

Southside Pride

We build Pride on the Southside

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**OCTOBER
2024**

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Cam's Corner



Encampment Turmoil Continues

BY CAM GORDON

Power struggles over how to respond to encampments came to a head in September, following two fatal shootings near southside encampments.

"We need to put a stop to these," said Mayor Jacob Frey, referring to the encampments, following the second shooting death on Sept. 18.

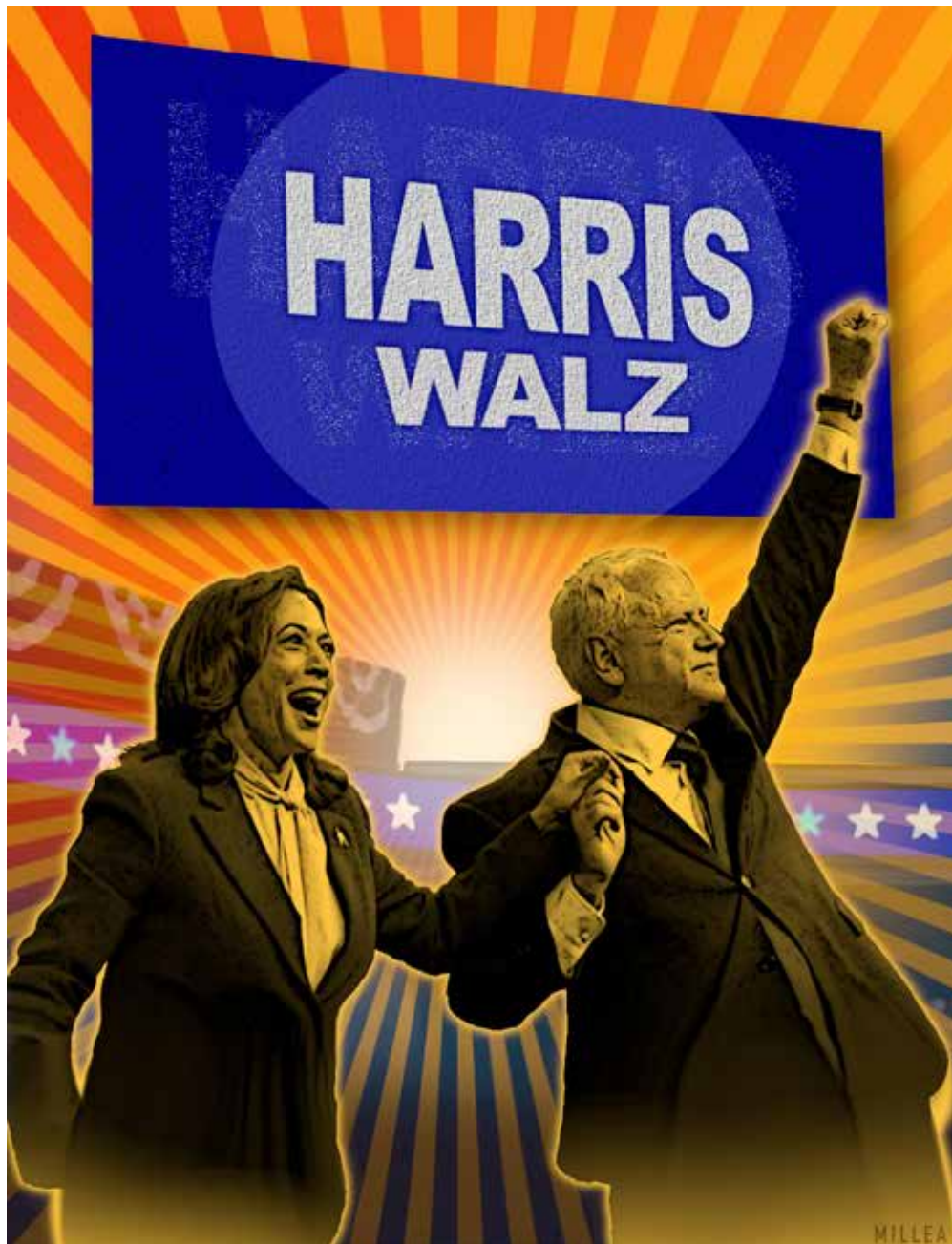
Outdoor camping in the city is prohibited by city ordinance. However, group camping has become common since the well-known Wall of Forgotten Natives encampment on Franklin Avenue, which captured national attention in 2018. During the COVID public health emergency, more were established, and permitted.

Since then, under Frey's direction, the city has adopted a policy of evicting campers and clearing encampments by force.

The city's website identifies 209 unhoused people sleeping outdoors at 32 encampments as of Sept. 21.

Meanwhile, on Sept. 19, the city council passed an "Encampment Removal Reporting Ordinance" that requires quarterly reports from

See Cam, page 2



Vote Nov. 5

BY ED FELIEN

Another month, another probable attempt on Trump's life.

Vance said: "I'd say that's pretty strong evidence that the left needs to tone down the rhetoric and needs to cut this crap out,"

"the left needs to tone down the rhetoric"?????

The Trump campaign is built on Fear and Loathing. That's the schtick! It's always been the Republican schtick. Nixon, Reagan,

both Bushes—except back then it was fear of the Russians.

Now, we have to fear immigrants. They are "The Other"—the alien race sent to displace us. "They're eating our dogs!"

Who's spreading fear and hate?

It's an effective tactic.

You get people scared enough, they'll want to hunker down and cling to that "Old Time Religion." They don't want any more change. They want

things back when they could understand them, before everything went out of control.

And they've got a point.

The liberal intellectual elite that run our City and County and State, don't always talk to the people who are going to be most affected by their policies. And that can make people mad. Whether it's street repair, a traffic signal, or a Civil Rights Ordinance—participatory democracy means the people affected

See Vote, page 2

What's going on with the Third Precinct?

BY CLINT COMBS

Protesters outraged over the murder of George Floyd torched the Third Police Precinct. Amid the charred remains of the building, city officials want to rebuild the precinct on 3000 Minnehaha Ave into a democracy hall and community center. It's unanimous that no one wants another police precinct in South Minneapolis. Community members said they have been ignored throughout this development. The city has been tight-lipped on details about the proposal.

"You got to see Lake Street burn to the ground. That was a very scary feeling for many of our business and residents in the area," Council Member Jason Chavez of Ward 9 told Southside Pride in an exclusive interview.

Dave Bicking, a member of Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB), attended nearly every public meeting on this issue. Each time there's the same paper where residents answer a set of survey questions predetermine by city officials.

"A long time went by before they figure out how to do any community input," Bicking said. "It's hard to get a general consensus and of course there were a lot of people at these meetings. And both of the rooms were open houses, where people can fill out our survey or talk to individuals."



Third Precinct Station on June 1, 2020

Matt Leighninger, executive director of the Center for Democracy Innovation at the National Civic League, described democracy as in "bad shape right now."

Leighninger warned that any democracy center should have substantial community input.

"People need places, welcoming, wired, warm buildings where people can go to have meetings, to organize a food drive, to register to vote," Leighninger said. "The design of the building, and also the programming (what's going to be happening there) should be something that residents of that community have a chance to weigh

See Third Precinct, page 18

**Celebrate Fall
on 42nd & 28th
Pages 4 & 5**

**Education Section
pages 9 - 13**

**Cross Over the Bridge to
Dinkytown
Page 17**

Vote, from page 1

should be participating in the decision-making.

When that doesn't happen, you can end up with pockets of fear, fear of the other, and resistance to change. And that breeds racism and bigotry and violence against women.

Trump knows how to play to that group. He's been doing it for years.

It's a dangerous game, though. Stoking the deepest fears in some people can trigger a psychotic break, and the violence can backfire. Both would-be assassins of Trump were once Trump supporters.

The assassin who murdered Huey Long, the last charismatic fascist in American politics, was a disaffected supporter.

It's a dangerous game, playing

with all that Fear and Loathing: "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Kamala Harris offers the politics of joy.

It's a new generation. A new attitude.

Kamala and Tim were children in the Sixties, studying the dreams of Peace and Love. Kamala knew about it by growing up in San Francisco by a mom active in Civil Rights, and Tim later taught about it in his Social Studies classes.

But Kamala Harris is not perfect, and perfection is often the enemy of the good.

There is ultra-left opposition to Harris from Jill Stein of the Green Party and from Cornel West, a left independent candidate for President.

These candidacies can represent a real threat. Jill Stein's total votes in 2016 in Wiscon-

sin, Michigan and Pennsylvania were more than the difference in the vote totals for Hillary Clinton versus Donald Trump, and she tipped the balance in those states to Trump. In 2000 Ralph Nader's Green Party vote total in Florida was more than enough to tip the state to George Bush, Jr away from Al Gore.

We cannot afford pie in the sky fantasies when we have people being killed in the here and now.

The principal ultra-left criticism of Harris is that she is not doing enough to stop the slaughter of Palestinians by Israel.

First, she is the Vice President. The President makes policy. The Vice President follows it and supports it.

However, in an interview with Dana Bash in August, Harris said:

"Israel has a right to defend itself. We would. But how it does so, matters. Far too many innocent Palestinians have been killed. This war must end and we must get a deal that is about getting the hostages out. Let's get the ceasefire done"

"I remain committed since October 8 to what we must do to work toward a two-state solution where Israel is secure and in equal measure, the Palestinians have security and self-determination and dignity."

In May, Al Jazeera reported:

"The United States has halted the shipment of some types of heavy bombs to Israel and US President Joe Biden has also pledged to halt the supply of some offensive weapons and artillery shells to the country if it goes ahead with its assault on Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah."

"Biden issued this warning, possibly his starkest yet against Israel, during an interview with CNN on Wednesday. In the same interview, he also said that the US would continue to supply defensive arms such as Iron Dome interceptors, underlining his continued support for Israel's defense."

If Trump wins, he will support Netanyahu's goal of the total elimination of Palestine. If Harris wins, and with the support of Bernie and AOC, she will fight for peace and a two-state solution.

Those are the only choices in this year's Presidential Election.

Anything else (voting for a third-party candidate or not voting) is jumping off a cliff to preserve some misconceived notion of purity.

Cam from page 1

city staff on the encampments, including the services offered, 311 and 911 calls and costs. This passed on a 9 to 4 vote with Council Members Michael Rainville, LaTrisha Vetaw, Jamal Osman, and Linea Palmisano voting against it. It was authored by southside council members, Jason Chavez, Aisha Chughtai and Aurin Chowdhury.

"This will help better inform changes that may need to happen at the city level," said Chavez.

"Every encampment sweep costs the City about \$120,000, amounting to millions every year," said Chughtai. "Elected officials have an obligation to be transparent with the public on how their tax dollars are being spent, that is exactly what this ordinance does."

Southsider Daniel Sutor, a housing attorney who lives in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood, favored the ordinance and

attended the meeting where it was discussed. "The reporting ordinance is great because we will get data," he said. Regular reports, he believes, will help everyone better understand the problem and target investments where they will do the most good.

When it comes to encampments, differences of opinion are easy to see, both at city hall and in the community. Some, including Sutor, favor a more permissive and even supportive approach. While others, like the mayor, prefer a more authoritarian and prohibitive approach.

But almost everyone appears to agree that the current situation is dangerous, that substance abuse disorder is part of the problem, and that what we are doing now about it is not working.

Frey said. "The encampments are not safe for the people living at them, they are not safe for the overarching neighbor-

hoods."

"The residents are scared," said Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara.

"I worry about escalating violence," said Sutor. "It's really scary to see the escalating violence against unhoused people."

Jennifer Gilreath, a Phillips West resident who has lived near, and provided help to those staying in encampments, agrees. Following the recent evictions, she said "we have 200 people now roaming around trying to figure out where they are going to stay."

"We know that sweeping encampments doesn't solve homelessness," said Sutor, "and we know encampments don't end homelessness."

"We close one here, it pops up over there," said O'Hara.

"It is a serious, serious issue," Sutor added. "We are looking forward to working with everyone we possibly can to do their part to help us prevent things like this in the future."

Maybe now is the time to explore alternative approaches. Other cities have, and Gilreath and Sutor think it is possible here.

Even the city's own ordinance currently empowers the director of regulatory service to permit camping to address an emergency. And last December the city council declared "unsheltered homelessness a public health emergency."

In July, the council also formally referred an ordinance amendment to a committee that was introduced by Chavez, to allow and regulate "safe outdoor spaces and individualized outdoor sheltering options for people experiencing homelessness."

"We need short- and long-term solutions," said Gilreath, who wants the city to designate one of their many vacant lots near her home to be a model for a permitted and well managed encampment. With the right resources, including trusted violence interrupters to provide security, and supportive neighbors to assist, the camp could provide a stable place for people to access services.

She said that previous well-managed encampments, like one near a gas station on Bloomington Avenue and another in Brackett Park during the COVID pandemic, that were for woman and children only, could be examples to learn from.



Gilreath also thinks it is time for the city to create a tiny-home village on the southside, as other cities have done. There are already tiny-house communities in Dallas, Madison, Seattle, Portland and Austin, where formerly unhoused residents live in tiny homes and RVs.

The city could use the \$1 million they voted to set aside in this year's budget to help fund a new tiny home community, that they were hoping Avivo would develop. If the Avivo proposal is no longer viable, perhaps that money could be used to build a smaller outdoor version, modeled after the Street Voices of Change and Envision Communities cluster development proposals.

Gilreath wishes that the city would follow the recommendations of the Nenookaasi Healing Camp, which calls on the government to work with organizers to provide sanitation, water, and security, as well as healthcare and addiction treatment and recovery services to camp residents.

They also suggest that every encampment closure include real options of alternative, culturally appropriate, dignified housing for those who want it, or if no other options are available, pay for individual hotel or motel rooms for those who need and want them. They encourage the city to start using vacant schools, hotels, or apartment buildings to set up "well-re-

sourced, and welcoming navigation centers."

"The gold-standard is a housing first approach," said Sutor, who has lost clients because a camp was torn down, phones and paperwork were taken, and he had no way to reach them.



"Camps make it easier to help people because you know where they are," he said.

Frey agreed with Sutor when he said, "we believe in strategies of low and no barrier housing." Yet, most options have barriers. Some don't allow pets. Many require sobriety. Some don't allow couples or families to stay together. Many allow only a few personal possessions and have no safe storage.

Sutor agreed that one option to consider is designating spaces where people can stay in vehicles where, ideally, residents can feel safe and access clean water and other basic amenities. This could be in a parking lot with the cooperation of a place of religious worship, other private property owners, or on public land.

Sutor calls on us to prioritize shelter for people with substance abuse disorders and create more supportive housing arrangement that can "move people toward treatment."

Nenookaasi's guidelines call for "overdose prevention and safe use sites" as a way to "meet the needs of people in addiction cycles and help keep neighborhoods safe."

"We are entering winter," Sutor said. "This is the most dangerous time for unhoused people."

