

Col Hts School Board member says
"no comment" to detractors

Angry Mob Takes Second Whack at Nichols

Nichols refuses to resign at Tuesday meeting: (from left to right) School Board members Molly Lewis, Ted Landwehr, Board Chair John Larkin, Superintendent Kathy Kelly, Laura Palmer and Grant Nichols

A resolution urging for the resignation of Columbia Heights ISD 13 school board member Grant Nichols was passed with three votes at the board's meeting of September 22.

Nichols was present at the meeting but he and Ted Landwehr abstained from voting. The three votes came from Board chair John Larkin and members Molly Lewis and Laura Palmer. (The sixth seat on the board is vacant.)

The Sept. 22 meeting was the second meeting to take voluminous public testimony against Nichols. One or more whistleblowers informed the school district of comments attributed to him that were found Sept. 6 on the 'social media' outlet Facebook. The comments, with Nichols' name attached, were in response to a Star Tribune article.

The comments have been described as derogatory towards Muslims and were discussed and projected on a screen at the Sept. 8 school board meeting, which Nichols did not attend.

In last week's edition of the *Record*, we reported on the events of this meeting, and for this column, we'll comment on the legal aspects,



procedures and behind the scenes activity surrounding this controversy.

As we said last week, there are differing accounts of whether or not Nichols actually wrote the Facebook comments. For more on this, the reader can refer to last week's news story.

We at the *Record* contend the comments are irrelevant.

The question at hand is whether its proper for a body to remove one of its own. Yes, there is a state statute that allows this, and its specific to school boards only. Isn't that strange? *School Boards* are allowed to remove one of their own for "proper cause" (Statute 123B.09, subd. 9). Four votes are required; the statute doesn't say "majority" — it says four votes.

The statute subdivision on this point is very brief and there is nothing that describes what "proper cause" is.

During the last legislative session there was an unsuccessful effort to change this statute (one proposal was to require a voter referendum by petition). Some cities under the Charter form of government do have recall provisions in their charters, however it's generally accepted by many political observers that a recall, if challenged in court, would not be upheld unless the official being recalled committed a criminal act. State legislators also have powers to remove their own, granted by the state constitution, but generally removal only would occur due to a criminal act.

Some appointed bodies, such as charter commissions, are often given some say as to whom they want, or don't want on their commissions. We don't agree that members of these bodies should be allowed to make such input, or decide membership for themselves. This input has been allowed to become an unwritten tradition in some circles.

Apparently no one in Columbia Heights has heard of the Art Johnston case. He went to federal court to stop a process to remove him from the Duluth School Board ISD 709. Ultimately he was censured, like Nichols was last week, but not removed from the board. Both sides spent thousands of dollars in litigation. What was Johnston's 'crime'? Making comments, some of them too loud, for the board majority's ears. The comments were about school business, by the way, not personal off-topic opinions made on web pages. He took his case to federal court, where a judge upheld the rights of elected officials to air their views, and directed that the two factions settle by mediation. Which brings us to . . .

"Constitution Week"

The Sept. 8 meeting agenda had two items that posed an ironic contradiction. One was a proclamation for Constitution Week and the other was to set a meeting date for "complaints received about a school board member." Sept. 17 is recognized nationally as Constitution Day. Educational institutions that receive federal funds are required by the U.S. Department of Education to hold an educational program for students about the U.S. Constitution.

The school board was given a rundown of the lesson plans for Constitution Week by Zena Stenvik, the interim director of Teaching and Learning. She said students would study the Constitution and related texts and discuss how the 225 year-old documents relate to their lives; students would also write essays about "what freedom means to them," and make comparisons of the U.S. Constitution with those of other countries.

If Columbia Heights high school students wanted a real education about

Observations from the Field

Bryan Olson



Megan Johnson

Just thought you should know what your school board director thinks of your Muslim students.

Above: Shown by school district attorney Karen Kepple at the Sept. 8 school board meeting, as Exhibit A, message received by school district. Below: shown at the same meeting as Exhibit C, with more detail and Johnson's Facebook comment to Nichols, "don't bother deleting your comment, I've sent screen shots to the school district." (All graphics taken from meeting video)

Connected with "CHPS\beys".

a man and a 9 year old girl because their religion permitted, and then was jailed for his "beliefs".....because it's against the law in this country, you think these same people would be protesting for religious liberty?

Like · Reply · 6 · September 5 at 6:49pm · Edited

Hide 19 Replies

Denelle Beauchaine I've never witnessed Muslims refusing to do their jobs. Needing different holidays off, needing space to pray, needing an exception to the standard dress code for a hijab, yes. Refusing to do their job, no.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 2:28am

Grant Nichols No they are just unsanitary by bringing water into a bathroom and making a mess. Besides washing their feet, ampits in the sinks in the bathrooms. Powder on the toilet seat. Touching door knobs after they wipe their butt with their hands. They leave it a mess and no one says anything about that? Thats ok though. You probably don't work with any of them?

