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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

HOMETOWN NEWS SINCE 1862

# CHASKA HERALD

BREAKING NEWS ONLINE AT WWW.CHASKAHERALD.COM

## VOICE OF THE HAWKS

*Ryan Paul's time winds down with Chaska High*

BY ERIC KRAUSHAR  
scores@swpub.com

Ryan Paul has always been the director.

Sometimes he was the commissioner of a baseball game in the backyard. He would double as lead announcer for post-game interviews with the winning team.

Sometimes it was sing-a-longs at Christmas time with his grandpa.

There were NCAA Bracketology specials and Ryder Cup player selection shows.

Looking back, parents J.P. and Megan Paul realize how often Ryan had a microphone or headset near him.

"Passion comes easy for Ryan and

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### What's next for Paul?

The Section 2-4A boys basketball playoffs could be the final broadcasts for Ryan Paul on the Chaska Hawks Broadcast Network, a venture he created in his four years at Chaska High School.

Find out what is up next for Paul after high school on page 14.

Ryan Paul, founder of the Chaska Hawks Broadcast Network, is a senior at Chaska High School.

FILE PHOTO

### EDUCATION

## \$110.5 million schools question

District to hold listening session

BY ALEX CHHITH  
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A new elementary school, an expanded bus garage and funding for long overdue maintenance on some of District 112's oldest schools.

Those were the recommendations the Eastern Carver County School's Facility Task Force gave for a \$110.5 million bond referendum that could go before voters this November, according to the group's report.

District leaders will host a "Community Listening Session," to discuss growth and funding needs, 6:30-7:30 p.m. March 11 at Chaska High School, 545 Pioneer Trail.

In January, the Facility Task Force made its final recommendation to the Eastern Carver County School Board. The recommendation includes funding to build a new elementary school, costing approximately \$35.5 million, a new expanded bus garage at about \$13.5 million, and ap-

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## SCHOOL

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proximately \$61.5 million to cover deferred maintenance for buildings.

The task force started the work in September 2018 and worked with engineering and architectural consultants to compile the district's deferred maintenance list, according to Director of Finance & Operations DeeDee Kahring.

The school board will determine what will go on the referendum in June.

Here's three things to know about the bond referendum:

### 1. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The location of the district's new elementary school has not been determined yet, Kahring said. Officials are considering two locations, one in Victoria north of Holy Family Catholic High School, and another on six acres in Chaska, located east of High-

way 212 and north of Chaska Boulevard.

Much of the growth in the district is occurring in Carver and Victoria, Kahring said.

"Either one of those locations would help serve those communities," she said. "Both are growing pretty fast."

The district is anticipating 1,400 additional students in five years. Nearly two-thirds would be at the elementary level, according to a district's newsletter.

The Facility Task Force considered adding onto three existing elementary schools and ultimately decided a new elementary school for 610 students would be cheaper and less disruptive than additions.

In early 2017, the city of Chaska purchased 34 acres for \$2.5 million for a new elementary school and a new park. The school later purchased six acres of the property for \$470,831, according to Kahring.

## Community Listening Session

**What:** District 112 is holding a Community Listening Session to discuss growth and funding needs.

**When:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. March 11

**Where:** Chaska High School, Blue Forum, 545 Pioneer Trail, Chaska

The city park, to be named Schimelpfenig Park, would be used by the school during the day and the city and sports associations in the evenings.

### 2. MAINTENANCE AND BUS GARAGE

The Facility Task Force compiled a list of deferred maintenance totaling \$139 million, and recommended \$61.5 million be part of the

bond referendum.

The rest would be managed over 10 years using other funding sources with approval from the board, according to the school's newsletter.

Much of the work would be for the district's oldest schools which number over 50 years. They are Chaska Middle School East and West, La Academia, East Union Elementary and Chanhasen Elementary, according to Kahring.

"East and West have old inefficient undersized boilers and those we are replacing this summer," she said, adding that there also needs to be air duct and electrical work, among many other tasks. "Almost everything in those schools are originals."

The district also needs to update and expand its bus garage. The current garage located at 460 North Hickory Street in downtown Chaska has a capacity of 50 buses, however the district has more than twice the number in

operation, according to the newsletter.

Half of the district's buses are currently uncovered on the site—which is out of compliance with the city, Kahring said. If they were uncovered, they would start better during the winters and there would be less wear-and-tear.

"We're out of compliance and we're not maintaining those assets," said Kahring, noting that while the buses belong to Positive Connections, maintenance costs are covered by the district.

