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Saint Agnes' championship run rooted in humility and talent

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Saint Agnes baseball coach Mike Streitz had a difficult call to make when the Lions All-Star committee contacted him to choose between two of his nominated players for a roster spot.

Seniors Charlie Turch and Mitch Knippenberg each played vital roles for the Saint Agnes Aggies in their recent Class A state championship run. Streitz had informed both that he had nominated them to the Lions All-Star game.

"I couldn't pick one or the other because each has their own separate values to the team," Streitz said.

Knippenberg had called him later that evening, which he often did prior to games. Streitz informed him of the situation with the Lions All-Stars and that probably neither will get on the team.

Knippenberg texted Streitz following the conversation, "pick Charlie."

"Charlie would have done the same thing," Streitz said. "They're just a very humble group."

The Aggies (23-6) used their humble, team-first approach to put together a championship season. They capped it off with a 6-0 victory over Lac Qui Parle Valley on June 18 at Target Field.

Saint Agnes, a K-12 Catholic school located in Frogtown, not only won their first baseball state title since 2001. They did so by knocking out the top two teams in the state and winning the state title without a single opponent

reaching home plate.

"I can't thank our pitchers enough," Aggies senior first baseman Evan Morehead said. "They did an outstanding job of hitting their spots and getting ahead in the count. Our defense was solid behind our pitchers. We fed off that to get our offense going. To not give up a single run meant that our team was clicking on all cylinders, and when that happens I believe we are hard to beat."

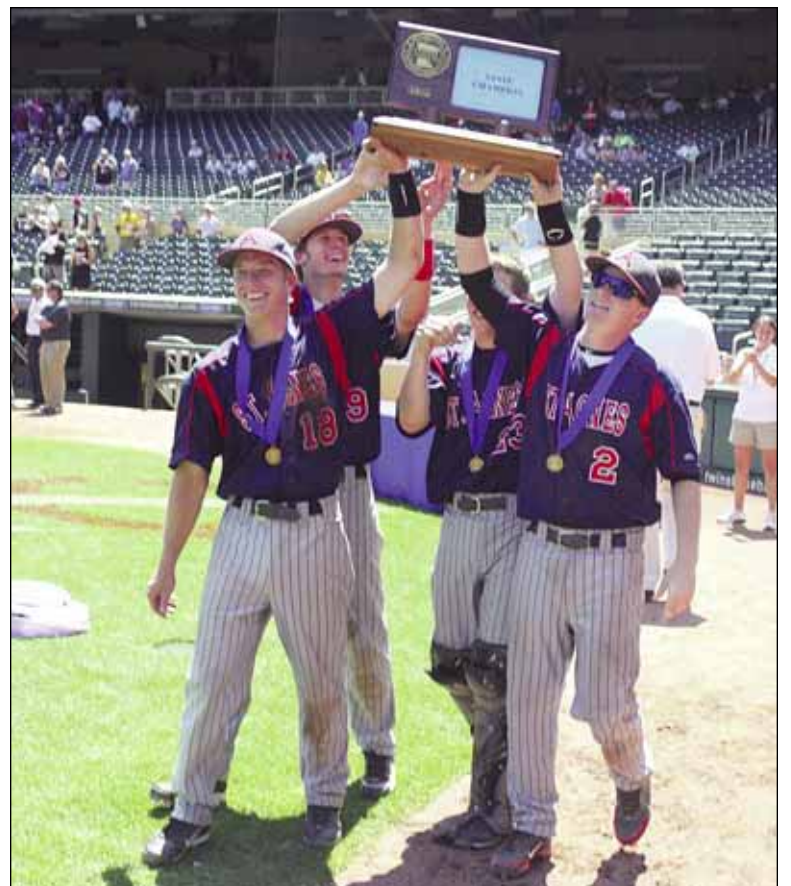
Jack Fossand, a sophomore pitcher, pitched shut outs in two of the Aggies' three games at state. He helped the Aggies hold off previously undefeated and No. 2-ranked New York Mills 1-0 in the quarterfinals with 12 strikeouts.

"I want to throw a no-hitter, that's my mindset," Fossand said.

Streitz also implemented a new play, stealing home base while the pitcher stood on the rubber, for his team prior to the game. Aggies designated hitter Joe McDonald executed the play in the fourth inning for the lone run of the game.

"We got in a situation to use it and it ended up working perfectly," Knippenberg said. "The pitcher stepped off the mound and ended up balking."

