

Remembering Monte Bute

1945-2023

Article on Monte Bute is reprinted from the March 2012 issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* with some minor edits.

Mark Gallagher

As a little boy, Monte Bute dreamed of playing centerfield for the St. Louis Cardinals. That dream didn't come true. Instead, he became a Social Sciences professor at Metropolitan State University right here in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. He took a long and convoluted road with many twists and some hairpin turns to get to that destination.

Monte earned his high school diploma from the Red Wing Boys' Reformatory. "I was a real juvenile delinquent," he said. "I was a total screwup. I realized I wasn't very talented as a criminal, so I was going to have to find something else to do." After graduation, Monte came to the Twin Cities and started working at the Pillsbury Company. He was put in charge of notepads. One day while working in the basement of Pillsbury, a company attorney said to him, "Kid, you really aren't as stupid as you appear to be. Why don't you go to college?"

Monte went home to Albert Lea to work in a turkey factory to earn money for college. He often found himself covered in turkey manure from head to toe — Monte needed and wanted something better. Austin Junior College became his home away from home for two years. There he met an old curmudgeon who taught him the ropes of education and inspired in Monte a compulsive desire to learn. He became obsessed with knowing everything. Monte then came north to attend what is now known as Minneapolis Community and Technical College but dropped out and returned to Austin to

work as a reporter.

The job seemed to fit this stage of his life because he could write well and there weren't many requirements to being a reporter. In 1967, Monte Bute organized an antiwar march in Austin, Minnesota.

The Haight-Ashbury of San Francisco seemed to be the place where things were happening, so he loaded up a trunk full of books and headed out to California. He joined the counter-culture movement to protest, to organize protests, and to read. Monte was a voracious reader.

Haight-Ashbury was the apprenticeship that prepared Monte for his place in the social science niche where he excels. Even before he had a BA degree, he was asked to come to Metropolitan State University and teach a sociology course he developed himself. Monte taught in the Sociology Department for seven years without that elusive degree but had transferred in more credits than were needed for a BA degree. Metropolitan State University eventually granted him a degree.

"The best thing about being a professor at Metro State is that clocks don't exist," Monte said in his profound way. "It isn't a job to me. I would do this for free; don't tell my wife that. Yeah, this isn't a job — this is a calling. Everyday something exciting happens to stir people to have ideas and to think, reflect, and contemplate the world around them. It is absolutely a joy to do every day."

On his 65th birthday, Monte Bute was diagnosed with stage-3 granular pulmonary lymphoma. When asked how much of his situation he brings to the classroom, Monte said, "All of it, everything. I am very open about it with students. I use films and fiction that indirectly lead students to reflect on issues of life and death. I don't talk about it much, but they're aware of it; they see stuff on Facebook. I try to be an example of someone who lives to the fullest and that a death sentence doesn't need to slow you down."

Mark Gallagher is the associate editor and a graduate of Metro State University. Mark can be reached at refineeditorial@gmail.com

The Friends of Swede Hollow Summer 2023 Photo Contest Continues Until September 22

Brad Griffith

Whether you enjoy flora or fauna, macro or micro, or if your hardware is SLR, smartphone or an older digital camera, it's time to head to the Hollow and submit your photo(s) for the Friends of Swede Hollow 2023 Summer Photo Contest.

All photos must be taken in Swede Hollow Park up until



September 22.

Email your photo(s) in a .jpg format to bradgriffith@me.com on or before September 24. Put Friends of Swede Hollow in the subject line and the title(s) of your photo(s) in the body of the email.

The photos will be judged by the East Side Arts Council.

In addition to neighborhood bragging rights, cash prizes will be awarded. First Place: \$100, Second Place: \$50, and Third Place \$25.

The winners of the Friends of Swede Hollow 2023 Spring photo contest were Angela DuPaul, Mandy Okonek and Kari Soeffker. These photos were revealed in the August, 2023 issue of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum.



Monte Bute

Monte Bute of Woodbury died June 30 at the age of 78 after a long struggle with cancer and heart disease.

Solidarity Street Gallery Set for September 8, 9

[Solidarity Street Gallery Website](http://SolidarityStreetGalleryWebsite)

Our juried fine-art exhibition, in its fourth year in 2023, will be held in conjunction with the UNIQUELY EASTSIDE FESTIVAL, a community-centered celebration of the tapestry of cultures in the Eastside neighborhood of St. Paul, MN.

This year's theme for our one-of-a-kind fine-art exhibition is FACES OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

We have invited a diverse range of artists to share their vision and interpreta-

tion of what community means to them. We have assembled a unique collection of portraits of all facets of community, be they of people, cultures, traditions, institutions, urban transformations, streetscapes, parks, scenic beauty, and poignant landmarks!

The artworks in the show capture the essence of what makes our neighborhoods and local connections a central part in our lives. Some also advance a vision for what bonds us together and how we can build stronger communities.

