



They've got the whole world...in their gym.

Horace Mann Elementary School kindergartners and 1st-graders got to see the world at large as part of an interactive Earth Adventure on February 11. Above, students watched as the 20-foot-in-diameter Earth Balloon was inflated in the school gym. At left, the students and teacher's aide Katie Thomas enjoyed yet another perspective on the planet after climbing inside the big blue bubble.

PHOTOS BY MIKE LONG

Blueprint for a bleaker St. Paul

City lays out a plan to cut budget 14% across board

BY JANE MCCLURE

Fifty-nine fewer firefighters and 67 fewer police officers. Turning off half of the streetlights and boarding up three recreation centers and one public library. Plowing the streets after four inches of snow fall rather than the current three. Those are among the cuts being contemplated by St. Paul officials as they seek to trim \$30 million from the city's budget over the next two years.

Mayor Chris Coleman has asked the heads of all of the city's departments to draw up plans for cutting 14 percent from their current budgets. The cuts could mean the layoff of as many as 400 of the city's 3,300 employees.

The budget-cutting is in response to the expected cut in Local Government Aid (LGA) from the state. The state is facing an estimated \$4.8 billion deficit for the upcoming biennium, but that projected deficit is expected to balloon to almost \$7 billion before the biennium begins on July 1.

The city of St. Paul lost \$5.7 million from its expected 2008 LGA allotment in December. It faces a projected budget gap of about \$8 million in 2009 and \$17 million in 2010.

"While many people know LGA by its official title, in St. Paul we know it as cops, firefighters, parks and libraries," Coleman said. "The governor's proposed cuts will take Minnesota in a direction that, I believe, most of us don't want to go. However, we

ST. PAUL BUDGET ►2

City's light-rail future loses a bit of its luster

St. Paul officials are worried new utilitarian streetscape won't spur development

BY JANE MCCLURE

In the ongoing debate over the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line, one selling point has been the benefits that a rebuilt University Avenue would bring to area businesses. However, in recent weeks it has become increas-

ingly clear that there isn't enough money in the project's \$913.9 million budget for the \$12.5 million in streetscape amenities being sought by the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Central Corridor project manager Mark Fuhrmann said he is all too familiar with the increasing complaints about the lack of streetscape improvements along the Central Corridor route between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Fuhrmann said the word he would use to describe the proposed streetscape is "banal."

"Awful" would be mine," said St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman.

The streetscape improvements covered by the project's budget include the replacement of sidewalks, construction of a new concrete median, the reconstruction of intersections with concrete instead of asphalt, new crosswalks and street striping, replaced boulevard trees, and some new lighting. Existing streetlight fixtures would be removed during construction and then reinstalled. Bus shelters would be removed and replaced. New station markers and directional signs, railings, fencing, bike racks and concrete bollards

UNIVERSITY STREETScape ►2

Caucuses kick off new year in politics

Oertwig says he'll run for his old School Board seat

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Fresh off an intense presidential election year in which nearly 15,000 turned out for DFL precinct caucuses in Senate Districts 64 and 65 alone, fewer than 1,000 people in all of St. Paul turned out for the DFL precinct caucuses two weeks ago. But then, no one named

Obama or Clinton is in the running this year.

The caucuses on February 3 kicked off this year's campaigns for St. Paul mayor and School Board. Incumbent Mayor Chris Coleman and School Board members John Brodrick, Tom Goldstein and Elona Street-Stewart have all said they will seek re-election this fall.

Highland Park school teacher John Krenik has said he will run for mayor. Al Oertwig, who resigned

from the School Board in 2007 amid allegations that he used a public library computer to view child pornography—allegations that were later proved to be false—has announced his candidacy for School Board.

Oertwig, 64, a resident of St. Paul's East Side, has served multiple terms on the St. Paul School Board dating back to the early 1980s. He said he

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Task force looks at much larger picture for developing fort's Upper Post ►4

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CLOSE TO HOME

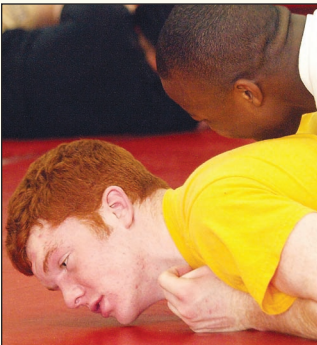
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1◀ ST. PAUL BUDGET

must prepare for his plan and the significant impact it will have on our city."

The mayor has scheduled two hearings in the coming week to gather public testimony on the proposed cuts. They will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, at the El Rio Vista Recreation Center, 179 E. Robie St.; and from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 24, at the Como Zoo and Conservatory Visitors Center, 1225 Estabrook Drive.

City Council member Russ Stark, whose Ward 4 could lose a recreation center and a library under the cuts being contemplated, will host his own public hearing on the budget from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 533 N. Fairview Ave.

At this point, it does not appear that the city's 17 district planning councils will have their funding cut. However, the city has added a clause to its contracts with the councils that allows the contracts to be canceled if their state or federal funding is cut. That clause and a drop in other grants has some councils contemplating spending cuts. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council voted on February 12 to set up a committee to examine reducing its staff from three to two. "These are extraordinary times and we need to be ready for whatever happens," said Richard Broderick, president of the Macalester-Groveland council.



Police, parks and libraries would all be affected by the city's proposed budget cuts.

The 14-percent cuts, as proposed for the various St. Paul city departments, include the following:

- Police—\$10.7 million in cuts, including the loss of 67 cops and 23 civilian employees. The East, West and Central districts would be merged into two, and the Southwest Area station on Montreal Avenue and the Ben Doran Center on Rice Street would be closed. Several police units would be reduced or eliminated, including the mounted patrol. Crime prevention programs would be dropped.
- Fire—\$7.2 million in cuts, including the loss of four fire companies or a total of 59 firefighters. Essential and nonessential purchases would be postponed, and the 2009 firefighters entrance test would be canceled.
- Parks and Recreation—\$3.83 million in cuts, including the loss

of 59.3 full-time-equivalent positions, including 23.4 positions that are currently vacant or will be vacant due to early retirements. Three recreation centers—Baker, Griggs and Margaret—would be turned over to other groups to run. The Sylvan, Front and Prosperity recreation centers would close and hours would be reduced at the Wilder and South St. Anthony rec centers.

The recreation center changes would save \$1.42 million. Other savings would come from reducing and restructuring special services and main office staff, removing the lifeguards from Phalen Beach, eliminating wintertime ice skating downtown and consolidating golf course management.

- Public libraries—\$2.16 million in cuts, including closing the Hamline-Midway Library, reducing library hours throughout the system

by 120 hours a week, eliminating an administrative position and cutting the materials budget by \$400,000.

- Public Works—\$7.3 million in cuts from special funds and \$250,000 in cuts from the general fund. Street repaving projects planned for 2009-2010 would be eliminated, including the Cretin-Goodrich and West 7th-Douglas projects. Other cost-saving measures may include turning off every other streetlight throughout the city, raising the snow emergency threshold from three inches to four, eliminating the city's traffic-calming program, and cutting back on boulevard tree trimming and stump removal.

- Department of Safety and Inspections—\$2.1 million in cuts, including 24 positions. Fees for services could increase.
- Planning and Economic Development—\$802,043 in cuts, includ-

ing \$87,950 in City Attorney services and the elimination of six positions, three of which are already vacant.

- Office of Technology and Communications—\$1.43 million in cuts, including the elimination of equipment purchases.

- Office of Financial Services—\$272,000 in cuts from the general fund and \$155,000 in cuts from special funds, including the loss of three staff positions.

- Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity—\$180,710 in cuts from the general fund and \$349,878 in cuts from special funds.

- City Attorney's Office—\$1.1 million in cuts, including the elimination of 16 positions and cuts or reductions in prosecutions, civil legal services and tort defense.

- Mayor's Office—\$221,000 in cuts, including eliminating 2009 cost-of-living adjustments, reducing all salaries by 5 percent, eliminating 1.5 full-time-equivalent positions and cutting supply and travel budgets.

- City Council. The council has yet to lay out its budget plan, but at least one staff position is expected to be cut.

The city has already offered an incentive for early retirement to 180 employees as a means of cutting costs. Fifty-four have accepted. An additional 10 city employees have offered to reduce their hours or take leaves of absence.

Central Corridor staff tweak project to keep it at \$914 million

BY JANE MCCLURE

Despite a host of minor changes in the design of the Central Corridor light-rail transit line and the price of construction materials, the estimated cost of the project is still close to the \$914.9 million figure submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) last September.

Central Corridor project staff recently revised the baseline cost estimates. The total cost is now estimated at \$913.9 million. That keeps the project within the federal Cost Effectiveness Index, a federal formula used to review and rank transit projects seeking federal funding, according to Central Corridor project manager Mark Fuhrmann.

Central Corridor project staff is working to obtain federal approval of the project this year. State and local officials are banking on the federal government paying half of the project's construction costs.

Federal officials are now reviewing a new draft of the Central Corridor plan recently submitted by project staff. Their comments on the plan are expected by March 11. A final environmental impact statement for the Central Corridor is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on April 20, and that will trigger another review and comment period.

The FTA is expected to issue a record of decision on the Central Corridor project in the first week of June. If all goes as planned, project staff will submit a request to enter final project design later that month. In September, a Full Funding Grant Agreement would then be submitted to federal officials. If approved, construction of the 11-mile light-rail line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis would begin in 2010 and be completed by 2014.

A year ago, the Central Corridor was one of 10 transit projects in the FTA's New Starts Program. The transit projects had a total bud-

get of \$16.3 billion. Six of those projects are now in final design, and four of the six have obtained full funding grant agreements.

The federal government has agreed to pay half of the cost of approved projects. However, the authorization for that transit funding expires later this year, and if the Central Corridor's approval is delayed beyond that point, an amendment will be required or other funding will have to be found.

Fuhrmann outlined the recent changes affecting cost estimates for the Central Corridor project. They include a \$1.3 million increase in concrete costs, due in part to a new state charge; a \$13.8 million increase in the contingency fund, due to the FTA's request to have a 20 percent rather than a 17.4 percent contingency fund; \$3.6 million in additional safety features; \$1 million for additional train bar signals; \$1.5 million to rebuild existing signal bungalows and power stations in the West Bank area; and \$1.3 million to ad-

dress drainage problems near the Minnesota Transfer Railway bridge over University Avenue between Prior and Cleveland avenues.

Making up for those cost increases is more than \$21 million in savings in materials costs and design changes. For example, \$3 million is being saved by using the former Diamond Products building in Lowertown as an operations and maintenance facility, rather than building a new facility on county land. Reconfiguring the line on the West Bank to eliminate a bridge saves another \$6.5 million. A drop in the cost of reinforcing steel accounts for \$1.9 million in savings.

Factors that could affect future cost estimates, according to Fuhrmann, include financing costs, the price of property that must be purchased for the project, and the extensiveness of upgrades required for the Washington Avenue bridge over the Mississippi River.

1◀ UNIVERSITY STREETSCAPE

would also be installed.

St. Paul city officials and neighborhood groups are pushing for more trees in the median and on the boulevards and new street lighting. The city wants twin lantern-style streetlights, rather than the tall highway-style light poles currently in use along much of University. The new lighting would add \$2.5 million to the project budget. St. Paul officials also want sidewalks rebuilt with pavers in the boulevards, as well as additional trees. That would add an additional \$8.5 million to the budget.

St. Paul and Minneapolis officials want to see a different style of overhead pole used to provide power to the light-rail line. The pole style city officials want would add \$1 million to the project's budget.

Neighborhood groups have called for new benches, trash cans and other street furniture. Both cities would like to have colored concrete

used at intersections and additional public art beyond what is proposed for the light-rail stations. Minneapolis officials are also lobbying for more bicycle racks.

The eight miles of University Avenue along the Central Corridor route currently have a total of 245 boulevard trees. The last major streetscape improvement program for the avenue was Universitree, a beautification project that was discussed almost 20 years ago but never came to fruition. Over the years, many University Avenue improvements have been postponed due to the long-awaited light-rail project.

"I just think people are expecting a lot more to be done," said Allan Lovejoy, a transportation planner for St. Paul.

St. Paul's land-use plan for the Central Corridor envisions more streetscape improvements. The city has obtained a Transit for Livable Communities grant to improve the amenities for biking and walking along the route. The Bike Walk Central Corridor Ac-

The likelihood of the city of St. Paul picking up the tab for any additional streetscape improvements is slim. The city is facing a \$44 million budget deficit over the next three years.

tion Plan will be the topic of an open house from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. However, that plan doesn't address such improvements as lighting.

The likelihood of the city of St. Paul picking up the tab for any additional streetscape improvements is slim. The city is facing a \$44 million budget deficit over the next three years if the state of Minnesota cuts local government aid as Governor Tim Pawlenty has proposed.

State and federal funds for capital improve-

ments may be a possibility. The city has asked the 2009 Minnesota Legislature for assistance, and may include Central Corridor streetscape improvements as part of its 2010-2011 Capital Improvement Budget.

The lack of streetscape amenities won't improve public perceptions of the light-rail project, according to Coleman. "And it most certainly impacts the prospects for redevelopment in the Central Corridor," he said.

Members of the Central Corridor Management Committee have asked if the additional streetscape improvements could be paid for through the project's contingency fund. That fund would be drawn from any money left over after the light-rail line is built. However, the contingency fund, if there is any money left over, has already been earmarked for the completion of an additional light-rail station at University's intersection with Hamline, Victoria or Western avenue. Only the infrastructure for those three stations are currently covered in the Central Corridor budget.

St. Paul requires crime-free training for first-time landlords

By JANE MCCLURE

New landlords who apply for their first certificate of occupancy for a property will need to attend the Minnesota crime-free multi-housing program or a similar program approved by the city's fire marshal beginning in March. The St. Paul City Council unanimously adopted the regulation on February 11. Landlords whose properties already have certificates of occupancy are exempt. The ordinance covers all rental properties of one unit or more.

The push for landlord training comes at a time when many more owner-occupied homes are becoming rental properties as a re-

sult of the mortgage foreclosure crisis. Homes are selling for lower prices, which makes the potential for turning them into investment properties more inviting.

However, city officials said problems are starting to pop up in several neighborhoods as inexperienced landlords start renting out properties without a clear understanding of their responsibilities or those of their tenants. Police and code enforcement officers say they have had to deal with situations that could have been averted had landlords had proper training on how to screen tenants and recognize signs of criminal activity.

"A lot of the people buying these properties are first-time landlords," said Ward 5 council

member Lee Helgen. According to him, his staff is spending a lot of time dealing with landlord-tenant issues.

The St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspection has yet to sign off on the ordinance. Director Robert Kessler said enforcement could be an issue in light of pending staff cuts due to a reduction in state aid.

The Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, which represents about 2,000 landlords owning more than 250,000 rental units, supports the intent of the ordinance and offers crime-free training for landlords. However, MMHA director of municipal affairs Lisa Peilen questioned why the city would require a landlord to repeat the training after only two

years. She said housing laws change little from year to year, so the time frame should either be removed or extended.

Another issue is that the city ordinance applies to building owners. Some large apartment complexes are owned by groups of investors, some of whom may not even live in Minnesota. Peilen suggested the ordinance be amended to allow building managers to take the training instead of owners.

"It makes no sense if the owners aren't associated with the day-to-day management," she said.

Helgen said it would be possible for building owners to designate a manager to take the crime-free training on their behalf.

1◀ PRECINCT CAUCUSES

decided to run again because "a significant number of school staff and parents who appreciated my past work have asked me to run again. We have a strong superintendent, and we need to have a strong board as well to be sure that the proposed solutions to difficult issues are the solutions that fit St. Paul. We must support the superintendent when she's right, ask questions when they need to be asked, and lead when leadership is called for."

Oertwig touted his record on the School Board, including his role in lobbying for the 2002 excess levy that "saved at least one staff person in each school in the district and many staff in larger buildings like Highland Park Senior High." According to him, the St. Paul School Board should be "a national leader in modifying (the federal) No Child Left Behind law so that it continues to improve student achievement but is grounded in what is realistically possible."

Oertwig, who is divorced and the father of two grown children, has worked for a legal and accounting firm for the past two years. If elected, he said, he would devote his "full-time energies to the St. Paul Public Schools."

Oertwig said he will seek the DFL endorsement this spring, but will withdraw from the race if the party endorses three others for the three open seats on the School Board.

The relative support of the DFL candidates for mayor and School Board was not apparent at the DFL caucuses. With so few in attendance, "virtually everybody who attended was elected as a delegate to the City Convention without having to declare for any candidates," said DFL city chair Darren Tobolt.

St. Paul Republicans did not hold precinct caucuses in February but met as a group in January, according to Republican city chair Scott Walker. No Republican candidates for mayor or School Board have as yet come forward, he said.

Krenik, 46, who has identified himself as a Republican in the past, said he has not decided whether to seek the party's endorsement or run as an independent. Married and the father of four children, he said he is running for mayor in hopes of returning the city to "the basics of providing primary services like police, fire and street maintenance." According to him, the number of police on St. Paul's force is "not up to where it should be. The city is in a huge financial mess. Down-

town is dying and we could be doing so much more. Both the North End and the East Side need redevelopment, and we should be creating public-private partnerships to do it."

Government has "grown too much," Krenik said, "and property taxes continue to rise. We need to realign city government to make it more efficient." Krenik said he has not yet decided where St. Paul's city budget could be cut, "but I'll look at the city budget like I do my own household budget."

St. Paul's Green Party does not plan to hold precinct caucuses this year, according to its city chair, Jesse Mortenson. Instead, the party held a retreat on February 7, where members agreed "to continue our efforts to help the St. Paul Better Ballot campaign institute instant runoff voting in city elections," said Green Party spokeswoman Rhoda Gilman. The Green Party also approved a resolution supporting universal health care through a single-payer system as outlined in legislation recently introduced by state Senator John Marty (DFL-Roseville), Gilman said.

Independence Party representatives did not respond to phone calls or e-mails seeking information on their 2009 campaign.

St. Paul DFLers passed several resolutions

at their ward conventions in February, according to Tobolt, including those calling for a referendum on instant runoff voting, a "broader-based and more objective investigation" into local law enforcement's response to public protests at the Republican National Convention last September, and a proclamation expressing "profound disapproval at the suppression of legitimate political dissent" that occurred during the convention.

St. Paul DFLers also passed resolutions calling for the building of Central Corridor light-rail transit stations on University Avenue at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues; consolidated garbage collection; a domestic partner registry; and more funding for public libraries and Early Childhood and Family Education, Tobolt said.

All of the resolutions will be presented to the DFL City Convention on March 21 for possible approval.

A date has not yet been determined for a Republican city convention, Walker said.

Candidates for mayor and School Board must formally file for office between July 7 and 21. The primary election will be held on September 15 and the general election on November 3.

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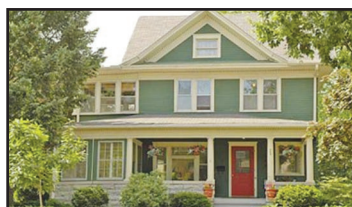
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Mary Hardy 651-225-3903



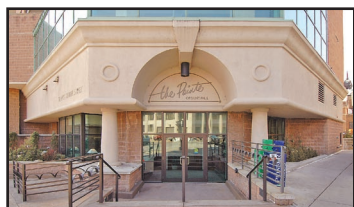
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Guarding the Upper Post

Task force looks at larger picture for developing fort's historic site

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Fort Snelling's Upper Post received some needed attention on January 26 from a task force that has been meeting sporadically for nearly three years to discuss the future of the historic site and how to save its more than two dozen deteriorating buildings, at least one of which has already collapsed.

The task force, which is composed of national, state and county officials, among others, charged its interagency working group with following up on nine recommendations aimed at preserving and redeveloping the Upper Post as part of a much larger National Historic Reserve.

Congressional designation will be needed to create the reserve, which would take in the historic Upper Post located along Highway 5 on the 141-acre Upper Bluff area near Fort Snelling's golf course and new athletic fields. The reserve also would include historic Fort Snelling, the U.S. Navy Reserve Training Area, surface storage areas, parking lots, a tree processing area, domed tennis courts, the fort's former drill hall and state transportation maintenance facilities. Also being considered for inclusion in the reserve are the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota, Fort Snelling State Park and the Camp Coldwater area that includes the vacant U.S. Bureau of Mines buildings.

Larry Peterson of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which manages the Upper Post, said Historic Reserve designation will unite all of the many landowners of the properties into a single unit that can operate more effectively. Along

with the DNR, land in the area is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS), U.S. Navy Reserve, Veterans Administration, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Boy Scouts, Minnesota Department of Transportation and National Park Service (NPS).

"It's a complicated issue with so many interested agencies," said Patrick Connoy, economic development project coordinator for Hennepin County.

In conjunction with the Historic Reserve designation, Connoy said the task force wants to establish a nonprofit trust that would be in charge of redevelopment and management of the property. "We also want to make it easier to obtain decommissioned federal property nearby," he said.

The working group, which includes staff from the NPS, MHS and Minnesota Preservation Alliance, is now working to complete an intermediate joint-powers management agreement to begin renovation of selected buildings on the Upper Post. It is also seeking federal and state grants and other sources of funding for initial planning.

The area also includes a light-rail transit stop. "But unlike every other stop along the Hiawatha line, there has been no development plan surrounding the Upper Post station," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, who chairs the task force. "So, we've asked the working group to begin that process, too."

Before any of the recommendations can be followed up on, a little housekeeping will be necessary. When the NPS deeded the Upper



Efforts are under way to place the Fort Snelling Upper Post and surrounding area in a National Historic Reserve outlined above in red. The Hiawatha light-rail line is in blue.

Post to the DNR in 1971, it came with the proviso that the area could only be used for recreation. "In order to provide more flexibility on how the area is developed, the working group will seek to shift the deed for the land to the federal Historical Monument Re-Use Program," Peterson said. "That will allow longer-term leases and uses other than recreation."

The DNR has leased some of the open areas of the Upper Post to the Minneapolis Park Board for a golf course, baseball diamonds and soccer fields. The Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts has purchased Building 201 just south of Fort Snelling and will begin a multimillion-dollar renovation this fall to establish an urban camp.

Little of the rest of the Upper Post is being used at this point. "And we don't think we're the appropriate agency to pursue redevelopment," Peterson said.

Redeveloping the area could take up to 10 years, McLaughlin said.

Upper Post Task force recommendations

- Pursue congressional designation for a Federal Historic Reserve.
- Establish a nonprofit trust.
- Complete an intermediate joint-powers management agreement.
- Proceed with transfer of DNR deed to Monument Program.
- Streamline trust's ability to obtain decommissioned federal properties.
- Seek startup funding for initial planning and trust organization.
- Direct the interagency working group to proceed with implementation of the recommendations.
- Have the task force meet quarterly.
- Conduct a Fort Snelling light-rail station development plan.

He added that the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux have expressed an interest in participating in the process of determining what to do with the Upper Post.

"They have a historic claim to the area and the potential to make a huge investment," McLaughlin said. "They don't want to put a casino there. They're more interested in something of a cultural nature."

Several proposals for the Upper Post buildings, which were erected

between 1879 and 1940, were presented nearly two years ago when Hennepin County held a forum to review historic preservation issues in the area. The Minnesota Air National Guard's Historical Foundation proposed creating a Minnesota Museum of Aviation and Aviation Learning Center on part of the site and is still interested in pursuing that idea. Other proposed uses in-

FORT'S UPPER POST ► 5

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Ayd Mill Road blocks path to new comprehensive plan

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council will decide on February 18 whether or not to amend its new comprehensive plan as it concerns the controversial Ayd Mill Road. The council laid over the plan's transportation chapter on February 4 after hearing from Neighborhoods First!, a group that has long opposed plans to connect Ayd Mill Road to the interstate freeway system.

After two lengthy studies, the City Council agreed in 2000 that Ayd Mill Road's current four-lane configuration should be reduced to two lanes, with a direct connection to I-35E on the south and an indirect connection to I-94 on the north. A citizen task force had earlier voted in favor of replacing the road with a linear park in what some people felt was a skewed voting process.

