



Isaiah Alstad, grade 4, acts out a scene in a drama class that is new to the Monroe campus of the combined Linwood-Monroe Arts Plus School. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

St. Paul Schools gird for change

Falling enrollment drives plan for district overhaul

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Due to falling enrollment and a persistent gap in achievement between white and minority students, St. Paul Superintendent of Schools Meria Carstarphen has asked her staff to come up with a plan for large-scale changes throughout the public school district.

"The whole district as one large organization needs to reorganize," said School Board vice chair Elona Street-Stewart. "Everything is on the table, from academic programs to finance to operations."

"We need to do something different," said School Board member Tom Conlon.

The changes could involve school closings, building additions and new arrangements like this year's merger of the Linwood Arts Plus and Monroe Community schools.

Enrollment in the school district, which was as high as 45,325 students a decade ago, stands at 38,469 students in grades K-12 this year. That's down 1,081 students from a year ago. According to Carstarphen, a "bubble" of students is currently moving into the district's high schools, but enrollment in the middle and elementary schools continues to fall.

District administrators predict enroll-

ST. PAUL SCHOOLS ▶3

Council steps into negotiations to save brewery sale

Third extension sought on purchase agreement

BY JANE MCCLURE

In a bid to keep the Schmidt Brewery redevelopment project alive, the St. Paul City Council voted unanimously on November 5 to assume Brewtown LLC's purchase agreement with BHGDN, a limited liability corporation that includes brewery owners Bruce Hendry and Glen D. Nelson.

Brewtown had received a 30-day extension of an agreement to purchase the 15-acre West End property after failing to meet an October 21 deadline. It was the second time the deadline had been extended—the first was in April—and the extension was set to expire this week. City officials, led by Ward 2 council member Dave Thune, met with representatives of the property owners late last week to see if the purchase agreement could be extended a third time. Otherwise Brewtown could lose \$600,000 in earnest money.

Brewtown LLC is composed of father and son developers Jeff and Craig Cohen and the West 7th/Fort Road Federation. For several months they have worked on a \$200 million plan to redevelop the brewery site as an urban village with housing, retail, office and entertainment spaces.

Thune said the agreement approved on November 5 allows the city to be an active partner in negotiations for the purchase of the property. It was a step rarely seen in City Hall, but is indicative of the difficult times developers face as well as the local interest in trying to keep the brewery redevelopment alive.

"The neighborhood needs this development," Thune said. "The neighborhood is doing everything it can to make this happen and I'm trying to help them."

Thune said the agreement carries no cost or obligation to the city. The city would retain discretion as to whether or not to close on the purchase of the brewery property. The agreement also empowers city planning director Cecile Bedor to execute the purchase agreement if it goes forward.

One question that has to be resolved immediately

SCHMIDT BREWERY ▶4

EDUCATION



Teens find their artistic voice ▶2

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Head house still giving St. Paul headaches

Chance of attracting new restaurant unlikely as grain terminal project tops \$3M

BY JANE MCCLURE

Rehabilitation of the former head house and sack house of the St. Paul Municipal Grain Terminal as a riverfront trail head and interpretive center will cost the city of St. Paul another \$250,000, bringing the project's total cost to more than \$3 million. St. Paul City Council members, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), reluctantly approved the additional expenditure on November 12.

City officials conceded they have little choice

but to finish the rehabilitation by the end of the year or risk having to return a \$1.2 million federal grant for the project. However, council members said they were concerned about the cost overruns on what has already been an expensive and at times controversial project.

"C-4 (a common variety of military plastic explosive) would have been a lot cheaper," said Ward 6 council member Dan Bostrom.

The city acquired the old grain terminal at Shepard Road and Chestnut Street in 1988. The grain elevators were leveled shortly thereafter, but the six-story head house and smaller sack house were retained. Plans to redevelop them were initiated in 1999 when then-Ward 2 council member Chris Coleman worked with historic preservationists and Irvine Park residents to save

the structures rather than see them demolished for the Upper Landing housing development.

City officials had hoped that a riverside restaurant would be part of the redevelopment. However, ADRZ Development, a partnership that included celebrity chef Andrew Zimmern, scrapped its plans for a 150-seat restaurant after a key investor withdrew from the project several months ago. The city had been working with ADRZ since 2003 on the head house and sack house, which were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

"We always knew this was going to be a difficult project," said Marie Franchette, project manager for the St. Paul Department of Planning and

HEAD HOUSE ▶5

The Lab at Homecroft School provides outlet where at-risk teens can find their artistic voice

BY BILL STIEGER

The tiled floors, high ceilings, varnished wood and whining steam pipes inside the former Homecroft School in Highland Park may have visitors feeling like they have stepped back into the 1950s. But in one wing of the building, they will discover a series of classrooms that house the St. Paul Public Schools' very slick, modern arts program called the Lab.

At-risk junior and senior high students from the district's 11 special education sites visit the Lab once a week or twice a month to work on a variety of artistic activities. The Lab opened its doors at Homecroft, 1845 Sheridan Ave., at the beginning of this school year and, according to program coordinator Mary Tinucci, things are going swimmingly.

"We've been conducting writing in arts workshops in the schools for years," Tinucci said, "so we're old hands at this. But this year marks the first time we've had a place of our own, and that gives us the space to allow students to explore more varied forms of art."

The Poetry Lab consists of writing circles, with students preparing

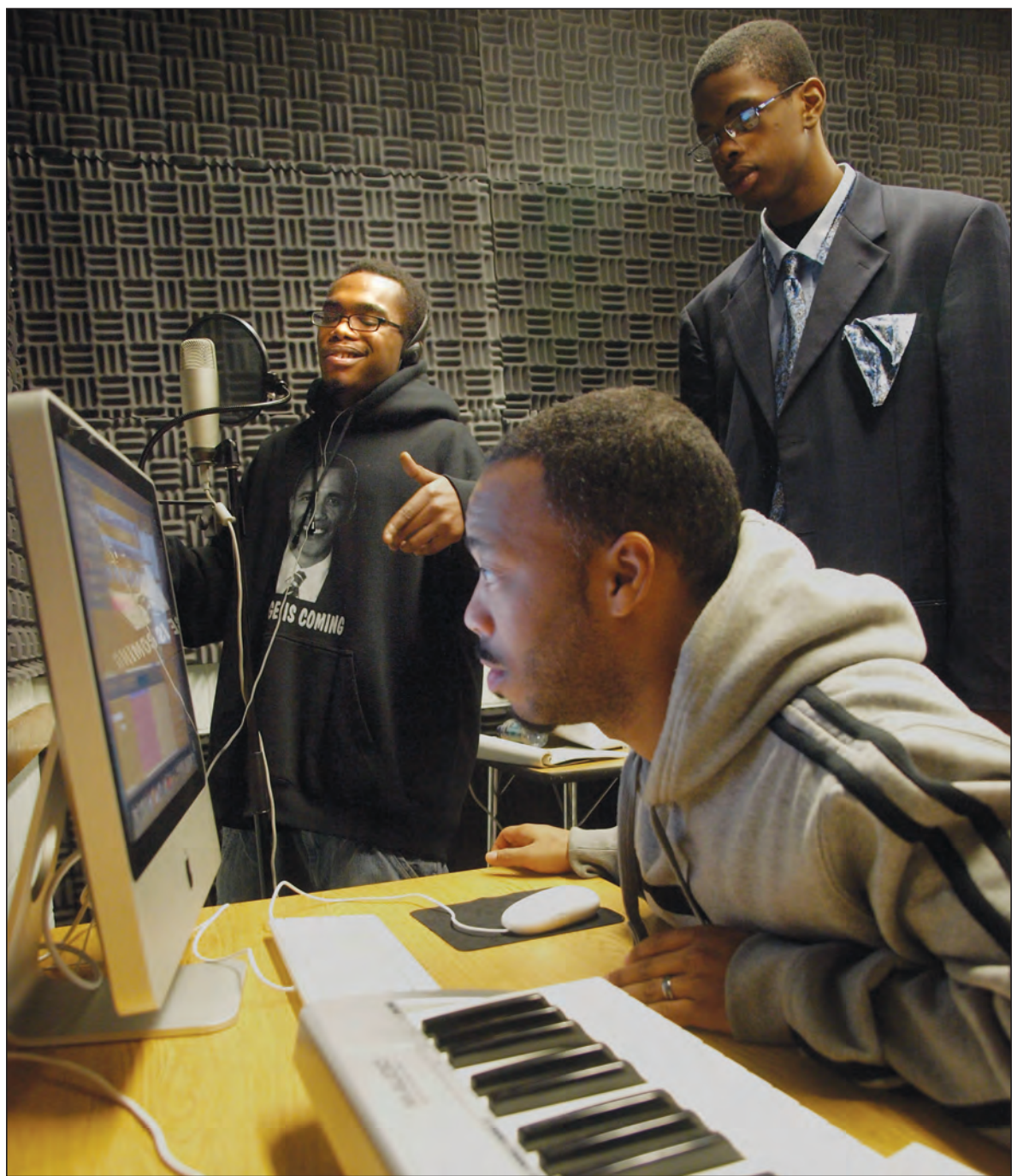
work for written publication and online posting. The Visual Art Lab includes photography, painting, drawing and crafts. The Technology Lab gives students the chance to record and edit music and try their hand at digital photography, filmmaking and graphic design. The Experiential and Wellness Lab includes exercise, yoga, self-defense and cooking classes.

The Lab offers classes led by volunteers and workshops that address the specific concerns of troubled students. Students also have a chance to see and hear visiting artists, hip-hop singers and spoken word performers.

"We keep the students busy and engaged," Tinucci said. "The discovery of artistic talent in students can enable them to develop the self-discipline they need to succeed."

Tinucci said the Lab is already seeing positive results. "I have many students who say they come to school just so they can attend workshops at the Lab," she said. "Many of these students come from troubled homes. Art offers a way for students to cope with their feelings, both good and bad. A student needs to learn writing skills to express himself in poetry. She needs to learn computer programs to create digital art. He needs knowledge of electronics and acoustics to record music. The Lab helps these troubled kids learn patience, self-control, self-discipline, as well as positive outlets for their frustrations."

Tinucci grew up in Newport and graduated from the College of St. Catherine. She worked as a social worker in the St. Paul school system for a dozen years and during that time developed a passion for writing. By teaching poetry and creative writing, Tinucci



Senior Brandon Morris hones his musical talents in a studio at the Lab, while artist-in-residence Glorius Martin monitors the session at the computer and junior Nokey Anderson looks on. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Brandon Morris adds vocals to a tune he wrote at the Lab at Homecroft School.

hoped to kindle a similar passion for writing in students with special needs.

"I wanted to find a way to combine my social work career with that of a writer," she said. "In 2004 we created a Poetry Lab, for the St. Paul Public Schools. The workshops were conducted at various schools throughout the district. I saw immediately how the classes benefitted the kids. Eighty-six percent of the participants reported an increase in their writing confidence. Seventy-eight percent reported an increase in their self-esteem."

Anne Byer-Rajput, the lead social worker for Murray Junior High School's Program for Social Development, said she is seeing progress in the 40 students under her charge who are involved with the Lab.

"The kids absolutely love going to the Lab," said Byer-Rajput. "They're always on time to make sure they

catch the bus to Homecroft. Just the other day, I was walking one of our students to the lunchroom and he was writing a poem in his notebook. He'd seen the student poems that the previous workshops had published and wanted his to be among those that go to print. Engagement like that is hard to find in any student."

Mandy Weinkauf, a student social worker at Central High School, offered her own assessment of the Lab. "A lot of our special needs students have had a lot of trauma in their lives," she said. "A lot of them have learning disabilities and find it difficult to see themselves finding personal achievement in the standard classroom format. The Lab allows these kids to tell their stories through creative expression. It's a place where their stories will be heard without being judged."

The staff at the Lab consists of Tinucci, social worker Tess Pease

and creative arts specialist Malory Haar. Tricia Michel and Kristen Mason are workers who are sponsored by AmeriCorps VISTA. Four interns who specialize in social work and the creative arts supplement the staff. The Lab also relies on the assistance of volunteers who are professionals in various artistic disciplines.

"We're always looking for volunteers in the creative arts," Tinucci said. "We're especially looking for men who can serve as role models."

More information on the Lab is available by visiting www.thelab-spps.com. The Lab encourages tax-deductible donations to help pay for such items as publishing poetry anthologies, offering stipends for guest artists and speakers, and paying for art supplies and technical equipment. For information on making a donation, visit www.sppspay.org.

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1 ◀ ST. PAUL SCHOOLS

ment declines of 500 to 600 students per year for the next three years. The drop, they say, is mostly due to lower birth rates, a shrinking school-age population and increasing competition from charter schools.

Carstarphen is hoping that with large-scale changes, the district can stem the falling enrollment and the decrease in state per-pupil aid and teacher layoffs that come with it. Continued falling enrollment could have “a rolling effect on student achievement,” Carstarphen said. “And schools that don’t meet state and federal No Child Left Behind requirements will need restructuring or have to be shut down.”

Of the 76 district schools and alternative programs subject to No Child Left Behind, 17 reached their goals for adequate yearly progress in both math and reading in 2008. That is down from 22 in 2007. Thirty schools made adequate yearly progress in math in 2008, down from 33 the year before, and 31 made adequate yearly progress in reading, up from 28 the year before.

Twenty-seven district schools are currently identified as “in need of improvement” under No Child Left Behind, including two that are facing “corrective action” and two—Humboldt Junior High and Arlington High School—that are facing “pre-restructuring.”

“Humboldt Senior High is probably only a year away from pre-restructuring if something isn’t done,” Conlon said.

Due to recent program changes, the status of three schools is under review by the state Department of Education, including Linwood, Monroe and Cleveland. Though Linwood achieved adequate yearly progress last year, Monroe did not.

Carstarphen has assigned the district’s chief operations officer, Hitesh Haria, to head up a Facilities Condition Assessment and Education Adequacy Study to determine whether individual school buildings across the district

“Right-sizing,” Carstarphen said, may necessitate program restructuring, new school attendance areas and staff reassignments.

are underutilized or falling short of meeting the programming needs of students. From that study, Haria will develop “comprehensive right-sizing and consolidation criteria,” she said.

Fifty-nine of the school district’s 65 traditional elementary, middle and high school buildings currently have fewer students than they were designed to accommodate, according to a school district study.

Carstarphen said she hopes the facilities assessment will “help us develop recommendations regarding school closures, school repurposing and program changes” aimed at both reducing costs and improving education. She said she also wants to continue “eliminating leases to neutralize costs to taxpayers in the short-term in exchange for long-term operating investments.”

“Right-sizing,” Carstarphen said, may necessitate program restructuring, new school attendance areas and staff reassignments.

To bring St. Paul residents and business people into the process, the superintendant has scheduled a series of six public meetings. Three of the meetings have yet to take place. They will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, at Phalen Lake Elementary School, 1089 Cypress St.; Thursday, December 4, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave.; and Friday, December 12, at Highwood Hills Elementary School, 2188 Londin Lane.

Carstarphen is also setting up a Large Scale System Change Advisory Committee to look at ways to take advantage of “opportunities” in the areas of academic reform, enrollment,



Fourth-graders Miranda Braun and Alyssa Mendez act out a scene in a drama class on the Monroe campus of the new Linwood-Monroe Arts Plus School. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

school choice, budgeting, and building “right-sizing and consolidation,” she said.

The superintendent expects the results of the Facilities Condition Assessment and Education Adequacy Study to be available by Feb-

ruary 2009. The School Board may have recommendations to consider as early as March. Some of the changes could take place as early as the 2009-10 school year, with others to follow over the next three years.

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Local building projects face uncertain fate in 'brutal economy'

By JANE MCCLURE

The redevelopment of the former Schmidt Brewery is not the only local development project that is struggling in the face of an uncertain economy. A handful of other projects around St. Paul are now officially shelved and many others are on hold. Only a few seem to be nearly on schedule.

Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune, who chairs the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), said many developers face the same challenges that Schmidt Brewery developer Brewtown LLC now finds itself in. "No one is willing to lend to developers who would've had no trouble getting financing just a few months ago," he said.

According to Cecile Bedor, director of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, there are few city-assisted projects that have pulled the plug entirely, but "we're seeing a lot of delays," she said. Other developers are redesigning their projects to meet changing demands, and others are waiting out the soft economy.

The developers of the Griffin Garden Townhouses in Merriam Park are turning back their previously approved city financing. Developers Eric Goodlow and James Garrett wanted to build a five-unit, \$2.2 million townhouse featuring an environmentally friendly, energy-efficient design at the northeast cor-

ner of St. Anthony Avenue and Fry Street. The project was controversial from the outset due to the high level of city subsidy that was sought for the market-rate housing. In June 2007, the HRA narrowly approved a subsidy of \$673,000 for the project.

Goodlow said the developers were unable to pre-sell the units, so the project has been shelved. "We still intend to develop the site someday," he said.

Another local development that is unlikely to happen is the proposed "live-work housing" at 942 Selby Ave., a project of the Selby Area Community Development Corporation. SACDC executive director Art Weddington said development has been suspended and other more cost-effective ways to redevelop the vacant property are being studied.

Other residential projects are moving ahead. Wellington Management began work this fall on six condominiums and two triplexes as part of its Shadow Falls development at 205 Otis Ave. However, its larger condominium building planned for the corner of Marshall and Otis avenues is on hold. Both projects won city approval three years ago, but Wellington decided to proceed with fewer condos and the triplexes instead of a 21-unit condominium building.

Other local housing developments are meeting different fates. While the last piece of the Shepard-Davern Gateway Village is under

construction at West 7th and Davern streets, Victoria Park is languishing down the street at West 7th and Otto Avenue. Brighton Development Corporation is shifting some of its Victoria Park properties from residential or mixed use to commercial use. Mississippi Market broke ground on November 7 for a new natural food co-op there.

Redevelopment of the Ramsey County Government Center West buildings and the former Ramsey County Adult Detention Center is up in the air again now that Opus Northwest has canceled its contract with Ramsey County due to the inability to find an anchor office tenant. Opus' option to purchase the properties expired on November 13. Opus had plans for a \$100 million development of office, commercial and residential uses. The County Board must now decide whether to seek a new developer or continue to work with Opus on a new contract.

The Opus project is one of the three large-scale downtown projects being buffeted by the economy and other circumstances. The developers of the Penfield, an upscale high-rise condominium, recently announced their project will not include 313 condominiums. The developers, Alatus Partners and Sherman Rutzick and Associates, had planned a 33-story building on the site of the city's former Public Safety Building at 100 E. 11th St., but have not been able to sell enough condos to

move ahead. The developers expect to have a new site plan in the future.

The St. Paul Farmers Market Flats project on Wall and 5th streets in downtown is also in limbo. Developer Brian Sweeney dropped out of the project several weeks ago in the wake of legal squabbles among contractor Flannery Construction, Sweeney Development and the city of St. Paul. Flannery alleges it was wrongly terminated as the contractor for the project, which was expected to include 48 condos above an indoor Farmers' Market. The city has filed a countersuit and all litigation is still pending.

Construction work is well under way on the new Trader Joe's gourmet grocery store at Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway, but two other local commercial projects remain pending at the Midway Shopping Center. Paula Maccabee, spokesperson for property owner RK Midway, said a new Walgreens store and a new Big Top Liquors store are still set to be built on Snelling Avenue and Spruce Tree Drive. The developer is currently working with city staff on sign issues.

Exactly when construction of a home improvement store at Pascal and St. Anthony avenues will start is still a question mark. According to Maccabee, the construction permits for that building are still current, "but it's just an absolutely brutal economy for development," she said.

1◀ SCHMIDT BREWERY

is when the 30-day extension expires. The City Council resolution says it is on November 21, while brewery property manager David Kreitzer said it is on November 19. Kreitzer said the property owners are open to working with the city. "We're hopeful that a deal can be reached," he said.

Jeff Cohen believes that Brewtown still could develop the property. "This is an unprecedented financial climate," he said.

Brewtown did have a bright moment earlier this year when it announced that Dominion Development would buy the old brewery bottling house for \$7 million and turn it into 115 artists' lofts. Dominion also would build 16 rental townhouses on a 2.5-acre vacant parcel nearby. However, Dominion cannot close on the sale until Brewtown does.

The City Council has approved the site plan and financing for the Dominion project. It also has worked with the developers to obtain funds for pollution testing and cleanup.

