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Myers assembles century of stories capturing impact of local Ford Plant

His documentary 'Made in St. Paul' will premiere on January 14 on TPT 2

BY DAVE PAGE

Seven years ago Peter Myers was doing research for a documentary film about University Avenue when he met Brian McMahon who, as the executive director of University United, was helping businesses and residents prepare for the construction of the light-rail Green Line. McMahon was also writing a book about the history of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park, and he passed his enthusiasm on to Myers.

The result is "Made in St. Paul: Stories from the Ford Plant," which will premiere on Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) at 9 p.m. on Monday, January 14.

A lifelong resident of St. Paul, Myers moved to Highland Park in 1980. Some 20 years later, he



Peter Myers, creator of the documentary *Made in St. Paul*, poses before a photo of the assembly line at Ford Motor Company's former plant in Highland Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and his wife built a house on Edgumbe Road, and, according to Myers, "We have no intention of ever leaving Highland."

Myers' one regret about the many years he has spent in Highland is that he never toured the Ford Plant. As part of his research, he was able to get inside Ford's former hydroelectric facility on the Mississippi River. "It's amazing!" he said.

"It hasn't changed since it opened in 1925. It's still making power, and you could eat off the floor."

The power plant was the first thing Ford sold after the company announced in 2006 that it was closing the assembly plant. Brookfield Renewable, one of the sponsors of Myers' documentary,

'MADE IN ST. PAUL' ▶2

Visitation sisters close Mendota Hts. monastery

But the virtues of the nuns live on in mission of school

BY ANNE HAUTH

Generations of students at Convent of the Visitation School have learned that what they want to be when they grow up carries less importance than who they want to be. "Be who you are, and be that well" is the school's guiding principle, taken from a quote by St. Francis de Sales. St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) was cofounder of the Visitation Order, and according to Visitation faculty, students, alumnae and friends, nobody lives this motto better than the Visitation sisters who founded Convent of the Visitation School in St. Paul in 1873.

Later this month, the three sisters who are still working at the PreK-12 school—Sister Mary Paula McCarthy, 88, Sister Mary Denise Villame, 80, and Sister Brigid Marie Keefe, 76—will close the adjacent 40,570-square-foot monastery where they have lived. Many people may see this transition as the end of an era, but McCarthy just



The last Visitation sisters to occupy the monastery in Mendota Heights are Mary Denise Villame (left), Brigid Marie Keefe and Mary Paula McCarthy.

shook her head and said with a smile, "It isn't. We believe so strongly in our faculty to carry our legacy forward."

Rene Gavic, Visitation's head of school, agreed. "To honor what the sisters have built, we can't think of this as an ending," she said. "It has long been their vision that the school would continue in the hands of the laity, and they are calling on us to embrace this moment with joyful optimism."

Joyful optimism is a hallmark of the Visitation sisters. In 1873 six members of the religious order traveled up the Mississippi River by steamship from St. Louis to St. Paul at the invitation of St. Paul's Bishop Thomas Grace. The sisters opened a school for girls in the Lowertown neighborhood of St. Paul just three weeks after they arrived. The school moved shortly thereafter to the corner of Robert Street and Aurora Avenue. Then in 1913, former Visitation student Clara Hill, the daughter of local railroad tycoon James J. Hill, funded and oversaw the building of a new school and monastery at the corner of Fairmount Avenue and Grotto Street.

Longtime residents of St. Paul may remember the dark red brick building, prominent square bell tower and 8-foot wall that enclosed the monastery and school at 720 Fairmount. This location served the growing Visitation community until 1966, when space constraints necessitated a move to the current campus in Mendota

VISITATION MONASTERY ▶3

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1◀ 'MADE IN ST. PAUL'

now owns the power plant.

The bulk of the old Ford plant is being redeveloped by Ryan Companies, but the steam plant adjacent to the Ford dam is still on the market. "It might make a great restaurant," Myers said. "It's got spectacular views of the lock and dam, the river and the Veterans' Home."

Myers ran a capital campaign for TPT in 1987 and eventually became vice president of communications for the public television station. He started his own marketing firm in 1995. Some of his clients needed him to make films, so he used his connections at TPT to gain some experience. Bit by the film bug, Myers shot his first documentary in 2009: "Never Stop Singing" chronicled the history of choral music in Minnesota.

"I found I loved telling stories," Myers said, and the Ford Plant offered a compelling narrative. "I started to wonder what was going to happen to those 122 acres, the most prime development opportunity in any city in the country," he said. "But I realized if I waited to see the end, it would be too late for me to make the film."

So instead, he decided to tell the story about the founding of the Ford Plant and its impact on the neighborhood. He wanted to find out why St. Paul was chosen as the site of the plant, how a residential neighborhood developed around the plant instead of other industries, and what were some of the more obscure tales involving the plant.

Like McMahon before him, Myers quickly became enamored with the founder of Ford Motor Company. "Henry Ford was a complicated man," Myers said. "He was very environmentally conscious, so he wanted clean hydroelectric power. He insisted on having access to railroads, but he wanted to be able to revert to river transportation if the railroads tried to raise the shipping rates. He wanted silica sand for making glass, and he wanted a good labor pool. He figured farmers would make excellent employees and could work in the winters."

Ford was anti-Semitic, according to Myers, though he hired Jewish industrial architect Albert Kahn to design what was considered the most beautiful assembly plant of its day. Ford also instituted a wage of \$5 a day for his employees—twice what the average worker was making at the time.



Outside of the Ford Plant in Highland Park on May 4, 1925, a Mr. Williams stood beside his new car, the first Model T to roll off the assembly line there.

"But he stuck with the Model T too long," Myers said, "so the competition was able to put pressure on him. In turn, he put pressure on his workers." The speeding-up of Ford's assembly lines and other matters led to some acrimonious labor disputes, but those mostly boiled over in Detroit.

Several of the dozen Ford workers Myers interviewed began work at the plant in Highland Park in the years after World War II. Myers used archival footage to document the Ford Plant's contributions to the war effort in the first half of the 1940s, including the production of 5,000 M-8 armored cars.

Women began showing up at the Ford Plant in significant numbers during World War II. They tended to disappear when the war ended, but a few women eventually found jobs there beginning in the 1960s. Toni Conley was one of them.

As Myers relates in "Made in St. Paul," Conley began as a switchboard operator at Ford in 1963, and for 15 years she single-handedly ran the busiest cord board in the five-state region. In 1978, Ford instituted a second shift, and Conley was offered the job of supervisor for material handling. "Ford promoted from within," she said. "Workers really appreciated that. It made us feel more like a family."

For the first five years, Conley was the only female supervisor at Ford, often working 13-hour shifts—from 4 a.m. to 5 p.m. She recalled those long hours with fondness. "I absolutely loved it!"

she said.

Conley bought her first house in Highland in the early 1970s. She met her husband, Pat Conley, at the plant, and they still live in Highland. "Anyone who works in Highland and doesn't live in Highland is missing the boat," she said. She retired after 31 years at Ford in 1994, and Pat, a quality control engineer and predelivery manager, retired in 1995 after 30 years at Ford.

Myers does not shy away from the labor and management disputes that sometimes flared up at the Ford Plant in Highland, but he came to appreciate why so many Ford workers felt extremely attached to their workplace. "It was an assembly plant," he explained, "so it wasn't as messy, noisy or dirty as a steel plant."

New technology eventually changed the employment landscape at Ford, but for the most part the workers did not resent the automation. Robots freed them from the more mind-numbing and physically demanding tasks, and Ford offered to train the affected workers for other assignments. Conley herself was sent to Detroit to learn how to operate one of the first computers at the Highland Park assembly plant.

"The closing of the Ford Plant in 2011 marked the end of an era," Myers said. His documentary is an attempt to shed some light on what he calls "a fascinating piece of Minnesota history."

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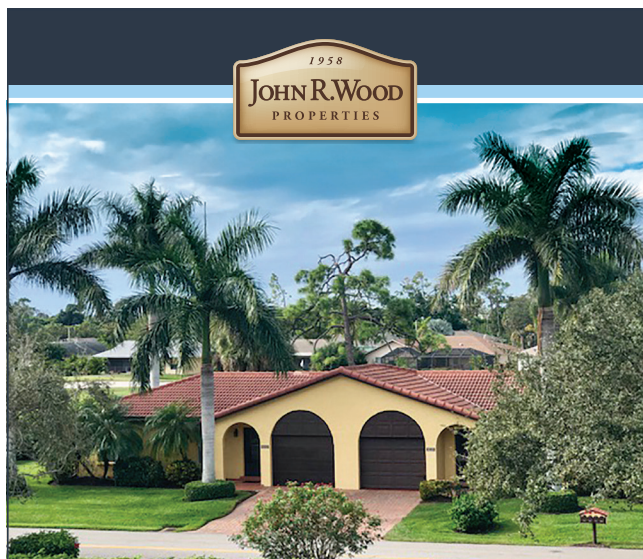
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1 ◀ VISITATION MONASTERY

Heights. Forty-five sisters were then living at the monastery and working at the school. But while the school continued to grow over the ensuing decades, the number of sisters declined.

Older Visitation alumnae remember the sisters as a vibrant bunch who had their hands in every aspect of the school. They led the administration, taught every class and even maintained the grounds. However, as their membership diminished their roles changed, and younger alumnae and current students described the nuns as loving, grandmotherly figures. The sisters inspired each generation of students all the same.

They “had a gentle way of directing us all to be the best we could be,” said Mary Donovan Sutherland, a 1974 Visitation graduate who taught at the school for 27 years. “I always tried my best to live up to their hopes and dreams for the school and the students. I think everyone who walks through those doors takes a bit of that away with them.”

The sisters had an amazing ability to engage the students as learners while nurturing their relationships with others, according to Gavic. “The sisters’ faces always lit up around the students,” she said. “They were never too busy to be present and to meet the students right where they were.”