However, nothing was ever done due to a lack of money. Meanwhile, former Mayor Randy Kelly ordered the south end of the street to be connected I-35E as a test and directed St. Paul Public Works staff to complete an environmental impact statement on a four-lane roadway.

The city's transportation plan currently calls for a future connection of Ayd Mill Road to I-94. It also includes a future bicycle/pedestrian trail along the road, the location of which has been a topic of debate between Public Works staff and neighborhood activists.

Concerns over how those items are addressed in the comprehensive plan were raised by Neighborhoods First! representative Mike Madden of Merriam Park. Reminding the City Council of its intent to rebuild Ayd Mill Road as a two-lane parkway, he said the transportation plan should be amended to reflect that. According to him, the plan should also note the need for additional environmental studies before the street can be rebuilt.

Macalester-Groveland resident Andy Singer also criticized the transportation plan for focusing too heavily on road construction.

Ward 4 council member Russ Stark asked for the layover so he could review the plan's language regarding Ayd Mill Road. As to Singer's concern, Stark said he believes the document strikes a good balance regarding transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and streets and highways, although he called some of the language "a bit schizophrenic."

Other council members agreed to the layover. However, they also wanted to retain language regarding the roadway's future connection to I-94.

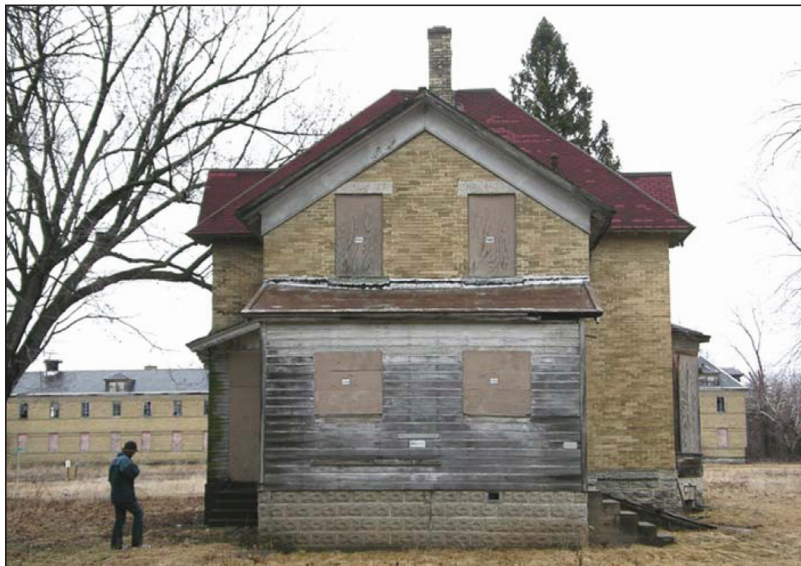
"The status quo there is not sustainable," said council member Melvin Carter III, who represents the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood where traffic from the north end of Ayd Mill Road is a growing problem.

Council member Pat Harris also said the north-end connection option for Ayd Mill Road should not be eliminated from the plan due to traffic issues.

The transportation plan is just one chapter of the city's comprehensive plan, which needs to be submitted to the Metropolitan Council by May. The City Council already has adopted the parks, water management, introduction and implementation chapters of the plan. On February 18, public hearings will be held on the housing, land use and historic preservation chapters. All of the chapters may be found by visiting www.stpaul.gov/ and clicking on the "city projects" tab.

All cities and counties in the Twin Cities metro area are required by state law to update their comprehensive plans every 10 years and submit them to the Met Council for approval. The plans outline long-range growth for cities and forecast future trends and issues that could affect them.

St. Paul's comprehensive plan was due at the end of 2008, but the city was granted an extension. Until the plan is completed and approved, the city cannot receive any Livable Communities grants, which are used to clean up polluted sites and make other improvements to bolster a city's property tax base.



Building 152, a former officer's quarters, was built in 1879 on Fort Snelling's Upper Post and has been vacant since 1970.

4◀ FORT'S UPPER POST

cluded a youth rehabilitation facility, charter school, hotel complex, motocross track, athletic village and American Indian multimedia center.

At the time, task force members decided that they needed to more narrowly define the process before making any decisions on reusing the buildings. The cost of rehabilitating the buildings was estimated at between \$60 million and \$100 million.

The Upper Post was used as a military post and training center from the time it was built in the 1800s until the end of World War II, but it fell into disrepair after the adjacent fort was decommissioned in 1946. The post's 28 buildings—including barracks, barns, kitchens, a fire station, bakery, morgue, prison and

the houses of Officer's Row—deteriorated so badly over the years that the site was declared one of the nation's 11 most endangered historic places in 2006.

Hennepin County has received state and federal grants over the past two years to repair and stabilize the buildings until more permanent redevelopment can begin. So far, about \$1 million has been spent.

"Sentence-to-Serve crews have gotten the buildings on Officers Row to a place where they can be saved and used again," McLaughlin said. That includes boarding up windows, installing new roofs and capping chimneys.

"I know the pace of this project is frustrating to people," McLaughlin said, "but this is a huge task. We want to get it right because it's a great opportunity to create a new asset for the community."

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Palace playground plans continue despite funding doubts

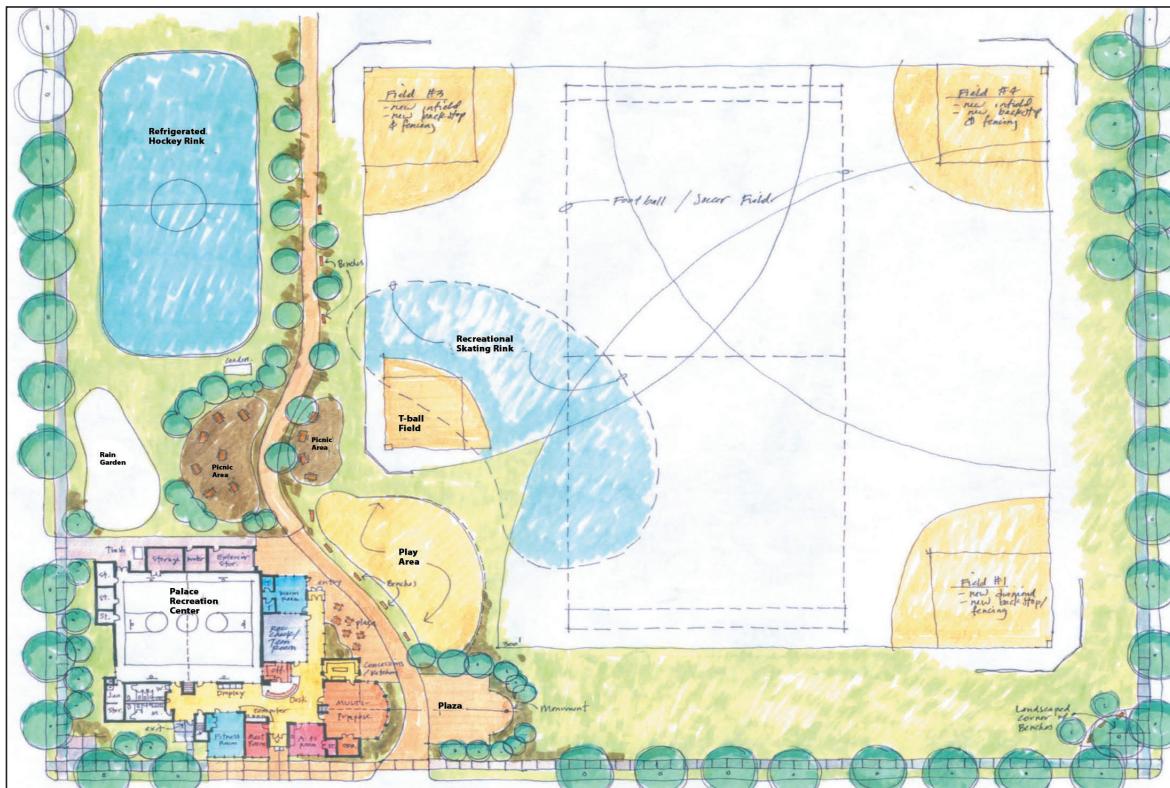
By JANE McCLURE

A \$4.8 million project to expand and remodel the Palace Recreation Center and reconfigure its surrounding field space is one of more than 150 projects now vying for funding through the city of St. Paul's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) process for 2010-2011. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation voted in favor of the project on February 9. However, under the city's current financial constraints, the project may not be approved this time around. The St. Paul City Council recently postponed a bond sale for 2009 capital projects. Those projects could be shelved altogether as the city makes budget cuts.

Palace is one of two local recreation centers seeking CIB dollars for a redesign. The other is Hillcrest, which would be renovated and expanded in conjunction with improvements to the adjacent Highland Park Library.

West End residents argue that the Palace project is long overdue. While Hillcrest was enlarged when it was rebuilt in 1995, Palace has seen few improvements since it was built in 1974.

"This has been a long time coming," said federation board member Dave Bredemus. "We have a chance



A proposed \$4.8 million makeover for the Palace Recreation Center would include building additions, a rain garden and picnic area, a relocated play area, a front plaza and a downsized field for T-ball.

to change the culture and use of that building. It's a really, really ugly building."

With its squat design, Palace has often been compared to a bunker. It also lacks windows, which makes it difficult for building staff to see what is going on outside.

A citizens task force that has been working on Palace's expansion plans includes members of the federation, the Palace booster club, neighbors, city staff and consultants from Hagen, Christensen and McIlwain Architects. The plans call for expanding the 11,825-square-foot

building to 17,454 square feet. Additions would be built to the existing building's south and east.

The task force chose renovation and expansion as a less expensive option than razing Palace and starting from scratch, Bredemus said.

Palace occupies a two-block area

bounded by Jefferson and Palace avenues and View and Bay streets. It currently has four ballfields on the eastern part of the property. The re-designed field would keep three of the ballfields and downsize the one closest to the rec center for playing T-ball.

North of the building would be a rain garden and picnic area. The play area would be relocated north-east of the building by the new T-ball field. The current play equipment is north of the building and is not as visible to staff in the building or users of the ballfields.

A north-south walkway would separate the picnic area, rain garden, building and refrigerated ice rink still under construction at Palace from the ballfields. The bleachers and backstops, which date from the 1950s, would be replaced.

The task force decided that a new gym is not needed since other gym space is available in the neighborhood. Instead, Palace's existing gym would be retrofitted and its tile floor replaced with a wooden one. The new and reconfigured spaces would include a warming room for skaters, a multi-purpose room, an arts and crafts room, fitness room, a computer room, a kitchen, a storage room and concession space.

PALACE PLAYGROUND ►7

District councils support study of Jefferson Avenue bikeway

By JANE McCLURE

Both the Macalester-Groveland Community Council and West 7th/Fort Road Federation have come in support of a proposal to have the St. Paul Department of Public Works study improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians along Jefferson Avenue between Mississippi River Boulevard and Shepard Road.

Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) is expected to discuss the same proposal on February 20. The improvements would be paid for by part of a \$21.5 million federal grant being administered by the St. Paul-based group to encourage more bicycle routes that connect

to Minneapolis. The Jefferson route would cross into Minneapolis via Mississippi River Boulevard and either the Ford or Lake Street bridges.

The Jefferson route would replace an earlier proposed bicycle boulevard on Highland Parkway and Edgumbe Road, which met with opposition from Highland Park residents and was voted down by the Highland District Council.

Macalester-Groveland Community Council board members and staff have received mixed reactions to the Jefferson Avenue proposal and are posting updates on the ongoing discussion on its website at www.macgove.org. "It's a study at this point and no decisions

will be made without community input," said board member Mike Kowski.

West 7th Federation board members were more enthusiastic about the Jefferson route, which could connect to the Sam Morgan bicycle and pedestrian trails via Randolph Avenue. Board members also like the idea of having connections to the I-35E off-road bicycle trail and to a future trail planned along Ayd Mill Road.

It is likely that sections of Jefferson would be marked differently depending on the street width. Preliminary plans call for a bicycle boulevard where bicycles and motorists would share the full width of the road in Macalester-Groveland, and more traditional on-

street bicycle lanes in the West End. All along Jefferson, the project would include lower speed limits and sidewalks in places where there are none.

The West End section of the project also would have corner bumpouts for improved pedestrian crossing, and lantern-style lighting would be installed where there is none. No on-street parking would be lost on either stretch of Jefferson except where bumpouts are installed.

The cost is estimated at \$250,000 for the Macalester-Groveland portion of the route and about \$750,000 for the West End portion.

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News Briefs

Zoning Committee to review plans for Concordia stadium

Concordia University-St. Paul's plans for a new \$14.5 million stadium, as well as a campus boundary change, will be reviewed by the St. Paul Planning Commission Zoning Committee on February 19 at City Hall. The university needs a conditional use permit modification as well as a modification in where parking can be located before the new facility can be built at 289 Marshall Ave.

Plans for Sea Foam Stadium have been on the drawing board for several months. Because the site is not adjacent to homes and is on university-owned property, it has generated little public comment. Its city staff site plan review was February 10.

The stadium would be located on property the university owns at the southwest corner of Concordia and Hamline avenues. The site is currently occupied by athletic fields, parking lots, a former community garden and former St. Paul Water Utility property. Not all of the property is within the current campus boundary, so the boundary must be expanded.

The new stadium would be located behind Fandrei Hall, a former water utility building. Concordia graduate Phil Fandrei (class of 1951) and his Sea Foam Sales Company are key donors for the project. Sea Foam officials presented a \$5 million donation toward the project at the Concordia Homecoming football game last fall. It is the largest single donation in the university's history.

The stadium would seat 3,500 people and be used for football, soccer and track. Locker rooms, a weight room and new offices are included in the plans. The stadium would have artificial turf and a bubble that would be inflated every fall for year-round use, similar to facilities at Augsburg College.

Rezoning hearing set on new Highland senior care complex

A proposal to build a new senior housing and care center complex at the southwest corner of Fairview and Randolph avenues goes to the St. Paul City Council on February 18. The council will hold a public hearing on the rezoning request from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet St. Paul Province (CSJ). The religious order wants to rezone its property from single-family to multi-family use, so that an existing dormitory-style building can be demolished and replaced with a housing and health care center project. The project would include a range of senior housing and care options for the members of the order, as well as some space for the general public.

The project is being built in cooperation with Presbyterian Homes and Services and its affiliate, Senior Housing Partners. CSJ will continue to own the property but will have assistance with its management and operations.

In January the St. Paul Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning. The commission also approved a required conditional use permit for the project. The Planning Commission action on the conditional use permit is final. The conditional

use permit allows for skilled care nursing and assisted living facilities. The new complex would provide 152 independent living apartments, 52 assisted living apartments and 40 care center suites.

The new complex would replace the existing Bethany Convent and tie into existing 1920s-era buildings on the property. It would be four stories tall, as compared to Bethany Convent's five-story height. The existing Carondelet Center, chapel and provincial house would remain in place.

Construction could begin as early as summer 2009 with completion set for 2011. The new complex would give its first priority for residency to member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, then offer housing and services to the public. The split is expected to be about 70 percent CSJ sisters and 30 percent community residents.

Council grants 3.2 beer license for Snelling convenience store

A Merriam Park convenience store will be allowed to sell 3.2 beer, despite the objections of neighbors. The St. Paul City Council unanimously approved the 3.2 or malt off-sale license for Super Day, 281 N. Snelling Ave., on February 11.

The City Council attached four conditions to the license. They include that the business owner must pick up litter on a daily basis or as needed at the property, that beer cannot be sold by the individual bottle or can, that the sale of 40-ounce bottles is not permitted and that the sale of wine and/or strong beer is not allowed under the license. The convenience store hours are from 6:00 a.m. to midnight.

When the building was redeveloped and the convenience store added several years ago, Merriam Park Community Council opposed the granting of a 3.2 beer license for the store, which was then a Holiday Station. This time around, three neighbors sent letters to the city raising objections, which resulted in a legislative hearing being held in January. In letters to city officials, neighbors said there are already enough establishments selling beer and liquor in the area, and that the neighborhood is already under stress. They also complained about litter and other problems including ongoing problems with panhandlers.

At the hearing, business owner David Povolny and city licensing staff outlined the request and the four conditions. Povolny agreed to follow the conditions, which are standard for many 3.2 licenses. He described how his business is run, how litter and trash are handled, and the distance between his business and the nearest residents. The convenience store and a computer business that shares its building are not adjacent to any homes.

Povolny also said that store employees do their best to prevent loitering and panhandling around the business. Panhandling has been a problem in the Snelling and I-94 area for many years, predating the convenience store.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

6◀ PALACE PLAYGROUND

The fitness room, craft room and multi-purpose room are meant to attract users of all ages to Palace, according to federation board member Dolly Ludden. The current building has little space for adult activities. It does have a small, second-floor meeting room and activity space, but they are not accessible to disabled people.

The building's entrance and office would also be rebuilt and improved. A small plaza would be constructed by the entrance and the flagpole honoring Sergeant James Wosika Jr., who was killed in Iraq in 2007, would be re-

cated there. Wosika grew up in the West End and played sports at Palace.

The horseshoe pits that were removed last year to make way for the refrigerated ice rink will not be brought back to Palace. Though they were heavily used, task force members could not find space for them, nor for basketball or tennis courts. Ludden said neighbors opposed the idea of using the ice rink's concrete slab for basketball during the summer.

Federation members said the refrigerated ice rink at Palace has limited what they can do on the site. Construction began on the rink last fall, but could not be completed in time for this skating season.

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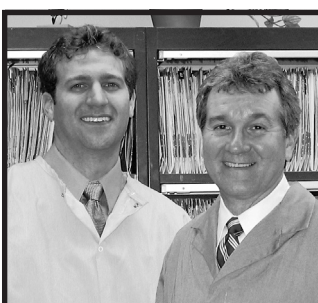
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Viewpoint

There is no joy in Mudville

BY PHIL KRINKIE

The United States Congress, having already failed in its first three feeble attempts to “fix” the sagging American economy, was still at the plate last week waving yet another ill-conceived, bloated federal spending package. And just like the first three mighty whiffs at “stimulating” the economy that went before it, this one too is likely to miss its intended target.

Let’s review Congress’ three previous strikes:

Strike one: In its first attempt to launch the economy skyward, the mighty Congress strode to the plate in April 2008 to pass a \$150 billion economic stimulus package. It consisted primarily of tax rebates, ranging from \$600 for individuals up to \$1,200 for married couples, plus \$300 per child under 17 years of age. This so-called \$150 billion “tax rebate program”—much of the money actually went to people who don’t even pay federal income taxes—was framed as a whopping infusion of cash into a troubled economy. Yet the \$150 billion disappeared when most people wisely spent the money to pay down their existing debt rather than purchase new cars, appliances or electronics.

Strike Two: With the approval rating of the U.S. House and Senate hovering in the single digits and an election just three months away, the mighty Congress once more stepped into the batter’s box to demonstrate that its members knew a thing or two about energizing the American economy. This time it was to “fix” the housing foreclosure problem. The solution? An up to \$200 billion “bailout” of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the two federally insured mortgage lenders. The Congress swung and missed at this one, too, leaving the economy faltering and home foreclosures soaring.

Strike Three: Then, just two weeks before the election, the Washington Senators—not to be confused with the former major league baseball team—declared that the U.S. economy was in free-fall and that unless an immediate and massive infusion of cash was pumped into the national banking system, the entire U.S. economy would collapse.

Like Casey in the bottom of the 9th, our mighty leaders once more stepped up to the plate with a sure-fire plan: a whopping \$700 billion “Wall Street bailout.” This massive cash dump was guaranteed to plug the holes in the credit market, restore consumer confidence and put the American economy on the road to recovery. Three months later, Congress is still trying to figure out what happened to the money, why mortgage foreclosures continue to rise and why many credit markets remain stalled.

There is little doubt as to why the majority of Americans are now skeptical about the latest and greatest spending spree in Washington. The behemoth \$787 billion “stimulus” bill represents the fourth time that Congress has promised to hit one out of the park, but in fact has failed to make contact. Other than out of sheer desperation, why should any American citizen have confidence that anyone in Washington has the slightest idea how to “jump-start” the economy? Congress is certainly good at spending money on programs that may or may not have some long-term societal benefits. However, from an economic perspective, the drain of additional national debt is likely to be of greater harm than good in the long run.

Congress last week approved, and President Obama this week is expected to sign, the bill to add \$787 billion of debt on top of the \$1.2 trillion debt already projected for the 2010 federal budget.

Before Congress voted to spend this enormous amount of money, which is likely to fuel inflation and crowd out private-sector investment, maybe its members should have reviewed their performance over the last year. Three strikes and they really should have been called out.

And since when was piling on more and more debt determined to be the path to economic prosperity?

Phil Krinkie, a former Minnesota state representative and chairman of the House Tax Committee, is president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota. For the past 25 years, he has also operated the Snelling Company, a heating and air conditioning business based in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood of St. Paul.

STEVE MICHAELS



Feeling the side effects of media excess

BY BILL STIEGER

Winter forces our thoughts inward. The long nights and frigid temperatures can lead to the dissipations of overeating, excessive drinking and too much television watching. Boredom begets rumination, which leaves one vulnerable to some of the grimmer aspects of the American scene as played out daily on television, in newspapers and over the Internet:

- Topping off my list of revulsions are the vulgar excesses of our modern-day robber barons—guys like former Merrill Lynch CEO John Thain, who spent a million bucks to redecorate his office, including \$35,000 for a portable commode with legs. How would you like to show up at his office for a meeting, only to find the door locked?

“Just a minute, Bill!” Thain grunts upon hearing your knock.

You look at your watch just as the vapor hits you.

- It seems three out of every four commercials on television these days are selling drugs—over-the-counter and otherwise. My favorite is the laxative commercial with the woman on the street asking passersby, “Is your colon sending you messages?” Now that’s a question I’ve never seen on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory.

- Have you seen the commercial for the drug Abilify? Abilify had been used by people with bipolar disorder. Its manufacturer is now marketing it to people on antidepressants. The possible side effects sound like a chamber of horrors: “Call your doctor if you experience high fever, stiff muscles or confusion, as these may be signs of a life-threatening reaction, or if you experience muscle movements that can’t be stopped, as these could become permanent. High blood sugar has occurred in some people taking Abilify. In extreme cases, this could lead to coma or death.”

Death! How’s *that* for a side effect? Wouldn’t you think death qualifies as a main effect? If death is a possibility when taking a legal drug like Abilify, then why are any drugs illegal?

Imagine hearing the following from your television spoken in a calm voice: “Ask your doctor if you’re right for heroin. Side effects could include vomiting or addiction. Repeated injections may cause scarring. An overdose may, in extreme

cases, lead to death.”

I don’t advocate the legalization of heroin, of course. But I don’t advocate the legalization of Abilify, either.

- Then there are the pharmaceuticals pitched to middle-age guys who can no longer mount the cavalry. “E.D.” is the sobriquet for this condition. The men in the commercials who are presumably benefitting from the drug are riding motorcycles, windsurfing, playing lead guitar in a rock ‘n’ roll band—generally acting like gray-headed teenagers. Perhaps their E.D. stems from having deluded themselves into thinking they’re still living in the Age of Aquarius. Maybe these guys would be better able to get back in the saddle if

they just faced the fact that they’re over 50 years old, instead of relying on a pill that could send them to the emergency room with, as the commercials say, “an erection lasting more than four hours.” Four hours? Never mind. I suddenly believe in this drug.

- It is, of course, the season for awarding prizes to movie stars, and there’s no end to the prognostications. I heard a critic on a talk show mention that “it’s Kate’s year.” I had to ask my girlfriend what that meant. The Oscars are fine, I guess, but given the financial straits many of us are navigating these days, it’s hard to get worked up over high school dropouts who make three

or four movies a year at \$10 million a pop.

