

SUN CURRENT

EDINA

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Homeless alleviation

The Hennepin County Board accepted funding to alleviate homelessness, on top of other board actions.

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Stillwater shaded

Strategy played a key role in Edina High's 11-8 girls lacrosse win over Stillwater Friday, April 15, at Kuhlman Field.

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Public notices

Check out the latest public notices from the city of Edina and the Edina School District.

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First graduates of College Possible find lifeline



College Possible students typically meet twice a week after school to prep ACTs and college applications. (Submitted photo)

18 of 20 seniors have already been admitted to college

BY ETHAN GROOTHUIS
SUN CURRENT
NEWSPAPERS

For students in College Possible, dreams and reality are soon becoming one.

While the program nationwide boasts a 99

percent college admission rate, the question was whether or not the fledgling program at Edina, which began in 2015, had the same success rate.

At a community day event held last week at Edina High School, it was clear the answer was a resounding yes.

Of 20 seniors in the Edina College Possible program, 18 have already been admitted to college and 17 have already finished FAFSA applications.

Students who are accepted into the program meet two afternoons per week beginning as juniors and receive help with anything ranging from ACT prep to help deciding for which college to pursue enrollment.

"The FAFSA was really difficult and stressful," Elizabeth, a senior in College Possible said. "It has just been really great to have that extra support when you are trying to deal with grades and whatever else. [Coach

Maggie] helped me a lot with my decision."

Elizabeth said that having another person to talk to and provide extra support was a bonus to her mother as well.

"It was really helpful," Elizabeth said. "I think even my mom was surprised at the opportunities I was given through College Possible."

Other seniors, in similar financial situations and many soon-to-be first gen-

COLLEGE - TO PAGE 3

Art Fair announces featured artists

The art festival kick-off is celebrating its 51st year

The Edina Art Fair announced that the husband and wife team of Julie Dwyre-Zuckerman and Kevin Zuckerman will be this year's featured artists.

The 51st annual Edina Art Fair is Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4, at 50th and France.

The winning acrylic painting titled "Sedona" will be featured on all of the Edina Art Fair promotional materials, including the poster, T-shirt and brochures.

"Our intention is to invite our audience into explore the expansive realm of paint and unspoken language to experiment with saying something new," Julie Dwyre-Zuckerman said. "In our work we look to identify the clichés that keep things comfortable and familiar.

A portion of the

ART - TO PAGE 2



"Sedona" by Julie Dwyre-Zuckerman and Kevin Zuckerman

Eco-Fair, breakfast highlight Earth weekend

Festivities will take place in Morningside, Weber Park

BY ETHAN GROOTHUIS
SUN CURRENT NEWSPAPERS

The worldwide celebration of Earth Day will have its own Edina flair as the festivities come to Morningside.

The weekend neighborhood celebration, open to anyone, begins on Saturday morning when Edina Morningside Community Church hosts an EarthWorks Breakfast 8:30-11 a.m., which includes presentations such as urban bee farming, iMatter students discussing their climate actions at 9:30 a.m. and a bicycle safety and maintenance clinic at 10 a.m.

On Sunday, the Morningside Eco-Fair will begin with a bike parade from Edina Community Lutheran Church to Weber Park at 1:45 p.m.

From 2-5 p.m., the neighborhood will celebrate the Earth with ideas for sustainable living and family activities.

While other climate-based activities this weekend range from the People's Climate March sending buses to Washington D.C. and a planned science protest in St. Paul, Paul Thompson of Cool Planet believes it is important to still be active right in Edina.

"We are bringing solutions right into the neighborhood," Thompson said. "If we want to see change from our leaders, we have to adopt those changes in the way that we are living."

Thompson said that there are simple changes people can do that reduce their carbon footprints, but that it is important to see other people doing participating.

"Edina has a goal to cut carbon emissions 30 percent by 2025," Thompson said. "It is an aggressive goal, so we need to do our part. We are kind of on the leading edge of this wave. We want the kids to be out in front encouraging and pushing their parents to do the right thing."

On top of outdoor games, like a game that serves to demonstrate yard and driveway runoff, kids will also be given Eco Passports. After visiting enough booths, which will provide stickers for the passports, kids will get a badge that says they are "Eco Heroes."

In the warming house, booths and activities include looking



ECO - TO PAGE 14

FESTIVAL! finds niche in public access

Local access children's show wins awards of excellence at Midwest media festival

BY ETHAN GROOTHUIS
SUN CURRENT NEWSPAPERS

Tim Montgomery's locally produced children's program FESTIVAL! was awarded two awards of excellence and selection as Best Cable Access Program at the Best of the Midwest Media Fest this month in Milwaukee.

An annual event, the Media Fest is a regional conference with an awards banquet honoring the work of local media centers in Illinois, Iowa, Min-

nesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The Edina High School graduate has worked in various Twin Cities media organizations for years, including the Star Tribune, the Pioneer Press and currently as a graphic designer at KSTP.

