



# Metro/State

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StarTribune

Tuesday, August 16, 2005 • Section **B**

## Bloomington stands firm on ban

Liquor tax revenue is down; it's unclear how much the smoking ban is to blame.

By **Anthony Lonetree**  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

A first glimpse at the economic impact of Bloomington's smoking ban reveals no significant hit to food and lodging receipts, but pockets of hurt on the liquor front.

To what extent the ban is to blame, however, was unclear, according to a

city staff report released Monday. Liquor-tax revenues for the first six months of the year have been in decline since 2002, the report stated, and that trend has continued in 2005.

"There is no conclusive evidence at this time that this decrease in revenue for 2005 can be solely attributed to the smoking ban," the report said. The 31-page document, outlined for the City Council on Monday night, represents the first attempt to gauge the fiscal effect of smoking bans imposed March 31 in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.

The potential impact to Bloomington, home of the Mall of America, was significant because

hospitality is its main industry — and because the City Council was the first metro government body to approve a smoking ban.

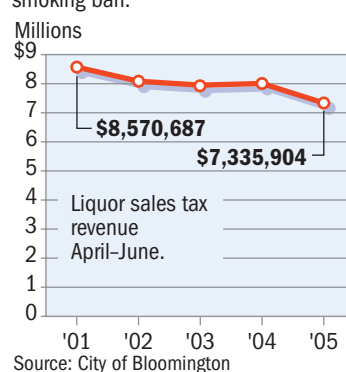
After an hour's testimony, it stood firm behind the city's ordinance, voting 6 to 1 to urge that a ban be enacted statewide and that the Hennepin County Board drop any notion of rolling back its smoking ban.

Council Member Steve Elkins said that it would appear that only "liquor, smoking and gambling" were on the decline in Bloomington, and that he had trouble seeing how seeking to rescue them "is a public policy problem."

**BAN continues on B5**

### Sloping sales

Bloomington liquor sales were declining even before this spring's smoking ban.



## Stolen SUV runs into car, killing one

Vehicle was fleeing police before the Arden Hills crash.

By **Chao Xiong**  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

A stolen sport-utility vehicle being pursued by police officers crashed head-on with a car Monday afternoon in Arden Hills, killing the car's driver and seriously injuring the driver of the SUV.

Dave Carlson and his son-in-law, Jeff Gosnell, who were landscaping their yard, said the vehicle was speeding northbound on Lake Johanna Boulevard at Stowe Avenue when it crossed the center line and slammed into a 1994 Taurus sedan traveling southbound.

"I saw this car coming down the street faster than I've ever seen," Carlson said of the SUV. "It was basically just a flash," Gosnell said.

Roseville police said the crash happened about 3:20 p.m. It was not known how long the chase lasted or how many officers were involved.

Police said the red 2004 GMC Envoy was stolen earlier Monday from North Memorial Medical Center in Robbinsdale. Police tried to stop it, but it fled. At one point, police said, the vehicle stopped and three women fled. They were arrested and are being held by police.

The crash spun the sedan around and crushed the front compartment to a third of its original size, Carlson and Gosnell said, adding that the SUV's front wheels were pushed back nearly flush with the back passenger doors.

The car's only occupant, a 36-year-old New Brighton woman, died at the scene, according to Roseville police. The driver of the SUV also was alone, they said. Officers pulled out their guns but put them away after they realized he was unconscious, Gosnell said.

The SUV driver was taken to Regions Hospital in St. Paul with potentially life-threatening injuries, authorities said. Authorities had not released any names as of Monday night.

Chao Xiong is at [cxiong@startribune.com](mailto:cxiong@startribune.com).

## Poised for a life of teaching



Joey McLeister/Star Tribune

College sophomore Nouchie Xiong taught public speaking at Mounds Park Academy in Maplewood under the Breakthrough St. Paul program.

A national program puts college students in front of a real, live class to experience an educator's rewards.

By **Patrice Relerford**  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Nouchie Xiong never thought 30 random kids would change her life. They did.

When she began teaching earlier this summer, the college sophomore was only 70 percent certain about a career in education. She knew that in a profession known for long hours, high turnover, low pay and loads of stress, 70 percent was not enough. But after six weeks with those 30 kids, "It's a hundred percent," Xiong said. "In fact, it's more than one hundred percent."