- Oprah got suckered again, this time by Herman Rosenblat, author of *Angel at the Fence*, a Holocaust memoir. Oprah, who twice had the Rosenblats as guests on her show, had just recovered from the scandal involving her promotion of James Frey’s exaggerated drug-addled memoir, *A Million Little Pieces*. I feel bad for Oprah. She’s a well-meaning, intelligent woman, but she’s obsessed with these stories of people who survive fantastic ordeals and come out better for them in the long run.

Oprah needs to read some other writers, like Anton Chekhov, for example. The characters in Chekhov’s stories reflect life as it is. We don’t often win in the end or come out “better” following imprisonment or the death of a loved one, etc. Good literature elicits our wonder and sympathies by reflecting on human loss and tragedy. As Franz Kafka said, a good book “must be an ice axe to break the frozen sea within us.”

Given the current climate, I’d welcome any thaw at all.

I feel bad for Oprah. She’s a well-meaning, intelligent woman, but she’s obsessed with these stories of people who survive fantastic ordeals and come out better for them in the long run. Oprah needs to read some other writers, like Anton Chekhov, for example. The characters in Chekhov’s stories reflect life as it is.

Inbox

The best gov't money can buy

An open letter to President Barack Obama:

I voted for you. I wanted your change. I am most disappointed! The economic stimulus package you so ardently tried to push through Congress is at least as big a grab for pork as any bill ever submitted to Congress. What a failure! Politics as usual. (Yes, I know that \$6.5 billion for Arlen Specter and \$1 million or \$2 million for a doggie park in L.A. will "stimulate" their economy.)

You want to prop up (with my money) the very institutions that played a huge hand in creating this financial debacle. You want to prop up (with my money) businesses that are failing because they gambled and lost or were poorly run or operated with stupendous greed and arrogance. Your rhetoric has run into the best government money can buy and the money is winning!

If you really think the people can play a part in the recovery, now is the time to test the theory. If you must provide a "stimulus," then funnel the whole package to the people voting in the last election or the people who filed income taxes in 2008. (It's probably OK to exclude those corporations, businesses and individuals who had gross incomes or revenues of over \$5 million. And it's probably OK to exclude illegal aliens and those people who are in jail.)

Then let us deal with the problem! If we want to buy a car, we will (our choice, not yours). If we want to buy a house, we will (our choice, not yours). If we want to blow it, save it or give it away, we will (our choice, not yours). In any event, you can bet the economy will be stimulated.

Paul A Barthol Sr.
Highland Park

Reroute light rail in downtown

Dear editor,

Bill Hosko's letter to the editor, "Realigning light rail in downtown" (*Villager* Inbox, February 4), made many excellent points in favoring a Wacouta Street alignment for the Central Corridor line versus the Cedar Street route that the Metropolitan Council is attempting to mandate. The Cedar Street alignment makes absolutely no sense, dividing central downtown with a train, disrupting the tranquility and accessibility of St. Louis Catholic and Central Presbyterian churches and causing sound and vibrations interference for Minnesota Public Radio.

I have been informed there are five underground parking garages along the Cedar Street route as well as delivery docks. Central Presbyterian requires on-street parking for funerals and handicapped accessibility, and the Cedar Street alignment makes no provision for this. There is also a skyway that will require removal where this route angles from Cedar to 4th Street.

I have traversed the proposed Cedar Street alignment as well as the initial leg of a proposed "Bennett Loop" down Jackson Street then over to Wacouta. The latter provides the least intrusive, most direct route to Union Depot, but the Met Council declined to discuss it. Mayor Coleman and the City Council are apparently satisfied to let the non-elected Metropolitan Council do the governing in St. Paul. This is not acceptable to me, nor should it be to other citizens.

Warren A. Olson
Highland Park

Thirteen cents for a better St. Paul

Dear editor,

The front-page story in the February 4 *Villager* noted that cuts in state aid will give the city of St. Paul a projected deficit of \$43.8 million over the next three years. To cope with these losses, city officials are considering such moves as closing recreation centers and libraries. A deficit of \$44 million sounds like a lot of money, and it is. Still, with the population of St. Paul at approximately 300,000, it would take only 13 cents per person per day for three years to meet those losses. Thirteen cents: I lose that much change in my upholstery every day.

How many citizens of St. Paul would be willing to pay 13 cents per day to keep libraries and rec centers open? Granted, some folks may not have the money to spare, but I would spend a quarter per day to keep them open, and I know I am not alone. Why can't there be a referendum for citizens to address these cuts? Why is it more important to allow handguns to flourish but let libraries sink into the swamp?

A tax for cultural properties could easily be added to state income taxes. Or there could be other, creative ways to make revenue for cultural and educational services. For instance, gasoline taxes. Why shouldn't those who use the roads, the salt, the dirt, the plows and the maintenance pay for it? I'm an avid bicyclist, and I would welcome bicycle registration plates as we have for cars to help pay for bike lanes, pothole fixes and trails.

We have a great city, and it's important to remember that we create it, it isn't made for us. This is where we live and breathe. Isn't that important?

Lucie Paynick
Macalester-Groveland

A plea to Pawlenty

An open letter to Governor Tim Pawlenty:

Governor Pawlenty, the cities of Minnesota need your help. Your proposed cuts to Local Government Aid will have a devastating impact. Public safety will be cut, recreation centers will be shut down, our public libraries will be closed.

The budget you have proposed will cost St. Paul \$44 million over the next three years (*Villager*, February 4). This has already caused a delay in hiring 14 additional police officers in 2009, even though the department is 18 officers below its authorized strength. Recently, the employees of the St. Paul City Attorney's Office were told that nine or 10 lawyers and approximately six clerical staff could be laid off. Many of the lawyers who could be cut are prosecutors. This poses a significant threat to public safety.

Crime is always a concern in our city, and we need to do more. However, under your budget, crimes will not get the attention they need and some crimes like domestic assault and DWI will suffer in how they are prosecuted. Successful programs like DWI court, mental health court and community prosecution will end.

These are difficult times. People are losing their jobs, their homes and their hope for the future. In times like these we need leadership. We need you to be that leader. The time has come for innovative solutions to government problems and not just slashing budgets and jobs. I am asking you to restore Local Government Aid to St. Paul. I

INBOX ►10

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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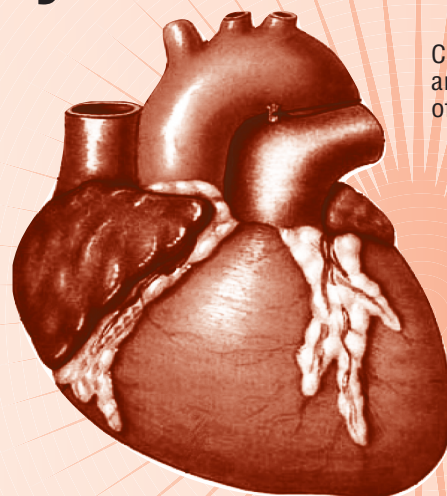
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A fear of Mr. Finnegan set this writer on path to success

BY BILL STIEGER

I came to writing as a profession in my late 30s when I won a fiction-writing contest. My earlier careers—drumming and photography—consumed my youth and young adulthood. No regrets there—I still play the drums—but reading Ernest Hemingway's "Big Two-Hearted River" kindled my desire to write.

Hemingway rendered his short story about trout fishing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula so vividly that when I looked up from the page, blinking in the glare of the afternoon light, I was genuinely shocked to find that I wasn't fly-fishing in Michigan but only reading about it in a grungy apartment in South Minneapolis.

I didn't have a personal computer in 1990, but I did own a beautiful old Hermes manual typewriter that I resurrected with the help of a now defunct repair shop on Nicollet Avenue. I checked out a typing manual from the public library to relearn the skill.

Though I was inspired by Hemingway, I think I was also curious whether I could write. Part of it, too, was a diversion—a way to forget my grim circumstances, which included a part-time job as a "psychiatric assistant" at a halfway house and the dismal remuneration I received for playing the drums at the Dakota Bar (then in St. Paul) and the Artists' Quarter (then in Minneapolis).

I believe it was Aristotle who wrote that to be successful a person needs good fortune. I didn't realize it at the time, but I had had



John Finnegan, from the Sibley High School yearbook of 1982.

good fortune earlier in life. I had been blessed with indolence and a propensity for dreaming, traits that led to my becoming a compulsive reader. A writer needs to be a reader first.

I also had the good fortune to study English in high school under the tutelage of John J. Finnegan.

Mr. Finnegan's classroom was located in the original wing of the old Henry Sibley High School in West St. Paul. The classroom had a high ceiling with yellowed plaster. The varnished dark wood trim, window sashes and desktops were of a high quality, but their general disrepair, coupled with the dingy lighting, reminded one of a cobwebbed cellar or crypt. I half-expected Vincent Price

to rise up through a trapdoor at the front of the classroom.

Mr. Finnegan was a solidly built man who hid his athletic frame beneath the freshly pressed gray suits he wore every day. His shoes were always polished, and his hair was always cut military-style. He would pace the rows of the classroom with his hands clasped behind his back, as if he were carrying a riding crop.

Sometimes I wished Vincent Price was the English instructor. Mr. Finnegan inspired fear. He spoke in the forceful, clipped sentences of a military man, which he had been for many years. And there wasn't one degree of warmth in his delivery.

"We are here to learn English grammar," he announced on the first day of class. "And you will learn it. Understand that I am not here to win a popularity contest. If you do not want to learn, get out. Keep your feet flat on the floor, your eyes to the front of the classroom..." He repeated these dictums at the beginning of every class, I came to learn.

Mr. Finnegan's class comprised the sorriest students at Sibley. I think it was called English 1.0, but most people knew it as "Bonehead English." Every single greaser in my grade was in it—tough guys like Dick Eastey, Bob Whaley and Pat Boettcher—guys who used gobs of Brylcreem to make their pompadours gleam like wet seal fur. The vacant-eyed girls in the class were the type who teased their hair and wore animal-print miniskirts. Their eyeliner looked like it had been scooped from smudge pots.

Though we were troubled youths, Mr. Finnegan never had a problem with

discipline in his classroom. We knew he was a man who could and would back up his authority if tested. Not one of us dared challenge him.

I wish I could say that I immediately liked Mr. Finnegan. At the time, I merely feared him. But fear worked. Over the course of the year, I learned the parts of speech. I diagrammed sentences. I wrote essays that Mr. Finnegan would mark up with a red pencil and occasionally a cursory note of encouragement. But it wasn't until the end of the year that I felt grateful for Mr. Finnegan's adherence to boot-camp English.

Last week I learned of Mr. Finnegan's death. A friend of the family, who remembered me speaking fondly of Mr. Finnegan, sent me an e-mail.

Mr. Finnegan was not a man of this century, or even the previous one. He was the classic 19th-century schoolmaster—strict, severe, a believer in his craft. And I'm the better for it.

John Finnegan of Mendota Heights died on January 31 at age 87. He had taught English for 22 years at Sibley High School. Before that he was an ROTC instructor at St. Thomas Academy for four years and served more than 20 years in the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death, by 100 days, by his wife of 67 years, Frances. He is survived by his daughters, Georgia Finnegan Amdahl, Patricia Anderson, Kathy Finnegan and Shirley Hannine, sons Bill and Jay, their spouses and 17 grandchildren. His funeral was held on February 9 at the Church of St. Peter in Mendota.

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am also asking you not to cut programs for the neediest in our society, especially in times like these when they need it most.

*David Palm
Highland Park*

Racism still runs deep in U.S.

To the editor:

Thank you to Frank Erickson for his letter to the editor (*Villager* Inbox, February 4). He commented on the outside investigation of the stuffed monkey in a noose that was found hanging outside the St. Paul Fire Department's service garage on Energy Park Drive. That an outside investigator found this was not racially motivated is outrageous. St. Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler was concerned about the intent of this sickening act. There is no other intent for doing such a thing than instilling fear and spreading hatred.

I was just reminded by a speaker last night that in occurrences of racism, intent is not what is important. Outcome is what matters. In this case, the outcome was blatant, offensive racism which is being glossed over by those in power. If this had been found to be a racist act, the chief might actually recognize that there is a big problem brewing that needs to be addressed immediately. Addressing these issues is uncomfortable, and he is refusing to step out of his comfort zone and admit something is terribly wrong here.

The person or persons who hung that monkey there knew exactly what they were doing and what their act implied. We

may have a black president, but racism is far from history in our country. It continues to run deep in institutions and individuals, and until we really acknowledge that it still exists and that we are all at fault for not addressing it, it will only continue to perpetuate itself and people like the ones who hung up that monkey will continue spreading their hatred and ignorance.

*Susan Schatz
Merriam Park*

Soul of a political campaign

Dear editor,

With President Barack Obama conceding now what he did not to any great extent do during his campaign—that peace and prosperity are nowhere in reach—it won't be the first time nor the last that a candidate in a close race promises a hopeful nation the moon. I don't fault him for that, since the purpose of a candidacy is first and foremost to win. Yet because his efforts to such a large degree thrived on procuring Internet funds, an eloquent handling of those funds began to evolve early on.

The promises strewn all about during Obama's magical mystery tour across America marked the beginning of a phenomenon where the loftier and more hopeful the promise, the greater the Internet campaign contributions elicited by those promises, and the greater those accumulated contributions, the more air time could be purchased to sell those same promises.

Samuel Johnson's candid perspective might make a fitting ending when he wrote about politics in his time: "Promise,

large promise, is the soul of an advertisement." Considering the amount of soul in the \$315 million of Obama's ads since September 1 alone, I would say Johnson's words from 170 years ago still have some truth to them.

*Paul Peter Paulos
Macalester-Groveland*

End dependence on foreign oil

To the editor:


Now that gasoline has fallen below \$2.00 per gallon at the pump, the energy issue has again begun to recede from the public debate. We must seize this opportunity to defeat oil as the key global commodity.

In 2008 the U.S. imported about 70 percent of the 21 million barrels of oil we used per day. That is far more than in 1974 when OPEC was created and instituted an oil embargo against the U.S. At temporarily depressed prices, imported oil still costs the U.S. over \$300 billion per year. That is almost half the amount of the recent financial system bailout, every year. Other indirect oil costs add many billions to that total.

We can realistically decrease our dependence on foreign oil by up to 50 percent over the next 10 years by taking some concrete steps in 2009. No single alternative is sufficient, so we must implement all of them. Alternatives to oil will flourish when we actively and permanently encourage them.

Key first steps include wind, solar and natural gas. We can build out the wind corridor that stretches from Texas to the

INBOX ▶ 11



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10◀ INBOX

Canadian border and the solar corridor that stretches from Texas to California. The U.S. Department of Energy says that will produce more than 20 percent of the electricity we need. We can also switch our commercial vehicle fleets from diesel and gasoline to natural gas.

The U.S. must make it a national priority, on the scale of the space program, to end our dependence on foreign oil. The time is now to say farewell to oil and welcome energy independence.

Brian H. Davis
Highland Park

Editor's note: President of Environmental Advantage Law, Brian H. Davis has practiced environmental law for 30 years.

Not for lean times

To the editor:

With a big projected budget deficit, shouldn't our City Council be figuring out ways to keep and attract businesses to St. Paul instead of chasing them away with trans fat legislation?

Gary Fischbach
Highland Park

Mistakes in Middle East

To the editor:

The gigantic Iraq fiasco was not caused by President George W. Bush alone. It took a whole gang of politicians from both parties and numerous contractors to take Americans and Iraqis to the cleaners. There are few families in Iraq without a dead or seriously injured close relative. Millions of people have been displaced, Iraq's infrastructure is in a shambles, and our cost in blood and treasure is huge.

Osama Bin Laden and the Iranians are loving it, as their plan to have us dissipate our resources in futile wars against insurgents succeeds. They eagerly wait as President Barack Obama appears to be headed for the same mistake in Afghanistan.

Obama may be spared this decision as the Taliban, apparently aided by Pakistan's intelligence service and the Russians, are blocking supply routes into landlocked Afghanistan. The Taliban have destroyed a crucial bridge leading to the Khyber Pass, which carries 75 percent of the war supplies for the U.S. and NATO. And Kyrgyzstan has announced a decision to deny our use of the Manas military base, from which we bring 500 tons of material into Afghanistan every month.

Insurgencies are cheap; sending our military forces to remote parts of the world is not. We are letting Bin Laden set the rules of the game.

Rolf Westgard
Macalester-Groveland

A superpower's hubris

To the editor:

The Cody Fleischfresser letter, "Time to atone for Iraq" (*Villager* Inbox, February 4), brings to mind the letter from Jon Wiersma, "Obama is no peace candidate" (*Villager* Inbox, September 24). Both writers decry the "warism" that America has wrought. War has a long history in the West, going back I suppose to the Biblical invasion of Canaan. Refuting wars of aggression means rejecting the tradition of violence sown in Western history.

Duane L. Cady, in his book *From Warism to Pacifism: A Moral Continuum*, says "warism is the most deeply held and least critically examined fundamental value of modern culture." Americans mainly prefer distraction. Unwilling to admit moral failing and war crimes, as the supreme military power on earth, that may be one choice. But consider the closing line from Chalmers

Johnson's book *The Sorrows of Empire*: "Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and vengeance, the punishment for pride and hubris, waits impatiently for her meeting with us."

I think everyone might agree that, economically, the hubris of excess in all its forms is now being taken into account. It is time to take a step back and realize that the log in our eye that magnifies our enemy's faults also diminishes our own shortcomings.

Frank Dowding
Macalester-Groveland

Clinic comes to rescue

To the editor:

I am so grateful that we have a Planned Parenthood clinic in Highland Village. I am one of the many jobless people in these economic times and find myself for the first time in my life without health insurance. Planned Parenthood is the net that helps many of us receive birth control who would otherwise fall through the cracks. This and other Planned Parenthood clinics provide our community with this much-needed service.

L. Berg
Longfellow, Minneapolis

Protect kids' health

To the editor:

The legislative session is under way at the state Capitol, and while the state budget deficit is in the spotlight, many of our elected officials are working to enact positive policy changes for Minnesotans. One such legislator is Representative Erin Murphy (DFL-District 64A). She is a co-author of HF250, the Toxic Free Kids Act, introduced last week. HF250 would phase out the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in products intended for use by children age 3 and under.

BPA is a chemical component of polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins, and is commonly used in baby bottles and other products that children are exposed to daily. BPA is a hormone disrupter, and mimics estrogen in the body. Even in small doses, exposure to this chemical can have detrimental effects on the development of small children and carries the danger of long-term health risks, including cancer and diabetes. By championing this bill, Representative Murphy is fighting for the health of one of the most vulnerable segments of the population, our children.

Casey Harrington
Macalester-Groveland

Remembering Reagan

To the editor:

I am a member of Toastmaster International's King Boreas Club, and I am writing to thank the *Villager* staff for their kindness and sympathy for one of our long-time members, Mary Jane Reagan, who passed away in December. Mary Jane was one of the most committed members of King Boreas Toastmasters over the last 20 years.

Kou Thao, Member
King Boreas Toastmasters Club
Merriam Park

Whole latté love

Dear editor:

Ashley, Emily and Wolfgang are just a few of the people at the Starbucks in Highland Village who provide superb customer service. Whether it be coffee or an espresso drink, free samples and courteous service are the order of the day. I wish all of the employees there a happy Valentine's Day and a whole latté love.

Steven Hubbell
Downtown St. Paul

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Inspirational architecture

Christ Church Lutheran joins national landmarks

Nestled in a quiet section of South Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood sits one of America's architectural gems. Last month, Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., was named a National Historic Landmark. Minnesota has only 22 other such sites, but this is the only church and the only structure in the state built since 1908 to be recognized for its architectural significance.

Even with its 88-foot tower surmounted by a 32-foot-tall aluminum cross, Christ Church Lutheran appears modest at first sight. However, just a few moments spent in the sanctuary can make any visitor sense the church's unusual grace and beauty.

Its simplicity is deceptive. What at first seems to be an ordinary church interior soon reveals hidden angles and corners that make it extraordinary. There are no parallel surfaces in the central part of the church, making it several feet narrower in the front. The ceiling is slanted and light from a single window streams in to illuminate the area where a cross hangs behind the altar.

Standing in the rear of the church, one becomes aware of the upper brick wall to the right, a sinuous creation of curves that parishioners affectionately call "the wave." The story is that the architect, who was trained as a mason, sent befuddled workers away one day for a long lunch. By the time they returned,



Close to Home

By Lisa Heinrich

he had pieced together a section of the curved wall to show them how it should be done.

The church was designed by the late, famed Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen. His son, Eero, created the attached education wing—likewise an unprepossessing structure until one takes a longer look at its elegant angles and meticulous design. Eero designed the addition to be built partially underground so it would not distract from his father's church.

The recent historic designation is not the first recognition Christ Church Lutheran has received for its architectural design. In 1977, local architect and educator the late Ralph Rapson, probably best known for his design of the original Guthrie Theater, nominated Christ Church Lutheran for the American Institute of Architects' 25-year award, which recognized the structure's broad influence in the field of architecture. Rapson, who worked with the Saarinens for three years, said at the time that the structure "influenced church design all over the world."

During a recent visit, the Reverend Kristine Carlson proudly showed off the church's baptismal area, where eight ebony poles support a large font. She said the acoustics in the building are ideal for the human voice, lending a aura of intimacy to the large room.



The exterior of Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis is punctuated with an 88-foot-tall tower (left), while the interior features a curved wall that parishioners affectionately call "the wave" (far left).

PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Carlson said she is often struck by how the building speaks to people of various faiths. She said recently on a tour of the church led by a Muslim, a devout Jew described it as "the most spiritual space I've ever been in."

Christ Church Lutheran got its start in 1911 when the Longfellow neighborhood had few paved streets or sidewalks. Dr. Henry Dittmer and Dr. John Huchthausen surveyed the area and found 15 German immigrants willing to join a new congregation. Even more—27 adults and 12 children—showed up for the first service in rented space at the Norwegian Lutheran Church at 35th Street and Minnehaha Avenue. Originally services were said in German, but eventually English became the language of choice.

The congregation grew over the years and moved into a series of buildings. The members began to save to build a new church, but the Great Depression and World War II kept them from being able to realize their dreams. In 1939, the Reverend Julius Deckman and the secretary of the synod's architectural committee agreed on a Gothic design for a new structure that was expected to cost \$146,593. However, by the end of the war the cost of construction materials had increased drastically.

In addition, Pastor Deckman died in 1945, to be succeeded by the Reverend William Buege of Cross Lutheran Church in St. Paul. When Pastor Buege met with the building committee and architects, he was told the estimated cost was now \$367,000, and that was without furnishings. He did some research on his own

and found a modernist design with its simplified lines would likely cost less.

The congregation liked the spiritual inclinations and background of Eliel Saarinen, whose father had been a Lutheran pastor in Finland, and chose him to design the church. The building was dedicated on December 4, 1949. It would be the last completed project for Saarinen, who died in 1950.

In April 1956, the Committee on Architecture of the National Council of Churches named Christ Church Lutheran as its first choice for architectural excellence among all U.S. churches constructed in the previous 25 years. Later that same year, the church contracted with Eero Saarinen & Associates to build the educational addition. By 1961 when the preliminary drawings were submitted, it was clear the costs would be much higher than the architect had estimated, so he made some revisions that significantly lowered the price but did not affect the quality.

Eero, who also designed the St. Louis Gateway Arch but never saw it completed, died suddenly in 1961 after brain surgery. The next year he was posthumously awarded the American Institute of Architects' highest honor, the Gold Medal, which his father had also received in 1947.

Tours of Christ Church Lutheran are conducted at 11:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of every month. Visitors are invited to join the congregation for worship at 9:30 and coffee afterward. Group tours also may be arranged at other times. For information, call 612-721-6611 or visit www.christchurchluth.org.

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Gili Ostfield of Highland Park (second from right) stood on the summit of the ancient fortress of Masada watching the sun rise over the Dead Sea during her trip to Israel last year.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNITED JEWISH FUND AND COUNCIL

Outbreak of war has not dissuaded Jewish teenagers from visiting Israel

BY STEVEN PEASE

You would think Sasha Kvasnik would have been a bit worried about her upcoming trip to Israel, considering the recent rocket attacks and the political unrest there. She wasn't. A week before her February 4 departure, the Highland Park 16-year-old seemed more concerned about breaking in her hiking boots and missing her best friend.

