

Successful deli is a dream come true for Somali immigrant Kahin

By Carolyn Walkup

For all of his success as a restaurateur, Afro Deli owner Abdirahman Kahin never imagined he would be named National Small Business Person of the Year and honored at a reception in the White House. The award, presented this spring by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), recognizes entrepreneurs who have excelled at leadership and in creating thriving businesses. The state of Minnesota bestowed a similar honor on Kahin in 2022.

Kahin was a young man in his 20s when he left his parents and siblings in Somalia in 1996 and immigrated to the U.S. He left behind what he described as “a harsh life” in pursuit of his American dream. He chose Minnesota because of its large East African population and the state’s reputation for warm people and good opportunities in education and employment.

Kahin initially wanted to become a filmmaker and enrolled in the media production program at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. He also found free-lance work as a videog-



Abdirahman Kahin outside of his Afro Deli in downtown Saint Paul. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

rapher, making use of his avocation in photography. Then, in 2010, Kahin saw an opportunity to introduce the Twin Cities to African cuisine. With help from the African Development Center, a Minnesota non-profit that teaches financial literacy and helps small businesses get loans and grants, he opened his first Afro Deli in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis.

“My biggest challenge was how to bring people in who had never tried African food,” he said. He reached out to students from the nearby Carlson School of Management and Augsburg

University. He hired the students to fill jobs in the restaurant, and soon word of his Afro Deli spread to other students and to faculty.

“The students were my best advocates,” he said. They also gave him tips about how to market the restaurant, especially through social media. Kahin employs one of those students today as his social media marketing specialist.

College students tend to be adventurous eaters, Kahin discovered. They were not afraid to try unfamiliar spic-

AFRO DELI'S KAHIN ▶3

Parks Commission splits 4-3 in favor of Summit Avenue trail

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommended approval of the proposed Summit Avenue Regional Trail on a split vote on May 11 with four commissioners in favor, three in opposition and four who were absent. The plan for the 4.7-mile recreational trail now goes to the City Council for a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24.

The regional trail would extend from Mississippi River Boulevard to Kellogg Boulevard. It would replace Summit’s on-street bike lanes with an off-street path raised and separated from motor vehicle traffic but built within the existing curb lines for the most part.

The plan has been a lightning rod for controversy, with thousands of people commenting online or in writing in support or opposition. The plan is favored by many cyclists who claim it would make for safer riding as well as better winter maintenance.

Opponents contend that the proposed trail would be detrimental to Summit’s historic character and lead to the loss of hundreds of mature trees. The loss of on-street parking would harm businesses and institutions east of Lexington Parkway, opponents say. Some believe the trail would become clogged with a variety of users and drive the serious cyclists back onto the street.

Other plan opponents want more time to discuss alternatives. Members of the Summit Avenue Resi-

SUMMIT BIKE TRAIL ▶6

GABA prepares for golden return of Grand Old Day on June 4

By Jane McClure

Grand Old Day, often referred to as Saint Paul’s first rite of summer, will make a comeback on Sunday, June 4, after a three-year absence. The 50th anniversary event will have familiar features, including a fun run, parade, bands, arts area and family zone. It will also have many new sponsors and partners, with the assistance of the Saint Paul Area Chamber.

“We’re excited to bring Grand Old Day back to Saint Paul,” said co-chair Chris Jensen, president of the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA). “We have a great core group of volunteers and we hope the momentum continues for the future.”

“It’s been a lot of work, but we’ve had fun,” said co-chair Brian Wagner.

Jensen recalled attending the first Grand Old Day 50 years ago as a toddler. The event began as a fundraiser for the Children’s Hospital Association’s Free Bed Fund. By 1977, the hospital had withdrawn due to the amount of work required to put on the event. That was the year GABA took over as the festival’s organizer.

Wagner’s Grand Old Day experiences date to when he worked at Macalester College as director of student life. He recalled avoiding the festival because of all of the beer drinking in the street. (Fenced-in beer gardens were added in 1994, followed by wristbands in 1995, both to better control

drinking.) Both co-chairs said they want Grand Old Day 2023 to be an even more family-friendly event.

Grand Old Day has long been one of the largest one-day street festivals in the Upper Midwest, typically drawing upwards of 200,000 people. GABA’s past financial and staffing struggles meant the 2019 festival almost did not happen. A small group of business owners and neighbors rallied at the 11th hour to raise enough money and other support to pull off the event.

Grand Old Day was one of many local festivals canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. GABA also put off holding the event in 2022, saying it needed more time to plan and raise money.

The Saint Paul Chamber has helped bring in additional partners for this year’s festival. One key partnership is with Minnesota Public Radio and its 89.3 the Current. The Current is the curator for the main stage musical lineup.

Andersen Windows is also coming in as a sponsor, not just for Grand Old Day but also for GABA’s pet-friendly Paws on Grand and holiday Grand Meander.

White Bear Mitsubishi, which has been a parade sponsor since 2010, is back. “We’re glad to have a longtime sponsor return, as well as the new sponsors,” Wagner said.

The organizing committee has greatly

GRAND OLD DAY ▶3

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Committee recommends amending Ford site plan for UST stadiums

Concerns about public use of facilities remain

By Jane McClure

The Saint Paul Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee voted 4-2 on May 10 to recommend the approval of six amendments to the master plan for the Highland Bridge redevelopment project. The changes would make it possible for the University of Saint Thomas to construct new baseball and softball stadiums and a parking lot near the southeast corner of the 122-acre site.

The amendments will be reviewed by the full Planning Commission on May 26. They will then be forwarded to the City Council for a final public hearing and vote.

The baseball and softball stadiums would have 1,500 and 1,000 seats, respectively. A shared concourse and an indoor practice facility are also planned along with a 200-space parking lot. The facilities would be constructed on 13.66 acres previously used as a rail yard by Canadian Pacific Railway.

The major amendments are technical in nature, centering on parking, setbacks, relocation of a shared transportation corridor and other site design issues. They have the support of UST and Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies.

A representative of Highland Ball, which owns and operates two nearby ball fields, testified in support of the amendments. Several neighbors sent letters in support, as did Cretin-Derham Hall. Highland Ball, CDH and other local schools and sports programs may be able to share the pro-



This diagram above shows the University of Saint Thomas' plan for new softball and baseball stadiums on the former site of the Canadian Pacific rail yard southwest of Montreal and Cleveland avenues.

posed facilities.

UST plans to make the sport facilities available for rental by outside groups, although the rental fees have not been determined, according to Amy McDonough, chief of staff for UST president Robert Vischer. The parking lot will be available for free use when UST is not using it, she said.

Planning commissioners Luis Rangel Morales and Deborah Mitchell cast the two votes against the amendments. Mitchell said that without knowing what UST would charge for ball field rental, she could not support the amendments.

Rangel Morales said public use of the fields is important to him as well. He was involved in the review of the original master plan for Highland Bridge, and he questioned whether the amendments would be consistent with that plan.

City planners Josh Williams and Spen-

cer Miller Johnson said city staff consider UST's use of the Highland Bridge parcel as consistent with the master plan and the site's zoning.

Assistant City Attorney Peter Warner said that while the Planning Commission can state its preferences for the public's use, it cannot require it as a condition for the master plan's amendments.

The commissioners asked if they could delay action on the amendments, which need to be acted on by the City Council no later than July 14. (State law requires cities to act on zoning matters within 60 days.) UST and Ryan Companies have already agreed to one 60-day extension. A City Council vote is anticipated on July 12. When the \$40 million sports complex would be built hinges on fundraising, UST officials said.

During the public hearing on the Highland Bridge amendments, most of the

comments by members of the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee focused on public use of the UST facilities. One commissioner said that UST had stopped leasing space to a summer youth camp on its main campus. Others questioned the amount of public involvement in the plans.

Ryan Companies and UST officials have been meeting with the Highland District Council for more than a year to discuss plans for the Highland Bridge site. They have also hosted two open houses on UST's plans for Highland Bridge. The HDC is recommending approval of the amendments.

Another issue the committee focused on is parking. The master plan for Highland Bridge encourages parking in ramps or within buildings, not in parking lots. UST's parking lot is being planned in a way that it could be redeveloped as a parking ramp in the future.

Master plans are used by the city for large development projects to specify zoning and land uses, street networks, parks and other other physical details. The Highland Bridge master plan has been amended five times since it was adopted by the City Council in 2017. If the latest amendments are approved by the City Council, the site plan for the UST sports complex will still have to be approved by city staff. The Planning Commission could also choose to hold a public hearing on the site plan.

Correction

Big E, a new sandwich shop, will be opening in the space formerly occupied by Grand Pizzeria at 750 Grand Ave. Grand Ole Creamery will continue operating in the storefront next door.

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Maddie Howard presented son Levi with a souvenir the last time Grand Old Day was held in 2019. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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appreciated the help of the chamber, the mayor's office and Saint Paul Police Department, according to Wagner and Jensen, but they admitted that organizing Grand Old Day 2023 has had its challenges.

Security costs for this year's festival top \$100,000, according to the co-chairs. Those costs have tripled in the wake of tragedies, including a 2021 Christmas parade in Wisconsin when a man drove into the event and killed spectators and parade participants.

One small way people can help support this year's Grand Old Day is by purchasing a beer garden wristband. The cost is \$10 in advance at grandave.com. The price goes up to \$15 on the day of event.

