.

All the trout being stocked in the ponds and

the creek come from the Lanesboro Fisheries.

Soupir cautioned that while the stream trout opener is Saturday, people cannot fish for the trout that were stocked in Hiniker Pond in Mankato last winter until the regular fishing opener May 10.

Hiniker is not designated as a trout stream, while the three ponds outside of St. Peter are officially designated as trout streams.

People can still fish for panfish at Hiniker, but they must throw back any trout they catch until after the

regular fishing opener.

He said there are still a good number of trout in Hiniker. "On the last day of the season on March 31 there were still several people catching their limit of trout there."

Trout anglers can find

information on Minnesota's trout streams on the Department of Natural Resources website (mndnr.gov/fishing/trout). Anglers will find helpful learning guides and fishing tips tailored to each of Minnesota's six trout-fishing regions.

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WEATHER & REGION/STATE

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AccuWeather Forecast

Today Periods of sun with a shower; cooler
Tonight Partly cloudy
Friday Clouds giving way to some sun
Saturday Increasing clouds and breezy
Sunday Partly sunny and warm with a shower
Monday Mostly cloudy, breezy and cooler

50° 35° 55° 37° 68° 49° 71° 45° 53° 31°

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	56/42/pc	60/40/c
Baghdad	85/58/pc	80/55/pc
Beijing	79/51/pc	80/45/c
Berlin	58/42/pc	60/46/pc
Jerusalem	58/48/pc	56/48/pc
Johannesburg	74/48/s	72/49/pc
London	63/42/pc	71/47/s
Moscow	36/28/sn	39/29/sf
Paris	64/43/s	69/46/s
Rio de Janeiro	81/72/t	78/71/sh
Sydney	76/61/pc	82/67/s
Tokyo	70/60/c	68/56/sh

National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Anchorage	37/29/sn	40/32/c
Atlanta	75/52/pc	67/44/c
Austin	93/59/s	87/51/s
Baltimore	54/46/c	51/41/r
Boston	47/39/pc	46/40/c
Charleston, SC	75/61/s	77/50/sh
Charlotte	70/53/c	65/46/sh
Chicago	47/36/c	49/33/s
Dallas	87/55/s	79/53/s
Denver	68/40/s	81/53/pc
Des Moines	62/41/sh	59/40/c
Detroit	43/35/sn	50/35/pc
Fargo	52/35/c	62/44/c
Honolulu	85/74/sh	86/73/sh
Houston	88/60/s	86/57/s
Kansas City	67/40/sh	62/41/s
Las Vegas	95/67/s	97/70/s
Los Angeles	83/59/pc	80/56/s
Memphis	74/49/t	61/43/pc
Miami	81/68/sh	83/66/sh
Milwaukee	42/35/sh	47/34/s
New York City	50/43/c	49/42/r
Omaha	67/35/pc	64/42/s
Orlando	80/62/sh	84/59/s
Phoenix	101/68/s	103/71/s
Rapid City	68/37/s	82/51/pc
San Antonio	92/60/s	88/58/s
San Francisco	67/54/s	65/49/pc
San Diego	71/55/pc	71/56/pc
Seattle	62/42/r	54/42/s
Tampa	81/65/s	81/63/pc
Tucson	98/61/s	104/63/s
Washington, DC	56/49/c	56/44/r

Almanac

Mankato through 1 p.m. Wednesday

Temperature

High	54°
Low	35°
Record high	88° in 1977
Record low	10° in 1997
Normal high/low	53°/31°
Tuesday's high/low	51°/21°

Precipitation (in inches)

24 hrs ending 1 p.m.	trace
Tuesday	0.00
Month to date	0.13
Year to date	1.50
Normal year to date	4.65
Snow 24 hrs to 1 p.m.	0.0
Snow Tuesday	0.0
Snow season to date	16.8

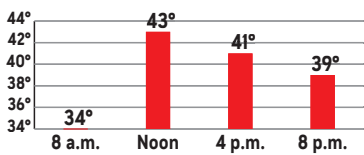
Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the mean temperature fell below 65 degrees for the day.

Wednesday	20
Season to date	6309
Normal season to date	7128
Last season to date	5758

RealFeel Temperature®

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Wind Chill

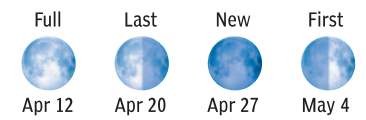
Day	8 a.m.	Noon
Today	38°	43°
Friday	33°	45°
Saturday	36°	59°

An indication of how cold it will feel based on expected temperature and wind speed.

Sun and Moon

The Sun	Rise	Set
Today	6:41 a.m.	7:54 p.m.
Friday	6:39 a.m.	7:55 p.m.
Saturday	6:37 a.m.	7:57 p.m.

The Moon	Rise	Set
Today	5:53 p.m.	5:47 a.m.
Friday	6:57 p.m.	6:03 a.m.
Saturday	8:00 p.m.	6:19 a.m.



Solunar Tables

The solunar period schedule allows planning days so you will be fishing in good territory or hunting in good cover during those times.

Day	a.m. Major	a.m. Minor	p.m. Major	p.m. Minor
Apr 10	10:22a	4:12a	10:41p	4:32p
Apr 11	10:57a	4:48a	11:17p	5:07p
Apr 12	11:35a	5:25a	11:55p	5:45p
Apr 13	12:16p	6:06a	---	6:26p
Apr 14	12:39a	6:50a	1:01p	7:12p
Apr 15	1:27a	7:38a	1:50p	8:02p
Apr 16	2:18a	8:31a	2:43p	8:55p

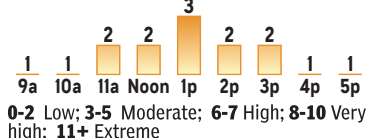
Arthritis Index

The AccuWeather.com Arthritis Index™ shows how today's weather conditions affect arthritis sufferers.

Today	Low
Friday	Low
Saturday	Moderate

UV Index

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.



River Conditions

Through 7 a.m. Wed.	Flood stage	Yest.	24-hr change
Blue Earth River			
Rapidan	10.10	-0.24	
Le Sueur River			
near Rapidan	5.33	-0.35	
Little Cobb River			
Beauford	N.A.	N.A.	
Minnesota River			
Henderson	732	721.9	-0.51
Jordan	20	14.50	-0.63
Lac Qui Parle	25.49	-0.01	
Mankato	22	8.87	-0.32
Montevideo	14	7.13	-0.02
Ortonville	2.27	-0.01	
Watsonwan River			
Garden City	2.60	-0.16	

Weather History

So much dust became airborne in Kansas and Iowa on April 10, 1935, that schools and highways closed.

Regional Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Austin	53/35/sh	55/37/c
Baudette	50/33/pc	61/39/c
Bemidji	47/28/c	60/39/pc
Blue Earth	54/32/pc	57/37/pc
Brainerd	47/31/pc	59/40/pc
Duluth	41/30/sn	54/33/c
Faribault	49/32/r	56/38/c
Gaylord	51/32/r	58/38/pc
Grand Forks, ND	52/28/c	62/41/c
Hibbing	45/24/sn	54/29/pc
International Falls	48/21/pc	56/35/c
La Crosse, WI	50/35/pc	58/35/c
Le Sueur	51/33/r	57/39/pc
Madelia	54/33/sh	57/37/c
Mapleton	50/32/r	57/39/c
Marshall	52/33/sh	58/38/c
Minneapolis	50/34/pc	61/44/c
Moorhead	48/36/r	58/41/c
New Ulm	52/33/sh	58/38/c
Owatonna	50/32/r	55/37/c
Rochester	50/34/sh	53/34/c
St. Cloud	48/33/r	57/39/pc
St. Paul	49/34/r	57/39/c
St. Peter	51/33/r	58/39/c
Sioux Falls, SD	60/32/c	67/46/c
Waseca	50/32/r	56/38/c
Wells	52/33/pc	56/38/c

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice
 Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2025

National Summary

Showers and locally heavy, gusty thunderstorms will dampen areas from the Midwest to the interior Southeast today. Rain and mountain snow showers are in store for the Northeast and the Northwest.

