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VILLAGER

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Civil disobedience does little to slow Hwy. 55 construction

But state is spending \$50,000 a day for security

by Dave Page

The year-long protest against the rerouting of Highway 55 in South Minneapolis grew more vociferous last month as construction began on the stretch of highway south of 46th Street. Law enforcement officers guarding construction crews along the route made more than 50 arrests in the past two weeks.

The protest has meant an additional \$50,000 a day in security costs for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), but it has not delayed construction, according to MnDOT offi-

cials. The project is still slated for completion in 2002.

Construction crews are working on a new land bridge over Highway 55 at Minnehaha Parkway linking the main portion of Minnehaha Park with the lagoon area west of the road. Beginning August 16, motorists traveling along Minnehaha Parkway can expect to be detoured along 34th Avenue and 46th Street for at least a year.

That their protest has not significantly slowed construction has not disheartened

Highway 55/see page 5

Voting method may determine Ayd Mill task force's preference

by Jane McClure

After years of debate, it is decision time for the Ayd Mill Road Task Force.

Twenty-three task force members representing more than a dozen district councils, business associations and other organizations will meet on Monday, August 23, to vote on a preferred alternative for the future of Ayd Mill Road. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Concordia University's Gangelhoff Center at Hamline and Marshall avenues.

The task force's recommendation will be reviewed by the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council. The City

Council is expected to decide by the end of the year whether Ayd Mill Road should be rebuilt as a two-lane or four-lane street with better connections to I-94 and I-35E, left as it is or turned into a park.

Task force co-chair and St. Paul Planning Commissioner Steve Gordon has told task force members that he would like to have them vote on each of the six alternatives for the roadway (see box on page 4) or rank all six according to preference.

However, that may be difficult since most task force representatives are ex-

Ayd Mill Road/see page 4



Highland pitches a bigger, better festival. The Highland Business Association lets fly with its 16th annual Highland Fest August 13-15. A guide to the weekend extravaganza—which is expected to draw upward of 60,000 people to the area—can be found inside on pages 17-32. Back again is the softball tournament in Hillcrest Park, which last year featured Doug Martin and his Tiffany's team. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Humanitarian defies sanctions to highlight suffering in Iraq

by Paul Preimesberger

It is hard to imagine any American wanting to travel to Baghdad. When the trip involves a 12-hour flight to Jordan, a 12-hour convoy through 125-degree desert heat and unfriendly Iraqi border police, the logical question in anyone's mind is: Why?

One person who can answer that is Mary Hannahan, a Macalester-Groveland resident who recently returned from a two-week excursion to the Iraqi capital along with seven other Americans. The trip was organized by

Voices in the Wilderness, a group that has led more than 20 U.S. delegations to Iraq since 1996. The group's objective is to raise public awareness and ultimately eliminate the United Nations' sanctions against Iraq.

Hannahan, the development director for the Resource Center of the Americas, said it was a speech by the leader of Voices in the Wilderness at St. Stephen's Church in Minneapolis that first motivated her to make the trek. "I listened to her talk about what was happening and all the children dying and I realized that it just wasn't sinking in," she said.

"I went because I wanted to see for myself what was happening in Iraq."

Before that could happen, there were issues to deal with here, not the least of which involved possible sanctions by the State Department, which has banned travel to Iraq by U.S. citizens. "I've heard of some people being fined \$10,000," Hannahan said.

Hannahan, who also serves as chair of the St. Paul DFL Party, said bucking the government was not something she took lightly. She also feared for her personal safety in the volatile Middle East.

A pair of sendoffs for her and Mel Duncan of Como Park, who also made the trip, helped give her the courage to move beyond those fears. One of the sendoffs, a Women Against Military Madness-sponsored event called "Bound for Baghdad," developed into an ad hoc fund-raiser. The money raised covered the majority of the \$3,600 it cost for her and Duncan to make the trip.

Still, Hannahan said, "There were days when we wondered, 'What in God's name are

Hannahan/see page 4

Inside the Villager

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KIRK WHITE springs to a third-place finish in the national Junior Olympic trampoline competition. 40

Ford clears another hurdle in bid to relocate fuel tanks

The Ford Motor Company's request for river corridor modifications in order to relocate propane tanks to property it owns along the Mississippi River bluff was unanimously recommended for approval by the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on August 5. The full commission will take up the matter on August 13.

The proposed site is located adjacent to a truck-trailer storage area. Because the site is in the Mississippi River Corridor, it must meet several conditions, including one that restricts construction on slopes. Ford is seeking permission to build on a slope of more than 12 percent so the tanks can be installed on an old road bed. Construction on slopes is regulated because of concerns about runoff and the impact of construction on the river bluff.

Ford officials said the tanks are needed as a supplemental fuel source if natural gas deliveries to its Twin Cities Assembly Plant are ever disrupted. The new location was chosen because it is adjacent to the plant's primary NSP delivery system for natural gas. The system of eight, 30,000-gallon tanks would replace tanks that are now in two areas east of the plant's main assembly building.

The Zoning Committee's recommendation includes making provisions for additional landscaping so the tanks would not be visible from the river. Commissioner Dick Nowlin said Ford also needs to control erosion on property it owns south of the tank site.

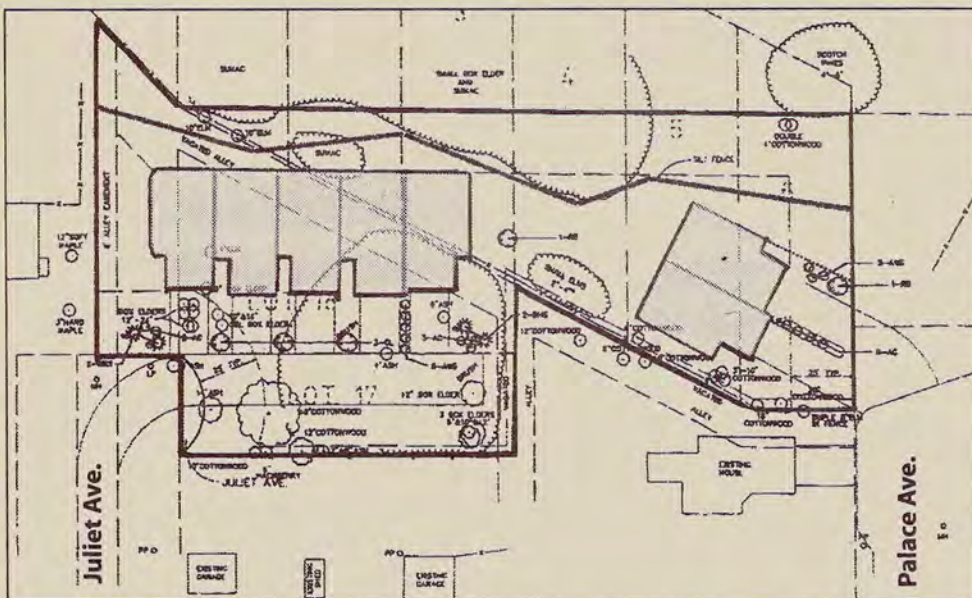
Nowlin wanted to lay the request over for two weeks to give Ford time to address the landscaping and erosion issues. However, company officials said they do not want to delay the start of construction. Work on the \$2 million project is set to get under way this fall and be complete by winter.

Neighbors appeal decision on Mac-Grove townhouses

Neighbors of a proposed Macalester-Groveland townhouse development have appealed a St. Paul Planning Commission decision to issue the project a special condition use permit. The appeal was filed the last week of July and will be heard by the St. Paul City Council. No date has been set for the public hearing.

The Planning Commission approved a special condition use permit on July 23 to allow developer John Kratz to build the seven-unit Ridgewood Bluff Townhomes on a vacant lot located between I-35E and Lexington Parkway and the undeveloped hillside between

NEWS BRIEFLY



Macalester-Groveland residents are appealing the special condition use permit that was granted to Ridgewood Bluff Townhomes. Developer John Kratz plans to build five townhomes in one building and two in another on the undeveloped hillside just west of I-35E between Palace and Juliet avenues.

Palace and Juliet avenues. Neighbors say the project will block their views of the Mississippi River Valley and make their homes less valuable. They also are concerned that the project will increase traffic on Lexington Parkway and add to the demand for on-street parking.

The appellants must show that the Planning Commission erred when the special condition use permit was granted. Neighbors argue that the property does not meet the minimum requirement of at least 80 feet of frontage on an improved street. Kratz and city zoning staff say the project will have 80 feet of improved frontage on Juliet Avenue and 117.4 feet of unimproved frontage on Palace Avenue. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council voted to recommend approval of the project and will not be a party in the appeal.

The project needs a special condition use permit because Kratz is proposing a cluster development that will group five townhomes in one building and two in another. Cluster developments, which are designed to preserve open space, must meet conditions on lot coverage, building design, number of dwellings and compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood.

This is the second time in two years that the City Council has been asked to rule on a special condition use permit for a townhouse project at this site. In 1997, the Macalester-

Groveland Community Council and Planning Commission opposed Kratz's plan to build a three-story, eight-unit townhouse. The City Council rejected his appeal of the decision. The building's height, mass and design were cited as reasons to oppose the permit.

The current proposal calls for buildings that are not as tall and will more closely resemble nearby homes. The three-bedroom units will have 1,714 square feet of space and will cost from \$250,000 to \$290,000.

Company plans additional senior housing in Highland

The Franciscan Health Community met with neighbors on July 29 to discuss plans for adding 50 to 100 housing units for senior citizens near St. Mary's Home, 1925 Norfolk Ave.

Director Joe Stanislav said company officials have been discussing plans with the city for several weeks. Though no formal site plan has been submitted for city approval, tentative plans call for a structure that would have brick and siding on its exterior and a pitched roof.

"Our current buildings look very institutional," Stanislav said. "We'd like a new building to look more like other buildings in the neighborhood." Congregate senior living as well as assisted living units are being considered.

The new building would be located at the corner of Prior and Graham avenues. An existing single-family house owned by the Franciscan Health Community would be torn down to make way for the new building.

Stanislav said the company hopes to get any needed variances or zoning changes approved by the city this fall.

Neighbors who attended the meeting raised questions about the number of residents, parking, traffic and building design.

"Our main reason for looking at expansion is the growing demand for senior housing," Stanislav said. "People want to stay in the neighborhood they currently live in, rather than having to move to the suburbs."

Committee hears request for new antennas on Grand

The St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee has recommended approval of US West Wireless' request to put three antennas on the roof of a Grand Avenue apartment building. The full Planning Commission will discuss the issue on August 13.

The antennas require a special condition use permit because they would be mounted on the chimney of a three-story apartment building at 1954 Grand Ave. The antennas would not extend above the top of the chimney, which is more than 10 feet high and located at the rear of the building. US West Wireless plans to use the antennas to fill in its cellular phone coverage area.

The city also has received a request from American Wireless to place antennas on the roof of the apartment building at 1967 Grand Ave. That request will be heard by the Zoning Committee in the next few weeks.

Mary Beth Starns said she and other neighbors are concerned to see two requests for antennas in such a short time frame. "We're seeing all kinds of tower requests in the neighborhood," Starns said. "We're wondering if we're going to turn into some kind of antenna farm."

US West Wireless officials said the antennas do not pose any health risks nor would they interfere with home and business phone systems and electronics. They assured the Zoning Committee that the antennas would be taken down when there is no longer a need for them.

The popularity of cellular phones has prompted numerous requests to erect antennas throughout the city in recent years. The City Council updated its antenna restrictions a few years ago in response to concerns that antenna locations be regulated.

News briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.



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Hannahan comes to the aid of Iraq /from page 1

we doing?" Family and friends who were concerned about their well-being wondered that as well.

After flying to Chicago, the group boarded a plane to Amman, Jordan. They spent two days there finalizing their visas, gathering the medical supplies they were planning to transport into Iraq and readying themselves for the long truck ride to Baghdad.

At the Iraqi border, the group of five men and three women spent two hours waiting inside a small military outpost with armed guards and a life-sized oil painting of Saddam Hussein. It did not help matters when after being told by the border guards to go through the contents of his bag one by one, a member of the group mistakenly referred to the medical journals he was transporting as "military journals."

"We were all just stunned," Hannahan said. "We just stood there in this long moment of silence. But we got through it and in the truck after-

ward we laughed hysterically out of nervousness for about 10 minutes."

They arrived at their Baghdad hotel eight hours later. The effects of the UN sanctions were immediately evident, Hannahan said. There were frequent power outages that lasted for hours and a pervasive lack of food. Hannahan said she subsisted on Pepsi, hummus, dried bread and occasionally some tea.

Over the next week and a half, the group dispensed approximately 1,120 pounds of antibiotics, aspirin, medical journals and texts to various hospitals and clinics. Hannahan said she was told by the chief of pediatrics at one hospital that her most recent medical journal dated back to 1990 and that she was limited to one vial of potassium a day for intravenous feedings.

"It was really more symbolic," said Hannahan of their medical mission, "because what we could do is just a drop in the bucket compared to what's needed for the 22 million people there." The group

was always accompanied by a member of Red Crescent, the Middle Eastern branch of the international aid organization.

Hannahan said the U.S. continues to bomb Iraq. "I was told there are bombings every day," she said. "I was told you can be in Baghdad and actually see bombs dropping." She said Jordanian news reported that Kut, a city 170 kilometers north of Baghdad, was bombed the day after they left Iraq, killing 34 people.

She also visited Najaf, a city two hours southeast of Baghdad, where Hannahan said the main road had been bombed four days earlier. She met with several victims at the hospital there and was given fragments from a cluster bomb. "It's not for taking anything out other than people," she said. "This was all civilian terrain, right in the middle of the town. There was nothing there to go after except people."

Hannahan presented a slide lecture on her trip to a packed gathering at the Friends Meeting House



Mary Hannahan shows pieces of what she believes was a cluster bomb that she was given during her travels in Iraq. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

on Grand Avenue last week as part of a program sponsored by the Women's Political Alliance. She plans to meet with U.S. Congressman Bruce Vento and Senator Paul Wellstone this month regarding the trip. She also is hoping that a papal visit to Iraq in December will bring

the issue of sanctions to the fore in Minnesota churches.

"But the people won't do anything until they know what's happening and I couldn't know until I got there," she said. "The sanctions are just punishing the people. They're not punishing Saddam."

Ayd Mill Task Force to vote /from page 1

pected to vote as their respective organizations recommended and many of those organizations did not vote on all six alternatives. Some organizations only chose one preferred alternative. Others selected their top three choices.

Several district councils represented on the task force do not meet in August and would not be available to consider all six alternatives prior to the task force's vote. Also complicating the matter is the preference of several organizations for roadway alternatives not included in the six described in the draft of the Ayd Mill Road environmental impact statement.

Some task force representatives are questioning whether requiring them to vote on all six alternatives would force them to abstain on some votes. "I think we need to be careful that our preferred alternative reflects a consensus of the task force and not a simple majority," said Merriam Park representative Scott Heiderich.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council wants the task force to consider a plan that would close Ayd Mill Road to motor vehicle traffic on most weekends, allowing the

roadway to be used by bicyclists, in-line skaters, joggers and walkers.

The Merriam Park Community Council is recommending that if the "no build" alternative is chosen for Ayd Mill Road, that the street be narrowed from its current four lanes to two lanes.

Exactly how the task force will vote was being discussed by the city's departments of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development as this issue of the *Villager* went to press.

Each of the 23 representatives on the task force has one vote, and neighborhoods deemed to be more affected by Ayd Mill Road have more representatives. If all of the representatives voted as directed by their member organizations, the two-lane parkway would get seven votes; the linear park, four votes; the no-build option, three votes; the two-lane or four-lane roadway, three votes; and the four-lane roadway, one vote.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council and Summit Hill Association have three task force seats each and they, together with the West 7th/Fort Road Federation, prefer the two-lane parkway.

Six alternatives for Ayd Mill Road

The six alternatives under study for Ayd Mill Road include the following:

- No-build. Ayd Mill Road would eventually be rebuilt under this alternative, but it would look and function much as it does today. Estimated cost: \$6.6 million.
- Transportation system management/travel demand management. This option would include greater accommodation for buses along with ramp meters, electronic directional signs and other traffic control measures. Estimated cost: \$8.8 million.
- Removal of the roadway and replacement with a linear park. Estimated cost: \$9.5 million.

- Two-lane roadway with a direct connection to I-35E on the south and an indirect connection to I-94 on the north by extending Ayd Mill Road along an existing railroad spur. Estimated cost: \$33.4 million.

- Four-lane roadway with the same connections as above. One lane each way could be designated for high-occupancy vehicles. Estimated cost: \$36.5 million.

- Four-lane roadway just as above, but with bridged ramps connecting Ayd Mill Road to I-94. One lane each way could be designated for high-occupancy vehicles. Estimated cost: \$45.8 million.

The Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline community councils have two seats each. Merriam Park prefers no-build and the other two prefer the linear park.

The Summit-University, Highland and Hamline-Midway neighborhood councils, with one seat apiece, prefer the four-lane, two- or four-lane, and no-build options, respectively. The Snelling-Selby Area Business Association and the Midway Chamber of Commerce, with one seat apiece, prefer either the two-lane or four-lane option.

The Grand Avenue Business Association, University UNITED, Selby Area Community Development Corporation, St. Paul Bicycle Advisory Board and RIP-35E each have one seat on the task force but have not stated their preference for the roadway.



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Highway 55 protest continues /from page 1

Highway 55 opponents, who are still hoping to get a referendum on the November election ballot to block the project. To generate support for their view, protesters have been holding a series of rallies at the site. On July 29, several hundred people gathered near Minnehaha Creek to listen to speakers, some of whom had been arrested earlier that week.

One speaker, Madeline Gardner, 17, of Merriam Park, was taken into custody on July 26, as she tried to block construction equipment that was being used to remove approximately 30 trees near the site of the proposed land bridge. Gardner was thrown to the ground by four police officers and suffered a dislocated hip, according to a spokesperson for the Mendota Mdewakanton Indians, who have demonstrated against the highway project. Because she was not given immediate medical assistance, she may need to have her hip replaced, the spokesperson said.

Gardner, who came on crutches to the July 29 rally, would not confirm the extent of her injuries, saying she had been advised by lawyers not to talk about her case. However, she did acknowledge that the scabs on her legs and arms were a result of her arrest.

Gardner's parents have been at the protest site several times to support their daughter. "Nothing seems to stop them," Karen Gardner said of the protesters. "They're pretty tenacious."

Another protester, Emily Lindell, speaking through cracked lips beneath a puffy face, described how a police officer grabbed her hair and slammed her face repeatedly into a railroad tie. She was arrested and, despite her open wounds, was not taken to a hospital for five hours, she said.

Bob Brown, chairman of the Mendota Mdewakanton, maintains there is no reason for the extra police at the construction site since the protesters do not intend to physically resist arrest. "This is and always will be a nonviolent protest," he said.

Cathy Clark of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety called the protesters' claims of injury "outrageous and unsubstantiated. No complaints have been filed against the state patrol at this point," she said.

The Department of Public Safety "would like to be made aware of any complaints (of injury), but there has been none so far," said assistant chief Steve Mengelkoch of the state patrol.

At the July 29 rally, Minneapolis Park Board member Dean Zimmerman told a cheering crowd that "the time of the automobile has peaked; it's time to look for alternatives." Claiming that MnDOT's actions were illegal, Zimmerman said that National Transportation Act 47 prohibits federal funds from being spent on roads through parks if there is a feasible alternative. "Look behind you," he said pointing to Hiawatha Avenue. "There's a feasible alternative."



In the dim light of dawn, a Highway 55 protester named "Hillside" yawns as he chains himself to the upper branches of a maple tree before the construction crews arrive.

While Zimmerman spoke, other protesters stood in the 97-degree heat trying to get passersby to blow their horns as a sign of support. Among them was one middle-aged man from Vadnais Heights who did not want his name used because his wife thought he was at work. He carried a sign that said, "goodbye trees, hello concrete."

Farther up the road, Bill Dahn, a Republican candidate for governor in 1998 and now a Reform Party candidate for St. Paul City Council from Ward 2, sat in the shade near Minnehaha Creek waving a placard denouncing the project. About 25 feet above him, another protester slept in a large mesh bag tied to the upper branches of a tree.

Tarzana Leon, who has lived in the protesters' camp since last October, returned to the site following her arrest two weeks ago despite signing a paper pledging not to in exchange for her release. She and others who have come back to the park run the risk of spending three days in jail if they are arrested again. "That's why we're in disguise," Leon joked, clearly not hiding her identity in any way.

Zimmerman claimed that MnDOT had told the Park Board that it would only need to remove two trees in the lagoon area of Minnehaha Park.

