



**SG3
Memorial
Hockey
Tourney
returns**
Page 2

The St. Paul Voice



**'Art Speaks' opens at
MN History Center**
Page 8

Volume 56 | Number 2

Your Community News & Information Source

February 2022



Pérez-Hedges vies for District 65B seat

By Leonor Villasuso Rustad
Contributor

María Isa Pérez-Hedges, acclaimed musician and native of St. Paul's West Side, has thrown her hat into the ring for this year's state House race in District 65B, which includes the West Side, downtown and the West Seventh area of St. Paul. The seat is held by Carlos Mariani, DFL. Now in his 16th term, Mariani is not seeking re-election. Pérez-Hedges will seek the DFL endorsement.

Pérez-Hedges's priorities include education, healthcare, affordable housing, employment and supporting community organizations and artists. Her goal for the public education system is to enable students from immigrant families, communities of color, and low-income families to flourish and succeed. She supports a healthcare system that is affordable to all. She will push for public policy that protects renters and working-class families, and will support investment in high-quality affordable housing

Pérez-Hedges / Page 3



Artwork by Kevin Cannon

St. Paul Winter Carnival returns Jan. 28-Feb. 6

To discover all the frosty fun, see page 6



Murphy and Cecil WSP Police adds two K9s

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

The West St. Paul Police department added a new furry member to its team in November and will add another one in June. Cecil, an 18-month-old purebred German shepherd, is now patrolling the streets with handler Nicole Murphy. He succeeds Stanley, who was retired at the end of last year due to medical issues.

Before working together, Murphy and Cecil completed a 14-week training regimen focused on dog obedience and tracking, search and apprehension techniques.

"It was a great bonding experience," said Murphy. "Cecil's temperament is friendly and calm, but he knows how to flip the switch when it's time to work."

This is Murphy's first experience as a handler, and she is thoroughly enjoying it. Typical duties while

WSP K9s / Page 3

Fate of Yackel Arena to be decided this spring

Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

In the coming months, Ramsey County will determine the fate of the West Side's Ken Yackel Arena, an underutilized facility that sits empty for half the year. Currently used from October through March by youth hockey and in-line skating groups, the arena features an NHL-size rink

and can seat 300.

In an effort to support year-round programming, the County is exploring four options for the future of the nearly 50-year-old arena located at 44 Isabel St. E. They include maintaining the rink and upgrading it; removing the rink and renovating the building to allow for other recreational uses; demolishing the building and constructing a new one

that supports year-round recreational uses; and demolishing the building and converting the 1.5 acre site to park space.

"There's been conversation about the West Side facility and other Ramsey County arenas for years in terms of how we make sure that we're utilizing those facilities in the best way to serve the community," said Ramsey County Park

and Recreation Director Mark McCabe. "We have a handful of practice arenas, the West Side arena being one. They don't have large capacities for audiences so therefore they're only open seasonally. These facilities are neighborhood resources so we're having conversations with community members to find additional ways to meet recreation needs."

This winter the County

surveyed West Side residents and stakeholders to get their feedback on the four options. They're analyzing the results now and will post updated options to the County's website in the coming weeks. A final decision is expected to be made this spring after receiving feedback on the updated options.

"Depending on all the feedback, we'll examine potential opportunities for

use of the facility," said McCabe. "We're trying to keep things open now to a lot of ideas... In terms of what's on the table, it could look very similar to what it is today with additional non-ice programming, or it could be a big change if we find out the community wants a different type of recreational use there."

**Yackel Arena /
Page 3**

SG3 Memorial Hockey Tournament rebounds at new location

Tim Spitzack
Editor

On May 21, 2017, Angela Dzik of Mendota Heights got the call every parent dreads. It was on that day she learned that her son, Sam Gottfredsen, had been killed in an auto accident, at age 23. The horrific news profoundly affected her, ex-husband Tom Gottfredsen of West St. Paul, and their other three children. In working through her own grief, Dzik eventually found a way to honor the memory of her beloved son while helping others at the same time. Her journey toward healing involved Sam's favorite sport: hockey.

Anyone who has followed youth and prep hockey locally in recent years may recall Sam Gottfredsen, who at the time of his death was attending the University of St. Thomas, majoring in business. His love for the sport budded during his days as a mini-mite player in the Sibley Area Youth Hockey Association and

blossomed throughout his playing career at what is now Two Rivers High School. He was captain of the Warriors his senior year and went on to play junior hockey with teams in the U.S. and Canada. Rather than play at St. Thomas, he turned his attention to coaching youth hockey in West St. Paul, where he honed his own skills on the ice. His ultimate goal was to return to his alma mater as a coach.

"His death has been devastating and we will mourn his loss for the rest of our lives," said Dzik. "In the first months of grief, I longed for a way to memorialize Sam, a way to establish something for him to be remembered. That's when I decided to start the SG3 Foundation, a nonprofit that would give back to what Sam loved most." The foundation's name is derived from Sam's initials and his jersey number at Henry Sibley High School.

Dzik used memorial gifts from Sam's funeral to seed the foundation, which pro-

vides scholarships for youth hockey players to attend camps or junior hockey programs, or to purchase equipment. Its first event was the SG3 Memorial Hockey tournament, held in 2018. The 2-day event featured both a youth and men's tournament. Playing at the youth level were many of the kids Sam had coached, and the men's tournament featured former teammates from Sam's youth, high school and junior hockey teams. The tournament was a huge success, said Dzik, and was repeated the following year. As a result, the foundation was able to award more than \$18,000 in scholarships.

"After that second tournament, we were feeling like we were hitting our stride, and then the pandemic struck," said Dzik. "We were unable to hold a hockey tournament in 2020, so we shifted gears and planned a golf tournament to keep our fundraising efforts alive. Unfortunately, the pandemic kept that from happening, as well."