Grim-faced federation board members conceded on November 10 that it is possible the brewery may not be redeveloped by the Brewtown partners.

"It's just an incredibly bad time for development," said federation president Ken Peterson.

Some board members asked if the pollution cleanup grants obtained by Brewtown could be used by another developer. The Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development have already approved more than \$1.5 million to clean up the property. The city has also earmarked \$300,000 in Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization funds toward removing lead and asbestos in the buildings.

"We don't want to lose grants," said federation board member David Wickiser.

Federation members also do not want to see efforts to obtain historic designation for the brewery go by the wayside. National historic designation would make any redevelopment project eligible for tax credits, one of the development tools being eyed by Brewtown. The developers have also looked at tax-increment financing and tax-exempt bonds with assistance from the city.

"There's extraordinary interest in seeing something happen at that site," said federation board member Dave Bredemus. "There will be a lot of disappointed people if it doesn't happen."



The old Schmidt Brewery on West 7th Street. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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ADRZ planned to turn part of the St. Paul Municipal Grain Terminal into a riverfront restaurant before pulling out of the project several months ago.

1◀ HEAD HOUSE

Economic Development. After the restaurant was lost, the city stepped in to rehabilitate the building in order to retain the federal funds. However, losing the investor meant losing federal historic tax credits that would have aided in the buildings' rehabilitation.

The renovation project is now about 80 percent complete. City planning director Cecile Bedor said no further cost overruns are anticipated. The \$250,000 will come from federal Community Development Block Grants. That money is money typically restricted to low-income areas, but Bedor said there are no other funds available to finish the rehabilitation work.

Contractors recently discovered major structural problems with the head house and sack house, which were built in the 1940s. Underwater pilings are more deteriorated than originally believed and will have to be repaired by divers. The walls and roof of the head house also have deteriorated, and beams on the third and sixth floors were completely sheared through.

The budget for the project was originally \$2.5 million, including \$1.2 million in federal TEA-21 funds that are earmarked for transportation projects, including bicycle and pedestrian trails. The head house and sack house are adjacent to the Samuel Morgan riverfront trail.

The city had previously allocated \$1.3 million in CDBG funds toward the project, as well as \$200,000 from the Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization program and \$77,180 from the Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development.

The \$3 million budgeted for the project will

Ward 2 council member Dave Thune said that if plans for a riverfront restaurant are replaced by a vendor selling "pretzels and hot chocolate" to trail users, so be it.

be spent on the rehabilitation of the buildings and the development of the trail head. No money will be spent on a build-out for a future restaurant, nor is there any money for outfitting the interpretive center, for which Historic St. Paul and the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation are now raising money. So far, those groups have raised about half of the \$119,000 that is needed.

Council members questioned the accuracy of the consulting engineer's reports prior to rehabilitation, as well as the lack of adequate contingency funding.

"We committed to fix and save this, but it's my concern that this will not be the final time this comes back before us," said Ward 5 council member Lee Helgen. He said it is highly unlikely another restaurant operator would consider the building without building it out for that use.

Ward 2 council member Dave Thune said he does not intend to ask for any more money for the structures and said that if plans for a riverfront restaurant are replaced by a vendor selling "pretzels and hot chocolate" to trail users, so be it.

"This is no longer a restaurant project" he said, "and it's not coming back to us."

Restoration begins on falls' historic walls

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will host a groundbreaking ceremony at 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 21, to mark the start of a major restoration of Minnehaha Park's falls and glen.

Flooding in the glen below Minnehaha Falls has endangered the WPA-era retaining walls along the creek and has eroded areas along the bluff. Some of the walls now have 2-foot gaps beneath their concrete footings, and a portion of the walls closest to the falls have already toppled over.

The \$5.8 million restoration will take place in two phases. The first will be to repair a washed out area near the Minnesota Veterans Home and to direct stormwater to a new

rain garden. The second will be to stabilize the banks and bluffs around Minnehaha Creek. The project will also include constructing new walkways, removing invasive plant species and reforesting the area.

"There will be greater protection of all natural resources on the site," said park commissioner Carol Kummer, "including a revitalized trail system along Minnehaha Creek, an elevated boardwalk and stabilized stairways."

The restoration work is scheduled to begin this winter and run through next summer. The area will be highly restricted during the construction phase. For information, visit www.minnehahacreek.org/MinnehahaFallsandGlenRestoration.php.

Corrections

• The comments made by College of St. Catherine graduate student Abigail Garner in a November 5 *Villager* article about the College of St. Catherine administration's policy on having political figures speak on campus were

taken from an October 24 piece she wrote on a Facebook website that is administered by and for St. Catherine students.

• Umber Studios, where Macalester-Groveland artist Pamela Valfer's exhibit "Local Fauna" is being displayed through December 7, is located at 3109 E. 42nd St. in Minneapolis.

We Need Your Help!

ACCIDENT WITNESSES.

Anyone who witnessed the accident that occurred on October 24, 2008 at approximately 7:15 a.m. at the intersection of Snelling Avenue and Highland Parkway between a Ford van and a Johnson Brothers Liquor Company Truck, please contact Charles J. Noel at 651-365-5020 or cjnoel@cjnoellaw.com

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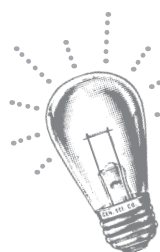
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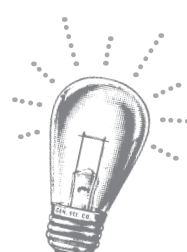
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Mississippi Market still seeking STAR funds for West 7th store

Its request and three others to be discussed at upcoming hearing

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council voted on November 5 to approve \$1.2 million in loans and grants for eight projects seeking funds through the city's 2008 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program, which awards money raised through the city's extra half-percent sales tax.

The council will hold a public hearing on December 3 on four additional projects seeking STAR funds. They include Mississippi Market's request for a \$400,000 loan and \$200,000 grant for assistance in building its new natural foods co-op at 1500 W. 7th St., Associated Dentists' request for a \$250,000 loan for the renovation of its building on West 7th Street, a \$250,000 loan and a \$250,000 grant for Smyth Printing in the Midway neighborhood, and a \$125,000 grant and a \$125,000 loan to add a catering hall and coffee house next to the Water and Oil Art Gallery in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood. All four fall under the city's business subsidy guidelines, which require a public hearing to discuss such issues as labor

organizing and employee wages.

This year's review of STAR funding requests was a long and sometimes contentious process. The STAR board debated for more than two hours before ranking the projects in August. The mayoral and council review process then took several weeks and resulted in several changes.

Mississippi Market's loan and grant requests were recommended by the STAR board, but last month co-op general manager Gayle Graham told the West 7th/Fort Road Federation that the co-op would only seek the grant due to concerns from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union's Local 789 and Mayor Chris Coleman. The mayor indicated support for the co-op, but wanted the project to proceed without a public subsidy. His concerns focused on the city's requirements for business subsidies. One stipulation of those requirements is that funding recipients and unions reach agreement on organizing workers.

Now Graham said the co-op will go ahead with its original request for both the loan and grant. "We respect the City Council's right to make a decision," she said.

This fall, Mississippi Market and UFCW Local 789 could not reach an agreement on a card check process for the new store. Card check is a method of organizing workers into

a labor union. Bernie Hesse, special projects director for UFCW Local 789, said if Mississippi Market wants to receive public funds, the city should be able to place conditions on those funds. He said he was concerned that Mississippi Market's new co-op will take customers from the two Coopers SuperValu stores on West 7th Street that employ union workers.

Graham said the co-op did not agree with the organizing process the UFCW wanted it to follow. "Reasonable minds can disagree," she said. Graham added that Mississippi Market should not be seen as pro- or anti-union and that employees could organize if they wanted to.

Mississippi Market's application also generated considerable debate among the STAR board members. Board member Randy Asuma said Mississippi Market's proposal "sounds more speculative than anything" and questioned how the co-op would succeed with a Trader Joe's market also opening next year at Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway.

Other board members argued that the co-op's plans were solidly researched and had a firm funding match in place. "I think it's one of our better proposals," said board chair Steve Gordon, who added that Mississippi Market had done a lot of work to find a suitable site for its new store.

Loans and grants for local projects that were awarded STAR funding include:

- A \$305,053 grant for a new concession stand area and restrooms at the city-owned Midway Stadium.

- A \$150,000 grant for Pride in Neighborhood Housing to provide deferred loans for private property improvements in the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods.

- A \$25,000 grant to replace the roof of the Eagles' Nest Women's Shelter on Leech Street on the West End.

- A \$75,000 grant to replace playground equipment and install benches and bicycle racks at the St. Paul Public Schools' Rondo Education Center, 560 Concordia Ave.

Other projects from around the city that received funding included a new Holy Land Deli on the West Side, a new movie theater in Galtier Plaza, an elevator for a downtown family shelter and a new entryway for an East Side program for people with disabilities.

One area project that was not recommended for funding by the STAR board was BJ Commercial LLC's request for a \$55,000 grant and a \$55,000 loan to rehabilitate the former Corner Marking building on West 7th Street. The request ranked at the bottom of the 13 projects considered by the STAR board.

Rock-Tenn debate reaches City Council

By JANE MCCLURE

The 18-month-long debate over future energy sources for Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling plant moves into St. Paul's City Hall on Wednesday, November 19. The City Council will hold a public hearing at 5:30 that evening on the top three options for powering the plant and saving its 475 jobs. Expected to testify are representatives of four neighboring district councils as well as representatives of the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) and the St. Paul Port Authority.

The top option, according to RCAP and Port Authority consultants, is the production of biogas through anaerobic digestion, a process that uses microbes to promote the decomposition of corn byproducts, sugar beet waste or animal manure. The biogas would be produced in rural Minnesota and would not actually be burned at Rock-Tenn. Instead, it would be used to garner "carbon credits" to reduce the cost of natural gas for Rock-Tenn by 10 to 20 percent.

Rock-Tenn currently derives

about 25 percent of its power from natural gas and 75 percent from fuel oil. That ratio would be flipped under the biogas option. Port Authority consultants are also looking into the possibility of obtaining financing from the U.S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture for building the biogas plant, which would be owned by an outside party.

If the biogas option does not materialize, the Port Authority's second choice is to build a new natural gas turbine at Rock-Tenn to cogenerate electricity and steam. The steam would be used to power Rock-Tenn and the electricity would be sold to a utility company.

The third option is to build a gasification facility at Rock-Tenn that would use a renewable form of biomass as fuel, such as agricultural or wood waste.

RCAP and the Port Authority consultants made the above recommendations in August. The Hamline-Midway, Macalester-Groveland, St. Anthony Park and Union Park district councils weighed in on the matter over the past month. The district councils have all supported the recommendations but with ca-

veats about environmental impacts and technical feasibility.

In their resolutions, the district councils also reiterated their opposition to the burning of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) as a power source at Rock-Tenn. RDF, which is made from garbage, was one of the power sources under consideration for Rock-Tenn, which prompted scores of residents of the surrounding neighborhoods to join a group called Neighbors Against the Burner.

The four district council resolutions are similar, although Union Park officials added language stressing their opposition to RDF. Union Park serves the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods, which are generally downwind from Rock-Tenn. Residents there have dealt with emissions from Rock-Tenn and its industrial predecessors for almost 100 years.

City Council member Russ Stark, whose Ward 4 includes St. Anthony Park, Hamline-Midway, Merriam Park and part of Macalester-Groveland, said he expects that the City Council will accept the recommen-



Mark Brown cleans up equipment at Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling plant.

PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

dations of RCAP and the district councils. City officials have heard from very few constituents who are opposed to them, according to Stark.

The need for a new power source for Rock-Tenn came about by the

construction of Xcel Energy's new natural gas-powered High Bridge plant. For many years, Rock-Tenn was powered by steam generated at Xcel's former coal-powered High Bridge plant and piped to the Midway recycling plant.



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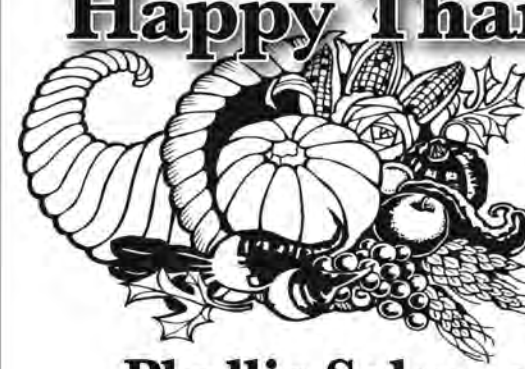
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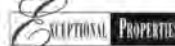
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Viewpoint

A bluer hue of purple

BY DANE SMITH

The buzz filled the air right up through election day about the prospect of an “Obamanami”—a political tidal wave that would sweep all before it in Minnesota. The topic dominated the conversation among those of all political denominations who gathered that Tuesday morning at the biennial Battleground Breakfast sponsored by Tunheim Partners, a Twin Cities communications consulting firm. Many were speculating that Republican office holders could be reduced to an all-time low in Minnesota, with two Democratic U.S. senators for only the second time since 1978, one Republican U.S. congressman out of eight, and veto-proof DFL majorities in both chambers at the state Capitol.

But that rout did not materialize. The results did generally affirm Minnesota’s gradual return to its historical status as a moderately progressive state. But the big blue wave nationally turned out to be merely a storm surge here. Our reputation endures as an independent state with a competitive field among parties and ideologies. Color us purplish blue.

Dean Barkley’s 15 percent share of the Senate vote preserves the Independence Party’s major-party status. Republicans held on to the three congressional seats in districts that ring the Twin Cities. The verdict is still out on the U.S. Senate race between Norm Coleman and Al Franken, but the surge created by President-elect Barack Obama was not enough to carry Franken and other Democrats to decisive victories. If Coleman holds on to his seat, it will extend a remarkable achievement for Republicans in Minnesota. Since 1978, despite never carrying the state in the presidential column and being mostly relegated to minority status in the Legislature, the GOP has held onto two of the big three statewide offices—the governor’s and two U.S. Senate seats—for all but four years.

Nevertheless, Obama’s 10-point margin in Minnesota was the largest by a Democrat since President Bill Clinton’s in 1996. House DFLers gained a couple of seats, not quite to the veto-proof 90, but enough to make it easier to override.

Mitch Pearlstein, founder and president of the Center of the American Experiment and a key figure in the rise of conservatism in Minnesota, issued a statement on election night acknowledging that “for the second time in two years, politicians on the right side of the aisle have been shown the door in disproportionate numbers.... For a nation that was commonly described as ‘center-right’ no longer than a historical nanosecond ago, this is not a small failure.”

But perhaps the most important indicator of Minnesota’s electoral shift was the success of the constitutional amendment that will increase the sales tax by 3/8ths of a percent. That measure was not wildly popular among progressives concerned about the state’s overall regressive tax structure, nor among good-government types and policy experts on the left and the right. The increase will exacerbate the unfair overall tax system in Minnesota. Moreover, raising taxes and dedicating revenue through a constitutional amendment is generally considered bad policy.

But one could sense from the wording on the ballot that it would pass. The question clearly laid out the public benefit: “to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests and fish, game and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance and restore our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater...”

In Minnesota, as elsewhere, there seems to be a restored faith in government solutions to problems. Numerous national commentators have opined that President Ronald Reagan’s famous declaration of 30 years ago—about government being the problem rather than the solution—no longer dominates the political spirit of the nation.

Lawrence Mishel, president of the progressive Economic Policy Institute, summed up the election as a sign that Americans are increasingly open to “careful and effective government intervention.” While many Americans remain skeptical, in large part because of mismanagement at the federal level, “the task ahead,” Mishel said, “is to fashion policies that will improve the economic circumstances of the vast majority, and thereby restore confidence.”

Dane Smith is a Highland Park resident and president of Growth & Justice, a non-partisan advocate for fair taxation and smart public investment.



Inbox

Convention left a deep wound

To the editor:

“The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.” Those are the words of Milan Kundera, a Czech writer who was exiled from his country when it was behind the Iron Curtain. In the wake of September’s Republican National Convention, St. Paul should listen to him. We have a lot to remember here in our city, where the sacred mounds of ancient people share river bluffs with Victorian mansions and the twin domes of church and state. Families have lived here for generations, leaving behind their French, German and Irish names. It is a storied place.

I remember Chris Coleman’s heart-tugging recollections when he was campaigning for mayor in 2005. They were about his boyhood in St. Paul. For that matter, I remember his father, who in the 1960s and 1970s was the most powerful politician in the Minnesota Legislature. Chris may feel a certain sense of entitlement, but I have no reason to doubt that he loves this place, just as many of us do.

But now a lot of us have other memories, too. We remember long ranks of black-clad, faceless troopers, tall iron fences shutting in peaceful protesters, clouds of tear gas, screams of pain and fear, doors being kicked in, sirens wailing, bridges closed. We remember a week when St. Paul yielded to a military zone, where a bicycle and bandana were enough to get one detained and perhaps beaten. If anyone doubts it, let him or her see the film *Terrorizing Dissent*, put together by journalists who were on the streets and not “embedded” in police cars.

And now our mayor and City Council want us to forget. The streets were cleaned up immediately. The fences disappeared as if by magic. And Chris writes to his shell-shocked constituents: “On a national and international stage, our city shone in the spotlight and St. Paul stands to reap the rewards for years to come.”

Sure. But I and many others will have a hard time forgetting the experience of being in an occupied city. On my windowsill there sits a memento, a broken set of plastic handcuffs that I picked up from dozens scattered across the floor of the RNC Welcoming Committee’s convergence center at 627 S. Smith Ave. The place was relatively quiet when I got there on the day after the sheriff’s men broke in and terrorized 50 people. I noticed on the wall a warning that the occupants had agreed to keep the space sober and smoke-free. Quite a bunch of rowdies, I concluded.

But the real damage from the week was not the broken windows or a couple of vandalized vehicles. It was the destruction of our sense of freedom and of trust in our own city officers.

No, Chris, we still have questions and we will not easily give up the struggle of memory against forgetting—not next week, not next month, not next year. The wound is deep and, for better or worse, it has become a part of Minnesota’s history as this 150th year of statehood comes to a close.

*Rhoda Gilman
West End*

College, sisters are in sync

Dear editor:

I am responding to references in the November 5 *Villager* and to recent statements by some students at the College of St. Catherine regarding the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as founders of the college. The college was indeed founded at a time when the education of women was not a societal norm, as noted in the guest editorial (*Villager* Viewpoint, “St. Kate’s takes nonpartisan policy too far”). However, I want to clarify the statement that there is a “disconnect between our activist past and our neutral present” and the conclusion that there is a need “to challenge the administrative norms just as the sisters did in founding this educational institution.”

As a member of the College of St. Catherine board of trustees, I witness regularly the passion, commitment and work of the board and the full administration in assuring that the mission and vision of the college inform what is done at the college on a daily basis. Although it is true that the articulation of ideals may change based on the needs of the times, the college has been and is now aligned with the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph and our founding ideals.

I am in full support of the president of the College of St. Catherine as she with her cabinet attempts to implement, revise and communicate policy in the college community. I also fully support students seeking accurate information and the opportunity to communicate clearly within appropriate channels in the college community.

*Sister Carolyn Puccio, Liaison
to the College of St. Catherine
for the Province Leadership Team*

The confessions of a teacher's pet peeve

BY BILL STIEGER

It all began with my 3rd-grade teacher, a frightening harridan with orange hair and matching fingernails that she would dig into your neck like ice tongs whenever she chose to haul you off the playground for a scolding session. She terrified us students, but she seemed to have a particular interest in terrifying me.

In our frequent private sessions, she would rant about my shortcomings: I didn't pay attention in class, I went to the bathroom too much, I was a "bad boy." In the classroom, she'd make me the butt of her gibes. "Billy, don't ask to go to the bathroom while I tell this story, OK?" was one bit I remember. In sing-alongs, she'd have the rest of the class serenade me with a derisively sweet rendition of "Billy Boy." Halfway through the school year, she stopped letting me go to the bathroom during class altogether. Of course, there were accidents.

I would've traded places with Oliver Twist in a heartbeat, anything to be rid of this—there's no other word for it—evil teacher.

But it was arithmetic that was my undoing. When it came to numbers, I was pegged as an idiot. Back then, 3rd grade was the year that students were introduced to the multiplication tables. The first test that I took in multiplication was returned with a big red "X" on it. My teacher had scratched the "X" so forcefully across the test that she ripped the paper.

