

MONDAY

Ambushed!

Vikes beat Pack, 15-13

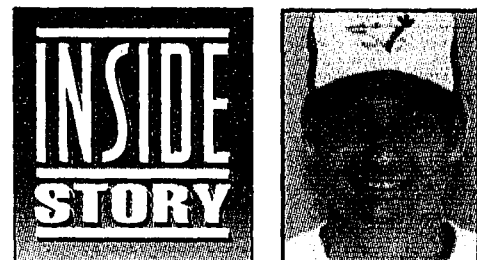
Jim McMahon completed a 45-yard pass to Eric Guliford with 6 seconds to play, setting up Fuad Reveiz's fifth field goal, and the Minnesota Vikings rallied Sunday for a 15-13 victory over the Green Bay Packers. On third-and-10 from the 50, the Packers (1-2) blew their coverage, and McMahon found Guliford all alone. Details/1D.

U.S. keeps cup

Even Nick Faldo's hole-in-one wasn't enough to stop a stirring comeback that allowed the Americans to keep the Ryder Cup with a 15-13 victory Sunday over Europe. Fred Couples, Chip Beck and Davis Love III rallied on the back nine at the cold, wind-swept Belfry course and the U.S. team won five of the last six matches to hang on to the cup, which nearly slipped away several times. Details/1D.

SPORTS

M O N D A Y

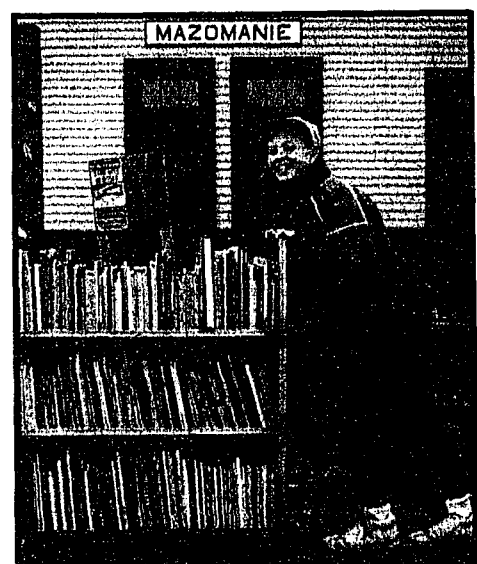


■ The numbers show Paul Molitor is getting better with age. In Sports Monday's Inside Story, he talks about his new life in Toronto, his dreams of returning to postseason play, and the life he left behind with the Milwaukee Brewers.

LOCAL

School squeeze

Rural school districts continue to feel a financial squeeze under the property tax system of financing public education, and lawmakers finally may be ready to revamp the way money is allocated. Details/1B.



State Journal photo/MEG THENO

On the move

All aboard! One of the last carts of books arrives Saturday at the new quarters for the Mazomanie library in the village's remodeled railroad station. It was a happy day for residents who spent the last several years raising money for their dream. For details and other Hometown News, see Local/1-2B.

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

'This book is a lot different. It came closer to the bone, a little closer to the truth this time. I gave away some stuff about myself I didn't mean to give away.'

Erma Bombeck

whose 11th book differs from the previous 10. (But it's still funny.) Details/1C.

INDEX

- World news/5A
- Obituaries/8A
- Opinion/9A

LOCAL

- Area briefs/2B

MONEY/4B

- Money markets/4B

LOOK

- Movie listings/2C
- Comics/4C
- TV/Radio/5C

SPORTS

- Morning Briefing/2D
- Scoreboard/8D
- Classified/9D



Madison Forecast:
Today: Mostly cloudy and cool. High 56.
Tonight: Decreasing cloudiness and continued cool. Low 40.
Details/back page

U.S.: Russia hid POWs

Moscow is hit with new proof

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has confronted Moscow for the first time with evidence that hundreds of U.S. Korean War prisoners were secretly moved to the Soviet Union, imprisoned and never returned.

The allegation, supported by new information from a variety of American and Russian sources, was made in a detailed presentation by a State Department official at a meeting with Russian officials in Moscow earlier this month.

