

Photo submitted

The Eagan City Council approved the bid to construct a new all-inclusive playground at Woodhaven Park during Tuesday's meeting.

## Universal playground coming to Eagan park

City Council approves bid during virtual meeting

by Andy Rogers  
 SUN THISWEEK  
 DAKOTA COUNTY TRIBUNE

The new Woodhaven Park in Eagan will be a place for everybody. The Eagan City Council approved a contract to install a new inclusive playground at the park at

1950 Gold Trail. "It will be one of the larger all inclusive playgrounds in the Twin Cities area, according to Parks and Recreation Director Andrew Pimental. The council approved a bid from NTK Earthworks for \$710,476 to construct the playground. Plans would reshape the lower portion of Woodhaven Park, while the upper portion, currently home to a playground and ball fields,

would remain the same. The Parks and Recreation Department spent about two years designing the park. Pimental said they talked with several parents and organizations in order to optimize the new elements. "Knowing that this would be the first true all-inclusive playground in our system and at the moment, there's only a handful of these across the Twin Cities, we wanted to

See Park, 23A

## Eagan's annual July 4th Funfest is canceled

Citing numerous concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Eagan's July 4th Funfest Board of Directors decided to cancel the July 3 and 4 events at Eagan's Central Park Festival Grounds.

"After consulting with event partners, community leaders and longtime

Funfest supporters, our Funfest Board quickly came to the conclusion that canceling the event this year was the prudent thing to do," said Funfest Board Chair Jordan Schuetzle. "We are all eager for life to return to normal, but not at the expense of the safety or well-being of our Fun-

fest attendees. Given the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, canceling the event was the only safe option."

According to Marie Olson with the Eagan Ambassadors program, they are "exploring ways that we can continue and preserve our Ambassador program with the po-

tential of a virtual candidacy program including online interviews and other video interactions."

Another consideration cited by the board for their decision to cancel Funfest this year stemmed from the impact the pandemic is having on the economy. Fun-

See Funfest, 14A

## Council doesn't budge on city playgrounds

They're open; Burnsville mulls coronavirus response

by John Gessner  
 SUN THISWEEK  
 DAKOTA COUNTY TRIBUNE

Burnsville City Council members didn't budge Tuesday from their positions on keeping city playgrounds open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Playgrounds remain open.

During a work session a week earlier, a 3-2 council majority of Cara Schulz,

Dan Kealey and Vince Workman directed City Manager Melanie Lee to stop the posting of signs prohibiting playground use.

That direction wasn't withdrawn during Tuesday's work session as Lee and Deputy City Manager Gregg Lindberg sought clarity on the council's expectations of city staff during the crisis and eventual recovery.

The council halted the signs the day workers started posting them. Lee said city staff's decision to close playgrounds was

See COVID-19, 23A

## English learner now has full scholarship

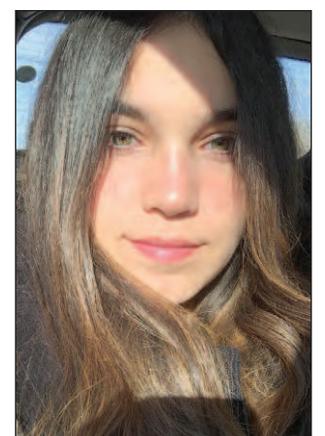
BHS senior has risen far and fast

by John Gessner  
 SUN THISWEEK  
 DAKOTA COUNTY TRIBUNE

Junior biology class was a turning point for Oriana Ortega.

She was in her second year at Burnsville High School after arriving with her family from the Venezuelan capital of Caracas.

An excellent student back home, Ortega had sped through the English language learner courses she'd begun taking as a BHS sophomore. Now she



**Oriana Ortega** found herself in ELL biology, which seemed a little too easy. See Scholarship, 23A

**Your local, Full Service Hearing Clinic!**  
**952-800-4727**

**Proud to be a Readers' Choice Award Winner for Best Audiologist/Hearing Center**

**Hearing loss should never keep anyone away from connecting with their Loved Ones.**

*We care about our community. Contact us for your complementary phone with captions. No purchase necessary.*

**Raphael Cheron, MHA**  
 Certified HID/Owner

14000 Nicollet Ave. So., Ste 303 • Burnsville • [www.soundsgood4u.com](http://www.soundsgood4u.com)

**Index**

Opinion	4A
Candidate Profiles	10A
Sports	16A
Public Notices	18A
Classifieds	19A

**SUN Thisweek**  
 15322 Galaxie Ave., Suite 219,  
 Apple Valley, MN 55124  
 952-894-1111  
 News | 952-846-2033  
 Public Notices | 763-691-6001  
 Classified Advertising | 952-392-6888  
 Delivery | 763-712-3544