"I'm not worried," Kvasnik said. "But I've never traveled anywhere by myself. It'll be... different."

Kvasnik is one of a dozen local teenagers who are making a pilgrimage to Israel this year thanks in part to the United Jewish Fund and Council (UJFC). The Highland Park-based agency awards about \$10,000 each year in Israel Experience scholarships to students in the east metro area between the ages of 13 and 22.

Even with the unrest in the Mideast and the economic downturn in the U.S., the UJFC rarely has difficulty attracting scholarship applicants, according to Laura Savin, the agency's director of endowment, budget and allocations. In fact, the number of applicants is on the rise, she said.

Sasha is studying at Israel's Alexander Muss High School in Hod Hasharon, about 50 miles north of the Gaza Strip. However, in the days before she left, her mother, Rebecca Kvasnik, wasn't that worried. "Security has gotten even tighter since I was there," said Rebecca, referring to her 1991 honeymoon in Israel. "(Sasha's) not worried at all, though she doesn't know what to expect."

Kvasnik's sojourn in Israel will be packed with "experiential learning," according to Savin. She and the 16 other U.S. teens enrolled in the eight-week program are learning about a region of Israel one day, then visiting that region the next day.

For someone who is Jewish, Savin said, nothing compares to being in Israel. "It's just amazing when you're a teenager," she said. "You get off a plane and practically everyone is Jewish. You hear the language you've been learning your whole life, and it's just a beautiful place."

As with any student trip, there are restrictions. But breaking the rules in Israel can result in more than just a slap on the wrist. For their own safety, the students aren't allowed to travel beyond the heavy gates and barbed-wire fences of the high school without permission, and they're forbidden from taking public transportation. Any teenager who violates the rules is sent back to the U.S., no questions asked. When the students are allowed to travel outside the "safe zones," they're often accompanied by what is essentially an armed bodyguard.

As Sasha's father, Jonathan Kvasnik, said, "You'll never feel safer than when you land (in Israel). There's a guy with an Uzi following



Sasha Kvasnik pictured shortly after landing in Israel earlier this month.

you everywhere you go."

The students immerse themselves in Jewish studies during the eight weeks, earning up to six college credits while keeping up with their core high school classes back home. For every three days in the classroom, they spend four days traveling.

Though she has studied Hebrew, Sasha isn't fluent in the language and didn't know much about Israel before her trip. "I know Jerusalem is the capital and there's a great wall there," she said, referring to the Wailing Wall.

Highland Park High School senior Gili Ostfield received a UJFC scholarship last year. In Israel, she watched the sunrise from the top of the ancient fortress of Masada and rappelled down the cliffs in Negev. Though there were scares from nearby terrorist attacks, she said, the experience was one of the greatest of her life.

"We met Arabs and Israelis," Ostfield said. "It kind of put the whole conflict in Israel in perspective, from both sides."

Since returning, Ostfield regularly follows events in the Middle East. "I have family there," she said. "It was just such a great learning experience, and it made (Israel) even more of a home than it may already have been."

The UJFC was formed in 1943 through the merger of the eight-year-old United Jewish Fund of St. Paul and the Council of Jewish Social Organizations. In addition to trips to Israel, the nonprofit agency facilitates educational programs and support services for the 12,000 Jewish Americans in the east metro area, according to its executive director Eli Skora.

Skora himself settled in the U.S. with the help of a Jewish agency. At the age of 10, he fled his hometown of Esmeralda, Cuba, when Fidel Castro took power in 1961. According to him, when Jews can connect with Israel firsthand at a young age, they are more likely to give back to the Jewish community.

"Last year was a record year for tourism in Israel," Skora said.



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Becoming Minnesota

Lanegran's latest examines the history of the North Star state through the lens of maps

BY FRANK JOSSI

Ever heard of Minneapolis, Iowa? St. Paul, Wisconsin? Red Wing, Michigan? At one time or another, portions of what is now Minnesota were part of other states and territories, before Minnesota's borders were formally established just prior to statehood in 1858.

That's just one of the discoveries readers will make in *Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2008). Author David Lanegran's 215-page book includes 100 maps that were made over the course of four centuries and accompanying text that together describe Minnesota history, the growing sophistication of cartography and the changing state and territorial borders. The maps were made by early explorers and settlers as well as commercial publishers, local governments and transit companies.

Lanegran, 67, who graduated from Macalester College in 1963, has been teaching urban geography there since 1969. Over the past four decades, the Macalester-Groveland resident has written or edited 12 books, including histories of St. Paul's Grand Avenue and St. Anthony Park neighborhood and Minneapolis' Lakes District. He has also appeared in or served as a consultant for nine TV documentaries. More than anything, however, Lanegran is fascinated by maps, and this is the book he always wanted to write.

"It was a delight to work on, from start to finish," he said. "It was challenging because it covers a lot of material...and because I wanted it to be not just attractive, but a book that someone would actually read."

What early maps of Minnesota lacked in accuracy they made up for in artistic expression, according to Lanegran. Many early maps of the New World were made by cartographers working in Europe from the recollections of missionaries and explorers or their rough sketches drawn on animal hides or tree bark. French explorers and missionaries were

"I set out in the 1970s to write local geography because there wasn't anyone doing it," Lanegran said. "I can't say that I've achieved all my goals, but I think I've helped establish that local historical geography is interesting."

the sources of the earliest maps of what is now Minnesota, because the British had little interest in the region in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

A key innovation in mapmaking came in the 1700s in the form of a clock that could be used with the sun to determine location, according to Lanegran. "It was a big deal at the end of the 18th century because, though the process was arduous, it gave explorers the ability to make more accurate maps," he said.

Minnesota's borders have been altered by wars, the imagination of mapmakers and the decisions made by politicians as the nation expanded and more states were added, he said. The establishment of the 49th parallel as a northern boundary for the U.S. after the War of 1812 gave the future Minnesota the Red River Basin and the Northwest Angle, according to Lanegran. A Michigan mapmaker added Minnesota to that territory's jurisdiction in 1835, he said, and Iowa claimed the Twin Cities and other land west of the Mississippi in an 1845 map.

Iowans really wanted St. Anthony Falls, Lanegran said, figuring it would eventually become a major source of energy for a center of commerce. In the end, however, Iowa's leaders figured the northern territory would



Author David Lanegran has drawn on four centuries of mapmaking to write a history of the region we now know as Minnesota. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

remain too sparsely populated, too remote to manage efficiently and too uncertain given the continued presence of the Dakota Indians, he said.

Not longer after that, Wisconsin sought to have its western boundary extended north and west along the Mississippi River, Lanegran said. However, local settlers balked at that proposal, arguing that Milwaukee was too far away and that as Wisconsinites they would be isolated, especially in winter when the rivers froze over.

Another influence in establishing Minnesota's eventual borders, according to Lanegran, may have been the abolitionists who, in the decades prior to the Civil War, wanted more free states in the union as opposed to states that allowed slavery.

Minnesota on the Map continues Lanegran's decades-long quest to explore local history and raise the profile of geography as a subject of interest. "I set out in the 1970s to write local geography because there wasn't anyone doing it," he said. "I can't say that I've achieved all my goals, but I think I've helped establish that local historical geography is interesting."

Although his books have sold well, Lanegran believes that Minnesotans aren't nearly as interested in their state's history as residents of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas and Arkansas are. A historical geography textbook in Pennsylvania recently sold for \$180, he said, while in Minnesota he has rarely had to pay more than \$5.00 for a similar book.

Lanegran stepped out of the classroom early in his career to serve on the board of Minnesota Landmarks, which operates St. Paul's Landmark Center, and later became that organization's president. He has also served on the St. Paul Planning Commission, the Downtown Council and the board of the Grand Avenue Business Association, to name just a few of his off-campus activities.

Lanegran credits the administration at Macalester for giving him the opportunity to get involved in civic affairs. Also driving his involvement was the oft-quoted saying: "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach."

"I took that as a personal insult," Lanegran said.

Lanegran will take part in the Minnesota Historical Society's "Minnesota on the Map Family Day" from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The event will feature demonstrations of map making, historical characters, and live bluegrass music and tours of the exhibit, "Minnesota on the Map: Four Centuries of Maps from the Minnesota Historical Society Collection." Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and college students, and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17.

Lanegran will also discuss his book during a free History Lounge program beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the History Center.

For more information on these programs, call 651-259-3000.

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Franciscan Health Community assumes operation of Our Lady of Good Counsel Cancer Home

The Franciscan Health Community, which operates St. Mary's Home in Highland Park and the adjacent Highlands on Graham and Riverview Highlands senior housing, has reached an agreement to operate Our Lady of Good Counsel Free Cancer Home, 2076 St. Anthony Ave.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, a 40-bed skilled-care residence for incurable cancer patients, has been operated by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne since 1941. The Dominican Sisters, based in Hawthorne, New York, have decided to focus their resources on their facilities in Hawthorne, New York City, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Kisumu, Kenya.

The change in operations at Our Lady of Good Counsel was approved by the Vatican in Rome, according to Joe Stanislav, president and CEO of Franciscan Health Community. "We're honored to extend our nearly 75-year Catholic tradition to ensure that Our Lady of Good Counsel continues to be a quality provider of care for cancer patients," he said.

Franciscan Health Community is an affiliate of Catholic Senior Services, which was created in 2007 by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to assist in the development of Catholic senior housing and services. Other affiliated senior housing and service agencies include Catholic Eldercare in Northeast Minneapolis, St. Therese in New Hope and St. Therese Southwest in Hopkins.

"Our primary desire is to preserve the care and services (of Our Lady of Good Counsel)," said Mother Mary Francis, president of Our Lady of Good Counsel and superior general of the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima. "We're confident that these planning discussions with Franciscan Health Community, Catholic Senior Services and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis have been fruitful and in the best interest of our patients."

"We wish to express our gratitude to Archbishop John Nienstedt and Archbishop Harry Flynn, who have both so graciously supported our community and our apostolic work," Francis said. "We also wish to thank the many priests, religious, benefactors and volunteers who have so generously supported us. Special gratitude must be extended to our physicians and our employees. Their loyalty and dedication have enabled us to give quality care to thousands of patients and their families."

"For nearly 70 years, the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne have given us a beautiful example of Christ's love for each and every person, ministering to them and preparing them for their reunion with God," said Dan Gannon, president and CEO of Catholic Senior Services. "Catholic Senior Services and Franciscan Health Community will strive to carry on that faithful example."

Religious Notes

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., will offer the following: a Mardi Gras celebration on Wednesday, February 18, featuring a meal at 5:30 p.m. and music by the Teddy Bear Band; and the Reverend Barbara Lundblad of Union Seminary leading a forum on "Women, Men and God Talk: Who Cares about Language Anymore?" at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, March 8. Call 651-699-6886.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane, Mendota Heights, will celebrate the golden anniversary of the church's 100-year-old Estey pipe organ with a concert at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, February 22. The afternoon will include choral pieces by St. Paul's choir, and music by Bach and local composer David Cherwien. Guest organist Jean Krinke will play several pieces. A social hour will follow.

Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1671 Summit Ave., will play host to the following programs: "Ways of Being Agnostic" with Peter Wahlstrom, a college instructor in philosophy, humanities and physical education, 10:15 a.m. Sunday, February 22; "Mental Health Parity: From Bumper Stickers to Pharmaceuticals" with Abby Struck at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, March 1. Call 651-488-7022.

The Reverend Michael Keating of the University of St. Thomas will address "Being a Father as Part of God's Plan" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 26, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 515 S. Albert St. Admission is free.

Maqsood Kamil, a Presbyterian minister and professor at Gujranwala Theological Seminary in Pakistan, will speak at 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, at Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave.

A Saturday Breakfast for Men on February 28 will feature the Reverend Michael Keating addressing the topic, "What Is It to Be a Father?" The program will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m. at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. Breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m. in the adjacent Rowan Hall. Keating's talk begins at 8:45. The cost of the breakfast is \$5.00. Additional donations will also be

accepted. For reservations, call 612-729-7321 by noon on Friday, February 27.

Sister of St. Joseph Liz Kerwin will co-lead a workshop called "Live Simply so Others May Simply Live" from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, February 28, at Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St. The \$60 cost includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Partial scholarships are available. Call 651-641-0008.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer instruction for adults age 55 and older in the Chinese martial art of tai chi at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 1 (\$12 for program and supper); a Purim carnival with games, prizes, costumes and food from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sunday, March 8; and a Purim celebration at 6:15 p.m. Monday, March 9, featuring a Purim meal followed by a reading from the Book of Esther (attendees are asked to come in costumes and bring noisemakers). Call 651-698-8874.

Organist Nils Halker will play the music of Norwegian, Danish and Minnesota composers at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. A reception will follow. Call 651-228-1164.

"Finding Our Balance: The Power of Archetypes," workshop on learning more about yourself and what you can offer the world, will be offered from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on six Tuesdays, March 3 through April 7, at Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St. Mary Pinney Erickson will facilitate. The cost is \$125, or \$25 per week. Call 651-641-0008.

House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave., will hold its annual Didier Seminar on March 6-8. Muslim scholar Seyyed Hossein Nasr, professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University, will present lectures on "The Heart of Islam" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and "The Vision and Promise of Islam" at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Nasr will speak on "What You Should Know About Islam" during the adult enrichment hour at 11:00 a.m. Sunday. For more information, call Teddy Altman at 651-223-7541.

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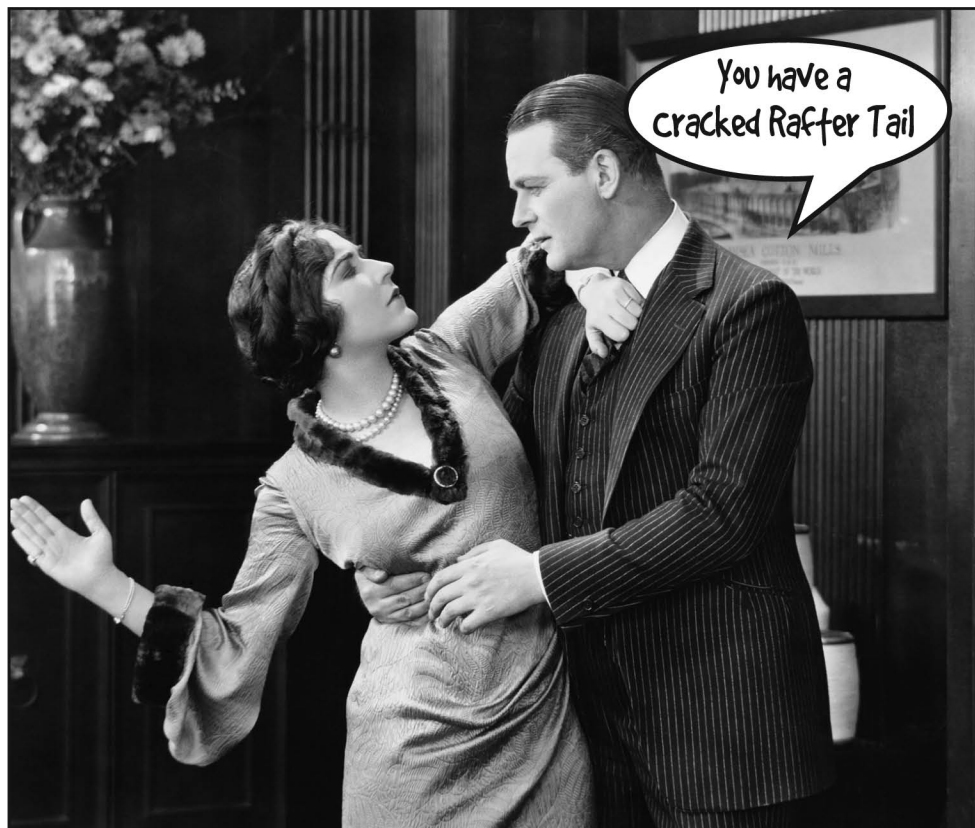
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District Council News

Highland Park

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Board notes—The Highland District Council appointed Andrew Smith as an alternate member of its board of directors on February 5. He will serve until the board holds its annual meeting and elections in April. Smith has been a member of the HDC's Transportation Committee for the past year and has been active in the bicycle boulevard issue.

Annual meeting and elections—The HDC will hold its annual meeting and elections at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, in Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. The elections will be for the seats of six odd-numbered grid representatives and two at-large board members. For information on running for the board, call the HDC office. To lend a hand or donate a dessert for the meeting, e-mail HDC community organizer Kathy Carruth at hdc@visi.com.

Project for Pride in Living—The HDC's Community Development Committee will discuss Project for Pride in Living's proposed affordable housing complex at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, in the community room at Lumen Christi Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. (This is a change in location from what was previously announced.) PPL representatives will answer questions that were raised at the committee's January meeting. The February 17 meeting also will include a panel discussion on affordable housing. Panelists will include Al Hester of St. Paul Public Housing, Luis Pereira of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, Ronnie Brooks of the Wilder Foundation and architect Tom Blanck.

Upcoming meetings—Community Development Committee on Project for Pride in Living's proposed housing development, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, Lumen Christi Church, 2055 Bohland Ave.; Transportation Committee to discuss a stop sign on Mount Curve Boulevard and Highland Parkway, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; HDC board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 5; Hillcrest.

Save the dates—The Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at Cretin-Derham Hall; the Highland District Council annual meeting and elections, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine; and the annual spring cleanup, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, in Ford Motor Company's parking lot.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

KidsPark moves—After 20 years of operating out of the

Groveland Park warming house, KidsPark is now up and running in its new space at the Desnoyer Park Recreation Center, 525 Pelham Blvd. An open house will be held from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, so parents can learn what the program is all about. KidsPark is a nonprofit, professionally staffed child-care cooperative sponsored by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council in cooperation with the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. KidsPark gives kids a chance to play and learn in a supervised environment while providing parents with an affordable, flexible and safe child-care option. KidsPark serves children ages 6 weeks through 5 years old. Registration costs \$75 annually, and there is an hourly fee of \$6.00. Families who join also are required work three hours at KidsPark per quarter. For information visit www.kidsparkdropin.org or call 651-603-0144.

Block club leaders—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council encourages residents to form block clubs in order to address common concerns, promote communication and improve neighborhood safety. For information about becoming a block club leader or to find out if your block has a club, contact Afton Martens at 651-695-4000 or afton@macgrove.org.

Electronic crime updates—Those who are interested in receiving e-mailed updates regarding crime in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood may contact Afton Martens at the council office.

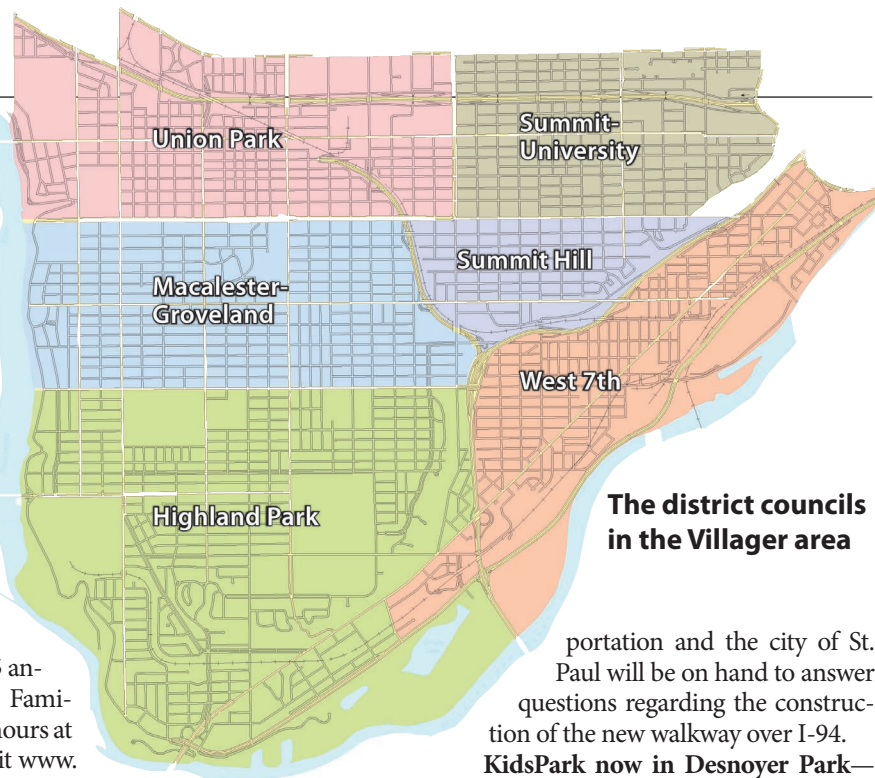
Beautification Committee—Macalester-Groveland residents who like gardening are invited to join the community council's Beautification Committee. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month from March through October. For information, contact Afton Martens at the council office.

Upcoming meetings—Environment Committee, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.; Transportation Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 23, Edgumbe.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Griggs Street pedestrian bridge—The Union Park District Council will host an informational meeting on plans for the Griggs Street pedestrian bridge at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at Flannery Construction, 1375 St. Anthony Ave. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Trans-



The district councils in the Villager area

portation and the city of St. Paul will be on hand to answer questions regarding the construction of the new walkway over I-94.

KidsPark now in Desnoyer Park—

KidsPark recently moved into the Desnoyer Park Recreation Center, 525 N. Pelham Blvd. The drop-in center provides neighborhood children with a place to play and learn, while offering parents an affordable, professionally staffed child-care center. KidsPark serves children from age 16 months to 5 years. New membership applications are now being accepted. For information, call 651-603-0144 or visit www.kidsparkdropin.org.

Be a friend on Facebook—The Union Park District Council's has a new Facebook page at facebook.com. The UPDC plans to regularly update upcoming events, environmental tips and other neighborhood-building ideas. It's a convenient way to network with other residents of the neighborhood who share an interest in civic affairs, citizen participation and crime prevention.

Start a block club in 2009—Neighborhood block clubs provide an avenue for residents to get to know one another, work on environmental issues, and partner with their district councils and the St. Paul Police Department to keep their neighborhood safe. A block club may be just one block on two sides of a street or it may cover a larger area. The size depends on what seems to work for the people who live there. For information on starting a block club, contact Julie Oney at the Union Park office.

Recycling bins—Recycling bins are handed out from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

DISTRICT COUNCILS ► 17

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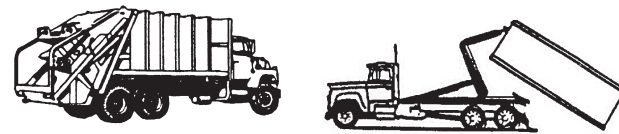
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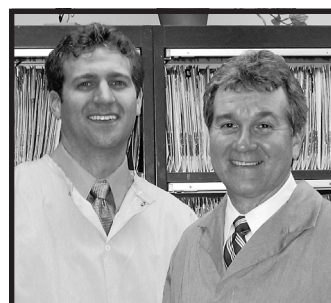


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16◀ DISTRICT COUNCILS

The next pickup dates are February 18 and March 4.

Stay connected—The UPDC publishes a monthly electronic newsletter that updates residents on coming events, meetings and programs. Weekly crime notifications are also sent to subscribing residents giving the date, case number and location of crimes in the neighborhood. To subscribe to either, e-mail info@unionparkdc.org with “subscribe to e-news” or “subscribe to crime notification” on the subject line.

Union Park news—The Union Park District Council is still looking for area residents to join its Neighborhood Issues, Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Internal Affairs committees. Call the office or check on-line for meeting times and locations. The next meeting of the Union Park board of directors will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the Library Technology Center, Room 218, at Concordia University-St. Paul. Visit the district council's website for parking information and an agenda.

Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

Local legend honored—Longtime Summit-University resident Margaret Lovejoy was named a “Local Legend” at the recent 19th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Breakfast. Sponsored by the General Mills Foundation and the United Negro College Fund, the award recognizes outstanding civic leaders who personify King's vision. Lovejoy is the founder and executive director of the Family Place, Ramsey County's only day shelter for homeless families with children.