But beginning approximately four years ago, Montgomery started a new venture that would expand the heights of his creativity – children's television.

He created different tangential seg-

ments that were spun together into a few episodes.

Now FESTIVAL! runs on several area cable access networks, including SWTV, covering Edina, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Wayzata.

Montgomery is using the show to explore subjects beyond reading, math and science, but instead creatively, through art, music and humor, look at other themes of childhood and how people treat one another, including bullying, safety and cultural differences.

"Children learn reading, writing

FESTIVAL! - TO PAGE 20

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2085 SUN READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

2086 SUN READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

2087 SUN READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

FESTIVAL!

FROM PAGE 1

and arithmetic in school, yet they may not always receive social affirmation that who they are is special and important," Montgomery said during the awards presentation. "As much as they need to achieve academically, children also need to feel positive about themselves and what they can accomplish – and to show this support to others.

"This ideal is at the core of our 'Festival' show," he continued. "Through the messages we are able to put out over broadcast, print, and interactive online media, we hope to capture children's attention and release their imaginations in a way that will make a positive difference."

FESTIVAL! is comprised of short stories and skits that may be live action or animated, featuring clowns, cartoon characters, puppets and more.

As it airs on public access, the show is a fully volunteer effort.

After Montgomery finishes writing a series of sketches and skits, he enlists the help of his children, friends, former coworkers and other family members for voiceovers and music.

"We have our own background music," Montgomery said. "We play some that are old favorites but try to create them on our own."

He also does a majority of the work by the cover of night when he isn't at his day job and when his children are asleep.

"The kids will work with me if I need to be filming some stuff outside, or they

might handle the camera a little bit with me," he said.

As his children have grown up (they are now 14-, 12- and 11-years-old), Montgomery said that their thoughts on FESTIVAL! have evolved.

"I think they are probably getting to an age now where they might think it is embarrassing, but once they get into it they know it is exciting. I hope they continue to supply me with voice-overs," Montgomery said with a laugh.

For the future of FESTIVAL!, Montgomery hopes that with a sponsor or two he can refine the production process, including a couple extra hands to help produce or edit.

Despite an ultra-low budget, receiving awards and a positive reception shows that Montgomery has a mandate to continue producing his program.

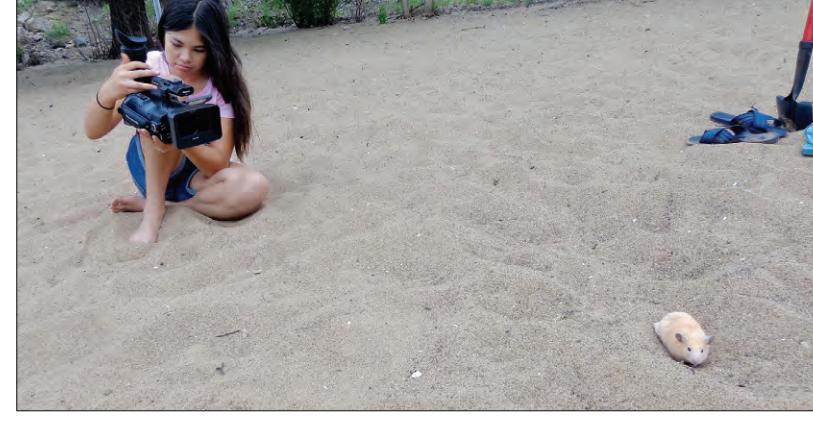
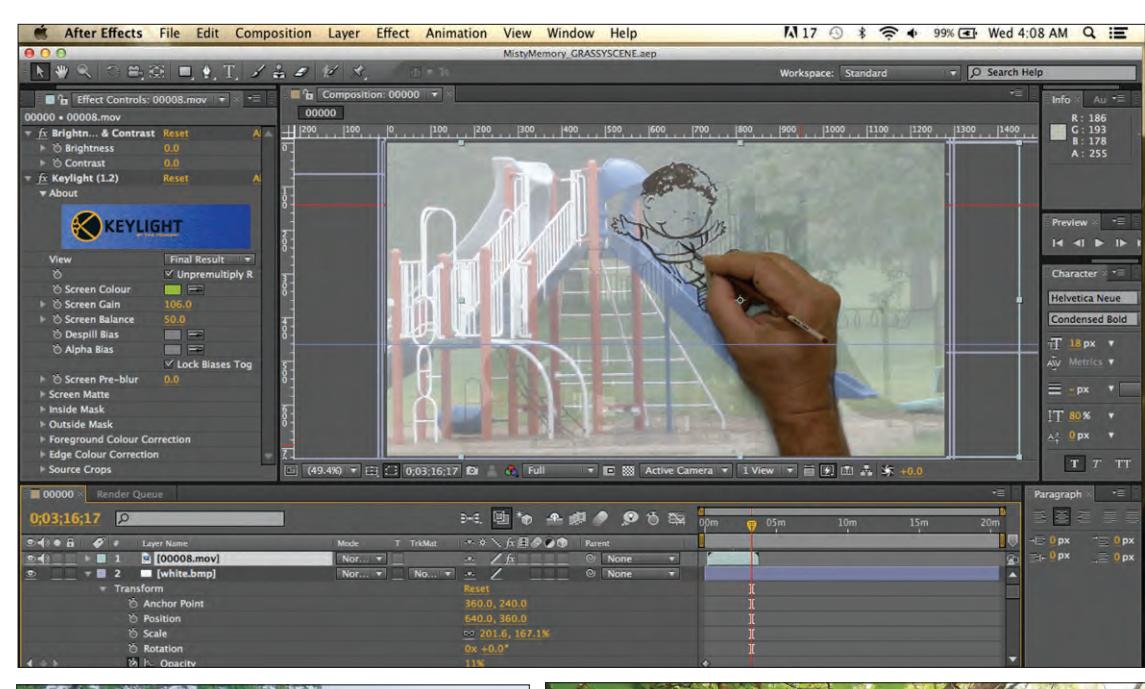
"It helps a lot to get some recognition to build a better case for doing more with the show," Montgomery said.