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Jason Chavez is trying to save Agate Housing

Changes Done

BY ED FELIEN

The City Council voted 10 to 3 on Sept. 20 to provide a \$1.5 million dollar grant to Agate Housing.

Chavez wrote:

“Agate Housing and Services recently announced the closing of its 42-bed shelter program and 95-bed board and lodge program at 510 South 8th St despite trying to work with local and state entities to identify funding sources for improvements. As shelters head into a fiscal cliff, the closure of shelters and housing services will

become too common. The city, county, state, and federal government have an obligation to step up.

“As encampments continue to be shuffled around our city, without notice, available shelter, or housing, we cannot afford to lose critical transitional housing and shelter services. We must do everything in our power to create more capacity, not less.

“I could not sit on the sidelines, nor could most of my colleagues as this critical service was going to permanently close, so I made a few calls, worked collaboratively with my colleagues, and began to draft a council action. I’m glad the Minneapolis City Council stepped up with a \$1.5M grant to pre-

serve this important housing service and prevent its permanent closure. I hope that other governmental partners step up to prevent the permanent closure of these needed services. Minneapolis cannot and should not do this alone.

In a follow up statement, Chavez said:

“Agate Executive Director Kyle Hanson expressed gratitude for the support from the city, stating that when they made the announcement, it was the hardest day of his professional career. Not only did they have to tell residents and shelter guests that they would need to be housed elsewhere, they also had to announce employee layoffs. This grant gives Agate hope that they can reopen the 510 quickly and continue to offer a safe and stable environment for future residents.

“Building repairs will take 6-12 months, so, even with these funds, the building is still slated for closure on the October 9, 2024, timeline. If Agate secures the additional funds for a full rehab, it hopes to reopen its board and lodge program as soon as repairs are complete. In the meantime, Agate is working with local partners to ensure every current resident of the

510 building is placed in another safe shelter facility before October 9, 2024.”

An anonymous donor has agreed to match a \$1.5 million grant from the city of Minneapolis to save a downtown transitional housing and shelter building from permanent closure.

Agate’s renovation plan is to ensure the building can provide shelter for the next 20 to 30

years, and hopes to start construction as soon as possible, said Agate Executive Director Kyle Hanson.



Jason Chavez



Agate Housing

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CELEBRATE FALL ON 42ND & 28TH

Celebrate Fall on 42nd & 28th

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

What's changed? And where can I eat?

On 28th Avenue and 42nd Street, as everywhere, it's fall.

Kids back in school, lake beaches closed, air conditioners sent to the shop for their autumn tune-up and pumpkin-spice scents fill the air. Not a lot has changed since last fall, but a few things have. Change is the only constant, after all.

Chicago Taste Authority at 3101 E. 42nd Street has closed. Permanently as to that address, temporarily as to Google, because the business is fine and plans to relocate to another part of the cities, timeline not known. CTA said they were leaving for only one reason, an unreasonable rise in the rent on the location they have had for decades. Also not known is whether there is a new tenant coming in.

Although our little neck of the woods here is not teeming with restaurants like Eat Street or NE Minneapolis, there are other options for a burger or dog or other unpretentious foods. One of

those is Hamburguesas El Gordo at 4157 Cedar Avenue, South. Although Hamburguesas is a local chain now, with locations in St. Paul (Selby and Victoria, or Robert Street in West St. Paul) this one is the original #1 location. The signature burger is a monster with three meats, two cheeses, avocado, and all the fixings in addition. (The simple burger comes in under \$10 and the Jr. size simple burger is under \$7.) They also have tacos and burritos, including a vegan option of each, and dogos, (sadly not in vegan), elote - on the cob or in a cup, fries, guac, desserts, and Mexican agua fresca drinks. And more.

There is one new shop we have heard about. Stay Gold Vintage is the latest incarnation, and first permanent brick-and-mortar location, of Tamrah Ryan's vintage housewares and clothing business. Besides the shop, at 2719 E. 42nd Street, the mini-empire includes a brisk Etsy online business, a pretty up to date Instagram account, and a Facebook page. But aren't we lucky, we can shop there in person! And judging from the Etsy offerings, this is a superlative vintage shopping experience.

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The Clay Pit

Not new, but new for us

Metro Taxi and Limo, located at 3520 E. 43rd Street, provides licensed taxi and limo services. The number of licensed taxi drivers is shrinking massively due to

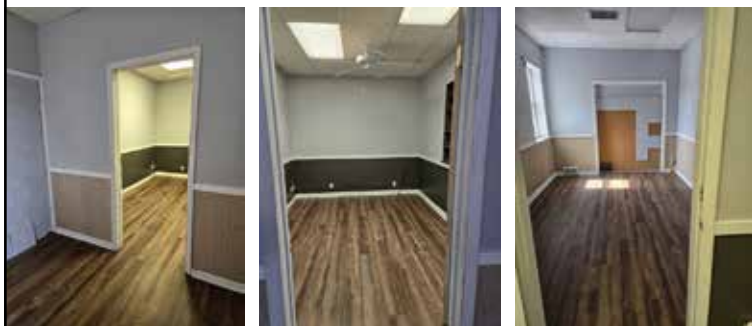
displacement by app-based ride hail companies, but sometimes you just want the old school ways. They offer 24-hour customer service, a wide array of vehicles for larger groups or special needs, and free cancellation.

The Clay Pit Pottery Studio at 4141 Minnehaha Avenue South is one of those hidden cultural gems that make the Twin Cities such a great place to live. It's an open and accessible community-based pottery studio, with lots of options for getting involved. A bare list will give you an idea - clay workshops, clay kits you can take home then bring back for firing, open studio, firing service with or without glazing, and private clay parties. All these things are for a very low cost and supported partly by donations from the community. To get the full details, check out the website at theclaypitstudio.com.

MPLS String Studio near 28th Avenue on 42nd Street is the headquarters for two private teachers of violin and other classical stringed instruments. Natalie VanBurkleo-Carbonara is a violinist, teacher, guest speaker, and more. She is on faculty at the Hastings Arts Center, a private instructor at South High School, and has more side businesses related to violins, such as Proposal Violinist (contract a violin performance to zhuzh up your proposal of marriage.) Dave Carbonara, a freelance bassist and

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Bum Flanery, founder of Flanery Bros.

graduate of the Juilliard School, also teaches bass and cello at the studio.

The long-timers (or getting there)

I guess it depends on what you consider a long time for a neighborhood business. For sure, Flanery Brothers Auto is going to make the cut. Currently aged 67 years, this business is only slightly younger than I am. The shop has been in its current location since 1980, and is still family-owned, still with a large base of loyal customers.

The website has a "history" page written in the mid-2000s when the business was about

50 years old. There we learn that Bernard ("Bum") Flanery opened a Mobil Service Station on the triangle of land between Hiawatha and 34th Avenue. The business moved a couple of times before settling on 42nd Street, by which time his sons Tim and Brian, the "Brothers," were running the business.

A2Z Wireless (2804 E. 42nd Street) first opened in 2016, but that's still pretty good longevity in today's fast-moving business world. A2Z offers repair service for all makes of cell phones, unlock services, and a wide selection of prepaid and money-saving service plans. They're open Monday through Friday. The website for more contact infor-

mation is azzmn.com.

Doodle bird design + gifts is a store we have mentioned in previous issues and it's doing well at 2803 E. 42nd Street as well as online. Kristin (kristinknych on Instagram) operates the shop as well as running a design firm and making greeting cards, stationery, and other paper products featuring her warm and whimsical designs. You can buy the cards online, but the shop contains a lot more. It's open from 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

Angry Catfish is a bike shop at 2900 E. 42nd Street. It started out nearby, at 4208 28th Avenue South, and moved to the present location when the business expanded. Angry Catfish is a highly esteemed bike shop in a notorious bike shop city, so if you're a bike enthusiast there is probably not much new I can tell you. Northern Coffeeworks is now the sole business at 4208, and thereby hangs a cool, very South Minneapolis story. As Northern Coffeeworks' website states: "Born from a bike shop, inspired by a love of the landscape and culture of the upper Midwest, Northern Coffeeworks is a micro-roaster and specialty coffee shop in Minneapolis."



Doodle bird greeting card



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(Photo/ Nuclear Regulatory Commission)

NRC Apologizes — Admits Monticello Reactor-Leaked Tritium Has Reached the Mississippi

By John LaForge

In April, I reported on false assurances made by Xcel Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the November 2022 leak from the Monticello nuclear reactor

of some 829,000 gallons of cooling water containing a huge concentration of radioactive tritium (technically, 5.2 million picocuries per liter).

In eye-opening remarks at the Monticello Community Center on May 15, NRC Senior Environmental Project Manager,

Stephen J. Koenick, apologized for the commission staff's often-repeated claims that leaked tritium from the 53-year-old reactor had not reached the Mississippi River — drinking water source for 20 million people, including the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area.

In his underreported apology, Koenick said, "I would like to take a moment to address and clarify some miscommunication regarding the presence of detectable tritium in the Mississippi River. I know we ... reported there were no indication[s] of [a] tritium leak [which] made it to the Mississippi. However, ... in our Draft Environmental Impact Statement, we ... conclude there were some very low concentrations of tritium in the Mississippi River." Koenick went on to say, "So we apologize for this miscommunication."

The weekly Monticello Times reported on the vanishingly rare public confession and its crucial admission that radioactive

tritium from the massive 2022 leak had contaminated the Mississippi. The paper published a report on the front-page on Jun. 6, under the headline: "NRC apologizes, changes its stance on tritium leak: Now says low concentrations got into Mississippi River."

What Koenick meant by "miscommunication" were false assurances made to the press that no tritium had been found by Xcel's testing of the river. On Mar. 18, 2023, NRC spokesperson Viktoria Mitlyng even told the press, "There is no pathway for the tritium to get into drinking water." As recently as May 7, 2024, NRC presenters at a separate NRC-sponsored public hearing, also held in Monticello, said that Xcel had found "no detectable levels" of tritium in the river.

Tritium is the radioactive form of hydrogen. It cannot be removed by any kind of filtering and contaminates huge volumes of regular water that it contacts. Tritium is a danger to health if taken internally, by drinking or breathing, because it moves like water to every part of the body, and because it crosses the placenta where it endangers the fetus and causes birth abnormalities and problem pregnancies.

Xcel has applied for a second operating license extension for the Monticello jalopy which, if granted, would allow the reactor, one of the three oldest in the country, to run until the age of 80. Over 3,000 public comments have been sent to the NRC regarding its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the 80-year-risk — most of them voicing alarmed opposition.

A second scandal brewing?

While studying the NRC's Draft EIS, Nukewatch's Lindsay Potter discovered an extremely odd coincidence.

As with any environmental impact study, the NRC has to establish a formal calendar for information-gathering. The data collection time-frame for the Monticello draft officially ended on Aug. 18, 2023.

According to Xcel Energy and NRC documents, Aug. 18 was the very same day that radioactive tritium contamination in Xcel's groundwater tests near the Mississippi River exceeded the federal EPA drinking water limit. (Technically 20,000 picocuries per liter.)

Curiously, high and rapidly increasing levels of tritium (from the plume created by the major 2022 leak) was detected in a monitoring well near the river, beginning July 27, 2023. Then, tests over the following three weeks show the concentration of tritium grew five-fold, the documents show, until on Aug. 18 when the tritium concentration exceeded the U.S. EPA's drinking water allowable max.

As a result of the NRC's data collection cut-off date, the Draft EIS omits the critical time-frame immediately after August 18, when tritium levels were above permitted limits and still increasing.

Likewise, Xcel's "2023 Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report" submitted to the NRC, fails to provide precise data on groundwater monitoring tests results following Aug. 18, 2023, noting in general terms only that tests done after Aug. 18, 2023 found no unsafe levels of contamination.

Based on past "miscommunications," readers can decide whether such public assurances are reliable.

John LaForge is a Co-director of Nukewatch, a peace and environmental watchdog group in Wisconsin, edits the group's Quarterly newsletter, and with Arianne Peterson co-edited Nuclear Heartland, Revised Edition: A guide to the 450 land-based missiles of the United States.

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What Women Want!

Stop the madness! The Park Board continues to swamp South Minneapolis

BY ED FELIEN

On Sept. 4, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board met. One of their agenda items was to spend another \$250,000 to continue to study turning Lake Hiawatha into a swamp.

I wrote the following to the Board:

“Attention Superintendent Bangoura and Park Board Commissioners:

Please stop the madness!

You have already spent more than a million dollars on ‘studying’ how to turn Lake Hiawatha into a swamp. Now, you have before you a proposal to spend another quarter million dollars on further studies of swamp possibilities.

You know that, by allowing the dams on Minnehaha Creek to continue blocking water from leaving Lake Hiawatha, you are in violation of Minnesota Statute 103G.141

PENALTIES. Subdivision 1. Misdemeanors: ‘a person is guilty of a misdemeanor who undertakes or procures another to undertake an alteration in the course, current, or cross section of public waters without previously obtaining a permit from the commissioner, regardless of whether the commissioner would have granted a permit had an application been filed.’

You know that by artificially raising the water level of Lake Hiawatha by as much as five feet, you have raised the water table for the surrounding wetland, caused sinkholes on private and public property and flooded basements.

Stop the madness of pretending this is somehow natural!

Remove the dams and allow Lake Hiawatha to return to the level it was at before it was artificially dammed.

And ask the City of Minneapolis to remove the sand they’ve dumped on City streets in the winter that has gone through the storm sewers from Lake Street to 43rd Street, from Chicago Avenue over to 26th Avenue that ends up being dumped into Lake Hiawatha from the storm tunnel at the north end of the lake. This sand has reduced the depth of Lake Hiawatha from 33 feet in 1933 to a sandbar in many spots today. This reduced water depth causes reduced clarity, and the lake is easily polluted. This is the reason Lake Hiawatha was closed for swimming so early this year. I am sure you will all agree it is in the best interests of the people of Minneapolis to maximize the opportunities for swimming during our precious summers.

You are the guardians and protectors of our rich inheritance, and I respect your work

and your responsibilities.

Forgive me for pointing out some areas of neglected maintenance.”

Kathryn Kelly also wrote:

“To MPRB Commissioners,

I see that the Hiawatha Golf Course project is again on the agenda for Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

I find it curious that the Resolution is going directly to the full Board rather than going through the Admin & Finance committee first. Does this violate proper procedure? Is this because there is a fear that it won’t pass again?

Also, I see that the proposed spending has been pared down even more to \$250,000. The only sources for money are the Enterprise Fund (\$150,000) and an apparent contribution from the city of Minneapolis (\$132,622). I assume that the Enterprise Fund money is dinging the golf department again? This would bring the robbing of golf course revenues to about \$1.2 million for this project. Where is the General Fund allocation for this project since it is supposed to be partly a ‘Park’ project? That is what Tyler Pederson told the Met Council to get them to approve the amendment of this property to a Regional Park so that you could get money from them for ‘the park’ portion (not the golf course portion) of the project.

