

SUNDAY
JAN. 18,
2009



Cloudy with a snow shower
High **25** Low **9**
Complete forecast, **10A**

ST. CLOUD Times

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STEALING THE SHOW

DANCERS' DADS STAR IN CATHEDRAL EVENT **1B**

STREAK ENDS
SCSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FALLS, 67-60 **1D**



75 cents daily • \$1.50 Sunday

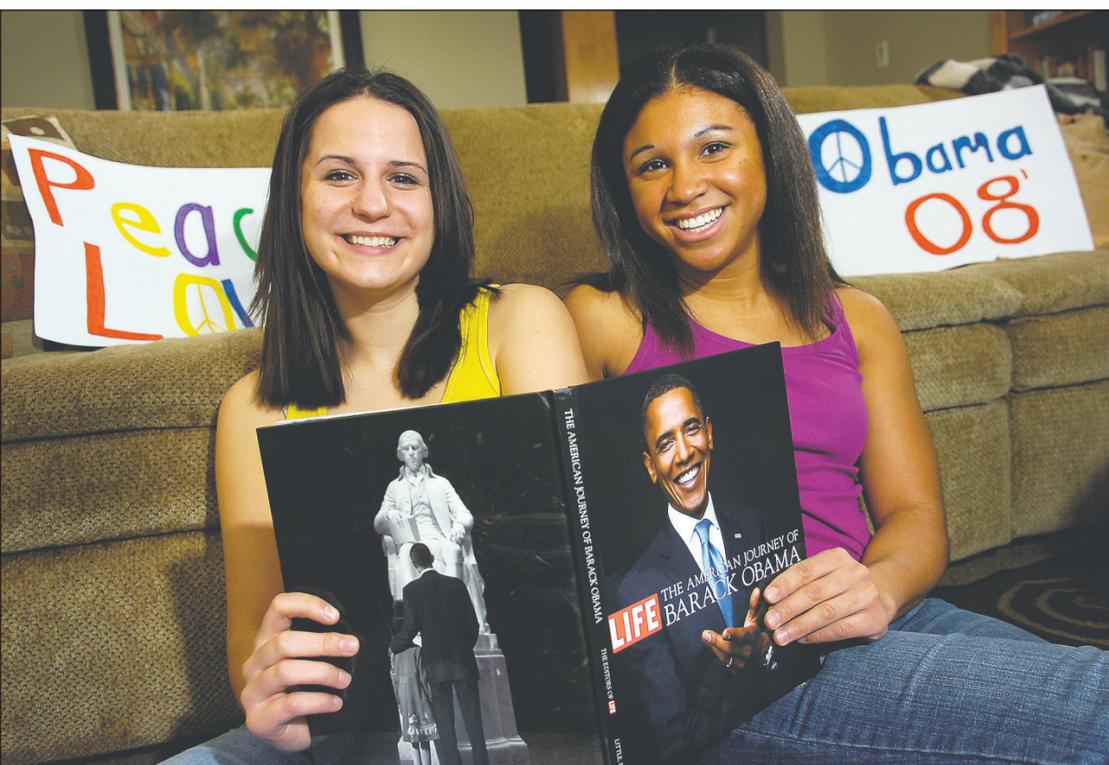
THE BATTLE RAGES

Find out what happened when the Huskies and Gophers met Saturday as part of Hockey Day in Minnesota. Story on **Page 1D**.

Couldn't make it to the game? Find a photo gallery at www.sctimes.com.

THE INAUGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA
JANUARY 20, 2009
WWW.SCTIMES.COM/OBAMA

EVENT OF A LIFETIME



Times photo by Jason Wachter, jwachter@stcloudtimes.com

Julie Bednark, 16, (left) and Amanda Miller, 18, (right) are traveling to Washington, D.C., for the presidential inauguration complete with signs they made for the event.

Several Central Minnesotans will attend the historic inauguration

By Lawrence Schumacher
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She didn't get to vote for Barack Obama for president, but Tuesday, Julie Bednark plans to be in Washington, D.C., to see the 44th president of the United States take the oath of office.

The 16-year-old Technical High School sophomore and Amanda Miller, a Technical senior, planned to depart today for Washington, where they will stay with Miller's family.

The two volunteered with the DFL Party in last year's election and decided the day after Obama's victory that

they wanted to see their hard work pay off in person.

"I was just so sad after the election was over, you know? All that work and it was all over. And I talked to (Miller) and said, 'Why don't we go to the inauguration?'" Bednark said. "The next day, I placed a request for tickets, and four weeks later was ecstatic when

I received news that two tickets were available for us."

For Bednark, Obama's election represents "a restoration of belief in the American dream."

They're just two of the St. Cloud-area residents expected to join hundreds of thousands of people from nationwide headed to the nation's capital for the inaugural events. The celebrations begin today with a welcome ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial and culminate Tuesday with the swearing-in ceremony outside the Capitol.

Some will go as tourists,

See **OBAMA, 4A** ▶



SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S EDITION

MORE INSIDE

ON PAGE 4A

Find out what Technical teacher Dave Schorn had to sell in order to fund his trip to the inauguration.