"It's a shame," agreed an East 46th Street resident who only identified himself as John. "People will be shocked when the (remainder of the) trees come down."

According to MnDOT spokesman Kent Barnard, the state did not hide the fact that over half of the 237 trees in the new highway corridor would need to be removed. "There were no lies," he said. "We've been very clear about what we need to do."



An unidentified opponent of the Highway 55 construction project offers her view along the road to downtown Minneapolis. Photos by Terry Faust.

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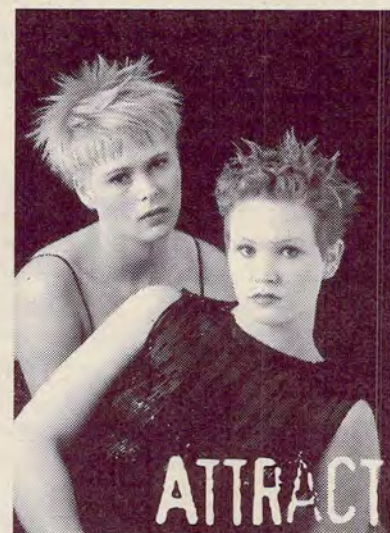
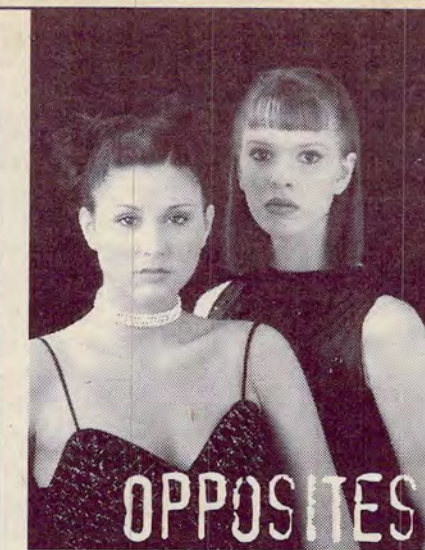


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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

Something to celebrate

Much has changed in Highland Village since February of 1984 when planning began for the first Highland Fest. Looking back now, it proved to be a pivotal time for the Village and the entire Highland neighborhood.

It's getting harder and harder to visualize today what Highland Village looked like back then. Sidewalks were cracked and pitted. Curbs were almost nonexistent. There was hardly a tree in sight. Ford Parkway was a wide, uninterrupted river of asphalt. The only street lighting came from lamps hung on tilting wooden telephone poles. Grime and litter were everywhere. With rare exception, the commercial district had a tired, worn-out look.

The Highland Business Association was tired and worn out as well. The HBA went into 1984 with only 30 members, its lowest total ever. The Highland Art Fair, once larger than Uptown's, had drawn only 45 artists the previous year—and not that many more viewers. The relationship between commercial property owners and tenants was almost universally sour, owing to a long and contentious battle over a parking ramp that was never built.

Under those conditions, it's perhaps understandable that an overture from the city of St. Paul to assist with planning a comprehensive makeover of the Village in conjunction with Ford Parkway's repaving in 1985 went initially ignored.

But then things began to change. A new, younger and perhaps more naive group of business people got on board the bandwagon to try to turn the Village's fortunes around. A 12-member committee of business people, commercial property owners and Highland neighbors was formed to work with the city's Planning and Economic Development Department on the Highland Village Improvement Project. They would meet every other week for the next year and a half to guide what became a model for the wholesale revamping of an urban business district. A \$250,000 grant from the city would be met with nearly \$3 million in private funds to install new brick-inlaid curbs and gutters, plant 188 new trees, create center islands on Ford Parkway, build brick planters, remove the telephone poles, bury the power lines and install new decorative lighting.

And that was just the public property. Much more was spent improving individual, privately owned properties.

It was against that backdrop that the first Highland Fest was planned. Though in light of the previous year's failure some people had suggested scrapping the art fair altogether, that would have signaled defeat. It was decided instead that the art fair would become the centerpiece for a much larger neighborhood festival.

"We took a flyer," Mark Moeller said in the August 15, 1984, issue of the *Villager*. "As it turned out, we didn't have the vaguest idea what we were getting into."

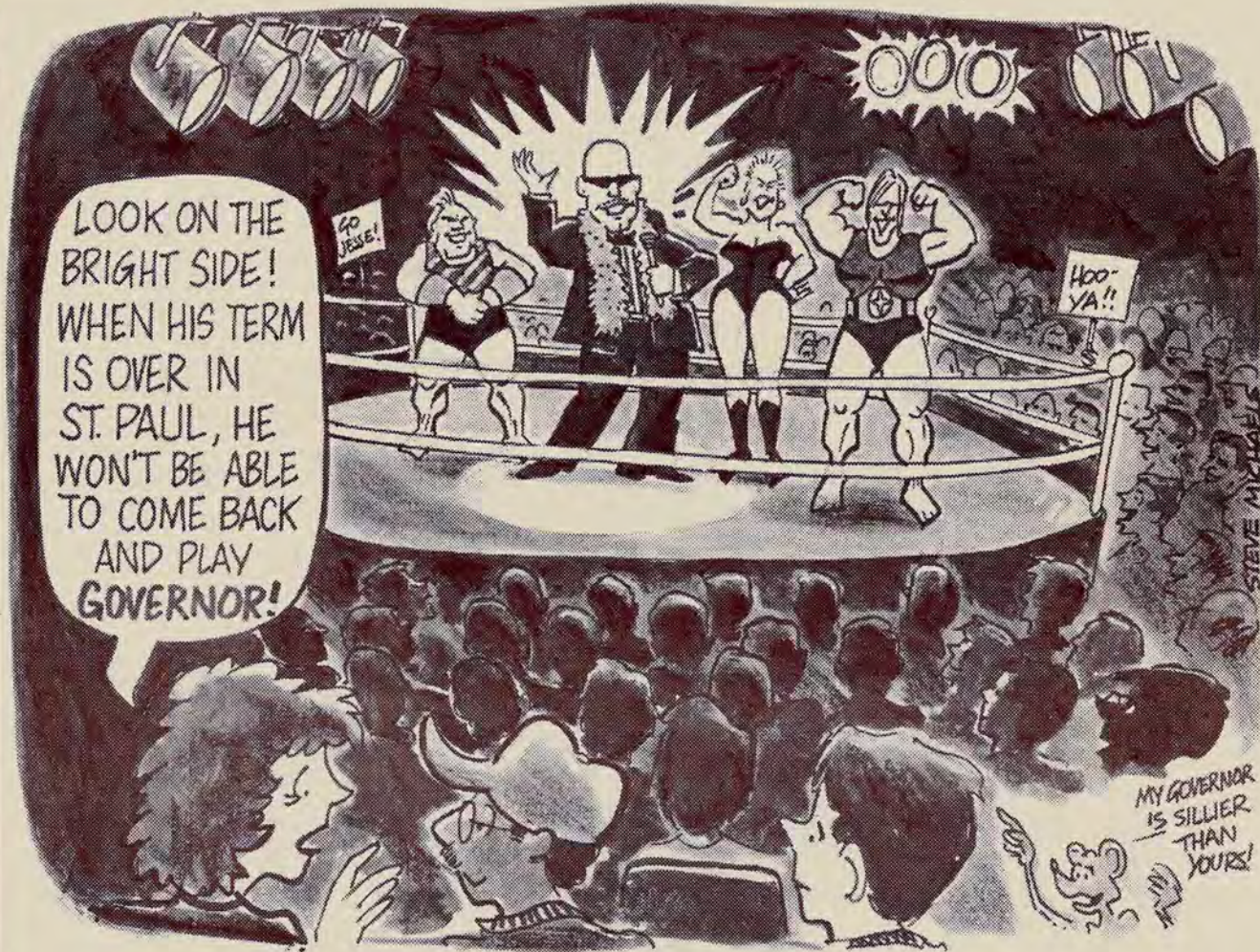
Moeller, the chair of Highland Fest '84 as well as Highland Fest '99, has been around the block a few times since then. The schedule of events that he and his committee have concocted for this weekend is the most wide-ranging in the festival's 15-year history. The level of business support that has been offered to this year's celebration outstrips anything garnered in the past. And as a result of that support, the amount of money raised for future improvements in Highland Village is expected to far exceed what has ever been raised before.

Highland Village is now looking better than ever. The flowers are blooming, the trees are branching out and business is bustling.

And the Highland Business Association has just signed up its 190th member, an all-time high.

Yes, there really is something to celebrate during Highland Fest '99 from August 13-15. The center 16 pages of this edition of the *Villager* lays it all out for you to peruse.

As part of those festivities, the *Villager* is hosting an open house at our offices on Snelling Avenue. New and old friends alike are invited to drop by from noon to 4:00 on Saturday to meet the staff of their neighborhood newspaper, enjoy free cookies and root beer, and pick up a free souvenir coffee cup. We look forward to greeting you.



All shook up over a quote he never uttered

by Erich Mische

Erich Mische is Elvis. That's about the silliest comment somebody could make about me. First, I can't carry a tune. Second, if I tried to swing my pelvis like Elvis, I'd be walking on crutches for a month. Third, while my weight gives me that late-in-life Elvis look, I'm not sure it makes me a sex symbol.

So what does this have to do with anything? Well, a couple of weeks ago, Michael Mischke, the publisher of this newspaper, deemed it appropriate to use a quote that was "overheard" at City Hall and allegedly uttered by me. That might have been OK if not for two things. One, I never uttered the quote. The quote suggested that I believe that Mayor Norm Coleman's effort to bring a ballpark to St. Paul is nothing more than a public relations gimmick. (Editor's note: The exact quote attributed to Mr. Mische was, "The mayor may lose the battle over the ballpark. However, he'll win the PR war.")

Two, Mr. Mischke never bothered to call me to determine whether I had actually said what he printed. I did, in a private conversation with a City Council member, indicate that council members opposed to the mayor's "Compete St. Paul" initiative might win the internal political battle, but the mayor would succeed in the battle to gain the support of the public for his efforts to reduce the cost of government to taxpayers and improve the delivery of government services.

I have been involved in politics and public policy for nearly 20 years. In those years I've never seen a publisher or reporter write something I allegedly said without confirming that I actually said it. While Elvis may indeed be alive and well today, my guess is that Mr. Mischke wouldn't print that without confirming it with Elvis himself.

To be sure, I am an ardent supporter of Mayor Coleman's efforts to bring 2 million to 3 million new visitors to downtown St. Paul each year by building a new ballpark. The agreement reached by the mayor with the Minnesota Twins is the most comprehensive agreement in the country. It is an agreement that has the city, the state and the team each contributing one-third toward the cost of construction. In addition, it includes:

- A requirement that the Pohlad family sell 100 percent of its interest in the Twins to a new ownership group by October 1, 1999.
- A requirement that the Twins be responsible for construction cost overruns.

- A payroll tax on wealthy ballplayers who are not Minnesota residents.

- A provision that will see the city of St. Paul sharing in any profits on the future sale of the Twins.

- A guarantee that if the state's share of its contribution to a ballpark is not met by revenue generated by the Twins, the Twins will write out a check to the state to make up the difference.

Now, if you're opposed to a new ballpark in St. Paul, that's fine. On November 2 you can go to the polls and vote "no." Unfortunately, there are an awful lot of critics of baseball and ballparks who are trying to stop you from even having the right to vote.

Organizations like Common Cause, a handful of members of the St. Paul Charter Commission and other individuals have been taking extraordinary steps to try to stop you from even being able to vote or to make it difficult for you to vote. Quite frankly, the idea that St. Paul residents shouldn't be able to make up their own minds on an issue at the ballot box is pretty outrageous and arrogant. There are legislators who in their effort to convince voters not to vote on this issue, or to vote against it, are telling us that this proposal is dead even before it gets to the Legislature. In other words, your vote doesn't count.

I remember a former candidate for governor who was outraged when he was told that people who voted for him were simply wasting their votes. Yet now that governor, some legislators and, yes, I would even group Mr. Mischke in this group, are telling you that regardless of whether or not you support a ballpark in St. Paul, your vote doesn't count. The Legislature and the governor are going to tell us before we even vote that what we may approve will not even be given a fair hearing at the Capitol.

I've got a novel idea for Mr. Mischke, the governor, Representative Matt Entenza and others who are working so hard to deprive you and me of our right to vote on the issue of a new ballpark: Let the voters decide! Make your arguments for or against a ballpark in St. Paul, but then sit back and let the people of St. Paul vote on the merits of your position versus the position of those who support a ballpark. Quit telling those of us who support a ballpark that if the ballot initiative passes in November it won't matter because the Legislature and governor will kill it.

St. Paul voters deserve better than having the media, the

Mische/see next page

Now more seniors may defer property taxes until home is sold

by Michael Paymar

I had hoped that with a bulging surplus, the Minnesota Legislature would make changes to our complex and onerous property tax system during the last legislative session. Instead, the governor and Legislature decided to focus on income tax reductions and a sales tax rebate. While I supported the tax cut and rebate, I believe that we missed a golden opportunity to reform our property tax system.

Though it was not a solution, I decided to craft legislation that would at least provide some help to senior citizens, especially those in the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods of St. Paul. The Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program was designed years ago to help low-income seniors defer paying a portion of their property taxes until they sell their homes. When I met with seniors, they frequently told me that the program sounded attractive, but that the \$30,000 maximum limit on household income made them ineligible.

The bill that I authored in the House increases the maximum household income for eligibility to \$60,000. It also lowers the percentage of income (from 5 to 3 percent) that must be paid in property taxes, thereby increasing the

amount of the property tax that can be deferred. The bill passed both houses of the Legislature (District 64 Senator Richard Cohen was the Senate author), was signed by the governor and is now law.

Here is how the program works. If you are 65 or older, have lived in your house for at least 15 years and have a household income that does not exceed \$60,000, you can have a portion of your property taxes deferred until you sell your home. In order to be eligible, there can be no delinquent property taxes or special assessments on your property.

Let us assume that you meet all of the above criteria, you live in a house valued at \$160,000 and you have an annual household income of \$50,000. Let us also assume that you pay \$3,500 a year in property taxes. Under the program, your property tax payment would equal 3 percent of your income, or \$1,500, with the remaining \$2,000 deferred until you or your heirs sell the house.

The state will reimburse individual counties for tax revenue that is lost under this program. When homes are sold, the state will recover the deferred property taxes plus interest.

I know that this program is not for everybody. However, I also know that many seniors are having a difficult time keeping up with escalating property taxes in neighborhoods

like Highland and Macalester-Groveland that have seen dramatic increases in market values in recent years. When the financial burden becomes too great, seniors find that they have to move out of the homes they love.

Again, this program is not a solution to the complex problems endemic to our property tax system and it helps only one segment of the population. Several amendments to the Omnibus Tax Bill to freeze property tax increases at 5 percent or to tie those increases to the rate of inflation were defeated, as were measures intended to make the system more equitable and independent of the whims of the market. Rate compression from past legislative actions, coupled with an end to levy limits after next year, means that homes in the metro area will be carrying an increasing share of the total property tax burden in Minnesota. It is my sincere hope that the governor and Legislature will reach a consensus to either minimize our reliance on the regressive property tax or change the system to make it fairer and less complicated.

Despite the failed efforts of this past session, I am confident that when word gets out about the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program, more seniors will take advantage of it. For more information about the program, call the Department of Revenue's Property Tax Division at 651-296-0335.

Mische/

governor and the Legislature telling us that the only vote that counts is theirs. That is about as arrogant and irresponsible a proposition as printing an alleged quote by somebody without verifying if the quote was made.

Even Elvis knows that.

Erich Mische is Mayor Norm Coleman's director of strategic initiatives. Michael Mischke replies: I apologize to Mr. Mische if the quote was inaccurate or not uttered by him. At the same time, I have no idea where he gets the notion that I oppose letting voters decide the issue. In that same editorial I wrote: "The mayor has done everything right—especially in submitting the question to a vote of the people—in pressing his case for a Twins stadium." Apparently we're both capable of mischaracterizing each other's words.

City's anti-hate ads send mixed message

To the editor:

The anti-hate/anti-bias campaign of the St. Paul Human Rights Department is a positive message delivered in the wrong way through the wrong medium. The department has mounted a campaign that attempts to counter hate crimes by using billboard space donated by an Eagan-based billboard company. It may have the unintended effect of encouraging graffiti. Also, some of the signs are located in neighborhoods that have or are working on special sign regulations calling for the removal of billboards.

These billboards look like they have been defaced with graffiti, and graffiti breeds graffiti. While these billboards are unlikely to reduce hate crimes, they may very well encourage graffiti vandalism, something that costs the city and its

VILLAGE POST

businesses tens of thousands of dollars each year. The city is sending a mixed message, spending thousands of dollars annually to eliminate graffiti while using graffiti to get its message across.

The billboard industry's timing of this donation is hardly an accident. The Scenic St. Paul Campaign is gathering signatures for a ballot initiative this November to remove

Village Post/see next page

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Village Post

from previous page

most billboards from neighborhoods. Nonprofit messages are one of the few tools the industry has to persuade people to allow billboards even though they degrade nearby residential and commercial areas. The industry attempts to wrap itself in the cloak of good citizenship by donating unsold space to some community groups. The number of nonprofit messages on billboards is likely to increase as the November election approaches.

Bobbi Megard, Member
John Mannillo, Member
Scenic St. Paul Campaign

Slow Shepard-Davern traffic

To the editor:

Over the past 50 years, I have seen many changes in the Shepard-Davern area of Highland Park—some good, some necessary and some questionable. I have seen many families move into the neighborhood and I have seen many leave as their needs change. I have seen many businesses move in and thrive. I owned one of those businesses along with my father and brothers. Now it seems that individuals who pass through our neighborhood to get somewhere else feel it is necessary to speed up their journey.

The north side of Highway 5 is a residential neighborhood. It has homes, churches and a school. The school, Homecroft Elementary, is just three blocks off of Highway 5 by way of the Edgumbe Road exit and overpass. It took years to get a traffic light at Edgumbe and Sheridan Avenue to promote safe crossing for children attending school or enjoying the adjacent playground. Every other school rightfully enjoys a 20-30 mph speed limit. Why not Homecroft?

I do not understand the urgency to increase the traffic flow through this area. The first priority should be to reduce the speed of the existing traffic. The speed limit on Highway 5 just west of the ramps from Highway 55 should be reduced to 35 or 40 mph. I will go 10 miles out of my way to avoid the ramp from the Mendota Bridge. You can't see the Highway 5 traffic coming from the west at 50 mph until you are nearly colliding with a vehicle or the tunnel. The "Reduced Speed" sign is almost too late to slow traffic as it empties onto West 7th Street.

A badly needed pedestrian bridge should be added on the east side of the Edgumbe overpass to assure the safety of pedestrians. The Edgumbe exit off Highway 5 should be realigned as an intersection to be controlled by signals like

I-35E at West 7th Street. Access to Norfolk Avenue would proceed straight ahead from the signals. Northbound Edgumbe would take a left onto the overpass. Traffic on the overpass should be made two-way. This would help reduce the speed of northbound traffic past Homecroft School. Southbound Edgumbe could proceed past the signals to Gannon Road. Currently, the speed of northbound and southbound traffic on Edgumbe between Highway 5 and St. Paul Avenue is scary.

This project could be done in a relatively short period of time and would be considerably less expensive than the current proposals. I am not against progress, but I do believe that the reduction or elimination of existing problems should be addressed in any plan that is adopted.

Walter Kruger
Highland Park

Keep secular the school day

To the editor:

Religious zealotry makes for strange bedfellows. The "Village Post" of July 14 had a conservative Catholic, Mr. Tim Murphy, and a Lubavitch rabbi, Mr. Moshe Feller, united as one in their desire to turn the United States into a theocracy.

Mr. Feller quotes Exodus 19:6 to castigate a previous Jewish contributor to the "Village Post" for not paying sufficient attention to such things as Deuteronomy 14:7 and the other 612 directives from "God Almighty" to which Mr. Feller refers.

Mr. Murphy, rather than answer my arguments against prayer in public schools, attacks me literally below the belt by referring to the status of my enfeebled knees and how easily they buckle when the Constitution is under attack by fanatics who wish to impose their version of orthodox dogma. Similar to other well-meaning social conservatives, he misconstrues the issues.

"Don't deny public school children the freedom to learn from those who believe and pray," Mr. Murphy writes. However, the public schools admit all children and recruit teachers regardless of faith. That is precisely why imposed prayer—Christian, Jewish or otherwise—is not permitted.

You may indeed and with my blessing feel free at home or in the office to pray in silence, to pound your fist against the table, to post the Ten Commandments in any language you choose, or even to disparage Deuteronomy 14:7 whenever the spirit moves. But not in public school.

