Perfect pastries

This is the story of a family’s pursuit of just that: the perfect pie

By Kristal Leebrick

The 23 pies lined up in two straight rows on the front table at Claddagh Coffee & Café on West Seventh Street, St. Paul, had names as alluring as the pies themselves. Strawberry Butter Cream, Caramel Chocolate Supreme, Reese’s Cup, Root Beer Float, Cherry Berry, Almond Joy Coconut, Sahy Jack O’Lantern, Sweet Potato Eggnog, a green grape concoction called Minnesota Pie (According to the New York Times), and one named Black Pie Day—an apple pie made with cinnamon red hots and a mix of red, green and blue food coloring that gave the pastry and its filling the same color as the pies moniker.

It was the Friday after Thanksgiving, and 50-plus people—ranging from tots to 60-somethings, some holding plastic divided trays to separate each diminutive piece of pie—stood ready to taste and rate their top three choices. This was the 2014 version of the Comstock family’s annual pie contest, a tradition that began in Iowa City in 1976. That’s when Verne Comstock Sr., the patriarch of the Comstock clan—a family of six kids who grew up near Langford Park in St. Anthony Park—challenged his four daughters and two daughters-in-law to make the best pie.

It was five years before granddaughter Sunny Comstock was born, but her early memories of Thanksgiving are of the “wonderful chaos” at her Aunt Pam’s home in Iowa. “All the kids would come and all the kids’ spouses and children,” she said. “Weld be sleeping on the floor and fill the whole house.”

Travellers from Minnesota and Texas would arrive on Thanksgiving Day and commence creating their perfect pie to 10

New vendor selected for Como Pavilion

Owners of Minneapolis’ 331 Club and St. Paul’s Amsterdam Bar say Como Dockside will offer paddleboat and canoe rental, picnic menu and summer concerts

By Alex Lodner

After months of speculation, a new vendor was selected to operate Como Lakeside Pavilion.

Como Dockside is slated to open in spring 2015 and will include a full-service restaurant, an expanded summer concession stand and new recreational options. Based on community feedback and evaluation, listening sessions and more than 1,000 public comments, Como Dockside will be a center for the community first and foremost, according to city councilmember Amy Brendmoen. The new venue will be run by Jon and Jarret Oulman, the father-and-son team behind the Amsterdam Bar in downtown St. Paul and the 331 Club in M Innopolis.

“The new vendors are very much responding to what the community is asking for,” Brendmoen said. The Oulmans say they hope to provide visitors with a place to enjoy year round, a community hub that includes great food, both indoor and outdoor activities, and plenty of fun-filled events. Fans of the city’s Music in the Parks series need not worry, the contract requires a minimum of 100 events per year on the outdoor promenade, including up to 20 dates selected by the city for the concerts.

“We’re very excited about this opportunity,” Jon Oulman said. “We’re going to activate the lake. We will add new paddleboats and canoes—lots of activities.”

The Oulmans plan to have a picnic-type menu for the restaurant, which will also include local beers. “Folks can bring a picnic basket or get one from us and get out on the water,” Oulman said. An overhaul of the building will make the venue cooler and more welcoming during the winter months as well, he said. The team is considering adding a small arcade downstairs for kids of all ages.

While the Oulmans will take over the building the first week in January, a meet-and-greet event is tentatively planned for mid-January.

“We want an opportunity to introduce ourselves,” Oulman explained. “We won’t have much to show everyone yet, the ink is still drying, but we are excited to reach out to the community as soon as possible.”

“We’ve been amazing to work with,” he added. “They made the process as smooth as possible and were clear about what the neighborhood wanted. I’m a longtime St. Paul resident. I feel that in St. Paul, city officials assume you are trying to do the right thing by the community, and they help you get there.”

The proposal will go to the City Council for final approval on Dec. 17.

Langford Park Winter Classic set for Jan. 8-11

Winter enthusiasts, mark your calendars for the 56th annual Langford Park Winter Classic, Jan. 8-11, a four-day event that includes a squirt hockey tournament, a basketball tournament, a mini-rite hockey scramble, a treasure hunt, hockey skills contest, hot dogs and hot chocolate.

This free family-friendly event is sponsored by the Langford Park Hockey Association and St. Anthony Park Booster Club. Call Langford Park Recreation Center, 651-298-5765, for schedule information.
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“The St. Anthony Park Community Council is at a point where we have a great opportunity to really listen to what we do and how we do it—so seriously evaluate how can best support our community during these exciting times of change and improvement, not only in our neighborhood, but across St. Paul,” said Seth Levin, co-president of the SAPCC board.

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Meet your neighbors at the 29th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner

The 29th annual St. Anthony Park Progressive Dinner will be held Saturday, March 1. The fun, food, and neighborhood will begin with appetizers at 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. Then diners will fan out across the neighborhood to partake in a series of salad, dinner and desert courses hosted at the homes of Progressive DINNER participants.

For more information on the event and downloadable registration forms at sapcc.org/dinner.

The project is aimed at making Raymond Avenue more pedestrian friendly and slowing traffic on the avenue.

The project was finalized and approved by the community council in 2010 and subsequently approved by the St. Paul City Council.

The first phase of the project—from University Avenue to Hamline Avenue—was completed in 2013. You can see Mundahl’s slideshow of the proposed project at the St. Anthony Park Community Council website, www.sapcc.org/raymonddphase2.

Questions concerning the project can be directed to Mundahl at barbaramundahl@stpaulmn.us or 651-266-6123—Kris Lebrick, Executive Director, City of St. Paul

Mid-century home designed by Laid-Close features two story additions, 2014 restoration includes new skylights, roof, insulation, exterior paint, and poolroom.