Without going into all the Orwellian horrors of my school years, I'll just say that more often than not I was dismissed as a thick-headed reprobate owing to my ineptitude in math. I graduated from high school, but I had to take "bonehead math" before they would

give me my sheepskin. To this day, I grow short of breath whenever I face a column of numbers.

Thankfully, my son doesn't suffer the same problem. He sailed through 3rd-grade math in ordinary fashion, which is to say the tests revealed his math skills to be adequate—not excellent or superior, but adequate.

However, 4th grade has come as a bit of a shock to him, owing in part to the advancement in math skills required of 9-year-olds. This fall he asked for my help.

I opened his workbook with some trepidation. The explanations it provided for the mathematical processes used words like "modes" and "algorithms." However, they also referenced the page in the accompanying textbook where a student could find the information that he needed to complete each problem. In *Everyday Mathematics*, a publication hatched by scholars at the University of Chicago, 4th-grade students learn about measurement, fractions, basic algebra and geometry. And along with the how-to explanations in the text are the keys to solving each problem in the workbook.

Where was *Everyday Mathematics* back in 1960?

I suppose this is the place where I ought to tell you of my recovery from the fear of mathematics and how I've let go of the bitter memories of my 3rd-grade teacher. The problem is, I haven't recovered and I haven't let go. Though I've improved some, I'll never be a natural with numbers. And as for my old schoolteacher, I confess to a lack of Christian charity where she is concerned. I hope the old dame is spending her afterlife in the bad place, eternally strapped and writhing on a giant multiplication sign.

Ah, my heart is yet a dark forest.

Since the HDC aims to reduce crime in Highland, I hope the community will let HDC board members know if the spending they approved will achieve that goal or not.

Georgia Dietz
Highland Park

8◀ INBOX

Taxpayer money well spent?

To the editor:

A thousand dollars here, a thousand dollars there. Money well spent? One may wonder if that question was on the minds of the Highland District Council's board of directors on November 5. The HDC's Community Services Committee presented its crime prevention budget recommendations to the HDC board that evening. The request included \$1,000 for the HDC community organizer to gather new e-mail addresses; \$1,750 for door hangers, magnets and whistles with crime prevention information on them; and \$2,500 for a portable sign that shows a motorist's speed.

I don't think anyone should receive \$1,000 of taxpayers' money to gather e-mail addresses. Those can be obtained on a voluntary basis. My proposal was to advertise meetings where Highland residents could discuss public safety issues with the police and the HDC crime prevention coordinator. I also suggested offering self-defense classes for Highland residents and a grant to help local businesses hire off-duty police officers. Board member Paul Krech suggested offering a small grant program for conceal-and-carry classes. However, the board voted against any changes.

The Highland District Plan lays out public safety goals for the HDC, such as to "work collaboratively with police...on safety education programs" and to "increase police patrols, particularly at night." The HDC can't hire police, but it could have had more officers in Highland through the off-duty grant program.

High-fives and the hard road ahead

Editor:

Thank you to the voters of District 64B for re-electing me to the Minnesota House of Representatives. I would also like to thank my opponent, Emory Dively, for the way he conducted his campaign and his gracious communication with me after the election.

The upcoming legislative session will be difficult. In the midst of a recession, we are facing a significant deficit. I have serious concerns that this shortfall will be balanced on the backs of the poor and that local property taxes will be increased further to provide basic services. I will be working hard to ensure that core governmental services are adequately funded while insisting on accountability for our investment.

As your state representative, I want to hear from you about the legislative session. You can reach me at 651-296-4199 or rep.michael.paymar@house.mn. I will be holding constituent meetings during the legislative session on Saturday mornings at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Please check the *Villager* for dates and times.

Representative Michael Paymar
District 64B

VILLAGER

Volume 56, Number 18

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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

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Mpls. embraces change

Voters approve excess levy for schools and the reconstitution of School Board

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

Change was on the minds of a majority of Minneapolis voters on November 4. In addition to their overwhelming support of Barack Obama for president, Mill City voters approved a new excess levy for the Minneapolis Public Schools as well as the reconstitution of its School Board from seven at-large members to nine members, six of whom will represent individual districts within the city.

Minneapolis voters also re-elected School Board member Lydia Lee and elected newcomers Jill Davis and Carla Bates over incumbent Sharon Henry-Blythe, who finished fourth in her bid for a third four-year term.

The excess levy approved by voters by a 71 to 29 percent margin will generate \$60 million per year for the next eight years. Beginning with property taxes payable in 2009, it will increase the tax bill by about \$204 per year on a home valued at \$256,000. It will give the district an additional \$1,200 per pupil each year, replacing the expiring excess levy of \$815 per pupil per year. Enrollment in the Minneapolis Public Schools now stands at 33,855 pupils. Its total budget for 2007-08 is \$654.5 million.

The excess levy revenue will be used to develop early reading skills, bolster math and science programs, provide up-to-date technology and textbooks and reduce class sizes. Classes across the district currently have no more than 26 pupils in kindergarten through third grade, 32 pupils in grades 4 through 8 and 32 pupils in high school core courses, according to the Minneapolis Public Schools' website.

Last March the Minneapolis School Board approved an "aggressive" Five-Year Strategic Plan, according to Peggy Ingison, the district's chief financial officer. Passage of the levy "will help us meet the strategic plan's goals of establishing benchmarks of achievement for all of our racial and ethnic groups," she said.

"The passage of the levy by such a large margin demonstrates that the voters of Min-

CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENT
Lydia Lee	61,623	22.08%
Jill Davis	58,998	21.14%
Carla Bates	54,691	19.6%
Sharon Henry-Blythe	39,476	14.14%
Kari Reed	33,118	11.87 %
Doug Mann	28,416	10.18 %
Write-in	2,777	0.99%

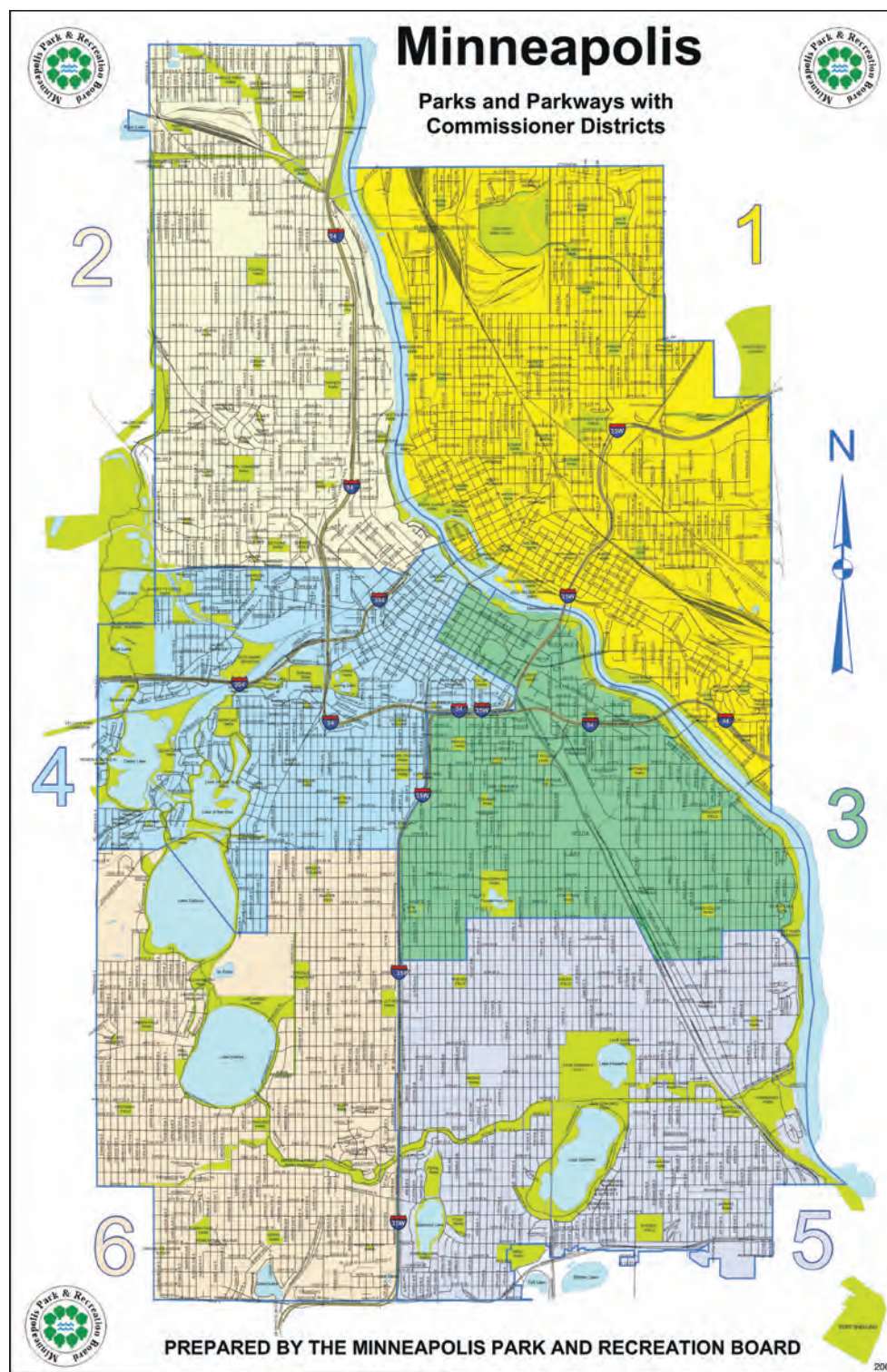
"The passage of this levy puts a huge burden of accountability on the school district and the board for results," said School Board president Pam Costain.

neapolis have confidence in our schools and a strong belief in doing what's right for the next generation," said Minneapolis School Board president Pam Costain. "Though 80 percent of voters don't have children in our schools, 71 percent agreed that providing our children with the skills they need to be successful is critical for our city.

"We have a plan, we have additional money from the voters. Now it's our responsibility to dramatically improve achievement," Costain said. "The passage of this levy puts a huge burden of accountability on the school district and the board for results."

The additional \$60 million per year from property taxpayers "will allow our district to...address the academic and resource inequity that exists among our schools," Davis said, "allowing us to continue our quest for manageable class sizes and the learning materials needed for a quality education."

Without the new levy funds, Lee said, those



The Minneapolis School Board districts will align with the Park Board districts above.

goals "would've been extremely difficult to attain." However, she added, the new money is "to provide basics and does not address the innovations that we need to explore in order to create a truly dynamic and progressive education system. That money will have to come from grants and other sources."

The future reconstitution of the School Board was approved by Minneapolis voters by a margin of 66 to 34 percent. The change, which will be phased in over the next four years, divides the city into six districts as defined for the city's Park Board. In 2010, when four School Board seats will be up for election, three of the seats will be filled by residents of Park Board districts 1, 3 and 5, and one seat will be filled at-large. In 2012, when five School Board seats are up for election, three of the seats will be filled by residents of Districts

2, 4 and 6, and two seats will be filled at-large.

According to Davis, the new representation on the School Board "will facilitate improved accountability, more positive community relationships, a true citywide vision based on local community knowledge, and an increase in community investment."

The reconstitution also addresses the concerns of many residents of the city's North Side, who have felt underrepresented on the School Board for years, according to Bates.

On the new School Board that will be seated in January 2009, only District 6 will not have a resident member of the board. School Board members Costain and Chris Stewart reside in District 5, Lee and Tom Madden in District 4, Bates in District 3, T. Williams in District 2 and Davis in District 1, according to school district spokeswoman Emily R. Lowther.

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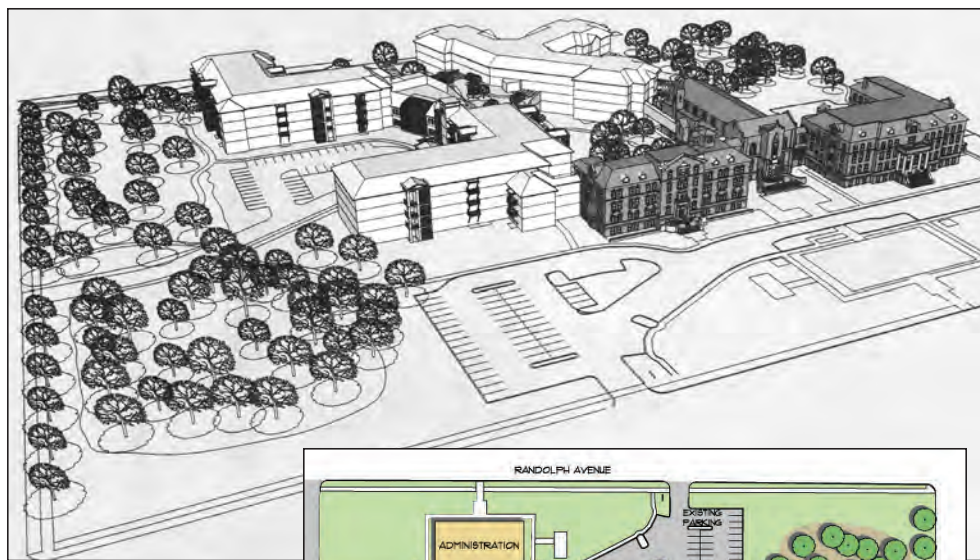
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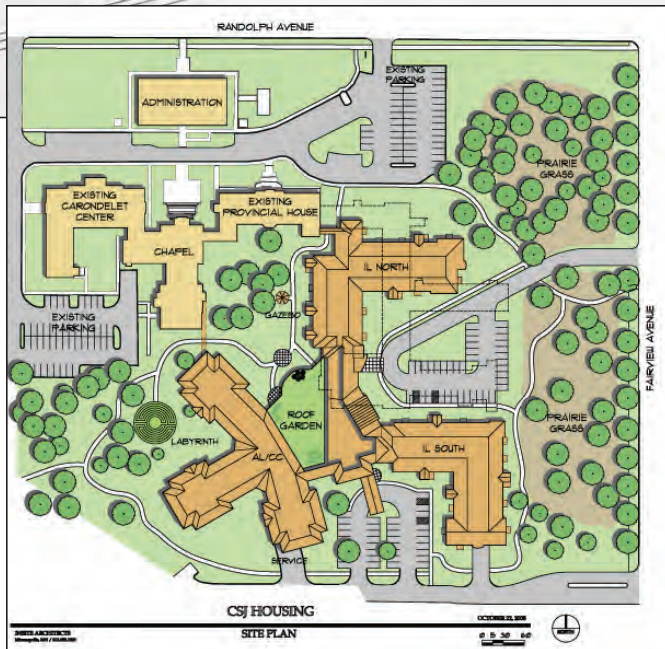
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Two views of the senior housing and health care facility that is being proposed for the southwest corner of Randolph and Fairview avenues by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in collaboration with Presbyterian Homes & Services. The conceptual drawings indicate the new construction in white and black above and in darker brown at right.



Sisters plan to replace convent with senior housing, health care facility

The St. Paul Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) is working with Presbyterian Homes & Services on plans to develop a new senior housing and health care facility on the southwest corner of Randolph and Fairview avenues.

Intended for members of the Sisters of St. Joseph as well as those who are not, the new residence "will offer a continuum of senior care, from independent living to assisted living, skilled nursing and memory care," said Allen Black of Senior Housing Partner, a subsidiary of Presbyterian Homes.

St. Paul-based Presbyterian Homes is a 53-year-old nonprofit organization that provides an array of housing and health care services for seniors in 34 municipalities in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

"We're just beginning legal work, permitting and financial arrangements," Black said. However, he added, construction could begin as early as next summer with occupancy by early 2011.

Planning for the new facility began in 2005 when the Sisters of St. Joseph realized that Bethany Convent, the health and retirement facility now on the site, "is structurally outdated and can't be renovated," said Sister Margaret Belanger, manager of the project.

"We undertook a marketing study that suggested there was a need for senior care in the Highland area. We will repeat that study to reaffirm the need before continuing with the project, (but) the study's outcome will not change the need for an updated facility to care for our sisters."

In developing the plans for the facility, "a group of sisters visited senior care facilities throughout the country," Belanger said. "What we discovered is a changing model for senior care. Our focus will be on providing person-centered care in a home setting and to create an environment where common spaces promote companionship, creativity and intellectual stimulation and ample private areas encourage small-group gatherings."

The facility will integrate health care services with services for spiritual and educational development, physical and recreational therapy and a variety of dining options, according to Sister Virginia Webb, a member of the CSJ leadership team. The plan is to offer these services to residents of the new facility as well as the surrounding neighborhoods, Webb said.

Applications for residency are not yet being accepted. For information on the project, call 651-690-7081 or visit www.csjstpaul.org.

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Mac-Grove council reaffirms its support for Snelling median

Neighbors OK design over the objections of City Councilman Harris

By JANE MCCLURE

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council and St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris are at odds over the design of a proposed median on Snelling Avenue between St. Clair and Grand avenues.

Harris has sent a letter to the Macalester-Groveland council pressing for changes to the median's design that the community council recommended last January. Among other things, he wants to see access preserved from southbound Snelling into the parking lot of the Lincoln Commons commercial strip. However, the community council voted 16-1-1 on November 13 to reaffirm its support for the earlier plan and forwarded that resolution to the full City Council.

It has been almost two years since Macalester College began working with the Macalester-Groveland council on plans for the 10-foot-wide landscaped median. The six-block stretch of Snelling between St. Clair and Grand currently carries about 25,000 vehicles per day. The median is intended to slow traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street.

Although most on-street parking would be lost, two lanes of traffic would be maintained

in each direction, with left-turn lanes at Grand and St. Clair. Southbound vehicles would also be able to turn left to and from Goodrich and Osceola avenues.

Members of the Macalester-Groveland council are concerned that changes to the design of the median could jeopardize the \$197,000 that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has set aside for the \$750,000 project. Macalester College has promised to cover the remaining costs, and the state could kick in another \$250,000 if a Snelling Avenue mill and overlay project currently scheduled for 2012 is moved up to coincide with the median's construction.

Lincoln Commons tenants Coastal Seafoods, Caribou Coffee, Fed Ex/Kinkos and Great Clips say they lost business last fall when temporary traffic barriers were installed on Snelling to mimic the proposed median. Harris said he is also concerned about the ongoing maintenance of the median and an "unacceptable" increase in traffic that Goodrich Avenue just east of Snelling is expected to see after the median's construction.

"Ultimately, I believe that a proper median can make a difference for our neighborhood," Harris stated in his letter to the Macalester-Groveland council. "However, it is important

that any project, regardless of size, be evaluated for the full range of impacts to a community." To reduce those impacts, Harris is urging the city's Department of Public Works and MnDOT to consider building the median without the segment between Grand and Lincoln avenues.

Community council members were frustrated that Harris did not communicate his objections before they were months into the planning process. "This (debate over design) could throw the project off schedule and very well result in the loss of funding," said Dave Pa-suik, a member of the Macalester-Groveland council's Transportation Committee. The Macalester-Groveland council held several meetings with affected property owners even before the public hearing on the median last November.

However, Harris has always maintained that a final decision on the median's design is in the hands of the City Council.

Macalester College officials are also concerned about the potential impacts of any project design changes and delays, according to Tom Welna, the director of the college's High Winds Fund. "I'm not comfortable building something designed by Pat Harris," he said. "We've had almost two years of discussion on this."

Harris is urging the city and MnDOT to consider building the Snelling median without the segment between Grand and Lincoln avenues.

BZA denies parking variance for Umbria Pizzeria in Highland

By JANE MCCLURE

The owner of a commercial building in Highland Village is expected to appeal a decision of the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to deny a 22-space parking variance that would allow Umbria Pizzeria to move into the space at 2073 Ford Pkwy.

The BZA voted 5-2 on November 3 to reject the variance, saying it would compound the Village's existing parking shortfall. The property owners have requested appeal forms, according to city staff, but cannot file an appeal until after BZA memorializes the resolution on November 17. The appeal has to be filed within 10 days of that vote.

The owners of Umbria would like to move into the space formerly occupied by Act One Photography. The restaurant would share the building with R.F. Moeller Jeweler, White Rock coffee house, Highland Grill and Cleveland Wok. The building has no off-street parking except for a few spaces along the alley.

