



Rookie divers giving Gators a boost, 1B

How does this scene end with a kiss?, 7A



# Northfield News

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## Funds flow for city events

By SUZANNE ROOK  
srook@northfieldnews.com

While events like Defeat of Jesse James Days are months away, organizers are already at work, prepping for 2011.

But to do so, they need to know how much money they've got to spend. And that includes in-kind services from the city.

"January is contract season," said Shelley Brady, who served as DJJD general chair for the last two years.

On Tuesday, the council, in a 5-2 vote, authorized \$42,000 worth of in-kind services for community events in 2011. That's about \$10,000 more than was approved in 2010, but slightly less than what was expended. Councilors Kris Vohs and Susie Nakasian voted against the motion.

Vohs expressed concern that the council was approving additional expenditures when it's reducing the remainder of the city's budget.

"This is the first council meeting (of the year)," he said, "and you do this too many times and it adds up."

In April, the council instituted its community events program designed to limit costs incurred to the city by nonprofit groups which use its facilities, staff and resources to stage their events. In all, about \$32,000 was budgeted by the city for the events. But costs were higher than the groups predicted.

Some groups were charged for the additional costs, and some were not, leading several city departments to absorb about \$10,000 in services they

ON THE WEB

Did the council make the right decision in allotting \$42,000 for community events? Let us know what you think in our online poll.

See COUNCIL, 8A

### WASHINGTON, D.C.



### GREEN BAY



### PHILADELPHIA



Photos courtesy of Robert Reffkin

## One in a million

New Yorker's pit stop at St. Olaf indoor marathon Sunday is his 42nd out of 50 marathons en route to raising \$1 million for nonprofits

By SHANE KITZMAN • skitzman@northfieldnews.com

Robert Reffkin knows what has helped make him the man he is today. A man who at just 31 years old, leads a hectic but successful life working investments on Wall Street.

Sounds like the stereotypical type-A individual who drove himself to the top on his very own, but it's not.

Reffkin says he's forever grateful for the three nonprofits that pushed him and gave him the tools to get to where he is now. And where he'll be Sunday is running in the sixth annual Zoom! Yah! Yah! indoor marathon at St. Olaf's Tostrud Athletic Center trying to give back.

The 26.21 miles he'll traverse indoors Sunday will be his 42nd marathon in as many states. Reffkin's aiming to run one marathon in each state with the ultimate goal of raising \$1 million dollars for

his beloved nonprofits.

"I just felt this has been a great way to raise money for nonprofits I care about," he said. "It's a wonderful way to do something that helps organizations that do a lot of good in the world."

Running about one marathon a month beginning in 2007, Reffkin has dodged mammoth sequoia trees in Seattle and has trotted across the tundra, a.k.a. the Green Bay Packers' Lambeau Field. He hopes to finish his 50 marathons by 2012, and

with more than \$700,000 already pledged, he's confident he'll get to seven figures. If he doesn't, he said he'll make up the difference himself.

Reffkin refers monetary pledges to his website, runningtosupportyoungdreams.com, where donations can be made by clicking links to the specific nonprofits. And from there the nonprofit lets Reffkin know how much is being donated in association with his marathon fundraiser.

See MARATHONER, 8A

"I am a pretty lucky guy, I am healthy and prosperous and I'm keenly aware of the fact that I did not achieve all this by myself... Now it is my turn to reach out to young people and make a difference in their lives."

— Robert Reffkin, aiming to raise \$1 million for nonprofits by running 50 marathons in 50 states

### ▶ The Zoom! Yah! Yah! file

Set for 6:30 a.m. Sunday at St. Olaf's Tostrud Athletic Center with the first runner finishing around 9:30 a.m.

The indoor marathon is in its six year and is held so that local runners don't have to spend too much money traveling to warm locations to run marathons in the winter months.

The marathon's name is a play on words off the St. Olaf "Um Yah Yah" chant and the "zoom" is used so runners could run a marathon with every letter in the alphabet.

Admission is free, and the 44 participants will run 150 laps on the 282-meter course to complete the 26.21-mile marathon.