Paul Alper
Macalester-Groveland

Words worth setting in stone

To the editor:

Professor Paul Alper's proposal to have college students composing their term papers in longhand (*Villager*, July 28) will have the student whelps in an uproar. Taking away their sacrosanct word processors is akin to changing the Earth's polarity. Why, it would cause the death of scholarship as we know it.

The proposal should be set in granite and implemented wherever the written word is used.

J. McNeil
Macalester-Groveland

Three who cared

Dear editor,

Thank you, thank you, to a concerned Metro Transit bus driver and a bicyclist.

Friday, four weeks ago, Ford Parkway in Highland Village was filled with large wads of newspaper. A broken carton had apparently dropped from a truck. Motorists, veering and dodging, scattered the mess, hitting it and nearly each other. I stopped to clean it up and noticed a bus driver had just beaten me to the task. Soon a bicyclist joined us. In about five minutes we had cleaned the street and removed the risk.

The bus driver said, "I couldn't just leave this mess here." Apparently a lot of other motorists could.

John Kaplan
Highland Park

Family Center thanks

Dear editors:

We at the Highland Mac-Groveland Family Center wish to express our appreciation for the article about the Children's Initiative and the family centers (*Villager*, July 28).

The Highland Mac-Groveland Family Center is fortunate to enjoy the assistance of the Jewish Community Center as lead agency and fiscal agent. However, the Family Center is located at 2390 W. 7th St., not at the JCC as stated in the article.

We invite all families with young children to stop by the Family Center to participate in any of our programs and to learn more about this great community resource.

Shannon O'Loughlin and Kari Zobel, Co-Chairs
Highland Mac-Groveland Family Center Board

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Chocolatier to the stars

Jet set takes a liking to hand-dipped confections of Grand's newest retailer

by Catherine Condon

Three years ago, Just Truffles owner Kathleen O'Hehir-Johnson got a call from a gentleman who had purchased a box of her rich chocolates to take home to his wife in Guam.

"He said, 'Thank you very much,' but he was very sarcastic," she recalled. "I thought, 'Uh-oh! What did I do?'"

It turned out the gentleman was a traveling executive who had brought truffles home to his wife from every place he visited. Now, he complained, "she won't eat any other truffles, so you're going to have to ship them here."

It's a request often heard at Just Truffles, which moved last month to 1326 Grand Ave. after nearly nine years in the Saint Paul Hotel.

"We needed more space," said O'Hehir-Johnson, who lives in the Summit-University neighborhood with her husband and business partner Roger Johnson. "We were tucked away in a corner down there. Unless people knew we were there, they'd never find us."

But they did. Besides being the preferred candy company of 3M, Just Truffles boasts clients as far flung as Anchorage and Washington, D.C. Celebrities like tenor Luciano Pavarotti, singer and talk show host Marie Osmond, singer Lionel Richie and pianist George Shearing—all of them first introduced to Just Truffles during stays at the Saint Paul Hotel—now regularly phone in orders. The store offers 28 flavors ranging from the simple, like chocolate, peanut butter and raspberry, to the exotic, including apricot brandy, strawberry cheesecake and Bailey's Irish Cream.

A single truffle costs \$2.25. Boxed truffles range in price from \$2.75 for one to \$34 for 12. The store also sells gifts and bulk coffee and tea.

The evolution from making truffles as a hobby to creating 500 a day in a 1,500-square-foot store started in 1988 when O'Hehir-Johnson brought her homemade truffles to a holiday party at Northwest Airlines, where she still works as a customer service agent. "They said, 'Can we order from

you next year?'" she said.

By the following summer, she had orders for 50 dozen truffles. Her British-born husband suggested she start her own business.

"I spent a couple weeks at the library," said O'Hehir-Johnson. "I knew nothing about business."

She read books on business building and heeded tips like that of a friend who suggested she rent a commercial kitchen. She also sought out candy industry pros, who were eager to help.

"When people find out that you're new, they say, 'Here's my card: If you have any problems, give me a call,'" she said. "It's a neat industry to be in, not cutthroat or backstabbing."

A chance meeting with *St. Paul Pioneer Press* food critic Eleanor Ostman at a 1989 holiday party led to a Valentine's Day article. Soon after, O'Hehir-Johnson sold out her stock of truffles and started a waiting list. Then the St. Paul Hotel called, asking her to open a shop there.

O'Hehir-Johnson now orders chocolate one ton at a time—40 boxes of five 10-pound blocks. She and her staff first make the center, or *ganache*, by mixing chocolate, butter, cream, egg yolks and, depending on the truffle flavor, fruit, nuts or liqueur. After 24 hours of refrigeration, they cut the mixture into pieces, which are rolled and then hand-dipped in chocolate. "The outer coating of a good truffle should snap when you bite it," O'Hehir-Johnson said.

After decorating them, "we'll add an extra layer of chocolate at the bottom," she said. "When chocolate gets warm, it exudes a gas that can cause the candy to crack or break. Nine times out of 10, your soft spot is at the bottom."

Lionel Richie prefers chocolate truffles, O'Hehir-Johnson said, while cafe au lait is the favorite flavor of Marie Osmond. "Osmond is very nice," O'Hehir-Johnson said. "She's kind of a closet chocoholic. She bought a box of eight and took the kids to Camp Snoopy. She sat down and ate the whole box while the



Just Truffles owners Kathleen O'Hehir-Johnson and Roger Johnson display an assortment of their specialty at the new Grand Avenue confectionery. Photo by Mike Long.

kids went on the run!"

One truffle flavor, a mixture of milk chocolate, Malibu rum and cream of coconut, was created especially for Luciano Pavarotti when he was in town a few years ago. "His staff approached us and asked if I would come up with a truffle for him," O'Hehir-Johnson said. "So I coordinated with his secretary, and we came up with Tenor's Temptation."

Pavarotti fans around the country will now phone the store to request boxes of the candy to bring to him as gifts at performance time, she said.

O'Hehir-Johnson and her husband employ a single worker year-round, but they will hire

additional workers during the holidays when they dip around 3,000 truffles a day.

"Because we make all of our own, we can do different things," O'Hehir-Johnson said. "Numerous times, I've put engagement rings in truffles." She has also filled clear tubes with shredded iridescent mylar and then put 14 truffles in with one letter on each truffle spelling out, "Will you marry me?"

After a stressful day of ticketing and gate duty for Northwest, "I like to come to work here and relax," O'Hehir-Johnson laughed. "After 10 years, I still get excited when somebody who has never eaten a truffle takes a bite of one for the first time."

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by John D. Rice, M.D., Eye Physician and Surgeon

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Groveland Tap holds open house

The Groveland Tap, 1834 St. Clair Ave., will hold a "house warming" party on Thursday, August 12. The event will mark the one-year anniversary of an electrical fire that nearly gutted the restaurant.

Previously known as B.B. Dixon's, the establishment had only been under new ownership for three months before it was closed by the fire. The owners reopened the restaurant last March with a larger, redesigned kitchen, new equipment, upgraded wiring, new windows and an elaborate air purification system.

"This event shows that it takes more than a fire to stop us," said Tap manager Mark

Landy. "It's also a thank-you to area businesses and customers who've helped out."

The house warming will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a party for invited guests and will conclude with a public open house from 9:00 p.m. to midnight. Celebrity appearances are promised along with food and drink specials. Guests who bring a donation for the Second Harvest St. Paul Food Bank will have a chance to win door prizes, including tickets to St. Paul Saints and Minnesota Lynx games and Minnesota Timberwolves merchandise.

For more information on the party, call Landy at 651-699-5058.

The Crazy Carrot Juice Bar, 1577 Grand Ave., will play host to a St. Paul Chamber of Commerce networking program on Wednesday, August 18. The free event will run from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Chris Hartnett of Ramsey Hill, a captain in the Air National Guard, has assumed command of the 208th Weather Flight at the Air Reserve Station at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Judith Titcomb of Summit Hill has been elected chairwoman of the board of the Minnesota Foundation, replacing Ann Hantrods. Titcomb is an attorney with O'Neill, Grills & O'Neill specializing in government relations, business law and estate planning.

Paul A. Grangaard, founder and president of Financial Education Inc. of Highland Park, received the Best Paper award at Personal Finance Employee Education's national conference held recently in Roanoke, Virginia. A resident of Merriam Park, Grangaard has presented hundreds of financial seminars over the past few years to professional, business, church and school groups.

Sandra Zak of Highland Park has joined the Pragmatek Consulting Group as a senior consultant in software implementation. She previously was a business analyst for Honeywell.

Essence of Nonsense, 1783 St. Clair Ave., is sponsoring a "St. Paul's Best Dog Contest" this fall. To enter, pet owners should bring a drawing or photograph of their dog and a de-



scription in 25 words or less of why they consider them to be the best. Judging will take place on September 23. Trophies and treats will be awarded. Entry forms are available at the store.

scription in 25 words or less of why they consider them to be the best. Judging will take place on September 23. Trophies and treats will be awarded. Entry forms are available at the store.

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Snelling-Hamline COUNCIL CAPSULE

BLOCK LEADERS NEEDED

Block club leaders are being sought for Hague Avenue between Pascal and Albert streets, for Concordia Avenue between Snelling and Pascal, and for Summit and Portland avenues between Saratoga and Pascal. Block leaders serve as liaisons between the community council's crime prevention coordinator and their neighbors. They help distribute flyers, host an initial block club meeting and form a group to plan an annual block party. For information, call Nikki LaSorella at the Snelling-Hamline office at 651-644-1085.

BOARD VACANCIES

There are three open seats on the Snelling-Hamline Community Council board of directors. The seats are open to all those who live or work within the boundaries of Summit, Snelling, University and Hamline avenues and Ayd Mill Road. An election will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 2, at Liberty State Bank. Please use the Dayton Avenue entrance. For information, call Karen Dalton at 651-644-1085.

Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD NOTES

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is now holding its board meetings on the second Thursday of each month. However, no meeting will take place in August. The next meeting will be September 9. For information, call the council office at 651-695-4000.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

The community council's Transportation Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 23, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The committee will discuss traffic calming measures for streets in the area bounded by St. Clair, Cleveland, Randolph and Fairview avenues. The committee is considering asking the city to include bumpouts at each corner throughout the area as a way to slow vehicular traffic and enhance pedestrian safety. The bumpouts also would prevent cars from parking close to the corner, which has been a problem in the area.

Also on the agenda for that meeting will be a discussion of the width of Jefferson Avenue. Jefferson is currently 30 feet wide between Fairview Avenue and Prior Street and 32 feet wide between Prior and Cleveland Avenue. The committee favors a constant width of 30 feet, but wants to hear from affected area residents. For information, call the council office at 651-695-4000.

Highland Area Community COUNCIL CAPSULE

SIGN DISTRICT TASK FORCE FORMS

The Highland District Council will soon be appointing a new task force to work on the creation of a special sign district for the Shepard-Davern area of Highland Park. The task force will devise new standards for billboards and other signs in that area.

Area residents and business people who are interested in serving on the task force are asked to contact the council by phone at 651-695-4005 or by e-mail at www.hdc@visi.com. The task force's first meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

VISIT THE HIGHLAND FEST BOOTH

The Highland District Council will operate a booth at Highland Fest on Saturday, August 15. The booth in Hillcrest Park will display plans for redeveloping the Shepard-Davern area of Highland. Information will be available on block clubs and recycling. District council volunteers will also be on hand to answer any questions about the Highland area.

Area residents are invited to stop by. The ever-popular "Highland Park, Minnesota" T-shirts and baseball caps will be sold from the booth, and glasses of cold water will be dispensed free of charge.



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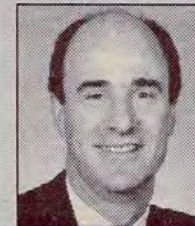
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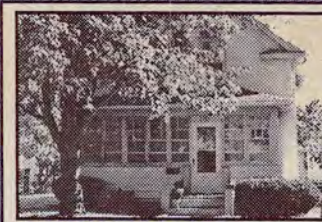


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County considers ways to trim proposed budget increase

by Jane McClure

A proposed \$430.5 million budget for Ramsey County in 2000 is already on the county commissioners' chopping block.

The proposed budget would bring about a 2.5 percent increase in property taxes in the county. That was the maximum increase targeted last February by the Board of Commissioners. However, county commissioners have said they would like to trim that increase before approving the budget late this month or early in September.

Driving up costs this year are the financing of the new juvenile detention center downtown, salary increases for county employees and the debt service for \$9.2 million in bonds for a new county jail.

The proposed 2000 budget is up \$5.6 million over last year. Property taxes account for 36.9 percent of the total. Intergovernmental revenue, such as federal funds, makes up 35.1 percent. Other charges, fees and revenue total 25.4 percent. The remaining 2.6 percent would be drawn from the county's reserve fund.

Use of the county's reserve fund could be a bone of contention in the budget deliberations, as it has been in previous years. Commissioners Dino Guerin and Janice Rettman have called for using the reserve to hold down property taxes, but other commissioners have urged saving the reserve for emergencies.

Another source of contention could be the number of staff additions proposed for 2000. They include 49 new employees at the juvenile detention center. Eight additional corrections employees, 10 new employees in the county attorney's office and two new employees in the district courts are also planned.

The cost of the new employees at the juvenile detention center alone is \$2.6 million. To offset the salaries for the new positions, the county is cutting 35 positions in other depart-

ments through attrition. The property tax records and revenue departments will lose a total of 10 positions. Nine human services, six public health and five public works positions will also be trimmed.

Human services represents 44 percent of the county's budget in 2000. About 25.8 percent of the budget goes toward public safety and criminal justice. General government accounts for 11 percent. Public health expenses make up 8.3 percent. Recreation and public works account for 4.9 percent, followed by debt service at 3.7 percent and suburban libraries at 2 percent.

The county will benefit in 2000 from more than \$4 million in additional state and federal aid as well as \$180,000 in additional golf course revenue.

The county budget includes \$41.9 million of capital improvements, including \$9.1 mil-

lion for the new adult detention center, \$559,000 for a new clubhouse at Goodrich Golf Course and \$250,000 for new freon systems at county ice arenas.

County commissioners hope to wrap up their budget deliberations by September 8 so that they can include the actual county levy rather than the maximum levy in the joint city-county-school district "truth in taxation" statement that is mailed out to property owners in November.

State law requires cities, counties, school districts and other governmental bodies to set their maximum property tax levy by September 15. A committee representing the county, the city of St. Paul and the St. Paul School District will set a joint maximum levy on September 27. After that date, these local governments may cut but may not add to their proposed property tax levies.

Also affecting the county's budget deliberations this year is a new state law that requires the county to hold a public hearing and pass a resolution by October 20 if it intends to collect more property taxes than it collected in the previous year.

Driving up costs this year are the financing of the new juvenile detention center downtown, salary increases for county employees and the debt service for a new county jail.

St. Paul appoints new directors to head city departments

by Jane McClure

The St. Paul City Council voted 6-1 on August 4 to appoint new directors for its Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Economic Development (PED) departments.

Council member Jerry Blakey cast the lone vote against the appointments because new PED director Brian Sweeney is a Stillwater area resident. Blakey said that all city department heads should live in the city. In the past,

he has voted against other appointees who did not live in St. Paul, including former Deputy Mayor Tom Fabel and former PED director Larry Buegler.

Sweeney worked on St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman's gubernatorial campaign and managed Barbara Carlson's unsuccessful bid for Minneapolis mayor. He was Coleman's director of strategic planning before being named to the PED post on an interim basis earlier this year. He succeeds Pam Wheelock, who is now state finance commissioner. Sweeney is

the city's seventh PED director in the past nine years. Scheibel had four directors over a four-year period and Coleman has appointed three people to the post.

Also approved by the council were Vic Wittgenstein as Parks and Recreation director and Tom Eggum as Public Works director. Both men have more than 30 years of experience as city employees. Wittgenstein had been serving as the acting Parks and Recreation director since Robert Piram stepped down in late 1998. Eggum had been serving as interim

Public Works director since Stacey Becker left the post last fall.

Longtime Parks and Recreation Commission member Liz Anderson has been named as Wittgenstein's new deputy director. She has worked for the Minnesota House of Representatives' Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee and for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. She also co-chaired the task force that studied the Mississippi River Boulevard bicycle lane.



The Audubon Ark will make a stop at Hidden Falls on August 21 as part of its month-long tour of the Mississippi. It is shown docking in Clinton, Iowa. Photo by Larry Stone.

Friends, Audubon Society host river celebrations at Hidden Falls

Friends of the Mississippi River is seeking 100 volunteers to participate in Watershed 100, a special storm-drain stenciling event beginning at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, August 21, at Hidden Falls Park.

Volunteers will be asked to help protect the river from pollutants by stenciling the message "Please Don't Pollute—Drains to River" on storm drains and distributing educational door hangers to houses and businesses in the stenciled neighborhoods. The activity is geared for people of all ages and a picnic lunch will be provided.

Following the event, the Minnesota Audubon Council will host a celebration in the park beginning at noon. There will be a brief program to honor recent conservation achievements along both the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, exhibits,

hourly eagle presentations, games for the kids, free refreshments and folk music by Charlie Maguire, Bill Hinkley and Judy Larson.

The "Audubon Ark," the National Audubon Society's 48-foot houseboat, also will make a stop at the park at noon as part of its month-long journey to inspect the Mississippi River. The society is inviting people to visit the ark, learn about the ecology of the river and share their hopes and concerns for the Mississippi's future.

For information on Watershed 100, call Brooke Crowe at 651-222-2193 or send an e-mail message to water@fmr.org. For details on the river celebration or other Audubon activities, call 651-225-1830 or check out www.audubon.org on the Internet.

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City gives blessing to church's effort to minister to homeless

by Jane McClure

A Summit Avenue church will be allowed to provide emergency overnight shelter to homeless families for one month each year as a result of a July 23 ruling by the St. Paul Planning Commission.

House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave., is one of 12 churches participating in the Project Home Program sponsored by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches. The churches are taking turns, one month at a time, to shelter up to 16 homeless people on nights when Ramsey County's shelters are full.

The Planning Commission determined that a homeless shelter was in keeping with the mission of House of Hope and is similar to programs that the church has offered for many years.

House of Hope's congregation has taken a strong interest in the need for housing homeless and low-income people in St. Paul in recent months. This spring the church announced a plan to raise \$4.5 million for an endowment that

would be used to support projects related to affordable housing.

Thus far, House of Hope is the only church in the Project Home Program that has sought the permission of the Planning Commission to operate a shelter. However, the other churches in the program will be required to go through the same process, the Planning Commission stated.

These churches include the Cathedral of St. Paul, 239 Selby Ave.; Gloria Dei Lutheran, 700 S. Snelling Ave.; Fairmount United Methodist, 1523 Fairmount Ave.; and Merriam-Lexington Presbyterian, 203 N. Howell St.

The homeless shelter was opposed by the Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC). Its president, Patrick Ruble, said the SUPC sympathized with the need for a homeless shelter, but questioned whether a shelter constituted a similar use for House of Hope.

The SUPC also complained that the Summit-University neighborhood is already home to 193 community residential facility beds. Six of the 12 churches participating in

Project Home are located in Summit-University.

However, city staff do not consider a temporary shelter to be adding to the number of residential facility beds. "This is seen as more of a community service use," said

"It's what we expect churches to do," said Gladys Morton. "If the churches were not doing this, we'd have an even bigger homeless problem."

Jim Zdon of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED).

Summit Avenue resident Justin Kelly disputed House of Hope's claim that the neighborhood supported the shelter. He said several neighbors were not notified about a meeting on the shelter. "Having a homeless shelter on Summit Avenue next to my property could

have an adverse effect on my property," he said.

Kelly said he was also concerned about the potential for increased crime. "To introduce this element into the community once a month, who knows where it goes from there?" he asked.

House of Hope Board of Deacons member Tom Radio said that church officials are willing to meet with Kelly and other neighbors who have concerns about crime and other matters related to the shelter.

However, as planning commissioner Litton Field pointed out, the issue before the Planning Commission was merely whether the shelter was similar to other uses permitted at the church.

The determination of similar use "is a pretty dramatic decision," said planning commissioner Rich Kramer. "If we approve this, then every church in St. Paul could be a homeless shelter. As supportive as I am of this kind of service, I'm not in favor of opening the floodgates."

Having a homeless shelter is part of the mission of churches, argued

commission chair Gladys Morton. "It's what we expect churches to do. If the churches were not doing this, we'd have an even bigger homeless problem."

House of Hope will take its turn as an emergency shelter in October. Homeless families will arrive at the church each evening by taxi at about 5:00 and leave the next morning by taxi between 7:00 and 8:00.