The evidence is spelled out in a government report titled "The Transfer of U.S. Korean War POWs to the Soviet Union." It was given to the Russians at the Moscow meeting but the Clinton administration has refused to release it.

A copy of the report was obtained by the Associated Press.

"The Soviets transferred several hundred U.S. Korean War POWs to the USSR and did not repatriate them," the report says. "This transfer was mainly politically motivated with the intent of holding them as political hostages, subjects for intelligence exploitation and skilled labor within the camp system."

It asserts that the evidence gave a "consistent and mutually reinforcing description" of Soviet intelligence services forcibly moving U.S. POWs to the Soviet Union at a time when the Soviet military was active in North Korea.

It does not assess how long the American servicemen — mostly Air Force aviators — may have lived, or whether any might still be alive in the chaotic former Soviet Union.

Just last year, the U.S. government said it had no evidence of such transfers. But Washington has known since the end of the war of some evidence that U.S. POWs from Korea had been taken to the Soviet Union. It asked Moscow for information on this in May 1954 and July 1956. Both times, the

Soviet government denied any knowledge of U.S. POWs on its soil.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said last year that Soviet records showed 59 captured U.S. servicemen in Korea were interrogated by Soviet officials, and 12 crew members of U.S. aircraft shot down in reconnaissance missions unrelated to the Korean War were transferred to Soviet territory. The Yeltsin government has yet to concede Americans were taken from Korea.

In the three years of fighting in Korea, in which the United States led a U.N. force on the side of South Korea against communist North Korea, 54,246 Americans were killed. The government lists 8,140 as unaccounted for.

Worthington battles for help

Red tape ties residents in fight for community center

Second in a two-day series.

By Ron Seely

Wisconsin State Journal

Diane Johnson figures there are teen-agers dealing drugs today in her Worthington Park neighborhood who, four or five years ago, might have been persuaded to live a different, better life.

They might have been persuaded, she said, if there had been someplace else for them to go other than the street, someplace else to hang out, someplace where they might have connected with a social worker or a friend.

What might have made a difference, Johnson said, is a neighborhood community center — a good and safe place to get together.

Johnson, who has lived in Worthington Park for four years and is now trying to organize a neighborhood association, knows well the need for such a place. She has young kids of her own. But she also knows of all the failed attempts to get a neighborhood center for Worthington, an isolated cluster of tenement-like apartments behind the American Family office building off East Washington Avenue. The frustrations and the disappointment of those aborted efforts — at least three in number — can be read in her face and heard in her voice.

"I know a center would have helped a lot," she said. "It's a different way out. Right now, all these kids see is the drug dealing. And the only thing they have to do is hang out. . . . These kids need a place where they can come to, a place where they can feel safe."

The struggle of Worthington's residents to get a community center over the past 15 years is,



in microcosm, the same story of neglect and of bureaucratic inattentiveness that has marked the neighborhood's troubled history of growing poverty, crime and housing woes.

The main players are the same: a neighborhood of poor and transient people who have found it difficult to make their voices heard over the years, landlords who have failed to meet important tenant needs, and a city government so mired in bureaucracy and crippled by tight budgets that its attempts to help the people of Worthington have been largely ineffective.

As things have turned out, the elusive promise of a neighborhood center may finally be fulfilled, not by the city and its taxpayers, as it has in several other neighborhoods, but by a charitable organization — the Salvation Army.

The organization is planning to purchase a building from American Family Insurance Co. and turn it into a community center that will house programs for the immediate neighborhood as well as other Salvation Army activities. But the organization must raise \$2 million to purchase and remodel the old grocery store — on Darbo Drive just north of the troubled Easton Square apartments — which is now being used by American Family as a print shop. There is little hope of financial help from the city of Madison, according to Major Thomas Line, Dane County coordinator for the Salvation Army, although the or-

Please turn to Page 2A, Col. 1



Diane Johnson, with son Derek, 10, and daughter Deena, 7, is the latest activist to try to unite Wor-

thington Park residents and bring a neighborhood center to the area.

