FINAL EDITION

Missing boys not yet ready to leave nest

t's surprising sometimes how much of the little child is left in an 11-year-old, or a boy who is 12. And how much, too, they want to grow up.

Purvis Virginia Parker was 11 when he walked away from the home of his buddy, Quadrevion Henning, two weeks ago Sunday afternoon. Quadrevion, or "Dre" as his family calls him, was 12.

Dre is, said his family Sunday, like other kids that age. He likes to snuggle up in bed next to his grandmother. Likes to flex all of his 110-pound frame at his grandfather as well, and say, "Papa, look at these mus-

Garry Henning, "Papa" to Dre, chuckles.

Dre also says, "Look at this mustache!" says Garry. "Boy," Garry teases him,

'wipe that dirt off your lip.' It was raining hard Sunday afternoon as I stood inside Garry Henning's living room on N. 53rd St., and colder than it should be by this time.

Dre was wearing a black pullover "hoodie" when he walked off to play some basketball at the school just down the street. Purvis had on a "hoodie" that was gray. Most kids that age, I know, seem almost allergic to anything warmer.

The highs were in the mid-40s that day, but even when it's freezing you figure kids can survive a little adversity. They come in when they need to.

That first night they didn't come home it got down into the

There have been 14 more nights since then.

This is unfathomable for anyone who raises kids.

"Lord knows," said Pastor Donald Jordan. "I have children of my own," including a daughter who is 8 years old. "I could not possibly imagine my daughter being gone that

The pastor had just finished a service inside the McGovern Park Senior Center, where his Christian Methodist Episcopal Church congregation convenes. Pravers continue unabated, to be sure — but there is an increasingly discom forting reality. Searching, unlike prayer, cannot carry on indefinitely with quite the

Police have looked about everywhere by now, from Glendale to Thiensville to, they said Sunday, the Menomonee River Parkway. They looked around the lagoon right outside the windows of the senior center.

Just to the north, they have also searched the Havenwoods State Forest, where 50 years ago we hid our anti-aircraft rockets during the Cold War. Nowadays, our fears are of a different sort.

Just up the street from the Hennings' house, two signs have been planted in the grass, asking, "Do you know who your neighbor is?" and providing a Web site: Wisconsinsex offender.org.

Craig Winstead, owner of the nearest home, says he did not put them there, but he certainly understands why somebody

"I guess," he said, "the neighbors are just looking at every aspect because the kids just vanished into thin air. Kids are out playing ball one (moment) and fail to come home" the next.

This is not a horrible neighborhood. It is a neighborhood like many others around here, with children who, at that age, present a universal dilemma.

You spend about the first 10 years never letting them out of your sight, knowing it cannot last forever. You finally let out a little rope, watch them while they don't even know it, try not to feel paranoid even though you still walk into their room in the middle of the night sometimes just to make sure they are still there.

Wonder how anybody ever exhales again when they are

Editor's note: Mike Nichols' column will now appear in the Metro section on Monday and Saturday, and in the Ozaukee/ Washington section, delivered to readers in those counties, on Sundays

Metro

LOCAL NEWS THROUGHOUT THE DAY DayWatch updates you at

www.jsonline.com MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

City boosts access for those with disabilities

Sites moved; ramps and doorbells installed

By KAY NOLAN

The City of Milwaukee has abandoned 17 polling sites that are not accessible to people with disabilities, and has made improvements to others, such as ramps and special doorbells, in time for Tuesday's election. "At this point, 99% of our

sites are accessible," said Neil Albrecht, assistant director of Milwaukee's Election Commission. "I think voters will see a significant difference.'

Residents who used to vote at the 17 inaccessible sites have been assigned to new locations.