Grand Old Day 2023 will kick off at 8 a.m. with a 2-mile fun run organized by the Running Room. Runners will hoof it from the Patagonia parking lot near Macalester College to Dale Street. The cost is \$25 and includes a T-shirt. Registration runs through June 2. Visit tinyurl.com/499cfu8a.

The run will be followed by the Grand Old Day parade at 9:30 a.m. wending its way in the opposite direction from Dale Street to Fairview Avenue. The grand marshal is scheduled to be chef Justin Sutherland, whose new Big E restaurant is opening soon next to the Grand Ole Creamery.

The day's other events take place from

11 a.m.-6 p.m. Several music stages are planned. The longtime Dixie's on Grand parking lot is no more due to ongoing construction of the Kenton House mixed-use development. The Kenton House stage, with Irish music and Celtic dancers, will move to the nearby Walgreens parking lot.

U.S. Bank will host the Pride stage to celebrate the local LGBTQ community. There also will be the Grand Stage sponsored by the Current, Red Rabbit stage, Iron Ranger stage and Youth stage.

Other events running throughout this year's Grand Old Day include:

- A car show on Grand and Hamline avenues sponsored by Sinclair Oil and State Farm Insurance.
- A Family Fun Zone, arts area and non-profits area.
- A wiener dog dash at Macalester College.
- A pickleball exhibition featuring four nationally ranked women's players in one of the parking lots of the Wedding Shoppe. Its other parking lot will feature a cornhole tournament.

Sponsors and vendors were still being sought through May 24 for this year's Grand Old Day. "We still have a few vendor spots available," Jensen said.

Art vendor spots are also available, Wagner added. And both co-chairs said Grand Old Day can always use more volunteers.

For more information and an updated schedule of events, visit grandave.com.

14 AFRO DELI'S KAHIN

es. Knowing that most Minnesotans are not used to spicy foods, his chefs keep the spice levels "Minnesota-friendly," he said.

Among Kahin's more popular dishes are the Sambusas—pastry pockets filled with beef, chicken or vegetables—and Chicken Fantastic with Creamy Sauce, a combination of ground chicken, cheese, vegetables and African spices. He also serves entrée salads and a variety of sandwiches and wraps with African accents. For the less adventurous, he offers cheeseburgers and fries along with a kids' menu. His signature beverages are Ethiopian coffee and Somali sweet spiced tea. Customers order at the counter and have their food delivered to their tables.

Once his Cedar-Riverside restaurant was firmly established, Kahin obtained an SBA loan and opened a second Afro Deli in 2015 at 5 W. Seventh Place. His best customers in downtown Saint Paul were government employees. He tried opening a restaurant in the skyway food court in downtown Minneapolis' Baker Building, but closed it in 2020 when COVID-19 struck and many employees began working from home. His other Minneapolis restaurant in Stadium Village at 720 Washington Ave. SE has remained open as workers slowly began coming back to work.

Kahin also sells grab-and-go foods at five outlets operated by Hudson News at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport. The food is prepared in his commissary at

the downtown Saint Paul location, which has grown from 1,000 to 5,000 square feet since it first opened.

His Saint Paul staff also prepares 400 meals daily under contract with Meals on Wheels, Second Harvest Heartland and Ramsey County. Kahin began that work during the pandemic when he saw a need to supplement the food budgets of people at risk for food insecurity. "When you own a restaurant, you have some responsibility to your neighbors," he said.

Kahin also has raised money to help alleviate hunger in his native country. He worked with other restaurants to provide relief during the drought in East Africa in 2017. "We are always ready to respond when something bad happens," he said.

An ongoing project Kahin supports is the nonprofit Books for Africa organization. He recently raised money to ship around 110,000 books to partner organizations that distribute the books in Africa. He is on the board of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance and is a member of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Kahin is the best," said Downtown Alliance president Joe Spencer. "We're thrilled for his well-deserved recognition. Kahin, chef Moussa and the whole Afro Deli team are the secret sauce that makes downtown Saint Paul such a great place."

"My dream came true," Kahin said, looking back on his career so far. "Now everybody in Minnesota knows something about African cuisine."

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Parks, streets slowly reopening following major spring flooding

By Jane McClure

The Mississippi River waters have receded and spring flood cleanup is well underway. Parks and streets that closed in April are reopening. Andy Rodriguez, director of the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, said it is not clear when all of the city's riverfront parks will be fully open again.

"We're still working to clear away a lot of debris the flood left behind," he said. In some instances city forestry staff need to move downed trees.

The City Council has extended the flood emergency until early June. Emergency declarations are used to seek funding to clean up after floods.

The National Weather Service reported that the Mississippi River in Saint Paul crested at 18.24 feet on April 27. Waters have declined steadily since then and are now below minor flood stage.

The city has closed its temporary impound lot on Maryland Avenue and moved back to the permanent lot on Barge Channel Road.

Shepard Road/Warner Road was scheduled to reopen between Eagle Parkway and Highway 61 by 6 p.m. on May 15. Sibley and Jackson streets will also reopen from Shepard to Kellogg Boulevard at that time.

The Meeker Island dog park and Desnoyer trail remain closed. The public is asked to not go behind barricades.

Hidden Falls north is open, including the boat launch. Rodriguez said city staff are dealing with "significant" wire theft that has affected the restroom facilities. Portable toilets will be in place as an interim measure.

The Crosby Farm Regional Park restroom

facility is open. Watergate Marina and Victoria Park's river area are open.

Lilydale Regional Park and its trails and roads remain closed, but crews are working to clear them. Water Street/Lilydale Road is closed between Highway 13 and Plato Boulevard.

Harriet Island's pavilion and adjacent facilities are routinely cleared and secured before flooding. The fireplace, elevator lift and ice machine went back into place on May 10.

The Padelford Packet Company's boats are operating again. Restrooms have reopened at Raspberry Island and at what is known as the "Showboat" parking lot. The city's public dock is being assessed on a daily basis and the dock lowered as much as able.

Upper Landing and Chestnut Plaza are closed. So is nearby City House, but officials hoped to have the facility open by mid-May.

Lower Landing is open, but Shepard Road is closed in that area. Fish Hatchery Trail and Pig's Eye Park are closed. Kelly's Landing Pavilion is open, but the trail still has silt and large trees to remove.

The Robert Piram Trail on the West Side is open, but users should check with Dakota County Parks on trails there by visiting co.dakota.mn.us/parks.

Fort Snelling State Park reopened on May 15, though some areas remain closed due to continued flood conditions, ongoing cleanup and trail maintenance. Construction projects scheduled for later this spring and summer also require closing some areas. Visitors can check alerts on the park webpage at mndnr.gov/fortsnelling.

For more information and updates, visit stpaul.gov/flood.

St. Paul seeks to limit big rig parking

By Jane McClure

Large trucks would no longer be able to park along most Saint Paul streets if proposed regulations are adopted this month. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the changes on May 17. If approved, the new rules could take effect in late June.

Drivers employed by trucking companies have designated places to park the rigs at their places of business. However, independent truckers who own their own rigs have to find their own spots. There are an estimated 200 independent trucking contractors in Saint Paul whose semi-tractors and tractor-trailers park largely on city streets.

"We're getting more complaints...our streets are really not designed for truck parking," said Randy Newton, an engineer for the city's Department of Public Works.

City Council members and staff formed a working group last year to study regulatory changes for where the big rigs can and cannot park. Currently, when the city bans truck parking in one area, the trucks just move to another. Newton called it a "whack-a-mole" situation.

The big rigs have lately been lining some local streets, including Marshall Avenue east of Snelling Avenue. The Highland District Council's Transportation Committee has fielded several complaints about truck parking, from both residents and businesses whose own trucks cannot easily access their properties. Business owners around the city have also complained that their customers cannot park nearby.

"We want to acknowledge that this is a problem," said council president Amy

Brendmoen. She said she recently watched small children having to walk between large trucks to get to their school bus.

Currently, big rigs can legally be parked on streets in industrially zoned areas of the city. Saint Paul limits on-street parking in any one spot to 48 hours at a time for any type of motor vehicle.

Saint Paul's proposed ordinance amendments mirror those of Minneapolis, which voted last July to ban vehicles weighing more than 26,000 pounds from parking on city streets. Vehicles over 10,000 pounds are prohibited from parking in residential districts.

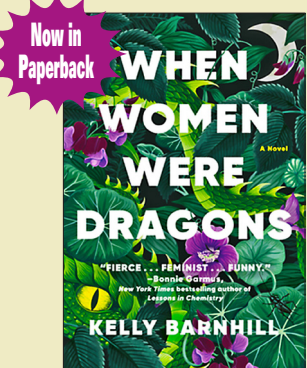
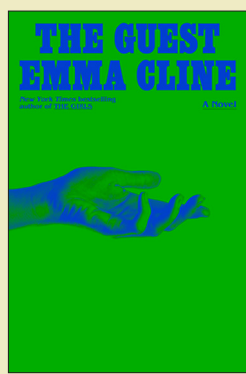
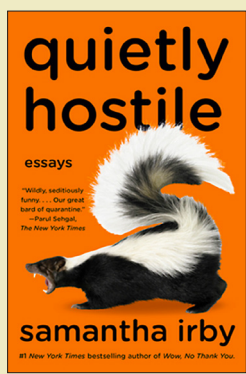
If similar changes are adopted in Saint Paul, vehicles weighing more than 26,000 pounds would only be allowed to park on city streets if they are loading, unloading or providing a service. Vehicles over 10,000 pounds would be prohibited from parking in residential districts. However, business owners could request that large trucks be allowed to park near their properties.