The street gallery will run **Friday, September 8 from 5 to 8 p.m.** and **Saturday, September 9 from noon to 7 p.m.**

Visit solidaristreetgallery.org for more information.



Events Happening in St. Paul

September 1, 2, 3
Oktoberfest: German Wine Flights
@Yoerg Brewery

Every weekend will showcase four fabled German wines from some of Germany's finest and most distinguished estates. Every wine is from a small, family estate.

Time: noon-6 p.m.

September 10
Paws on Grand
@Grand Ave, St. Paul

Grand Avenue's great pet get together! Literally a pet parade up and down the corridor. Countless local non-profit animal rescue groups partner with Avenue businesses to promote pet foster and adoption, a pet market place, a fun walk, pet blessings, dog races, pet portraits and more. For more information email info@grandave.com.

Time: noon-6 p.m.

September 16
Fiesta Latina
@CLUES St. Paul, 797 East 7th St.

A free, family-friendly community festival celebrating Latino culture with arts,

music, dance, health resources, economic stability resources and more.

Time: noon-4 p.m.

September 17
Smoke Out
@Keg and Case

Join award-winning Chef Justin Sutherland and Mpls.St.Paul Magazine's Executive Editor New Media/Food Stephanie March, for the most lip-smacking, mouth-watering, outdoor barbecue event of the fall. This one-of-a-kind day is filled with all-you-can-eat smoked meats and treats, whiskey sips, craft beer, live music from Sophia Eris, Twin Star Rocket and DJ DMil and friends, outdoor games and more!

Time: 1-5 p.m.

Price: \$85-\$125

September 19
Beetlejuice, the Musical
@Orpheum Theatre

It's showtime! Based on Tim Burton's dearly beloved film, this hilarious musical tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager whose whole life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demon with a thing for stripes.

Time: 7:30-10 p.m.

Support Our Local Businesses

Greg Cosimini

The construction of the Metro Gold Line BRT on Hudson Road is wreaking havoc on the businesses located near the Earl St.-Hudson Rd. intersection. The total closure of Hudson Road for

the next three to four months, plus dirt, noise, and a lack of parking will be making access very difficult. Our friends in that area would be grateful for your continued patronage. Please support the Mounds Theatre, Saint Paul Saloon, MNS Grocery & Tobacco, Overall Beauty Bar, Leo's Chow Mein and Cheers Pub during these trying times. And don't forget Jumbo Wash Laundromat at Hudson and Cypress.

Photos provided by Greg Cosimini.



Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

Our meetings are held at the historic William Hamm's mansion, 668 Greenbrier St.

In the spirit of the area's past, we serve Hamm's beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting is **September 19** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, September 1 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

We are currently meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Library.

Need Groceries?

If you are 60 or older, you may be eligible to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest.

This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply!

Give us a call at 651-683-2326, and someone will assist you with your application.

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community

partner sites.

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options.

Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings are held at **9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) funds can help single folks, too.

Here is a list of agencies that help with deposit and/or rent assistance through FHPAP:

Neighborhood House: 651-789-2500
MN Community Care: 651-266-1290
American Indian Family Center: 651-793-3803

CLUES: 612-746-3550,
YMCA: 763-493-3052
Face-to-Face: 651-224-9644

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline

Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 just launched as an alternative to calling 911.

Xcel Phone Numbers

Gas Leak: 800-895-2999. Power Outage: 800-895-1999.

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for *anything*, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to make sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on **Monday, September 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, open discussion with your neighbors, and

board members are on the schedule. Looking forward to seeing you and serving your neighborhood needs. All are welcome.

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to smrls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, and more. You can also call if you're behind on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc. If an interpreter is needed, SMRLS will provide one.

Hours: **Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.**



Visit moundstheatre.org to purchase tickets and get more information on upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

Chess Club

Come join us at Karibu Grocery and Deli, located at 719 Payne Ave. in St. Paul for a weekly game of chess.

All levels are welcome. We play every **Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.**

Back to School with Dayton's Bluff Library

Summer is winding down, the school year is starting up, and the library is here to help students of all ages succeed in school! If you haven't been to a Saint Paul Public Library recently, you may not realize what lies inside or online: many essential tools for ensuring a great academic year. Online homework help offers one-to-one assistance from trained tutors to anyone with a library card — and it is available free every day from 1 to 11 p.m. in English and Spanish.

For students who want in-person homework help, check out the Homework Center at Arlington Hills Library, 1200 Payne Ave., open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m., starting September 25. The Homework Center is a great place to study independently or to get help from trained volunteer tutors. Learn more about what the library has to offer



students at spl.org/homework. Access dozens of online homework resources for any grade level. Kids can delve into Explora Kids to learn about science, social studies, language arts, geography, and more. Older kids can use the Science Reference Center or Britannica School to find articles and information they need to complete homework assignments. See the full list of resources at spl.org/digital-resources.

