



The Associated Press

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Mayo Clinic expansion plan needs legislative help

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ROCHESTER — The financing plan for a massive expansion of Mayo Clinic needs a small change from state legislators, which is making some lawmakers worried that politics could cause a delay.

A state law outlines how the Mayo Clinic's 20-year plan to remake its flagship campus, the Destination Medical Center, will be funded, including \$327 million in state aid. But that aid is contingent on \$6 billion in private investments, and the Minnesota Attorney General's Office issued an opinion saying those investments need to be doubled in order to tap state money.

Local officials in Roches-

ter say the law's unclear language is creating problems for their upcoming budget, and Republican Sen. Carla Nelson of Rochester is concerned investors will back out, Minnesota Public Radio News reported.

It's up to state lawmakers to make an adjustment, but tax bills usually become overly complicated, said Rep. Greg Davids, who will lead the House Tax Committee in 2015.

"Anytime you bring a bill on the House floor that has to do with taxes, it could become a Christmas tree," the Preston Republican said. "You could have more lights and bells and whistles put on that tree than you could imagine."

"If I get on the House

floor and there's amendment after amendment to get political, I'll just pull it back. Then it's not quite so simple, is it?"

The money for the project is on hold until the city is reassured the state aid will come through, Assistant City Administrator Gary Neumann said.

The city plans to write and approve the project's budget in December, then amend it to include more project funding after the Legislature makes a fix. Davids said he plans to hold hearings on the issue next year, and Nelson said lawmakers must make "a swift, clean fix or correction to the technical language about the (Destination Medical Center)."

Missing portrait of Paul Watkins found

The Associated Press

WINONA — A valuable portrait taken from an assisted-living center in Winona has turned up.

The massive 4-by-5-foot painting of late Winona businessman Paul Watkins vanished in September

from Watkins Manor. On Wednesday, police said a man had called authorities to say he had the painting in his nearby home.

KAGE radio reported the man told police he had taken the portrait. His identity wasn't immediately released and no charges

have been filed.

Paul Watkins founded Watkins Products, known now for making spices and extracts.

The family home was eventually turned into the assisted-living center.

The painting was valued at about \$6,500.

\$1.8M verdict upheld in 'American Sniper' case

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL — A judge has rejected a request from the widow of "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle to order a new trial or toss a jury's verdict in favor of former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Ventura was awarded \$1.8 million in a defama-

tion lawsuit that alleged Kyle made up claims in his book about punching Ventura after he made offensive comments about Navy SEALs at a California bar in 2006.

Ventura says it never happened. Both men are former SEALs.

The lawsuit was allowed to continue after Kyle, con-

sidered the deadliest sniper in U.S. military history, died last year.

Attorneys for his widow, Taya Kyle, say laws and trial evidence didn't support the jury's award. But the federal judge who presided over the trial ruled Wednesday that "substantial evidence" supported the verdict.

RUN: 2 raise funds for cancer survivor program

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months for themselves and their families at no cost.

Schuck is a coach with the program, and Ambrose is a volunteer. They both have many stories of how the program has bettered the lives of participants, both physically and mentally.

Teresa Saum, a cancer survivor, can attest to the positive effects. Saum went through the program this past January, about six months after finishing her treatment. She heard of the program through a friend who also had cancer.

"It's such an uplifting experience that we always felt better on the way home," she said. "This was a way to exercise and feel like you were getting stronger and just getting back to appreciating life."

Saum, who said she didn't want to be part of a cancer support group, said the program was supportive but in more of a life-affirming way. She's

since volunteered for the program and participated in the Runstrong race series this past spring that raised money for it.

She's also stayed in touch with her fellow alumni and hosted an event for them a few weeks ago.

"The physical benefits were great, and I would say the mental and emotional benefits were as important if not more important," she said. "It just does a lot for your spirit to be with other people who are fighting those same battles."

Jaci Sticha, a four-time cancer survivor, participated in the program in May. Since completing the program, Sticha said she has felt "exponentially healthier." She's also become a YMCA member and a Livestrong volunteer.

"It's just such a welcoming, healthy, wonderful environment," she said. "Medically I had wonderful surgeons, wonderful oncologists. The YMCA completed my circle to living healthier."

Continuing the story

The wall near the life center is covered in bibs. It's indicative of the support Ambrose and Schuck have received.

The pair had raised more than \$4,000 as of Tuesday. More than 100 people had run with them as of Tuesday, including dozens last Saturday.

"It's amazing how many people have given us names," Ambrose said. "When we do group runs or we have guest runners run with us, they all have a story they want to tell on someone that they've loved and the feelings of loss or the bravery or the triumphs. Just thinking about this person again is truly meaningful."

The pair said they don't know what's next come Dec. 1. They'll likely continue running, just not daily.

"We've found a lot of purpose in this," Schuck said. "I certainly wouldn't mind finding a way to continue this story."

In these changing times, let us be reminded of the beliefs held by our Founding Fathers, and remember them on Thanksgiving Day, 2014.

Proclamation of Thanksgiving

by President George Washington, 1789



Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

~ George Washington, October 1789

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