

By CHRISTOPHER SNOWBECK
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Dillman Clinic & Lab was finally at a point where the one-doctor practice in Lakeville could start thinking about hiring another physician.

Then, all of a sudden, the clinic was walloped by the aftermath of a major cyberattack at Change Healthcare, the UnitedHealth Group subsidiary that was hacked

computer system "clearinghouse" for processing claims that precipitated a cash-flow crisis for health care providers across the country.

"Our growth was stifled," said practice manager Richard Dillman, whose wife has been the clinic's sole practitioner since it opened in June 2022. "I remember turning to Megan and just saying, 'I don't know how we're gonna survive.'"

SEE CYBERATTACK ON A11 »

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Fairview Health Services contends in a lawsuit that it's still short \$7 million because of the health care billing disruptions stemming from the massive data breach last year at UnitedHealth Group's Change Healthcare business.

Eden Prairie-based UnitedHealth Group shut down health care billing systems at Change Healthcare in

February 2024 to contain the damage from the cyberattack.

Without those computer systems, known as clearinghouses, Minneapolis-based Fairview says it was unable to process claims for its patients' medical care in a timely fashion, according to its lawsuit. The suit was moved Wednesday to U.S. District Court in Minnesota. Fairview claims billing was particularly hard hit for the health system's

SEE FAIRVIEW ON A11 »

Trump and his allies in Congress have made clear they want to smash the status quo by drastically reducing the size of the federal government and scrubbing it of programs and research efforts seen as wasteful or contrary to administration priorities.

The administration already has downsized HHS by about one-fourth of its workforce, with about 20,000 departures

SEE CUTS ON A8 »

Facing eviction, disabled couple rallies support to stay

'WE MADE THIS A HOME'

With the help of his daughter, Alley, Darrell Paulsen addresses supporters Tuesday outside his family's Maplewood apartment. A judge declared the eviction legal, but the family says they have nowhere to go. Some lawmakers are backing increased eviction protections for people with disabilities.

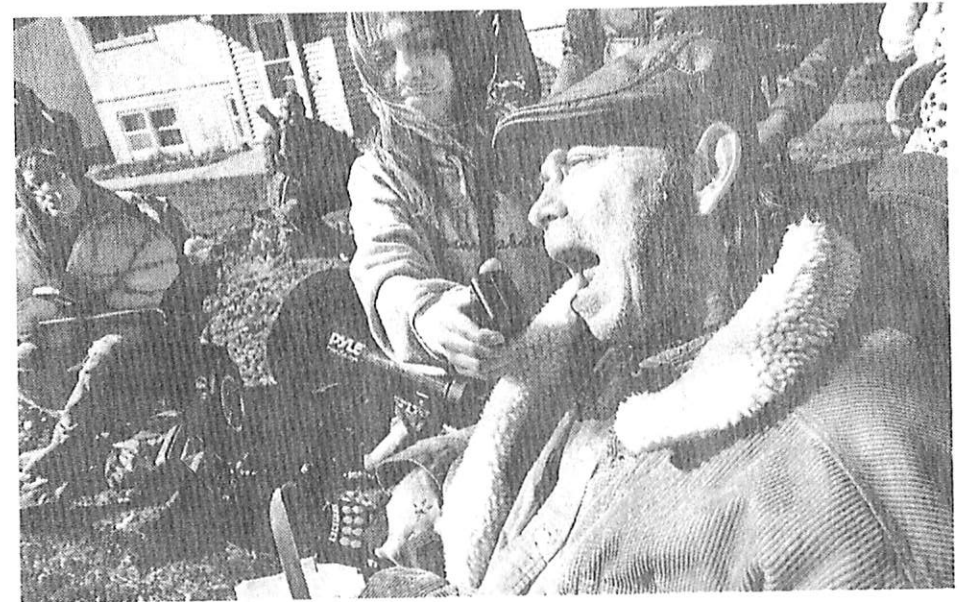
Story by JAMES WALSH • Photo by RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Tears welling in his eyes, his already shaky voice quivering with emotion, Darrell Paulsen told a crowd of supporters at his Maplewood apartment Tuesday that he wouldn't heed a court order to vacate his home by midnight Wednesday.

