



Spring will come. Page 10

Access Press needs to hear from you

by Access Press staff

As Access Press staff, board members, readers and advertisers continue to look toward the newspaper's future, next steps in our strategic planning work are underway. Thanks to all who have weighed in during interviews and focus groups. While there's not time to interview all of the people involved with the newspaper, everyone has the opportunity to be heard. How is that done?

Please consider taking a few minutes' time to complete our online survey. The link is at www.surveymonkey.com/r/WYW8697

Answers to the survey are needed by Monday, April 8. Access Press is also publicizing the survey on its Facebook page. One person who takes the survey will receive a gift card, through a random drawing. Survey respondents may also remain anonymous if they choose to do so.

Steve Anderson, chairman of the Access Press Board of Directors, said, "This survey will help determine where we are now and where we want to go in the future. We can only do this with the help and input from our readers by completing the survey."

"We deeply appreciate everyone's support over the past year," said Access Press Executive Director/Editor Tim Benjamin. "It has meant a lot to us. We are very much encouraged by our readers and advertisers. People have really stepped up and it has shown us how much they value the newspaper."

Now it is time to weigh in and help Access Press set its future direction. Take the survey today.

The survey is part of a larger strategic planning effort led by Access Press and the St. Paul firm of Rhone Gladhill. It funded through the generosity of the UCare Foundation. Results and next steps will be announced in the future.

In the meantime, Access Press continues to seek additional means of community support. Here are five ways to help!

1) Please patronize our advertisers, as they are the ones who help bring readers the newspaper every month. Tell them how much their support of Access Press is appreciated.

2) Does your organization or business need to reach Minnesotans with disabilities? Consider becoming an issue sponsor, as MRCI has done this month. Issue sponsorships are a great means of promotion.

3) Tax-deductible donations are always welcomed. Donors are honored in the paper every month. Donations may also be anonymous.

4) Consider a gift subscription or \$30 donation per year for a reader in need.

5) Stay in touch. News items and calendar listings are always welcomed, along with commentaries. Deadline is always the 25th of each month.

Questions? Call 651-644-2133 or email access@accesspress.org



Handmade signs are a staple of Disability Day at the Capitol. See more pictures on page 7.

2019 Disability Day at the Capitol was a time to discuss diverse needs

by Jane McClure

Calls for inclusion and independence rang out as hundreds of self-advocates and their allies gathered February 19 for Disability Day at the Capitol. The first of the Minnesota disability community's big legislative rallies drew people determined to make changes in their lives and the lives of others.

"You have the voices that matter," said Jillian Nelson, community resource and policy advocate for Autism Society of

Minnesota (AuSM). "We have so much to say."

Nelson and other speakers urged those present to tell their stories to state lawmakers as they work for changes in policies and programs. "Our voices will make us the captains of our own destinies," she said.

While the familiar theme of telling one's stories to legislators was often repeated, the 2019 Disability Day took on a sense of urgency. The rally and other upcoming

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"We are experts about our own lives and our own struggles."

Rep. Tina Liebling

NEWS DIGEST



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Photo collection a treasure trove
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Lucas was fearless advocate
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Dedicated volunteer remembered
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Nursing homes get help
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Person-centered communities eyed as needed option

by Access Press staff

Live-work, person-centered communities that would provide housing, employment and other positive life experiences for people with disabilities are being championed by two Twin Cities men. Shamus O'Meara and Chris Gibbs have launched a new project design providing residential, employment and other experiences benefitting people with developmental disabilities within local communities.

O'Meara is a partner with the law firm of O'Meara Leer Wagner & Kohl and CEO of O & D Group. He is also the former chair of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission state advisory committee.

Gibbs is a principal with DLR Group, an international design group. He creates design solutions that holistically transform and elevate outcomes and life experiences throughout the country.

They are hoping to find development partners in communities in states including Minnesota, Indiana California and Arizona. Various construction and operational options are on the table, as they continue talks with local and national developers.



Inclusive, person-centered communities are the vision brought forward.

"There are few integrated housing and employment options available for people with developmental disabilities," said O'Meara. "We work with local partners and community leaders to help create life opportunities that support the personal choices of people with developmental disabilities, providing convenient access to housing, employment, recreation and community engagement based on their personal dreams and aspirations."

The two are combining many years of design and construction expertise

to promote an innovative approach to living, working and recreating together within local communities. Their project design features quality residences with meaningful employment opportunities through supported business connections and person-centered educational programs that provide life skills and experience to facilitate independent living. The design includes health, wellness and recreation components along with other amenities, and a flexible scale depending on

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THANK YOU

Access Press thanks this month's issue sponsor!





EDITOR'S DESK
Tim Benjamin

"...go to Tuesdays at the Capitol. Never forget that the more times legislators see people with disabilities at the Capitol, the more they will remember us and our needs."

What a dreadful month of weather; I don't remember ever getting this much snow in one winter in all my years. I have been lucky that there's only been one excursion on the freeways that was a little bit of a white-knuckle drive. Now we have March, which is supposed to be the snowiest month of the winter - Oh boy!

MRCI (Managed Resource Connections Incorporated) is our issue sponsor this month. MRCI is a private, nonprofit organization that assists individuals in southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro area. They do great work and annually place 4,000 people with disabilities in work, mostly out in the community. MRCI is the 8th largest nonprofit human service organization in Minnesota. Their on-site training staff often numbers more than 400. MRCI is one of Minnesota's largest and most

diverse, person-centered providers of employment and day services.

Soon after we published February's issue, the Minnesota Department of Human Services contacted us to say that the information in the 2019 ANCOR/UCP Case for Inclusion was old data and that if they had used newer numbers, Minnesota would have ranked much higher (see page 4). I was very glad to hear that, since it was rather disappointing to think that we had gone backwards in our services. Something that was very easy to see in the report was the number of states that still mainly provide institutional living for people with disabilities. Minnesota shifted from institutional services years ago. DHS is also trying new designs for waived services. While the report focuses only on those with intellectual

and developmental disabilities, it's still a significant lack of services. It is shameful how we are treating senior citizens and others with mental illness and other disabilities. It's essential that we are treating people in the community and in institutions with respect or dignity.

DHS also asked me if we could ask *Access Press* readers to send in questions that DHS can answer in their ads in the paper. That sounds like a good idea. What questions do you have? Please let us know by email or on our Facebook page. My question is, how can we get the legislature and the governor to recognize that PCAs need a livable wage. No wage increase for the PCA program was even in the governor's budget, while most everyone agrees with the need for that. In addition, a formulary is needed that would put regular cost of living increases in the PCA reimbursement schedule, with 73 percent going to the direct care providers. This problem is so serious and ongoing that if we don't do something about it now, we might as well go back to the dark ages of institutionalization. The workforce shortage is affecting most healthcare industries. Hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies are having a hard time finding PCAs and

nursing assistants. Those employers also have trouble finding low-skilled workers in food services, cleaning services and many other jobs. Hospitals are still constructing new advanced facilities. Are they going to have employees?

At *Access Press* we are working on strategic planning and we need your input. We've updated our computers and our computer systems and are now ready to turn our attention to the website. Many of you may have noticed that our website has been down, and I want to assure you it is under construction. We are looking forward to a newly redesigned website with many new options and interfaces to make *Access Press* a more user-friendly and fully ADA-compliant site. As we work, we will be putting up an intermediate version of our website for the short run. We appreciate your patience and will keep you informed as we go.

Have a good month, meet with your legislators, go to Tuesdays at the Capitol. Never forget that the more times that legislators see people with disabilities at the capitol, the more they will remember us and our needs. ■

"...how can we get the legislature and the governor to recognize that PCAs need a livable wage."

HISTORY NOTE

Pictures give a look back at our state's disability community past

Looking at old photos is an enjoyable pastime. It also provides insight into how life was in the past. Minnesotans with disabilities have been provided with a unique look back, thanks to the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The council has used its website to post Minnesota historical documents and data over the 20 years, with its features With an Eye to the Past (selected images from 1950-2000) and With an Eye to the Future (2000-2018). Historical documents dating back to the 1860s are also posted on the council's website.

Council staff has worked with state historical society staff to find and post historic pictures of people with disabilities. The first in a series of the historic albums was recently posted, with pictures from the 1950s into the 1970s.

Many of the photos appeared in newspapers. One charming story from November 22, 1957, *Help for Ronnie*, explains that "The days when the only program for children with developmental disabilities was in state institutions are



(left) Ronnie Lawrence set the table with his mother. (right) Ronnie took a test, helped by Mildred Byrum, University Minnesota Institute of Child Welfare.

fast disappearing. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lawrence found when they moved to Minneapolis from Kansas City, Kan.



LARRY SCHREIBER

agencies and the Minnesota ARC." Young Ronald was able to participate in expanded programs for people with developmental disabilities, including day camp at Glen Lake. He was depicted taking a test and helping with household chores as a "useful member of the family." The pictures were published in conjunction with "Friendship Day," a door-to-door ARC fundraising event.

Other photos show children in a Minneapolis Elliot Park day program visiting a fire station, adults sharing chores in their new group home in Richfield, and candle-making as part of an Opportunity Workshop work program. One fun photo is of longtime disability rights activist Clifford Poetz, speaking as a young man about disability.

The look back reminds everyone that while things change, the desire of inclusion and being a valued part of society remains the same. See the photos on the council website. ■

The *History Note* is a monthly column sponsored by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, www.mnddc.org or www.mncdd.org and www.partnersinpolicymaking.com.

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MRCI clients take center stage in their success stories

by Lisa Cownie, MRCI

Taking center stage in their own success story may not have been the initial goal; however, it has definitely proven to become the norm for MRCI clients across the state. With person-centered programming and support, our clients are writing their own future and watching the stories play out before their very eyes.

Stories like Jeremy's, he first came to MRCI in 2003. Since that time he has found employment at Devenish in Fairmont and has become a father. He is proud to be earning to support his new family.

"It helps me take care of my family," said Jeremy. "I have a stepdaughter, she's six, and my wife and I just had a baby. It makes me feel good."

Then there are stories like Kyle's, whose family moved him from Tennessee to New Ulm specifically for MRCI's services. We have not disappointed. Kyle volunteers with the Hanska Fire Department and is a fixture at Hy-Vee where many customers greet him by name as he bags groceries, brings in carts and does whatever else is needed in customer service.

Jessica inspired us all last year. A fierce advocate for individuals with disabilities, she worked tirelessly to educate employers on the value of workplace diversity while looking for a job in the community. She went on to find community employment at Valley Fair.

"I am working hard not only for me," she said. "But for others like me. Disabled people should have the same opportunities as others."

Then there is Levi. A long-time community worker at Lowe's in Mankato, he worried when the store announced it was closing. But with a redirection in job training, Levi was able to immediately secure another community job at the Verizon Center in Mankato.

"MRCI really helps you get to that level of having a job in the community, if you have the will," said Levi. "I felt like I had the potential to eventually work out in the community. It took hard work. That's one of the huge building blocks to success."

There are those stories though that showcase successes beyond the work environment. Such is the case with Jim. "My son Jim was born with partial deletion of chromosome #5," Rosemary said. "He has always needed special care 24/7. We tried different programs and even group home situations, but none really gave Jim the quality of care he needed. So we always were the 24/7 caregivers."

But a couple of years ago Rosemary and her husband were finding it more and more difficult to be able to tend to all of Jim's needs. It was just something they physically could no longer do. Having lived, worked and raised their children in Wisconsin, Rosemary wasn't sure what to do next.



Enjoying his job.



Helping at Hy-Vee.



She couldn't seem to find the right "fit" in care for Jim. That's when their daughter, who lives in Minnesota Lake, Minnesota, told them about MRCI. So Rosemary, Paul and Jim made the trip from their Wisconsin home to visit. Everything clicked...they loved the area, found a home and, most importantly, found a place where they believed Jim could thrive: MRCI.

Jim is a part of MRCI's Client Directed Services PCA program to provide support for Jim and his family at night and the weekend, During the day Jim is able to have a job in-house at one of MRCI's locations in Mankato.

Rosemary said, "We came here, just up and moved from our lifelong home, because of good programs and what we felt would be the highest level of participation and care for Jim."

Behind these stories are other numbers to tout: 933 individuals found community employment for the first time in 2018, we traveled 757,857 miles to make sure our clients could all get to work and we supported 2,063 families in their personal wishes to self-direct their own care.