Like · Reply · September 6 at 5:06am

Megan Johnson Grant Nichols, Muslims are unsanitary? Have you ever been to a gas station bathroom...or a McDonald's bathroom for that matter? I'm surprised such an ignorant comment came out of a Columbia Heights School Board member such as yourself. Especially since Columbia Heights has a high population of Muslims. Hmmm, doesn't seem right, does it? I wonder how the school board feels about your xenophobic/Islamophobic comments?

<http://www.colheights.k12.mn.us/.../scrapbook/default.php...&&>

Like · Reply · 2 · September 6 at 8:20am

Megan Johnson Grant Nichols, don't bother deleting your comment...I've already sent the screen shots to the Columbia Heights School District.

Like · Reply · 2 · September 6 at 5:40pm

Jackie Renee Morphis-Rolinski Stfu Megan Johnson you are partly what is wrong in this world..you get freedom of speech..but only those who believe your beliefs should!!!!???? Disgusting!

Like · Reply · 1 · September 6 at 9:25pm

NICHOLS REMAINS FIRM *continued from page 1*

the Constitution, it's too bad the school board didn't have the four votes needed to remove Nichols the night of Sept. 8. Nichols would have filed suit in federal court, and would have been back in his chair very quickly.

What was not taught in the high school this past week is that the Constitution protects everyone. It protects Nichols and the Muslims who may have been slurred by the comments. The Constitution allows everyone to be an idiot from time to time. That includes you, me, everyone. It protects our choice of speech. Neither Grant Nichols, nor Art Johnston have been charged with felonies.

If the students had received this message in the classroom, perhaps not as many of them would have testified against Nichols in these two meetings. One has to wonder how many students can even identify the members of the school board or their city council.

The bloodlust of the mob wasn't satisfied at the first meeting with only a vote to censure being successful, so the mob returned again for a second round this past Tuesday night.

On the agenda was a resolution "urging" Nichols to resign. Three votes were needed and it was passed quickly. Board members Lewis and Larkin made statements, the latter citing several other comments Nichols has made on the internet which he deemed to be just as bad as the ones that brought up this matter in the first place. Not being able to attribute the Sept. 6 Muslim comments to Nichols with a certainty, Nichols' detractors are now digging up past comments he has made that support their agenda. They paint him as a bully with views they cannot tolerate; as a result, they say, this person is unfit to serve in public office. When asked if he had any comment before taking the vote on the resolution, Nichols only said, "no comment."

The circus comes to town

Board chair John Larkin allowed the meetings to become circus sideshows, and what is worse, elicited certain desired reactions from the mob. At both meetings, the audience was allowed to cheer, stamp their feet, applaud and make any kind of ruckus they wanted. Only during the second meeting, Sept. 22, did Larkin call for decorum — but only while the board was discussing the vote on the "urging Nichols to resign" resolution. The second meeting's public testimony was even lengthier — about two and half hours, with many speakers allowed far more than the prescribed amount of time. The decibel level of the cheering and applause was on the level of a school basketball game. As noted in last week's *Record*, there were numerous administration heads, teachers, students and Superintendent Kathy Kelly calling for Nichols' immediate removal. The second meeting had more of the same, with many of the school officials giving each other "high-five" hand and back slappings (like in a basketball game).

A group of four school principals came to the dais; three of them gave their names and addresses, as had been requested of all testifiers. They didn't live in the school district, and this fact was noted by some people who talked with us after the meeting.

School board member Ted Landwehr's comments at the first meeting, with Nichols absent, seemed more genuine than the others'. His was the lone vote not to expel Nichols.

His arguments were delivered tentatively, knowing that egg shells were under his feet. Landwehr's comments would probably have been expressed the same way whether there were 200 angry people in the room or none at all. As for the other school board members, they seemed to be influenced by the angry mob. Perhaps they were afraid of the mob, wanted to please the mob, we don't know for sure. A low point in the first meeting was reached when Larkin played Perry Mason and made hay of Landwehr's announcement that he had been shown a document of confession by a co-worker of Nichols, taking the blame for the Muslim slurs. Larkin raised his eyebrows and his voice, and played directly to the crowd like a bad vaudevillian actor, "that sounds like *hearsay* to me!"

Bad actor or not, Larkin got a rise out of the mob that almost brought the house down.

Landwehr could have countered by saying that Larkin's recall of a phone conversation with Nichols was also hearsay. (Larkin claimed Nichols confessed he was guilty). Instead, Landwehr chose the high road.

Larkin made another attempt at comedy by challenging the absent Nichols'

statement that if he was thrown out of his chair, he would just file for candidacy again. Larkin made a joke of this with broad, over-the-top sarcasm to get another roar out of the audience.



