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Hamline Midway couple stop for a break following their world tour

By DEBORAH BROTZ

One of Hamline Midway resident Julie Retka's most memorable moments on her recent north-south bike trip was a warm, happy smile and embrace from an old friend.

Retka, 54, who took a twoyear leave-of-absence from St. Paul Public Schools, took a twoand-a-half year bike trip with her husband David Byrne, 54, a retired UPS driver. While Byrne started the trip in St. Paul on April 8, 2009, his wife joined him in South America in June 2009. They biked to the tip of South America, then cycled from South Africa to North Africa, and continued cycling north through Europe to Hammerfest, Norway. From there, they went to Manitoba, Canada, and continued back south to St. Paul. They just returned on July

As a teen-ager at age 18, Byrne did a 42,368 km bike trip around the globe east to west. He bicycled through 29 countries in 29 months from July 15, 1975, to Dec. 22, 1977. Now, at age 54, he and Retka cycled over 48,000 km in 28 months.

"At the end of that first trip when I got back, newspapers would ask me if I'd do it again," he said. "I said only if the world needs to be recycled. The latest bike trip is called Recycling the World. I decided if I did it again I would go north to south, a completely different direction. It's a longer route to do by land."

Biking to work at UPS for 30 years helped Byrne to afford the trip.



Hamline Midway residents Julie Retka and David Byrne stopped briefly for a photo upon completing their around the world bike trip recently.

"My weekly fuel cost was zero," he said. "My job has good Teamster Union benefits. I have a defined-benefit pension that will pay me half of my regular (40-hour) pay. The pension paid for the trip. There were no sponsors."

While Byrne and Retka did the trip on bikes without any other vehicles, they carried everything they used.

Retka smiles broadly as she recalls seeing her friend in one of the most remote places they went.

"I hadn't kept in touch with anybody," she said. "Since we were going to West Africa, David said we should to go Liberia. That was a highlight. A very good friend of mine was there. He was a teacher in a school I taught in."

Living in a village four kilometers off the road, Retka's friend was surprised and overwhelmed with emotion.

"I showed up at his door," she said. "He was overjoyed. It was just incredible."

Byrne says lots of people remembered Retka in the village called Buah.

"There are four girls who are named Julie in honor of Julie," he said. "Everybody had a story about the first time she tried to make palm butter. They eat it all the time. It's a sauce that is poured on rice."

One of Byrne's happiest moments on the trip was reuniting with Retka after being separated for seven hours.

"We got off a main highway and got on roads that were not well-marked," he said. "We were crossing the savannah on jeep roads, and we lost each other. The road got very sandy. I went off one little path, and Julie went in another direction. I thought in 100 meters we'll meet up again. But, we didn't meet up right away. This happened in the morning, and we got together in the afternoon. I was happy that we reunited. I worried about her."

Rather than stay in expensive hotels or camp at campgrounds, which are uncommon south of the border, Byrne and Retka stayed where the locals stay and ate at local restaurants.

"I really enjoy that," said Retka. "We also stayed in tourist places. But, I learned more about the area staying in local places. It's always nice to try people's food. Everywhere you go people like good food."

Instead of having everything planned out, Byrne and Retka took a plan as you go approach.

"I like the surprise of not knowing," he said. "We had plenty of time to get to know a country. We were traveling without reservations. We didn't know where we would end up. If we had a reservation, we might not make it there. We had freedom to go where we wanted to go."

For Retka, Machu Pichu, the lost city of the Incas, was the most amazing thing she saw on the trip.

"The Spanish conquistadors never knew about it," she said. "It was overgrown with the woods of the Andes. A modern wall might collapse, but the Incas had technology nobody knows. The beautiful workmanship is just amazing."

Over the years, Byrne thought if he ever did a trip again he would make some kind of newsletter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



A Touch of Royalty

Grand Marshal Paul Kamp of

Kamp's Food Market was accompa-

nied by his wife, Lisa, while presiding over the Rice Street Festival Parade on Thursday, July 28. Kamp said it was the 47th consecutive Rice Street Parade he has attended. His business, Kamp's Food Market, and the Rice Street Festival itself, both celebrated over 100 years in the North End. With this year's event organizers said that there were more floats and organizations participating in the parade than ever before. The parade itself ran over 50 minutes long. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

monitor

1885 University Ave. St. Paul, MN 55104 651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Denis Woulfe

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe Dennis Stern (651-452-5324)

Photographers:

Stefanie Berres

Production/Illustrations: Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Iric Nathanson, Deborah Brotz, Jane McClure, Jan Willms,



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Land use study looks at North End area plan

A land use study for the North End will include a larger area, as a result of St. Paul Planning Commission action July 22.