Just be aware that this year (2024) has been rainy which causes golf revenue to go down. I know that you raised golf fees this year, but will that offset the rainy days and less patronage due to the condition problems at some Minneapolis golf courses due to the strike and deferred maintenance? I have heard a lot of complaints about golf course conditions this year.

All of this after you just robbed the citizens of Minneapolis of \$10 million of NPP20 money slated for ‘fixing’ the existing infrastructure in the parks, just so that you can try and fund the North Commons project, which is still short of funding.

A look at the financing dilemma for the North Commons project is a stiff warning about how bad your planning group estimates are for projects. Here is a summary as I understand it:

\$22 million - Initial estimate
 \$47 million - revised estimate (114 percent increase)
 \$35 million - revised project after State said no more money
 \$45 million - revised estimate by 2 firms hired to vet estimates (28 percent increase)

So, what will the final cost be? I hate to think about it considering all of the cost overruns



I have seen over the years in your many project resolutions.

This begs the question; what will be the cost of the Hiawatha Golf Course project? In 2019, the project was estimated to be \$43 million. Due to being only conceptual, the estimate stated that it could actually be from \$32 to \$64 million. Using the 114 percent increase in the North Commons project, that would put the Hiawatha Golf Course project at \$92 million, with a range of \$68 to \$137 million. This is not including the 28 percent increase on a second look at the North Commons project by 2 companies. Increasing the revised costs by 28% brings the cost to \$117 million, with the range being from \$88 to \$175 million.

So, to summarize the Hiawatha project estimates:

\$43 million (\$32 to \$64 million) - initial estimate
 \$92 million (\$68 to \$137 million) - 114 percent increase
 \$117 million (\$88 to \$175 million) - another 28 percent increase

Eyepopping numbers! Where in the world would you get this amount of money? And, for what? A substandard 9-hole golf course and a swamp, while putting up to 500 homes at risk of flooding! This project is insane!!!

To top this off, at the last meeting you approved the purchase of another property at 1920 Aldrich Ave. S. while you can’t take care of the property that you already have. Meanwhile, Meg Forney is crying poverty because you may only get an 8 percent increase in property tax revenue.

What is wrong with this picture? It appears that there is no limit to the amount of money you as Park Board commissioners will authorize because it is not ‘your’ money. People are suffering, trying to pay their bills, and you keep cooking up ways to spend more and more money which you don’t have. This totally feeds into the narrative of how fiscally irresponsible Democrats are. After watching the Park Board for 8 years, I find it very difficult to disagree with that assessment.”

In spite of our efforts, the Park Board voted on Sept. 4

to spend another \$250,000 to study turning Lake Hiawatha into a swamp.

Kathryn Kelly commented:

You finally cobbled together a smaller 2024 spending plan for the Hiawatha Golf Course project.

When the previous proposal was voted down, you came back with a new, pared down contract of \$250,000. Your resolution says that this money comes from the MPRB Enterprise Fund (\$150,000) and the city of Minneapolis taxpayers

(\$132,622). It is likely that the Enterprise Fund money is dinging the golf department again, so far bleeding golf course revenues to a total of \$1.2 million. The city portion is supposed to be cost-sharing for promises of city storm sewer pollution mitigation.

The proposal went directly to the full Board for a vote as part of a ‘consent’ package. Was there a fear that it would not pass again?

Where is the MPRB getting the money to actually implement this project? And, for what? A substandard 9-hole golf course and a swamp, while putting up to 500 Minneapolis homes at risk of flooding!!!

It appears that there is no limit to the amount of money you, as Park Board commissioners, will authorize. People are suffering trying to pay their bills, while MPRB President Meg Forney is crying poverty because the MPRB is only getting an 8 percent increase in property tax revenue. “

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Seeking revenge? Dig two graves

BY DAVE GUTKNECHT

The editor invited my comment on the recent advocacy by the UK prime minister and several former defense ministers of missile attacks into Russia, a threat that was avoided thanks to U.S. military voices of sanity.

First, give credit to publishers who uphold the First Amendment and allow antiwar and radical voices in the face of increasing censorship and narrative control. Already, other voices are banned or punished simply for using terms contradicting the official narrative,



such as “Russiagate fraud,” “Israeli genocide,” or “Ukraine collapse.” The source of the first of these, a warmongering former Presidential candidate [Hillary Clinton], recently suggested civil and criminal charges be laid on people accused of “election interference and boosting Trump” if these citizens advocate something that agrees with statements from a designated enemy! (People like her do know about election interference.)

Pro-Russian does not mean anti-Western, and pro-Western

does not mean anti-Russian. Elementary dissent is being criminalized by state powers and denounced with moralistic certainty—a condition that prevents clear thinking.

Perhaps from a recent heat wave in the UK, its fourth prime minister in four years has revived “mad dogs and Englishmen” by advocating for mid-range missiles targeting Russia. (Actually, he is reviving the Crimean War of 170 years ago, with the same aim of preventing a Russian base in the Black Sea.) What you may have missed in this story, buried by our media, are (1) the UK and US missile systems require technicians from those nations to operate them from Ukraine; (2) the U.S. admits it cannot supply enough such missiles to make a significant difference anyway.

Nevertheless, escalating threats and terrorist acts serve to maintain public fear and to generate more funding for the military-industrial [complex], approved by otherwise disempowered legislators.

The bottom lines, usually unmentioned:

- Militarily, U.S./NATO is losing in Ukraine and is trying to hang on until after the November U.S. election.

- Despite endless fearmongering in the West, Russia has given no evidence of intent to occupy all of Ukraine, much less other European territory.

- As stated by top officials, the U.S. agenda since 1991 (really since WWII) has been NATO expansion and war on Russia, with an aim to weaken it as a strategic adversary and to encourage regime change. Millions of Ukrainians have been sacrificed for this dead-end vision.

- U.S. financial sanctions have failed; they have weakened Europe more than Russia and have led to the breakdown of global payment systems built over decades—to the disadvantage of the West and its dollar dominance.

The U.S. persists in this destructive international behavior because of the stakes: the overriding dynamic is from U.S. rulers resisting their loss of unipolar dominance—a futile and adolescent outlook. They are pushing us to ever wider war and further breakdown of international collaboration. Boris Johnson, UK clown and former prime minister, recently flatly stated that the West must defeat Russia to protect Western hegemony. Reader, pay attention!

The war in Ukraine has been fought on two fronts: (1) military confrontation and (2) narrative control. The U.S. and Western media are so skilled at narrative control that the massive ongoing Ukrainian losses and unfolding defeat are disguised by one after another weapons upgrade, which proves ineffective in reversing the ongoing losses, followed by more

emergency billions of dollars to prop up Ukraine. This act will continue until after the November U.S. election, the winner of which will have to deal with Ukraine collapse.

The recent Kursk attack, planned with U.S. support, is a huge failure and is accelerating Ukrainian exhaustion. This desperate diversion has been narrated as Ukraine daring and a turning point, despite its resulting in many more thousands of Ukrainian casualties and no significant gains, while Russian forces in the east are rapidly advancing.

The only objective achieved by the Kursk incursion was a brief propaganda bump. U.S. and Ukraine couldn’t even come up with a consistent reason for provoking this expanded slaughter. Its cruelty shows again that public figureheads are insulated from the consequences of their pronouncements.

They believe: the West is good, Russia is evil, we are democratic, they are autocratic. People who can be taught to speak in clichés can be taught to think in clichés. And when creating propaganda, leaders often end up deceiving themselves. Here we have deluded Western figureheads seeking world domination—for humanitarian reasons, of course.

As two top Chinese diplomats recently and explicitly warned, if the U.S. doesn’t apply the brakes to its international behavior, the situation will go off the rails. That might well mean nuclear war. The U.S. has unilaterally dropped out of several nuclear arms treaties, and numerous officials have advocated a “preventive” first nuclear strike against Russia. In the good old days, we had major antiwar movements, not just one unified war party.

Editor’s Note:

I disagree that the Ukraine incursion into Russia was a bust.

I had hoped you would comment on my proposal last month for an immediate cease fire and referendum in the disputed territories.

Following up on your other idea, the key issue for ending the war is Ukraine neutrality, which Kiev and its Western minders do not accept and never have. So, they will continue into more loss and further retreat and more death, all that is denied in their stories right to the end. Vietnam only worse. Afghanistan only much worse. Etc.

You could send your referendum idea to the “acting” president, Biden, who is criminally corrupt in Ukraine and even bragged about it before a Council on Foreign Relations audi-

ence. But it is already many months too late to limit the scope of what you describe as “disputed territories.” I myself tried to forecast this outcome in your pages. But the war-making institutional inertia is still too great. Now the question is how many oblasts will agree to either join Russia or a joint neutral Ukraine with economic relations in multiple directions. Dave

I don’t think Ukraine should be neutral. Everything west of the Dnipro is Euro-centric and everything east is Keivan Rus, Mongol or Russian. I think we need to respect those cultural histories.

Ed

Fine, but west Ukraine cannot be a NATO outpost with hundreds of missiles pointed at Russia. That is not its cultural history. Dave


I think, as a matter of fact, that is precisely the cultural and social history of that meeting of East and West. Yes, I agree there must be a disarmament on both sides, but first I think we have to agree on cultural perimeters.

Ed

But the “we” who have to agree does not include the likes of you and me. “Disarmament on both sides” — what in the world are you talking about?

And what are the “cultural perimeters” of the U.S.? Rather than multi-polar and multi-ethnic international relations, in historical context yours is the disingenuous and opportunist argument of the empire exploiting “cultural perimeters” in Laos, Afghanistan, Serbia, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, while threatening future resumption of hostilities. Dave

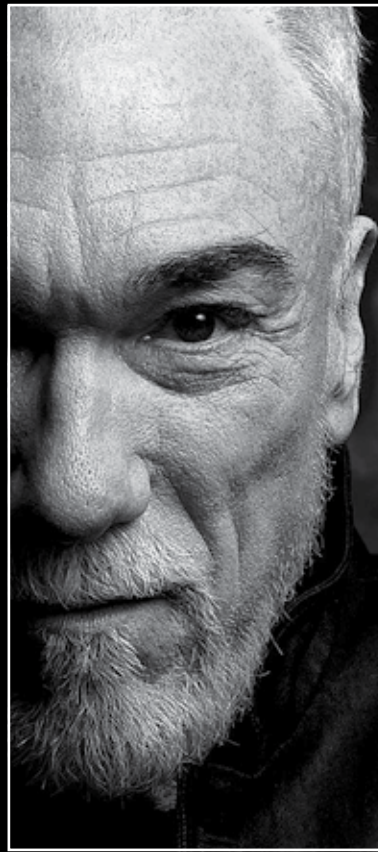
Dave Gutknecht was politically motivated and a skeptic from an early age, sharing MLK’s 1967 conclusion that the US is the chief source of violence in the world. An anti-draft leader, he won an important case at the US Supreme Court (1970), but his continued resistance earned him another conviction and sentence, after which he spent 1972-73 in hiding, in county jail, in federal prison and in a halfway house. This was followed by a 50-year career focused on strengthening food cooperatives and local food economies.



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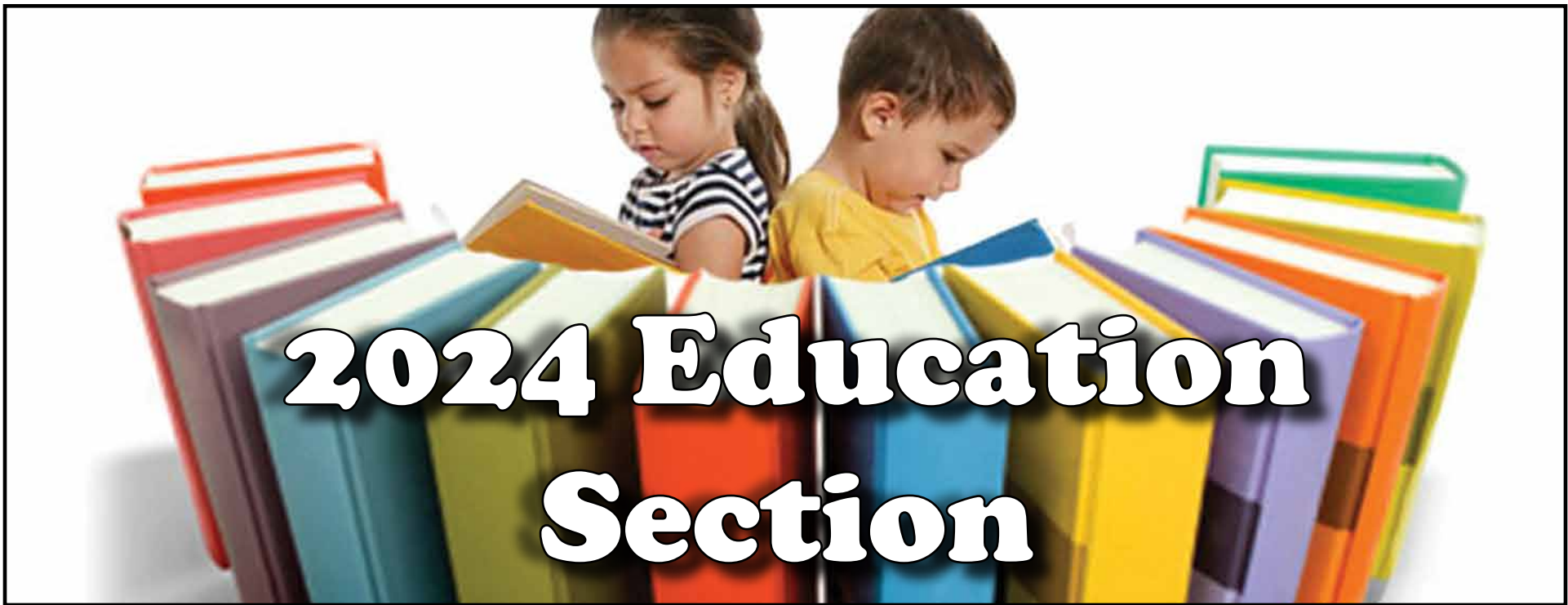
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OCTOBER 12 – NOVEMBER 17



2024 A Big Year for Education

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

New school year, hot news items

Our last Education column was out the first of March 2024 (so remember it was written in February.) Just days after that, many important education news items inundated the local media. So I'm going to cover most of that "in case you missed it," but first here are some more current items.

It's election season; let's kick off with the "tech levy" question for Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) on the ballot Nov. 5. It's called a "tech" levy, but it's bigger than just computers and AV, and encompasses all things related to operations, including staff costs and infrastructure.

Please vote Yes for this! It will increase the tech levy from its current level of around \$18 million to around \$38 million. It will be in effect for 10 years and will raise your property tax only \$1 to \$8 per month.