School Board member Laura Palmer asks Nichols (right), "Please do the right thing."

Organizing for the second volley against Nichols

A walk-out of students, the high school principal and other school

officials occurred the morning after the first meeting. Two days later, Gov. Dayton came to the high school for a rally and praised the walk-out participants. The *Star Tribune* reported an unusual move, which the paper attributed to Superintendent Kelly, that barred the media from attending the governor's speech inside the school. Photos and video of the rally were posted on the school district website later in the day. Dayton was quoted in the press as saying Nichols should be "forced" to resign.

The word "forced" is being misused here. Nichols can resign only on his own volition. The use of the word "force" implies either legal action or physical threat.

The mob was even more organized for the second meeting. Placards of protest had been created and T-shirts had been printed — many of which identified the teachers' union Local 710 as the sponsor.

Another item on the Sept. 22 agenda was approving the preliminary levy for 2016. The board spent less than 5 minutes on this, including a slide presentation by Bill Holmgren, director of Finance and Operations. The meeting packet contained only one page with the numbers on it. A levy increase of 5.1% was approved. No one in the audience seemed to notice.

Censoring of the meetings

Videos of the Sept. 15 and 22 meetings where the Nichols matter was the subject have been edited. The two videos posted on the school district's YouTube page are missing the public testimony, which combined, ran over four hours. After the Sept. 22 meeting adjourned, the *Record* queried Casey Mahon, the Communications Director of the school district. He expressed surprise when told the videos online have been edited. He said he didn't know this, and we also asked him if the meetings had been televised live. Mahon said he has been told that televising live is not possible from the board room, and the meetings are posted online and shown on cable

television later. We also asked him if the cable television replays have been the same edited versions available on YouTube. The *Record* also asked Mahon by e-mail the next day who had made the decision to edit the videos. As this issue goes to press, Mahon has not responded.



"Not one student here has stood up and said you should stay, that is very important to me — that we are listening to the students . . . I firmly believe we cannot trust you. I have children in this district and I do not want you sitting on this board." — School board member Molly Lewis speaking to Grant Nichols at Sept. 22 meeting

The vacant school board seat

Candidates for the vacant school board seat had until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday Sept. 22 to file and two more days to withdraw. As this issue went to press, the *Record* was notified by Anoka County Elections that the seventh candidate to file, Omar Adow, had withdrawn. We know of no others at this time, but will report in our next edition any necessary updates. Eight candidates filed but with Adow withdrawing, the seven remaining on the ballot are (in order of filing): Jennifer Laine, Tenecia Kirk, Tim Utz, Scott Bardell, Naty Severson, Hala Asamarai and Cahen Barret.

The Barret filing papers however have some discrepancies that the *Record* will attempt to clarify after this issue goes to press. Our findings will be reported in next week's edition. Inquiries were made Thursday of Cindy Reichert, head of the county elections department, who deferred our questions to the school district. (The county will be handling the mechanics of the elections, but candidates filed at the school district offices.)

Bardell is a past board member and lives in Fridley, the other candidates live in Columbia Heights. The special election is due to the resignation of Lori Meyer in July. The primary will be December 1 and the general election is set for Jan. 26. The number of polling places will be consolidated to two.

- ACR



ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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Always on the lookout for governmental waste, fraud, and abuse in Anoka County

Quotes of the Week: "Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker denies he's a career politician - even though he has been in elected office since he was 25 years old and first ran for office when he was 22." - **Associated Press**

DEBATE WRAP-UP

We know our loyal readers all tuned in to some extent on Wednesday night and you all have an opinion regarding who won the debate, who lost, who isn't a serious candidate, who had the best one liner, the best suit, the best tax plan, etc.

More than all that, the biggest takeaway for this publication is that we have a remarkably strong Republican field. There are a number of accomplished candidates who are well qualified to lead America.

This debate highlighted all that. Yes, a crowded field of 11 encouraged a bunch of interrupting, one-liners, and other stunts to grab attention, but that's the nature of an event that will winnow the field of hopefuls.

If you look past the juvenile stuff, you could see serious candidates who spent a good chunk of time discussing important issues.

Compare this situation with that of your liberal friends. Their front runner is a sleaze bag who's about as warm and engaging as a bag of hammers. She's got an equally sleazy husband and America is sick of their smarmy, fake BS. They're criminals, really.

After that, there is no viable alternative. The second place guy in that pack is an avowed socialist from a Podunk state who appeals to about 2% of the populace. His solution is simply more and more poisonous government.

It's well over a year until election day, and the best the Democrats can do is hope that their failed vice president, who has been in government his entire life, will jump into the race, hair plugs and all.

Heck, that party is afraid to even hold real debates.