The Journal Sentinel reported in November that nearly 41% of polling sites statewide posed significant physical barriers for elderly and disabled people, despite the passage of

the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. The 2002 federal Help America Vote Act gave municipalities nationwide a deadline of 2006 to meet accessibility standards at polling

In older cities such as Milwaukee, where aging public schools are often used for vot-

Please see VOTE, 5B



KAREN SHERLOCK / KSHERLOCK@JOURNALSENTINEL.COM

A wooden ramp has been installed at the entrance of the Saveland Park Pavilion, 3700 S. 2nd St., to make it more accessible for voters with disabilities. A permanent ramp will be installed later, the county says

In some races, it's more a renewal than an election

By REID J. EPSTEIN

repstein@journalsentinel.com It was 1992 and James Gar-

vens was one of three candidates running for two positions on the Brookfield Common Council, so he bought a bunch of red-and-white campaign signs and planted them throughout the district.

Garvens, now 70, won election that April, collected the signs and placed them in his

attic. He's never had to take them down — he hasn't had an opponent in any year since.

"I just don't know why no one's ever opposed me," said Garvens, who, as usual, faces no opposition in Tuesday's election. "I get very few complaints that I can't solve or resolve.

Garvens is one of a handful of Milwaukee-area elected officials who have gone years

— or decades, in a few cases — without facing opposition. Although a few suburban communities regularly have a flood of candidates seeking posts on the school boards and common councils, others, especially county boards have people who have not been challenged since the

Four Waukesha County supervisors have gone at least 10 years without a challenge. Walter Kolb last faced an opponent in 1994, and County Board Chairman James Dwyer had a competitor in 1992. Sandra Wolff of Brookfield and Joe Marchese of Lisbon have been all alone on the ballot every two years since

Marchese said he keeps tabs on his district, which includes Lisbon, Lannon and parts of

Menomonee Falls, by stopping in on people to chat. He said he's also a regular at county facilities in the district, where during colder months the first thing he checks is the thermo-

"If I see that heat above 75 degrees," Marchese said, "I go right to the boss and tell them to cut it down to 68.

Please see **ELECTION, 5B**

PREPARING FOR THE PUCK TO DROP



Jay Moegenburg (left) and Greg Peterson paint logos into the ice Sunday at the Bradley Center in preparation for the NCAA Frozen Four college hockey championships. First, the ice is shaved to about a half-inch thick, and white paint is applied over existing logos. The NCAA logos are then painted on, and the ice is rebuilt. The University of Wisconsin made the final four, and the Badgers — as well as the other three competitors — will play Thursday.

Urban parks can have splendor without the grass



Whitney GOULD

f you think a park has to mean pastoral greenswards and oak groves, think again. A new generation of offbeat parks is taking root all over the United States and Europe, and these upstarts are more gritty than green, transforming orphaned industrial sites with modern design, hard-edged materials and unconventional plantings.

A prime example of this boomlet in "landscape urbanism," as it's called, is the upcoming Erie St. Plaza in the Histor ic Third Ward. By this fall, the half-acre riverfront park will have opened on what is now a city-owned patch of asphalt at the eastern terminus of Erie St., where views of the harbor are framed by the Hoan Bridge and the Allen-Bradley clock tower. When I went down there one day last week, it was a placid respite for a couple of fishermen, with gulls wheeling overhead.

Anglers will always be welcome here. But the asphalt will give way to precast pavers interspersed with islands of marsh grasses and lawn and groves of hardy bamboo, all of which will be fed by storm water. Immersion heaters in the grated



KAREN SHERLOCK / KSHERLOCK@JOURNALSENTINEL.COM

The small patch of land at the end of Erie St. in the Third Ward will become a landscaped plaza with bamboo groves and internally lighted park benches by this fall

bamboo groves will generate steam and keep the plants green in the winter. The site will be dotted with fiberglass benches lighted from within. Dramatic pedestrian lighting and an extension of the River-Walk are also in the works, promising to make this an engaging place year round.