Breaking news in September: MPS board member Faheema Feerayarre, who represented District 3 in South Minneapolis, resigned too late to get a special election replacement candidate on the upcoming ballot, so the school board will be appointing a replacement for the term, which runs through January, 2027.

More breaking news (I hope it's not even bigger by the time you read this) is a measles outbreak in area schools. As of mid-September, the countywide case count was 51. The first out-

break was in August at an Islamic religious school (unnamed), and by September there was another, in an MPS elementary school (also unnamed.) Sahan Journal has an in-depth piece on this, including a table tracking immunization levels at all schools. See sahanjournal.com/health/measles-outbreak-minneapolis-public-schools-somali/.

Did you know MPS has a data dashboard with every statistic you can think of on every school? Check it out here: publicinsights.mpls.k12.mn.us/transformation/. Also, the MSP website as a whole is a good place to start for following or investigating anything to do with Minneapolis schools. The main link is mpschools.org.

What happened in education



Driver William Dockers, pictured Aug. 23, 2024, drove one of the first electric school buses for Osseo during the 2023-2024 school year. (Photo/Aaron Nesheim/Sahan Journal)

locally March through August

We'll set the stage with the budget crisis facing MPS, as it does nearly all school districts. In early March, MinnPost noted: "Kare 11 reports Minneapolis public schools are expected to have a \$110 million budget

gap for the 2024-25 school year. 'In a statement, the district said there are several factors for the gap, including declining enrollment, rising costs and the end of federal COVID-19 funding.'" (See minnpost.com, March 7, by

See Education, page 10



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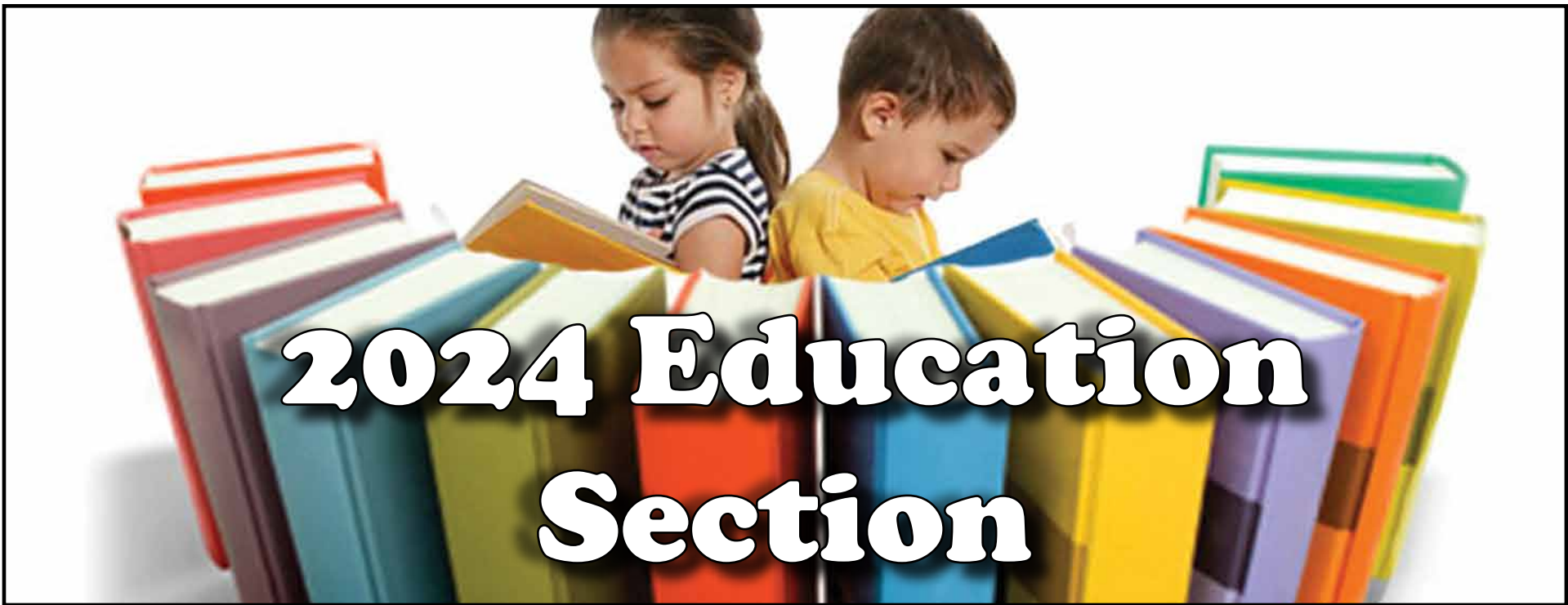
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Education, from page 9

Jazzmine Jackson)

Other news items in March:

Sahan Journal covered MPS's course reversal and apology to parents over its short-sighted plan to cut "heritage language" programs in Hmong and Somali. See sahanjournal.com, March

12, by Becky Z. Dernbach.

The first mention was made (several sources) of a School Transformation project in MPS, which you can read about on the MPS website (search for "School Transformation" at mpschools.org.) The project has four parts: a physical space study, priority-based budgeting, increased community input, and a Spanish dual-lan-

guage taskforce.

MinnPost had a piece supporting the bill then on the floor that would allow indigenous students in Minnesota to use the spiritual practice of smudging in schools with staff supervision, noting that this has shown to benefit their mental health. See minnpost.com, March 7, by Deanna Pistono.

On March 18, Minnesota Reformer had a great piece on Minnesota's most racially segregated school districts, noting in preface that some of the most segregated districts in the US are in Minnesota. See minnesotareformer.com, March 18, by Christopher Ingraham.

And in the Department of the Bleeding Obvious, MinnPost covered a study that found a high correlation between disability and absenteeism from schools.

In April, Sahan Journal had two more pieces exploring budget cuts in more depth. On April 9, David Pierini covered



Teacher being comforted by two students upon closing of Upper Mississippi Academy in St Paul

the story of Lucy Laney Community School, a school in MPS, which was beginning to thrive in 2023, but lost momentum due to budget cuts.

The Anoka-Hennepin system, the state's largest school district, was the focus of a piece on April 25, by Becky Z. Dernbach. There, a few deeply conservative school board members decided to hold the budget approval process hostage to their project of eliminating diversity and equity initiatives. When

the impasse threatened to shut down the whole district, students, parents, and teachers demanded that they decouple the two items and pass the budget. 'Our voices were actually heard' said one student activist when they finally prevailed.

In May, Axios Twin Cities ran a great story about the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers' (MFT 59) raises won vs. the enormous budget gap still present (this was just days before the end of the legislative ses-

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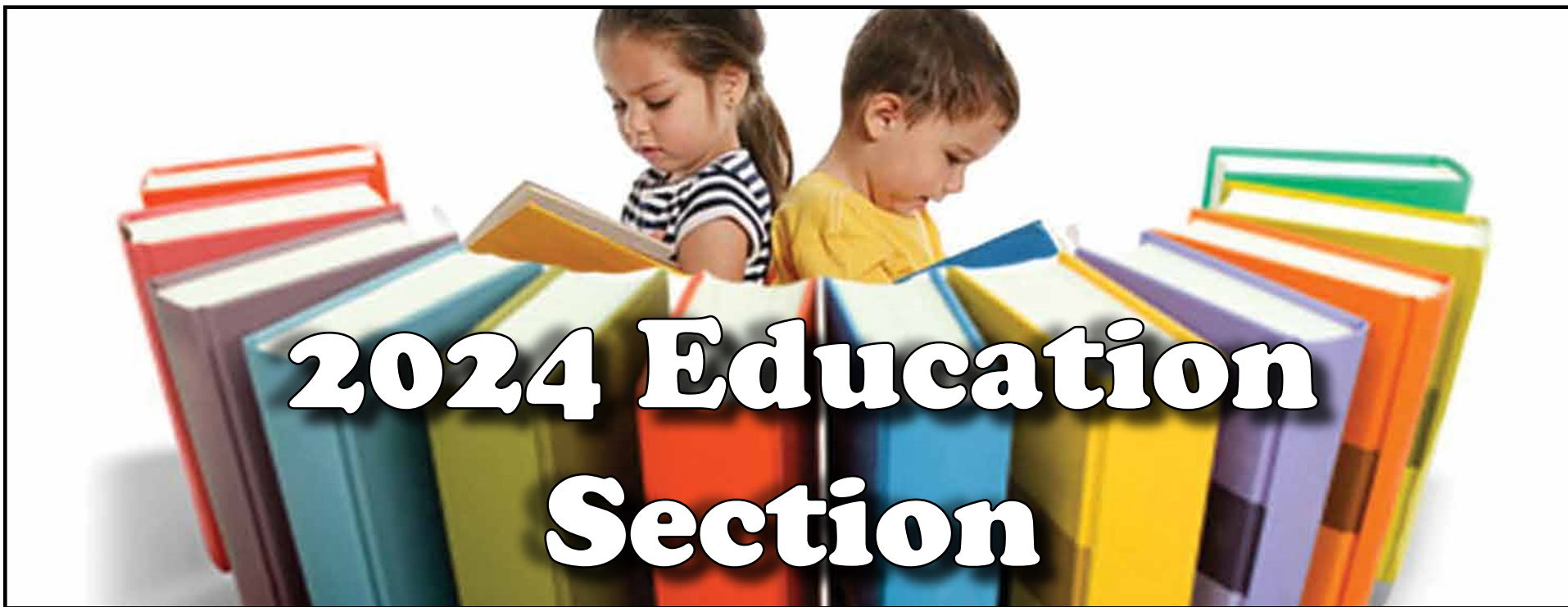
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2024 Education Section

sion.) With MPR online magazine having covered the St. Paul Federation of Educators' (SPFE) win in March, this means both cities' educators unions had won historic (and vital) raises in the face of serious funding issues. See mprnews.org for SPFE, and [Academies Workers Union announced that they had just gained and approved a favorable contract after two years of negotiations. Many people hope that unionization can fix some of the problems plaguing charter schools.](http://axios.com/lo-</p>
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a book ban attempt there mostly failed. The program covered the infamous group, Moms for Liberty, spearheading nationwide book bans. After 97 books were pulled from libraries (except for one or two that weren't even there in the first place - sloppy!) the community cooled down and did a review. Only five of the 97 remained banned.

Labor news continues to overlap with education news in a major way. An April 14 article in Labor Notes recounts how in Massachusetts, one of the states still enforcing a law against public employee unions using the strike, a wave of strikes over 20 months had brought significant gains to teachers. See labornotes.org/blogs/2024/03/teaching-each-other-strike. Also, see Rethinking Schools, an excellent magazine available in print or online, for a stirring account in the Spring 2024 issue of the first ever (and successful) teacher's strike in Portland, OR.

blems with charter schools. And what exactly are those problems? Some of us have been

following this story for at least

See *Education*, page 12



Tracy Byrd, the 2024 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, graduated from Minneapolis' Washburn High School and returned to teach there. (Photo/Becky Z. Dernbach/Sahan Journal)

cal/twin-cities/2024/05/02/minneapolis-teachers-raises-union-budget-deficit for the Axios article on MFT.

The legislature did make several improvements to education incomes across the state including MPS. Education Minnesota, which represents most of the educators in the state including all rural and suburban districts and student teachers, summarized education gains at the end of session. These included over \$60 million for a new literacy program, over \$30 million to boost teacher pensions, a pilot program to pay student teachers, and grants to retain Native and POC educators.

At the end of the school year, the Star Tribune ran a sweet story about a Roseville High graduating senior who spent her last days in school campaigning for the district to get just one electric school bus for the high school. She addressed the board about available grant money to do this. In August, Sahan Journal ran a bit about 15 Minnesota school districts having attained those same grants and at least 67 electric buses that would be added to the state. They didn't say where, so I can't say whether the student managed to persuade Roseville or not.

Also in June, the Hiawatha

What happened in education nationally

Beaufort, SC schools were the focus of a CBS "60 Minutes" program in early March when

Deep dive #1 - what's the deal with charter schools anyway?

Above I referred to unions being one avenue to fix the prob-



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2024 Education S

Education, from page 11

a decade, but until recently, it wasn't something you saw much of in the mainstream media.

Then, in mid-September, the newly-renamed Minnesota Star Tribune ran three articles on charter schools in just four days. All three are by the same pair of

reporters, Mara Klecker and Jeffrey Meitrodt. The overall theme was failure: a lofty but possibly naive ideal, founded in Minnesota, was suddenly and messily "failing" all over the place. Although they are well-researched and rich in data, they do tell an oddly slanted story in many ways, at least if you are read-

ing them as a seasoned follower of the anti-"Education Reform" movement, in which many critics consider charter schools part of the so-called reform movement they oppose.

In short, there is a whiff of "blame the victim" going on here, even in the second piece, titled "When Minnesota charter schools fail, vulnerable students pay the price." This piece paints a picture of students as victims of schools when they close, but fails to ask the questions - aren't the schools (founders, staff, and community) also victims? And who is victimizing them?

In contrast, the story told by anti-reformists, such as In the Public Interest magazine, and local writers such as Rob Levine, is more complex. They focused



Smudging

more on ideologues, the foundations and billionaires that hold the purse-strings, and the det-

perimental effect the charters system has on the public education system, rather than identifying individual charters as boogymen deliberately miseducating children.

Read the Star Tribune articles if you are interested in this topic (you can find free versions of them in the archive: : archive.ph/6W7y1, archive.ph/Tafh8, archive.ph/wbB9B) and then, for a more nuanced view, read this piece from 2022 by Rob Levine: racketmn.com/how-the-minneapolis-foundation-bankrolls-the-destruction-of-public-schools or this one from Sahan Journal: Journal:sahanjournal.com/education/minnesota-charter-school-contracts-noble-academy/

Deep dive #2 - understanding school system finance via a socialist finance nerd

I was delighted when a Signal chat on education I am in turned me on to a podcast: "Have You Heard," hosted by Jennifer Berkshire and Jack Schneider. This is a smart monthly podcast on public education woes and policies and how to fix them. In particular I was directed to the Au-

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L to R: Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Lisa Sayles-Adams (yellow dress), then-MFT 59 president Greta Callahan (now a school board candidate) and school board president Collin Beachy at a press conference on the budget. (Photo/Kyle Stokes/Axios)

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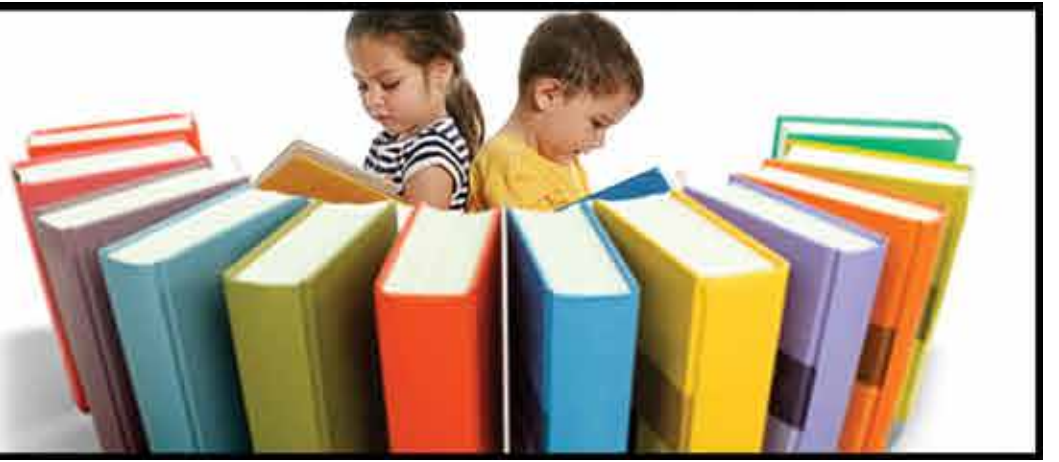
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Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, left, and field serving lunch at Greenvale Park. Sept. 3, 2024. (Photo/Michelle Gri)

Section



gust edition subtitled “Cut, Fire, Close” which was about school finance and featured a guest speaker named David Backer, the “school finance whisperer.” I didn’t even have to listen to it, because it provided a decent transcript.