The event was cancelled

again in 2021 due to the pandemic but rather than throw in the towel, the 6-member foundation board — comprised mostly of Sam's friends and teammates — regrouped and developed a new strategy with an old-school twist. On February 5, the foundation will host a 4-on-4 1-day tournament at the outdoor rink at Harmon Park in West St. Paul, a rink on which Sam skated his entire life. This fast-paced format is different from the earlier traditional team competitions, yet the outcome will be the same: skaters playing for the love of the game and the chance to support others. The event will take place 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and include a silent auction, raffle, games and food. Tappers Pub will offer food and drinks from a heated tent at the park, and the raffle and after-party will be held at the pub, 879 Stryker Ave., West St. Paul.

"We invite everyone to come out to see some good old-fashioned outdoor hockey by talented players, many of whom played in junior hockey or college," said Dzik.



Sam was captain of the Henry Sibley Warriors his senior season. His goal was to one day coach at his alma mater.



Shortly before his death, Sam told his brother Zach that when he was older and

had the money, he wanted to pay for hockey camp for kids whose families who can't afford it. While Sam didn't get to achieve that dream personally, today it is being realized in his honor by the help of his family, friends and other supporters.

For more information or to donate to the cause, contact Angela at sg3foundation@gmail.com. The foundation is also hosting a golf tournament this summer. More details will be available at <https://sg3foundation.org>.

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Pérez-Hedges

from page 1

developments and programs for first-time homebuyers. Pérez-Hedges also supports programs that help small businesses and workers recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; raise funds to build a museum of Latino art on the West Side to showcase the history and legacy of Minnesota's Latino residents; and work closely with local artists and com-

munity organizations on initiatives that provide economic opportunities.

From a young age, Pérez-Hedges has been a vital part of the Twin Cities' music scene. Her style fuses Latin rhythms with urban rap. She has opened for a number of acts, including The Roots, Bad Bunny, Common, Moby, Bomba Estéreo, Sheila E, Kendrick

Lamar and Ana Tijoux. In 2009, she created her own independent label, SotaRico, a name that celebrates her ancestral ties to both Minnesota and Puerto Rico. She has produced and released several albums and her music is heard worldwide on MTV, Telemundo and other stations.

In 2013 Pérez-Hedges was awarded a Cedar Cultural Center scholarship, which she used to produce and direct the Latina Ritual project, which showcased Latino

artists in the Twin Cities. In 2019 she received a McKnight Foundation Musician Scholarship, administered by the MacPahil Center for Music. Her most recent album, "Sasa," was dedicated to her mother.

Pérez-Hedges has also dabbled in acting. She played Angie Garcia in the film "Strike One," and Mimi in The Guthrie LAB Theater's version of "Rent." Along with Arianna Genis, she is host and creator of the "Latina Theory" podcast,

which NPR called one of the best Latino podcasts in the country.

Beyond music, Perez-Hedges has dedicated her time and energy to community causes. She is the mentoring program director of the Twin Cities Mobile Jazz Project, which focuses on empowering youth through a music and cultural studies program, and serves on the board of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board Public Task Force, which is working to ensure

that the State Capitol is a welcoming space for all. In April 2020, Perez-Hedges played a prominent role in the passage of the Alec Smith Emergency Insulin Affordability Act to make health care affordable for all people in Minnesota. She has also worked to provide educational opportunities for incarcerated youth in the state. For her work in this field, she received the "Rising Latina Star" award from the National Hispanic Leadership Institute.

WSP K9s

from page 1

working with Cecil include tracking suspects, searching vehicles and buildings for narcotics, and attending community events. She said she loves the German shepherd breed, and with the addition of Cecil now has four living with her.

Cecil came to the department from McDonough K9s, which receives its dogs from an internationally recognized breeder in the Czech

Republic. Most departments request Dutch or German Shepherds or Malinois. West St. Paul Police Chief Brian Sturgeon said they previously had a Malinois but in his experience German Shepherds are overall better suited for the job.

In March, Bear, another German Shepherd, will begin training. When he joins the team, it'll be the first time West St. Paul has had

two K9s on staff. Bear and handler Ethan Drav will work the night shift.

"The reason we're getting another canine unit is three-fold," said Chief Sturgeon. "First, we received a sizeable donation from a community member. Second, the dogs are a great tool for all of the community engagement we do. And lastly, having canine units is a great way to recruit and retain officers. Almost every department across the county is dealing with a shortage of candidates right now."

Yackel Arena

from page 1

Other smaller arenas have experimented with adding soccer and lacrosse programs in summer months, and this could be done at Yackel as well.

Built in 1973, the arena is named after U.S. Hockey Hall of Famer Ken Yackel, Sr., a West Sider who played for the University of Minnesota Gophers and was a member of the 1952 U.S. Olympic hockey team. He went on to play professionally with the Providence Reds of the American Hockey League and the Boston Bruins of the National Hockey League.

For more information on the survey, visit www.ramseycounty.us and search "West Side arena" or call 651-266-0300.

Correction

In our January issue, Maricella Thelen, who received the Spirit of the West Side award, was identified as a single mother. She is engaged.

The St. Paul Voice is published monthly and delivered to 16,500 homes and businesses in St. Paul's West Side, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Lilydale & Sunfish Lake.

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Two Rivers/St. Paul girls hockey team shows promise for the post-season

John E. Ahlstrom
Staff Writer

After the 2016-17 season, the Henry Sibley Warriors girls hockey team merged with the St. Paul Blades to form a co-op team. In its first three seasons as a co-op, the Henry Sibley/St. Paul Riveters compiled a record of 10-58-2. Now after winning seven of their past eight games, the 2021-22 squad carries an 11-8 record and has its sights set on making some noise in the Section 4A tournament.

Allie Duellman played a pivotal role on the Roseville Girls Hockey Team that captured the Minnesota Class AA State Championship in 2010 and received a scholarship to play Division I hockey at Bemidji State University. In 2015, she was hired to teach fourth grade at the Somerset Elementary School in Mendota Heights and was also lured into becoming the new head coach of the Sibley girls hockey team.