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Meeting of St. Paul City Council at a point where we have a great opportunity to really listen to what we do and how we do it—so seriously evaluate how can best support our community during these exciting times of change and improvement, not only in our neighborhood, but across St. Paul,” said Seth Levin, co-president of the SAPCC board.

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Birthday bucks and bears

Woman celebrates 80 years with two big wins on the hunting trail

By Kristal Leebrick

Nothing says happy 80th birthday, like bagging a black bear four days after the big day and just three months later scoring a fat spike buck—both with a bow and arrows.

“This has been my 80th year of surprises,” said longtime St. Anthony Park resident Elaine Phillips. That deer she killed near her cabin in Cross Lake, Minn., was probably the most exciting catch in her nearly 50 years of bow hunting with her husband, Dick, a retired agriculture professor at the University of Minnesota.

Elaine grew up in southern Minnesota watching her dad and brothers head up north each year to deer camp, but she didn’t take an interest in hunting until her husband gave her bow lessons as a gift on their first Christmas as husband and wife.

Those lessons with national archery champ Jim Ploen in Bloomington “kind of got me hooked on it,” Elaine said. Her first hunt was in the Boundary Waters with her husband in 1966.

The Phillipses spent many summers hunting and camping in Colorado with their three sons. Elaine tried deer hunting in New Zealand during Dick’s sabbatical, and bagged an impala ram in South Africa. She arrowed three bears in Canada, yet her biggest thrill, she said, was the deer she killed Nov. 12.

“It was only my third deer,” she said, and with the deer population down in Minnesota this hunting season, “I really didn’t have much hope seeing anything.”

Foundation director announces bid for school board seat

Jon Schumacher, executive director of the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, has announced his candidacy for the St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education election in 2015.

Four seats on the school board will be up for election next fall.

A parent of two daughters who attended St. Paul public schools and graduated from Como Park Senior High School, Schumacher said he’s been involved in many aspects of the schools. His work in “community and consensus building” with the community foundation over the last 15 years would benefit the district, he said.

“St. Paul has great students, parents, teachers, staff, principals and administrators,” he said. “Now is the time to find new ways to work together to deliver on the promise of a world-class education for all of our students.”—Kristal Leebrick
EDITORIAL

The Park Bugle board of directors and staff wish you all a very happy new year.

L E T T E R S

Leave it to credentials

This poem is in response to the letter in the last Bugle that indicated that volunteer storytellers at St. Paul libraries are bemused by required professional librarians.

One day, in order to help Your own kid—with homework—
Your own kid—legally
You will have to have At the very least
A Master’s in Fine Arts.
A high school degree.

And one day, in order for me To recite this poem—yes To recite this poem—legally I will have to have What I do not have—
A M atter’s in Fine Arts.
Warning: No professional
With the right credentials Pre-approved this message.

M ichael Penfield
St. Paul

By Adam Granger

Parcelandarkness Granger was born in Ithaca, N.Y., six days before the end of World War II, and four years and 10 days before him. He was Type A from the get-go, incessantly baring his head against his crib in his sleep until padding had to be installed.

In high school in Oklahoma, where we moved in 1953, he was class president, youth court judge, starting pitcher on the baseball team, a letterman on the track team and—well, you get the picture. He went on to Harvard on a scholarship (one of two Okies in the class of ’67), and then moved to New York City to become a playwright.

Along his way, he wrote scripts for CBS Radio M Mystery Theater, and a few television movie screenplays, ultimately having a number of his plays produced on and off Broadway. The best known of these was the Eminent Domain, which was staged at Circle in the Square. To pay the bills, he wrote for the soap opera As the World Turns. Trying to break into the movie business, he flew frequently to Los Angeles, a lonesome, lonely lifestyle as an adult was a glorious, joyful iteration of his crib head banging, and he couldnt—have lived any differently.

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 8, 1992, I played music for a St. Anthony Park Community Council banquet. I got home around 8:30 p.m. and was just settling down with a Scotch when the phone rang. It was my sister-in-law, M. and I was calling me from N.Y.C. to tell me that Percy had had a heart attack.

I caught the first New York flight out of M inneapolis the next morning and, 16 hours after playing for friends and neighbors in the back room of the First Presbyterian Church, I saw my brother for the last time.

New York City had always been a scary place for me. On my first visit there, in 1967, I stayed at the midtown YM C.A. and barely left my room, and I had rarely returned since then. (My trepidation was sufficient that, in 1973, I turned down an offer to join the staff of National Lampoon magazine, for which I had been freelance writing, because I would have had to move there, opting instead for the more placid environs of the Twin Cities and the relatively more stable positions of performer and writer for Garrison Keillor.)

Percy had stayed up all that Monday night working on a rewrite of a play, The Dolphin Position, which was to open in two weeks at Primary Stage Theater, on West 38th Street. (He played squash with his older son, who was to start high school the next day, then hopped on his bike and tore across town to deliver the script. As he rolled up in front of the theater, he suffered a massive coronary and crashed into a parked van, ending up unconscious on the sidewalk. After numerous attempts by paramedics, his heart restarted, but 27 minutes had passed, and he suffered diffuse anoxia.

He regained consciousness but could communicate only with only brain stem skills and limited ability to communicate or recognize people. My sister-in-law converted his study into what was essentially a hospital room, and there he lived for the next four years. During that time, I visited every few months (coming to love New York in the process) to take care of Percy so MariElena could have a break. On March 10, 1997, my only sibling had another heart attack and died.

We look for explanations for awful events. We say that everything happens for a reason, but I’m not a religious man, and I believe that secular chaos defines some events and that there are concrete, earthly reasons for others. Percy’s death was a combination: He lived a wild, short, and 10 days before me. He had hurt his feelings and had forever missed the opportunity to set the record straight.

Since that time, I have tried to keep my accounts clear. I communicate with people whom I worry I have hurt or offended. I try to apologise for wrongs I feel I have committed, and I strive to compliment people for their good deeds and qualities. It may sound corny for me to say that every time I do thesethings, I think of my brother and that phone call, but its the truth.