Funded with the increased tax revenues from new development nearby, the \$800,000 project is an inspired collaboration among Stoss Landscape Urbanism of Boston and two Milwaukee firms, Vetter Denk Architecture and Graef Anhalt Schloemer & Associates, engineers. They won a city-sponsored competition that drew more than three dozen entries

from around the world.

(For details, click on the Department of City Development's Web site, www.mkedcd.org; after April 24, you can see the work of the five finalists on that Web site and in a gallery off the first-floor Commons area at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning, 2131 E. Hartford

Rocky Marcoux, commissioner of the Department of City Development, told me that while the plans had met with "overwhelming acceptance" when they were

Trial today in slaying linked to ID theft

Defendant denies killing man whose body parts were found along river

By GINA BARTON

gbarton@journalsentinel.com On the run from the law, Wis-

consin native Dennis Gaede fled to North Dakota, where he lived as Timothy Wicks. A few months later, in winter

2002, Wicks' torso and head showed up on the shores of the Menominee River between Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Wicks' hands are

missing. Authorities identified 48-year-old musician painter through dental records. Today

years

Hales

home.

killing him. Al-

though the in-

spanned three

vestigation

Wicks

more than four after left his Corners telling friends he was going to Canada to play in a bar band — Gaede goes on trial on accusations

states, the trial will take place

in Fargo, since authorities believe the homicide occurred in a small town nearby where Gaede had gone to hide.

Gaede has pleaded not guilty and maintains his innocence.

For those who knew Wicks and those who investigated his murder, the trial has been a long time coming.

'Thank God it's finally under way," said Wicks' longtime friend Jim Koehler. "I'm hoping to God (that Gaede is convicted) because you've got to get this guy off the streets because this guy is a nightmare.

Wicks disappeared just after Christmas 2001. The Journal Sentinel series "Fatal Identity," published in 2004, addressed frustrations among Wicks' friends and law enforcement officials that, despite much circumstantial evidence, Gaede was not being charged with homicide. By that time, Gaede was serving prison time on North Dakota charges of insurance fraud and theft by deception.

Please see TRIAL, 5B

Please see GOULD, 5B

Dakota trial ready in killing linked to ID theft

TRIAL, From 1B

Those charges were leveled because he embezzled money from his employer and collected health insurance benefits in Wicks' name.

ultimately was charged with homicide in August 2005.

Gaede and Wicks had met in Milwaukee, when Gaede prepared Wicks' tax returns. They became friends based on the fact that both were drummers. Investigators say that when Gaede moved to North Dakota in 2001 to avoid sentencing on two Monroe County felonies, he assumed Wicks' identity.

Key prosecution evidence likely will come from Gaede's now ex-wife, Diana Fruge. In February 2004, Fruge told au-

thorities that Gaede killed Wicks at their home outside Fargo and she helped him dispose of the body. She also recounted the story in a series of interviews with the Journal Sentinel later in 2004.

By chance, Wicks had learned that someone was using his identity, although he didn't know it was Gaede, according to Fruge. Gaede later lured Wicks to North Dakota with the promise of a high-paying music gig in Canada, she said. Gaede shot Wicks in the kitchen of their farmhouse and suffocated him, Fruge told authorities. After an unsuccessful attempt to bury the body in their frozen backyard, Gaede rented a U-Haul truck, which they drove to Powers, Mich., where Gaede owned a cabin,

she said. Fruge says she and her young son, Joshua, sat in the front seat of the U-Haul, the radio blasting, as Gaede dismembered the body in the

After disposing of the body, the couple bought an RV and drove around the country for nearly two months. They were finally captured at a campground in Lincoln, Neb. But there is no physical evi-

dence tying Gaede to the crime, a fact that will likely be hammered home to the jury by the defense. The U-Haul had been cleaned and re-rented before authorities found out about it, according to police reports. Police found nothing of evidentiary value at the cabin, according to search warrant affidavits. At the farmhouse, investigators

found a mop head with brownish stains on it, and spots that could be blood near the washer and dryer and a smear near the banister, but none of them could be conclusively tied to Wicks, according to a search warrant. Police found boxes of several types of ammunition, as well as a couple of holsters, but no guns, the warrant says.