Defamation suit in Floyd case dismissed

Officer sued Alpha Media for YouTube show

JEFF DAY
STAR TRIBUNE

MINNEAPOLIS — In a historic First Amendment ruling, a defamation lawsuit brought by a high-ranking Minneapolis police officer against the creators of a documentary about the trial of Derek Chauvin was dismissed with prejudice Tuesday.

Department Assistant Chief Katie Blackwell had filed the suit against Alpha News and reporter Liz Collin, who questioned the honesty of Blackwell's expert witness testimony during the 2021 trial on the murder of George Floyd.

The lawsuit centered around Collin's book "They're Lying: The Media, the Left, and the Death of George Floyd," and the film, "The Fall of Minneapolis," which is based on the book.

In his 58-page order, Hennepin County Judge Edward Wahl said that Collin and her co-defendants hit every legal standard necessary to avoid the lawsuit going to trial — including that their questioning of whether Blackwell lied on the witness stand met the legal standard of "substantial truth."

"I think the case will be precedent setting," Collin said in an interview Tuesday night. "You can't just sue journalists because you don't like what they report. I think we have,

especially in Minnesota, lived in almost a state of fear of that, of speaking up."

It was the first defamation case considered by the Minnesota courts since Gov. Tim Walz signed the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act in 2024. That law is meant to limit frivolous lawsuits that seek to undermine the public discourse and gives defendants more leeway to have those suits dismissed before going to trial.

Blackwell said in a statement Wednesday that the ruling by Wahl "relied on an unconstitutional anti-SLAPP law" and that while her legal team is considering an appeal, she remains "undeterred in my commitment to perform my duties serving the communities of Minneapolis."

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said in a statement Tuesday night that Wahl's ruling "didn't question the truthfulness" of Blackwell's testimony but "simply held that the speech directed at her was protected under Minnesota law."

O'Hara praised Blackwell and her service to the city of Minneapolis in the wake of Floyd's murder.

"I continue to stand firmly behind her character, her integrity and her leadership," he said.

In his order, Wahl examines the high legal threshold a public figure needs to overcome to prove defamation and combed through the arguments presented within the film and book to determine that Collin and her co-defendants — director J.C. Chaix, Alpha News and

White Birch Publishing — were presenting protected opinions, not "defamatory statements of fact."

"None of the statements Blackwell challenges are defamatory as a matter of law, given the well-established caselaw assessing commentary by media figures on matters of high public interest involving limited-purpose public figures," Wahl wrote. "In her role as a key government witness in a high-profile prosecution, Blackwell assumed the status of a limited-purpose public figure under longstanding First Amendment jurisprudence."

"The Fall of Minneapolis" claims to show viewers "what politicians and the media don't want you to see" about the killing of Floyd, the conviction of Chauvin and the civil unrest that caused \$500 million in damage to the city of Minneapolis. It has proven popular, racking up 3 million views on YouTube, where it is free to view.

It is clearly positioned as a counternarrative to a murder that created a global reckoning over race and a trial that was covered by every major

news outlet in the country; it is selective in its use of footage and facts.

Blackwell testified at trial for about 30 minutes but was only in the film, for which Collin serves as the on-camera interviewer, for around 30 seconds.

Blackwell testified as a witness for the state because she had served as the commander of the Minneapolis police's training division and had expertise on department training and policies. She was shown an image of Chauvin with his knee on the back of Floyd.

"I don't know what kind of improvised position that is," Blackwell told prosecuting attorney Steve Schleicher. "So that's not what we train."

The film cast that testimony as a lie — using interviews with former Minneapolis officers and images of department training manuals to argue that officers were clearly trained to put their knee on the neck and back of unruly suspects during an arrest.

Blackwell filed her lawsuit in October 2024, arguing her reputation had been severely damaged by the book and

film and that Collin and her professional associates had manipulated her testimony through video editing and had knowingly and maliciously lied.

Judge Wahl rejected that argument.

He said that while people who watched the livestream of Chauvin's trial and heard Blackwell's testimony about use of force and police policies "might reasonably conclude that Collin's and Alpha News's characterizations of some of Blackwell's statements were misleading or taken out of context," it is not the same as hitting the legal standard of showing "actionable defamatory statements" or that the defendants acted with "actual malice."

At a motion hearing for the case earlier this year, one of Blackwell's attorneys, Christopher Paul, told Wahl to be careful in applying the new law to this case, saying it was a "summary judgment provision on steroids."

Attorney Chris Madel, who

represented the defendants, had disagreed, saying the law moved the summary judgment determination to the front of the case to protect free speech.

"You're obligated to apply the evidence to protect First Amendment rights under UPEPA."

That's what Wahl did. He used a three-step process under the new legislation to dismiss the lawsuit. First concluding that the issues presented in the film and book were of public concern. Second that, even before legal discovery, Blackwell's attorney's needed to prove the case had merit. And lastly that if the case had merit, Madel needed to show the book and film were not actually defamatory and no harm had come to Blackwell.

Everyone agreed this was a matter of public concern, and Wahl ruled that Blackwell's attorneys had not shown that the film and book made actual defamatory claims against her. So, under UPEPA, the case had to be dismissed.

CRUTCHES FOR AFRICA

- To help alleviate the critical shortage of crutches, wheelchairs and other mobility devices, Rotary Clubs, including Greater Mankato Rotary, are joining together in support of Crutches 4 Africa, a global initiative that transports used mobility devices where they are needed most.
- The opportunity is to help people regain their self-esteem, get back to work, and get back to school, by helping them be mobile again.
- Each of us in our community has the possibility of helping a person be mobile, just by dropping off a device that is sitting in your basement or garage.
- This project will collect 3,000 pieces of mobility equipment and ship them to Africa for local distribution. Greater Mankato Rotary will coordinate the collection of mobility equipment. Our distribution partner, Crutches 4 Africa, then has the local connections and support to import and distribute the devices in the country.

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Crutches and canes
- Walkers
- Orthotics (walking boots, braces, arm braces)
- Wheelchairs, Knee scooters
- Baby joggers (not strollers)
- Bicycle trailers

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- Mankato Clinic at Main Street location
- Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic
- Mankato YMCA
- Hilltop United Methodist Church
- Plato's Closet