Now the challenge will be to see how she faces one of the big, bad wolves of teaching: a short shelf life. One-third of new teachers don't make it past their third year; one-half are gone after five, according to a University of Pennsylvania study.

When school starts this fall, school districts around the country may spend more than \$5 billion replacing the more than 394,000 teachers who will not return to the schools in which they taught last year, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education.

**TEACHING continues on B3**

### BREAKTHROUGH COLLABORATIVE

- The nationwide program aims to lower burnout rates among young teachers and increase the number of minority teachers.
- Breakthrough Collaborative programs are ranked among the top 10 internships in the nation by the Princeton Review.
- The local, tuition-free spinoffs — Breakthrough St. Paul and Learningworks at Blake — will begin accepting applications from aspiring teachers in October.
- Applications will be available for interested sixth-graders from the St. Paul and Minneapolis public schools beginning in November.
- For more information visit [www.breakthroughcollaborative.org](http://www.breakthroughcollaborative.org) or contact Jeff Ochs at 651-748-5504.

JOHN LUNDELL | 1953-2005

## Pioneer traffic radio reporter set the standard



Handout photograph

John Lundell's voice eased the pain for metro commuters.

By **Laurie Blake**  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

John Lundell, the friendly radio authority on metro-area traffic conditions, died Sunday of respiratory failure at his Minnetonka home.

After more than 20 years of radio reporting for Metro Traffic Control, Lundell most recently worked with his wife, Pam, on the Breakfast Club morning show at KLBB (1400 AM). He also was a familiar face on Twin Cities Public Television, where he appeared as a volunteer host for 71 membership pledge drives.

Lundell, 52, had been ill in recent years. He had gastric bypass surgery in 2001 and later was hospitalized with a form of paralysis. Last year he was



John Lundell

treated several times for pneumonia.

"He was kind of the first [traffic reporter] in this town and he set the standard," said Mike Mauren, a traffic reporter for KBEM-FM (88.5) radio.

His distinctive delivery was authoritative, personable and warm. As his wife put it: "You could hear the smile in his voice." Lundell met Pam when they were both working at Metro Traffic, and they married in 1994.

**LUNDELL continues on B7:**

— "John was the real deal."  
— He began traffic work in the '80s.

## D'Amico taking on new cuisine: Mexican

By **Rick Nelson**  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

After bringing Italian food to Minnesotans via their highly polished D'Amico Cucina, Campiello and D'Amico & Sons restaurants, the D'Amico & Partners culinary empire is taking on another cuisine: Mexican. Masa, a 140-seat restaurant and lounge, will open in late November at 1070 Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis.

"If someone told me 20 years ago — even last year — that I would be opening a Mexican restaurant in downtown Minneapolis, I would have had them hooked up to an IV," partner Richard D'Amico said with a laugh. "But here we go."

Jay Sparks, D'Amico & Partners executive chef, is promising contemporary Mexican cuisine that will focus on small plates and robust flavors, from halibut-potato soup with epazote and lime to roasted game hen with apricot-pine nut mole; prices will run \$5 to \$12 at lunch and up to \$23 at dinner.

**D'AMICO continues on B5**

### NEWS INSIDE

**Prescription drugs:** Prices continue to rise, but at a slightly slower pace. **B2**

**Anti-violence groups:** They'll share a \$370,000 grant to fight gang problems. **B7**

### COMMENTS

Questions, comments or complaints? Contact reader's representative Kate Parry at 612-673-4450 or [readerrep@startribune.com](mailto:readerrep@startribune.com).

### NEWS TIPS

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# AROUND THE METRO

News and information from the Twin Cities area

ST. PAUL | MAYOR'S RACE

## Kelly raises money with help from GOP, Chicago

By Jackie Crosby  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

DFL Mayor Randy Kelly of St. Paul basked Monday in the adoration of the state's top two GOP politicians — U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman and Gov. Tim Pawlenty — at an event whose headline act was Richard M. Daley, a Democratic mayor who came 350 miles from Chicago to raise money for the incumbent.

The unlikely partnership of political heavyweights from across state and party lines drew the attention of Kelly fans and foes alike.