### ▶ What's Robert Reffkin doing?

Reffkin is running 50 marathons in as many states to fundraise \$1 million for the very nonprofits that helped him get to where he is today — working investments on Wall Street.

Reffkin has more than \$700,000 pledged and should he not make it to \$1 million, he said he'll make up the difference himself.

### ▶ Interested in learning more or donating?

Visit Reffkin's website, runningtosupportyoungdreams.com

## Northfield couple files suit against people-search website

By JERRY SMITH  
jerry.smith@northfieldnews.com

Isaac and Mika Turner are angry.

For the better part of a year, the Northfield couple says they have been "deceived" by a popular people-search website owned by Washington state-based Intelius. The Turners claim they were signed up for a service they never wanted, and then charged for that service.

The Northfield couple decided to do something about it recently, hoping their efforts will not only get their

money back from the company, but also prevent other Minnesotans from falling prey as well.

The Turners filed a class action suit in December, alleging that Intelius deceived them into signing up for an identity theft protection service when they thought they were paying \$1.95 to get an unlisted phone number. Isaac Turner thought he was merely looking up a friend's unlisted number when he provided his credit card information to the company.

According to the lawsuit, after Isaac Turner entered his

credit card information, a misleading screen popped up that Turner thought was prompting him to click through to get the information he sought. In reality, he was agreeing to pay for an identity-theft protection service.

Turner was never billed for the \$1.95 purchase, but said he didn't discover what he had signed up for until he had incurred \$239.40 in charges.

"We were never notified of our enrollment in the ID Protect service and did not receive any billing notices," said Mika Turner in a state-

ment. "We discovered all of these facts about a year later, when I asked my husband what the weird \$19.95 charge was that I kept seeing in our bills."

"We discovered that they were effectively stealing \$19.95 from our bank account for a year without our approval, through shady 'adaptive' marketing strategies."

Dori Handy, a Minneapolis lawyer representing the couple, believes the Turners have a strong case, especially considering Intelius recently agreed to pay \$1.3 million

to settle a similar complaint filed on behalf of 20,000 customers who were charged for monthly services.

"I definitely think they are on solid ground saying Intelius took their information and misused it," said Handy, who noted that similar lawsuits also have been filed against the company in California and Georgia. "The company didn't have the defense of saying it didn't know this was happening because of the other pending lawsuits."

While the Turners have a vested interest in the lawsuit, they also hope it will raise

awareness in Northfield and the state.

"What makes me angriest about Intelius' practices is that they are in my opinion knowingly stealing from people and that their corporate leaders are well aware of this fact," Mika Turner said in her statement. "I hope that we can raise awareness of Intelius' practices and get the money that has been taken from Minnesotans returned to those who have been affected by their practices."

— Reach Jerry Smith at 507-645-1136.

### ▶ Coming up

Basil's Pizza celebrates 50 years in Northfield.

### ▶ Good News

The Raiders' DECA Club sends six members to state competition.

### ▶ Deaths, 5A

Luke Faust, 45  
Mavis Nelson, 89

### ▶ Contact Us

Main Line: 507-645-5615  
Newsroom: 507-645-1113  
Sports: 507-645-1111



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# Marathoner: Takes a run at a million

From Page 1A

Visitors to his site have five nonprofits to choose from. The first three, which helped Reffkin along the way, are: A Better Chance (ABC), which refers students of color to the nation's finest schools for placement and financial aid; The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), which helps young people from low-income communities improve their business, academic and life skills; and Summer Search, which provides low-income high school students with mentoring and life-changing summer experiences.

The final two nonprofits are organizations in which he serves on the board: New York Needs You, which helps first generation college students realize their career aspirations; and Citizens Committee for NYC, which helps young people lead community service projects while enhancing career prospects.

"I believe marathons are the most positive gathering of people," he said. "That's why I chose them for my fundraiser. Everyone that's running is generally running for something positive

and people who are watching are cheering on their loved ones."

## Running the 'famous' Zoom! Yah! Yah!

He said he chose the Zoom! Yah! Yah! because it's "famous" and "amazing," in addition to being one of the only races he knows of that takes place indoors.

