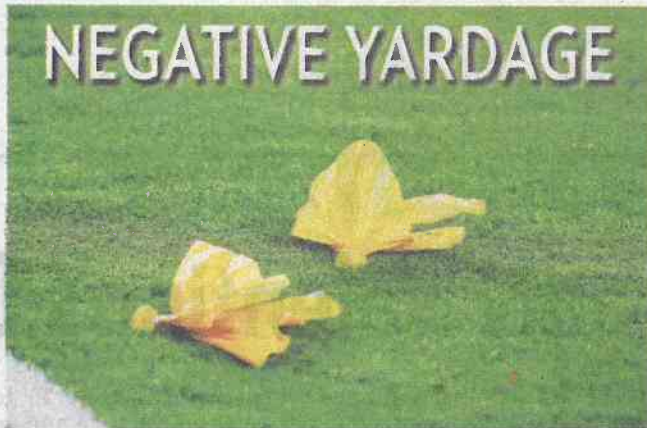


protect his son when gun-
fire erupted. The boy was

NEGATIVE YARDAGE



With 12 infractions
Sunday, the
Vikings rank
third among
NFL's more
penalized teams

SPORTS, 6B

Theater
review:
Penumbra's
'Pipeline' is
an important
look at family
and race

LIFE, 1C

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EXHIBIT

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TUESDAY

Media News Group NEWSPAPER

> CLASSIFIED, PAGE 6C

★ OCTOBER 8, 2019



JOHN AUTEY / PIONEER

Twins fans Cory Nygaard, from left, Sara Lovitt and Megan Lovitt cheer at Game 3 of Monday's American League Division Series against the New York Yankees at Target Field in Minneapolis. The Yankees swept the Twins in the series, winning the final game 5-1. Coverage in Sports.

Midway gas station no laughing matter

Local comedian draws attention to St. Paul crime spot

By Frederick Melo
fmelo@pioneerpress.com

For months, if not years, residents have complained about loiterers, suspicious sales and shots fired at and around the Midway BP gas station at Hamline and University avenues, the scene of a fatal shooting last June.

On Saturday and Sunday nights, with her own son's well-being in mind, a St. Paul comedian took matters into her own hands, only to receive an unexpected assist from law enforcement.

Performer Shay Webbie, who bills herself on social media as "Black+Talented=Dangerously-Funny," broadcast her one-woman crime protest live from the Midway BP gas pumps on both Saturday and Sunday nights via Facebook.

Before long, nearly two dozen supporters had joined her. They

included community organizer Johnny Howard, school board candidate Chauntyl Allen, Pastor Darryl Spence of the God Squad, a Snelling Avenue clothing store owner, St. Paul police officers and other neighborhood folks.

"I never knew it would reach ... so many people," said Webbie on Facebook, talking to a supporter. "It's something I do when I'm frustrated. I go live."

Sunday evening, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher came to hang out by the pumps, as well.

"It takes a community to change what's going on. ... If you're not out here physically, you're not making change," Webbie said in one of her updates on Facebook, adding later, "The support is amazing."

She then introduced herself to someone off camera, explaining, "When you come here, typically, there's eight or nine kids hanging out, plus the crack heads ... And nobody's doing nothing about it. My kid hangs out here. His friends hang out here. Other kids and people are selling them weed. They're

MIDWAY STATION, 8A

Airport checkpoint reopens for MEA week

Popular school days off spur change in MSP schedule

By Molly Guthrey
mguthrey@pioneerpress.com

The mid-October Minnesota school break tradition known as MEA is such a big deal that an international airport needs to accommodate for it.

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport has adjusted its remodeling plan and is reopening Terminal 1's south security checkpoint to all ticket holders about two months earlier than planned, in time to handle the expected rush of travelers for the long school holiday weekend. The checkpoint's partial closure has led to some long wait times since it began in mid-August.

"Many Minnesota schools will close Oct. 16, 17 and 18 for the annual Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA) Conference in St. Paul, giving families a chance for one last trip before winter

sets in," the Metropolitanports Commission state news release. "Minneapolis Paul International Airport will be particularly busy as a result and plans are underway to ensure travelers have a smooth experience."

Actually, according to the website, it is now only a one-day conference, held at the Sheraton Center on the third Thursday of October each year. "Terminal 1 is no longer closed Friday to accommodate for it. According to MEA, however, whatever the official schedule is, the third Thursday of October has become an extended 4-day weekend for quite a while as well as colleges (some schools take long room breaks for conference and other in-district needs).

At the airport, beginning Monday, all travelers will be required to choose either the North or South checkpoints in Terminal 1. Use of the south checkpoint had been reserved for travelers with TSA PreCheck since 2019 due to a nearby construction project that was expected to be completed by the end of the year.

CHECKPOINT RE

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EXHIBIT
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CONTINUED FROM 1A

> Midway station

buying drugs. These kids belong at home, in bed, especially because it's after curfew. And they don't say 'leave.' They let them in the store."