Kelly's son and campaign manager, Ryan Kelly, said the 200 people who paid up to \$500 to attend the private event had responded to the mayor's desire to move beyond party labels.

"Democrats, Republicans and independents are coming here today because

they're willing to get behind the man who is willing to put partisan politics aside and work for the best of the community and get things done," he said.

But just across Summit Avenue from the home where Kelly was toasted, about 75 people held red, white and blue signs that read, "Republican Randy: We remember," a reference to Kelly's support for President Bush in 2004.

"We're all opposed to Randy Kelly to-

day," said Linda Bjorklund, who said she voted for Kelly in 2001.

Earlier Monday, Green Party mayoral candidate Elizabeth Dickinson held a news conference railing against Kelly's Republican ties and finding fault with his recently announced budget, in which he is seeking a 3 percent increase in the property tax levy, the first increase in more than a decade.

DFL challenger Chris Coleman's

campaign has also been beating a steady drumbeat of criticism against Kelly for his cozy relationship with Republicans, arguing that Bush has been responsible for cutting funding to city schools, eliminating community police officers and giving St. Paul short shrift in homeland security dollars.

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TEACHING from B1

## It's a chance to try the work in its purest form, director says

But the program that got Xiong from 70 to 100 percent thinks it may have the keys to improve those numbers, too.

The St. Paul spinoff of the nationwide Breakthrough Collaborative program began this summer at Mounds Park Academy in Maplewood, in partnership with the St. Paul public schools. Unlike other "real-life" classroom experiences, this one puts young teachers in an ideal setting. Classes are small and focused. Eight practice-teachers work with 32 high-potential, low-income students. Two staff members and two mentor teachers are there every day to help them. It's about as far as you can get from the classroom environment portrayed in movies like "Dangerous Minds."

"We give them a taste of what education can be like at its most pure form," said Jeff Ochs, 23, director of Breakthrough St. Paul.

If teaching at its purest form can give these young people a taste of how rewarding the work can be, the thinking is, the odds are better that they'll stick it out through those tough early years.

"We have a very leaky pipeline," said Thomas G. Carroll, president and executive director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. The effect is felt the most at schools with low-income students. "If teachers don't stay and create a stable learning environment, students don't stay either."

### She's not naive

Xiong is confident she won't be another leak.

"By the first few days I was like, 'this is it,'" she said.

Six weeks ago, she was turned on by the fact that 87 percent of the students taught in Breakthrough Collaborative programs around the country go on to college, a good number for low-income kids.

Now she's worried that 13 percent don't attend college. "I don't ever want them to underestimate themselves," Xiong said.

Xiong has made a heap of changes in just a few short weeks. She decided against being a pediatrician, committed herself to a career in education, and has even considering following in Ochs' footsteps and starting a similar, community-based education program after college. It all comes down to the fact that teaching just feels right.

It felt right when she read a student's essay naming her as one of their role models. "It makes me feel like I don't need a bonus; this is a bonus," Xiong said.

### Getting them there

Yet, despite the ideal setting, despite her dedication, despite her energy and intelligence, Xiong struggled to keep her English classes on schedule. Many of her 11- and 12-year-olds struggled with writing organized paragraphs, and that trickled down to other related concepts such as essays.

"They were at all different levels," Xiong said.

One morning during the last week of class, Xiong stood at the whiteboard. At 4 feet 11, barely taller than her students, she stretched her right arm to point to a list of assignments they still needed to finish before the week ended. Each assignment involved writing paragraphs or essays. She had to come up with something to break the writer's block.

Xiong told everyone to make stoplight diagrams with markers and construction paper. Each part of the stoplight showcased the three major types of sentences: topic, supporting and conclusion sentences.

"I knew we had to do something hands-on so they wouldn't be bored to death," she said.

Her persistence was an about-face from the beginning of the

## Summing it up

The eight teachers of Breakthrough St. Paul shared their views of the program that let them practice being teachers. A longer version of these interviews is available online at [www.startribune.com](http://www.startribune.com).

### ANNA DIBLEY



**Taught:** Social studies, French, drama  
**College:** University of Minnesota

**Major:** History  
I cannot honestly say that I was entirely looking forward to a full six weeks with 30 12-year-olds. I worried about how they would treat each

other, how they would treat me. Looking back, I find it hard to remember those feelings of dread. I would like to say that there was one moment in which I knew that everything was going to be fine, but the truth is there were a hundred such moments.