Each sister brought her unique talents to this work. Villaume excelled with the school’s youngest students and was instrumental in developing Visitation’s Montessori program. “She could speak to a 3-year-old as though that child was an adult, giving the child the dignity of a full human being,” McCarthy said.

Keefe, who taught religion, is full of rich perceptions, McCarthy added. “She had a talent for challenging the students’ minds and bringing them to fresh insights,” she said.

McCarthy said her own talent was spreading a passion for social justice. Visitation students perform community service projects with the group of Visitation sisters living in North Minneapolis. McCarthy also helped found VISTORY, a cooperative week-long service project in an underserved area of the U.S. for



The Visitation sisters participated in the liturgy of the hours at the Fairmount Avenue campus of the monastery and school circa 1965.

“The sisters had a gentle way of directing us all to be the best we could be,” said Visitation grad Mary Donovan Sutherland. “I think everyone who walks through those doors takes a bit of that away with them.”

the students of Visitation high schools across the country.

Twice a week, McCarthy sold popcorn and cookies in the school’s hallways to offset the costs of the VISTORY trip. When she did, the girls and boys in the coeducational lower school would gather at her side, helping her make change in more ways than one. “You can’t imagine how delightful they are, and how I couldn’t walk down the hall without a thousand hugs,” she said of the children.

In the 1980s McCarthy felt what she described as a “vocation within a vocation” to help ensure that the charism of the Visitation Order—known as Salesian spirituality—continued to have an influence. She began mentoring a group of lay people committed to understanding and living the Salesian virtues of gentle strength, patience, humility and kindness. With that goal in mind, the sisters established a Salesian Studies of-

fice in the school in 2004.

Anne Williams, the current director of Salesian Studies at Visitation, described the office as an effort to ensure that the sisters’ spirituality lives on. Toward that end, she and the rest of the faculty incorporate Salesian virtues into the school’s curricula, events and professional development programs, just as the sisters did when they ran the school.

The school and the Visitation sisters are still exploring how to use the vacant monastery. According to McCarthy, the sisters will remain involved as long as they are able. “I’m of the age where I should be sitting in a rocking chair doing my knitting,” she laughed, “though I don’t believe it for a minute!”

But even McCarthy’s knitting has intention. Whenever the sisters learn about somebody who is in pain or grief, they send a hand-knit prayer shawl and prayer book “to remind them that they’re always in our love and prayers,” she said.

According to Gavic, the Visitation sisters’ life work has been to sustain a school that educates the mind as well as the heart of students. She is certain that the school will continue to thrive with the sisters’ vision guiding every step.

Though joyful optimism is the prevailing sentiment of the school community, “this change is deeply felt,” Gavic said. “We have all loved these women so dearly.”

City sets hearing on 2040 comprehensive plan

BY JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the city’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan at 8:30 a.m. Friday, January 11, in City Hall. The plan, which has been in the works for the past few years, was released for public comment in November and is expected to be reviewed by the City Council and Metropolitan Council for approval later this year.

The plan, which has drawn more than 400 comments thus far, is a blueprint for development in St. Paul over the next 20

years. It guides everything from zoning and land use changes to capital improvements. It is also used by the Met Council to guide investments and policies and becomes part of the comprehensive plan for the entire Twin Cities region.

One focus of the plan is to promote the development of “neighborhood nodes” with more dense, mixed-use developments. Another is the expansion of the city’s multimodal transportation system. The plan outlines an ongoing need to address the city’s changing demographics in improving its recreation centers, parks, trails and open spaces.

Other chapters address the city’s handling of surface water, ground water, waste water, stormwater and drinking water; the identification and preservation of architecturally, culturally and historically significant districts, buildings, sites and vistas; the promotion of a greater variety of housing options; and efforts to protect citizens from climate change by establishing green building standards, developing robust transit, constructing multimodal streets and encouraging energy efficiency.

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Marshall landlord requests rezoning to bring his 10 units into compliance

By JANE MCCLURE

Weeks after a large-scale rezoning of the western end of Marshall Avenue took effect, the owner of a 10-unit apartment building at 1819 Marshall is seeking to rezone his property from Traditional Neighborhoods 1 (TN1) to TN2 to eliminate the nonconforming status of his property. Landlord Joe Knapp will appear before the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on January 3 with the support of the Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee for his rezoning request.

Knapp's property had been zoned for low-density residential before October when the City Council approved the rezoning of hundreds of properties along Marshall west of Hamline Avenue. Knapp said he was not aware of the rezoning, but if he had been he would have requested the TN2 designation to bring his building into conformance with the zoning code.

Constructed in 1912 on an 80-foot-wide lot, Knapp's building on the northeast corner of Marshall and Fairview Avenue has always been multi-family housing. Old city directories indicate that the number of apartments have varied over the years. Ramsey County records show 10 units in the building. The city's Department of Safety and Inspections has nine units on record, possibly because a former owner's son lived in one of the units.

Knapp had considered applying for a variance from the city's zoning code, but opted to

TN1 zoning allows the use of up to seven units in Knapp's current building. TN2 zoning would allow Knapp to use all 10 units.

seek a rezoning because the process appeared to be less cumbersome. He has extensively renovated the building since purchasing it a year ago, modernizing eight of the apartments, replacing plumbing and electrical systems, redoing the exterior and adding a new fence.

TN1 zoning allows the use of up to seven units in Knapp's current building. TN2 zoning would allow Knapp to use all 10 units. Both zoning designations allow building heights of up to 35 feet. However, in TN2 zoning, buildings can go higher than that with additional setbacks and a special condition use permit.

UPDC Land Use Committee members debated the rezoning request at length before agreeing that the change makes sense. UPDC committee member Josh Capistrant, who lives near the apartment building, spoke in favor of the rezoning. "I have to believe this building will be in place for a long time," he said. "It has really had a significant investment recently."

Land Use Committee co-chair Dean Nelson agreed while praising the recent work to fix up the building.



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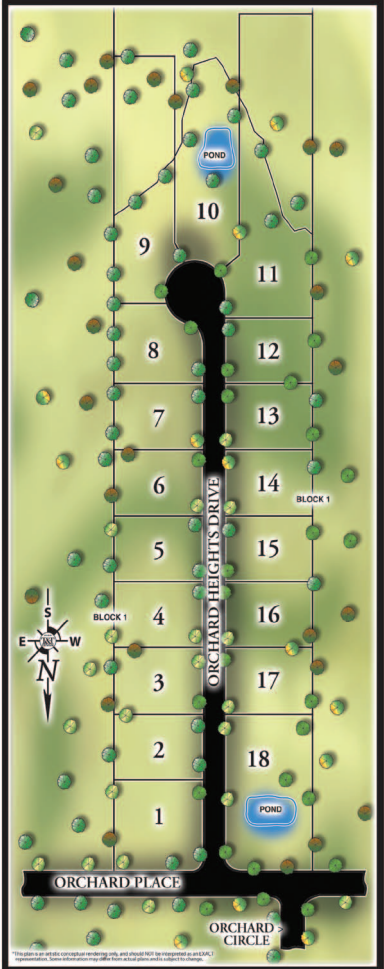


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City Council amends organized trash contract to resolve late-fee problems

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council on December 19 amended its contract with St. Paul Haulers LLC to change the billing practices of the eight residential trash haulers serving single-family homes and small apartment buildings in the city.

Property owners will continue to receive quarterly statements from their trash hauler. However, now the statements will be mailed on the fifth day of January, April, July and October with payments due by the 25th of those months. The amendment is expected to resolve complaints about some garbage haulers' billing practice.

St. Paul moved to organized residential garbage collection on October 1, 2018, requiring all single-family homes and duplexes and apartment buildings of up to four units to pay for trash collection using the hauler assigned to their neighborhood. Some property owners complained that their haulers billed them as of the program start date and assessed late fees if payment was not received within several days. Late fees were charged to some people who paid their bills in October.

Most complaints were directed at the billing practices of Advanced Disposal, which serves portions of the Merriam Park, Midway and West End neighborhoods. In November city officials asked residents who were assessed late fees to contact the St. Paul Department of Public Works. "We believe that this is not allowed under our agreement with St. Paul Haulers, and we apologize for the inconvenience," the city stated on its website.

Public Works spokesperson Lisa Hiebert did not know how many people were affected by the late fees. Advanced Disposal, which is based in Illinois, did not respond to requests for comment.

Any property owner who paid their trash bill for the last three months of 2018 in full but got a nonpayment notice or paid a late fee will have their late fees waived or credited, according to the Public Works Department. All customers will receive a letter outlining the bill adjustment.

"We've been working closely with St. Paul Haulers to address and find solutions to any operational issues that may have arisen in the first few weeks of the new citywide garbage service," said Kathy Lantry, director of Public Works. "This is a huge systemic change for everyone—the city, the haulers and residents. We're committed, along with the haulers, to make this a success for all households participating in the program."

Property owners still need to pay their trash bills on time or late fees will be charged, city officials emphasized. And if the bill is not paid in full by the end of the quarter, the city will add outstanding garbage service fees and late fees to the property owner's property tax bill at the end of the year.

City officials and the eight members of St. Paul Haulers LLC are scheduled to review their contract in January. It is not clear what if anything could change at this point.

The opponents of organized collection who collected more than 5,000 signatures on each of two petitions seeking a city-wide referendum on organized collection announced in De-

cember that they are raising money to sue the city over the program.

Opponents have complained about being forced to pay higher fees for trash collection. Some generate very little trash and in the past were able to share a trash cart with a neighbor or haul their trash themselves to a disposal facility. The owners of duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes have also complained about being required to pay for a separate trash cart for each of their units.

The eight members of the St. Paul Haulers consortium — Advanced Disposal, Aspen, Gene's, Highland Sanitation, Ken Berquist and Son, Pete's, Republic and Waste Management — range from Fortune 500 companies to small family businesses, according to Hiebert.