State Journal photo/MEG THENO



Vickie Koger with daughters Felicia, 7, and Dana, 5.

Once an addict, now an activist

By Meg Theno

Wisconsin State Journal

Vickie Koger has been nominated to be on the board of directors of a new Worthington Park neighborhood association.

But her story is hardly typical of the activists who put out newsletters and organize garage sales in neighborhood groups across the city.

Vickie Koger is a recovering crack addict.

She's not proud of her history of abuse of the rock-like form of cocaine that gives a quick, intense high. With the help of

counselors at the Mental Health Center of Dane County, she hopes to put crack behind her and forget the misery it has caused her family.

But it's hard, especially living on the streets of Worthington, where drugs are easily available and dealers ply on single mothers down on their luck.

Koger, 37, is bouncing back from more than a year without a home, living at the YWCA, shelters, hotels. She lost three of her four children to foster homes.

Now they are reunited — two boys, 16 and 14, and two girls, 7

and 5. At first, the youngest would cry whenever Koger went next door or out to the store, fearing her mother was leaving her behind again.

Easton Square manager Cal Britz gave Koger a break on an apartment in Worthington, where a little more than a year earlier she'd been kicked out for not paying rent.

With a welfare check, food stamps and help from the Community Action Commission, she's making do.

She's due for orientation with the state Division of Vocational

Rehabilitation and hopes to hone computer skills to go with a clerical background that includes work for the Chicago police, a real estate firm and other businesses.

She's not worried about the attention that comes with being in the newspaper. It's important to take responsibility for her future, to walk away from the temptation of drugs, even if it means isolating herself.

"What are they going to do, kill me?" she says of the drug dealers in Worthington. "They're killing me now."

Sparta native purchases Crandall's restaurant

By Roger A. Gribble
Business reporter

Crandall's at the Depot restaurant has been sold to a former California restaurateur and will be reopened in mid-October, the buyer confirmed Sunday.

Crandall's, known for its Friday fish fry, closed for good after serving brunch Sunday. It had opened in 1980 in the former train station along West Washington Avenue after decades as a popular Downtown eatery just off the Capitol Square.

"We just finished hammering out the deal this weekend," said new owner R.J. Grewal, a Sparta native formerly employed by American Restaurant Group headquartered in Los Altos, Calif.

The restaurant, which will reopen as The Depot, was purchased for about \$500,000, Grewal said in an interview Sunday night.

Jim Bohlman said he decided to sell the business because he was in arrears on his lease obligations. Bohlman said that, under sale terms, his obligations to the land-

lord, the Alexander Co., are satisfied and he will work with Grewal to assure a smooth transition.

The building housing the restaurant, a renovated train depot, is part of the \$25 million West Rail Corridor Development.

In his previous job, Grewal said he was a "troubleshooter" who visited restaurants having problems, "righted them and then left." He also helped open "upscale dinner houses" within his restaurant group.

Grewal said The Depot will

feature "an American pop cuisine blending regional, ethnic and California cuisine."

The restaurant will feature a business lunch, served in 15 minutes or it's free, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., he said.

Sunday brunches will continue but on a more upscale basis. Evening meals will include candlelight and tablecloths among refinements aimed at lowering noise levels. Prices will generally be within \$1 of previous items.

The adjoining tavern, formerly

the Hiawatha Club, will reopen Thursday as The Caboose, Grewal said. It will feature the National Trivia Network, a competition tapping into an interactive TV system with 1,400 outlets. Stadium food such as bratwurst and hot dogs will be offered free during Sunday afternoon and Monday night football games, he said.

Twenty of Crandall's 48 employees have been hired, and the rest will be given preference for the remainder of the 60 to 65 positions, Grewal said.

Worthington: How much hurt will it take?

Continued from Page 1A

ganization has been encouraged to apply for grant money.

It is unlikely the center would be up and running before 1995, according to Line. That, residents and social workers said, is a long time to wait. It may be too long, said Brenna Binns, the youth director for the Atwood Community Center, which works with Worthington kids.