Dayton's Bluff Library, and all Saint Paul Public Library locations, have computers that anyone can use to do homework as well as low-cost printing. The library is a welcoming place where everyone can come in to study and stay as long as they would like.

A library card is the most important item on your back-to-school list — it's your ticket to many things the library has to offer. To make it even easier, the Library has partnered with Saint Paul Public Schools and several charter schools so that students can access library resources with a Library Go card they automatically receive when they enroll in school. Learn more about Library Go at spl.org/library-go.



Brad Griffith and Michel Taylor

Top: Rich, Karin and Angela DuPaul; Middle: The St. John Lutheran Church crew; and Above: Happy guests with cotton candy attended Upper Swede Hollow National Night Out event on August 1.

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Out and About

G.B. LeRoy

Well, it's been really hot, and I don't do a lot of walking around exploring these days, but I want to mention three places that might interest some of you readers.



First, you might have seen that there is a new sign up at 788 East Seventh advertising Roots Café. It was the idea of a group of kids and is run by them. They specialize in different coffees and teas and are open at 8 a.m. and close at noon. They also provide hot

chocolate. The second finding includes a sign. Well, really a message written on paper on a window. It is in the former Size Matters at 851 East 7th St. that said, "Coming Soon East Side Cannabis." I'll have to wait and see what "coming soon" means. Another retail store in Dayton's Bluff. The third thing to announce is that in September CLUES will be having another art show. It will start in late August and will continue until September 22. Hours of the Latino art show will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and will be free. CLUES is located at 797 E Seventh and there is a sizeable gallery if you enter from the parking area.



New Fish Consumption Guidance Issued

Ramsey County

The State of Minnesota has updated fish consumption guidance to advise that certain people not eat fish from two bodies of water in the Twin Cities metro area.

Those waters are the Mississippi River from the Ford Dam in Saint Paul to Hastings Dam (known as Pool 2) and Lake Rebecca near Hastings.

People who should avoid eating fish from these locations include: Children under age 15. People who are, or could become, pregnant. Individuals who currently or plan to breastfeed/chestfeed.

For more information on safe-eating guidelines for fish in Minnesota, refer to the Minnesota Department of Health's Fish Consumption Guidance website

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to:

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Want to write about something that interests you? We want to hear it! Submit your stories and articles to the email above.

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the Forum.

Deadline for the October issue of the Forum is September 10, 2023.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Work Ethic

Sage Holben

One morning at Swede Hollow Cafe, I sat at an inside window table overlooking the patio. Three young men, perhaps around 16 or 17 years old, mesmerized me with their work process. They were part of a team repaving the cafe’s upper patio. I sensed a camaraderie among them, yet they didn’t stop and chat as I would expect of youth. Just outside my window was a large pile of bricks that had been removed from the original patio; some bricks were broken, others almost pristine, and many had chunks of cement clinging to them. Each young worker went to the pile; quickly and with deliberation, selected a particular brick, chipping off, if necessary, any cement waste. He then took the brick to a worker out of my view—I could see hands fitting each brick into its spot and being pounded securely in place, perfectly fitting the expanding patio.

For 20 to 30 minutes, I followed the pace of these workers. I compared it to many of my neighborhood youth and even adults and thought of the lack of commitment and work ethic lacking in many of the adults and youth who have come asking for work, asking (for whatever reason I don’t know) 25 dollars an hour; even the 12-year-olds. Very

occasionally there is one who follows through with adult direction. Work ethic is something that doesn’t appear to be widely taught at home or by any example. In my two-block area, several of us neighbors, who have hired youth to do odd jobs, agreed among ourselves how and what we would teach our young workers about completing a job, wages, expectations of worker and employer, and general work ethic.

These are basics that children can and I believe *should* start learning from toddler age. They begin with

simple tasks like putting away toys, learning to help with yard care, clearing snow, pre-teens need to learn how to use the washer and dryer, prepare simple meals (instead of Door Dash or fast food as staples). With the above, children need to learn safety mea-

asures: what to do with a stove fire, exit plans, strangers at the door, running with scissors (perhaps reading the book might help the adults).

Preparing our children to take responsibility for themselves; seeing and stepping in to help others with needs; learning to be self-sufficient in living on their own: earning and saving money, meal prep, laundry; knowing they are responsible for all that

goes with independence—paying rent, perhaps a mortgage, utilities, maintaining ownership including insurance, valid driver’s license, registration, up to date tabs, working

treat our children; what and how we teach our children; respect oneself and others; hold high, attainable expectations; plan ahead, for education, work, or driving one’s vehicle with the expectation that the other vehicle may not stop at the four-way, or a person may unexpectedly step into traffic. The unexpected come in many forms. We can teach and demonstrate to our children, and they ARE *our children*, how to respect themselves and others. With respect comes confidence, understanding, and the ever-growing wisdom that we all have much to learn from others. We need to truly listen and see, not simply hear and look.

