

# WIAA Division 3 regional final

Blackhawks snap Tigers' 19-game winning streak.

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# SUPERIOR Telegram

Covering Northwest Wisconsin since 1890

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## Real work starts now for Blatnik

How to raise \$1.8B falls to folks on both sides of bridge

**By Brady Slater**  
Duluth News Tribune

SUPERIOR — In town last week to promote his Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, President Joe Biden used the Blatnik Bridge to illustrate the nation's bridges in need of repair.

Built in 1961, Blatnik Bridge suffers from a debilitating rust problem the Minnesota Department of Transportation can only repair and never reverse. Since 2016, officials have been saying the bridge was near the end of its useful life.

"There's 879 bridges in Wisconsin, 661 in Minnesota that are in poor condition," Biden said on March 2 at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, shortly after he'd stopped beneath the Blatnik to get a closer inspection.

The president's visit touted \$40 billion created by the new law to fund bridge rehabilitation across the country.

But to hear the Minnesota Department of Transportation tell it a day later, Biden's visit was only the first step.

Rehabilitating or replacing the Blatnik Bridge is expected to cost up to \$1.8 billion — and Biden didn't leave a check behind when he left aboard Air Force One.

BLATNIK: Page A10

## Warehouse fire cause undetermined

**Superior Telegram**  
SUPERIOR — The cause of the fire that destroyed two historic warehouses in North End remains undetermined following an investigation, said Superior Fire Chief Scott Gordon.

The early-morning fire Jan. 6 destroyed the Sivertson Fisheries warehouse, 1507 N. First St., and spread to the Bayside Warehouse, historically known as Twohy Mercantile, next door at 1515 N. First St.

Based on fire investigator interviews with witnesses, review of security camera footage, and on-scene reports of the fire engine personnel,

the fire appears to have originated in the northern half of the first floor of the former Sivertson Building, according to a news release issued by Battalion Chief Camron Vollbrecht. Intense radiant heat from the fire in the Sivertson Building spread the fire to the adjacent building.

Through the investigation, fire investigators were unable to determine the circumstances that caused the fire to start, according to a news release issued on Wednesday, March 9.

The cause of the fire will remain undetermined and the investigation is considered

closed unless additional evidence or information becomes available, the fire department reported.

The Sivertson warehouse was a total loss while walls to the second story of the Bayside Warehouse, owned by Eric Ringsred, remain standing.

Miles Ringsred, the owner's son, said after the fire the only thing they were required to do was knock down portions of the building above the second story windows. After the fire, he said they contacted Jepsen Inc., a nationally known structural services company in the Twin Cities.

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Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram  
A pair of Superior firefighters walk past a still burning fire in the warehouses in Superior's North End around 1:30 p.m. Jan. 6.



Photos by Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram  
Erica Hudacek, the lead teacher for 3-year-olds at Noah's Ark Day Care in South Superior, reviews colors with Grace LaJoie, left, and Nolan Hawkins on March 4. The child care center, a ministry of Faith United Methodist Church for 25 years, will close its doors in June.

# SHUTTING ITS DOORS

## Staff shortage prompts Noah's Ark day care to close

**By Maria Lockwood**  
Superior Telegram

**N**oah's Ark Day Care, a ministry of Faith United Methodist Church for 25 years, will close its doors June 10 due to a lack of staff.

"We need people to work, just like every other company and every other business in this country," said center director Kendra Quain. "We are not exclusive. What makes us exclusive is the fact that I'm losing staff faster than I can retain staff. In the past two years, we've lost probably close to 12 staff and we've only probably hired maybe three to replace."

The shrinking staff numbers have led to changes in the center's hours of operation, movement of children from one room to



Wyatt Krivinchuck, 3, peeks through a magnetic block at Noah's Ark Day Care in South Superior on March 4.

another and a lower capacity.

At full staff, the former church building could provide day care to 72 children, Quain said.

However, the shortage forced officials to close one of the center's infant rooms. Noah's Ark is currently licensed to care for 56 children.

The closure will displace 49 children from about 37 families, she said. Some will leave sooner than others. The center's

school-age program is slated to end Friday, March 11.

The center is down to seven staff members, including the director herself. She had to cancel her family vacation in May.

"I'm to the point now where nobody, nobody can have a day off; nobody can call in sick. ... You have to come to work," Quain said.

"They aren't alone. We are not the only child care center in this position. That's the problem. The problem is that I can't, I can't keep going this way," Quain said. "We can't pay our staff without raising our rates through the roof. There's a lot of grant money out there, but it does us absolutely no good because when the money's gone, then what do we do?"

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