



The Free Press

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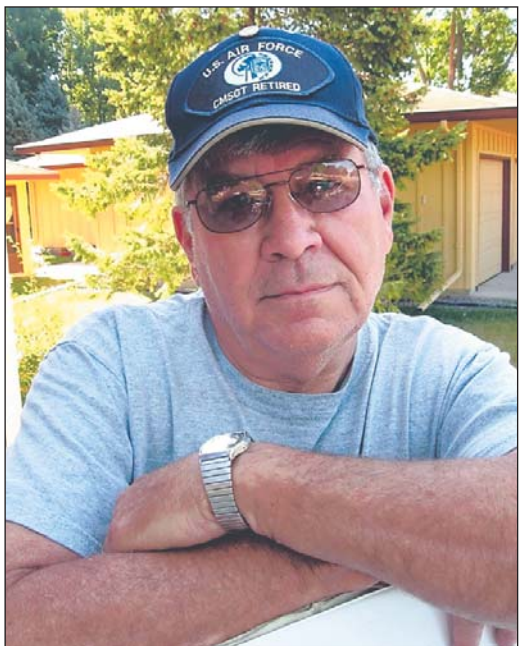
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TWIN RIVERS LEADER LEAVING

CNHI Newspaper of the Year

The angst of 9/11 remains a constant for North Mankatoan Dennis McLean, who spent more than a month processing the bodies of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks.



Brian Ojanpa

9/11 sticks with retired reservist

Dennis McLean helped sort through victims' body parts

By Brian Ojanpa
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NORTH MANKATO — Most people can choose to remember 9/11 at their convenience.

Dennis McLean has no such luxury.

When he sees a large plane fly over, images of it hurtling into build-

ings fill his head.

He still has trouble sleeping because horrifically grisly recollections come calling in the night.

And when the North Mankato resident walks into certain fast food restaurants their char-broil aroma reminds him of burnt human flesh.

"This time of year my mind fills up with so many images," says the

retired Air Force master sergeant.

In the weeks following the terrorist attacks in 2001 McLean and a group of other Air Force reservists helped medical examiners sort through body parts from crash sites at the Pentagon and in a Pennsylvania field.

The job was necessary — and necessarily hellish. The devil, as they say, was in the details.

He remembers working on the body of a two-star general who died in the Pentagon, of long days spent

Please see 9/11, Page A5

Security hospital chief defended

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The new head of Minnesota's hospital for some of its hardest-to-control mentally ill patients used to lead a Maine psychiatric hospital that was sanctioned by federal regulators for failing to provide a safe workplace for employees.

David Proffitt assumed his duties Thursday at the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter. The Star Tribune reported Friday that he replaced a man who was removed in April for some of the same safety issues that marred Proffitt's record at The Acadia Hospital in Bangor, Maine. A state report last year cited chronic dysfunction at St. Peter, contending that the facility lacked accountability, employees feared for their safety and unstable patients were too often restrained or isolated because of inadequate staff training.

Maureen O'Connell, the Minnesota assistant commissioner of human services, stood by her decision to hire Proffitt. She told with The Associated Press on Friday that Proffitt went through an extensive series of interviews and reference checks that convinced her that he was the best choice. She said she was satisfied with his answers about what happened at Acadia and that he had learned from the experience.

Proffitt resigned in April as president and CEO of

Please see HOSPITAL, Page A7

Neighbors' complaints bring halt to tree

REMOVAL



John Cross

Jeni Kolstad (left) and Amy Mukamuri are unhappy with how a nearby church is cutting down trees to make way for a parking lot.

Hosanna Lutheran to replace wood lot with parking lot

By Dan Linehan
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When Hosanna Lutheran Church applied for and received a permit three years ago to expand its church and parking lot, the first nine conditions of the permit were boilerplate: A trash bin here, a requirement for lighting standards there, that sort of thing.

The tenth condition was a little different. It asked the church to talk to the property owners who live near the proposed 95-stall parking lot across Main Street. The residents didn't have the power to veto any part of the development, but the condition nonetheless required that the church "shall consider their requests and recommendations in planning for the site."

That, the residents of Panther Lane say, did not happen. Without any warning to keep children away, some workers started chopping down trees Saturday. They worked through Monday, cutting down a small part of the wooded area.

One of the church's members is a contractor and decided to start the work in his spare time, said David Zellar, assistant to the pastor. The trees that were cleared were in a clump that stuck out from the rest and were far from the property line, he said.

Many more trees need to be cut down in order for the lot to be built.

After residents complained to the City Council, the city halted the project Tuesday until the issues are hashed out in a neighborhood meeting, which is being organized.

One problem was the "lack of communication," said Jeni Kolstad. Neighbor Amy Mukamuri is more concerned about the impact to the environment.

Trees at issue

The smallish, 1.22-acre parcel could only be a forest in the imaginations of the children who dig fox-holes here. One of the boys told a KEYC-TV reporter that the kids build forts there and "are pretty mad" that the woods are going away.

Some parents say they decided to move here because of the wooded area. Mukamuri said her family named the chipmunks their first year, and songbirds nest in the ash and maple trees.

Please see TREES, Page A7



Delroy Sand Jr. owned a health care company, Hecla, that is now in foreclosure.

Embezzler sentenced to 41 months

By Dan Nienaber
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MANKATO — A former Le Sueur man who pleaded guilty to a federal embezzling charge in March has been sentenced to more than three years in federal prison.

Delroy Joseph Sand Jr., 63, also was ordered to pay nearly \$650,000 in restitution to the retirement funds of his former Hecla employees. Sand was the trustee for the savings plan. He also was the owner of Hecla, which provided adult foster care, operated group homes and offered mental health services to customers throughout Minnesota. The company's assets are in foreclosure.

Federal guidelines called for a sentence between 41 and 51 months in prison. Sand received a 41-month sentence, but his attorney, Manny Atwal of Minneapolis, asked Judge Paul Magnuson to consider a sentence below the minimum recommended.

Prosecutors accused Sand of stealing the money from Hecla retirement funds to support his lifestyle, a gambling habit and to buy race horses. Atwal said Sand is denying those allegations.

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UPCOMING

TOMORROW IN THE FREE PRESS
Remembering 9/11
A special edition commemorates the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

PAGEFINDER

Business	A4
Comics	C5
Corrections	A2
Crossword	D2
Marketplace	D1-D4
Nation-World	A3
Obituaries	B2
Sports	C1-C4
TV	C8

WEATHER, PAGE B4

A good one

Mostly sunny.
High around 80. Low around 58.



Fresh on the Free Press blogs

Photographer Pat Christman writes of "The photographers of 9/11."



Hockey writer Shane Frederick notes that former Minnesota State star David Backes has been named captain of the St. Louis Blues.

The Baseball Outsider, Edward Thoma, comments on the first organizational changes being made by the Minnesota Twins.

Editor Joe Spear discusses the ethical issues involved in covering a murder trial in which a child is to testify.

This and more available at

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