The referendum would include funding for wash bays, additional mechanical bays and more land for parking and space.

Officials are also considering building a new bus garage instead of updating the old one. However a site has not been determined, Kahring said.

### 3. OPERATING REVENUE AND RENEWING SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY LEVY

District leaders are also

looking at funding for the security and technology levy, and to cover a \$6 million gap in the operating levy, according to Kahring.

If voters choose to renew the security and technology levy, it would not increase taxes, Kahring said.

"The levy provides funding to improve school security, maintain technology infrastructure and put learning tools in the hands of students," according to the district's newsletter. The six-year levy is due to expire.

Operating revenue for the district is short \$6 million, due to state funding not keeping up with inflation, Kahring said.

The amount that may be on the district's referendum this fall will be contingent on whether the Minnesota Legislature passes increased funding. Officials are also considering how much taxpayers are willing to pay, Kahring said.



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# Start of something great

## The next Joe Buck? Ryan Paul hopes so

BY ERIC KRAUSHAR  
scores@swpub.com

Ryan Paul wants to be the next Joe Buck. Or maybe Paul Allen, the voice of the Minnesota Vikings and KFAN 100.3 radio host.

Paul, a senior at Chaska High School, likely has a head start on the competition.

Founder of the Chaska Hawks Broadcast Network (CHBN), he honed his play-by-play skills over the last three basketball seasons. Paul added his talents to a handful of hockey webcasts as well.

With the end of the 2018-19 winter season coming up soon, the big question everyone is wondering is what next.

What is next for Paul? What is next for CHBN?

"I'm not sure. I have a few options. The U, St. Cloud

State, Nebraska-Lincoln. Maybe Duluth. College, that's the plan. ... As far as CHBN goes, we are in talks with the school about them possibly taking it over to a degree. There's still a lot to be figured out with finances; what will be covered; who will do it," Paul said.

The idea of an audio and visual course offered as an elective at the high school was one thought.

"It's still in the works. I'm not sure if it will be right away, or take a year to get it going. I'm sure we'll figure out something for next year," Paul added.

While his future is uncertain in terms of location, one day Paul wants to do what he does now with CHBN. He loves calling games. He loves researching teams and learning the different vernacular for each sport.

"I'd like to one day be a professional commentator. A Joe Buck or Kenny Albert. ... I've never done anything else, so I'm not sure if that's for me, but I like what I do," he said.

Starting out with play-by-play calls as a sophomore,

Paul went through the early nerves, but soon gained the confidence inside himself, and from the viewers at home.

"I didn't really know anybody. I knew of (Chaska basketball coach Dana Kallman). He knew of me, but we hadn't really ever talked. I was a bit nervous to approach him and ask him for permission, but I'm glad I did. The rest kind of came naturally to me," Paul said.

His big break, of sorts, came in a February 2016 playoff game as a freshman. On the call with an audio broadcast, then-senior Jameson Meyer drained a 3-pointer at the buzzer for a Chaska win over Prior Lake.

Using his audio and the video captured by the Chaska Herald, he soon became a Twitter sensation among Hawk fans — a moment his dad, J.P., still watches from time to time.

"The fact that you guys were able to pair your video with his audio call really seemed to get things rolling and set the stage for the next three seasons of CHBN," J.P. Paul said.

Alone in the 2018-19 winter season, 56 webcasts have appeared on the Chaska Hawks Broadcast Network. Paul and the crew broadcast 26 regular season boys basketball games, 27 boys hockey contests, one girls hockey match, and two girls basketball telecasts.

The CHBN crew expanded to five on-air talents, including Paul, Taylor Hansen and Colin Jacobsen (hockey), and part-time color commentators in Greg Erickson and Herald Sports Editor Eric Kraushar. Behind the scenes the number counts 10 with producers and camera operators.

Capping the four years in the Chaska High School gymnasium last week, Paul was honored among the basketball seniors before the game against Richfield.

A touching and deserving moment, with Paul's grandpa flying in from Florida to see firsthand.

"I've been friends with these guys for many years. I used to play youth basketball with them way, way back. I would travel and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Always in front of a microphone or wearing a headset, Ryan Paul, senior at Chaska High School, seemingly was destined from his youth to have a passion for calling athletic games.

watch them on club teams and tournaments. My freshman year I just wanted to be a part of it all still. So it was really cool for them to honor

me. Certainly an emotional moment, but really fun, and something I'll always remember," Paul said.

## RYAN

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we have seen it since he was little. He has been 'producing and directing' for as long as we can remember," the Pauls said.