The difficult and crowded GOP nominating field will make the eventual nominee that much better. It will make him (her?) tested, refined, and experienced in handling the hot and bright lights of presidential scrutiny.

Any big criticisms of last night are really nit picking if you step back consider the big picture.

Here's what we saw last night, from the big stuff to the mundane.

The winner last night was either Carly Fiorina or Marco Rubio.

We're really impressed with the governor from a Midwestern state who balanced the budget, created jobs, took on the special interests, and is a serious man with a proven record of both political and policy achievements. His name is John Kasich. He could be a great VP candidate or cabinet member.

Kudos to Ben Carson for not wearing the dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. Nice suit, doctor.

Donald Trump will certainly flame out at some point. He's an entertainer. Court jester. Class clown. At some point, America will either tire of the schtick, or realize that we're electing a president and it's time to get serious.

Rand Paul put in a rather bland performance. His ideas push the envelope of mainstream GOP thinking. The presentation should match the boldness of the ideas.

Scott Walker needed to hit a home run last night and he only singled to right field with the predictable "Apprentice" riff on Trump. Not enough for a man who is better known so far for his puzzling statements than anything else.

For a party so committed to individual liberties, who do so many of the candidates care about what some people put into their bodies? Rand Paul is the only who made any sense on the issue of marijuana.

Ted Cruz was not blessed with an authoritative speaking voice.

Donald Trump exudes an arrogance and haughtiness that only Barack Obama can equal.

While some call it boring, there is something very refreshing and appealing regarding Ben Carson's serious and studious demeanor. Poise matters.

Carly Fiorina has represented the Sisterhood well. It's obvious that years of climbing the corporate ladder and the battles in the boardroom have proven her mettle. We have no doubt she has the resolve to make the tough decisions demanded of a president. Obama ought to call her for some tips.

Jeb Bush needs to show he's human. His marijuana use statement was the closest he came to demonstrating any kind of mass appeal. So far, he wins the Mitt Romney Award for the candidate who looks most uncomfortable pumping his own gas or wearing a faded pair of jeans.

We would pay good money to see Chris Christie prosecute Hillary Clinton, figuratively or literally.

The debate once again demonstrated the wonder of the system created by the Framers. When you think about the way most countries select their leaders, Providence has blessed us with a pretty darn sweet process. It's the worst system ever devised, except for all the others.

Fiorina, Rubio, Kasich, and Carson all trended up last night. The rest either flat lined or trended downwards.

IRRATIONAL EXUBERANCE OVER THE UNINSURED

Predictably, there was much braying and prattling on over Minnesota's drop in the number of citizens lacking health insurance.

Let's get a grip, for a moment.

First, the vast majority of those obtaining health insurance did so through a government program, not through the private sector. Thus, there should be no happy surprise that when government hands out health care, the

number will drop. In fact, given the expense and the monstrosity ObamaCare has become, it would have been far cheaper and far better public policy to simply give those people a check to buy health insurance.

This is similar to the irrational cheerleading over DFL budget "management" of state finances.

They jacked up spending a couple of billion and then turned around and extorted a couple of billion plus to cover the spending spree.

They then crow that high taxes and big government spending result in budget surpluses.

That's like a heroin addict stealing a wallet because he needs \$50 for a score. The wallet had \$60, so the addict praises his thievery as a positive. "It made me \$10 bucks and covered my habit!"

The rooster indeed causes the sun to rise in the world of the DFL.

Then again, if we're the Democrats responsible for this mess, you have to look for any port in a storm.

UNION LEADER BLASTS DAYTON

It has become increasingly apparent that Democrats are caught on the horns of a serious dilemma.

As the Watchdog has explored numerous times in the past, the DFL has more and more alienated construction trade unions by kowtowing to radical environmental interests.

Silica sand, ferrous mining, non-ferrous mining, oil/gas drilling, pipelines, and land development are all activities that are the bread and butter of skilled construction trade members.

They haven't been getting much love from Democrats lately and that frustration has boiled over something fierce.

Local 49 of the International Union of Operating Engineers published a statement this week ripping the Dayton administration for their handling of the Sandpiper Pipeline permitting process.

Read this one for yourself. Whoa!

9/15/15

A couple months ago, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) on a 5-0 vote unanimously approved the certificate of need permit for the Sandpiper pipeline project. Yesterday, the Minnesota Court of Appeals reversed this decision.