The former photo studio required four off-street parking spaces. The proposed 80-seat restaurant requires 26 spaces. Umbria and the building's owners said they tried unsuccessfully to find shared parking with other Highland Village businesses.

BZA member Vince Courtney, who voted against the parking variance, said it is incumbent on property owner Robert Lunieski and 2075 Ford Parkway LLC to lease to a tenant who needs less parking. "Bring in something that needs a four- to six-space variance, not 22 spaces," he said. "There's not even space for parking for the pizza delivery vehicles."

Property manager Cindy Kraushaar said a parking variance will be needed to lease to

any new business in the building.

The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee supported the variance request with several conditions, including that trash pickup and deliveries be

coordinated for all tenants at the corner, that adequate ventilation equipment be installed and that employees park on nonresidential streets. City officials received a petition supporting the variance as

well as two calls and an e-mail from Pinehurst Avenue residents opposing it.

City staff recommended approval of the variance on the condition that the applicant explore ways to promote pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Suggestions made in the staff report include establishing a sidewalk cafe and adding bicycle racks.

"There's not even space for parking for the pizza delivery vehicles," said BZA member Vince Courtney.

Umbria, an Italian restaurant with five other locations in the Twin Cities, would be open daily between 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The dining area of the restaurant would occupy about two-thirds of the 3,200 square feet of available space. The unused space would remain vacant.

Courtney and other BZA members said the parking variance should also be rejected to protect Snyders Drug, which has the only off-street parking lot on the Ford Parkway side of the block. The Highland Village store is one of Snyders' busiest.

David Leonard of Snyders said he has struggled with what to do about his own parking situation, to the point of researching the idea of building a parking deck on top of the one-story building, which proved to be too costly. Parking is allowed in the alley, but Leonard said it often becomes too congested for emergency vehicles to get through. "I don't know anywhere else where that's allowed," he said.

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Grab the car keys and head to CDH to help deliver Thanksgiving meals

Want to work up an appetite while doing something to benefit others this Thanksgiving? Volunteers are once again needed to help deliver freshly prepared, full-course turkey dinners on November 27 to those who would otherwise likely go without.

This is the 39th year that Bill Foussard and Barb Aslesen will be heading up Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels, a nonprofit project that will be delivering more than 14,700 meals to Twin Cities families this year. "I'm still amazed that it's grown to the extent it has," Foussard said.

Volunteers are once again manning the telephones in Foussard's Highland Park home to field the calls of the several hundred drivers who will be needed on Thanksgiving morning to deliver all those meals. Two adults per vehicle are being sought and parents are more than welcome to bring along their kids and make it a family outing.

All those with a vehicle and a few hours to spare are asked to pick up the meals and a routing map at the entrance to Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Delivery begins at 7:00 a.m. and will be over in time for the volunteers to be back home by 10:30 a.m., in plenty of time to enjoy their own Thanksgiving feasts.

All told, about 2,500 volunteers help with cooking, packaging, routing, traffic control and distribution for Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels. Coffee, rolls and orange juice will be waiting for all volunteers when they arrive at Cretin-Derham Hall.

"The energy on Thanksgiving morning is amazing," Foussard said. "And seeing how excited the kids are when you arrive at their homes with the food—it's unbelievable."



There will be a flurry of activity at Cretin-Derham Hall on November 27 as volunteers deliver turkey dinners to hundreds in the Twin Cities during the annual Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels. PHOTO BY ANDY BLENKUSH

"People continually ask us why we're still doing this after all these years," Aslesen said. "For me, the No. 1 thing has always been the children who receive the meals—making sure they're well fed."

Higher food costs this year have driven the bill to about \$80,000 for the whole operation, and Foussard and Aslesen are still seeking monetary donations to help defray the purchase of food that has not been donated. Contributions may be sent to Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels in care of Alliance Bank, 55 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

For more information about delivering the Thanksgiving meals, call 651-699-5404.

Volunteers

Tom Fries of Merriam Park is embarking on a 24-hour stationary bike ride on November 18 to raise money for three charities—St. Mark's Catholic Church at 2001 Dayton Ave. to help with the purchase of defibrillators; scholarships for youths who have been processed at Ramsey County's juvenile detention center; and an orphanage in Nakuru, Kenya. Donations for any of these charities may be dropped off before 8:30 p.m. on November 18 at Anytime Fitness, 2929 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. After that date, call Fries at 651-266-5255.

Volunteer reading tutors are being sought for students in grades 1-3 taking part in a free program at the St. Paul Public Library. A commitment of one hour per week in the late afternoon or on weekends is requested. Call Molly Riley at 651-266-7437.

Knitting for Warmth meets from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Group members knit and crochet hats, mittens and scarves to be donated to the homeless through Joseph's Coat. All volunteers are welcome, regardless of skill level. Call 651-699-5560.

Volunteers are needed afternoons or early evenings to work one-on-one with elementary and high school students on homework and study skills at any of five St. Paul Public Library branch, including Rondo and River-view. A commitment of two hours per week for a minimum of four months is requested. Call Beth at 651-266-7433.

Guild Incorporated is seeking volunteers willing to spend a few hours a month befriending adults who are experiencing depression, anxiety or other disabilities. Activities include going for coffee, taking walks, watching sports or attending events. Call 651-925-8465 or e-mail at volunteer@guildincorporated.org.

Jim McDonald of St. Paul's West End has joined the Shalom Community Alliance as the volunteer coordinator for Shalom Home East. The former manager of Shalom Home East's Adult Day Center, McDonald will oversee the volunteer program for the Shalom Home's Shaller Campus at West 7th Street and Otto Avenue when it opens in early 2009. McDonald is recruiting volunteers for everything from one-on-one visits to entertaining to leading worship services for the elderly residents and tenants. He is also seeking volunteers to help with the move in late February from Shalom Home East's longtime campus at 1554 Midway Pkwy. For information, call him at 651-637-0287.

The International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave., has resettled Hmong, Somali, Ethiopian, Karen and Iraqi families this year and is seeking new or gently used coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks and boots to help them make it through their first Minnesota winter. Adult and children's items are needed. Items may be dropped off between now and November 21 during regular business hours or evenings by appointment. Call Robin at 651-647-0191, ext. 342.



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School Notes

Talmud Torah of St. Paul, 768 S. Hamline Ave., will hold a lower school (grades K-4) open house and enrollment event at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 18. Visitors will have a chance to learn more about the school and its integrated curriculum, meet the principal and faculty members, and tour the school building. For more information, call Jennifer Zacks at 651-698-8807.

Highland Catholic School, 2017 Bohland Ave., will hold a parent information night at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 19. The evening will include information for incoming kindergartners as well as transfer students in grades 1-8. Call 651-690-2477.

"Helping Your Child Succeed at School," a series of free workshops for the parents of public school children, will open on Thursday, November 20, with a discussion on "Helping Your Child Love to Learn." Sponsored by the Minnesota Parental Information and Resource Center, the pro-

gram will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Registration is not required. Subsequent workshops will address "Learning at Home" on January 22 and "Making Schools Better" on March 26. For more information, call 952-838-9000.

Nova Classical Academy, a K-8 public charter school at 1668 Montreal Ave., will host an enrollment event from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20. Nova plans to add 9th grade next fall. Visitors to the academy on November 20 will be able to hear about Nova's classical curriculum, meet faculty and students, and tour the school. Call 651-227-8622 or visit www.novaclassical.org.

Highland Park High School's National Honor Society collected 2,100 pounds of nonperishable food from local residents during its annual Trick-or-Canning event on Halloween. More than twice the amount that was collected by the society on Halloween in 2007, the ton of edible goods was forwarded

to the Francis Basket food shelf operated by the Franciscan Sisters at Sibley Manor Apartments in Highland Park.

College of Visual Arts students, alumni, faculty and staff will sell their works during a holiday art sale and silent auction on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6, at the school, 173 N. Western Ave. Admission to the preview party from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday is \$25, which includes wine, hors d'oeuvres and the first chance to purchase artwork and bid on silent auction items. Admission is free from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The silent auction will close at 3:00 p.m. and the winners will be announced at 3:30. Call 651-224-3416.

Cretin-Derham Hall seniors Maureen Harrington, Nolan Hudalla, Emilie Sabourin, Arlene Schuweiler, Maria Traxler and Ann Wolski have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholar Program. Eight other seniors at CDH were named commended students: Christopher Bentley, Alexander Ginder, Charles Godfrey, Erin Holt, Scott Klas, Amelia Knudson, Katelyn Mazzitello and Carolyn Scorpio.

Twelve St. Thomas Academy seniors have been named commended students by the National Merit Scholarship Program, including Michael Farley, Timothy Garvey, Samuel Johnson, Connor Lane, Brennan Lee, Robert Litwin, Thomas Mealey, Robert Muellerleile, Nicholas Pennell, Ryan Robinson, Adam Rohde and Anthony Stoeri.

Henry Sibley High School teacher Dann Hurlbert, co-author of that school's original spring 2008 musical *Halleluiah, Hot Dish! The Tale of Two Harbors*, has produced an educational DVD on "How to Write and Produce Your Own High School Musical." A film teacher, Hurlbert coordinated a behind-the-scenes filming of every aspect of the musical's production as an aid to those who are interested in mounting a similar venture. For more information, visit www.yourownhighschoolmusical.com.

Elliott Mitchem, a senior at St. Thomas Academy, has been named an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Mitchem scored in the top 4 percent among the more than 150,000 African-American students who requested consideration for the program



St. Thomas Academy presented Carl Baumgaertner (left, Class of 1942) and James Garberg (Class of '41) with military honors at the school's Veterans Day assembly on November 11. Baumgaertner was decorated with the Silver Star he earned more than 60 years ago. Garberg received a regimental coin and letter from the current commander of the 32nd Infantry. Both were named the first recipients of the Fleming Medal honoring veterans who graduated from the academy.

when they took the 2007 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The policy debate teams from Henry Sibley, St. Paul Central and Highland Park high schools took top honors at the Iowa Caucus Tournament on November 1. Danny Bernick and Bobby Ciborowski of Sibley won the event, earning their second bid to the Tournament of Champions (TOC) to be held in May in Lexington, Kentucky. Two bids are needed to qualify for the TOC, and they can only be earned at regional and national tournaments. Laura Johnson and Steve Quam of Central were semifinalists in Iowa, earning their second bid to the TOC. Jillian Jordan and Tamar Kaplan of Highland Park also placed second in Iowa, earning their first bid to the TOC.

PaChia Thao of Ramsey Junior High School has received the prestigious national Young Scholars award from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Thao is among 75 academically

SCHOOL NOTES ► 15



Seasonal music and readings will once again accompany the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree and creche at the University of St. Thomas. The public event has been rescheduled for 4:30 p.m. Thursday, December 4, in front of the university's Summit Avenue arches. A reception with cookies and hot chocolate will follow.

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Study set on impact of UST projects

By JANE MCCLURE

Two major construction projects that are on the drawing board for the St. Paul campus of the University of St. Thomas will proceed under one environmental review process. The West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) agreed on November 11 to allow just one Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the university's proposed new student center and adjacent athletic facilities.

St. Thomas wants to replace the student center in Murray-Herrick Hall with a new building on what is now a parking lot on the northeast corner of Summit and Cretin avenues. The adjacent O'Shaughnessy Hall would be demolished and its athletic facilities would be replaced.

The St. Paul Department of Planning and

Economic Development had proposed two EAWs, one for each project, to assess the potential impact each would have. However, St. Thomas' neighbors and WSNAC preferred that the cumulative effects of the construction projects be studied in one EAW.

An EAW identifies any adverse impacts of large projects and recommends ways to mitigate them by analyzing such issues as traffic, noise, water runoff and historic preservation.

According to St. Thomas vice president Doug Hennes, it is unclear when construction will begin on the two projects. UST's Board of Trustees discussed the projects in October but took no action.

Like many colleges, St. Thomas is weighing future construction projects and fundraising efforts in light of an uncertain economy. The trustees could revisit the issue in December or February.



Thanks to the generosity of the Padelford Packet Co., 90 1st- and 6th-graders at Benjamin E. Mays School boarded the Betsy Northrup several weeks ago and cruised the Mississippi River between Harriet Island and the Lake Street bridge. Pictured clockwise from top, Arianna Smith (left) watches Amira Warren shoot some video, binocular brothers Micah and Kaurron Jones enjoy a closer look, and Grace Halverson shows off her compass assignment.



14 SCHOOL NOTES

exceptional students from across the nation who were chosen for the award, which can span up to 15 years and approach \$500,000. Only three Minnesota students have received the award since its inception in 2000, and all three have participated in Breakthrough St. Paul, an academic enrichment program for highly motivated middle school students in the St. Paul Public Schools. The program aims to attract a diverse group of talented young people to careers in the field of education. For

more information, visit www.breakthroughsaintpaul.org.

Talmud Torah of St. Paul Day School, a K-8 school at 768 S. Hamline Ave., dedicated its new science lab during the first week of November. The science lab gives middle-school students five individual lab stations in which to conduct a variety of hands-on experiments, as well as study space for lessons and individual and group presentations. The science lab was made possible by the support of Harold and Mickey Smith as well as many other parents and residents.

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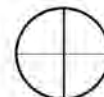
94 Crocus Place	963 Linwood Ave
808 Fairmount Ave	1078 Linwood Ave
650 Goodrich Ave	600 Montcalm
682 Goodrich Ave	141 Nina St #3
725 Goodrich Ave	852 Osceola Ave
736 Goodrich Ave	427 Portland Ave
949 Goodrich Ave	1876 Sargent Ave
625 Grand Ave #2	2085 Scheffer Ave
1060 Grand Ave #304	269 Summit Ave #2
1185 Laurel Ave	294 Summit Ave
642 Lincoln Ave	112 N Western Ave #3
772 Lincoln Ave	1047 Westminster St

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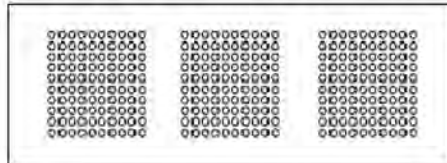
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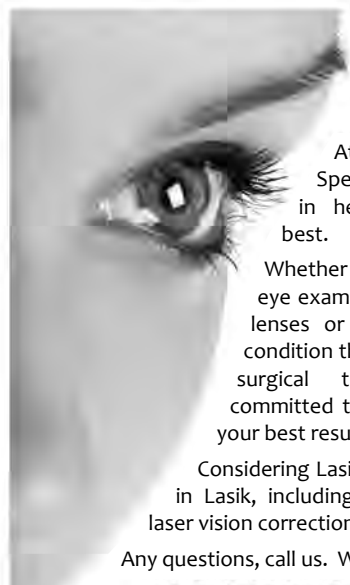
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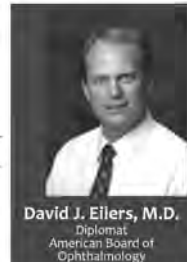
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For author of 'The Funeral Home Murders,' the mystery is solved...in fiction if not fact

BY BOB GILBERT

In his debut novel, *The Funeral Home Murders*, Macalester-Groveland author Rob Hahn weaves fact and fiction into a mystery that is based on a double homicide that was committed at a Hudson, Wisconsin, funeral home in 2002.

Funeral home director Dan O'Connell and 22-year-old intern James Ellison were gunned down at work on a cold February day that year with no apparent motive. Twenty-two months later, the Reverend Ryan Erickson, a 31-year-old priest who was working for a Hudson parish at the time of the killings, was questioned by police. Though Erickson denied any involvement in the murders, he committed suicide several days later.

"I wrote the story because I was fascinated with the case," Hahn said. "After the priest hung himself, a Wisconsin judge ruled at a John Doe hearing that the priest had done it, but I had my reservations and I still wrestle with the unresolved issues."

In the early stages of writing the novel, Hahn worked mainly from his memory of the facts of the case, but he soon left the real story behind in order to flesh out his fictional tale. "My goal was to write an entertaining mystery built around an event that actually occurred," he said. "But the majority of the book came from my imagination."

The novel's protagonist is Sean Kelly, an investigative reporter for a Twin Cities television station. Kelly is assigned by his news director to cover the crime, and after broadcasting his initial reports, he begins receiving tips from an anonymous source who offers him information that not even the police have.

Kelly is brash, competitive and quirky, an Irish-American who like Hahn graduated from the University of Notre Dame. Kelly's love interest in the novel is a CBS reporter out of Chicago who comes to town to cover the case. A competitive relationship develops between the two, rooted not only in their mutual desire to scoop the other, but because she is a graduate of Boston College, Notre Dame's archrival in football.

The line between fact and fiction in the novel does become thin at times. While researching the book, Hahn not only spoke to O'Connell's widow, he met several individuals who were friends of Erickson's and were with him hours before his suicide. According to Hahn, no one with a personal stake in the actual case has been offended after



The Funeral Home Murders author Rob Hahn likens his protagonist Sean Kelly to the late Howard Cosell, whose likeness hangs in his office. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

In rendering the story, one issue haunted Hahn: How do you reconcile the fact that the prime suspect in the murder is a Catholic priest without disparaging the Catholic Church?

reading the novel.

However, in rendering the story, Hahn said, one issue haunted him as it does his protagonist: How do you reconcile the fact that the prime suspect in the murder is a Catholic priest without disparaging the Catholic Church?

"Kelly's dilemma is a moral issue between his professional responsibilities and his religious feelings as a devout Catholic," said Hahn, a parishioner of Nativity Catholic Church. "He's competitive enough that he doesn't want another reporter to scoop him. But while he wants to bring justice to the victims, he doesn't want to jump to any wrong conclusions and risk indicting his religion."

Hahn said he resolved the problem only weeks before his manuscript was scheduled to go to press. He rewrote portions of the novel, adding several characters to deepen the narrative. One,

a St. Paul priest named Father Truth, becomes a mentor to Kelly.

"The presence of the Father Truth character not only helped ease my own anxiety, it created a better balance in the book," Hahn said. "By trying to expose what's wrong, Kelly is actually helping to heal the whole community."

Though most heroes in the murder mystery genre are cops, Hahn made his a reporter because it is a job he knows well. After graduating from Notre Dame with a degree in government, he went to work as a producer at WGN Radio in Chicago and WCCO Radio in the Twin Cities.

Hahn, 39, left radio 13 years ago to start his own publications, the monthly *Minnesota Wine Connection* and *Minnesota Prep Sports* magazines. He is married and has two sons.

Though he is sensitive to Kelly's religious faith, Hahn is less sympathetic about his protagonist's profession. "I watch the local news on television and sometimes I just think it's awful," he said. "I don't like the contrived questions and answers and the happy talk between the news anchors and the reporters."

The Funeral Home Murders is the first of what Hahn hopes will be a series of Sean Kelly mysteries. He said his first novel was hard to write, but his second, which is now nearly finished, has been easier because he has a firmer grasp of the genre.

For more information about the book or about purchasing it, visit www.robhahnbooks.com.

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District Council News

Highland Park

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Board update—The Highland District Council decided on November 5 how to allocate the remainder of its 2008 crime prevention funds: \$1,000 to create a matching grant program for graffiti removal; \$1,500 to create a crime prevention page on the HDC's website; \$1,750 to purchase magnets, whistles and door hangers with crime prevention information printed or engraved on them; up to \$250 to reimburse expenses incurred by the Greater Highland Park Neighbors Against Crime; and \$1,000 to hire community organizer Kathy Carruth to compile an e-mail list for distributing crime prevention information.

Board meeting set—The HDC's board of directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 3, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The agenda will include an update on plans that the Sisters of St. Joseph have for Bethany Convent, a presentation by Bob Hammer of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development on the district council budgeting process, and a vote on the Transportation Committee's recommendation on a bicycle boulevard. An at-large position on the board of directors will also be filled. Those who are interested in running for the seat should contact the district council office.

Community Development update—The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals has voted 5-2 to deny Umbria Pizzeria's request for a 22-space parking variance in order to open at 2073 Ford Pkwy. Umbria had the support of the city's zoning staff and the district council. The HDC will support an appeal before the St. Paul City Council.

Transportation update—The HDC's Transportation Committee will hold its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 24, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The committee will make its recommendation on the proposed Highland Parkway/Edgumbe Road bicycle boulevard at that time. For information or to comment on the proposal, visit the HDC's website and click on the link for the bicycle boulevard.

