By Sarah CR Clark

Joyful preschool children wiggled their way down Como Avenue to College Park one recent morning. Two teachers walked among them; one wearing a hiking backpack containing a speaker playing "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," the other pulling a wagon of water bottles, snacks and extra hats and mittens.

The kids walked, jumped and rolled along the sidewalk, the boulder and any snow piles nearby. I saw beautiful chaos as I accompanied them… until a pedestrian appeared on the same sidewalk heading towards the children. Then all was orderly. Each child, without hesitation, quietly hopped off the sidewalk onto the grass and waited at a distance for the woman to pass before continuing to the park.

While much of the preschool life at St. Anthony Park Community Nursery School remains the same during this pandemic time, some things are very different.

When it became clear last summer that COVID-19 would continue the altered daily life, Community Nursery School Director Molly Breen began to reimagine preschool. The 70- plus-year-old preschool program is housed within Centennial Methodist’s SAP building (2200 Hillside). As new health and safety guidelines emerged, Breen shifted her program from a classroom based preschool to an "adventure preschool." She has noticed that other schools see the success of it and follow suit.

Breen reflected about going to outdoor learning and activities. "The open space seems to have a diffusing effect on some of our bigger personalities and we are not experiencing children reaching sensory overload as we do in an enclosed space," Duerr said. "Additionally, the children have bonded over their shared adventuring and tend to work together rather than in competition with each other."

Michael Townley, the mother of son Miles who attends the preschool, said she hopes that shifting to the outdoors becomes a significant movement. "The success of the outdoor curriculum is really one of the silver linings of the pandemic, and proof that sometimes unique circumstances push us to try things we wouldn’t have otherwise," she said. "I hope this focus on outdoor integration becomes a permanent part of the preschool program, and that other schools see the success of it and follow suit.”

Meanwhile, back to the preschool adventurers. On that recent morning, they made it to College Park, stopping once to admire a stop sign for "JuneHan loves being outdoors more than I could ever imagine!” she said. "We thought the benefits of going to preschool outweighed the risk.” While this is JuneHan’s third year at the Community Nursery School, her mother said he doesn’t miss the way preschool was held before COVID-19.

Community Nursery School, his mother said, "JuneHan loves being outdoors more than I could ever imagine!” she said. "We thought the benefits of going to preschool outweighed the risk.” While this is JuneHan’s third year at the Community Nursery School, his mother said he doesn’t miss the way preschool was held before COVID-19.

Molly Breen and Martha Duerr accompany their pod of students during a day of outdoor-based preschool. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

Vacant Luther Seminary dorm is temporary homeless shelter

By Scott Carlson

As a new day is dawning, a former dormitory at Luther Seminary is taking on a new life: It has become a temporary homeless shelter.

Seminary officials signed a lease effective Dec. 1 that allows Ramsey County to use the religious institution’s vacant Stub Hall through the end of April 2021 to provide temporary housing to more than 75 women and some couples experiencing homelessness.

“We feel a call to use all of our facilities for our neighbors in need,” Heidi Droegemoeller, vice-president for Luther Seminary relations, said at a recent virtual community meeting attended by more than 200 people.

Ramsey County officials said that leasing the Stub Hall building will help ease the shortage of available housing for homeless people, a problem that has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Prior to using Stub Hall, the county was largely relying on a hotel program to provide shelter for some homeless people.

Currently, Ramsey County estimates there were several hundred homeless people in emergency shelters during periods of 2020. The temporary Stub Hall shelter is operating 24/7 with trained staff on site, also providing meals and other support services. The co-creation process between Ramsey County and the Minnesota Housing Stability Department, which was recently initiated to consolidate additional shelter facilities.
The Lauderdale ordinance forbids sales of flavored tobaccos except in adults-only tobacco shops. Eddie Siouffy, owner of Super USA at Eustis Street and Larpenteur Avenue, submitted a statement to the council on Nov. 3 that reads in part, “When the City Council adopted the flavor ban ordinance, we lost a significant amount of our customers, sales and potential sales. Siouffy said he might want to open an adults-only tobacco shop inside his store. “In the city of Lauderdale, most of our customers are middle-aged, working-class adults,” he noted.

Meanwhile, Aldo Sicoli, superintendent of Roseville schools, submitted a memo saying he was “alarmed” by a 2019 survey indicating an increase in students using tobacco products. “Our students are becoming addicted, which endangers their very futures,” Sicoli wrote, adding, “The tobacco companies have targeted African American communities for decades with menthol promotions and they have succeeded. Of African American smokers who smoke, over 80 percent smoke menthol.”

City administrator Heather Butkowski said in recent meetings the council has heard from various stakeholders. “The council reviewed updates to the ordinance so that it will conform to new federal and state tobacco laws,” Butkowski wrote. “Additionally, the council discussed whether to keep the current flavored tobacco restrictions, expand them to apply to tobacco shops, or relax the restrictions to allow the sale of mint and menthol tobacco products at the request of the current tobacco license holders.”

Anne Holzman is a Bugle freelancer who covers Falcon Heights and Lauderdale news.
New director heads Creative Enterprise Zone

By Scott Carlson

Angela Casselton recently became executive director of the Creative Enterprise Zone, returning to the nonprofit world and an organization known for facilitating wall murals in south St. Anthony Park.

Casselton’s new job draws on her art and business experience. A native of Zumbrota and graduate in studio art and communications from Concordia College in Moorhead, Casselton served as a research assistant for the Plains Art Museum, which led to an almost decade-long career at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

In 1998, Casselton left arts and began a 20 plus year career in in marketing and sponsorship at the Star Tribune Media Company and the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Bugle conducted this Q and A with Casselton to get her thoughts about the CEZ and what she hopes to accomplish. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Lutheran Seminary from p. 1

made up of community partners and law enforcement refer women and couples experiencing homelessness to the facility. Once referred, residents could stay for several days, like the county’s existing shelter programs,” the county said on its website.

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the county has implemented protocols aimed at minimizing the risk of its staff and shelter residents getting infected by COVID-19.

“Currently, health screenings are completed daily around mealtimes to check residents for symptoms of COVID-19,” the county said on its website. “People who show symptoms or test positive are placed at a respite site so they can be in isolation and quarantine. If multiple positive tests originate from one location within a certain period of time, the state and local public health departments determine if mass testing is necessary. We’ve been successful in keeping infection rates low and would continue to use these strategies at Stub Hall.”

For more information, check out the Ramsey County website and FAQ.

Scott Carlson is Bugle managing editor.

Q: What is your interest in the CEZ and why did you want to become the executive director?

A: I started with the CEZ as a fundraising consultant for the inaugural Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival. We are excited to launch a new $200,000 Neighborhood STAR loan and grant program, open to CEZ businesses for capital improvements. Applications will be available online on our website at creativeenterprisezone.org starting Jan. 4.

Q: What are the greatest challenges ahead for you and the CEZ?

A: Change in the CEZ district is inevitable. The CEZ organization was born from disruption (during light rail construction in 2009). We know that together we can apply imagination, creativity and innovation to become a thriving, equitable and just community of economic and environmental well-being. I intend to continue the CEZ’s strong reputation for getting things done.

Q: How has the pandemic affected the CEZ?