Neighborhood Development—The Summit-University Planning Council's Neighborhood Development Committee will discuss three permit requests at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, at the St. Albans Community Room, 665 Selby Ave. The agenda will include discussion of an application to rezone 1051 Selby Ave. from residential to parking; the planned renovation of Redeemers Arms, 313 N. Dale St.; and a proposal for an assisted-living facility with limited memory care at 400 N. Western Ave. For details, call the SUPC office.

Garden with kids—Project for Pride in Living is looking for individuals to assist with weekly gardening sessions at its properties in the Summit-University neighborhood. Sessions will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays from May through August. Call Peter Elwell at 612-232-9377.

Attention, student artists—St. Paul students in grades 7-12 are being invited to work with artist Peter Morales to create a large-scale work of public art that will be unveiled at this year's Rondo Days. The sculpture will be installed in Western Park.

Students will meet from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays, February 16-June 8, at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 271 Mackubin St. The program is sponsored by the SUPC, Public Art St. Paul and St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. Call Belinda Bergstrom at 651-308-5063 or Joe Felion at 651-290-8695.

Stay in the loop—To learn about upcoming Summit-University Planning Council meetings or sign up for electronic news updates, visit the SUPC's website.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

District Council Collaborative—The Summit Hill Association is a member of the St. Paul's District Council Collaborative (DCC), which was formed to make recommendations to the city and Metropolitan Council regarding the Central Corridor light-rail line. The DCC recently amended its bylaws in order to apply for nonprofit status. The SHA board approved the bylaw changes and a related memo of understanding reconfirming its membership.

Bike racks on Grand—The SHA, Grand Avenue Business Association and city of St. Paul are collaborating to install bicycle racks at 30 locations on Grand Avenue this spring. The racks, which will accommodate around 120 bikes, are part of a commitment by the SHA and GABA to help the neighborhood become more environmentally friendly.

Rain garden workshop—The SHA's Environment Committee is sponsoring a free workshop this spring conducted by the Friends of the Mississippi River in partnership with the Capitol Region Watershed District. The workshop will be held on Monday, March 30, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Information on rain gardens, native plants, composting, “green” yard care and other environmentally friendly ideas will be featured. Call the SHA office for information.

SHA welcome booklet—An updated booklet welcoming new residents to the Summit Hill neighborhood is now available in the SHA's office at the Linwood Recreation Center and on the SHA's website. Copies of the booklet were distributed in the Summit Hill neighborhood last fall, but some apartment and condominium residents may have not received them if volunteers were unable to enter their buildings.

Dates to remember—Communications Committee meeting on Monday, February 23; Environment Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 25; SHA board meeting on Thursday, March 12; spring garage sale on Saturday, May 2; and neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, May 9. Most meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Contact the SHA office for meeting details.

Business Briefs

Salir a la Luz Gallery, whose name comes from Spanish for “to come to light,” has opened on the lower level of the Blair Arcade, 165 N. Western Ave. Gallery owners Tez Gabriel and Elisabeth Palmer said their travels to the Southwest inspired them to develop an art gallery dedicated to light. Salir a la Luz has a main gallery exhibiting the works of national and international artists, a children's gallery that displays children's art from around the world, and two other galleries that feature the work by Minnesota artists. Visit www.saliralaluz.com.

Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave., will offer a free health fair from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 19. Blood pressure checks, heart/nerve scans, pH testing, and detoxification and nutrition information will be offered. Call 651-294-2332.

Dunn Bros. Coffee has opened in the former Starbucks at 242 W. 7th St. It is the second Dunn Bros. franchise for Roger Schultz, who also owns a Dunn Bros. at 367 N. Wabasha St. The new coffee shop roasts its own coffee beans on-site daily and has free wireless Internet access. Founded in 1987, Dunn Bros. Coffee has more than 90 locations across the nation.

Linda and Peter Quinn, owners of Bread and Chocolate, Cafe Latte and Quince Gifts on Grand Avenue, are joining with Minneapolis-based nonprofit Give Us Wings to build a primary school for

young women in the village of Nyaoga, Kenya. The school will serve women ages 18-28 who have had to leave school due to financial hardship. When completed, the school will have computers and house an Internet cafe that is expected to make the school self-supporting. For information on the project, contact Mary Albright at 651-789-5606 or Jennifer Kinkead at 612-750-2541.

People's Acupuncture has opened at 4205 31st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Owner Patrick Denny employs a style of acupuncture that allows for the treatment of several clients at once. Patients are clustered on recliners, and only acupuncture points on the head and below the knees and elbows are accessed, so clients do not need to disrobe. The cost is \$25-\$45 for the initial treatment and \$15-\$35 for subsequent treatments. Visit www.peoplesacupuncturemn.com.

A “Planning Your Website” seminar will be presented by SCORE small business counselors from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, at University Bank, 200 University Ave. The cost is \$40. Call 651-632-8937.

Coffee Bene, located at Grand and Cleveland avenues, will celebrate its third birthday from February 16-22 with a variety of special events and promotions. The customers who guess the correct number of coffee beans in a jar will win a mug each day during the celebration. Daily drawings for gift certificates will also be held. A.J. Scheiber, the first

performer to appear at Coffee Bene, will be making an encore appearance on Friday evening, February 20. The special events will reach a caffeinated climax on Sunday, February 22, when the names of three grand prize winners will be drawn at 2:22 p.m. and complimentary cake will be served throughout the day.

The University Avenue Business Association will present a proposal addressing Central Corridor light-rail construction mitigation issues from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 19, at Model Cities, 849 University Ave. Call Linda Winsor at 651-641-0334 or visit www.universityavenuebiz.com.

The Metro Independent Business Alliance has chosen Mary Hamel as its new executive director. Hamel is the founding owner of May Day Cafe in Minneapolis' Powderhorn neighborhood. Local business people may meet her and learn more about the Metro IBA at its annual meeting from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at the Kellogg Square Building, 111 E. Kellogg Blvd. An hors d'oeuvres buffet will be provided for a cost of \$10 per person. Visit www.metroiba.org.

The Highland Business Association will hold its next membership luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, February 26, at the Rockwood Place Apartments, 2259 Rockwood Ave. The cost is \$15-\$20 and includes lunch. For reservations, e-mail sharris@highlandba.com or call the HBA office at 651-699-9042.

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Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For a list of weekly crime reports by neighborhood from the St. Paul Police Department, visit <http://stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=2399>.

Highland Park

Burglary—A home on the 1700 block of Randolph Avenue was burglarized between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. Friday, January 23.

—A home on the 1200 block of Watson Avenue was broken into between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 28.

—The Money Exchange, 2431 W. 7th St., was broken into at about 11:00 a.m. Monday, February 2.

—An attempted burglary occurred at S & S Hardware, 1818 Randolph Ave., between 8:00 p.m. Monday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 2-3.

Arson—A car fire was investigated at Crosby Park at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday, February 1. Arson was suspected.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—Metro Transit police arrested two 19-year-old men and a juvenile at University and Hamline avenues for aggravated robbery at about 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 29.

—An attempted robbery occurred at Ashland Avenue and Griggs Street at about 10:30 p.m. Sunday, February 1. Three suspects approached a man and one suspect hit him in the face with an umbrella. The suspects fled without getting anything from the victim.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A burglary occurred at the University of St. Thomas at about 2:00 a.m. Thursday, January 29. Entry was forced.

Theft—A 30-year-old St. Paul woman was arrested on the 400 block of Herschel Street on warrants for theft and drug possession at about 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 30.

—A theft from auto occurred at the Town & Country Club, 300 N. Mississippi River Blvd., between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 3.

Miscellaneous—Criminal damage to property occurred at Arby's, 1810 University Ave., between 10:00 p.m. Sunday and 6:00 a.m. Monday, February 1-2.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—Metro Transit police arrested a 22-year-old St. Paul man at Snelling and Concordia avenues on a warrant for burglary at about 5:30 a.m. Saturday, January 31.

Summit Hill

Robbery—Three men tried to rob a female pedestrian of her purse at Grand Avenue and Dale Street at about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28. The suspects pulled at her purse as they pushed her to the ground. The woman held onto the purse and the suspects fled when passersby yelled at them. The suspects were described as three black males, ages 18-22. All three were wearing black jackets.

Burglary—A 25-year-old Midway man turned himself in to police at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday, January 25, in connection with the June 28, 2008, burglary of Archbishop John Nienstedt's home at 226 Summit Ave. The suspect had earlier been identified through DNA found at the crime scene.

—Someone tried to force entry to Shoester, 917 Grand Ave., between 6:00 p.m. Monday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 2-3.

Theft—A counterfeit \$100 bill was passed at Baby Grand, 1137 Grand Ave., at about

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 27.

Miscellaneous—A woman and a girl were cited for causing a disturbance at Chico's, 1062 Grand Ave., at about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, January 29.

Summit-University

Robbery—A man robbed a woman of her purse at gunpoint on the 400 block of Marshall Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Friday, January 30. He fled on foot.

Burglary—Unknown suspects attacked a man and stole his duffle bag on Oxford Street just north of Summit Avenue at about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28.

—Paisano's, 619 Selby Ave., was broken into at around 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 3. The alarm was triggered and officers arrived to find the business had been burglarized.

Theft—The property manager recovered miscellaneous checkbooks, credit cards and other items hidden in a public restroom of the Hill Plaza, 400 block Selby Ave., at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28.

—A computer was stolen at William Mitchell College of Law, 875 Summit Ave., between January 17-20.

Assault—A domestic assault occurred on the 700 block of Selby Avenue between 1:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday, January 26. The male suspect strangled his girlfriend and broke her left leg with a kick. Medical staff at United Hospital called police when she came in for treatment three days later.

Miscellaneous—St. Paul narcotics officers assisted Hennepin County drug task force officers in executing a search warrant on the 900 block of Dayton Avenue at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 29. Two male residents ages 22 and 23 were arrested and six pounds of marijuana and \$7,500 in cash were recovered.

—Crack cocaine was recovered after a search warrant was executed on the 300 block of Aurora Avenue at about 6:00 p.m. Friday, January 30.

West End

Burglary—A home on the 800 block of Juno Avenue was broken into between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Thursday, January 22.

—Sholom Home, 1428 W. 7th St., was burglarized between 9:30 p.m. Friday, January 30, and 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 3. The rear door to the senior housing building was pried open and three digital video cameras were stolen.

—An antique store on the 300 block of West 7th Street was burglarized at about 4:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 3. The front door was pried open and cash was taken.

—An attempted burglary occurred at Bennett's Chop and Railhouse, 1305 W. 7th St., at about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 3. The business was open at the time.

Assault—A man was assaulted in a parking lot on the 500 block of West 7th Street at about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21.

—A 37-year-old West End man was arrested on the 1100 block of West 7th Street for terroristic threats, interfering with a 911 call, criminal damage to property and burglary at about 4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 25.

—A 36-year-old West End man was arrested for malicious punishment of a child on the 300 block of Erie Street at about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28.

Miscellaneous—Police found five males in the restroom apparently transacting a drug deal at the Salvation Army, 401 W. 7th St., at about 8:00 a.m. Monday, February 2. The narcotics were not found. One suspect was arrested on an unrelated warrant.

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Food

Growing peanut recall keeps local grocers on their toes

Salmonella outbreak has removed thousands of products from stores

BY LESLIE WALTERS

The national recall of peanut products linked to a contaminated Peanut Corporation of America processing plant in Blakely, Georgia, has grown to more than 2,225 different processed foods. Though the sale of peanut butter and peanut butter products is reportedly down significantly in the Twin Cities, a survey of local grocery stores indicates that it has not as yet had much of an economic impact.

The outbreak of salmonella poisoning related to the recalled products first surfaced in Minnesota and Connecticut. Nine deaths have been attributed to the outbreak, including three in Minnesota, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). More than 500 people across the nation have been sickened by the salmonella poisoning.

The voluntary recall of peanut products began on January 10 following the discovery of salmonella in an open five-pound tub of King Nut peanut butter. Since then, food manufacturers across the country have recalled hundreds of products they believe could be contaminated by peanut butter, dry- or oil-roasted peanuts or peanut butter paste, all processed at that same Georgia plant.

A variety of processed foods are affected by the recall, including certain brands of cakes, pies, brownies, candy, crackers, cookies, doughnuts, ice cream, snack bars, snack mixes, prepackaged meals, dressings, seasonings and pet food. The FDA's recall list has been growing almost daily, and it has been nearly impossible to keep up with, according to Minnesota Department of Agriculture spokesman Michael Schommer.

"It just keeps snowballing, and it's not over yet," said Tom Meaden, director of Cub Foods' Midway store. "I just added Brach's Chocolate-Covered Peanuts and a dog biscuit to the list." The Midway Cub has also pulled Keebler Soft



Mississippi Market manager Patrick Werle holds up a tub of the Randolph Avenue store's bulk peanut butter, which has not been affected by the recall. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Batch and Famous Amos peanut butter cookies along with Austin Foods crackers, several Kashi products and some frozen ethnic foods, he said.

Most major brands of packaged peanut butter are not affected by the recall, according to the FDA. However, the Minnesota Department of Health is warning consumers to avoid the King Nut brand of peanut butter. Some stores purchase peanuts, grind them and sell them as their own brand, and it is possible that some of these "boutique" brands are affected as well, according to the FDA.

The contaminated peanut products traced to the Georgia plant represent a small percentage of the \$800 million in annual sales by peanut butter manufacturers in the U.S. However, nationally the drop in sales is so striking that some brands are buying ads to announce that their products have not been recalled, the *New York Times* reported.

Cooper's SuperValu, 2481 W. 7th St., has felt only a slight impact from the recall, according to store manager Chris Peebles. "Other than Kellogg's and Keebler (products), we're not af-

fect," he said.

"We've been very lucky," said Liz McMann, education and special projects coordinator for Mississippi Market. None of Mississippi Market's brands or bulk peanut butters have been recalled, she said. However, other products, including nutrition bars from Clif, Luna, Moja and Lara, have been taken off the shelves at the Mississippi Markets on Randolph and Selby avenues, she said.

Some schools and day care centers in Minnesota have reportedly received peanut products that are part of the recall. However, the St. Paul Public Schools do not use any foods associated with the Peanut Butter Corporation plant, according to district spokesman Howie Padilla. Nevertheless, the school district is following FDA recommendations and not serving peanut butter or peanut butter products during the ongoing investigation, Padilla said.

United Hospital in St. Paul immediately pulled all peanut butter products from patient rooms and the cafeteria when the recall was announced, according to United dietician

supervisor Laurie Lesnar. Since then, the hospital has resumed serving peanut butter products, she said, but only if they clear her staff's frequent checks of the FDA's recall website.

Neither Kowalski's Market on Grand Avenue nor Lunds in Highland Village has felt much economic impact from the recall. As of last week, Kowalski's had pulled 15 brand name products, including Kellogg's, Kemps and Keebler items. However, the in-store bakery items have been fine, according to Mike Oase, Kowalski's vice president of operations.

Lunds and Byerly's have pulled 45 different products from their Twin Cities supermarkets as of last week, according to Lunds spokesman Aaron Sorenson. These included several kinds of energy bars, ice cream and granola bars as well as some store-brand nut products from the produce department, he said. Lunds customers have had lots of questions about packaged peanut butter and bakery items, so the Highland Village store has also stepped up its in-store communication. "We've put up signs around the stores explaining why products have been removed and that, if purchased, a full refund is available," Sorenson said.

Scott McAdams, manager of Widmer's Supermarket on St. Clair Avenue, said that store has "felt absolutely no impact, economic or otherwise," from the recall. "We haven't had to pull a single product," he said.

"We've been fairly clean, too," said Tom Mountain, manager of Korte's Supermarket on Randolph Avenue.

"The most important thing is getting information out there, allaying people's fears," said Jamie Pfuhl, president of the Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA). The MGA is providing its members with daily updates on potentially contaminated foods, according to Pfuhl. "There are a lot of peanut butter products, and not everything is affected," she said.

A complete and up-to-date list of recalled products is available at www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm. Information about a particular product is also available by calling the phone number on the product package, if there is one, or the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-232-4636.

A taste of Italy...and at a bargain to boot

It probably comes as no surprise to learn that many restaurants, like many other businesses, are struggling in these tough economic times. Even well-established enterprises with sterling reputations have been forced to cut a few corners. With no one answering the phone at corporate headquarters anymore and a website that's a bit outdated, D'Amico & Sons is no exception. According to Lynn Ulrich, the company's director of operations, sales at the 10 Twin Cities D'Amicos "have dipped, but we're working hard to gain market share."

As part of its strategy to attract new customers and hold on to those it already has, D'Amico & Sons has launched several initiatives recently. For example, for each adult meal that is ordered on Sundays after 2:00 p.m., children age 10 and under can enjoy one free meal from the Bambini section of the menu.

On February 23, D'Amico & Sons will also begin offering a Piatto Del Giorno (Plate of the Day). After 4:00 p.m., patrons can order such dishes as Lasagna Bolognese, Chicken Saltimbocca with Alfredo Linguine or Beef Short Ribs Braised in Red Wine for \$9.95. Considering that D'Amico & Sons' Lasagna Bolognese is regularly priced at \$12.99, that's a 23 percent discount.

One of D'Amico & Sons' more interesting marketing come-ons of late is the Vino D'Amici. Customers who order a glass of house wine for \$6.29—either a Chianti or a Pinot Grigio—can get free refills throughout their meal.

Richard and Larry D'Amico are the brothers who started the



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

restaurant chain, which also includes three establishments in Naples, Florida. The siblings grew up in a first-generation Italian-American family that operated a restaurant in Cleveland. Richard eventually moved to the Twin Cities to work in the restaurant trade. He was later joined by Larry in opening their first D'Amico in 1987, the award-winning D'Amico Cucina, in Butler Square in downtown Minneapolis. Their first D'Amico & Sons, a more casual spinoff, opened on Hennepin Avenue in 1994, and the concept quickly spread across the Twin Cities.

I've eaten at several gatherings that D'Amico & Sons has catered and I thought the food was exceptional, so I was looking forward to my first visit to the D'Amico & Sons at 975 Grand Ave., a restaurant that opened 13 years ago. With butter yel-



D'Amico & Sons' Spaghetti and Sicilian meatballs.

PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

19◀ D'AMICO & SONS

low walls, dark wainscoting, Spartan furniture and white tile floors, the ambience is fairly antiseptic—but in a good way. The interior is bright enough that I didn't have to strain to read the menu.

When my guest and I arrived around 5:00 p.m. on a recent Sunday, the place was practically empty. But by 6:00 p.m., the 20 or so tables were mostly taken and there was a line of families waiting to order from the counter.

D'Amico & Sons' service is quasi-cafeteria style. The main courses are cooked in an open kitchen behind the counter. If there's a crowd, customers need to take a number to place their orders. The salads and soups are dished up right away; the entrées are brought to the table by servers.

My friend and I shared a Chicken Gorgonzola Salad (\$7.59) of pasta, chicken, smoked bacon, roasted tomatoes, spinach and gorgonzola dressing. The salad, which came with a slice of homemade bread, was as appetizing as it sounds. I also ordered the soup of the day, Tomato Basil (cup \$3.99, bowl \$5.65). It's a fa-

vorite of mine, and D'Amico & Sons' version certainly met my expectations.

As an entrée, I ordered the Chicken Cacciatore (\$13.59). The dish included a generous portion of juicy chicken breast and lots of capers, but it was a bit skimpy on the bell peppers, tomatoes and garlic. The best part was the cracked pepper potato purée, among the tastiest mashed potatoes I've ever had. The dish had a hearty potato flavor.

My dining partner ordered the pasta special of the day—Penne with Artichoke Hearts (\$11.59)—a generous portion of penne pasta, black olives, feta and chicken that she enjoyed very much.

Though most of the food is freshly prepared at each D'Amico & Sons location and the pizzas are baked on the premises in traditional wood-fired ovens, most of the desserts are created by pastry chef Stephanie Laing at the Hennepin Avenue site. We ordered the Crème Brûlée (\$4.99) and the Chocolate Caramel Crème Roll (\$4.59). The Crème Brûlée had a tasty crunchy top, and the Chocolate Caramel Crème Roll made for a satisfying end to an altogether satisfying meal.



Fresh sandwiches and antipasti behind the counter at D'Amico & Sons.

PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

Tidbits

Jennifer Mackenzie of South Minneapolis' Nokomis East neighborhood has put nutrition information at diners' fingertips with her new book, *Nutrition Counts*. The book lists calories, fat, cholesterol, sodium, sugar, protein and more for casual dining and fast-food establishments—everything someone needs to know whether they are picking up a Papa Burger at A&W or a sack of onion chips at White Castle. Mackenzie, who works as a systems engineer, collaborated on the project because she said it was something that

she wanted for her own use. "We think this book is a step toward addressing the growing obesity epidemic in this country," Mackenzie said. "Not too long ago nutrition information was missing from packaged foods. Now people refer to that information all the time. We found a gap in restaurant nutrition information." *Nutrition Counts* can be ordered online at www.nutritioncountsbook.com.

Mississippi Market Natural Food Co-op, 622 Selby Ave., is offering the following winter food classes: "Shopping Co-op on a Budget"

at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, and again at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5 (free); "Healthful, Easy Cooking for Your Dog" at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 21 (\$15-\$18); and "Puddings" at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 7 (\$23-\$25). Call 651-310-9499.

"Baking Memories: Winning Recipes from the Pillsbury Bake-Off" will be presented at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 22, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis. Museum staff will talk about the 58-year history of the Pillsbury Bake-Off and provide

samples of winning recipes. A Baking Memories program on the Tunnel of Fudge Cake will be offered at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 28. Admission is \$5.00-\$10 for either program. Call 612-341-7555.

The Big Top Wine Club will sample some of the fruit of Artisan Vineyards, an on-line market of 1,200 different wines, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at the Lexington Restaurant, 1096 Grand Ave. The cost is \$20, which includes appetizers. For reservations, call 651-644-4501.



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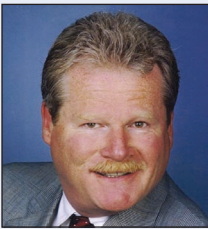
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School Notes

The St. Paul Public Schools have set enrollment deadlines of February 27 for secondary students (grades 7-12) and March 6 for elementary students (K-6) for the 2009-2010 school year. New for 2009-10 is that an application is required for any student not currently enrolled in the district, including students who will attend a neighborhood school or citywide/magnet school in grades PreK-12. Only students who wish to make a change need to apply. Examples of a change include students who are new or returning to the district or students in transition grades (PreK, K, 6 and 8). Pre-K students will automatically be enrolled in their current school unless families submit an application for a new school. Applications may be found on-line at www.enroll.spps.org or inside the district's "School Selection Guide," which is available at St. Paul public schools, public libraries and the Student Placement Center, 2102 University Ave. Call 651-632-3760.

Nova Classical Academy recently announced that it will be moving grades 6-9 to the West End building at 426 Osceola Ave. beginning this fall. Grades K-5 will be staying in Nova's current location at 1668 Montreal Ave. Nova is adding 9th grade and also will be adding sections to other grade levels. An enrollment event with information about the changes and an overview of Nova and its classical curriculum will take place from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 21, at 1668 Montreal Ave. Visit www.novaclassical.org.

Highland Park Senior High and Minnehaha Academy were among 17 Minnesota high schools that were recognized on February 13 by American College Testing for having one or more students in the class of 2008 who earned a top composite score of 36 on the ACT college admissions exam. Only 21 high school students in Minnesota from the class of 2008 earned a perfect score on the ACT.

Frank Miley, former vice president of administration at William Mitchell College of Law, has been appointed director of development at Cretin-Derham Hall. Miley, who served as president and chief advancement officer for Holy

Family Catholic High School in Victoria from 2003-07, has also worked as an assistant Ramsey County attorney and a teacher and campus minister at St. Thomas Academy.

