

UP TO
\$134
IN COUPONS

BUSINESS
Growing & finding
that perfect tree

SUNDAY

MINNESOTA
Town backs down
on abortion ploy

EXPANDED
STATE
COVERAGE

December 4, 2022
startribune.com

StarTribune

30° ☀️ **24°**
Another bright day,
but a bit warmer. **B14**

2021 PULITZER PRIZE  FOR BREAKING NEWS

Crisis feared as nurses strike nears

Hospitals say losses in a prolonged walkout could reach hundreds of millions of dollars.

By JEREMY OLSON
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A three-day nursing strike this fall was costly for Twin Cities and Duluth hospitals, but it could be small change compared with the next walkout by as many as 15,000 nurses for up to 20 days.

Allina Health spent nearly

\$23 million to weather the Sept. 11-13 strike, mostly by flying in replacement nurses, while Fairview Health spent \$25 million and Children's Minnesota spent nearly \$7 million, according to financial statements. A prolonged strike could cost hundreds of millions of dollars for Minnesota hospitals that collectively are

losing money on operations this year.

"With the health care workforce shortages and with the financial crisis, the hospitals and health care systems are already in a category 2 storm," said Dr. Rahul Koranne, chief executive of the Minnesota Hospital Association, using hurricane classifications as an analogy. "If there is going to be a work stoppage, that has the potential to turn the current crisis into a category

5 storm."

Leaders of the Minnesota Nurses Association acknowledged the pressures of the strike, which they announced Thursday and plan to start at 7 a.m. Dec. 11. But they said understaffing has been a concern for years, and has become worse — with nurses overwhelmed by patient volumes and pulling back-to-back shifts when nobody else is available to care for them.

See **STRIKE** on A6 ▶

15,000
Nurses who could walk out for up to 20 days

20%
Nurses' wage demands over 3 years; was over 30%

15%
Hospitals' highest wage offer, an increase from 10%

\$1.4 billion
Cash, assets Allina, Fairview each have on hand

Twitter fuels fire of hate speech

Officials fear that it will lead to more violence.

By JOSEPH MENN
Washington Post

Current and former federal officials are warning that a surge in hate speech and disinformation about Jews on Twitter is uniting and popularizing some of the same extremists who have helped push people to engage in violent protests including the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on Congress.

The officials are predicting that Twitter will contribute to more violence in the months ahead, citing the proliferation of extreme content, including support for genocidal Nazis by celebrities with wide followings and the reemergence of QAnon proselytizers and white nationalists.

Since billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk bought Twitter just over a month ago, he has slashed more than half the staff, including most of the people who made judgment calls about what counts as impermissible slurs against religious or ethnic groups.

Musk announced a broad amnesty for most previously banned accounts and has personally interacted with fringe activists and white nationalists on the site in the weeks since

See **HATE SPEECH** on A14 ▶

Trump rebuked
Ex-president suggests suspending the Constitution. **A4**

Offices roll out holiday parties again

By DEE DePASS
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Grab that Santa hat. Holiday office parties are back.

After two years of pandemic shutdowns and distancing, Twin Cities companies are shoving aside worry and rolling out celebratory red carpets instead.

The holiday teas at the exquisitely decorated St. Paul Hotel are sold out and "we are getting a lot of ticket sales" for showings of its annual live December radio show, "It's a Wonderful Life," said Leslie Ingiald, the hotel's director of sales and marketing.

Ingiald said the past two years of show and party cancellations, mask mandates and vaccination checks have been hard on employees.

"It will be a big relief and much more fun [to party this year]. It's already definitely much more of a joyful holiday season," she said.

See **PARTIES** on A6 ▶



FIELDING HOPE IN EVERY GAME

Story by CHIP SCOGGINS • Photos by AARON LAVINSKY • Star Tribune staff

More than 20 years have passed since the Red Lake Warriors last won a football game. But coach Nolan Desjarlait forges qualities in his players that do not show up on a scoreboard. Pride in their Ojibwe heritage. Perseverance against teams that field twice as many players. A focus on what's ahead for seniors like Justin Brown, above. And loyalty to each other and the memory of Nolan Jr. — teammate, best friend and beloved son. Read their story on pages **A9-13**.



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