The city's \$40 parking fine for trucks would increase to \$150 starting next January and then to \$250 in July.

City officials recently met with about a dozen independent trucking operators who have expressed opposition to the changes. Newton said the changes are recommended since parking enforcement resources are limited and current fines do not appear to be a deterrent. Another issue is the difficulty in towing large trucks in terms of cost, capacity and storage. He added that city's current regulations are not easy to interpret.

According to Newton, a regional parking solution is needed to accommodate large trucks. Council members agreed.

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City appeals judge's order to release data on Summit trail planning

District court maintains city is violating state law

By Jane McClure

Ramsey County District Court Judge Patrick Diamond has appointed a compliance facilitator to work with the city of Saint Paul on the release of emails and documents related to the planning of the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. That information was sought in a lawsuit brought by Summit Avenue attorney Robert Cattanach and the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association.

In a 13-page order on May 4, Diamond appointed Ken Peterson, a board member of Clean Elections Minnesota, as the compliance facilitator. He gave the city two weeks to comply with his earlier order to release the emails and documents under the Minnesota Data Practices Act.

The city filed an appeal with the Minnesota Court of Appeals on May 5. In the appeal, the City Attorney's Office stated that more than 2,500 pages of documents have been turned over to the plaintiffs. An emergency order was filed with the Court of Ap-

peals on May 8, asking that Diamond's order be placed on hold pending the outcome of the city's appeal.

"Over the past 10 months the city has provided (Cattanach) with thousands of pages of documents in response to 18 separate requests in accordance with the Minnesota Data Practices Act," said Kamal Baker, spokesperson for Mayor Melvin Carter. "While the city has confidence in the integrity of the facilitator, duplicating work already conducted by city staff at taxpayers' expense does not serve a public purpose."

City officials came back to Diamond on May 11 asking for a stay of his order. Diamond denied the city's request. He also criticized the city's data access processes, saying the city is in "flagrant violation" of state law. Diamond said that while the plaintiffs do not need every piece of data, they do deserve a prompt response to their requests and that did not happen.

Diamond had initially ordered the city to hire its own compliance facilitator on May 2. However, the city said it was unwilling to do so. The costs, which could reach \$50,000, were one factor. Another was the city's contention that it has provided

ample documentation to opponents of the proposed bike and recreational trail.

The City Council is planning to hold a public hearing on the Summit Avenue Regional Trail on May 24. The city is working under a June 30 deadline to approve a plan for the trail. The deadline was attached to the \$125,000 regional parks and trails planning grant it received from the Metropolitan Council in April 2021.

Cattanach and SARPA are seeking to delay the public review of the proposed trail to give them time to review the emails and documents from the city. They are especially interested in data related to project costs and financing, community support for the plan and trail alternatives that might have less impact on trees, public safety and historic preservation.

Cattanach has been requesting Summit Avenue trail data since July 2022. He sued the city under the state's Data Practices Act in March. Assistant City Attorney Mary Hafner argued in district court that the city has handed over a lot of data to trail opponents. She questioned whether the plaintiffs will ever be satisfied. She also questioned whether the data request is appropriate in a temporary restraining order

action.

The Met Council grant that is funding the planning of the Summit Avenue trail has a clause that calls for the city to comply with the Minnesota Data Practices Act "as it applies to all data created, collected received, stored, used, maintained or disseminated by the (city) under this agreement."

The city is required to notify regional officials if it receives requests to release data. Government agencies are also required to cite a statutory exemption for denying a request, which has not happened to date, according to one earlier court order. The law requires that if a governmental entity is unable to provide records when the request is made, that the records "be supplied as soon as reasonably possible."

Under the process Diamond outlined on May 2, the city would pay the facilitator's costs. The facilitator, once hired, would work over the following two weeks to meet the outstanding data access requests filed by Cattanach. Diamond wants the facilitator to report on what data has been found during the two weeks and what data cannot be found. That report would be a guide in ruling on Cattanach's request for an injunction against the project.

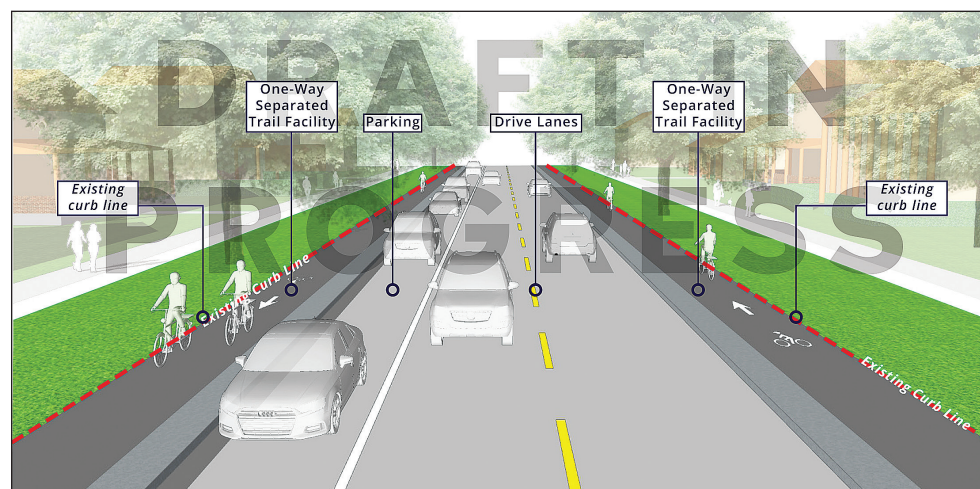
1 SUMMIT BIKE TRAIL

dential Preservation Association and the ad hoc group Save Our Street are seeking an injunction and fighting the city in district court for access to city emails and documents related to trail planning (see story above).

Parks and Rec commissioners Jazmin Glaser-Kelly, Rafael Espinosa, Lucas Paschal and Abdulrahman Mohamed voted in support of the trail. Commissioners Andy Flamm, Dave Burns and Theresa Paulson voted against. Commissioners Antonio Montez, Jun Choua Yang, Eric Erickson and Joseph Moua were absent.

Commissioners at the May 11 meeting disagreed over the level of opposition to the plan and whether more public engagement was needed. Flamm and Burns wanted to delay the vote but their motion failed 2-5. Espinosa criticized opponents of the trail plan for what he sees as an effort to block access to Summit Avenue.

Alice Messer, the manager of design and construction for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, said public engagement would continue as more detailed



A diagram of the proposed Summit Avenue Regional Trail as it would appear east of Lexington Parkway.

plans to rebuild Summit come forward. The project could take more than a decade to complete as Summit would be rebuilt in segments.

With the prospects for the trail undecided, the city has postponed a plan to rebuild Summit between Victoria and Lexington Parkway this year. "This plan could sit on the shelf for a really long time," Messer said. "There are so many details to talk

through."

"I very much favor a separated bike trail," Flamm said. "But what I feel is missing is whether Summit Avenue is the right place for it. I don't understand why it has to be one trail in one place and why we can't split it up." Summit was "foisted" onto the community as a location without adequate exploration of other route options, Flamm added.

According to Messer, other east-west corridors for a new bike trail were studied by the city but were ruled out due to grade changes, not being through routes and other issues. "There's not a perfect solution," she added.

"There's just massive opposition to this plan," said Burns. Even bicyclists disagree over whether the proposed trail would be an improvement, he said. "In this case, it feels like a minority of people are pushing this forward," Burns said.

Paulson raised the issue of safety, citing problems that occur on the off-road bike path on Mississippi River Boulevard. "Bicycles speed by toddlers who are walking," she said. She asked if it is time to post speed limits for cyclists.

City officials are working under a June 30 deadline to have a trail plan approved under the provisions of a regional grant received through the Metropolitan Council. No request for an extension has been made. The city has already overspent the \$150,000 planning grant by about \$225,000 with much of the additional expense coming from the extent of public engagement on the plan.

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City proceeds with plan to raze historic Hamline Midway Library

Renovate 1558 threatens lawsuit to save building

By Jane McClure

The city of Saint Paul's plan to demolish the Hamline Midway Library and replace it with a new library is moving forward despite the building's recent inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The public library at 1558 Minnehaha Ave. will close on May 28. It will be demolished this fall. Construction of the new \$8.1 million library is expected to take 18 months.

The plans for the new library have divided Hamline Midway neighbors. Some want a new library, citing the current structure's age and condition. Some object to the demolition and maintain that the city process was stacked against the existing library all along. They have accused the city of neglecting the building's maintenance and letting the 92-year-old structure deteriorate over the years. Others question why the building cannot be saved and a new location chosen for the library, possibly in conjunction with a replacement of the Hancock Recreation Center two blocks away.

"We are saddened but not surprised that the Saint Paul Public Library, with the support of Mayor Melvin Carter, council member Mitra Jalali and the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, continues its push to senselessly and needlessly demolish our historic neighborhood library," said Jonathan Oppenheimer.

Oppenheimer is a member of the ad hoc

group Renovate 1558, which urged city officials to rehabilitate the library. "As we've documented extensively, there was a coordinated, secretive and dishonest campaign by the Saint Paul Public Library, aided by the mayor's office, to push through this demolition," Oppenheimer said. "Proponents of preservation have been repeatedly ignored and smeared over the last three years with little to no acknowledgment by any city officials of the widespread support for preservation in our community."

"It is a travesty that we have gotten to this point, given there are multiple wins for the community, including a renovation design commissioned by the city or a relocation of the library, something that has never been seriously considered but would serve the community better on a number of levels," Oppenheimer said.