Telling the story of MRCI begins with telling the stories of those we serve. And we certainly have some great stories to tell; however, we are quick to recognize that the impact of our work is only possible because of our amazing staff, families and employment partners.

As we come to the end of our 65th anniversary year, we look forward to the next 65 and know that, just as we have the past six decades, will continue to have an impact in the industry and in the communities we serve.

If you know of anyone that could benefit from MRCI's person-centered services, please have them reach out to us. Thank you for being a part of the MRCI story. The role you play creates opportunities for individuals with disabilities to take center stage in their own success story. Go to www.mrciworksource.org



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MINNESOTA'S DISABILITY COMMUNITY NEWS SOURCE

FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Progress comes slowly but is seen in our quest to be recognized

by Michael L. Sack

Editor's Note: Any questions, concerns or comment for DHS can get a response in future Access Press advertisements. The ads always run on page 5.

Not too often does the disability community have a chance to celebrate a moment of realization. Indeed, people with impairments have to fight more than their peers to get recognition. That changed in a big way this month when three large organizations – Apple Inc., Major League Baseball and Mattel – made announcements that will delight most advocates.

Last year, Apple Inc. contacted the Unicode Consortium and suggested they add emojis that are disability-related to their 2019 array of emoticons. Advocates had said that there were not enough symbols that represented that particular group.

After months of communicating with disability services, Apple ultimately announced in early February that they would be debuting 13 specifically designed emojis to reflect people with disabilities. The 13 new symbols cover a bunch of impediments: people in manual and electric chairs, people who are hard of hearing, and people who have artificial limbs. There is

also a service dog emoji.

Adding symbols to represent all kinds of people could be very helpful. Children are using iPhones and iPads at a younger age now and if they get introduced to these symbols, they might be more open to coming up to someone who looks a little different from them. Honestly, I am uncertain how I will use these emojis, but it is still fantastic they are going to be premiered later this year.

Meanwhile, as disability supporters were pressuring Apple in California, they were doing the same at MLB's headquarters in New York. That group was concerned over the term Disabled List. Since 1966, that phrase has been used in the minors and majors to signify that a player is injured. Realizing the significance of the debate, it was learned last week that in December MLB told clubs they are going to change the name to the Injured List. That switch will start this month as spring training gets underway.

In a recent ESPN article, Jeff Pfeifer, the league's senior director of economics and operations, explained why MLB made the change: "The principal concern is that using the term 'disabled' for players who are injured supports the misconception that people with disabilities are injured and therefore are not able to participate or

compete in sports."

It never really bothered me that MLB used the word "disabled." Nonetheless, I applaud MLB for listening to the community and making this change. I did not mind them using the word because, according to dictionary.com, disabled means "to make unable or unfit." That is what a player is when on the now-injured list: They are unable to play the sport. Seeing the big picture, though, this is the right move by the league to clarify what the designation actually means.

This article wouldn't be complete without some very important Barbie news! Mattel informed their supporters February 12 that they will make new dolls, including one who is in a wheelchair and another with a detachable artificial leg. Since I am out of the Barbie loop, search for the article that has all the details. The dolls will be available to purchase this June.

It certainly has been a busy start of the month for disability awareness. Let us see what comes next!

Michael L. Sack is co-author of the baseball blog, *Two Men On*, with Sam Graves. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Data in inclusion report paints false picture of progress

To the editor:

We appreciate the motivation behind "The Case for Inclusion Report," to improve the lives of people with disabilities. We were disappointed, however, that DHS was not given a chance to respond to your coverage of a report that paints a false picture of Minnesota's progress in supporting community inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

An accurate portrayal of Minnesota's progress would show that both the number of Minnesotans with disabilities supported with services in the community and the investments in those services have steadily grown over many years. Between 2014 and 2018, for example, the number of people served under the developmental disabilities waiver alone increased from 15,893 to 18,603 and investments in those services rose from more than \$1 billion to \$1.4 billion and continues to grow.

The report's overall methodology has flaws that distort Minnesota's performance compared to other states. These flaws include use of erroneous information and old data—some as old as 2008—from varied sources; and misleading state rankings based on compressed scores within a 100-point range.

Here are a few examples:

- Minnesota appears to have been docked points on a score for "reaching those in need" because of erroneous information that our state has narrow eligibility criteria for developmental disabilities services. In fact, Minnesota has long had broad eligibility criteria for services, encompassing intellectual and developmental disabilities and related conditions.

- As of 2016, Minnesota basically eliminated its waiting lists for home and community-based waiver services.

Instead agencies work under a new process to secure funding for individuals at a reasonable pace. As of June 30, 2018, the average length of time someone waits to have access to developmental disabilities waiver funding is 61 days. DHS staff manage dollars to assure people across the state have equitable access to services in a timely manner.

- A compressed set of relative scores does not reflect a real difference in the level, quality and outcome of services provided. A small change, such as 5 points out of 100, would move Minnesota's ranking from 21st to 5th. Twenty-five states have scores within four points of Minnesota's.

Minnesota's performance may be distorted too by our state having a more mature home and community-based services system than most other states. Minnesota is one of only 15 states to have closed state institutions for people with disabilities. This is a milestone Minnesota reached 20 years ago, as it was building community services and supports.

We recognize our system must continue transforming to meet the choices and needs of people with disabilities now and in the future. That work is already well under way. This transformation includes new employment services designed to expand opportunities that have been lacking for people with disabilities. While more work remains, we are seeing progress. For example, average monthly earnings of Minnesotans with intellectual and developmental disabilities in competitive employment rose markedly from 2015 to 2017, as have the numbers of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in competitive employment.

Other recent reforms include more services to support community living, new provider standards, more equitable rate setting, assessment and support planning

improvements, help to increase person-centeredness, positive support strategies and increased quality management. We are now embarking on an initiative to "reimagine" our waiver system, with service menu changes, individualized budgeting and other improvements.

As we strive to provide an array of services that promote inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, a better gauge of success is progress on metrics set out in Minnesota's Olmstead Plan. This plan is the blueprint for how state agencies are collaborating to improve outcomes for people with disabilities. Among many key areas where Minnesota has made progress are the elimination of waiting lists for all disability waivers and the use of positive supports for people with complex conditions.

Minnesota and other states face significant challenges in meeting the needs and choices of people with disabilities. Most immediately, a serious workforce shortage is being addressed by both the legislature and the Olmstead Subcabinet. We can learn from other states and sharing what successful states do. As we manage these challenges, though, let's start by using current and accurate data and information about Minnesota's disability services system.

Claire Wilson
Deputy Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Alexandra Bartolic
Disability Services Director
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Kudos to Gov. Walz, his administration for transit commitment

To the editor:

Kudos to the Walz administration for its commitment to transit and transportation funding.

As someone who relies on Metro Mobility transportation service for people with disabilities, I'm happy to see the service getting well-deserved attention.

The governor has proposed giving Metro Mobility its own budget status, separate from other transit services. That's because Metro Mobility is separate and distinct from other transit services.

Metro Mobility provides rides for a growing number of older people in the region, and people with disabilities who can't use the regular-route transit system. It's a service that gives us the ability to be more independent and ensures we have access to the same places able-bodied people go; our jobs, doctor and dentist appointments, shopping, school, our faith communities

and other social activities.

Mobility is a civil right under the Americans with Disabilities Act. But it's so much more. Mobility is what connects us to other people, our communities, our independence and our freedom to go where we need and want to go.

Gov. Tim Walz is proposing significant change and investments that are long overdue and reflect the changes we're experiencing within our region and society. I

applaud the administration's initiative and commitment to mobility and encourage other residents to support the governor on this important issue and urge their legislators to do the same.

Katie McDermott
St. Paul

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FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Carrie Ann Lucas pioneered parental rights law

by Deb Taylor

Editor's note: Carrie Ann Lucas was a pioneering disability rights activist and attorney from Colorado. Her work led to law changes in her home state to allow people with disabilities to be parents. She advised families across the United States.

Lucas, 47, died from complications from septic shock. She had a rare form of muscular dystrophy and used a ventilator and power wheelchair for many years. Cost containment by her insurance company meant that Lucas was unable to get needed medication. A cold became a serious infection, and she died after more than a year of cascading health programs. Her insurer's refusal to pay for a \$2,000 drug led to more than \$1 million in medical bills. This is excerpted from www.disabilityvisibilityproject.com

by Corbett Joan OToole

You may have seen the tributes for Carrie Ann Lucas. They talk about her commitment to parents with disabilities and her political activism.

They inevitably veer into her family life: her adoption of four children with significant disabilities, how she battled personal health issues. Other tributes might mention the decision by United HealthCare that directly resulted in her death – along the way losing the ability to speak or type.

These tributes nearly always miss the essential facts of Carrie's life: how she turned her home into a disability-enriched sanctuary for her family; how she provided free advice to all who asked; how she lived firmly by her principles no matter the cost; how she learned Morse Code in a few days as a new way to type into her computer after the medical denial caused the loss of use of her hands.

One of Carrie Ann's greatest gifts is that she shared her journey, and her resources. Whenever I had a question, she researched to find the best answer. I, like thousands of other disabled parents, knew that Carrie Ann could figure out solutions to any problem. I knew that no matter what I faced, she had my back. When things got hard, we'd commiserate over social media and the next day go back to fighting for our rights.

Knowing I was on Team Carrie made me feel invincible. She could muster national support in a few hours if needed. Her ethical compass and fearlessness made her an unstoppable force for all disabled people. She deeply believed, and fought for, the rights of disabled people who are usually deemed too severe to be included in society.

Guided by a deep spiritual belief in the value of disabled bodyminds, she rejected concepts of incompetence. She always presumed, and advocated for, an assumption of competence for all people, especially those most at risk of institutionalization.

She recognized that the world has no interest in supporting people with disabilities unless there is a direct financial payoff for nondisabled people. Early in her career, she created the only legal service center for parents with disabilities, Disabled Parents Rights.

According to the 2012 report from the National Council on Disability, "Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children," there are 4.1 million parents with disabilities in the United States. The number has only increased since this report. The need is unquestionably huge and the resources almost nonexistent. Carrie worked on the report and its strategies for change.

From her home, Carrie answered requests from disabled people who faced discrimination in all areas of parenting – becoming pregnant, becoming a foster parent, being forced to relinquish a child, discrimination by adoption agencies, custody challenges during divorce, and the ever-present threat of having a child taken away.

The cause of the problems was nearly always based on the presumption, often codified in law, that a person with a disability is automatically unfit to parent. Disentangling the prejudice within all these different social service systems was

a Herculean task that Carrie mastered with ease. One minute she's walking someone through understanding foster care policies and the next providing suggestions on the easiest way to carry a baby when the parent uses a wheelchair.

She fought passionately against medical systems that too often devalue disabled people's lives. She took the front lines with ADAPT to stop the Republican administration from cutting Medicaid. She knew even small cuts in an already bare-bones safety net would have huge impact. She watched with horror as people across the country died from lack of necessary medications or exorbitant co-pays as a result of the cuts. It is no small irony that she died as a direct result of the greed-driven insurance industry.

The public part of Carrie's life is a very small part of why her death is breaking hearts across the world. When the announcement of her death was

posted, hundreds of people wrote on her Facebook page: "I never met you, but you helped me. You changed my life." I am one of the thousands of people whose life changed because of her help.

Carrie deeply believed that knowledge should be shared, that community creates essential safety nets, and that people always bring complex identities with them. So, she committed to learning about resources for all the issues she worked on. She understood how marginalizations intersect to create entangled problems ...

Perhaps her most important achievement was conveying that life is worth living, that adaptive equipment or needed medications, were just as value-neutral as using a car or a shopping cart. Both she and her children had disabilities that often track people into institutions.



Carrie Ann Lucas

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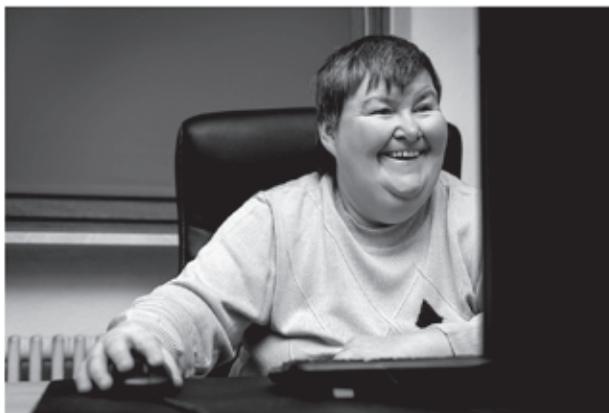
Disability services report describes Minnesota's journey toward greater inclusion, choice

The Minnesota Department of Human Services helps people with disabilities live, work and enjoy life in ways that are most meaningful to them. In this process, DHS builds a culture and system that promotes an individual's control over their own life and quality of life.