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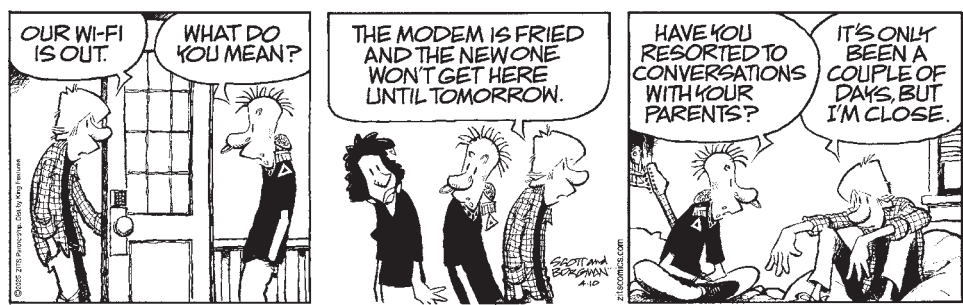
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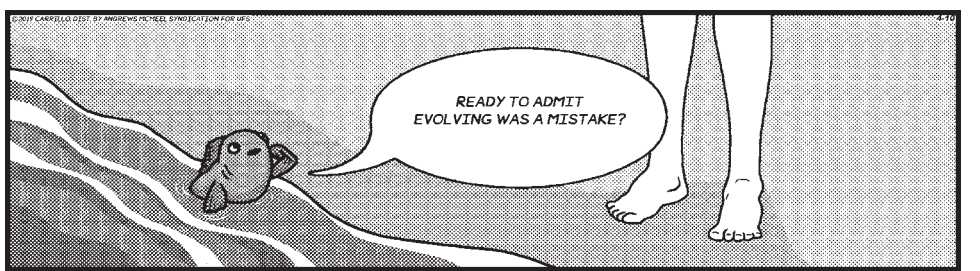
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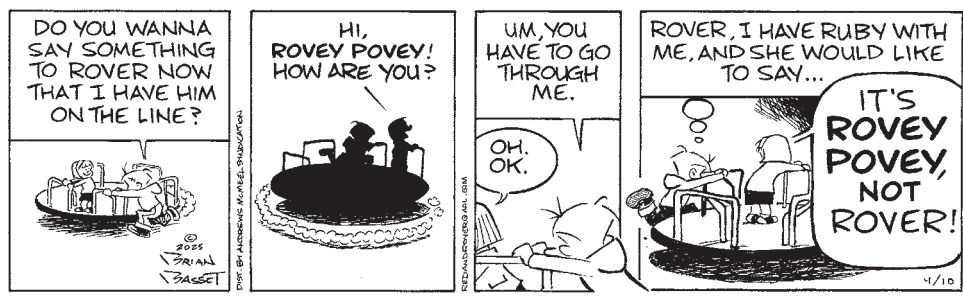
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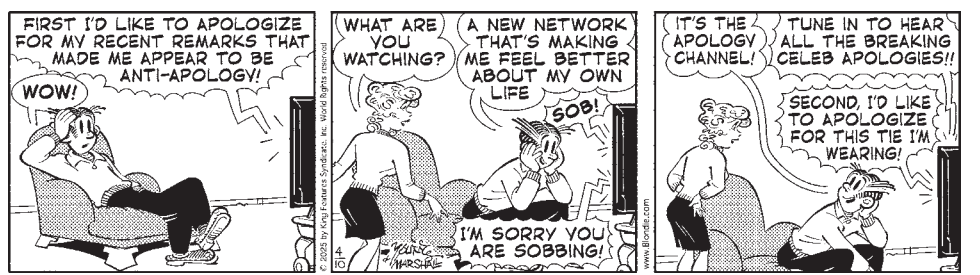
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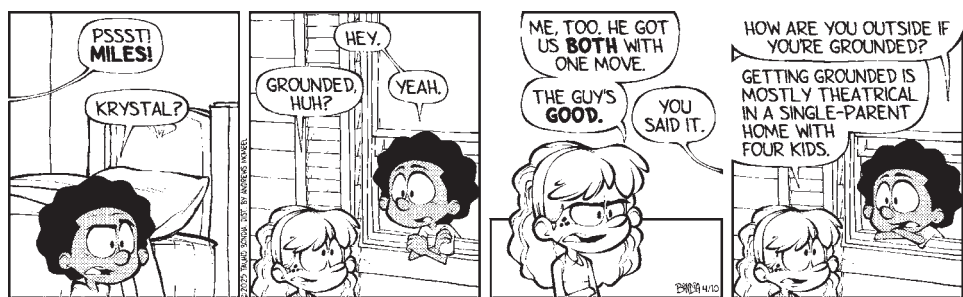
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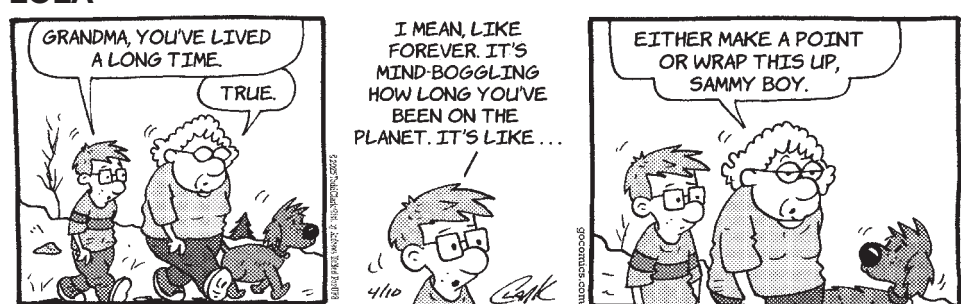
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PEANUTS



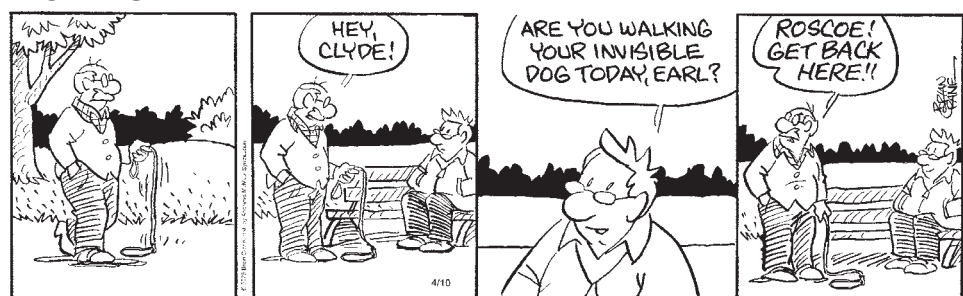
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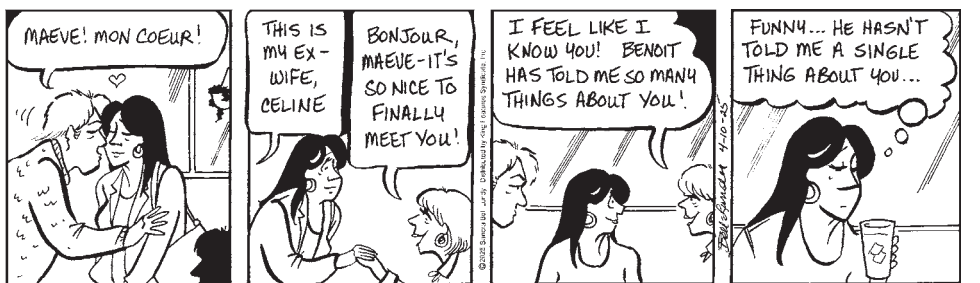
BABY BLUES