What is beyond frustrating at this point for the workers and businesses that sit and wait for clarity about this project is the utter joke that the MPUC, and Minnesota state agencies have made of the permitting system in Minnesota. The MPUC, at the urging of the Dayton administration, completely changed the permitting process for this pipeline by separating the certificate of need and route permits. Historically, those permits were run concurrently, and an environmental review was done before final decisions were made on

ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG *continued on page 4*

ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF — CRIME REPORT

ANDOVER

Thefts & Damage to Property

Sept. 12 — 18xx 156 Ln NW — vandalism to a home; paint balled

Sept. 12 — 19xx Cross-town Blvd NW — unsecure vehicle; purse

Sept. 13 — 167xx Argon St NW — vandalism to a vehicle; keyed

Sept. 13 — 34xx 142 Ave NW — unsecure vehicle; soccer equipment

Sept. 13 — 5xx 156 Ln NW — vandalism to a hose; cut

Sept. 15 — 15400 Hanson Blvd NW; I-phone stolen from the middle school

Sept. 15 — 51xx 171 Ave NW; male reporting his SS# was used fraudulently to take out a loan

Sept. 16 — 2115 Andover Blvd NW — I-phone stolen from the girls locker room

Sept. 16 — 2115 Andover Blvd NW; shorts stolen from the girls locker room

Sept. 16 — 35xx 143 Ave NW; vandalism to a vehicle; tires slashed

Arrests

Sept. 17 — 144xx Jonquil St NW — Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a wife/husband domestic. The male was arrested.

COLUMBUS

Thefts & Damage to Property

Sept. 15 — 15201 Zurich St NE — wallet stolen from Running Aces

Arrests

Sept. 13 — 19100 Block Vassar St NE; 4th Degree Assault; deputies responded to a suspicious male at the location. The male's vehicle came back stolen. The male was arrested.

Sept. 17 — Lake Dr NE/ Golden Lake Rd NE — a deputy stopped a driver for having several marker lights out. The male gave the deputy false information. The male was arrested.

EAST BETHEL

Thefts & Damage to Property

Sept. 13 — 181xx Jenkins St NE; trail camera stolen from the property

Arrests

Sept. 11 — 185xx Hwy 65 NE; Warrant Arrest, Trespassing; while a deputy conducted follow-up he located a male with an active warrant and was currently trespassing. The male was arrested.

Sept. 12 — 4500 Block Viking Blvd NE; DAC-IPS; a deputy stopped a driver for not having a valid driver's license. The male was arrested.

Sept. 13 — 208xx Tippecanoe St NE; 2nd Degree DWI; deputies responded to a male sleeping in a vehicle at the location. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested. 16

Sept. 14 — 13xx 187 Ln NE;

5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance; deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle at the location. During the search of the vehicle and two occupants narcotics were located. The male and female were arrested.

HAM LAKE

Burglaries

Sept. 16 — 12xx Pinewood Dr NE — unsecure home; electronics

Thefts & Damage to Property

Sept. 11 — 14xx 165 Ave NE — 2 4-wheelers, and enclosed trailer stolen from the property

Sept. 13 — 141xx Davenport St NE — motor stolen from a boat

Sept. 14 — 7xx Bunker Lake Blvd NE — unsecure vehicle; camera

Sept. 15 — 6xx 150 Ave NE — pressure washer stolen from the property

Sept. 16 — 18xx 153 Ave NE; vehicle window smashed; converter, cologne

Sept. 16 — 3800 Block 149 Ave NE — mower stolen from the property

Sept. 17 — 7xx 152 Ave NE — male reporting his personal information used to open bank accounts

Arrests

Sept. 12 — Hwy 65 NE/153 Ave NE — 3rd Degree DWI; a deputy stopped a driver for failing to stop at a stop sign. The driver appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were conducted and failed. The male was arrested.(.25)

LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

Thefts & Damage to Property

Sept. 18 — 9000 Block Viking Blvd NE — lawn mower stolen from the property

NOWTHEN

Arrests

Sept. 12 — 224xx St Francis Blvd NW — 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to an assault between two males. One of the males was arrested.

Sept. 14 — 78xx Norris Lake Rd NW — 5th Degree Domestic Assault; deputies responded to a wife/husband domestic. The male was arrested.

OAK GROVE

Thefts & Damage to Property

Sept. 11 — 210xx Lake George Blvd NW; batteries stolen from the property

Sept. 11 — 30xx 202 Ln NW; license plate stolen from a vehicle

Shooting incident in Ramsey / Nowthen

On 9-22-15 at 1812 hours, the Ramsey Police were dispatched to a caller stating that his son was trying to kill him and that he had been "shot in the face." Ramsey officers learned that the incident began in the 179th block of Germanium St NW and turned into a rolling incident as the complainant fled in a vehicle northbound on Hwy 47. The suspect / son chased the victim in a separate car and rammed the victim during the chase. In the area of 191st and Southbound Hwy 47, the suspect fired a shotgun round out of the passenger window of the suspects own car and projectiles from the shotgun blast struck the victims vehicle. The victim reported he ducked down but he did receive some minor facial cuts from flying glass and/or the shotgun blast. The victim did not sustain major injuries and was not hospitalized.

The suspect fled the area and was later taken into custody without incident at his home in Oak Grove.