The study began in June. It is called a small area plan study, and is used to plan for future land use and possible zoning changes. The current plan is meant to consider other adopted small area plans for the neighborhood, look at ideas for Como/Front/Dale, the Neighborhood Center identified in the Comprehensive Plan; and strategies for the industrial areas that, in part, address the conflicts between existing residential and industrial uses on industriallyzoned land.

In addition, the Jackson-Arlington Small Area, adopted in 1991, is scheduled to be updated

The North End's planning district, District 6, includes many large and smaller industrial businesses, both those developed relatively recently and those which have been in operation for many years. District 6 is concerned about the numbers of residential uses within the industrial area, the conflicts between these disparate uses, as well as the impacts of the industrial area on adjacent residential neighborhoods

A community based task force is studying ways to deal with the residential-industrial conflicts. The Planning Commission was told that zoning changes are possible in some parts of the neighborhood.

The Planning Commission

vote includes a two-block area north of Front Street in the study area

Any property owners who would be affected by proposed zoning changes will have a chance to comment on changes prior to any Planning Commission and City Council votes.

Legislature spares Cities of big transit and service cuts

Twin Cities transit service will be spared severe cuts, thanks to the Minnesota Legislature. Metropolitan Council, which oversees Metro Transit, had warned of dire service cuts and fare hikes, based on proposals state law-makers made during the regular session. Two hearings were held in July to discuss potential cuts and a series of public hearings was scheduled for August.

The two hearings July 6-7 in St. Paul and Minneapolis drew more than 200 people in total.

At one point a \$120 million transit funding cut was proposed by legislators. That prompted warnings from Metropolitan Council Chair Susan Haigh about the potential for severe transit service cuts and fare hikes.

But those hearings have been canceled. During the special session state lawmakers approved a funding package for transit that provides \$78 million in state general fund money for transit over the next two years. While that represents a \$52 million cut, that loss can be covered through a variety of sources. One partial source is \$15 million in the spe-

cial sales taxes shared by Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, Anoka and Washington counties Transit reserve funds, administrative cuts and other funding shifts and changes will make up the rest.

nitor in a Minute

As a result of the transportation funding approved during the special session it appears that no service cuts will have to be made and fares will remain the same. Cuts and changes were eyed for 131 of 146 existing bus routes, with fare increases of as much as 50 cents.

But the use of the special sales tax has met protests from the Counties Transit Improvement Board or CTIB. Commissioners from the five counties have stated that the sales tax is meant to be used to develop new bus and rail services, and not to supplement the existing system.

Housing moratorium meets a week's delay

An interim moratorium meant to quell housing conversions near the University of St. Thomas met a week's delay. The St. Paul City Council approved the interim moratorium August 3, instead of July 27, when it was originally slotted to be discussed. A technical glitch in getting the item on the agenda caused the delay, said Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark.

The interim moratorium delay doesn't affect the public hearing date on a year-long moratorium. The hearing is still set for 5;30 p.m. Wednesday, August 17 at City Hall.

Council offices have fielded questions and concerns about

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the moratorium and the upcoming zoning study. UST has not announced its position on the moratorium.

Stark is proposing a moratorium on housing conversions in an area bounded by Interstate 94, Fairview Avenue, St. Clair Avenue, Mississippi River Boulevard from St. Clair to Marshall Avenue, Marshall Avenue to Cretin Avenue and Cretin Avenue to Interstate 94. It's an area where many UST students live. UST is Minnesota's largest non-public university. Fifty-six percent or about 3,325 of its students live off-campus, with about 1,684 of these students living in the moratorium area.

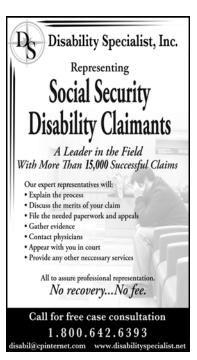
The moratorium would prohibit the conversion if any single-family home into a two-family home, and the conversion or any owner-occupied single family home or duplex into "a home exclusively occupied by students." The exception for duplex conversion into student housing would be if the dwelling's owner of record lives in of the two units.

Most of the residential property in the moratorium area that is west and north of the campus is primarily zoned for single-family homes; most residential property to the east and south is zoned for two-family use.

If approved the August 3 action would create an interim moratorium, which would be in effect until a year-long moratorium is adopted. That would allow time for a St. Paul Planning Commission study and recommendations to the City Council.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

Next deadline: August 26







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St. Paul looks at reviving streetcars

By JANE MCCLURE

The last of St. Paul's streetcars went away more than 50 years ago. A \$200,000 grant request to the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) could be the first step in bringing them back. St. Paul City Council members voted July 6 to approve a grant request to study a modern, electric streetcar system.

If the city receives the funding later this year, city staff would explore the feasibility of a modern streetcar network, looking at routes that are physically viable, offer the greatest potential for improving local traffic circulation, support economic development and complement existing and planned regional transit systems. The study could be the first in a series of planning efforts to map out how a streetcar system would ultimately be built and financing.

This isn't St. Paul's first try at flagging down streetcar planning funds. One of the most high-profile requests was made almost a decade ago, for a study of a streetcar line on Grand Avenue.

A streetcar network could provide connections to the Central Corridor light rail line that is currently under construction, said Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark. But it is a citywide study and could also include scrutiny of historic streetcar routes, which were removed in the 1950s to make way for the bus system.

The general idea is to look at the whole city," said Stark. While he admitted there may be assumptions that the line could connect to downtown and the light rail line, it could also con-

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nect to other transit corridors.

St. Paul had more than a dozen streetcar lines during the system's heyday. Reviving some of the historic corridors is seen as a benefit of bringing back a streetcar system. "Commercial corridors that were built as streetcar streets have experienced disinvestment due to congestion and present-day parking demands of a suburban-style, automobile-oriented marketplace," the grant application stated. "Many streets, which double as state trunk highways, county roads, or truck routes, have heavy amounts of daily traffic due to a lack of viable local transportation alternatives. Restoring transit to these neighborhoods will help to shift more local travel to transit, reducing the need for automobile use for short trips. This in turn will encourage increased residential and commercial density which will also support efficient multi-use trips, and promote active life style choices for both transportation and recreation purposes.

Most council members said they like the idea of a study and the idea of streetcars in general. While saying he supports the study, Ward Three Council Member Pat Harris objected to the fact that the study had been submitted before the City Council actually voted to approve it. But Stark said that was a function of a tight timeline. The council didn't meet on the last Wednesday in June and the study was due late that month. Had the council not approved the study the application would have been withdrawn.

Other council members were more enthusiastic. Ward Six

Council Member Dan Bostrom routes could be located. said he could see a line running down Payne Avenue to downtown St. Paul, or along East and West Seventh streets. "Streetcars could serve parts of town that won't be served by light rail transit," he said.

But Ward Two Council Member Dave Thune said he doesn't want a streetcar study to be used to revive the controversial Riverview Corridor on West Seventh Street. Riverview was envisioned at various times as a light rail line and later a busway. The project was shelved when its \$44 million state appropriation was rescinded during a state budget shortfall in 2002.

'It's just that we've been fending off the Riverview Corridor for more than 12 years," Thune said.

The grant request doesn't name any specific routes, Stark said. Determining the routes would be part of the study.

One objection to Riverview Corridor was that it would have meant loss of on-street parking and possibly street widening in places, said Thune. But Stark said the type of electric streetcars envisioned would share traffic lanes and not require the loss of traffic lanes or on-street parking.

"Streetcar service is particularly suitable for high volume local routes with short average trip distance in urban areas," the grant application stated. "Streetcars maybe also be appropriate as a development tool for local units of government. " There would also be collaboration with the community to determine where any prospective streetcar

The initial planning process that would be funded through the grant calls for public education about the benefits of streetcars, a study of engineering issues and a study of what system startup and ongoing operation costs would be. A so-called starter line, the first line, would also be cho-

Additional funding would have to be sought to build the system itself.

St. Paul is using the streetcar system in Portland, Oregon as a potential mode for what could be built in St. Paul. A report on development investments in Portland noted that by April 2008, \$3.5 billon had been invested within two blocks of the streetcar alignment there.

The St. Paul funding request also cited the work already done on a Minneapolis streetcar system, Minneapolis has already adopted a streetcar feasibility study, prepared a long-term streetcar network map and streetcar funding study, and is currently beginning detailed studies on first corridor, the Nicollet-Central Urban Circulator.

The city would work with Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council in studying the feasibility of streetcars in St. Paul. Metropolitan Council policies and plans don't address streetcar system development. Instead that is left up to local units of government.

The study has support from the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority and the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, a group of foundations and community development organizations working on the light rail project. If St. Paul receives the grant, the city would be required to find a \$50,000 match.



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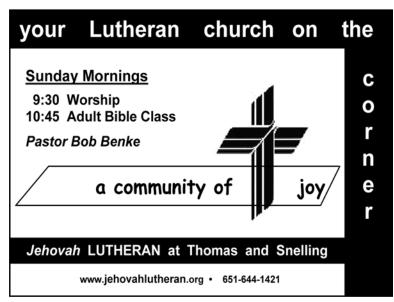


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County budget includes a 2.7 percent property tax increase, plus service cuts

By JANE MCCLURE

Ramsey County's proposed 2012 budget includes a 2.7 percent property tax increase as well as service cuts. That's due to a combination of about \$14 million reductions in state and federal funds, as well as other revenues. The County Board heard the budget presentation by Manager Julie Kleinschmidt July 28. Commissioners began a series of budget hearings last week, with the goal of adopting the maximum property tax levy prior to September 15, and the final levy and budget December 13.

A levy increase of 2.7 percent is also projected for 2013. Ramsey County does a two-year of biennial budget, with the ability to change or update the budget during the second year. The proposed 2012 budget totals \$575,078,479. That is a decrease of \$15,402,948, or 2.6 percent, over the 2011 budget of \$590.48

The proposed 2013 budget calls for spending \$583,118,023, an increase of \$8,039,544, or 1.4 percent, over 2012. Total spending will decrease over the biennium by \$7,363,404, or 1.2

During the budget presentation Commissioner Jim McDonough quickly clarified that the levy increase proposed isn't final. Other commissioners also commented that the county needs to do what it can to minimize the impacts of a property tax increase on residents, many of who are already struggling. One theme of the board discussion was that the county needs to do more to let state leaders know how state cuts affect county services and costs passed on to property taxpayers.

"Ramsey County continues to live within its means, without gimmicks and accounting shifts," said Commissioner Tony Bennett, chair of the County Budget Committee, in a statement. "The budget that the county manager has submitted focuses on outcomes and on providing the best service at the lowest possible cost to our tax-

Ramsey County, like other Minnesota counties, has to shift more of its spending to property taxes as opposed to state and federal dollars. The increase for 2012 and projected 2013 increase are the lower in the county since 2000, Kleinschmidt told the County Board. Services that aren't required or mandated are among those that face cutbacks. About 100 positions will be eliminated through attrition. Between 20 and 30 employees will have to be laid off. It's a situation Kleinschmidt describes as the "new normal" as county government deals with more requests for services and less money to provide the services with. Foreclosures have slowed down, the County Board was told, and job growth has also been slower than expected.

Several statistics were cited to indicate the difficulties many county residents face. There has been a 37 percent increase in requests for public assistance between 2003 to 2010. Another point made during the presentation is that about 80,000 people, or 16.4 percent of county residents, live in poverty. That includes about 29,265 children. That compares to 65,000 people and 23,500 children just five years ago. Kleinschmidt said, We are not moving in the right

direction. Commissioners expressed concern over those statistics. One suggestion raised July 26 was that of a summit on poverty issues as they affect chil-

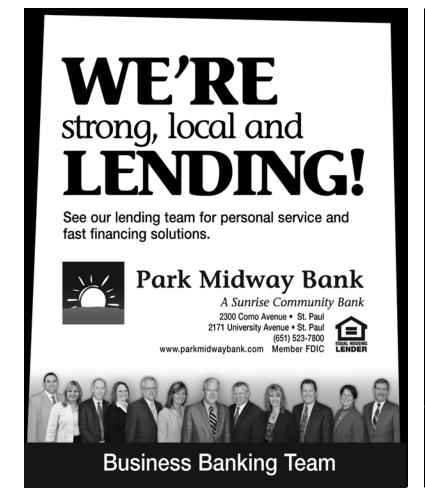
The shift in county resources between 2000 and 2012 was also outlined. Property taxes comprised 36 percent of the 2000 county budget. They will make up 46.5 percent of the 2012 budget and 47.1 percent in 2013, when another 2.7 percent levy increase is expected.

The general government levy is the only one of the county's property tax levies proposed for an increase. The Regional Rail Authority levy will remain flat and no levy dollars are proposed for the county Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Kleinschmidt indicated that the county's budget issues won't go away any time soon. "Even when the economy turns around, the aging of our population will keep a damper on revenue growth, and put further demand on services. This is not a short-term problem. This is a permanent challenge," she said, adding that government services as people know them today are "not sustainable."

Many departments will sustain cuts in 2012 and 2013, although critical services such as public safety will be protected. For example, health and human services would be cut 2.4 percent in the proposed budget for 2012. On the table are potential cuts to a number of services including mental health, assistance for refugees and other programs.

The County Board will make the final decisions on the department-by-department cuts.



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Two Hamline U 'Pipers' winners of race competition

By JAN WILLMS

Kate Towle considers trying to reduce racism and build bridges to be sacred work.

Towle, a Hamline University alumna, is one of two winners of the Facing Race Idea Challenge, a competition entered by nearly 50 Minnesotans to submit fresh ideas to reduce racism in their communities.

The other winner of the Challenge, sponsored by the Saint Paul Foundation, is Jake Branchaud-Linsk, a current Hamline University student.

Towle's submission earned her a \$2,500 grant to support curriculum development, outreach and the ongoing work of Project s.t.a.r.t. Leadership, named and created by students at South High School. The project stands for "students together against racial tension."

Towle, who graduated from Hamline in 1983 with a B.A. in French and International Relations, has been working with racial issues for the past 10 years. She is working on s.t.a.r.t. with Paul Robinson, whom she calls her project ally and essential partner.

She cites her early years as affecting her decision to pursue work in the field of racial injustice.