The church plans to modify its basement youth area for use as the shelter, according to Radio. Families in the program will be screened, and anyone with a history of chemical abuse or domestic violence will not be eligible.

Participants will receive their meals at the Dorothy Day Center in downtown St. Paul. They will not be allowed to roam the neighborhood around the church and will be under constant supervision by church volunteers.

In allowing the shelter, the Planning Commission stipulated that the House of Hope shelter only be permitted to operate one month a year.

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S P E C I A L S E C T I O N

Highland Fest 1999

Your guide to the music, art, food and festivities scheduled for Friday through Sunday, August 13-15, in and around Highland Village.

On the road again

Expanded festival gets ready to hit the street August 13-15

by Chris Smith

With an expanded festival area, continuous entertainment on two stages, an ice-skating party, classic car shows, two evenings of fireworks and the Taste of Highland, organizers are not exaggerating when they say the 16th annual edition of Highland Fest on August 13-15 will be bigger and better than ever.

"It's going to be hard to pick what to go to," said Patricia Boyd, executive director of the sponsoring Highland Business Association. "Our theme is 'Discover Highland' and I think even longtime neighborhood residents will discover new things about Highland this year."

Festival chair Mark Moeller of R.F. Moeller Jeweler figures that the new events and all of the old favorites planned for this year's festival, coupled with hours of on-site radio exposure and strong support from business sponsors, will help draw record-breaking crowds to Highland Village for the festival's weekend run.

"I'm expecting anywhere from 60,000 to 100,000 depending on the weather," he said. "Usually we count on around 50,000."

The radio publicity is coming courtesy of KSTP-AM 1500, which will broadcast six live shows from in front of HighlandBank during Highland Fest. "The station's president and several of their personalities live in the High-



land Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods," Boyd said. "They're doing a lot of promotion and we're doing a lot of advertising. The live broadcasts will really raise the profile of the event."

The principal sponsor of Highland Fest this year is Ford Motor Company, which will open its new high-tech training facility for tours and offer presentations on the manufacturing process for the Ford Ranger on Saturday and Sunday. An all-Ford classic car show and other events will take place in the parking lot and free refreshments will be served.

Across the street on Ford Parkway, the United Auto Workers will present a display of rare historical photographs of the Highland area before and during the building of the Ford plant in 1923. Free popcorn will be served.

Highland area banks and dozens of other HBA-member businesses are also stepping up to sponsor major portions of the festival. "Festivals like this just don't work without the support of local businesses," Moeller said. "Festivals like this are major operations with the budgets of a small company."

One new addition to this year's celebration will be a family ice skating party from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Drake Ice Arena at St. Paul Academy and Summit School. The party will feature recorded music, costumed mascots and an appearance by St. Paul's



The bombs bursting in air will be higher and brighter than ever during fireworks displays this Friday and Saturday evening during Highland Fest. *Photos by Mike Long.*

Alana Blahoski, a member of the 1996 Olympic gold-medal women's hockey team.

Ford Parkway will be closed to motorized traffic from Cleveland Avenue to Howell Street beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, and between Cleveland Avenue and Finn Street beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday. Both sections of Ford will remain closed until 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. Cleveland will remain open, but traffic back-ups should be expected.

The 32nd annual Highland Art Fair will get under way beginning at noon on Friday and will continue throughout the festival's three-day run. The fair, which is being presented by Chipotle Grill, will feature the works of 124 artists fanning out in all four directions from the corner of Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue.

Highland Fest/see page 19

Ford gives Highland Fest 25,000 reasons to celebrate

by Dale Mischke

For the first time ever, Highland Fest is benefitting from the financial sponsorship of a single major donor. Ford Motor Company has given organizers of the neighborhood festival \$25,000 to underwrite a significant portion of the event's operating costs.

But Ford's involvement in the 16th annual Highland Fest does not stop there.

The automaker will be giving festival-goers a sneak preview of its 2000 model year along with a retrospective of some of its classic models from year's past, all displayed on the grounds of its Twin Cities Assembly Plant on Ford Parkway. In the UAW hall across the street, Ford employees will be exhibiting rare photographs of Highland before and after

the building of the plant in 1923. Ford will also be offering public tours of the new high-tech training facility at the plant, including videos of the truck assembly process.

"We wanted to broaden our involvement in the community, and this seemed like a good way to do that," said Scott Jensen, Ford's public affairs manager for the Midwest. "We've have a good relationship with the state and the city of St. Paul. The new training center is indicative of that. We want to guarantee that that continues."

The car shows will run from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday in the parking lot near the new training center. Tours of the center will be offered during those same hours. On Saturday, Elmo from PBS's "Sesame Street" pro-

gram will be on hand to greet visitors.

Last week Ford was still putting together the details for the classic car display. The major attractions of the new car display will be such Ford Motor Company products for 2000 as the Ford Focus, the compact that was car of the year in Europe in 1999; the Ford Excursion sport utility vehicle; the Mercury Visteon Villager minivan with its built-in entertainment center; the Lincoln LS; the Volvo C-70; the Mazda MPV; the Ford SVT F-150 Lightning, a 360-horsepower pickup truck; and, of course, the Ranger, Ford's bestselling pickup that is made at the Highland Park plant.

Ford will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the opening of its Twin Cities Assembly Plant next year. After three quarters of a

century, Highland is still a good place to do business, Jensen said. The plant in Highland is highly productive, according to him. Though Ford no longer mines the sand beneath the plant to make its windshields, it still derives all of the electricity the plant needs from its dam below the plant on the Mississippi River.

Highland Fest raises money for the Highland Business Association (HBA) to help pay for the upkeep of Highland Village and other business promotions throughout the year. Ford's sponsorship of the 1999 festival bodes well for 2000, according to Patricia Boyd, HBA executive director.

"The more money we can make at Highland Fest," Boyd said, "the more money we can put into the Village the rest of the year."

New guru of Raku

Christianna Porter adds playfulness to an age-old ceramics technique

by Leslie Walters

Artist Christianna Porter's recent trip to Europe was a dream come true.

"It was just perfect," said the Belgium-born artist, who stayed with relatives in Stuttgart, Germany, and made extended trips to Paris, Venice, Rome and Florence. The trip gave Porter, 29, a chance to see many of the world's great works of art that she had studied while in college.

"The Mona Lisa is wonderful," said Porter, a Merriam Park resident. "The Sistine Chapel is breathtaking. All of Michelangelo's art made me so emotional that I started to cry. The Greek and Roman pottery really showed the flow and fluidity of the figures' fabrics."

The pottery was of particular interest to Porter, a clay and ceramic artist who works in the Raku-style of pottery. The Raku pot was created in Japan in the 1500s for Zen tea ceremonies. According to Porter, the clay body of the pot is specially formulated with large amounts of fine sand called *egrog*, which makes it porous. This enables the pot to withstand intense heat when firing. The pot is first fired and then glazed, which makes for vivid colors.

The Raku process requires the artist to maintain a close relationship with the pot through all stages of production, particularly during the firing. "The intimacy is what wooed me to love creating with clay as well as being devoted to the Raku process," Porter said.

Porter's pots and other ceramic pieces will be on display at the 32nd annual Highland Art Fair, which is being presented this year by Chipotle Grill. She is one of more than 120 artists who will be participating in the juried show, which will run from noon on Friday, August 13, to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 15.

"We're looking forward to an exciting weekend," said art fair chair Ann Paul. In addition to pottery, the fair will include fiber art, photography, jewelry, metal work, oil paint-

ings, watercolors and wearable art. The arts and crafts booths will fan out in all four directions from the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Ford Parkway.

Highland Fest offers great exposure for artists, said Porter, who is returning to the art fair for her second year. "A lot of people walk through the whole art show, eye things and then go back to pick up the things they want," she said. But even if someone just picks up her card, that is a plus, Porter said.

One can quickly recognize the warmth, whimsy and playfulness in both Porter and her pottery. Some of her more prized Raku pieces bear little multi-colored antique cars, which have become her signature design. She keeps a large, free-standing model in her apartment, which also is home to a stuffed animal collection, an impressive collection of original art, her tiger cat Maurice, a pair of red boxing gloves ("Watching boxing is my guilty pleasure," she said) and, of course, her own art.

She also creates "life pots"—teapots that include foot-like appendages and upward reaching arms—as well as a collection of bowls, plates, jars and vases.

"I just take it as it comes," Porter said of her art. "A lot of times I go into the studio with a set idea of what I want to do, but then the clay takes over. I do my functional pottery, but I also try to have fun and stretch the limits of clay."

Her ceramic pieces are reasonably priced, ranging from \$10 to \$14 for small bowls to \$30 to \$45 for larger vases and pots. "I have a tough time pricing my work because I don't want it to be so expensive that people are going to really like it a lot, but aren't going to want to buy it, or so inexpensive that they'll think that something is wrong with it," she said.

Porter participates in a handful of art shows each summer and also displays her pottery at a fair with four other women artists each December. Her work is on display in a



Merriam Park artist Christianna Porter will have her Raku pots and other ceramic pieces on display and for sale at the Highland Art Fair this weekend. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

variety of art galleries and boutiques as well as on the consignment circuit. She also sells a lot of her pieces out of a University Avenue studio that she shares with three other potters.

Porter was born in Belgium while her father was stationed there and moved to the United States at age 2. Besides being a great art trek, her recent European trip was an opportunity for her to reunite with relatives she

had not seen since then.

During the academic year, Porter teaches art at Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley. She devotes her summers to her pottery.

"I kind of have an idea of how my pieces are going to turn out, but I never really know," she said. "I usually fire on really, really hot days, like last week—days when you can lose 10 pounds just standing there."

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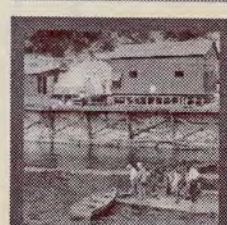


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Highland Fest hits the street

/from page 17

The Taste of Highland, featuring seven neighborhood restaurants offering samples of their fare, will be served up on the Hillcrest Recreation Center fields. Other itinerant food vendors will be set up on both sides of Ford Parkway throughout the Village during the festival.

Saturday's schedule will get off to a flying start with the annual Highland Fest River Run, which is sponsored by the Midway YMCA, Bruegger's Bagel Bakery, Blimpie's, Hamline University and Health Partners. Men's softball, Little League baseball and three-on-three soccer tournaments also will be held throughout the weekend. Fairview Highland Park Clinic physicians will man their health information booth all day on Saturday.

The always-popular children's parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. The entourage will be led by the Stompin' Dixies. Registration begins 15 minutes prior to the start. Other children's activities, all of which are presented by Dakota Bank and Parrish's Supper Club, will include a moonwalk, miniature train rides, a petting zoo, face painting, an art tent and a Saturday morning concert by the Teddy Bear Band.

Children also will take center stage when the Circus of the Star performs acts of skill and daring during its fifth annual Highland Fest shows from August 12-15 in the Hillcrest gym. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children, and are available at the rec center. Last year all of the performances were sold out.

Those who are looking for musical entertainment will have two stages to turn to at this year's festival. The main stage will be set up in Hillcrest Park, while a second stage will be located on Ford Parkway just west of Cleveland Avenue and will feature everything from a gospel choir to local teen bands. Both stages are sponsored by Firststar Bank.

The Rockin' Hollywoods will kick off the main stage lineup with a concert beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday. The performance, which is sponsored by HighlandBank, will be followed by a fireworks display at 10:00 p.m., compliments of Aspen Clinic, Chicago Beef Co., Details Salon, Fairview Pharmacy and Clinic, Faricy's in the Village, Highland Village Center/Ryan Co., Pearle Vision Center, Red Robin Cleaners and R.F. Moeller Jeweler.

"We're trying a different fireworks setup that will require us to clear people out of most of the park," Boyd said. "They're going to be bigger fireworks than we've had before."

Saturday's entertainment lineup will include the local Blue River Blues Band at 3:00 p.m. Firststar Bank will present the nationally known a cappella group the Blenders at 5:00 p.m. Martin Zellar's backup band, The District, will perform at 6:00 p.m. and Zellar



Ann Marie Clifford got serious about her ice cream come at a previous festival. Photo by Mike Long.

himself at 7:00 p.m., thanks to the support of R.F. Moeller Jeweler. A second evening of fireworks will follow the show.

A full day's agenda continues on Sunday, including performances by the Splatter Sisters, Scottish dancers, the Lex-Ham Community Band, a bag pipe band, the Charlie Lucas Quartet from Central High School and the cast of *Forever Plaid* from Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. A drawing also will be held on Sunday for five pairs of round-trip tickets anywhere in the United States, courtesy of Mendota Heights-based Sun Country Airlines.

The historic Highland Water Tower will be open for public tours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday during this year's festival. Those in need of refreshments after negotiating the tower's 151 stairs to the top can walk across the street to the offices of the *Villager* and *Grand Gazette*. The staff will be offering free cookies, root beer and souvenir coffee cups from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

On the other end of Ford Parkway, the Lock and Dam No. 1 will be open for touring from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The Capital City Trolley will be transporting festival-goers up and down Ford Parkway between the dam and water tower from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Moeller said the whole festival is organized around three goals: showing off area businesses, providing the business association with the funds to keep up the appearance of Highland Village, and saying thanks to the neighbors for their patronage.

"I think we've put together a really nice package," Moeller said. "I'm not worried about anything but the weather."

For more information on Highland Fest, call the HBA office at 651-699-9042.



Ford Parkway will once again be closed for the benefit of those taking in the music, food, art and other activities planned for this weekend's Highland Fest. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

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Youngsters can deck out their bikes, trikes and selves for the Saturday morning children's parade or defy gravity while enjoying the moonwalk at Highland Fest '99. Funding for the children's activities for this weekend's festival are sponsored by Dakota Bank and Parrish's Supper Club as part of an unusual story spelled out below. Photos by Mike Long.

Its own reward

Foiled robbery results in justice and children being served this Highland Fest

by Chris Smith

It might seem a little bit odd that a West 7th Street restaurant and bank would get together to sponsor the children's programming at this year's Highland Fest in Highland Village. However, this is one of those cases when the truth is far stranger than fiction.

It all began on the afternoon of April 14 when a group of young men burst into Dakota Bank at 2310 W. 7th St. Brandishing guns, they forced everyone to the floor, grabbed cash and fled.

"I was one of the ones lying on the floor like everyone else," said branch manager Roger Amundson. "When I saw them go out the door, I jumped up and followed to see which way they went. Just then Jerry Parrish pulled into the lot. He asked what was going on and I told him they'd just robbed the bank. He took off following them."

Amundson called police to let them know that Parrish, one of the owners of Parrish's Supper Club at 2176 W. 7th St., was following the culprits. "I certainly wouldn't encourage anyone to follow armed bank robbers," Amundson said. "But I know Jerry pretty well and that's just the kind of guy he is."

Parrish followed the robbers' car southwest on Highway 5 across the Mississippi River,

then across the Mendota Bridge. At some point they apparently realized that he was following them.

The robbers used a cell phone to call one of their mothers for a ride, then abandoned the getaway car in a Mendota Heights neighborhood. After a long search involving helicopters and officers from several jurisdictions, police found the suspects at a home in St. Paul's West 7th Street neighborhood.

Police were able to link the suspects to at least five other robberies of three St. Paul banks. A federal indictment unsealed last month charged them with armed robbery and conspiracy in all five of the cases.

Dakota Bank president John Seidl offered Parrish a \$2,500 reward for his efforts, but Parrish turned the money down. Parrish

claimed that he had not done anything unusual and declined requests for interviews for this article.

"He said I should donate the money to something instead," Amundson said. "Right about that same time Mark Moeller (this year's Highland Fest chair) called and asked us if we'd help sponsor something for the festival. The children's events were the single biggest thing left."

Amundson and Parrish agreed that it was a worthy cause and the bank kicked in another \$1,500 to cover the entire cost of the children's activities for this weekend's festival.

Those activities will get started with the children's parade at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at Hillcrest Playground. Kids are invited to dec-

orate their bikes, trikes, wagons and themselves to compete for prizes. The parade will be led by the Stomp'n' Dixies band. Participants can register beginning at 10:15 that morning.

After the parade, numerous children's events will get under way at Hillcrest. Long-time favorites like the moonwalk, petting zoo, face painting and miniature train rides will be joined by a children's art tent. The Teddy Bear Band will perform at 11:00 a.m. on the main stage.

The children's events will return from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday at Hillcrest. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Splatter Sisters from 11:00 a.m. to noon.

"These sponsors (Parrish's and Dakota Bank) enabled us to coordinate the kids events with more thought," Moeller said. "We wouldn't have been able to put it together so well without that kind of generosity."

"This has been a really good neighborhood for us," said Seidl, explaining the bank's interest in supporting Highland Fest. "You see how we and our friendly competitors (Highland, Liberty and Firststar banks are also Highland Fest sponsors) like to step up to support this festival."

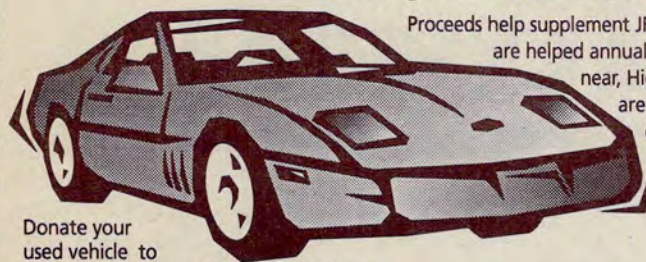
"Jerry's generosity turned a good thing into a great thing."



Patrick MacGregor, 2, was adrift in an ocean of orbs while enjoying himself at a previous Highland Fest. Photo by Mike Long.

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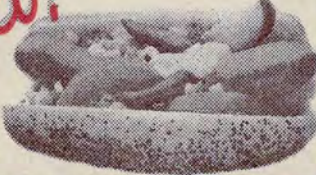
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Musical frappé

The well-traveled Blenders are spending more time home in the Twin Cities, which is good news for those who enjoy great a cappella

by Dave Page

When the Blenders perform at Highland Fest on Saturday, August 14, it will be a homecoming of sorts for band member Tim Kasper. Kasper lived in Highland Park and worked at Cecil's Deli in the early 1990s while studying at the University of St. Thomas.

"I wish I could live in Highland now," Kasper said from his home in St. Louis Park. "I keep talking about finishing my degree at St. Thomas, but the group has been too busy."

The Blenders, who are known for their tight harmonies and upbeat arrangements in rhythm and blues, jazz, pop and rock, got their start in Fargo, North Dakota, before Kasper enrolled at St. Thomas. He and lifelong friend Ryan Lance, who studied musical theater together at the Trollwood School of Performing Arts, formed the quartet with fellow Fargo natives Darren Rust and Paul Dunkirk. When Dave Hoffman, the manager of an-

other Fargo singer, Bobby Vee, convinced the group to put together an album, Kasper returned to Fargo. "And the rest is history," he said.

"We cut our first record on our own label, Cowtown Records," Kasper said. That album, entitled "Totally Whipped," sold 50,000 copies and helped establish the Blenders as one of the finest a cappella groups in the United States.

Because of a desire to "expand the sound," Kasper said that the group decided to add instrumentation to its third album, "The Blenders," which was recorded in 1995 by Orchard Lane, a Musicland label. For a Christmas release in 1997, the group returned to its a cappella roots, but its latest recording, due out soon, will once again have instrumentation.

The Blenders have spent much of the past eight years crisscrossing the country. They have performed in 46 states, opening for such acts as Savage Garden, Blues Traveler, Chicago, the Righteous Brothers, Jay Leno, Lou Rawls and Chuck Berry.

**The Blenders
have performed
in 46 states,
opening for such
acts as Savage
Garden, Blues
Traveler, Chicago,
the Righteous
Brothers, Jay
Leno, Lou Rawls
and Chuck Berry.**



The Blenders, from left Tim Kasper, Ryan Lance, Allan Rust and Darren Rust, will make their Highland Fest debut at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, August 14, on the main stage at Hillcrest Park.

Rawls and Chuck Berry.

Lately, the group has been spending more time at home in the Twin Cities. Still, Kasper has nothing but good things to say about life on the road. He has especially enjoyed working with comedian Howie Mandel, who once invited the group to ride with him on his rented jet during a tour they did together.

"Howie would have the pilots do flips so that we'd become weightless," Kasper recalled. "Is that legal?"

A less hectic schedule these days has allowed the foursome to devote more energy to recording. Darren Rust, whose brother Allan replaced Dunkirk several years ago, has a

studio in his Apple Valley home where the group works on new songs. Their recordings are then mixed at a local studio before being sent to New York or Los Angeles for the finishing touches.

"We're basically control freaks," Kasper said, referring to the group's hands-on approach to recording, "and that has occasionally hurt us."

