

# Giggles & gasps

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WEEKEND LIFE, 1C



Zimmer hopes to keep Cassel in purple  
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MARCH 7, 2014 > CLASSIFIED, SECTION D

A MediaNews Group NEWSPAPER

## St. Paul agrees to \$1M for Lilydale landslide families



Mohamed Fofana, 10, left, and Haysem Sani, 9, died when a rain-sodden bluff collapsed in May.



Two boys died, 3rd hurt on St. Louis Park fourth-grade field trip; settlement needs city council OK

By Mara H. Gottfried  
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The city of St. Paul is poised to pay \$1 million to the families of two children killed and one who was injured in a landslide in Lilydale Regional Park in May.

The city council is expected to vote Wednesday on the settlement, the largest ever paid by the city, according to an agenda released Thursday.

Before the agreement was reached, an attorney for the families had filed notice they intended to sue the city. The agreement calls for the city to

pay \$400,000 to each of the families of the children who died — Haysem Sani, 9, and Mohamed Fofana, 10 — and \$200,000 to the family of an injured child, Devin Meldahl, 10.

“It is understood and agreed that this settlement is the compromise of doubtful and disputed claims and that

payments made hereto are not to be construed as an admission of liability on the part of the city of St. Paul, and that the city of St. Paul denies liability therefore and intends merely to avoid litigation and buy its peace,” the

LANDSLIDE SETTLEMENT, 14A >

### MINNESOTA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

## A TRIP TO REMEMBER



PIONEER PRESS: JOHN AUTEY

Stillwater fans spell out #PONIES before the start of their semifinal game with Edina on Thursday at the Class 2A boys high school tournament in St. Paul. In their first trip ever to the state playoffs, the Ponies lost 6-1. **Tournament coverage, 1B**

## Tax breaks sail through state House; Senate next

\$503M bill repeals business taxes, aligns with federal code

By Bill Salisbury  
bsalisbury@pioneerpress.com

Gov. Mark Dayton wants to use half of the state's \$1.2 billion budget surplus for tax relief, and the Minnesota House gave him most of what he's after by passing a \$503 million package of tax cuts on a 126-2 vote Thursday.

Hours before the vote, Dayton proposed a supplemental budget that calls for cutting taxes by \$616 million, stashing most of the rest of the surplus in a rainy-day reserve account and providing a relatively small sum for “essential” new spending.

“Our improving economy has greatly improved the state's budget forecast, giving us the opportunity to put more money in the pockets of Minnesota families and businesses,” he said.

The Democratic-Farmer-Labor governor would provide \$301 million in income tax

TAX BREAKS, 14A >

It's back: Lawmakers renew their push for Sunday liquor sales, 3A

## Here, the fret is snow. In Kiev, it's gunfire.



Rubén Rosario



Ex-Pioneer Press reporter Brian Bonner edits a newspaper in Kiev, Ukraine.

I asked former Pioneer Press newsroom colleague Brian Bonner if he would like to trade places with me this week.

I informed him the big news here in his hometown is the parking ban because of the snow choking the streets of the Saintly City.

The big news where he is? Oh, minor stuff like deadly street protests in Ukraine that led to a government overthrow, followed by a military invasion of Crimea that has

reignited Cold War political saber-rattling between the United States and Russia.

“Definitely,” said Bonner, chief editor of the Kyiv (Kiev) Post, the largest English-language weekly newspaper and online news site in Ukraine. “I miss Minnesota. I was thinking sometimes how nice it would be to cover a peaceful city council meeting or write up a cute

ROSARIO, 16A >

## Crimean lawmakers thumb nose at West with vote to leave Ukraine

By Carol J. Williams  
Los Angeles Times

KIEV, Ukraine — Rebellious ethnic Russians in Ukraine's Crimea region raised the stakes Thursday in the so-far bloodless battle for control of the strategic peninsula when regional lawmakers voted unanimously in favor of secession and moved to put the issue before voters in 10 days.

Officials in Washington, Kiev and other European cities denounced the secession bid as unconstitutional and thus meaningless.

But with thousands of Russian troops in control of Crimea's military, government and commercial operations, the protests appeared unlikely to persuade its Moscow-backed Russian-speaking majority to back down from its refusal to be ruled by the government in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

Russian troops in Crimea lifted part of their days-long blockade of Ukrainian military sites Thursday, although it was unclear whether the move was a display of confi-

UKRAINE UNREST, 16A >

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