"I was aware that the program at Sibley was in the midst of a downward spiral and I knew going in that there would be no overnight renaissance," she said. "The best advice I got was that it takes about seven years to overhaul a program. Well, this is season seven and I think we are on the right track."

Duellman has not done it alone. Tim Blase was in his third season as the Blades head coach at the time of the merger and now he and

Duellman are in their fourth season as co-head coaches. Both heartily endorse the co-coach arrangement, and both speak highly of goaltender coach Allie Morse, a product of Providence University.

"I think Allie and I complement each other very well," said Blase. "We share the same goals and we bounce our opinions back and forth seamlessly. And I think, as a DI hockey player at Bemidji, Allie is an ideal role model for the kids."

With only three seniors on last year's team, Blase and Duellman were well aware that the 2021-22 team, barring injuries, would have a unique opportunity to leave an indelible mark on the Riveters program.

For the first time in its four-year existence as Two Rivers/St. Paul, the team has a full 30-person roster. Of the 30 kids – 15 on the JV and 15 on the varsity – 19 are from Two Rivers and 11 are attending other schools in the St. Paul City Conference.

The offense is led by a first line comprised of three seniors who have combined to score 45 goals while dishing out 36 assists. Solvei Berg Messerole is the center and she is flanked by Molly Shetka and Olivia Van Siclen.

"The three of them were freshman in our first year as a co-op team," said Blase. "Now they are our senior leaders and I could not exaggerate the amount of hard work they have put in to become the consummate play-

ers they are."

"Solvei is a complete player and contributes equally on both ends of the ice. She not only puts the puck in the net, she blocks shots and she back-checks with the best of them," added Duellman. "Olivia has an incredible shot, is a natural scorer and, like her linemates, she is all over the ice. And, then there is Molly, one of our smallest players who seems to be in the middle of everything. She flies around the rink and loves to go into the corners and dig out pucks."

The second line is made up of three sophomores. Mia Cheesebrough is the center and her wings include Ella Johnson and Evie Daly.

"Mia truly sees and feels the game at both ends of the ice and also kills penalties and plays on our power play," said Blase. "Ella has a tremendous skating stride and has a knack of finding the back of the net, and Evie is a speedster who loves to crash the net."

The first defensive pair includes sophomore Lilly Leitner and eighth grader Bryn Christopherson.

"Both of them are positionally sound, meaning that when they are on the ice they are always at the right place at the right time," said Blase. "They keep their composure and are nifty with their breakout passes to our forwards."

The second pairing features eighth grader Isabel Hernandez and junior Josie Daly.

"They complement each



Submitted photo

Solvei Berg-Messerole, #10, and #13 Kate Reubush lift their sticks as the Riveters celebrate their 1-0 victory over South St. Paul.

other very well," said Duellman, "Isabel is tenacious in keeping traffic in front of her goaltender, and Josie is smart and reliable in moving the puck out of our defensive zone."

Sophomore do-it-all forward/center Kate Reubush also gets significant playing time in numerous situations, including the power play.

The Riveters have been free of serious injuries, except for the goaltender position. Seniors Ella Graham and Ellynor Haack minded the nets on an every-other-game basis last season. That was to be the case again this year but Haack incurred a season ending meniscus tear in her knee in December. Graham has answered the bell and has accumulated a goals-against average of 2.44 and a save percentage of .902.

"Ella has done a terrific job in Ellynor's absence," said Blase. "They remain very close friends and it's good to have Ellynor on the bench dishing out her positive vibes."

The only other goaltender on the roster to back up Graham is eighth grader Lucy Bradford. While her experience is limited, the coaches are confident she will be up to the task should she be needed.

The Riveters opened the season with victories over Rock Ridge (6-1) and Minnehaha United (6-2), but then suffered losses to Holy Angels, Armstrong/Cooper, Moose Lake, Simley and Fergus Falls. On December 30 they embarked on a five-game winning streak that included Visitation (8-3) and South St. Paul (1-0).

"The win over South St. Paul was a special one for our kids," said Blase. "They have been a natural rival for many years and are consistently a Top Ten team in the state. The composure we exhibited closing the game was very encouraging."

"The least favorable path for our team would be to look forward to the sectionals as if we are prepared to blaze a new trail," added Duellman. "We've gotten to

where we are today by taking baby steps. Our single focus is on the next shift, the next period and the next opponent on our schedule. The rest will take care of itself."

Team assessment: There is nothing more riveting in sports than the rags to riches stories that pop up from time to time, especially in prep sports. Going from a 2-16-1 record in 2021 to an 11-8 record with four games to go in the 2022 regular season is impressive indeed. The three teams that might earn higher seeds in the Class 4A Sectional Tournament are Simley, South St. Paul and Chisago Lakes. They are quality teams, but the Riveters certainly belong in the mix. They are a young, well-coached team with a future that burns bright.

Final regular season games (all at 7 p.m. at home, unless noted):
Jan. 25 – at Simley
Jan. 28 – South St. Paul
Feb. 2 – Hopkins/Park
Feb. 4 – Northern Tier

'We've gotten to where we are today by taking baby steps,' said Duellman. 'Our single focus is on the next shift, the next period and the next opponent on our schedule. The rest will take care of itself.'

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{ **THE FULLER FILES** } by Roger Fuller

Vocal Point Chorus will host a benefit concert at 4 p.m., February 5 and 6 at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. The headliner is Twin Cities-based singer-songwriter Chastity Brown. Proceeds will benefit The Lift Garage, a nonprofit that provides low-cost car repair, free pre-purchase car inspections, and automotive advice to people experiencing poverty or homelessness.

Minnesota Sinfonia will hold its winter concert at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 18 at Met-

ropolitan State University, 700 E. Seventh St. Selections will include Tchaikovsky's "Serenade for Strings," and "The Little Suite," an original piece by William Gombs.