But with stations across the country playing their newest single, "Can't Get Over You," it cannot have hurt them too much.

The Blenders are without a manager right now, but they have interviews scheduled in the weeks ahead with prospective managers in Nashville and Los Angeles. "Still, I

suspect that we'll end up with a manager from the Twin Cities," Kasper said.

For their performance at Highland Fest—scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Saturday on the Firststar stage in Hillcrest Park—the Blenders will be accompanied in some of their songs by recorded instrumentation put together by Darren Rust. However, the group is looking to hire a combo for future live performances, Kasper said.

The Blenders' show at Highland Fest, which is sponsored by Firststar Bank, "is all about having fun," Kasper said. "It'll appeal to people from ages 8 to 80."



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Highland Fest 1999

Friday AUGUST 13

Ford Parkway closes to motorized traffic beginning at 9:00 a.m. from Howell Street to Cleveland Avenue until 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 15.

The 32nd Annual Highland Art Fair 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.

The works of 124 of the region's leading artists and craftspeople will be exhibited throughout Highland Village. Presented by Chipotle Mexican Grill.

A Taste of Highland 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m.

Six Highland area restaurants have teamed up to serve their specialties in Hillcrest Park. They include Bakers Square, Champ's, Chicago Beef Co., Famous Dave's, the Highland Grill and Papa John's. A Taste of Highland is sponsored by the Highland Grill.



The Rockin' Hollywoods 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Twist again like you did last summer to the classic sounds of '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll on the Firststar Stage in Hillcrest Park. Presented by the HighlandBank.

Circus of the Star 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Highland Park's own youth circus will present the second of five Highland Fest performances in the gymnasium of the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Get your tickets early because last year's performances were all sold out.

"The Mischke Broadcast" 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

KSTP-AM 1500's radio renegade, T.D. Mischke, will present his show live from a mystery location in Highland Village. Find him if you can.

Fireworks Show 10:00 p.m.

A dazzling pyrotechnical display in Hillcrest Park will close out the first day of Highland Fest, thanks to the co-sponsorship of Aspen Clinic, Chicago Beef Co., Details Salon, Fairview Pharmacy and Clinic, Faricy's in the Village, Highland Village Center/Ryan Companies, Pearle Vision Center, Red Robin Cleaners and R.F. Moeller Jeweler.

Saturday AUGUST 14

Ford Parkway closes to motorized traffic beginning at 6:00 a.m. from Cleveland Avenue to Finn Street until 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 14.

"The Home and Garden Show"

7:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Loren Kohlen and Freddie Glasoe of KSTP-AM 1500 will broadcast their show live from the KSTP booth in front of the HighlandBank. Complimentary coffee and breakfast treats will be served to all fans of the show who stop by.



Softball Tournament

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Twenty-four of the Twin Cities' best class C, D and E slow-pitch softball teams will be competing for cash prizes in the annual tourney. Games will be played at the Hillcrest, Edgumbe and Riverside ball fields. Co-sponsored by Tiffany's Sports Bar and Grill and the Hillcrest Booster Club.

Little League Tournament

All Day

Seventy of the best Little League teams from across the region will be competing this weekend at the Ford Little League Fields at Montreal and Cleveland Avenue. The younger set played the past two weekends. This weekend it's the 12- to 15-year-olds' turn.



Highland Fest River Run and Walk

10K run at 8:00 a.m.

5K family run/walk at 9:30 a.m.

The scenic, certified course for both events will begin and end at Bruegger's Bagel Bakery in

Highland Village Center. Awards will be presented to the top three finishers in 12 age categories for the 10K event, and finishers cups will be awarded to all those who complete the 5K event. Sponsored by the Midway Family YMCA and Bruegger's.

Kids Half-Mile Fun Run 8:05 a.m.

The kids are invited to get in on the fun of race day, too. All those who complete the half-mile track will receive a decorative lanyard.

Saturday CONTINUED



A Taste of Highland

9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Good eating will continue all day at the six restaurant booths set up in Hillcrest Park. Itinerant food vendors will also set up shop throughout Highland Village.

Free Trolley Rides

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Getting around Highland Village will be a breeze with free trolley rides, compliments of Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union.

Highland Art Fair 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The juried art show and sale will continue all day in the Village, compliments of Chipotle Mexican Grill.



Free Pony Rides

12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Coldwell Banker Burnet invites all the kids to drop by for a spin in the parking lot of its Highland Park office on Ford Parkway.

Family Photo Shoot

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Snyder's and Act One Photography have teamed up to offer family photos for only \$2.00, including film processing, in front of Snyder's Ford Parkway store. All proceeds will go to the Highland Business Association for the further beautification of Highland Village.

Neighborhood Notes 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

A variety of local musicians will take to the Firststar Stage set up at the corner of Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue.

Highland Water Tower Tours

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Self-guided tours of Highland's historic landmark will be offered all day. From the observation deck you're as high as you can get in St. Paul without being airborne. Presented by the St. Paul Water Utility.

Health Information Booth

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fairview Highland Park physicians will dispense free health information and answer any health-related questions you may have. The booth will be located at the corner of Ford Parkway and Kenneth Street.

Free Face Painting 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The folks from Bright Start children's centers will be doing the honors in Hillcrest Park.

Ford Motor Co. Open House

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The truck manufacturer will offer tours of its new high-tech training facility along with an all-Ford product classic car show in the parking lot outside the center. Across the street at the Ford Union Hall, the United Auto Workers will present a display of rare photographs of Highland Park before and after the Ford Plant was built in 1923. Refreshments will be available at both locations.

Highland Fest Children's Parade

10:15 a.m. Registration, 10:30 a.m. Start

The Stomp'n' Dixies will lead this wildly popular annual event. All kids are invited to decorate their bikes, trikes, wagons and themselves and join in on the fun. Prizes will be awarded and all children will receive a gift bag. Sponsored by Dakota Bank and Parrish's Supper Club.



Petting Zoo

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The kids are invited to participate in this very hands-on activity in Hillcrest Park, presented by Dakota Bank and Parrish's Supper Club.

Miniature Train Rides 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The little ones are invited to hop aboard for a spin in Hillcrest Park, thanks to Dakota Bank and Parrish's Supper Club.

The Teddy Bear Band 11:00 a.m.

A long-standing Highland Fest tradition, the Teddy Bear Band's Saturday morning concert will be presented by Dakota Bank and Parrish's Supper Club, on the Firststar Stage in Hillcrest Park.

Inga Pirca 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The haunting folk music of the Andes Mountains will be performed by this Chilean quintet on the Firststar Stage in the middle of Ford Parkway.

"Norm from St. Paul" 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman will be broadcasting live from the KSTP-AM 1500 booth in front of the HighlandBank.

Villager Open House 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Come meet the people who put out your neighborhood newspaper. Complimentary cookies and root beer will be served and a souvenir coffee cup will be given to all adults who stop by while supplies last.

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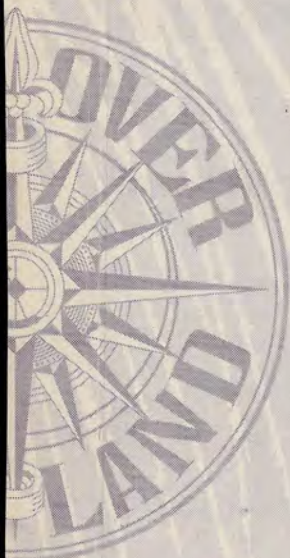


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Saturday CONTINUED

Circus of the Star 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The youth circus will present a Saturday matinee in the gymnasium of Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Children's Art Tent 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The Highland/Mac-Groveland Family Center will staff the art tent on Saturday, showing kids how to make nature bracelets and bookmarks. Presented by Highland Village Center and its owner, Ryan Companies.

Dorothy and the Oldies 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Pianist Dorothy Rech will be accompanied by singer/guitarist Dennis Stern in a wide-ranging show of Broadway tunes, '60s standards and country music on the Firstar Stage in the middle of Ford Parkway.

The C.I. Girls 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Led by KSTP's promotions director Judy Dibble, the C.I. (for Cylinder Index) Girls will perform on the Firstar Stage on Ford Parkway. Their performance is sponsored by the Highland District Council and Hillcrest Booster Club.

Skating Party 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Alana Blahoski, a member of the 1998 U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist hockey team, will be joined by the U of M's "Goldy" mascot, the Crazy Carrot mascot, the Caribou Coffee mascot and representatives from the Minnesota Wild for a family skating party at St. Paul Academy's Drake Arena. The party is presented by the Pioneer Press, city of St. Paul, Edward Jones Co. and Protec Environmental Consultants.

"Auto Talk" 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Paul Brand will broadcast his poplar radio show from the KSTP-AM 1500 both in front of the HighlandBank.

Classic Car Show 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

A bevy of beauties on wheels will be on display in the parking lot of the HighlandBank in conjunction with "Auto Talk," compliments of Priority Courier Experts.

The Blue River Blues Band 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The local rhythm and blues band will take the Firstar Stage at Ford Parkway and Cleveland.

The Blenders 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The nationally acclaimed a capella group will present its concert from the Firstar Stage in Hillcrest Park, compliments of Firstar Bank.

The District 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The backup band for Martin Zellar will take the Firstar Stage in Hillcrest Park, compliments of R.F. Moeller Jeweler.

Circus of the Star 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The youth circus will present its fourth Highland Fest performance in the gym at Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Martin Zellar 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Zellar will join The District for Saturday night's headline concert on the Firstar Stage in Hillcrest Park. Presented by R.F. Moeller Jeweler.

Fireworks Show

10:00 p.m.

Saturday's full day of activities will be capped off with another pyrotechnical exhibition, thanks to Aspen Clinic, Chicago Beef Co., Details Salon, Fairview Pharmacy and Clinic, Faricy's in the Village, Highland Village Center/Ryan Companies, Pearle Vision Center, Red Robin Cleaners and R.F. Moeller Jeweler.



3V3 Soccer Challenge All Day

Alan Merrick's Soccer Academies and Goals Oriented Inc. have teamed up to offer a three-on-three soccer tournament for kids ages 5-12. The full day of fun and soccer instruction will be held on the fields at the Groveland Recreation Center.

Little League Tournament All Day

The conclusion to the annual Highland Fest tourney, which will be played at the Ford Little League Fields at Montreal and Cleveland Avenue.

Lock and Dam Tours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Army Corps of Engineers will offer self-guided tours of Lock and Dam No. 1 on the Mississippi River, just downstream from the Ford Bridge. Areas of the lock and dam that are typically not open to the public will be accessible.

Gospel Music 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Established Heart Ministries will present a heart-stirring Sunday morning concert by Priesthood Productions.

Highland Art Fair

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The final day of the three-day art fair, sponsored by Chipotle Mexican Grill.



Sunday AUGUST 15

A Taste of Highland 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Food and refreshments will again be served up all day in Hillcrest Park, courtesy of the Highland Grill.

Highland Water Tower Tours

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A panoramic view from the top of the Twin Cities is yours to enjoy all day, thanks to the St. Paul Water Utility.

Family Photo Shoot 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Snyder's Drug Store and Act One Photography will again be offering family photos for \$2.00 in front of Snyder's on Ford Parkway. Proceeds will aid in the beautification of Highland Village.

Ford Motor Co. Open House

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tours of Ford's new training center and a classic car show of Ford Motor Co. products will continue, as will the display of rare photos of Highland at the Ford Union Hall across the street.

The Splatter Sisters

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

This always popular combo will present a concert on the Firstar Stage at Ford and Cleveland, thanks to U.S. Bank.

Free Trolley Rides

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Climb aboard the trolley for a free ride around Highland Village, compliments of Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union.



Scottish Dancers 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

It'll be a real Highland fling when this troupe takes the Firstar stage in Hillcrest Park.

Clifford the Dog 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

The poplar children's character will be greeting the kids at Barnes and Noble in Highland. Free balloons and face painting will be offered courtesy of Protec Environmental Consultants.

The Lex-Ham Community Band

12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

The St. Paul neighborhood band will present a concert on the Firstar Stage at Ford and Cleveland.

Nick Coleman 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

The KSTP-AM 1500 radio host and St. Paul Pioneer Press columnist will be broadcasting from Highland Fest from the booth in-front on the HighlandBank.

Children's Art Tent 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The staff from the Edina Arts Center will help kids try their hand at stamping and wood sculpting. Sponsored by Highland Village Center and its owner, Ryan Companies.

Bag Pipers 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The skirl of the bag pipes will echo in Hillcrest Park.

Circus of the Star 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The youth circus will present its fifth and final Highland Fest show in the gym at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Forever Plaid Players 1:45 to 2:30 p.m.

The cast from Chanhassen Dinner Theatres' production of the same name will perform on the Firstar Stage at Ford and Cleveland.

The Tropics Steel Drum Band

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Island music comes north in a concert from the Firstar Stage in Hillcrest Park, sponsored by Sevenich Butler Gerlach & Brazil CPAs.



The Charlie Lucas Quartet 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

This talented Central High School foursome will perform on the Firstar Stage at Ford and Cleveland.

Sun Country Airlines Drawing

5:00 p.m.

Those who have registered for the drawing have a chance to win airfare for two to any Sun Country Airlines domestic destination, thanks to the support of the Mendota Heights-based airline.

Ford Parkway reopens
to motorized traffic
at 9:00 p.m.





T.D. Mischke



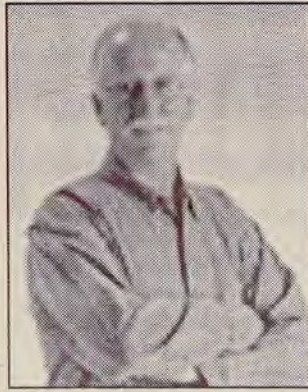
Freddie and Loren



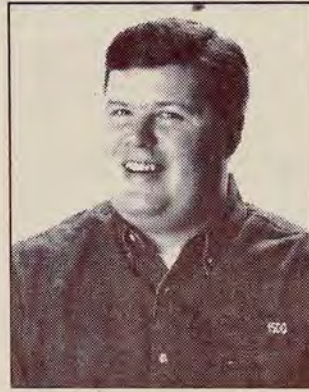
Paul Brand



Ron Rosenbaum



Nick Coleman



"The Rookie"

Talk of the town

Highland Fest will be homecoming of sorts for several of KSTP's on-air talent

by Catherine Condon

When Highland Fest '99 committee chairman Mark Moeller approached KSTP-AM 1500 last winter about becoming a major sponsor for this summer's event, Ginny Morris and her staff were all ears.

"We're always looking for ways to get involved in the community," said Morris, the station's president and general manager and a Macalester-Groveland resident. "We've done business with Mark for many years and cherish the relationship. He's a great salesman. He's eternally optimistic."

When Highland Fest gets under way this weekend, Moeller said it will be the first time since the event's inception in 1984 that a media company will be a major sponsor. KSTP is providing live on-air talent throughout the three-day event, as well as promotional advertising that began two weeks before Highland Fest.

"It'll bring some new people into High-

land," said Moeller, president of R.F. Moeller Jeweler. "And it'll also provide great recognition for our other sponsors. That'll make a huge difference."

The partnership will work both ways. "Participating on a grassroots level and broadcasting from there (Highland Village) will give us exposure we otherwise wouldn't get," Morris said.

KSTP will present six live broadcasts during the festival, which runs August 13-15.

T.D. Mischke, a 1981 Highland Park Senior High graduate and former *Villager* and *Grand Gazette* contributing writer, will kick things off by broadcasting his 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday the 13th show from a mystery location somewhere in Highland Village. "It's such a mystery, I don't even know where it is," Morris said.

"It's so like Mischke to do something like that—to be someplace in Highland Village, broadcasting live where they can't find him," Moeller said. "It's right up his alley."

The rest of the live broadcasts will be conducted from the KSTP booth in front of HighlandBank. The Saturday lineup will include Freddie Glasoe and Loren Kohnen of "The Home and Garden Show" from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m., St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman of "Norm from St. Paul" from noon to 3:00 p.m. and Paul Brand of "Auto Talk" from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. A classic car show will be presented in the bank's parking lot in conjunction with Brand's show.

On Sunday, Macalester-Groveland resident Ron Rosenbaum will host "Holding Court" at noon, followed by Nick Coleman from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and another broadcast of Brand's "Auto Talk" from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Highland Park resident Matt Michalski, also known as "The Rookie," will be the official emcee for the festival's main stage shows over the entire weekend. A 1987 graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall, Michalski is the producer for fellow Highland Park resident Joe Soucheray's afternoon show on KSTP.

At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, the C.I. Girls, a four-woman vocal group led by KSTP promotions director Judy Dibble, will perform from a stage set up in the middle of Ford Parkway. That performance is being sponsored by the Hillcrest Booster Club and Highland District Council.

Formed in honor of Soucheray's on-air "Cylinder Index" bit, the group has performed at the Minnesota State Fair and plans to hand out copies of its "C.I. Girl" CD single sung to the tune of Billy Joel's 1980s hit "Up-town Girl."

"People who understand the show will say, 'I gotta be down there!'" said Joe's brother John Soucheray, director of sales for the station and its FM counterpart KS95.

According to him, KSTP advertisers like Car-X, US West, Tires Plus, American Family Insurance and Priority Courier will be headquartered in a booth adjacent to the broadcasting area.

Sunday open house offers keys to lock's operation

Those who are interested in learning how huge barges and small pleasure craft navigate the headwaters of the Mississippi River are in for a treat when Lock and Dam No. 1 hosts its annual Highland Fest open house from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 15.

The open house will offer self-guided tours of the facility, which is located just south of the Ford Bridge on the Minneapolis side of the river. Visitors may watch boats slip in and out of the lock as well as videotapes of the facility's operation and displays of the river. Lockmaster Jim Ryan said lock operators will be available during the open house to answer questions and give visitors an inside look at how the lock and dam operate.

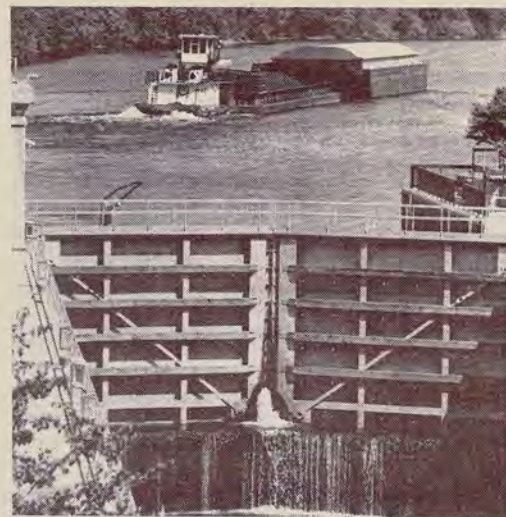
"Lock and Dam No. 1 is a very popular site to visit," Ryan said. "We get about 60,000 visitors each year. The open house is a special opportunity for old acquaintances and first-time visitors to see areas of the lock and dam that aren't normally open to the public."

Ryan said as many as 2,500 people are expected to stop at the lock and dam this Sunday, compared to a typical Sunday's draw of 500 to 600. "We're extremely pleased with the response we've had in the past," he said. "I think visitors who stop at the open house have a lot of fun."

The lock and dam did not have an open house during last year's festival because of construction, Ryan said. To protect the lock

from falling rocks, workers shaved the bluff and built higher retaining walls at the base. It was the latest in more than \$60 million in renovations at the facility since the late 1970s.

Lock and Dam No. 1 first opened to watercraft on July 3, 1917. The facility, which is often referred to as the Ford Dam, is one of 29 locks that are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Mississippi between Minneapolis and New Orleans. The locks operate 24 hours a day during the boating season. The visitors' center is open from dawn to dusk and is accessible to handicapped people. Admission is free.



The Sophie Rose plies the river after leaving Lock and Dam No. 1. Photo by Mike Long.

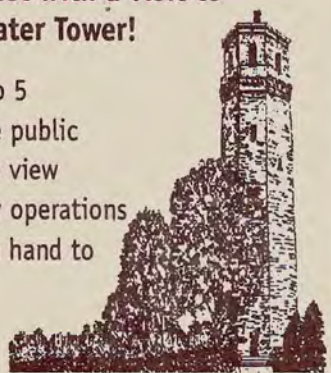
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August 14-15

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Tower tour is chance to get on top of things

The St. Paul Water Utility will open the doors to the historic Highland Water Tower for self-guided public tours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, August 14-15, as part of Highland Fest '99. Those who climb the winding stairway leading to the tower's 115-foot-high observation deck will be rewarded for their efforts with a bird's-eye view of the entire metro area.

The water tower is situated on a knoll at the southeast corner of Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway—the second highest point of land within the city limits. (A rock on the course of the Hillcrest Country Club in St. Paul's northeast corner is a few feet higher.)

