

LOCAL NEWS

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WOODBURY RESIDENT PROPOSES REPORT CARD FOR JUDGES, 3B EAST METRO SUBURBAN DOWNTOWN PROJECTS SUFFERING, 4B

TWIN CITIES



BRANDI JADE THOMAS,
PIONEER PRESS

Minneapolis reporter **Chuck Olsen** is part of the UpTake, a politics-flavored Internet "video magazine."

Newest anchors report by cell phone

High-tech citizen journalists innovate political reporting

BY JULIO OJEDA-ZAPATA
Pioneer Press

What does it take to be news anchor these days? For several citizen journalists covering this year's elections, it's just laptops, cell phones and some technical know-how.

During this week's Super Tuesday, Minneapolis video reporter Chuck Olsen co-anchored a live broadcast that fed online viewers a steady stream of primary and caucus dispatches from around the country. But unlike Diane Sawyer and other network big shots, Olsen had no swanky TV news set or high-tech entourage.

But there's nothing primitive about his newsgathering. He is a member of the UpTake, a St. Paul-based group of video reporters covering the election, using affordable technology to compete with mainstream news outlets.

On Tuesday, Olsen was in a New Orleans bar near Bourbon Street, sitting by a couple dressed as Adam and Eve for Mardi Gras, speaking into his laptop's videocam as a part of a webcast seen on the UpTake home page (theuptake.org). That same night, UpTake also had correspondents in several U.S. cities. Executive director Jason Barnett covered St. Paul.

Using the video camera in his smartphone, Barnett roamed a Summit-University community center where he and others attended caucuses. As he captured footage, it streamed over the Web and was instantly viewable by UpTake visitors. This bleeding-edge webcasting fascinated some but confused others. Some caucus attendees wondered what he was up to.

"They didn't know what I was doing," Barnett said. "It didn't look like I was doing any-

NEWEST ANCHORS, 5B

METRO



Buster, a 2½-year-old American Staffordshire terrier, looks out from the kennel where he played one day last week with Frank Caminati and Scott Amy, who visit him each day at Animal Ark, a no-kill shelter in Hastings.

AS THE ECONOMY TURNS SOUR, the number of pets being dropped off at metro-area shelters is increasing, and adoptions have waned as owners are turned out of their homes, are left with nowhere to keep the family animal or simply have to make tough choices about cutting their expenses.



Marcy, 1, watches out the door of her kitty condo as Twinkle, 2½, curls up on a warm mat. Both cats are ready to be adopted from Animal Ark shelter in Hastings, where the number of pets waiting for adoption has surged recently.

PHOTOS BY SHERRI LAROSE-CHIGLO, PIONEER PRESS

When the budget's too tight for a best friend

BY BOB SHAW | Pioneer Press

Dogs and cats don't worry about recessions. But maybe they should.

Because of Minnesota's economic downturn, the number of unwanted pets given to local shelters has jumped 50 percent in one year, according to Mike Fry, manager of Animal Ark No-Kill Shelter in Hastings.

"People are moving, getting evicted, losing their houses," Fry said. "Bad economic conditions always mean bad times for pets."

At the same time, the rate of adop-

tions into homes is down about 20 percent, he said. "It is not a good picture," Fry said.

The increase reflects a national trend, as animal-welfare workers are

seeing the fortunes of animals sinking along with the economy.

Nationally, some Humane Society shelters have reported increases of more than 125 percent in unwanted pets, said Nancy Peterson, spokeswoman for the Humane Society of the United States.

Bill Stevenson, an officer for St. Paul Animal Control, said he is seeing more animals without vaccinations or routine spaying or neutering — another sign of economic stress.

Stevenson sees far more complaints in less affluent parts of St. Paul — such as Frogtown or the lower

BEST FRIEND BUDGET, 7B

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MAPLEWOOD

Neighbors fight plan for senior housing

Complex would decrease size of Gethsemane Park

BY ELIZABETH MOHR
Pioneer Press

Neighbors of a proposed senior housing center in southeastern Maplewood are fighting the proposal, saying it will usurp a public park.

The 111-unit complex would be built on a portion of Gethsemane Park. The 10 acres of parkland are owned by nearby Gethsemane Lutheran Church, which has leased the site to the city for \$1 a year since 1982. The contract is up, and the church would like to use the land differently.

"We've always intended to use the property for ministry," said the church's pastor, the Rev. Richard White. "Over the years it morphed into the dream of building senior housing."

The senior center would take up the western 6 acres, with the remaining 4 acres remaining parkland, White said.

"This is the ONLY park space in our neighborhood,"

SENIOR HOUSING, 2B



JOE SOUCHERAY

When you get mugged, notice the guy's teeth

Descriptions of criminal suspects have always left something to be desired, especially in the modern era of various political sensitivities, politeness and nonjudgmentalism. Why, for years, newspapers even wrestled with the idea of identifying the race of a suspect, on the grounds that a crime is a crime and it doesn't make much difference what the suspect looks like.

Of course it makes a difference what a suspect looks like and, lately, it looks like we are pulling ourselves out of that wrong-way slide. Descriptions have begun to change for the better. Personal idiosyncrasies have appeared in a few descriptions recently, let alone the race of a perpetrator. For example, a rash of Twin Cities bank robberies has occurred recently

JOE SOUCHERAY, 7B

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