The suspect is identified as follows:

Justin Alan Williams DOB:7-2-1991
22375 Tulip St NW
Oak Grove, MN 55303

The suspect remains in custody at the Anoka County jail and he HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED. The case will be reviewed by the Anoka County Attorney's Office Criminal Division who will determine if and what criminal charges are appropriate.

76 Year old man shot then robbed in his Columbia Heights home by unknown assailant

On 9-22-15 at 2134 hrs, Officers from the Columbia Heights Police Department responded to an address in the 5000 block of Johnson St NE to a report of a victim who had been shot and robbed inside his home. Upon arrival, Columbia Heights Officers located the 76 year old homeowner on his kitchen floor with gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to HCMC and his wounds are thought to be non-life threatening at this time.

The victim reported that he had just returned home and he had just walked in his home from the attached garage. The suspect entered the still open garage door, walked in the house service door and immediately shot the victim without making any demands. The victim was shot more than once. The suspect then searched the victim's pockets and took the victim's wallet and fled on foot.

Analysis of video surveillance footage from area cameras has developed a "vehicle of interest" in the home invasion / robbery of a 76 year old Columbia Heights man that took place in the 5000 block of Johnson St NE on Sept. 22nd.

Footage from the Target store located at 53d and Central Ave where the victim had just been shopping prior to the crime, revealed that a dark colored sedan, likely a late model Dodge Charger, pulled up next to the victim's vehicle after he entered the target store. No occupant(s) from the suspect vehicle exited during its stay at the Target store and the vehicle is seen following the victim out of the Target parking lot.

Footage from other surveillance cameras in the area also show the suspect vehicle following the victim vehicle to within an area near the victim's home. The suspect description information is as follows:

Black Male- early to mid-20's, Wearing dark clothing

The Vehicle of interest description is:

Late model dark or black sedan, likely a Dodge Charger.

The case remains under investigation by the Columbia Heights Police Department and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division.

ANOKA COUNTY WATCHDOG

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both the certificate of need and the route.

The certificate of need was thrown out because the MPUC deviated from their own process, and violated their own rules that govern them. The Dayton administration pushed for these changes and this new process, which turned out to be illegal. Furthermore, the same environmental extremists that called for the MPUC to change their process and supported that decision then filed this lawsuit to say it was illegal.

The entire episode is shameful, and is the very reason that vast majorities of the American people have lost faith in our government and the regulatory and political process. The MPUC, and the government agencies that advise them have got to stop trying to appease extremist fringe groups that are purposefully using the permitting process as a weapon to stop any and all natural resource projects in Minnesota.

The record on Sandpiper is clear. The counties along the Enbridge route support the project. The people that submitted comments on the project supported the project overwhelmingly. Northern Minnesota desperately needs the family sustaining jobs and economic development that this \$2.5 billion project will bring. The people that live there want this project.

It's time that government listen to the will of the people, and stop placating extremists.

Local 49 calls on the MPUC, and the Dayton administration that advises them, to clean up their own mess. No more delays. Follow the Court's order in a way that keeps a final decision on this project on the time schedule it was on.

The hard working men and women that build this state's infrastructure deserve a government that does their job as efficiently as they do theirs.

Glen D. Johnson
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
International Union of Operating Engineers
Local 49

The Anoka County Watchdog is a place where concerned taxpayers can find fact-supported information and other resources about governmental waste and abuse in Anoka County.

My intent is to provide you, the taxpayer, with the information you need to hold your local politicians accountable.

Visit my website and sign up for free weekly e-mail updates at www.AnokaCountyWatchdog.com or contact me personally at harold@anokacountywatchdog.com

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton, owner.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Free legal advice available to Minnesotans living in poverty

Minnesotans with low to moderate income who need some legal advice can get free help from Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN). Volunteer lawyers provide free legal advice by phone on legal issues like bankruptcy, debtor/creditor issues, consumer issues, employment law, immigration law, criminal expungement and unemployment compensation.

Sometimes, filling in the legal form is the hardest part of the case. VLN lawyers can also help in completing legal forms for garnishments, debt collection answers, and criminal expungement petitions.

Eligibility for services is based on income, assets, and county of residence. If a person is not eligible for VLN services, VLN refers them to other places that might be able to help. VLN, based in Hennepin County, is a nonprofit organization that links people with low to moderate income with lawyers volunteering their time to help others.

People interested in more information, including whether they would be eligible for the free services, can call our customer service representatives at 612-752-6677. The phone lines are open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9AM to 1PM. More information is available at www.vlnmn.org/help. Se habla Espanol.

Club Book Comes to Rum River Library

Club Book has brought more than 90 best-selling and award-winning authors to library communities throughout the metropolitan region since its launch in 2010.

On Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. author Chuck Logan will appear at the Anoka County Rum River Library, 4201 Sixth Avenue, Anoka.

