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FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**MARCH
2025**

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Cam's Corner



Better violence prevention efforts could save lives

BY CAM GORDON

Is the city's once widely acclaimed violence prevention work falling apart?

In February, concerns of mismanagement prompted city council members to propose temporarily moving some violence prevention programs out of the city's Neighborhood Safety Department to the county. After meeting strong opposition, that idea was tabled, but concerns were not.

"This isn't just a bureaucratic issue, this work is about saving lives," said Sasha Cotton, the former director of the city's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP).

Prior to COVID, Cotton helped Minneapolis reduce gun violence using the Next Step hospital-based case management intervention program, and a Group Violence Intervention program focused on assisting those at high risk for violence. She also helped launch the Minneapolis outreach initiative to explore the use of outreach workers and trained violence interrupters to prevent

See Cam, page 6



George Perry Floyd, October 14, 1973 - May 25, 2020

What's happening at George Floyd Square?

BY ED FELIEN

What's happening at George Floyd Square?

Well, actually, not much.

George Floyd was murdered on Chicago Avenue at 38th Street almost five years ago. Since then, the city has sponsored many, many meetings (with free food) and taken surveys to determine how to com-

memorate the murder of George Floyd. They seemed almost ready to finally act when Council Member Jason Chavez upended one group's conclusion by supporting another group's plan for a pedestrian mall running a block long in all four directions from 38th and Chicago.

But, later, the pedestrian mall seemed dead on arriv-

al when it was discovered that state law wouldn't allow eliminating street parking unless more than 50 percent of the businesses affected supported it. Businesses on Chicago Avenue and on 38th Street want a return to normal as soon as possible. They do not want to eliminate parking and vehicular traffic in front of their businesses.

See GFS, page 15

Wonsley tries to stop automatic rent increases

BY CLINT COMBS

The DOJ and the Minnesota Attorney General have been engaged in a lengthy legal battle with RealPage over alleged antitrust violations. In response, Minneapolis is taking swift action to protect renters through a proposed ordinance to ban the use of algorithmic pricing models by landlords and property management companies. This ordinance, introduced by Council Member Robin Wonsley, seeks to address concerns that these algorithms are driving up rental prices and stifling competition.

Wonsley, who represents a district with major property management companies like Greystar, expressed urgency for local action after learning about the DOJ's case against RealPage. "After learning about the Department of Justice case against RealPage last year, I immediately reached out to several of my colleagues. Several of which are now my co-authors on an ordinance we're bringing forward," Wonsley said. The proposed ordinance would prohibit the use of rental algorithms in Minneapolis, directly addressing the impact of pricing models like those used by RealPage.



Robin Wonsley

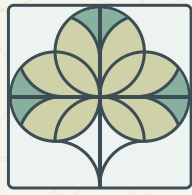
RealPage provides software that helps landlords set rental prices by analyzing data such as competitor pricing, occupancy rates, and lease terms. Critics argue that algorithms like RealPage's make it easier for landlords to collude on prices, effectively reducing competition. "I'm excited to continue using the tools that we have available at the local level to complement the actions that you all are taking," Wonsley added, stressing her commitment to tackling the issue through city legislation.

Brendan Benedict, an antitrust lawyer with

See Rent, page 13

2025 Summer Camps
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Education Section
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Violence interrupters were almost interrupted

BY ED FELIEN

At first, City Council Members Payne, Wonsley and Chavez moved to transfer some of the programs in the Neighborhood Safety Department to the county. There had been widespread public criticism of what seemed like mismanagement of funds. There was a whistleblower lawsuit last November that said a staff member had awarded a \$5,000 grant to her sister. The London-based right-wing tabloid, The Daily Mail, screamed in a headline: "Jaw-dropping 'corruption' of Minneapolis' taxpayer-backed defund the police department."

The Director of the Department, Luana Nelson-Brown, told Channel Five that she had stopped funding the Violence Interrupters because they weren't providing sufficient documentation; they would just submit a number and expect to get paid.