### DANIEL GIBSON



**Taught:** Science, theater improv, computer programming  
**College:** Stanford University  
**Majors:** Computer science, math

Every day we pushed kids to stretch themselves and present skits or work from class. By the end of the summer, the progress was astounding.

Kids who came into the program afraid and shy were willing to dance or act like a monkey on stage.

### MAREN MCMARTIN



**Taught:** Math, Top Shape, drawing  
**College:** University of Minnesota

**Major:** History  
Emotions flow like waves as a teacher. One moment you're confident that you've touched everyone in some sort of a positive way. In the next instant you can be knocked down by a negative attitude or a student that refuses to participate. Students are not afraid of telling you exactly what they think of you, which can be hurtful. It is incredibly important to know every inch of yourself, because this job requires you to self-regulate the daily highs and lows.

### DANA MUÑOZ



**Teaching:** English, art, newspaper  
**College:** University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Major:** Elementary education  
I have realized this summer that our children are not being pushed to reach their full potential in school. I have learned that if the bar is set

high enough, the kids will work hard to meet expectations. I feel blessed to have been chosen to teach at this program because I have learned at a young age many life lessons that unfortunately go unlearned by many adults.

summer.

"My biggest fear was them not liking me at first. Then it shifted to me not caring about that."

Now it's all about how much they've learned. She's acting like a teacher already.

One afternoon Xiong worked with Kalina Nelson-Pfeiffer, 12, on an assignment for a history class. She stopped just short of busting out one of the official tools of all teachers — a red pen.

"I think this would be stronger if this sentence went here," Xiong said as she pointed to Kalina's thesis sentence.

Each student's work was compiled in a portfolio that will serve as a way for Breakthrough teachers and staff to monitor the students' progress throughout the two years they've committed to the program. Like the portfolios, Xiong knows she'll also be around until the students graduate from Breakthrough St. Paul or beyond.

Xiong plans to keep teaching

with Breakthrough into the fall, when it meets some Saturdays. She has about three years left in college and hopes to graduate with degrees in English and communications from the College of St. Catherine.

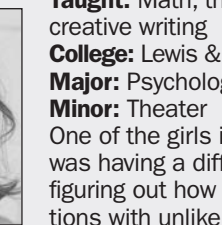
The students she taught this summer are from nine elementary schools in St. Paul, but Xiong plans to stay in touch. All of them know her cell and home phone numbers.

Xiong knows that the summer classrooms weren't just the ideal setting for her, but for her students, too. She worries about what they may lose after this summer.

"Now they're going to go off to middle school and we won't necessarily know what type of teachers they'll have," Xiong said. "I don't want them to have teachers who won't push them. I'm so afraid they'll fall into that trap."

The trap is boredom. Xiong knows that in a typical school environment, students don't share the stage with their teachers in skits about superheroes, or read socially

### PONDIE NICHOLSON



**Taught:** Math, theater improv, creative writing  
**College:** Lewis & Clark College  
**Major:** Psychology

**Minor:** Theater  
One of the girls in my class was having a difficult time figuring out how to add fractions with unlike denominators. She asked me if I would

help her. We spent all of Tutorial writing on the white board tricks about how to add unlike denominators. As I walked her to the bus she said to me, "Pondie, I get it. I understand fractions. I have never understood fractions before because my teacher would always go too fast." She brought tears to my eyes.

### KIERAN PALMER-KLEIN

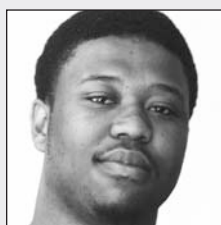


**Taught:** Science, bird watching, Top Shape  
**College:** Macalester College  
**Major:** Biology

I knew within the first week of the kids arriving that teaching was something that I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Getting up in front of the students to

teach a class was like nothing I'd ever experienced. It felt incredible, especially when the lesson that I had designed was working. I found myself hopping out of bed in the morning, excited about coming to work for the first time in my life.