The St. Paul Farmers' Market at East Fourth and Wall streets will hold a sale 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12, featuring meats, cheeses, sauces and other items for a Super Bowl party.

The Wells Fargo Winter-Skate at CHS Field has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Other outdoor rinks in St. Paul are open.

The Black Dog Café, 308 Prince St., is the latest local establishment to close permanently due to the pandemic. The café, which opened in 1998, had been a popular destination for coffee, wine, food and live music.

The Hmong Cultural Center has opened a 1,200-square-foot museum at 375 University Ave. featuring displays on Hmong history, culture, and music and arts. The center also offers English as a Second Language classes.

Mears Park turned to projected images to light its gazebo and walkways this winter. The change was made in response to squirrels chewing the wiring of the traditional strings of lights.

Children's Hospital in St. Paul is moving its 12-bed intensive care unit to its Minneapolis location. The move will allow the hospital to add 22 beds for youth ages 5-18 who need treatment for mental health issues.

Girl Scout cookies will be for sale at several downtown locations February 19-March 27. For locations and more details, visit www.girlscoutsrv.org.

Subtext Book Store, 6 W. 5th St., will hold a virtual presentation at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 9. Author Jim Lenfestey will read from his book "Season of the Urban Coyote."

Zeitgeist has cancelled in-person concerts at Studio Z, 275 E. 4th St., for the foreseeable future due to the pandemic.

AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St., will present "Cultivate the Creative" February 5-March 27. The exhibit will feature the work of about 100 local artists.

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra will hold its Neighborhood Concert Series in

February at various locations in the metro area. Concerts in St. Paul are at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11 at Humboldt High School, 30 E. Baker St., and 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave.

Triple T Square Dance Club is offering Beginner Square Dance classes, starting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 7 at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 7th St., St. Paul. The first night is free. Additional classes are \$5 each. For more information, call 651-503-7040.

Service opportunities

DARTS is seeking volunteers to shovel snow from the driveways and walks of older adults in the community. Volunteers are also needed to spend time with an older adult with a chronic illness or disability so their family caregiver can receive a break. Flexible scheduling, 2-4 hours per visit. For more information, contact Angela at volunteer@darts1.org or 651-455-1560.

Student notes

University of Wisconsin-Superior dean's list: Brianna O'Donnell

Wheaton College dean's list: Joseph Gross

Central Lake College dean's list: Daryel Bell

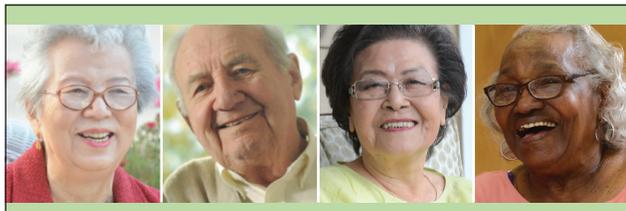
College of the Holy Cross dean's list: Cecilia Baillon, Aidan McSweeney

Southern New Hampshire University President's list: Michael Chhoun, David Reynolds

University of Wisconsin-Stout dean's list: Seon Dittman, Lydia Wagner

The College of St. Scholastica Duluth dean's list: Austin Armon, Sarah Miller, Bailey Nygaard.

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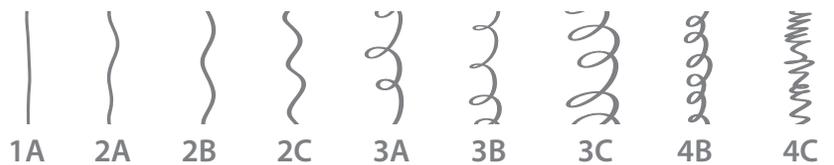
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- Visit 2 (~3 hrs): Jan 28 or 29
- Visit 3 (~1 hrs): Feb 1
Optional 1 skin sample from the scalp by 3mm punch biopsy
- Visit 4 (~30 min): TBD
Only if you opt in for visit 3

STUDY SCHEDULE: OPTION 2

- Visit 1 (~1hr): Feb 21, 22, or 23
- Visit 2 (~3 hrs): Feb 26, 27, or 28
- Visit 3 (~1 hr): March 1
Optional 1 skin sample from the scalp by 3mm punch biopsy
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Jake Spitzack
Staff Writer

Rejoice! The St. Paul Winter Carnival resumes in-person festivities this year. It will include traditional favorites such as snow-carving competitions and parades, as well as a few new activities, including a beard-growing competition and Ice Palace Minecraft event. Events are held at various downtown venues including the Landmark Center and Rice Park, and at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

The Winter Carnival is presented by the St. Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit that also produces the Cinco de Mayo festival on the West Side. The Winter Carnival began in 1886 and is said to be the oldest winter festival in the United States. In a typical year, it attracts an estimated 250,000 visitors who shell out a combined

\$2-\$3 million.

Here's a guide to the signature events. The information was accurate as of press time but is subject to change. For more information, visit www.wintercarnival.com.

Minnesota State Fairgrounds

For a full afternoon of fun in the winter sun, visit the Vulcan Snow Park. From Jan. 28-Feb. 6, visitors will find a snow maze, snow mountain playing area and the artistic creations of master snow carvers participating in the **Minnesota State Snow Sculpting competition**. The large, frosty sculptures are always stunning to see and make a great photo backdrop. Additionally, the 2022 Krewe and Vulcanus Rex LXXXIV will be introduced to adoring fans at 10 a.m., Jan. 29, on the Baldwin Stage. Vulcan Fun Day is Jan. 30.

To ward off the winter chill, enter the **37th annual St. Paul Winter Carnival Fire & Ice Run/Walk** on Jan. 30. Adults may enter the 5K or 10K for \$60.