"If nothing happens between now and two years," Binns said, "we'll have a tremendously awful situation out there. . . . The kids who are shooting guns out there now would have benefited from something four or five years ago."

1979 effort failed

The first organized attempts to get a community center built came in October 1979. Even then, Worthington was slipping downhill, headed toward the violence and the fear that grips the neighborhood today. An Oct. 6, 1979, article in The Capital Times was headlined "Worthington Park: Community in Crisis." Several sources were quoted about the neighborhood's decline, the growing vandalism and violence, and the difficult life faced by the youth there.

"There are so many problems with the kids out here," said Carol Dieter, who was president then of

'There are so many problems with the kids out here. A center would give them a place to go.'

Carol Dieter

the Worthington Park Neighborhood Association. "A center would give them a place to go."

David Wright, a neighborhood organizer from the Atwood Community Center who was working in the area, also said he was worried about the kids. "Our biggest concern," he said, "is that teens don't have anything to do — or at least good things to do."

A separate article described a meeting residents had with Kevin Upton, administrative assistant to then-mayor Joel Skornicka. They asked if there was anything the city could do for them. Upton was sympathetic but not encouraging.

"It would be terrific if we could provide a neighborhood center and staff for every neighborhood, but we can't," Upton was quoted as telling the residents. "Sometimes, people expect too much of city government. They want government to take over the responsibilities of parents. But we really are limited in what we can do."

Little, apparently, came of that meeting. Wright, who also was at the meeting, told how residents had approached United Neighborhood Centers about getting a new center but found out there was no money. The neighbors also wrote to "every foundation or corporation in the state" for a grant, but got no response. And, finally, a request for federal Community Development Block Grant funds fell through.

"We've run into a roadblock," Wright said.

Time passed, nothing happened, and the fragile neighborhood coalition from October 1979 fell apart. Those involved in the 1979 efforts moved away and the neighborhood association dissolved.

But the neighborhood's needs continued to grow. The neighborhood changed, becoming poorer and poorer; the number of poor people in the neighborhood nearly doubled from 1980 to 1990. Workers with the Atwood Community Center and the East Side Community Center tried to provide services, according to Becky Steinhoff, Atwood's director, and still do. Atwood ran a summer camp program for Worthington kids out of Hawthorne Elementary School, Steinhoff said. And probably 85 percent of the kids in Atwood's after-school program are from Worthington Park, she added. Many of them walk from Lowell School, 10 to 15 minutes away.

Stopgap measures

Even Steinhoff admits the efforts of Atwood and other East Side community centers to serve Worthington are merely stopgap measures. Binns, the center's youth director, said it's difficult for many residents who don't have cars to get back and forth between their neighborhood and other neighborhood centers. A mother who wants to get her kids to Atwood from Worthington by bus, Binns said, must take the bus all the way Downtown, transfer, and travel back east again — nearly a 45-minute trip.

Nobody disputes the need for a community center in the Worthington neighborhood. Jerry Johnson, principal at Lowell Elementary, where the Worthington kids go to school, said he recognized the need eight years ago. It has only grown, he said, and he has seen the frustration and the anger over the years because of the neighborhood's inability to get its own center.

"It has been a tremendous struggle," Johnson said.

By last spring, Worthington had become a neighborhood plagued by problems far more serious than the vandalism and the loitering that worried residents in 1979. Police were responding to shootings, open-air drug dealing, and reports of crack houses operating in the project-like apartment buildings along Worthington.

Steinhoff remembered being alarmed at the lack of the city's response to the neighborhood's social needs, including the need for a center. "There was a lack of city commitment," Steinhoff said, "a lack of long-range planning by the city."

Others, including city officials, agreed the city's efforts to meet the neighborhood's social needs in the last couple of years have been lacking — especially in the face of growing threats.

"Of course we could have done a better job," said Enis Ragland, an assistant to Madison Mayor Paul Soglin. "We could have anticipated the problems better. But there were financial restraints. . . . And how fast the city began to diversify and change caught the city by surprise."