### LANSINÉ TOURÉ



**Taught:** Social studies, Hip Hop, newspaper  
**College:** Marquette University

**Major:** History  
This is one of the best summers that I have had in my 21 years of existence. I came into this job having a general concern for our

future (the kids). Next year I really want to come back. I feel I have so much more to offer this group of students. They make me feel excited that I have had a positive hand in their lives.

### NOUCHIE XIONG



**Taught:** English, public speaking, drama  
**College:** College of St. Catherine

**Major:** English, communication studies, education  
**Minor:** Theater  
I never thought it possible to give myself more and more each day to help and push

students to reach their unlimited potential — not their best or their greatest, but their unlimited potential of success.

conscious books that tackle the subject of interracial relationships, or work one-on-one with a teacher to act out their interpretation of a passage from Romeo and Juliet. She enjoyed that freedom.

So did 12-year-old Cortez Adams, who will enter seventh grade at Humboldt Junior High in the fall. He said it was great to have a college-age teacher, and he liked doing research on universities for the mock-college fair. He knows he wants to go to college, too. "I liked that the teachers were learning as we were learning," Adams said. "We had fun with it."

As for Xiong, what she wants to do after college is now more clear.

"I can't predict the future, but in the way that I love education and children, I can't walk away from teaching," Xiong said. "I'll yearn to teach for the rest of my life. It's part of my identity now."

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MOUNDS VIEW | MEDTRONIC DEAL

## Opinion from city attorney may derail petition drive

By Mary Lynn Smith  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Mounds View residents opposed to a city land sale that would make way for a \$65 million Medtronic corporate campus rushed to City Hall on Monday with petitions calling for a referendum on the land deal.

But the monthlong signature campaign could be all for naught.

The council may have no choice but to reject the petitions because the land sale can't be subjected to a referendum, according to a five-page memo from the city's attorney to the City Council. Pushing ahead with a referendum could open the city to lawsuits from Medtronic or others, explained attorney Scott Riggs.

Most council members said Monday they are inclined to follow his advice. "I was sworn in to uphold state statute," said Council Member Roger Stigney.

But petition organizers disagree with the attorney's opinion and want voters to have a say on the land deal. They argue that the city isn't asking enough for the city's 72-acre golf course, and they criticize a financing plan that keeps the city from reaping all the tax proceeds from the development for 25 years.

"I'm sure [the attorney] has dotted every I and crossed every T," said Barbara Haake, one of the leaders of the petition drive. "But the real question here is whether the City Council is representing Medtronic or the citizens of Mounds View. ... The City Council is selected by the citizens. ... These are the people they have to listen to."

City Council Member Barbara Thomas said residents have already had a lot to say on the deal. "There have been more public meetings and efforts on this than anything that has come before the city in the last two decades," she said.

And the petition process continued the community discussion, Thomas said. While petition organizers canvassed the city with their own fact sheets on the land sale, city officials countered on the city's website.

The council approved the Medtronic deal on a 4-1 vote in June. Proponents called the project a once-in-a-lifetime deal, pointing to a state-of-the-art facility that would bring about 3,200 employees in its first phase and eventually employ nearly 6,000 workers.

Although most council members have read the opinion, they also said Monday they have additional questions. They plan to discuss the attorney's opinion at their meeting next week.

The city also will have to verify the signatures on the petitions to ensure they are from valid Mounds View voters.

"We've spoken to the citizens, and we feel we have vast support," said Rich Fischer, a Medtronic spokesman. "We believe the council made a choice, and we're confident that they'll stick with us."

Mary Lynn Smith is at [mlsmith@startribune.com](mailto:mlsmith@startribune.com).

## Dakota County has new court security measures

Dakota County's new court security system began operating Monday as deputies screened all non-staff people entering the courthouse in Hastings.

"It went relatively smoothly," said District Judge Ed Lynch, a member of the project's planning committee. "During the morning rush it was a little backed up because the machine is real sensitive and they had to use wands with a number of people," he said.

Officials said concern about national security and court shootings like the one in the Hennepin County Government Center in 2003 prompted the new system. Dakota became the fourth courthouse in the metro-area to screen people coming into the courts area, officials said. Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties also have full-time security systems.

Dakota's system cost about \$250,000 for equipment, remodeling and a new guard position at the main entry to the courthouse, said Taud Hoopinger, county operations director.

Jim Adams