He and his longtime partner, Nikki Villavicencio, a Maplewood City Council member, said they weren't merely defying the court order, Paulsen said. They had nowhere to go.

"We made this a home where we can live independently and not have to be in a facility," Paulsen said of the \$85,000 in state-paid accommodations to make the unit accessible for the wheelchair-dependent couple over the past six years. "Please, help

SEE EVICTION ON A11 »



TOP NEWS

Keith Siegel, taken hostage by Hamas and later released, pleads for those still captive. **A3**

NATION & WORLD

U.K. Supreme Court rules that "woman" is defined by biology under equality law. **A3**

STATE & REGION

It might be time to embrace the frugal charm of the Easter potato, Brooks writes. **A9**

SPORTS

Wolves star Anthony Edwards vows to make the right decisions as the playoffs begin. **C1**

BUSINESS

Ecolab is placing a 5% surcharge on U.S. products to offset company's tariff costs. **D1**

TASTE

Radical swings in the weather make picking springtime beers a challenge, but here goes. **T1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Trump administration plans to end the IRS' Direct File program, a system that lets taxpayers file returns to the agency for free. **A5**

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Judge: New owner within his rights to evict disabled couple

“EVICTED FROM A1
us stay.”

State lawmakers told the crowd that they want to help the couple do just that, boosting eviction protections for disabled Minnesotans. Rep. Peter Fischer, DFL-Maplewood, and Sen. John Hoffman, DFL-Champlin, said it appears there are no special state protections against eviction for people with disabilities.

“We need to change that,” Hoffman said.

On April 7, Ramsey County District Judge Reynaldo Aligada ordered the couple to vacate the apartment after the property owner, Layers Investment Group of Savage, had proved the eviction was legal.

Not only had Layers given the couple adequate notice for the month-to-month lease, Aligada said, but Paulsen had violated terms on the lease by smoking marijuana in the apartment. While Paulsen, who has cerebral palsy, said he’s been prescribed cannabis by his doctor, smoking is not permitted.

The couple’s claims that the eviction was discriminatory – as well as retaliation for their accommodation requests – were not proven, the judge wrote in his order.

The next steps – for the couple and their landlord – are unclear. As of Wednesday morning, Paulsen told the Minnesota Star Tribune, the couple were still in the apartment. He said they have no one to help them and their 13-year-old daughter move.



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Using state funding, the former owner of the Maplewood building made \$85,000 in accessibility improvements to the apartment so Darrell Paulsen and his partner, Nikki Villavicencio, center, with state Sen. John Hoffman, could live there independently with their daughter, right.

Emmanuel Aguda is listed as the contact for Layers Investment Group. On Monday, he refused to answer questions from the Minnesota Star Tribune about the eviction, referring a reporter to his lawyer.

In a phone interview, attor-

ney Timothy Baland said his client was justified in the eviction, noting that two of the building’s four tenants had also been evicted and a third was staying as a caretaker.

“They’re not being singled out in any way here,” Baland

said. “They were given notice to vacate. They didn’t get out.”

He added: “We don’t go around looking for people in wheelchairs in order to evict them.”

In an email, Baland added that property owners have rights to

give tenants notice to vacate and to evict them when they don’t follow the lease and the law.

“The property owner is the victim in this case, because he provided the requisite notice and the defendants did not vacate. ... I did everything pos-

sible to NOT file an eviction against these particular defendants,” he added. “However, in the end, the defendants left the property owner with little choice but to actually file the eviction.”

Villavicencio was born with a rare condition that leaves her unable to use her hands. She had a number of modifications made to the apartment so she can use her feet to cook and perform other everyday tasks.

Villavicencio has been a vocal activist for disabled people to live as independently as possible. It’s unfair, she said, that her landlord, who bought the property last year, will be able to take possession of the accommodations made to the apartment by the previous owner with the government assistance she and Paulsen obtained.

Fischer, the state representative, agrees, adding that he suspects Aguda plans to convert the building into a group home for disabled people, for which they could charge more money.

A message left with Baland about that wasn’t immediately returned.

Fischer said he and Hoffman will work to boost eviction protections for disabled Minnesotans and keep property owners from taking ownership of units where accessibility accommodations were made.

In the meantime, he said of the couple, “it doesn’t seem there are a lot of options for them right now.”

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