A: As we began 2020 with a great deal of momentum and ambition until the shutdown in March. We were forced to postpone the 2020 Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival, release our partners and funders from their commitments and watch as contracts for our commercial real estate services dried up. Then the city burned (in the aftermath of the George Floyd protests) and we awoke to a new understanding of historical trauma.

By June, we decided to use support from two funders to employ local artists and vendors affected by the economic downturn. By adding six new outdoor murals over the summer, we continue to improve the long-term beauty, vitality, safety and walkability of the CEZ. We celebrated with our first Outside Open House in October, and continue to promote self-guided, socially distanced tours of the 24 plus murals using the map on our website.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish in the coming year 2021?

A: I believe in small acts for big impact. I like to implement, even if it’s just the first steps moving us to a bigger goal. For example, we know our community would benefit from a larger tree canopy to offer a high heat index, and new parklets that connect us with the outdoors and each other.

With proper funding and resources, we hope to move toward these larger ideals by piloting a Public Spaces initiative around gravel-bed tree nurseries this spring, giving us the means to grow, harvest and plant new trees in the CEZ.
From the Desk of the Editor

By Scott Carlson

Recap on readership survey
Nearly 300 people participated in the Bugle’s 2020 Readership Survey this fall and we thank all of you for your responses. It is gratifying to know how many of you love your community newspaper and are supporting it to keep it vibrant and strong. One reader said, “I look forward to every issue.”

Another one said, “The Bugle is a great community builder.”

Still another reader commented, “As a former journalist/photog with a small town newspaper all I can say is, ‘more power to you.’ Keep up the good work and stay strong. Keep your focus on the local community/neighborhoods.”

Well, we certainly get that message—local, local and local. Our survey results found that 96 percent of respondents always read the front page, 67 percent the Neighbors column and 62 percent the events.

You also like your district council community news. Fifty percent of respondents said they always read City Files. And 58 percent of respondents said they always read business news.

Additionally, more than half of respondents said they always or occasionally read Transition Town columns and school news. Many people also appreciate sports news and other columns, such as the Birdman of Lauderdale.

Meanwhile, several folks offered suggestions. Some readers want more business news and people features while a few others suggested crime reports, books and art and stories that connect with renters and younger people. They are all good suggestions and ones that I am reviewing to see how we can make the paper even better. That includes, among other things, upgrading our photography.

All of your feedback is valuable as our Bugle board continues its strategic review of our operations. More reports to come on that in 2021.

Photo galleries starting
They say, “A picture is worth a thousand words.”

Well, words are pretty darn important, too. But there are times when we don’t have space for all of our copy, particularly photos.

So, we are starting a new feature on our Bugle website. We are calling “Park Photo Galleries.” They will consist of photos that we have had in our print editions along with extra pictures that we didn’t have space to run.

Frustration over Line 3

Since the beginning of this year we have been fighting an ever-changing battle to protect our families, our neighbors and our communities at large. Our foe in this battle is a virus. A virus we knew little about, a virus that was hard to predict and it has proven to be a formidable opponent. Being a part of a struggle like this has been scary. It has created great suffering; yet at times it has brought us together as a people.

On a local level, I must express my pride that we have leaders such as Gov. Walz who have helped us face this challenge. He has led us in facing this foe honestly, with clear eyes and with an underlying belief that our actions in this battle will be based on science and the common good.

While I feel pride in Gov. Walz’s decision making in regard to COVID-19, I feel frustration and anger over recent decisions he and his administration have made in regard to Line 3.

As a candidate and as governor, Walz has talked about the need to act boldly on the climate crisis. He has also often talked about the need to respect, honor and protect our indigenous neighbors. In spite of this expressed commitment, the Walz administration (along with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) grant ed Enbridge Inc. its long sought after permits to begin construction on Line 3. This decision flies in the face of climate science and long-term health of our communities and planet.

It is also another clear reminder that money talks and talks louder than the needs of the indigenous communities that will be put at risk for the benefit of a corporation to make money on the sale of fossil fuels. In that regard, the long-standing tradition of broken promises to our indigenous neighbors continues.

So what next? This reminds me that the world is gray and even those leaders we support make bad decisions. Unfortunately for us all Gov. Walz made the wrong and likely devastating decision to allow Line 3 to move forward. It also reminds me that in this and all areas true change will come from the ground up. When our leaders fall short, when our leaders ignore science and the well-being of our fellow citizens WE must act.

No doubt the actions of the Walz administration are a huge step back in the fight against Line 3. That said, the battle is not over. We will continue to fight. When we make our voices heard, when we follow the science to make decisions and when we put people first we will prevail. Hopefully then, our leaders like Gov. Walz will come along with us.

Tom Lucy
St. Anthony Park

They are the champions!

For the first time since 2009, the Como High School Cougars football team is City Conference champs.

The Cougars defeated Harding 32-12 in the final game of the abbreviated season to capture the title with a 4-0 record. For complete story, go to page 16. Photo by Matt Kenutis.
Bugle’s annual fundraiser nearing goal!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Another month into the Bugle’s 2020 annual fall fund appeal, the newspaper’s campaign is more than 90 percent towards reaching its goal. As of Dec. 9, about 500 donors have contributed $41,450 towards our campaign goal of $45,750.

We are very grateful for your outpouring of generosity and thank all of our financial supporters for their confidence as the Bugle strives to produce great journalism that informs readers and supports the communities of St. Anthony Park, Como Park, Falcon Heights and Lauderdale.

Now, we raise just a relatively small burst of additional support to help us top our fund-raising goal. As you do your end-of-the-year tax planning and make your last charitable contributions for 2020, please consider donating to the Bugle if you have not already.

Or consider making another donation, no matter how big or small. There still is plenty of time to make your contributions. You can give online at www.parkbugle.org or with a check, sent to The Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Every gift matters!

With your help, the Bugle can remain vibrant in informing and building a strong and healthy community.

Now here is a list of our latest donors, from the period of Nov. 12 to Dec. 9:

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Raymond & Elizabeth Williams
Arthur Wineman & Debbie Mus Grill
Barbara Wishinsky
Patricia Zatlan
Carol Zepf
Mary Zorn

**Businesses**

Como Rose Travel
Sandy’s Barber Shop

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**VOICES:** Amelia Corl

By Sarah CR Clark

Amelia Corl is senior strategy officer at GHR Foundation. She previously worked at USAID and the US Institute of Peace.

A native of Washington, D.C., Corl graduated from Macalester College in 2006 and then attended the University of Minnesota’s graduate program in sociology. She identifies as white and lives in St. Anthony Park with her spouse and two young children.

Q: Can you describe GHR Foundation’s work?

A: At GHR Foundation is based in Minneapolis and is the legacy foundation of Gerald and Henriette Raaschou. We exist to be service to people in their limitless potential for good. “The foundation focuses its grant making in the areas of international development, education and Alzheimer’s prevention.

Q: Has your work at the foundation changed since George Floyd’s murder?

A: At I think most foundations have changed their work over the course of 2020. The compounding crises of COVID-19, economic destabilization and the widening spotlight on racial injustice have forced us to reflect on our role in changing the systems that concentrate these impacts on the most vulnerable and marginalized. At GHR, we increased our grants budget this year by 20 percent and have launched new place-based partnerships to anchor our foundation more firmly in the work of racial justice in Minnesota.