Interested in seeing Reffkin run or the race itself? Admission is free and the race starts at 6:30 a.m. Sunday. A race-record high of 44 runners, from as many as 13 different states (including a runner from Madrid, Spain), will run 150 laps on the 282-meter indoor track to complete the indoor marathon. First place should finish around 9:30 a.m. with the last runners trickling in around noon.

Because the marathon season in Minnesota is based on just a few months in the spring and fall, race co-director Dick Daymont thought up the Zoom! Yah! Yah! six years ago to cut back on local runners spending money on travel expenses to run in warmer states during the winter.

Daymont added that the

Wall Street Journal is planning on using the Zoom! Yah! Yah! in an upcoming story to explain what all the buzz is about when it comes to indoor marathons.

"We've never had a runner with this kind of fundraising effort behind them," Daymont said. "We're excited to have him as this is a wonderful, terrific cause."

Reffkin won't be the only runner with a lot of wear and tear Sunday. Northfielders Stan Hup and Brian Cloherty plan to run the Mississippi Blues Marathon in Jackson, Miss., Saturday. They will then hop on a plane to make it back in time to run at St. Olaf, completing two marathons in one weekend.

## From disc jockey to Wall Street

Before his fundraising effort began, Reffkin ran cross country in high school back in his hometown of Berkeley, Calif. And yet he never ran more than two marathons before he started 50 in 50 states.

He credits nonprofits with helping him pay for his private high school tuition, getting him set up to be a popular disc jockey in the bay

area in addition to attending Columbia University in New York, N.Y. And if it weren't for those success, he certainly wouldn't have spent a year in the White House.

"Being a White House fellow working under Secretary (John) Snow in the treasury was great as I got to see policy in action," he said. "Seeing senior level politicians work was a great opportunity."

For Reffkin, the best part about his trips is that his mother, Ruth, accompanies him to every marathon. He credits her with keeping him going and not letting the physical drain of a marathon a month become too much.

"I am a pretty lucky guy," he said. "I am healthy and prosperous and I'm keenly aware of the fact that I did not achieve all this by myself. I had a great deal of help all along the way from people who cared and who were willing to give of themselves to others. Now it is my turn to reach out to young people and make a difference in their lives."

—Shane Kitzman covers local sports. He can be reached at 645-1111.

# Council: Allots funds for community events

From Page 1A

hadn't budgeted for. Councilor Erica Zweifel supported the \$42,000 allocation, saying that tracking the events' true expenses in 2010 was, to her, setting a realistic baseline, instead of the estimated expenditures put forth last year.

Betsy Buckheit, the Second Ward councilor, said the community events have value for the city and as

such, deserve financial support.

"They are important to us," she said.

About \$40,000 of the total allotted is spoken for. The remaining \$2,000, about what the Vintage Band Festival was granted in 2010, will be earmarked for new events. Groups funded in 2010 will receive the same level of funding in 2011, according to the council-adopted plan.

## ▶▶ WHAT ELSE THEY DID

The council on Tuesday also

- Denied an appeal by Daniel Smith, who had been denied a solicitor's license. Smith was convicted of violating a restraining order and stalking. City ordinances allow the Police Department to deny solicitation licenses to anyone convicted within the last five years of a crime directly related to their fitness. The council found that Smith offered no evidence to prove he had been rehabilitated.

- Agreed to discuss a proposed business park on Feb. 8 and consider its approval on Feb. 15.

- Reviewed potential questions for a community survey.

- Heard an update on the city's involvement in the GreenSteps program, a statewide effort to aid cities in the sustainability efforts.

- Heard an update on a proposed Hwy. 3 access study by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. If approved, the study is expected to focus on Hwy. 3 between Riverview and Honeylocust drives.