Adam Granger lives in St. Anthony Park with his wife and am and is a regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

By Adam Granger

Storytime at the library

A recent Park Bugle letter indicated that St. Paul Public Library would no longer have volunteers interacting with children. This library regrettably miscommunication leading to this impression.

The library values the contributions of more than 1,000 annual volunteers, over half of whom work with youth in a variety of programs and activities. In St. Anthony Park Library has benefited from Tom Fosters decade as a volunteer engaging preschoolers and families each week with the delight of puppetry and reading.

Other volunteers serve youth in activities ranging from snack and lunch programs to homework and reading tutoring.

What is new at the library is a focus on strengthening the role that professional library staff play in the delivery of storytime, one of our core services that is supported by intensive training and evaluation. This focus will not diminish or eliminate the important role that volunteers play in engaging youth in St. Mother opportunities at the library. For more information about the library’s volunteer opportunities, please visit sapl.org/about/volunteers.

Kit Hadley
Director, St. Paul Public Library

Commentary

My Brother

At the very least
A high school degree.

And one day, in order for me To recite this poem—yes To recite this poem—legally I will have to have What I do not have—
A M atter’s in Fine Arts.

Warning: No professional
With the right credentials Pre-approved this message.

M ichael Penfield
St. Paul

Leave it to credentials

This poem is in response to the letter in the last Bugle that indicated that volunteer storytellers at St. Paul libraries are bemused by required professional librarians.

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Warning: No professional
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M ichael Penfield
St. Paul
Thank you for supporting the Park Bugle

Thanks to the following Park Bugle readers who have contributed to the Bugle’s 2014–15 fund drive. This list reflects those who gave up to Dec. 4. We’ll publish more donors in the next issue. If you haven’t had a chance to contribute, you still have time before the new year. The Bugle relies on tax-deductible donations to help defray the newspaper’s annual operating costs.

JANUARY 2015

Grants to page 6

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Thank you!
The Bugle seeks board candidates

The Park Bugle is seeking candidates to fill openings on its board of directors. The board consists of residents and business owners from the communities served by the newspaper.

The board encourages residents of the Como Park neighborhood and the cities of Lauderdale and Falcon Heights to apply to help achieve geographic balance on the board.

Skills and background desired:
- Organizational or management skills, especially with nonprofits, including board service
- Fundraising and grant-writing experience, a strong connection to the community and the ability to comfortably approach potential donors
- Advertising experience, specifically sales, to support our sales representatives
- Legal expertise
- Website development

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YOU & YOUR FAMILY

CARTER AVENUE FRAME SHOP
Expert tells of ice palace magic

By Roger Bergerson

Bob Olsen would like to get one thing straight: He’s an authority on St. Paul Winter Carnival ice palaces, not castles.

“A castle is a fortification,” he clarified, “a palace is a residence.”

Not that Olsen is a dour or pedantic guy, far from it. The longtime Falcon Heights resident just plain loves ice palaces, has since he was a boy, and is an expert on all 20 that have graced the Winter Carnival, most recently in 2004.

(Olsen will talk about them when he addresses the Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave. W. The public is invited.)

“I’ve always loved the ethereal nature of these structures and how they fit in with the mythology of the carnival,” he said. “An ice palace is a transitional thing and captures the feeling that we have as a northern people. Winter can be a dark time, but it will pass.”

Olsen said the earliest known ice palace was built by a Russian monarch in the mid-18th century. The next one was built in 1883 for Montreal’s Winter Carnival.

St. Paul’s Winter Carnival began in 1886, at least partially in response to the jibe of a New York newspaper reporter who declared the city to be “another Siberia, unfit for human habitation.”

Photos of that carnival’s inaugural palace show it to be a remarkably large and ornate structure, one that would dwarf those that came later. Olsen estimated that it would cost $3 million to $5 million to build such an edifice today.

“The biggest modern hindrance to constructing ice palaces is obtaining insurance,” he said. “This is despite the fact that there’s been one and only one injury in the whole history of the carnival—a worker who’d been drinking and fell to his death from the top of the 1887 palace.”

Photos of that carnival’s inaugural palace show it to be a remarkably large and ornate structure, one that would dwarf those that came later. Olsen estimated that it would cost $3 million to $5 million to build such an edifice today.

“Sure, these things cost a lot of money, but they also provide memories that you’ll never forget,” he said.

Roger Bergerson is a local historian, journalist and regular contributor to the Park Bugle.

Designer extraordinaire

Clarence “Cap” Wigington was chief design architect for the City of St. Paul from 1915 to 1949, and the nation’s first African-American municipal architect.

He designed a host of public buildings around the city, including the Highland Park water tower, Homan Field airport terminal, the Palm Dome extension of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Regional Park and Chelsea Heights Elementary School, 1557 Huron St.

Wigington’s work also included several Winter Carnival ice palaces, and Bob Olsen thinks the Art Moderne lines of his 1937 effort echo those of the school.
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Mizna shares artistic and literary contributions of Arab-Americans

By Judy Woodward

Picture an ill-assorted group of urban dwellers who escape their stifling daily lives by spending their evenings smoking, drinking and joking, passengers aboard a houseboat as it floats down the River Nile under a jeweled sky. It sounds like a movie, and in fact it is a scene from a classic Egyptian film based on Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz’s novel Adrift on the Nile. It’s also a cinematic representation of an aspect of Arab life that doesn’t get much traction in the American popular imagination. Whatever else can be said about it, the scene couldn’t be farther from the standard Hollywood version of wild-eyed Arab terrorists.

And that’s the point. Images like this one may soon become better known to area residents thanks to M Iznà, the Arab-American arts and cultural organization based on University Avenue in south St. Anthony Park. Mizna recently won a $40,000 Knight Foundation grant to produce a series called Arab America at Home.