The Aggies won their semifinal game with much more breathing room in a 7-0 drubbing of Blackduck. They also jumped on the Lac Qui Parle Valley Eagles early in the title game with three runs in the first inning on three fielding errors. The Aggies never looked back and piled on three more runs



Saint Agnes baseball players (left to right) Charlie Turch, Josh Gutzmann, Mitch Knippenberg and Evan Morehead with the championship trophy. (Photo courtesy of Saint Agnes School)

for the victory.

"Once we jumped up to that 3-0 mark, we could exhale and just play our game," Morehead said. "Like I told our guys, all we have to do now is win every inning and do the little things and avoid big innings."

The Aggies added to their storied baseball history. The team had been back to state a couple times in the past decade since the 2001 title, but came up short. The school also nearly closed six years ago.

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Conny's Creamy Cone rewards students' efforts...

Ice cream sweet reward to Como Elementary's hard work

By DEBORAH BROTZ

On May 4, Como Park Elementary students learned that hard work does pay off. For the second year, Conny McCullough, owner of Conny's Creamy Cone, at 1197 Dale St. N., generously subsidized the cost for Como's 500+ students so they could enjoy a slushie or ice cream cone.

The frozen treats were a reward for the students who had worked hard to do their best on the rigorous MCA III tests during the previous two weeks.

Last year, Como students achieved the second highest gains in reading for elementary

schools in the district. The school was also recognized as a "Beating the Odds" school for their increase in math scores. Administrators and staff are hoping to top that this year.

McCullough decided to subsidize the cost for the students to have a frozen treat because of her ties to the community.

"I was raised by parents who taught me the importance of giving back to the community," she said. "We did it for the kids. Trying to serve that many children in a short amount of time is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



For the second year, Conny McCullough, owner of Conny's Creamy Cone, at 1197 Dale St. N., generously subsidized the cost for Como's 500+ students so they could enjoy a slushie or ice cream cone. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

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Grand Marshals hold court over 2012 Rice Street Festival

By DEBORAH BROTZ

What do Kirsten Libby, Gidget Bailey, and Joan Knippenberg have in common besides owning businesses on Rice Street? All three were chosen to be grand marshals for the 2012 Rice Street Festival Parade, Thursday, July 26, at 7 p.m.

Libby, who has practiced law in the North End since 2003, recently purchased and renovated 855 Rice St. The two-story brick building that had been vacant since the 1980s is where she envisioned an old-fashioned main street law office. The building is home to Libby Law Office on the first floor and Sparc on the second floor.

"I think it's important to have a presence in the Rice Street Parade if you're working in the North End and to be able to give some time and participate in the community," she said.

"It's kind of like being a good will ambassador to the Parade," said Libby. "You make sure folks are comfortable when they participate in the Parade from other areas and you help things along. You help the process run smoothly."

Because she practices law in the area, Libby decided to purchase the building at 855 Rice St.

"I have a lot of clients in the area," she said. "There are really energetic, hard-working people who live here. There are a lot of good people in the neighborhood; good, down-to-earth folks. It's a good mix for me to provide service at a reasonable cost. Also, I think it's nice to have a variety of services in the North End, from grocery stores to legal services and restaurants."

Active in her community, Libby is the past president and current vice president of the North End Business Association.



What do Joan Knippenberg, Gidget Bailey, and Kirsten Libby have in common? All three were chosen to be grand marshals for the 2012 Rice Street Festival Parade, Thursday, July 26, at 7 p.m.

In addition to being a member of the Rice Street Development Team, Libby is also a member of the Rice Street Business Watch.

Libby wants to see the Rice Street commercial corridor revitalized.

"It's got a great potential for developing the neighborhood and good, affordable places to live," she said.

The Rice Street Festival is important to Libby because it's been going on for over 100 years.

"It's a really good opportunity to continue the tradition that's been going on for a century," she said. "If there's something I can do to keep it going on, I'm all for it. It's also a way to bring others into the neighborhood and show them what good things we've got going on."

Joan Knippenberg, who purchased Tin Cup's restaurant and bar June 1, 2011, with Gidget Bailey, grew up in the North End and graduated from Washington High School in 1980.

"We were looking for a place

to call home," she said. "We were looking for a bar. The previous owners were looking to close the doors. That afternoon we decided to buy the place."

Tin Cups had the filming of Man v. Food Nation, which aired on national TV Oct. 5, 2011, in which Jon Wolfe, from Lakeville, Minn., attempted the Lucy Challenge. A Juicy Lucy is two quarter-pound patties pressed together with filling in the middle. This challenge is two, 1-pound Lucifer Juicy Lucy's with 2 pounds of fries. The Lucifers have Pepper Jack cheese, jalapenos and a special Diablo sauce, which is a mixture of several hot sauces. It needs to be eaten in 45 min. to win the Challenge.