"Our group remains open to coming to the table to find that win-win and preserve this beautiful building that remains in solid condition and deserves to grace our neighborhood for another 90 years," he said. "We intend to fight the city in court to save the library. There it will become evident just how duplicitous the Saint Paul Public Library has been and how unprofessionally and dishonestly they've treated us as citizens the past three years."

Renovate 1558 worked with architectural historian Barbara Bezat on the application for the National Register designation. However, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission made no recommendation on the nomination. City leaders interpreted that as a reason to reject the quest for historic designation.

The construction of a new library build-



An artist's rendering of the city's plan for a new Hamline Midway Library at 1558 Minnehaha Ave.

ing is supported by Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library and Mayor Melvin Carter. "We're thrilled to be moving on to a brand new state-of-the-art library," Carter said. "This is an exciting time as we continue to bring our Transforming Libraries vision to fruition."

The final design for the new Hamline Midway Library includes an outdoor reading garden, an interactive children's area, a teen area, study rooms, two meeting rooms, a wellness room, and space for public art that reflects the variety of cultures in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. Elements of the current building will be saved and used in the new structure, including the arch over the front entrance.

Maureen Hartman, Saint Paul's interim library director, said a new building will allow everyone to be served. "We're grateful to all community members who participated in the process and are excited to welcome even more neighbors to the new Hamline Midway Library," she said.

"I'm ready for a new library, and the community I represent is ready for a new library," said Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Jalali. The plans for the new building were shaped through "four years of listening to community members," she added.

Although it appears the Hamline Midway Library's historic designation could not save the building, it will force the city to take additional steps before demolishing it, including extensive documentation of the building.

The library is the last remaining Henry Hale Library in the city. Hale was an early Saint Paul attorney, investor and philanthropist whose estate helped fund the building of the Hamline Midway and the old Merriam Park Library. Both were constructed in 1930.

Mat Hollinshead recalled the fight over the demolition and replacement of the Merriam Park Library in the early 1990s. Now a Highland Park resident, Hollinshead was a resident of Merriam Park then and chaired the Merriam Park Community Council's library planning committee.

"Normally, I'm a pretty strong preservationist," Hollinshead said. But the old Merriam Park Library building was sinking due to unstable soil and it could not be remedied, he added.

Hollinshead has followed the debate over the future of the Hamline Midway Library. "For those who have lived their lives at that library, it's hard to see the building torn down," he said.



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VIEWPOINT

INBOX

Endorsements are undemocratic

The DFL Party is once again engaged in an anti-democratic exercise of crowding a few hundred “insiders” into an auditorium to decide which of many fine candidates are allowed the coveted label of “DFL endorsed.” All other candidates are pressured to abide by the decisions of these insiders, limiting the choices residents see on the November ballot. But we have ranked-choice voting. Why not use it?

I believe it would be more democratic, and result in better representation on the City Council and School Board, if all candidates had to reach out across the city throughout the summer and fall knocking on doors and hearing the concerns and ideas of the thousands of residents they wish to represent, not just those party insiders.

I see that Isaac Russell, despite losing the DFL endorsement in Ward 3, has decided to buck the insider pressure and present his candidacy for City Council to all of the residents for their decision in November. I encourage everyone to compare his 10 years of experience listening and solving policy problems with the endorsed candidate. I trust in the wisdom of our residents. May the best person for the job win in November.

*Don Arnosti
Macalester-Groveland*

Editor's note: The writer was a delegate to the DFL's Ward 3 endorsing convention.

Spare us another median

It has been said that the definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing over and over again while expecting a different outcome. I think that applies to the city's plan to install a median on Snelling Avenue between Montreal Avenue and Ford Parkway. This will eliminate parking, narrow the street and install trees in an area too narrow for them to have sufficient water to survive in drought years. The outcome will be essentially the same as what we've experienced with the median on Snelling between Saint Clair and Grand avenues.

The traffic police—when the city still had that unit—told us that motorists who were northbound on Snelling and had a green light at Saint Clair were coming through at 50 mph. After the median was installed, people were clocked going 80 mph in the same half-mile stretch. Not only have we lost much-needed parking, but two people have been killed trying to cross Snelling.

So for heaven's sake, spare us the cost of another unneeded median and all those ridiculous curb bump-outs. We should be tightening our belts and sticking to the barest necessities, such as street repair.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

Let's expand tools for teachers

It is often said that teaching is both a science and an art. It requires skill, knowledge, pedagogy and genuine relationships and caring. Science of Reading (SOR) advocates would have you believe that teaching is like baking. If you use the right ingredients, you get the right results. SOR advocates imply that teachers are simply not doing it right and that if they used a prescribed curriculum, they would be able to teach every child to read at the same time and with ease.

My 15 years of literacy education have led me to believe that teaching literacy is more like growing a garden. Yes, certain ingredients are necessary—seeds, sun, soil, water. However, sometimes it's very rainy or sunny. Sometimes the soil isn't quite right and you need to add some calcium. The same combination does not work the same every time in a garden. Even in the same garden with the same nutrients and sunlight, different plants grow at different rates.

There is a bill before our state Legislature that is attempting to increase reading proficiency and test scores by viewing literacy education like baking. This bill should be viewed as an opportunity to add to the solutions a teacher can use instead of requiring them to use a set of ingredients for every child. It is true, many teachers and school districts need more skills in teaching phonics in the early grades. But I would hope that the bill does not

Light rail's success may depend on secure platforms

By Mathews Hollinshead

In the past year, Saint Louis' MetroLink has developed a Secure Platform Plan for its 38 light-rail stations in response to the same concerns about crime, fear of crime and stagnant ridership now facing light-rail transit in the Twin Cities. New fencing and turnstiles will be installed at the Saint Louis stations. It's a sad admission that the honor system doesn't work when too many riders fail to honor it.

The Minnesota Legislature has in its 2023 transportation bills several provisions designed to address the same problem. The focus of the legislation is on the mitigation and remediation of perpetrators. I hope, but I'm not convinced, that this will be enough. As a 30-year advocate of rail transit, I've come to the difficult conclusion that the honor system of light-rail fare collection, in force since the Blue Line opened, may just not be workable in our post-Trump, post-pandemic atmosphere of sabotaged social norms.

When the Blue Line and later the Green Line opened, I and most of those I hang out with were excited and confident about light rail. Finally, after decades of doing nothing, the Twin Cities were getting our first contemporary regional transit investments. We couldn't wait to see them begin to change the paradigm of endless highway expansion and urban sprawl. Finally, transit-oriented development would, over time, create many more walkable neighborhoods and lifestyles.

Billions in new housing investment has come on line near light-rail stations. Smaller, urban-style grocery stores are opening after decades of inappropriately suburban-style big boxes surrounded by dangerous, alienating parking lagoons. With light rail and bus

rapid transit such as the A-Line, many more and diverse demographics—including young adults and seniors—are seeing transit as an attractive alternative to driving. Until, that is, we encounter, either directly or by word of mouth, the ugly, sometimes dangerous behavior that often seems to predominate on the Green and Blue lines.

To be fair, declining norms have also led to a great increase in carjackings, car theft and catalytic converter theft, spreading anxiety and fear among motorists. But in the contest for public patronage, light-rail transit starts with huge handicaps. Our economy spends tens of billions of dollars in advertising every year convincing people to drive and next to nothing convincing them to try transit. Few realize that they pay for that in the price of every car or auto-related product they buy. Light rail, by contrast, parades every aspect of its true cost in front of our noses, especially when poor decision-making creates questionable designs and cost overruns such as with Southwest Light Rail Transit.

We're not going to shut down light rail or halt the Green Line Extension in the southwest corridor. What we must do is make these large investments work. Saint Louis may have found a way out of the crisis with its Secure Platform Plan. It's certainly worth watching. If the mitigation approach in current legislation fails in Minnesota, we need to recognize that regional transit must offer what it was meant to offer—fast, convenient, safe and attractive mobility for those no longer willing or able to drive everywhere for everything.

Mathews Hollinshead serves as the transit modal representative on the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Advisory Board. He lives in Highland Park.

prohibit the use of other tools and resources. In addition to learning to read, kids need to learn to think critically. No amount of phonics or direct instruction will do that.

*Lizabeth Kyser
Macalester-Groveland*

Who's in, who's out this session

I've been spending a lot of time watching our Minnesota House and Senate at work. I've been trying to figure out who the Minnesota Democrats see as their constituents. They like rich donors, but anyone making \$75,000 as a single person or \$150,000 as a family makes way too much to not pay taxes on Social Security income. They don't like the Mayo Clinic, that we know. Illegal immigrants seem high on their list. If they receive MinnesotaCare, they have better medical coverage than I do as someone on Medicare. Much cheaper, too. And they're in line for free college tuition.

If you receive Medicare or Medicaid, you're in. These people don't pay taxes on Social Security income, so there's no benefit there to remove it. If your financial status is just above receiving Medicare or Medicaid, you're out. You may receive a \$275 rebate check—out of the \$17 billion surplus. That's about enough for one dental visit. If you're in a union, you've got most-favored status.

Not many reporters are telling taxpayers that the family leave bill, just passed, includes 400 new state jobs—a whole new department. And we all know what kind of benefits state employees receive. They talk about property tax relief, then add new taxes, raising the sales tax in the seven-county metro area, plus a \$20 car fee. House Dems wanted a 75-cent fee on anything delivered to your home. When House or Senate Republicans talk about scaring away business with new fees and regulations, the Dems seem to look at them as though they're speaking Greek.

*Georgia Dietz
Highland Park*

Put the Summit trail to a vote

Why is the Saint Paul Planning Commission wasting taxpayer time and effort as well as taxpayer funds in holding hearings on the Summit Avenue Regional Trail? It's a foregone conclusion that the Planning Commission, City Council and other government entities will vote to approve the trail. They always listen to the activists (in this case, the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition) and not the

general public. Furthermore, the general public had to go to court to obtain documents related to trail planning. It's a sad comment on our democratic principles when the public has to go to court to obtain such information.

Let's put aside all the rhetoric and have a referendum and let the people of Saint Paul make the decision. Include in the referendum all of the costs associated with the trail project—the non-recurring costs as well as the projected maintenance costs each year so that the total cost to taxpayers is known before the vote.

*Andy Pakalns
Highland Park*

Unhealthy plan for Summit trail

I'm a senior citizen on a fixed-income. I strongly oppose the city's plan for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail. This is a bad idea, at a cost of more than \$12.5 million for just 4.7 miles of trail. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

The Summit trail will destroy 950 or more trees on Summit. Urban trees curtail airborne pollutants and provide life-giving oxygen. Foolishly destroying trees will make Summit unhealthy for cyclists, pedestrians, residents and animals, resulting in more respiratory health problems.

The Summit trail will also increase the dangers for cyclists. Serious cyclists will be pushed into the motor-vehicle lanes, and motorists will have diminished sight lines of trail users. The trail will do nothing to create safer crossings at more than 46 intersections and more than 150 conflict points (i.e., driveways and sidewalks).

The city must stop catering to bicyclists, since they are likely not contributing to the costs of maintaining and repairing the streets upon which they ride.

*Sue Shetka
Macalester-Groveland*

Do the write thing

MyVillager welcomes letters to the editor and longer guest editorials. However, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and include a phone number for verification purposes. Please send your commentary to MyVillager, 241 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite V, Saint Paul, MN 55105, email it to letters@myvillager.com or submit it via our website at myvillager.com/editorial. The views expressed are not the views of MyVillager.

Crime Report

The following criminal incidents were compiled from Saint Paul and Mendota Heights police reports. For car and catalytic converter thefts and other crimes not referenced in this print edition, go to MyVillager.com.

Highland Park

Burglary—A burglary was reported at the Highland Auto Collision Center, 2042 W. Seventh St., at 10:18 p.m. on May 4.

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery was reported at Wings Financial, 1804 W. Seventh St., at 4:25 p.m. on May 5.

Theft—A 21-year-old woman was arrested for trying to steal more than \$1,000 in merchandise from Walgreens, 2099 Ford Pkwy., at 12:21 p.m. on May 9. She also was wanted on two separate theft warrants.

—A Yamaha scooter was reported stolen on the 700 block of South Cleveland Avenue during the evening of May 9-10.

Assault—A 34-year-old man was arrested for felony assault, violation of an order for protection and interference with a 911 call at 7:22 a.m. on May 1 at an apartment on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue.

—An assault between juveniles was reported at Target, 2080 Ford Pkwy., at 3:46 p.m. on May 8.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—A 41-year-old woman was arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 8:35 p.m. on May 5.

Assault—A felony terroristic threat was reported at Central High School at 8:30 a.m. on May 9. The suspect fled before police arrived.

Miscellaneous—Criminal damage to property was reported on the 1300 block of Marshall Avenue at 9:41 p.m. on May 7.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Tools were reported stolen in a residential burglary on the 1800 block of Grand Avenue during the evening of April 29-30.

Theft—Several items were stolen from a vehicle on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard between 2:40-3 p.m. on May 6.

—A purse-snatching was reported near Plums Grill & Bar, 480 S. Snelling Ave., between 12:30-1:30 a.m. on May 5.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on Berkeley and Cretin avenues at 2:07 a.m.

Three arrested after driving into daycare

Three suspects ages 15, 17 and 20 in a stolen vehicle were arrested after trying to escape police and colliding with the Kinderberry Hill childcare center at Grand Avenue and Pascal Street on Monday, May 8.

The suspects were part of a group of five driving around the metro area in a stolen Audi following a robbery at gunpoint in Minneapolis. At 3:17 p.m., they reportedly tried stealing from a vehicle on the 1200 block of Juliet Avenue, but were interrupted by the owner.

They fled recklessly through the neighborhood, ran a stop sign at Grand Avenue and Pascal Street, collided with another vehicle, jumped the curb and ran into Kinderberry Hill. No children nor the driver of the other vehicle were harmed.

The suspects ran from the stolen vehicle and three were caught by Ramsey County deputies and Saint Paul police officers. Two handguns, including one stolen in Edina, were located with the aid of a canine unit.

All three suspects were being held for aggravated assault with a firearm, possession of stolen property, and possession of a firearm by an ineligible person.

on May 7.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported on the 100 block of Vernon Street between 9:11-11:14 p.m. on May 7.

Mendota Heights

Theft—A suspect was seen entering vehicles on the 1800 block of Hunter Lane at 5:56 p.m. on April 23.

Miscellaneous—Police investigated an incident of a potentially dangerous dog running at large and harassing livestock on the 1500 block of Victoria Road at 3:37 p.m. on April 23. The dog's owner was issued a citation.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A home break-in was reported on the 1600 block of Summit Avenue

between May 5-7. It reportedly was the fourth time the same house had been broken into since January.

—A 31-year-old man was arrested for drug possession and felony burglary of Dunkin' Donuts, 143 N. Snelling Ave., at 12:11 a.m. on May 8.

—MDS Remodeling was the victim of a burglary on the 100 block of Otis Avenue between May 5-8.

Theft—A scooter was reported stolen on the 1600 block of Spruce Tree Avenue between 4-11:30 a.m. on May 4, and a moped was reported stolen on the 1800 block of Marshall Avenue on May 5-6.

—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 400 block of Herschel Street during the evening of May 7-8, and the 2000 block of Marshall Avenue between noon-1:35 p.m. on May 8.

Assault—Felony assaults were reported on University and Prior avenues at 10:55 p.m. on May 3, and on Lynnhurst and Oakley avenues at 9:41 p.m. on May 5.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported after police responded to an incident involving a juvenile at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., at 5:31 p.m. on May 5.

—A 61-year-old man was arrested for damaging property with a knife at the Quality Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 4:45 p.m. on May 6.

—A 68-year-old man was arrested for reckless driving after he was found slumped over in his vehicle at the intersection of Marshall and Fairview avenues at 2:12 a.m. on May 7.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A woman was assaulted and robbed of her phone on Hamline and University avenues at 8:02 p.m. on May 3.

Burglary—Tu Nails, 80 N. Snelling Ave., was broken into the evening of April 25-26.

Assault—An assault with a gun was reported at the Liffey Apartments, 304 N. Snelling Ave., at 1:38 p.m. on May 2.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A residence was broken into on Avon Street south of Summit Avenue during the evening of April 26-27.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on the 900 block of Lombard Avenue at 5:25 a.m. on May 3.

—Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand Ave., was struck by gunfire at 1:24 a.m. on May 7. No injuries were reported. A witness reported that the more than 15 shots fired within seconds sent people running for cover.

—A spent shell casing was recovered after gunfire was reported on the 900 block of Benhill Road at 10:52 p.m. on May 7. The suspects' vehicles included a white SUV and a blue sedan.

Summit-University

Burglary—Apartment burglaries were reported on the 600 block of Summit Avenue during the evening of April 28-29, and the 300 block of North Saint Albans Street between 7-8:35 p.m. on May 9.

Theft—Construction equipment was reported stolen from a trailer on the 1000 block of Carroll Avenue at 2:36 p.m. on May 1.

Assault—An assault with a gun was reported at the Saint Paul Public Schools' Gateway to College, 235 Marshall Ave., at 11:25 a.m. on May 2.

—A male suspect with a knife reportedly threatened a female resident at the Dale Place Apartments, 313 N. Dale St., at 2:41 a.m. on May 6.

Arson—A suspicious fire was reported on the 700 block of Holly Avenue at 8:05 p.m. on May 1.

Weapons—Police were called to the 700 block of Holly Avenue regarding a boy with a stun gun at 5:39 p.m. on May 3. The stun gun was confiscated and the boy was released to his parents.

West End

Burglary—Suspects reportedly stole cash during a break-in at the Quick Wash Laundromat, 1148 W. Seventh St., at 9 a.m. on May 8.

Assault—An assault with a dangerous weapon was reported at the Saint Paul Tap, 825 Jefferson Ave., at 5:53 p.m. on April 28. The victim suffered a laceration to the top of her head and was taken to the hospital.

—Two men and a woman, all in their 30s, were cited for assault after police responded to a fight near Patrick McGovern's Pub, 225 W. Seventh St., at 5:55 p.m. on May 7.

Miscellaneous—A woman was arrested for refusing to leave a property and fighting with police on Leach and McBoal streets at 10:29 a.m. on May 8. She was taken to the hospital for evaluation.



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ON THE TOWN

A 'Carmen' for the Jazz Age

Ballet Co. transports Bizet's heroine to 1920s Manhattan

By Anne Murphy

Ballet Co.Laboratory will bring back *Carmen in the 1920s* as the final show in its fifth anniversary season. Artistic director Zoe Emilie Henrot has reimagined French composer Georges Bizet's 19th-century opera as a ballet set in Manhattan in the Roaring '20s. The company first performed her Jazz Age adaptation just after its founding in 2018. The new production will be presented from May 19-21 in E.M. Pearson Theatre at Concordia University.

Carmen was the first opera she saw growing up, said Henrot, a resident of Highland Park. The title character is a strong-willed woman, she said, "and when the opera was written (in the 1870s), you didn't always see that in a female protagonist."

In reimagining *Carmen*, Henrot turned the spotlight on the female characters but retained the disparities in class structure that were portrayed in the original opera. To do that, she said, she could think of no better decade than the 1920s when the societal constraints on women were most apparent and amplified by disparities in class. "I needed an era that would have allowed women to be Carmenesque," she said.

"We often think of Carmen as a temptress," said Rosa Prigan, who will dance the title role. "But there's more to Carmen than meets the eye. It's our challenge to look closer and discover that she, like the rest of us, wants the freedom to make her own



Dancers Rosa Prigan (left) and Zoe Emilie Henrot are featured in Ballet Co.Laboratory's production of *Carmen in the 1920s*.

PIXEL DUST PHOTOGRAPHY

choices and mistakes. She's not a rich girl. She's doing her best to get by. And that means she makes choices that maybe other people wouldn't. But she wants to be free above all else. And I think that speaks to the societal and economic pressures on her.

"I almost feel that the story of *Carmen* fits better in the 1920s than the 1800s because there were so many things about the '20s that were in opposition to certain classes and women," Prigan added. "There was

extreme wealth and prosperity and there was not. People looked to freedom within things like Prohibition."

For the ballet, Henrot renamed some of the characters. Don José from the original *Carmen* becomes Donny, a gangster. Escamillo becomes Eddy, a famous baseball player. There is a speakeasy scene that pays homage to the ways in which queer culture blossomed in 1920s nightlife. A new character, Lee, from the opera's Lillas Pastia, is

modeled after actress Marlene Dietrich.

Although the ballet is set in Manhattan, Henrot found her inspiration for the music in Saint Paul in the 1920s. "I was looking at Saint Paul and F. Scott Fitzgerald and how there are spaces in the Twin Cities that just scream 1920s," she said. "And there's a huge swing (dance) community here."

The music for *Carmen in the 1920s* was written by nationally known jazz artist John Erickson.

It will be performed live on stage by a five-piece band that interacts with the dancers. The production features 15 company dancers and nearly 100 students from Ballet Co.Laboratory's school.

"Ballet is always the spine of what we do," Henrot said, "but our dancers have been studying jazz and swing dance in preparation because the choreography really brings all of those different dance forms together."

"I took a year or so of swing classes when I first created *Carmen in the 1920s*, and I always heard, 'swing means bounce. So to work on scenes that have more swing-inspired choreography, I'd have the entire company feel the bounce. You're still going to point your foot down, but there has to be the bounce.'"

Local swing dance artist Hannah MacKenzie-Margulies led some of the workshops with the ballet company members. "And some of our dancers, since having swing classes here, have started going to swing dances in the community," Henrot said.

Prigan has enjoyed the extra preparation. "I love jazz, the ebb and flow and the groove," she said. "Definitely, the swing dancing on pointe is a challenge, but it's working."

Carmen in the 1920s will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19-21.

Tickets are \$40, \$35 for seniors and \$30 for students and children. For ticket reservations, visit balletcolaboratory.org.

ON THE TOWN Briefly

Dance

National Tap Dance Day, a free showcase of the skills and styles of percussive dancers from around the Twin Cities, will be presented on Saturday, May 27, at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. Sponsored by Keane Sense of Rhythm (KSR), the festival will open at 12:30 p.m. with Tappy Hour, a free tap dance class for adults. Youth Tappy Hour will follow at 1:15. Tap shoes will be available, but are not required. KSR's Youth Tap Ensemble will perform at 2 p.m., followed by the students from other metro area studios.

Music

Fingal's Cave at MetroNome Brewery, 289 E. Fifth St., will host performances by the following: Ramsey Hill drummer Peter Kogan and the Bird & Diz Legacy Quintet performing the bebop of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, May 18 (free); and the best of Burt Bacharach played by RetroFizz with

guest instrumentalist Jeff Horwich at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20 (tickets are \$10). Visit metronomebrewery.com.

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., will present concerts by Bill Lee and his Irish Outfit from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, May 19 (donations welcome); and Papa John Kolstad and singers Amy and Mabel Houle at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20 (tickets are \$15). Call 651-645-2647 or visit ginkgocoffee.com.

"**Nevertheless We Persisted**," the 25th anniversary concert of the Twin Cities Women's Choir, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 19, at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 W. Roselawn Ave. Tickets: are \$22, \$20 for seniors, \$12 for children. Visit bitly.ws/CUnZ.

The Bach Society of Minnesota choir and orchestra and guest soloists will perform "Magnificat," the music of J.S. Bach and his son C.P.E. Bach, on May 19 and 20. The concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove St. in Minneapolis, and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Church of Saint

Thomas More, 1079 Summit Ave. Visit bachsocietymn.org.

"**Walden Pond: The Earth Sings**," a program by the Singers, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave., and at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at Westwood Lutheran Church in Saint Louis Park. The concert will feature Argento's Walden Pond, Runestad's Come To the Woods, Smiley's Stand In That River, Grau's Kasar Mie La Gaji, Culloton's Famine Song, Hailstork's Nocturne and others. Tickets are \$35 or whatever you can pay. Visit singersmca.org.

Montana folk duo Storyhill, aka Chris Cunningham and John Hermanson, will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Ave. S. Joining them will be Colorado singer-songwriter Edie Carey. Tickets are \$27 in advance, \$32 on day of show. Visit thecedar.org.

The Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra will close its 30th anniversary season with a concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at

Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. in Minneapolis. The program includes works by Libby Larsen, Augusta Holmes and Duke Ellington and the world premiere of "Briefly Gorgeous" by Andrew Yee. Tickets are \$25 or whatever you can pay. Visit MNPhil.org.

Giving Voice Chorus, a choir for people with dementia and their care givers, will venture down country roads, over the rainbow and to the moon in concert at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at the Minnesota JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Tickets are \$12. Visit eventbrite.com.

Hamline Church's Festival Chorus and Orchestra will perform A Choral Cadenza at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21, in the sanctuary at 1514 Englewood Ave. The program will feature Schubert's Mass No. 2 in G Major, various motets, part songs, and solos. Admission is by donation.

The Seward Concert Band will boldly go where it has never gone before at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 2, in the auditorium of Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave.

10 ON THE TOWN BRIEFLY

S. in Minneapolis. In its season finale, the band will explore compositions about space and space travel, including the music of Hoagy Carmichael, Richard Strauss, Gustav Holst, John Philip Sousa, John Williams, Julie Giroux, Michael Giacchino and Murray Gold.

Film

Adam & Henry Adventures, a new film by Macalester-Groveland artist William Blackwell Kinney about Central High School graduates Adam Swanson and Henry Phillips and their bicycle trip across the world, will be screened at 7 p.m. Friday, May 19, at Art House North, 793 Armstrong Ave. Free tickets are available at arcadonpictures.com.

The Baldies, a PBS documentary about the multiracial skinhead gang who fought Neo-Nazis in the streets of Minneapolis in the 1980s, will be screened from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 20, in 3M Auditorium at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The skinhead gang later started the nationwide Anti-Racist Action. A panel discussion with former Baldies and film director David Roth will follow the screening. Admission is free, but seats are limited. To register, visit eventbrite.com.

Top Gun Maverick (2022, PG-13) will be screened at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, at the Minnesota JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Admission is free and open to all. Call 651-698-0751.

Books

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host readings and discussions with author Jim Landwehr and his memoir, *At the Lake*, on Wednesday, May 17; poets Amie Whittemore, Allison Blevins and Melissa Cundeiff, Thursday, May 18; sisters Sheri and Peggy Brenden and Sheri's book *Break Point*, about Peggy's 1970s Title IX court case, Monday, May 22; Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and his book, *Break the Wheel: Ending the Cycle of Police Violence*, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 25, in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College; and Louis Alberto Urrea and *Good Night, Irene*, his book about the heroic Red Cross women of World War II, Friday, June 2. The programs are free and begin at 6 p.m. at Next Chapter unless otherwise noted. Visit nextchapterbooksellers.com or call 651-225-8989.

Author Elisa Bernick will discuss her new book, *Departure Stories: Betty Crocker Made*



Adam Qualls (foreground) stars as Jesse James in *The Defeat of Jesse James*. The time-warping, nail-biting, side-splitting musical tells of the courageous inhabitants of Northfield, Minnesota, who in 1876 stood up to the outlaw and his gang. Written by Jeffrey Hatcher and Chan Poling, the drama is playing through May 28 at History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$70. Visit historytheatre.com or call 651-292-4323. PHOTO BY RICK SPAULDING

Matzoh Balls (and Other Lies) with Rabbi Debra Rappaport at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at the Minnesota JCC's Capp Center, 1375 Saint Paul Ave. Poignant and provocative, *Departure Stories* peers through the lens of recent history to reveal an intergenerational journey through trauma. Admission is free, but registration is requested. Visit minnesotajcc.org.

Exhibits

Four artists working in fabrics, painting, printmaking, clay and found objects will display a total of 40 works from June 1-30 at Grand Hand Gallery, 619 Grand Ave. Cosponsored by Art to Change the World, the exhibit will open with a public reception from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, June 1, with live music by saxophonist Walter Chancellor Jr. and singer Julia Wheaton. The four artists will conduct workshops from 5-7 p.m. on Thursdays in June. The schedule includes purse-making with Lucy Schroepfer on June 8; denim wear with Briauna Williams, June 15; polymer clay dragonflies with Layl McDill, June 22; and repurposed jewelry with Barbara Bridges, June 29. The workshops are free, but space is limited. To register, email drb@bridgescreate.com.

"Vol. 2 Together," a solo exhibition by artist Jacob Z. Wan, will open with a public reception from 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 2, at Friedli Gallery, 943 W. Seventh St. Through paintings, books, paper

objects and installations, Wan expresses the longing and belonging of a gay man. His art will remain on view through July 29. Visit friedliartsgallery.com.

Theater

Antigonick, Anne Carson's new translation of the Sophoclean tragedy about a daughter's fight for justice against authoritarian rule, will be performed from May 17 through June 4 by Full Circle Theater. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays and Saturday, June 3, at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. Fourth St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are priced from \$5-\$35 depending on ability to pay. Visit fullcircletheatermn.org.

W;T, Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about a brilliant English scholar who is forced to reassess her life and work upon a diagnosis of ovarian cancer, will be staged from May 18-27 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Kari Steinbach directs this collaboration with Hynpic Jerk Theatre. Show times are 7:30 p.m. May 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 2 p.m. May 21. Tickets are \$25. Visit theatreintheround.org or call 612-333-3010.

Ghoulish Delights will perform a revised and expanded version of its 2014 Minnesota Fringe Festival production, *The Tourist Trap: A Midwestern Gothic*, from May 18-20 at Crane Theatre, 2303 Kennedy St.

NE in Minneapolis. The drama is set in a sinister roadside attraction where tourists peruse relics of a notorious 19th-century death cult that terrorized the people of the Black Hills of South Dakota. Written and directed by Tim Uren, it stars Merit Burgett, Shanan Custer, Sean Dillon, Jay Kistler, Catherine Hansen, Alicia Lane and Ariel Pinkerton. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Tickets are \$20. Visit ghoulishdelights.com.

The classic American drama *Our Town* is playing through May 28 at Open Window Theatre, 5300 S. Robert Trail in Inver Grove Heights. Directed by Kari Steinbach, the story about the Webb and Gibbs families of Grover's Corners stars Pete Colburn, Katherine Kupiecki, Craig Johnson and Katie Kaufmann. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays and 2 p.m. Saturdays, May 20 and 27. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 612-615-1515 or visit openwindowtheatre.org.

Family

The annual **Flint Hills Family Festival** will return on June 2-3 in and outside the Ordway Center. The event will run from 6-10 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Featured free outside will be craft activities, face painting, balloon artists, a family dance party featuring the live music of Salsa del Soul beginning at 7 p.m. Friday and a performance by Koo Koo Kanga Roo at 3:15 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are available for the following shows inside the Ordway: the String Queens trio at 7 p.m. Friday; Lightwire Theater in *The Adventures of Tortoise and Hare: The Next Gen* at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday; and soulful musical duo the ReMINDers at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday. For tickets, visit ordway.org.

Et cetera

Get a taste of the State Fair three months early with the Kickoff to Summer running May 25-28 on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Thirty-five state fair food vendors, craft beers, the Giant Slide, a nine-hole Can Can Wonderland miniature golf course, live music and roving entertainers will be among the attractions. Guided historical walking tours, Trivia Mafia, pickleball and other yard games, skateboard demonstrations and children's crafts will be available free of any additional charge. Hours are 4-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$15.50 at the gate, \$12.50 in advance, free for children ages 4 and under. Visit etix.com. Parking is free. Call 651-288-4467.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

HELP RID THE RIVER GORGE of garlic mustard from 9-11 a.m. today. Friends of the Mississippi River will be uprooting the invasive species on the sand flats off West River Parkway in Minneapolis. Tools and training will be provided. To register, visit fmr.org. For more information, call 651-222-2193 ext. 27.

A PLANT SALE will be conducted by the Garden Club of Ramsey County from 9 a.m.-noon at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Many varieties of tomato plants will be available along with perennials, annuals, house plants, shrubs, curly willow and red twig dogwood branches, container planters, seed kits and gently used tools, pots and other gardening supplies. Visitors can hire club members as garden helpers by the hour. Visit ramseygardeners.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 21

A CHICKEN BARBECUE DINNER will be served from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Saint Peter Claver Church, 369 N. Oxford St. Come out and support the church, enjoy great food and take a chance at winning amazing prizes. Meal tickets are \$15. Call 651-646-1797 or visit spchurch.org.

THE SAINT PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a five-

KIOSK

mile hike beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the intersection of Minnehaha Parkway and 35th Street in South Minneapolis. The hike will follow Minnehaha Creek to Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha along paved trails. New members are welcome. Call Sharon at 651-207-5926.

TUESDAY/MAY 23

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' Learn with the League program will introduce local residents to new Ramsey County Commissioner Rena Moran and new Metropolitan Council member Toni Carter in a virtual program from 7-8 p.m. To register for the Zoom link, visit tinyurl.com/ycxrfmj5.

FRIDAY/MAY 26

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY will host the Wall That Heals throughout Memorial Day weekend. The three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its mobile education center will be free and open to the public around the clock from 2 p.m. on May 26 until 2 p.m. on May 29. The wall bears the names of the 58,281 American soldiers who died in the fighting during the Vietnam War. The display honors the more than

3 million Americans who served during that conflict.

SATURDAY/MAY 27

DECORATION DAY, an early version of what is now Memorial Day, will be celebrated from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday through Monday, May 27-29, at Historic Fort Snelling. A flag ceremony will open the festivities on Saturday morning. On Monday, staff will be dressed in 1890s military dress and present speeches on the sacrifices made in past wars. Admission is \$8-\$12. Call 612-726-1171.

PROTECT THE NATIVE PLANTS of Crosby Farm Park by volunteering to pull garlic mustard. The Friends of the Mississippi River will be uprooting the invasive species from 9-11 a.m. today. Tools and training will be provided to volunteers. To register, visit fmr.org. For more information, call 651-222-2193 ext. 27.

MONDAY/MAY 29

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES will commemorate Memorial Day with four outdoor Masses beginning at 10 a.m. at Resurrection, 2101 S. Lexington Ave., Mendota Heights; Calvary, 753 Front Ave.; Saint Mary's, 4403 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis; and Gethsemane, 8151 42nd Ave. N., New Hope. Visit catholic-cemeteries.org/events.

SPORTS



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Highland baseball swings for fences

Here are the scores of the first 10 games of the season for a local team: 17-8, 17-3, 14-0, 16-1, 12-2, 10-0, 19-0, 25-3, 11-1 and 14-3. Pick the dominant team from one of the following:

- A. A freewheeling softball squad.
- B. A very good lacrosse outfit.
- C. A touch football team.
- D. None of the above.

The correct answer is D.

Those are the results of the first 10 games of Highland Park's baseball season. The slugging Scots took the field with gusto in their opener against Minnehaha Academy on April 13 and haven't looked back. Head coach Chris Steenberg was optimistic about the upcoming season in March, but even he is surprised how his team is scoring runs.

"We thought we'd have some bats because we had a good crew coming back," he said. "We have a lot of guys who've been together since they were sophomores. They blend together very well."

On May 10, Saint Paul Academy slowed the Scots' swingers slightly, but Highland still claimed a 5-3 victory to improve to 11-0 overall.

A year ago, the Scots also broke out fast, scoring in double digits nine times in a blazing 13-3 start. Unfortunately, things went south at the tail end of the season when Highland fell to Saint Thomas Academy and Holy Angels in the Section 3AAA playoffs.

When practices commenced for 2023, the Scots were like many teams—confined for weeks to working out indoors. "We were pretty limited in what we could do in our field house," Steenberg said. "We could only make one 90-foot fielding play, so we practiced a lot of footwork."

The rest of the time, the team practiced hitting in a batting cage and worked on pitching.

Both facets of the game seem to be going very well. As this was being written, the Scots were hitting .444 as a team and were in first place in the Saint Paul City Conference with a 3.5-game lead over second-place Central. Highland won the first contest with the Minutemen 11-1 on May 8 and has already clinched its first City crown since 2018, Steenberg's initial year at the helm.

The Scots' pitching has been superb, allowing just eight earned runs in 11 games. Asking a coach to single out a

WRIGHT CALL ►13

Top-ranked Raiders looking like teams of old

By Bill Wagner

The Cretin-Derham Hall baseball team is back this season with a vengeance. The Raiders, who hold the record for most state high school baseball championships (11) and most state high school games won (43), haven't returned to the main-stage event since capturing the big-school title in 2007.

This spring, CDH has been a dominant force on the field. As of mid-May, the Raiders were 13-2 overall and ranked as the top team in the state. They 10-runned strong Suburban East foe East Ridge twice, while also beating league rivals Stillwater, Roseville, White Bear Lake, Park, Forest Lake and Irondale. They topped Woodbury 8-0 on April 26 and came from behind to beat Mounds View 6-4 at Target Field three days later.

"That (Mounds View game) was the best game we've played this year from top to bottom" said first-year CDH head coach Buzz Hannahan.

The Raiders' only losses were an out-of-character 17-4 setback at home against Park in their rematch on May 3 and a 4-3 squeaker to Mounds View when they met again on May 10.