In addition to volunteers, collaborators, his wife Aoh, and his parents Don and Donna – who sponsor the show on SWTV – he is appreciative to the public access people who let his dream take form, including Dawn Wills and Dietrich Nissen at SWTV.

"Everyone who works and volunteers at the media center for the betterment to their community ... it is all on a volunteer basis," Montgomery said. "Hopefully people get an opportunity to share some kind of talent or skill that makes a positive impact."

FESTIVAL! runs on SWTV on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Contact Ethan Groothuis at ethan.groothuis@ecm-inc.com.



Top, Tim Montgomery lays a keyed out drawing video over video of a playground scene using After Effects. Middle left, Tim as Reddy the Clown with his sons Chris and Matt. Middle right, Tim's wife Aoh takes a turn as a camera operator. At left, Tim's daughter Angel films her hamster for a show segment. (Submitted photos)

"Children learn reading, writing and arithmetic in school, yet they may not always receive social affirmation that who they are is special and important."

– Tim Montgomery



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Choices for vibrant senior living

Help prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer

BY LACI GAGLIANO
SUN POST NEWSPAPERS

They bear striking resemblance to an exotic green gemstone gleaned from the River Nile and could easily be mistaken for a stunning piece of jewelry. Beneath their slender, emerald sheath is yet another transfixing layer of shiny iridescence. Visually, the emerald ash borer is a beautiful specimen, yet laced in the aesthetically pleasing beetle's existence lies a destructively ravenous hunger for a common landscape fixture, the ash tree.

Emerald ash borers (EAB) are an invasive species native to parts of Asia, first discovered infesting U.S. trees in Michigan in 2002. The first Minnesota EAB infestation was discovered in 2009, and to date, have been detected in over half of U.S. states, especially throughout the Midwest and Great Plains, as well as in several Canadian provinces. Experts believe the insect was likely introduced to the U.S. in overseas cargo containing wooden packing materials originating in Asia.

The damage the emerald ash borer causes to ash trees is significant. Its life cycle begins as a less attractive larvae that hatches from eggs laid in the crevices of the ash's bark, then burrows under the bark, feeding just beneath it as the larvae tunnels its way across the bark's underside. The tunnels created by the larvae destroys the tissues that circulate water and nutrients throughout the tree. Once they mature after about a year of feeding, the beetles bore their way back out of the trunk through tiny holes, and



The emerald ash borer. (File photos courtesy of the Michigan Department of Agriculture)

emerge to feed on other ash trees and produce new larvae. The amount of tunneling and boring the tiny beetles can accomplish reduces the tree's remaining lifespan to just one to three years after the adults emerge. The entire course of killing the tree can take about two to four years, although a tree can lie dormant for up to five years after an infestation.

According to the DNR, Minnesota has around 1 billion ash trees throughout the state, and make up nearly 60 percent of the trees population in some communities. The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MNSTAC), which is developing legislation that would help fund EAB management efforts, estimates that approximately 2.65 million of the state's ash trees are located within populated communities, and that one in five of those trees are at risk for an EAB invasion.

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The canopy of the ash trees begins to die away first as the tree is robbed of the water and nutrients required for survival. Woodpeckers also begin visiting infected trees frequently in search of the EAB. Gradually, long cracks in the bark start forming, and eventually, the tree's entire foliage canopy dies off completely.

Contact Laci Gagliano at laci.gagliano@ecm-inc.com.