PICKLES



BETWEEN FRIENDS



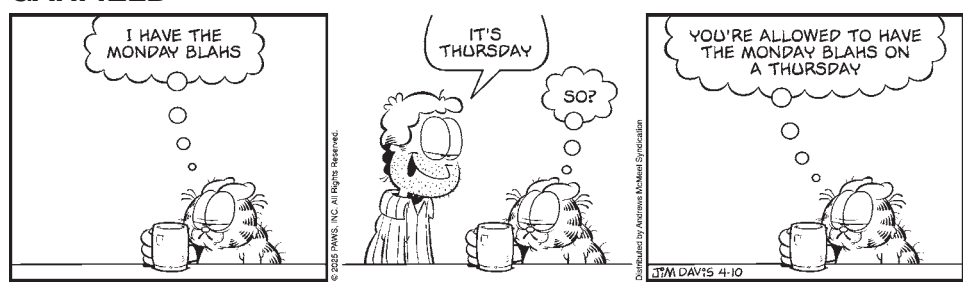
FRANK AND ERNEST



WUMO



GARFIELD

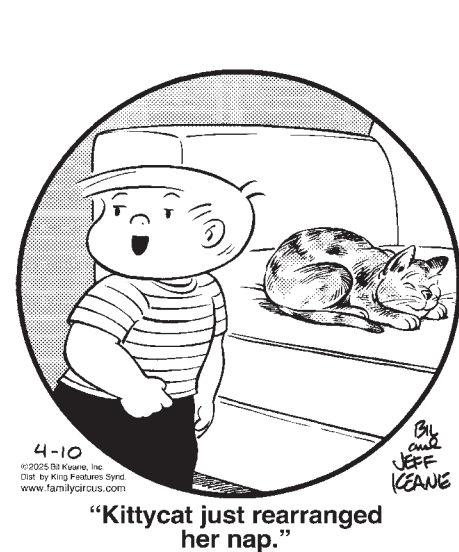


ARLO & JANIS



The Astrograph horoscope has moved to the classified section of The Free Press.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



JUMBLE

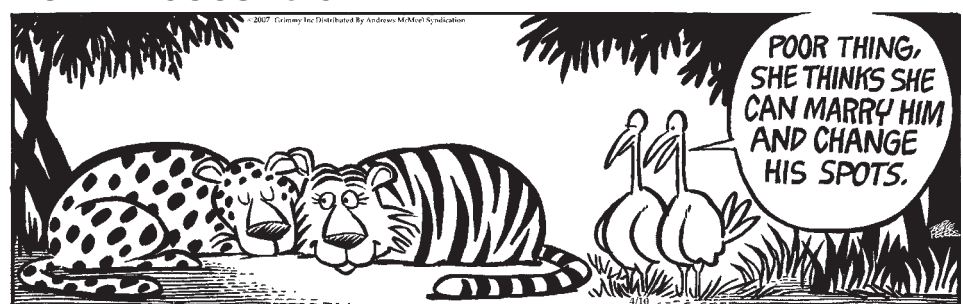
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DMMEO
GYUBG
LACITI
NHHOOC

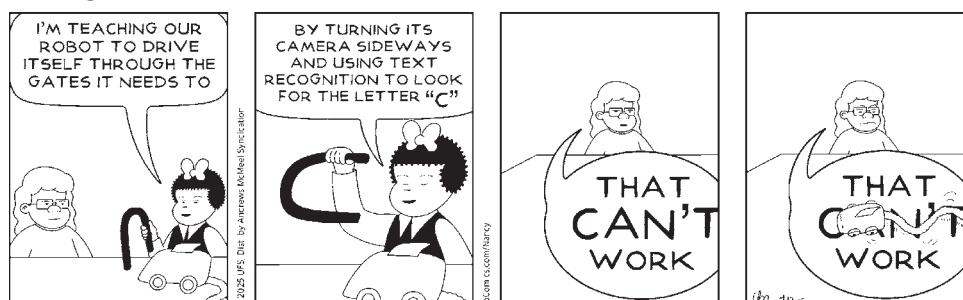
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



NANCY



BEETLE BAILEY



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



SUDOKU

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

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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Legals

Advertisement For Bids
April 10, 17, 24, 2025
2025-2026 STREET & UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
EAGLE LAKE, MN

RECEIPT AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS: Proposals for the work described below will be received online through QuestCDN.com until 11:00 a.m. on May 2, 2025, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read at the office of the City Administrator, City of Eagle Lake, 705 Parkway Ave, PO Box 159, Eagle Lake, MN 56024.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes the construction of approximately:
Miscellaneous Removals
Tree Clearing and Grubbing
21,000 sq.yd. Bituminous Pavement (including common excavation, 12" aggregate base, 6" perforated underdrains, geogrid, concrete curb and gutter design B618, and 4"-5" of bituminous wearing and non-wearing course mixture)
3,200 sq.yd. Concrete and Bituminous Driveways
17,000 sq.ft. 4" and 6" Sidewalk and Pedestrian Ramps
5,400 lin.ft. 8" and 10" diameter Sanitary Sewer Main (with manholes and services)
5,900 lin.ft. 6" to 10" diameter Watermain (with valves, hydrants, and services)
3,700 lin.ft. 12" to 24" diameter Storm Sewer (with catch basins and manholes)
3.2 acres Turf Establishment
Pavement Markings, Signing, and Traffic Control
together with numerous related items of work, all in accordance with Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Responsible Contractor Certification.

COMPLETION OF WORK: All work under the Contract must be substantially complete by October 16, 2026.

PLAN HOLDERS LIST, ADDENDUMS AND BID TABULATION: The plan holders list, addendums and bid tabulations will be available for download on-line at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com.

TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com. You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering Quest project #9633311 on the website's Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$50.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

BID SUBMITTAL: A bid shall be submitted online no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only be accepting online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

BID SECURITY: A Proposal Bond in the amount of not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, drawn in favor of City of Eagle Lake shall accompany each bid.

OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED: The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

DATED: April 7, 2025
/s/ Jennifer Bromeland
City Administrator

Legals

Advertisement For Bids
April 10, 17, 24, 2025
CITY OF MANKATO
Germania Park Phase 5
City Project No. 11114

Sealed bids for the construction of Germania Park Phase 5 will be received by the City Engineer, City of Mankato, 10 Civic Center Plaza, PO Box 3368, Mankato, Minnesota 56002-3368, electronically through QuestCDN until 10 a.m. Thursday, May 1, 2025, at which time they will be opened. Following are approximate major quantities for the work:

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8 & 12" PVC WATERMAIN LF 2250
6" CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT SY 200
COMMON TOPSOIL BORROW TON 2150
AGGREGATE BASE (CV) (P), CLASS 5 CY 4100
TYPE SP 19.0 NON WEAR CRS MIX (3.C) 2.5" THICK SY 9300
8" PVC PIPE SEWER, CLASS 160 PRESSURE RATED LF 1850

The bidder shall electronically submit the proposal as provided in the Bidding Documents, and according to the Instructions to Bidders prepared by the city of Mankato.

Digital copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.mankato-mn.gov> under Street Projects/View Projects Out For Bid for a download fee of \$64. One-half size plan sheets will be provided. Select this project and enter eBidDoc number 9635444 on the "Search Projects" page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

Bids shall be submitted using QuestCDN. No other alternate formats will be accepted. Proposal information is available via e-mail request at this address: apietz@mankatomn.gov.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond listing the city of Mankato for not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of bid. A bidder's bond shall include certified copy of the power of attorney. Questions about the meaning or intent of the Bidding Documents are to be submitted to the city engineer in writing. See Article 6 of the Instructions to Bidders.

The City Council reserves the right to hold and consider the bids for 45 days after the date of the bid opening. The City Council has the right to waive any informality in any bid, reject any or all bids, and award the contract in the best interests of the city.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2025
Susan Arntz
City Manager
Contact Person: Alec Pietz
Interim City Engineer
507-387-8643

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PUBLIC NOTICES AFFECT US ALL STAY INFORMED!