New this year is a kid's run for \$20. Also new this year is the NoK (pay not to run) for \$50. All participants will receive a long-sleeved shirt, mug, Carnival button and a coupon book. Pick up your swag 3-6 p.m., Jan. 27 at Run N Fun, 868 Randolph Ave.

Landmark Center

Not all events require bundling up and braving the elements. Toasty fun can be found inside the Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth St.

The jigsaw puzzle contest returns 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 29. Come watch teams of puzzle enthusiasts race to complete a 500-piece puzzle in two hours. \$60 per team. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will present a free concert at 1 p.m., Jan. 30.

Kids and Family Day is 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 5, featuring cultural entertainment, arts and crafts, pick-a-prize bingo and more.

Rice Park

Rice Park will once again serve as the central location



Photo courtesy of St. Paul Winter Carnival

The snow sculpting competition returns to the State Fairgrounds.

for many festivities, including live music, ice-carving competitions, and the culmination site of two parades.

The King Boreas Grande Day Parade will hit the streets 2-4 p.m., Jan. 29. It starts at Smith Avenue, pro-

ceeds down West 7th Street, and ends at Rice Park. Dozens of bands, floats and, of course, the newly crowned King Boreas and his Royal Family will be there.

The Vulcan Victory Torchlight Parade will

weave its way through the city 5:30-7:30 p.m., Feb. 5. The route starts at 5th and Wacouta, travels westbound down 5th Street and ends at St. Peter Street by Rice Park. After the parade, follow Vulcanus and his Krewe to

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the steps of the George Latimer Central Library for the ever-dramatic overthrow of Boreas. Stick around afterward for fireworks and live music.

The Multi-Block Ice Carving competition is Jan. 27-Jan. 29, and the single-block competition is on Jan. 30.

Winter Carnival Music Series performances are: The 23rd Hour, 5-7 p.m., Jan. 28; Austin Healy, 7:30-10 p.m., Jan. 28; DJ Bakeshow Baker, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Jan. 29; Lipstick-N-Dynamite, 8-10 p.m., Jan. 29; Legacy of the Loud, 2-5 p.m., Jan. 30; DJ Angel Maldonado, 6-10 p.m., Feb. 3; R Factor, 6-10 p.m., Feb. 4; Bomber + Tara, 4-5:30 p.m., Feb. 5; Them Pesky Kids, 6-10 p.m., Feb. 5.

Other events

A digital ice fishing tournament runs through January. To participate, anglers must download the Fish-Donkey mobile app and join the Winter Carnival group. Prizes will be awarded to the winning angler in 10 different categories. Cost is \$15.

Four scavenger hunts are available through the Goosechase app through 5 p.m., Feb. 6. All team members who finish a scavenger hunt will receive a small prize. Cost to register is \$20 per team. The North Wind Hunt has 30 clues that lead to various locations of interest in St. Paul. The West Wind Hunt is designed for kids and includes clues that will lead teams around Como Park. The South Wind Hunt challenges teams to discover

30 wintry things. The East Wind Hunt is the most difficult and requires teams to solve puzzles and locate objects at different locations.

The Walking Gangster Tour of Downtown St. Paul is a 1-hour stroll that dips in and out of buildings and skyways and explores crime and corruption from the City's past. It starts at Hepcat Coffee in the Osborn 370 building at 370 Wabasha St. N. **The Haunted Walking Tour** of Downtown St. Paul is a 1-hour walk inside and outside, with a guide telling spooky stories. It starts at Infor Commons, 380 St. Peter

St. Cost of each tour is \$20 per person.

The Carnival's inaugural **beard-growing competition** runs through Feb. 4. There are three categories: clean shaven, lumberjack and freestyle. The top winner in each will receive a prize. **The 45th Annual Championship & Household Pet Cat Show** is held Jan. 29-30 at the RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd. Hours are Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children.

Drag queen bingo is held 7-10 p.m., Feb. 2, at the St.

Paul Event Center, 400 Wabasha, Suite 320. Tickets are \$22 to attend and \$30 to attend and play bingo.

Doggie Depot returns to Union Depot 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 5. The event includes the crowning of Canine King Boreas and Canine Queen of Snows, giveaways, interviews with pet experts, Dog Yoga and more.

Klondike Kate Cabaret and Royal Guards' Rock the Palace - Join the Klondike Kates at 8 p.m., Jan. 29 at the M Street Café in the Saint Paul Hotel for an evening of

song and entertainment and to meet 2022 Klondike Kate Tina Hacker. The 10th annual Rock the Palace at the Royal Guards party will take place in the upstairs ballroom. Tickets are \$15.

Winter Carnival Ice Palace Minecraft event, Jan. 30. Winter Carnival Historian Bob Olsen has created a recorded lecture on the history and engineering of the regal abodes. Minecraft players will use the lecture to learn how create their own ice dwellings in a special arctic biome. Cost is \$5 to enter the contest.

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Paula Poundstone will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 5. Tickets start at \$36.50.

Ronny Chieng will perform at 9:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11. Tickets start at \$35.

History Theatre

30 10th St. E.
St. Paul
651-292-4323

www.historytheatre.com

"Not for Sale" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sundays, Feb. 5-27. Late 1950s and early '60s Arnold Weigel, a rising star in the Twin Cities real estate business, puts his career on the

line when he begins to represent families of color as they attempt to buy homes in the all-white neighborhoods of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Tickets start at \$35, with discounts for seniors, those under 30 years old and students. An online streaming option will be available Feb. 21-27. Individual streaming tickets are \$25.

History Center

345 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul
651-259-3000
www.mnhs.org

"Art Speaks" is a new exhibit that opens Feb. 26. It presents more than 160 paintings, sculptures and photos collected over the past 15 years and invites Minnesotans to explore the intersection of art and the history of the state.

"Our Home: Native Minnesota" - Learn how Minnesota's Native communities have retained cultural practices, teachings and values, and an essential connection to home.

The Center is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday-Sunday. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and college students and \$8 for children ages five to 17.