According to executive director Lana Barkawi, the series “is designed to take our programming to the broader community in St. Paul. We want to make the connection that Arabs are part of the community, and the cultural production of the Arab-American community is part of the greater American art and culture.”

The planning process has just begun, but Barkawi and her colleagues are talking about mounting outdoor screenings of classic Arab Films like Adrift on the Nile, as well as holding picnics and “literary conversations” in conjunction with the semi-annual publication of the group’s journal Mizna: Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring Arab America.

The long-term goal is to introduce residents to the richness and complexity of Arab culture and to the nuanced artistic and literary contributions of Arab-Americans.

M Iznà is a poetic Arabic word that Barkawi defines as “a desert cloud that holds the promise of rain and shelter from the sun and heat.” The organization was founded in 1998 by local Lebanese-American teacher Kathryn Haddad. Its original goal, says Barkawi, was to publish a literary journal that would offer Arab-Americans “a reprieve from the broader culture in the West [which] may not feel so inviting, understanding and comfortable.”

It’s a reprieve that Barkawi has experienced firsthand. Raised in California as the daughter of Palestinian-American immigrants, Barkawi, now 40, recalls the first time she attended a literary reading sponsored by Mizna, when she was a relative newcomer to the Twin Cities in 2003. At the event, local poet Nahid Khan recited her “Ode to Scheherazade,” a Tarat deconstruction of one of the West’s most enduring mythic images of the Arab world, the poem begins, “I am not Scheherazade, as shimmering shadow, emasculating M idle Eastern mystique.”

“I remember feeling astounded that I was hearing something that related to me culturally,” Barkawi says. “I’d never before heard expressions of our community by our community.” She adds that, to an Arab-American, “it feels very important to see some facet of your identity represented.”

Mizna is part of this presence with the nation’s only journal of Arab-American literature and one of the country’s largest Arab film festivals.

The organization’s offices at 2446 University Ave. W., Suite 115, were founded initially as a way to provide support for the journal. Over time, activities have expanded to include Arabic language classes, as well as lessons in Arabic drumming on an instrument called the darbake, which Barkawi likens to the Indian tabla drum. Students include second- and third-generation Arab-Americans “who wish they had a better grasp” on their own cultural heritage, as well as non-Arab locals with an interest in the culture.

With the Knight grant, M Iznà sees an opportunity to reach out to those with fewer ties to the Arab community.

“We know that the broader public is not Arab,” she says. “But there are those that hunger to know what’s beyond the headlines.”

The Mizna community is both nonsectarian and nonpolitical, but members are not naive. While they count members of several faiths and many shades of opinion within their ranks, they understand that bigotry and anti-Muslim prejudice continue to be daily reality for many Arab-Americans.

The best way to counter anti-Arab stereotypes, says Barkawi, “is simply by doing the work that we do. We present complex, beautiful, challenging work from our community. A specific story [in the journal M Iznà] can take on a life of its own when the reader sees the universal in it and draws a connection to his or her own life. We hope that presenting culture from our community will break down...
How chickadees make it through a cold winter's night

In his book Winter World, scientist and naturalist Bernd Heinrich said something that puzzled me. He was describing the effect of the cold on small birds and wrote, "The physics of heating and cooling dictate that smaller birds lose heat more quickly than do birds of larger size. The body has to enclose all that mass, doesn’t it?"

Now, years after reading Heinrich’s book, I’ve been thinking about these little kingy chickadees we have at our feeders and wondering how they can survive our bitter winter nights. Do their little bodies lose relatively more heat than the larger blue jays and mourning doves? Do they also lead to larger skin surface? The statement that the smaller the body is its surface area, which is the drain of the body heat than a larger one. I thought I could visualize how skin surface changed with an increase in body mass.

So, I decided to take a mathematical approach to analyzing the thesis. I thought I could approximate a bird as a sphere and look up the formulas for the surface area and the volume of a sphere.

The surface area of a sphere is:

\[ \text{Surface Area} = 4\pi r^2 \]

And the volume of a sphere is:

\[ \text{Volume} = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \]

To get the ratio of skin surface to body mass, divide the first formula by the second one. The result is simply 3r. Isn’t that neat?

Since the radius is in the denominator, a smaller radius gives a larger ratio of skin area to body mass. Therefore, we can estimate that a smaller critter loses relatively more body heat than a larger one.

It’s true that a larger bird has more skin area than a smaller one, but that ratio of area to volume is smaller for a larger animal. All of this fancy math just points out the problem: If you're a little bird, you're going to need some strategies and techniques to make it through a Minnesota winter night.

One thing that chickadees do is add additional feathers to their bodies as winter approaches, especially the little downy feathers near their skin. It’s the equivalent of putting on their long-handled drawers as the days and nights get colder.

Like other birds, chickadees also fluff out their feathers to retain heat. Fluffing creates air pockets that insulate the body from the exterior chill.

A Norwegian scientist, Jon Stein studied titmice and five species of common finches one winter outside New York City. Chickadees were able to lower their body temperature from their normal daytime 107°F to the range of 86°F to 90°F. He helps to slow the use of their fat reserves during the night, in spite of vigorous shivering, even while they’re sound asleep.

For me, shivering is usually the prelude to teeth chattering and loss of muscle control. Once I start shivering I can’t think about anything else but getting warm. Birds, however, use shivering as a way to generate heat. And they can do it while they sleep.

The shivering does use up their fat reserves, however. Chickadees usually start each winter day with a little fat reserve and have to find sources of fat to lay on enough fat (more than 10% of their body weight) to get them through the coming day and especially the night ahead. We can help by providing good sources of fat at our feeders, like sun and black oil sunflower seeds.