Hamline University School of Law will hold an information session from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 7, in Room 106 of the Law/Graduate School building. The session will include a presentation on the application and admissions process, information from career services and financial assistance representatives, a panel discussion by current students and tours of the school. Hamline also offers a part-time weekend option for those who are balancing law school with full-time work. Call 651-523-2461 or visit law.hamline.edu.

The Travelers Companies recently announced an approximately \$1.4 million collaboration with the St. Paul Public Schools. A majority of the funds will be used to promote college readiness and access for underrepresented students by expanding the district's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program over the next five years. The funds also will support leadership development for school principals. The announcement is the first of several expected in the coming weeks from partners who were named during school Superintendent Meria Carstarphen's State of the District address.

Highland Park Senior High School alumni and friends will hold a cribbage tournament at 7:30 p.m. Saturday February 21, at Casa Vieja Restaurant, 2176 W. 7th St. The doubles tournament costs \$25 per player, which includes a banquet, beer and chance to win prizes. Those without a partner will be paired up. Call Bob Wokasch at 651-699-8536. 651-855-6064.

Cretin-Derham Hall took first place out of eight schools competing in the JROTC Challenge on February 6 at CDH. Second place went to Arlington High School and third to West Fargo. Students were tested in academics, unarmed drills, color guard, orienteering and physical fitness. Other participants included JROTC squads from East Waterloo, Fargo South, Minnesota Transition School, North St. Paul and Vessey Academy.

Groveland Park Elementary School will offer the following activities: a Coffee & Conversation event for parents who are considering enrolling their children at the school at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at Coffee Bene on Grand and Cleveland avenues; and an open house for prospective students in grades K-6 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 26, at the school, 2045 St. Clair Ave. Call 651-293-8760.

Garlough Environmental Magnet School in West St. Paul has been named a School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America. The school, which serves more than 400 students in grades K-4, became a magnet school in 2007 through a partnership with the adjacent Dodge Nature Center. Representatives from the school will be honored during a conference this spring in North Carolina.

McNally Smith College of Music, 19 E. Exchange St., recently announced that prominent violinist Randy Sabien will head up a new string department that will begin offering courses this fall. The public will be able to meet Sabien and learn more about the college during an open house at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 21. For information, call 651-291-0177 or visit www.mcnallysmith.edu.

Sunny Hollow Montessori, 636 S. Mississippi River Blvd., is now enrolling students for the 2009-2010 school year. The school serves children ages 33 months to 12 years. Call 651-690-2307 or visit www.sunnyhollow.com.


School District 197 has selected 14 citizens and two teachers, out of nearly 50 applicants, for its Blue Ribbon Panel on the Future of Our Schools. The citizen advisory group is tentatively scheduled to meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Sibley High School in Mendota Heights to research grade configuration, building capacity, educational programs and other data. The panel hopes to provide recommendations to the administration in June. Panel co-chairs are West St. Paul City Council member Darlene Lewis and retired Pilot Knob Elementary School principal Byron Schwab.

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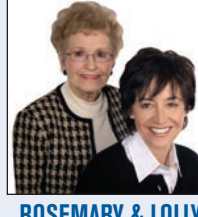
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Seniors

Friel feels this photo of a painted bunting in flight is one of the best he's ever taken.



Photographs from the heart

Spurred to exercise, Bernie Friel embarks on whirlwind of outdoor adventures with camera in tow

BY SUE LEE

If you happen to spot a mint 1972 Ford Country Squire station wagon heading north this spring filled with backpacks, fishing gear and camera equipment, it's most likely that Bernard Friel is on the road to the Boundary Waters

Canoe Area for another adventure.

Friel, 78, of Mendota Heights, is a renowned nature photographer who got into the outdoors after getting out of the hospital 40 years ago. He was working as a lawyer when he suffered a major heart attack in 1969 at age 38.

"I was badly overweight," said



Friel's photo of a red barn on a blanket of white at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul has been a popular print.



Mendota Heights nature photographer and outdoor adventurer Bernie Friel. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Friel, a former partner with the Twin Cities law firm of Briggs and Morgan. "I smoked, didn't get enough sleep, my diet was all wrong and the high stress of my trial work added to the problem."

After a month in the hospital, he was sent to the Mayo Clinic, which found he had a blocked artery. His doctors told him he needed less stress and more exercise.

"In those days," Friel said, "bypass surgery didn't exist. There was no angioplasty or stents. I had to change my lifestyle."

His wife created a heart-healthy diet for him before they were in vogue. "Not only did I lose weight, so did everyone in the family," Friel said.

He also began running. "I worked in downtown St. Paul, so the place to run was the St. Paul Athletic Club," he said. "I'd run 15 miles on a track, but it made me feel like a gerbil, so I began running outside."

Six years later, Friel ran his first marathon—the Pavo Nurmi in Hurley, Wisconsin. "And I never looked back," he said.

Friel was the promotional trip photographer for Outward Bound International for six years. He got the job when a friend, Dick Bancroft, father of Arctic explorer Ann Bancroft, asked Friel if he wanted to take over his photo duties for the organization. Friel took photos of people canoeing, rafting, hiking,

rock climbing and camping in the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and in the Cataract Canyon in Utah.

He was invited to take two rafting trips and enjoyed them so much that he obtained a private rafting permit and led his own trip down the Grand Canyon in 1999. Some of the 16mm film footage from those trips was purchased by the National Park Service and is part of the video "Touring America's National Parks." Friel's rafting footage can also be seen on request as part of the promotion for the Science Museum's new Omnitheater film *Grand Canyon Adventure*.

Friel photographed the Paria Canyon Wilderness of Arizona and Utah during backpacking adventures. Then, while in his early 60s, he climbed Mount Rainier in Washington state in 1990 and again two years later.

Friel ran into classmate Roger Swanson at their 40th Central High School reunion in 1988, and the following year Swanson invited him to be part of the crew on a 57-foot sailboat from New Zealand to Fiji.

"I'd never been on a sailboat in my life," Friel said. "The first day was beautiful. The next five days we encountered 30-40 foot waves. I was glad I wasn't one to get seasick."

Friel continued to explore the high seas with Swanson and in 1997, while sailing around Africa, the two took a side trip to

climb Mount Kilimanjaro. They were 67 years old and they both made it to the summit, 19,340 feet above sea level. "It was the highest I've ever been without being in an airplane," Friel said.

Friel has sailed the South Pacific, North Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Great Lakes. He has also led several backpacking and rafting trips to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Even when Friel was a practicing trial lawyer, he took photos on family vacations and get-togethers. However, it wasn't until 1965 that he bought his first "good" camera. Around the same time he started building birdhouses and feeders for his backyard and photographing the birds that visited them.

Friel learned about photography by reading books, attending workshops and talking with other photographers. His high-speed flash photography of birds in flight have been featured in *Birders' World*, *National Wildlife* and *Picture Professional* magazines. The 2008 "Birds in Flight" calendar published by Gladstone Media featured nine of his photographs.

A former president of the North American Nature Photography Association, Friel figures he has more than 250,000 photos in his collection. Some of them may be viewed on his website at <http://www.wampy.com>.



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Capitol farewell

'Glue that held the Senate together,' Pat Flahaven retires after 36 years

By Kevin Driscoll

When Patrick Flahaven was first elected secretary of the Minnesota Senate in 1973, the DFL Party had just gained majority control of that legislative body. The DFL has been in the majority ever since in the Senate, and Flahaven was the Senate's secretary from that day until his retirement on January 6.

"Thirty-six years sounds like a long time for one party to be in the majority," said Flahaven, 65. "But Republicans had been the majority in the Senate for the previous 113 years, since the beginning of the Civil War."

It is that kind of institutional memory that the Minnesota Senate has been without since Flahaven retired to his Summit Hill home. In 36 years at the Capitol, he has witnessed some big changes, all the while maintaining scrupulous neutrality amid the often heated partisan debates. "The two biggest changes that made dealing with the partisanship easier have been the professionalization of the Senate staff and the growth of technology," Flahaven said.

The upgrading and expansion of the Senate staff was a bipartisan initiative that began while Flahaven was assistant secretary of the Senate for the DFL minority in 1971-72. "Before that, the Senate relied on the governor's staff and even lobbyists to provide research and other services," he said. "The (Senate) staff was maybe five or six people."

That staff grew to as much as 212 employees in the past three decades, Flahaven said, though it stood at 80 when he retired. What made the staff reductions possible was the introduction of television cameras to the Senate Chambers and, of course, computers.

"The television cameras really opened up the everyday workings of the Legislature to citizens and brought back some civility, at least in the chambers," Flahaven said. "And computers have made us much more efficient in serving the senators and the public."

Flahaven's position in the Senate wasn't a civil service job; he had to be re-elected secretary every two years by a vote of the Senate. And the job description is extensive, which may explain why he was paid \$141,000 a year.

"It's a lot like being a chief operating officer," Flahaven said. "Along with my staff, I

administered personnel, budget and fiscal services, information systems, media services and security." His primary duty was maintaining order in the Senate, relying on the state Constitution, state laws, the Senate's rules and "Mason's Manual of Parliamentary Procedure." In 36 years, he missed only one day of the Senate's proceedings, and that was for his son's wedding.

"Nobody knew the rules and procedures better than him," said Senator Jim Metzen (DFL-District 39), a former member of the House of Representatives who was elected to the Senate in 1992. "As president of the Senate (for the last six years), I had to rely on Pat a lot and he gave great guidance. This guy has won national awards for his work. He was president of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, and he was on the Mason's Manual Revision Commission, so he really knows his stuff."

Flahaven was born in Willmar and grew up in Sauk Centre. While attending the University of St. Thomas, he worked summers in Washington, D.C., for then 4th District Congressman Joe Karth. Following his graduation in 1965 with a degree in political science, Flahaven went to work full time for Karth in Washington, but moved back to St. Paul in 1967 to work in Karth's district office.

In 1968 a staff member from Karth's D.C. office visited the St. Paul office on assignment. "It was Pat who picked me up at the airport, and that was it," said the former Maureen McKenna, Flahaven's wife of nearly 40 years. The couple have one child and one grandchild.

In 1971 Flahaven was asked to return to Karth's D.C. office, but he balked. "I had gotten to know (state Senator) Nick Coleman, and I asked him what he thought I should do," Flahaven said. "He was the DFL minority leader at the time and asked me to come work as assistant secretary of the Senate." When the DFL became the majority party in the Senate two years later, Coleman was made majority leader and Flahaven was elected secretary.

Flahaven ran for the 4th District congressional seat in 1976 when Karth decided to step down. After 15 ballots at the DFL 4th District convention, Flahaven and Bruce Vento were the last candidates standing. At that point,



Pat Flahaven, who served as secretary of the Minnesota Senate from 1973 until his retirement in January, recently revisited his old stomping grounds. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Flahaven withdrew. "I wanted an endorsement to be made," he said.

"I always told Pat that the best thing that ever happened to him was losing that endorsement," Metzen said. "He was able to stay on as secretary of the Senate and have job security."

Flahaven said the lowest points of his career were the untimely deaths of sitting senators. "Nick Coleman's eulogy of (Senator) Bob Lewis in the late '70s was one of the most moving I've ever heard," he said. And Coleman

FLAHAVEN ► 26

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Chemist-turned-nurse Bob Kirk's new career has him cooking up healthy recipes for young Indians

BY BOB GILBERT

Ten years ago, Bob Kirk reinvented himself. The Highland Park resident retired from a 30-year career as a 3M chemist, returned to college and became a registered nurse, a profession that brings him personal satisfaction because of the many opportunities it affords to help others.

In the past decade, Kirk has volunteered his services to the American Red Cross, spending three weeks in October 2001 at Ground Zero beside the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City and another three weeks in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Most recently he was in Burnsville helping out in the aftermath of an apartment building fire that left dozens homeless.

"You need to retire to something, not from something," said Kirk, 70.

Kirk chose his second career after spending time with his aged father in the closing days of his life in a Pennsylvania nursing home. "I know there are many people who don't like nursing homes," he said. "Their attitude is, but for the grace of God go I. But it was a place where I felt comfortable helping out, and I recognized that nursing was something I could do."

Kirk had enrolled in evening and weekend courses in nursing even before he left 3M. He attended Century College, Metropolitan State University, the University of Minnesota and the College of St. Catherine. After obtaining his degree, he worked for five years at Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul.

His apprenticeship required some adjustment, he said, since co-workers half his age often had twice the nursing knowledge he had. Yet he found the level of support and cooperation, especially among the women he worked with, unlike anything he had experienced in the corporate world.

"What I bring to the job is the bedside manner of a mature man who has lived a full life," he said. "I have three kids and seven grandchildren and can relate to almost everybody I take care of in one way or another."

As a married man of an advanced age, Kirk decided that pursuing his childhood dream of moving to Africa to help those in need was impractical. So he found other opportunities among the Oglala Lakota Indians at the Pine Ridge Reservation in Porcupine, South Dakota. Working at Pine Ridge's health clinic alongside Richard Iron Cloud, director of the Porcupine Clinic Special Diabetes Prevention Project, Kirk treated health problems associated with Type 2 diabetes, which affects many of the Indians living there.

"There was no diabetes on the reservation before World War II," Kirk said. "The problem of Type 2 diabetes is often associated with lifestyle. It stems from a lack of exercise and poor eating habits."

According to Kirk, some of the Indians manage their diabetes by becoming more devoted to their religious traditions. While that can be empowering, he said, some of the rituals, such as the sweat lodges, the sun dances and the vision quests, pose health risks to diabetics.

Kirk and Iron Cloud wrote a pamphlet titled, "The Porcupine Guide to Native American Ceremonies." It blends medical science



Bob Kirk helps student Logan Oakgrove of the Anishinabe Academy in South Minneapolis prepare a Manoomin salad from one of his cookbooks. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and shamanism to help the tribe's medicine men lead members with diabetes more safely through their religious ceremonies. "We enabled diabetic people who are delving deeper into their spirituality the ability to do it in a safer way," Kirk said.

The state of Minnesota printed up 5,000 copies of the pamphlet and passed them out at American Indian health clinics around the state. Kirk also created versions of the pamphlet for the religious rites associated with the Dakota and Ojibwa tribes. The pamphlets have since been translated into tribal languages.

To address the growing prevalence of Type 2 diabetes among American Indian children, Kirk co-wrote two cookbooks filled with healthy, low-calorie recipes that youngsters can prepare themselves. A \$2,000 grant from the Athwin Foundation underwrote the costs of printing the 1,500 copies of *Aunt Betty's Kids Cookbook*, which Kirk distributes for free.

"If kids can learn to make healthy dishes themselves, it can be a skill they'll have the for the rest of their lives. It offers them alternatives to junk food," he said.

Kirk, a native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and earned a PhD in chemistry at Yale University. He moved to Minnesota to work for 3M, where he worked in the Abrasives Systems Division and was involved in numerous product innovations, eight of which are patented under his name.

Kirk is a Quaker, and according to the traditions of that religion, spirituality and social action are linked. "It's kind of a curious religion in that you spend time in quiet contemplation, which is what they do in Eastern religions, too," he said. "But the Quakers believe that you should listen to the spirit inside you and act on it in the world. I think that's how I ended up where I am in nursing."

In 2008 3M awarded Kirk its Outstanding Volunteer Award, which came with a \$1,000 prize that Kirk donated to the Native American Community Clinic on Lake Street in Minneapolis.

His transition from corporate work to nursing is something Kirk is proud of. He now has a productive skill that is also portable. "The opportunities to help are endless," Kirk said. "I'm out where the action is, and it's a lot of fun."

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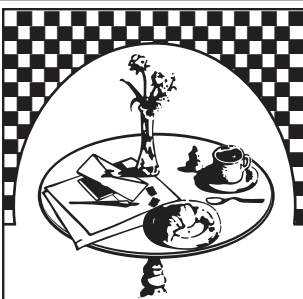
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Senior News

The District 197 Older Adult Programs will offer a JAM session from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, at the Thompson Park Activity Center, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul. Lunch will be available at noon for \$3.50. Call 651-403-4300.

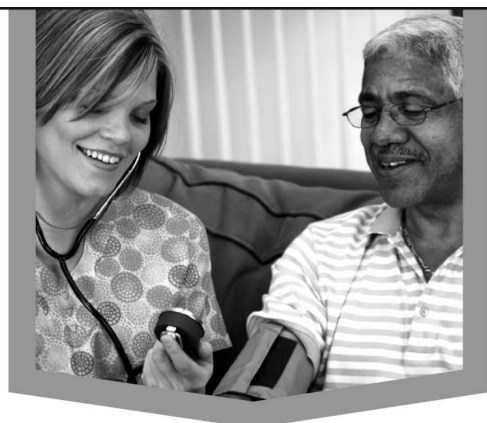
Free tax help for seniors and low-income folks is offered by AARP from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from now through April 15 at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. For information, call 651-695-3700.

The West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St., will offer the following: free blood pressure screenings by a registered nurse from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 23; a 55 Alive driver improvement refresher course from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 24 (\$15-\$17); a trip to see the winter flower show at the Como Conservatory, followed by tea at McHattie's Victorian Times (\$38.50, includes bus, escort and lunch), from 10:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3; big band dancing to music by the Golden Tones Dance Band weekly from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Wednesday (\$3.00 per time, refreshments provided); dips in the therapeutic pool from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 3-April 23

(\$42 for the session); and a Young at Heart exercise class from 9:30-10:10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (\$6.00 per month). Call 651-298-5493 or visit www.west7th.org.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors) will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Seniors will learn about identifying maple trees and collecting the sweet sap for cooking into maple syrup and sugar. The program is free. Lunch will be available for \$12. Call 651-455-4531 to register.

A Seniors in Mind program on "To the Source: Joseph Nicollet Maps the Midwest" will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Join actor Shawn Hoffman as he portrays French explorer Joseph Nicollet's journey through Minnesota in the 1830s, including a story about the state's infamous mosquitoes. Following the program will be a chance to view the new "Minnesota on the Map" exhibit and visit with David Lanegran, author of *Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas*. Cafe Minnesota will be open for lunch following the free program. Admission to the museum is \$8.00 for seniors. For more information, call 651-259-3015.



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24◀ FLAHAVEREN

man's own death in 1981 "was a big, big down time," he said.

Of the lighter moments, Flahaven said, "I've heard a few good lines over the years." Though he would not attribute the quotes to any particular legislator, he recalled that during one heated debate, a senator said, "You can't tell me I know what I'm talking about." Another time, one said, "Senator, correct me

if I'm right..."

Senator Dick Cohen (DFL-District 64) said that when he was first elected to the Senate in 1986, "I quickly learned that (Flahaven's) knowledge and ability were the glue that held the Senate together. He comes as close as possible to someone who can't be replaced."

Not by any one person, it seems. Flahaven's job, at least for the past month, has been split among several people, according to Cohen.

Dr. R.J. Fischbach: the Leading Edge in Local Dentistry

You'll have reason to smile more radiantly than ever with the advanced dentistry techniques now being employed in Highland Park by Dr. R.J. Fischbach and his staff.

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CEREC stands for Chairside Economical Restorations of Esthetic Ceramics. CAD/CAM stands for Computer Aided Design/Computer Assisted Modeling. CAD/CAM dentistry is the process by which the dentist first takes an infrared picture of your teeth. The picture is transmitted directly to a computer where the teeth are designed right in front of your eyes, eliminating entirely the need for uncomfortable impressions and temporary restorations. The computer then sends the designed teeth by wireless technology to a milling machine, which grinds the fillings, crowns or veneers.

The finished restorations are widely regarded by dentists nationwide as the most aesthetic, comfortable and long-lasting, and they are far superior to composite, silver or gold restorations.

Dental patients today are increasingly asking for metal-free restorations. Dr. Fischbach and his staff employ many alternative materials in CAD/CAM technology, including Leucite, Ceramic, Zirconia, Glass Ceramic, Feldspar Ceramic, Fine Grain Translucent Porcelain, and Yttrium-Stabilized Zirconium. The wide range of materials allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to select the one that is best suited for you. Most other dentists use a technique that fits all patients with just one material.

CAD/CAM dentistry was originally developed for making single crowns. This technology can now be used to make bridges, inlays and onlays (fillings), veneers and even gold crowns. These all can be done without impressions and if not fabricated at the appointment, can be



Staff member Tammy explains CEREC

fabricated in a day or two. CAD/CAM technology also allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to save teeth that most other dentists would extract.

Dr. Fischbach and his staff are in the business of saving teeth, re-establishing function and perfecting glowing smiles. They are also in the business of educating their patients. Dr. Fischbach's office has movies of almost every dental treatment available. The short movies can be burned to a CD and given to you to take home and review with family members before any decision is made. The explanations of the various treatments are also available on Dr. Fischbach's website at

www.fischbachdentistry.com.

Dr. Fischbach, Dr. Susan Olson and their staff of 10 participate in almost all insurance Preferred Provider Organizations in order to help you control the cost of dentistry.

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The Kiosk

Wednesday/February 18

VICTORIAN NIGHTS will be celebrated at 6:00 this evening at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Traditional cream tea with scones and sweets will be served by costumed staff in the Carriage House and visitors will hear about Victorian women, the "Cult of Domesticity" and their take on the birds and bees. Musical entertainment will be provided by Klondike Kates of the St. Paul Winter Carnival. Admission is \$24. Call 651-296-8760.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY forum with explorer Will Steger, former U.S. Senator Mark Dayton and poet Allison Hedge Coke will be held at 4:00 this afternoon in the campus center at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6000.

Thursday/February 19

A "LEGACY OF DIVERSITY ALUMNI" forum will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 this evening in the Buenger Education Center at Concordia University-St. Paul, 275 N. Syndicate St., in conjunction with Black History Month. The forum will feature a panel of six Concordia alumni from a variety of professions who will discuss issues affecting African Americans in their respective careers. Admission is free. Visit www.csp.edu.

"DESIRING WALLS," the 28th annual G. Theodore Mitau endowed lecture, will be given by Wendy Brown of the University of California-Berkeley at 8:00 this evening in Weyerhaeuser Chapel at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6290.

A SUPPORT GROUP for those suffering from anxiety and panic will meet at 6:30 this evening, and on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Call Wade at 763-772-2379, or visit the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota at www.namihelps.org.

THE ST. PAUL METRO LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening. All expectant and nursing mothers and their babies are welcome. For meeting location, call 651-645-8516.

"SELLING YOUR HOME & MOVING: Things You Should Know" will be presented from 1:00 to 2:30 this afternoon at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The presentation will focus on the selling process, agent showings, how real estate agents are paid, the Listing Score Card, and simplifying the sorting, clearing and moving process. The suggested donation is \$3.00. Call 651-298-5493 to register.

FREE IMMIGRATION LAW consultations will be offered by the Guyton Law Firm from 3:30 to 5:00 this evening at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Call Jane Gregerson at 651-298-5493, ext. 215, to register.

THE MINNESOTA HOME & PATIO Show will be held today through Sunday, February 22, at St. Paul RiverCentre. The 30th annual show will feature nearly 400 exhibitors showcasing new products and services for home improvement, remodeling, decorating, energy conservation, gardening, landscaping



Preschoolers Milan Arado, left, Bryn Hansen and Eli Stende play with co-director Lisa Nathe in the KidsPark child-care center's new home in Desnoyer Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and lawn care. Admission is \$2.50-\$9.00. Call 763-755-8111 or visit www.homeandpatioshow.com.

CIRCLE OF PARENTS support group meetings are being held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Participation is free and free child-care and light dinner are provided. Call Jane Gregerson at 651-298-5493, ext. 215.

Friday/February 20

"WHITENESS IN THE AGE of Obama" is the theme of the 10th annual American Studies Conference that will be held today and tomorrow at Macalester College. The conference will begin at 6:00 this evening in Kagin Commons with keynote speakers Cheryl Harris of the UCLA School of Law and David Roediger of the University of Illinois. At 11:00 a.m. tomorrow in the Campus Center there will be a panel discussion on "Race in the Age of Obama: Beyond Black and White," followed at 2:00 p.m. with a reading of the play *Drunk Enough To Say I Love You*, featuring staff and students. All events are free. Call 651-696-6410.