Highland issues forum—The HDC is working with E-Democracy.org to establish an online issues forum for the Highland Park neighborhood and is seeking volunteers to help manage the website. Volunteers should have a basic knowledge of the Internet, interest in neighborhood issues and a commitment to citizen participation. For details, contact Kathy Carruth at the HDC office.

Neighborhood honor roll—Nominations are now being sought for the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll. Local nominees should be people who have given of their time and talents to make Highland Park a better place. The nomination deadline is November 30. Inductees will be honored at a ceremony on January 23 at the University of St. Thomas.

Recycling bins—Highland residents may pick up a free recycling bin at the front desk of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., during regular hours. For information, call the HDC office.

Crime report—To receive the St. Paul Police Department's weekly crime report, crime alerts and other information about what's going on in the neighborhood, send your name and e-mail address to the HDC office at hdc@visi.com.

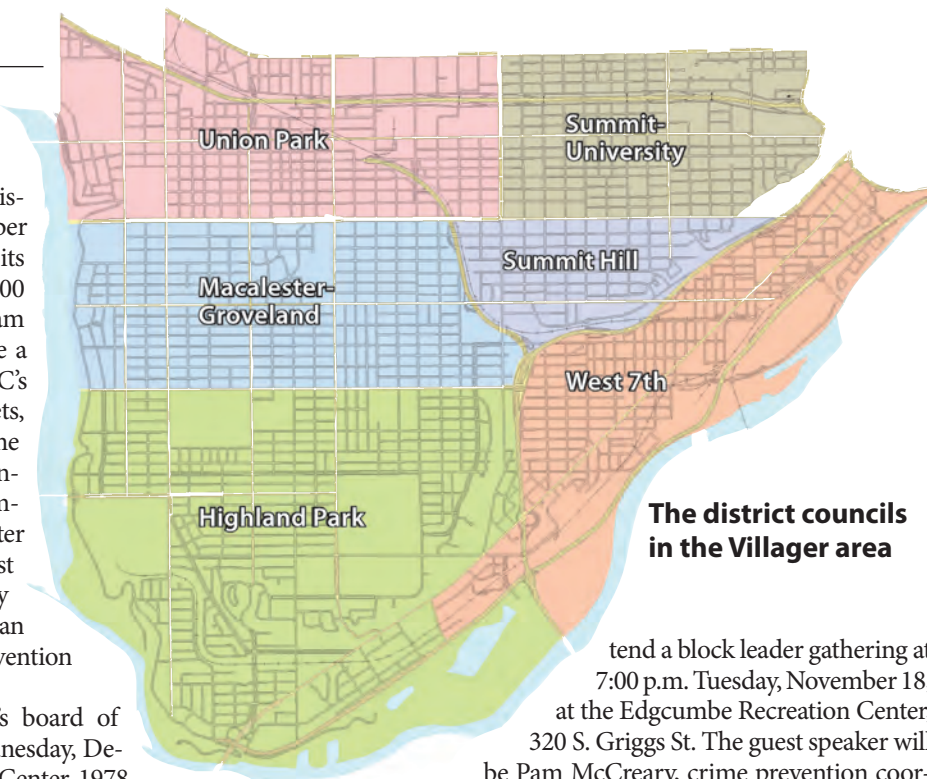
Mark your calendar—Transportation Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 24; HDC board meeting, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 3; and Community Services Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 8. All meetings will be held at Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For information, visit the website.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Check out KidsPark—KidsPark, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's drop-in child-care program, is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays for children ages 18 months to 5 years. Infant care is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The professionally staffed parent cooperative is located in the Groveland Park warming house at 1961 St. Clair Ave. Call 651-695-4008 or visit www.kidsparkdropin.org.

Block leader event—Macalester-Groveland block leaders and those who are interested in becoming one are invited to at-



The district councils in the Villager area

tend a block leader gathering at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The guest speaker will be Pam McCreary, crime prevention coordinator of the St. Paul Police Department, who will share holiday crime prevention tips. Snacks will be provided. To register, contact Afton Martens at afton@macgrove.org or 651-695-4000.

Beautification Committee—Macalester-Groveland residents who like gardening are being asked to consider joining the community council's Beautification Committee. The committee conducts spring and fall plant shares and organizes the annual Alley Garden Awards in addition to managing other projects. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month. For information, contact Afton Martens at 651-695-4000 or afton@macgrove.org.

Electronic updates—Those who are interested in receiving e-mailed updates regarding crime in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood should contact Afton Martens at 651-695-4000 or afton@macgrove.org.

Mark your calendar—Environment Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 20, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

New board members—The Union Park District Council named eight new board members at its meeting on November 5. The new members are Jennifer Walther for Grid 3, Mike Madden for Grid 9, Vin Parker for Grid 12, Charles Russell for Grid 14, Patrick McGuinness for Grid 15, Sandra Fjerkenstad-Büdel for the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood's at-large seat, Chris Jones for the Desnoyer Park Improvement Association, and Jennifer Downham for Concordia University-St. Paul. Board members are still being sought for Grid 10 and Grid 15 (see the council's website for a grid map). For information on joining the board, contact the UPDC office.

Board officers—Union Park's new board officers were also elected on November 5. They are president Glen McCluskey, vice presidents Eric Molho and Michael Jacobs, treasurer David Rasmussen and secretary Suellen Carroll. The board also recognized the work of outgoing president James Marti, who helped guide the creation of the UPDC and deal with issues related to Rock-Tenn and the Central Corridor light-rail line. Marti will remain on the board as the Grid 2 representative.

Fall fund drive—The UPDC is currently conducting its second annual fall fund drive. In addition to working on neighborhood issues, the council publishes a quarterly newsletter, distributes a monthly electronic newsletter and weekly crime notifications, maintains a website and co-hosts the annual neighborhood cleanup. Donations are needed to help pay for those and other services. This year's fundraising goal is \$9,000. For more information about the UPDC or to make a donation, visit the council's website or call the office.

Recycling bins—Free recycling bins are handed out from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The next pickup dates are November 19 and December 3.

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

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Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department and from reports by the St. Paul Fire Department.

Highland Park

Burglary—A home on the 2200 block of Pinehurst Avenue was broken into at about 4:00 a.m. Friday, October 24. The residents were home at the time.

—A home on the 2200 block of West 7th Street was burglarized between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6.

—A plasma TV was taken from a home on the 2100 block of Bayard Avenue between 5:00 p.m. Friday and 6:00 p.m. Saturday, November 7-8. The front door was forced open.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at Highland Parkway and Mississippi River Boulevard between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25.

—A counterfeit \$100 bill was passed at a store on the 2000 block of Ford Parkway at about 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 28.

—A GPS unit was stolen from a vehicle parked at Party America on Ford Parkway between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 28. The vehicle's window was broken out.

—A theft from auto occurred at the Charles M. Schulz Highland Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave., at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 30.

—A theft from auto occurred at Crosby Park between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 29. The car window was broken out and a purse was stolen. Another theft from auto occurred at the park between 9:00 a.m. and noon Friday, October 31.

—Two counterfeit \$100 bills were recovered from two students at Highland Junior High School, 975 S. Snelling Ave., at about noon Friday, October 31.

—Two cars were broken into at Hidden Falls Park between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 2. Thefts from autos also occurred at the park at about 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 3, and around 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 4. In the latter incident, the driver's door was pried open and a bag was stolen.

—A suspect shoplifted nine *Trans Siberian*

DVDs at Blockbuster on Ford Parkway at about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, November 6. The suspect fled in a black Dodge Stratus with a red pinstripe.

—A purse was stolen from a car at Crosby Park at about 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 7. A similar incident was reported at the park between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A home on the 1100 block of Selby Avenue was burglarized between 7:00 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, October 25.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a home on the 1100 block of Ashland Avenue between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 29. One suspect was a white female, 30-40 years old, around 5-foot-9, with a heavy build and long brown hair. The other suspect was a black female, 30-40 years old, around 5-foot-9, with a slender build and short black hair.

—A home on the 1200 block of Laurel Avenue was broken into at about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 29. A neighbor called police when he saw two suspicious people loading items into a minivan. Police located the suspects' vehicle and recovered the stolen items.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—A man and woman were robbed at gunpoint on the 1400 block of Summit Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Friday, October 24. The suspects took the couple's cell phones and the woman's purse. Police arrested two juveniles and an 18-year-old Oakdale man for the robbery soon after.

Burglary—A home on the 1800 block of Goodrich Avenue was broken into between 5:00 and 11:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25.

—A home on the 1000 block of Palace Avenue was broken into between midnight and 7:30 a.m. Monday, October 27. The resident was home at the time.

—A home on the 1700 block of Juliet Avenue was broken into at about 10:30 p.m. Friday, October 31.

Miscellaneous—Police investigated a loud party on the 1700 block of Palace Avenue at

about 12:30 a.m. Saturday, October 25. Eight people were cited for underage consumption.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A home on the 1800 block of Selby Avenue was broken into at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday, October 25. The residents were home at the time. A white male wearing all black clothing stole the car keys and a 1999 Mercury Mountaineer from the home.

—A home on the 1800 block of Iglehart Avenue was burglarized at about 1:30 p.m. Sunday, October 26. The residents were home at the time.

—A home on the 1900 block of Carroll Avenue was broken into at about 3:00 a.m. Saturday, November 1. The residents were home at the time.

—A home on the 300 block of North Wilder Street was burglarized between 11:00 p.m. Sunday and 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 3.

—A Midway man was arrested for burglary at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 5, on the 300 block of Dewey Street. The residents saw the man trying to break into their home through the front door. The suspect fled on a bicycle, but police arrested him nearby.

—A home on the 1600 block of Carroll Avenue was broken into between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 11.

Theft—A car was stolen on the 400 block of Herschel Street between 10:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, October 30-31.

—A theft from auto occurred at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6.

Sex crime—Criminal sexual conduct was reported at Marshall Avenue and Herschel Street at about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 4. An unknown man grabbed a woman's chest and then ran north on Herschel and west on Iglehart. The suspect was described as a white male, 18-20 years old, with a thin build.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A man was arrested shortly after he robbed a man on the 900 block of Grand Avenue at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 29. The suspect punched the victim and demanded his cash and wallet.

—Three suspects attempted to rob a man at gunpoint near Oxford Street and Lincoln Avenue at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday, November 8. The victim ran and the suspects chased him, firing four shots. The victim was not injured. Police recovered four .22-caliber bullet casings in the alley on the 1000 block of Lincoln and later located the three suspects.

Burglary—A home on the 400 block of Grand Hill was burglarized at about 12:30 a.m. Thursday, October 23. The resident was home at the time.

—Two computers and a camera were taken from a home on the 1000 block of Lincoln Avenue between noon and 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 5.

Theft—A suspect stole two mirrors from Ten Thousand Villages, 867 Grand Ave., at about 12:30 p.m. Friday, October 31.

Arson—Someone set the inside of a car on fire on the 800 block of Lincoln Avenue at about 11:30 p.m. Friday, October 17.

Theft—An unknown male and female stole a basket of jeans from Hot Mama, 867 Grand Ave., between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 29.

Miscellaneous—Someone threw a pumpkin through the rear window of a parked car on the 1000 block of Linwood Avenue at about 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 25.

Summit-University

Robbery—A Summit-University man was arrested for robbery on the 300 block of North Dale Street at just after midnight Thursday, November 6. The man threatened to stab his acquaintance with a knife unless that man gave him money. The victim handed over his money, went downstairs and told the security guard he had been robbed.

—A woman was robbed at gunpoint on Kent Street just north of Summit Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Friday, November 7. The robber knocked the woman to the ground and stole her purse. The suspect was described as a black male in his 20s, around 5-foot-11, with a medium build and medium complexion.

—A car-jacking at gunpoint occurred on

CRIME REPORT ► 19

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Reinforcements from what appeared to be the National Guard were called in to protect the delegate buses parked on Kellogg Boulevard awaiting the end of the first day of the Republican National Convention. PHOTO BY LARRY ENGLUND

RNC commission receives another earful

Eyewitnesses describe St. Paul as police state during the convention

By JANE MCCLURE

The city of St. Paul's RNC Public Safety Review Commission heard almost three hours of testimony on November 6 at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center in its ongoing effort to gather public comments, videotape and other evidence of the success or failure of law enforcement officers to protect the public safety during the Republican National Convention (RNC).

The November 6 public hearing was far more subdued than the City Hall session in September hosted by Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune. Fewer than 50 people attended the November 6 hearing, and most of them listened quietly, including Mayor Chris Coleman and City Council member Russ Stark, the only elected officials in the audience.

"I was really dismayed at what I saw (during the RNC)," said Michael Andregg, an adjunct professor of peace and justice studies at the University of St. Thomas. Andregg, who had worked with police and protest groups for a year prior to the convention, said he attended most of the protests. He said that despite preconvention promises, law enforcement officers did a poor job protecting the rights of protesters.

Andregg said he believed that St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington tried his best to balance the rights of protesters with the need for public safety. However, he questioned who was really directing law enforcement.

"To this day, I don't know who was in charge," he said. Was it the St. Paul Police Department, he asked, "or an any-

mous federal somebody?"

Several of those who testified on November 6 said they were intimidated by the heavy police presence on St. Paul's streets. Downtown and the surrounding area had all the markings of a police state during the four-day convention, they said.

The presence of military helicopters flying in formation over the protests brought back disturbing memories for Bill Collins, a Battle Creek neighborhood resident and Vietnam War veteran who participated in a Veterans for Peace march during the RNC. The veterans who were marching were heckled by RNC participants, according to Collins. However, he said, "the priority (of law enforcement) seemed to be to protect the RNC participants and not constitutional rights."

One repeated complaint concerned the anonymity of law enforcement officers who not only were masked in protective gear but had no identifying insignia. "You didn't see (badge) numbers, you didn't see names," said Merriam Park resident Grace Kelly. "How are you going to file a complaint against an anonymous officer?"

"I saw more violations of civil rights and civil liberties during the RNC than I've seen in the last 50 years," said Dann Dobson of Summit Hill, who served as an observer during the convention for the National Lawyers Guild.

Elizabeth Raasch Gilman, a member of the RNC Welcoming Committee, said she believed the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department was tracking her whereabouts during the convention. At one point, she said, she was confronted by Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher. "(He) told me that he had a big file on me and that my continued freedom depended on my cooperating with him," said Gilman, whose name was on the lease of a Smith Avenue building that

was used by the RNC Welcoming Committee and was raided by law enforcement agencies prior to the convention.

The commission also heard from Elliot Hughes, a young man from Macalester-Groveland who said he had been brutalized by St. Paul police and Ramsey County Sheriff's Department personnel following his arrest during the convention. He and his father, Don Hughes, said that they have still not been able to obtain any police documentation of Elliot's arrest and incarceration.

Earlier on November 6, St. Paul police and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department announced the formation of a new investigative unit that will review about 6,000 hours of videotape to identify criminal suspects as well as the victims of violence during the RNC. One of the images law enforcement officials released was of a man who was assaulted after he tried to stop a group of protesters from breaking windows.

At a press conference on November 13, a group called the Community RNC Arrest Support Structure (CRASS) announced that it is seeking the names of victims of police brutality. "Throughout the RNC, unidentified individuals terrorized hundreds of activists, journalists, medics, legal observers and bystanders," CRASS stated in a press release. "The perpetrators of these brutal assaults were heavily armed, masked and dressed in black."

CRASS is also calling for the public release of the 6,000 hours of police video.

The RNC Public Safety Review Commission, which is chaired by former federal prosecutors Tom Heffelfinger and Andy Luger, is examining the training, supervision and conduct of law enforcement officials prior to and during the RNC. However, it is not investigating individual allegations of police misconduct. A report on its investigation is expected before the end of the year.

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the 1200 block of St. Anthony Avenue at about 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 11.

Burglary—A home on the 400 block of Holly Avenue was broken into at about 1:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 22. The resident was home at the time.

—Two homes on the 1000 block of Marshall Avenue were broken into between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6.

Theft—A counterfeit \$100 bill was passed at Mississippi Market, 622 Selby Ave., at about 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 1.

West End

Robbery—Seven or eight suspects assaulted and robbed a juvenile on Michigan and Richmond streets at about 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 27. The victim was hit in the face with a chrome handgun and punched and kicked by the suspects, who took \$5.00 from him. The suspects were described as black males,

ages 17-18. They fled in a maroon minivan.

—A West End man was arrested about half an hour after he robbed a woman of cash at West 7th and Canton streets at about 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 1.

Burglary—A stranger walked into an unlocked house and fled when confronted by the resident on the 900 block of Tuscarora Avenue at about 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 27.

—The back door of a home was forced open, setting off the burglar alarm on the 200 block of Goodrich Avenue at about 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, October 29.

—A laptop computer and purse were taken from a home on the 200 block of Irvine Avenue between 2:00 and 5:30 a.m. Friday, October 31. The residents were asleep at the time.

—A vacant house on the 600 block of Canton Street was burglarized on Friday, October 31. Entry was forced through a side door.

—A home on the 200 block of Erie Street was burglarized between 8:00 a.m.

and 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 3. A side window screen was cut.

—A home on the 400 block of Michigan Street was broken into between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Friday, November 7.

—The rear door was broken and several items, including two handguns, were stolen from a home on the 300 block of Clifton Avenue between 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 11.

Theft—A stove and copper pipes were stolen from a rental property on the 500 block of Grace Street sometime between October 1-20. The owner of the property suspects a former tenant who had recently been evicted.

Assault—An assault occurred at Tavern on the Avenue, 825 Jefferson Ave., at just before midnight Thursday, October 30. The victim was taken to the hospital with severe facial lacerations.

Weapons—Shots were fired on the 800 block of Palace Avenue at about 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 31. Three bullet holes were found in the siding of a house and a van window was shot out.

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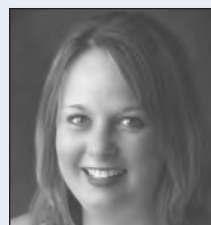
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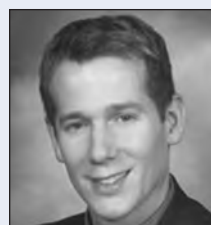
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Religious Notes

The Sisterhood of Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., is operating a Hanukah Market from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sundays, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fridays through December 21. Gift wrap, banners, decorations, paper goods, dreidels, candles, puzzles, games, toys, jewelry, greeting cards, ritual items and audio and video merchandise are available. Call 651-698-3881.

Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1671 Summit Ave., will present fellowship co-chair Sara Leiste speaking on "Gratitude, Miracles and Worshipping the Lesser Gods" at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, November 23. Call 651-488-7022.

The Institute of the Himalayan Tradition, 1317 Summit Ave., will offer the following: "The Life of Buddha" at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 22 (\$20); "Superconscious Medita-

tion" at 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 12 (\$35); a Winter Solstice celebration from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21 (donation); and a 24-hour meditation to ring in the new year beginning at midnight on December 31. Call 651-645-1291 or visit www.ihtyoga.org.

The St. Clement's Choir will sing anthems by local composers Arthur Maud, Mark Stahura and Douglas Shambo during Evensong at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, November 23, at the church, 901 Portland Ave. A gala reception will follow. Call 651-228-1164.

A two-part forum on "Belief and Non-Belief in a Secular Age" will be offered at 9:45 a.m. Sundays, November 23 and 30, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave. The Reverend Christian Scharen of Luther Seminary will speak on "Meet Margie: Practicing Non-Believers in a Secular Age" and "Meet

Phinney Ridge: Practicing Congregations in a Secular Age." Call 651-699-6886.

An ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be offered at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 26, at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 2035 Charlton Road in Sunfish Lake. A collection will be taken for the Neighbors Inc. emergency food shelf in South St. Paul. Coffee, cider and pie will be served afterward. Call 651-454-1311.

An Advent procession will be led by the Gregorian Singers at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 30, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. The choir will sing Advent carols and motets as it walks the stations of the cross. Call 612-823-1688.

InVocation will present its third annual a cappella Christmas concert, "Let Heaven and Nature Sing," at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, De-

cember 7, at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 5011 31st Ave. S., Minneapolis; and at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 13, at St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church, 100 N. Oxford St. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted for Second Harvest Heartland.

James J. Fennell of Summit Hill has been hired as director of development and stewardship for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minnesota. The regional director of the Minnesota-Dakota Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America since 2004, Fennell has over 25 years of fundraising experience. He worked for nine years as a development consultant for various organizations, is a former president of the Carondelet Healthcare Foundation and served six years as director of development for the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas.