Chickadees often spend the night in a tight-fitting roost hole where the surrounding wood gives them some insulation from the nighttime temperatures. And they are better off if they find a hole that faces away from the north wind. Heinrich said you can tell how snug their night accommodations were by noticing that some chickadees have beat tails feathers in the morning. They might be described as having a bad tail day, but they’ve survived another Minnesota winter night.

Pies were judged on taste, appearance and creativity at the Comstock pie contest. The "Minnesota Pie (According to the New York Times)" included cream cheese, a halo of chopped nuts and a layer of green grapes. Photo by Marina Lang

Perfect pie from 1

The crowned victor of the 1996 contest in Iowa was Kate (Comstock) Trevorrow, daughter of Manny and Becky Comstock.

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Perfect pie from 1

The crowned victor of the 1996 contest in Iowa was Kate (Comstock) Trevorrow, daughter of Manny and Becky Comstock.
The pie contest moved out of the family home this year and into Claddagh Coffee & Café, where more than 50 people gathered for the Nov. 28 event. Photo by Marina Lang

The winners: Michele Dao and Layla Comstock. Photo by Marina Lang

pie (under the guidance of Sophie’s mom, Sunny). They sang the praises of cutting ice-cold butter into little bits to help create a delicious crust, something they had learned about earlier that day (and one of them had a bandaged finger to prove it).

Jessie Rise, a friend of David Comstock, entered a coconut pie for his first entry into the unsanctioned category of the contest.

“I grew up hearing of this legacy event,” he said, “and saw the plaque hanging in David’s house. I’m glad to be here.” His crust? Store-bought, ready-made.

The night came to a close after the judges tallied the votes. Last year’s winners, Manny Comstock (sanctioned) and Joan Snyder (unsanctioned), donned black commencement gowns and aluminum-foil crowns, carried the plaque and trophy they had each held in their homes for the past year, and walked to the front of the room under a canopy of wooden spoons held by participants who naa-naa-naa-naa-naa-naa-naaaed the song “Pomp and Circumstance.”

After a brief speech by each, they passed the plaque and trophy to this year’s winners: Layla Comstock (sanctioned, she’s the 10-year-old granddaughter of Verne Jr. and Judy) for her Root Beer Float pie, a cream pie with real root beer as an ingredient, and Michele Dao (unsanctioned) for her Crack pie, a gooey, buttery, creamy pie with an oat cookie crust.
Como gymnasts vault into winter season

By Eric Erickson

Can the average Bugle reader guess the number of winter sports teams your neighborhood high school features? If you’re trying, you may have already listed hockey for the boys and the girls, as well as basketball for both genders.

Perhaps a drive on Leighton Parkway reminded you the boys and girls Nordic teams are out there. Perhaps a drive on Lexington Parkway reminded you the boys and girls gymnastics team is home base for a group of 25 girls and a couple of 20 boys.

Gael Hernandez, Jessica Madison, and Kristin Ouverson have been balancing, vaulting, springing and swinging every day after school since Nov 11. The support of each teammate in competition, doing all four events.

Girls can focus on an event or two, or go for it all and compete in all the events. The next eight scores are counted for the junior varsity. With the different skill sets and events, there is opportunity for every team member to contribute to team scores in each meet.

The Coach gymnastics team speaks with pride about the meets.

Anna Fryxell of the Como Gymnastics team prepares for a routine on the uneven bars while teammates Josie Schermerhorn, Patsy Thayieng and Chloe Hansen provide encouragement.

“Patsy is a powerhouse on the floor, combining explosive acrobatics and fluid dance elements,” Ouverson said. “Anna is great on bars and gets a lot of height on her back tucks for floor.”

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School who has coached a variety of school and youth sports teams in St. Paul over the last 20 years. Follow Twitter @eestp for current school sports news.
Once a science teacher, always a science teacher

By Tim Chase

Art Payne was willing to mentor another student at the Murray Middle School this year. I noticed him sitting, laughing and talking with Henry in the break prep area of the Murray science department. They were discussing how to set up a lab and measure the mass of the sample on the electronic balance.

It was funny listening to them, laugh, get serious and work through the problems of doing a science fair experiment.

Payne, a retired Murray science teacher, has mentored many students since the early 1980s, starting with a few students who wanted to participate in an optional science fair when Murray had just transitioned from a grades 7-12 high school to a middle school. There will be many activities stations where participants can challenge themselves with problem solving, critical thinking, agility, and science and math. Everyone gets a healthy snack too.

Payne retired from teaching, but he feels he is still useful to the school. He was asked to mentor another student and it was brought up to Henry in the高出 prep area of the Murray science department.

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**January Events**

**Venue Information**

Venue information is listed at the end of the calendar. Send your events to calendar@parkbugle.org by Wednesday, Jan. 14, to be included in the February issue.

**6 Tuesday**

Community blood drive at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 612-390-2508. To schedule an appointment call Judy Albrecht at 651-644-8033 or go to redcrossblood.org and use ZIP code 55118.

**7 Wednesday**

English Conversation Circles, every Wednesday in January at St. Anthony Park Library, 4:50 p.m.

**8 Thursday**

Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.

**9 Friday**

Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, two sessions, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-noon.

**10 Saturday**

Murray Middle School science fair open house, 6:30-8 p.m.

**11 Sunday**

Sunday Afternoon Book Club, "Old Man River: The Mississippi River in North American History" by Paul Schneider, Micawber’s Books, 2:30 p.m.

**12 Monday**

Theosophical Society presentation by the Rev. Barbara Everett and Vice-Braschler on the role of the wounded healer, Spirit United Interfaith Church, 7 p.m.

**13 Tuesday**

Baby/toddler lapsit storytime (ages birth to 2 years), St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-noon.

**14 Wednesday**

Murray Middle School science fair open house, 6:30-8 p.m.