DHS recently issued a biennial report to the 2019 Legislature that describes the current phase of the journey to assure the health and well-being of people with disabilities and support their quality of life in many areas. Together, these domains make up the acronym CHOICE--Community membership; Health, wellness and safety; Own place to live; Important, long-term relationships; Control over supports; Employment earnings and stable income.

DHS is taking a strategic and comprehensive approach to support changes in the disability service system. Key initiatives highlighted in the report include:

- Improving access and building equity so that people get what they need in a timely and fair way



- Advancing choice and control so people's strengths, preferences and goals shape the services that enable them to lead their best lives
- Learning and adapting from people's experiences to always do better; innovating to keep up with evolving needs and preferences
- Optimizing individual and system capacity so that people have stable supports that will be there for now and in the future
- Aligning policies, regulations and funding so the way the system works for people aligns with the vision of how it should work
- Offering individualized services and supports so services fit for people with wide-ranging needs and circumstances that change over time.

The report concludes with an overview of the home and community-based service system, including descriptions of all the major programs and funding sources. Check out the report, now

posted under "What's new?" on the DHS People with disabilities web pages: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/people-with-disabilities/whats-new/>

mn DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

To find out more about disability benefits
call the Disability Hub at 1-866-333-2466

REGIONAL NEWS

Employees with disabilities eye lost jobs in St. Cloud area

When appliance manufacturer Electrolux closes its St. Cloud plant by the end of this year, about 900 workers will lose their jobs. That includes more than 300 employees with disabilities who work for the company. The looming closure has Waite Park-based disability service provider WACOSA looking at what can be done. WACOSA provides jobs and training for people with barriers to employment.

David Williamsen has cerebral palsy. He is one of those employees. Most of his work through WACOSA has been at Electrolux. "This is the only job I've known, and I like it," he said. "Please help us, because I want to do more work."

"Electrolux is a very significant part of the work we do," said WACOSA Executive Director Steve Howard said. His team has been busy brainstorming other work options for employees as the



jobs start to disappear this year. Howard praised the workers as "amazing."

The goal is to replace the jobs by getting other area businesses involved with a group of workers Howard said

often get overlooked. "We are excited to partner with a business out there, or multiple businesses, that would serve their needs, and our work needs as well."

This is the second major challenge for WACOSA in recent months. The nonprofit in fall 2018 took on the clients and programming from Waite Park's Independence Center, Inc. (ICI). ICI ended its programming in the fall and took steps to dissolve after more than 40 years. WACOSA had already been a partner with ICI over the past decade, so the shift in services was something WACOSA was poised to handle in a transition process. (Source: KSTP-TV, WACOSA)

App eyed to improve mobility

John Doan came to the United States as a child refugee from Vietnam, guided through a strange new land and culture by his mother and a doting older sibling. "He was my caregiver," said Doan, recalling how older brother Roy "protected me from the bullies, taught me how to ride a bike, and when I was 16, he taught me how to drive a car."

Roy Doan was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and dementia in his 30s. His brother watched helplessly as some of those same skills were taken from him. Roy Doan lives in a halfway house and struggles to use public transit. So, his younger brother is stepping in to help, preparing to launch the "MO" platform. The online app will connect vulnerable commuters to professional drivers.

"It's what we call the kinder, gentler ride-service," said Shoreview resident John Doan of Shoreview. He is working with the St. Paul company Mobility for All. "We found out there is a huge need - people who are not getting out because it's too cold, and their life can be miserable. They're not seeing people for days."

Mobility 4 All walked away from a recent Shark Tank-style challenge with \$125,000.

The goal is to quietly debut MO in the Twin Cities market with a soft launch in March and a virtual grand opening in May or June. If all goes well, he's shooting to roll out MO in Phoenix by late 2019 or early 2020. (Source: Pioneer Press)

Farmers get assistive technology

In a course introducing them to careers in the agribusiness field, college students recently brainstormed ways to help aging and disabled farmers remain in their fields. Minnesota's 110,000 farm operators were 55 years old on average, in a recent demographic study. That age is only expected to increase.

Minnesota State University's Ag in the Modern Economy class studied the trend and has focused recent units on developing assistive technology to help farmers who want to prolong their careers.

"There's definitely an older workforce," said Shane Bowyer, class instructor and assistant professor of management at Mankato State. "So, it's about how do we make new technology to help the farmers?"

A recent class brainstorming workshop started with a video call from Goodhue farmer Ryan Buck, past president of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. Buck, paralyzed from the chest down since a 2008 snowmobile crash, outlined parts of his job that require help.

He isn't able, for example, to hop out of a stalled tractor to inspect what's wrong. The group discussed whether a drone could be used. Buck said he'd be open to trying it.

Other farmers shared their time with students. Lucas Arndt took the course in the past and returned to lend

Two found guilty in fraud case

Two Minneapolis women were convicted in February of operating fraudulent personal care attendant agencies as part of the largest Medicaid fraud case in Minnesota history. Hennepin County District Judge Jay Quam found that Lillian Richardson, 54, and Bridgett Burrell, 56, defrauded the state's Medicaid program of \$7.7 million meant for disabled people who need help with daily living tasks, state Attorney General Keith Ellison said in a news release.

Richardson and Burrell were found guilty of one count each of racketeering and eight counts each of aiding and abetting theft by swindle of a value greater than \$35,000.

"It's shameful that these defendants illegally set up home care companies that were supposed to help people solely for the purpose of lining their own pockets," Ellison said. "They took advantage of vulnerable people, sullied the honest work that hardworking personal care attendants do every day, and defrauded the people of Minnesota."

In July 2017, then-Attorney General Lori Swanson announced that charges had been filed against seven people, including Richardson and Burrell, in relation to the complex Medicaid fraud scheme. All five of Richardson and Burrell's co-defendants have since pleaded guilty. Six others have been charged. The case against Richardson and Burrell was the only one to go to trial.

Despite telling a court when she was first convicted of Medicaid fraud in 2012 that she had learned a lesson, Richardson then worked as an agent for five home care agencies enrolled in the Medicaid program. She disguised her identity by using names of family members, Ellison said. The agencies received more than \$7.7 million from the state, often billing

for services that were not provided. In some instances, agencies used the identities of people who did not even live in Minnesota. (Source: Star Tribune)

Man honored for bravery

An Eagle Lake man was honored for his bravery and quick-thinking when he helped a police officer who was being assaulted. The Mankato City Council in February presented Jacob Siem with the Award for Valor, one of the highest honors that can be given to a community member.

Siem, who was born with spinal bifida and uses a wheelchair, has no usable muscle below his knees. In October 2018 he was in downtown Mankato and saw a police officer trying to apprehend a man involved in a fight. When Siem saw the officer go down he had to act. "My brain just went into automatic mode, I think, more than anything," he told KMSP-TV. Siem intervened and got the suspect in a headlock, using his upper body strength to constrain the suspect. That gave the officer enough time to call for back-up and eventually make an arrest.

During the City Council meeting officers emphasized how differently the incident could have played out if Siem hadn't been there. "The accommodation was just a small piece of gratitude that we give him as a city to really thank him for protecting us so that we can do our job better," Mankato Police Commander Jeremy Clifton said.

Siem doesn't consider himself a hero. "Hopefully it's a good lesson for people in general and their perceptions of people with disabilities. If anything, it would be great that it showed other people that disabled people are a lot more capable than necessarily given credit for," he said. (Source: KMSP TV)

Disability claim can proceed

The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in February that employees are able to sue separately under the state workers' compensation law and the Minnesota Human Rights Act's disability protection. The court overruled its own decision made 30 years earlier, which said the workers' compensation provision barred employees from making both claims at once.

The affects a case brought by a former Minneapolis firefighter. Keith Daniel, 57, sued the city in 2015 for injuries he received when his deputy chief said he could no longer wear doctor-prescribed shoes because they violated the department's policy on footwear. He injured his ankle and later his shoulder while climbing down a fire truck and went into early retirement the following year.

The city paid him about \$125,000 to settle the workers' compensation claim, but the discrimination ruling was appealed to the Supreme Court. Daniel's attorney, Joshua R. Williams, said the court's ruling was a win for both his client and for workers across the state. "Prior to this case, Minnesota employers were allowed to discriminate against their employees based on an immutable characteristic, specifically a disability," Williams said. "This decision really helps bring Minnesota into the 21st century when it comes to anti-discrimination jurisprudence."

A jury will hear Daniel's case in Hennepin County District Court. The Minneapolis City Attorney's Office isn't commenting on the specifics of the case.

"I'm just glad he's going to get that opportunity," Williams said. "He's just a real solid guy who loved being a firefighter."

(Source: Star Tribune)

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for our accessible waiting lists at the following affordable communities



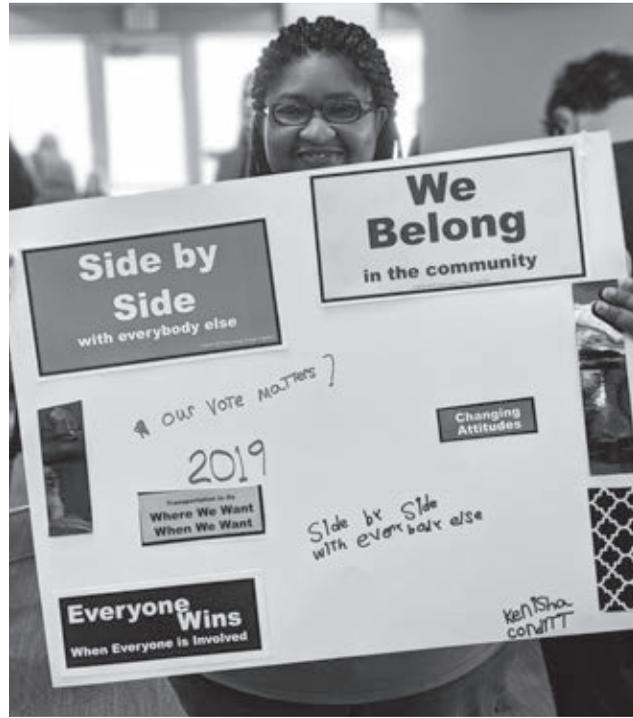
Albright Townhomes	Minneapolis	(612) 824-6665	1 BR
Buffalo Court Apartments	Buffalo	(763) 684-1907	2 BR
Cornerstone Creek Apartments	Golden Valley	(763) 231-6250	1 & 2 BR
<i>(for developmentally disabled individuals)</i>			
Elliot Park Apartments	Minneapolis	(612) 338-3106	2 BR
Evergreen Apartments	Hutchinson	1-800-661-2501	1 BR
Franklin Lane Apartments	Anoka	(763) 427-7650	1 & 2 BR
Hanover Townhomes	St. Paul	(651) 292-8497	1 BR
Hopkins Village Apartments	Hopkins	(952) 938-5787	1 & 2 BR
Lincoln Place Apartments	Mahtomedi	(651) 653-0640	2 BR
Olson Towne Homes	Minneapolis	(612) 377-9015	1 BR
Park Plaza Apartments	Minneapolis	(612) 377-3650	1 & 2 BR
Prairie Meadows	Eden Prairie	(952) 941-5544	2 & 3 BR
Raspberry Ridge	Hopkins	(952) 933-3260	1 BR
Slater Square Apartments	Minneapolis	(612) 340-1264	EFF & 1BR
Talmage Green	Minneapolis	(612) 623-0247	2 BR
Trinity Apartments	Minneapolis	(612) 721-2252	1 BR (sr)
Unity Place	Brooklyn Center	(763) 560-7563	2 BR
Vadnais Highlands	Vadnais Heights	(651) 653-0640	3 BR
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Woodland Court Apartments	Park Rapids	1-888-332-9312	1 BR

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Disability Day 2019 a huge success

Photos by Erin Statz, Down Syndrome Association, Zack Eichten, Minnesota Brain injury Alliance



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PEOPLE & PLACES

Guild hires services director

St. Paul-based nonprofit, Guild Incorporated, which helps people with mental illness lead quality lives by providing integrated treatment and services announced the hiring of Beth Scheetz, LICSW, as residential services director including intensive residential treatment and crisis stabilization services. As part of this role, Scheetz will oversee development, implementation, and provision of services in the new Scott County crisis stabilization and treatment center slated for the city of Savage.