Business Briefs

Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union collected more than 400 pounds of food for the Salvation Army food shelf as part of a pumpkin giveaway on October 25 at its new building at 1804 W. 7th St. In two hours, 200 pumpkins were given away.

Ten Thousand Villages, 867 Grand Ave., will donate 20 percent of the proceeds from items purchased between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Friday, November 28, to the Merriam Park-based Friends of the Orphans. Call 651-225-1043.

The University Avenue Business Association will host a discussion on "LRT Construction Mitigation for Small Businesses" from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 20, at Model Cities, 849 University Ave. Admission is free

and a light breakfast will be served. Call Linda Winsor at 651-641-0334.

Terrace Horticultural Books, 503 St. Clair Ave., will hold an open house from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday November 22.

Job search assistance will be provided by Kevin Corcoran of Goodwill-Easter Seals between 10:30 a.m. and noon on Monday, December 8, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-695-3700.

Inner Strength Fitness has opened at 758 Grand Ave. Owner Melissa Moreno also operates a studio in Minneapolis' Uptown neighborhood. There are no membership fees; customers pay only for the classes they take.

Classes include spinning, spinning and yoga, spinning and core, night yoga, boot camp, kids' yoga, and strength & conditioning.

Lillians on Grand has opened at 841 Grand Ave. A franchise owned by Patti Winger and Kristi Arndt, the shop sells handbags, jewelry, watches and other accessories for women. It will be open on Thursday through Sunday the first weekend of each month. Special events include an After Thanksgiving Sale on November 28, a Bonus Saturday on December 13, and a Men's Night with meatballs and cocktail weenies on December 18.

The Highland Business Association will hold a free "Morning Coffee Break" from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 20, at Pine-

hurst Bank, 757 S. Cleveland Ave. To register, e-mail Jody.Crowley@pinehurstbank.com.

Caspers' Cherokee Sirloin Room, 886 S. Smith Ave., will serve its 26th annual Thanksgiving Day dinner on November 27. Owners Rick and Jim Casper and a crew of volunteers will be serving a traditional white-tablecloth dinner of roast turkey with all the trimmings, including pumpkin pie and whipped cream. The free dinners are provided in partnership with area churches and social service agencies to all those who find it difficult to have a traditional dinner in their homes. Two seatings are scheduled—at noon and 1:30 p.m. People may also have the meals delivered. Reservations are required. Call 651-457-2729.

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Food



Kitchen helper Ryan Bohara, 8, listens as chefs Mike Shannon and Mary Scheu finalize plans for Sunday supper at Cooks of Crocus Hill.

Sunday suppers Cooks brings back time-honored dining tradition

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

A generation or two ago, gathering the family for a weekly meal on Sunday was customary. Often the get-together was at grandma's house and spanned several generations. Meals were prepared from vegetables grown in the family garden and fruit that had been canned following a bountiful summer. The chicken or roast beef was usually raised by local farmers.

Busy schedules and fast food have eroded the practice of families gathering on a regular basis to eat together. However, since February, Cooks of Crocus Hill has invited families to its Grand Avenue store to partake of a simple feast, from appetizer through dessert, on the second Sunday of each month. The suppers are billed as a class, but the preparation is less hands-on than most of Cooks' other offerings. Guests can help if they like, but most of the enjoyment is in the eating and mingling with other diners. Each person receives a packet of recipes for seasonal menus, which change monthly. The idea, according to chef Mary Scheu, is for people to replicate the meal for a

family supper at home.

A half hour before the November 9 supper began, Scheu was busy chopping vegetables for a "cooler" salad made with all sorts of leftovers found in the kitchen's cooler—romaine lettuce, arugula and spinach, roasted red peppers, hearts of palm, fennel, zucchini and radishes. Co-chef Mike Shannon had sliced up white sweet potatoes and Red Garnet yams, and was tossing them with olive oil before sprinkling them with salt and freshly ground pepper in preparation for roasting.

Couples, families and groups of friends gathered in the upstairs classroom of Cooks at 5:00 p.m. The supper consisted of spiced nuts as an appetizer, the cooler salad, mushroom soup with fresh baked bread, pot roast, roasted sweet potatoes, roasted green beans with sesame seeds, and apple crisp with ice cream and caramel for dessert.

Guest Ryan Bohara arrived a few minutes before the supper began and asked what he could do to help. Scheu and Shannon were ready for him with a tray of fruit and a juicer.

"You can squeeze these oranges and lemons for the salad dressing," Scheu said.

"Apron and wash hands," Shannon reminded him.

Ryan, who was obviously an old hand in the kitchen, put on his apron, tied a knot in the neck strap to make it short enough for his 8-year-old frame, and headed to the sink while Scheu found a step stool to raise him to counter height.

Ryan and his mother, K.D., have come to nearly every Sunday supper so far. Ryan is a picky eater at home, K.D. said, but now that he has started to help with the supper prep, he is much more likely to try different foods, including vegetables.

Leslie Ebert and her daughter Lauren enjoy cooking together at home and were at the Sunday supper at Cooks to celebrate Lauren's fifth birthday as part of a mother-daughter night out. Lauren volunteered that her favorite part of the meal was the ice cream that accompanied the apple crisp.

Kathy Mantag and her daughter Bridget also have been regulars at the Sunday suppers. For the November dinner they brought along Kathy's sister, Dorothy Ernster. The mother-daughter duo has enjoyed all the menus,

Mantag said, and ran through a list of their favorites—pork roast, a summer barbecue, roasted seasonal vegetables, and October's German menu. Mantag gave Cooks' coffee rave reviews and Ernster said she particularly enjoyed the light vinaigrette salad dressing.

The 34 diners who attended the November supper came in small and large groups. A mother of three young boys brought along several friends, including a couple of toddlers. South Minneapolis couple Toni and Tony Beitz came because their children had given them a gift certificate to Cooks. Suzanne Larke brought friends from Chile and they all said they enjoyed the mushroom soup.

Karl Benson, who has been managing Cooks for 12 years and took over ownership of the shop from Martha Kaemmer last January, came up with the idea of the Sunday suppers. That meal is still important in his own family, he said. Every other Sunday he spends all day cooking for family and friends—sometimes up to 60 people.

As the November dinner began, Benson

SUNDAY SUPPERS ► 24



Diners help themselves from platters of pot roast, roasted sweet potatoes and green beans during a Sunday supper at Cooks of Crocus Hill, 877 Grand Ave. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER



The Blue Door Pub was packed for lunch on a recent Wednesday.

Singing the Blucys Burger lovers beat a path to Merriam Park pub

BY MORGAN SMITH

I think I was the only one in our party of seven who was relieved that they were out of Spam Bites at the Blue Door Pub. The popular appetizer at the new Merriam Park eatery is made with deep-fried Spam, cream cheese and pickle (\$5.00). Instead, we opted for the chicken wings and deep-fried pickles as appetizers. We loved the wings (a pound and a half for \$8.50) and raved about the dipping sauce. The pickles (\$6.50 for eight wedges) disappeared rather quickly, too. But when I observed that perhaps it was a good thing we couldn't order the Spam Bites, I was met with universal disagreement.

"No, I really wanted the Spam Bites," said my sister's boyfriend's cousin's wife.

I could understand this coming from someone who had never eaten Spam, but she had. Oh, well. Finding a niche is what the restaurant business is all about, and Blue Door Pub co-owners Jeremy Woerner and Patrick McDonough seem to have struck a chord with the Spam Bites.



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

Nevertheless, the signature dish at the Blue Door Pub is the Juicy Blucy, a relative of the Juicy Lucy burger made famous at Matt's Bar and the 5-8 Club in South Minneapolis. Both McDonough, who lives in Merriam Park, and Woerner, who lives in Hamline-Midway, worked for a time at the Groveland Tap, the Macalester-Groveland establishment that serves its own version of the cheese-stuffed Juicy Lucy along with the spicier Cajun Lucy. Mc-

BLUE DOOR PUB ► 24

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23◀ SUNDAY SUPPERS

played a recording that Minnesota essayist Paul Gruchow had done several years ago for "The Splendid Table" radio show hosted by Summit Hill resident Lynne Rossetto Kasper. Gruchow talked about old-fashioned food that comes from real grain and is made by individual cooks into something nourishing, comparing it to the empty calories of store-bought provisions and all their chemicals and additives.

"I found it to be quite touching," Benson said. "I have a strong allegiance to local and sustainable agriculture. Creating a link to the earth, the people and the hard work that goes into feeding this country is very important to me. Encouraging people to sit down and have dinner with friends and family, even if it's only

on Sunday afternoons, is the place where the connection begins."

The Sunday suppers are held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at Cooks, 877 Grand Ave. The December 14 supper is already full, but Cooks has added another Sunday supper on December 21 with the same menu—fresh bread, roasted vegetable soup, spinach phyllo rolls, mashed sweet potatoes, stuffed pork roast with a sweet mustard sauce, and pumpkin cake with white chocolate frosting.

The cost is \$15 per person, with an extra charge for wine and beer. Reservations are required and the available spots fill fast. Benson encourages people to keep an eye on Cooks' website, cooksofcrocushill.com, to find menus and make reservations. Interested diners may also call 651-228-1333.

23◀ BLUE DOOR PUB

Donough and Woerner brought the Cajun Lucy with them to the Blue Door along with their ideas for about three dozen different Juicy Blucys, any 10 of which are available at the Blue Door on a given day.

Rather than fighting for the boutique burger business, McDonough and Woerner "pay homage to our brethren across the river" on their menu. The two also tip their caps to their predecessor at 1811 Selby Ave. by naming the pub after the former Puerta Azul, albeit in English.

"Any small business is an inspiration for us," McDonough said. "We don't see ourselves in competition with the others. In fact, Luke (Shimp, co-owner of the Groveland Tap) was in here the other day.

"Business has been great," McDonough said. "Better than we expected."

So what did they expect? Perhaps not quite the crowd we encountered on a recent Saturday evening. If I hadn't arrived before 5:00 and snagged one of the Blue Door's three large booths, the seven of us would have been waiting for quite some time. When the rest of our party arrived just after 5:00, the other two booths, eight tables and 10 bar stools were all taken. Within a half hour, people were waiting outside for a table, and by the time we left around 6:30, it was still standing room only.

One reason for the throng may have been the \$2.00 tap beers until 6:00 p.m. But then again, most of the patrons were parents with small children and not typically the kind to be attracted by inexpensive beer.

Given the full house, the wait staff and cooks did a commendable job keeping our meals on track. The drinks were served promptly, our appetizers arrived before the conversation ebbed, and the burgers—which at a half pound each no doubt take a bit longer to cook—appeared well before I thought they would. However, that may have been because I was having so much fun writing on the chalkboard that covers the wall beside our and the other two booths.

One of my companions ordered a variation of the special of the day, the Jiffy Blucy (\$7.50), a burger dressed with bacon and peanut butter. He added the optional blue-cheese filling, perhaps hoping it would arouse the ghost of Elvis, who would then look kindly upon his



A Juicy Blucy with beer-batter fried green beans at the Blue Door. PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

rock 'n' roll career. Others in our party ordered the regular Juicy Blucy (\$6.50) with blue cheese and garlic, the Mushroom Swiss Blucy (\$6.50), the Bacon Blucy (\$7.00), and the Pizza Blucy (\$7.00), which comes with pepperoni.

Hamburgers are one of those entrées that are difficult to share. Consequently, I didn't get a chance to sample the others. But everyone loved his or her choice, even my friend who had the peanut butter and bacon. My sister couldn't finish her Pizza Blucy. She gave the leftover portion to her boyfriend, who liked it even better than his Bacon Blucy. But I can't complain: My Mushroom Swiss Blucy was fresh, well prepared and tasty.

As side dishes, we ordered French fries and tater tots (\$1.75 each) and the deep-fried green beans (\$2.75). Once again, no complaints there.

The Blue Door Pub also has soups, salads and garden burgers, as well as grilled cheese sandwiches and mac & cheese for the kids. Its small bar serves about 10 brands of bottled beer, 10 different beers on tap, and 10 white and 10 red wines.

We had a great time and enjoyed the food. Of course, the true test would be to ask the people who had to wait 30 or more minutes for a table if they found the experience worthwhile. My guess is their answer would be a resounding "Yes!"

Tidbits

The Big Top Wine Club will present "Holiday Goodies from A to Z" at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 2, at the Lexington Restaurant, 1096 Grand Ave. Wines from Alexander Valley to Zinfandel will be paired with appetizers. The cost is \$20. Call 651-644-4501.

Mississippi Market is offering the following classes at its natural food co-op at 622 Selby Ave.: "The Secret to Amazing Holiday Cheese Platters" from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, November 22 (\$13-\$16); co-op kids' classes offering crafts, music and educational games for youngsters ages 4-10 while their parents do

their Thanksgiving shopping at 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, November 24-26 (free); and "Homeopathy: Alleviate the Debilitating Symptoms of Headaches & Depression" from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 2 (\$8.00-\$10). Call 651-310-9499.

Lynne Rossetto Kasper of Summit Hill will sign copies of her new cookbook, *How to Eat Supper*, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 22, at Mississippi Market Co-op, 622 Selby Ave. Kasper is the host of "The Splendid Table," which is broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio.

The Kiosk

Wednesday/November 19

CHRISTMAS AT THE RAMSEY HOUSE, 265 S. Exchange St., will be celebrated from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today and continue on Wednesdays through Saturdays and noon to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays through November. The mansion will be decorated with original Ramsey family heirlooms, glass ornaments, and a Christmas dinner table circa 1875. Warm cookies will be served and the gift shop will be open. The cost is \$6.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

A WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP will be offered by Eureka Recycling at 7:00 this evening at the Palace Recreation Center, 781 Palace Ave. The cost is \$5.00. Call Eureka Recycling at 651-222-7678.

A SUPPORT GROUP for persons who are separated or divorced will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, now through May, at Holy Spirit Church, 515 S. Albert St. The group is open to the public. Contact Rich Greiner Jr. at 651-698-3353, ext. 247 or sepdiv@holy-spirit.org.

Thursday/November 20

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

RAINGARDEN BASICS will be offered by Friends of the Mississippi River from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St. The workshop will provide information about placement, soil preparation, plant selection and other nuances of building a rain garden. Contact Sara Muchowski at smuchowski@fmr.org or 651-222-2193, ext. 23.

Friday/November 21

A LUTEFISK DINNER will be served at 4:00, 5:15 and 6:30 this evening at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. The 59th annual dinner features lutefisk, lefse, Swedish meatballs, boiled potatoes and fruit soup for dessert. The cost is \$5.00-\$18. Entertainment will be provided by Friday Fiddlers. A bake sale will be held from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and the Boy Scouts will be selling pickled herring. For tickets, call Russ Edlund at 651-698-1260.

Saturday/November 22

A GREEK BAKE SALE will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today and 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. tomorrow at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Ave. The sale will feature holiday breads and Greek pastries, including baklava and diples. Lunch will feature popular spinach pie and feta cheese pie. There also will be a



Kindergartner Areanna Anderson holds the bag steady while 9th-grader Candice Fuller pours dried food ingredients into it during Kids Against Hunger Day on November 14 at the St. Paul Open School. The entire student body worked together that day to pack more than 54,000 meals for hungry children in Haiti. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

holiday boutique, imported foods and gifts. Call 651-699-0373.

A PHENOLOGY AND FITNESS WALK will be offered at 10:00 this morning at Fort Snelling State Park. Walkers will look for deer and what the rutting season brings. The program is free, but a state permit is required for parking. Call 612-725-2389.

CHEMISTS WILL BE in the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., from 1:30 to 3:30 this afternoon. The chemists will present hands-on science activities appropriate for all ages, such as making goofy putty, measuring vitamin C in drinks, writing magic messages and making solar bracelets. Call 651-266-7000.

SOIRÉE MYSTIQUE, the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce adults-only gala, will be held at 7:00 this evening at Circus Juventas, 1270 Montreal Ave. The gala will include a three-act circus show, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, desserts and silent

and live auctions. Tickets are \$60. Call 651-452-9872 or visit www.dcrchamber.com/2008gala.htm.

"PROHIBITION'S LEGACY: Alcohol, Government Regulations and American Society" will be presented by Clifford Clark Jr. at 9:30 this morning in Courtroom 326 at Landmark Center. The lecture is free. Call 651-292-3276.

A CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Little Sisters of the Poor, 330 S. Exchange St. There will be crafts, a Christmas shop, silent auction, gourmet foods, tea room, doll orphanage, bake sale, art, ham dinner, raffle and more. Call 651-227-0336.

A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 550 W. 7th St. There will be items by local artists, holiday decorations, baked goods and a cafe. Call

651-224-0228.

Sunday/November 23

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST with craft and bake sale will be conducted by Sokol Minnesota from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the CSPA Hall, 383 Michigan St. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00, or \$15 for a family of four. Call 651-290-0542.

A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 this afternoon at 2142 Marshall Ave. The third annual boutique will feature handmade soaps, jams, dip mixes, maple syrup and gift items. A portion of the proceeds will go to charity.

Tuesday/November 25

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will celebrate the sixth anniversary of its conversational salons from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. Call 651-227-3228.

Wednesday/November 26

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Pinehurst Bank, 757 S. Cleveland Ave. Call Elizabeth King at 651-698-8100.

Thursday/November 27

THANKSGIVING DINNER will be served free to the public from noon to 2:30 this afternoon at Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church, 435 S. Hamline Ave. Guests are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food donation. Call 651-698-3889.

Saturday/November 29

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES around Irvine Park will be offered from 1:00 to 5:00 this evening at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The cost is \$10 for a 15-minute ride. Call 651-296-8760 for reservations.

A FAMILY HOLIDAY BAZAAR will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at Mendota Heights United Church of Christ, 680 Highway 110. There will be gifts, hayrides, a Christmas tree sale, pictures with Santa, food, bake sale, games and family activities. Call 651-454-1311.

Monday/December 1

A HOLIDAY BOOK SALE will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today through Friday, December 5, at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Sale items will include new and slightly used books, videos and music. Proceeds will help buy books and other materials for the library. Call 266-7000 or visit www.sppl.org.

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On the Town

Pet project

Winegar tells poignant tales of rescued animals and the people who save them

By JUDY WOODWARD

Chairs could not contain Karin Winegar when she described the pleasure of riding a horse. Heads swiveled and coffee cups paused in mid-air at nearby tables as Winegar rose from her seat at a local coffeehouse, arched her body in an equestrian curve, and sighted along imaginary withers to demonstrate the activity she that credits with “making me feel gloriously alive.”

Winegar, who boards six horses in Hugo, spends a lot of time in the saddle. She also drives horse-drawn carriages and bobsleds, rides to the hounds, and teaches the finer points of horsemanship to others.

However, her interest in the animal world does not stop there. She and her husband share their Merriam Park home with a 16-year-old German shepherd/Doberman mix and two cats. While growing up in Albert Lea, she was the kind of child who nursed wounded birds and rescued bugs from being swept into swimming pool filters. And when she went off to college, she took her horse along.

“Animals and nature,” Winegar said, “are the most fundamental joys of my life.”

Winegar, who is also a journalist and author, has distilled her love of animals in a new book, *Saved: Rescued Animals and the Lives They Transform* (Da Capo Press, November 2008). Working with photographer Judy Olausen of Minneapolis, she tells the poignant stories of men and women who rescue animals, but often find that it is they themselves who are saved by their work.

There is the no-nonsense Arizona sheriff who converted his jail into an animal shelter, relocating the inmates to tents, but giving them the opportunity to make emotional connections with the animals who replaced them in the cell blocks. There is Phil, a good ol’ boy from North Carolina who mended a broken heart and a failing body by raising an orphaned deer that he named Li'l Buck. There are the “white angels,” a pair of three-legged Great Pyrenees who have brought

comfort to the residents of a Minnesota nursing home for severely disabled people. And there is PeeWee, a black mutt whose owner braved chest-high waters in New Orleans to rescue him from the fury of Hurricane Katrina.

Winegar will talk about her book at the St. Croix Saddlery in White Bear Lake from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 30. She will also make two appearances at the SweatShop on Snelling Avenue—which, not so coincidentally, is owned by her sisters—from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, December 4, and from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 6. Wine and dog biscuits will be served on both occasions and, Winegar said,

“well-behaved pets are welcome to bring their owners.”