FROM PAGE ONE

Although Fruge and Gaede are now divorced, the fact that they were once married may benefit the defense. Although Fruge has agreed to testify against Gaede, North Dakota law limits how much she can say. She can't testify about things he told her, only about what she saw.

There's also the matter of a false confession. Fruge says that after Wicks died, Gaede persuaded her to write a statement saying she had killed Wicks in self-defense after he tried to rape her — even though that wasn't true. Authorities never believed the story, and Fruge was charged only with interfering with child custody for taking her son out of Wisconsin without telling the boy's father. In an interview with the

Journal Sentinel in 2004, Gaede denied killing Wicks. "I did not do this thing. Some-

thing happened, and I'm not sure what, but I had nothing to do with it," he said then. "And the truth will come out.

■ On the Web: The five-part Journal Sentinel series about Timothy Wicks' murder can be found at www.jsonline.com/links/fatalidentity.

Some officials haven't faced an opponent in a decade-plus

ELECTION, From 1B

Marchese, 80, said he'd be willing to leave the board if a proposed referendum to cut the board's size from 35 to 11 passes, but short of that he said he'd like to remain "as long as they want me.'

No use for signs

He's sure to win a 12th term on Tuesday, and Marchese said he hasn't had use for his yard signs in years.

Unlike Garvens and Mar-

chese, Rodell Singert has always stayed away from signs. A county supervisor and Mukwonago School Board member, the 70-year-old has been elected to the latter post every three years without opposition since 1982, according to Journal Sentinel archives and district records.

"I don't want to be selfish in any way. I just feel that I'm dedicated, I make a commitment and I keep my commitment," said Singert, who said he remembers having an op-

ponent at some time in the last 24 years, but doesn't recall when.

Instead of spreading signs with his name on them, Singert sticks to door-to-door campaigning, even though he hasn't had to do so to keep his School Board seat.

"The only way you really understand people is by meeting face-to-face," he said. It's hard to top the unop-

posed record of Fred Kaul, an Ozaukee County supervisor from the Town of Grafton who

has been elected every two years since 1980 without ever being challenged. His closest call came two years ago, when Scott Nelson, a former Ozaukee sheriff's deputy, got on the ballot against Kaul but pulled out of the race because he moved out of the district.

Kaul has said he also was never challenged during 32 years on the Grafton Town Board. Garvens, the Brookfield

alderman, said even if it's safer electorally to be unopposed, it's better to have an opponent to spur regular conversation with voters about the community's issues. To make sure that happens, he walks Beamer, his 95-pound Boxer, through Brookfield's 3rd district. The constituents. he said, have never had a hot-button issue to get upset "The only thing they're

interested in are the deer, the gypsy moths and the mosquitoes," Garvens said. "I don't have a lot of controversy."

ELECTION 2006: CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLLING LOCATION CHANGES The City of Milwaukee has abandoned 17 voting sites that are not accessible to people with disabilities. The chart lists the old and new voting addresses for

the affected wards within the aldermanic districts. The map below shows aldermanic districts that have some changed sites. 00, 00,000 Voting wards within the aldermanic districts