"That was a crazy day," she said. "It was a 14-hour day. It was quite interesting. It was a long day, but fun."

Although it's a lot of hard work, Knippenberg enjoys being a co-owner of Tin Cup's.

Knippenberg says she and Bailey did not actually seek being Parade grand marshals but were chosen.

"They surprised us," she said. "It's very much an honor to be named this. This community supports us. We need to give back to this community."

Bailey, a 1985 graduate of St. Bernard's High School, says seven people have completed the Lucy Challenge and, of those, 99 percent are competitive food eaters. People who are not competitive eaters can't do it. The most difficult part of the Lucy Challenge is the french fries.

"They expand in your stomach and you hit your food wall quicker," said Bailey. "They can get the Lucy's down with no problem, but they can't get the french fries down."

Tin Cup's is an active member of North End Business Association, the business crime watch prevention program, and Rice Street Festival planning committee. Bailey also holds a seat on the District 6 Planning Council.

Bailey says the Rice Street Festival has been important to her as long as she can remember.

"I've always attended the Rice Street Parade," she said. "I've lived in the area all my life. It's such an old parade with a lot of history. It's just important that we carry on this tradition."

After the Parade, Born's Bar; Ron's Bar; Wilebski's Blues Saloon; and Dean's Tavern will be doing the first annual "Rockin' & Rollin' Down Rice Street." Each bar will play a different era of music (Ron's, '50s; Born's, '60s; Tin Cup's, '70s; Wilebski's, Blues; and Dean's, Back to '80s). Shuttle buses will be running between bars.

"We look forward to working with them," said Bailey. "The community will really have a good time 'Rockin' & Rollin' Down Rice Street."

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Barricades and blocked streets hurting businesses

By JANE MCCLURE

Central Corridor construction is proceeding ahead of schedule, but that hasn't meant that all is going smoothly, especially east of Hamline Avenue. Concrete barricades, dug-up streets and blocked sidewalks are hurting businesses and angering residents. One of the biggest complaints is how north-south intersections are being rebuilt and how traffic is rerouted. In some cases traffic tie-ups have had cars backed up over Interstate 94.

In late June tempers flared as Ngon Bistro owner Hai Truong accused construction workers of sitting on the sidewalk by his restaurant and eating lunch, blocking pedestrian traffic with their legs. Truong said that was retaliation for his raising concerns about construction workers parking in the neighborhood. He received an apology and visit from Central Corridor project staff and a representative of Walsh Construction. But the issue highlights one of the many challenges in balancing a major project with neighborhood needs.

One of the biggest issues this season has been access across University, especially in the Frogtown and Summit University areas. "The message we're hearing is that it's just too hard to get across University Avenue," said Ward One Council Member Melvin Carter

III. He has been caught in the traffic tie-ups. "It's crazy."

Much of the concern has been at the Western and Victoria intersections, which have been the focus of reconstruction efforts. Central Corridor project, St. Paul Public Works and Walsh staff have been meeting with businesses to work out details on detours, as well as business directional signage and temporary access. Still, some business owners say their income is down by 50 percent or more.

During construction last year on University Avenue's west section, most cross-streets were blocked. Major cross-streets were rebuilt one half at a time, causing long traffic tie-ups and detoured traffic. This year, crews initially opted for short-term closures of major north-south streets, over a period of a few weeks. While Lexington and Dale stayed partially open during construction, the south sides of Hamline and Victoria were closed and rebuilt. Hamline traffic was detoured through Midway Marketplace; Victoria vehicles used Avon Street.

But the Western area was more problematic. Traffic problems generated many complaints, to the point that work stopped in May so that community members could be asked for input.

"As they say, the devil is in the details," said City Engineer

John Maczko. While most streets can be rebuilt half at a time, Western and Victoria are only 40 feet wide. Some residents and business owners have asked for those streets to stay partially open. Keeping two-way traffic during construction, even a single lane in each direction, isn't possible.

Some business owners said they want work done on major intersections as quickly as possible and could live with a shorter-term full street closing. Business owners want detours to be clearly communicated and work to be done quickly. Mai Village owner Mai Nguyen said her family's restaurant at University and Western has lost more than \$20,000 since construction began this spring. Customers get caught in traffic tie-ups and don't come back.

"We cannot survive if it continues like this," she said. "It was bad last year and it's even worse this year. We have people who tell us it takes them an hour to get here."

Residents in neighborhoods north and south of University are unhappy about motorists speeding down their streets, endangering children and side-swiping parked vehicles. They are also upset about late-night construction noise. Pedestrians have to navigate through muddy areas to get across and then evade speeding traffic.



Concrete barricades, dug-up streets and blocked sidewalks are hurting businesses and angering residents. One of the biggest complaints is how north-south intersections are being rebuilt and how traffic is rerouted. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

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Como Council Corner

By Jon Knox, Board Chair of the District 10 Como Community Council

Celebrate the neighborhood at Como Fest

It's time to celebrate the Como neighborhood! Bring your neighbors, and join us for Como Fest (formerly known as Staycation) set for Thursday, July 19 through Sunday, July 22. For the 3rd year in a row, we will bring you "hot fun in the neighborhood" with family-friendly activities at several locations around the neighborhood. Neighbors can appreciate all that the Como Park neighborhood has

to offer, while enjoying an affordable weekend celebration in their own backyard.

Como Fest continues to expand as a weekend event that is fun for the whole family. "It is exciting to see the event grow," said Jessica Bronk, District 10 Administrator and Coordinator. "We have even more events than last year, and fun activities for all ages."

Thursday, July 19

The long weekend will kickoff on Thursday with the Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival from 3-9 p.m. There will be entertainment on two stages, interactive art exhibits and demonstrations, make-it and take-it art activities, fun games and great food

Friday, July 20

Friday events include a Wine & Cheese Neighborhood Social at Black Bear Crossings from 5-7 p.m. A \$15.00 pre-registration is required. Coffee Grounds will also be hosting a talent show from 6-7 p.m. and live music and food from 7-10 p.m. NW Como Recreation Center will have family activities starting at 6:30 p.m., including a puppet show from 8:15-8:45 p.m. and an outdoor movie featuring "The Muppets" beginning at 9 p.m.

Saturday, July 21

Saturday events begin early at 8am with a flea market in the fields of NW Como Recreation Center. And don't miss the Como Park Art Festival at Como Park Lutheran Church from 9-3 p.m., including make-

and-take it art project for kids from 10-12 p.m. The widely popular garden tour throughout Como Park will be from 10-2 p.m. Maps will be made available online. Head over to the NW Como Rec Center from 11-1 p.m. for free kite-making for kids and kid's activities until 4 p.m. Coffee Grounds will top it off again with their summer music festival from 2-10 p.m.

Sunday, July 22

Join the Como Park Lutheran Church on Sunday morning for a Parking Lot Worship at 10 a.m. The busy weekend will finish off with a kickball tournament starting at 2 p.m. at the NW Como Recreation Center and more live music at the Coffee Grounds from 2-10 p.m.

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News from District 6

News from District 6 Planning Council

National Night Out is the nation's largest, annual crime prevention/safety event in the country. District Councils are charged with

incorporating Crime Prevention into our work plans. At District 6 we work closely with neighbors, businesses, block clubs, Western

District Police, Central District Police, Department of Safety and Inspections other stakeholders and with Ward 1 and Ward 5 to ad-

dress the quality of life crimes/concerns that can really effect neighborhoods. If we can help with any concerns you may have don't hesitate to call us.

We appreciate the help! You are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. Also if you see something and think, well they'll be gone before the police can respond, or maybe this isn't important enough to bother with, please rethink and call. Even if they are gone before the police arrive, you have made sure with that one call

that there is a public record. That's how it works—call and get it into the record, build the record and at some point you will see results. If there is no call, there is nothing to look at, it's like it never happened. Call 651-291-1111 the general line and always call 911 if needed. Then call us. We'll start a file and see what is happening. It's great if you can get your neighbors to call as well. One thing to remember: know the address/intersection where the problem is and make sure you give that to dispatch.

National Night Out is "America's Night Out Against Crime," and began in 1984. It is a night where neighbors come together to support crime prevention. The partnerships between the community and police teams are supported at these events, as well as community relationships in general. The night is designed to get neighbors out talking and getting to know each other, celebrate safety and everyone's enthusiasm and determination to prevent crime in their neighborhood.

District 6 Planning Council supports our block clubs or neighbors who want to have a NNO event. We will assist you with your flyers, creating them or just having them printed, we have crime prevention literature and some give aways. You can also email us if you need any forms to block off your street or invite the Fire Department and/or the Police Department.

This year National Night Out is Tuesday, August 7th. If you have your own event please consider sharing your photos with us, if you don't have plans please join us at the District Wide event co-sponsored with Como Avenue Block Club and Parks and Recreation at Marydale Park from 6:00 to 8 p.m. Volunteers are always needed! district6ed@dist6pc.org, www.district6stpaul.org, 651-488-4485.

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July 18: Bueller...Bueller...Bueller? Life moves pretty fast. Come on, live a little. Skip out on work and join us for the game (1:05 p.m.)

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Second oldest festival in St. Paul promises to be bigger and better than ever



By DEBORAH BROTZ

Since Rice Street is the second oldest street in St. Paul, it makes sense that it also has the second oldest festival in St. Paul. With new Rice Street Royalty Director Cindy Shanley, who created some new events, the Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever.

While the first event, the Kick Off Dinner, was held on June 6, the next event is the Queen's Tea/Fashion Show Brunch, on Sat., July 14, at 11 a.m., at Eventi Bella, 2900 Rice St., Little Canada. The Parade will be on Thurs., July 26, at 7 p.m. Before the Parade, at 6:30 p.m., the Richard A. Hoska Rice Street Mile, a flat, fast one-mile race will be held starting at the intersection of Rice Street and Front Avenue.

Some events will be held in Rice Park at the Lawson Avenue ball field area beginning with a Kiddie Parade at 10 a.m. Children should bring a canned good to go to Keystone Community Services and have a Rice Street Festival Button to participate. The High Heel Race will be at noon.

The Talent Contest will be held at 1 p.m., in the Capital Bank parking lot, 1020 Rice St. The Street Dance will begin at 5 p.m., at Dean's Tavern, 1986 Rice Street, who is hosting the Dance for them.

St. Paul Parks & Recreation

Kickball Tournament will also be Sat., July 28, at Rice Recreation Center, on Rice Street and Lawson Avenue.

Sun., July 29, is the Coronation, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m., at Eventi Bella.

The Festival's Premier Event Sponsor is Eventi Bella. Another sponsor is Kanes Catering Service.

All events will be on Rice Street this year. A \$5 Festival button is needed to participate.

"Everything will be on Rice Street because it's a tribute to Rice Street businesses," Shanley said.

2012 Candidates and Sponsors are: Sarah Tobin, Dar's Double Scoop; Peggy Ly, Rice Street Family Dental Care; Kara Berzelius, Mike's Complete Auto; Heather Logan, Ma Ma's Pizza; and Shakira Jones, Kamps Grocery.

Shanley decided to be royalty director because she enjoys guiding the girls in the program.

"I love working with the young women of the Royalty Programs," she said. "I like watching them grow and guiding them along as representatives for the community. I designed their

crown. I wanted to design a crown specifically for Rice Street. The colors for Rice Street and North Winds Titans are royal blue, silver, and white. I designed the crown using those colors."

One of the girls will be sponsored by the Rice Street Festival to participate in the Winter Carnival Queen of Snows Program.

"The Rice Street Festival is a



feeder to the Winter Carnival Queen of Snows Candidate Program," said Shanley. "The North End Community Foundation gives us a scholarship for our girls once they complete their reign. This year the three outgoing ladies will get scholarships."

The Royalty are kept busy during the year of their reign representing Rice Street.

"They visit surrounding festivals, and they volunteer their time for different programs such as the Salvation Army, Feed My Starving Children, Keystone Community Services, and Operation Slipper, which helps the less fortunate get a gown or dress for a certain event," said Shanley.

At the Queen's Tea/Fashion Show Brunch, the Queen and two Princesses

give their farewell speeches. The candidates wear a personality outfit that best describes their personality. The girls will wear an outfit from Dress Barn in Woodbury and from Sienna Cole Bridal in Forest Lake. They will also wear jeans from Vault Denim and a top from Dress Barn. Regular admission is \$17, Royalty admission is \$10.

"This event is for people to see and meet the candidates and current Royalty," said Shanley. "This is a way to showcase the new candidates and give a farewell to the Queen and two Princesses."

Shanley says this year people will see more of a participation from businesses in the Rice Street Parade.

"You will see more businesses in the Parade than you've ever seen before," she said. "Gidget from Tin Cup's has been a big backer of getting businesses involved. She's rallied to get businesses more involved."

Shanley says she has created several new events for the Festival.

"The Talent Contest went away, and I brought it back," she said. "I created the Kiddie Parade. In order to participate, kids have to bring a canned good. There will be a prize for the best decorated bike or wagon."

The High Heel Race is a new event.

"In visiting other councils, I found out they always have something to highlight the festival," said Shanley. "The heels cannot be more than 2-1/2 inches tall. My husband, Tim Shanley, who was Ferty 2009 Vulcan for the Winter Carnival, will emcee the event for me."

The Coronation is where the new Royalty will be crowned.

"On the stage, the candidates will be asked questions, and the judges will judge them on how

they answer the questions," said Shanley. "The three outgoing Royal ladies will have a little bit of speaking time. Without the ambassadors, nobody would know about Rice Street. The Festival and the North End Business Association celebrate its rich neighborhood history and working-class roots by promoting and celebrating community pride and citizen interaction."

When she was doing her homework and learning about the Rice Street area to help her girls with their interviews, Shanley got the idea to choose "A Tribute to Rice Street Businesses."

"What sparked me to base the whole fest on businesses was the rich neighborhood history, working-class roots of the people, and the history of businesses once there," she said. "Rice Street is one of the oldest streets in St. Paul. I thought why not give it to them this year."

Shanley has high hopes for the Festival.

I'm hoping to see a whole lot more community involvement than I've ever seen before," she said. "I hope to see more people participate and come out. There are events for young and old. There's new blood that's come in. We want to help rejuvenate the Festival and get more community involvement."

For more information, visit ricestreetfestival.com.



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See Website for details

In Our Community

St. Columba holds Fun Fest July 14 & 15

Saint Columba Church, 1327 Lafond Avenue, will hold their fourth annual Fun-Fest, July 14 and 15, Saturday Noon to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a wonderful blend of authentic Vietnamese food such as Egg Rolls, Pho, and Pork Skewers and American classics such as BBQ Ribs, burgers, hot dogs and cotton candy. A variety of beverages will be served including ice-cold beer, soft drinks, shaved ice, boba tea, and bottled water. There will be an all-cash raffle, games of chance, children's games, bingo, musical entertainment and ethnic dancing. This event will be held rain or shine. Admission to this event is free of charge. Free vacation Bible school mornings July 23-27.

Knox Church Yard Sale July 21

Household items, books, clothing for kids and adults, baked goods and more. Additional items inside our historical building. Saturday, July 21st 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 1536 Minnehaha Avenue West. Located one block east of Snelling Avenue, next door to Hamline Library.

Central Lutheran students make wood-duck houses

Central Lutheran School students built 10 wood-duck houses to donate to Camp Omega, a Lutheran camp near Waterville, Minn. The seven students were directed in the after-school activity by volunteer Dave Jahr, whose wife taught at Central Lutheran. The pre-K through grade 8 school is at 775 N. Lexington Pkwy.

Free vacation Bible School at Jehovah Church

Free vacation Bible school is set for 9 a.m.-1 p.m. from Monday, July 23, to Friday, July 27, at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas. A partner congregation called The Alley is leading the sessions. An Ethiopian partner congregation, Mekane Yesus, will be involved as well. Sessions will include a free lunch each day. The curriculum is called "Back Stage With the Bible," from a popular Christian band called Go Fish (www.gofishguys.com). The sessions are best for children entering kindergarten through grade 6 this autumn. All are welcome.

Old-timers Softball Game July 25

The Old-timers Softball Game will be July 25 at 6 p.m. at Rice and Cook fields. The game is the kick-off event for the Festival. The game is sponsored by Stasny's Food Market and Kamp's Food Market. Hosted by Tin Cup's for the party after the game. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!

North End Improvement Club back on Rice St.

The North End Improvement Club is once again meeting on Rice Street, at St. Bernard's, Rice and Geranium, the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information call George Kramlinger at 651-486-4963.

Como-Midway La Leche meets August 14

Nutrition and Weaning is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, August 14. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their

babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Anniversary Celebration July 18 at Block Nurse

You are cordially invited to the 20 year Anniversary Celebration of the Merriam Park Living at Home/Block Nurse Program. This event will take place at O'Gara's Restaurant at the intersection of Selby and Snelling Avenue. It will be on Wednesday July 18th, from 6-8 p.m. Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

'When Should I Stop Driving?' to be topic

"When Should I Stop Driving," will be addressed by a representative from the Courage Center at a luncheon on Tues., Aug. 14, 11:30, at 1514 Englewood Ave. A \$4 free will donation is asked for the meal, there is no cost to attend the program which begins at 12:15 p.m. Call for free transportation or to learn more how Hamline Midway Elders helps seniors live well at home 651-209-6542.

Shop locally, support HM businesses

A book of "use again & again" coupons good for discounts at 17 Hamline Midway businesses is now available for sale at Black Sea, Groundswell Coffee, Fusion Salon, Flamingo Restaurant, Borealis Yarns and Hartland Shoes or call 651-209-6542. Books are \$20 or \$10 for persons 65+. All proceeds support HM Elders.

Networking group promotes resource and idea sharing

A casual networking group for persons 50+ meets at Groundswell Coffee, corner of Hamline and Thomas Aves., the third Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Contact HM Elders at 651-209-6542 for more info.

July 23 Rein in Sarcoma "Party" at Como Park

Come enjoy a fun family night from 6-9 pm with a silent auction, lots of entertainment, activities for

kids, and a chance to win \$1,000 or an Apple Ipad in the raffle drawing. This event helps to raise money for sarcoma cancer research. Sarcoma is a rare aggressive cancer often striking children and young adults. Celebrate life, honor those who have not lived, and support cancer research. Volunteers are needed! There are many fun jobs for both adults and youth. For more information or to volunteer please check our website at www.reininsarcoma.org or contact Nancy Hendrickson at 651-214-5821.

Wingspan Ministry Uganda Project Benefit

Peterson Toscano, highly regarded theatrical performance activist, performs to benefit Wingspan's Uganda Project, supporting Bp. Christopher Senyonjo's efforts to secure safety & dignity for LGBTQ persons in Uganda. Friday Aug. 10 at 7 p.m., Hamline University, Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave.: "Transfigurations: Transgressing Gender in the Bible" Must see events offer hearty laughter and poignant insight. Tickets: www.stpaulref.org/wingspan or at the door. \$15 general admission, \$10 students/limited income; \$10 group sales (10+). Contact David Weiss, 651-645-2079, drw59@comcast.net.

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Conny's

Continued from page 1

quite a challenge. My employees were good sports about it, too."

Last year, McCullough also subsidized the cost of giving the students a frozen treat.

"Judy Paitich, who works in the office, called me and asked if we would donate," she said. "It sounded like quite a challenge. But, I thought we needed to do it for the kids. They do a wonderful job at Como. Everybody has so much passion for the students."

McCullough felt it was important to reward the students.

"I think it teaches students the value of hard work," she said. McCullough hopes the reward she's given the students will inspire them to continue to do well.

"I think it's positive reinforcement," she said. "Hopefully, it will be a grade school memory that they'll never forget."

Kathy Sullivan, a Como Elementary kindergarten teacher, says the students sent in their orders before they arrived for their treats.

"Our lunch schedule is staggered," she said. "You could see little pockets of kids going down and little pods or pockets of kids coming back on Maryland. We had voted back in the classroom. We sent her an order so the ice



"They do a wonderful job at Como. Everybody has so much passion for the students."

- Connie McCullough
Conny's Creamy Cone

cream machine wouldn't over-heat. It was pretty slick. It worked out really well."

The students were rewarded for the hard work they did in taking the MCA III tests.

"They take the tests every spring," said Sullivan. "It's statewide testing to see if they're learning what they're supposed to learn. They start taking the tests in third grade and take them up to sixth grade."

Sullivan says it takes awhile to find out how the students did on the tests.

"We won't find out until August," she said.

Doing well on the MCA III tests is one of Como's goals.

"Everybody is working very hard to meet the state standards,"

said Sullivan. "Part of it determines how much funding the school district gets. We made 12 percent gains last year in the tests they took in the spring 2011. We're really proud. We have so many second language kids. They have to be able to understand academic English. Sometimes, it's a little harder even if they speak English well."

This gesture by Conny's is important to Como because these students are our country's future.

"The whole idea is not just to reward what kids are doing on their own but the whole school community together," said Sullivan. "Everybody wants them to do well. They're the future workers of the American community."

Saint Agnes'

Continued from page 1

"This state championship was extremely important to our Saint Agnes Community," Streitz said. "We nearly closed in 2006, we are financially stable now and thriving. But it is no secret that our athletics have been down a bit due to remaining in the Tri-Metro Con-

ference where we are the smallest school. This team showed everyone that we can win consistently when the coaching staff and players strive towards a common goal."

A tough regular season schedule helped prepare the Aggies for teams such as West Lutheran in postseason play. The Warriors had been ranked No. 1 in Minnesota Class A and were recognized in the ESPN High School Magazine. The Aggies took two of three games against the Warriors to ad-

vance to state.


"We had a lot of composure," Fossand said.

Four of the six graduating seniors will play college baseball. In addition, Fossand, Turch and Morehead made the All-Tournament team.

Turch also earned Class A Player of the Year honors and All-State honors. He and Knippenberg, also an all-state award winner, represented the Aggies at the Lions All-Star game.

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Hamline Midway Coalition

BY MICHAEL JON OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HMC

Friendly Streets Initiative moving forward

Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC), Frogtown Neighborhood Association (FNA), and the City of St. Paul invite all interested residents to attend two public meetings on plans to transform Charles Avenue into a "friendly street" – one that is safe and inviting for all users, including local residents and those traveling through the Frogtown and Hamline Midway neighborhoods. The meetings will be held 7 – 9 p.m., Tuesday, July 17 and 7 – 9 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, both at the Central Corridor Resource Center (1080 University Avenue, near the intersection of Lexington and University).

Since 2010, the Friendly

Streets Initiative, a joint project of HMC and FNA, has engaged area residents in a discussion about the transformation of Charles Avenue. Almost 900 people have participated in Friendly Streets events and presentations, including five block parties along Charles during the summer of 2011, and have expressed over 2400 opinions about potential street design features.

Several themes emerged from these discussions. First, residents think that there are too many cars, often driving too fast, on Charles, and therefore the street is especially unsafe for children. Further, residents worry

that traffic levels may increase when construction on the LRT is completed. To solve these problems, residents express overwhelming support for making Charles calmer, quieter, and safer for residents and their children, and easier for bicyclists and pedestrians to use. Among the most popular street design concepts are traffic circles, median refuges for pedestrians and bicyclists at difficult crossings (such as Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Marion), and speed bumps. Residents also feel strongly that Charles would benefit from beautifying and place-making elements such as landscaping, permeable pavement, sidewalk mo-

saics and neighborhood book exchange kiosks.

These thoughts reflect residents' genuine concern and care for the place they live. According to Friendly Streets Initiative leader and local resident Lars Christiansen, "What we have learned from residents of Frogtown and Hamline Midway is that people are tremendously proud of their neighborhood and their streets. They care about preserving what they like about their streets, and they want to see their streets and their own blocks improved even more. I've been overwhelmed by the pride-in-place that I've heard from people all along Charles in both Frogtown and Hamline-Midway."

Recognizing this local sentiment, the Friendly Streets Initiative has drawn support from Councilmember Melvin Carter (Ward 1) and Councilmember Russ Stark (Ward 4). At the upcoming public meetings, the City of St. Paul will present plans to improve crossings at major intersections (Snelling, Lexington,



One of the photos from last year's block party as part of the Friendly Streets Initiative about the transformation of Charles Avenue.

Dale, Marion, Rice, Western and Hamline) and to calm traffic along Charles through traffic circles, raised intersections, and other design elements. These changes reflect the opinions of residents who have engaged in the Friendly Streets Initiative and will make Charles a more friendly street for residents and all users. Come to the meetings and show your support!

District 10

Continued from page 4

Spots are still available for vendors and participants in the flea market, talent show and cheese and wine neighborhood social.

For more information and for a full schedule of events, visit www.district10comopark.org/2012comofest.html. You can also find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ComoFest>. Contact Jessie at 651-644-3889 or district10@district10comopark.org with any questions.

Partners and participants in the Como Fest include the District 10 Como Community Council, Northwest Como Rec Center, Chelsea Heights PTO, the Coffee Grounds, the Como Park/Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program, Como Park Lutheran Church, the Como Park Language and Arts Preschool and Childcare Center, Lyngblomsten, Hubert H Humphrey Job Corps Center, Kinderberry Hill Child Development Center and Black Bear Crossings.

(Jon Knox, elected in 2009, is the board chair of the District 10 Como

Community Council. The Como Community Council serves an important role in advising the City about issues that directly affect residents in the Como Park neighborhood. The Council works with residents and community partners to promote public safety, maintain good housing, improve environmental quality, foster a healthy business climate and maintain a desirable neighborhood. Board Members are residents, business owners and volunteers who dedicate their time to education and outreach in the community. For more information, visit www.district10comopark.org.)

Classifieds

Continued from page 11

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Friday, July 6
6:45 p.m.

Authors:

Ron Koertge
Jacqueline
Briggs-Martin
Liza Ketchum
Kelly Easton
Gene Yang

Sunday, July 8
6:45 p.m.

Authors:

Eleanora Tate
Laura Ruby
Marsha Chall
Jane Resh
Thomas
Swati Avasthi

Monday, July 9
6:45 p.m.

Authors:

Marilyn Nelson
Marsha Qualey
Gary Schmidt
Phyllis Root

Friday, July 13
2-2:30 p.m.

Authors:

David Small

Saturday, July 15
1-1:30 p.m.

Authors:

Cris Crutcher

All readings take place in Giddens Learning Center, room 100E, located at 1556 Hewitt Avenue on Hamline University's Saint Paul campus.