Probate
April 3, 10, 2025
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF BLUE EARTH
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 07-PR-25-1198

Estate of Norman James Carlberg, Decedent
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated August 17, 2016, ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Gary Carlberg, whose address is 4733 Carolyn Lane, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, 55110, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 52A.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearings.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 52A.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: March 28, 2025
Andrew B. Nelson
Registrar
Therese Kadlik
Court Administrator
Attorney for
Personal Representative
Kimberly A. Litterovich
Blethen Berens
100 Warren Street, Suite 400
Mankato MN 56001
Attorney License No: 0347632
Telephone: (507) 345-1166
FAX: (507) 345-8003
Email:
klitterovich@blethenberens.com

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NHILIHJHNFDEOBY
XAVWEUTORPIHOMN
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OIBOIECAIZXOPWU
UCHNTRNAMDRIHTR
LAOGQETOBHRNLJI
GPFDP CAYTEFASYX

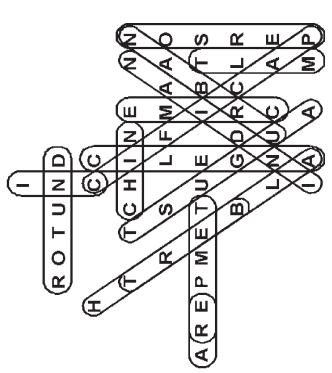
Wednesday's unlisted clue: CUB

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: THE HORSES ARE CALLED —

Back swing Handicap Neck swing Third man
Chukker Hook Penalties Throw-in
Foul Knock-in Safety Umpire
Goal Mallet Tail shot

See Tomorrow's Paper for the Answers

APPEND AN "A" TO MAKE A NEW WORD



Astrograph
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Set your sights on something on the rise. Avoid situations and people who tend to interfere. Put your time and energy into progress, not into no-win situations and empty conversations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Choose your path, and don't look back. It's time to show your worth, shoot for the stars and make a difference. Clear up any legal, institutional or financial matters.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Put your emotions aside, be realistic and set your sights on your dreams. Changing your direction or will take research, learning and fine-tuning. You may not be able to please everyone, but you can please yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Put thought and energy into earning more and increasing your financial stability. Domestic improvements will boost your assets and make your life easier and more enjoyable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Keep an open mind; listen, learn and put what you discover to work for you. Take any opportunity to meet new people or reconnect with someone you lost touch with over the years.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Take a break and visit a place that inspires you or helps you put things in perspective. Engage in conversations that push you to visualize what's possible and connect you with people who can help you make things happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Take a trip or attend an event that offers insight and gives you something to think about. An emotional journey will help you recognize what's best for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Take on a challenge, make a difference or use your skills, talents and experience to propagate your plan. Victory is within reach if you believe in yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Pay attention to your finances. Think twice before getting tied up in someone else's debt. Avoid drama and don't let someone's sob stories manipulate your heart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You'll crave change and be attracted to unique people and places that stimulate your creative imagination. Go with the flow and discover what excites you most.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Creative accounting will help you manage your finances. Spend more time at home making your space more functional. Keep your money and possessions safe, and avoid joint ventures.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Simplify, cap expenditures and set your sights on stability, security and spending time with the people you love. Participate in activities that make you happy, ease your mind and encourage friendships.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Go to the end
5 Grabs food source
10 Bitter humor
12 "Chicago" role
13 Positive-thinking
14 "West Side Story" role
15 Greek vowel
16 Realm
18 Infrequently
20 "Patience — virtue"
21 "Clumsy me!"
23 California red, for short
24 Hammer end
26 Draws
28 Career campaigner
29 Ready for customers
31 "Roses — red"
32 Hazardous
36 Ingenue's hope
39 Far from cordial
40 Met performer
41 Gladden

DOWN

1 Bad habits
2 Give a speech
3 Sound-related
4 Last part
5 Mom's mom, affectionately
6 Drawn out
7 Rust, e.g.
8 Cell division process
9 Tar
11 "Double Fantasy" singer
17 Little goddess
19 Buck's mate
22 Ticked off
24 Omen
25 Franklin's wife
27 Tourist stop
28 Trattoria dishes
30 Favoring
33 Hunting goddess
34 Duo
35 Mike of "Shrek"
37 Took the bus
38 Sketched
42 Backtalk



CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

DAY TO RUN	LINE AD	DISPLAY AD
Monday	Friday 11 am	Wednesday 4 pm
Tuesday	Monday 11 am	Thursday Noon
Wednesday	Tuesday 11 am	Friday Noon
Thursday	Wednesday 11 am	Monday Noon
Friday	Thursday 11 am	Tuesday Noon
Saturday	Friday 11 am	Wednesday Noon
Sunday	Friday 11 am	Wednesday 4 pm

4-10 CRYPTOQUOTE

FLYYDFF EF O YHKKDYREHI

HW CGHQKDTF FHKMDA

— E.T. CDE
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE ONLY REAL FAILURE IN LIFE IS NOT TO BE TRUE TO THE BEST ONE KNOWS. — THE BUDDHA

PUBLIC NOTICE
April 10, 2025
SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 77
Mankato, Minnesota
March 17, 2025

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, March 17, in the Minnesota River Room at the Intergovernmental Center. Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Christopher Kind, Elizabeth Hanke, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, Erin Roberts, and Shannon Sinclair. Members absent: Patrick Baker.

1. Ratcliff/Pratt approval of agenda with personnel addendum. 6-0

2. Kind/Roberts approval of Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes of the March 3, 2025, regular meeting; Approval of March Bills; Personnel. 6-0

3. Pratt/Kind adjournment at 5:32 p.m. 6-0

Independent School District No. 77
Mankato, Minnesota
By: Erin Roberts

The complete minutes and all documents relating to this meeting are on file and available for review in the Superintendent's Office, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2 and on-line at www.isd77.org.

MORE Entertainment calendar | Dear Abby: Husband's retirement behavior is off to a rocky start | Bridge column

THE STREAM

'Handmaid,' Viola Davis, Bon Iver, 'The Last of Us,' Jon Hamm

Streaming services offer old friends and new this week

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale" returning for its sixth and final season and Viola Davis playing a U.S. president in the action movie "G20" are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time, as selected by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists: Pedro Pascal and Bella Ramsey reunite in the long-awaited second season of "The Last of Us," Cillian Murphy plays an Irish coal merchant in the movie "Small Things Like These" and Spin Doctors release their first new studio album in 12 years.

NEW MOVIES TO STREAM APRIL 7-13

• Viola Davis as an action star is, generally speaking, worth seeing. While Davis is best known for more dramatic roles, she kicked serious butt in 2022's "The Woman King." In "G20" (streaming Thursday on Prime Video), Davis plays a U.S. president whose military background comes in handy when terrorists take over the Group of 20 summit.

• Following up his Oscar-winning performance in "Oppenheimer," Cillian Murphy stars in and produced "Small Things Like These," an adaptation of Claire Keegan's Booker Prize-nominated novella. In the film (streaming now on Hulu), Murphy plays an Irish coal merchant and father of five daughters in 1985. Directed by Tim Mielants (who worked with Murphy on "Peaky Blinders") and co-starring Emma Watson, "Small Things Like These" digs into the brutal traumas of Ireland's Magdalene laundries. A short story by Keegan also served as the source material for another small gem, 2022's "The Quiet Girl" (also streaming on Hulu).

• In "Pets," Bryce Dallas Howard gives a cuddly documentary portrait to the relationship between humans and animal companions. The film begins streaming Friday, April 11, on Disney+.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

NEW MUSIC TO STREAM APRIL 7-13

• Nearly six years have passed since Bon Iver's last album, "i,i" was released, but that wasn't the last we heard from him. His influence is everywhere in contemporary popular music; his world has changed ours, from 2007's debut album, "For Emma Forever Ago," recorded in his father's hunting cabin, to all the Grammy nominations, tours and features with stars from Bruce Springsteen to Taylor Swift. In October, he released indie folk EP "SABLE," which AP's Dave Campbell described as arriving like a siren, warning the listener of some intensity ahead. On Friday, that intensity arrives in the form of a new full-length album, "SABLE, fABLE." (Read AP's review.)