**15 Thursday**

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

**16 Friday**

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**17 Saturday**

Community Sing at Mizna, 2242 University Ave. W., Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., Minneapolis. For more information, contact www.womensdrumcenter.org

**18 Sunday**

Behind the Curtain: The Color Purple, Park Square Theatre actors present an evening from the upcoming musical "The Color Purple," St. Anthony Park Library, 7-9 p.m.

**19 Monday**

Community Sing, Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Everyone welcome. This month Community Sing will be dedicated to Pete Seeger.

**20 Tuesday**

Baby/toddler lapsit storytime (ages birth to 2 years), St. Anthony Park Library, two sessions, 10:30-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-noon.

**21 Thursday**

Preschool Mandarin Chinese storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30 a.m.

**22 Friday**

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**23 Monday**

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**24 Tuesday**

Co-ed Drum Circle, Women’s Drum Center, 6:30 p.m. All levels of experience welcome; $10 at the door. Drums provided.

**25 Sunday**

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**31 Sunday**

Preschool (ages 3-5) storytime, St. Anthony Park Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**VenuE Information**

Arbor Pointe Senior Apartments, 615 Maryland Ave. W.

Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave., 651-541-1050

Falcon Heights Town Square, 1330 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Lauderdale City Hall, 1881 Walnut St., 651-631-0300

Micawber’s Books, 2238 Carter Ave., 651-643-5316

Murray Middle School, 2200 Buford Ave. E., 651-293-8740.

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 1490 Fulham St.

Spirit United Interfaith Church, 3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. www.theosophical.org

St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., 651-642-0411

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave., 651-645-0371

St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave., 651-603-8946

Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., www.womensdrumcenter.org

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**Salon in the Park**

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**Mizna from 8 bigotry**

As for those within their own ranks who object to films like Adrift on the Nile, with its suggestion of alcohol use among traditionally abstaining Mulsims, Barkawi has a forthright response: “Many of us in Miza [understand] that religion is not perfectly lived by its adherents. There isn’t simply one way to be a good Muslim.”

Miza charts a careful course in portraying and serving a “complex and pluralistic” Arab-American culture. For example, at a recent reading held during the month of Ramadan, when observant Muslims fast from sunrise to sundown, Miza organizers tried to take an inclusive approach. “There were snacks served after the performance for traditional Muslims who were ready to break their fast. For others, there was also wine. Will Miza continue to thrive as a culturally based organization, as the American genius for assimilation does its invisible work among subsequent generations of Arab-Americans whose connection to their Middle Eastern homelands becomes more and more attenuated?”

“We don’t take a stand on assimilation,” says Barkawi. “Miza exists in a very active social media world, but for subsequent generations, there has to be an explicit decision to stay connected.”

Barkawi is more interested in the present. She’s proud of the increasing role Miza has been asked to play in the Twin Cities art scene, co-sponsoring events at the Open Book Center in Minneapolis and participating in Northern Spark, an all-night summer arts festival that lights up the Minneapolis sky on the second Saturday in June.

“We’re proving that Arab art is something that’s happening right now,” she says. “It’s a vibrant scene.”

Find out more about upcoming Miza events at miza.org.

Judy Woodward is a reference librarian at Roseville Library and a longtime contributor to the Park Bugle.
Neighbors

Keep an eye on those reindeer
The Como Zoo has once again installed a webcam for viewers to watch the zoo’s two resident reindeer in December. The live stream can be seen at www.apl.tv/reindeer.htm. Rumor has it that Santa Claus will be checking in on the reindeer at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; Monday, Dec. 22; and Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Keep an eye on the watching
The Como Zoo is offering one- and two-day camps for students in kindergarten to third grade over winter break. Camps are $60 for a one-day camp and $120 for a two-day camp. Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with extended care times available at $10 an hour. Children can either bring a lunch or you can order a box lunch for $7.

Polar Expedition will be held Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29-30, will explore the zoo’s cats and their habitats. African Adventures will end the break on Friday, Jan. 2.

Tutors sought
Project for Pride in Living (PPL) offers after-school youth programs to elementary school students at O Bama Elementary School, 707 H olly Ave., St. Paul. Volunteers work one-on-one with students on literacy activities, homework help, and relationship building. Tutoring takes place at 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information contact Anna Pres, anna.pru@ppl-inc.org or 612-455-5108.

Mental health support groups meet in Falcon Heights, St. Paul
The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors a support group for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 H olton St. For more information, call M elisa at 651-354-0825 or James at 612-804-3592.

NAMI also sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave N., Room 123, on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jennifer at 507-254-5524 or 651-645-2948.

It's a Wonderful Life screening
Ancient Mysteries, Ancient Wisdom, a local branch of the international Theosophical Society, will host a screening of the Christmas classic It's a Wonderful Life at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Spirit United Interfaith Church, 3204 Como Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. There will be free refreshments and parking in the lot east of the church. A $5 donation is suggested. Call 651-235-6645 for more information.

In case you missed the meeting
If you couldn’t attend the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation’s second annual State of the Park event on Dec. 4, don’t worry. Amy Sparks (at right) took notes. Sparks, coordinator of the Creative Enterprise Zone and former executive director of St. Anthony Park District 12, created a “visual recording” of the night’s events, which included a nonprofit information fair; foundation updates by Jon Schumacher, executive director of the foundation, and Jay Schrader, the foundation’s board president; an update on the Como 2030 plan by Como 2030 task force co-chair Roger Purdy; and a panel discussion on demographics, development, and the future. Metropolitan Council member Jon Commers moderated the discussion, which included Tom Fisher, dean of the University of Minnesota College of Design; Libby Sterling, regional policy and research manager at the Metropolitan Council; and Andrew Redinger, architect and urban designer with the Cunningham Group.