This year has been a time for more significant reflection. We find ourselves reckoning with 400 years of deeply baked racism and exploitation in a whole new way since George Floyd was murdered in our community. For me, it has been a time of simultaneous grief and optimism. There is so much change that needs to happen. But every week I am meeting new people and organizations who believe this change is possible.

Q: What steps have GHR’s staff to become more anti-racist?

A: We are undertaking work individually and as a team to build our capacity around racial consciousness and dismantling unjust systems. We have had the tremendous benefit of working with one of the most outstanding leaders in this work—Tony Hudson of Racially Conscious Collaboration.

I have also been grateful for all of the resources staff and partners are sharing from what you are my guidance to philanthropy such as “Power Moves,” which is a self-assessment guide for equity and justice put our by the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, all the way to podcasts like “Nice White Parents,” 1619 and Seeing White. I’ve been excited that the energy isn’t wanting even six months after George Floyd was killed.

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**Park Bugle**

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In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District 12 Community Council’s Environment Committee has been discussing how a largely overlooked issue could be further exacerbating the coronavirus crisis: neighborhood wood smoke.

“Frequent wood burning is taking place in our neighborhood and across the city and state,” said Lisa Habeck, a member of the St. Anthony Park District 12 Environment Committee. Wood smoke also has been a recent topic in city newsletters in Falcon Heights and Lauderdale.

“A densely populated urban setting is a risky place to satisfy a desire for nostalgia from the sound and smell of a crackling fire when climate change and COVID-19, a virus greatly affecting the lungs, are becoming more and more concerning,” Habeck contended.

She and Committee Co-Chairman Michael Russelle said a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report reveals more than half a million households in the metro area burn wood with about 40 percent of that wood burned in outdoor recreational fires and much of the rest burned in fireplaces for home heating.

And that’s a problem because wood smoke is filled with small, potentially health-damaging particles, many containing the same toxic chemical substances found in tobacco smoke, they said.

“The problem is that one family’s enjoyment is another’s health hazard,” Habeck and Russelle said in an email to the Bugle. They asserted that residents in much of the Bugle’s readership area have above average risk to air pollution, according to the interactive maps of the Minnesota PCAs website.

Habeck and Russelle said they hope that their committee’s air quality conversations will raise awareness about the problems with wood smoke and encourage people to be responsible about wood burning.

So, what can be done? Habeck and Russelle offer these suggestions:

• Learn how to build a fire that gets hot quickly and put it out quickly, so it does not smolder.
• Avoid burning when air quality already is poor, when there are temperature inversions or late at night when the air is still. For data information on air quality, check out these smartphone apps (Android: Minnesota Air Quality; iPhone: AirPollen): the MPCA online site https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/current-air-quality.
• Upgrade your fireplace with a high efficiency wood stove. That will increase its ability to heat your home and greatly reduce harmful emissions as well as the amount of wood that you need to burn. The Wood Smoke Team of Clean Air Minnesota recommends using just one old, outdated wood stove for a new, more energy efficient model is the pollution reduction equivalent of removing over 700 cars from the road per year.” (bit.ly/WoodSmokeTeam).
• Talk with your neighbors who may be affected by smoke from your fireplace or wood stove. If they have concerns, listen and consider them as you make decisions to burn or not to burn, to put your wood stove or to wait for that outdoor fire until you’re at the cabin.”

Scott Carlson is Bugle managing editor.

Tips for replacing the New Year’s diet

By Jenni Wolf

For many people, every January brings an onslaught of weight-loss, portion-focused, body-focused resolutions, goals and messaging. The diet industry is a powerhouse this time of year, promising all sorts of quick results or “easy” plans to follow.

What we often don’t remember is that: 1) the diet industry is a “big business”—$72 billion dollars’ worth of “big business” reported in 2019 by Marketdata, actually—and is here to make money off of all of us, and 2) diets don’t work.

In fact, research tells us that diets fail up to 95 percent of the time—meaning that 95 percent of those participating in a diet regains as much as two-thirds of the weight they “lost” within a year and nearly all of that weight within five years, according to a 1992 New York Times article by Jane Brody.

So, if you’re tired of spinning in circles on the “diet merry-go-round” every January, here are three things to try that prioritize your health and well-being. They are not a diet and can lead to more sustainable outcomes and a higher quality of life—from rigid food rules.

• Begin to reject the diet mentality by picking up a book to read more about the origins and effects of diet culture on our society and how that affects the way we think about food and our bodies. To get you started, I recommend “Anti-Diet” by Chrissy Harrison or “Intuitive Eating” by Elyse Resch and Evelyn Tribole.
• Buy a new cookbook and cook your way through! Explore new recipes. Try a different cuisine. Experiment with new cooking techniques and methods. Spend more time in the kitchen and planning intentional meals is a great way to practice mindfulness around food. This gives you a way to connect to your authentic hunger and fullness cues which can help you to recognize what your body might genuinely want, need and enjoy. That puts you back in charge of making food decisions, not some diet plan.
• Add, don’t subtract. Think about what foods you enjoy and what foods make you feel good. What might you be able to add or incorporate into meals and snacks that can increase variety, promote balance and provide satisfaction? When you cut a specific food or food group you are often only left wanting that food even more. Think about the times you put limits on the number of cookies you could eat after dinner or the number of times you could eat pasta in a week! Chances are you found yourself more preoccupied with those foods than you would’ve been if you knew you could choose to have them every day as part of a meal or snack, if you wanted.

Remember we are humans and our bodies are smart, we want what we “can’t have” or are getting enough of. That’s not a willpower thing, much diet culture often makes us believe. It’s a biological thing.

Jenni Wolf is a member of the Como neighborhood and a practicing registered dietitian in the community who is passionate about helping others navigate a positive and balanced relationship with food.

Ask the librarian

By Judy Woodward

Every month, the reference librarians at the Roseville Library receive dozens of questions from the public. Here is one of the more interesting questions we have received recently:

Q. Does your library have local high school yearbooks from the previous century in the collection?

A. Although the Library doesn’t carry yearbooks in our book collection, we do subscribe to a genealogy database called Ancestry.com. Among many, many other types of records, Ancestry.com features an online indexed collection of 20th century high school yearbooks from across the United States.

Curious to revisit a photo of your teenage self? Or maybe you’re trying to remember the name of a favorite (or least favorite) teacher? Or the last name of that amazing kid who moved away in the middle of seventh grade?

You’ll find facsimile, digitized versions of yearbooks from a vast array of American schools. There are at least 30 schools listed for Saint Paul and an additional half dozen for the Roseville area. There are Murray High School yearbooks from 1942 to the mid-1960s, back when Murray was still a senior high school. And there are yearbooks for high schools like Roseville’s Frank B. Kellogg High, which now exist only in memory.

And the collection is growing, so there are Murray High School versions of yearbooks from a vast array of American schools. There are at least 30 schools listed for Saint Paul and an additional half dozen for the Roseville area?

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Do you want fossil free electricity?

By Tim Wulling

Xcel Energy plans to provide fossil free electricity in 2050 and to build a new fossil gas power plant in 2027.

Does that seem like a contradiction?

Xcel’s Integrated Resource Plan, now before the Public Utilities Commission, shares a wealth of information about the electric grid that supplies us and about what Xcel has in mind for the next 15 years. It plans to close all of its remaining coal plants, increase wind and solar, extend the grid, and a sizable portfolio of gas plants. (‘Fossil gas’ is a more descriptive term for natural gas, which is in fact a fossil fuel.)