Minnesota boasts more than its share of homegrown thriller novelists, and Chuck Logan ranks near the top of that list for many. He is best known for his six-book Phil Broker series, featuring a larger-than-life military veteran and ex- undercover agent. After the Rain, the fifth in that series, earned Logan a Shamus Award nomination for Best P.I. Hardcover Novel in 2005. Hollywood adapted its follow up, Homefront, for the big screen in 2013, with Jason Statham playing Broker alongside co-stars James Franco and Winona Ryder. Logan's newest book, Fallen Angel, is a gripping standalone. A wounded Army pilot, only recently returned from Iraq, struggles to make sense of the incident that brought down her helicopter – and finds herself part of something much bigger.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served. Doors open 45 minutes in advance of each program and books will be available for sale/signing. Podcasts of the program will be available within a few days of the event.

Beginning in January 2014, free podcast episodes of each author program have been released on iTunes, expanding access to this Legacy-funded program to everyone in Minnesota. Visit www.clubbook.org for more information.

Hugo man charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. - The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Washington County Attorney's Office recently charged Anthony William Bronk of Hugo with several tax-related felonies.

Mr. Bronk was charged with four counts of failing to pay income tax and four counts of filing a false tax return. He was also charged with five counts of theft by swindle and one count of offering forged checks.

The complaint states that Mr. Bronk misappropriated funds while working as treasurer of the Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA). It also states that Mr. Bronk failed to pay tax on all of his income from 2011 through 2014, including the illegal income he swindled from the MSFDA. The complaint further alleges that Mr. Bronk knowingly filed false income tax returns for the 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 tax years. According to the criminal complaint, Mr. Bronk owes more than \$15,000 in income tax, penalties, and interest.

Each tax-related felony charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both.

Notice of Vacancies in State Boards, Councils and Committees

The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State is accepting applications, due September 30, 2015, for the following positions:

Application forms are available online and must be submitted by September 30, 2015, to be assured of full consideration by the appointing authority. Appointing authorities may choose to review applications received by the Secretary of State after September 30.

CULTURAL AND ETHNIC COMMUNITIES LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Vacancies: Six Seats including: One County provider serving large cultural and ethnic communities; One Culturally Specific Human Services Provider Representative; One Private Industry with an Interest in Inequity Issues Representative; One American Indian Community Representative; One Faith-Based Organizations Ministering to Ethnic Communities Representative; and One Department of Human Services Employee.

Note: The commissioner of human services is seeking applicants from diverse cultural communities to join the council. Individuals who are concerned with disparities in access and outcomes to publicly funded human services experienced by racial and ethnic populations are encouraged to apply.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRACKING AND BIOMONITORING ADVISORY PANEL

Vacancies: One seat – Non-Governmental Organization Representative

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON BROADBAND

Vacancies: One Member

MINNESOTA ORGANIC ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Vacancies: One seat – Organic Retailers Representative

MINNESOTA SECURITY HOSPITAL-HRB

Vacancies: One seat – Psychologist Representative

MN GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD COUNCIL)

Vacancies: One seat – Parent Member of a Child with Developmental Disability

MN JOINT UNDERWRITING ASSOCIATION - LIABILITY INSURANCE

Vacancies: One Seat – Public Member

NONPUBLIC EDUCATION COUNCIL

Vacancies: One Member

SPECIAL REVIEW BOARD

Vacancies: Five Seats, including: Two Psychiatrist Members; One Attorney Member; and Two Persons Experienced in the Field of Mental Health

STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Vacancies: One Public Member

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Vacancies: One Disability Advocacy Group Representative

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

Vacancies: Seven Seats including: One Deaf-Blind Community Representative, One Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Representative; One Advocate Organization Representative; One Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider Representative; One Client Assistant Program Representative; and Two Business, Industry and Labor Representatives.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

Vacancies: Twelve Seats including: Two Advocate Representatives; One Parent Representative; One Other CIL Representative; Three Public Members; One State Council on Disability Representative; One Other State Agency Representative; One Business Representative; One State Services for the Blind Representative; One Department of Employment and Economic Development Representative.

TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancies: Two Seats including: Two Representatives actively involved in business planning for executive branch state agency.

WORKING GROUP ON VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Vacancies: Fifteen Seats including: Advocates, Survivors, Service Providers, Community Leaders, City and County Attorneys, City Officials, Law Enforcement, and Health Professionals. At least eight of the members of the working group must be from the Asian-Pacific Island Community.