This is all quite relevant to the news items highlighted above.

Thief River Falls, a third-grade class was going to be axed, leading to overcrowding and the loss of a couple of jobs. Elementary school children, led by a teacher, put in thousands of hours making and selling mugs and keychains to successfully raise \$70,000 last school year and save the class. MN Reformer

The Have You Heard podcast led me to David Backer’s substack, where one can dip their geeky toes into the nation’s best wisdom on school finances. See davidbacker.substack.com. Backer says in the podcast that he was very influenced in his youth by Paulo Freire, Brazilian socialist and philosopher of critical pedagogy. Backer became a finance expert because of early struggles with math, and after feeling totally let down by the education system prior to college, he is now practicing his own form of “Pedagogy of the Oppressed” (the title of Freire’s main book) by being an expert on the finances of public education.

Deep dive #3 - Paulo Freire and The Pedagogy of the Oppressed

If you’re already familiar with the Pedagogy of the Oppressed, good for you! For the rest of us, I have plunged into Wikipedia and other sources to check this out, because I have a feeling it is becoming increasingly relevant as two social forces immiserate us. First, and none of this will be news to anyone, the famous American middle class is getting hollowed out at an increasing rate. So more oppressed people here in the good old US of A. Second, through the years we learn ever more about how much oppression there is and how the trauma of poverty and injustice



Lucy Laney Principal Lisa Pawelak, center, huddles with other school leaders each morning outside her office. Also pictured: nurse Jessica Findell, nurse Bettie Joseph Smith, student support specialist Morgan McDonald. (Photo/David Pierini/North News)

It’s a race to the bottom for schools, with “poor outcomes” being one force among others that leads to dropping public school enrollment, and dropping enrollment leading to less income, and less income putting downward pressure on educators’ pay and education expectations.

One amazing story about the craziness of school finance came from Thief River Falls earlier this year. Charter schools are not the only schools that close! All over the country, districts caught in funding formulas based on enrollment come up against lower birth rates, out migration due to various reasons, rising costs, and voters who refuse to pass levies to fund schools at all. In

covered this story here: minnesotareformer.com/2024/07/02/elementary-students-fund-raise-to-save-classroom-after-voters-reject-levies/. We all desperately need the keys to shutting down this death spiral, and knee-jerk reactions like blaming one kind of school or teacher is not helping.

Our Lady of Peace Catholic School
5435 11th Ave S, Minneapolis
school.olpmmn.org

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On September 30th, federal ESSER funds to public schools expired.

This federal aid proved that public schools do better when they’re better supported, but pulling it back threatens music, art, special education, EL services, and early intervention.

We, the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and Education Support Professionals, think there’s a simple solution to this problem:

FULLY FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Help us call on the federal government to pass the **Keep Our PACT Act & the IDEA Full Funding Act to fund Title 1 and Special Education!**

Are you an MPS parent, alum, educator, or concerned community member? Contact Blue@MFT59.org to find out how to join this fight!



Family nurse practitioner Muna Farah at the Minneapolis Public Health vaccine clinic on Aug. 30, 2024, at Corcoran Park. (Photo/Dymanh Chhoun/Sahan Journal)

is generational and how it affects the brain.

If, like me, all this is making you want to just read the whole thing, guess what! You can get

a free PDF of the entire text at envs.ucsc.edu/internships/internship-readings/freire-pedagogy-of-the-oppressed.pdf.

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Rep. Kristi Pursell, DFL-Northark Elementary in Northfield on 10/15/24 (Photo/Minnesota Reformer)

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

EVENTS

Tell it anyway, 2024

Oct. 4 and Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.

McGuire Theater

725 Vineland Pl., Mpls

walkerart.org

Among the most influential cross-disciplinary artists of his generation, MacArthur Fellow Ralph Lemon returns to the Walker with an explosion of sound and movement. Tell it anyway, an ambitious new performance, arrives 10 years after his landmark premiere of hybrid lecture-performance-musical Scaffold Room. Brimming with artistic fury (and grace) befitting our times, Lemon and his multidisciplinary collaborators—including artists with backgrounds in performance, sculpture, acting, and music—examine issues of memory, race, and impermanence. Concurrently, Lemon and Kevin Beasley's hypnotic sound and video installation Rant redux (2020–2024) is on view in the Perlman Gallery.

Tell it anyway, 2024 is an event/performance involving the participation of Kevin Beasley, Dwayne Brown, Lysis (Ley), Paul Hamilton, Darrell Jones, Ralph Lemon, April Matthis, Roderick Murray, Mariama Noguera-Devers, Okwui Okpokwasili, Angie Pittman, Samita Sinha, and Mike Taylor

Somali Museum Anniversary Celebration

Oct. 5, 6 to 10 p.m.

Somali Museum of Minnesota

2925 Chicago Ave. Greenway

Basement, Mpls

somalimuseum.org/

The Somali Museum's 11th Anniversary Celebration is a tribute to the beauty of change, and growth that comes with time. This annual celebration is a testament to our unwavering commitment to promoting Somali culture and tradition, showcasing our heritage's depth and significance. Please save the date and join us in celebrating the timeless bond that unites us all - Somalinimo.

Gran Portage Bike Tour

Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Minneapolis Cider Company

701 SE 9th St., Mpls

minneapolisider.com/pages/

gran-portage

We can't wait to see you at the second-annual Minneapolis Cider Gran Portage, an enchanting Twin Cities bike ride that will benefit Friends of the Boundary Waters, coming this fall, October 5, 2024.

The Gran Portage is a non-competitive ride starting at the Minneapolis Cider Co. taproom in Northeast Minneapolis. This year the ride is raising funds to support Friends of the Boundary Waters. The tour is named after the Italian "Gran Fondo" or "Big

Ride" and the French "Portage", a canoeist's nod to the lands linking the ride's waterways including the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, and the famous lakes of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Not only will you have a fantastic time, but your participation will also make a meaningful difference. 100 percent of the net proceeds from this event will be donated directly to Friends of the Boundary Waters, to safeguard our cherished wilderness. Multiple routes to choose from for whatever your skill level is.

Glass Pumpkin Patch

Oct. 12 and Oct. 13,

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FOCI Minnesota Center for

Glass Arts

2213 Snelling Ave., Mpls

mnglassart.org/

Explore a spectacular array of handcrafted glass pumpkins, design your own pumpkin, or view free glassblowing demonstrations! Join us for an enchanting Glass Pumpkin Patch!

- Shop hand crafted glass

pumpkins from Local Artisans

- Public Glassblowing

Demonstration 12 to 4pm (Sat.)

1 to 4pm (Sun.)

- Walk-In Design Your Own

Pumpkin 11am to 6pm

Author Reading: Ahnwee Days,

in conversation with Lorna

Landvik

Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Nokomis Library

5100 S. 34th Ave., Mpls

williamburleson.com/ahnwee

days

In Ahnwee Days a mayor tried to save her small Minnesota town from being taken over by interests on all sides. It is a laugh-out-loud satire about the value of community and how small towns across the country are struggling. As the mayor says, "Sure, Ahnwee is just an antique shop, strip joint, and meth lab, but it's OUR antique shop, strip joint, and meth lab."

Burleson is a South Minneapolis native and the author of numerous short stories and essays, his work having appeared in the Star Tribune and the Hennepin History Magazine, among other publications. The event is free.

Twin Cities Book Festival

Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Minnesota State Fairgrounds

twincitiesbookfestival.com

The largest and longest running annual get-together for our state's devoted book community, the one-day TCBF typically attracts over 6,000 people and is FREE and open to the public. A boisterous book fair with over 140 literary organizations, publishers, book dealers, authors, magazines, and more displaying their bookish wares, and multiple stages with readings and presentations for all ages with scores of authors. Attendees can count on seeing internationally

renowned visiting writers, local literary heroes, activities for kids, a snapshot of the current publishing scene, and of course bargains galore, including thousands of great deals at Rain Taxi's blockbuster Used Book & Record Sale — all of this in the historic Progress Center, one of the two oldest buildings on the Fairgrounds.

Hocus Pocus a Halloween

Drag Brunch

Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Roxy's Cabaret

1333 Nicollet Mall, Mpls

roxyscabaret.com/

Welcome to Hocus Pocus a Halloween Drag Brunch! Join us for a spooktacular time at Roxy's Cabaret for a boo-tiful event filled with fabulous drag performances and delicious brunch delights.

Doors open at 10 a.m. with a variety of delicious food and creative cocktails, the excitement begins with a show at 11 a.m. and another at 2 p.m.! You won't want to miss this in-person event that promises to be full of fun, laughter, and unexpected encounters. Get ready to be mesmerized by our talented queens as they put on a show like no other. Come dressed in your best Halloween costumes and let's celebrate the season in style. Don't miss out on this fang-tastic event!

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Southside Pride

NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

Southside Pride is a monthly community newspaper delivered on the first Tuesday of each month to convenient locations in and around our Southside communities. We are proud of the racial and cultural diversity of the Southside, and we oppose racism and other efforts to keep us apart as a community.

If you want to share some news of your church, school or organization, please write us at:

Southside Pride
2721 E. 42ND STREET SUITE B
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406
CALL US AT 612-822-4662
email: editor@southsidepride.com

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DELIVERY Metro Periodical Partners LLC

• COMMUNITY CALENDAR •

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

VEAL - Play Reading Oct. 21, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Jungle Theater
2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls
jungletheater.org/

Following a violent coup, a young woman named Chelsea becomes Queen of North America. When 3 friends from her past come asking for a big favor, Chelsea makes them revisit their friendship—and its terrible end. “Veal is a deceptive little monster of a post-apocalyptic play that explores the intersocial dynamics of middle school girls and the long-lasting ramifications of those relationships.”

— Kristoffer Diaz

Part of the Jungle Theater's Greenhouse Play Reading Series, this performance is FREE and open to the public. We ask you reserve your seat ahead of time.

Learn Traditional Mongolian Calligraphy

Oct. 22, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Global Minnesota
1901 University Ave. SE, Mpls
globalminnesota.org/

Step into the world of traditional Mongolian calligraphy and discover the elegance of this ancient art form. Join Global Minnesota for a thoughtfully curated workshop teaching the basics of Mongolian calligraphy. As you practice, you will also learn more about Mongolian culture and history. You'll take home a finished art piece of your design – write your name, a poem, or look to our expert teacher for suggestions. All materials are included with

registration. Light snacks will be provided. Admission \$5-\$15

Minnesota Children's Museum's Halloween Party

Oct. 25, 6 to 9 p.m.

Minnesota Children's Museum
10 West 7th St., Saint Paul
mcm.org/halloween-party/

Put on your best costume and join us for a night of kid-friendly Halloween fun including trick-or-treating, a dance party with live DJ, activities, crafts, games and more! Plus, the entire museum will be open for play during the event.

\$25 for General Admission, \$10 for Members.

Price includes museum admission, a trick-or-treat bag and a night of not-so-scary Halloween fun.

Howl-o-ween

Oct. 25 to Oct. 27

Science Museum of Minnesota
120 Kellogg Blvd W, Saint Paul
new.smm.org/

Celebrate the spookiest season but make it science-y! Science Museum visitors are invited to participate in spooky STEM activities and hunt for hidden wolves in the exhibit galleries. Costumes are not required, but they're very welcome!

Bonus treat: The first 200 ticket purchasers will snag a spooktacular prize from our Explore Store.

Zip Zap Circus MOYA

Sept. 12 through Oct. 20

Children's Theatre Company
2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls
childrenstheatre.org/zipzap

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
We do require mask, sanitizer and temp check. Be safe and God bless!

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
5300 10th Ave. S., 612-825-6846
nokomisheights.org

Loaves & Fishes

loavesandfishesmn.org
Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m.
Free, to-go meals served from side door on 53rd Street. Open to everyone, no questions asked. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome. You can simply drive or walk up to the church.

All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission
3044 Longfellow Ave., 612-791-1253
allsaintsindianmission.org

First Nations Kitchen

firstnationskitchen.org
Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.
We welcome all to our weekly To Go meals and Produce Give Away. We cook fresh, organic, indigenous meals and give away organic produce, rain or shine. This is a barrier-free food program. To donate or volunteer contact: director@firstnationskitchen.org or go to our website.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St., 612-721-6231
minnehaha.org
facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf
Tuesday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
We help distribute up to 30,000

Featuring ten dynamic young artists, MOYA exudes the tangible African spirit of ubuntu, joy, and resilience—all backed by original pulsating South African pop music. With breathtaking acrobatics, comic jugglers, and exuberant dance, you'll leave energized and inspired! Tickets start at \$15 for kids, \$25 for adults. To learn more, visit our website or call 612.874.0400.

The Halloween Tree

Oct. 20 to Oct. 27,
Saturday & Sunday 2 p.m.,
Wednesday through
Saturday 7 p.m.

The Southern Theatre
1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls
southerntheatre.org/shows/
the-halloween-tree

On Halloween night, a group of trick-or-treaters must go on an epic adventure through time and space to save their friend from a mysterious force. Ray Bradbury's timeless story of friendship, mortality, and wonder comes to life through the magic of live story theater, puppetry, and shadow. A rollicking trick and spectacular treat for young and old alike.

An Evening with David Sedaris

Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.

State Theatre
805 Hennepin Ave., Mpls
hennepinarts.org/

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves

that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today.