To avoid building the gas plant, we must understand how a renewable grid differs from the traditional grid—and how our own choices can ease the transition to renewables.

In the grid we’ve been living with, central power plants generate however much electricity customers demand. In a renewable grid, the amount of electricity available depends a lot on nature—the wind blowing, the sun shining! We will need to adjust more of our need for electricity to what is available at a given time. More “demand-response” can do this, things on our side of the meter to help the grid supply and demand.

If you are signed up for Xcel’s Saver’s Switch, you already participate in demand-response. On hot summer afternoons, Xcel throttles your air conditioning enough to make a difference to the grid but not enough for individuals to notice. In exchange, you get a credit on your electric bill. Other demand-response benefits include those electric vehicles who charge the batteries at night when Xcel’s load is light, in exchange for a favorable price on electricity. Similarly, some homes with electric space heating store heat at night in ceramic bricks that release their heat during the day when Xcel has a bigger load and higher price. A tank water heater also provides thermal storage that in coming years will be used for more demand-response, enabling Xcel to determine when renewable energy is available to heat the water without affecting the customer’s ability to draw hot water at any time.

So, why does Xcel think it needs a new gas power plant? Maybe they think not enough customers will sign up for demand-response programs. Maybe it’s easier to control the technical aspects of the grid (like frequency regulation and voltage support) with established technology than it is to figure it out for new technologies. Maybe Xcel wants the financial return it gains from building central power plants. But, in light of climate change, what do you want? Tell the Public Utilities Commission. They are accepting comments from the public about Xcel’s Integrated Resource Plan until Jan.15.

Something else you can do: Every time you purchase a new appliance or furnace ask yourself, “Will it still be operating as 2050 approaches? If so, shouldn’t it be electric, not gas?” Going fossil free by 2050 means weaning ourselves from the gas lines to our houses.

Tim Wulling is a retired engineer, lifelong renewable energy advocate and member of Saint Paul 350, a chapter of the MN350 climate solutions nonprofit. He lives in St. Anthony Park.

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**Read up, then speak up**

To inform yourself more fully, go to the source: The executive summary of Xcel’s Integrated Resource Plan, provides a good overview. Go to the Minnesota Public Utilities website at mn.gov/pub and click on “eDockets.” Next, in the Document ID field, enter 20197-154051-01 and click “Search.” A link to the document will appear.

To tell the PUC what you think of Xcel’s plan, fill out the form at mn.gov/puc/consumers/speak-up by entering document number E002/RP-19-368 in the field that calls for it. Hint: Write your comments separately before going to the website, then copy and paste them into the online form.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 is hindsight for this Bugle Year in Review

Compiled by Scott Carlson

In just a few days, 2020 will be history. In hindsight, it’s been a year chock full of dramatic and significant news, both on the local as well as national level.

First and foremost, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a far-reaching impact on our nation and local community, upending daily life and taxing our health care facilities, families and businesses.

Then there’s been major social unrest and a re-examination of how we relate to one another in the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder in late May.

And that’s just the tip of the news iceberg in 2020. So, as you look back on 2020, what will you remember? Below, the Bugle reprises some of the local highlights captured on our news pages:

JANUARY

SAP Community Foundation names new director

The Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation has named Alison Schaub, a veteran of more than 20 years in the nonprofit world, as its new executive director.

Schaub succeeds the retiring Jon Schumacher, a 20-year veteran of the post, and started her new job Jan. 6.

New head coach building family for basketball program

Donnell Gibson’s life’s mission is to provide a positive path.

and around Como, Gibson’s work extends beyond the school walls. In 2015, he established The Gibson Foundation with the vision of creating spaces and opportunities that positively impact youth.

February

Langford Park girls, “Let’s play hockey!”

For the first time in its 80-year history, Langford Park hockey has an official all-girls team.

On Jan. 13, 13 Langford Park (LP) girls, ages 8 to 12, took to the ice for their first game in their inaugural season.

The dream of an all-girls hockey team has been long in the making. Coach Clayton Howatt and program coordinator, Scott Hamilton, have been working for years to organize the team. Eighty years ago, all LP hockey teams were solely for boys. Today, all of LP’s teams are co-ed.

Groups exploring family homeless shelter in Bandana Square

Interfaith Action and Ramsey County are exploring the feasibility of opening a homeless shelter and day center for families inside the Minnesota Cameroon Community Center in Bandana Square.

“There are no solid plans, but it’s an exciting opportunity with lots of possibilities,” Sara Liegl, director of Interfaith Action’s Project Home, told the District 10 Como Community Council’s Land Use Committee on Jan. 6.

The groups are working out renovation and code requirements, costs, construction and operation funding, staffing and logistical needs, she said, adding that late summer is the earliest that a shelter could open.

The Cameroon Community owns about 57,000 square feet of space in the northwest corner of Bandana Square in St. Paul’s Energy Park district. The space used to be a medical clinic. It still has more than 70 exam rooms with sinks, plus public bathrooms and other public space.

The preliminary thinking is that the former exam rooms could be converted into flexible, dormitory-style rooms, providing private space for 40 to 60 families of different sizes, and perhaps older women, Liegl says.

Como’s ash trees dodge the buzz saw in 2020

For the first time in years, the city’s Forestry Department does not plan to cut down any boulevard ash trees in District 10 in 2020.

Since foresters took down the first ash on California Avenue in 2009, the city has removed more than 800 ash trees from public property in Como as part of its ongoing fight against the invasive emerald ash borer. According to the city’s inventory, there are about 365 boulevard ash trees left in District 10. About 120 of them are being treated with the insecticide TREE-age (Emamectin benzoate).

March

Lady Elegant Tea Room closing

“ar spot of tea, old chap”?

For the past 16 years, including the last six years under its current owners, the Lady Elegant Tea Room & Gift Shoppe in St. Anthony Park’s Milton Square has served up tea and scones in the high British tradition.

But now Lady Elegant’s tea service officially was scheduled to end Feb. 29. “After six wonderful years, Lady Elegant will be moving on to a different business in March,” according to a notice on the shop’s website. “We are very grateful to all our customers who came to enjoy our scones and tea.”

April

Navigating the coronavirus crisis

From churches, schools and families to restaurants, shops, businesses and community organizations; the COVID-19 virus is disrupting a vast array of daily activities.

The pandemic is causing havoc for local businesses, especially neighborhood restaurants. Gov. Walz’s March 16 executive order temporarily closed restaurants, bars and other dine-in establishments to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

This forced many of our local restaurants to close—either partially or completely—lay off employees and consider creative options to continue as take-out and delivery businesses.

Meanwhile, close to home, families suddenly found themselves together—in this historically chaotic moment—with a lot of quality time. Schools, churches, museums and gyms are closed.

Many employers encouraged employees to work from home. Amelia Coel, mother of two young sons and strategy officer at GHR Foundation, found her son’s preschool closed, as well as her and her husband’s offices. She and her husband made offices for themselves in their basement.

Coel said, “It feels important to take one day at a time since everything is unfolding so quickly.”