Webbie at one point responds to critical comments from a handful of young men who are leaning against a car smoking and yelling, "I'm being weird? Because I'm protecting my neighborhood from goons like you?"

13-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S ARREST

In an interview with the Pioneer Press last month, gas station owner Khaled Aloul of Bloomington said he's not responsible for crime in the neighborhood, and blamed police for not doing more to keep his customers safe.

At the urging of the St. Paul City Attorney's office, the Department of Safety and Inspections and St. Paul Police, the St. Paul City Council is reviewing the possibility of terminating the Midway BP gas station's licenses to sell gas and tobacco. St. Paul Police have stepped up their

surveillance of the station, but not without incident.

Police recently encountered a 13-year-old girl who had been warned not to return to the store and then followed her into a nearby UPS store, where her difficult arrest was videotaped by a clerk, who later resigned.

The girl's mother has acknowledged that the girl has behavior issues, but she called the level of violence used on the girl — who was pinned face-down by the three officers — excessive. An internal investigation is underway.

"How can I save my son from being the next balloon statue and parade of flowers that are left out? ... Let's say my son is shot and killed by a cop, then Black Lives Matter steps in," Webbie said into the camera. "Help him before my son is dead ... There are a lot of kids that are out here struggling."

SHERIFF WEIGHS IN

Fletcher, in an interview on Monday, said Ramsey County opened a curfew center on St. Peter Street in St. Paul during his first term as sheriff in the late 1990s.

The center, which housed teens who had been picked up by police for being out after city curfew until their parents could come get them, closed after he left office in

2011. During the national economic downturn of 2008-2009, many other departments also closed curfew centers.

"It would be great if we could reopen it at some point," Fletcher said. "The goal of the curfew center was always to get kids the help they need. The curfew center was staffed with outreach workers and members of the St. Paul Youth Services Bureau, that could help determine what was going on with the families. It was never a punitive concept."

Fletcher, however, said simply reopening a building and hoping for the best isn't enough.

"First, there has to be some agreement, and this is what I found last night: a broad group of diverse people has to agree that it's not good for kids 12 to 13 to be hanging out at the corner of Hamline and University late at night," he said. "The question is, what do we do with those kids? Many of these kids are essentially homeless, sleeping on couches of other people. We have to have programs in place so it doesn't become a revolving door."

Frederick Melo can be reached at 651-228-2172 and fmelo@pioneerpress.com, or on Twitter at @FrederickMelo.

CONTINUED FROM 1A

> Checkpoint reopens

continue until mid-December.

MAC has "altered construction phasing" and is "returning both checkpoints to their pre-Aug. 19 status two months earlier than planned," so that the project won't affect checkpoints going forward, according to MAC. There will also be more staff available to direct travelers to the correct line.

In addition, Checkpoint 10, located between the Blue and Red parking ramps and opening onto the skyway connecting Concourses C and G, is now also available for passengers who only have carry-on bags, according to MAC. The checkpoint is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Delta Air Lines now has

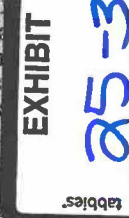
two check-in options on the east upper level roadway adjacent to the parking facility and across from Terminal 1. The airline moved Sky Cap services to the east curb, operating from 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. seven days a week. A new east-curb check-in facility is also available from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily.

MSP AIRPORT ATTRACTIONS

If you end up spending more time at the airport, at least it might be more fun: Between 4 and 7 p.m. Oct. 16, families can enjoy a balloon artist, face painting and giveaways in Terminal 1, outside Stone Arch restaurant in the airport mall. From 5 to 8 a.m. Oct. 17, there will be a balloon artist and giveaways in Terminal 2 near gates H7 and H8. From 1 to 3 p.m. that day, a magician will perform in Terminal 1 near Stone Arch restaurant. A balloon artist will also perform from 1 to 3

p.m. again. A restaurant, a concession stand, including the Gate Ox, on the north side of airport mall, near entrance to Concourse C. Travelers in a hurry order online through new apps for iPhone and Android: At Your Gate offers food from participating restaurants, while Gate allows travelers to order their food before air check-in and security processing and then pick it up on the way to their gate.

Molly Guthrey can be reached at 651-228-5505 and mguthrey@pioneerpress.com



CONTINUED FROM 1A

> Impeachment inquiry

The efforts reflect the deepening distrust between Democrats running the impeachment inquiry of Trump and their GOP colleagues they see as fully invested in defending a president who has attacked the whistleblowers' credibility and demand

2020 election and by withholding military assistance provided by Congress to help Ukraine counter Russian aggression, as well as any efforts to cover up these matters," lawmakers said in a letter.

Signing the letter were

gave this information, was largely incorrect, to "Whistleblower," "Tweated. "Was this pe SPYING on the U.S. President? Big Consequences! Andrew Bakaj, a lawyer representing the whistleblower, sent a letter to a director of national intelligence Joseph Ma expressing fears for his client's safety. Bakaj also i