Victim of bureaucracy

Henry Lufier, who served as the neighborhood's alderman from 1979 until he retired from the council last April, said efforts to build a community center in Worthington fell victim to the neighborhood's inability to organize and a resulting lack of response from city government and many other social organizations.

"In the city process, needs are filtered through a mesh of commissions and budget processes and hearings," Lufier said. "And this has never been a neighborhood that has asserted for itself as loudly as other neighborhoods. . . . I don't think that anybody lacked the heart to do something about this. I think we've just lacked the direction."

Mayor Paul Soglin said a neighborhood center has not been built in Worthington Park because the need for such centers has been greater in other neighborhoods.

"Three years ago," Soglin said, "the need in Allied Drive was great."

'If nothing happens between now and two years, we'll have a tremendously awful situation out there.'

Brenda Binns

Atwood Community Center youth director

er. Five years ago, the need in Broadway-Simpson was greater."

Others, however, saw tremendous need in Worthington. Steinhoff became so concerned last spring at the lack of activity that she secured funding from the city to hire a community organizer who would work in Worthington. A woman named Carol Petrucci, with several years experience as a neighborhood worker in a number of Illinois cities, took the job. She recalled driving through the Worthington neighborhood for the first time and being shocked at how similar it was to an urban housing project.

Petrucci said there was a small and makeshift public meeting place in use in one of the Easton Square apartments when she started working in the neighborhood. Owners of several of the buildings had chipped in to provide space in the apartment for a neighborhood police station in 1991. It was manned at the time by Madison Police Officer Pete Schmidt and known by neighbors as "Pete's Place."

A new owner, Gib Docken, who now owns eight of the 17 Easton Square apartments, took over the building in 1992. He continued to support use of the apartment as a police station as well as an evolving meeting place for neighbors.

Petrucci came on the scene in the spring of 1993. She started organizing activities for residents in the small apartment. Quarters were cramped, she said, but still the turnout for activities was encouraging — as many as 20 kids for after-school programs and hundreds of people for outside activities like an Easter egg hunt for parents and their kids.

One more failure

Petrucci also used the apartment as a place to hold meetings where she encouraged residents to talk about their problems, about problems with housing and other services. She invited Docken to the first meeting and was impressed when he showed up. "That's more than most landlords would do," she said.

But Docken soon became annoyed by the meetings and the continued efforts to organize the neighborhood, Petrucci said. She remembered one particularly difficult meeting where Docken said, in so many words, that if the residents



A light meal, field trips and help with homework are offered at the Atwood Community Center, where about 85 percent of the kids are from

the Worthington area. Deena Johnson, 7, and Amy Bailey, 8, help Cassie Davis, 10, far right, set up to eat.



A makeshift community room behind the police office on Webb Avenue provides a place for Worthington resident Zena Staples to hold after-school sessions, like this one with Christopher Kirkland, 9, Shayba Pierce, 9, and Andrey Gavins, 9.



Atwood's Patty Thompson, right, works to track down potential after-school participants, talking to Keisha Marsh, 14, Dalana Mitchell, 13, and Tasha McKenzie, 13, in the Easton Square parking lot.



didn't like how he was running his buildings, they could get out. Schmidt also remembered Docken sometimes getting mad at the Atwood organizers, but added Docken never threatened to evict police or stop residents from using the apartment as a meeting place.

In fact, Docken was supportive of efforts by the city and some residents to get public financing for moving the center into the basement of the apartment, where more space was available. By early spring of 1993, Docken had even spent \$750 to dig a hole for an outside entrance to the basement.

Unfortunately, the effort fell victim to the same red tape and lack of money that had killed previous efforts. The hoped-for grants to pay for the remodeling fell through. At the same time, Docken became frustrated with city zoning requirements and modifications that would have been required by federal laws on access for the disabled.

While she doesn't place the blame for the project's failure en-

tirely on Docken, Petrucci wonders if the growing organization of the tenants might have caused him to be less enthusiastic about moving and expanding the center. Not long after the project fell through, the police moved their office to an apartment on Rethke Avenue in the nearby public housing apartments and Docken converted his space back to use as a rental unit.