May

COVID-19 crisis impact

Festival cancellation, business slowdowns

For the past three years, the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival has been a signature event in early June, drawing hundreds of spectators...
to the neighborhood to see dozens of artists and vendors in a fund-raiser that also benefits the local community library.

But in mid-April, organizers canceled the 2020 event, blaming uncertainty over whether Minnesota’s state’s “shelter-in-place” restrictions aimed at thwarting the spread of the COVID-19 virus still would be in effect on June 6, the planned date for the festival.

“As more familiar annual events are canceled this year and potentially every year going forward, the community will continue to feel the loss as a free fall from life as we knew it,” said Alison Schaub, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation.

Local businesses are also suffering in the wake of the state’s shutdown.

“Unfortunately, during this crisis, Milton Square is not able to schedule for any events in the upcoming months,” said Heath O’Malley, owner of Milton Square, which is in the heart of St. Anthony Park’s retail district along Como Avenue. “All of our tenants have been hit extremely hard. Many are closed and don’t have an option of opening up in the near future.”

Meanwhile, area restaurants have been hard hit by the shutdown order, but most neighborhood eateries were still offering takeout, including Colossal Cafe. During the first week after the shutdown, owner Elizabeth Ti-nacci experimented with offering pick-up orders for chicken pot pie.

“We thought we’d sell 100,” Ti-nacci said. “And we sold something like 400. This neighborhood has given us nothing but immense support.”

Home schooling takes on a virtual, new meaning

In a dramatic turn of events, St. Paul Public School communities were straight from cancelled school days due to the teachers’ strike to state mandated school closures in a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19.

As families abide by Gov. Tim Walz’s stay-at-home order, students are doing school via “distance learning” while their parents and guardians suddenly find themselves home, too. None of us have really processed any of these changes yet,” St. Anthony Park Elementary Principal Karen Duke said in the first days of the new schooling arrangement.

Shar Toor wins Athena, Downtown Lions Club honors

Shar Toor was born and raised in the Tham Hin Refugee Camp in Thailand before moving halfway around the world to St. Paul when she was 6 years old.

Twelve years later, Shar Toor is a shining star at Como Park High School who is being honore for her soccer, badminton and academic achievements and is preparing to be a first-generation college student.

Shar Toor won Como’s Athena Award and was also chosen one of just six female finalists for the St. Paul Downtown Lions Club 2020 Athlete of the Year.

JUNE

4th in the Park pivots for this year’s holiday

For the first time in memory, the St. Anthony Park 4th in the Park Committee is canceling the annual July 4th parade and related in-person activities, citing the need for social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This year would have been the 73rd year of the St. Anthony Park neighborhood’s 4th in the Park event,” said Collen Healy, a 4th in the Park Committee member. He is a resident of the neighborhood. “As residents we decided that due to the coronavirus pandemic, “it was time to pivot and plan an alternative, safer way for the community to celebrate the Fourth of July.”

In place of the live parade, the committee held a virtual parade.

Pastor Glenn Berg-Moberg retiring from SAP Lutheran Church

After nearly 39 years as the senior pastor of St. Anthony Park Lutheran, Glenn Berg-Moberg will be retiring as man of the cloth on June 14.

“It has been a privilege to serve the congregation and neighborhood,” Berg-Moberg told the Bugle. He started at SAP Lutheran a month before 9-11 in 2001 and retired in the middle of America’s COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to serving SAP Lutheran, he was a youth pastor for 15 years at churches in Wisconsin.

For nursing homes, the daunting challenge of taking on COVID-19

On a February visit to St. Anthony Park Home, Terrie Zarembinski trimmed her mother’s hair. It was a ritual that 76-year-old Kathy DeBace enjoyed, even through the haze of Alzheimer’s disease.

“That was the last time I saw her in person,” Zarembinski said. When COVID-19 arrived in Minnesota, nursing homes closed their doors to visitors in hopes of keeping the virus from infecting vulnerable older residents. The near impossibility of that task is now apparent as local long-term care facilities are grappling to keep a lid on coronavirus infections among residents and staff.

“It’s hard to stop the wind and that’s what I feel like we’re trying to do,” said John Barker, administrator of the St. Anthony Park Home. In early May, his first employee tested positive for the virus. The first 11 residents he tested, including Zarembinski’s mother, were negative for the virus. Then a resident tested positive.

“I’m absolutely terrified that I could be in a situation like the facilities that have had 20 or 30 deaths,” Barker said.

JULY

Changes afoot following George Floyd murder

After George Floyd was killed, Sa-mantha Huett-Shvetzoff watched protesters spill into the streets. She saw the pain and the passion and wanted to be a force for positive change.

“I’ll applaud this fire inside of me,” Huett-Shvetzoff, a St. Anthon-
The organizers of the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival have cancelled the 2021 arts festival due to continuing fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

The nonprofit stated, “Based on what we know about COVID-19 today and the time it takes to plan the arts festival, we are not able to host the event in June 2021.” This second consecutive annual cancellation will hurt the St. Anthony Park Library, which receives fundraising support from the Arts Festival.

Changing up the holiday season
Santa Claus won’t be coming to town.

At least not on Saturday, Dec. 5, when Kris Kringle had been scheduled to appear from 4 to 5 p.m. at Milton Square in St. Anthony Park’s downtown shopping district.

This year, a raging resurgence of COVID-19 infection cases in Minnesota and across the U.S. Activities that have been scrubbed include private dinner parties at Nico’s Taco Bar, book signings at Winding Trail Books and a spaghetti dinner with Santa sponsored by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Center.

There is a ton of stuff that would normally go on (for the holiday season) and none of that is happening this year,” said Heather O’Malley, owner of Milton Square and the proprietor of one of its shops. Activities that have been scrubbed include private dinner parties at Nico’s Taco Bar, book signings at Winding Trail Books and a spaghetti dinner with Santa sponsored by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Center.

This report includes material from editor Scott Carlson and freelancers Maja Beckstrom, Sarah CR Clark, Eric Erickson and Anne Holmes.
Area communities reorganizing IT management

The Falcon Heights and Lauderdale city councils in December approved establishing a joint powers agreement to manage Roseville’s Metro I-Net internet technology services used by several dozen north suburban entities.

Currently, there are 34 full member agencies and 9 receiving limited services from Metro I-Net, which was established in 1999 as a collaboration between Roseville and Mounds View and has now grown into a significant burden for Roseville’s city government, according to a Roseville official.

The participating cities and other agencies will be part of a joint powers agreement with a separate governing board for Metro I-Net that will relieve Roseville of staffing, budgeting and other governance responsibilities for the shared services.

In a memo sent last February to member agencies, Roseville City Manager Patrick Trudgeo stated, “Not only has the number of I-Net members grown, each member agency’s needs have grown exponentially. Some examples in recent years include the deployment of laser fiche, remote computer access, electronic door access, wireless access points, as well as body cam support for law enforcement.”

“The new entity will have its own staff and director. Costs for member entities are expected to increase by about 5 percent, according to information in the Falcon Heights City Council Dec. 2 workshop packet. In Falcon Heights, this would mean an increase from $44,321 in 2020 to $46,537 in 2021; for Lauderdale, from $17,865 to $18,758.}

By John Horchner

When I was in my early 20s, I learned to sell advertising for Good Housekeeping magazine by being paired with various mentors.