Landmark Center

75 5th St. W.
St. Paul
651-292-3225

www.landmarkcenter.org

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will perform "Hot & Cool Classics," celebrating the 2022 St. Paul Winter Carnival, 1-3 p.m., Jan. 30. Free.

Ballet Tuesday is held noon-1 p.m., Feb. 8. Enjoy



"Art Speaks" opens Feb. 26 at the Minnesota History Center, featuring more than 160 paintings, sculptures and photos of Minnesota.

a free ballet performance and demonstration from the Ballet Co.Laboratory.

"Urban Expedition" events are held 1-3 p.m. on Sundays. Learn about Ghana on Feb. 13, China on Feb. 20 and Greece on Feb. 27.

MN Children's Museum

10 7th St. W., St. Paul
651-225-6000

www.mcm.org

"Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails" is on display through May 8. Families travel to the Island

of Sodor with Thomas and his friends. Children solve a variety of challenges, climb into Thomas' cab, load freight into train cars and fix Percy's wobbly wheel.

The museum is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Wed.-Sun. Tickets are \$14.95.

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Punch Brothers will perform at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 25. Tickets start at \$30.

Walker Hayes will perform with MacKenzie Porter at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29. Tickets start at \$25.

The Suburbs will perform at 7:30 p.m., Saturday Feb. 12. Tickets start at \$30.

RiverCentre

175 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul

651-265-4800
www.rivercentre.org

The MCCA State Cheerleading Competition is held 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29. Tickets are

\$18 for adults and \$10 for students K-12.

"The Saintry City Cat Club Annual Championship Cat Show" is presented 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 29 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 30. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children under age 10 and seniors over age 65.

The "Classic Spectacular" gymnastics invitation is held 5-9 p.m. Feb. 4, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Feb. 5-6. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children, seniors and veterans.

The MSHSL Girls State Gymnastics Tournament is held Feb. 18-19. Class AA will begin at 11 a.m. and Class A will begin at 6 p.m. on both days.

The Twin Cities Bridal Show is held at noon Sunday, Feb. 27. Tickets start at

\$15 and must be purchased in advance at www.theweddingguys.com.

Science Museum of Minnesota

120 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul

651-221-9444
www.smm.org

"Days of the Dinosaurs" is now on display. View dinosaurs and fossils from around the world in brand-new exhibits, movies and the recently expanded Dinosaurs & Fossils gallery. **"Ultimate Dinosaurs"**

is on display through April 10. Learn about dinosaur discoveries and scientific research to show how continental drift altered the landscape of the ancient world.

"Science is All of Us" is presented through March. Take a cultural and scientific look at race throughout history with paid and free virtual, hybrid and in-person learning opportunities at the museum.

Science Fusion events: Native Americans in STEM runs Jan. 31-Feb. 12. Latinx Americans in STEM runs

Feb. 21-March 5.

Omnitheater films are "Dinosaurs of Antarctica" and "Dino Dana." Theater tickets are \$9.95, with discounts for children and seniors. Museum tickets are \$19.95, with discounts for children and seniors.

perform at 7:30 p.m., Thursday Feb. 10, as part of a digital concert series. One online presentation will be released each month until June. Cost for a single concert is \$10.

Xcel Center

199 W. Kellogg Blvd.
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www.xcelenergycenter.com

Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo will be presented at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 28-29. Tickets start at \$16.

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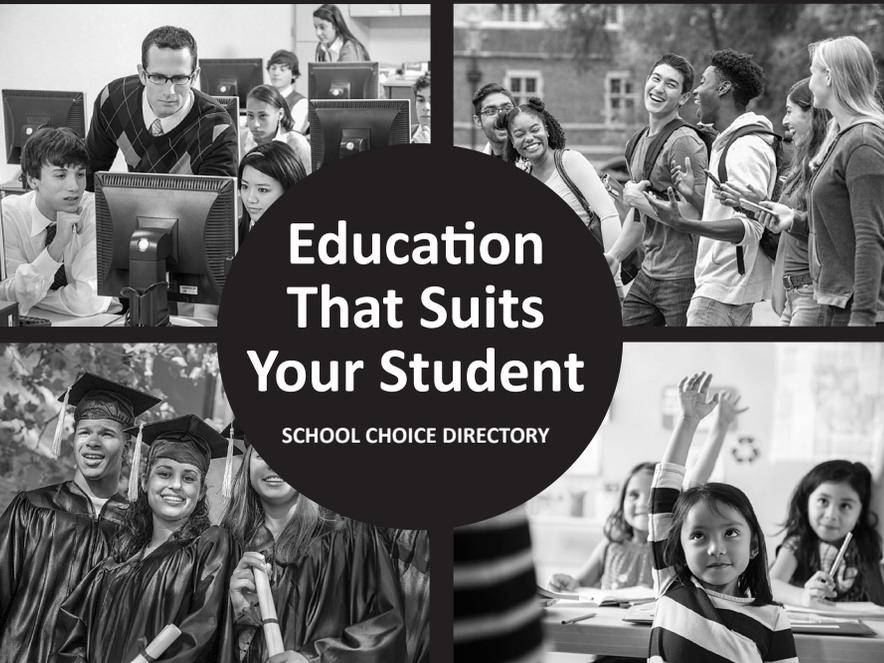
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President & CEO



I watched the documentary "The Beatles: Get Back" recently. It uses footage of The Beatles' recording sessions from 1969 that led to their famous rooftop concert at London's Savile Road. The documentary captures John, Paul, George and Ringo creating iconic songs like "Let

It Be." It also shows them struggling and, at one point, details George Harrison's decision to leave the band, only to return a few days later. It is fascinating to observe these iconic artists creating music from what appears to be thin air.

The documentary, which

came out this past November, is evidence of the legacy the band still has today, more than 50 years after the album "Let It Be" was released. They have stood the test of time for many reasons in addition to the strength of the music itself, including their passionate fan base and the way they have continued to provide relevant material in the form of remastered albums, interviews, books, performances by the surviving members of the band and, of course, this most recent documentary.