Scheetz has more than 17 years of experience in social service, mental health, and health care. She most recently oversaw the operations, development, and programming of three community-based teams serving over 1,200 adults living with mental illness as director of community mental health at Touchstone. During her

career, Scheetz has developed and executed agency plans and provided strategic leadership for non-profit mental health organizations. Evaluating program performance, implementing program and process improvements, increasing quality and continuity of care, and achieving positive individual outcomes have benchmarked her professional performance. She has demonstrated talent in developing people, managing change, and positively impacting the delivery of quality mental health services to vulnerable populations. She holds a master's degree from the University of St. Thomas.



Beth Scheetz

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Travis Moret

ILICIL announces promotion

Independent Lifestyles, Inc. a Center for Independent Living (ILICIL) of Sauk Rapids is proud to announce the promotion of Travis Moret to Life Skills Coach Coordinator of the newly implemented ILICIL Stearns County Housing Program. He has been a key player in the continued development of the housing FLEX time program successfully merging time management strategies to meet the needs of consumers served.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

Mower County group changes name, drops state affiliation
 The Arc Mower County is now LIFE Mower County, an acronym for Learning, Inclusion, Fun and Empowerment. The change was announced last month and follows major decisions by the organization's board of directors. The organization is based in Austin and serves its surrounding area.
 The change means that after 40 years, the Mower County group will not be affiliated with the statewide Arc organization. The change comes more than one year after groups statewide merged into one larger organization.
 Minnesota had about a dozen Arc groups. A few groups along with Mower County have struck out on their own. For Mower County, local management and control were seen as ways to have a stronger local presence and better manage resources. Flexibility in determining the organization course and ability to

PEOPLE AND PLACES To page 15

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ENJOY!



Spring will someday come. Minneapolis Institute of Art hosts the popular Art in Bloom show in April. Details are in the Enjoy! calendar.

Celebrate with Wingspan

Peace Train is a free sing-along concert to celebrate Wingspan's 46th anniversary, 2-3 p.m. Sun, April 7 at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave., Roseville. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Featured vocalist is Patty Peterson, with Sean Turner and Wingspan Glee Club. Free parking. Free will offering supports Wingspan Glee Club. FFI: www.wingspanlife.org

MS Society Twins Day

MS Day at the Twins is Sat, April 13 at Target Field, Mpls. Game time 1:10 p.m. Join the MS Society as the Minnesota Twins take on the Detroit Tigers. Festivities include a pre-game parade on the field, open to all attendees. The top ticket seller gets to throw out the opening pitch, while the number two ticket seller gets to lead the crowd in the seventh-inning stretch. Tickets available online, with sections reserved for MS Society. Both upper and lower deck seating available, with associated accessible seating areas. \$5 from each ticket goes directly back into fundraising. FFI: Jake Langer, 612-659-3579, jakelanger@twinsbaseball.com

Beach Boys at PACER benefit

The Beach Boys changed America's music landscape. They'll take the stage at the annual PACER Center benefit Sat, May 11. Tickets start at \$75. The event celebrates PACER's work on behalf of families of children with disabilities and children and youth who are bullied. Proceeds support PACER's programs. FFI: www.pacer.org

Sensory Friendly Days at Great Lakes Aquarium

Great Lakes Aquarium, 353 Harbor Dr., Duluth, hosts sensory friendly days second Tue and last Sat of each month during the winter. Next dates are 5:30-7 p.m. Tue, March 12 and Sat, March 30. Lowered exhibit volumes, dimmed lights, sensory bins and fidget-making offered. Tickets start at \$17.99. Discounts available. FFI: Inclusion Coordinator, Samantha Smingler, 218-740-2003, ssmingler@glaquarium.org

Arts Advocacy Day

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts host the annual rally at the state capitol, starting 8 a.m. Tue, March 12 at Minnesota History Center 3M Auditorium, 345 Kellogg Blvd W., St. Paul, with ASL interpreting provided for the morning session at the History Center. For other accommodations, contact MCA. Rally is 9-10 with a march/ride to the capitol, and legislator appointments the rest of the day. Join fellow arts advocates from across Minnesota for the arts community's annual day of action. Arts Advocacy Day is an opportunity to educate and make new friends at the capitol. FFI: MCA, 651-251-0868, staff@artsmn.org

As You Like It

Guthrie Theater presents Shakespeare's tale of love and adventure, at Guthrie Theater, Wurtele Thrust Stage, 818 2nd St. S., Mpls. ASL offered 7:30 p.m. Fri, March 15. ASL and AD offered 1 p.m. Sat, March 16 with sensory tour at 10:30 a.m. Tickets reduced to \$20 for AD/ASL, \$25 for OC (regular \$15-93). FFI: 612-377-2224, www.guthrietheater.org

Owl Moon

Stages Theatre Company and Escalate Dance present a wintry woods story, at Hopkins Center for the Arts Mainstage, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins. SF offered 10 a.m. Sat, March 16. Tickets \$10. SF tickets not available online; call 952-979-1111, option 4. AD and ASL offered 1 p.m. Sun, March 24. Tickets \$16, discount for AD and ASL patrons. Other discounts available. FFI: 952-979-1111, option 4, www.stagetheatre.org

The Fix

Minnesota Opera presents a musical take on the 1919 Black Sox baseball scandal, at Ordway Music Theater, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. Sung in English with English captions projected above the stage. OC offered 7:30 p.m. Sat, March 16; Tue, March 19; Thu, March 21 and Sat, March 23; 2 p.m. Sun, March 24. AD offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 24. Braille, large-print programs and infrared listening systems available at patron services in Ordway's first level lobby. Tickets \$25-165 reduced to half-price for AD patrons. FFI: 612-333-6669, www.mnopera.org

Roe

Mixed Blood Theatre presents a drama about the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court case, at Alan Page Auditorium, Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St., Mpls. Projected supertitle translations in English at all performances, 7:30 p.m. March 15-16, 20-23, 27-30; 4 p.m.

Sat, March 16, 30; 2 p.m. Sun, March 17, 23-24, 31; 10 a.m. student matinees March 14, 21, 27. AD and ASL Access Night offered 7:30 p.m. Sat, March 16, with tactile tour at 6:30 p.m. SF/relaxed performance offered 7:30 p.m. Wed, March 20. Recorded AD offered starting March 20. DeafBlind AD and ASL offered 2 p.m. Sat, March 23. Mixed Blood's Access Pass provides complimentary guaranteed admission for shows to patrons with disabilities and companions, as well as free transportation to and from the theater for patrons with disabilities. Several accessible parking spaces are in a lot next to the theater. Advance reservations \$35 online or by phone. Join as members for \$9/month. Radical Hospitality admission is FREE on a first come/first served basis starting two hours before every show. FFI: 612-338-6131, www.mixedblood.com

Candide

VocalEssence and Theater Latté Da present a musical comedy of star-crossed lovers, at Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. AD and ASL offered 7:30 p.m. Fri, March 22. Tickets \$35-\$45; Mention code ASL1819 for \$17.50 tickets. FFI: 612-371-5656, www.vocalescence.org

Tuesdays with Morrie

Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre presents a story about friendship and ALS, at the Stage at Island Park, 333 4th St. S., Fargo. AD offered 7:30 p.m. Sat, March 23, pre-show description at 7:10 p.m. Tickets reduced to \$10 for AD patron and companion (regular \$23). Other discounts available. Contact box office for AD tickets; not available online. FFI: 701-235-6778, www.fmct.org

Evita

Lyric Arts Company of Anoka presents the musical story of Eva Peron, Argentina's legendary first lady, at Lyric Arts Main Street Stage, 420 E. Main St., Anoka. ASL offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 24. ASL interpreters are provided at first Sun performance of each regular season production if a reservation is made three weeks before the show (reserved by Sun, March 3). If no ASL seating has been reserved, the ASL interpretation will be canceled and seats will be released to the general public. When ordering tickets, please indicate the need for seating in the ASL section. Lyric Arts reserves seats in Row I for parties including persons using wheelchairs or with limited mobility. Assisted listening devices available on request. Tickets \$32-35; \$5 discount for ASL seats. FFI: 763-422-1838, www.lyricarts.org

The Music Man

Lake Harriet Players presents the musical about trouble in River City, at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave. S., Mpls. AD offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 17. Anyone requiring AD services must contact the theater by March 10 so enough receivers can be reserved. Free will donation. FFI: 612-986-1973, www.lakeharrietumc.org

The Music Man

Glory Players presents the musical about trouble in River City, at Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth. ASL offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 17. Tickets \$10-\$15. FFI: 763-473-6968, www.messiahchurch.org

The Gun Show

Combustible Company presents a story of a complicated relationship with firearms, at Off-Leash Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St., Mpls. ASL and AD offered 7:30 p.m. Thu, March 21. Tickets \$15-30 sliding scale (\$2 off with Fringe Festival Button). FFI: www.combustiblecompany.org

She Persists: The Great Divide III

Pillsbury House Theatre presents five short plays on the political state of women today, at Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. ASL offered 7:30 p.m. Fri, March 22, AD offered 7:30 p.m. Sat, March 23. Tickets pick-a-price (regular \$25). FFI: 612-825-0459, www.pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org

Time's Up

UMD Theatre presents an original musical, based on the #MeToo movement, at UMD Marshall Performing Arts Center, Dudley Experimental Theatre, 1215 Ordean Court, Duluth. ASL offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 24. Tickets \$21. Other discounts available. FFI: 218-726-8561, www.d.umn.edu/theatre

Tour for People with Memory Loss

At 10 a.m. on the first Tue of every month the historic James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave., St. Paul, offers a sensory-based tour designed for people with memory loss and their caregivers. Each themed tour, usually an hour or less, highlights three rooms and is followed by an optional social time until 11:30 a.m. with pastries and coffee. Private group tours available for care facilities. Next tours Tue, April 2 and May 7. Free but reservations required. FFI: 651-297-2555, www.mnhs.org

The Last Firefly

SteppingStone Theatre for Youth and Theatre Mu presents a story based on Japanese folklore and fairy tales, at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 Victoria St. N., St. Paul. AD offered 7 p.m. Fri, March 29. ASL offered 3 p.m. Sun, March 31. Tickets regular \$16, \$10 when VSA is mentioned. A \$5 minimum for pay-as-one-can. FFI: 651-225-9265, www.steppingstonetheatre.org

Star Trek: Into Darkness Film in Concert

Minnesota Orchestra presents a film and concert that go boldly where none have gone before, at Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Mpls. OC offered 8 p.m. Fri-Sat, March 29-30. Film plays with English subtitles; no live captioning. Tickets \$30-\$91. FFI: 612-371-565, www.minnesotaorchestra.org

When We Were Young and Unafraid

Persistent Theatre Productions presents a story of early 1970s feminism, at Fallout Urban Art Center, 2609 Stevens Ave., Mpls. ASL offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 24. Tickets \$20/\$18. Reduced to \$15 for patrons with hearing disabilities. FFI: 612-695-4214, www.persistenttheatreproductions.com

Così fan Tutte

Skylark Opera Theatre presents a present-day gender twist on Mozart's work, at Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul. ASL offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 24. Tickets \$45. Discounts available. FFI: Ticketworks, 612-343-3390 or 1-888-779-0079, www.skylarkopera.org

Tyler Perry's Madea's Farewell Play Tour

Tyler Perry's inspirational journey from the hard streets of New Orleans to the heights of Hollywood's A-list is the stuff of American legend. He headlines a touring show at Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls. ASL and AD offered 7 p.m. Tue, March 26. Tickets \$49 to \$179. Limited seats available at the lowest price level to patrons using ASL interpreting or captioning on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices apply for up to two tickets for each patron requiring ASL interpretation. AD receivers usable in any price level in Hennepin Theatre Trust theaters. FFI: 612-339-7007, www.hennepintheatrust.org

Steel Magnolias

Lakeshore Players Theatre presents the story of strong small-town women, at Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake. ASL offered 2 p.m. Sun, March 31. If no ASL seats are reserved within two weeks of the performance – by March 17 – the ASL-interpretation will be cancelled. Assisted listening devices available. Tickets \$20, reduced to \$10 for ASL patrons, who can purchase tickets online with a direct link that is active until two weeks before the performance. The \$10 ASL seats highlighted in purple have the best view of the interpreter are only visible via this link and will not be released to the general public until the Mon after the ASL reservation deadline. FFI: 651-429-5674, www.lakeshoreplayers.org

Open Flow Forum

The Artists with Disabilities Alliance meets the first Thu of the month, 7-9 p.m. at Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls. Upcoming dates April 4 and May 9. Join artists with disabilities and supporters to share visual art, writing, music, theater and artistic efforts or disability concerns. Informal, fragrance-free, with shared refreshments. Facilitators are Dan Reiva, Tara Innmon, and Kip Shane. Fully accessible, but anyone needing special accommodations should contact Jon at VSA Minnesota, 612-332-3888, jon@vsamn.org

School Girls: Or, the African Mean Girls Play

Jungle Theater presents a story about beauty and cliques, at 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. AD offered 7:30 p.m. Thu, April 4. Contact the theater to request an ASL-interpreted show. Tickets reduced to \$24.50 including fees (regular \$37 plus fees). FFI: 612-822-7063, www.jungletheater.com

ENJOY! To page 13

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OPPORTUNITIES

ADVOCACY

Disability Services Day at the Capitol

The groups ARRM and MOHR host their annual Day at the Capitol Tue, March 12. Now called Disability Services Day at the Capitol, this annual event allows two of the state's largest disability services advocacy and provider groups to present their issues. Highlight is a 10 a.m. rally in the capitol rotunda, with meetings with legislators also planned. FFI: www.arrm.org, www.mohrmn.org

Mental Health Day on the Hill

Mental health advocates and allies gather Thu, March 14 for Mental Health Day at the Capitol. Events start at 9:30 a.m. with an issues briefing session at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, 105 University Ave., St. Paul, followed by a rally 11 a.m.-noon in the capitol rotunda. Key issues include increasing school-linked mental health services, funding residential and crisis programs for children and adults, expanding supportive housing and employment programs, enforcing health insurance parity for mental illnesses, addressing work force shortages, promoting suicide prevention and more. Legislative visits are scheduled after the rally. The events are sponsored by the Mental Health Legislative Network, a coalition of nearly 40 organizations working to improve mental health services in Minnesota. FFI: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minnesota, 651-645-2948 or 1-888-626-4435, www.namimn.org

Minnesota autism conference

The 24th Annual Minnesota Autism Conference is April 24-29 at its new venue, Minneapolis Marriott Southwest, Minnetonka. Experts, educators, therapists, direct support professionals, parents, caregivers, and people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) will connect, collaborate, advocate and educate. Organized by the Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM), the state's oldest nonprofit organization and includes four keynote speaker presentations, 39 expert-led topical breakout sessions, exhibitors offering a variety of autism services and products, and resources provided through the AuSM Bookstore. Continuing education units (CEUs) from Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, Minnesota Board of Social Work, and Minnesota Board of Psychology available. The event ends with a gala, AuSM Fun & Games, 6-10 p.m. Fri, April 29 with food, drinks, games, prizes, a silent auction and a celebration of those who inspire and support individuals affected by autism. FFI: 651-647-1083, www.ausm.org

Free civil rights training

Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and Department of Human Rights have released a package of resources around the Bill of Rights for Supervised Living Facilities. The package includes an easy-read guide, instructor handbook, resident workbook and four videos that help to explain four specific rights. Minnesota's Olmstead Plan was developed to ensure that people with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated setting. Prevention of Abuse and Neglect is one of the topics included in a comprehensive plan to educate people with disabilities and their families, mandated reporters and the general public about how to identify and report abuse, and how to prevent it from occurring. FFI: www.mnccd.org

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PACER workshop sampling

PACER Center offers many useful free or low-cost workshops and other resources for families of children with any disabilities. Workshops are at PACER Center, 8161 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington, unless specified. Workshops are offered throughout the state, with some workshops available online. Advance registration is required for all workshops. At least 48 hours' notice needed for interpretation. Many workshops live-streamed. Check out PACER's website and link to the newsletter of statewide workshops that allows participants to pick and choose sessions designed for their needs. Workshops are free but advance registration required. FFI: PACER, 952-838-9000, 800-537-2237, www.pacer.org

Making the Transition Beyond High School: Technology to Support Success for College and Career offered 2-3 p.m. Thu, March 21 at PACER Center. Learn about assistive technology to support youth with disabilities at college and in their career. Demonstrations will include tools and apps for executive function, computer access, reading, writing and notetaking.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): First Steps offered 6:30-8 p.m. Wed, March 27 in Cloquet. Learn how youth can apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to help meet postsecondary education, training, employment and independent living goals.

ABCs of the IEP for Transition-age Students and Their Parents offered 6-8 p.m. Thu, March 28 in Faribault. Parents and students in 8th grade and above can learn how to use the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to support the transition to adulthood. Students can register separately for their own workshop where they will have the opportunity to talk about what transition means to them, learn about the laws that support transition, get to know their IEP better, and create a self-advocacy tool.

Mental illness and post-secondary process

How to Successfully Navigate the Post-Secondary Process With a Mental Illness is the topic of a workshop 6:30-8 p.m. Thu, March 14 at Dakota Western Service Center, Room 106, 14955 Galaxie Ave., Apple Valley. Free but preregistration required for this NAMI Minnesota workshop. Learn from a panel of professionals about the wide range of services and resources available for students living with a mental illness, including what local universities and community colleges have to offer. An assistive technology specialist from the Simon Technology Center will provide an overview of services and demonstrate an array of low-tech and high-tech tools available for students in their lending library. The remainder of the time is a chance to ask questions regarding disability services for mental health and how to be successful in college while living with a mental illness. FFI: 651-645-2948, workshopreg@namimn.org

INFO & ASSISTANCE

MCIL hosts classes and activities

The Metropolitan Center for Independent Living provides many life skills classes as well as fun outings and events for people with disabilities. MCIL is at 530 N. Robert Street, St Paul and most activities are there or start there. Classes and events are listed on the website, www.mcil-mn.org. Click on "Classes Groups and Sessions" for updated information or to print their calendar. Please give two weeks' notice if the alternative format or other accommodations are needed. Events are free, accessible and mostly scent-free. The People of Color with disabilities group meets 5:30-8 p.m. the third Thu of each month. FFI: 651-603-2030

Classes and support in Sauk Rapids

Independent Lifestyles, Inc., 215 North Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids, offers many groups and classes, for free or a small fee. New in 2019 is free adult coloring and conversation, 3-4 p.m. Tue, March 19. Bring supplies or use those at the center.

Also new is the **Adult Social Activity**, with snacks, crafts and bingo, 1-3 p.m. on the fourth Wed of each month. Upcoming dates is March 27. \$3 cost. FFI: Marsha at 320-281-2049.

Advocates for Independence meet 2-4 p.m. first and third Wed, for persons with disabilities who wish to increase leadership and assertiveness skills.

Learn self-defense and improve fitness with a free one-month introductory classes, for both adapted martial arts and Tae Guk Known Do. Wear loose clothing and bring a bottle of water. Scott Ridlon is instructor. FFI: 320-267-7717

The center offers additional activities. FFI: 320-281-2042

Mental health support offered

In the Twin Cities NAMI has about two dozen family support groups, more than 20 support groups for people living with a mental illness, anxiety support groups, groups for veterans and other groups. Led by trained facilitators, groups provide help and support. Parent resource groups are facilitated by a parent who has a child with a mental illness and who has been trained to lead support groups. A group meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday at Eagle Brook Church, 2401 East Buffalo St., White Bear Lake. FFI: Jody Lyons 651-645-2948 x109.

Family support groups help families who have a relative with a mental illness. A group meets at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wed at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 Co. Rd. C-2 West, Roseville. FFI: Anne Mae. 651-484-0599.

Open Door Anxiety and Panic support groups help people cope with anxiety disorders. One group meets 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. the second and fourth Thu in Room 104, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul. Another group meets 6:30-8 p.m. the first and third Thu at Woodland Hills Church, 1740 Van Dyke St., St. Paul. A peer support group is offered for LGBTQ adults living with a mental illness. The group meets 1-2:30 p.m. Sat, Living Table United Church of Christ, 3805 E. 40th St, Mpls. FFI: David, 612-920-3925, 651-645-2948.

Young Adult NAMI Connection is a free support group for persons ages 16-20. One group meets 7-8:30 the first and third Thu at Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave., St. Paul. A group also meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the first and third Thu at Dental Office of Dr. Crandall & Associates, 2300 East Highway 96, White Bear Lake. The group is facilitated by young adults who live with mental illnesses and are doing well in recovery. A full calendar of all events is offered online. FFI: 651-645-2948, www.namihelps.org

Vision loss group offers activities

Vision Loss Resources provides free and low-cost activities in the Twin Cities for people who are blind or visually impaired. Life skills classes for those with low vision; card games, craft classes, book clubs, walking groups, dinners out, special outings and technology classes are among the offerings. Participants need to RVSP to participate, at least three working days prior to an event. The calendar is also available on the Vision Loss Resources website and as a printable large-print PDF document for those who wish to print their own or additional copies. A new policies handbook will be introduced in February. It has been developed to help everyone understand VLR policies, practices and eligibility requirements. Copies will be available in both the St. Paul and Minneapolis locations. All participants attending Community Center activities will need to sign the one-page summary and community center participation agreement form. FFI: RSVP hotline, 612-843-3439; activity line and audio calendar, 612-253-5155, www.visionlossresources.org

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease group

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group typically meets 1-2 p.m. third Mon of each month at ILICIL Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. Next meetings are Mon, March 18 and April 15. Meetings are open to those diagnosed with Parkinson's, their families, caregivers and the general public. The free group provides support, education and awareness about the disease. FFI: 320-529-9000

QPR - Suicide prevention classes

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide - Question, Persuade and Refer. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. It is the most widely taught gatekeeper training program in the United States, and more than one million adults have been trained in classroom settings in more than 48 states. The QPR classes will be offered noon-1 p.m. Thu, March 21 at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave., W., Suite 400. FFI: 651-645-2948 x198, "classes" at namimn.org.

Adult support groups offered

AuSM offers free support groups for adults with autism spectrum disorder. Groups include those for adult family members, women with autism spectrum disorders and independent adults with autism. Check the website for upcoming groups. Groups meet at the AuSM offices at 2380 Wycliff St. FFI: 651-647-1083 ext. 10, www.ausm.org

VOLUNTEER

Book readers sought

Volunteers are a valuable resource at Radio Talking Book, broadcasting local news and information programs to blind and print-impaired listeners from sites around the state and at the Communication Center in St. Paul. The goal is to provide accurate and timely information to our thousands of listeners throughout Minnesota and across the nation. FFI: Roberta Kitlinski, 651-539-1423

Open the door to education

Help adults reach their educational goals and earn their GED. Tutor, teach or assist in a classroom with the Minnesota Literacy Council. Give 2-3 hours a week and help people expand their opportunities and change their lives through education. Provides training and support and accommodations for volunteers with disabilities. FFI: Allison, 651-251-9110, volunteer@mnliteracy.org, <http://tinyurl.com/adult-opportunities>

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PEOPLE & PLACES

In Memoriam

Wingen a tireless advocate

Kathleen "Kathy" Wingen was a tireless advocate who worked on issues including a dial-a-ride program and curb cuts in the St. Cloud area. Wingen, 69, died in February at her St. Cloud home.

Wingen had cerebral palsy. She used a wheelchair throughout her life. She attended Thomas Grey Lab School, a teaching school at St. Cloud State University. Wingen graduated from Sauk Rapids High School in 1968 and St. Scholastica College in Duluth in 1972, with academic honors from both schools.

In a newspaper interview, Wingen's sister Karen Kraemer recalled how Wingen's siblings and cousins would pull her wheelchair along dirt roads and around baseball diamonds. That spirit of inclusion dominated Wingen's life.