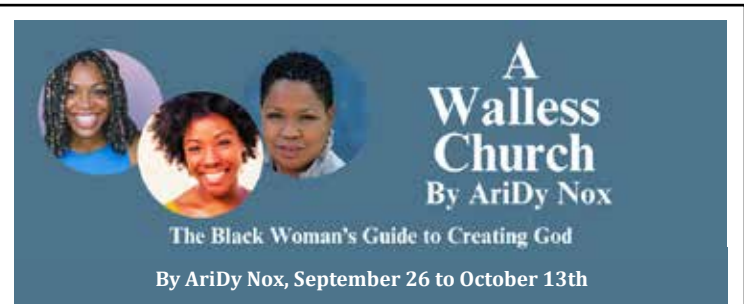
Panchatantra - The Dancing Tales of Wisdom

Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. and
Nov. 10, 2 p.m.

O'Shaughnessy Auditorium,
St. Catherine University
2004 Randolph Ave., Saint Paul
kathadance.org/panchatantra-the-dancing-
tales-of-wisdom/

With choreography by KDT
Artistic Director Rita Mustaphi,
Panchatantra is based on a series

of ancient Asian Indian animal fables of the same name. The original Panchatantra stories are a collection of interrelated animal folktales from India that originated in the 3rd century BCE. Originally written in Sanskrit, the Panchatantra tales are short, crisp, simple to understand, and always end with a moral that is still relevant today. It will all be set to recorded music by the great J.D. Steele, his company, and musicians from India using energetic beats of Asian Indian compositions by co-composer Jayanta Banerjee.



Pillsbury House + Theatre proudly presents the world premiere of A Walless Church - The Black Woman's Guide to Creating God, a Living Room play/ritual/drama that delves into the divine creation through the eyes of three godlings: Oru, Nona, and Mo. These characters fluidly transition between roles as narrators, protagonists, teachers, students, priestesses, witnesses, and gods, offering a multifaceted exploration of divinity.

Pondering profound questions about what it means to be a Black woman today, A Walless Church wrestles with the heartfelt relationships between Black women, and what a pathway to healing might look like. Evoking your grandma, your auntie, your sister and more, Oru, Nona, and Moe take the audience on a wild ride, full of discoveries as they craft the divine.

AriDy Nox is a multi-disciplinary black femme storyteller with a variety of forward-thinking creative works under their belt including the historical reimagining of the life of Sally Hemmings BLACK GIRL IN PARIS (2020). AriDy creates out of the vehement belief that creating a future in which marginalized peoples are free requires a radical imagination.

A WALLESS CHURCH featuring Aimee K. Bryant, Nubia Monks, & Essence ReneaPrevi

- 9/26-10/13 Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 7pm and Sundays at 2pm
- Tickets: Pick-Your-Price tickets \$5-30
- 612.825.0459 or pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org
- More information and tickets: pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org

SHARING FOOD

Church of the Incarnation

3817 Pleasant Ave. S.
612-822-2101, Espanol:
612-874-7169
incarnationmpls.org
Harvest of the Heart
harvestfromtheheart.org
Tuesday through Friday
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

2730 E. 31st St. 612-978-7974
htlcmpls.org
Soup for You! Café
soupforyou.info
Lunch Monday through Friday
noon to 1 p.m.
Groceries Wednesday
noon to 1 p.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church

3901 Chicago Ave. 612-827-2504
Calvary Emergency Food Shelf
612-827-2504, ext. 3.
clchurch.org/food-shelf
Continuing its mission of providing access to fresh, nutritious food for the community. Call for more info.

New Creation Baptist Church

1414 E. 48th St., 612-825-6933
newcreationbaptistchurchmn.org
facebook.com/NCBCfoodshelf.
(Grey door on the corner of
48th St. & 15th Ave.)
Saturday (except 5th Saturdays)

pounds of food each month. In response to the COVID-19 virus, we have changed many things to protect both our guests and our volunteers – rigorous cleaning routines, streamlined procedures, moving outside, wearing face masks and following the 6-foot social distancing guideline. Please be patient as we continue to improve what we do.

Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and Friendship Community Service

2600 E. 38th St. 612-827-7928
greatfriend.org
Food Hub
Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Free food, hygiene products, and some household goods. Please bring ID and wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines are in place.

Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicolett Ave. S., 612-871-7400
Plymouth.org
Groveland Emergency Food Shelf
612-871-0277
grovelandfoodshelf.org
Monday through Friday
9:30 a.m. to noon
On Groveland Avenue between Nicollet and LaSalle (Temporary entrance on Nicollet Avenue.)
Hosted in the basement of Plymouth Congregational Church. Delivery is available for individuals who are housebound due to disability.

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EVENTS

Renting to Refugees:

A forum for landlords
Oct. 7, Noon. Online.
Join MCC and other refugee resettlement agencies for a virtual forum on renting market rate to Refugees. Learn about the good you can do! For more information and a link to register, visit: mnchurches.org/news-common-good-archive (09/18/2024)

Westminster

Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Ave. 612-332-3421
westminstermpls.org

American Democracy at the Crossroads

Oct. 10, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Iva Carruthers, General Secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, will share about the present state of our democracy and the choices before those of us who have a stake in a pluralistic future. Visit mnchurches.org for more info.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

3430 E. 51 St., 612-729-5463
faithlutheranmpls.org

MOCA Rummage Sale

Oct. 11 and 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Baked Potato Dinner

Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m.
Come for dinner of potato, salad bar and pie and/or take a dinner to go.

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

5760 Portland Ave. S., 612-866-2579
dllc.org

Stay Fire Safe

Oct. 2, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Community meal 5:30 p.m.
Covering fire prevention tips, how to create an emergency escape plan, and the proper use of fire extinguishers. Learn about common household fire hazards and how to protect yourselves and your families in the event of a fire.

Sacred Reckonings Screening

Oct. 23, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Community meal 5:30 p.m.
Sacred Reckonings is a short documentary about the reparatory process. Come be inspired, challenged, and guided in the sacred work of truth-telling, solidarity, and transformation.

Community Boo Bash

Oct. 31
Community meal: 5:30 pm.
The community-wide Boo Bash will feature a Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, spooky s'mores by the bonfire, treats, games, crafts, and more. It's a night of fall fun for people of all ages.

St. Albert the Great

2836 33rd Ave. S., 612-724-3643
saintalbertthegreat.org

Roast Beef Dinner

Oct. 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Roast beef with all the trimmings, dessert, and drinks

Adults: \$15 / Children 6-12: \$7 / 5 and Under: Free
Enjoy your dinner and stay for more! Mini-rafts and cash raffle in the social hall.
Bingo in the gym
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Country Store. Jewelry sales.
Volunteer Saturday morning and all day Sunday. See our website to sign up.

Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Community

4537 3rd Ave. S., 612-823-8205
stjoan.com

The 2024-2025 Concert Series

Tickets are now on sale!
Visit our website for more info.
Men of Motown
Oct. 20, 7 to 9 p.m.

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church

4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527
minnehahacommunion.org
secretary@minnehahacommunion.org

Red Cross Blood Drive

Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Organizer: mclcofficeanager@gmail.com

Play Group

Thursday 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
For more information contact Pastor Martha Bardwell: 612-871-2967

Plymouth Congregational Church

1900 Nicolett Ave. S., 612-871-7400

Plymouth.org

Book Club

Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m.
This month's book: "The Women" by Kristin Hannah.
Interested in joining? Have any questions? Contact Wanda Bee at realestate@wandabee.com.
Check the book cart in the Cloister Garden to purchase books.
We prefer to meet in person, however, if you need to join via Zoom, please call: 253-215-8782

Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 E. 50th St.
612-721-6231
minnehaha.org

Taizé Service

With all that is going on around us, it is important to slow down and make sure we are feeding our souls and listening for God periodically. Take an opportunity for renewal through prayer, song and silence at our monthly Taizé services. We will be live-streaming our services, so you can catch Taizé from your home (or cabin or wherever you are) in real time, or anytime you want.

Central Lutheran Church

Free Store needs donations!
333 S. 12th St., 612-870-4416
centralmpls.org
Sunday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Free Store is a critical

community resource that allows guests to shop for what they need at no cost. Items needed: blankets, towels, sheets, kitchenware and clothing. Donations accepted from 4th Ave. loading dock. Press the call button and someone will come to help you. All donated items should be clean and in good condition. Call with any questions.

MCC Refugee Services

122 Franklin Ave. W, Suite 100
651-724-0944
mnchurches.org

Household/Bathroom supplies needed!

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Since January, MCC has welcomed >392 new arrivals to Minnesota. These families come with nothing but a few suitcases. We need your support in creating welcome kits. We have set up gift registries with items included in every welcome kit. Donation guidelines and links to our wish-lists are available mnchurches.org/ways-help/give-items. We are especially looking for: bar soap, laundry detergent, deodorant, shower curtains, and shower rings. Call, email Noah at noah.wilkerson@mnchurches.org, or drop any donations off at our offices

See sharing food on page 15

The Southside Religious Community Welcomes You

International Society for Krishna Consciousness

ISKCON Minnesota Temple
4000 Minnehaha Ave.
612-999-7851
iskconminnesota.org
Open Monday through Friday
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Temple Service
4:30 to 7 p.m.
(Kirtan, Dharma talk, free vegetarian feast)
Wednesday Night Wisdom Talk
7 to 8 p.m.
All are welcome, we practice Bhakti Yoga, devotional service to God, stop by and see what it's all about.

Bahá'í

BAHÁ'Í CENTER OF MINNEAPOLIS
3644 Chicago Ave. S.,
612-823-3494
minneapolisbahai.org
Assembly@minneapolisbahai.org
Devotions at the Bahá'í Center and via Zoom
Sunday 10 a.m.
Tuesday via Zoom 6:30 p.m.
So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.
-Baha'u'llah

Christian

DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
5760 Portland Ave. S.
612-866-2579
www.dllc.org
Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3901 Chicago Ave. S.
612-827-2504
clchurch.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Pastor: Jenny Sung
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3430 E. 51st St.
612-729-5463
faithlutheranmpls.org
Sunday Worship 9 a.m. and online on Facebook
facebook.com/felcimpls
Blind Ministry
Oct. 10, noon to 2 p.m.
AA group Monday 6:30 p.m.
Senior Exercise Class
Monday 10 a.m.
NA groups Tuesday 7 p.m. and Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Baked Potato Dinner
Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.
612-722-1083
holycrossmpls.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Forum 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.
An inclusive community encouraging lives of service.

LIVING SPIRIT

Multicultural/United Methodist Justice — Generosity — Faith
4501 Bloomington Ave.
612-721-5025

livingspiritumc.org
Check website for worship schedule
Anytime: livingspiritumc.org/watch

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Center for Changing Lives
2400 Park Ave. S., 612-871-8831
messiahlutheranmpls.org
Sunday 9 a.m. Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion
Sunday 11 a.m. Praise Worship (Holy Communion)
1st and 3rd Sunday)
Sunday 12:30 p.m. Fellowship

MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN

4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527
minnehahacommunion.org
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Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Pastor: Jane Buckley-Farlee

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Cross Over the Bridge to DINKYTOWN

Celebrating Fall in Dinkytown

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

The future of the University neighborhood

We're going to start our look at Dinkytown by focusing on its neighborhood ecosystem. In 2023, the boards of four of the so-called University neighborhood associations (NAs), Marcy-Holmes (MHNA) which includes Dinkytown, Southeast Como (SECIA), Prospect Park (PPA) and Nicollet Island, began discussions about a possible merger. (The other two areas that make up the University District, the University itself and the mid-city Industrial area, do not have NA boards.) If it comes to pass, the new NA will be called University Neighborhoods Partnership (UNP.)

In case you're not familiar with the recent plight of Minneapolis's NAs, beginning in 1990, the size and saturation of these nonprofits representing neighborhood residents' interests grew phenomenally during the existence of a city funding program called the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP.) Around 2012, the city transitioned to an "equity" based funding model, which drastically slashed funding, especially for majority homeowner neighborhoods. Many of the NAs have either faded away, changed structures, or merged with other NAs.

After an "exploratory phase" in the four affected neighborhoods during the last quarter of 2023, PPA opted out of the merger plan. The three remaining NA boards voted to proceed, and now three 72-hour polls will take place (by the time you read this all or all but one will be done) to give the residents a say in whether to proceed with the merger.

UMN news and views

A great way to keep up with the life of the University is to read the MN Daily, a student-run newspaper, which is much more accessible these days as it's completely online. There's A LOT going on right now. The UMN recently inaugurated a new president, Rebecca Cunningham, in a day that was made tense

by protestors, including among others, UMN's Divest Coalition calling for divestment from Israel. See mn-daily.com for coverage and more.

A recent article highlighted a campus club that is a branch of the statewide organization Compassionate Action for Animals. In the course of "tabling" on campus, the group offers a vegan treat to anyone who will watch a short video about how animal food production processes hurt animals, and then surveys them on how they felt about it (many are appalled and upset.) They also distribute a vegan dining

for these and more. On Oct. 14, don't miss the next National Theatre Live (UK - films of live stage plays by the NT featuring major actors and playwrights.) It's NTL: Frankenstein, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller, directed by Danny Boyle.

Watershed Spa is not like other spas in town. It's kind of a throwback - a public bath, basically, but very luxe. It features several bathing options and a relaxation room for after the bath. The location is 514 2nd Street SE in a repurposed industrial building.

with healthy scratch-made food and baked goods, delicious craft espresso drinks, and a purposefully curated wine list."

SweeDee Cafe (prev. \$1.99 Americano - 1307 4th Street SE) - Opened in 2023 by Chang Yoo as \$1.99 Americano, it was bought a year later by Pahoua Thao, who expanded

the menu and changed the name.

Rollicious (Dinkydale Mall, next to Shuang Cheng) - Dinkytown's premiere Chinese restaurant has a new Japanese neighbor. Owner Soi Ho learned the business working in his sister's sushi bar in North Dakota. They specialize in hand rolls and teriyaki bowls.



Cine Latino Thru Rocks and Clouds

guide they created last year. Access it here: docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DCcLQySoJNEbM1z-KgN3KVVdRMvBYKoF9efljbV9k4/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Things to do in Dinkytown and Marcy-Holmes

With the large influx of new residential structures in Dinkytown itself, most residents go to surrounding areas for entertainment and services. Marcy-Holmes goes east of Dinkytown all the way to Central Avenue SE. The Main Cinema on SE Main Street near the river is one such destination; it's also home to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival, the Arab Film Festival, and Cine Latino, as well as other great series.

Cine Latino runs from Oct. 9 to 13 this year. Among the exciting offerings: Through Rocks and Clouds (Raiz) and Close Your Eyes (Cerrallos Ojos.) Check mspfilm.org/shows

Marcy Park (711 11th Avenue SE) is one of two city parks in Marcy-Holmes (the other is Holmes Park, fancy that.) It's small and doesn't have a Recreation Center, but does have a picnic area, a playground/tot lot, a full basketball court, a dog park, and a hammocking grove!

The Book House in Dinkytown (Dinkydale Mall, second floor) is great for those who like a more contemplative type of recreation. It's one of the best and oldest used book stores in the city. They boast 40K books in-store and another 40K archived, and have an online catalog you can search (almost) all of them with.