Neighbors does not have the worldwide fame of The Beatles. However, for the past 50 years, we too have affected the lives of countless people, although in differ-

ent ways than the Fab Four. Neighbors' fans are also passionate and are dedicated to serving our community in a variety of ways. Dating back to the first food shelf at St. John Vianney Church, the community has made food donations a priority. Whether it is Burt Seeker (whose donation seeded our endowment fund) or a former client who gave back once their situation improved, monetary donations are another way fans support our work. Donated clothing and household goods stock the shelves of our Clothes Closet. Last and not least, thousands of individuals throughout our history have provided the gift of time in the form of volunteering.

Our "fans" may not scream every time we perform our services, but they are dedicated all the same.

We have remained relevant through creativity and the ability to reinvent the organization as the needs of our community change. During the past 50 years, Neighbors has provided a variety of programs and services. In the beginning, it was common for Neighbors to help with babysitting or make a phone call to check on a neighbor. We have served meals, given rides, provided furniture and sponsored social gatherings.

Today we continue to provide relevant and innovative programs and services. Our food shelf has expanded to include food delivery,

Neighbors Express satellite food shelves and curbside pickup. The Clothes Closet Thrift Store is focused on providing low- and no-cost essential items for home, work and school. Our newest program, Financial Empowerment, addresses issues of economic disparity by providing financial counseling and support. These are just a few of the ways we have evolved to meet today's needs.

The Beatles rose to fame because they provided a new sound and a new look that people were receptive to. In its own way, Neighbors did the same thing. Now, 50 years later, both continue to be relevant and supported by their fans.

POSTSCRIPT

Bad Jokes

My Uncle Andy recently turned 90, and it was hard to imagine what a guy would like for his 90th birthday. Getting a lot of new stuff at age 90 doesn't sound very appealing. Andy is in the process of getting rid of stuff, a job made more challenging by the fact that neither he nor his wife, Bea, have any children to fob the stuff off on.

Andy and Bea live in the farmhouse where my mom was raised, and we were stumped when the subject of a 90th birthday present came up.

"What does Andy like?" I

asked my mom.

"Bad jokes," she answered.

"How about a book of bad jokes? We could make one as a family."

I put out the call for bad

jokes on the family's Facebook page. At first, I heard nothing. I don't know many jokes and was worried I'd have to make a joke book by myself in time for the party in the small country church near the old farmhouse.

Then I got an email from my cousin Sarah.

What do you call a deer with one eye?

A one-eyed deer.

What do you call a deer with no eyes?

No eye deer!

And the floodgates were opened.

What's brown and sticky?

A stick.

Who's bigger? Mr. Bigger or Mr. Bigger's Baby?

Mr. Bigger's Baby! He's just a little bigger.

I was flooded with jokes. Shaggy dog jokes, knock-knock jokes, and Ole and Lena jokes. I got lots of jokes about farms since Andy is a retired farmer.

What did the cow say to the calf?

It's pasture bedtime.

Before it was over, I had a book filled with terrible jokes sent in by Andy's family. I was glad we had done it, glad my family had come through, glad they'd all chipped in to give Andy something to laugh about on the occasion of his 90th.

The New Year is upon us, and I don't think I'm the

only one who needs a little more to laugh about. I usually have no trouble finding the upside, but lately there seems to be more bad news than I can process in any given day. It's easy to believe, looking out on the gray weather and reading the dire news, that this year might not bring all the good things I hope for, that this year might let me down, that there might not be as much to look forward to as there has been in past years.

And I guess that's where bad jokes come in.

Andy broke his leg not too long ago and is still using a walker to get around. We wonder how long he and Bea will be able to stay at the farmhouse on a lonely country road outside of town. But

as I sat there watching Bea and Andy laughing at terrible jokes and eating birthday cake, I realized they understood all of this.

For me, most of what makes a good year good, and a bad year bad, has nothing to do with the big picture. Most of it has to do with how I feel and behave in any given day, at any given moment. And sometimes, all that is needed to change that moment is a reason to laugh. Sometimes all that is needed is to laugh for no reason at all.

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Winter festivals in WSP and MH

Those of us who don't let a little snow and cold get in the way of outdoor fun will want to mark their calendars for two winter festivals being held in the coming weeks. First up is the Mendota Heights Frozen Fun Fest, held Jan. 28-Feb. 6. It includes a coloring contest open to all ages, medallion hunt, 2-mile community hike at Valley Park, ice sculpture carving at The Village at Mendota Heights, snow sculpture contest, youth ice fishing at Rogers Lake Park, and live music, food and a family kickball



tournament at Mendakota Park. For more details, visit <https://mendotaheightsmn.gov/frozen-fun-fest> or call the City of Mendota Heights at 651-452-1850.

The West St. Paul Winter Fun Fest takes place 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 19 at Dodge Nature Center, 1701

Charlton St., West St. Paul (use the farm entrance). The event includes snowshoeing, reindeer- and horse-drawn sleigh rides, snow sledding, boot hockey, ice bowling, kick sledding, ice mini golf, DJ with music, puppet show, food vendors, heated spaces, a visit by St. Paul Winter Carnival Royalty and prize giveaways every 30 minutes. Participants may also register to win a 50-inch large screen TV. The event is sponsored by the South Robert Street Business Association. For more information, visit www.srsba.org.