This is what the three youths at Swede Hollow Cafe demonstrated. When I went out to meet them. I realized I had been watching so intently I may have seemed rather creepy to them. I introduced myself to them and the three men, relating what I had been observing, and asked where the youths learned their work ethic. They enthusiastically pointed to the lead man, Tue Dinh. I asked how this crew came to be. “Our fathers. We’ve all known each other for years.” The smiles from fathers and sons and the sense of connection translated to a male intimacy that permeated the sunny patio.

Tue Dinh, the crew leader, owns and operates the Forest Lake Tue Dinh’s Landscaping. “We do everything outside,” Tue said. “Patios, yard work, trees, limbs. We do it.”



Sage Holben

In the photo, Tue is the person with back to the camera. He’s a congenial and effective promoter of business and his crew.

headlights, and actually practicing safe driving laws. Using common sense in all or life, living and driving, whether car, scooter, or walking while focusing on their cell phone.

Adages like “expect the unexpected” come to mind. We need to think ahead. How we

Gold Line BRT Construction Update

Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit
metrotransit.org/gold-line-project

The Metro Gold Line will be a bus rapid transit (BRT) line that operates primarily within bus-only lanes. Gold Line will provide frequent, 10-15 minute, all-day service in both directions, seven days a week. The planned 10-mile route is between St. Paul and Woodbury with bus-only lanes being constructed generally north of and near Interstate 94. It will become operational in 2025.

News:

* Gold Line project staff will host construction walking tours in St. Paul and Woodbury. This is an opportunity to see construction progress. Tours will stay outside of the construction sites. Attendees should be prepared for a short walk. Sign up on the project website at <https://www.metrotransit.org/gold-line-construction>. Attendance is capped at 15 participants per tour. The next tour in the Earl Street/Hudson Road area is on Thursday, September 21 at 5 p.m.

* There was an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* on August 1, 2023 concerning the disruption of businesses at the intersection of Earl St. and Hudson Road due to Gold Line construction.

* The water holding pond near Griffith St. and Johnson Parkway was finally tested after the heavy rains in early August and it successfully held water.

Continuing work on the Gold Line BRT on the East Side:

* Pile driving continues near the Pacific Street and Mound Street intersection for the new Maple Street pedestrian bridge abutment.

* Crews continue pouring concrete for the new Maple Street pedestrian bridge near Maple Street and Hudson Road.

* Work continues on Hudson Road between Maria Avenue and Griffith Street as crews install water mains, noise walls, sanitary and storm water sewers.

* Crews continue pouring concrete for retaining walls near the Earl station area.

* At the Etna Street area, crews continue to construct the new Etna Street Station platform foundations and construct bridge decking.

* Crews construct walls for the new bridge near the intersection of Ruth Street and Old Hudson Road. Crews also continue constructing the new Hazel Station platform foundations and pour concrete for retaining walls.

* Westbound I-94 off-ramp to Mounds Boulevard is closed through fall 2023.

* Northbound Mounds Boulevard between the eastbound I-94 on-ramp and Kellogg Boulevard is closed through fall 2023.

* Southbound Mounds Boulevard between 6th Street and Kellogg Boulevard/3rd Street is reduced to one lane.

This is a very complex and dynamic project so changes to this schedule could occur. For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments or concerns visit metrotransit.org/gold-line-project, email goldline@metrotransit.org or call 651-602-1919.

All photos to the right provided by Greg Cosimini.



Environmental Groups Support Ramsey County Proposal to Move BRT Route off Vento Trail

Amy Gage

Stroll north on the Bruce Vento Trail just east of Lake Phalen, beginning at Arlington Avenue, and you'll hear a variety of bird calls, enjoy the cool canopy of shade trees, and see any number of trail users — from cyclists and walkers to in-line skaters and babies in strollers.

Now picture that same stretch narrowed to one-third its current width to make room for a dedicated bus lane in each direction. This is why the East Side neighbors who use this amenity in St. Paul support moving the proposed Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit route off Bruce Vento Trail and onto White Bear Avenue.

Ramsey County officials announced the possible route adjustment this past May.

Although the affected stretch of the trail is only a couple of miles, "it's an urban wildlife corridor in a moderate-income neighborhood," according to environmental activist Kathy Sidles, a board



member with Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County.

Both Friends of the Parks and Trails and the Friends of Swede Hollow support the county proposal to relocate the Purple Line (formerly known as the Rush Line) off the Bruce Vento trail. The county's Route Modification Study will continue throughout 2023 and beyond; details are available online.

To learn more about the Purple Line BRT Project — a collaboration of Metro Transit, Ramsey County and the Metropolitan Council — sign up for email updates at the website metrotransit.org/purple-line-project. Look for the "Stay Informed" instructions midway down the page.

Purple Line outreach specialists Liz Jones and Colin Owens will be visiting the Friends of the Parks and Trails board meeting on Thursday, October 5, at 6

p.m. For details, contact Amy Gage, amy@friendsoftheparks.org.