She was an active volunteer, including work with United Cerebral Palsy and what is now the Minnesota Council on Disability. She mentored many other people with disabilities. Most recently she volunteered with the Catholic Charities Foster Grandparents Program at St. Catherine Drexel Elementary School in St. Cloud.

Wingen won many awards for her volunteer work, including a 1977 Citation of Honor from the governor for participation in state and White House conferences on people with disabilities and a 2004 United Cerebral Palsy Spirit Award.

She was instrumental in seeking curb cuts and in helping to get paratransit services started in St. Cloud. She often used the tactic of blindfolding elected officials or having them use wheelchairs, to demonstrate the challenges a lack of access can bring.

Wingen worked at People Too, Tri-CAP (which is now Independent Lifestyles) and also spent 23 years at St. Cloud Legal Services.

She was an avid reader and traveler and was also known for always being well-dressed. Her mother Evelyn Rassier recalled a time when Wingen, as a child, hid her hated brown shoes in an oven broiler. The shoes were found when the oven was turned on.

Services have been held. Wingen is survived by her mother, her sister and brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Kathleen "Kathy" Wingen

In the 1960s Fenderson led a series of studies of teaching programs in medical colleges in the area of rehabilitation medicine. He established work evaluation programs for persons with disabilities at the Sister Kenny Institute. For three years he served as its education director.

He also provided leadership for two federal agencies, as director of health manpower research for the National Center for Health Service Research, and as director of the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Appointed by then-President Ronald Reagan, Fenderson was also a member of two study panels with the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Science on the subjects of primary care and rehabilitation research.

He served for nine years as director of continuing education at the U of M Medical School, during which time he established the Bush Clinical Fellows Program to assist mid-career rural physicians to better meet the needs of their local communities. He finished his professional career as a professor in the U of M Department of Family Practice and Community Health.

He was a longtime church volunteer, talented musician, pilot, avid reader and author of 66 publications.

Fenderson is survived by his wife Joyce, four children and their families, and a brother. Services have been held.

Lacey was loyal volunteer

A diverse range of volunteer interests kept June Delores Lynne Lacey active and engaged in her community. Lacey, 89, died in late January during the 2019 St. Paul Winter Carnival. Services were held in February in St. Paul, with many fellow current and former Winter Carnival volunteers present. A past King Boreas gave her eulogy and two Klondike Kates provided a final serenade.

The Winter Carnival was just one of many activities Lacey enjoyed volunteering with. She did volunteer work despite dealing with lifelong disabilities including severe arthritis, scoliosis, heart issues, loss of vision and a seizure disorder caused by a head injury.

Born in 1929 in Fergus Falls, Lacey was salutarian of the Ashby High School Class of 1947 and went on to attend Concordia College in Moorhead. She was a longtime resident of the Ashby-Fergus Falls area.

In 2014 the Minnesota State Fair honored her for 77 years' service at different fair booths and with different tasks. She also co-founded Project Bear Hugs, which provides stuffed animals to nursing homes, children's and veterans' hospitals, shelters and disaster scenes.



June Delores Lynne Lacey

Lacey was involved in dozens of activities and groups and won many awards for her work. She was a leader with the Midwest Walk and Roll for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. She volunteered with the MS Walk, 150 Bike Ride, MS Tram, MS Root Beer Float Days, Community MS Booths, 30/60 MS Bike Ride and Challenge Walk. Lacey also volunteered with several cancer-related fundraisers and helped with the Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon.

She served meals at the Salvation Army and Union Gospel Mission and helped shelters with Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts. She was a Salvation Army bell ringer and knitted scarves for the homeless.

Lacey enjoyed pageants as a helper and contestant. In 1994 she assisted when her daughter Joyce was the Winter Carnival Queen of the Snows. She held many senior pageant titles, most recently being crowned Ms. Super Senior Minnesota USA in 2018.

She was a nominee for the *Access Press* Charlie Smith Award.

Lacey is survived by her daughter Joyce and other relatives and friends. Burial was in the Pelican Lake Cemetery, Ashby.

Davis a longtime champion

Dr. Eunice Davis was an early advocate for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Davis, 89, died in January. She lived in Roseville.

Born in Sturgeon Lake in 1929, Davis earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, a medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School, a master's degree in public health, and degree in administrative medicine from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was a fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, and of the American Association on Mental Retardation.

She was one of only three women to graduate from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1954, reflecting her strength and independence.

Davis served as director of an interdisciplinary program at St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center (now Regions Hospital) that provided services to children and young people with disabilities. She was an instructor and assistant professor at the University of Minnesota's Medical School and School of Public Health. From 1965-1967, when her family lived in Bismarck, N.D., she planned and developed a state plan for services to persons with developmental disabilities.

Most recently she performed Social Security consulting work on pediatric disability determinations.

Davis served on many boards and committees, as a director of People's Child Care, and a board member for People Inc. She was active in Arc, the March of Dimes and other organizations. She was a member of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and chaired the council from 1976-1979.

Davis is survived by Gordon, her husband of 63 years, three children and their families. Services have been held with burial in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials preferred to Arc Minnesota or People Inc.

LIVE-WORK

From page 1

identified needs and resources.

Current plans involve a \$100 million project with 400 residences combined with local employment, recreation, health, wellness and education services.

"Working and living together within the community is vital to everyone. DLR Group is proud to work with Shamus to help lead an important design effort that recognizes and values citizens with developmental disabilities and help create integrated opportunities to improve their life experiences within their local communities," said Gibbs.

O'Meara is the parent of a young adult with autism. The idea for the new venture came during discussions with friends and family in his St. Paul back yard. His family home isn't far from the former Ford Motor Company plant site in the Highland Park neighborhood, which is being redeveloped. That pending redevelopment has sparked many discussions about the site's future uses. It also led to thinking beyond their neighborhood.

The O'Meara family is also thinking about the future. "As the parent of a child with a disability, you often think about your family situation and you wonder about the long-term future for your loved one," he said. That led to thinking about future integrated housing and lifestyle options, where education, employment, health and wellness, and recreation opportunities could be part of everyday living.

Families everywhere deal with the challenges as their children with disabilities age into adulthood and want to be more independent. "Numerous families I know are dealing with this issue," O'Meara said.

O'Meara and Gibbs are moving forward with their ideas, saying their concept is easily replicated and could be used in many communities. "It could be pretty dynamic," said Gibbs.



Shamus O'Meara



Chris Gibbs

They've discussed their concept with many people, including families with a disabled family member and advisory groups. They continue to have those discussions. Gibbs likes the idea because it also would break down societal silos and allow people with disabilities to be more fully integrated into their home communities. Such communities could include elders and people who aren't disabled.

"We've researched ideas locally and around the world," Gibbs said. "This could have quite a positive impact."

One focus of the development would be to not reinvent the wheel, and instead look at working with existing community partners such as recreation centers, fitness clubs, employers and health and wellness businesses. O'Meara said the intent is to build partnerships with other entities to that residents of the proposed developments could have full life experiences.

"The partnership piece is obviously incredibly important," said Gibbs.

Gibbs and O'Meara hope to launch a website soon. ■

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DISABILITY DAY

From page 1

rallies become more important not just with legislative action deadlines coming up. The financial needs spelled out come in the face of the state's revised economic forecast, which was released February 28.

Minnesota has a roughly \$1 billion surplus. While that may encourage those seeking additional funds for many programs, it is worrisome that the surplus is one-third less than the nearly \$1.5 billion budget surplus projected in November 2018. Slower economic growth and lower than expected tax collections have played a role in the downward trend.

Many disability rights advocates argue that with any state surplus, programs that have languished for years need support. Gov. Tim Walz's proposed budget, which was released in mid-February, had much for community members to like in terms of support for health care, special education and mental health. The \$49.5 billion biennial budget price tag for the next two years. It includes a boost for Minnesota schools, local communities and health care programs, and would continue a health care provider tax that is to sunset in 2020.

But the budget, which met strong objections from Republicans, is a long way from reality. And with legislation weeks away from floor votes, disability advocates aren't wasting any time.

So many people showed up for pre-march preparations February 19 at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) cafeteria, organizers ran out of

poster board. Advocates used the remaining supplies to make smaller signs before they gathered for the march to the capitol. The line of marchers at one point extended from the MNDOT building all the way to the sidewalk leading to the capitol.

The rally was a chance for several groups to promote the legislation they are hoping to pass this session, including the workforce crisis, traumatic brain injuries, fetal alcohol syndrome, special education, parental fees, spenddowns and more. Speakers told stories of their personal experiences navigating health care and human services systems, paying high fees or struggling to find proper care.

Several legislators attended to let people know that their voices are being heard and that they are working to address concerns on an array of disability issues.

"We need to make the disability community a priority ... It's time to say, damn it, listen to us! Support us! Fund us!" said Rep. Nick Zerwas (R-Elk River). His speech was met with loud cheers.

Echoing Nelson, Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester), said, "We are experts about our own lives and our own struggles." She urged those present to share their stories with state lawmakers.

Liebling chairs the House Health and Human services Finance Committee. She said lawmakers understand the deep concerns over funding for services and supports. While calling the challenge of addressing all of the needs "enormous," Liebling said it's important to make sure that people with disabilities "have services and opportunities to live their best lives."

ENJOY!

From page 10

Sweeney Todd

Duluth Playhouse present the story of a vengeful barber, at NorShor Theater, 211 E. Superior St., Duluth. ASL offered 7:30 p.m. Thu, April 4. To reserve an ASL viewing seat, call 218-733-7555. Tickets \$35-\$50. Discounts available. FFI: www.duluthplayhouse.org

The Hobbit

Children's Theatre Company presents a world premiere production of the story of Bilbo Baggins, at Children's Theatre, United Health Group Stage, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. AD and ASL offered 7 p.m. Fri, April 5, SF offered 7 p.m. Fri, April 12. Assistive listening devices, induction loop system, Braille programs and sensory tours available upon request. To reserve ASL and AD seating, visit <https://my.childrenstheatre.org> and click on the ASL or AD link at the bottom of the page. Sensory-friendly performances aim to provide a supportive and welcoming environment for children and families affected by autism spectrum disorders and sensory, social and cognitive disabilities. Features include reduction of loud or jarring sounds, reductions in flashing or strobe lights, modification of the house lights, audience members are free to talk or move during the show, extra staff and volunteer support, designated Quiet Room and Take a Break Space, guidance and sensory supports (fidgets, earplugs, noise cancelling ear-muffs) available in the lobby before the show. Audience members are welcome to bring their own manipulative items, seat cushions, comfort objects and extra support items to the show. Families may select their own seats, but if special assistance or a buffer seat is needed, call 612-874-0400 or email access@childrenstheatre.org. For pre-visit resources to prepare for a visit, go to www.childrenstheatre.org/plan/sensory-friendly-programming. Tickets start at \$15. Discounts available FFI: 612-874-0400, www.childrenstheatre.org

Exhibit Tour: The Force of Nature

Mpls Institute of Art, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. ASL; offered 1 p.m. Sun, April 7. Free. Tickets not required. FFI: 612-870-6323, www.artsmia.org

Cyrano de Bergerac

Guthrie Theater presents a story of love and appearances, at Guthrie Theater, McGuire Proscenium, 818 2nd St. S., Mpls. OC offered 1 p.m. Sun, April 7, Wed, April 10, and Sat, April 27. AD, ASL and OC offered 7:30 p.m. Fri, April 12. AD and ASL offered 1 p.m. Sat, April 13, with free sensory tour at 10:30 a.m. Tickets reduced to \$20 for AD and ASL, \$25 for OC (regular \$15-93). FFI: 612-377-2224, www.guthrietheater.org

Little Women

Theatre in the Round Players presents Louisa May Alcott's classic tale, at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. AD offered 2 p.m. Sun, April 7. Tactile tour at 1 p.m. upon request. Large-print programs and assisted-listening devices available at every performance. Tickets \$22. Discounts available. FFI: 612-333-3010, www.theatreintheround.org

Exhibit Tour: Art in Bloom

Mpls Institute of Art, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls, hosts

imaginative floral interpretations of selected works of art from the museum's permanent collection, created by commercial florists and individual artists. ASL offered 7:15 p.m. Thu, April 11 starting in gallery G200. ASL offered 1:15 p.m. Sun, April 14 starting in the second-floor rotunda. Free. Tickets not required. FFI: 612-870-6323, www.artsmia.org