The haulers were assigned routes based on the share of the St. Paul market they had under the city's previous open system of trash collection. At the time, there were 15 haulers in the consortium. However, seven haulers eventually sold their shares to other consortium members, and the largest hauler now serves about 25 percent of the 74,000 households covered by the program.

For more information on trash collection, visit the city's website at stpaul.gov/garbage or call 651-266-6101.

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Viewpoint

Be kind to your alley-plow captain

BY NEAL BERNARDS

It's a thankless job, the job of alley-plow captain. If you're lucky, you collect enough money from your neighbors to cover the cost of your own contribution to the plowing service (\$20, or about \$2 an hour after all your time is added up). If not, you're left holding the bag for a deadbeat neighbor or an absentee landlord who can't find the time to write a check for an amount smaller than the average tank of gas.

Readers unfamiliar with the peculiarities of St. Paul's public works may not realize that citizens are responsible for clearing their own alleys of snow. Mind you, we pay the city a fair penny for right-of-way maintenance, but it doesn't cover alley plowing. Each block must dupe one of its own to select a contractor, sign the agreement, front the cash for the season's plowing and collect from each resident of the block.

To be fair, 90 percent of the residents on our alley rush to pay me personally by check or cash, understanding how unrewarding the task of alley-plowing captain can be. They're effusive in their thanks, knowing full well that I could blow a gasket at any time, wash my hands of the whole business or, worse, guilt one of them into taking over.

My initiation as alley-plow captain came about 10 years ago when my neighbor Joe said I should take over the job he'd performed so admirably for a decade. We all have a Joe on our block. He's the guy who can recite the names and addresses of every resident on your street since the Carter administration, the guy with every tool known to humankind (and he'll let you use them), the one who's aware of every movement on your block—mail delivery, construction work, garbage collection, out-of-town visitors.

Our Joe is old school. No email, Venmo or electronic payments for him. No, when it came to collection time, Joe would limp down the sidewalk on his swollen legs and pound at your screen door to announce that the alley-plow payment was due. God save the neighbor who didn't offer immediate payment, for Joe would return, often the next evening during prime time, startling you when his stern, bearded face appeared at the front door, asking if you had payment now.

When Joe asked me to take over the job, his flannel shirt was open to mid-navel, displaying the angry red scar from his recent open-heart surgery. How could I, in good conscience, say no to old Joe? Though my mild-mannered demeanor lay in stark contrast to his brusque approach, I figured I could do it. Through this act of civic duty, I reasoned, I could instruct my then young sons in what it meant to be an active member of the community. I could get to know my neighbors better. I could become a better human being.

What I actually developed was a slow-burning anxiety that blossomed every fall when the season's plowing invoice arrived, knowing that in all likelihood it would be midwinter before I collected the last payment. Being alley-plow captain gave me a new appreciation for those who organize summer block parties, street fairs, school fundraisers and the like. It also gave me a growing disdain for certain members of our little community.

The chutzpah of one set of neighbors almost set me over the edge. I'd never had a problem collecting from an elderly couple up the alley. Then one year I received no payment. It had been a month. Perplexed, I channeled my inner Joe and called to ask if I could expect their payment soon.

"No, we're not paying," replied the matriarch.

Shocked at the bluntness of the octogenarian, I asked why.

"We don't think they do a very good job."

Almost at a loss for words, I stammered, "So you want me to pay your portion of the plowing bill?"

"Yes," she said matter-of-factly.

Stunned by the brush-off, from folks who lived just 100 feet away, I hung up. It's been three years now, and we haven't spoken since. However, in my best Scandinavian, passive-aggressive manner, I now name them in the plowing invoices I distribute each year to explain why everyone's portion has increased slightly. Hell hath no fury like an alley-plow captain scorned.

So be kind to your alley-plow captain. And if, during the next heavy snowfall, you feel a need to complain about sloppy or delayed plowing, don't. Unless, of course, you'd like the job yourself next year.



Inbox

An irresponsible tax levy

I've lived in the West Seventh area for the last 35 years. My 2019 property tax represents an increase of 56.2 percent over last year. This is a one year tax increase of \$898. I'm retired and recently received notification that my Social Security is increasing 2.8 percent, or about \$46 per month. Apparently, I should be happy.

The inflation rate for 2018 is projected to be around 2 percent. Something is wrong when my property taxes increase 26 times the inflation rate, regardless of the assessor saying my house has risen in value by \$52,000 in one year with no improvements made.

St. Paul is moving in the wrong direction. People will be leaving.

Lewis Soukup
West End

Don't spoil a good walk

Retired people, men's and women's leagues, high school and college athletes, their children and grandchildren all love to golf at the slow pace of the nine-hole course in Highland Park ("St. Paul presents new concepts for Highland 9-Hole," *Villager*, December 5). We love St. Paul the way it is. Don't fence us in. We love our peaceful green spaces.

T. Knowles
Merriam Park

For a future without cars

The only way we are going to get people out of their cars and using public transit is by creating disincentives for having a car and immeasurably improving public transit.

In Amsterdam it costs a car owner \$300 per month to park on a street where the owner resides and \$5 per hour to park anywhere else in the city. The central train station has 1,200 trains per day passing through it, both inner-city and intercity, and there are thousands of bike racks outside the station to accommodate bicyclists who ride there to take the train. It is a city of bicycles, which have their own lanes and, in the busiest sections of town, even their own traffic signals. Bicycles always have the right of way. Buses run everywhere and very frequently. The rare times one could not bike or take a bus or a train, taxis were available.

With a single stroke of his pen, Richard Nixon wiped out 95 percent of all passenger rail traffic in the U.S. on May 1, 1971, giving us the pathetic services of Amtrak. Years ago, it

was possible to reach towns such as Winona, Rochester and Duluth by train several times a day. We need to bring back frequent, reliable passenger rail service and not with designs that were the going thing in the late 19th century. We need to rethink rail design—perhaps pods on overhead monorails that run so frequently that ticketed passengers could hop on and off as desired until the final destination is reached.

If we had all these options, why would we need cars? Our entire auto industry could be retooled to build the transport equipment of the future, before the planet chokes on fouled air. It was Standard Oil and General Motors that were responsible for having our extensive local streetcar lines ripped out in the mid-1940s to the early 1950s to create a bigger market for cars, and look what a traffic mess we have—and how expensive it is to fix what was not broken.

Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland

More cost-effective than a wall

As someone who saw the Statue of Liberty from the deck of an ocean liner full of displaced persons, I think I may have some insight into this present situation. Many of the passengers on the RMS Franconia in March 1955 had been waiting since the end of World War II. Others were relatives of those who had come before. Everybody had a sponsor: a family, a church or a civic group. These sponsors were vetted and understood their obligations. If the person sponsored somehow failed, the sponsor was responsible and obliged to repay the government for any costs created by their problems.

Why not establish reception centers in every major city in every state? These could be in underused government properties manned by retired military or civil servants who have been vetted. They would interview and process the applicants and collect and record the fees. A \$1,500 registration and processing fee would be required, which is not much more than many undocumented already spend just trying to avoid deportation.

Anyone could come in and register (documented or undocumented), but he or she would have to have established a relationship with a sponsor. Corporations could sponsor workers, as could unions and small businesses. Sponsors would have to post a surety bond and would lose these monies if they or their guest workers violated the rules of the agreement.

6◀ INBOX

Becoming a registered guest worker would not lead to citizenship, and would require renewal every couple of years. You could change sponsors at this time or relocate to a reception center closer to where you live and work. If you wished to become a U.S. citizen or a legal alien, then you would have to return to your homeland, begin the paperwork and go through the process. During this time you could return and work in the U.S.. Conviction for a felony or a history of failure to comply with the requirements could mean ineligibility to remain in the U.S.

The technology to authenticate applicants exists and is continually being upgraded. While it would be costly, as would the initiation of this infrastructure, with potentially 15 million users all paying for the privilege of applying, it would turn out to be more cost-effective than a physical barrier and provide the U.S. with the needed manpower and some control over the future of all who choose to live here.

*Tom Dunne
Downtown St. Paul*

Take action on climate change

The U.S. Global Change Research Program released its fourth National Climate Assessment on November 23, corroborating the conclusions of the recent report from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. That is, we need to increase the scale of climate change mitigation and adaptation to "avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment and human health over the coming decades."

The assessment notes that climate change impacts are already being felt in the U.S. If left unchecked, they will cause increasing damage to infrastructure and negatively affect economic growth. Higher temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns will cause a deterioration in agricultural productivity resulting in large economic losses. Warmer winter temperatures resulting in less snow and ice cover will impair winter activities. Changes in wildlife migration will have implications for hunting and fishing.

The most effective way to mitigate climate change is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A carbon fee and dividend program, as proposed by the Citizens' Climate Lobby, is one way to accelerate the growth in clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*Clayton Dumcum
Macalester-Groveland*

Support the Carbon Dividend Act

Sweeping, bipartisan climate legislation: These are four words you don't hear together very often. But on Tuesday, two Republicans and three Democrats in Congress introduced the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. It puts a steadily rising fee on carbon pollution and gives all the money back to Americans through a monthly dividend.

As low-carbon energy sources become cheaper relative to fossil fuels, utilities, consumers and investors make the switch. According to the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, carbon emissions will need to fall 39 percent below 2010 levels by 2030. This legislation would decrease emissions by over 45 percent by 2030.

Carbon dividends are fair. Low- and middle-income people buy fewer goods, fly less and generally contribute fewer emissions. The

dividend, changing only based on a household's size, is progressive. Carbon dividends protect the bottom two-thirds of Americans from any increases in energy costs.

This bipartisan solution protects our health, economy and future. With a president who refuses to accept his own administration's report that climate change will decrease GDP by 10 percent, climate change can feel hopeless. Have hope. Five members of Congress are leading the way. They know climate change cannot be a partisan issue and have a solution that is effective and fair and matches the size and urgency of the problem.