Places to eat and drink in Dinkytown and Marcy-Holmes

Silver Fern (114 E. Hennepin Avenue) - "Silver Fern brings the quaint cafe culture of New Zealand and Australia to Minneapolis

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DINKYTOWN

The Rope Release Party

Big release party coming up for The Rope and their new album, "Nightbird," at Mortimer's on October 4. Their Gothic Post-Punk music is a shrill indictment of everything that's wrong with what's going on in the Land of the Free:

Violence
 You want violence
 Well whaddya know
 Welcome to the hourly show
 What's your kick man?
 Whaddya need?
 You want violence
 Just follow me
 Step right up and take a seat
 We've everything you desire
 Soon you will all feel the heat
 When your entire world is on fire
 But you must pay the price up front
 And for all eternity
 May I present
 Land of the free
 You want terror Brother what's your kink?
 A School shooting
 One every time you blink
 Police death squads, fascist greed
 You want terror
 Brother follow me
 Step right up and take a seat
 We've everything you desire
 Soon you will all feel the heat
 When your entire world is on fire
 But you must pay the price up front
 And for all eternity
 May I present
 Land of the free



The Rope: Jesse Hagon (vocals), Mike Browning (guitar), Sam Richardson (bass), Ben Rickel (drums)

Third Precinct, from page 1

in on.”
 Minneapolis City Operations Officer Margaret Anderson Kelliher outlined the proposed democracy and community center to city leaders last April.
 “We are bringing forward, putting into the building a need that the city has. That need is for a democracy center, election and voter services, outreach into the community,” Kelliher said.
 The plan is to have a 4,000-square-foot early voting center and 8,000-square-foot community center. The remaining 4,100-square-foot warehouse is reserved for voting machines and mail-in ballots.
 “What you are going to see is 8,000 square feet on the main floor, on the first level that would be activated by the community, likely through some sort of RFP process going forward,” Kelliher added.
 The current Election Voter Service (EVS) center on 980 E Hennepin Ave has a lease that expires in November 2029. City officials expect that lease to increase from \$372,000. Election center officials said that building a democracy and election center near the Blue Line Light Rail on Lake Street would help push out new voters in a neighborhood that typically stays home on Election Day.
 “The site itself at 3000 Minnehaha is an ideal central location for elections and voter services. It’s located on the Lake Street/Mid Town Transit. It’s walkable, it’s bicycle friendly,” Katie Smith, Director of Elections and Voter Services, said last April.

City Council Member Aisha Chughtai of Ward 10 challenged city officials on claims that they are placing election voter services in neighborhoods with historically low voter turnout.
 “There are certainly a handful of precincts, but really a couple precincts with voter turnout under 40 percent in that area,” Chughtai said. “It’s really compelling to hear that the proximity to an EVS site increases voter turnout in a given a community.”
 Chughtai added that, “Ward 9 or South Minneapolis is not where the lowest turnout in the city is.”
 Chavez shared similar views on the new election center. “I’m not against building elections and voting services in South Minneapolis, in Ward 9 and across the city,” Chavez said.
 “I’m not disputing the fact that we need more election voter services, we do,” Chavez added. “In this corner that has a lot of trauma, we should be using that site to address that trauma.”
 That trauma Chavez described disproportionately affects black and native Minnesotans according to state data. Indigenous Minnesotans were ten times as likely to die from a drug overdose than white Minnesotans, according to data from the MN Department of Health. Black Minnesotans were more than three times as likely to die from drug overdose than white Minnesotans. About 64 percent of the homeless population are people of color, according to data from the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness.
 “What they want has been

identified multiple times through various community engagement. That’s:
 - Work to address the opioid crisis.
 - Work to address unsheltered homelessness.
 - Making sure we bring community hubs to that corner.”
 In 2023 unhoused residents were turned away from Hennepin County’s Adult Shelter Connect Hotline because shelters were booked to capacity.
 Nicole Mason, community organizer for Camp Nenookaasi, knows how police have treated unhoused natives at encampments throughout Minneapolis.
 In an Instagram post on Sept. 18, Mason described the naive ways in which city officials handled these encampment sweeps.
 “The city came and gave everybody a pamphlet. They gave them a pamphlet when nobody has a phone,” Mason recalled.
 Jose Acuna, a Homeless Response Coordinator with the city of Minneapolis, approached Mason with news of another eviction.
 “I knew the eviction must be coming because there’s drones and what not,” Mason said. “I said how many beds are available?”
 “He said that’s the good question. That’s what he said,” Mason said referring to Acuna.
 “You guys got to do better. You guys have to have a list of what is available tonight,” Mason said.
 The Third Police Precinct was a house of lawlessness fit only for cops who bank on the misery of others. Chavez recognized that residents “unfortunately” don’t want a voting services center either.

Response to questions from the city of Minneapolis:
What functions will this proposed democracy center support? (early voting, housing assistance for ex., food and drinks for unhoused, case management)
 A: The proposed democracy center will provide a permanent home to the city’s Election and Voter Services Department, which is currently leasing space in an industrial area in Northeast Minneapolis. This proposal would also house the city’s Early Vote Center, where it will be more centrally located, connected to transportation, and in an area with historically lower voter turnout. Activities will also include the coordination of mail balloting, hospital voting, voter outreach and engagement, and pop-up voting events.
 In addition, the plan calls for setting aside more than 8,000 square feet of the space for community use, roughly two thirds of the ground floor. The community use space is not yet defined, and we are engaging with residents and local businesses about what kinds of uses people might want to see there.
Will it be similar to, for example, the Native American Center, on Franklin?
 A: We are still working with residents and local businesses to identify how the community space might be used. But, like the Minneapolis American Indian Center, we envision a place that serves the immediate community and is welcoming to all.
How is this democracy center different from a Board of Elections precinct?

A: The democracy center will be home to the city department that manages elections and will house the city’s Early Vote Center. A voting precinct is a location that serves as a polling place only on election days.
Does the city have enough in its budget to complete this project? If not, then how much is needed?
 A: The next phase of design will include cost estimation for the redevelopment proposal.
Are there going to be early voting and register to vote initiatives?
 A: Yes. Elections & Voter Services would include an Early Vote Center to support early in-person voting, ballot drop-off, voter registration, outreach and engagement, pop-up voting, as well as language support.
Does the community support the renovation from a former police precinct to a voting hall?
 A: The City conducted a series of engagement opportunities on the proposed democracy center over the summer. Results from that engagement will be shared with the public at an open house on Oct. 2 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis American Indian Center located at 1530 E. Franklin Ave.
What functions does this center provide outside of voting and democracy?
 A: Some of the potential uses for the community space in the democracy center include arts and cultural activities, social services, business services, community gathering space, and wellness activities.

TMORA's Magic Mushrooms

BY ED FELIEN

The Museum of Russian Art has a charming exhibit of watercolors by Alexander Viazemsky in one of its backrooms. It's all mushrooms. His detail, down to the specks of dirt clinging to the roots, is astonishing.

The flyer advertising the

show has on its cover (unsurprisingly) a photo of the painting of a mushroom, an Amanita muscaria—a mushroom noted for its hallucinogenic properties. Wikipedia: “Although poisonous, death due to poisoning from A. muscaria ingestion is quite rare. Parboiling twice with water weakens its toxic-

ity and breaks down the mushroom's psychoactive substances; it is eaten in parts of Europe, Asia, and North America.”

When I saw the flyer, I had an almost immediate flashback to the cover of “The Sacred Mushroom and The Cross, A Study of the Nature and Origins of Christianity Within the Fertility Cults of the Ancient Near East” by John M Allegro, published in 1970. Allegro said it's possible Jesus never existed and that the notion of love and sharing everything going on in Acts of the Apostles probably had its origin in the practices of Near Eastern fertility cults, and the action

sis are relatively easy to cultivate indoors. First, spores are inoculated within sterilized jars or bags, colloquially known as grain spawn, containing a form of carbohydrate nutrient such as rye grains. After approximately one month, the spores fully colonize the grain spawn forming dense mycelium, which is then planted within a substrate such as a coconut husk fiber and vermiculite mixture. Given proper humidity, temperature, and fresh air exchange, the substrate will produce fruiting Psilocybe cubensis bodies within a month of planting. To preserve potency after harvesting, growers often dehydrate the fruit and store them in air-tight containers in cool environments.”

“Russia's Native Mushrooms” runs through Feb. 9, 2025.

There's lots more to see at The Museum of Russian Art. “Women in Soviet Art” is a lovely exhibit of paintings of heroic



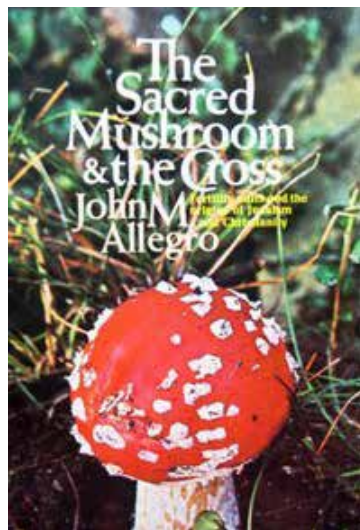
Psilocybe semilanceata (Photo/Arp, Wikimedia)

Soviet women doing hard work in a social realist style, viewed through a slightly impressionist lens. It runs only to Oct. 24, 2024.

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condemns the invasion and ongoing aggression against Ukraine, which violates international law and undermines the principles of peace and freedom.

Russia's Native Mushrooms
Botanical Watercolors by Alexander Viazemsky

September 21, 2024 - February 9, 2025
Robert J. Brokop Gallery



was fueled by the communal partaking of the sacred mushroom, Amanita muscaria.

This communal sharing of hallucinogenic drugs and everything else, was the popular ethic of the “Back to the Land” movement of radical hippies in the Sixties. Rural communes were a kind of crash pad for draft dodgers, anti-war activists, burn-outs and druggies. They could be harrowing or hallowing experiences, but the guiding faith was always peace and love. Minnesota had its very own Georgeville Commune in 1969.

Psilocybin mushrooms

A safer and more readily available psychedelic mushroom is psilocybin. It's used clinically to treat post-traumatic stress syndrome and to stop smoking.

From Wikipedia: “Mushrooms such as Psilocybe cuben-

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Todd's Trial

BY ED FELIEN

About the middle of September, Todd Lipelt got called to serve as a juror in Hennepin County District Court.

It was a horrific experience. He was rejected for a trial the first day, but he got picked for one the second day. The case was the State of Minnesota against Luke John Merrick. The charges were: Driving While Impaired, with presence of a controlled substance and, Count Two, Driving After Cancellation.

The Defense claimed a Necessity Defense.

The Prosecution called Trooper Gus Culbeaux. He was the arresting officer. Culbeaux was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving as having the most Driving Under the Influence arrests in one year.

Merrick was pulled over on 35W around Diamond Lake Road at about 2:30 am on May 4, 2023. Culbeaux said he was speeding and weaving, so he thought there might be a DUI violation. Video from the trooper's car shows Merrick's truck staying within the lines on the highway but possibly touching

the line on the right shoulder at one point. Merrick's truck was travelling 58 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone.

It should be noted that Luke John Merrick is Native American with a long braid.

When he was pulled over, Merrick told Officer Culbeaux, "I don't have a license. I know I shouldn't be driving." He said the passenger, Tina Patterson (who had a brace on her foot) complained of a pain in her foot, and Merrick agreed to drive.

Culbeaux arrested Merrick for driving without a license, and told Tina Patterson she would have to drive the truck.

While Merrick was being booked, in his short-sleeved orange jump suit, Culbeaux noticed what he thought were needle marks on his arm. He decided to conduct a sobriety test.

He asked Merrick to close his eyes for 30 seconds and then open them. Merrick closed his eyes for 23.7 seconds according to Culbeaux's timer. That's 79 percent but not good enough. 24 seconds was passing according to Culbeaux.

Culbeaux then asked Merrick to touch his nose and then

put his hand down. Culbeaux counted it wrong if the subject touched the bridge of their nose or their nostrils and if they didn't immediately put their hand down.

Officer Culbeaux determined that Merrick failed the sobriety test.

He asked for a blood test. The blood test said there were traces of methamphetamine in Merrick's system.

All six jurors agreed Merrick did not fail his sobriety test, and that he did not drive impaired, and that Culbeaux didn't have probable cause to stop Merrick. They had reasonable doubts about whether Merrick was asked by Patterson to take over driving the truck (the necessity defense) or whether he'd been driving it all along, but it was impossible to prove that one way or the other.

The six jurors wanted to acquit, but the instructions to the jury said that if the defendant's body contained any amount of Schedule II you have to find defendant guilty: "It is not necessary for the state to prove that the defendant was under the influence of a controlled sub-

stance."

The jury felt they had no choice but to find Merrick guilty.

No one wanted it.

One juror broke into tears when they came to their conclusion.

And they couldn't look at him in the courtroom when they announced their verdict.

But there was something they could have done.

The jury could have decided that Luke John Merrick had not committed any serious crime, and that the instructions to the jury that demanded a guilty verdict were unreasonable and unjust.

Our legal system is based not so much on books of written laws or written instructions to a jury, but on what twelve ordinary people decide is fair and just. It is perfectly legal and proper for a juror to vote not guilty for any reason they believe is just.

It's called Jury Nullification.

The Hennepin County Attorney should include in the instructions to jurors an acknowledgement that our legal system, our government, our entire so-



Todd Lipelt

cial structure depends on what ordinary people, our peers, determine is fair and just. The County Attorney must recognize that the moral and ethical values of ordinary citizens are the foundation of our society. The County Attorney should include in their instructions to jurors the right of those citizens to say a law is unjust or is being enforced in a cruel and unusual manner.

The people have a right to say no.

And instructions to jurors should recognize that.

Harvest Moon Block Party

BY STEPHANIE FOX

The South Minneapolis neighborhood of East Phillips held its annual Harvest Moon Block Party on Sept. 21, an annual event where local community and civic organizations come together to give residents information on what is happening in their area, from local problems to possible solutions. Some groups presented volunteer opportunities and others came to show their cul-

problems.

Youth Journalism

Activist Christian Flores is just 14-years old but, as part of the Youth Community News team, he said he hopes to get involved in ways to help his community in East Phillips. People attending the event were encouraged to express themselves by creating a community hand-drawn newspaper using words

by Eric Ortiz, a journalist with 20 years experience. The organization is focused on teaching students how they can use community journalism and restorative practices to find solutions to community problems.

Opening Prayer

Members of the Bear Runners Singers opened the Harvest Moon Block Party with a traditional prayer ceremony with drums and chanting. The group was one of many artists who entertained those attending the event including Kalpulli Ketzal-Coatlucue Aztec Dancers, Somali Dancers and songs and poems with Jessica Carraway, Xochi De La Luna and N. Harris.

