

'BRUNO'

> FEEL FAMILIAR? HERE'S WHY, 1E
> REVIEW: DESPERATELY SEEKING 'BORAT,' 4E



Your boss wants to be a Facebook friend — what now? 1C
Judge temporarily blocks Williams' 4-game suspensions, 1D

St. Paul PIONEER PRESS

85 high, 62 low > See Page 8D

twincities.com

FRIDAY 7-10-2009



Patricia Ann Becht, 42, of South St. Paul, is being held at the Dakota County Jail.

A son is slain; a mother is jailed

Daughter still in hospital; charges expected today

By Frederick Melo
fmelo@pioneerpress.com

A South St. Paul mother has been arrested in the killing of her 10-year-old son and the apparent attempted killing of her 11-year-old daughter, police said.

Charges against Patricia Ann Becht were expected to be filed today. She was booked Thursday on probable cause of first-degree premeditated murder. A spokeswoman with the Dakota County attorney's office said Becht, 42, will make her first court appearance today at the county courthouse in Hastings.

Authorities have not disclosed how the child died. Neighbors said they heard no commotion, and police did not recover any weapons from the crime scene.

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom was expected to talk about the case in a news conference shortly after Becht's court appearance.

Becht was released from United Hospital in St. Paul on Thursday and was being held at the Dakota County Jail pending formal charges.

About 5:30 p.m. Monday, Becht's son, Michael Vonheath Becht Jr., 10, was found dead at his South St. Paul home at 716 First Ave. S.

Patricia Becht and her daughter, Erica Becht, 11, were at the home at the time and needed medical attention, police said. Patricia Becht, who was conscious, was taken to United. Her daughter, who was unconscious, was taken to Children's Hospital in St. Paul.

Police did not disclose what they were being treated for.

MOM JAILED, 3A >

A shift to THRIFT

Amid the worst retail downturn in decades, second-hand stores become a hit among cost-conscious shoppers.



Peter Dang, 7, of Burnsville, finds a miniature violin for sale at the Goodwill store in Eagan. Powered by bargain shoppers, Goodwill Industries has seen rising sales nationally and plans to open new stores this year in Bloomington and Woodbury. PIONEER PRESS: BEN GARVIN

By Gita Sitaramiah > gsitaramiah@pioneerpress.com

Want that Room & Board furniture for 75 percent less? How about a \$9.99 Christian Dior jacket that looks like new? Those deals are getting easier to find. In a sign of the tough times, second-hand stores are the next wave of shops hitting Woodbury, Apple Valley and other suburbs.

Goodwill is opening stores in Bloomington on Aug. 22 and Woodbury on Sept. 19 and is hunting for more sites. Savers will open its sixth Minnesota store in Apple Valley on Aug. 27 and is scouting for two more locations next year. Turn Style Consignment is adding home stores to its higher-end women's clothing boutiques, including a recent addition at its Roseville location.

Prudent shoppers like retired 3M clerical worker Sheree Riehm, who lives on a fixed income, are the drive behind these openings. She shopped Wednesday at Savers in Maplewood, where she's a regular.

"It's the only store that I can walk in and anything I see, I can afford," she said.

Expansion of second-hand stores comes amid the worst retail downturn in decades. Consumers, dogged by job loss and investment woes, are reluctant to spend. The nation's big retailers on Thursday reported steep sales declines for June, led by Abercrombie & Fitch's eye-popping 32 percent drop from the same period a year ago.

THRIFT STORES, 6A >

'I'm just glad he's home now'



Lorraine Machacek visits the gravesite where the remains of her former husband, John Holman, will be buried with military honors Saturday at Union Cemetery in White Bear Lake. PIONEER PRESS: CHRIS POLYDOROFF

Arduous ID process lets Korean War widow bury her husband at long last

By John Brewer
jbrewer@pioneerpress.com

Sgt. 1st Class John H. Holman was 23 and just four months married when he was shipped off to fight communism in the Korean War.

Fifty-nine years later, he has returned to Minnesota. "I always hoped that he'd get back," said Lorraine Machacek, 81, the bride Holman left behind. "I would have liked him to come home alive, but I'm

just glad he's home now." Holman was captured months into his deployment and considered missing in action until early this year, when his remains — included in a mass shipment from North Korea in the early 1990s — were positively identified by the Defense Department.

On Saturday, Holman's remains will be buried with military honors alongside those of his parents in

SOLDIER RETURNS, 6A >



Sgt. 1st Class John H. Holman

It's 'Project Runway,' starring ... two of us

Twin Cities designers land spots on season 6 of the hit TV series

By Allison Kaplan
akaplan@pioneerpress.com

Minnesota is in — at least until Heidi Klum says we're out.

Twin Cities fashion designers claimed two of the 16 coveted spots on the upcoming season of the hit reality series "Project Runway."

"Take that, Los Angeles. You got just one.

Minnesota will be represented by former Target designer Ra'mon-

Lawrence Coleman, who launched his independent fashion line in Minneapolis, and Shakopee resident Christopher Straub, who makes men's underwear out of vintage T-shirts.

Coleman, 31, and Straub, 30, are the first local designers to land on the show — a launching pad for fashion careers — since Minneapolis resident Katherine Gerdes competed in season three. Season

'PROJECT RUNWAY,' 6A >

Check it out @twincities.com

All your favorite arts and entertainment blogs are now in one place. Read, watch and listen at blogs.twincities.com/playlist.

Watch video and audio slideshows at twincities.com/video.