Ryan Paul, a senior at Chaska High School, is set to call his final basketball games on a webcast forum he created in recent years — the Chaska Hawks Basketball Network (CHBN).

What started out as a website dedicated to game reports and statistics for lower-level games for the Hawks boys basketball team, formerly the Chaska Basketball Report, now has blossomed into a venture that attempted to cover every Chaska boys basketball and hockey game in the 2018-19 season.

Add in a few special broadcasts of girls hockey and girls basketball, and there were four to five events covered each week. Video stream, play-by-play and graphics all included.

"We always say how much we've learned from Ryan. He epitomizes the concept of 'Just Do It.' He pursues his passions with relentless enthusiasm. He doesn't let road blocks stand in his way and he finds a way to make it all happen," the Pauls added.

### A FUN RIDE

Chaska High School Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Jon Summer saved an e-mail from Paul his freshman year. He just knew this was the start of something big.

"I think about our mission here at Chaska High School: To prepare each learner for



PHOTO COURTESY OF JON SUMMER/CHASKA HIGH SCHOOL

Chaska senior Ryan Paul, founder of the Chaska Hawks Broadcast Network, interviews former Hawk Spencer Tollackson at halftime of a recent home game. Tollackson, state champion at Chaska, former University of Minnesota Gopher, is now a color commentator on radio for the Gopher men's basketball team.

successful completion of a post-secondary educational program, life-long learning, career opportunities, and meaningful contributions as a citizen of a global community. I look at this mission and am amazed at what Ryan has done with an idea/concept that he started with as a ninth-grader and developed over the course of four years. I know this is a passion of his and what an incredible project based learning experience he has created for himself and others through the development of CHBN," Summer said.

At home games, you can find Paul sitting courtside, a second scorer's table in place

for him and the CHBN crew. Some nights he's dressed in a suit. Other nights he's dressed more like a high school senior, a pullover shirt and slacks.

During road venues, his vantage point varies. With the exception of one game in which Paul committed to covering a Chaska girls basketball game, with the rest of the CHBN crew heading to Richfield for a conference title, he has yet to miss a boys game in four years.

Paul was there for a buzzer-beater shot for a playoff win as a freshman. He was there when Myles Hanson's floater fell through the hoop in a section championship

win in 2017. He was there for a school-record 51 points from Cole Nicholson earlier this season.

Summer said other athletic directors have reached out to inquire what CHBN is all about; how it was started; and how it is operated. Many are in awe to find out it is 100-percent student-run.

"I have so many favorite memories as I have watched Ryan's journey unfold. A true favorite was working with him, then watching him sit in press row as he covered the 2017 Chaska Hawks Boys' Basketball State Tournament run. Seeing him in media row at Target Center — he definitely looked the part," Summer said. "I am so proud to have played a small role in supporting Ryan. He is an incredible young man and I cannot thank him enough for both his service and sacrifices supporting our Chaska Hawks school community."

### ONE OF US

For road games, Paul travels with the basketball team on the bus. He is treated by players as one of them.

In one of the final home games last week, Paul was honored among the senior players.

"Ryan has definitely provided the boys basketball program fantastic exposure and positive publicity over the last four years," said Chaska Head Boys Basketball Coach Dana Kallman.

"It has been a perfect scenario... with Ryan coming on board four years ago and with us having a ton of success on the court during this run. Three Metro West Conference titles, a Section 2AAAA

title and state tournament trip, top-10 rankings and an overall record of 85-26," the coach added.

Like Summer, fellow coaching colleagues have reached out to Kallman to find out the background on CHBN.

"When I explain that this is a student at our high school and he organized it all on their own, they are amazed. I have had many of them say, 'We need a Ryan Paul in our program,'" Kallman said.

### WATCH PARTY

Work-traveling parents such as Marc Strazzanti, or grandparents in warmer weather states, or former players now in college, are able to keep track of Chaska sports through CHBN.

One night Paul was broadcasting and he received a message on Twitter from Hanson, then at Columbia University in New York, telling him he was listening in. Great work.

Viewership spikes late in games, people coming over to follow the tight finishes.

For Strazzanti, CHBN has been a valuable resource to watch his son, Luke, a sophomore on the varsity team. Previously an older son, Alex, now a member of the University of Minnesota football team, was a part of Chaska's state team in 2017.

"(Ryan's) hard work and dedication has meant so much to so many. For the Strazzanti family, that meant an older sister, living out of town, could watch her brother and his team make an incredible run to the state tournament. It meant an older brother could watch his