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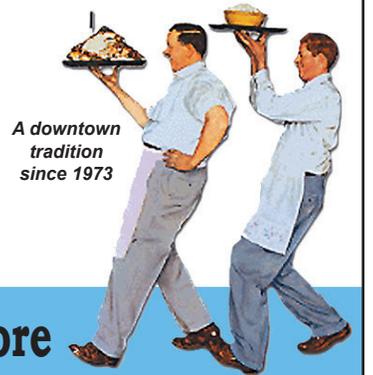
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{ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR }

Addressing concerns regarding The Reserve apartment complex in Mendota Heights

A recent letter (St. Paul Voice January 2022) questioned why city residents expressed concern over traffic generated by the 147 new Reserve apartment units proposed for the Plaza but had remained silent about the 48-unit Linden apartments

and Copperfield restaurant just across Highway 62 in the Village.

The differences are readily apparent and significant. There is already concern about traffic backed up on Dodd Road to the city fire station from the light at Highway 62. According to City Planning Staff Report on the Reserve projects, fire department personnel advised that the “amount of traffic that is coming out of

South Plaza Drive is making it difficult for us to get out [of] the station and get rolling, especially to the north.” The Reserve projects will make that congestion worse by adding 800 to 1,000 vehicle trips per day, particularly because the only exits from the Plaza are North and South Plaza Drive to Dodd Road, which are also the primary entrances to Mendota Plaza. The Village, however, has multiple entrances/exits, and traffic exiting to Dodd Road does not impede traffic at the fire station.

There is another important reason no citizen complaints about the Linden and the Copperfield were

made. The developer for those projects reached out before submitting proposals to the city and met with the stakeholders to discuss site development. It was only after those discussions that a proposal satisfactory to all was presented to the City Council and approved.

Bernard P. Friel
Mendota Heights

Recent letters in the St. Paul Voice suggested that most of those weighing in on the two apartment projects (147 units) proposed for the Mendota Plaza supported the projects. That is not true.

The city records will establish that a majority of written comments, and a very significant majority of spoken comments (about 20 to 1) at the hearing before the planning commission, at the City Council meeting

and “town hall” discussions, opposed these projects for a variety of reasons, including traffic, lack of green space and appropriate setbacks, excessive number of units, large numbers of undersized units (under 750 sq. ft.) and undersized and reduced numbers of parking spaces.

Those letters failed to point out that the Planning Commission, after extensive analysis over two months, recommended denial of both projects by votes of 6 to 1 and 5 to 2. In contrast to that thoughtful process, one of these projects was approved by the thin majority (3 to 2) of Mayor Stephanie Levine and councilmembers Joel Paper and John Mazzitello the first time it was on the city council agenda, and in the face of significant public opposition and well-reasoned opposition from councilmen Ultan Duggan and Jay Miller.

The Council has deferred decision on the second apartment project of 89 units on the 1.6 acres adjacent to South Plaza Drive until its February 8 meeting. It is hoped that the Council will pay close attention to the planning commission’s recommended denial and turn this project down.

Jill Smith
Mendota Heights

The [Reserve] plan is too large for this location, requires significant deviations from city standards including a reduction in building and parking lot setbacks, fewer and smaller parking spaces and a reduction of the size of many units.

Three letters mention a “small vocal group of residents” who oppose this development. However, these residents include former City Council members, Planning Commission members, a School Board member and several others who have been recognized for their leadership, knowledge and positive contributions to the community. These individuals, along with other residents, have taken time to evaluate the proposed development and shown up to address the Planning Commission and Council to express concerns about the negative impact on our community and where they live. These are many voices and not a minority.

I have expressed my opposition to the project as proposed as it is oversized for the site, requires

considerations outside of longstanding standards for development, compromises the “open space” vision and character of our community, loss of green space, and exacerbates an already existing traffic safety and congestion problem. Our city has been successful through multiple administrations in approving business and housing development that maintains green space and does not negatively impact our neighborhoods.

Marina McManus
Mendota Heights

This letter responds to an article in the latest issue of The St. Paul Voice, and three letters to the Editor, pertaining to two new apartment buildings proposed for Mendota Plaza in Mendota Heights.

Mendota Heights is unique among all Twin Cities metro area first tier suburbs in: 1) being largely residential in nature; 2) being fully developed; and 3) avoiding density development, in contrast to adjacent communities of Eagan, Inver Grove Heights and West St. Paul. The low density character of Mendota Heights is attributable to a policy of prudent development by city decision-makers over many decades to support the best interests of city residents, and not to pander to developers.

Unfortunately, support of the high density Mendota Heights Plaza apartments by both former Mendota Heights Mayor Neil Garlock and current Mayor Stephanie Levine ignores the facts that this development: 1) was opposed by the Mendota Heights Planning Commission; 2) will add 147 new units to the Plaza, exacerbating already congested traffic at the Hwy 62-Dodd Road intersection; 3) thereby will compromise access/egress for calls by adjacent Mendota Heights fire and police departments, as well as for residents of adjacent communities; and 4) will violate existing city codes related to minimum unit sizes, lack of prescribed setbacks, and provision of open space.

Most Mendota Heights residents live here because they value the special character of the community. The stance by Levine and Garlock ignores the interests of city residents they were elected to defend.

Thomas Smith
Mendota Heights

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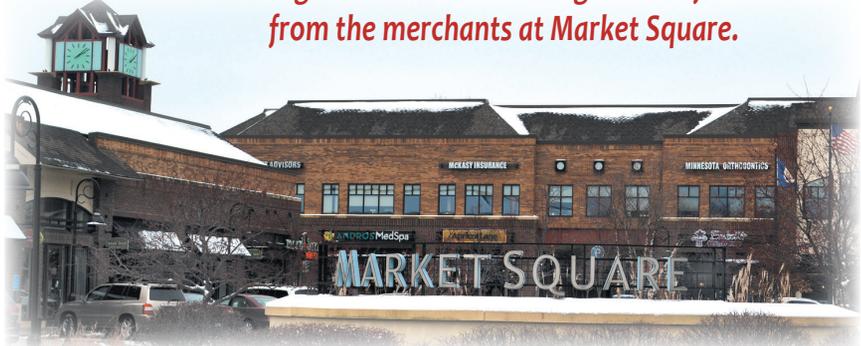
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