Submitted by Amy Gage, executive director, Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County. Contact: 612-381-4110 (mobile) or amy@friendsoftheparks.org

Photo courtesy of Bruce Vento Regional Trail page on Facebook: facebook.com/pages/Bruce-Vento-Regional-Trail/132284556808657.

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured on the right.

The reader who submits the correct entry will be notified, and the winner(s) will be announced in the October edition of the *Forum*.



Dayton's Bluff Woman and the A-Bomb

Steve Trimble

One of the blockbuster movies this summer is *Oppenheimer*. Yes, I know about Barbie, but she doesn't fit into this story.

I thought it would be timely to tell part of the story of Kathryn Piccolo, who lived a lengthy time on Maple Street in Dayton's Bluff. She grew up on the Iron Range of Minnesota and in the 1940s joined the Women's Army Corps (WACs). I was looking through some of the information in my computer and discovered saved information about Piccolo. I'm pretty sure I didn't write it and it seemed to be from an interview since the text is full of her words. I don't know who put it together, but here is some of it. My thanks to whomever penned the work and hope they won't be upset. I'm sorry I can't cite them.

After a trip to Europe, she volunteered for the Women's Army Corps and after basic training was sent to a clerk's school. Her dream was to be sent back to Europe, however at one point, the Army gathered 210 WACs in a room and interviewed them. They told Piccolo, who was Private Filippi at the time, to stand off to one side. "I was so excited because I thought they were going to send me to Europe." Instead, she was informed that she was assigned to a top-secret project in New York in the Manhattan District of the Army Corp of Engineers. "I thought I was going on a transport ship. I said, 'Oh, phooey.'" Maybe because I took a science class in high school, but "I really have no idea why they picked me."

She was never told what the project was about. "Well, we kind of had a hint it was a bomb, but that's about all. What made it hard to understand was that the project was being run through the Corps of Engineers and not the Army's Ordnance Department. "I supposed they did that to confuse the enemy."

Piccolo lived for a year, beginning in June 1943, in a Manhattan hotel. Her

job, along with six or seven other WACs, was to handle, process and destroy top secret documents that were flooding in from the various sites around the country where work was being done on the difficulties of splitting the atom.

One incident that Piccolo remembers involved a time when she suspected that somebody was trying to steal the code from her cryptographic machine. "We had been told that if we even suspected that somebody was trying to get the code, that we should immediately destroy the machine." Taking the order very seriously, Piccolo took an axe to the machine and smashed it to pieces. Years later, at a function at the University of Minnesota, Piccolo met Niels Bohr, one of the top scientists working of the atom bomb project again. When she found him again, he said, "Oh, I remember. This is the little lady with the axe."

Piccolo quickly advanced through the ranks, helped by the priority given the Manhattan Project. She was a private on Oct. 10, 1942, and was promoted to staff sergeant by March of 1943. She quickly advanced to tech sergeant and master sergeant by February of 1944. However, her race up the ladder wasn't over. Piccolo was sent to Officer's Candidate School and by Feb. 17, 1945, she was commissioned a second lieutenant. (By the time she left the service in 1950, she was a captain.)

When she returned from OCS, she was put in charge of the WAC detachment at the Clinton Engineering Works at Oak Ridge.

"Just coordinating that job took all the time I had. It was so interesting." Piccolo made trips to Los Alamos to work with the WAC group assigned there. "There had been some friction between the WACs and Dr. Oppenheimer," who oversaw the massive bomb-building project. Piccolo straightened out the Army personnel about Oppenheimer she stated. "He was a genius. He knew the whole shebang. He was a very outstanding individual. He was nice to me, he treated me nice."

Oh, If you have any Oppenheimer or Atom Bomb stories, maybe the *Forum* can print them in our next issue. Maybe even if you have memories of Barbie and Ken dolls please get in touch.

DONATE TODAY

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the *Forum*. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to businesses in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. To find out where you can pick up a printed issue, send an email to the address above.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Jennifer Gascoigne, Steve Trimble

Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher

Staff: Mandy Okonek

Next issue: October 2023. **Deadline for material: September 10, 2023.**



Book Review

The Stroke of Winter by Wendy Webb

Allison Lund-Zalewski

Wendy Webb is a Minnesota author known for writing paranormal stories that take place in a fictional town that's based on the North Shore.

The last few books I've read of hers have not been on the top of my list, merely because I want a thrilling, scary story. Her last few have fallen short on the spooky scale.

However, Webb's latest book, *The Stroke of Winter*, has cured my craving for spooky and chilling.

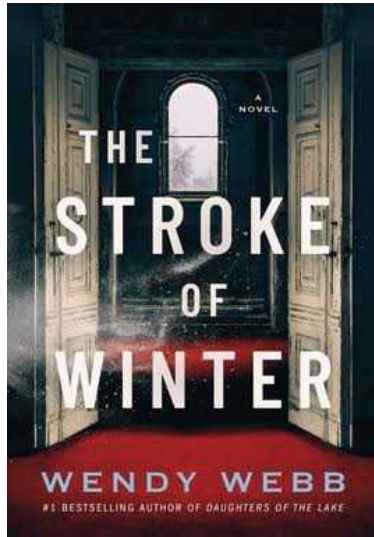
Like all her books, the story takes place in a small town where it relies on the tourists throughout the summer.

A woman, Tess, takes over her grandmother's beautiful Victorian home and plans to turn it into a bed and breakfast for the upcoming tourist season. However, she comes to find one room that's been blocked off. Why did

her grandmother board up this room in the first place?

Tess found out that it was her grandfather's art studio. He was known around the world for his paintings.

Going against her gut feelings, Tess opens the door and something sinister begins to happen. Has someone been living in this room the whole time? Or is it something more paranormal?



Tess is determined to find out the backstory as to why her grandmother was so secretive. Even Tess's father didn't know the real reason behind the mystery until clues in the room began to give away the story piece by piece.

I won't spoil any more, but all I can say is that certain parts of the story sent chills down

my spine.

Webb ties in a love story, paranormal activity, and a mystery in this story.

I would give this story an eight out of ten. If you like ghost stories with a little romance and mystery all tied together, I would recommend it!



Brad Griffith

From left to right: Brad Griffith, Stephanie Harr, Kurt Hallstrom, Jane Prince, Steve Trimble, Mark Murnane, Linda Murnane. Everyone posed with a police officer on National Night Out that took place on August 1.



Brad Griffith

Music at the Upper Swede Hollow NNO 2023 was provided by the Eddies on the River.



Detoxification Facility Accepting Clients

Ramsey County

The Ramsey County Detoxification Facility is accepting clients again and is now offering medicated withdrawal management services. This new service offers a more holistic approach with high end stabilization and treatment planning as well as medication assistance with

withdrawal.

The county obtained a license from the Minnesota Department of Human Services which expands capacity to provide this service in the metro area. The county had temporarily paused its operations to train staff on this new service and to integrate it with existing operations. As of August 14, County Detox is fully operational.

The Detox Center is located in the 402 University Avenue East building. Staff can be reached at 651-266-4009.

View From My Porch By Any Other Name

Sage Holben

What do pasty and any other hand-held half moon shaped filled pastry crust have in common? (that is pasty with a soft 'a' not a hard 'a').

Foods and their origins intrigue me. Community recipe books, also. Spiral bound with recipe contributions by church parishioners, local schools with family favorites, ladies groups of the 1950s and 1960s. These give more than directions for a lime gelatin dessert, Brunswick stew, or 24-hour salad. Spiral-bound recipe books contain a trove of lessons in economics, consumerism, cultural and social changes in our small towns, urban neighborhoods and civic groups.

If we were to follow recipes from the early 1900s, we are likely to find instructions for a pinch of salt, a handful of flour, a drop of vanilla. We would find meats, vegetables, and fruit to be tightly regional and limited; recipes very basic in content. As we progress through the

years, we see canned products diminish in size from 14 ounces to 9 ounces. When we use a written recipe from our grandmother we need to adapt the can or package size to today's new economic standards.

My mother would make homemade bread and buns with a handful of flour, pinches of salt, etc. and know the dough is right by the spring of the dough and texture. Yeast and I have never been close friends. Noodle dough I can handle. I'm in tune to the humidity and heat or the cold and dryness and how it affects the handling of my kreplach dough and how much flour to sift onto my work table. I make pasties and kreplach the same as my mother: no recipe. meat, potatoes, onions, carrots, and yes, rutabaga all eyed proportionately. Whether I'm making 200 or 10, I have no written measures for pasties. When my son asked for the recipe, I found one that roughly followed the one in my head.

Pasties — my mother came from Upper Michigan; Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Negaunee and Ishpeming to be exact —

the Iron Range. Most males in the family, my uncles and grandfather, worked in the iron ore mines. Pasties were a common lunch to carry to work — a hot pasty wrapped in a cloth towel, tucked into a work shirt would be warm when break time came. A miner couldn't necessarily carry his lunch bucket from place to place in the mine, but his nourishment was with him.

When I was in elementary school — remember the swivel chair and the slanted desk with an all-in-one iron base? We had no lockers, so we kept our lunches in our desks. Because my mother baked the pasties at night so they would be hot and wrapped in foil and towel for our lunches, that fantastic pasty aroma would permeate the 5th grade classroom all morning. Several times I would find that my lunch had disappeared.

Though the pasty originated in the mining areas of Wales, Yoopers, specifically my Finnish ancestry, claim the pasty. In fact, I admit to feeling somewhat obsessive of the whole idea of the pasty.