During a visit to the Twin Cities back then, one senior salesman showed me around at various advertising agencies in downtown Minneapolis and corporate campuses west of the city.

“Nice place to raise a family, mighty nice place,” the salesman told me.

“Where are all the people?” I asked. I was serious. Living in Manhattan, I couldn’t see where the city was.

The next afternoon, we went to the Minnesota State Fair. Boy, I found the people. In fact, I was so enamored, the senior salesman left me to my own devices, and I stayed at the Fair for several hours body surfing the crowds.

I mentioned this State Fair story to Ben Kantor and found an idea for this column. Ben is a St. Anthony Park neighbor who was just 4-years-old when his father Errol Kantor purchased the Space Tower ride at the Fairgrounds in 1982.

“Lots of people,” I said. “It’s kind of shocking,” Ben, now 42, agreed.

What were Ben’s earliest memories of the Fair?

“I do not remember anything without the Fair,” he said, adding that even after attending college at the University of Minnesota and moving to Florida to enroll in flight school, “I still made it back for the Fair.”

Today, Ben is a commercial pilot for Sun Country Airlines but during the Fair still works, helping his parents and other family members run the Space Tower ride, which is more than 300 feet tall and typically carries 50,000 to 60,000 passengers during Fair time.

Ben said the Space Tower ride is lots of fun but also one that involves a lot of hard work. “The ride takes maintenance every year, all sorts of it.”

One of Ben’s earliest jobs was to spray WD-40 on over a dozen gears that surround the ride to keep them from squeaking.

The Space Tower even played a role in his future.

In his early 20s, Ben bought a house across the street from the Fairgrounds. This is when he met his wife, Michelle. It happened that Michelle was the daughter of Larry Borod, one of the family’s trusted lieutenants who help them maintain the Space Tower each year. One year, Larry told her she could park at Ben’s house while visiting the Fair. She pulled into his driveway as he was pulling out and the two almost collided. Now, they have a son together, and she’s part of the operation, “She got roped in,” Ben said.

While amusement rides at the State Fair date back to the late 1800s, the Space Tower ride didn’t arrive on the scene until the early 1960s. After it was shipped by boat to Duluth, the Space Tower was transported by 20 tractor trailers down to the fairgrounds to become its tallest ride, offering riders a glimpse of both downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. A plaque on the outside says that the steel and concrete base weighs over 2 million pounds.

Like many things at the Fair, the Space Tower ride is a family tradition for the Kantors, and in their case, so is the work. Ben is already eyeing possible jobs for his son Harrison who is just 10.

“Has Ben ever thought about giving up the Space Tower?”

“My wife sometimes talks about moving to a warmer climate, but I’m happy where I am,” he said.

Ben is sanguine about his work both as a commercial pilot and on the Space Tower. “I guess you could say both have theirs ups and downs,” he said.

John Horchner is a writing and publishing professional who lives in St. Anthony Park.
Como’s Class of 2021 struggles with strange senior year

By Eric Erickson

Distance learning during the COVID pandemic has been challenging for students across the country at every grade level. Stories of low engagement and increasing failure rates have been widely reported in the news. But for motivated college-bound seniors who are balancing rigorous Advanced Placement coursework from home while also navigating the college application process, there is a special sense of being in limbo.

Como’s Class of 2021 has conducted its senior year entirely online, without the benefit of meeting teachers, counselors or interacting with classmates. Finding motivation and manufacturing academic energy is tough.

Como senior Aidan Reynolds is a top student and talented tennis player. The Cougars captain lost a chance to play last spring, his senior year to be like this. Though it’s in decades-old school traditions and pep rallies,” he continued. “I appreciate the efforts made by the staff and student body to recover that sense of tradition virtually. But I think most of us are just1 more concentrated on staying afloat.”

Como senior Paola Guerrero Abrego carries a weighted GPA over 4.0 and is an aspiring artist. She shares the loss of personal connection caused by the pandemic. “What I planned and expected got thrown out the window the moment we got closed off from school in March,” Abrego said. “There’s a lot of things that seniors were expecting to do this year. However, with the pandemic, we won’t be able to experience a ‘normal’ senior year.”

“My focus has been split between school and college,” she noted. “The college application experience is already hard, especially for those like me who are first-generation. New to the process. Most of us now have had to do everything alone, unsure of what we’re doing and where to find help. While my counselor has been a huge help, there has been a lot that still confused me.”

Como senior Hashi Abdulle has maintained his status on the “A” Honor Roll throughout distance learning, and has even found a silver lining. With fewer classes and more asynchronous learning, he’s had to manage time differently.

“I’ve already had the chance to experience what it will be like to be a college student, to be responsible for your time,” Abdulle said. “I’m glad that I managed to tackle college applications and the FAFSA early on which has saved me from some anxiety.”

Finishing college applications can feel good. Being confident about choosing the “right” school can be another stressor, especially when it’s sight unseen. The Class of 2021’s college visits have also been virtual. Hopefully, one day their classes won’t be.

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park Senior High School

Como student on history hunt for info on Murray grad and WWII Navy vet

By Sarah CR Clark

A Como High School student’s journey to learn about a local World War II serviceman is bringing him closer to home even as he prepares for a trip to Hawaii this June as part of a History Day program.

The student, Sam Skinner, is seeking information about past St. Paul resident and 1941 Murray High School graduate Signalman Third Class Arthur Barnard Engberg ton Jr., who died in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

Skinner is asking anyone who knew Signalman Third Class Engebretson Jr., or his family, to contact Skinner’s mentor Courtney Major at courtney.major@stpaul.k12.mn.us

Skinner, with his past teach er Major from Murray Middle School, are one of 16 teams participating in National History Day’s 2020 Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute. The institute is a cooperative learning program sponsored by Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum, the USS Missouri Memorial Association and Pacific Historic Parks.

Skinner and Major plan to travel this June to Hawaii as participants of the Institute and deliver a grave-side eulogy honoring Engberg ton Jr. at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. They have spent months researching Engber ton Jr.’s story through primary resources including war records, maps, letters and family interviews.

That effort has been challenging as Skinner noted, “With a focus of just one person, we couldn’t rely on secondary sources that spoke in large strokes. We had to construct a narrative from primary source documents that had never been analyzed or widely publicized.”

Challenging or not, the team repeated finding many primary sources and are working to reconstruct Engberg ton Jr.’s time in St. Paul and service in the Navy.

Currently, Skinner’s research has been published and can be viewed by visiting the following link: https://nhdsilentheroes.org/ arthur-barnard-engberg ton

Skinner met Major in 2015 when she was his sixth-grade history teacher. Since then, Skinner has had a number of award-winning History Day projects that have taken he and Major numerous times to Washington D.C. where he “takes in knowledge from historic sites like the rest of us breathe air,” Major said.

While Skinner’s current project promises a trip to Hawaii, it also is helping him feel closer to home.

“As a member of a family whose members all hail from out of state, I had never before developed a close bond to St. Anthony Park,” Skinner said. “Spending time learning about Engberg ton Jr. undoubtedly brought me closer to the neighborhood.”

Sarah CR Clark is a St. Anthony Park resident and a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.
Promoting peace piece by piece

By Maja Beckstrom

Last spring a group gathered weekly under the aspen trees on the front lawn of Karen Rue’s home in St. Anthony Park to sew 1,000 small leather pouches to hold very special stones.