*Peter J. Jarka-Sellers
Macalester-Groveland*

Maintain our national parks

For years I have enjoyed our national parks for hiking, camping, exploring and sightseeing. In Minnesota we are fortunate to have five national park sites, including Voyageurs, Pipestone, Grand Portage and portions of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers. Visitation to national parks is at record highs. Last year 1.2 million people visited national parks in Minnesota, and they spent more than \$64 million in our local communities, which created 924 jobs.

Unfortunately, increased visitation, aging facilities and inconsistent federal funding has taken a toll. Right now, national parks in Minnesota need \$17.8 million for infrastructure repairs. Crumbling historical markers, outdated electrical systems and deteriorating trails and roads are now common.

The good news is that Congress is considering bills to create dedicated funding for park maintenance. The U.S. House of Representatives' Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510) and the Senate's Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) would direct federal funds each year to ensure that our national parks are maintained and accessible for all visitors.

In addition to fixing these American treasures, this investment would help the state's job market. A recent study commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that over 200 infrastructure-related jobs would be created or supported in Minnesota if Congress invested in repairs to national park sites.

As a proud Minnesotan, I am delighted that our state is home to some of America's finest natural and cultural landscapes. These national park sites offer us places to contemplate the outdoors or learn about our shared history. Because of that, they are too critical to neglect. That's why I hope Congress will see these bills through to final passage so that our national parks can be enjoyed for generations to come.

*Matt Steinrueck
Whittier, Minneapolis*

Who don't you love?

All are not welcome here, despite the plethora of pastel signs proclaiming that they are. A subclass of Minnesotans, the abortable, are killed every Monday through Saturday at neighborhood clinics. Red and white lawn signs chide us to "love your neighbor," inferring that we do not. If we admitted who we do not love as ourselves, the unwelcome unborn babies would be at the top of the list.

*Ann Redding
Fuller, Minneapolis*

The writer is president of the Christian Action League of Minnesota.

VILLAGER

Volume 66, Number 23

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116
myvillager.com
651-699-1462

The Villager serves the Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Summit-University and West 7th neighborhoods of St. Paul, the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis, Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights.

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CIRCULATION

The Villager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. The paper has a press run of 60,000, including 50,000 copies delivered to households and businesses and another 10,000 copies distributed via newsstands. Mail subscriptions are available at \$38 per year for those living outside the area.

Next Issue: January 16

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Education

Really going to town

Junior Achievement pulls out all the stops for its innovative \$17M learning center on University Ave.

BY FRANK JOSSI

A former charter school building at 1745 University Ave. opens the week of January 7 as the new St. Paul headquarters for Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest (JAUM). Named the James R. and Patricia Hemak Experiential Learning Center, the extensively renovated 100-year-old building gives the organization enough room to double the number of students it serves by its onsite programs from 17,000 to 34,000.

"We really wanted to expand our programs to reach more kids," said president and chief executive officer Gina Blayney. "Junior Achievement was in Maplewood, but we really wanted to move back to the urban core to be closer to a larger population of kids. We can now double the number of kids we can serve in two programs and have an incubator center for high schoolers."

The new \$17 million learning center is part of a \$20 million Let's Build campaign that will pay for the building and programming, Blayney said. The building has new offices with improved technology, a training center and auditorium on the first floor, a new incubator for high school students in the basement, and expanded versions of its two popular programs, JA BizTown and JA Finance Park, on the two upper levels.

Sustainability is one of the focuses of the learning center. The facility boasts a 40-kilowatt solar installation on the roof, Blayney said, and students will have the opportunity to monitor its energy production. The organization hopes to reach LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council within the next three years.



Wendy Patzlaff organizes learning props in the Great Clips model salon in BizTown.

Mortenson Construction, which managed the building's renovation and is one of the country's largest installers of solar panels and wind turbines, cosponsors a program in which students learn about opportunities in clean energy.

"We're excited about the new building and the chance to bring financial education to up-and-coming youths," said Kelly Mansell of Mortenson. "Selfishly, they teach business and entrepreneurial skills, which is what we need in our workforce as well. It's helping us



Ann Marie Giefer sets equipment in the Mortenson Construction shop, part of the BizTown simulated city in Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest's new experiential learning center at 1745 University Ave. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

feed our own employee pipeline."

The learning center devotes the 12,000-square-foot second floor to JA BizTown, a simulated city where students in grades 4-6 learn what it is like to be an adult for a day. They apply to work at one of 18 businesses, complete with storefronts, learning about loans, sales, marketing, paychecks and banking, among other activities, Blayney said.

Teachers prepare students for JA BizTown by using a curriculum that fits with state standards. Local companies sponsor businesses in the simulation. More than 100 students can participate in the town at one time, along with 36 volunteers and three to five teachers.

"JA BizTown is about giving students a chance to use those basic skills they learned in the classroom in an economic environment," Blayney said.

The first class in the new learning center will include students from Highland Park Elementary School led by Tani Winther. "Last year, we had the opportunity to bring some fourth-graders with us and their enthusiasm has carried over to this year's class," she said. "Our whole fifth-grade is buzzing about our upcoming trip to BizTown. This curriculum builds confidence and lets students practice

positive communication, cooperation, integrity, independence, respect and self-management skills in a safe environment."

Middle and high school students attend JA Finance Park, which focuses more on financial literacy, personal finance, credit, income and budgets, investments and banking. The simulation is designed to improve college and workforce readiness through giving students a host of financial decisions they have to make throughout the day, Blayney said.

The basement hosts the JA Innovation Incubator, where 86 high schoolers will work on their own businesses with assistance from volunteers. The students will have access to state-of-the-art technology, including a digital business startup platform. Past companies included one that created a coffee shop in a high school and another that sold biodegradable bags.

The companies are liquidated after 20 weeks, but students can restart them and potentially submit them to the Minnesota Cup's youth division startup competitions. "This generation is very entrepreneurial in terms of their aspirations," Blayney said. "They don't

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT ► 10

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In step with the St. Paul Public Schools

New start times in 2019-20 will offer older students an extra hour of sleep

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

After years of theories, research, debates and many meetings with parents and staff, the St. Paul Public Schools will be shifting its school start times in September, giving middle and high school students an extra hour to sleep in the morning while asking many elementary students to begin classes an hour earlier.

The 6½-hour school day for most St. Paul middle-schoolers and high-schoolers will shift from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Several elementary schools will keep their 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. school day, but many of those that are now in session from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. will be conducting classes from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. next year.

The change is largely driven by research showing that the sleep patterns of adolescents favor a later start in the school day. According to a study by Dr. Kyla L. Wahlstrom of the University of Minnesota College of Education

and Human Development, later school start times have little to no effect on high school students' grades, but they do lead to improvements in attendance, attention spans and mental and physical health.

"We expect students to be better rested," said Charlene Hoff, principal of Highland Park Middle School. "The additional hour in the morning will give them more time to be prepared and get ready to begin their day."

Wahlstrom discovered that elementary students learn better in the early morning. However, the primary reason for the 7:30 a.m. start time in the lower grades is the logistics of bus-ing. In a large district like St. Paul's, start times need to be staggered. The rub for many elementary school parents is that during the long winter their young children will be standing on the corner in the predawn dark waiting for a bus. For other parents, the challenge will be making new arrangements for after-school child care.

"We're working for better communications



The sun was just peeking over the horizon when these Highland Park High School students arrived at school in November of 2016. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

between the district, neighborhood residents and the police to make sure everybody understands that there'll be more and younger children on the streets in the morning and to keep an eye out for them," said Jackie Turner, the school district's chief of operations.

"We want to stress that it's a misconception that it's dangerous to wait for a bus on a street corner," said Tom Burr, the district's director

of transportation. "Virtually always, one or more adults, usually parents, are there with the kids at the corner. But we'll be handling some situations case-by-case, and we may even be setting up temporary bus stops in the winter. We'll also be providing education about walking safely to and from bus stops,

SCHOOL START TIMES ► 10



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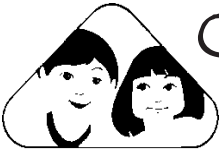
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9◀ SCHOOL START TIMES

and we'll be providing reflective materials (for their clothing)."

The debate about changing start times in the St. Paul Public Schools has gone on for at least a decade. Two years ago, the St. Paul School Board directed district staff to develop a plan to change school start times beginning in the 2018-19 school year. When that did not happen, they approved a plan to institute the change in the 2019-20 school year.

The school district has established three subcommittees to address the various contingencies of the school start-time change—one for child care options before and after school, one for scheduling the use of athletic facilities for after-school sports and the third for attending to transportation issues as they arise.

The Child Care Subcommittee "has been working on new partnerships with the city's various after-school programs as well as private and nonprofit day-care programs," said subcommittee chair Tiffany Weeks.

Weeks is the supervisor of the school district's Discovery Club, which for a fee offers academic, cultural and recreational activities for elementary school children both before and after school at close to a dozen different locations.

The city of St. Paul offers Rec Check, a free after-school program that offers a variety of organized activities, including arts and crafts, reading and special events. For a fee, another city program, S'More Fun, provides recreational, cultural, social and educational activities. Private nonprofit agencies tapped for district partnerships after school include the YMCA, YWCA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities.

"We've hired a coordinator to help parents navigate the various options," Weeks said. "We'll be conducting a survey after the program starts to determine how many more students need programming after school."

Horace Mann Elementary School principal Jim Litwin is not expecting any significant change in enrollment at his Highland Park school. "But our staff, students and families have been very pleased with Discovery Club," he said, referring to the program that is available there both before and after school.

