



# Luck hasn't found Joe

Think Twins' star hitter is having a bad year? Statistics show he's mostly having bad luck. Sports, Page 1C

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# PIONEER PRESS

## SUNDAY

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## Dads, take a bow ... and throw a strike

These fathers earned glowing reviews from their children and a day at Target Field

By Molly Guthrey  
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by the National Center for Fathering.

A crowd of thousands cheered for Perry Thinesen at Target Field last weekend as he waited to throw out the first pitch.

Thinesen, 49, of Cokato, Minn., wasn't on the field to help the Minnesota Twins defeat the Houston Astros. He had just been named the 2014 Minnesota Father of the Year

A very tough critic had nominated him for this honor: his 13-year-old daughter.

"My dad," wrote Katrina Thinesen in her prize-winning essay, "is forever a perfect example of love to me."

As the newly crowned Father of the Year, Perry Thinesen got to throw out the first pitch at the Twins' game. Like most typical Minnesota

dads, he was a bit embarrassed by all the fuss.

"I'm like anyone else," Thinesen said. "I am far from a perfect dad or a perfect husband."

This contest, though, is not about perfection.

It's about being there. And, he is. Every day.

YOUNG ESSAY WRITERS

The National Center for

Fathering, based just outside Kansas City, Kan., started its Father of the Year celebration and the "What My Father Means to Me" essay contest in 1992 as a way to raise awareness about the importance of fathering.

In the 22 years since, the contest has given a voice to more than 1 million school-age children and baseball

FATHER'S DAY, 10A >

TOP GRADS 2014 > SECTION E



PIONEER PRESS: JOHN AUTEY

Sheenah Myla Vang, left, hugs Moe San Wai before the Highland Park High School graduation ceremony on June 4. They will attend different colleges, but both in St. Paul.

## Baghdad braces for militants' next move

For 2nd day, rebels stall 60 miles from capital

By Rod Nordland and Alissa J. Rubin  
New York Times

BAGHDAD — A rebel juggernaut that captured Iraq's second-largest city and raced nearly 200 miles south in three days, raising fears of an imminent assault on Baghdad, stalled for a second day Saturday about 60 miles north of the capital, leaving residents bracing for a siege that so far has not happened.

While some Baghdad residents scrambled to leave, hoarded food or rushed to join auxiliary militias to defend the city, the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and their allies halted their advance within a two-hour drive to the north.

BAGHDAD WAITS, 8A >

## School tech experts: Plan, then buy

St. Paul to unveil iPad initiative on June 24

By Mila Koumpilova  
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As the St. Paul school district sets out to give an iPad to each student, it can find lessons and cautionary tales — in its own experience and those of a growing number of digitally minded districts.

The district is putting the finishing touches to a leasing deal with Apple: Half of its almost 70 schools will provide a tablet to each student in the fall; the rest will follow suit in 2015.

The news sparked questions: What will the technology cost? Is the district ready?

Some districts in Minnesota and elsewhere are starting to build a case that, with thoughtful planning and training, technology can help

APPLE IPAD DEAL, 7A >

ON THE GREEN LINE • OPENING DAY

# And they're off

The Green Line light-rail trains opened for business on Saturday, and more than 45,000 took to the rails. For many, it was a chance to be a part of history; for others, it was a simple mission: to get somewhere.



PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS: JOHN AUTEY

Hundreds of people line up at Union Depot Station in St. Paul on the opening day of the Green Line light-rail train route.

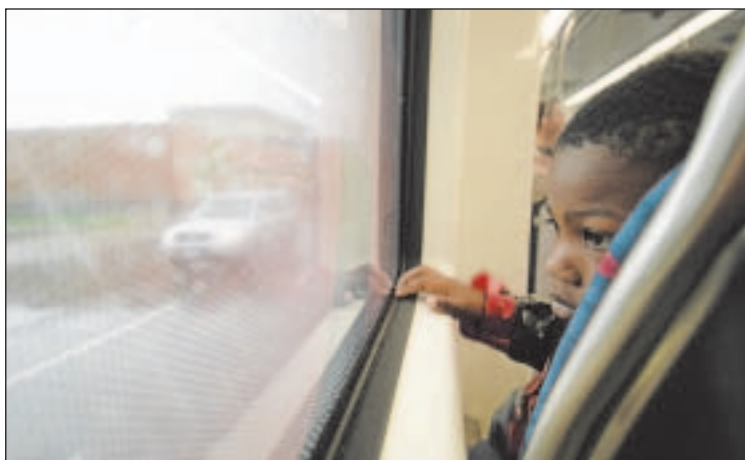
By Elizabeth Hernandez and Elizabeth Mohr  
Pioneer Press

Like many Minnesota commuters, Stanley Gordon West rode a Green Line train for the first time on Saturday's opening day. He had been waiting to board for about fifty years.

West, 82, lives in Shakopee but grew up in St. Paul in the 1940s and '50s. He was an avid commuter on the streetcars that ran throughout St. Paul, Minneapolis and beyond.

While he said the Green Line "was a lot more fancy," he looked nostalgically out the window as the train made its way through St. Paul on Saturday and said, "The farther we go, the more I see places I used to go. They're still here."

Saturday marked the grand opening of the Green Line light rail, a \$957 million transit project that connects the Twin Cities' downtowns.



Four-year-old Marcell Obi-Walker of St. Paul looks out an eastbound train's window at University Avenue. Marcell and his sister and mother were returning home from a shopping trip to the Target store near University and Hamline avenues.

The trains will run 24 hours a day, shuttling riders the 11 miles between Union Depot in St. Paul to Target Field Station in Minneapolis. It's the metro area's second

light-rail line. The first, the Blue Line, began service in 2004 and stretches from Target Field to the Mall of America in Bloomington.

While rain and damaging winds

prompted the early cancellation of most opening day festivities, the line's debut was largely without problems, according to Metro Transit spokesman John Siqveland.

"The weather was a little discouraging, but it didn't dissuade our riders. We had 45,000 during the first eight hours of service, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.," Siqveland said. "Our station celebrations, we had to wrap them up a little early, but Union Depot just kept going until all the music acts wrapped up. We had hundreds of people in there all day."

There were no mechanical or technical issues with the trains, though there was a "slight disturbance" about 3:30 p.m. when a woman drove her vehicle onto the tracks and got stuck near 12th and Minnesota streets in St. Paul, Siqveland said. "We were able to get trains around her while we

GREEN LINE OPENING DAY, 6A >

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