• Also on Friday, Spin Doctors release their first new studio album in 12 years, "Face Full of Cake," via Capitol Records. It's been 33 years since their alt-rock, Grammy-nominated hit "Two Princes" soundtracked the '90s. Three decades later, their cheeky spirit endures.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

NEW SHOWS TO STREAM APRIL 7-13

• After a more than two-year wait, Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale" is back for its sixth and final season on Tuesday. Elisabeth Moss returns as June, determined to rescue her daughter from the totalitarian, theonomic society of Gilead, which has taken over the United States. When "The Handmaid's Tale" debuted in 2017, early into President Donald Trump's first term, it struck a chord with viewers, particularly women, worried about their rights. The final season returns in the early days of Trump's second term. Hulu also has ordered a sequel series, "The Testaments," taking place 15 years later. Both shows are based on novels by Margaret Atwood.

• Netflix's sci-fi anthology series "Black Mirror" returns for Season 7 on Thursday. There are six new stories — including a sequel to Season 4's "USS Callister," with Cristin Milioti reprising her role. Its new cast includes Awkwafina, Peter Capaldi, Emma Corrin, Paul Giamatti, Issa Rae, Rashida Jones, Tracee Ellis Ross and Chris O'Dowd.

• A new reality competition show on Hulu may help fill the void left by "The Traitors." "Got to Get Out" is hosted by Marvel actor Simu Liu and features notable reality TV stars like Spencer Pratt, Omarosa, Val Chmerkovskiy and Kim Zolciak-Biermann facing off against everyday people. They must live in a locked house together for 10 days for the

See **STREAM** on B8



Courtesy MSU Theatre & Dance

Left to right, Charlotte, played by Ruby Wilmes, Madame, played by Meg Breithaupt, and Gabrielle, Cadence Smith, look on as Cinderella, played by Bex Williams, day dreams.

HAVING A BALL

MSU gives 'Cinderella' a current vibe with new friends

MICHAEL LAGERQUIST
MLAGERQUIST@
MANKATOFREEPRESS.COM

The Minnesota State University theater season strives to be a variety of forms and subjects. That's taken to the max for Bex Williams, who started the season as Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" and concludes this month as the title character in "Cinderella."

"I felt so blessed at the beginning of the year getting Sally Bowles," said the fourth-year student. "I think I put on my ('Cinderella') audition sheet, I was like 'stepsister' or 'ensemble.' And then the cast list came out and my jaw kind of hit the floor because I've never considered myself a princess type," they said.

The reason for surprise is varied as well: As a mezzo-soprano, they consider themselves to be a "belter" when it comes to sing-

ing. Cinderella voice has more lilt — "I'm playing up in my head a lot" — though they described the vocal range as adding a bit more gravitas to the role.

But let's face it, "Cinderella" could use a bit of 21st century updating, and it fits in nicely with the approach director Matt Caron is taking.

"I think we were looking for a good, strong musical that would have family appeal," he said, noting the much more adult-themed "Cabaret" that opened the season. "So, with the success of 'Anastasia' last year, we really wanted to make sure that we had something in the season that had that family appeal."

And what's a family show without a dragon, right? Well, that's where designer Melanie "Mel" Christensen comes in.

The department purchased a scenic package for much of it, so Christensen worked with technical faculty members on making adaptations. This allowed her to work on some "characters" who are new to this version of the classic "Cinderella."

The dragon will rely more on special effects for an offstage impact, while the giant, fox and raccoon are being fabricated per the director's specifications and manipulated by technicians standing behind in black, she said.

"(It was) about what kind of textures do we want to use? How are they interacting with the world? So, we chose more of a burlap fabric that's going to be texturized to look like they're fur," Christensen said. "Kind of give them a bit more of a fantasy vibe (and) take them out from being animals to more being part of these creatures of the world."

It was important to understand the relationship between the animals and Cinderella, she said, and they devised a way for puppets to interact in a natural, yet magical, way without distracting from the story.

"I'm really lucky with the two puppeteers, Emma Miller and Klara Lybeck," Williams said. "They're both wonderful people

See **MSU** on B8

If You Go

What: Minnesota State University Mainstage production of "Cinderella"

When: 7:30 p.m. April 10-11 and 17-19 and 2 p.m. April 12, 19-20

Where: Ted Paul Theatre of the Earley Center for Performing Arts

Tickets: \$24 regular, \$21 for ages 65 and older, children younger than 16 and groups of 15 or more. Available 4-6 p.m. weekdays in the box office or by calling 507-389-6661 and online at MSUTheatre.com

Coming soon: Season tickets for Highland Summer Theatre, featuring "Marvin's Room" May 28-31 in the Andreas Theatre and "Escape to Margaritaville" June 11-14 in the Ted Paul Theatre. Individual ticket sales begin May 19.

What we consume in the shadows

A review of Claire Dederer's 'Monsters'

MAXIM TAMAROV
SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS

How do we deal with the news that an artist whose work we treasure is a rapist? A pedophile? A murderer, even? How does damning information change our perception of the art and, ultimately, is the art worth it?

In her third book, "Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma," acclaimed nonfiction writer Claire Dederer explores these questions as they relate to the monstrous men — and occasionally women — who defined her understanding of art.

The last visitor in the 2024-25 edition of the Good Thunder Reading Series, Dederer will visit Minnesota State University on April 17 for a morning workshop, afternoon craft talk and evening reading.

Published by Knopf in 2023, "Monsters" evolved from two essays: "What Do We Do with the Art of Monstrous Men," published in The Paris Review, and "Cutting Remarks," published in The Nation. The book includes the revelations of the #MeToo era and even the backlash to J.K. Rowling's transphobic comments. (Its

If You Go

What: The final Good Thunder Reading Series event of the year, featuring author Claire Dederer

When & Where: On April 17. She will lead a 10 a.m. workshop in MSU's Memorial Library and give a 3 p.m. craft talk and 7:30 p.m. reading in Room 253 of Centennial Student Union.

She will be reading with the poet Amy Buechler, graduate student at MSU and this year's Andreas Scholar.

publication preceded more recent scandals surrounding the late fiction writers Cormac McCarthy and Alice Munro.)

Dederer is a writer who has thought long and hard about her relationship with the artists she both loves and considers abhorrent. She is well versed in the cultural and aesthetic indelibility of their oeuvres. Whether it's growing up believing that Pablo Picasso was the literal face of genius or feeling that nothing in cinema changed her like Roman Polanski's films did, Dederer doesn't shy away from confronting her own biases.

"I wanted to be a virtuous consumer, a demonstrably good feminist," she writes, "but at the same time I also wanted to be a citizen of the world of art, a person

MONSTERS

A Fan's Dilemma



CLAIRE DEDERER

"Monsters" is the latest book by Claire Dederer, who is the next author in Minnesota State's Good Thunder Reading Series.

who was the opposite of a philistine."

Other problematic examples Dederer explores include filmmaker Woody Allen marrying his partner's teenage daughter; sculptor Carl Andre (allegedly) murdering his partner and fellow artist Ana Mendieta; composer Richard Wagner penning anti-semitic polemics that inspired and emboldened the Third Reich; novelist Dorris Lessing moving to Europe and abandoning her children in Rhodesia; and more. There seems to be an interminable list of monsters to choose from.

Whether or not we believe that the art can be separated from

the artist, Dederer claims no one can really remove the stain of the accusations from their perception of the work.

"When someone says we ought to separate the art from the artist, they're saying: Remove the stain. Let the work be unstained. But that's not how stains work," she writes.