Each pocket holds a small lump of tektite, a rock formed under rare conditions when a meteorite strikes earth, melts surrounding sedimentary rock and scatters the debris. Rue hopes to spread peace by selling the pouches online and funneling profits to several peace organizations: Chanson Voice & Music Academy, the Creative Enterprise Zone, Filmnorth, International Institute of Minnesota, Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest, the Park Bugle, Schubert Club and Saint Paul Urban Tennis. The grants totaled $55,000.

The Foundation’s initial grant recipients this year were: Keystone Community Service’s Meals on Wheels program, the International Institute, Filmnorth, St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, the St. Anthony Park Community Council and the Park Bugle. The Foundation’s first round grants topped $55,000.

Lunch bunch

The St. Anthony Park Area Seniors is planning virtual “lunch bunch” activities from noon to 1 p.m. on Jan. 6 and 20.

Please call the seniors office at 651-642-9052 for the Zoom links or further information. One additional note: SAPA also has quite a few face masks still available for seniors and jigsaw puzzles to share. Call their office for further details.

Bread love

The St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church will hold a community bread drive from 2 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 5 at the church, 2323 Como Ave. Pre-registration is required and can be done online by signing up at rednosblood.org and using the code SAPA.

Tuesday scholar talks resume

The Ramsey County Library’s virtual Tuesday Scholars talks resume in January with all programs running from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join local academics and experts as they share their knowledge on a variety of topics.

Here is the lineup of speakers through Feb. 9:

Tuesday, Jan. 12 COVID-19 in Context: The Historical Background of a Pandemic

University of Minnesota professor Jennifer Gunn will look at COVID-19 in context of what we can learn from the historical roots of the pandemic and how the story of past diseases can help us prepare for the future. Gunn is the director of the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota.

Tuesday, Feb. 2 The Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Minnesota

Joe Mahon, regional outreach director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, will discuss how the coronavirus pandemic is likely to economically affect Minnesotans.

Tuesday, Jan. 19 The Legal Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the Struggle to Replace Her

Timothy R. Johnson, a University of Minnesota political science and law professor, will discuss the Congressional proceedings that followed the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and how they reflect on her judicial legacy and what they mean for the future of the court. He is a nationally recognized expert on U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments and decision making.

Tuesday, Jan. 26 Using Data Science to Understand Online Extremism

Megan Squire, a professor of computer science at Elon University in North Carolina, will talk about how she uses the tools of her profession to understand online radicalization, extremist group membership, the spread of dangerous propaganda and clan- destine financial networks.

Tuesday, Feb. 9 China Rising—Pros and Cons

Edward Farmer, a retired professor and expert on China and non-Eurocentric perspectives on world history, will discuss China’s emerging role in the 21st century and what China’s rise means for Americans.

To register for any or all of these online Tuesday Scholar talks, visit the Ramsey County’s Library website https://www.rclreads.org/explore/trg-modified-library-services or by calling 651-724-6001. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Virtual course on Bush presidency

The Ramsey County Library in January begins a six-week virtual program on Wednesdays on the presidency of George W. Bush. The classes, led by popular local historian J.B. Andersen, will be broadcast online from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 13, 20 and 27 and Feb. 3, 10 and 17.

Although his legacy will be forever linked with the events of 9/11, the Presidency of George W. Bush covered a wide range of issues, including two controversial wars, the new millennium and unprecedented standards for digital surveillance.

These program sessions will be conducted virtually via Zoom and participants must register in advance at the Library’s website https://www.rclreads.org/explore/trg-modified-library-services or by calling the Library at 651-724-6001. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
Two distinguished professors, one from Luther University and the other from the University of Minnesota, are among people remembered this month in “Lives Lived.”

Terence Fretheim

The Rev. Terence Erling Fretheim, 84, died Nov. 16, 2020, in Chicago where he had recently lived. He died of plasma cell leukemia.

Terry lived for many years in St. Anthony Park, where he taught Old Testament at Luther Seminary. He was also an active member of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church during that time. Terry was born Jan. 27, 1936, the olddest of four boys. His father, uncle and grandfather were also Lutheran pastors. He first roamed the seminary campus when his father was a student there; then returned 20 years later as a student and teaching fellow. He earned his M.Div. in 1960, then studied in England, on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1960-63.

In the mid-1960s Terry studied and taught at Princeton Theological Seminary earning a Th.D. in 1967. He was an Old Testament instructor at Augsburg College and Seminary, Minneapolis, in 1961-63 and an assistant professor of religion at the college in 1967-68.

Terry accepted a call from Luther Seminary to teach Old Testament and was inducted in June 1968. He served the Dennison and Vanh Parishes in Dennison, Minn., while simultaneously he stepped onto Luther Sem’s campus as an assistant professor, wrote his first two books and became a dad, twice.

In 1971, Terry and Faith and their two daughters, Tanya and Amrea, moved to St. Anthony Park. During his 45-year career as a Luther Sem. teacher, he taught Old Testament theology, had a 10-year stint as dean of academic affairs and team taught a class with Paul Sponheim, Ph.D., for 20 years ti-tled, “God, Evil, Suffering.”

In total, Terry wrote more than 25 books on Old Testament theology—including “Creation Unmasked: The Bible, God, and Natural Disasters” and his most recent book, published in August 2020, “God So Enters into Relationships That …” — and count- less articles which have helped shape pastoral students over the past 50 years and counting. Terry officially retired from Luther Seminary in 2013 after 45 years of service.

Terry is survived by his wife of 64 years, Faith; daughters Tanya Fretheim and Andrea Fretheim; grandchildren Kelly, Shannon and Enrie; his youngest brother Stephen; and sister-in-law Judy. He was preceded in death by his parents Erling and Marie, brothers Gary and Mark, sister-in-law Luvia, Aunt Ada and Uncle Phil.

The family requests any memo- rial gifts be sent to: Terence E. and Faith L. Fretheim Scholarship for Environmental Studies and The Care of Creation Development Office, Loyalty Hall, 700 College Dr., Decorah, IA 52101.

Luella Jelen

Luella Elizabeth Jelen, 91, died Dec. 3, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Clemence; son, Scott and 11 sib- lings. She is survived by children, Gregory, Cynthia (Mike) Bennett and Michael; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 9 at Materinity of Mary Catholic Church, with in- terment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Hans Pfannkuch

Hans Olaf Pfannkuch, resident of St. Anthony Park for 52 years, died Nov. 19, 2020, five days short of his 88th birthday.

Born in Berlin in 1932, he grew up in a place and time that clearly shaped his worldview, a deep understanding of what matters in life and what it means to be a good and decent human. He loved life—the arts, humor, science, deep and creative thinking and travel but above all, connecting with people. Had he not walked into the Serbonne office to collect his scholarship fund while earning his doctorate, he would never have met Georgotte, who married him despite his difficult last name. With two young kids in tow and one on the way, they sailed to the U.S. in 1965. As a professor at the University of Minnesota for 42 years, he was a distinguished expert in his field of hydrogeology and was respected worldwide. He was one of those rare mentors who taught kindness and generosity in equal parts to intellectual pursuits, a legacy that cascades forward as those students in turn teach and lead others by example.