Docken said the project didn't happen simply because the organiz-

'Three years ago, the need in Allied Drive was greater. Five years ago, the need in Broadway-Simpson was greater.'

Mayor Paul Soglin

ers didn't get the funding they had anticipated. And he emphasized the approved of the neighbors' use of the apartment as a meeting place, as a place for tenant meetings and for visits by public nurses.

Now, however, Docken said he would probably not return the apartment to use as a neighborhood center because he prefers to collect rent on the unit. He said he can't afford to lose the rent because he's al-

Church is crucial to neighborhood young people

Even the help and comfort of religion is difficult to get when you live in a poor, isolated neighborhood like Worthington Park.

Diane Johnson, a four-year resident of the neighborhood who is president of a newly formed neighborhood association, lamented the lack of a church in the immediate neighborhood, especially a black Baptist church similar to those that many of the area's African Americans were raised in and from which they drew strength.

"That's something that's strongly needed here," Johnson said.

Neighborhood residents, many of whom don't have cars and have to rely on public transportation, now travel to other neighborhoods for church, to either Mt. Zion Baptist Church or Madison Pentecostal Assembly.

Johnson is convinced the church is crucial if the neighborhood's young people are to be turned away from the streets and the crime and drug dealing that is to be found there today. "Even people on drugs real bad will respond to the church," she said.

Others agreed. James Kilgore, drug and alcohol counselor at the Mental Health Center of Dane County, is a former resident of Worthington Park. He also is a volunteer at Union Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, a church on Madison's South Side that works with Worthington Park youth.

The church, Kilgore said, is extremely important because there are many children simply hanging out, unsupervised by parents or others.

"They're not growing up with values, beliefs that are beneficial to them," he said.

An African-American church in the neighborhood could make a difference in those young lives, he added.

"The black church is one of the biggest missing ingredients in our neighborhoods."

— By Ron Seely

ready losing money in Easton Square.

There have been other efforts to get a neighborhood center, efforts that also failed. Lufier recalled a strange plan to turn the Hammer Inn, a neighborhood biker bar, into a center. Ragland also recalled that effort and said it failed at least partly because neighboring businesses opposed using the former bar as a neighborhood center.

The problems of getting neighborhood centers up and running in places like Worthington Park have not gone completely unnoticed by city officials. In the past year, the city completed a study of the problems related to building and operating neighborhood centers.

System needed

Soglin said he agrees with the conclusions of that study, that there is a need for a city-wide system of centers and that the city should do more to help see that they get built. But he also said the city cannot solve all such problems; there simply isn't enough money. Instead, he added, there has to be some initiative and help from the neighborhoods themselves and from the private sector.

Even the city's study, however, didn't do much to directly benefit Worthington. The pilot neighborhood center that will be built as a result of that study will probably go

in another neighborhood, possibly the Northport Drive area.

In the meantime, Worthington residents continue squeezing into the small, single room in the Rethke Avenue police office for their meetings.

Residents like Diane Johnson, though hopeful a center may finally become a reality thanks to the efforts of the Salvation Army, are also frustrated by the potentially long wait. They are skeptical, too, after so many years, so many failed attempts, and so little attention from the city of Madison.

"Sometimes I get the feeling they're waiting for something to happen," Johnson said. "Somerset Circle, nobody cared until those babies got burned up. Broadway-Simpson, before Damon Smith got shot, it was a lost man's town. . . . Does something bad have to happen before we get something done?"

Wisconsin State Journal
Published Daily by Madison Newspapers, Inc.
1901 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI
Rates: In Wisconsin \$3.50 per Week
Out of State \$5.00 per week
For information on frequencies and terms call 608-252-6363
In Wisconsin toll free 1-800-362-8333
5:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 to 12 Noon, Sunday;
Subscribe for a year and save 10%.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
1901 Fish Hatchery Road
Post Office Box 8058
Madison, WI 53708
Second class postage paid at
Madison, Wisconsin (USPS 688-720)
ISSN: 0749-405X