O Aldermanic districts ALDERMANIC DISTRICT/ FORMER WARDS

ALDERMANIC DISTRICT/ FORMER WARDS		OLD SITE/ADDRESS		ALDERMANIC DISTRICT/ NEW WARDS		NEW SITE/ADDRESS					
	11, 12,13	Garden Homes	4456 N. Teutonia Ave.		11	Rufus King	1801 W. Olive St.				
					12, 13	DPW Northwest Garage	3025 W. Ruby Ave.				
	147, 150	Hawthorne School	6945 N. 41st St.	l	147, 150	Milwaukee Police Safety Academy	6680 N. Teutonia Ave.				
3	40	Hartford Avenue School	2227 E. Hartford Ave.	3	40	UWM Sandburg Hall	3400 N. Maryland Ave.				
	52, 56	Renaissance Place	1451 N. Prospect Ave.		52, 56	Charles Allis Art Museum	1801 N. Prospect Ave.				
4	71	Wisconsin Avenue School	2708 W. Wisconsin Ave.	4	71	Our Savior Lutheran Church	3022 W. Wisconsin Ave.				
6	16	Green Bay Avenue School	3872 N. 8th St.	6	16	Green Bay Ave. Fieldhouse	3818 N. 8th St.				
	108	Garfield School	2215 N. 4th St.		108	Northcott Neighborhood House	2460 N. 6th St.				
	164, 165, 166	Keefe Avenue School	1618 W. Keefe Ave.		164, 165, 166	Andrew Douglas Community Academy	3620 N. 18th St.				
7	170, 171	Townsend Street School	3360 N. Sherman Blvd.	7	171	Boys & Girls Club: Mary Ryan	3000 N. Sherman Blvd.				
					170	DPW Field Headquarters	3850 N. 35h St.				
10	126,127	St. Catherine's Catholic Parish	5117 W. Center St.	10	126,127	Sherman School	5110 W. Locust St.				
	283,284	Juneau Avenue Fieldhouse	6500 W. Mt. Vernon St.		283,284	Juneau High School	6415 W. Mount Vernon St.				
12	201, 202	Vieau School	823 S. 4th St.	12	201, 202	Firehouse Engine 3	100 W. Virginia St.				
	204, 206	Kagel School	1210 W. Mineral St.	8	204, 206	Longfellow School	1021 S. 21st St.				
14	249, 250	Humboldt Park School	3230 S. Adams Ave.	14	249,250	Humboldt Park Pavilion	3000 S. Howell Ave. (enter park from Pine & Oklahoma Sts.)				
	244, 142, 243	Clement Zablocki	1016 W. Oklahoma Ave.		244, 142	Pulaski Indoor Swimming Pool	2701 S. 16th St.				
					243	St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church	1132 W. Oklahoma Ave.				
	238, 239	Trowbridge School	1943 E. Trowbridge St.		238,239	South Shore Park Pavilion	2900 S. Shore Drive				
15	181	Milwaukee Urban League	2800 W. Wright St.	15	181	Center Street Library	2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave.				
POLLING LOCATION NAME CHANGES ONLY											

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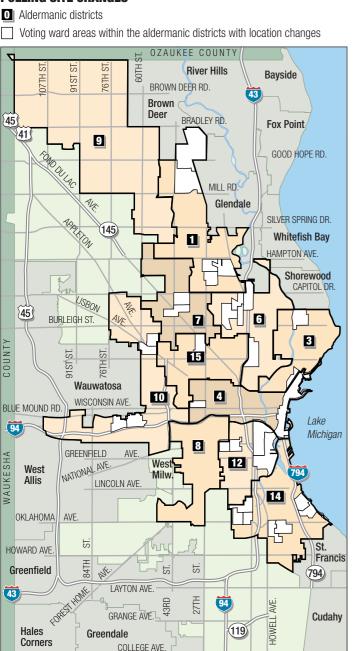
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POLLING SITE CHANGES

Franklin

Source: City of Milwaukee

Source: City of Milwaukee Election Committe



City improves voter access

VOTE, From 1B

ing, the problem has been more severe. Members of the mayor's Election Commission Task Force were stunned last year to hear stories of voters turned away from the polls, or leaving without voting because they were unable to get past stairs, heavy doors or hallways blocked with election-day bake sales. Sometimes voters found the only accessible entrance at a site unmarked or even locked. Albrecht said better signs

will now be posted at polling sites, along with temporary doorbells that can be used to alert poll workers inside to come to the assistance of voters struggling with heavy doors.

