

STATE OF WONDERS
Prairie explodes to life after a long winter's sleep **TRAVEL**



TOP WORKPLACES
Newcomers and perennials top state list **SPECIAL SECTION**

Save up to **\$602** with our coupons

StarTribune

76°/62°
Waterlogged
Rains early, then drier. **B14**

JUNE 15, 2014 **Sunday** STARTRIBUNE.COM

A RAIL of 2 CITIES



Photos by DAVID JOLES • david.joles@startribune.com
The first trains on the Green Line prepared to leave St. Paul's Union Station. They ran about 11 minutes late, thanks to politicians' speeches.

It was the best of times Saturday as light-rail trains began the historic connection between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis

By CURT BROWN, KEVIN DUCHSCHERE and JIM ANDERSON • Star Tribune staff writers

From her eastbound train humming through the Minneapolis Warehouse District, Ruth Porter said she expected her inaugural Green Line ride Saturday to become the first of many trips to St. Paul.

It's taken all of her 94 years for the retired hardware store clerk from northeast Minneapolis to warm up to the notion of regular visits to that other twin city.

"I remember getting motion sickness from the smoky streetcars as a girl, so I'd only get to St. Paul two or three times a year to visit Como Park," she said. "But this is so easy and such a smooth ride, I think a lot of us will probably start exploring the other city more often now."

After 30 years of talk and \$957 million of public money, that's precisely what transportation planners and giddy elected officials hope for as the Twin Cities' second light-rail line began connecting the two downtowns, the University of Minnesota and myriad neighborhoods amid a rain-soaked series of speeches, concerts and free rides along the 11-mile route. More than 45,000 riders jumped on the



Mayors Chris Coleman of St. Paul and Betsy Hodges of Minneapolis shared the historic moment Saturday at St. Paul's Union Depot.

A guide to the Green Line

Use our illustrated, interactive map to chart the route at <http://strib.mn/getonboard>.



The Amazing Race

Monday online and Tuesday in print we time the commute — via rail, bus, bike, car.

trains between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., far exceeding what's expected to be normal Saturday ridership. Operators were swamped at Metro Transit's service center with calls about light rail and revamped bus service, Metro Transit spokesman John Siqveland said.

The first Green Line train left Union Depot 11 minutes behind schedule Saturday morning, thanks to politicians at the ribbon-cutting ceremony who were still talking at 10 a.m. when the train was scheduled to go.

"This is about having a transportation system ... that connects the hearts of two great cities," said U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, "that connects families and friends whether they're on Western Avenue or Hennepin Avenue."

"Now, finally, after all these speeches, it's ready to roll," Gov. Mark Dayton said.

Half the funding for the line came from the federal government, with the rest divided among the state and local governments. About a dozen sign-carrying protesters along University Avenue in Frogtown complained that the money could have been better spent, and others grumbled when the first Green Line trains rolled late and wind and rain scuttled much of the festivities.

See **GREEN LINE** on A12 ▶

Housing market is back in overdrive

Some homes selling for more than asking price, and quickly.

By JIM BUCHTA
jim.buchta@startribune.com

Twin Cities homes are selling twice as fast as they did three years ago as buyers race to beat rising prices — and one another.

One-fifth of all houses sold for more than the asking price last month and one-fourth sold within two weeks of hitting the market, according to Redfin, a national real estate brokerage.

As the summer gets into full swing, some houses are moving so quickly — the typical Twin Cities house sold in 80 days vs. 160 three years ago — that sellers sometimes are shocked by the sudden resolution. "It was just unbelievable," said Greg Brink, who sold his house in Golden Valley days before it hit the market.

This burst of activity is happening amid growing concerns about the pace of the recovery, as sales are down compared with last year. Agents say a brutal winter and fewer investors are partly to blame for the decline, but a lack of move-in-ready houses plays a huge role.

"The lack of supply is really starting to weigh on consumers and on sales numbers," said Emily Green, president of the Minneapolis Area Association
See **HOMES** on A10 ▶

25% houses that sold within 2 weeks
20% sold for more than asking price



AYMAN OGHANNA • New York Times
Members of a militia formed to defend Baghdad brandished their weapons.

Iraq braces as U.S. carrier is sent to Gulf

Insurgents are 60 miles from Baghdad, defensive militias form.

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 militias to defend the city, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and its allies halted their advance. There was no indication that they planned to push into Baghdad.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered the aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush to sail into the Persian Gulf on Saturday, positioning the vessel and its warplanes closer to Iraq, Pentagon officials said.

See **IRAQ** on A5 ▶

25 years later, missing teen finally is sought

By KELLY SMITH • kelly.smith@startribune.com

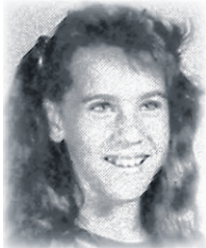
On a quiet Saturday evening in 1989, a police officer was called to a Maple Grove house on a routine report of a teen runaway. He interviewed the parents. And the report was filed, drawing little police, public or media attention.

Now, 25 years later, dozens of FBI investigators, state forensic scientists and police officers are intensifying work on an unsolved mystery: What happened to Amy Sue Pagnac?

The 13-year-old, who vanished after a trip to her family's central Minnesota farm, would now be 38, and her birthday Sunday is a reminder to her family and classmates of a case they say never got the attention it deserved — until now.

"It's another year where she's not present," her mother, Susan Pagnac, said Friday while going through Amy's childhood photos. "You focus on all

See **MISSING** on All ▶



'ANOTHER YEAR WHERE SHE'S NOT PRESENT'

Amy Sue Pagnac, shown in her year-book photo from seventh grade at Osseo Junior High in 1988-89, was 13 when she disappeared. Today is her 38th birthday.

Capitol headaches pushing politicians to county boards

By PATRICK CONDON
patrick.condon@startribune.com

If Republicans were to gain the state House majority in November, Rep. Mary Liz Holberg was poised to become one of the Capitol's most powerful players. Instead, she's trading in 16 years of legislative influence to run for a seat on the Dakota County Board, which offers a lower profile but a fatter paycheck.

"Let's say we're back in the majority," said Holberg, of Lakeville, reflecting on a top goal of the state GOP in 2014. "I painted the most perfect picture of what that could mean for me, and I still couldn't get excited about coming

back. It became really clear to me it was time to leave."

It's the Minnesota Legislature's version of brain drain. A number of high-profile and influential legislators are trading the lofty policy debates, high-stakes budgeting, demanding schedule and chaotic politics of the Legislature for the comparatively staid and decidedly unglamorous world of county government.

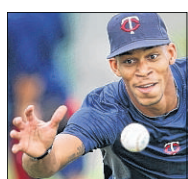
In addition to Holberg, Rep. Mike Beard, R-Shakopee, will run for a commissioner's seat in Scott County. Five former legislators also are running for county board posts — four DFLers and one

See **COUNTY** on A10 ▶

BUSINESS
Residents reshaping retail in downtown
A boom in upscale dwellers is opening doors for stores. **D1**



SPORTS
Sidelined by injury, Buxton bidding time
He's one of two top Twins prospects trying to heal. **C1**



VARIETY
The magic of first-time fatherhood
Five new dads share some of their intimate thoughts. **E1**



INSIDE
Political leanings
Glen Taylor's campaign giving tilts toward GOP. **B1**
Medtronic merger?
HQ could go overseas. **A7**