The tower was constructed in 1928 at a cost of \$70,000. Credit for the distinctive octagonal design is given to architect Clarence Wigington, who was hired in 1915 by the city of St. Paul. He was the first African American architect in the country to be employed by a major U.S. city.

To create the tower, Wigington encased a steel water tank in a 127-foot-tall structure made of Kasota and Bedford stone. The Highland landmark features stone arches, carved downspouts and 151 steps leading to the observation deck. Benches are strategically placed on landings along the way for those who need a breather.

Although two newer water tanks have since been built a stone's throw to the north, the original tower is still being used by the Water Utility. The 200,000-gallon Highland Water Tower, together with the neighboring 1-million-gallon and 1.5-million-gallon blue water tanks, make up the Highland Booster Station.

The booster station increases the water pressure in the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. Water from the Water Utility's two nearby underground reservoirs is pumped into the higher tanks and from there flows by gravity to homes and businesses in the area.

Utility employees will be on hand during the open house to answer questions and provide information about the city's water services. The tower will reopen on the second weekend in October for the annual viewing of autumn's colors.



Visitors can enjoy one of the best views around from the water tower's observation deck. Photo by Mike Long.

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After climbing up and down the 151 steps leading to the observation deck of the historic Highland Water Tower, we thought you might like to join us across the street at the offices of the *Villager* and *Grand Gazette*. Come in, cool down, meet the staff of your neighborhood newspaper, and enjoy cookies and root beer on us.

And while you're at it, feel free to take home a souvenir coffee cup while supplies last.

It's our salute to Highland Fest '99 and to a neighborhood we're proud to call home. We look forward to your company.

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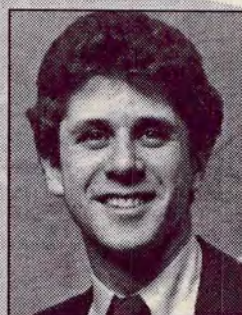
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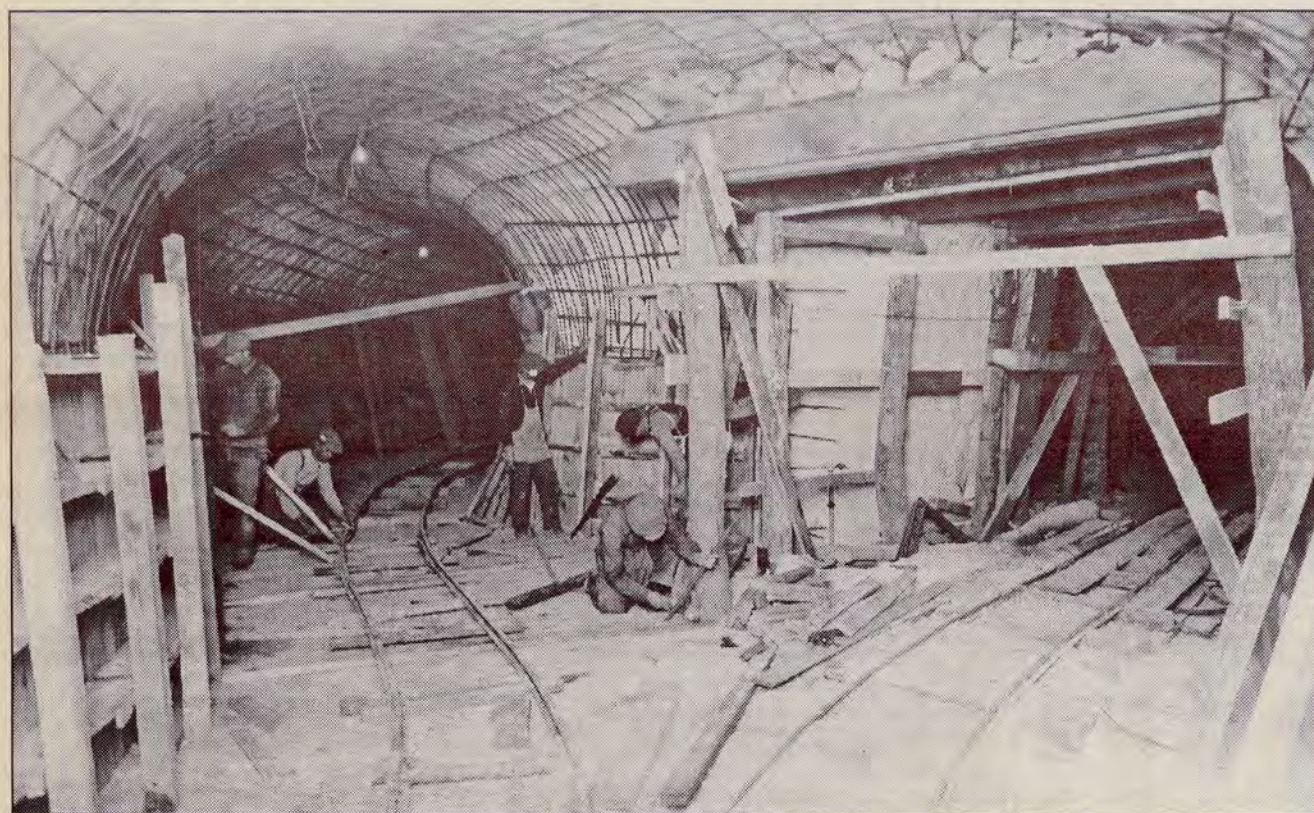
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An aerial view of the Ford Plant as it neared completion in 1925. It appears that little in the way of development had yet come south of Randolph Avenue.



Workers lay track in the tunnels beneath the Ford Plant in 1924. The tracks carried building supplies from the river to the plant and later served as the source for the silicate that was used to produce glass at the plant.



The site of the Ford Plant in Highland Village was virgin prairie back in July 1923 when steam-powered shovels broke ground on the now 74-year-old facility.

Birth of a neighborhood

Ford Plant photos offer rare view of early days of Village's first tenant

A treasure trove of rare photographs dating from before ground was broken in 1923 for the construction of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant will be on display during Highland Fest '99. The photos can be viewed on Saturday, August 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and again on Sunday, August 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the United Auto Workers' Ford Union Hall, located across Ford Parkway from the plant.

Historian Brian McMahon, who has written extensively on the history of automobile manufacturing in Minnesota and is now working on a book on the subject, compiled the photos from a wide variety of sources. Most if not all of

them have never been seen by the general public.

One photo in particular stands out. It is a panoramic, three-panel shot of Highland Park taken from the Minneapolis side of the Mississippi River before work was to begin on the Ford Plant. Other than barns and farmhouses, the only visible building is the steeple of the chapel at the College of St. Catherine, which had been built about 14 years earlier. The Ford Bridge had not yet been erected. The dam in the foreground was later removed at the insistence of Henry Ford and replaced with a new one. Above the dam, vintage cars are parked along Mississippi River

Ford/see next page

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Ford workers pause to commemorate the completion of the 5,000th M-8 armored car at the Ford Plant in 1944. The plant was converted to an armored car manufacturing facility during World War II.

Ford Plant photos /from previous page

Boulevard. It appears the dam was a popular attraction for people out for an afternoon drive through the countryside in their recently purchased automobiles.

How young the automobile industry was back then is evident in many of the photos. Most of the vehicles that carried construction material to the building site were horse-drawn wagons.

The Ford Plant was designed by architect Albert Kahn, one of the most prolific industrial architects of the 20th century, according to McMahon. Kahn was born in 1869 in

Rhaunen, Germany, and emigrated to Detroit in 1880, a fact that would foreshadow his later success as an industrial architect.

Kahn began his long association with what was to become his most important client, Henry Ford, with the design of the Highland Park, Michigan, plant, which opened in 1910. Kahn's biggest Minnesota project was the Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Village, which replaced an earlier plant built in 1913 at 420 N. 5th St. in Minneapolis. Construction started in 1923 and was completed in 1925.

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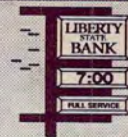


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Wednesday/August 11

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet at 7:00 this evening at Mother Earth Gardens, S. 42nd Ave. and 38th St., Minneapolis. The topic of discussion will be "Perennial Grasses for Minnesota."

Thursday/August 12

A CORN FEED will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 this evening at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave. There will also be hot dogs with all the fixings, beverages and watermelon. The cost is 50¢ for a hot dog or cob of corn, or \$1.00 for three items. The watermelon and beverages are free.

Saturday/August 14

AN OPEN HOUSE, including free tours, will be held from noon to 3:30 p.m. today at the state Capitol. The 30-minute guided tours will include costumed characters from the past, a dome construction worker illustrating how the self-supporting dome was made and artist John La Farge discussing proper painting techniques. Tours will leave on the half-hour with the last one leaving at 3:00 p.m. For information, call 651-296-2881.

A CHILDREN'S DAY will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Mendota. Children can meet some Irish wolfhounds and learn more about Henry Sibley's dog Lion. The cost is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and \$1.50 for children ages 6-16. For information, call 651-452-1596.

Sunday/August 15

WALKING TOURS of Irvine Park will be offered at 1:30 this afternoon at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Guides will point out the various architectural styles in the neighborhood and talk about the Ramsey's role in their community. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For reservations, call 651-296-8760.

Wednesday/August 18

A FAMILY FUN DAY will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today at Historic Fort Snelling. Costumed actors will portray 1820s officers, soldiers, cooks, laundresses and storekeepers and children can enjoy hands-on frontier era activities. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and free for children ages 6-15. Call 612-726-1171.

Thursday/August 19

STITCHES, America's largest knitting expo, will begin today and continue through Sunday at the Radisson Hotel St. Paul. There will be a wide variety of classes, seminars and demonstrations. There also will be a marketplace open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission to the marketplace is \$6.00 for adults and free for children 10 and under. Registration is required for classes and seminars by calling 1-800-237-7099.



Jim Wuollet offers a sample of his bakery's award-winning brownies to a passerby during Blooming Days on July 31, while his nephew, Aaron, sets the mood. At right, Jodi Biewen paints furniture in front of Textilis. She was one of 40 visiting artisans exhibiting their works on Grand that day. Photos by Brad Stauffer.



Blooming Days winners have strong roots on Grand

A "Sweet Taste of Grand" dessert contest drew 15 delightfully decadent entries for the annual Blooming Days promotion on Grand Avenue on July 31. All of the entries were available for sampling by the public free of charge.

The celebrity judges included Michelle Baltus of *Where Magazine*, Lara Weinstein of *Women Who Really Cook*, Sue Zelikson of WCCO Radio and apprentice youth judge Gooley Whelan. They deemed the Rhubarb Betty at Great Harvest Bread Company to be the best dessert overall. Other winners

included the Brownie Enormous at Wuollet Bakery in the best brownie/chocolate dessert category, the New York Cheesecake at Spudzza for best cheesecake, the Galactobouriko at Acropolis Inn for the most festive dessert and the Rich Chocolate Cherry Truffle at Café Latte for the Gooley Magoo Award. The competition was coordinated by Tom Whelan of *Minnesota Monthly*.

That same day, celebrity judges ranked the best floral displays on the avenue. Eric Johnson, formerly with the Minnesota Horticultural Soci-

ety, Jan Senn of Midwest Home and Garden, and Roberta Sladky of the Como Park Conservatory chose Sidney's garden terrace as the best overall in the "Gardens of Grandeur" competition. Other winners included Irish on Grand for the best of beds, borders, banks and boulevards; St. Anthony School of Dance for the best of boxes, barrels and baskets; Lloyd's Automotive for the best maintained garden and healthiest plants; the Bibelot Shop for the best use of foliage, color and texture; and Squire House Gardens for the most unusual plant

selection. Kathy McGinley of Ten Thousand Villages oversaw the garden judging.

Special recognition went to A. Johnson & Sons Florist for donating 50 potted plants for the new bus shelter at Victoria Crossing and for supplying Grand Avenue businesses with several thousand blooms for the "Build a Bouquet" promotion.

The grand prize winner in the chauffeured \$500 Grand Avenue shopping spree was Michelle Owens of Maplewood. The drawing was sponsored by the *Villager* and *Grand Gazette*.

inars by calling 1-800-237-7099.

Friday/August 20

SUMMIT HILL RESIDENT Mitra Milani will conduct a Y2K community preparedness meeting at 7:30 this evening at a location still to be determined. Milani, who is the Y2K project coordinator for the *Utne Reader*, will teach participants how to prepare their neighborhoods for any possible loss of city services that may occur as a result of computer problems come January 1, 2000. For details, call 612-338-5040.

Saturday/August 21

A VICTORIAN DRESS-UP DAY for children will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 this morning and from 12:30 to 2:00 and 2:30 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. A brief history of fashion and clothing will accompany the activity. The cost is \$4.00. For reservations, call 651-296-8760.

A FUR TRADE WEEKEND will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at Historic Fort Snelling. Visitors can get a glimpse into what the lives of voyageurs and traders were like and observe activities and competitions such as musket shooting, leg wrestling, a voyageur wedding

and dance, a partners' meeting and a pistol reliability match. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. Call 612-726-1171.

A CANDLE-MAKING CLASS will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon in the pavilion at Minnehaha Park. A naturalist will show participants how to identify trees and flowers by their leaves and then use the leaves to make decorative wax candles. To register, call 612-370-4903 after 10:00 a.m.

TOURS of Minnehaha Park will be given at 4:00 this afternoon beginning at the pavilion. Visitors will learn about the natural history of Minnesota's first State Park. To register, call 612-370-4903 after 10:00 a.m.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE VENTO will hold a Town Hall meeting from 9:00 to 10:30 this morning in Senate Hearing Room 15 at the State Capitol. The meeting will focus on the findings of a congressional survey on the rising cost of prescription drugs in the Fourth District. For information, call 651-224-4503.

Sunday/August 22

A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be offered from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. today through Thursday, August 26, at the Merriam Lexington Presbyterian Church

and Abundant Life Church of God in Christ at 203 N. Howell St. The theme is "Everybody Ought to Know." Admission is free. To register, call 651-659-9282.

A LECTURE on "19th Century State Fairs" will be given at 1:00 this afternoon at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Minnesota Historical Society curator Claudia Nicholson will talk about the characteristics of the fair over its history and offer glimpses into some 19th century fair lore. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. Call 651-296-8760.

AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. today at Cleveland Ave. United Methodist Church, 225 S. Cleveland Ave.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon in front of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1998 Ford Pkwy., for a walk around the neighborhood. For information, call Chuck at 651-644-7502.

Tuesday/August 24

AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 this evening at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis. There will also be music by Chuck McCreary.

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Settlement opens Capitol Hill's doors to 30 white students on waiting list

by Michael Werner

The St. Paul Public Schools will allow 30 white students to enroll this fall at Capitol Hill Magnet School as part of a settlement approved by the School Board at its July 12 meeting. The settlement stems from a lawsuit filed last April by four of the students and their parents, who claimed that the school district had violated the students' civil rights by denying them admission on account of their race.

The children were among 50 students who a year ago were placed on a waiting list for enrollment in Capitol Hill's 1st grade. All of the students on the list were white. The parents claimed in their lawsuit that 25 of the 100 spaces in the 1st grade were open and that their children had been placed on the waiting list to maintain racial balance at Capitol Hill.

"I didn't want to file a lawsuit," said Barbara Jacobs, a parent of one of the children who sued to enroll at the school. "I really felt that I gave them everything I could by petitioning it and presenting it to them. The lawsuit was a last resort."

Capitol Hill has regularly maintained a waiting list for its popular accelerated program for gifted and talented students. Until recently, students took a written exam in order to be eligible to enroll there, but early in the 1998-99 school year the school district began using the Charlotte-Discover Assessment. The new entrance exam is not as dependent on language skills and is expected to identify many more gifted and talented children among the minority and immigrant populations of St. Paul.

School District officials contend that they only enrolled 75 1st-graders at Capitol Hill last fall, instead of the 100 the school had room for, in order to accommodate these newly identified students. "We had to keep open spaces for these students," School Board chair Mary Thornton Phillips said. "If you fill up all of the 1st-grade slots, then those 1st-graders have a right to move into 2nd grade and into 3rd grade. But what happens to those (gifted and talented) students who are identified at the 2nd-grade level with the Charlotte-Discover Assessment if there's no space?"

Kirk Kolbo, attorney for the four students, did not buy that explanation. "Once the district couldn't find the number of minority students to fill the class and they decided not to fill the seats with majority students, they went to a justification that it's just as well because now we can have a smaller class size," Kolbo said.

According to board member Tom Conlon, the district switched to the Charlotte-Discover test because the previous testing method did not identify enough minorities. At the time, state-mandated integration rules would not allow a school to have a minority population that was more than 15 percentage points above or below the district average.

Last year, Capitol Hill was up against the limit with a 48 percent minority population compared to 63 percent districtwide. It was widely believed that Charlotte-Discover would help to improve the racial balance at Capitol Hill.

"The 15-percent rule was a state regulation," Thornton Phillips said. "We had to follow what was then the law in Minnesota, and we were making our decisions based on that state rule."

Desegregation, which was once considered essential to ending racism and improving educational opportunities for minority students, is now being reevaluated in school districts across the nation. Mandatory in Minnesota for the past 25 years, desegregation was made voluntary by the state Legislature this spring.

"As long as we weren't placing students on a racial basis anymore, it made sense to settle the lawsuit," Thornton Phillips said.

The settlement requires the district to admit to Capitol Hill the four children in the suit and 26 others who were on the 1998-99 1st-grade waiting list and to cease using race as a criterion for admission to any of its schools. Additionally, the school district will pay \$33,000 for the plaintiffs' legal fees.

"We're real happy with this settlement," Kolbo said. "The case was never about collecting money or damages. For the parents, it was about having a remedy for what the School Board was doing—keeping kids out based on their race."

SCHOOL NOTES

Stuff for Schools is holding its fifth annual school supply drive now through August 16. Program organizers hope to collect enough pencils, pens, paper, markers, crayons and other basic school items to get 13,500 children in the St. Paul Public Schools off on the right foot this fall. Elementary schools that will receive the supplies have 70 to 94 percent of their students coming from families that live at or below the poverty level. Donations may be dropped off at the Snyders Drug locations in Highland Village and Mendota Heights, Children's Country Day School, Great Harvest Bread Company, the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul, Kowalski's Grand Market, Red Balloon Bookshop and Whole Foods Market. Cash donations also are being accepted. For more information or to volunteer for Stuff for Schools, call Bonnie Jobe at 651-778-4694.

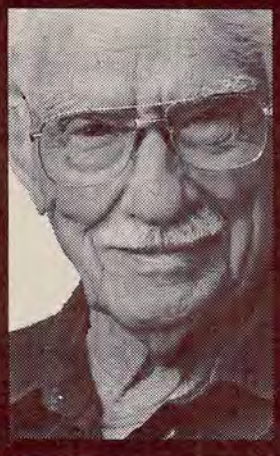
Area families interested in befriending one of the foreign students attending the College of St. Catherine this year are asked to call Amy Mukamuri at 651-690-6014 or Norah Hoff at 651-690-6784. The students will arrive August 30 or 31 from Oman, Albania, Kenya, Spain, Argentina, Nepal, China, Japan, Sweden, Canada, the Philippines, Israel, India and the United Arab Emirates. They will live in campus housing. Host families are asked to invite their student to stay overnight a few

times during the year, including their first night in the United States.

St. Thomas Academy students walked away with a record three out of the top four awards presented during the 51st annual American Legion Boys State on June 13 at St. Olaf College. P.F. Tanghe was named Outstanding Boys Stater and will represent Minnesota as the senior senator at the national event. Chris Brustuen was named second runner-up and Jim Dawson was designated as an alternate. A total of 14 Cadets attended the event.

Highland Park Senior High School's Class of 1989 will hold its 10-year reunion at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 25, at the Minneapolis Athletic Club, 615 2nd Ave. S. The cost is \$30 per person. For information, call 612-534-1989.

The Twin Cities Jewish Middle School has 65 students in grades 7 and 8 ready and willing to do service projects as part of their school curriculum this year. Last fall, students raked lawns of the elderly, read with students at Longfellow and Linwood elementary schools, stocked food at the Merriam Park food shelf and worked at People Serving People and Furniture Warehouse. Anyone with a project that needs the attention of a large group of 12- to 13-year-olds may call Phyllis Cytron at 651-698-8807.



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ON THE TOWN

Beauty and the beater

Car artists get their show on the road Aug. 14

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

A pickup truck covered from bumper to bumper with wine corks. An aging Volvo painted a dozen shades of green. A Honda whose normally sleek quarter panels and hood are flecked with miniature figures, fluorescent springs and wooden Tinker Toys.

Meet the art car, a growing passion for folks who are not afraid to flaunt their artistic talents on the street each day.

More than 50 of the movable canvasses will be mounted this weekend in the traffic and parking lanes of Minneapolis' Lyn-Lake neighborhood when Intermedia

Arts presents its fifth annual Wheels As Art festival.

The festival will open at 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 13, with a barbecue in the lot of Intermedia Arts, 2822 S. Lyndale Ave., followed by a symposium on art cars in the gallery and drive-in movies out in the lot. Then at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, the Wheels As Art parade will roll out from the intersection of Hennepin and 28th Street, traveling east to Lyndale Avenue. The parade will be followed at 4:00 p.m. by a fashion show featuring car artists modeling outfits they have created to complement their vehicles. All of the events are free and open to the public.

Macalester College professor Ruthann Godollei, creator of "The

Green Gear Volvo," will present a slide show at the symposium on the history of the art car in Minnesota, entitled "Art Cars of the Frozen North."

"Creatively altering your transportation goes all the way back to Tutankhamen's chariot," Godollei said. The boy pharaoh of ancient Egypt had his elaborately painted conveyance entombed with him, ready to ride in the next world, she said.

Godollei's 1980 Volvo has been driven 210,000 miles and it is still going strong. "I've gone coast to coast to art car shows and all it wants is gas," she said.

Like other car artists, Godollei describes her vehicle as a work in progress. "Rust never sleeps, so you have to keep touching it up," she said. "But it's a sad fact that salt is cruel to them. Once they're eaten up, you get a new one. My next art car will be my best."

An art car "is a token of your personality," said Alan Davidson, a Grand Avenue resident who will be driving his "Ironie Race Car" in the Wheels As Art parade. Davidson's garage served as his studio. He sanded the body of a 1987 Ford Tempo, which was originally dark blue, and then got busy with masking tape, stencils and spray paint to give the four-door sedan pseudo racing stripes and numbers.

Jan Elftmann, founder and curator of Wheels As Art, drives "The Cork Truck," a 1980 Mazda pickup covered with 10,000 wine and champagne corks affixed to the car with an outdoor tiling adhesive. Driven every day, the one-of-a-kind auto is on its second engine and has over 240,000 miles on its odometer. "It runs fine," Elftmann said. "I'll never sell it."

As of last week, 45 artists had registered for the Wheels As Art parade, but additional entrants are likely at the last minute. "We have people who come from coast to coast," Elftmann said. "We want



Cynthia McArthur's entry in the Wheels As Art parade, a mylar-enhanced Honda Civic, comes with matching bicycle and helmet.

anything decorated on wheels—bikes, roller blades, anything." Eventually, she said she would like the parade to include wheelchairs, shopping carts and skateboards.

"A lot of art-car artists are women," Elftmann said. "Guys are typically more interested in the engines."

Cynthia McArthur of Macalester-Groveland created her first art car in the 1970s, "before it was cool," she said. She invited neighborhood youngsters to dip their hands in paint and put their prints all over her '64 Rambler.

A bicycle mechanic, McArthur rode her art bike in last year's Wheels As Art parade. This year the three-speed, American Sears J.C. Higgins will be strapped to the top of her 1986 Honda Civic wagon, which she is decorating in fluorescent mylar cutouts that she picked up at the ArtScraps store on St. Clair Avenue.

McArthur said she chose mylar because it is cheap, easy to maintain and allows her to still

take her car through a car wash.

"I'm kind of a normal, middle-class, middle-aged person," McArthur said. "I want to have humor in the world. I want to say, 'lighten up.' If you drive an art car, you have to be nice to people because they notice you. You can't swear at them or make rude gestures."

Godollei has lectured from coast to coast on art cars and keeps an archive of hundreds of art car photographs. One shows a 1920 Citroen B-12 painted by French artist Sonia Delauney in an abstract array of hundreds of colors. It probably caused more of a stir in the '20s than it would today, Godollei said.

Still, "it takes a bit of courage to alter the sacred American car," she added. "It takes some guts to put your art out for the public every day. You can't be shy."

Information on entering Wheels As Art events is available by calling Emily Shultz at 612-874-2806.



A stylized No. 7 adorns Alan Davidson's entry in the Wheels As Art parade, his "Ironie Race Car." Photos by Brad Stauffer.

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Music



Free concerts will be given in Minnehaha Falls Park. The line-up will include the following concerts at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted: 4 Stories will perform original acoustic folk on Wednesday, August 11; the Hot Springs Records Jazz/World Music Festival will take place from 4:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 15; the Minnesota Association of Christian Songwriters will perform on Monday, August 16; Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade will perform its 2nd annual birthday bash on Wednesday, August 18; and Landfill Harmonic will perform jug band blues on Monday, August 23. In case of rain, the concerts will be held in the Minnehaha Falls Pavilion.

"Summer at Northrop," a free concert series from noon to 1:00 p.m. outdoors on the Northrop Auditorium Plaza, will continue with the following musicians: Bluebeat on Wednesday, August 11; Butch Thompson on Thursday, August 12; Bomba on Friday, August 13; Ellen Lease and the Pat Moriarty Quintet on Monday, August 16; and the Brasileirada Trio on Wednesday, August 18. Call 612-624-2345.

Cabaret songstress Smitty will present "Songs and Stories of the 1930s and '40s" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, August 15, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The concert will include the music of Cole Porter, the Gershwins, Rodgers & Hart and such Big Band singers as Peggy Lee. The cost is \$6.00, or \$4.00 for JCC members. Call 651-698-0751.

Sandy & the Hitmen will perform from 8:45 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, August 20-21, in the Valley Lounge, 3385 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Eagan. There is no cover charge. Call 651-454-2760.

Dave Stoddard, former keyboardist with New Sun Union,

will perform a benefit concert from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave. A light supper will be served before the concert at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 in advance or \$6.00 at the door. Call 612-729-7556.

Debbie Friedman will perform at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 29, in the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets, priced from \$18 to \$100, call 651-698-3881. The concert is a fundraiser for Mount Zion Temple.

Family



"Baby Dinosaurs" has opened at the Minnesota Children's Museum. There will be automated dinosaurs in a swampy, prehistoric environment. Children can take a swamp walk, dig for dinosaur bones and fossils and build a dinosaur out of a bag of bones. The exhibit will remain on view until September 6. Call 651-225-6000.

Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following children's activities: a pajama party with Clifford, the Big Red Dog, will take place at 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 13; Clifford will also join story-hours between noon and 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 15; a First Book Storyhour featuring *Will I Have a Friend* will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, August 16; a storyhour about Farmer Joe and the work farmers do will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Monday, August 23; and Christine Sweet will read some favorite stories of her family at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 24. All events are free. Call 651-690-9443.

A "Little House Festival," a fun-filled day celebrating Laura Ingalls Wilder's books, will take place beginning at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 14, at the Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave. There will be a costumed character acting as Laura the

ON THE TOWN briefly



"Real Legends of Tap," a performance featuring more than a dozen of the world's greatest tap dancers, will be held at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, August 22, in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets priced at \$18.50 (\$50 if including the post-concert reception), call 651-690-6700. Also "Talking Dance," a public forum featuring the Nicholas Brothers (pictured) and other legendary tappers, will be offered at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, August 21, at the Walker Arts Center. A soul food supper will precede the forum. The cost is \$20 for supper and \$5.00 for the forum. For details, call 612-375-7622.

author, a fiddler dressed up as "Pa," treats from *The Little House Cookbook*, butter making and tasting, pioneer games, a style show of pioneer costumes and drawings for prizes. Call 651-224-8320.

A moving party for "Iggy," the 40-foot-long iguana sculpture that has perched on the front steps of the Science Museum for 21 years, will take place from noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, August 14. There will be activities and entertainment and a chance to meet Nick Swearer, the artist who created Iggy at the age of 16. On August 18 Iggy will be hoisted onto a flatbed

truck and moved to the new location of the Science Museum at 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. The new museum will open on December 11, 1999.

"Nine Nights of Family Fun," a free concert series for families, will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through August 31 on the grounds of the Minnesota History Center (families may bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and a picnic supper). The lineup will include the following concerts: Banjo Dancers will perform old-time banjo and fiddle music on August 17; and Linda Breitag and Ray Makeever will

perform traditional French-Canadian fiddle music on August 24. Call 651-296-6126.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following activities for children at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays: stories about pigs will be read on August 21. Call 651-224-8320.

AlphaBits will perform kid-classics, old rock 'n' roll and new songs from their two albums at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 21, at Mendakota Park, on Dodd Road south of Hwy. 110, Mendota Heights. For information, call 651-455-1123.

Dance



The Twin City Ballroom, 265 W. 7th St., will present dances on every Friday and Sunday throughout August. Dancing, including the waltz, foxtrot, tango, hustle, Latin and swing, will take place from 10:00 to 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. on Sundays. Dance lessons will be given one hour prior to the dances. Admission is \$5.00. Call 651-292-8463.

"Swing Night in the Caves" will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. every Thursday at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The line-up will include the following: the Minnesota Jazz Orchestra on August 12; and Beasley's Big Band on August 19. Free dance lessons will be given at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$7.00. Call 651-224-1191.

Blizzard in August, a performance of images, dancers, aerialists and fools, will be performed by 3 Legged Race New Theatre & Performance at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, August 12-14, at Theatre de la Jeune Lune, 105 N. 1st St., Minneapolis. Tickets are priced at \$12 or \$10 for seniors and students. Call 612-332-3200.

A special "Swing Night" will be held from 8:00 p.m. to mid-

night on Friday, August 13, at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. Swing Beat will provide the music. Dance lessons will be given at 7:15 p.m. Admission is \$8.00. Call 651-224-1191.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold a smokefree singles dance at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 14. Dancer will provide the music. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 for those arriving before 9:00 p.m. Call 651-644-3443.

Books



The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Steve Stern will read from his collection *The Wedding Jester* on Thursday, August 5; Steve Thayer will read from his novel *Silent Snow* on Friday, August 6; Dean Bleher will read from his new book *Please Lord, Make Me a Famous Poet or at Least Less Fat* at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, August 8; Marnie Mueller will read from her novel *The Climate of the Country* on Thursday, August 12; Taigen Daniel Leighton will discuss his book *Bodhisattva Archetypes: Classic Buddhist Guides to Awakening and Their Modern Expression* at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 14; James Lee Burke will read from his novel *Heartwood* on Monday, August 16; and Richard Wilber will read from his story collection *Where Garagiola Waits* at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 21. Call 651-699-0587.

The Wednesday Night Bookclub will meet at 7:00 p.m. August 18 at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. The club will discuss Ernest Gaines' *A Lesson Before Dying*. Call 651-690-9443.

A discussion on adoption will take place at 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 20, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. A panel of local authors, includ-



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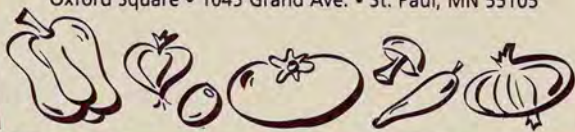
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ing Linda Back McKay, Jacqueline Ramthun and Mary Edelfsen, will share the ways in which adoption has touched their lives. Call 651-690-9443.

A bookfair to benefit the Minnesota Literacy Council will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 24, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-690-9443.

Film



"Cinema With Passion," a festival of Hong Kong films, will take place at midnight on Fridays at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, and at 11:00 a.m. and midnight on Saturdays at the Oak Street Cinema, 309 S.E. Oak St., Minneapolis. The festival will continue with the following films: *Intimates* on Saturday, August 14; *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* on Friday, August 13, and Saturday, August 21; and *Furious Slaughter* on Friday, August 20. Admission is \$6.00. Call 612-376-7715.

The Germans from Russia: *Children of the Steppe*, *Children of the Prairie* will be shown at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 22, in the 3M Auditorium of the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The film documents the historic journey of the Germans who moved to Russia during the time of Catherine The Great and later severed ties with Russia to move to North America. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

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A youngster climbs the rock wall in "The Big Adventure," an action-packed exhibition opening Saturday, August 14, at the Minnesota Children's Museum. The exhibit encourages kids to test their abilities, both mental and physical. It will run until November 7. For information, call 651-225-6000.

Minnesota Youth Symphonies will hold auditions beginning Monday, August 23, and continuing through Friday, August 27, at Highland Senior High School, 975 S. Snelling Ave. Auditions will be open to children, ages elementary to high school who play a string, brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. To set up an audition, call 651-699-5811.

The St. Catherine Choral Society will hold auditions Monday through Thursday, August 23-26, at the College of St. Catherine. Rehearsals will begin Thursday, September 9. To set up an appointment, call 651-690-6688.

Artists are sought for "Art at Ramsey: A Holiday Art and Craft Fair" held in conjunction with the Grand Meander, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4. There is a nonrefundable \$5.00

jury fee. The cost for a 10-by-10-foot space will be \$80. The deadline for entry is September 1. For an entry form, call 651-293-8948.

Exhibits



"Minnesota Territory, Remembered and Recorded," an exhibit featuring paintings, drawings, prints and books from 1849 to 1900, has opened at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The exhibit will be open for viewing from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays until September 25. The cost is \$1.00.

"Wings of Paradise," an exhibit featuring 62 paintings of the world's most beautiful silk moths by John Cody, has opened in the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of

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Natural History, 10 S.E. Church St., Minneapolis. The exhibit will remain on view until August 29. Call 612-624-7083.

An exhibit of watercolors by Betty Falk has opened at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. For information, call 651-698-0751.

"Hmong Artistry," an exhibit of more than 60 textiles featuring the elaborate needlework of Hmong textile artists, has opened in the Minnesota Museum of American Art at Landmark Center. The exhibit will remain on display until August 22. Call 651-292-4355.

"Not Your Ordinary House," an exhibit of drawings and photographs of Minnesota concept houses, is on display at the Ramsey County Historical Society in Landmark Center. The exhibit will remain on display throughout the summer. Admission is free. For information, call 651-222-0701.

"A Gathering of Stitches," an exhibit of historic and contemporary quilts and garments that include quilting, has opened in the Goldstein Gallery in McNeal Hall on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.



The Lex-Ham Community Theater will perform *The Dining Room*, a series of 18 short vignettes that are all set in an American dining room from the early 1900s to the present, at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday, August 12-14, in the E.M. Pearson Theatre at Concordia University. Pictured rehearsing a scene from the play, from left, are Ryan McArdle, Deb Frethem, Julia Patten and Patrick Landreman. For tickets, priced at \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children, students and seniors, call 651-645-3207.

The exhibit will be on display until September 12.

"Eating," an exhibit of art, artifacts and photographs illustrating eating as a social experience and part of Minnesota's economy, has opened at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. For information,

call 651-296-6126.

"NewArt," an exhibit of recent work by Patricia Canelake, Barbara Lea and Mary Gibney, has opened at Cafe Latté, 850 Grand Ave. The exhibit will remain on view until October 15.

"Terra Ephemera: New Works by John Finkler" and "High Ceilings: A Mixed-Media Group Exhibition" will open with a reception from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, August 13, at the Argyle Zebra Gallery, 308 Prince St. The exhibit will remain on view until September 3. Gallery hours will be from noon to 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday or by appointment by calling 612-837-3741.

Theater



Park Square Theatre has opened *Noises Off*, an ingenious, hysterical farce, that follows the cast of *Nothing On* as they struggle to save their misbegotten production from disaster, in the Historic Hamm Building, 20 W. 7th Place. Per-

formances will continue through August 29. For tickets, priced from \$9.00 to \$24, call 651-291-7005.

Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!* has opened at the Guthrie Theater. The play takes a humorous and sentimental look at American society at the turn of the century and centers around the Miller family and their 17-year-old son Richard, who is on the edge of manhood. Performances will continue through August 29. For tickets, priced from \$16 to \$39, call 612-377-2224.

The Civil War, a musical epic which recalls the passion, idealism, turmoil and heroism of the men and women who defined a nation, will open Tuesday, August 17, at the Historic Orpheum Theatre. Performances will be given until August 29. For tickets, call 612-339-7007.

Romeo & Juliet, *The Musical* from William Shakespeare, will open Wednesday, August 18, at the Ordway Music Theatre. This version of Shakespeare's classic will be set to a contemporary rock score. Performances will continue at 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays through September 5. For tickets, priced from \$24 to \$55, call 651-224-4222.

The Real Community Theatre Company presents "A Summer Cabaret," an original 1940s-style musical, at 8:15 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, August 19-21, and at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, August 22, at the Central City Theatre, 343 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Call 612-869-5080.

Hillcrest Community Theatre will present the musical *Annie* at 7:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, August 19-21 and 26-28, in the Como Lakeside Pavilion. For tickets, priced at \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 12 and under, call 651-695-3706.



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SPORTS

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TOM CODY



Best pennants that money can buy

With seven weeks remaining in Major League Baseball's 1999 campaign, it's apparent that there won't be much drama in the divisional races. As usual, the only suspense left in this world of economic

haves and have-nots will involve the wild card chases. Here's a look at the pennant races as seen from the bottom line:

In the AL Central, the \$68 million team has an insurmountable lead over the rest of the field. Remember, I picked these guys to win it all last April. I'm sticking with my forecast. They lost their \$5 million catcher to injury, but they more than made up for it by signing his \$8 million brother to play second. They should face and beat the \$85 million team in the American League championship series. The defending champs should hold on to win the AL East, but I don't think they're a World Series contender this season.

In the AL West, \$74 million will get it done for the Lone Star state. Though there won't be post-season play in the Bay Area, its \$23 million team made a nice mid-season run and then pulled off a couple of good trades in late July. The best battle will be between the \$59 million and \$44 million (that's \$56 million in Canadian currency) teams for the wild card slot. As usual, I'm pulling for the \$59 million team, which last won the World Series in 1918.

It's the same old story in the National League. Pitching (\$20 million) and power (\$30 million) will keep the \$73 million leader of the NL East alive in the post-season. It just has too much talent to lose to either a \$62 million or \$51 million team. Looks like \$51 million will be enough to purchase the NL Central title, while the NL West will be a bit more expensive at \$66 million. Surprisingly, a \$33 million team is still in contention for the Wild Card berth. The Queen City club still has the best ratio of wins-per-dollars-spent in the majors.

Four clubs stick out at the bottom of the standings. In the American League, a \$79 million team is the biggest disappointment, especially with its \$13 million left fielder, but a \$52 million team is a close second. In the NL West, a \$79 million squad is dead last in the standings, with America's favorite \$60 million cable team treading water in the NL Central.

For the World Series, I see the \$68 million team beating the \$73 million team in six games.

DOOMED BALLPARKS

I took a trip to say farewell to two ill-fated old friends last month. I saw the Dodgers' Hideo Nomo throw a five-hit shutout on a lazy Thursday afternoon in County Stadium. The place has a date with death in two months, though the crane accident at the new Miller Park could provide a temporary stay of execution from the baseball gods. Nevertheless, I made sure that I made the most of this trip to Milwaukee: I had two bratwursts and loaded on the secret stadium sauce.

Cody/see page 42

Tainted by scandal

Misstep mars Dienhart's enviable record at 'U'

by Tom Cody

The past six months have been difficult ones for University of Minnesota men's athletic director Mark Dienhart. A department that he had been rebuilding for the past four years with the hiring of new football and hockey coaches was rocked by academic scandal and the subsequent buyout of basketball coach Clem Haskins' contract.

Throughout the spring and early summer, Dienhart strived to restore a sense of order to what had become a tangled mess. Recently, he helped the department take a giant step toward renewed respectability by hiring Dan Monson as Haskins' successor.

Dienhart, who lives in Highland Park with his wife Kate and their three daughters, played football and ran track at the University of St. Thomas before graduating in 1975. He was drafted by the NFL's Buffalo Bills and attended training camp with O.J. Simpson's club that summer, but left the game when he was offered a scholarship to graduate school. Dienhart went on to coach football and track at St. Thomas before accepting a job as St. Thomas' director of university relations. In 1990 he was hired as the University of Minnesota's associate athletic director. He became athletic director in 1995.

Since then, the Gophers have enjoyed a successful run. "We won the Big Ten all-sports trophy two of the past three years," Dienhart said, "and we'd never won it before. Our wrestling team ended Iowa's winning streak. Our swimming team won its first Big Ten title in 70 years. Our track team won its first conference title in 30 years. Since I've been a.d., we've won seven conference titles in the 11 sports we have here."

Dienhart raised the funds and managed the construction of Mariucci Arena and the remodeling of Williams Arena. After giving Jim Wacker one last chance in 1997, he began the difficult task of landing a new football coach. "In the past 30 years, Minnesota has been a graveyard for football coaches," he said.

Still, Dienhart was able to land Glen Mason. "He's the turnaround artist we wanted," Dienhart said. "He's going to get it done. Last year's five wins was the best record we've had in a decade."

Earlier this spring, Dienhart was forced to perform another difficult task—find a new hockey coach. "Doug



University of Minnesota men's athletic director Mark Dienhart at his office, with a picture of slamming Sam Jacobson behind him. Photo by Terry Faust.

Woog is a dear friend of mine," Dienhart said, "but college hockey had changed and Doug's program hadn't. He didn't want to turn into somebody who he didn't want to be." Woog took a fundraising job in the department and Dienhart had to find a successor.

"Don Lucia was our choice right from the beginning," Dienhart said. "He had a 100 percent graduation rate (at Colorado College). He's a proven winner and he'll be dealing with even more resources here."

When the academic scandal hit the papers in March, all of Dienhart's work got buried beneath the accusations of university tutors writing term papers for athletes. "We'll never know exactly what happened here," Dienhart said. "Once

(academic counselor) Alonzo Newby refused to cooperate, the definitive outcome became elusive. No one is left to connect all the dots. (University president) Mark Yudof decided to make a coaching change and it was up to me to orchestrate the whole thing. I was scrambling to find the money to buy out Haskins' contract on the one hand and trying to put together a candidates' list on the other. This wasn't an easy job to fill. There are a lot of iffy circumstances here and no clear-cut answers.

"We started with Rick Majerus and Flip Saunders, but neither thought that the timing was right for them to move," Dienhart said. "The Terry Holland thing

Scandal/see next page

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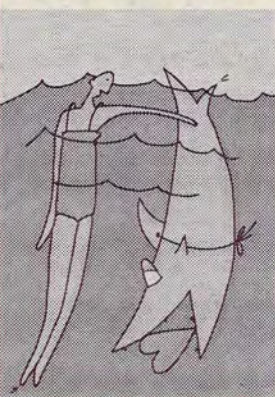


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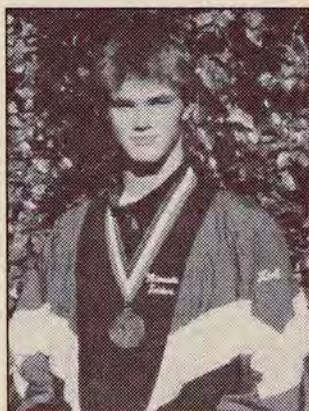
White takes to trampolining like a diver to water

by Bill Wagner

For a young athlete who has only been competing in his sport for 1½ years, Kirk White has made quite an impression.

White, 19, a graduate of Central High School, captured the bronze medal last month at the national Junior Olympics trampoline championships in Anaheim, California. It was the second time that he had competed at nationals against men age 17 and older. He finished eighth last year.

White's interest in the trampoline—an unheralded sport if there ever was one—goes back to his junior year in high school. A student-teacher leading a class in gymnastics told him that she had once been a national champion trampolinist. "It just sounded like a fun thing to do," said White, who was a diver at the time on Central's



Kirk White

swimming team. "(The teacher) said that trampolinists make good divers because they know how to twist and flip."

Shortly after, White signed up for private lessons at the Minnesota Twisters Gym in Eden Prairie, the mecca for trampolinists in the state.

A Highland Park resident, White said he was thrilled with finishing third among the 44 competitors at nation-

als. "I was really nervous going in," he said. "I'd been talking to quite a few of the guys. They were all really nice, but I knew that they'd be tough to go up against."

Many of White's competitors at the Junior Olympics had been involved in trampolining since they were 6 or 7 years old, according to Pat Henderson, White's coach at Twisters.

Success at trampolining "has a lot to do with your state of mind," White said. "You don't really need to be reckless or fearless, but you do need confidence. A good coach has to provide the right emotional support, but still exert the right pressure to succeed."

White's strength is his outstanding athletic ability, something that cannot be coached, Henderson said. "When he goes up into the air, he is able to land safely and correctly," she said. "I

don't have to worry about his landing. And when he is up in the air, his athletic ability takes over."

A trampoline competition includes both compulsory and optional routines that are scored by a panel of judges according to form and difficulty. The compulsories involve mostly single flips, some with twists. White's optional routine involves mostly double flips.

White has also been practicing with a fellow trampolinist what is known as synchro-trampolining—bouncing, twisting and flipping in unison with another. He is hoping to compete in that event at next year's Junior Olympics.

"It's much harder than singles," he said. "Everybody tends to bounce at different heights."

Trampolining will be an official Olympic sport for the first time next year at the



Trampolinist Kirk White showed his stuff outside Midway Stadium before a recent St. Paul Saints game.

Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. White has no illusions that after two years in the sport he will be able to qualify for a trip down under. His goal in the months ahead

is to move from his current Level 10 advanced class to the Junior Elite class.

"I'd like to get enough points to do it, and I think I can," he said.

Scandal has soured Dienhart on the business of big-college sports

/from page 39

was my idea, but we couldn't get him the staff that he needed. During all this, Monson was in Spain coaching the World University Games. He'd been a top choice all along, but he was inaccessible. Fortunately, the other options failed and Monson came home."

Dienhart flew to Dallas to interview Monson. "He made a great impression," he said. "He's bright—about 40 IQ points higher than most of the guys you see in this business. He's young (37) and he's enthusiastic. His teams play aggressive, exciting basketball. But best of all, he's the type of normal guy you'd want to have a beer with. He's going to do well here."

"Our full investigation report will come out in September," Dienhart said. "Then we'll self-impose the basketball penalties. Probably three years of probation, two years of reduced scholarships, a one-year postseason ban."

"Still, the position was attractive to Monson. Think about it: The Big Ten is the highest level of NCAA basketball, and there's only one Division I program in the state, which helps recruiting. Monson's got a chance to leave a hero's imprint here if he can run a clean program. Remember, Clem was 20 games under .500 in his Big Ten career, and he's still regarded as a success."

The scandal, however, has soured Dienhart on the business of college athletics. "There are a couple of changes needed in our system," he said. "Freshmen should be ineligible. That would eliminate the NBA way-station concept. Players would be nearly 20 before they could play. Maybe we could get them turned on to pursuing a degree by that age."

"There also has to be a change in the funding mechanism. Right now, coaches are asked to run clean programs, win games and make money for the school. If they don't win, they're fired. That isn't working. The pressure to win creates problems that we don't want."

"My daughter Mary and I were out jogging around Lake Nokomis, and she put it best," Dienhart said. "I was complaining about how tough things were at work. She told me, 'Things like this happen, Dad. Move on with your life.' That's what I'm going to do."

Correction

The young golfer pictured in the July 28 Villager accompanying a story on the Mendota Heights Par 3 was incorrectly identified. Shown teeing off at the 5th hole was Judd Edelstein, 10, of Mendota Heights.

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The Edgcombe Saints won the Minnesota AAU 15-year-old "A" state title June 25-27 to earn a berth in the AAU national tournament, held July 30 to August 8 in Millington, Tennessee. There, the Saints ran up against some stiff competition, winning one of six games against all-star teams from six different states. Team members, from left, include (bottom row) coach Bob Doane, Adam Colon, Geoff Swoboda, Tim Kreiser, Peter Brown, Max Sagert and coach Charlie Sagert; and (top row) Jonathan Borden, Paul Barrett, Adam Welch, Brandon Bowser, Matt McGuire, Sid Larson, David MacDonald, Ben Doane, Mike Vannelli and Sean Sweeney. Not pictured are Zach Hernandez and coach Tom Vannelli.



The Sibley Area U12-A girls fastpitch softball team recently earned a berth in the national tournament to be held August 10-15 in Fresno, California. The team compiled a 49-9-1 record and won four out of the six tournaments it played in this season. Members, from left, include (bottom row) Marie Gross, Patty Devoy, Deb Ayers, Kelly Fitzpatrick and Caitlin O'Malley; (middle row) Marie Hickey, Sara Mickelson, Megan Cunningham, Rachel Shubatt, Mary Rose Dwyer, Courtney Sekevitch and Amanat Kempainen; and (top row) John Sekevitch, Dave Ayers and Mike Dwyer.

SPORTS SHORTS

The Subway Paddle, Run & Fun to benefit the Courage Center will be held on Saturday, August 21, at Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis. There will be a 5K walk-run at 8:00 a.m., followed by a canoe race at 10:00 a.m. A family fun area with free food, live music and more will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Entry forms are available at all Subway stores.

The Hi Tower-I Senior Babe Ruth team of 16- to 18-year-olds earned a state tournament berth by winning the District 5 championship this year. Team members included Tony Hill, Ben Lipkin, Brandon Starr, Josh Zenner, Andy Ryan, Kevin Donnelly, John Bisanz, Brad Dahedl, Jesse Volk, Kevin Flanagan, Chris Deming, Mark Johnson, Martin Norder, John Taylor, Peter Skrief, Marshal Clemons and Mike Fretchel. Coaches were Bill McCrum and Ryan Donnelly.

Steve Cerkvénik, a Dayton Avenue resident, teamed up with his cousin Gary Cerkvénik to tackle the 500-mile Minnesota Border-to-Border Triathlon on August 3-6 to raise money for the Children's Home Society. The four-day challenge included biking more

than 400 miles from the Iowa border to Eveleth on the first two days, running 52 miles to Cook on day three and canoeing 50 miles up the Vermilion River to the Canadian border on day four. The Cerkvéniks were hoping to raise \$25,000 for the society's international adoption scholarship program. They have three South American adopted children and three birth children between them. Those interested may still make a donation by calling the Children's Home Society at 651-646-7771.

A training course for those ages 12-16 interested in hunting waterfowl is being offered by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An informational meeting will be held on September 1. The training is free, but youths must complete a firearms safety course. Call Terry Schreiner at 612-858-0738.

Thomas Academy of Gymnastics is now taking registrations for an eight-week session that begins on Monday, August 30. Lessons are offered to boys and girls ages 2-18. For details, call TAGS South at 612-431-6445 or TAGS Edina at 612-920-5342.

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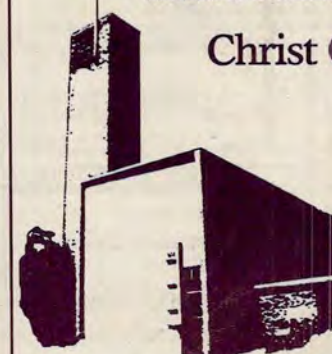
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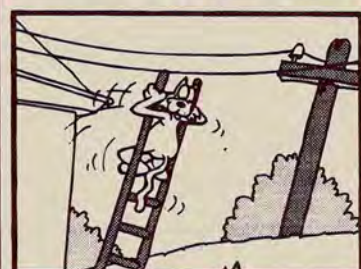
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Cody: Ballparks don't all die alike

/from page 39

There's a dank, musty smell to County's old wooden seats, whose bolts are rusted on tight. (This comes, of course, as second-hand information from would-be souvenir hunters.) I have fond memories of this place. This is where my children learned to love baseball.

There's a good feel to County's final season; the Brewers seem to be handling the transition in ballparks with as much grace as possible.

Not so Detroit, whose 1999 motto seems to be "We Give Up." Doomed Tiger Stadium is a disgrace in this, its final summer. The outfield has large patches of dead grass. Bulbs are missing from the scoreboard. The concession stands are woefully understaffed.

And six bucks for a beer? Apparently, the new ballpark is being built with concession proceeds. Tiger Stadium's was the most expensive wake I've ever attended.

Baseball has been played on the corner of Michigan and Trumbull for 87 years and I have faithfully displayed my "Save Tiger Stadium" bumper sticker on my Blazer since 1988. The new Comerica Park in downtown Detroit could be many things, but it'll never be Tiger Stadium.

My final trip to Tiger was supposed to be a celebration, but instead it turned into a death watch. Seeing the rundown park was as depressing as seeing the war-torn ghetto that surrounds it. They shouldn't limit the wrecking ball to the ballpark; they should demolish the whole city and start over.

NORTH SHORE EXCURSION

If downtown Detroit is at one end of the environmental spectrum, then Minnesota's North Shore rests comfortably at the other. My family and I spent the weekend up on Highway 61, a gorgeous stretch of road that turns 75 years old this summer.

Lake Superior glistened all weekend with a mystical shade of blue that would make Martha Stewart green. I went for a Sunday morning stroll along the shore, then up into the hills on the Superior Hiking Trail. Birds were chirping and there was lots of sunshine and solitude.

I talked my two older sons into a rugged hike up the gorge of the Temperance River. The beauty was breathtaking. We ate dinner at the Coho Cafe in Tofte. Get this: Its chicken fajita combo now ranks among the top five pizzas in the long and storied Cody family culinary history.

We took a wonderful road trip up the Gunflint Trail out of Grand Marais all the way to the Canadian border. The devastation from the July windstorm was beyond belief; it'll be hundreds of years before the forest is fully restored. We drove down roller-coaster dirt roads through the demolished wilderness, listening to the "1812 Overture" full blast. Now that's father-son bonding.

VIKINGS FEVER

Vikings training camp stories from Mankato have become as predictable as World Wrestling Federation results. Every year we get the same old tired, true-to-form reports from the

Purple beat writers and talking heads. Here's what you'll be hearing and reading about during the next couple of weeks:

- Randall McDaniel will declare that his contract renegotiations will not be a factor in the way he conducts himself on the field this season.
- There will be a story about the air-conditioning units in the players' dorms.
- When the third team fails to score in an exhibition game, there will be controversy surrounding new offensive coordinator Ray Sherman.
- Purple McCombs will predict that the team "won't win 15 games" but that they "will win the Super Bowl."
- Randy Moss will announce that he isn't a role model.
- Rookie quarterback Daunte Culpepper will be quoted on a daily basis lauding No. 1 signal-caller Randall Cunningham as an "outstanding mentor."
- There will be plenty of stories about the annual rookie hazing and dinner hall singing high jinks.
- There will be a dozen stories written about the first game with Atlanta. All the players and coaches will declare that "this is only one game," while secretly thinking, "we've got to win this one or our season is shot."

SOME OF THIS, SOME OF THAT

In lieu of a major family excursion, the Cody Clan joined two clubs this summer: the University Club and Sam's Club. We've found both to be excellent ways to beat the heat. At the venerable University Club on Summit Avenue, I've put in some solid lounge chair time with an occasional dip in the pool. The air conditioning at Sam's alone makes it worth the trip. Last week my wife brought home a 400-pound box of Cheetos that was on sale.

Speaking of reading, this 47-year-old has finally succumbed to wearing drugstore magnification eyewear. It was getting to the point where the phone book was virtually useless to me and the print on road maps seemed to be getting smaller and smaller. But what finally sent me to Walgreen's was when my favorite summer morning ritual, reading the baseball box scores, was threatened. The new eyewear brought the small print back to legibility. Now the only problem I have is keeping my cheaters healthy. I've already broken three pairs of them.

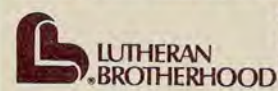
Tim Himmer is a young man who volunteers his time as a coach in the Highland Little League program. His Mariners team rebounded from a 4-11 regular season to take third place in the recently completed league playoffs. My son played for Himmer's team and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Himmer is one of those rare coaches of youth teams who brings a healthy perspective to the game. He teaches the game, but more important, he treats children right. Little League programs need more people like him.

Governor Jesse Ventura will serve as the guest referee in the WWF "Summer Slam" on August 22 at Target Center. Even this opinionated columnist is stumped. I'm not even sure that there's any possible comment on this phenomenon.

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Garage/Moving/Misc.

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GARAGE SALE. Multi-family. Huge! New and used merchandise. Aug. 19-20, 8-3; 2022 James Ave. **v**

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Deadline: August 18

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For more information, call 651-699-1462.

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CLASSIFICATIONS (CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Inst./Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Rent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage/Misc. Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Roommates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autos, Boats, Etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Opportunity | <input type="checkbox"/> Personals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Buy | <input type="checkbox"/> Special | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Lost & Found |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Services | <input type="checkbox"/> House/Pet Sitting | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Health Care | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housecleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Beauty | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Residential | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Snow | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Commercial | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax & Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage/Storage | |

This is how I'd like my classified ad to be worded (one word per blank):

	7.50 minimum	8.25	9.00
9.75	10.50	11.25	12.00
12.75	13.50	14.25	15.00
15.75	16.50	17.25	18.00

Please Note: Classified ads are 75 cents a word, \$7.50 minimum. All classified ads are payable in advance: cash, check, credit card. Mail, fax or deliver your ad to: *Villager*, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116. Fax: 651-699-6501. For more information, call 651-699-1462.

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To apply send resume and references to Human Resources Req. #99RM76, F-17, The College of St. Catherine, 2004 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105. Or fax to (651) 690-6871, or e-mail to hr@stc.edu. Application deadline is August 16, 1999.

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JEWELRY COMMUNITY Center of St. Paul is looking for someone to work as a lead teacher in an accredited after-school program. Must have experience working with children. A background in Psychology or Education is preferred but not required. EOE Mon.-Fri., 2:30-6:00 p.m. Rose, 651-698-0751. v

ASSIST-TEACHER position avail. 11:30-3:30 at Montessori preschool. Exc. salary and benefits. Call Patty, 651-690-2307. v

CUSTOMER SERVICE, FT/PT, Grand Ave., Highland, downtown Mpls. locations. Busy, friendly, organized, mature person; excellent compensation pay package. Call Kellie, 651-291-1107, White Way Cleaners. v

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For additional job openings, turn to the Employment Opportunities ad section. For advertising information, call 651-699-1462.

Volunteers Wanted

SOJOURNER PROJECT, a battered women's program in W. suburbs, seeks volunteers for children's, intervention & community programs. Volunteers with home repair/specialized technical skills for special projects in shelter building. Training in Sept. Kim, 612-933-7433, ext. 453. Survivors of violence, youth, people of color, LBT and older women encouraged to apply. **v**

Career Opportunity

5 TIPS for starting your own home-based business. Recorded info 24 hours. 1-800-516-9525, ext. 1012. **gv**

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AFTER-SCHOOL CARE 3-4 afternoons weekly. Two playful children, ages 5, 8. Car necessary. Macalester College neighborhood. Generous wages, some paid vacation. 651-649-1496. **v**

SITTER NEEDED in my Mendota Heights home. Two weekday mornings/week, 8:15-12:15; must have car; Patty, 651-686-5200. **v**

NANNY/CHILD care position available in Highland Park. Need assistance with delivering child to Kindergarten 3 days per week. Some afternoon pickup and early evening care. Position available starting after Labor Day. Need own transportation. Excellent pay. Please call 651-698-0665. **v**

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Parents are urged to exercise caution in arranging child care. Be sure to investigate references. To obtain a list of licensed day care providers in the area, call 651-641-0332. **gv**

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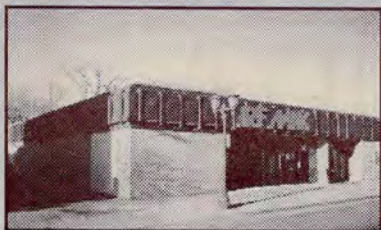
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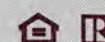


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John Otteson



Spacious 3-Bedroom!

3-BR, 3-bath close to parks and schools! Hardwood floors, finished walk-out lower level, custom cabinets, vaulted ceiling, open floor plan, main floor master w/whirlpool!

651 251-4888 \$269,900



John Otteson



Fabulous 3+ BR Home

Large eat-in kitchen! Formal DR! Spacious living room! Hardwood floors on 2 levels! Front sunroom! New roof! New appliances! www.twincities-realestate.com

651 251-4888 \$119,900



John Otteson



Shadow Falls Rambler

Spacious 3-BR with master suite. Enjoy hardwood floors (under carpeting) and lots of updating: new roof, central air and electric 97, new furnace and water heater 90.

651 699-4269 \$184,900



Gloria Smith



Highland Rambler

Pretty 3-BR in very nice condition. New roof, deck, large private fenced-in yard, lower level family room.

651 699-4269 \$159,900



Gloria Smith

How Can I Help You?

- Put the right price on **your** home.
- Show you how to sell **your** home for top dollar.
- Explain all the paperwork related to selling **your** home.
- Look out for **your** interest.
- Bring **you** only qualified buyers.
- Find **you** the best home for **your** money.
- Look after **your** needs.
- Represent **you**.

651 699-4269



Gloria Smith



High on a Hill

4-BR, 3-bath, 2-story, multi-level home at end of cul-de-sac with private wooded setting. Media room, first floor laundry, rec room, gas FP, 3-car gar. & large deck off kitchen.

651 696-0856 \$319,900



Beth Johnson

Buying? Selling? Just Thinking About It?

Now is the time to list your home for Autumn sales.

Find out about current market conditions. Call for a **Free Market Analysis**.



Kate McGuire & Ray Hoffmann
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