Dederer is a memoirist, essayist and critic whose previous books include the critically acclaimed "Love and Trouble: A Midlife Reckoning" and "Poser: My Life in Twenty-three Yoga Poses," which was a New York Times bestseller. In "Monsters," she is most effective when she confronts the impulse behind boycotting — or "canceling" — an artist. Just because the rejection of a corrupt creator seems morally correct, she argues, doesn't mean the motivation is sincere.

"The transmission of our virtue feels extremely important, and strangely exciting," she writes.

But the book does have its blind spots. Dederer acknowledges cancel culture is often effective in, if not punishing the perpetrator, at least giving voice to the victim. But like many in media, she doesn't distinguish between instances where public backlash is acknowledged and addressed with apology and some sort of reparations and instances where the backlash is met with denial, defiance and demonization. Dederer addresses the issue of redemption in a later chapter, but not in relation to online boycotts or similar actions.

ENTERTAINMENT

Husband's retirement behavior is off to a rocky start

DEAR ABBY: My husband retired three weeks ago, and he has been driving me crazy ever since.

I'm a night owl, and he's known it since we met 10 years ago. Today, he told me he'd be playing golf with an old friend tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. at a course 45 minutes away and needed to get up at 6 a.m.

I asked if he could be extra quiet in the morning and use the guest bathroom to shower so he wouldn't wake me an hour early. He huffily put his towel and shampoo in the guest shower, stomped back to his easy chair and plopped down heavily.

When I asked him what



Dear Abby
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

was wrong, he said he was annoyed that he couldn't take his shower in our regular bathroom. I said I was annoyed that it would make me lose an hour of sleep before working an eight-hour day. He said, "Sorry you're annoyed, but I'm retired, and things are chang-

ing!" I never expected him to get up earlier in retirement. Is it asking too much that my routine and sleep schedule not be disrupted as long as I'm still working? After that, anything goes, but I still need the structure. — **THROWN IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR THROWN: I will assume that your marriage has been a happy one until now, and that usually involves compromise. I do not think your request that he shower in the guest room so you could stay on your sleep schedule was asking too much.

I wonder why he would say "things are changing" unilaterally. Could he miss the

unquestioned authority his former job afforded him? I ask because of the tone in which he said what he did. If he decides to punish you for asking him to shower in the guest room on mornings when he has a golf game, suggest that you will sleep in the guest room on those nights.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a guy off and on for the past seven years. "Giorgio" is a wonderful person and will do just about anything for me. The problems are that he doesn't have much to offer, and he talks too much.

He shares a great deal of our private business to family and

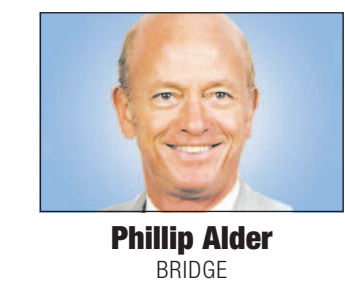
friends, especially his mother. She'll ask him several questions about me and then make snide comments in return. I have spoken to him more than once about this, to no avail. Giorgio knows I don't want him, but I can't get rid of him. Any advice you can give me would be greatly appreciated. — **SEVEN-YEAR ITCH IN GEORGIA**

DEAR SEVEN-YEAR ITCH: If you are aware of the snide comments Giorgio's mother has been making, it must be because Giorgio has passed them along to you. (Has he no brains at all?) Her attitude about you would erode your relationship with her son, even

if you chose to continue it. I don't know why you can't get rid of Giorgio, but try this: Tell him you no longer want to see him and no longer want to be friends. Unless you do, the message won't get across. If he persists, warn him that if he doesn't go away, you will file a police report because at that point what he is doing will be considered stalking. Then do it, if necessary.

Dear Abby is written by **Abigail Van Buren**, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

North 04-10-25			
♠ 7 6 3			
♥ K 5			
♦ Q 9 5 4 2			
♣ 10 9 7			
West	East		
♠ A 9 4	♠ Q J 10 5 2		
♥ Q J 10 9 7 2	♥ A 8 4 3		
♦ 7	♦ K 6		
♣ 8 5 3	♣ 6 2		
South			
♠ K 8			
♥ 6			
♦ A J 10 8 3			
♣ A K Q J 4			
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1 ♦	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦	All pass
Opening lead: ♥ Q			



Phillip Alder
BRIDGE

Tricks must come from somewhere

James C. Dobson, an evangelical author, psychologist and founder of Focus on the Family, said, "Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without."

That is no doubt true. At the bridge table, though, don't make the play you think is right; make the play after which either your contract cannot fail or the opponent's contract cannot make.

In this deal, East is defending against five diamonds. West leads the heart queen, and South calls for dummy's five. How might East hope to defeat the contract?

After South opened one diamond, West made a two-heart weak jump overcall, showing a good six-card suit and 6 to 10 high-card points. East raised to four hearts, a contract that would have made when both major-suit finesses worked. However, South rebid five clubs, and North converted to five diamonds. Since neither side was sure who could make what, this was passed out.

The defenders need three tricks to defeat five diamonds. East can see one in hearts. His side cannot take a second heart, because West's overcall guaranteed a six-card suit. Any minor-suit tricks would come in the fullness of time. That left spades to be considered. Who should be attacking that suit, West or East? Clearly East. His leading spades through South rated to be more profitable than West's leading around to South.

So East should win the first trick with his heart ace and shift to the spade queen. Here, that works beautifully, netting the first three tricks for the defense.

MSU

CONTINUED FROM B7

and they bring so much personality to the puppets that it makes it really easy to interact with them."

Choreographer for "Cinderella" is student Liz Albenesius, last seen on stage in "The Winter's Tale." She said she worked to enhance the magic of the show through choreography, and "I came up with this motif of the world freezing except Cinderella in moments, and how I can do that through choreography."

For scenes like the ball, where Cinderella meets the Prince, the ensemble helps

create moments for the audience to see they are falling in love, she said.

"I wanted that to be realistic. And so it was kind of on my mind of how do I create an environment for them to be able to have moments where they can fall in love," Albenesius said. And don't be surprised if you hear a younger, more current day beat.

Caron said he surrounds himself with creative people to bring many minds to these specific elements, bringing new life to a well-known story. And the team wouldn't be complete without costuming, which is being designed by longtime department faculty

member David McCarl, who will be honored this month upon his retirement.

At the center of everything is the young woman who has been put down and set aside by her stepmother and step-sisters. Williams said they didn't want the classic take on this character.

"It's a classic for a reason, but I didn't want to do that. I didn't want to be the golden-age Disney Cinderella because that's not what the show needs," Williams said. "The show needs someone who has strength but also shows their strength through kindness and gentleness."

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

THURSDAY

Sertoma of Greater Mankato's Service to Mankind banquet — 6 p.m., The WOW!Zone, 2030 Adams St.; free; attendees may bring donations for Feeding Every Baby.

Trivia contest — 6 p.m., The Loose Moose

MSU's production "Cinderella" — 7:30 p.m., Ted Paul Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts; \$24 regular, \$21 for ages 65 and older, children younger than 16 and groups of 15 or more; MSUTheatre.com.

FRIDAY

David Kruse album release party (with Emma Fradd) — 7 p.m., St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center, 1502 Warren St.; \$14.65; tinyurl.com/2yu3cjc6.

MSU's production of "Cinderella" — 7:30 p.m., Ted Paul Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts; \$24 regular, \$21 for ages 65 and older, children younger than 16 and groups of 15 or more; MSUTheatre.com.

Bethany Lutheran College production of "As You Like It" — 7:30 p.m., Sigurd K. Lee Theatre; adults \$16.75, youth \$11.50; blc.edu/boxoffice.