There are no guarantees in baseball, but it's a good bet that it's going to take a very good team playing their very best ball to keep CDH from getting back to state this year.

Hannahan, who has 10 seniors on this year's team, said the 2023 Raiders have been a joy to coach. They can pretty much do it all—hit, hit for power, run, throw and field. "This team is special. They've embraced the school's tradition," he said.

When it comes to pitching, CDH has some serious depth. Senior Jack Taxdahl, who is expected to play at the University of Minnesota, pitches and catches well. In fact, Hannahan compares him to a past CDH great.

"You have to go back to when Joe Mauer was here to find somebody as good as (Taxdahl)," Hannahan said.

A 1994 CDH grad, Hannahan was a star for the Raiders baseball team. He went on play at the University of Saint Thomas, and then was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies where he spent eight years for their organization.



CDH teammates gathered at the mound to support starting senior pitcher Trey Gnetz as the team reset and the Raiders went on to beat Forest Lake 3-2 on May 8. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Mauer, a six-time all-star for the Minnesota Twins, graduated from CDH in 2001.

P.J. Jones gives the Raiders a 1-2 punch on the mound. Jones, a junior, plays first base when he's not pitching and is a solid hitter at either the cleanup or No. 5 spots in the order. He has tremendous power and is eventually headed for the University of Maryland.

Senior Justin Benjamin is a transfer from Minneapolis South who has earned a lot of playing time as both a pitcher and outfielder. Senior Trey Gnetz is a good pitcher and second baseman with pop in his bat. Sophomore John Henry Kohorst is a hard-throwing lefty for the Raiders.

Hannahan likes his pitching staff not because they throw that hard, though they all have decent fastballs, but because they can mix in breaking balls and keep their pitches over the plate.

"If we play good defense behind our pitchers, we'll win a lot of games," he said.

Senior shortstop Colin Scanlan has good range and is a versatile hitter. Senior third baseman David Verdeja combines great defense with being a tough out at the plate.

And according to Hannahan, his outfield is defensively as good or better than anybody's in the state. "It's phenomenal," he said.

Anchoring that group is junior Jake Quinn, who can cover a lot of ground in center. He also hits for power and is committed to play at the University of Minnesota. In left is senior Ryan Warford, who combines a good glove with a strong bat. Playing right is Benjamin when he's not on the mound, or junior Lucas Ackland, who also can pitch.

One big reason why the Raiders are so tough is their all-around athleticism. "Our pitchers are unique in that they can all play multiple positions," Hannahan said.

Providing depth at catcher is Andy Brown, who has great potential and is the team's only freshman. "He's like gold," Hannahan said. "He has a great arm and his bat is a big plus."

At the start of the year, Hannahan said that this year's squad was the best one the Raiders have had since the school's title-winning years, first under coach Dennis Denning and then under coach Jim O'Neill.

At this point in the season, there seems to be little reason to change his mind.



Nova Academy's track standouts include, from left, senior sprinter Sebastian Hoiland, junior sprinter Henry Peklo and junior distance runner Henry Karelitz. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Knights shine bright in boys' track

By Bill Wagner

For a team that doesn't even have its own home track, the Nova Classical Academy boys' track and field team is carving out quite a niche for itself.

The Knights pay Highland Park High School to use its track, according to Nova coach Kimberly Strand. However, it is only authorized to use it for an hour a day. Strand said most schools are able to use their tracks 10-12 hours per week.

Still, that drawback didn't prevent the Knights from winning the boys' Class A state championship last season, and from putting up solid numbers in defense of their title this spring. Strand said her team perhaps functions best as an underdog.

"I don't think we went into last year's state thinking we'd win it," said Strand, now in her 10th season at Nova. "But we showed well. We're

a scrappy team. We're consistent and we want to have our athletes in positions to be successful."

The small West End charter school is making a big impression in an area it hasn't been much known for in the past. "We're not known for our athletes," said Strand, who also teaches at the school.

She said she doesn't pay that much attention to her team's status in regular-season meets. It's more about showing consistent improvement. But she is proud of its showing in the Section 4A true team meet, in which the Knights finished sixth out of 15 schools.

With the Skyline Conference meet looming this week, she is hoping that her team's improved numbers—there are 35 boys on the team right now—will be beneficial. "We've been growing," Strand said. "We have a bit more depth."

NOVA BOYS' TRACK ►13

12-1 WRIGHT CALL

player who has stood out during a streak like this is like asking a parent to pick a favorite child.

On the mound, Landa has been just as fierce, having allowed just two earned runs in 20.1 innings.

“He’s exceeded expectations,” Steenberg said. “He does things that rub off on other players.”

But Landa is not alone in making the lives of opposing pitchers miserable. Junior Pete Douma is batting .645, going 20 for 31 with 15 walks and a team-high 25 RBI.

Those are impressive numbers, but Steenberg has been exhorting his players to leave them all aside when they take the field.

This is the time of year when things come to a head quickly for high school sports. Accordingly, the Scots have a few challenges ahead of them in short order.

12-1 NOVA BOYS’ TRACK

The section meet will take place on June 1 and 3 at Bethel University.

The Knights have some talented athletes who are known to perform well during crunch time. Strand referred to senior Sebastian Hoiland as “the reason we won state last year,”

This spring, Hoiland boasts personal best numbers of 11.34 in the 100 and 22.95

solid Two Rivers team on May 22.

The road to the state tournament is a treacherous one. To get it done, Highland will have to get by Two Rivers (9-4) and defending section champ Saint Thomas Academy (10-3).

For now, Steenberg is taking the one-day-at-a-time approach. “We need to stay focused,” he said. “But we do have guys who can play.”

Transfer portal comes to Summit Avenue

As the University of Saint Thomas preps for its third season as a NCAA Division I athletic entity, one thing has become clear: The university, and most notably men’s basketball head coach John Tauer, is adapting well to the changing landscape.

It wasn’t that long ago that a school heralded its recruiting class and started the process of how to meld the newcomers with the returning crop.

In mid-April, UST men’s hoops saw a major defection when freshman Andrew Rohde, the team’s leading scorer in 2022-23 and one of the top first-year players in the country, left for the University of Virginia.

hope to find his way into playing for a program that won 25 games last season and was a fourth seed in the NCAA tournament.

UST won 19 games last year with a team that had two seniors and two graduate students. Rohde’s departure left another opening for playing time. Enter 6-foot-4 guard Raheem Anthony, who was a first-team D3hoops.com all-American and led the MIAC in scoring with 24.6 points per game for Saint Mary’s.

Saint Kate’s golfer earns NCAA selection

As the MIAC sports season draws to an end, one Saint Catherine University student has earned an impressive honor. Sophomore Kyra Venne was named the conference’s women’s golfer of the year.

Dave Wright can be reached at dwright53@msn.com.

runner this spring in senior Nikolai Farber. Despite being a distance runner who had never used blocks before, Farber has stepped seamlessly into the relay.

Senior Henry Karelitz has posted personal bests of 4:26.54 in the 1600 and 9:34.03 in the 3200.

The Knights are strong in the field events as well. Junior Silas Revnaugh set a new school record in the discus with a throw of

116-5. He is also the holder of the school record in the shot at 39-11.

Nova might not have a track it can call its own, but it knows what to do no matter which track it steps onto. Strand said a return to state will be no cakewalk, with squads like Minneapolis North and Perham looming.

“We want to win the conference meet and then we’ll take it from there,” she said.

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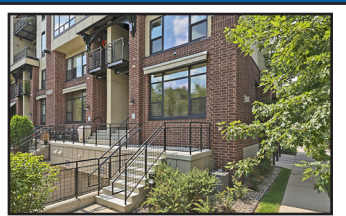


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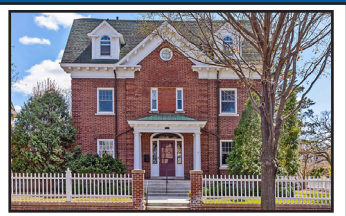
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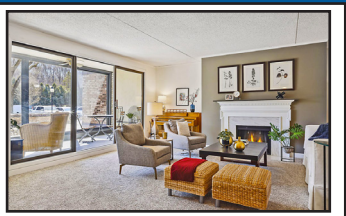
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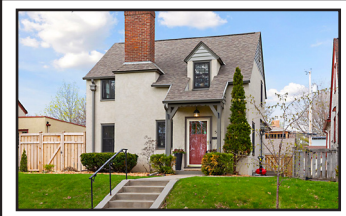
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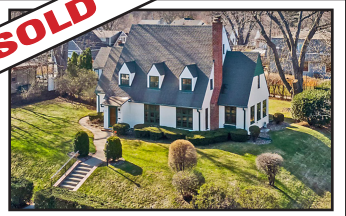
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Gorgeous Cape Cod 1928 model "Dream Home" one of early builds in the new "Highland Park". Admired 4BR, 3BA 3 story bathed in sunlight! Gorgeous hrdwd flrs, main floor includes sun room, study & large porch along w/formal living & dining rooms.

LOLLY SALMEN
612-810-4137
MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



SOLD
PREMIER OFFER!
For 4BR, 3BA Kings Maple Wood arts and crafts period two-story gem on lovely lot complete w/stone patio & pergola. Oversized insulated garage is architecturally designed. Beautifully appointed w/original millwork & sun drenched space meticulousness maintained. Highly coveted location within Macalester Groveland. Call Lolly Salmen for details.

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