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Magnus Veterans Foundation to host community concert.
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Osseo graduate participating in Minneapolis Aquatennial
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Timberwolves host camp at Maple Grove Middle School.
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Flipping success

Built in Champlin, Twin City Twisters has gone from a small-town gym into a nationwide brand and home to an Olympian

By **SAM JOHNSON**
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All Mike Hunger saw was a strip mall, a bunch of farms, and a single McDonald's. That is what Champlin looked like to the then 26-year-old Brooklyn Center native as he drove through town looking to start a gym club in the mid-1980s.

With no space to lease, Hunger, like the former gymnast that he was, had to be creative. He and two other business partners eventually decided to start from the ground up and build their facility off of Highway 169 on 123rd Avenue. So beginning in 1987, Twin City Twisters (TCT) was founded. Near-

ly 35 years later, the gym is home to over 1,000 students, including a current U.S. Olympian.

Many gymnasts from around the country and world know TCT as a premier spot to train and perfect their craft, but to Hunger, it is still an overnight success.

As a 13-year-old, Hunger loved playing sports, but being the shortest kid in his class, he had trouble finding one he could do that fit his size. Then in seventh grade, he stumbled upon an after-school activities list that had gymnastics as an option. Having no idea what that was, Hunger tried it and after the first day, it was love at first sight.



Grace McCallum practices her balance beam routine at Twin City Twisters in Champlin on July 6. McCallum, a native of Isanti, is one of three Minnesotans on Team USA's men's and women's gymnastics teams, along with St. Paul's Suni Lee and Spring Park's Shane Wiskus. (Photo by Sam Johnson)



Mike Hunger watches as gymnasts practice inside Twin City Twisters in Champlin. Hunger founded the gym in 1987.

After competing during his high school years, Hunger was talented enough to make the team at the University of Minnesota but stepped away from the sport after two years due to a back injury. However, before the injury, Hunger had laid the groundwork for his next life in the sport: coaching. As soon as he started gymnastics in middle school, he began working at a gym five miles from his house, where he traded time working on his events in the gym with teaching classes.

So when the time came

for his competing career to end, coaching was a natural transition to stay involved in the sport. Like a potter molding a piece of clay, Hunger loves working with young kids when they are developing as a gymnast and helping them achieve their goals. "I love teaching kids that they can achieve whatever they want to work on," Hunger said. "I tell them, 'don't let anyone tell you what you can do. You set your mind to it and you work hard and make it happen.'"

GAINING RECOGNITION

One of the first gymnasts that put Hunger and his coaches at TCT on the map was Maggie Nichols. The Little Canada native remembers her first day at the gym vividly: She showed up five minutes late because she and her parents couldn't find the building, and when Nichols arrived, all the other girls were running outside. But Nichols didn't bring any tennis shoes, so she had to toughen up and run barefoot around the pond with the other girls.

Inside the gym, Nichols was shocked at the talent and skill level of the other

girls. "When we started practicing, I remember watching the girls and being in awe because of their talent," Nichols said. "I wanted to be just like them."

Through hours upon hours of training, she began to rival the other girls she used to be starstruck over. But more importantly, as she grew in athletic prowess and skill level, her character as a person grew just as much. "Twin City Twisters has built me into not only the gymnast I am

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Dayton council accepts fire chief's resignation

Mickelson to remain in role as fire chief until end of the year

By **ALICIA MILLER**
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The Dayton City Council accepted the resignation of Fire Chief Jason Mickelson at its July 13 meeting.

David Fashant was also sworn in member of City Council until the special election next year. The council approved having the special election be in conjunction

with the general election on Nov. 8, 2022. The council previously had approved a special election in February, but it was found out the city can wait until the general election. This will save the city costs for an additional election.

RESIGNATION OF FIRE CHIEF

The council accepted the resignation of Jason Mickelson as Dayton Fire Chief. He provided written notice of his retirement, effective Dec. 31, 2021.

"We wanted some formality around this to acknowledge and thank Chief Mickelson for his many

years of service as fire chief," City Administrator Tina Goodroad said. "We know that his desire is to continue on as a firefighter, and we welcome that."

After Mickelson's retirement, he plans to serve as a firefighter out of station one.

Mayor Dennis Fisher and councilor Julie Gustafson, Travis Henderson, Scott Salonek and Fashant all thanked Mickelson for his service to the city.

"This will be effective the end of my term," Mickelson said. He said he put in his resignation early to "get the ball rolling" in finding his replacement, where that be internally, or not.



Ready, set, run!

Maple Grove Days was back with a bang this year, after taking a year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Events throughout the festival included a parade, food and activities for kids and families. Here, the contestants in the walker division of the diaper derby run as fast as they can on July 16. More photos from Maple Grove Days inside this paper. (Photo by Alicia Miller)

Osseo considers police chaplain program

By **ALICIA MILLER**
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At its July 12 meeting, the Osseo City Council hosted its first in-person meeting in more than a year. The council and other commissions have been conducting meetings remotely, which were broadcast online and on public access television.

The city first declared a local emergency in March 2020 due to the pandemic, which allowed for the city to conduct remote public meetings. As of June 29, all meetings of the City Council and other commissions have been conducted in-person at City Hall.

Here is some of the business the City Council took up at its July 12 meeting.

POLICE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

The council heard from Osseo Police Chief Shane Mikkelson about the possibility of the police department using a police chaplain program.

"This is has been a program that I've been looking at for quite some time," he said. "We would actually have chaplains as part of our police department."

Mikkelson said the program would use area clergy to assist officers on calls where a chaplain might be needed. He added he wanted the department to be able to offer a religious aspect to calls if needed.

"When I started looking at chaplain program, I wanted to create one of my own," he said. He added that a partner, a sergeant from the Brooklyn Park Police Department

and former Osseo part-time police officer, found out about the chief's plans for the program and asked if Osseo wanted to join the chaplain program that is shared between the Brooklyn Park and Champlin police departments.

"I've had communication with both Brooklyn Park and Champlin," Mikkelson said. "We sat down together and decided that yes, this would be a good fit since a lot of our churches and clergy service people in all of those communities."

The next step would be for the chief to hire area clergy to be part of the police department. There would be a background application process. The clergy would have an ID and jackets.

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