I resent that almost anything wrapped in a crust and formed in a half-moon shape is called a 'pasty'. I'm not alone. Pasty people can be quite persnickety about the filling. I understand from reading recipes throughout decades how recipes change depending on what meat, vegetables and seasonings were available. Today I often take for granted the variety of produce available to us, some of it once considered exotic. Red meat sometimes gave way to the more available lamb. I recall how disgusted I was several years ago to learn from a woman as we shared our pasty recipe histories, that her family recipe actually evolved into a fish filling, because they were living in a coastal community dependent on fishing. I still can't consider calling that a pasty.

Pasty-makers are often die-hards. At one art fair when I was selling homemade pasties, kreplach and tamales, a woman challenged me about my pasties containing rutabaga; her family obviously was not from the UP. I have inherited my mother's insistence on using a high fat content ground beef; definitely not the chopped or diced beef steak no matter how high the quality. Higher fat content ground beef permeates the pasty, adding its irresistible deep beefy flavor throughout the diced vegetables and an aroma that creates thieves out of otherwise innocent children.



Events Happening in Ramsey County

September 1

Catch and Release Fishing

Join us for free fishing opportunities for youth ages 15 and under. Participants will learn basic fishing techniques and skills.

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

September 2, 3

Borrow a Bike

Looking for an opportunity to get on a bike? Borrow a bike at one of our events to cruise around or explore the trails while at the park.

Time: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

September 4

Archery in the Park

Try your hand at the exciting and challenging sport of archery through this free event at Keller Regional Park.

Time: 6-8 p.m.

September 5, 19, 26

Housing and Conciliation Court Self-Help Center

Free legal consultation from volunteer attorneys at the Ramsey County Law Library is available for those with Conciliation and Housing Court issues.

Time: 1-4 p.m.

September 6

Farmer's Market at Union Depot

Over 20 vendors will be selling food items.

Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

September 9, 23

Drop-In Discovery Stations

Tamarack's Discovery Hosts will be on-hand on Saturday mornings with nature's most wonderful surprises!

Time: 10 a.m.-noon

September 9

Mothers First Community Baby Shower

For expecting and new parents in Ramsey County.

Time: noon-3 p.m.

September 11, 25

Ramsey County Courthouse Tour

Hour-long public tours are offered

twice a month of Saint Paul City Hall — Ramsey County Courthouse, a 21-story art deco high-rise.

Time: 12:15 p.m.

September 11

Virtual Job Club — Resumes and Interviews

Create a resume that gets you the interview.

Time: 1-2 p.m.

September 13, 27

Seasoned Job-Seeker Roundtable

An in-person event offering the latest tips on resumes, cover letters, networking and responses to tough interview questions.

Time: 10-11 a.m.

September 13

Youth Works! Orientation

Come learn about Youth Works!, a county-wide youth employment partnership initiative.

Time: 11 a.m.- noon

September 18

Virtual Job Club — Networking

Join this job club session to learn job networking methods.

Time: 1-2 p.m.

September 21

Blood Drive at Union Depot

Schedule either a Power Red or Blood donation.

Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

September 21

Union Depot Tour

Tour Union Depot to learn about history, renovations, sustainability initiatives, expanding transit options and more

Time: noon

September 25

Virtual Job Club — Interviewing

Interviewing Success plus open forum.

Time: 1-2:30 p.m.

September 30

Fix-It Clinic

Get household items fixed for free and learn valuable repair skills at an upcoming Fix-It Clinic.

Time: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

For more information and locations go to ramseycounty.us/calendar.



Tom Russ

Duluth Case Rec Center director, Cheryl, joined area children in painting cement lawn ornaments which were donated by community activist Tom Russ. The children could choose between keeping the ones they painted or they could sell them at the recent August 17 Duluth Case Safe Summer Night event sponsored by Saint Paul Police Department.

Senator Foug Hawj Secures \$586,486 for Cerenity Senior Care Marian on St. Paul's East Side

Marc Kimball

Senator Foug Hawj said that he secured \$586,486 for Cerenity Senior Care Marian on St. Paul's East Side as part of a major nursing home package passed during the recent legislative session. The funding was distributed this week and will help the facility stabilize finances and ensure adequate staffing and quality services for residents.

The funding was part of a bipartisan \$173 million package to help struggling nursing homes across Minnesota. The funds for Cerenity Senior Care Marian sent out this week are the first of two rounds of direct payments made to nursing homes statewide. The second round of payments will go out in August of 2024.

"Nursing homes are critically important to the well-being of families and communities on St. Paul's East Side and across Minnesota. The funding for Cerenity Senior Care Marian will ensure the facility will have the resources they need to deliver quality services to seniors," said Senator Hawj. "I worked hard to secure this funding to help the facility maintain skilled staff and to provide excellent care for their residents. This funding will go a long way toward that goal."

St. Paul Farmers' Market at Union Depot Shop Local This Fall!

Visit St. Paul

Run by the Saint Paul Growers' Association, the market provides fresh, local, fruits and vegetables, beautiful bouquets of cut flowers, and produce direct from the grower.