Determining just where and when extra-curricular activities can take place with one less hour after school is a work in progress, according to Tom Parent, chair of the Athletics Subcommittee and the district's director of facilities. "Everything has to be coordinated with city and county facility operators on mutual use of each other's facilities, both outdoors and in," Parent said. "One help is

St. Paul Elementary School start times in 2019-20

High schools and middle schools in the St. Paul Public Schools will be switching to an 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. school day next fall if they are not there already. For the district's elementary and grades PreK-8 schools, the schedules will vary. Here are the start and end times for elementary and grade schools in and around the Villager's distribution area:

Adams Spanish	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Benjamin E. Mays	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Capitol Hill (grades 1-8)	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cherokee Heights	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Expo	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Four Seasons Arts+	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Galtier	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Groveland Park	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hamline	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Highland Park	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Horace Mann	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Jie Ming	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
J.J. Hill Montessori	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Linwood-Monroe (PK-8)	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Maxfield	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Obama	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Pre-K at Rondo	7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Randolph Heights	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Riverview	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

that all hockey facilities are owned by Ramsey County. The main factor will continue to be strong communications between school athletic directors and city officials."

"We have our own (athletic) facilities, so we're not facing the troubles that others are," said Highland Park Senior High School Principal Winston Tucker. "One of the challenges in late fall may be having to start games earlier than usual due to the decreasing amount of daylight, but we'll find a solution."

Tucker is pinning his hopes on the research about later start times. "We expect students will come to school more alert if they take the opportunity to get additional sleep," he said.

"When I was a student (in St. Paul) in the 1950s, we started school at 8:30 or 9 a.m.," said School Board member John Brodrick. "We walked to school. There were no buses. They came along in the late '60s as integration was instituted and even more as the consolidation of schools began. I originally opposed these new start times because it's a trade-off between elementary and high school students. But I recognized that the logistics of busing and the research dictate the necessity for this."

Fair offers parents a look at St. Paul school choices

The St. Paul Public Schools will move to a new format for the 2019 School Choice Fair scheduled from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, January 12, at St. Paul RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd. This year's fair will provide information about all elementary, middle and high school opportunities in the district. Previous fairs had been for preschool and kindergarten programs only.

Families can meet teachers and principals.

They also can receive free early childhood screenings for kids ages 3-5. Those who submit a kindergarten application to their community school at the fair will receive early notification. Admission and parking are free. Interpreters will be available for those speaking the Hmong, Spanish, Somali and Karen languages.

The priority enrollment deadline is February 23 for attending St. Paul Public Schools in 2019-20. Call the Student Placement Center at 651-632-3760, attend an upcoming open house or visit spps.org/school-choice or apply spps.org.

8◀ JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

know anything different."

Jim Hemak, who with his wife donated \$4 million to the project, worked in Junior Achievement for 16 years before becoming a Great Clips franchisee, owning and eventually selling 39 stores. He owes part of his success, he said, to a Junior Achievement program he took part in as a Columbia Heights High School student in the early 1960s. His Junior Achievement company assembled bird houses and he did well enough to win an award from the organization for helping run the company that showed the most improvement.

"To this day, outside of some family things, that was one of the biggest thrills of my life," Hemak said. "That was a real turning point and had a dramatic impact on my life."

Now he's hoping the same thing that happened to him will happen to others. "There's a lot of things happening qualitatively and quantitatively with this facility that we're really excited about," he said. "This a bigger and better location. It's been very well received."

JAUM serves more than 165,000 students in grades K-12 in Minnesota, North Dakota and three western Wisconsin counties. More information about the organization is available at jaum.org.

The Kiosk

Wednesday/January 2

THE CARD CLUB will meet for games of bridge, 500 and cribbage beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. New members are welcome to join in the competition every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. An optional lunch is served at noon for \$10 per person.

Friday/January 4

FARE FOR ALL'S monthly distribution of fresh produce and frozen meat will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. A variety of food is available in packages priced from \$10-\$25. Cash, credit and debit cards are accepted. Call 651-298-5493.

Sunday/January 6

THE LUMEN CHRISTI adult, youth and handbell choirs will perform the music of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany in a free concert at 2 p.m. at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. The audience will be invited to sing along to carols, and a reception will follow.

Tuesday/January 8

"QUILTING NATURALLY," a program on creating quilts with designs inspired by nature, will be led by Jeannette Root of MN Quilters from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Dodge

Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$5, \$15 with the optional lunch. To register, call 651-455-4531.

NORTH STAR SKI Touring Club members Laura Baker, Fran Howley and Chip Treen will relate their 2017 excursion kayaking in the Antarctic among icebergs, brash ice and penguins this evening at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. The club's meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the program starting at 7 p.m. New members are welcome. Visit north-stars.org.

THE ST. PAUL CAMERA CLUB will hold its January salon at 6:30 p.m. in Otto Hall in the Gardens building at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. Landscapes, seascapes and color prints will be critiqued, and visitors are welcome.

LA LECHE LEAGUE of the Midway and Como areas will hold its monthly meeting for pregnant and nursing mothers from 7-8:45 p.m. at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Topics in breastfeeding, parenting and pregnancy will be discussed. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Wednesday/January 9

CONVERTING SHADE GARDENS into woodland retreats using native plants will be explained by Julie Vanatta of the Wild Ones at a meeting of the Longfellow Garden Club beginning at 7 p.m. at Epworth United

Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Longfellow's efforts to become a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat by 2021 will also be addressed. Visit tinyurl.com/LGCminnesota.

THE LIFE AND MUSIC of Hungarian composer Franz Liszt will be explored in a four-week series taught by Dr. Daniel Freeman from 10 a.m.-noon today and Wednesdays, January 16, 23 and 30, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. The cost is \$35 per class, \$100 for the series. Visit friendsofthespc.org.

SUCCESSFUL CAREGIVING for the elderly will be discussed by social worker and caregiver consultant Catherine Engstrom from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Call 651-224-5809.

Thursday/January 10

"THE NAZI MILITARY: What Made It Work" will be discussed in a History Round Table from 7-9 p.m. in the Visitors Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Geoffrey Megargee, author of *Inside Hitler's High Command*, will speak. Admission is \$5, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

Saturday/January 12

MICHELLE NICKERSON will address the long history of fake news in the U.S. in

90-minute forums beginning at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. A professor of history at Loyola University, Nickerson will tell about the evolution of the American media, from the partisan newspapers of the early republic to the sensationalized journalism of the Gilded Age. Tickets are \$16. Call 651-259-3015 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

Sunday/January 13

STATE REPRESENTATIVE Dave Pinto (DFL-District 64B) invites his constituents to stop by for informal conversation about the upcoming legislative session from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room of the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Representative Pinto may also be contacted by email at rep.dave.pinto@house.mn or by calling 651-296-4199.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a five-mile hike along the Mississippi River beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the parking lot of Baker's Square, 2239 Ford Pkwy. New members are welcome. Call Sharon at 651-207-5926.

Wednesday/January 16

ARCHAEOLOGIST JEREMY NIENOW will discuss the results of recent excavations at Historic Fort Snelling in a free program beginning at noon at Landmark Center. Call 651-292-3225.

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Wed., Feb. 13 9:30-11:00 am

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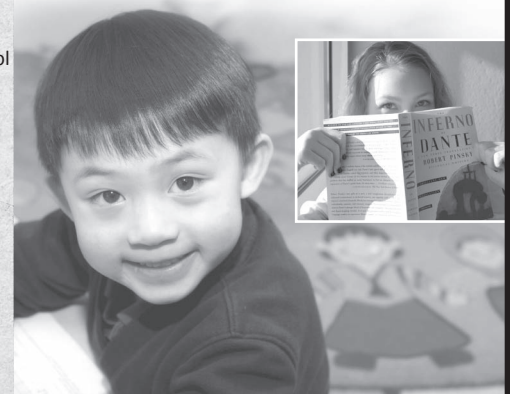
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Crime Report

The following crime incidents were compiled from St. Paul and Mendota Heights police department reports and other sources.

Highland Park

Burglary—A burglary was reported at Carondelet Village, 525 S. Fairview Ave., between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, December 14.

—A home break-in was reported on the 600 block of Macalester Street between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, December 21.

—A home was broken into on the 1800 block of Wordsworth Avenue during the evening of December 25-26.

Theft—A backpack with an iPad and a duffel bag with miscellaneous items were taken from a vehicle at Buca di Beppo, 2728 Gannon Road, at 8:20 p.m. Thursday, December 13. Laptop computers and other items also were stolen from two other vehicles there between 8:39-9:08 p.m. Friday, December 14.

—A woman reported on December 14 that her handgun had been stolen out of her vehicle or residence on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue over the past two months.

—A tool bag was stolen from a vehicle on the 2000 block of Ford Parkway between 1-3 p.m. Sunday, December 16.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1400 block of South Prior Avenue during the evening of December 23-24.

Assault—An assault was reported at Highland Park High School around 6:39 p.m. Thursday, December 13.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A circular saw was stolen from a garage on the 1100 block of Ashland Avenue between December 22-23.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen on the 400 block of North Syndicate Street between 9 a.m.-1:20 p.m. Monday, December 17.

Weapons—Central High School received a weapons complaint around 1:10 p.m. Thursday, December 13. A school resource officer and school administrator were able to locate the suspect and the item.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Multiple items were stolen from a garage that was broken into on the 1200 block of Stanford Avenue during the evening of December 12-13.

Theft—A trailer with a generator and compressor was stolen on the 200 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard between

December 14-17.

Assault—Two men were reportedly punched in the face by three suspects at Plums, 480 S. Snelling Ave., around 2:07 a.m. Sunday, December 23. One man was taken to the hospital and the other refused treatment.

Mendota Heights

Theft—A computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 1800 block of Walsh Lane during the evening of December 11-12.

—A laptop computer was reported taken from one vehicle and personal items from another on the 1000 block of Highway 13 around 9:44 p.m. Saturday, December 15.

Miscellaneous—A male was cited for defecating in a parking lot on the 900 block of Mendota Heights Road at 3:39 p.m. Wednesday, December 12.

—A taxi driver reported at 2:51 a.m. Sunday, December 16, on Ridge Place and Dodd Road that he found a purse in the cab and that the owner had relieved herself before exiting. Police located the suspect and the driver was paid a cleaning fee.

Merriam Park

Burglary—Cash and checkbooks were stolen from the Taste of Thailand, 1671 Selby Ave., during the evening of December 16-17.