A ŠIBŘINKY/MARDI GRAS PARTY, sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, will take place from 6:00 to 11:00 this evening at the CSPA Hall. Attendees are encouraged to dress in their finest ethnic costume or in full masquerade for an evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment. Admission is \$10 at the door. Call 651-290-0542.

Saturday/February 21

A KIDS' DANCE PARTY to benefit Bright Prospects Co-operative Preschool will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the Longfellow Park Recreation Center, 3435 36th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The second annual party is geared for kids 11 and younger. Food and beverages will be sold.

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10 at the door. Adult chaperones and infants up to age 1 can attend for free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For tickets, call Sonji at 612-721-6581.

THE MINNESOTA GENEALOGICAL Society will begin a 10-course series on intermediate genealogy with a class on "Evidence and the Genealogical Proof Standard" at 10:00 this morning at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. A class on "Intermediate Research Methodology" will follow at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$28-\$32 for the two classes. Call 651-259-3300.

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS will be held this evening at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and the silent auction will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 and the live auction at 7:15. Call 651-646-6175.

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1935 St. Clair Ave., will hold its annual winter carnival from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon. There will be face painting, balloon animals, entertainment, games, prizes, a bake sale and more. Call 651-699-6886.

A WINTER PICNIC IN THE SNOW will be held at 10:00 this morning in the Farm Education Building at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants will hike through the nature center on snowshoes if there is enough snow, make a stop at the sugar bush to check for signs of early sap flow, glide around on kick sleds and then throw down a blanket, stoke a fire and have hot drinks and treats. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00, or \$15 for families. Register by calling 651-455-4531.

Sunday/February 22

AN URBAN EXPEDITION to Uganda will be presented from 1:00 to 3:00 this afternoon at Landmark Center. There

will be authentic Ugandan drumming, fashion, dance, foods, arts, crafts and lore. Admission is free. The public is encouraged to bring nonperishable food items for distribution by the Neighborhood House. Call 651-292-3276.

Monday/February 23

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO will open the 13th season of its Broadcast Journalist Series with a talk by National Public Radio correspondent John Ydstie at 7:00 this evening in Kagin Commons at Macalester College. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Call 651-696-6203.

AN OPEN HOUSE on the future of the U.S. Bureau of Mines property just south of Minnehaha Park will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 this evening in the first-floor auditorium of the VA Hospital, 1 Veterans Drive, Minneapolis. The public is invited to comment on the planned restoration of the 27-acre site, which includes the historic Coldwater Spring. National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff will be on hand with information on a draft environmental impact statement for the property. Federal officials announced last December that the site should be cleared of its 11 abandoned buildings and restored to its natural condition.

WHAT BOLIVIA'S EXPERIENCE can tell us about the impacts of globalization will be discussed at 7:00 this evening in the lecture hall on the lower level of the Macalester College Campus Center. Jim Shultz and Melissa Crane Draper of the Democracy Center in Bolivia will speak. A slide show and refreshments are also featured.

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 2:30 to 7:30 this evening at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Call 1-800-448-3543 or visit www.givebloodgivelife.org.

THE WORDSMITHS TOASTMASTERS will hold a Table Topics Speech Contest from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Better Business Bureau, 2706 Gannon Road. Members will deliver improvised, two-minute speeches on everyday topics. The winner will advance to the area level contest on March 7. Admission is free. www.wordsmithstm.org.

Tuesday/February 24

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. Part 2 of the film made about the Republican National Convention, *Tyranny of Dissent*, will be shown. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

A PARENT EDUCATION CLASS on treatment options in children's mental health will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota, 800 Transfer Road, Suite 31. Admission is free. Call Suzette at 1-888-NAMI-HELPS (ext. 102), or e-mail to sscheele@nami.org.

JILL JERABEK, a certified life coach, will talk about living fearlessly at 6:30 this evening at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Call 651-414-0687.

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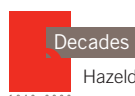


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27◀ THE KIOSK

Wednesday/February 25

"MOURNING MUMBAI: Analyzing Jewish Reactions to the November 2008 Terrorist Attacks" will be presented by Shana Sippy, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University who still has family in the Mumbai neighborhood where the attacks took place, at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$5.00-\$8.00. For tickets, call 651-698-0751.

Friday/February 27

WEST 7TH CINEMA NIGHT featuring *The Sound of Music* will take place at 7:00 this evening at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. A pre-movie kids' activity will be offered at 6:40 pm. Admission is free. Low-cost treats will be sold. Call 651-298-5493.

Saturday/February 28

A SOIREE TOUR will be offered at 6:00 this evening at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. A costumed guide will lead visitors on a tour of all three floors of the mansion. Admission is \$6.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

A CAMP FAIR will be held by *Minnesota Parent* magazine from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory. The free event will feature entertainment for the kids and parents may check out information on camps from around the region. Visit mnparent.com.

A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS and caregivers of children with mental illness will be offered from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota, 800 Transfer Road, Suite 31. The free workshop will provide information on diagnostic assessments and treatment options for children, provide information on medication and teach problem-solving skills. Snacks and lunch are included. To register, contact Suzette at 651-645-2948, ext. 102.

Tuesday/March 3

"DIVERSITY'S CHALLENGE: Achieving True Inclusion" is the theme of the 21st annual Multicultural Forum on Workplace Diversity that will be held today and tomorrow at St. Paul RiverCentre. Today's events will feature 14 professional development institutes and 24 workshops, while tomorrow's will include 36 workshops and career and resource fairs with more than 200 exhibitors. The forum is presented by General Mills. Co-hosts are the Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas and the Twin Cities chapter of the National Black MBA Association. Visit <http://www.stthomas.edu/mcf/> or call 651-962-4385.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of University Women, St. Paul branch, will hold a meeting and luncheon for prospective members at 10:45 this morning at the St. Paul College Club, 990 Summit Ave. The morning program will be on "The Economic Status of Women in Minnesota." After lunch, state Senator Ellen Anderson will provide an update on the 2009 legislative session. New members will receive 15 months for the price of 12. Contact Dorothy Salesses at 952-937-9064 or dosalesses@comcast.net.

"TYING IT ALL TOGETHER—Acts of Collaboration," an Our Northern Stars leadership breakfast series will meet from 7:30 to 9:00 this morning at the College of St. Catherine. Special guests will be Guthrie

Theater leaders Sheila Livingston, Marcela Lorca and Sally Wingert. Radio personality Ruth Koscielak will emcee. The cost is \$12-\$20. Call 651-690-6819.

Thursday/March 5

THE DIARIES OF MARY T. HILL, wife of empire builder James J. Hill, will be the focus of an illustrated lecture at 7:00 this evening at the Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Her diaries stretch from 1884 until her death in 1921. Tours of the house will follow. Admission is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 651-297-2555.

A ST. CATHERINE FORUM on Women in Leadership luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. Former poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Rita Dove will share the role poetry can play in leadership development. The cost is \$25-\$45. Call 651-690-6819.

Saturday/March 7

THE SIERRA CLUB North Star Chapter is inviting the public to leave their cars behind and take the bus to Crosby Park for an outing this afternoon. Depending on the weather, club members and their guests will ski, snowshoe or walk a maximum of 3 miles and then gather for snacks around an outdoor fire. Groups will be taking buses to Crosby at around 1:30 p.m. from the corner of Grand and Snelling avenues in St. Paul and from the light-trail transit center at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. For information, contact Andrea Long at ande_long@yahoo.com.

Sunday/March 8

FAMILY DAY will be celebrated from 1:30 to 4:30 this afternoon at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Tour guides will be dressed in period costumes, portraying historical characters that played a part in building the Cathedral a century ago. In addition to kid-friendly tours, visitors are invited to climb up into the Cathedral gallery, normally closed to the public, to watch a musician demonstrate the workings of the massive Skinner Pipe Organ. Children also will be able to sculpt their own clay masterpiece to take home with help from the Minnesota Children's Museum and get a souvenir photo taken of their group. Visit www.cathedralsaintpaul.org or call 651-228-1766.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the Sibley Plaza Shopping Center on West 7th and Davern streets for a hike through the neighborhood. Visit www.stpaulhike.org.

WOMEN AND WAR will be the topic of discussion during a free program from 2:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Historian Kim Heikkila will facilitate a discussion on the role of women both for and against war. Presenters will include Dr. Gertrude Esteros, who served with the Red Cross during World War II, and Marianne Hamilton, co-founder of Women Against Military Madness. Laurie Witzkowski and Chanté Wolf will present a monologue about Wolf's service in the first Gulf War and filmmaker Kirsten Nelson will screen her short film on war and women, *What's Left?* Call 651-259-3000.

Tuesday/March 10

THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss "The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties." Current and expectant mothers are invited to attend with their infants and toddlers. For the location of the meeting, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

On the Town

A page from the past

Myers-Rich takes the lead in preserving age-old craft

BY BILL STIEGER

As a leader in the resurgence of bookmaking as an art form, Paulette Myers-Rich has been recognized by the Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA) with its Minnesota Book Artist of the Year Award for 2009. Her work is currently on display at the MCBA gallery at 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. She will be honored there during a free reception from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 26, and also at the 21st annual Minnesota Book Awards gala presented by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library on April 25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Paul.

"Paulette stands out because of the range of her skills," said Rosemary Furtak, acquisitions librarian at the Walker Art Center, which has several of Myers-Rich's books in its permanent collection. "She's skilled in the use of photography, letterpress and binding and is a very inventive designer of books."

A resident of St. Paul's West End, Myers-Rich has won two previous Minnesota Book Awards—one in 2000 for her pressing of the book, *Broder*, an award she shared with poet Anna Reckin, and another in 2006 for *Ghost Poems for the Living*, a collection of sonnets by Shakespeare and abbreviated poems (what Myers-Rich calls "distillations") pieced together from Shakespeare's sonnets.

Myers-Rich was born in St. Paul to a blue-collar Irish-American family. She graduated from the College of St. Catherine, where she studied information management and creative writing. "After college, I was doing a lot of photography and working with still-lives, landscapes and experimental printing," she said. "I began to use photographs in sequences, which suggested narrative."

She began designing and printing

handmade books in 1985 following an internship at the MCBA, then a fledgling organization in the Minneapolis warehouse district. At the time, she was working as a librarian at the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Myers-Rich has since left the newspaper, and now earns her living as a book artist, a teacher of book art at MCBA and a mentor for graduate students at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

At MCBA, Myers-Rich studied letterpress and book binding from artists like Gaylord Schanilec, Denny Ruud and Jill Jerome. "The Twin Cities has many talented book artists," Myers-Rich said. "New York, Chicago and San Francisco are the other book arts centers, but I think we're tops. The MCBA is the largest organization of its kind in the country."

"Twin Cities book artists are



Book artist Paulette Meyers-Rich beside a printing press in her West End studio. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

among the most organized artists I've ever known," said Pat Coleman, curator of books at the Minnesota Historical Society. "Part of what keeps the form so vital here are artists like Paulette. She gives back to the book-arts community through her teaching and mentoring, and that's the secret to sustaining a thriving arts scene."

The growing interest in book arts in the past quarter century coincided with the rise of computer typography, which decimated the ranks of craftspeople employed in the publishing industry. Printers, lithographers and illustrators not only found themselves out of a job but out of a career. Books, it seemed, were no longer objects to be valued and preserved.

Myers-Rich's immaculate studio and printshop, the home of her Traffic Street Press, is a graphic reminder of the commitment it takes to be a serious book artist. The studio's gargantuan printing equipment is reminiscent of the machinery in Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory or, more appropriately, Dr. Franklin's Philadelphia printshop.

There is a large, foot-powered letterpress; an antique 750-pound paper cutter with a steel counterweight the size of a basketball and a blade that could decapitate an elk; a screw press; a roller press (with a poster hanging from it that reads, "Freedom of the press belongs to those who can operate one"); towering stacks of varnished wood cases of moveable type; and shelves of various inks and dyes. There are drying racks, boxes of paper stock, archival storage cases, a few desks, a light table and a photographic darkroom with two enlargers.

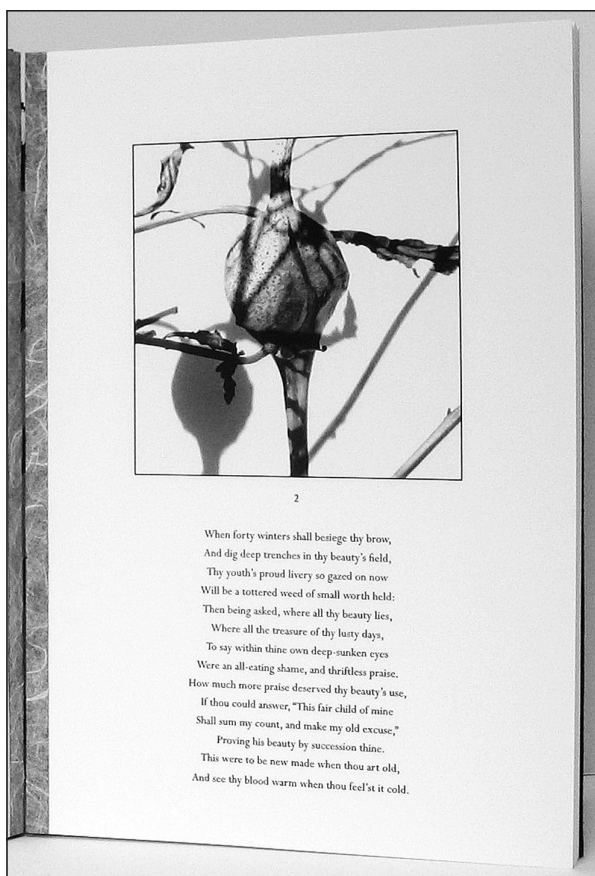
"I was lucky to have gotten into the craft when I did," Myers-Rich

said. "I got a lot of this stuff on the cheap, though I had to hire movers and riggers to bring the equipment here. The machinery reminds me of how beautifully made things used to be. I began buying the printing equipment around the time that digital printing took over."

Myers-Rich has designed and printed limited editions of books by noted authors and poets. The project of hers that is closest to her heart is the printing of works by prominent Irish poets, including several winners of the O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas. She has produced editions of poems by Eavan Boland, Dennis O'Driscoll, Gregg Delanty and John Montague.

"I see producing handmade books for these poets as a way of honoring their work, giving their poems the attention they deserve," she said. "One thing I've learned is that artists love artist's books. Artists of all kinds of disciplines are using book arts as an adjunct to their art forms. Gregg Delanty worked as a printer. He wrote a book of poems about printing and type. So of course, I wanted to print his work in letterpress."

"I see the making of a book as a unified process," Myers-Rich said. "The content of a book, its design and its crafting is what makes the work so satisfying."



A page from *Ghost Poems for the Living* by Paulette Myers-Rich, winner of the 2006 Minnesota Book Award for Fine Press.

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On the Town Briefly

Books

The Dead Feminist Society, a salon that honors the vision of feminists past in supporting contemporary efforts at gender equity, will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, at Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave. Emceed by Kristine M. Holmgren, the program will feature a talk by Adrienne Christiansen, associate professor of political science at Macalester College who is now at work on an article about Sarah Palin's campaign for vice president. Call 651-225-8989.

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by the following authors: Steven Wax from *Kafka Comes to America*, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 17; Jim Proebstle from *In the Absence of Honor*, 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 22; Laura Flynn from *Swallow the Ocean*, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 25; David Mura from *Famous Suicides of the Japanese Empire*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5; Steven Lovely from *Irreplaceable*, 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Call 651-225-8989.

The Fireside Literary Series concludes with Summit-University poets James Cihlar and William Reichard reading from their newly published collections at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Admission is free. Coffee and cookies will be served.

Michael Greenberg will discuss his memoir *Hurry Down Sunshine*, about the summer in which his 15-year-old daughter suffered a breakdown, in a "Talking Volumes" program at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 24, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$18-\$20. Call 651-290-1221.

The Highland Library's Mystery Book Club will discuss *You Have The Right To Remain Puzzled* by Parnell Hall on February 26. Free

and open to all, the club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month in the theater of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-695-3700.

The Central Library History Book Club will discuss David McCullough's *1776* on February 26. The club meets at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month in the fourth floor Community Room of the library, 90 W. 4th St. Admission is free and open to all.

"Soap Boxing," an open poetry slam, will be held at 8:00 p.m. Monday March 2, at the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Nationally renowned spoken-word artist Sean Conlon will also perform. Admission is \$5.00, free if you compete. Call 612-207-7991.

Theater

I Am a Camera, the dark drama by John van Druten on which the musical *Cabaret* was based, is playing through March 8 at Theater in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. It tells of a young English novelist living in Berlin in the years before Hitler's rise to power and the vivacious, mercurial woman whom he befriends. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-333-3010.

The Whipping Man, Matthew Lopez's Civil War drama about a Confederate soldier, the slave who raised him and a slave who grew up alongside him, opens on Thursday, February 19, at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Duane Boutté, James Craven and Joseph Papke star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays through March 8. For tickets, call 651-224-3180.

The Little Prince, a play based on the beloved book by Antoine Saint-Exupéry, will be performed February 20 through March 1 at



Adena Brumer and Teri Parker-Brown star in *Chutzpah à Go-Go*, a rollicking tribute to early Jewish settlers of the Midwest. The klezmer musical by David Gale and Randy Vancourt is playing at 8:00 p.m. Saturdays and 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sundays, February 21 through March 15, on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre's stage at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Tickets are \$18 to \$25, or \$12 for student rush. For reservations, call 651-647-4315. PHOTO BY SARAH WHITING

Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students. Call 651-696-3333.

The short opera La Divina by Thomas Pasatieri will be performed on February 20 and 21

at Macalester College. Sung in English, it is a humorous portrayal of a singer's farewell concert. The curtain rises at 1:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 p.m. Saturday in the college chapel. Admission is free.

Endgame, Samuel Beckett's one-act play about a blind master who cannot stand up and his

servant who cannot sit down, will be performed by Ten Thousand Things Theatre at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 26, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Directed by Marion McClinton, the play about death stars Terry Bellamy, Christiana Clark, Steve Hendrickson and Barbra Berlovitz. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 651-698-0751. *Endgame* is also playing at 8:00 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, February 27 through March 15, at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$25, call 1-800-838-3006.

A Look in the Mirror, a one-woman play about loss, despair and redemption by deaf actress Nic Zapko, will be performed by Zapko from February 26 through March 15 at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. The play will be presented in American Sign Language with voiced interpretations. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$13 and \$10. Call 651-645-5506.

Antigone, Sophocles' timeless tale about a young woman's effort to stand up to authorities who are determined to either dishonor her brother or destroy her, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 27 through March 7, in the Fine Arts Building at Inver Hills College, 2500 E. 80th St. in Inver Grove Heights. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors and students. Call 651-450-8588.

The Adventures of Pinocchio, an opera by Jonathan Dove and Aladair Middleton based on Carlo Collodi's classic children's story, will be presented from February 28 through March 8 by the Minnesota Opera. Adriana Zabala, Maureen O'Flynn, Andrew Wilkowske and Rebecca Bottone star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Tickets are \$20 to \$150. Call 612-333-6669.

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Dance

Spanish flamenco singer Jesus Montoya and guitarist Pedro Cortés Jr. will join Susana di Palma and her Zorongo Flamenco dancers in “Café Flamenco” on Friday and Saturday, February 20 and 21. The show will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$25 on Friday and \$50 for the performance and benefit gala on Saturday. Call 612-436-1129.

“Karneval,” a European dance party featuring the live music of Orkestra Bez Ime and the Ukrainian Village Band, will be held from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Saturday, February 21, at the CSPA Hall, 383 Michigan St. The host Ethnic Dance Theatre will demonstrate and teach the dances, including the polka, waltz, schottische and combo. Admission is \$12, \$5.00 for children, free to those age 3 and under. A European cafe and silent auction round out the evening. Call 763-545-1333.

Beginning square dance lessons are being offered at 6:15 p.m. Mondays through June 8, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Couples, families and singles are welcome to attend on any evening. No registration is necessary. Admission is \$3.00. For information, call 651-298-5493.

Exhibits

Ramsey Hill artist Ellen Thomson’s abstract landscape paintings are on view through February at the FrameWorks and Gallery, 2022 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-227-5923.

“Eastman Johnson: Paintings and Drawings of the Lake Superior Ojibwe,” 40 oils, charcoals and pastel works from the mid-19th century, are being displayed through May 10 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Originally from Maine, Johnson studied extensively in Europe before journeying to Lake Superior in 1856 where he remained through the winter creating numerous drawings and paintings of the area’s native people. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

Macalester-Groveland photographer and St. Paul Academy art teacher Linda Brooks is showing her “Mexico Projects” through March 14 in the Drake Gallery at SPA, 1712 Randolph Ave. The gallery is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“Expressions of Stability and Change,” an exploration of ethnic dress and folk costume, is on view through June 14 in the gallery of the Goldstein Museum of Design located in Room 241 of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. A panel discussion on “Retention of Traditions and the Immigrant Experience” will be held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 26, in Room 33 of McNeal Hall. Laurann Gilbertson of the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, will discuss “The Reinvention of Scandinavian Folk Dress in the 19th Century” at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in Room 274 of McNeal Hall. Call 612-624-7434.

“Goose Bumps: The Science of Fear” is on view through May 3 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The exhibit explores the biology behind a racing heart, sweaty palms and shaky knees with hands-on activities involving real snakes, virtual leopards, loud noises and the sensation of falling. Admission is \$11, \$8.50 for seniors and children. Call 651-221-9444.

“Life: A Journey Through Time,” 62 images by award-winning Dutch photographer Frans Lanting, are on view through April 12 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Guided tours of the exhibit with University of Minnesota professors will be offered from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Sundays, March 8 and April 5. Admission is \$5.00,

\$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16, or free for all on Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

“Touch,” contemporary drawings by Carol Lee Chase, Michael Kareken, Barbara Moody, Pamela Valfer, Megan Vossler and Chris Zerendow, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, February 21, in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at the College of St. Catherine. A panel discussion is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the Lecture Hall of the Visual Arts Building. The exhibit will remain on view through April 9. Call 651-690-6644.

Photographs and sculpture from the collections of Gary and JoAnn Fink, including works by Deborah Butterfield, Annie Liebovitz, Luis Gonzalez Palma, Robert Polidori, Sebastiao Selgado, Doug and Mike Starn and 12 others, will be displayed from March 5 through April 4 in the College of Visual Arts Gallery, 173 N. Western Ave. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, March 5. The gallery is open from noon to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, until 8:00 p.m. Thursday and from noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturday.

“The Best 100,” an exhibition of art by St. Paul high school students judged on the basis of originality, creativity and execution, will be displayed from March 6-29 at the AZ gallery, 308 Prince St. Gallery hours are 5:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, and 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 651-224-3757.

“Three Days of Light,” photographs by Margaret Grosspietsch, Sarah Rust Sampedro and Lisa Mauer Elliott, will be displayed from March 7 through May 2 at the Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. An opening reception is scheduled from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Saturday, March 7. For gallery hours, call 612-728-5745.

Family

Ruby!, the story of the courageous African-American 1st-grader who complied with a U.S. Supreme Court order and integrated New Orleans’ Franz Elementary School in 1960, is playing Tuesdays through Sundays through March 1 at SteppingStone Theatre 55 N. Victoria St. Tickets are \$11, \$9.00 for children and seniors. Call 651-225-9265.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., plays host to storytimes for babies at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays, toddlers at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Featured in other free programs will be a presentation on African-American Arctic explorer Matthew Henson at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 21; *Saved: Rescued Animals and the Lives They Transform* author Karin Winegar at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 21; books for boys with storyteller Mike Mann at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 28; a publication party for *Mudville* with author Kurtis Scaletta, 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 28; *Top of the Order* author John Coy at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 6; Baby Storytime with Willi Brennaman at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7. Call 651-224-8320.

“Saturday Live!” free entertainment for children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul’s Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature Wendy’s Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam, February 21; and the Minnesota Zoomobile, February 28.

The Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., will show family movies at 2:00 p.m. Saturdays, February 21, March 7 and 21. Bring a pillow to sit on. Refreshments will be provided. Call 651-642-0385.

Adam Levy of Honeydogs fame will perform songs off his new children’s album, “Bunny Clogs: More! More! More!” on Saturday, February 21. The cabaret performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$8.00, free to children under age 2. Call 651-255-4752.

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Mary Poppins, an adaptation of the P.L. Travers series about a London family that is rescued through the intercession of an eccentric nanny, will be performed on February 20 and 21 by Out on a Limb Dance Company and School. The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m. Friday and 2:00 p.m. Saturday in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$22, \$18 for students. Call 651-644-3802.

Rince na Chroi Irish dance school will present its fourth annual recital, "From the Stage to Your Heart," on February 21 and 22 in Pearson Theater at Concordia University, 312 N. Hamline Ave. The traditional Irish band Two Tap Trio will also perform in the shows, which begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-209-6689.

Hey Kids! Let's Put on a Show!, a behind-the-scenes look at a church children's musical, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, February 26-28, by the 5th- and 6th-grade children at Unity Unitarian Church, 732 Holly Ave. Mary Blouin Auffert directs the show. Sandy Waterman directs the musical, and Joyce Paxton developed the choreography. For ticket information, call 651-228-1456.

"Signs of Spring," a scavenger hunt for shoots, buds, snowmelt and baby squirrels, owls and other birds will be held on Thursday, March 5, in the diorama halls of the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The preschool program runs from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and is free with museum admission (\$5.00, \$3.00 for children). To register, call 612-624-9050.

"Magnificent Mammals," a program for 4- and 5-year-olds and their caregivers on what mammals have in common and what sets them apart, will be offered from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Fridays, March 6-27, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The cost is \$45 per family for all four sessions. To register, call 612-624-9050.

"Woolly Bears," storytelling, music, puppetry and live animal demonstrations for preschoolers and their parents, is offered from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at the Dodge Nature Center, 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul. "Calling Crows" is the topic on February 25, 26 and 28. "It's Tapping Time: Maple-Syruping" will be explored on March 11, 12 and 14. The cost is \$14, and preregistration is required. Call 651-455-4531.



The versatile vocal group Sweet Honey in the Rock, which has thrilled audiences for more than 35 years with its gospel, jazz and blues music, will carry on that tradition at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 7, in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets priced from \$20.50 to \$76, call 651-690-6700.

Music

Haydn's The Creation will be performed on February 19-21 by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and its Anniversary Chorale under the baton of Nicholas McGegan. Soprano Sophie Daneman, tenor James Taylor and bass-baritone Nathan Berg will be featured in the oratorio. Haydn's masterpiece, it portrays the seven days of creation as depicted in the Book of Genesis. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Ordway. Tickets are \$11-\$59, or \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

Celebrated Polish classical guitarist Marcin Dylla will make his Minnesota debut on Friday, February 20, at Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The Minnesota Guitar Society concert begins at 8:00 p.m. and will feature works by Ponce, Giuliani, Tansman and Rodrigo. Tickets are \$22, \$17 for seniors and students. Call 612-677-1151.

Singer Jearlyn Steele, accompanied by her keyboardist brother Billy Steele, will explore African-American history in story and song on Sunday, February 22. Spirituals, gospel music, the national anthem and other songs will be featured. The free program begins at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Call 651-266-7000, extension 5.

Mozart's Symphonies Nos. 39, 40 and 41 will be performed on February 26 through March 1 by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Douglas Boyd. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 26, at Shepherd of the Valley Church in Apple Valley; 8:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie; 8:00 p.m. Saturday, February 28, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave.; and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 1, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$10-\$25, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

London's acclaimed octet Voces8 will join the Twin Cities' early-music Rose Ensemble in a candle-lit concert of English Renaissance music on February 27, 28 and March 1. The Great Service, William Byrd's 17th-century work of 10-part polyphony, will be featured. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Church of St. Bernard, 187 W. Geranium Ave.; 8:00 p.m. Saturday at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis; and 5:00 p.m. Sunday in St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Ave. A concert preview will be offered one-hour prior to each show. Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$17 with a \$3.00 discount for students and seniors. Call 651-225-4340.

Spirituals, hymns and traditional gospel

music will be performed by the 100-voice Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 28, in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$21, \$16 for seniors and children. Call 651-690-6700.

Concertoes by Haydn and Myslivecek will be performed on Saturday, February 28, by Lyra Baroque Orchestra and Dutch Baroque flute virtuoso Wilbert Hazelzet. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$23, \$20 for seniors and \$6.00 for students. Call 651-209-6799.

The guitar and harmonic duo of Curtis Marlatt and Curtis Blake, Minnesota winners in the recent International Blues Challenge, will perform its brand of delta blues beginning at 9:00 p.m. Saturday, February 28, at Dixies, Grand Avenue and St. Albans St. Admission is free.

Fleetwood Mac, the long-lived pop band, will perform at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Xcel Energy Center. The second stop on its 2009 "Unleashed" tour, the concert will feature the talents of Mick Fleetwood, Stevie Nicks, John McVie and Lindsey Buckingham. Tickets are \$49.50, \$79.50 and \$149.50. Call 651-989-5151.

Et cetera

"Urban Expedition," a free program that brings the world to St. Paul's Landmark Center from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays, will feature the natural and political history of Uganda on February 22 and the art, music and food of Mexico on March 8.

"History of Hip: Comedy vs. Art vs. Obscenity," an examination of comedian and social critic Lenny Bruce's short career and how it changed comedy forever, will be presented by the Minnesota Historical Society on Tuesday, March 3. University of Minnesota professor Maria Damon, lawyer Bart Torvi and record producer Dan Schlissel will speak. Open to adults age 21 and older, the program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. Admission is \$6.00. For reservations, call 651-259-3015.

Open sessions in figure drawing are available to aspiring artists from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays through May 9 (no session on March 21) in the Drawing Studio of the College of Visual Arts, 173 N. Western Ave. The cost is \$10 per session. Children under 18 years of age must fill out a permission form. Visit www.cva.edu or contact Carmen at charris@cva.edu.

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Streaking is all the rage in Villagerland

It's hard for a two-time defending state champion to fly under the radar. It's almost impossible to do so when you own a 72-game winning streak in your conference. Somehow, the Central High School girls' basketball team has managed to achieve this unusual feat.

And coach Willie Taylor couldn't be happier about it.

The last time a Central girls' hoop squad lost a St. Paul City Conference game was six years ago—a 58-53 decision versus Cretin-Derham Hall. As this was being written, the Minutemen (10-0 in the conference, 18-5 overall) had already cinched a tie for their ninth straight City Conference championship. In Taylor's eyes, this year's title might be the most unexpected of them all.

"We have 10 seniors on this team, but seven of them saw little or no action last season," he said. "I knew we had a lot of work to do. For that reason alone, I wasn't thinking a lot about the streak at the start of the season."

Taylor wasn't referring his own team's winning streak, but to Cretin-Derham's Hall's 67-game run of conference victories that started in 1996 and ended on January 30, 2001, when Central defeated the Raiders 56-47. Topping that mark was not foremost in Taylor's mind at the outset of the season. With just two players who saw court time in last year's Class AAAA title game victory over Minneapolis South, Taylor had a lot of question marks heading into the season.

"We were starting with a good base," he said, referring to seniors Theairra Taylor and Kyana Johnson. "And I was fairly sure (freshman Jen'Von'Ta) Hill would be ready to play right away. But after that, we needed to find out what we had."

(The other three starters from last year's team are all playing college basketball this year—Kiara Buford for the University of Minnesota, Georgie Jones for Marquette and Megan Howard for St. Anselm's.)

Taylor, Johnson and Hill have all lived up to their coach's expectations. Samantha Robinson-Ricks, the other senior who had seen action last season, stepped up and helped out the team immediately. Senior Catavia Jones, who had been waiting her turn, has developed into a powerful rebounder. Still, the combination of adjusting to the new lineup and a rugged nonconference schedule had the Minutemen heading into City Conference play with little fanfare and a 7-3 overall record.

"It's been a tough year, but it's been a lot of fun," coach Taylor said. "When we got into our conference games, I knew there was a possibility our own streak could end this season. Teams were definitely ready to play us. This year, some of them even thought they could beat us."

As it turned out, Central was ready for the battle. The Minutemen surpassed CDH's record with a 70-17 win over Como Park on January 30—eight years to the day they ended the Raiders' streak.

The Minutemen's only serious challenge in league play during the first half of the schedule came from Highland Park, a game that still resulted in a 78-60 triumph. Humboldt also put up a fight, dropping its first game against Central by 18 points and the return match by 16. The closest margin in the rest of the conference games played so far against Johnson, Harding, Como Park and Arlington has been 30 points.

The Central streak looks safe for another season.

"I know we go into games where we have the better talent," Taylor said, "but I tell the girls that we start each game the same way. If we don't play the way we're supposed to, I get on them pretty good."

That hasn't been necessary very often. Though Taylor cleared his bench early, Central stuck Harding twice with lopsided scores of 57-11 and 81-16, and Arlington by 69-9.

WRIGHT CALL ► 34

Hard to pin down

State-tested Warrior Zak Coates keeps getting better

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Henry Sibley's Zak Coates wrestled under the radar in last year's Class AAA state tournament. "It was my first time at state and I wasn't supposed to place or anything," said Coates, now a junior, as his Warrior teammates took to the mat on a recent Saturday morning. "I was kind of an underdog."

Still, Coates wasn't content just to be there last year. Wins over Miles Camarata of Champlin Park and Travis Anderson of White Bear Lake propelled the surprising sophomore to the state 145-pound semifinals, where he lost to eventual state champion Carter Adams of Coon Rapids.

This year, Coates won't be sneaking up on anybody. He was off to an impressive start with a 31-4 record and has established himself as one of the top-ranked wrestlers in the state in the 160-pound weight class.

One of his three losses this year was against senior Andy Henning, a tough competitor from Fulda. However, Coates defeated Henning in a rematch.

During a holiday tournament, Coates also lost to Adams, the wrestler who defeated him in last year's state semifinals. But in another rematch, it was Coates' occasion to shine. In that duo's third encounter, Coates entered the final period tied 2-2 and recorded two "near falls" en route to a 7-2 win against Adams.

The victory made an impression on Sibley coach Wayne Beaman. "Two of the three losses that he's had this year, he's wrestled the same kid again and wound up winning," Beaman said. "So the improvement is there."

"I always wrestle better at the end of the year than I do at the beginning," Coates said. "It takes me a while to get warmed up."



Sibley wrestler Zak Coates stretches out during practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Beaman said Coates, who has been wrestling since he was in kindergarten, performs well on the mat and on his feet. That balanced attack is "what makes him successful," he said. "You can't just attack one area and say, 'If I stop this, I can win.' He has a lot of different things he does well. It makes it very hard to

wrestle against him."

So far this season, Sibley (7-9) has held its own in the tough Classic Suburban Conference, which includes perennial wrestling power Simley. The team also is preparing to host a challenging section

SIBLEY WRESTLER ► 35

Herzog sizzles on ice for St. Paul United

BY BILL WAGNER

St. Paul United center Breanna Herzog seemed predestined to play hockey. A junior at Visitation School, she is the third oldest of nine children ages 7-20 and all but one of them plays or has played the sport.

Older brother Andrew played on St. Thomas Academy's state championship team. Older sister Lauren was an all-state goalie for St. Paul United last year and now plays for the College of St. Benedict. Younger sister Claire is a freshman forward for the United. Most of her other younger siblings play on club teams. In addition, cousin Robb Stauber is a former standout goalie for the University of Minnesota and uncle Frank Serratore coaches the Air Force Academy team.

Hockey has been a big part of Herzog's life since she was young. "I was 6 when I started," she said. "I figure skated for a year when I was 9, but I didn't like it. I

wanted to play hockey, although back then there wasn't nearly as much for girls who wanted to play as there is now."

Herzog is now the leading scorer for the United, whose players come from Visitation and St. Paul Academy. She had 20 goals and 18 assists as of February 10, placing her among the top 10 point-getters in the tough Tri-Metro Conference.

"She has the hands and the finesse," said coach Ted Cheesebrough, "but she also has the strength. She's very hard to knock off the puck. That combination is hard to find."

"She can also stickhandle and her shot is terrific," he continued. "She's tough in the corners, she's a good two-way player, and she's a gamer—she wants to do what it takes to win."

Sometimes, Cheesebrough said, he actually needs to rein Herzog in a bit. She is such a relentless competitor that if it were up to her, she would stay on the ice for twice the time she should. "She

can't take 80-second shifts," he said with a laugh.

No matter. Cheesebrough said it is easier to rein in enthusiasm than to not get enough of it. Players like Herzog win games—it is as simple as that.

Herzog played defense last year and showed the ability to control the game from the back line. This year, Cheesebrough moved her to forward to take advantage of her offensive skills and she has adjusted well to her new position.

"Coach thought we needed more scoring up front," said Herzog, who also led the team last year with 24 points, including 11 goals. "I played both defense and forward in youth hockey, and I think my heart might still be on defense. You have so much more control back there, helping set the forwards in motion by making a good pass. But it's so much fun to score and work with your teammates up

UNITED'S HERZOG ► 35

Raider swimmer is strong in the back, flies in the 'fly

BY BILL WAGNER

The winning formula is pretty simple for swimmer Brian Dailey-Arndt. The Cretin-Derham Hall junior is just as quick under the water as he is on the surface, making him a leading candidate to win both the 100-yard backstroke and the 100-yard butterfly events at the boys' Class AA state swimming meet next month at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

Dailey-Arndt, who finished second in the butterfly with a time of 50.57 and third in the backstroke with a 51.80 at last year's state meet, is plenty speedy when he is on top of the water. His arms make powerful pulls and he knows how to minimize his body's water resistance. He also has good endurance and a sixth sense for when he needs that extra kick to finish a race.

But it is what he does under water that really impresses CDH coach Mike Steineman. According to him, hardly anybody can keep up with Dailey-Arndt when he submerges for his turn after the first length of the pool. Under high school swimming rules, a swimmer may be submerged for the first 15 meters following a turn, then must resurface. Steineman said Dailey-Arndt gets the maximum speed out of his underwater game, which gives him a jump on the rest of the field.

"Brian is so good at that," Steineman said. "He knows right where that 15-meter mark is. He's about the best I've ever coached when it comes to what he does under the water. I've never seen anyone out-kick him."

And Steineman said his star



CDH backstroke and butterfly specialist Brian Dailey-Arndt takes a breather poolside. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

swimmer is equally adept at getting off to a quick start at the beginning of a race.

This year, Dailey-Arndt is right where he wants to be as the post-season nears. The Raiders, who were 3-2 in the Suburban East Conference and 4-3 overall in dual meets through February 4, will compete in the conference meet on February 21 at Stillwater before heading to the Section 2AA meet on February 26-28 at Richfield Middle School.

All of which should give Dailey-Arndt some good tuneups for the

Class AA state meet, which will be held on March 6-7 at the U of M. At present, he has personal bests this year of 52.21 in the 100 backstroke and 52.02 seconds in the 100 butterfly, both of which place him among the fastest swimmers in the state.

And nobody is happier for Dailey-Arndt than Steineman. "He's such a good kid to coach," he said. "He works his rear off. He can carry a team on his back, but he's a guy who pulls hard for the other guys on the team, too."

Late last month, Dailey-Arndt

appeared to serve notice that he was more than ready for post-season competition. He was second in the 100 backstroke and second in the 100 butterfly at the true team meet on January 26 at the University of Minnesota.

"He likes where he's at right now," Steineman said. "He's swimming well."

Competing in the backstroke and butterfly require special talents that are hard to find in a swimmer, and Dailey-Arndt works hard at mastering them.

"With the backstroke, the key is to have unrelenting leg strength," he said. "You're lying flat on the water and your hips naturally sink when you're on your back. You need to keep your head and shoulders back, and you need to cycle your stroke."

"With the butterfly you need a different type of coordination," he said. "And it requires a lot of shoulder and hip strength."

Dailey-Arndt fully expects to be among the top contenders in both of his events at this year's state meet. He especially wants to win the backstroke title, but he acknowledged he will face some rugged competition in that event, including from Rochester Century junior Brian Kiel, who took second last year.

"I'll need a perfect race to beat Kiel," Dailey-Arndt said, adding that Lakeville North senior Paul Young, the defending backstroke champion, will also be tough to beat.

Steineman said he believes Dailey-Arndt could swim for a big-time collegiate program following his prep career, and Dailey-Arndt said he'd love to compete for the U of M.

"That would be a good fit for me," he said, "but I'll be making a decision on academics as well as athletics, and I still have a lot of research to do."

Dailey-Arndt said he likes being on a team run by Steineman, who has coached him since he started swimming in the St. Paul-based Star Swim Club five years ago. He said Steineman provides a combination of lightheartedness and seriousness.

"He knows the value of discipline and he wants his teams to show it," Dailey-Arndt said. "He runs a tight ship, but he also wants us to have fun."

33◀ WRIGHT CALL

Games like that aren't a lot of fun for either coach. As a result, Taylor has found his mind wandering ahead a bit to the Section 4AAAA playoffs on March 13-20.

"We're in with some very good teams," he said. "Woodbury is very strong and Stillwater is pretty good, too. I know Cretin-Derham Hall doesn't have a great overall record, but that team concerns me, too."

But probably not as much as the streaking Minutemen concern their upcoming opponents.

Another impressive winning streak

It's a streak of a different sort being enjoyed this season by the University of St. Thomas men's basketball team. Despite having just one starter who is taller than 6-foot-4 (Cretin-Derham Hall graduate Alex McCoy is generously listed at 6-6), the Tommies have blitzed their way to 23 straight regular-season victories. If they get past St. John's and Hamline in the final week of the season, they'll become just the second MIAC men's basketball team to finish the season unblemished since the league expanded 22 years ago.

"I don't know if anybody thinks they'll be undefeated by

now," said coach Steve Fritz. "Still, we thought we'd be pretty good this year."

St. Thomas could also become just the second conference team to go 20-0 in league play. The Tommies previously did it during the 1993-94 season.

The Tommies, who have already clinched first place in the league, have found a nifty way around the fact that most teams they face are bigger: They race up and down the court like greyhounds for the full 40 minutes. As a result, you get games like a recent one at Augsburg where St. Thomas led just 35-32 at halftime, but took off on a 19-4 run in the first seven minutes of the second half and ended up winning by 30 points.

When you have 10 players averaging double-digit minutes of court time, you're a very deep team indeed, and to Fritz, that's one of the keys to his team's success. "Plus, we have guys like Lonnie (Robinson), B.J. (Viau) and Joe (Scott) who can play more than one position," he said. "That's critical."

With four senior starters returning from a team that went 23-5 last year, Fritz felt good going into the 2008-09 season. The Tommies have had some close calls, including two non-conference games that went into overtime. They also survived a big test on February 11. Bethel led UST by 14 points with eight minutes to play, but the Tommies rallied

ferociously for a 75-72 win.

Still, a question remained. When you have a team that wins consecutive games by 100 points—as St. Thomas recently did against St. Mary's and Macalester—how do you keep your players focused? The answer: the team's 11-12 player rotation.

"They all want to part of this," Fritz said. "One of the nice things about depth is you can create game situations in practice."

Fritz is now focused on finishing out the regular season and beginning the playoffs. The Tommies will open MIAC post-season play at home on February 25. "We're playing playoff-type teams the rest of the way now," he said. "They create challenges for you."

Fritz has taken one team to the Division III Final Four during his 29 years as head coach at St. Thomas. However, should anybody start thinking too far ahead, he reminds his players about how fickle the post-season fates can be. The last two seasons, the Tommies won the MIAC regular-season and post-season titles and earned home-court advantage to open the NCAA tournament. However, each time they ran into a hot-shooting opponent and lost.

But the third time's the charm, right?

(Dave Wright can be reached at dwright53@msn.com)



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33◀ SIBLEY WRESTLER

tournament at the end of the month that will include such elite squads as Apple Valley and Hastings.

"It's a very difficult section to get through," Beaman said. "But that's the way it is, so we have to practice and work toward that and get ourselves to the level of the competition."

Coates joins seniors Nick Luna and Charlie Berg and sophomore Mason Young as the leaders on a team that includes 14 freshmen and one 8th-grader. According to Beaman, the leaders work well with the younger kids, encouraging them to persevere and showing them "how to become better wrestlers and better human beings," Beaman said.

Coates said he tries to lead by example. "You have to work hard every day," he said. "Kids will see you working hard, see that you have success, and they'll want to do what you do to be as successful as you are."

To be a successful high school wrestler, you have to wrestle at least eight months of the year and be diligent in the weight room, said Coates, who also plays football in the fall and competes in track in the spring. He works hard on his wrestling during the summer, and last year finished fifth in a national Greco-Roman competition.

Preferring to take what he calls a "day-by-day" approach to wrestling, Coates hesitates to peer too far into the future. However, he does hope to continue his wrestling career in college.

More immediately, he's looking forward to the challenge of making another strong run at state, even though there'll be more pressure



Coates practices his escape moves with teammate Tyrell Martin. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

now that his underdog status has expired.

"This year will be different because I'm expected to place. Everything before the state tournament is just preparation," he said. "The state tournament is where you wrestle the best of the best."

The Section 3AAA wrestling tournament will be held February 27-28 at Henry Sibley. The state wrestling tournament will take place March 4-7 at the Xcel Energy Center.



St. Paul United's star center Breanna Herzog. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

33◀ UNITED'S HERZOG

front. It's exciting getting used to playing with them—getting to know where they'll be on the ice and setting them up."

Herzog posted a hat trick in a 5-3 victory over the St. Paul Blades on January 31, showing why she is on track to become one of the most heavily recruited girls' hockey players in the state come her senior season. She has posted two hat tricks to date and has one four-goal game.

Herzog is a threat to score from almost anywhere in the offensive zone. On her first goal against the Blades, for example, she swooped down on a rebound. On her second goal, she lifted a perfectly placed backhand into the upper corner. For the third goal, she emerged with the puck from the corner and shot it low between the goalie's legs.

The United (6-5-1 in the conference, 11-10-3 overall) are much improved this season, despite the presence of several young players. Herzog plays on a line with freshman wings Maggie Blaisdell and Lizzy Walston that has really been clicking. Senior forward Alyssa Ruhland has returned from a broken ankle, and senior Catherine Quinlan and sophomore Delaney Middlebrook have shown consistency on defense.

Herzog has stepped into a leadership role that she likes, but she said her teammates

make it easy. "We have great chemistry on this team," she said. "I'm pleased with how our season is going. I like to get everyone really pumped up for a game, to make sure that no one is nervous. Part of (leadership) is the way you say things."

Herzog said she tries to be especially positive with the younger players, since she recalls being treated so well by the club's veterans when she started. "It was such a help that the older girls were so supportive when I was an 8th-grader," she said, "and this year we have four senior captains who do a great job."

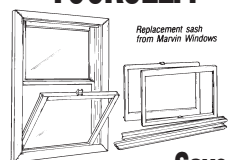
Herzog, who is also an outstanding golfer and volleyball player, said she is pretty happy with the development of her hockey skills, except for one thing. "I need to improve my speed," she said. "I need my skates to keep up with my hands."

She has already taken strides in that direction, having spent several months last year as a student in a Highland Park skating program that specializes in developing power skating. "I could feel myself getting better," she said.

The United are now immersed in the Section 4A playoffs, which continue through February 21 at the St. Thomas (Academy) Ice Arena. They will be vying there for their first trip to the state tournament, which is set for February 25-28 at the Xcel Energy Center.

"We have a young team," Herzog said, "so we won't be feeling much pressure."

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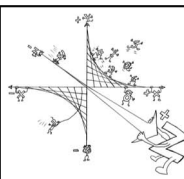
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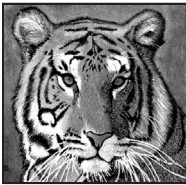
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