Lenten Fish Feed — 5-7 p.m., Holy Rosary Catholic Church gymnasium, 525 Grant Ave.; \$15 per meal, \$50 maximum cost per family.

"A Murder is Announced" — 7 p.m., State Street Theater in New Ulm; \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; ages 12 and younger cost \$5.

MUSIC

Chankaska Winery, Kasota — 6 p.m., Crista Bohlmann

Crooked Pint — 5 p.m.,

Dale Haefner and Ron Arsenault

Grand Kabaret, New Ulm — 7 p.m., Andrea Lynn American Legion, North Mankato — 7 p.m., High Strung

Paddlefish Brewing, St. Peter — 6 p.m., Mike Fugazzi and Possum Willy

WOW!Zone — 6 p.m., Another Time Around

SATURDAY

Egg hunt — 9-11 a.m., North Mankato Taylor Library; free, advance registration required; call 507-345-5120.

Easter egg hunt — 10 a.m.-noon, Hy-Vee, 410 S. Riverfront Drive; free.

Mankato Area Zero Waste's Give and Take Exchange — 10 a.m.-1 p.m., VINE Community Adult Center, 421 E. Hickory St.; opportunity to contribute unwanted items or to pick up free items; for more information, call 507-380-100

Sons of Norway meeting — 11 a.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 S. Second St.; Kyle Ward's presentation "The Viking Battalion: Norwegian American Ski Troopers in World War II." Guests welcome.

ABBA Drag Brunch — 11 a.m., Circle Inn, North Mankato; \$13.43.

Auxiliary Spring Shop and Sip — 1-3 p.m., North Mankato Post 518, 256 N. Belgrade Ave. Fundraiser for veteran organizations and community charities.

Musicorum spring concert — 6:30 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 S. Second St.; general admission \$15.

MSU Performance series: The Jimmys with Bad Liquor Management — 7 p.m., Hooligan's, Madison East; \$15 advance, \$20

at door; for more information, call 507-389-5549.

"A Murder is Announced" — 7 p.m., State Street Theater in New Ulm; \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; ages 12 and younger cost \$5.

MSU's production of "Cinderella" — 7:30 p.m., Ted Paul Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts; \$24 regular, \$21 for ages 65 and older, children younger than 16 and groups of 15 or more; MSUTheatre.com.

BLC production of "As You Like It" — 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sigurd K. Lee Theatre; adult tickets \$16.75, youth tickets \$11.50, cost includes fees; blc.edu/boxoffice.

MUSIC

Chankaska Winery, Kasota — 6 p.m., Mike Hal-dorson

Indian Island Winery, Janesville — 5:30 p.m., JamBoyz

SUNDAY

Easter egg hunt — noon, Sunrise Church, 722 Sunrise Drive, St. Peter; free event for children ages 2 to fifth grade; register at: subspla.sh/qgfpmkk.

"A Murder is Announced" — 2 p.m., State Street Theater in New Ulm; \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; ages 12 and younger cost \$5.

MUSIC

Patrick's on Third, St. Peter — 4 p.m., Charlie Roth

TUESDAY

Mankato Paddling and Canoe Club program about Colombia — 7 p.m., fireside room in Belgrade United Methodist Church, 325 Sherman St.; free.

STREAM

CONTINUED FROM B7

chance of winning \$1 million. The contestants have to devise plans to sneak out for challenges, without getting caught. "Got to Get Out" premieres Friday, April 11.

Remember Jon Hamm's commercial for Apple TV+ where he lamented he was the only Hollywood actor who hadn't been hired by the streamer? A role on "The Morning Show" changed that for him. Now, Hamm is starring in his own Apple show called "Your Friends & Neighbors," premiering Friday, April 11. He plays Coop, a divorced, down-on-his-luck man who loses his hedge fund job. To keep up with the Joneses, not to mention his alimony and child support, he begins to steal from his affluent neighbors when they're not home. The show, already renewed for Season 2, also stars Amanda Peet and Olivia Munn.

Pedro Pascal and Bella Ramsey reunite in the long-awaited second season of "The Last of Us."

The series is based on video games of the same name about a fungal infection that turns the infected into zombies. Season 2 picks up five years after the events of the first, with new cast member Kaitlyn Dever. Catherine O'Hara, Jeffrey Wright and Isabela Merced will also appear. "The Last of Us" Season 2 premieres Sunday, April 13.

— Alicia Rancilio

NEW VIDEO GAMES TO PLAY

The Deep South has so much weird folklore that it should be a great setting for an eerie video game. Leave it to our friends up north — Canadian studio Compulsion Games — to deliver South of Midnight. After a hurricane blows through a small town called Prospero, a young woman

named Hazel gains some magical skills. She'll need them to fight back against the witches, haints and oversized gators running wild all over the swamp.

The supernatural creatures here, including an amiable giant catfish with a Cajun accent, have a distinctive stop-motion look, casting a haunting spell around Hazel's journey. You can dig into this gumbo as of Tuesday on Xbox X/S and PC.

EXHIBITS

Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center, Bethany Lutheran College — Capstone graphic design student exhibit through Tuesday at 715 Luther Drive. Reception 7 p.m. today. Hours: 1-9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 1-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Arts Center of Saint Peter — Photos by Areca Roe in main gallery and window display of "Creating Peace" a mixed-media installation by artist Kyle Mack through May 17 at 315 S. Minnesota Ave. Hours: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

Brown County Historical Society Museum — "170 Years of the City of Charm and Tradition" ongoing, permanent exhibits including "Never Shall I Forget: A New Look," at 2 N. Broadway, New Ulm. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; admission \$7 adults; senior, military discounts.

Carnegie Art Center — "Three Ways of Seeing: Collective Artworks From

the Leo Family through April 19 at 120 S. Broad St. Hours: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

Four Pillars Gallery, New Ulm — Youth art show through April 24 at Grand Center for Arts and Culture. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter — Exhibit by students enrolled in Art 299: Arts Now through April 23 in Schaefer Art Gallery, Schaefer Fine Arts Center. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Minnesota State University — Graphic design portfolio review through Friday in Centennial Student Union gallery; Senior Show 1 through April 18 in Conkling Gallery, Nelson Hall.

The 410 Project — "When Two Worlds Collide: Exhibition by Hannah Peterson and Jamie McShane" through April 19 at 523 S. Front St. Hours: 2-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday.

THE JIMMYS

with **Bad Liquor Management**

Saturday, April 12
7:00 pm
Hooligans - Madison East Center

TICKETS AVAILABLE at HOOLIGANS
Tickets are available online at hss.mnsu.edu/music-events or call 507-389-5549

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The Free Press

MEDIA

Presents

Knowledge and Lecture Series

Featuring

Charlie Leftridge

State of the Arts in the Mankato Region

When: 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 15

Where: The Free Press
418 S. Second Street, Mankato

Charlie is an advocate for arts and cultural initiatives in Minnesota, with a particular interest in connecting working artists—and the organizations that champion them—to opportunities that empower the development and demonstration of their work. His experience includes more than 12 years of proven success in grant writing and nonprofit management. Charlie writes for hire and is an active grant writer and composer based in Southern Minnesota.

Charlie grew up on a small farm in Southern Minnesota, immersed in nature and the rural church. In this way, he came to love both natural aesthetics and hymnody—these elements color much of his unique compositional and programmatic choices. Leftridge writes and directs music for choral and chamber ensembles, often setting to music his original text. He received his Masters of Music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and serves as the Executive Director of the Carnegie Art Center and Director of Music at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, both in Mankato, Minnesota.

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