Survived by his daughters Kar- ine (Steve) Vanyal, Barbara (Dan Brown) Pfannkuch and son Jo- hannes (Jeth) Pfannkuch; four grandchildren; his sister in Ger- many, Karin “Littla” (Gunter) Nöller and special friend, Beate Cochlowitsch.

A celebration honoring this special man is destined for this summer. Memorials may be made to the Hans-Olaf Pfann- kuch Scholarship fund, which allows hydrogeology students to continue studies at the hydroge- ology field camp at mgwa.org/ mgwa-foundation/.

Thomas Schraad

Thomas Schraad, 86, of Rose- ville, died Nov. 22, 2020. He was preceded in death by his par- ents, Bernard and Margaret and brother, William. He is survived by his wife, pat; children, barba- ra (Al) Hansen, Mike (Janice), Kathy (Rick) Daas, T erri (Hank) Swaggert and Mark (Kristy); 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchil- dren; and siblings, Mary (Virgil) Schutz, Jane Melvin and Joseph (Plylind).

Memorials preferred to Holy Childhood Catholic Church or Philomena House, Mass of Chris- tian Burial will be private.
Thinking of the summer cabin

By Adam Granger

Why write about a summer cabin in the wintertime? Read on.

Although I was raised in Oklahoma, I had Minnesota connections. My great-grandfather, Albert Laubach, owned a store in St. Paul in the wintertime? Read on. My great-grandfather, Albert Laubach, owned a store in St. Paul in the wintertime? Read on.

Albert had four daughters, one of them my grandmother, and each of them inherited a ten-acre strip of the property. My grandfather, architect Magnus Jemne, designed of the property. My grandfather, architect Magnus Jemne, designed of the property. My grandfather, architect Magnus Jemne, designed of the property. My grandfather, architect Magnus Jemne, designed of the property.

I intended to move to the Twin Cities, get a job and a place and check out the music scene. But I was making OK money doing construction right where I was and my rent was zero, and those factors pro-
moted inertia. I became apparent that I would, by default, be spending the winter at Seven Pines. My workmate, a jack pine savage right out of Central Casting, suggested acrimoniously that first, I should get proper clothing that was close enough to hitch-hop, then get a part-time caretaking job at a summer camp that was close enough to hitch-hop. And I would occasionally see the people that lived at a Teen Corps encampment nearby.

Despite all of this, I wasn't in full hermit mode. I gave a part-time caretaking job at a summer camp that was close enough to hitch-hop. And I would occasionally see the people that lived at a Teen Corps encampment nearby.

As winter progressed, I hung out seeing anyone and I also had no phone. I was keenly aware that if I screwed up I could freeze to death. And then, when I thought things couldn't get any more in-
teresting, I awoke one Monday morning in January to a 28-inch snowfall. It was the Superbowl Blizzard of 1975—Minnesota's worst storm of the Century—whose epicenter was 50 miles west of me. So, there was another thing I didn't know. That it could snow so much that you couldn't get out your door. Or even your windows, because of drifts, I had to climb out the cabin's only upper window. And once out, then what? I looked around, climbed back in, got my snow shoved, climbed back out and started digging paths, first to the outhouse (priorities) and then, over the next week, down our quarter-mile-long road to the county road.

Despite all of this, I wasn't in full hermit mode. I gave a part-time caretaking job at a summer camp that was close enough to hitch-hop. And I would occasionally see the people that lived at a Teen Corps encampment nearby.

Finally, in late March, I met a guy in a bar who, thanks to an al-
cohol-inspired lapse of judgment, agreed to plow my long, twiny, fully road for $25. Then, I dug out my car and got it started, packed up the cats and made my way down to the Twin Cities.

A half-century later, the cabin is still there, our family. We don't use it extensively in three seasons. But I alone have the distinction of having wined at Seven Pines. Never again.
Como football wins conference championship

By Eric Erickson

For the first time since 2009, the Como Park Cougars football team earned a championship, finishing 4-0 in St. Paul City Conference. After an ever-evolving schedule eventually led to high school football kicking off a shortened season in mid-October, the Cougars took full advantage of the opportunity to play.

With a defense that only allowed a touchdown per game in the average, Como rattled off four wins in the four weeks of city competition before COVID protocols shut things down in St. Paul.

For Cougar football players, one month of games was enough to make memories that will last a lifetime. Considering Como finished the 2019 season at 1-8 with several lopsided losses, the 2020 campaign was especially sweet.

Head Coach Kirby Scull has guided Como football for 17 years. He has led teams to titles in two other seasons (2007 and 2009), but hadn’t ever experienced such a swing in results from one year to the next.

Scull credited the turnaround to a strong senior class.

“Not only did we have 14 seniors, but they were 14 very committed seniors,” Scull said. “Seven of them played football at Como Park for all four years. They really had a chance to develop and grow and be into being players who could help us in a lot of ways.”

The Cougars’ defensive unit was consistent all year. They started strong in a 16-8 season-opening win over Highland and peaked the next week in a pivotal game versus Johnson. The Cougars didn’t even give up a first down in the second half against the favored Governors.

A 36-0 shutout of Humboldt in week three put Como in position to clinch the championship if they could beat Harding on the Knights’ home turf. A convincing 32-12 Cougar win at Harding sealed the deal.

A couple positive COVID tests among the city teams caused the cancellation of the fifth and final week of games. Como could not be caught in the standings at that point, but there was disappointment that a game against Central could not be played.

“For Scull, seeing his student athletes not only get the chance to play but come together and work hard to achieve a championship season was fun and a great blessing. It’s also a source of school pride that Como emerged as City champions.”

Adeagbo, Sears, Hudson and Lucy, who started on both sides of the ball, led a stingy defense that only allowed an average of one touchdown per game. Adeagbo, a defensive end, led a fierce pass rush and finished in the state’s top 10 for quarterback sacks.

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The score remained tied 6-6 going into overtime. Stone Frasl scored Como’s game winning touchdown on a short run to secure the exhilarating 12-6 final result.

Although no fans were in attendance due to COVID regulations, a noisy, joyful celebration ensued on the field. Sully Lucy, who had two interceptions in the game, stated that the feeling after beating Johnson was a highlight moment that he will never forget.

“It was amazing,” Lucy said. “We worked really hard to get ready for this year and our hard work showed during the game. Hard work all around. Defense was dominant led by Jahreese Adeagbo and Maurice Gant.”

After Johnson, the Cougars defense continued to roll while the team’s offensive productivity soared behind the strong quarterback play from junior Jude Breen. A 36-0 shutout of Humboldt in week three put Como in position to clinch the championship if they could beat Harding on the Knights’ home turf. A convincing 32-12 Cougar win at Harding sealed the deal.

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For coach Scull and the Como Park Cougars, there was no doubt. Only gratitude.

“It seems like we’re living in a world where everything you get to do that’s normal is just a little bit sweeter and feels like a huge blessing,” Scull said.

For Scull, seeing his student athletes not only get the chance to play but come together and work hard to achieve a championship season was fun and a great blessing. It’s also a source of school pride that Como emerged as City champions.

Head Coach Kirby Scull explained what it may mean for his players going forward.

“I think with a team that grows so much together, you make some friendships that don’t go away,” he said. “They’re just kind of always there. I would think our team is going to have fond memories of 2020.”

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School and a longtime coach of school and youth sports in St. Paul.