"I was raised by a single mom," she explained, "who worked as a nurse. My father had been a Korean War hero, who was actively involved in civil rights and was a bridge-builder.

Kate Towle (right) considers trying to reduce racism and build bridges to be sacred work. Towle, a Hamline University alumna, is one of two winners of the Facing Race Idea Challenge, a competition entered by nearly 50 Minnesotans to submit fresh ideas to reduce racism in their communities. The other winner of the Challenge, sponsored by the Saint Paul Foundation, is Jake Branchaud-Linsk, a current Hamline University student. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

He died when I was 10."

"I learned at a young age that bridge-building is very hard," she continued. "It essentially took my father's life."

Towle said she believes young people today will inherit a very complex and politically, economically and racially charged world.

She said that based on South High students' founding of s.t.a.r.t., she wrote up information and shared it with other district leaders. The program found a home at Anwatin Middle School in Minneapolis. Towle said the South High students articulated the whole idea of s.t.a.r.t., talked on the radio and facilitated dialogues about

race in the community.

She started working with students at South in September 2009 on racial issues and submitted the idea to Facing Race Idea Challenge a couple months ago.

"The heart of Project s.t.a.r.t. is that we can't just rely on the adults in our schools to create the environment we want," Towle said. She said that as well as intercultural awareness, the program focuses on developing academic skills, such as writing and public speaking. For example, one of the Somali students

she works with is interviewing an African American leader about the civil rights movement. "This student has shown lots of leadership in educating her peers and talking about her culture," Towle said. "And she is still learning about the legacy of racism in this country."

Towle said that leadership is chaotic and messy. "My students have learned along with me and other adults," she stated.

Towle cited some troubling statistics that add to the racial disparity in this country. Regarding household income, she said the average white family has 20 times the wealth of the average black family and 18 times the wealth of the average Latino family.

"This is the result of practices that over time have not given certain people access to wealth creation," she noted.

Towle called herself a strong and proud American, but said work for racial justice involves healing wounds that are very deep and have to do with how this country was created. "I don't take the white privilege I have lightly," she said.

"I have planted the seeds and incubated it," she said of her project. "To have the impact it can have it needs support, and this grant is a critical support factor. I hope to use the grant funds for curriculum ideas, field trips, and bringing in artists and adults who support these efforts."

Towle said she believes that when people are validated for their experiences, generally they will be re-energized. Quoting Paul Wellstone, she added "We all do better when we all do better."

Branchaud-Linsk, the other grant winner, will graduate from Hamline next fall in political science and then plans to attend law school.

His idea, Youth Peacekeepers, came from his youth engagement work at the Dispute Resolution Center in St. Paul.

He will use his grant to provide conflict resolution and communication training to groups of diverse high school students for use in facilitating conversations about race with younger peer groups.

"Sometimes racial issues are very hard to talk about," Branchaud-Linsk said. "But in 21st century Minnesota, there are still injustices that need to be talked about."

He said the work he has been doing this summer has involved mediation through roleplaying activities and determining a definition of conflict, whether it is good or bad.

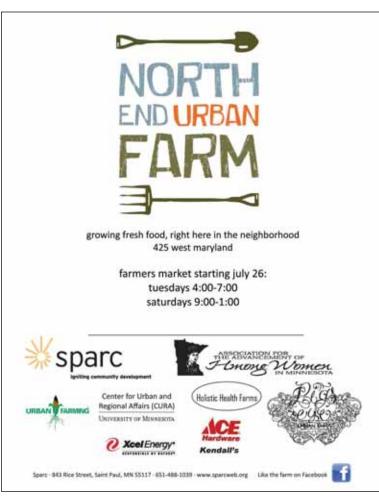
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Central High sophomore flies high for local Circus Juventas

By JAN WILLMS

Rachel Wilson has always loved heights.

When she saw the aerialists to sign her up for classes. perform at Circus Juventas eight years ago, she begged her parents multiple trapeze, and then

"They did, and I started with

added some good stuff," Wilson recalled. Now Wilson, who will be a sophomore at Central High School this fall, does the triple trapeze, triangle trapeze, dual trapeze and hammock.

Wilson remembered her excitement at seeing her first circus performance.

"I had been in gymnastics since I was five and was always in awe of people in the Olympics," she stated. "I was so disappointed we were not doing any group flips."

She said her parents took her to see "Swash," one of the big summer performances at Circus Juventas eight years ago.

Wilson said she was amazed at seeing the people juggling and performing acrobatics.

This summer, she is a member of the cast for "Grimm, Happily Ever After," the presentation currently being offered at 1270 Montreal Ave. in St. Paul. The show is cast with a handsome prince, nimble princesses, acrobatic frogs, agile wolves, powerful giants and witches that turn inside out, along with an evil collection of stepmothers.

The circus training school was founded in 1994 by Dan and Betty Butler, circus performers themselves who met at the age of 15 at a youth circus in Sarasota, FL. And for teen-agers like Wilson, the school has offered an opportunity to learn a skill and develop confidence as she masters that skill.

"Right now, I practice five times a week," Wilson said. Rehearsals for the show are held every afternoon, starting at 4 p.m. The summer shows are for the top-tier students.

The United States has a circus college in Illinois and Flori-

da, and there are others in Canada. Wilson said she will definitely stay with Circus Juventas through high school. Whether she stays longer depends on where she goes to college, or if she stays in town.

"I am interested in everything," Wilson said. "The circus would be incredible, and I also love musical theater. I love every-

Wilson admitted injuries can sometimes come with the territory. "With what I am doing, I get a lot of bumps and bruises, especially with the triangle trapeze," she explained. "But you get to know your bruises and how to deal with them. If you do get a bump or bruise, it's hard to resist going back upon the trapeze immediately."

"I think the biggest thing the circus has given me is a sense of independence," Wilson claimed. "I would follow the pack more and not be as much of an individual if it weren't for the cir-

"It really lets me be who I want to be," Wilson added. "I have worn costumes to school. I have tried to help other people be themselves, because not everybody has had this kind of experience. But everybody should."

Butler sees the experience of providing circus training in just that light.

Boys and girls are working side by side, in a freedom of artistic impression," he said. "Nobody gets cut from the

He said an important part of the circus education is the element of trust that is developed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Rachel Wilson, who will be a sophomore at Central High School this fall, does the triple trapeze, triangle trapeze, dual trapeze and hammock for Cir-





Circus

Continued from page 6

"There are a physical and artistic side and a huge athletic side," Butler said. "They become very confident adults."

'When the lights hit you, you can accomplish anything by mind over matter," Butler continued. He said it is all about learning the right attitude. "I believe you learn self-confidence that is unsurpassed in any other youth activity.'

Butler said he came to Minnesota because he went through Hazelden and got a new lease on

"We thought we could bring something like Circus Juventas to the Twin Cities," he said.

Circus Juventas is North

America's largest circus performing arts program with over 800 students enrolled. Seventy of those advanced students will be performing in the summer production.

The summer show, based on the popular fairy tales of the Grimm Brothers, has 10 riggers, 12 full-time staff members and dozens of parents serving as volunteers. Coaches for the event have been brought in from Mongolia, Morocco, Russia, China, Chile and Germany, as well as the United States.

The world-renowned fiddler and mandolinist Peter Ostroushko and his band have returned this year performing new music that he created especially for this show.

The set construction for the performance has taken seven months, hundreds of hours, 40 gallons of paint and over 90 pounds of nails and screws. The performance space covers 10,000 square feet.

Over 170 costumes have been designed by Betty Butler and four costumers. They were inspired by photos and illustrations from high fashion magazines. The period elements for the show focus on Germany in the early 1800s.

For tickets to the show call the box office at 612-343-3390.

The summer show, "Grimm, Happily Ever After," based on the popular fairy tales of the Grimm Brothers, has 10 riggers, 12 full-time staff members and dozens of parents serving as volunteers. (Photo by Stefanie



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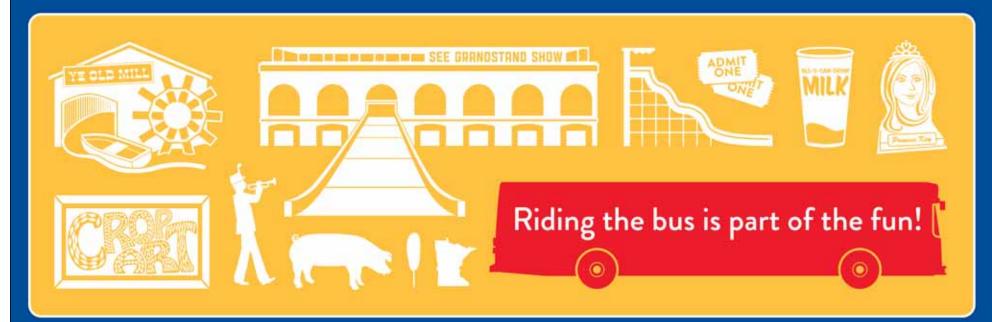
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In Our Communit

District 10 meets Aug. 16

The District 10 Como Community Council is holding their next Community Council Meeting at the North Dale Recreation Center (1414 Saint Albans St. N) on Tuesday, August 16 from 7-9 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The Council would like to encourage sub-district 3 residents to take this opportunity to attend a meeting in their neighborhood. Sub-district 3 includes residents in the Como Park neighborhood between Victoria Avenue and Dale Street.

The Council is a non-profit organization governed by a 15member volunteer board of directors elected by community residents and business owners. The Council's purpose to provide a voice for the neighborhood in shaping decisions made by the City and local government.

Attending a Community Council Meeting is a great way to meet the board members representing your neighborhood and to stay informed and get involved in the current issues affecting District 10.

District 10's September meeting will be scheduled at their regular location at the Historic Streetcar Station (1224 Lexington Parkway N).

To learn more about District 10 and how you can get involved, please visit www.district10comopark.org or contact Jessie at district10@district10compark.org or 651-644-3889

St. Bernard's Parish Festival held Aug. 21

Saint Bernard's Parish Festival will be held on Sunday, August 21st from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. This year's festival will begin with an Outdoor Mass, celebrated under the big tent, at 10:30 a.m. After mass, join us for a day full of Food, Fun, Games and Entertainment! Festivities include: Entertainment by the Lex-Ham Band, Big Smiles, kids games, merchandise wheel, Country Store with baked goods, Booya, Fried Bananas as well as other food and beverage concessions, Bingo from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. and a Sweepstakes with over \$3,000 in prizes! The event is open to the public- all are welcome and encouraged to attend! The Church of Saint Bernard is located at 187 Geranium Avenue West in St. Paul, MN. For guestions, please call 651-488-6733.

Library Associations hosts Library Love Fest

On Saturday, October 1, 11 am-3 pm, the Hamline Midway Library Association (HMLA) will host its third annual Fall Library Love Festival at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue. The event will include great food, a quality used book sale, live local music, crafts with the Saturday Club, storytime with the Mighty Midway Storytellers,

Kids' and Teens' Book Club meetings, information tables from local businesses and organizations, and more. Admission is free, though there will be opportunities to purchase items to raise money for HMLA's work in support of the library. For further information, contact Julie at gebbengreen@gmail.com Carrie at carriepomeroy@tcq.net. To reserve an information table for a business or organization, please contact Amy at aksireland@yahoo.com with "Library Celebration Table" in the subject line.

Neighborhood Voices readings Sept. 14

On Wednesday, September 14, 6:30-8 pm, the third annual Neighborhood Voices readings series kicks off at the Hamline Midway Library with spoken-word artists from the Canvas Teen Arts Center. Part poetry, part theater, part stand-up comedy, part oratory, part hip hop—spoken-word is one of the most dynamic, engaging performance arts around. Come check out work by two-time National Poetry Slam champion (and critically-acclaimed hip hop artist) Guante, along with teens from the Canvas. The event is free, and refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Carrie at carriepomeroy@tcq.net. The library is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue in St. Paul.

Washington High 50+ Club Reunion Sept. 10

The Washington High School 50+ Club Annual Reunion will be Saturday, September 10th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Prom Ballroom, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale, Minnesota.

The event is open to anyone who attended Washington High School from 1929 through 1961. If you went to Washington High School during these years contact:

Tom Kresko at 651-770-2775 or email slkresko@gmail.com.

Calling all Parents of teens

Do you have questions about teens and driver education? Community Education is hosting a Teen Driver **Education Safety Fair for Parents on** Saturday, September 17, 2011. The fair will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Central High School, 275 N Lexington Pkwy. This free event will include many vendors available to answer you questions and share important information with you about how vital your role as a parent is in keeping your teen safe once they begin to drive. For more information, call the Driver Education Office at 651-744-4924.

Bladder Health Presentation Sept. 13

"Bladder Fitness After Fifty!" pre-

sented by the Director of the MN Continence Association will be the topic at a luncheon on Tues, Sept. 13 at 11:30, 1514 Englewood Avenue. A meal is served at 11:30 (free will donation). The presentation is free and begins at 12:15. Call Hamline Midway Elders to request free transportation (651) 209-6542 or to request information about living well at home.

Program on Advantages of Breastfeeding Sept. 13

The Advantages of Breastfeeding is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, September 13. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more informa-

Free Health Awareness Clinics on Tuesdays

Free blood pressure and nurse consultation clinics for persons 55+ yrs will be held Tuesdays 8/9, 9/13 and 10/11 from Noon-12:30, 1514 Englewood. Enter through the south door, handicapped accessible. Questions call Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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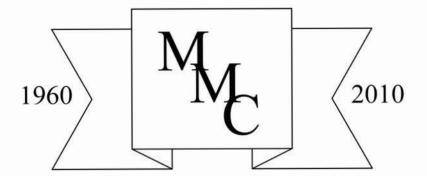
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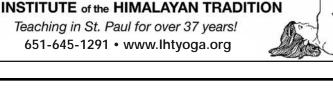
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See **Website** for details

In Our Community

Continued from page 9 VBS at Zion Lutheran

Zion holds Vacation Bible School

in August 15th to 19th between 9 a.m. till noon. Extended day care will be available at minimum cost between 12 noon to 5 p.m. School Supplies will also be distributed during VBS, Please call the church at 651-645-0851 to register. It's free. Bring your children and let them have fun. Our kids summer program continues

on Wednesdays between 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Our food items distribution is on Thursdays between 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Zion is located at 1697 Lafond Ave. Come and enjoy food and fellow-

Women's Bible Study begins Sept. 14

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host a women's Bible study every other Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 14, based on the updated edition of author Beth Moore's book Breaking Free.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Winners

Continued from page 5

"Conflict is not bad of itself, but it all depends on how you handle the situation," he explained.

He said the program he hopes to use the grant funding for will deal with race, prejudice and other injustices. "I'm not sure exactly what the curriculum will be," he said.

He said he hopes to base it in St. Paul Public Housing Community Centers. "I'm still trying to figure out the exact ages I will work with," he said. "This summer was mostly high school students, and it works really well with them."

Branchaud-Linsk said he has worked with the Dispute Resolution Center for about two and a half years. He also has worked on political campaigns and done some anti-war organizing in Minneapolis. His experience at coaching debate has served him well with his project.

Regarding the Facing Race Idea Challenge competition, Branchaud-Linsk said it makes sense to him that both winners are from Hamline University.

"Hamline does a really tremendous job of supporting you and generally teaches people about injustices in the world,"



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Continued from page 11

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In Our Community

Continued from page 10

The Bible study will focus on the Old Testament book of Isaiah to help participants discover the transforming power of Christian freedom. Cost is \$15 for a workbook. To reserve a workbook, contact the church office at 651-644-1421 or Bridget at bridgetkruchowski@comcast.net. All are welcome. Jehovah Lutheran is at Thomas and Snelling.

Program on archaeological digs at library

Join us at Hamline Midway

"Then, the internet was in-

vented," he said. "It was the per-

fect media to share my adven-

tures. Some of the most frustrating parts was trying to find Wii that

worked. I wanted to write a blog

for each day but could not get it

ka and Byrne for different reasons.

self I didn't know I could, I saw

wonderful things, and I met won-

ment every day of being fully en-

gaged on this great adventure,"

said Byrne. "I just feel lucky to

derful people," said Retka.

have the ability and health."

The trip was important to Ret-

"I learned things about my-

"I enjoyed having that excite-

Byrne was surprised to see so

Bikers

Continued from page 1

Minnehaha Ave., on Monday, August 22, 6:30-7:45 p.m., at a program on neighborhood archaeological digs. Over the past few years, archaeology classes from Hamline University have been at work on excavations in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. Led by Professor Brian Hoffman, these digs have been centered on various sites including Hamline United Methodist Church, the Hamline University campus, and several residential backyards. This program will provide an overview of discoveries to date, as well as plans for upcoming digs in fall 2011. Hear from the students themselves and see fascinating artifacts that begin to piece together stories of our past. Visit www.HamlineMidwayHistory.org for more info.

Library Auditorium, 1558 W.

many people cycling on the trip.

"We saw so many long-distance cyclers," he said. "We found people out there like us doing this. On my first trip, I met only one other long-distance cyclist. One this trip, we've met or heard about hundreds of other cyclists doing similar intercontinental adventures. I'm enjoying it more the second time around, too.'

"I didn't know I would like it as much as I did," said Retka. "Two years on a bike. Who would like that?"

The trip was everything both hoped it would be.

"This trip exceeded my greatest expectations," said Byrne. "It was better than I expected. I had someone to follow me to the ends of the Earth. I had somebody to share the experience with. With my pension in the U.S., I can get



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This is a drop-in lab and patrons will be helped on a first-come,

ha Ave, near the intersection of Snelling and Minnehaha, to sign

10:30 a.m. Bring your child to share in the joys of reading.

up for events that require pre-registration. All events are free.

On Wednesdays, August 17 and August 31 the library will host

Toddler and preschool storytimes are offered every Friday at

Call 651-642-0293 or stop by the library at 1558 W Minneha-

Library a regular stop

ing with a therapy dog. Open to ages 6-12.

first-served basis.

Julie Retka, 54, who took a two year leave-of-absence from St. Paul Public Schools, took a two-and-a-half year bike trip with her husband David Byrne, 54, a retired UPS driver.

by. But, in South America or Africa, I felt like a rich man."

"I always said my goal for the trip was to come home alive," said Retka. "I wanted to prove to fami-

ly and friends that the world is not a dangerous place. It happened. I'm here."

For more information, visit www.recyclingtheworld.us.

It's back to school time!

Hamline University

welcomes students from its College of Liberal Arts, School of Business, School of Education, and School of Law back to classes in August and September.

Law students—August 12 and 22 Undergraduates-September 7 Graduate students-September 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hamline University at the Minnesota State Fair Stop by the Hamline booth at the fair and say hello!

Dates: August 25-September 5 Location: Education Building Contact: Tracy Sparby at 651-523-2707 or tsparby@hamline.edu

