

IN LOCAL & STATE, B1

TORKELSON FACES PRIMARY FOE

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TRIPLE FALLS, MULTIPLE TOPICS

MORE ONLINE

'See you in court': ACLU vs. Trump

The day after Donald Trump's election in November 2016, the American Civil Liberties Union posted a message to him on its website: "See you in court."

As president, Trump hasn't personally squared off against the ACLU from the witness stand, but the broader warning has been borne out. As of this week, the ACLU has filed nearly 400 lawsuits and other legal actions against the Trump administration, some meeting with setbacks but many resulting in important victories.

The ACLU prevailed in a U.S. Supreme Court case blocking the administration from placing a citizenship question on the 2020 census. It also spearheaded legal efforts that curtailed the policy of separating many migrant children from their parents.

"The assault on civil liberties and civil rights is greater under this administration than any other in modern history," said the ACLU's president, Anthony Romero. "It's meant we've been living with a three-alarm fire in every part of our house."

Read the story at mankatofreepress.com.

OPINIONS

High school sports

The Minnesota High School League, looking to have prep sports in the coming academic year, has designed a sensible four-season approach that puts off the high-risk sports of football and volleyball until early spring.

LOTTERY

Thursday's Daily 3 4-6-5

Wednesday's Gopher 5 12-18-19-36-38

Wednesday's Powerball 7-14-17-57-65 and 24

Wednesday's Lotto America 6-23-26-29-43 and 3

Wednesday's Northstar Cash 4-9-23-27-30

Tuesday's Mega Millions 2-22-30-42-62 and 20

PAGEFINDER

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WEATHER, PAGE A6

Humid High in the low 80s. Low around 70.



BANK ON IT

Frandsen begins work on new bank



Frandsen Bank and Trust North Mankato branch President Nick Hinz grabs a hard hat during a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday for the bank's new Belgrade Avenue office.

Photos by Pat Christman

Other Belgrade Avenue sites may have potential

By Tim Krohn tkrohn@mankatofreepress.com

Nick Hinz, branch president of Frandsen Bank, said choosing to build a new bank just across the main street in lower North Mankato was an obvious decision.

"We wanted to be part of (Belgrade Avenue). It's a great place," said Hinz during a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday.

Looking out at the group of mask-wearing spectators, Hinz noted the irony for someone in his business.

"It's strange to look around and see everyone staring at me with masks on — especially as a banker."

The new bank is being built on the site that was most recently a convenience store/gas station.

North Mankato Mayor Mark Dehen noted it has long been eyed for redevelopment.

"My father (Dave) wanted to see this property redeveloped when he was mayor in the '80s."

Hinz said their current bank building served its purpose but



Frandsen Bank and Trust branch President Nick Hinz talks with Greater Mankato Growth ambassador Fred Lutz before the groundbreaking Thursday.

doesn't work well with modern banking needs. "We plan to be around a long time and our building's getting a little tired." The new bank is slated to open

next spring. City Administrator John Harrenstein said the new bank is a big project for the downtown corridor.

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Leaders accused of looting NRA

New York AG sues to dissolve organization

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York's attorney general sued the National Rifle Association on Thursday, seeking to put the powerful gun advocacy organization out of business over claims that top executives illegally diverted tens of millions of dollars for lavish personal trips, no-show contracts for associates and other questionable expenditures.



The Associated Press

New York State Attorney General Letitia James announced Thursday that high-ranking executives of the National Rifle Association diverted

James' lawsuit, filed in Manhattan state court, highlighted misspending and self-dealing claims that

have roiled the NRA and its longtime leader, Wayne LaPierre, in recent years — from hair and makeup

for his wife to a \$17 million post-employment contract for himself.

"It's clear that the NRA has been failing to carry out its stated mission for many, many years and instead has operated as a breeding ground for greed, abuse and brazen illegality," she said at a news conference. "Enough was enough. We needed to step in and dissolve this corporation."

Simultaneously, Washington D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine — like James, a Democrat — sued the NRA Foundation,

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Virus relief talks on rocks as recriminations abound

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington talks on vital COVID-19 rescue money are teetering on the brink of collapse after a marathon meeting in the Capitol Thursday night generated

lots of recriminations but little progress on the top issues confronting negotiators.

"There's a handful of very big issues that we are still very far apart" on, said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who depicted

impasses on aid to states and local governments and renewing supplemental unemployment benefits.

Both sides said the future of the talks is uncertain. President Donald Trump is considering executive orders to address evictions

and on unemployment insurance, but they appear unlikely to have much impact.

A breakdown in the talks would put at risk more than \$100 billion to help reopen schools, a fresh round of \$1,200 direct

payments to most people, and hundreds of billions of dollars for state and local governments to help them avoid furloughing workers and cutting services as tax revenues shrivel.

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Positive test rate ebbs in region

The Free Press and MPR News

MANKATO — South-central Minnesota's rate of positive COVID-19 cases dropped in six of nine counties this week.

The lower percentages of COVID positives included Blue Earth County, where the rate dipped for the fourth straight week. The county went from 8.4% of tests resulting in positive cases between July 1-8 to 5.5% from July 29 to Aug. 5, according to testing data from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Regionwide, the rate decreased from 4.9% to 4.2% as testing and new cases dropped as well.

Watsonwan and Le Sueur counties had the biggest rate decreases. Watsonwan's rate dropped from 9.8% to 3%, while Le Sueur had a smaller decrease from 6.3% to 2.8%.

The three counties with higher rates this week were Nicollet, Sibley and Martin counties. Nicollet County's rate has risen for two straight weeks, going from 3.6% to 5.8% during that span.

Blue Earth and Nicollet counties have had similar rates above 5% over the past two weeks. World health officials back in May recommended areas achieve lower than 5% rates for a sustained period before reopening.

Testing levels rose in five of the nine counties despite the region having 335 fewer tests overall compared to the week before. Blue Earth, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Brown and Faribault counties all had more testing.

Waseca, Watsonwan, Sibley and Martin counties had lower testing totals. Martin County's drop was the biggest, going from 538 tests the week before to 287.

Apart from the latest weekly testing figures, seven counties in the region had new cases confirmed Thursday. Only Faribault and Martin counties didn't have new cases.

The full list of new cases in the region includes:

- Blue Earth County — Eight
• Nicollet County — Seven
• Le Sueur County — Six
• Waseca County — Five

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Minnesota Public Radio News can be heard in Mankato on 90.5 FM or at MPRnews.org.