The city has spent about \$75,000 on the supplies, about \$25,000 of which came from federal funding, he said. "We've been asking school

custodians to make sure doors are unlocked on election days, he said, adding that vandals have destroyed expensive automatic doors that previously were installed at many schools.

'They've done a lot of the

South

BOB VEIERSTAHLER/

right things," said Alicia Sidman of Disability Rights Wisconsin, formerly the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy. "They've called in experts and reached out to the disability community.'

A Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy report after the 2004 presidential election found that 71% of Milwaukee's polling sites visited by the group had "one or more potentially critical problems" of accessibility, and 36% had "five or more potentially critical problems. Milwaukee officials invited

representatives of IndependenceFirst, which serves people with disabilities in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee counties, to tour about 20 polling sites in Milwaukee. Diana Sullivan of Indepen-

denceFirst said her observa-

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tions led Milwaukee to choose a few more alternative voting sites "for places that were very

difficult to access.' "I think the city did make a pretty good effort at this time,' she said. Just as important however, she said, will be teaching poll workers to be more sensitive to disabled voters' wish to be as independent as possible and to assert their right to vote in secrecy. "With proper training, probably over the next couple of years — we know this doesn't happen in one election or in one election vear — if care is taken. I think we'll have a really good voting system.'

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Splendor without the grass

GOULD, From 1B

unveiled earlier this year, there have been some grumbles, notably from developer Peter Renner, who reportedly eyed the site for parking and a traffic turnaround. Renner's new condo complex, Harbor Front, abuts the plaza. Renner didn't return my

phone calls, but restaurateur Hans Weissgerber III, whose Riptide bar and grill is on the ground floor of the condos, told me he, too, thought any plaza should include a turnaround. And he preferred something other than bamboo for the plant-"It's certainly novel," he said,

"but I question its relevance to the Third Ward.' Seems to me that the Third

Ward, with everything from French and Japanese restaurants to art galleries and condos, is eclectic enough to accommodate bamboo, which creates an exotic ambience, especially in a breeze. And, with a big parking lot across the street, it's hard to see why we need to cede additional precious waterfront space to cars.

Einar Tangen, head of the Third Ward's Business Improvement District, chuckled when I asked him about some of the reaction he had picked up. Some suburban condo buyers, he said, don't want such cuttingedge design in their backyard.

"They want oak trees! Can you imagine?" he said. "Sorry, but you can't move Mequon down to the Third Ward."

As for concerns that the plaza will be difficult to maintain, Marcoux was confident the city and Third Ward leaders could keep this tiny parcel clean.

My guess is that all the fretting boils down to fear of the unknown. That will pass, I predict, when people see how appealing a place like this can be. Not in a bucolic, Olmstedian way, but in a manner that lets us experience this transitional zone between the harbor and the city in new and surprising

Lots of other unorthodox landscapes are emerging from the derelict edges of urban life. In the west end of the Menomonee Valley, two majestic old chimneys left over from a once bustling rail yard will become the anchors of a park that will blend storm-water management ponds with athletic fields, path ways and other amenities. (For more information, check out www.renewthevalley.org.)

In Seattle, Gas Works Park, designed in the 1970s by the visionary Richard Haag, made the ruins of an old gas plant the centerpiece of a 20-acre park that uses vegetation to clean up contaminants. On the west side of Manhattan, a mile-and-a-halflong abandoned rail line, the High Line, is to become an over head park (www.thehighline

Industrial remnants have also sparked charismatic parks fashioned out of brownfields in Germany's Ruhr Valley, in The Netherlands, Spain and other

parts of Europe. What links these diverse reinventions is their lack of sentimentality and their designers' willingness to embrace, rather than erase, the raw layers of our industrial history, while letting nature help heal old wounds.

There's real beauty lurking in those scars if you take the time to look and dream.

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