—Money was reported stolen from the Blue Door Pub, 1811 Selby Ave., at 9:43 a.m. Monday, December 17.

Theft—A wallet, laptop computer and breast pump were stolen from a vehicle on North Mississippi River Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue between noon-12:28 p.m. Tuesday, December 11.

—A \$3,000 cable used for locomotives was reported stolen at the Minnesota Commercial Railroad, 508 N. Cleveland Ave., at 1:57 a.m. Tuesday, December 11.

—Tools were stolen from a truck on Moore Street near Ashland Avenue during the evening of December 17-18.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported at Big Top Liquor, 1544 University Ave., around 6:02 p.m. Sunday, December 16. The suspect ran off with a bottle of vodka after breaking another bottle and then punching the clerk in her face when staff approached to help assist with cleanup.

Theft—A 35-year-old man was cited for theft, trespassing and disorderly conduct after

he was stopped for shoplifting, took a swing at a security guard and used repeated profanity in front of customers at the Midway Cub Foods at 12:40 p.m. Monday, December 17.

—Around \$4,000 in jewelry and \$3,000 in cash were stolen from a vehicle on the 1400 block of Marshall Avenue between 3-4:30 p.m. Friday, December 21.

Weapons—An employee discovered a BB gun between two pairs of pants on a shelf at the Midway Walmart around 5:04 p.m. Thursday, December 13.

Summit Hill

Theft—A laptop computer and two backpacks were stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue between 5:45-6:20 p.m. Tuesday, December 11.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue at 9:45 p.m. Thursday, December 13.

—A purse, sunglasses and checkbooks were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of Grand Avenue at 5:12 p.m. Friday, December 14.

—A suspect was seen stealing packages from the rear of a residence on the 1000 block of St. Clair Avenue at noon Monday, December 24. The suspect fled in an older model, blue Chevrolet pickup with a wooden tool rack in the bed.

Summit-University

Robbery—A carjacking was reported on Avon Street and Marshall Avenue around 12:06 p.m. Tuesday, December 18. The vehicle was later recovered and the driver was taken to the hospital on unrelated medical issues.

Burglary—Catholic Charities St. Christopher Place, 286 Marshall Ave., was broken into between December 13-17.

—A burglary was reported at A Piece of Cake, 485 Selby Ave., at 4:10 a.m. Monday, December 17.

—A 52-year-old man was arrested for breaking into an occupied residence on the 600 block of Concordia Avenue around 1:03 a.m. Saturday, December 22. The occupants detained the suspect until police arrived.

—W.A. Frost, 374 Selby Ave., was broken into around 7 a.m. Tuesday, December 25.

Theft—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue between 6:45-7:09 p.m. Sunday, December 16.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1000 block of Hague Avenue on December 17

and on the 1000 block of Iglehart Avenue on December 22.

—A Lenovo laptop computer, iPad, MacBook and other items were stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of Selby Avenue between 9:39-10:05 p.m. Monday, December 17.

—A female reported the theft of \$5,000 in cash on the 700 block of Marshall Avenue during the evening of December 20-21.

Weapons—Police received a report of gunfire and a woman screaming at 7:15 p.m. Sunday, December 23, on the 900 block of Hague Avenue. Officers found blood in the front yard and an apparent bullet hole in a house across the street.

West End

Burglary—Mucci's Italian, 786 Randolph Ave., was broken into around 3:51 a.m. Wednesday, December 12.

—A burglary of an occupied residence was reported on the 1700 block of Adrian Street at 8:02 a.m. Friday, December 21.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen at United Hospital between 11:30 a.m.-5:20 p.m. Thursday, December 13.

—A car speaker was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Bay Street during the evening of December 13-14.

—A custom tailgate was stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Randolph Avenue during the evening of December 14-15.

—A bag with wireless adapters and work tools was taken from a vehicle on James Avenue and Webster Street between 4-6:46 p.m. Sunday, December 16.

—Items were stolen from several vehicles in the United Hospital ramp between 8:16-8:28 a.m. Monday, December 17.

—A bicycle worth more than \$1,000 was reported stolen on the 200 block of Spring Street on Saturday, December 22.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 300 block of North Smith Avenue at 11:50 p.m. Wednesday, December 19.

Assault—Security staff were assaulted by a girl being placed at Children's Hospital around 6:35 p.m. Friday, December 14. An assault also was reported at United Hospital at 9:10 p.m. Saturday, December 15.

Weapons—Police were dispatched to a call of shots fired at 10:56 p.m. Thursday, December 13, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 200 W. Seventh St. A gun was recovered and a man was transported by medics for self-inflicted wounds that were not life-threatening.

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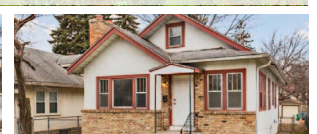
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On the Town

Cruel love

'The Father' presents insider's view of struggles of dementia

BY FRANK JOSSI

A family struggles with the heartbreak of a parent stricken by dementia and memory loss in *The Father*, opening on January 4 at the Gremlin Theatre, 500 N. Vandalia St. Written by French playwright Florian Zeller, the drama won the 2014 Moliere Award as the best new play in France. British playwright Christopher Hampton's translation was performed on London's West End and on Broadway where in 2016 Frank Langella received a Tony Award for his portrayal of the title character.

The Guardian called *The Father* "an astonishingly unguarded play about the cruelties of love and the limits of patience, and the way child-parent relationships become inverted as old age creeps up and mugs us."

Twin Cities actor Craig Johnson plays the father, Andre, at the Gremlin. Miriam Schwartz stars as his daughter, Anne. Ellen Fenster directs. The cast also includes Peter Christian Hansen, Emily Grodzik, Matt Wall and Olivia Wilusz.

"It's a great fit for what we do at the Gremlin and a great fit for our space," said Hansen, a Merriam Park resident and the artistic director of the Gremlin Theatre. "We do plays that lend themselves to the intimacy of experience, dramas that are relatively unknown and catch people by surprise. *The Father* is a complicated and interesting play, and I think people

are going to like it."

What sets *The Father* apart from other plays about dementia is that it is largely presented from the perspective of Andre, offering new insights into the confusion and the jumble of mental images that dementia casts upon its victims. "It's like a mystery or a thriller or a farce," Hansen said, "because you don't always know what's going on. Things are repeated, things happen mysteriously. It's a fascinating thing to watch."

The play deals with the impact of Andre's condition on the people who care for him. It does not sugarcoat the situation, nor the reality that even before Andre's dementia he was not a particularly pleasant person.

The subject of dementia and memory loss can be depressing, but the play is not that way at all. "It's a serious play," Hansen said, "but it's theatrical. It packs everything into one night. You get mystery, suspense, empathy, the whole thing. It's a highly enjoyable and moving night of theater."

"*The Father* takes a critical issue that many of us are either facing or will be facing someday and shines it through the prism of theater," said Wall, a Macalester-Groveland resident who takes the role of the Man, a character who sheds light on the relationship between Andre and his daughter. "The play offers an interesting perspective on what it might be like to have dementia and to care for someone who has dementia," he said.



Craig Johnson and Miriam Schwarz star in Gremlin Theatre's upcoming production of *The Father*, winner of the Moliere Award as the best French play of 2014. PHOTO BY SARAH BAUER

What sets The Father apart from other plays about dementia is that it is largely presented from the perspective of the father, offering new insights into the confusion and the jumble of mental images that dementia casts upon its victims.

Johnson joked that at 58, he should be too young to play a character like Andre. "Perhaps I flatter myself in thinking I'm too young for the part," he said. But after directing the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's December production of *The Chanukah Guest*, a children's play, he realizes that he is facing an entirely different challenge in *The Father*.

Learning his lines as Andre has not been easy, Johnson admitted.

The character has a tendency to say the same thing over and over, he said, which is common among those who are suffering memory loss. "But it's a surprisingly funny play," he added. "As Andre gets befuddled, he gets frustrated and disoriented. At one point, he asks, 'Where's the chicken, where's the chicken?'"

Andre's struggles are only too familiar for Johnson, who has watched his own father and a few family members suffer from

dementia. His dad would hide hundreds of dollars around his condominium, probably as a result of losing the ability to use credit cards and checks, he said.

Theater-goers should expect a lively performance at the Gremlin, according to Johnson. "It's a wonderful show," he said. "It's well-crafted—an intriguing and unexpected journey for the audience."

The Father will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 3 p.m. Sundays through January 27. Tickets are \$28, \$25 for seniors and Fringe button-holders, half your age for those under 30, or whatever you can afford for the additional show at 7:30 p.m. Monday, January 14.

For more information or reservations, call 888-718-4253 or visit gremlintheatre.org.

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On the Town Briefly

Books

Master storyteller Richard Rousseau will be joined on stage by guest tellers Laura Packer and Noel LaBine in a First Friday program from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. January 4 at Coffee Bene, 53 S. Cleveland Ave. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

The Great Books Discussions Group will meet on Wednesday, January 9, to delve into Thom Jones' short story, "The Pugilist at Rest," in which a cynical recruit is challenged by a stretch in the Marine Corps and a subsequent boxing career. The talk begins at 5 p.m. at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. The public is invited. Call 651-285-7550.

Minnesota's Oldest Murder Mystery: The Case of Ed Phelan will be discussed by its author, West End resident Gary Brueggemann, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 10, at Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, 445 N. Smith Ave. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. Call 651-222-0701.

Novelist David Housewright will discuss the latest installment in his Holland Taylor series, *First, Kill the Lawyers*, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 16, at SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St. Admission is free. Call 651-493-2791.

Theater

Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy is being performed afternoons and evenings through January 13 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Created by Bill Arnold, Bob Stromberg and Michael Pearce Donley, the drama recaptures the magic of vaudeville through the reminiscences of a hapless comedian, musician and illusionist. Tickets are \$25-\$52.50 with discounts for seniors, children and military personnel. Call 651-291-7005.

The Children, a haunting drama by Lucy Kirkwood that challenges contemporary notions about morality and generational obligation, will open on January 12 at Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Named Best Play by the U.K. Writers' Guild, *The Children* tells of two retired nuclear scientists who reside in a quiet cabin on the British coast while the outside world erupts in chaos. Directed by Casey Stangl, it stars



Laila Robins, Linda Kelsey and Stephen Yoakam. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays through February 10. Tickets are \$35-\$50. Call 612-822-7063.

Dance

Learn such traditional Somali dances as the Jaandheer in a two-hour workshop conducted by the Somali Museum Dance Troupe from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Jaandheer comes from the Somali word for big leap or big step and is traditionally practiced at Somali weddings and other festive occasions. The workshop is free with museum admission, which is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, college students and military personnel, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3000.

Native American choreographer Rosy Simas and dancers Zoë Klein, Sam Mitchell, Valerie Oliveira and Leslie Parker will perform *Weave*, a multi-cultural tapestry of

Radium girls.

Playwright Melanie March's drama about four female factory workers who are exposed to dangerously high levels of radium, *These Shining Lives* will open on January 11 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Based on a true story from the 1920s, the play portrays the four women's strength and determination in refusing to allow the company that stole their health to endanger the lives of others. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through February 3. Tickets are \$22. Call 612-333-3010.

PHOTO BY
RON RAVENSBORG

interdependence created with stories, dance, motion picture and sound, at 7 p.m. Saturday, January 12, at the Ordway Music Theater. Tickets are \$22-\$37. Call 651-224-4222.

Exhibits

Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, will open exhibits by local artists Patti Walsh and Susan Warner with a public reception from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, January 5. Walsh's paintings range from the realistic to the abstract, depicting her personal connections to animals and explorations of movement. Warner specializes in functional pottery as well as sculpture that exaggerates scale and manipulates form and texture. The opening reception will feature the artists' personal stories, interactive art, refreshments and live music by Bosse Neve. The art will remain on view through January 29. Call 612-728-5745.

The Minnesota Museum of American Art has reopened at 350 N. Robert St. with 20,000 square feet for exhibits and educational

programs. Its inaugural show, "100 Years and Counting," features a selection of works from the MMAA's permanent collection. "Softly...Before the Supreme Court," a fiber art installation by New York artist Sheila Pepe, graces the two-story sculpture court. Duluth artist David Bowen has created the multi-media installation "wave line" for the Window Gallery. The MMAA is open free of charge from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays and until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Fifteen-minute Flash Talks by museum interpreters are offered at noon on Fridays and 11 a.m. Sundays. Curator tours will step out at 6 p.m. on January 3, 2 p.m. on January 13, and noon on January 16. Visit mmaa.org or call 651-797-2571.

"Three Jerome Artists," featuring the ceramics of Heather Barr, Alex Chinn and Mitch Iburg, will open with a public reception from 6-8 p.m. Friday, January 11, in the Main Gallery of the Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. A related artist's talk will be offered at 4 p.m. January 11 in the center's library. The exhibit will remain on view through February 24. Call 612-339-8007.

"Strike!," a guided tour of the historic Washburn A Mill that delves into the history of labor from the late 1800s to the present, will be offered from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, January 13, at the Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. Hear how activists improved the lives of workers and how management responded. Learn about the 1903 and 1917 flour mill strikes, the truckers strike of 1934 and the career of Nellie Stone Johnson, the first African American elected to citywide office in Minneapolis. The cost is \$16. Call 612-341-7582.

Family

Babies and toddlers are invited to join in songs, stories and play from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 15, at the Minnesota Veterans Home, 5101 Minnehaha Ave S. in Minneapolis. The Intergenerational Story and Play Hour is free and open to all. For reservations or more information, contact Casey Bakewell at 612-548-5754.

Local author David LaRochelle will launch his new picture book, *Isle of You*, with a party at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 12, at

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the Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave. A reading and Q&A with the author will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free. Call 651-224-8320.

Get away to sunny Puerto Rico without leaving St. Paul. Landmark Center will present the music, dance, crafts, food, flora and fauna of that Caribbean Island in an Urban Expedition from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, January 13. Admission is free and open to all.

Film

Star Wars: A New Hope, the complete film with John Williams' score performed live by the Minnesota Orchestra, will be presented on January 3-6 in Orchestra Hall. Sarah Hicks will conduct. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$51-\$125. Call 612-371-5656.

Five of the year's best giant-screen films will be shown in rotation from January 4 through February 28 at the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. With topics ranging from volcanoes to tornadoes to seven wonders of the natural world, Omnifest will feature *Ring of Fire*, on the volcanoes that circle the Pacific Ocean; *Journey to Space*, a sweeping overview of humankind's achievements in outer space; *The Greatest Places*, a tour of seven of the world's most dynamic landscapes; *National Parks Adventure*; and *Tornado Alley* with storm chaser Sean Casey. Tickets are \$9.95, \$8.95 for seniors and children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444.

Dogs in Space (1986), a cult classic about an Australian punk rock band starring Michael Hutchence of the Australian rock band INXS, will be screened by Sound Unseen at 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 9, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Freaks, students, activists and runaways populate writer-director Richard Lowenstein's film about the drugged-out excess of twentysomething misfits living in a communal squat. Tickets are \$14 at the door, \$12 in advance at soundunseen.com.

Actor Dennis Hopper's unrivaled intensity portraying lost souls and remorseless creeps is celebrated in January at Trylon Cinema,

2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. The series includes *The Last Movie* (1971) starring Hopper as a stunt wrangler who quits the movie business to live in Peru, 7:45 p.m. January 6, and 7 and 9:15 p.m. January 7 and 8; and *Rumble Fish* (1983), an adaptation of the S.E. Hinton novel directed by Francis Ford Coppola and starring Hopper, Matt Dillon, Mickey Rourke and Diane Lane, 7 p.m. January 13, and 7 and 9 p.m. January 14 and 15. Tickets are \$8. Call 612-424-5468.

Hope & Fury: MLK, the Movement and the Media, a documentary on Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement, will be shown at 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 15, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The film combines archival footage and photographs with first-hand accounts by civil rights leaders and African-American reporters. It is free with museum admission, which is \$12, \$10 for seniors, college students and military personnel, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3015.

Music

The Minnesota Boychoir will present its annual Winter Concert at 1 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, January 6, in Landmark Center. The voices of more than 100 talented boys will be featured in this free show. Call 651-292-3225.

The Bakken Trio of violinist Stephanie Arado, cellist Pitnarry Shin and pianist Michael Kim will be joined by soprano Liv Redpath in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 6, at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. The program includes Brahms' Songs and Violin Sonata No. 1 in G Major and Shostakovich's Seven Romances on Poems by Alexander Blok. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students. Call 612-584-1967.

The Honeydogs' Adam Levy and special guest Barb Brynstad will perform from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, January 10, in the first of a five-month series of concerts in the Ratskeller at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle. Cosponsored by the Minnesota Music Coalition, the NoVox series features the best in Minnesota instrumental music, including folk, blues, jazz and experimental. Admission is free. For information, visit mnmusiccoalition.org.

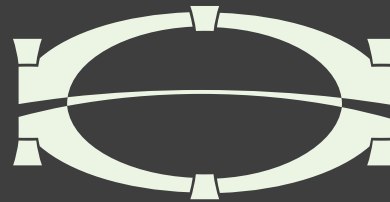
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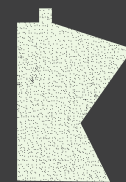
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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Changing of the guard at Concordia

For most of the past three years, Mark McKenzie has been doing double duty at Concordia University-St. Paul. He has been the baseball coach since 1999, the year the school moved from being a tiny NAIA competitor to playing in the Division II level of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. In March 2016, he also agreed to become the school's athletic director.

But he never intended the latter to be a longtime gig. On January 1, McKenzie was to hand the reins over to Regan McAthie, who had been serving as his right-hand person from day one. She has been the assistant AD since 2015, previously working with Tom Rubbelke until he retired.

"I didn't apply for the job," McKenzie said about serving as the school's AD. "I was actually on the interview committee. When they approached me, I told them I needed someone who I could work with hand in hand. Regan was that person. She's ready to do the job as AD and will be great at it."

McKenzie may be the last of his breed—a guy who's simply born to coach and does so without the benefit of a college degree. He used his smarts to build up Minnetonka High School's baseball program, did the same for several Team USA Baseball entities and now has successfully persevered at Concordia.

A newbie to recruiting at the time, McKenzie quickly discovered the value of friendships when searching for talent. "Good people want to be around other good people," he said, and then rattled off several times when the arrival of one player on campus led to some of his buddies following along.

He took basically the same approach to being an athletic director. "It's simply a bigger business," McKenzie said. "It's about managing people. It's also giving them the support they need to be successful."

At a school like Concordia, that wasn't necessarily easy. It wasn't that long ago that its enrollment hovered around 1,000. It now has 2,851 undergrads. As the athletic programs grew, so did the need for better facilities. ADs always play a role in such growth. In McKenzie's time, Concordia added new scoreboards and upgraded locker rooms. "We got good support for this," he said.

McAthie played a key role in all of this as well and will now assume the whole mantle. She was an all-NSIC academic honoree as a volleyball player at Augustana in South Dakota, and brings a wealth of experience to the job, having worked in sports information, Title IX and game management. She takes over a program that has a legendary name in volleyball and is looking to make inroads in other sports as well.

Playing in a conference that sent two schools to the NCAA Division II playoffs, the Concordia football team improved

WRIGHT CALL ► 17

Boys' basketball preview

Local coaches appreciate play of multisport athletes

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Given the recent success of the Minnehaha Academy boys' basketball team, it might stand to reason that its coaches would push their young athletes to stick with hoops year-round at the expense of other sports. In fact, the opposite is true.