View from the Future

Local artists' creations decorate the fence at Cedar Field Park, where community organizations have focused on improving the lives of local residents. The Harvest Moon Block Party is an annual event for the East Phillips Neighborhood.

East Phillips Neighborhood Institute

Steve Clemens, a volunteer with EPNI, is part of the neighborhood's 10-year push for environmental justice. They have now won the right to convert a former Sears warehouse, built

in 1946, to an urban farm. The city wanted to level the building and replace it with a public works facility, which would increase pollution in a neighborhood already suffering from decades of environmentally caused health problems. Those problems include asthma, lead poisoning and heart disease. But, community members protested with organized sit-ins and protests at city council chambers. The neighborhood was successful, and the Minnesota State Legislature has allocated money for EPNI's project. The group is hoping to raise another \$200,000 to complete the project. The project includes a rooftop solar array and affordable housing units. The organization is also hoping to hire a community food justice historian.

Free window fans and filters

Members of the community health team, with the support of the UMN Division of Environmental Health Services, handed out free window fans with attached air filters to help residents of East Phillips filter out toxic particles in their homes. The pollution includes outdoor air pollution, indoor pollution from gas stoves and infectious diseases such as Covid. The team said that they distributed nearly 100 of these units. East Phillips has a history and con-

tinues to have problems caused by decades of pollution from three nearby highways and industries including an asphalt plant, a metal foundry and a roofing company.

Hydroponics at Blue Water Farms

Plans are underway for Blue Water Farms, a food production system that combines aquaculture and hydroponics. The indoor farm will combine fish tanks and plants growing in a water-based nutrient provided by the fish and once in production, would provide vegetables and fish for sale. Thad Erickson was there to explain the system. At the indoor farm fish tanks, a raceway system was built to copy a running stream and would grow healthy fish (they hope to raise walleye). The fish would be fed mealworms, "then would eat, grow and poop," said Erickson, creating a high nutrient environment to grow plants beginning with micro greens and camelina, a grain crop that can be eaten by people or sold to backyard chicken farms. The fish would be sold to the community, including schools and hospitals. "This would be an industry first", said Erickson. He hopes the farm would be up and operating within 16 to 24 months.



tural traditions through music, dance and food. The neighborhood is diverse, with more than 50 percent of the population Black or Hispanic. East Phillips also includes the American Indian Little Earth residential community. The neighborhood has had difficulties for decades, but the event is a way for the community to find ways to solve

and pictures. He and others at his middle school are learning how to tell the stories through print and broadcast journalism. This October they are focusing on public health, including addiction, mental health and women's health. Youth Community Journalism Institute, at the Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation, was founded and is lead

Interesting new places, free vegan meals, and one more Vegan Chef Challenge

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

Openings, closings and changes

Forepaugh's, the venerable fine dining place in St. Paul, has reopened in its original place, a mansion built by a guy named Forepaugh. Wife and husband duo Mary Slater and Tenzin Dechen have opened a new Lao cafe called Asian Duck Cafe in the ground floor of the MN46 apartment building at 46th and Minnehaha Avenue.

Cross Bridge Noodle is open in the old Bad Waitress spot on Eat Street. The name of the restaurant refers to the iconic



Crossing Bridge Noodles

dish of Yunnan province China, which is on the menu. Barcelona Wine Bar is a popular national chain, and the new one at 508 N. Washington Avenue, helmed by chef Alex Dayton, is the first in the Midwest.

Tap In, a restaurant, cocktail bar, and community space in North Minneapolis, from real estate collective New Rules, opened in June to much acclaim. Its tight menu and creative cocktail program feature upscale African American favorites, with catfish and beef brisket elevated to fine dining standards, and Hennessy cognac used in classic cocktails.

Chicago Taste Authority has closed in its longtime location on East 42nd Street in south Minneapolis. Attributing their departure to an unreasonable rent hike, they are planning to reopen at some point, at some place. Pourhouse has closed in downtown Minneapolis, and Gray Duck Tavern has closed in downtown St. Paul. Presumably both closings are part of the general decline in downtown business both cities are experiencing.

May Day Cafe is in the middle of a crowdfunding drive to save



May Day Cafe

the beloved business by becoming a worker-owned coopera-

tive. You can contribute here: givebutter.com/maydaycafe. The Italian Eatery building on Cedar Avenue is for sale. At Eat Street Crossing food hall, there have been two further changes in the lineup. Ouro Pizza closed, and their space reopened as House of Hue. Previously, Sushi Dori closed to make way for PinKU omakase.

Food politics and hospitality labor section

UNITE HERE Local 17 filed federal unfair labor practice (ULP) charges against Kim's and Vestalia Hospitality, the restaurant group behind the now-closed Kim's as well as Young Joni, Pizzeria Lola, and Hello Pizza. Charges are based on three months of anti-union behavior by the company, culminating in its unilateral decision to close Kim's without bargaining.

A 2020 review of existing research found that food insecurity is associated with behaviors associated with eating disorders in adults, such as binge eating and "compensatory behaviors" to control weight, such as using laxatives.

Reporter J. D. Duggan of Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal published his interview with two leaders of the popular downtown restaurant Hell's Kitchen. The topic was the proposed Labor Standards Board



Hamburguesas el Gordo Elote

that the city of Minneapolis may set up to try to help mitigate labor conflict and abuses in the hospitality industry. Hell's Kitchen CEO and co-founder Cynthia Gerdes turned the company over to workers at the beginning of 2020, which gives its current management of employee-owners a unique perspective. Read or listen here: archive.ph/TSeaS.

"Best things" and other food-related gossip

The latest Best Budget Bites from racketmn.com is the Lions Tap's (Eden Prairie) single cheeseburger priced at \$5.80. That's a long way to go for a bargain though. My suggestion is to try the simplified burger at Hamburguesas el Gordo for

\$9.99 or the "Jr." version for \$6.99. If you are not a burger-eater (and almost all the BBBs have been meat-centric) they also have vegan tacos for \$3.99 each, and guac with great chips for \$8.99.

Even better is if you can find vegan, vegetarian and halal meals for nothing! A piece in Racket by my friend H. Jiahong Pan covers just that. Read it here, and my comments: racketmn.com/free-meals-minneapolis-saint-paul-vegan-vegetarian-halal

Grocery store news!

Grocery news stories are like buses. You wait for hours (or months) for anything to happen, and then three come along at once. Loma Bonita Supermercado, a small local chain of Mexican groceries is planning to expand - greatly - by opening a new branch in the former Rainbow Foods at the Hub Shopping Center in Richfield.

This came shortly after the opening of the second Colonial Market in the former Aldi's store at Hi-Lake Shopping Center at 2100 E. Lake Street. A third one is planned for a December opening in another closed Aldi's, this one in North Minneapolis.

In St. Paul, meanwhile, Mississippi Market joins several other local cooperative groceries in being a union shop. Workers at Mississippi Market recently announced that they had joined United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663.

Mini-reviews: India - Last day of Vegan Chef Challenge + Cumin Club simmer sauces + cookbook plug

I managed to get to one more Vegan Chef Challenge meal on the last day of August, when I went to Himalayan on E. Lake Street. I am car-less now, but I bummed a ride with a DSA comrade who is totally vegan and somewhat new to the area. We had an excellent meal of their special for the challenge - Jackfruit Tikka Masala. I think it was my favorite of the three.

I had canceled my Cumin Club subscription a while ago because I am too lazy, and the packets were piling up. The Cumin Club is an international mail order meal service that sells "dry and fly" Indian regional vegetarian meals for about \$5 per serving. There is something magical about the method (they are all prepared in kitchens around India, by chefs using local ingredients) because they are prepared in your home by simply pouring a dry packet into boiling water and cooking it for a few minutes, but they really do



Himalayan's jackfruit tikka masala

taste fresh. Anyway, I briefly renewed deliveries in order to try their new offering - simmer sauces. These packets are just dried sauce, so you can combine it with your own choice of fresh

ingredients. I have only tried one of the ten packets I got. I made a combo of a sauce packet of palak (spinach) with my own paneer (cheese) and green peas. It was excellent!



Cumin Club simmer sauces

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The Lehman Trilogy

BY KAY SCHROVEN

This is the story of an industrious, Jewish, immigrant family who attains the American Dream, enjoys its many benefits and over time, experiences its fragility. This masterpiece, which won five Tony awards, including best play, was penned by renowned Italian writer Stefano Massini and adapted by Ben Power (of the National Theater of London.) It is a full blown, 164-year history lesson and epic portrait of the American Dream, told through the experience of one family – the Lehman’s.

Heyman (who becomes Henry) came first, from Bavaria in 1844. He stood on a New York dock at Castle Garden, “suitcase in hand, a circumcised Jew” taking in the expansive view and dreaming of a new life. He is soon joined by his brothers,

Mayer and Emanuel, and together they set up a small fabric/dry goods shop in Montgomery, Alabama. The local economy was built on slavery and many clients paid with cotton, which lead the brothers into the business of exporting cotton to the north (New York City.) Over the generations, they expand and become one of the most powerful, international finance firms in the world. We might think of the Lehman Brothers as the first middle-men, the first brokers in America and major contributors to the creation of the stock market. Their business origins were born out of slavery which is shadowed, but not directly addressed in this theatrical presentation.

On stage, the performances of the trio of actors played by Edward Gero, Mark Nelson and William Sturdivant (a local Twin Cities actor) are nothing



William Sturdivant (Emanuel Lehman), Mark Nelson (Mayer Lehman), Edward Gero (Henry Lehman)

short of outstanding as they transform in and out of over 60 characters, including generations of Lehmans, their wives, investors, governor, etc. It’s a play that requires your attention – for over three hours. When the play debuted in Paris (2013) it was five hours long! Drink some espresso, down your energy drink and settle in. No napping. It moves rapidly and is completely engaging.

The set is minimal and subtly telling, created by Scenic Designer, Marsha Ginsberg. When the play opens the floor is covered with cotton. As the play evolves, the cotton diminishes, and by the end becomes a pile in a back corner of the stage – like a family heirloom cast off, but not forgotten; a moving symbol that follows the story line. Desks appear, stock market numbers and symbols flash overhead on a screen, as do NYC skylines, newspaper headlines, etc. The brothers integrate into the business world of NYC where big dreams are taking shape in 1858, especially for Henry, Mayer and Emanuel.

The Lehman’s were visionaries creating markets, investing in tobacco, coffee, oil, railroads, and construction, including the Panama Canal, and eventually moving into commodities, investment banking, trading and brokerage. For many years it seemed everything they touched flourished. Over time the Lehman’s realized that they could no longer physically touch their product, – but rather view its synthetic representation in dollars, and abstract symbols. By 2008 they had assets over \$600 billion but supported by only 22.5 billion of firm capital. Investopedia reported that the Lehman’s had 639 billion in assets and 619 billion in liabilities.

While serious in subject mat-

ter, the play is not lacking in humor and wit. The brothers’ banter, the younger generations acting up. There’s Philip, Bobby and Herbert, challenging their parents with crazy ideas such as investing in computers. “Science fiction!” says the elder. Herbert leaves the family business to enter politics and becomes the 45th governor of New York (1949-1957.) Woven amongst the monologues about the details of business investments are flights of seemingly surrealistic fancy, such as talk about the daring Frenchman, Philippe Petit who became the famous tightrope walker of Paris and New York City, including his 1974 walk between the Twin Towers. In 1975 he fell, so while seemingly irrelevant to the story it becomes a foretelling. Out of nowhere, there’s talk of Noah’s Ark, “They slog like donkeys, weather innumerable tempests (like that pesky war that wipes out their cotton business), build Noah’s Ark but for their company’s sinking ship.”

As the generations evolve and elders die, culture shifts. The Lehman’s experience many culture shifts and realize they need to assimilate. An example, the traditional sitting of Shiva shrinks: first it’s three weeks, then three days and finally a three minute pause at the office for good old what’s his name..... The cotton is gone, the assets are plunging, the tightrope walker fell – everything is changing.

The Lehman’s survived many challenges, war (civil and world), disease, the railroad bankruptcies of the 1880’s, the 1929 stock market crash which led to the Great Depression – but it was the subprime mortgage disaster of 2007-2008 that took them down. Stock prices fell, clients abandoned them, and creditors stopped lending. The

firm was illiquid, lacked sufficient collateral to borrow from the Feds or renew contracts. On Sept. 15, 2008 when the Lehman’s finally filed for bankruptcy, stockbrokers committed suicide, 25,000 lost their jobs and were left to sift through the ashes. Ten years later researchers report (in International Business Times, 9/18) an estimate of 6,566 lives were lost due to the collapse, some by suicide. It was the worst financial disaster since the Great Depression.

Director Arin Arbus, debuting at the Guthrie, points out that the play is still relevant today. “It is amazing to be working on it during an election year when this country is fiercely debating its values and when immigration policy is at the center of our national discourse.” The Lehman’s were fleeing oppression. In 19th century Bavaria (Germany) laws, regulations and taxes restricted the life of Jews. In 1844 it was no small feat to make it across the ocean, and create a new life. It took courage, faith, imagination – which met head on with the forces of capitalism. The Lehman family expected capitalism to bend to them, but it did not. It bent everything in its path.

It is a cautionary tale. For some there may be a touch of Freudenschade (sorrow for another’s good fortune.) It is not an ordinary rags to riches story but more a rags to riches to rags story. Sadly, the Lehman’s became hubristic with excessive borrowing and risk taking. Not only did it lead to their downfall but to repercussions felt even today.

On the Wurtele Thrust Stage through Oct. 13. Tickets at 612-377-2224 / guthrietheater.org

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Remembering Joe Selvaggio

BY ED FELIEN

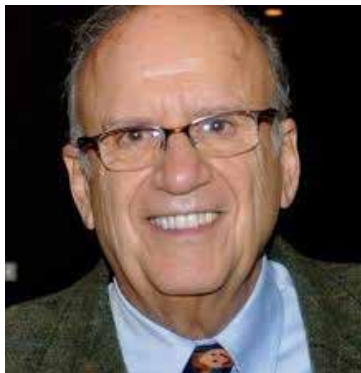
I confess, I always kind of resented Joe Selvaggio.

My best friend for almost twenty years, Tony Bouza, always said that I was his second favorite hero.

I would ask him, "Who's first?"

He would always answer, "Joe Selvaggio."

But I had been publishing Southside Pride for 33 years,



Joe Selvaggio

writing about the struggle for justice and equality—I would quietly reassure myself.

But Joe, on the other hand, started Project for Pride in Living more than fifty years ago. He trained thousands of minority kids from the inner city in the building trades. They built and re-

habbed hundreds of affordable housing units in South Minneapolis. He was an expert whose parish was the poor.

I was busy talking the talk while Joe was busy walking

the walk.

I think Tony also thought of himself as second-best to Joe, and he probably liked me for the same reason.



Joe Selvaggio (Photo/ finance-commerce.com)

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