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## OPEN HOUSES SAT. & SUN. JANUARY 8TH & 9TH

Open	Address	Price	Description	Agent
SUN 12:00-2:00	803 Headley Ct Northfield	\$79,500	Why rent? Own for less! 3BR, 2BA townhome. Move-in condition.	Bob Stangler 507-581-9373 bobstangler@edinarealty.com
SUN 1:00-2:30	1409 Presidential Dr	\$133,300	2BR, 2BA TH in excellent condition on open design in this well-planned spacious home. Move-in ready. LL could also be used as a bedroom.	Millie Harbaugh 952.210.6157 millieharbaugh@edinarealty.com
SUN 1:00-2:20	910 Water St	\$169,900	See the recent updates to this already very charming home.	Pat Johnson 507.271.1656 patjohnson@edinarealty.com
SUN 2:40-4:00	712 Birch Ln	\$159,900	Great location! Big Yard! 3BR on one floor, walk-out faces south, mature trees.	Pat Johnson 507.271.1656 patjohnson@edinarealty.com
REDUCED! SUN 3:00-4:30	1238 Woodley St E	\$205,000	Detached 3BR, 2BA TH in excellent condition. Very spacious, lots of storage, bright & cheerful, and finished LL. Move-in ready.	Millie Harbaugh 952.210.6157 millieharbaugh@edinarealty.com
<b>Address Price Description Agent</b>				
	19 Fareway Dr	Sold		
	2421 Elianna Dr	\$219,900	4BR, 4BA on a private wooded lot. 1.89 acres MOL. 2-car attached garage.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
	215 Cherry St	Pending		
	1216 Woodley St	\$112,900	2BR, 2BA end unit featuring a spacious kitchen/dinette with new counter tops and fresh paint. Unfinished basement for lots of storage.	Pete Mergens 612.741.4257 PeteMergens@edinarealty.com

Address	Price	Description	Agent
1000 Cannon Velley Dr	\$84,900	Quiet unit in an over 55 manor home. Nice common areas. Lots to offer.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
305 Plum St N	\$119,900	Walk to St. Olaf, schools, parks & downtown. 2BR, 1BA rambler. Large, beautiful, deep, private backyard. Lot has mature trees.	Linne Jensen 612.309.2174 LinneJensen@edinarealty.com
2117 Hidden Valley Rd	Pending		
13524 Goodhue Ave	\$295,000	Fantastic hobby farm opportunity. House, barn, heated shed and 28 AC. More on less. Warranty and inspection. All offers considered.	Pete Mergens 612.741.4257 PeteMergens@edinarealty.com
506 6th St	\$50,000	Great opportunity!! 3BR, 2BA, 1-car detached garage.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
2426 Valley Dr	Sold		
218 Woodley St N	\$58,900	2BR, 1BA on corner lot with 2-car garage. Convenient location.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
118 1st St SW Faribault	\$50,000	Lender owned 3BR, 2BA home with lots of potential.	Brenda Fischer 507.301.8294 brendafischer@edinarealty.com
10490 Farrel Cr	\$279,900	4BR, 3BA 2-story traditional. Bittersweet addition.	Sonja Freeland 507.202.2378 sonjafreeland@edinarealty.com
911 Spring St S	\$84,500	Nice starter home. Nice mature treed lot, great location, close to downtown.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
1506 Judicial Rd	\$97,900	3BR, 2BA townhome with 2-car garage. Great location near schools.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
1904 McKinley Dr	\$133,000	4BR rambler on large corner lot. Featuring lower level family room, deck off dining area. 2-car attached garage.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
118 9th St E	\$139,900	Charming older 2-story, 4BR home, great front entrance, updated exterior, original wood work.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
1138 Spruce Ct	\$155,900	5BR, 2BA multi-level home with 2-car garage. Nice backyard.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
116 Sumner St	Sold		
613 Bunker Dr	\$184,900	Recently updated 3BR, 2BA split with 2-car attached garage. Open floor plan.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
9684 Decker Ave	\$189,900	5.1 acres MOL with 2-car detached & additional outbuildings. Beautiful location.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
1200 Washington St	\$249,900	5BR, 3BA Cape Cod style home. Many updates.	Sonja Freeland 507.202.2378 sonjafreeland@edinarealty.com
8959 90th Ct Way	\$214,900	Classic walkout rambler with 4BR, 3BA. Energy efficient, large rooms, lots of storage. Perfect condition.	Paul Relland 952.292.5999 PaulRelland@edinarealty.com
412 Plum St	Pending		