The Redhawks have won two state Class AA championships in a row and are positioned to take home more hardware this season. But Redhawks coach Lance Johnson, like other area coaches, encourages his student-athletes to play multiple sports for several reasons, not the least of which is to avoid getting burned out.

"It keeps them refreshed when they're not playing one sport all year long," Johnson said. "The burnout factor is probably the biggest thing."

Henry Sibley boys' basketball coach John Carrier agrees. "We have a ton of multisport athletes," he said. "We like that. It keeps you fresh. If you play basketball all year, you get burned out."

Likewise, St. Paul Academy encourages multisport athletes and has numerous students who play at least two sports and that's a good thing, coach Isaiah Wallfred said.

As a basketball and football coach, Central's Scott Howell appreciates student-athletes who play more than one sport. He urges his players to avoid specializing and to give themselves multiple opportunities to shine.

St. Thomas Academy coach Jason Birr said he can understand why some players focus on a single sport. Two of his better players are sticking to basketball. In the end, it's up to each player to decide, he said. "You can't tell a kid he can only play one sport," he added.

Nova Classical Academy coach Duane Heidemann said multisport athletes are becoming less common, in part, because more schools are offering year-round options.

"This presents issues for smaller schools when we need to share players for activities. It also is causing issues with the players themselves in regards to repetitive stress injuries," he said.

But that's not the only reason he likes his players to wear multiple hats, helmets and headbands when it comes



Minnehaha Academy's Bennett Theisen can't quite hold onto the ball as he and Highland Park's Joe Conzet and Abenezzer Bekele hit the deck during the Redhawks' 83-45 win over the Scots on December 6. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

to athletics.

"The skills that they learn from other sports have an impact on the basketball court," Heidemann said. "Some of my players with the best court vision get it from the soccer field."

Here's a look at the local boys' team as they embark on another basketball season:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City
Last year's record: 16-10
Coach: Scott Howell

Key players: senior guards Daveonte Davis and Ronnell Porter, senior forwards Dion Ford and Luke McElroy.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central has experience and good team speed. Many of the players have been together

for three or more years. Rebounding may be a concern against bigger teams.

Outlook: The Minutemen have high expectations for the season. They will be tested early and often with the likes of Osseo, Park Center and Hopkins on their schedule. Highland Park is among the teams to beat in the conference.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East
Last year's record: 30-2, state champs
Coach: Jerry Kline Jr.

Key players: senior guard Jaeden King, freshman guard Tre Holloman, junior guard Curtis Jones, senior forward Karsten Broadley, junior forward Amari Carter.

BOYS' BASKETBALL ► 17

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16◀ BOYS' BASKETBALL

Team strengths/weaknesses: CDH has a group of players who are easy to coach and the team has a scrappy defense. It will need to get better at rebounding.

Outlook: The defending state Class AAAA champs have a lot of new faces after graduating some key players from last season. Still, the Raiders have some excellent talent, including sharpshooting guard King and point guard Holloman. Kline looks for continued improvement throughout the season.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Metro East
Last year's record: 9-18
Coach: John Carrier

Key players: senior guards Eli Lone Tree and Ty Zubulake, senior forwards Malik Spearman and Dayton Massie.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley's senior-laden team worked hard during the off-season. The players are skilled and coachable. The defense needs work and it isn't the biggest team in the world.

Outlook: The Warriors look for ongoing improvement as the season progresses. "We want to play better in March than in December," Carrier said.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City
Last year's record: 9-16
Coach: Undre Ellis

Key players: senior guard Benny Hughes, senior forward Mustafa Aden, eighth-grade guard Ishmael Powell.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Highland has a hard-working group that is willing to learn. It also has good outside shooters. A lack of experience is a concern.

Outlook: Facing a tough nonconference schedule, the Scots are off to a 2-6 start. They hope to improve as the season progresses. Teams to beat in the conference include Central and Johnson.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Last year's record: 28-4, state champions
Coach: Lance Johnson

Key players: junior guard Jalen Suggs, sophomore forward Chet Holmgren, freshman forward Prince Aligbe, junior forward Kaden Johnson.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Minnehaha has great talent up and down the roster. The players are athletic and highly competitive, and the school has a winning tradition. Lack of depth could be a concern.

Outlook: The Redhawks return a strong contingent of players from last year's state Class AA championship season. With a talented group of returnees, they are in a strong position to hang another banner in the rafters at the end of this season.

16◀ WRIGHT CALL

to 5-6 this year. The women's basketball team slipped for a few years, but is 7-3 this season. Lacrosse starts its third season in February and the school recently added Esports (online gaming). Academics, which have always been a priority at Concordia, have improved as well.

As for McKenzie, he is happy to slide back into what he knows best—coaching. "I have great assistants in Neil Lerner and Marcus (his son)," McKenzie said. His team was 26-16 in 2018, missing out on the NCAA tournament as the result of a 10-9 loss to Augustana in the NSIC championship game. He will also continue his longtime work in the Team USA Baseball program.

"It's been a gas, but it's time," he said. "I never envisioned doing this job, but I'm grateful for the chance."

NOVA ACADEMY

League: Twin Cities Athletic
Last year's record: 17-8
Coach: Duane Heidemann

Key players: senior guards Mathieu LaFrombois, Shae Nelson, Finn Miller and Mustafa Elshami, senior forward Adam Solon.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Nova has a mix of veterans and younger players with strong potential. It will have to fill the shoes of two graduated players who had a big impact last season.

Outlook: Heidemann said the Knights will be challenged as they move up to Division I in the Twin Cities Athletic Conference and face a tough nonconference schedule. "As long as we're working hard and improving every day, I expect to have a solid season," he said.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City
Last year's record: 17-10
Coach: Michael Walker

Key players: senior guards Deszi Sims and Kalid Ahmed, senior forwards Luke Barnes and Abdikani Abdi.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Teddies have lots of experience with 12 seniors on the roster. They graduated six players from last year's 17-win team, however.

Outlook: Roosevelt was 7-3 after its first 10 games. The senior-laden team will battle the likes of Henry, North and Edison for conference bragging rights.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Last year's record: 14-12
Coach: Isaiah Wallfred

Key players: senior center Ryan Moore, senior guards Andrew Johnson, Will Christakos and Ethan Less.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA has an uptempo style of play and good three-point shooters. Team concerns were still to be determined.

Outlook: The Spartans ended last season on a strong note with a nine-game winning streak and victories over the second and third seeds in the section playoffs. The team hopes to carry that momentum into this season.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: Metro East
Last year's record: 22-10
Coach: Jason Birr

Key players: senior guards Jack Thompson and Tony Wright, senior forward Noah Chamberlain.

Team strengths/weaknesses: STA has a lot of experience, a strong junior varsity and good overall talent. A lack of size is a concern.

Outlook: The Cadets return a strong group from last year's team that won the state Class AAA consolation title. They are hoping for another good season and a deeper run at state.

Whalen off to good start, but...

It's been a great string of wins for new University of Minnesota women's basketball coach Lindsay Whalen. The Gophers went 11-0 in nonconference games for just the third time ever entering Big Ten play. There were some notable wins against teams like Xavier (now 9-2), Syracuse (11-2) and San Diego (7-4). There were also some mismatches against foes who are still winless.

The real test was to start on December 28 when the Gophers, who are ranked 13th nationally, open Big Ten play against Wisconsin (9-3).

Perhaps the bigger point has already been made. A program that had slipped to the back pages is now relevant again. If this results in bigger crowds, then Whalen's reported \$400,000 salary will be worth it.

Dave Wright is at dwright53@msn.com.

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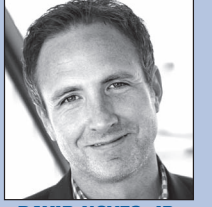
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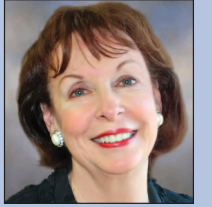
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841 OTTAWA

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1080 FAIRMOUNT

Classic Summit Hill 4 BR/3BA with gleaming hrdwd floors throughout this spacious home. Large new paver patio in the fully fenced back yard. Unbeatable location with all the amenities of Grand Ave a few blocks away!

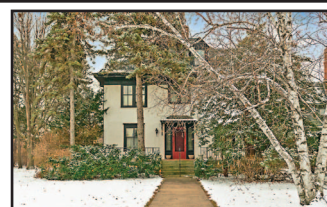
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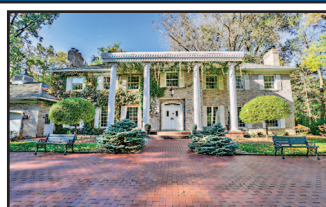


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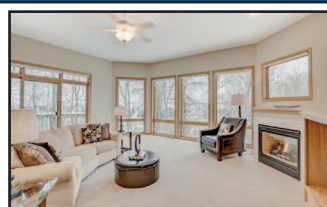
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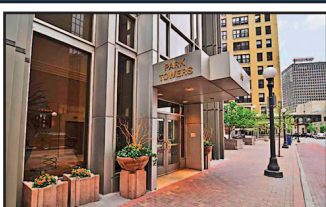
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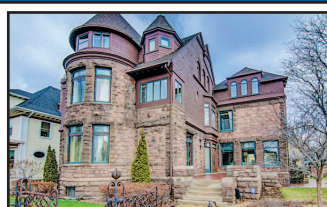
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651-282-9621 • \$650,000



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This delightful 2BR/2BA condo, in the historic Horace Rugg house, is open and airy with huge windows and fabulous views, a balcony, a 1 car garage and a building elevator. This is a charming treetop retreat with all the amenities. Must see.

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SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$2,295,000



HISTORIC JAMES J. HILL BUILDING!

This fabulous 2BR/2BA condo is open, airy, sunny and bright. Features include rare barrel ceilings, arched windows, pristine tile & hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, a master BR suite, multiple walk-in closets, a gas fireplace and 2/C garage. 300 Wall Street.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$525,000

