

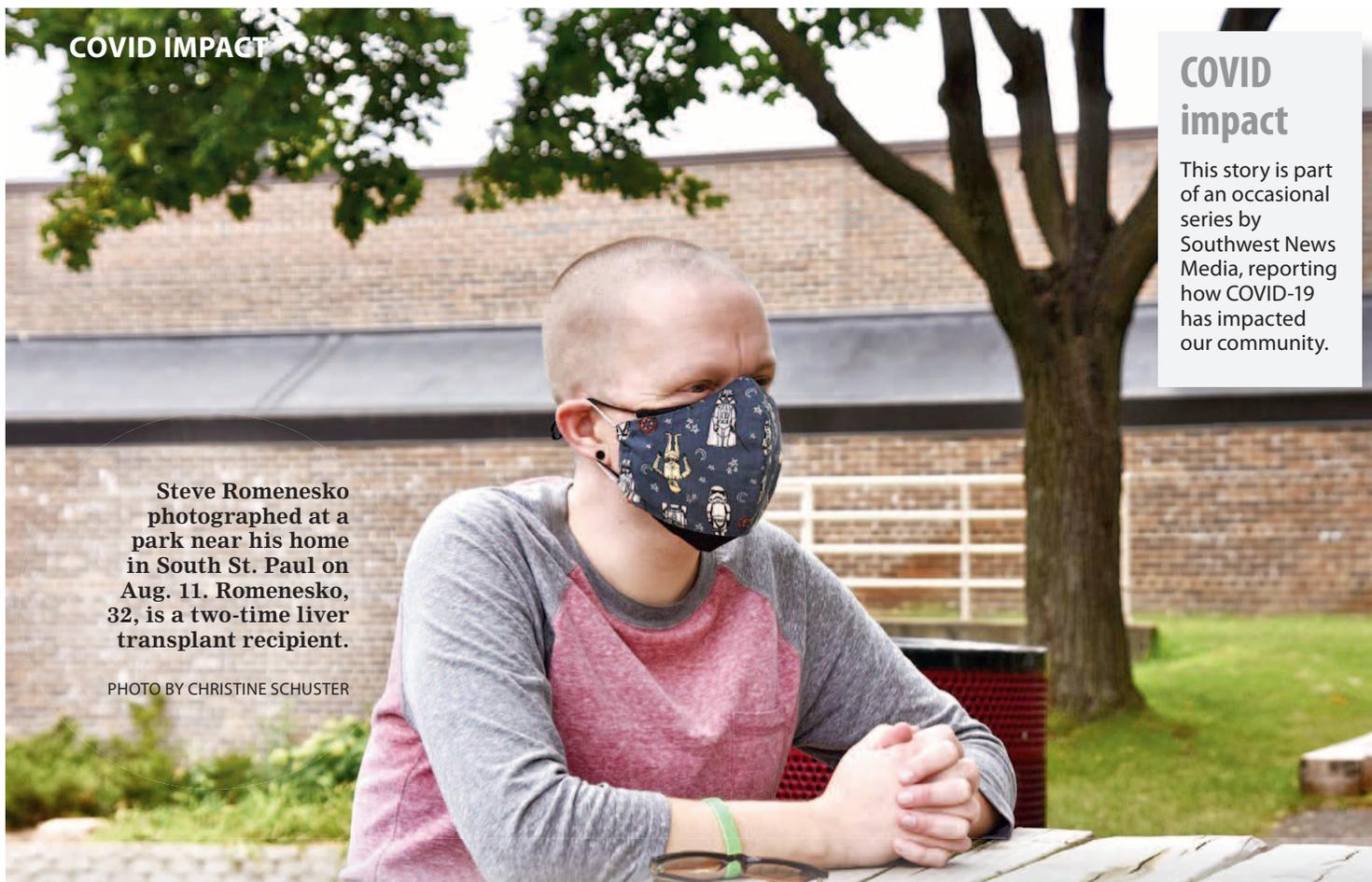


THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

CHASKA HERALD

HOMETOWN NEWS SINCE 1862

BREAKING NEWS ONLINE AT WWW.CHASKAHERALD.COM



COVID IMPACT

COVID impact

This story is part of an occasional series by Southwest News Media, reporting how COVID-19 has impacted our community.

Steve Romenesko photographed at a park near his home in South St. Paul on Aug. 11. Romenesko, 32, is a two-time liver transplant recipient.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE SCHUSTER

'AT A CROSSROADS'

DISABLED MINNESOTANS FIGHT FOR FUTURE OF REMOTE WORK, VIRTUAL ACCOMMODATIONS

BY CHRISTINE SCHUSTER
cschuster@swpub.com

In the early weeks of 2020, when a mysterious new virus began making headlines, South St. Paul resident Steve Romenesko watched the news closely.

By early March, with many things still unknown about the rapidly-spreading coronavirus, it became apparent the infectious disease would prove more deadly for organ transplant recipients like Romenesko.

"Whatever happens in the next couple of weeks, we're going to have to work from

home just for my own safety," Romenesko recalled explaining to his colleagues at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Today, Romenesko, 32, is continuing his work with students at the college through remote work accommodations.

He's also among a diverse group of disabled and chronically ill Minnesotans fighting for remote work and other virtual access accommodations to continue during — and eventually, after — the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When set up the right way, I think we're at a crossroads of a wonderful opportunity to allow the disabled community to be involved," Romenesko said.

David Dively, the executive director of the Minnesota Council on Disability, said people with disabilities have sought teleworking capabilities for many years.

The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act both broadly address issues of discrimination and workplace accommodations.

However, Dively said it's been difficult over the years for people with disabilities to be granted teleworking capabilities out of necessity for their health.

"There was extreme hesitancy by supervisors and human resources managers,"

Disability to 4 >

On the grow

Carver, Scott are state's fastest-growing counties

BY MADDIE DEBILZAN

Recently released 2020 Census data proves what many residents have known for years — population in the southwest metro is skyrocketing.

This is especially true in Scott and Carver counties, the single-two fastest-growing counties in the state.

And, as populations have increased, the counties have experienced both triumphs and growing pains.

When Suzie Misel first started working for Scott and Carver County's Community Action Partnership more than 10 years ago, she remembers far more corn fields and fewer Walmarts and Targets. There were apartments (plenty of them) you could rent for less than 700 bucks a month. There wasn't as much diversity. You didn't hear much of people experiencing homelessness.

MIGRATION TO SUBURBS

Minnesota Senior Demographer Eric Guthrie said the expansion of the counties is a continuation of a larger pattern

Census to 4 >

Growth

Between 2010 and 2020, Carver County, which sits at 106,922 people, grew by 17.4%. Scott County grew by 16.2% and houses 150,928 residents.

INDEX

OPINION	6
OBITUARIES	8
SPORTS	9
CLASSIFIEDS	24
FINAL FRAME	28

HOW TO REACH US

SUBSCRIBE: 952-445-3333
EDITOR: 952-345-6471 OR
EDITOR@CHASKAHERALD.COM
ONLINE: CHASKAHERALD.COM

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



VOLUME 160, ISSUE 3

swnewsmedia

© 2021 MEDIANEWS GROUP



Ready for a NEW JOB? COME TO OUR JOB FAIR!

Thursday, Sept. 23, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Prior Lake High School / Lower Level Commons Area
7575 150th St. W., Savage

Recruiters: Reserve your table today. Email swjobfair@swpub.com or call (952) 345-3003.

Co-sponsored by:

