

Because the news never stops

Thisweekend



Giddyup for 'Oklahoma'

Eagan Summer Community Theatre's production of "Oklahoma!" features a nonstop cavalcade of catchy musical numbers. See Thisweekend, 2B



Olympic gold shines in Burnsville

The asking price is \$1 million for a Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Gold Coin sold through an online dealer based in Burnsville. See Story, 3A

Burnsville mayoral primary

Filings for city and county offices are in. There will be a primary in the Burnsville mayoral race, which has three candidates challenging incumbent Elizabeth Kautz. See Stories, 2A

'It's life-changing'

Singer-songwriter and cancer survivor Jill Holly of Burnsville will again take part in Relay for Life

by John Gessner
THISWEEK NEWSPAPERS

Singer-songwriter Jill Holly was weakened by chemotherapy when she sang the national anthem at the Burnsville Relay for Life in August 2006.

Last year she was the event's keynote speaker, and her relay team, Jill's Angels, raised more than \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Holly will be a volunteer greeter at this year's relay, the eighth annual Burnsville celebration of ACS' signature fundraising event. About 300 are expected at the relay, to be held from 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, to 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Burnsville High School track.

Since being diagnosed



Photo by John Gessner

Singer-songwriter and touring performer Jill Holly is a cancer survivor.

With breast cancer Holly has lent her talents to other fundraisers, singing in Minneapolis at a Susan G. Komen event and an ACS event.

Taking the stage in Burnsville two summers ago with two songwriting students of hers for support may have been the toughest gig.

"I was physically wiped out," said Holly, a Richfield native who began her career in the 1980s and has recorded five albums, including 2003's "Alive." "I was emotionally on my knees. It was hard."

In May 2006, as the Burnsville resident was getting a checkup before a southwestern U.S. concert tour, she remembered to tell her doctor about a small lump that had emerged and disappeared.

Through an ultrasound she saw the tumor, which was confirmed by a biopsy. See Relay, 6A

July 10 storm cleanup estimate is \$190,000

by John Gessner
THISWEEK NEWSPAPERS

The Burnsville City Council declared a local emergency and authorized \$200,000 in storm cleanup July 15.

The action followed the Thursday, July 10 storm, which produced high winds and dumped an estimated 2.5 inches of rain on the city in 20 minutes.

City officials say they need help from private contractors to clear fallen trees and limbs. The estimated cost is \$190,000. A similar cleanup followed a severe windstorm in July 1998.

The July 10 storm left about 40 trees wholly or partially blocking streets. Most were boulevard trees. Streets were cleared for travel by 6:30 p.m.

After offering to pick up

Debris cleanup

Details on city cleanup of debris from storm-damaged trees are on Page 2A.

storm debris on curbsides, the city had received 625 reports by 11 a.m. July 15.

There were 35 reports of hanging limbs that needed to be pruned from boulevard trees.

In city parks, about 25 trees were blown down, some onto adjacent property. Another 75 to 100 were damaged.

City Manager Craig Ebeling said cleanup costs quickly rose past the initial \$75,000 estimate.

City crews are picking up storm debris from the curb See Cleanup, 2A

City eyes green light for greening through boulevard trees

by John Gessner
THISWEEK NEWSPAPERS

Many trees have grown on Burnsville boulevards over the years, though homeowners aren't supposed to plant them.

That's likely to change next year, with ordinance changes allowing tree plantings on boulevards, medians and cul-de-sac islands.

It's part of the city's attempt to make Burnsville greener. But planting won't be regulation-free. Property owners will have to get free planting permits. They'll be required to prune the trees, or the city might step in and charge them for doing the job itself.

Replacing boulevard trees — even those knocked down in storms — would also require a permit.

The permit obligation would carry over to any

subsequent owners of the property.

The City Council is expected to approve new planting regulations before the end of the year.

Some residents are eager to plant boulevard trees, and the council has wanted to promote the practice for several years, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz said.

"This is government and citizens working together to green our city and allow our citizens to have this," she said at a July 15 council work session.

Promoting planting is part of a city plan to protect its natural woodlands, green urbanized areas and target tree diseases and invasive forest species.

The city hopes to plant or replace about 50 boulevard trees annually.

See Trees, 6A

Bluegrass in the Village



Photo by Rick Orndorf

Long Time Gone, which includes Burnsville resident Leo Rosentstein (center), performed July 12 at the third annual Bluegrass in the Village festival at Dakota City, which is located on the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington. Other band members pictured are Ben Manning, left, and Katryn Conlin.



Submitted photo

Craig Allen

Burnsville comic likes his gigs close to home

Craig Allen has three-night stand in Bloomington

by John Gessner
THISWEEK NEWSPAPERS

Stand-up comedy's lucrative 1980s renaissance was followed by an early-'90s funk, when the money dried up and many clubs closed down.

"That, of course, is when I started," said Craig Allen of Burnsville. "I have a great sense of timing for a comedian."

Allen, now 35, has persevered. He recently made his national radio debut with a guest spot on the widely syndicated "Bob and Tom Show." Allen still tours, but he's found a niche as a comic for corporate

events through the Minneapolis Comedy All-Stars, a Twin Cities agency.

He's playing three nights this month at the Joke Joint Comedy Club at the Ramada at the Mall of America (formerly the Thunderbird). Allen and comic Eric Nigg will give 8 p.m. shows Thursday and Friday, July 24 and 25, and 7:30 and 10 p.m. shows Saturday, July 26.

"I try to book as much stuff as I can close to home," said Allen, who has a 2-year-old son, Ethan, and has been married for six years to Jennifer Casanova, a pros- See Comic, 8A

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