Winegar tries to keep an open mind, but she confesses that she is puzzled by people who seem to have no feelings for animals. “I think there’s something wrong with them,” she said. “The love of animals crosses all cultures.”

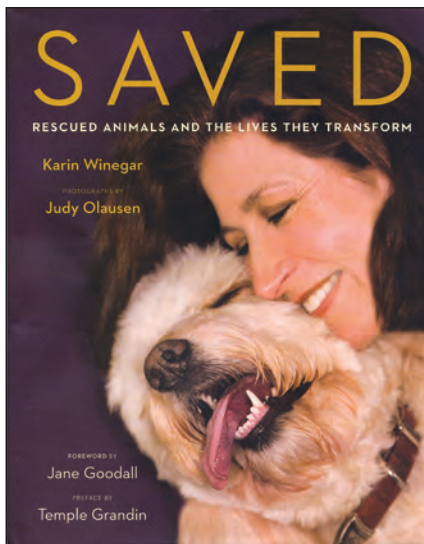
Happily, when she and Olausen began looking for stories for *Saved*, there was

no shortage of heartwarming candidates. Winegar said the stories in the book “found us,” but that does not mean that getting them down was easy. She recalled the afternoon that she and Olausen spent “in the bowels of the Maricopa County (Arizona) jail with the SWAT team” photographing the animals and prisoners who participate in Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s unique rescue shelter.

“My job was to (get) the animals to keep their ears up,” she said. “I had to squeak, make kitty noises—anything to get the dogs’ ears up.” In the process, she lost her voice altogether.

For Winegar, 58, her book is a continuation of a writing career that has long centered on animals. After graduating from Carleton College with a degree in English literature, she worked as “a waitress, a horse-trainer and a ski-bum.” At the age of 28, she said, “somehow I got a job at the *Star Tribune*.”

Her most memorable writing assignments



Merriam Park writer Karin Winegar is pictured with rescued friends Louie the poodle and Romeo the cat. She will talk about her new book, *Saved: Rescued Animals and the Lives They Transform*, on December 4 and 6 at the SweatShop. PHOTO BY BRAD STAFFER

at the newspaper included an interview with children’s writer Marguerite Henry, author of such classic “horse books” as *King of the Wind* and *Misty of Chincoteague*. Winegar arrived at Henry’s hotel room with all the appurtenances of a professional wordsmith—a notebook, tape recorder and backpack full of her childhood copies of Henry’s books. The author opened the door, and Winegar—supposedly the consummate professional—burst into tears. “I’m so honored to meet you,” she remembered blurting out.

Winegar’s writing continues to revolve around horses and other animals. A freelancer now, she writes for newspapers and magazines ranging from the *New York Times* to *Draft Horse Journal*. Her next large project, which she has been working on for the last 15 years, involves the connections between girls and horses. Winegar, who said that in some ways she remains “stunted at the 10-year-old girl stage,” plans to examine the powerful hold that horses have on the

imaginings of preadolescent girls.

Childless by choice, Winegar nonetheless has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the connections between girls and horses in a coterie of young women she calls simply “the girls.” Children of friends, “the girls” range in age from 9 to their mid-20s. Winegar teaches them “to ride, drive (carriages) and deal with life and death in the animal kingdom.” With them, she shares the thrill of fox-hunting, a sport she described as “about being alive in nature. It’s dangerous, but it’s worth it.”

Dangerous perhaps to breakneck riders, she emphasized, but not to any foxes. When Winegar rides to the hounds, the living fox is replaced with a “drag,” a trail of fox scent laid down to fool the foxhounds into thinking they are baying after the real thing.

No surprise there. In Winegar’s world, no animal deserves to suffer—except maybe the two-legged ones who would intentionally inflict pain on a fellow creature.

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 Rite of Healing 11:15 am
Christ the King, Sun. Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Eve
 Wednesday, Nov. 26th at 7pm
Wed. Evening Prayer, 7pm
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On the Town *Briefly*

Dance

One of the Twin Cities' most accomplished dance companies, Zenon will present its 26th fall season November 20-30 at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The program will feature two modern dance premieres by Andrea Miller and Wynn Fricke and a new jazz work. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 7:00 p.m. Sundays and also at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 20. Tickets are \$29. Call 612-340-1725.

"Worlds Within Worlds," new works by 12 Macalester College faculty and student choreographers, will be presented on November 21-23 on the Main Stage of the college's Fine Arts Center. Among the featured works will be a dance by teacher Becky Heist on the genius of Janis Joplin, a blizzard of movement by teacher Sharon Varosh, a minimalist landscape of rhythm and repetition by teacher Wynn Fricke, and an exploration of the body as social object by senior Emily Gastineau. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors and free to children age 13 and under. Call 651-696-6359.

Music

Author Michael Dregni and the Twin Cities Hot Club will salute the music of Gypsy jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20, in the Community Room of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Irie Sol will celebrate the release of its debut CD "Solstice" on Friday evening, November 21, at Trocadero's Night Club, 107 3rd Avenue N. in Minneapolis. Among the 10 members of the world/hip hop/reggae band is Joel



TU Dance, the company of Alvin Ailey veterans and Summit-University residents Uri Sands and Toni Pierce-Sands (above), will return on November 21-23 to O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Shows at 8:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday will feature the premiere of Uri Sands' "Vata"; "Tearing," about how communities celebrate and grieve; the explosive "Isms"; and the comedic Sands-Pierce-Sands duet, "High-Heel Blues." Tickets are \$27, \$16 for students. A free program for children in grades 4-12 will be offered at 11:00 a.m. Friday. For reservations, call 651-690-6700. PHOTO BY INGRID WERTHMANN

Pace of Summit Hill on lead vocals, trumpet, beat box and djembe. Also appearing on the bill will be Twin Cities acts Soulacious, Kristoff Krane and PeeWee Dred of Dred I Dread. Call 612-465-0440.

Red House Records, the Merriam Park-based label founded by the late Bob Feldman, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Saturday, November 22, with a concert featuring three of its inimitable

folk musicians. John Gorka, Cliff Eberhardt and Eliza Gilkyson will join in a rare in-the-round performance beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$18. Call 612-338-2674.

The 60-voice Oratorio Society of Minnesota will open a new season on November 22 and 23 under new artistic director Matthew Mehaffey. The concerts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday in Sundin Hall at 1531 Hewitt Ave. will feature Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Toward the Unknown Region," Giacomo Carissimi's Baroque oratorio "Jephthe" featuring local soprano Linh Kauffman, a world premiere by Roger Ames and selections by the OSM Chamber Singers. Tickets are \$15, \$7.50 for students. Call 651-209-6689.

The Gregorian Singers will present a candle-lit Advent concert at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 30, at St. Paul's Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. A free-will offering will be taken.

Singer and guitarist Red Gallagher and his band will perform on Sunday, November 30, in a benefit for local emergency food shelves. The concert will run from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. at O'Gara's Bar and Grill, 164 N. Snelling Ave. Admission is \$10, \$5.00 with a donation of non-perishable food.

Rae Eighmey and Debbie Miller from *Potluck Paradise* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 22; Stephen Molton and Gus Russo from *Brothers In Arms: The Kennedys, the Castros and the Politics of Murder*, 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 23. Call 651-225-8989.

Welby Smith, author of the new book, *Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota*, will appear from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 22, at Terrace Horticultural Book, 503 St. Clair Ave. Call 651-222-5536.

Kevin Odegard will read from his new book, *A Simple Twist of Fate: Bob Dylan and the Making of "Blood on the Tracks,"* at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 22, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Odegard was a railroad brakeman and one of several Twin Cities musicians invited to perform on Dylan's "Blood on the Tracks," recorded in Minneapolis in 1974. He and other local musicians will perform some songs off this album. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-255-4752.

"Soap Boxing," a poetry slam competition for wordsmiths age 18 and older, returns on Monday, December 1, to the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Registration begins at 7:00 p.m. and the three rounds of open competition commences at 8:00. Special guest is the Twin Cities hip-hop duo Ill Chemistry. Admission is \$5.00, free for those who compete. Call 612-207-7991.

"A Little Steinway Music," the dramatic reading of an original short story inspired by Victorian life and accompanied by a live performance on an 1872 Steinway piano, will be presented from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, December 3 and 4, at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Tickets are \$28 and include a tour of the first floor of the historic home. For reservations, call 651-296-8760.

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, Marjane Satrapi's tale of a

Books

Best-selling author Wally Lamb will discuss his new novel, *The Hour I First Believed*, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$18-\$20. Call 651-290-1221.

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by authors Curt Brown from *So Terrible a Storm: A Tale of Fury on Lake Superior* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 20;

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young girl's life under the Islamic revolution, will be discussed on Thursday, December 4, by the Highland Park Library Book Club. The group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Everyone is welcome. Call 651-695-3700.

Theater

The Mouse That Roared, Christopher Sergel's cautionary drama about political morality and the arrogance of power, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, November 19-21, at the St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave. Tickets are \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors. Tables for four with dessert and beverages are available for \$50 on Thursday and Friday. For more information, call 651-293-8670.

Godspell, the 1970 musical based on the Gospel of St. Matthew, will be performed November 19-23, by students from the University of St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine. The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Foley Theater at St. Thomas. Tickets are \$5.00. Call 651-690-6700.

Amadeus, a fictional account of the competition between 18th-century composers Mozart and Salieri for the attentions of the Austrian emperor, will be performed November 20-23 by the Concordia University Theater Department. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Pearson Theatre, Hamline and Marshall avenues. Admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors and students, \$8.00 for children under age 12.

A Servants' Christmas, a heartwarming holiday musical set on St. Paul's Summit Avenue circa 1899, will open November 20 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The story of a young girl who chooses to keep her Jewish heritage secret when she takes a job in the home of a wealthy Christian widower will be performed afternoons and evenings through December 28. For show times and tickets, call 651-292-4323.

The musical Fiddler on the Roof will be performed by the Morris Park Players at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, on the stage at Folwell Middle School, 3611 20th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. Call 612-724-8373.

You Can't Take It With You, the Depression-era comedy about an eccentric family whose

"normal" daughter is in love with the boss' son, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, in the Fine Arts Theatre at Inver Hills Community College, Highway 52 and 80th Street in Inver Grove Heights. Admission is \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors and students. Call 651-450-8593.

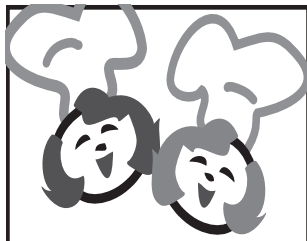
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, the heartfelt and witty musical about the beloved "Peanuts" gang, will be performed November 21-23 by students of Visitation School and St. Thomas Academy. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday in De Sales Auditorium at Visitation in Mendota Heights. Tickets are \$10, \$5.00 for students and seniors. Call 651-683-1750.

The White Sheep of the Family, an off-beat comedy about a well-to-do English family that is outraged when one of its younger members announces he is quitting the family's criminal business, will open on November 21 at Theater in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays through December 14. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for students and seniors on Friday and Sunday. Call 612-333-3010.

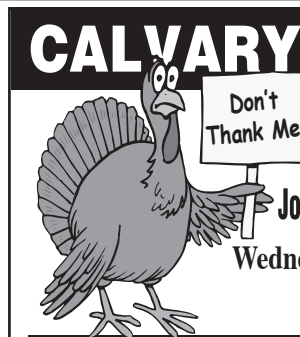
Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, Tom Mula's magical sequel to Dickens' beloved holiday tale, will open on November 26 at Park Square Theater, 20 W. 7th Place. Jim Lichtscheidl plays Marley, the late business partner of Ebenezer Scrooge who at the outset applies for a transfer in Hell. Lichtscheidl also brings to life a little ear sprite, a compulsive record keeper, and a host of other wise-cracking celestial and earthly beings. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2:00 p.m. Sundays through December 21. Tickets are \$15-\$39. Call 651-291-7005.

A Christmas Carole Petersen, Tod Petersen's heartwarming and hilarious musical tribute to his Mankato childhood, will be performed from November 28 through December 21 at the Ordway. Tickets are \$29-\$35. For reservations, call 651-224-4222.

Irving Berlin's White Christmas returns to the Ordway for the holidays. The musical about two showbiz buddies who put on a play in a Vermont inn and find their perfect mates in the bargain will be performed afternoons and evenings Tuesdays through Sundays from December 2 through January 3. Tickets are \$63-\$125. Call 651-224-4222. A private dress rehearsal of the show will be presented on Sunday, November 30, as part of a benefit gala at the Ordway. The black-tie-optional affair will run from 4:30 to 11:00



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p.m. Call Meghan at 651-282-3006 by November 20.

Exhibits

Recent paintings, drawings and photo collages by Martin John Heubach are on view through December 6 at Nicademus Art and Framing, 225 N. Snelling Ave. Call 651-207-8322.

"Waterborne," paintings by some of the finest watercolor artists in the region, is on view through December 11 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery in the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Displayed alongside it will be a variety of watercolors from the collection of the Weisman Art Museum, including works by Katherine E. Nash, Alfred Maurer, Max Weber and Malcolm Myers.

"Common Ground," new paintings by American Indian artists Julie Buffalohead and Jim Denomie, are on view through December 12 in the third-floor gallery of the Metropolitan State University library, 645 E. 7th St. Call 651-793-1631.

Fiber artist Sara Langworthy's wearable art, rugs, wall hangings and collages are on view through December 27 at the Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Displayed alongside them are the original works of more than 200 textile artists that are on sale. Call 612-436-0464.

"Inside Out," an exhibit of more than 60 works of pottery, woodworking, weaving, painting, drawing and photography by artists with disabilities, is on view through January 2 in the Lobby Gallery of the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5560.

"Local Fauna," works by Macalester-Groveland artist Pamela Valfer that reinterpret ideals of beauty and death, are on view through December 7 at Umber Studios, 3109 E. 42nd St. in Minneapolis. The gallery is open free of charge from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Safari Gallery of Jerusalem will display more than 1,500 works by more than 100 Israeli artists from November 20-23 at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The show and sale will open with a wine and

cheese preview from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20. The event will continue Friday through Sunday during regular synagogue hours. For information, call 651-688-3030.

"From Mashiko to Minnesota," an exhibit of functional pottery by Japanese-born artist Lee Love, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, November 21, at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. Love's work is influenced by traditional Chinese, Korean and Japanese ceramics. It will remain on view from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays through December 19. Call 651-644-9200.

"Art at 2402," an open studio show and sale, will be presented on November 21 and 22 by the artists in the historic Chittenden-Eastman Building at 2402 University Ave. Paintings, drawings, ceramics, pottery, printmaking, sculpture, photography, jewelry, textiles, mosaics, hand-blown glass and handcrafted bags will be among the media. The event runs from noon to 9:00 p.m. Friday and from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday. Call 651-644-4809.

Family

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., plays host to storytimes for babies at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays, toddlers at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Featured in other free programs will be harvest and thanksgiving stories with the WonderWeavers at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, November 22; Kathy-jo and Ed Wargin and their book *I Spy with My Little Eye Minnesota* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 30. Call 651-224-8320.

"Saturday Live!" free entertainment for children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will continue with a modern retelling of "The Gingerbread Man" by the Loki Players, November 22; and magician Matt Dunn, November 29.

Stories, finger plays, rhymes and songs are offered at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the children's area at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Children of all ages are invited to take part in the free program.

Great gift books for children will be introduced by a St. Paul Public Library

children's librarian in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 25, in the Village View Room of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

A reading group for teens and tweens meets at 2:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The group will discuss *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie on December 6. Refreshments are provided. For more information, call 651-695-3700.

Film

Iron Ladies of Liberia, the story of Liberian president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first freely elected female head of state in Africa, and her efforts to lift her country out of debt and devastation, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 19, at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. The film is a testament to the power of women's leadership and diplomacy. A discussion with attorney and Liberian expatriate Harriette Badio will follow. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes, featuring the breathtaking vistas and awesome creatures found around, above and below the five lakes, is being shown daily through January 8 at the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater. The film delves into several of the thousands of shipwrecks that rest on the lakes' bottoms and the massive environmental cleanup that is taking place in Superior, Huron, Michigan, Ontario and Erie, which hold nearly a fifth of the Earth's freshwater. Tickets are \$7.50, \$6.50 for children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444.

Et cetera

"The Coolest Comedy On Earth," a St. Paul Winter Carnival benefit featuring five-time Minnesota Comedian of the Year Scott Hansen and Kim Thomasen and Gust Alexander of the Stagebenders, will be held on Thursday, November 20, at the Holiday Inn East, 2201 Burns Ave. A silent auction will begin at 6:00 p.m. The show starts at 7:00. Admission is \$30. For information, visit www.winter-carnival.com.

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Ball just didn't bounce STA's way

It was 10 minutes before kickoff for the state Class AAAA quarterfinal game between St. Thomas Academy and Mankato West at Lakeville North's field on November 8. An observer turned to STA athletic director Jack Zahr and remarked that the Cadets' cheering section was noticeably sparse. "They're generally a late-arriving bunch," Zahr said, "but take a look up there by the middle of the first quarter. It'll be packed."

Two years ago, the Minnesota State High School League decided to moved all quarterfinal games to neutral sites with artificial turf. By the luck of the draw, the Cadets were playing at a field located in one of the areas where they do a lot of business.

"I think we get more kids from Lakeville today than we do from St. Paul," said STA football coach Dave Ziebarth.

Whether the STA cheering section had dinner at home before they got to the game or had problems finding a parking spot, Zahr's prediction turned out to be true. Unfortunately, by the time many of those Cadet fans arrived, their team was behind 7-0. And when they did settle in, they saw an STA offense that was as cold as the night air. The athletic Scarlets finally wore out the Cadet defense to post a 28-7 victory and earn a trip to the more temperate climes of the Metrodome last weekend.

"You know what I think?" Ziebarth said later about Mankato West. "I think they might win the state title. That was one very good football team."

On the very first play from scrimmage, STA's center snapped the ball past quarterback Mike Ratelle into the end zone. A Mankato defensive lineman jumped on the ball, and the Cadets were behind with the game only 13 seconds old.

"That was not in our game plan," Ziebarth said.

For most of the first half, the Scarlets kept moving up and down the field, with Mankato quarterback Ray Teachout going airborne to his twin towers—6-foot-4 seniors Mike and Aaron Richter. Twice the Scarlets managed to get inside the Cadets' 10-yard line, but both times the STA defense held. By halftime, the bad snap had resulted in the only score of the game.

"Our defense played well all night," Ziebarth said. "We were a bit undersized, but we made up for it. The difference was that our offense kept looking at third and long. All season one of our strengths had been our success on first and second downs."

As the game wore on, Ziebarth became increasingly aware of his team's need to catch a break. "When you're struggling, you need for something to go your way," he said. "I wasn't mad at our kids at all. They were playing hard and we were in a good position most of the night."

A break came in the third quarter, but it wasn't the kind

WRIGHT CALL ► 34

A cut above the past

Girls' teams are more prepared than ever to drop the puck on a new hockey season

BY DAVE WRIGHT

Kelly Simons had been away from high school hockey for nearly a decade when she signed on last year as an assistant coach for the St. Paul Blades, the girls' hockey team for all seven St. Paul high schools. Simons played hockey as a student at Cretin-Derham Hall and the College of St. Benedict, but her last season at St. Ben's was 2001-02 and a lot has happened to the game since then.

"The girls' skills amaze me," said Simons as she prepared her Blades for the start of a new season. "The other difference you notice right away is the number of girls who work on their game in the offseason."

Simons and Tom Stumpf are serving as interim head coaches of the Blades this year while last year's head coach, Sarma Pone, is coaching and playing in Turkey. Their players are drawn from four high schools—Central, Highland Park, Como Park and Johnson—as well as Murray Junior High. Getting them to mesh has been a challenge. Fortunately for Simons, she doesn't have to spend as much time on the basics as her coach did a decade ago at CDH.

"We didn't even have a team my freshman year at CDH," Simons said. "For many of the players, it was their first experience with the game. Now you can really tell who played in the offseason and who didn't. The ones who did have a great advantage over the others."

Simons is hoping she can take the lessons she learned from Pone last season to help the Blades contend in the rugged Tri-Metro Conference, which includes Blake and Breck, two of the top three teams in Class A. "I learned a lot from Sarma," Simons said. "I'm excited to get the season under way."