Applicants should include the following documents:

- Open Appointments Application Form (completed, signed and dated)
- Letter of Interest
- Resume or Biography

Applications may be submitted online, by email to Open.Appointments@state.mn.us, or by mail or in person to:

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155-1299

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on September 8, 2015. Standing county committee information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions were adopted: #2015-99 Right-of-Way, #2015-100 Fridley Northstar Station Connection Service Support, #2015-101 I-35/Lake Drive Interchange Funding, #2015-102 Department Renaming, and #2015-103 Appointment of Employee Relations Director. A full copy of the agenda, minutes, accounts, and claims greater than \$2000 may be found on the Anoka County Web site: www.anokacounty.us

(Published Sept 25, 2015, Anoka County Record) #287

CITY OF LINO LAKES CHARTER COMMISSION OPENINGS

The Charter Commission of Lino Lakes has openings for membership.

To request an application, please call Charter Commission Secretary Caroline Dahl at 651-484-4678 acting on behalf of Charter Commission Chair Connie Sutherland, or Lino Lakes City Hall at 651-982-2406, or visit the City website at www.ci.lino-lakes.mn.us. Applications due October 31, 2015.

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

BSK Consulting L.L.C.
2. Principal Place of Business:
6677 Sherman Lake Rd Lino Lakes, MN 55038

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:

Gregory Richard Armstrong
6677 Sherman Lake Rd Lino Lakes, MN 55038

4. This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of Assumed Name File Number: 132776, originally filed on 6/10/1993.

5. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: Sept. 10, 2015, # 841525100028, /s/ Gregory Richard Armstrong
(Published Sept 18, 25, 2015, Anoka County Record) #285

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

Harmonious Music
2. Principal Place of Business:
11171 Aberdeen St. NE, Unit C Blaine, MN 55449

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:

Neha Damle
11171 Aberdeen St NE, Unit C Blaine, MN 55449

4. This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of Assumed Name File Number: 132776, originally filed on 6/10/1993.

5. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: Sept. 10, 2015, # 84165290003, /s/ Neha Damle
(Published Sept 25, Oct. 2, 2015, Anoka County Record) #288

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS ST. FRANCIS MN ANOKA COUNTY ORDINANCE 205, SECOND SERIES

AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 2-6-0 - COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS ORDAINS:

Section 1. Code Adopted. That Section 2-6-0 entitled "COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" shall hereby be enacted to read as follows:

2-6-0: COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

A Community/Economic Development Department is hereby established. This department performs supervisory and responsible professional work managing comprehensive planning, land-use, zoning, and economic development; oversees building inspection services and performs related duties as assigned. The Head of the Community/Economic Development Department shall be the Community/Economic Development Director.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its publication.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2015.

APPROVED: Steve Kane, Mayor of St. Francis
ATTEST: Barbara I. Held, City Clerk

ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

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The City of Nowthen Road and Bridge Committee

The Road and Bridge Committee participates in developing the road, bridge, ditch, culverts parts of Comprehensive Plan and MS4 Plan; participates in additional planning projects stemming from these plans; participates in the capital improvement programming process.

The Road and Bridge Committee is a 5 member committee with a 3 year term length.

Anyone interested in the position must complete the Application for Appointment. Also review the Road and Bridge City Code, with Code of conduct and duties and functions.

All applications must be submitted to the City Offices no later than October 9, 2015 at 4:30 PM.

All applicants must attend the 7:00 PM, October 20, 2015 Road and Bridge Committee Meeting for interviews and recommended appointment.

Contact the City Offices at 763-441-1347 for more information or contact the City Council directly.

The City of Nowthen Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning Commission reviews, comments, holds public hearings and makes recommendations to the City Council Regarding:

Growth, land use and development in the City conformance to the Comprehensive Plan, City Code and Ordinances.

The Planning Commission is a 7 member committee with a 3 year term length.

Anyone interested in the position must complete the Application for Appointment. Also review the Planning and Zoning City Code, with Code of conduct.

All applications must be submitted to the City Offices no later than October 16, 2015 at 4:30 PM.

All applicants must attend the 7:00 PM, October 27, 2015 Planning and Zoning Meeting for interviews and recommended appointment.

Contact the City Offices at 763-441-1347 for more information or contact the City Council directly.

City of Nowthen Public Notice

On Wednesday, September 23, 2015, City Clerk Corrie LaDoucer sent a public notice publication request but failed to attach the actual notice to the email.

LaDoucer has not responded to our request for the attachment.

If Nowthen residents would like to know what the public notice was about, they will have to contact her directly at 763-441-1347 or at City Hall, 8188 199th Avenue NW, Nowthen, MN 55330.

If the Record receives the notice in a timely fashion, we will publish it in its entirety for the benefit of our readers at no cost to taxpayers.



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Anoka County RECORD

www.AnokaCountyRecord.com

Published weekly by Anoka County Record LLC

Subscriptions sent 1st Class U.S. Mail \$100/yr

Single Issue \$2 (check or money order)

John Kysylczyn, Owner and Publisher

E-mail: editor@anokacountyrecord.com

www.facebook.com/AnokaCountyRecord

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