The St. Paul Growers' Association seeks to uplift small businesses across Minnesota and Wisconsin. EBT accepted here. Although some vendors accept debit/credit cards, cash tokens are available at the Information Booth for purchases at ALL of the St. Paul Farmers' Markets using debit/credit cards. These tokens never expire.

The Saint Paul Farmers' Market will be popping up at Union Depot. Grab a friend and shop for fresh favorites!

Come get lunch from food vendors, grab a recipe card with directions using items from our vendors, and support local businesses.

This is a free event to attend and is inside the Head House of Union Depot near Station 81 Restaurant. Union Depot, 214 4th St. E. St. Paul. Questions? Contact 651-202-2700.

The market runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday.

Upcoming dates: September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

East Side Eating Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton's Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 60 may now be found online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Boga Ice Cream and Burger Drive-In

1440 Minnehaha Ave E.
St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-200-3185
Hours: Closed Mondays
Tuesday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wednesday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Easter Siders have been patiently waiting to see when the new business will open in the former Dari-ette. There has been a sign on the old sign saying Boga/Ice Cream and Burgers and now, as Paul Harvey would say on his radio show, "Here's the rest of the story."

The new restaurant is open and still making small changes. Father-son duo

Loay and Layth Abukhdair run Boga as well as a restaurant in Columbia Heights that features Mediterranean food, but they decided this neighborhood could use a place with good burgers and ice cream on the menu. The restaurants I review can't be a chain and need to have indoor seating. But rules are sometimes made to break, so I decided to write this about an eatery that people seem to like. Here goes:

Here are some of the featured items: Like the name of the restaurant promises, there are several burgers: Hamburger is topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, ketchup, and mayo. Gyro Burger is topped with lettuce, onion, mayo, tzatziki sauce, and American cheddar cheese. Veggie Burger is topped with tomato, lettuce, onions, and ketchup. Gluten free buns are available. There is also a Pizza Burger, Philly Steak Burger as well as a Mushroom Swiss Burger. There is a Cheeseburger topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, ketchup, mayo, and American cheddar. Kid's Burger is made with tomato, lettuce, onions, and ketchup.

Three-piece chicken strips with fries and a drink of choice.

Bowls: All have rice, salad, and protein. There are Gyro Bowl, Chicken Bowl and Combo Bowl.

Here are the sides I could find: cheese curds, onion rings, and a side salad with none of the ingredients given. French fries with an option of beverage.

On the list for ice cream are: milk shakes that come in either vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry. For a little extra you can add toppings to the shakes with Oreos, Reese's cups, M & M's, and Heath Bars. Another choice of ice cream is gelato, technically speaking, more dense and higher milk to cream ratio. Boga serves a few classic Italian flavors like

pistachio and hazelnut custard, chocolate, and salted caramel. Some of the sorbets include lemon and raspberry. And don't forget the Mango Strawberry Smoothies and two other tart fruit smoothies.

The bottled beverages are Mexican Coke, Mexican Fanta, Sprite, orange soda, Coke, diet Coke, Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, and water. If you want juice, they provide Capri Sun. There is hot coffee or iced coffee drinks like lattes and espresso single or double, mocha and cappuccino. There is also a coffee of the day for those who are adventuresome.

The restaurant will have a grand opening sometime in the coming weeks once the roads open up. Minnehaha Avenue East is currently under construction, and it is hard to get there. Hopefully by the time of a new *Forum*, things will change. But even with car traffic diminished, the community response has been great.

"Everyone in the community has been extremely nice and extremely patient. I couldn't have asked for a better kind of neighborhood or community to be placed in," one of the owners said.

Boga has kept some of the Dari-ette's old features, like the sign that says it is a drive-in and put blinking lights around part of the sign. There are remnants of the call-in boxes that customers would contact staff with their orders from their cars in the parking lot, but only the metal poles remain. There is plenty of off-street parking. Now you go to an ordering window, and you can pick it up in a second window when it is ready. Although there are no indoor booths, there are several colored metal tables and benches so you can consume your orders outdoors if weather permits.

Photos taken by Steve Trimble.

Many thanks to our Friends of the *Forum* 2023 donors:

Jane Kennedy

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Mark and Kristin Gallagher

Greg Cosimini

Michel Taylor

Friends of Swede Hollow

Christyann Ranck

Steve Trimble

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If you'd like to see future issues printed again, please consider donating. We have three ways for you to do so:

-Donate electronically via PayPal at: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

-Make checks payable to *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to: 1368 Minnehaha Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55106

-Donate by going to: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated-

Be sure to keep up with us online in one of three ways:

-**Website** at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

-**Facebook** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum

-**Instagram** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum



Friends of the *Forum*

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the *Forum* program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning. **If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a donation in 2023. Our goal for 2023 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?**

Yes, I will become a Friend of the *Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____

Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Make checks payable to: *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Read our paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org