Sisters of Peace

History Theatre presents the story of the Lake Street Bridge protesters for peace, at History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul. ASL and AD offered 1 p.m. Sun, April 7. OC offered 7:30 p.m. Sat, April 13 and 2 p.m. Sun, April 14. Specify services needed. The accessible entrance is on the east side of the building off Cedar Street. The theatre has six spaces for wheelchairs, plus companion seats. Hearing enhancement devices and Braille or large print playbills are available. Tickets reduced to \$25 for OC/AD/ASL patrons (regular \$25-56). Discounts available. FFI: 651-292-4323, www.historytheatre.com

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Theater Latte Da presents the groundbreaking musical, at Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE, Mpls. AD and ASL offered 7:30 p.m. Thu, April 11. Tickets reduced to \$17.50 for ASL/AD patrons and one guest. FFI: 612-339-3003, www.latteda.org

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

GREAT Theatre presents the musical tale of Joseph and the coat of many colors, at Paramount Theatre, 913 St. Germain St. W., St. Cloud. ASL offered 7:30 p.m. Fri, April 12. Tickets zone-based seating, \$32-36. Discounts available. FFI: 320-259-5463, www.GreatTheatre.org

Jesus Christ, Superstar

Rochester Civic Theatre Company presents the story of Jesus and the final days leading up to his crucifixion, at Rochester Civic Theatre Main Stage, 20 Civic Center Dr. SE, Rochester. ASL offered 7 p.m. Sat, April 13. Please indicate ASL seating when booking tickets. Tickets \$31. Discounts available. FFI: 507-282-8481, www.rochestercivictheatre.org

Victor/Victoria

Artistry presents the gender-bending musical, at Bloomington Center for the Arts, Schneider Theater, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington. ASL offered 2 p.m. Sun, April 14. AD offered 2 p.m. Sun, April 28. Tickets reduced to \$30 (regular \$46). Discounts available. FFI: 952-563-8575, www.artistrymn.org

Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

North Hennepin Community College Theatre presents the Tony Award-winning musical, at North Hennepin Community College Fine Arts Center, Mainstage Theatre, 7411 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park. ASL offered 7:30 p.m. Fri, April 19. Tickets \$12. Discounts available. FFI: 763-493-0543, www.nhcc.edu/theatre

Holmes & Watson

Commonweal Theatre Company presents a twisted and tantalizing mystery, at Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Ave. N., Lanesboro. AD offered 1:30 p.m. Sun, April 28, with pre-show at 1:10 p.m. Ask for a noon tactile tour and make reservations for AD shows at least one week in advance. Two-week notice requested for a Braille program. Five-week notice requested for ASL interpreting. Assistive listening devices available at the box office. Special seating available for persons with mobility issues.

"What happens to one of us, in a very real sense, happens to all of us," she said.

Liebling also spoke to the need to address the direct support workforce staff shortage, which has reached the crisis stage. Of caregivers, she said, "People have to be paid in a way that allows them to support their families, too."

Jeff Bangsberg, longtime activist and board chairman for the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living, was one of those who spoke about the workforce crisis, the need for more pay for caregivers and the need for additional regulation. "The whole PCA program is unsustainable. It is literally imploding underneath our feet."

Another longstanding priority called out at the rally is the need for changes in the Medical Assistance-Tax Equity and Fiscal responsibility Act (MA TEFRA) Program. Parents and autism community activists Maren Christenson Hofer and Kelly Kausel described how their families struggled with the fact that while MA-TEFRA can be a great help when private insurance doesn't cover needed services and support, high parental fees continue to force tough choices for families. "Families have to ask; do they pay their rent or mortgage, or do they pay their parental fees?" Hofer said.

Kausel's family has cashed out 401ks, spent an inheritance and maxed out credit cards trying to cover the high parental fees, so that their son Noah can stay in the program and receive needed services. "We and other families live paycheck to paycheck," Kausel said.

This month marks decision time for

Tickets reduced to \$15 for AD/ASL patrons (regular \$35). Other discounts available. FFI: 507-467-2525 or 800-657-7025, www.commonwealtheatre.org

Art Show by Jimmy Longoria

Jimmy Longoria of Stillwater is the latest artist to have a display at Vision Loss Resources, 1936 Lyndale Ave. S. (at Franklin), Mpls. VSA Minnesota coordinates the exhibits. Longoria's art is on display through April. Free. Watch for an upcoming reception. Longoria is recognized internationally as a fine artist and is the only Chicano/Latino/Hispanic artist to have been awarded an Archibald Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship in Fine Art. He is the only Minnesotan to have art in the permanent collection of Chicago's National Museum of Mexican Art, the largest collection of Mexican Art outside Mexico. Due to his practice of giving back to the community by producing murals that deter gang graffiti in communities suffering gang presence (using proceeds from his own art sales to do this important work) he has been honored to receive awards such as the Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Service, the Ordway's "Sally Award" for artistic vision, and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Living the Dream" Award from the City of Minneapolis. Exhibit hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri. FFI: VLR: 612-871-2222, <http://vsamn.org>

More events information

VSA Minnesota's Accessible Arts Calendar has been distributed monthly by email and online for many years in order that people with disabilities may participate in and enjoy plays, concerts, exhibits, readings, and other events with accommodations they need. The listings are on our website, on Facebook, and summarized on our voicemail each week.

Please note that in September 2019 VSA Minnesota will cease operations. The organization is working with potential stewards of its programs, including this calendar. Anyone with suggestions or a willingness to assist in this transition, can contact VSA Minnesota at 612-332-3888 or access@vsamn.org or info@vsamn.org.

VSA MINNESOTA

VSA Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit organization that works to create a community where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in and access the arts, at <http://vsamn.org>. The website has a comprehensive calendar at the upper right-hand corner of its homepage. For information on galleries and theater performances around the state join the Access to Performing Arts email list at access@vsamn.org or call VSA Minnesota, 612-332-3888 or statewide 800-801-3883 (voice/TTY). To hear a weekly listing of accessible performances, call 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883.

Access Press only publishes performance dates when accommodations are offered. Contact the venue to find out the entire run of a particular production, run times and if discounts for seniors, students, other individuals or groups are provided. VSA Minnesota advises everyone to call or email ahead, to make such that an accommodation is offered, as schedules can change. VSA Minnesota can also refer venues and theater companies to qualified describers, interpreters and captioners.

many bills as committee deadlines start to kick in. It can be a tough time as many bills get related to the "wait until next year" pile.

The first 2019 deadline is midnight Friday, March 15, when committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin. The second deadline, Midnight Friday, March 29, is when committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house.

The third deadline is midnight, Friday, April 12, when committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.

Walz, House Speaker Melissa Hortman, and Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka have agreed to additional deadline goals. The House and Senate will pass all major finance bills off their respective floors and leadership will appoint conference committees by Wednesday, May 1. Walz and leadership will provide fiscal targets to the chairs of conference committees on major finance bills by Monday, May 6. Conference committee chairs shall provide completed conference committee reports to the house of origin by Monday, May 13.

The deadlines don't apply to House committees on Capital Investment, Ways and Means, Taxes, or Rules and Legislative Administration, nor to Senate committees on Capital Investment, Finance, Taxes, or Rules and Administration.

Interested in a bill? Looking for a senator or representative? Want to see a hearing video? Go to www.leg.state.mn.us ■

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A web events listing is <http://c2net.org> (c2: caption coalition, inc., which does most of the captioned shows across the country. Facebook is a way to connect with performances. Sign up to connect with Audio Description across Minnesota tinyurl.com/d34dzo2 Connect with ASL interpreted and captioned performances across Minnesota on Facebook tinyurl.com/FBcaption. A resource is Minnesota Playlist, with a recently updated website calendar with all the ASL-interpreted, audio-described, captioned, pay-what-you-can shows and features. Go to <http://minnesotaplaylist.com/calendar>

Arts festivals are held throughout the state. Check: www.exploreminnesota.com/index.aspx, festivalnet.com/state/minnesota/mn.html, [www.fairsandfestivals.net/states/MN/](http://fairsandfestivals.net/states/MN/)

Abbreviations:

Audio description (AD) for people who are blind or have low vision, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, Open Captioning (OC) for people who are hard of hearing, and sensory-friendly (SF) performances.



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RADIO TALKING BOOK

Check out program changes

Radio Talking Book has announced two program changes. GLBT News, 12 a.m. Sun, is now LGBTQ News. This is recognition of a broader listener community. Style, 10:20 a.m. Sat, will now alternate weekly as Style for Women and Style for Men.

Help with Radio Talking Book 50th anniversary

Throughout 2019 Radio Talking Book commemorates 50 years on the air. The staff and volunteers are looking back with satisfaction and pride at the past half-century and are making plans to advance into the next 50 years. Feedback is sought from listeners old and new, so if anyone has memories to share, please do so. Please send an email to Scott McKinney, RTB Supervisor, at scott.mckinney@state.mn.us and thanks for helping with the celebration.

Books Available Through Faribault

Books broadcast on the Minnesota Radio Talking Book Network are available through the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library in Faribault. Call 1-800-722-0550, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon through Fri. The catalog is online at www.mnbtbl.org, click on the link Search the Library Catalog. Persons living outside of Minnesota may obtain copies of books via an inter-library loan by contacting their home state's Network Library for the National Library Service. Listen to the Minnesota Radio Talking Book, either live or archived program from the last week, on the Internet at www.mnssb.org/rtb or on handheld devices via the SERO app (iOS or Android). Call the Talking Book Library for a password to the site. To find more information about Minnesota Radio Talking Book Network events go to the Facebook site, Minnesota Radio Talking Book.

Audio information about the daily book listings is also on the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) Newslines. Register for the NFB Newslines by calling 651-539-1424. *Access Press* is featured on It Makes

a Difference, 9 p.m. Sun. The sampling published monthly in *Access Press* doesn't represent the full array of programming. Many more programs and books are available.

Donate to the State Services for the Blind at mn.gov/deed/ssbdonate

RTB and BARD

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is a service of the US Library of Congress. Part of NLS is Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), a free library service of Braille and audio material for individuals unable to use standard printed material. BARD provides access to thousands of books, magazines, and music scores, downloadable as compressed audio and Braille files.

Radio Talking Book is one of 35 organizations that contributes to the nationwide BARD partnership. In less than five years, more than 100 Minnesota volunteer readers have provided 322 books for BARD participants. Books read by RTB volunteers that were added by BARD in January and February include *A Big Bang in a Little Room* by Zeeya Merali, read by Arlan Dohrenburg; *Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* by Giles Milton, read by John Mandeville; *Ike and McCarthy* by David A. Nichols, read by Robb Empson; *The Gene Machine* by Bonnie Rochman, read by Pat Muir; *The Night Bird* by Brian Freeman, read by Tom Speich; *The War Within* by Alexis Peri, read by John Potts; *Three Stones Make a Wall* by Eric H. Cline, read by Lannois Neely and *Storm in a Teacup* by Helen Czerski, read by Myrna Smith.

Bookworm*

Monday – Friday 11 a.m.
The Lake on Fire, fiction by Rosellen Brown, 2018. The fates of two Jewish immigrant farmers collide with the glitter of Chicago's 1893 World's Fair. Read by Diane Ladenson. 13 broadcasts; begins Tue, March 12.

The Writer's Voice*

Monday – Friday 2 p.m.
Nine Irish Lives, nonfiction edited by Mark Bailey, 2018. Nine Irish-Americans tell the

stories of nine remarkable immigrants, and shared values as Americans. Read by Therese Murray. Nine broadcasts; begins Tue, March 12.

Just Mercy, nonfiction by Bryan Stevenson, 2015. As an attorney seeks to help the underserved in society, he takes the case of a man facing death for a crime he did not commit. Read by John Holden. 14 broadcasts; begins Mon, March 25.

Choice Reading*

Monday – Friday 4 p.m.
Hear My Voice, fiction by Marcia R. Rudin, 2017. Three women make profound sacrifices, as each pursues a calling as a clergy member. Read by Pat Muir. 14 broadcasts; begins Wed, March 13.

PM Report*

Monday – Friday 8 p.m.
The Nixon Effect, nonfiction by Douglas E. Schoen, 2016. President Richard Nixon's legacy incorporated an ideological shift in both the Republican and Democratic parties. Read by Yelva Lynfield. 20 broadcasts; begins Wed, March 20.