You can see Sparks’ finished product above.—Kristal Lebrick

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Mary Jane Johnson
Mary Jane (George) Johnson, 89, died peacefully on Nov. 7. Mary Jane was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and wife. She was married to Richard W. Johnson for 68 years.

Born in Grinnell, Iowa, to Russell and Helen (Coates) George, she attended Grinnell College and, after raising five children, started a career in real estate at age 46. She enjoyed her career and spent 27 years as a successful sales associate who earned sales awards and helped start Real Estate M. aters.

Mary Jane lived a very active social life. She enjoyed spending time with her wide circle of friends at Children's Hospital Guild, golfing and more. She and Dick played bridge together and had many wonderful adventures to Hawaii, Belgium, Germany, Tokyo and Australia. She enjoyed time at their cabin in Aitkin and the winter in Tucson.

Mary Jane was preceded in death by her husband and eldest daughter, Linda. She is survived by her son, Kirk (Marilyn Knudsen); eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her sisters, Wilma (George) Oeljen and Dorothy Wensahl.

A memorial service will be held honoring Mary Jane's life at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ. A reception will be held in the gathering room following the ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to the Children's Hospital Guild and Planned Parenthood.

Milton Larson
Milton N. Larson, 82, of Falcon Heights, died Nov. 25.

He was born Aug. 11, 1932, on the family farm at Castle Rock, Wis. He married Jean Slouxen at Castle Rock on Dec. 6, 1953.

Milt served two years in the U.S. Army and taught high school in Thomson, Ill. He then won a scholarship from the National Science Foundation to pursue a master's degree in science education, which he earned from the University of Northern Iowa in 1961.

Milt and Jean served as missionaries in Madagascar, where Milt was principal of the American School at Fort Dauphin and taught high school math and science from 1962 to 1980. Returning to the United States in 1980, Milt taught at M innesota Academy in Minneapolis until his retirement in 1997.

He was a devoted husband to his wife, Jean, and is remembered fondly for his interests in earth science, his jokes and his twirling eyes. He is quiet, wisdom touched the children, co-workers and friends.

Milt was preceded in death by his parents, June Larson and Cora Williams and brother, James Larson. He is survived by his wife, Jean; children, Norden (Arlene Libby), Carly and Charity (Tennbogengenec), Paret (Michelle Boardman) and Maren (Ying Liu); and three grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Dec. 13 at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

Special thanks to Deborah, Darinda, Shektrick and C. liff for their care of Milt.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Lymphoblastom Foundation or Global Health M. instries.

Alison Lohse
Alison M. Lohse, 68, died suddenly Nov. 4.

She was a registered nurse and worked for Neighborhood Health Source Community Clinics for 25 years. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Shana Buchanan; and parents, Charles and Gal Cotts. She is survived by her husband, Thomas Lohse; children, James and Tara; and five grandchildren.

Her funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, M innapolis.

In lieu of flowers, memorials will be received by Tom Lohse at 2142 Knapp St., St. Paul, M N 55108, and will be donated to Allison's favorite doctors, as she had a lifelong love of animals, especially dogs.

Elizabeth Murphy
Elizabeth Clark Murphy, 85, of Woodbury, formerly of Falcon Heights, died Nov. 7. She was a longtime employee of 3M.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles brother, James; and her closest friend, O'Nake Fohrenkamm.

She is survived by her four grandchildren, Betsy (Marty) Fohrenkamm.

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Herbert Richards, baseball, golf and travel will live on.

District.

Contra Costa Unified School

Community Advisory Committee

California Association of School

student transportation industry.

University of Minnesota.

Murray High School and the

other relatives.

Hogenson-Rutford (John

Donna; siblings, Doug (Sue), Ruth

(Sue); daughters, Ruth Hogenson-

Alton, Robert (Jean), Cressy Kovich,

Suzanne Robinson, Terry (Greg)

granddaughters.

by his parents, Herbert and Evelyn;

wife of 60 years, Florence.

He was preceded in death by his

brother, Nick.

Herbert Rutford, 56, El Cerrito,

died suddenly Nov. 8, as he

prepared to return home to

Calif., died suddenly Nov. 8, as he

was preparing to return home to

for his father’s funeral.

was born in St. Paul, grew

in many shared memories.

Chances for Brian and John

Rutford were held at St. Anthony

Park Lutheran Church on Nov. 29.

An additional memorial service was

held Dec. 6.

M memorials are preferred to the

Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor

Ave., N.E, 68410, or
to donor’s choice.

John Rutford

John Kinney Rutford, longtime St.

Anthony Park resident (most recently of

Mahnomah) died Nov. 6 at age 85.

He was a U.S. Korean War vet.

He is survived by his wife of

almost 60 years, Donna; son, Doug

(Sue); daughters, Ruth Hogenson-

Rutford (John Hogenson) and Mary

(daughter-in-law), Lori Rogers; six

great-grandchildren; and brothers, David,

(Bob) and Ken (Sharon).

He was preceded in death by

parents, Skull and Ruth; and sister,

Mary Covert. His son Brian died

Nov. 8.

John is born in Duluth, Minn., and grew up in St. Anthony

Park, where he attended Murray

High School. He also attended the

University of Minnesota.

He was employed by the Boy

Scouts of America and the

Metropolitan Council.

He was actively involved in his church, in

several Icelandic Associations, Roseville Kiwanis Club, Minn. Lutheran

Veterans Chapter 1, Lij of M YMCA Group and was a

former member of the Civil War Roundtable Association.

He was very involved in St.

Anthony Park Lutheran Church, including many years spent

compiling a record of the

conjugations for its centennial in

2002.

He greatly enjoyed family,

friends, travel, the North Shore,

in many family history.

and friends.

Private interment was held at

Hillside Cemetery.

family or donor’s choice.

Memorials preferred to the

Anthony Park Lutheran or
to donor’s choice.