So are the coaches for the other five girls' hockey teams in the *Villager* area. Here is what they had to say about their prospects for this season:

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League: Suburban East

Last year's record: 16-12-3, third place in state tourney

Coaches: Steve Williams and Jeff Keys

Key players and their strengths:

Michelle Fischer, junior forward. A



St. Paul Blades teammates Cassie Venneman and Siri Berg-Moberg vie for the puck during a recent practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

co-captain, she has great speed and good hands. Scored 15 goals last season.

Katie Mancini, senior forward. A co-captain, she is hard-working and an excellent scorer.

Kelsey Scott, senior goalie. A starter as a sophomore, she is strong and agile. Posted a 2.69 goals-against average last season.

Megan Seibel, sophomore defense. A regular during last year's state tournament run, she will be asked to fill the skates of two all-state defenders lost to graduation.

Kallie Funk, sophomore forward. A solid skater who made huge strides last season.

Outlook: The Raiders may be looking for history to repeat itself. With only seven skaters back from last year's team—a number-five seed in the sectional tournament who ended up placing third in the state—CDH may take some time to

get going. "With just two seniors, we're very young," Keys said. "We're in a very good league and a very good section. Hopefully, we'll make a run at the end."

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban

Last year's record: 15-12

Coach: Dave Langevin

Key players and their strengths:

Kaley Flynn, senior forward. A team leader on and off the ice. Has great scoring abilities.

Anna Langevin, senior forward. One of the team's hardest workers, she is excellent on both ends of the rink.

Alex Cosgrove, junior forward. The top returning scorer from last season.

Emily Usset, sophomore defense. Now in her third season on the varsity, she's a dependable blue-liner who is very good with the puck.

GIRLS' HOCKEY ► 33



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Vis swimmers primed for record fourth straight state title

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

The Visitation swimming and diving team will attempt to splash its way into the record books this month with an accomplishment that is unprecedented in Minnesota high school sports: a fourth consecutive Class A state swimming title.

The Mendota Heights school, which will try to make history on November 20-22 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center, boasts an outstanding senior class that has been riding a wave of success since the girls were freshmen. Still, their success hasn't gone to their heads, according to Blazers coach Nate Linscheid.

"Obviously they're very talented, but they also work very hard," he said. "A lot of them work on swimming year-round. They've built a tradition of doing well and they want to stay on top. They want to set a good example for the girls coming up after them."

Among the senior leaders is University of Minnesota-bound freestyle specialist Meghan Weiss, last year's Class A swimmer of the year. In 2007, Weiss won the 200- and 100-yard freestyle events at state with record times of 1:52:33 and 51:38. She also won the 200 freestyle in 2006 and took top honors in the 100 freestyle in 2005 among her other honors.

"She's a tireless worker," Linscheid said about Weiss. "She has an inner drive that makes her want to do her



Visitation's talented senior swimmers, from left, include Julie Steege, Carroll Bible, Meghan Weiss and Sophie Pilhofer. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

very best."

The same could be said for the other top seniors on the team, including Sophie Pilhofer, an all-state honoree in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly; Julie Steege, an all-state swimmer in the 200 individual medley and 100 backstroke; and Carroll Bible, an all-state competitor in the 100 backstroke.

The senior class and other team

leaders are driven to succeed "not only for themselves, but for the rest of the team," Linscheid said. "If they do well, that's going to inspire the others to do well, too."

Freshman Olivia McNeely, a two-time defending state champ in the 100 breaststroke, is among the team's younger stars. Last year, she set a state Class A record in the breaststroke with a time of 1:04.70.

It was her second consecutive state title in that event.

Junior Maddy DeMeules, a strong relay swimmer, is looking to qualify in a handful of individual events as well this year, as is sophomore Molly George. Junior Kaia Magnuson made it to state in diving last year and is hoping to crack the top 16 again in 2008.

The team's top relay competitors

include McNeely, Steege, Weiss, Pilhofer and DeMeules. The latter three were part of last year's state champion 200 freestyle relay team. Weiss and Steege also swam on last year's state champion 400 freestyle team.

It's an all-around solid roster for a Visitation team that beat out second-place Breck in each of its last three state meets, including by 111 points in 2007. Breck, which is going through a youth movement, is down a bit this year. The teams to beat at the 2008 state meet include Fergus Falls, Red Wing, Sartell and Monticello.

The Blazers know firsthand what Monticello can do. After going undefeated in conference dual meets, topping rival Cretin-Derham Hall and winning the True Team section meet, Visitation tasted defeat for the first time at the True Team state meet in October. In that event, Visitation lost to Monticello by a single point. That gives the Blazers a little extra motivation to swim their hearts out at state.

"It is definitely a motivator," Linscheid said. "Some of them didn't feel very good after the meet. They don't want to feel like that again."

After the loss to Monticello, the team talked about the fact that if they wanted a fourth consecutive state title, it was not going to be handed to them. "If we want it, we're going to have to go out and swim our best," Linscheid said. "I don't want to jinx ourselves, but we have the talent. We just have to do it."

Sports Shorts

A **sports memorabilia and collectibles show** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 22, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Admission is free. Call 651-695-3706.

The **St. Paul Ice Fishing and Winter Sports Show** will return to St. Paul's RiverCentre from Friday through Sunday, December 5-7. The 16th annual show will feature free seminars, an ice fishing pond and more than 125 exhibitors who will be offering products for ice fishing enthusiasts. New this year will be a chance to win an entire package of ice fishing products, including a portable ice house. Tickets are \$4.00-\$8.00 and are on sale at the RiverCentre box office. Visit www.stpaulicefishingshow.com.

Kemal Jarso, a junior at Central High School, finished ninth overall in the state Class AA boys' cross country meet on November 1 at St. Olaf College. Jarso finished the three-mile race in 15:47.7, less than 25 seconds off first place.

A **snowshoe lacing workshop**, the first of three parts, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, December 11, at Fort Snelling State Park. The workshop will continue on December 18 and 20. The cost is \$95 per kit and \$30 for bindings. The registration deadline is December 1. Call 612-725-2389.

St. Paul's Southwest Area recreation centers are now hosting monthly activities for youths ages 12-16 through the Teen Connection. The next event will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 5, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center,

2000 St. Anthony Ave. The event is open to all teens living in the area served by the Edgcombe, Griggs, Groveland, Hancock, Hillcrest, Langford, Merriam Park, Palace and South St. Anthony recreation centers. Call 651-298-5766.

The **Minnesota RollerGirls All-Star team** will take on the Madison Dairyland Dolls at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 22, at Roy Wilkins Auditorium. Tickets are \$10-\$12 in advance and \$12-\$14 at the door. Proceeds will be donated to the Emergency Food Shelf Network. Fans who bring nonperishable food donations will receive \$2.00 off admission. O'Gara's and Station 4 will offer free parking and shuttle buses to the match. Tickets are available through Roy Wilkins and Ticketmaster, or may be charged at 651-989-5151 or www.mnrollergirls.com.

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St. Paul Blades goalie Samantha Baggy defends a shot by teammate Siri Berg-Moberg during a recent practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

31 ◀ GIRLS' HOCKEY PREVIEW

Outlook: Perhaps the biggest news about the Warriors is the team's depth. For the first time, Sibley will not have to rotate players between the varsity and junior varsity; both squads are full. "That'll make a difference this year and next year," Langevin said. Opponents may also be surprised by sophomore goalie Shannon Cunningham, who grew 4 inches over the summer. She will likely be splitting duties in the nets with sophomore Ellen Johnson. "We have several players who learned a lot about the game last season," Langevin said. "If they continue to improve this year, we'll be a very capable team."

MINNEAPOLIS NOVAS

League: Tri-Metro
Last year's record: 15-8-3
Coach: John Wareham

Key players and their strengths:

Kinga Gabrielson, senior center. A good offensive player who may develop into a top scorer.

Quinn Mathewson, senior forward, defense. The team's second-leading scorer last season, she is an excellent stick-handler.

Mary Ulseth, senior defense. A good stick-handler and passer.

Cecelia Samson, senior forward. A tough-as-nails team captain with a good work ethic.

Jill Oxborough, junior defense. An excellent skater who will add offense from the blue line.

Outlook: Casey McMullen, who scored 29 goals for the Novas last season, has graduated, leaving a big hole in the offense. That could make it hard to repeat last year's third-place finish in the rugged Tri-Metro conference. "We'll have to defend well," Wareham said. "We have two new goalies this year, and it'll take them time to adjust." One of the goalies, junior Lilia Morris-Holzman, played just 26 minutes last season. The other is freshman Hannah Hilton-Reid, an excellent athlete.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY/SAINTS

League: Tri-Metro
Last year's record: 4-22
Coach: Evan Ziegler

Key players and their strengths:

Margo Lund, sophomore forward. A creative player, she led the team in goals scored with 16 last year.

Karen Kelley, senior forward. The team's all-around leading scorer last year with 12 goals, she is a playmaker with good hands.

Alana Patrick, junior defense. One of the quickest players on the team. She is expected to be an offensive presence at the point.

Christina Monsour, junior forward. One of a half dozen players from the Saints, she helps solidify the offense.

Outlook: Minnehaha Academy has teamed up this season with the Saints from St. Croix Lutheran, St. Agnes and St. Bernard's high schools. "We needed each other to be successful this season," Ziegler said. "We only

returned 11 skaters and two goalies from last year's team. The biggest surprise is how quickly and how well the girls are mixing and matching together." Last year, Minnehaha lost seven games in which the team led in the third period. With more depth, Ziegler thinks his team can improve considerably.

ST. PAUL BLADES

League: Tri-Metro
Last year's record: 11-14-1
Coaches: Kelly Simons and Tom Stumpf

Key players and their strengths:

Kelsey Vandegrift, sophomore forward. A good stick-handler and the top returning scorer from last year's team.

Cassie Vennemann, senior defense. A team leader on and off the ice, she is an offensive threat from the blue line.

Melanie DuBay, junior forward. Moved up from defense. Has great knowledge of the game and excellent offensive skills.

Samantha Daggy-Schultz, junior goalie. Moved up from the junior varsity. She is an intense competitor.

Outlook: The Blades lost five players from last year's team, but Simons thinks the five who will replace them are capable. The team's goal is to be more offensive-minded than last year. "We're going to need better puck movement if we expect to compete with Breck and Blake," Simons said.

VISITATION/ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro
Last year's record: 13-11-2
Coach: Ted Cheesbrough

Key players and their strengths:

Liz Walston, senior forward. The team's co-captain, she tied for the team lead last year with 11 goals.

Alyssa Ruhland, senior forward. The other co-captain and a powerful skater, she led the team in scoring as a freshman.

Breanna Herzog, junior forward. A good-size player who also plays defense. Led the team with 24 total points last year, including 11 goals.

Catherine Quinlan, senior defense. A solid, no-nonsense blue-liner.

Delaney Middlebrook, sophomore defense. Already in her fourth year with the team, she is an offensive threat from the point.

Outlook: United lost all-state goalie Lauren Herzog to graduation in June and will probably have to rely on 8th-grade net-minder Cory Russell, who played only 10 minutes last season. "Russell's very capable and extremely competitive," Cheesbrough said. "All she lacks is experience." Her teammates will make up for that. United is basically intact up front from a year ago and has four regulars on defense returning as well. Playing in the Tri-Metro against Breck and Blake will be a bonus come playoff time. "We're in a tough section (with South St. Paul, Sibley and Mahtomedi)," Cheesbrough said. "But if we can play with Breck and Blake, we'll be fine."

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Missed it by that much

Failed 2-point conversion dashes CDH's hopes for Prep Bowl return

BY BILL WAGNER

Crete-Derham Hall fell just inches short of a two-point conversion on November 14 at the Metrodome that would have propelled the Raiders past Blaine and into the Prep Bowl final for the second straight year.

The Raiders had just gotten a touchdown from Marcus Binns on a 6-yard run to make it 28-27 in overtime of the Class AAAAA semifinal game when coach Mike Scanlan, feeling his club was beginning to lose some critical battles in the trenches, opted to go for the win instead of calling in kicker Mike Pelikan to try to tie the game.

CDH quarterback Mark Alt sprinted out to the right side and looked to pass before tucking the ball in and heading for the goal line. Alt was downed less than half a yard short of paydirt, leaving the previously undefeated Raiders (12-1) just shy of a highly anticipated shot at a state championship.

Afterward, Scanlan refused to waver from his decision. "After they went in for the touchdown (on the

first play of overtime), I wasn't sure that our defense could stop them," he said. "I felt we had to go for the win right there."

The Bengals (11-1), who knocked off defending state champ Eden Prairie to get to the state semifinals, seemed to be on the ropes several times against the Raiders and the two teams were knotted at 21-21 after regulation. But Blaine, paced by highly regarded quarterback James Peterson, did not turn the ball over, while CDH uncharacteristically had two turnovers that cost the team dearly.

The Raiders had a 349-322 edge in total yardage for the game, but were also flagged for eight penalties for a total of 59 yards.

CDH, fresh off a pasting of Woodbury in the section finals, seemed to have an unstoppable game on both sides of the ball heading into the state tournament. The Raiders were firing on all cylinders in their dismantling of Lakeville South, 49-7, in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinal tilt against Blaine, CDH took the opening kickoff and rolled methodically down the field,



Dejected Raider Matt Johnson sits in the end zone after not being able to stop Bengals quarterback James Peterson from scoring late in the first half of their state semifinal tilt on November 14. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

putting together an 83-yard, 12-play drive that culminated in a 3-yard touchdown canter by Binns, who finished with 119 yards rushing. Pelikan's extra point made it 7-0 with still 7:15 to play in the quarter.

The Raider defense forced Blaine to punt and CDH took over on its own 9. But the Bengals tied the score when Kevin Buckman picked off an Alt pass and ran it into the end zone

from 26 yards out.

Blaine went up 14-7 when Peterson hit Tobi Saporu with a 13-yard pass with 8:22 to play in the second quarter. The score capped off a 61-yard march by the Bengals that took only eight plays.

It got worse for the Raiders when Peterson scored from 3 yards out to make it 21-7 with 4:45 to play in the half. The score was set up by Nick

Rusin's 45-yard run after recovering a Binns fumble that put Blaine in business at the CDH 20.

It didn't look good for CDH nearing halftime, but the Raiders appeared to get a great momentum-changer when Alt, moving out to his left, found Bo Bona in the corner of the end zone for a 35-yard touch-

CDH FOOTBALL ► 35

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STA was looking to catch. Cadet defensive back Alex Jurich got a paw on a long Mankato pass down the middle, but the ball popped up behind the defense and into the hands of a Scarlet receiver.

Now it was 14-0 and the Cadets had to move quickly. However, Aaron Richter picked off the first STA play from scrimmage after the kickoff. One play later, twin brother Mike scored on a long pass and the Cadets felt like they were climbing uphill at the North Pole.

On the Scarlets' next series, a Mankato pitchout bounced backward toward the STA sidelines. All the Cadets needed was to corral the ball and they'd have a fighting chance to turn the game around. Instead, the ball rolled out of bounds. Standing only 20 feet away, Ziebarth got a feeling of dread. Even the official on that side of the field turned to him and

said, "Coach, the ball just isn't bouncing your way tonight."

"What could I say?" Ziebarth said. "The man was right."

And still the stubborn Cadets kept at the task at hand. Danny Traeger plowed in for a touchdown late in the third quarter to make it 21-7. However, midway through the fourth quarter Ratelle was picked off in his own end zone for the final score of the night.

"Two years ago, we played Northfield in the same situation," Ziebarth said. "The ball bounced our way all night and we ended up winning the game. Everybody playing at this time of year is very good. But to win now, you don't have much room for error."

The glorious life of a sports director

When Stephanie Harris worked for the St. Paul Saints, she was known for being the first one in the office on game day

and often the last one to leave. Recently, she got to relive those tiring times.

Harris is the sports information director at Hamline University, a job that includes supervising several facets of the school's home games. Most of the time, she is on site at least an hour before game time and doesn't leave until an hour or so after the game is over.

Two weekends ago, she ran the SID version of the Twin Cities Marathon. On Friday, October 31, the Piper men's hockey team opened the season with a home game against Wisconsin-River Falls. It was a fractious affair with 30 penalties—hardly a genteel way to break into the new season.

Since the Pipers play their home games five miles from school at St. Paul Academy's Drake Arena, that required Harris to haul all of her equipment to the arena before the

WRIGHT CALL ► 35

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Receiver Clay Horne carries the ball in the first half of CDH's state semifinal loss to Blaine.

34◀ CDH FOOTBALL

down as time ran out, and just after a Blaine pass interference call on Sam Karel. Suddenly it was a much more manageable 21-14 Blaine lead at the half.

The Raiders held Blaine on the opening possession of the second half, and a short punt gave CDH the ball at Blaine's 38. It took only five plays for the Raiders to score, with Alt finding Karel all alone in the corner of the end zone from 14 yards out with 9:04 to go in the third quarter. Karel also had a big fourth-down reception from Alt that moved the ball 23 yards for a first down.

It looked as if the stage was set for plenty more offensive fireworks in regulation, but both defenses dug in and the teams labored

through the fourth quarter with no more scoring.

The overtime defeat was the second post-season heartbreak in a row for the Raiders, who are 42-6 during Scanlan's five-year run as head coach. Last year, CDH lost in the finals to Eden Prairie while entertaining similarly lofty hopes for a state title. The Raiders have made 20 state playoff appearances, winning the state title once. They have reached the state finals six times during that stretch.

The way this year's semifinal game ended was eerily similar to the last time Blaine and CDH met at the Dome. When the two faced each other in the 1988 state finals, the Bengals beat the Raiders on a last-second, two-point conversion by quarterback Tim Neuman that to this day lies in dispute.

34◀ WRIGHT CALL

game. After the game, she shuttled back to her Hutton Arena office to file the game reports for the media.

She was no sooner done with that game than she walked down the hall into the gym for a Hamline men's basketball game. The Pipers had decided to open the season with an exhibition game against Lakehead at the very earliest time possible—12:01 a.m. on November 1.

Fortunately, when that game ended, there were not a lot of media to contact and Harris headed home around 3:00 a.m.

Six hours later, she was up and at 'em once again, getting packets and programs ready for the Pipers' women hockey players, who were opening their season with a home game of their own on Saturday afternoon. That game ended with just enough time for a quick dinner and then back to campus for a men's night hockey game. Hamline's women's hockey players then went at it again with another afternoon affair on Sunday.

That made it five home games within a span of 45 hours. In addition, Harris needed to update information on the Piper football team, which had played at Carleton College on Saturday.

Division III schools may be smaller than their Division I counterparts, but the job of the SID can be just as demanding. Each home game requires new material for the program. And since four of the five games were off campus, it required hauling equipment and setting up shop off-base as well.

Fortunately, Hamline athletic director Bob

Beeman is an understanding sort and knows there's a limit to what one person can do. He was just happy that Hamline had somebody able to get the scores posted on the school's website before heading to the next game.

Two days after the marathon was over, Harris decided against hosting a previously scheduled election night party. "I have a mountain of laundry at home to deal with," she wrote in an e-mail canceling the event. "And I need to get some sleep."

Trivia time at the Green Mill

Question: Which school did Macalester College defeat to end its record 50-game winless streak in football 28 years ago?

That probably won't be one of the queries posed by Martin Devaney as part of a new sports trivia competition that is taking place on Monday nights at the Green Mill on Grand Avenue. Devaney, a former Central High School basketball player, is teaming up to conduct the competition with fellow Central alums Sean McPherson and Chuck Terhark, who run the regular Tuesday evening trivia nights at the Mill. The winners get a \$20 Green Mill bar tab, with the runners-up getting \$15 and the third-place finishers getting \$10.

The answer to the above question, by the way, is Mount Senario College. So why wouldn't that question be included in the mix? One reason could be collegial loyalty. McPherson's father is a former Macalester president.

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

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ESTATE/GARAGE/MISC

ESTATE SALE. 700 Woodlawn Ave. Nov. 21-22, 9-5. More info www.EstatesSales.net. Virginia Rose.

BOUTIQUES/HOLIDAY

10TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY Sale. Dec. 6, 10-6 & Dec. 7, 11-4. 2119 Berkeley Ave. Great handmade items! Additional artists and door prizes this year.

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