ON PAGE 5A

Read about what Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Michele Bachmann's inauguration plans will be.

YOUR AT-HOME GUIDE TO THE INAUGURATION

Don't worry if you aren't brave — or lucky — enough to attend the historic presidential inauguration.

There will be plenty of media coverage for those at home. Here's a guide to making the most of watching the big event, and those leading up to it:

FROM THE TIMES

On Monday, learn about how members

of the local African-American community feel about the election of the nation's first black president.

On Tuesday, read about local people celebrating the event with Sen. Amy Klobuchar, and find out what would-be senators Al Franken and Norm Coleman are doing as the inauguration nears.

See **GUIDE, 4A** ▶

RAPID READ

Local

GUILTY PLEA: Dennis Michael Lemke, 43, pleads guilty in federal court to one count of production of child pornography. **1B**.

LIONS TO THE RESCUE:

Area Lions clubs offer to help seniors and shut-ins hook up their digital TV boxes. **1B**.

AND THEY DANCED: Apollo, Sartell and Albany dancers compete around the region. **1B**.

SKI DAY: Youth skiers can test their skills Jan. 25 at the Sons of Norway Barneløppet. **1B**.

BALANCING ACT: Jim Knobloch helps study budget solutions for Minnesota. **1B**.

Your Money

IGNORE THE IRS?: Even if money is very tight, don't do it. Experts offer options. **9A**.

Life

SMALL SCREEN: Twin Cities screen phenom Diablo Cody launches "The United States of Tara," on Showtime. **8C**.

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SEE IT: Photo galleries from hockey, dance events.

Deaths PAGE 3B

- David O. Knutson, 65, St. Cloud
- Richard B. Messer, 75, Becker
- Keith S. Taylor, 85, Elysian
- Mildred M. Weeres, 85, Sauk Rapids

CEASE-FIRE DECLARED IN MIDEAST CONFLICT

ISRAEL HALTS ATTACKS ON GAZA

Troops won't leave disputed territory



Ehud Olmert
Said Israel achieved its goals and more

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel implemented a unilateral cease-fire early Sunday in its 22-day offensive that turned Gaza neighborhoods into battlegrounds and dealt a stinging blow to the Islamic militants of Hamas.

But Israeli troops will stay in the Palestinian territory for now, and Hamas threatened to keep fighting until they leave.

In announcing the cease-fire late Saturday, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel had achieved its goals and more.

"Hamas was hit hard, in its military arms and in its government institutions. Its leaders are in hiding and many of its men have been killed," Olmert said.

Israel launched the offensive Dec. 27 to stop years of rocket fire from Gaza at southern Israeli towns. But the rockets did not stop coming throughout the assault. Militants fired about 30 rockets into Israel on Saturday,

eight of them around the time Olmert spoke.

More than 1,100 Palestinians have been killed, about half of them civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials.

At least 13 Israelis have also been killed.

According to Olmert's statement, the cease-fire went into effect late Friday night. The military warned in a statement early Sunday that attacks on soldiers or civilians "will be met with a harsh response."

If Hamas holds its fire, the military "will weigh pulling out of Gaza at a time that benefits us," Olmert said. If not, Israel "will continue to act to defend our residents."

Israel's insistence on keeping troops in Gaza raises the specter of a stalemate with

See **CEASE-FIRE, 2A** ▶

More burglary calls keep city police busy

By Kari Petrie
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St. Cloud police answered 9 percent more calls in 2008 than 2007, in part because of a rise in residential burglaries.

Officers responded to nearly 57,000 calls for service in 2008. That's up from the 52,300 in 2007, according to police data.

Chief Dennis Ballantine said the increase in home burglaries has been a big concern. Burglaries rose 7 percent from 2007 to 2008. There were 331 burglaries reported in 2008.

In October alone, the number of burglaries doubled compared to October 2007. Many of those were in the city's south side, but Ballantine said he also has seen more burglaries on the north side.

Burglars seem to be interested in electronics and gaming systems. A couple arrests have been made related to some of the burglaries, Ballantine said.

The overall increase in calls for service follows the trend the department has seen for at least the past decade.

DAILY POLL

Did you call police in 2008? Vote at www.sctimes.com. Results will be on tomorrow's Opinion Page.

"The department continues to be busy," Ballantine said.

The department moves into its new police headquarters in November. Ballantine said the project is on time and under budget. But a tough economy worries him as he looks at the additional staffing needs for the building.

"I'm very worried about that," he said.

The city has a hiring freeze in place, and the department has three open positions for sworn officers that can't be filled, Ballantine said.

The department is setting priorities to look at where money could be saved. The low gas prices have been a "godsend" and Ballantine said he hopes they stay down this coming year.

"That would help a great deal," he said.

2008 CRIME STATISTICS

ST. CLOUD POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENT	2007	2008
Theft	1,040	1,007
Assault	461	495
Property Damage	399	372
Burglary	309	331
Robbery	41	57

Source: The St. Cloud Police Department



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