A memorial service for both

John and Brian Rutford was held

Nov. 29 at St. Anthony Park

Lutheran Church.

Brian Rutford

Brian David Rutford, 56, El Cerrito,

died suddenly Nov. 8, 26 days after

the death of his faithful and beloved

wife of 60 years and his son Allan.

He was preceded in death by his

family.

Brian was born in St. Paul, grew

up in St. Anthony Park and moved

to California in 1985. He attended

Murray High School and the

University of Minnesota.

He was employed by First

Student in many capacities throughout

a 37-year-career in the

student transportation industry.

He was actively involved in the

California Association of School

Transportation Officials (CASTO) as

Chapters 1 president and on the

Community Advisory Committee

for Special Education in the West

Contra Costa Unified School

District.

Brian’s love of family, friends,

baseball, golf and travel will live on

in many shared memories.

JANUARY 2015
That morning latte just got a little easier

By Alex Lodner

The only thing better than a steamy, creamy cappuccino for your blurry-eyed morning commute is having that hot cup of java handed to you by a cheerful barista through a cute little drive-thru window (along with a freshly baked scone, perhaps) while you stay toasty warm in your car.

Enter Muddslingers Drive-Thru Coffee. Opening mid-December at Lexington Avenue and County Road B in Roseville, Muddslingers will serve customers fancy coffee drinks, organic chai, all-natural fruit smoothies and baked goods, just as its sister shop in Burnsville has been doing since June.

What the tiny shop lacks in comfort, it makes up for in convenience and quality. There is no seating at either shop, and unlike the Burnsville location, the new Roseville spot doesn’t even have counter service. It’s all about fast and easy accessibility and a great cup of coffee, any time of the day.

Owners Vince Hunt and Van Harvieux decided to open Muddslingers after Harvieux approached Hunt, a fellow mortgage broker, about the idea. Harvieux had seen many such venues on the West Coast, and it was an easy sell for Hunt, a Como Park resident who had considered participating in such a venture a couple of decades prior.

After many months of research, the business partners found Muddslingers, a coffee drive-thru brand that provides business owners with expert advice and assistance.

“They have been so supportive,” Harvieux said. “We felt so welcome.”

Coffee to 20

Hamline-Hoyt Service has a new owner and a new name

By Roger Bergerson

After more than 70 years of Horazdovsky ownership, Falcon Heights’ only auto repair shop has been sold and is now Honest-1 Auto Care–Hamline-Hoyt.

“It was time to pass the baton,” said Steve Horazdovsky, the last family member to be associated with Hamline-Hoyt Service, 1565 Hamline Ave. N., a business that his father and uncle started in 1942. “I’m retiring with lots of memories of both great times and hard times.”

Honest-1 Auto Care is a national chain, and Peter Lee, the new owner, already operates a franchise at 3114 Lexington Ave. N., Roseville. He has some major upgrades planned for the Falcon Heights operation.

For example, Lee has permission from the city to extend the building 10 feet south toward Hoyt Avenue, which will make it possible to enlarge one service bay and install a new alignment machine. But the main purpose of the expansion is to create a new customer lobby with free Wi-Fi, coffee, snacks, a children’s play area and new bathrooms. The remodeling will start soon and take six to eight weeks.

During that time, the shop will be closed and Byron Hunkle and Craig Schwinghammer, the new manager and assistant manager, respectively, will temporarily relocate to the Roseville location.

The new Honest-1 Auto Care will be open longer hours than Hamline-Hoyt Service. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Lee said the shop will offer a three-year, 36,000-mile nationwide warranty on most repairs, free shuttle rides and loaner vehicles on an as-needed basis.

What made him want to be a part of Honest-1 Auto Care?

“I’ve had my share of less-than-stellar experiences with auto repair shops,” Lee said. “I was looking to own a business that stood apart from the others, something I could put my name behind. Honest-1 Auto Care’s philosophy is to be very upfront with customers to make up their own minds about whether or not to make a repair.

“Steve has had much the same philosophy and an extremely loyal customer base. We will work to earn that same respect and trust,” Lee said.
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Garlock-French Corporation
Since 1932
Coffee from 18

Hunt said, "They came out and helped us scout locations, and they helped us with the oftentimes treacherous process of obtaining permits and jumping through many hoops."

The first location the partners settled on was a pre-existing, foreclosed drive-thru shop in Burnsville. The building had been vacant for a long time and was in rough shape by the time the two purchased it, but after a lot of hard work, Mudslinger's Burnsville location opened last summer on the corner of Highway 13 and County Road 5.

The business quickly garnered eager regulars, but soon after it opened the highway next to the shop was torn apart for construction. Business suffered.

"For a while, there was a giant mountain of dirt right next to us," said Hunt. "Drivers couldn't see our beautiful building."

Things are slowly turning around at the Burnsville location now that construction is over, Hunt said, and the partners are excited about their Roseville location.

Although they are using the Mudslinger moniker, Hanieux and Hunt feel strongly about using locally sourced products as much as possible. For the Roseville shop, which was built on an empty lot where a Clark gas station once stood, the partners hired local architect Hans Schmidt of H+JS Architecture to design the low-footprint building. Schmidt created a simple structure that will allow easy access to two drive-thru windows.

"Hans did a great job meeting the many challenges of designing a building this size within all the code restraints," explained Hunt. "For example, we have to have seven sinks to meet code, and that was tough in a space this small."

For their coffee, the team partnered with Minneapolis-based B&W Specialty Coffee, a small-batch coffee roaster specializing in Fair Trade coffee and will offer baked goods from Como's own The April Fool Bakery.

Starting a new business can be extremely challenging, but Hunt's and Hanieux's families have been hands-on since the beginning. Several family members, including Hunt's wife and Hanieux's father and sister, went through training at the Roseville location.

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