Night Journey*

Monday – Friday 9 p.m.
A Perfect Evil, fiction by Alex Cava, 2000. After a murderer is executed, a copycat killer eludes an FBI profiler and a small-town Nebraska sheriff. Read by John Holden. 14 broadcasts; begins Wed, March 13. – V

Off the Shelf*

Monday – Friday 10 p.m.
The Winters, fiction by Lisa Gabriele, 2018. A young woman gets caught up in a whirlwind courtship with a state senator and contends with his hostile teenage daughter. Read by Eileen Barratt. 10 broadcasts; begins Wed, March 20.

Potpourri*

Monday – Friday 11 p.m.
Thirst, nonfiction by Scott Harrison, 2018. A young man walked away from a high-profile life in New York City to found Charity Water, bringing clean drinking water to more than eight million people around the globe. Read

by John Marsicano. 13 broadcasts; begins Mon, March 18.

Good Night Owl*

The Book of Essie, fiction by Megan Maclean Weirl, 2018. Essie Hicks is the 17-year-old star of a religious reality TV show. After she becomes pregnant, she, her family and the producers are faced with a quandary. Read by Judith Johannessen. 12 broadcasts; begins Thu, March 14. – L, S

After Midnight*

Tuesday-Saturday 1 a.m.
Long Players, nonfiction by Peter Coviello, 2018. A middle-aged man tells the story of his marriage and family, with each chapter evoking popular songs that trigger his memories. Read by Jim Tarbox. Nine broadcasts; begins Wed, March 27. – L, S

Weekend Books

Your Personal World, 1 p.m. Sat, presents *Unblinded* by Traci Medford-Rosow and Kevin Coughlin (L); followed by *The Longevity Plan* by Dr. John D. Day and Jane Ann Day, both read by Beverly Burchett.

For the Younger Set, 11 a.m. Sun, presents *Stay Sweet* by Siobhan Vivian, read by Connie Jamison; followed by *Welcome To the Dark House* by Laura Faria Stolarz, read by Michelle Juntunen.

Poetic Reflections, noon Sun, presents *Oculus* by Sally Wen Mao, read by Holly Sylvester; followed by *Words from the Garden* by Isobel Carlson, read by Myrna Smith.

The Great North, 4 p.m. Sun, presents *Flames of Discontent* by Gary Kaunonen, read by Jan Anderson; followed by *The I-35W Bridge Collapse* by Kimberly J. Brown, read by Jim Gregorich.

All times listed are US Central Standard Time.

Abbreviations: V – Violence, L – Offensive Language, S – Sexual Situations, RE – Racial Epithets, G – Gory Depictions

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Nursing homes to share in funding for needed quality of life improvements statewide



AROUND THE DIAL

Disability and Progress

KFAI Radio, 6-7 p.m.

Thursdays. Host Sam Jasmine and guests explore a wide range of topics important to people with disabilities. KFAI is at 90.3 FM in Minneapolis and 106.7 in St. Paul. Listeners

outside of the Twin Cities, or those looking for a past show, will find show archives online at www.kfai.org. Look for the link to archives and for Disability and Progress. Listeners need to have a Real Audio Player downloaded so that this will work. A smartphone app is also available to hear archived programs.

To comment or make suggestions, for future shows, call 612-341-3144, or email disabilityandprogress@samjasmine.com. Note this is a new email address. Postal mail may be sent to KFAI, 1808 Riverside Ave. S., Disability and Progress, Box 116, Minneapolis MN 55454.

Disability Viewpoints

An award-winning public access television show by and for people with disabilities, is on hiatus as of the start of 2019. Mark Hughes and his team of co-hosts featured current news, interesting people and groups, and events in Minnesota's disability community. Some shows are archived on YouTube, so search for Disability Viewpoints on that web channel to find past shows. Disability Viewpoints has a Facebook page, and past shows are highlighted on www.ctv15.org

Hoodwave Disability Radio

Daniel and Leah Hood believe that having a voice is very important, and a way to influence change. The Hoods are *looking for podcast content and seek partners, as well as a quiet place to produce podcasts*. Learn more at www.hoodwave.org or the HoodWave Radio Facebook page, at HoodWave Disability Radio.

OTHER PROGRAMMING

Access Press is interested in listing other regularly scheduled broadcast, cablecast or podcast programs by and for people with disabilities. Programming needs to have a tie to Minnesota or the Upper Midwest. Anyone with questions can contact jane@accesspress.org

residents' moods and behaviors. Involved will be Bethany on the Lake in Alexandria, Meeker Manor in Litchfield, Parmly on the Lake in Chisago City and the Estates at Delano in Delano, the Estates at Greeley in Stillwater, the Estates at Rush City in Rush City and the Estates at Twin Rivers in Anoka.

*St. Francis Health Services Collaborative, to improve overall nutritional status and allow residents to achieve optimal health, functioning and wellbeing. Involved will be Browns Valley Care Center in Browns Valley, Little Falls Care Center in Little Falls, RenVilla Health Services in Renville and West Wind Village in Morris.

North/Northwest

*Aftenro, Duluth, to develop and implement CDC guidelines for prescribing antibiotics.

*Augustana Moose Lake Care Center, Moose Lake, as part of Care Choice Collaborative, to address the growing number of patients with behavioral health needs.

*Henning Rehab and Health Care Center, Henning, to implement an open breakfast program that focuses on customer service and resident choice.

*Interfaith Care Center, Carlton, to decrease depressive symptoms in residents by improving quality and quantity of resident center activity programming.

*Moorhead Rehab and Healthcare Center, Moorhead, to develop a wound management program to reduce pressure sores.

St. Francis Health Services Collaborative, to improve overall nutritional status and allow residents to achieve optimal health, functioning and wellbeing. Involved will be Franciscan Health Center in Duluth, Guardian Angels Health and Rehabilitation Center in Hibbing, Heritage Manor in Chisholm, Littlefork Care Center in Littlefork, Thief River Care Center in Thief River Falls and Viewcrest Health Center in Duluth.

South/Southwest

*Care Choice Collaborative, to address the growing number of patients with behavioral health needs. Involved will be collaborative members Thorne Crest Care Center in Albert Lea and Three Links Care Center in Northfield.

*Gundersen Harmony Care Center, Harmony, to improve residents' functional mobility and reduce falls.

*Monarch Healthcare, to use food and the dining experience to improve resident mood and behavior. Involved will be Hillcrest Rehab Center in Mankato, Laurel's Peak Rehab Center in Mankato, Mala Strana Rehab Center in New Prague, Oaklawn Rehabilitation Center in Mankato and The Green Prairie Rehabilitation Center in Plainview.

*Ridgeview Le Sueur Nursing & Rehab Center, LeSueur, to create an evidence-based restorative sleep program.

*St. Francis Health Services Collaborative, to improve overall nutritional status and allow residents to achieve optimal health, functioning and wellbeing. Involved will be Trinity Care Center, Farmington, and Zumbrota Care Center, Zumbrota.

Twin Cities metro area

*Care Choice Collaborative, to address the growing number of patients with behavioral health needs. Involved will be collaborative members Auburn Manor in Chaska; Augustana Chapel View Care Center in Hopkins; Augustana Health Care Centers in Apple Valley, Hastings and Minneapolis; Catholic Eldercare on Main in Minneapolis; Crest View Lutheran in Minneapolis; Episcopal Home of Minnesota in St. Paul; Guardian Angels Care Center in Oakdale; Jones-Harrison Residence in Minneapolis; Lyngblomsten Care Center in St. Paul; Minnesota Masonic Home in Bloomington; Mount Olivet Careview in Minneapolis; Mount Olivet Home in Minneapolis; Ramsey County Care Center in Maplewood; Shalom Home East in St. Paul; Shalom Home West in St. Louis Park; and Walker Methodist Health Care Center in Minneapolis.

*Monarch Healthcare, to provide resources and education specific to substance abuse recovery and mental health diagnosis management using a person-centered approach. Involved will be the Estates at Chateau in Minneapolis, the Estates at Lynnhurst in St. Paul and the Estates at Fridley in Fridley and the Estates at Linden in Stillwater.

*Monarch Healthcare, to use food and the dining experience to improve resident mood and behavior. Involved will be the Estates at Bloomington, Excelsior and St. Louis Park.

New efforts to improve the quality of life and care for residents of nursing homes will receive \$6.5 million over two years through funding from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). The Performance-based Incentive Payment Program (PIPP) allows nursing homes to earn the performance incentive payments for dedicating resources to quality improvement and meeting goals related to care, resident quality of life, facility activities and other issues. The program provides up to five percent in additional operating payment funding to 74 nursing homes throughout the state.

The allocations announced in February are the 12th round of funding since the program started in 2006. Projects are focused on goals such as ensuring better antibiotic prescribing, improving functional mobility and preventing falls, enhancing nutrition and dining choices, addressing behavioral health needs, and improving sleep and continence management.

One example is at Bethany on the Lake in Alexandria and other Monarch Healthcare facilities throughout Minnesota. A project called "Butterfly Bistro" is designed to improve residents' moods and behaviors by offering more resident control over food choices and providing exceptional customer service and other enhancements to the mealtime experience. Expected outcomes include decreases in unexplained weight loss and higher food scores in resident and family satisfaction surveys.

"Nursing homes are responsible for providing safe, quality care to some of the most vulnerable Minnesotans," said Human Services Commissioner Tony Lourey. "This funding helps improve residents' health, well-being and overall quality of life."

Below are the organizations receiving PIPP funding in this round, grouped by region.

Central/West Central

*Carris Health Care Center, Willmar, to improve assessment and management of continence.

*Central Todd County Care Center, Clarissa, to improve the dining experience by focusing on how meals are prepared, presented and delivered.

*Monarch Healthcare, to use food and the dining experience to improve

PEOPLE AND PLACES

From page 9

better meet local needs are also issues. A new name and new mission statement are also seen as ways to no longer have a name that has the dated "R word."

Dawn Helgeson will continue as executive director of the organization. LIFE Mower County will offer the same programs and activities it always has, including outings, activities and its popular annual rose sale.

"Our programming won't change," Helgeson told the *Austin Herald*. "It's just the name and it really stands for learning, inclusion, fun and empowerment. There are so many more opportunities for people now than back then. They have so many abilities to share with the community."

"So many things have changed in the 66 years since the start of the Arc of Mower County," she said. "We

want to let people know how we work to empower people, teach them new things and all sorts of life skills. What we're doing now with advocacy, recreation, education and youth programs, is something we want to keep pressing forward. We are still here to empower people with disabilities to have a great life."

The name and other changes are supported by the group's membership.

This month Helgeson marks her 30th anniversary with the organization. The Arc Mower County welcomed her as a bookkeeper/office manager on March 7, 1989. She became executive director in 1995. A celebration is planned in her honor later this month.

REGIONAL NEWS

From page 6

his expertise growing up on a farm near Owatonna. After offering the students real-world examples of limitations he knows farmers face, he said he appreciates how the course highlights careers within the agricultural industry that people wouldn't typically associate with farming.

"What this class teaches you is there's so many avenues of lines of work that relate to agriculture, that can help agriculture, or that agriculture helps," he said. "No matter what you do in life, there's probably a connection to agriculture."

(Source: *Free Press of Mankato*)

PIONEER

From page 5

She full-on rejected any definition of "living" that involved being denied the choices given to nondisabled people.

If you want to honor Carrie, fight for the lives of disabled people. We are endangered. If they can kill Carrie, who is next? Here are 4 steps you can take right now:

Get involved. Vote. Run for political office. Ask politicians, especially those running for President to support Medicare for All proposals that explicitly include Long Term Supports and Services.

Pick one policy that is harming disabled people and fight to change it.

Make a public commitment to increasing accessibility for disabled people in your organizations.

Donate to disability-led (especially disabled people of color-led) organizations and projects in Carrie Ann's name. ■

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS MEMBER

Hammer Travel organizes trips for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Based in Minnesota, Hammer Travel provides travel experiences for individuals from around the country.

Hammer Travel strives to provide unique destinations and exploration opportunities, and works hard to take into account each traveler's choices and opinions.

Safety always is a priority, as they take many precautions when scheduling disability travel. From detailed medication sheets for each traveler, to adjusting when meds are administered across time zones, Hammer Travel will ensure that those accommodations are met, including any medical equipment/needs. Additionally there, is a 24-hour on-call nursing department on every trip.

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