When the city threatened to cut off the \$7.5 million funding for the Violence Interrupters, that brought Jerry McAfee and



Director of the Neighborhood Safety Department, Luana Nelson-Brown

some of his Violence Interrupters to council meetings. He told the council, "I need you to get your fire back for why you ran in the first place and take care of our people."

He's had \$306,000 contracts with the city and \$3 million contracts with the state to stop violence.

At one point, McAfee seemed to verbally threaten Jason Chavez: "The way you lookin' at me, if you wanna come behind that podium, you do it. I guarantee, I guarantee you will regret it." Even though he later said he wasn't threatening Chavez: "I don't pick a fight,

but I do have a right to defend myself," his words are ones that are commonly used just before a fight breaks out.

Violence Interrupters are mostly young adults from North Minneapolis who are paid to go around and stop fights. The



Council Member Robin Wonsley

program employs and socially regulates young people to help keep the peace in their community. At one level, it seems like the old-fashioned protection racket, where you paid the mob not to break your windows.

There has been criticism of the Violence Interrupter model from its beginning in Chicago.

From Wikipedia: "Malte Riemann, a professor of interna-

tional relations, cautioned that the model displays a neoliberal logic that runs the risk of 'replacing political solutions with medical diagnosis and treatment models'. This has depoliticizing effects as 'violence becomes disentangled from socio-economic inequalities and explained by reference to individual pathology alone'. The possible limitations of the model's extension to conflict resolution have also been discussed, especially the 'risk of under-



Jerry McAfee

mining the establishment of positive peace in a post-conflict environment'. A similar sentiment was expressed by the director of Aim4Peace, an implementing site in Kansas City. She

noted that preventing violence on a case-by-case basis could only go so far, and creating a culture of peace requires building positive lifestyles." en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cure_Violence

Most violence is a direct result of poverty and ignorance. People carjack, rob and steal because they need money, and they don't know any other way to get it.

Yes, we will probably have to continue spending money on our Violence Interrupters, but we must have accountability. The City Council has a responsibility to tell us, the voters, the ones that pay the bills, what is happening with our money. Also, anyone enrolled as a Violence Interrupter must have vocational guidance counseling: "Hi, how are you? Where do you want to be five years from now? What's the best way for you to get there?"

In the end, the City Council decided to keep the program with the city.

They made the mess.

They decided. They'll have to clean it up.

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The Family Partnership is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Revenue to help spread the word about the new tax credits available to individuals and families. Service made available through a grant provided by the state of Minnesota.



Summer Camp!



Summer camp for your kids? It's a really good idea, and here's why

BY STEPHANIE FOX

School's out for summer and many kids will soon be headed off to summer camp. Camp is fun, but a study by the American Camp Association says that it's much more than that. The summer camp experience, experts say, can help kids learn new ways to grow and to improve their

lives.

Whether a day camp or overnight camp, the children who attended had increased self-esteem, learned new friendship skills and had better leadership and decision-making abilities — the very things that will help them succeed once schools start again in the fall.

Summer camps have been

part of the American youth experience for decades, and many adults today have fond memories of their summer days (and nights) at summer camps. Today, kids and their parents can choose from a variety of camps that cater to their own child's particular interests.

Some focus on a particular activity including sports camps, adventure camps, technology camps, art, music and theatre camps and many more. Camps offer kids a wide range of pursuits, as well as ways to connect with the natural world, activities that aren't often available during the school year.

Organizations such as the Girl and Boy Scouts, the YWCA and YMCA and many



Rope climbing at Osprey Wilds summer camp

religious and social organizations offer camping experiences and some even offer inexpensive choices for fam-

ilies that can't afford expensive options.

Many camps also include activities such as hiking, swimming, canoeing and songs around the campfires, giving children a chance to learn about themselves, to make new friends, (some who may become lifelong) and to flourish in a safe environment. New activities are particularly important. These can broaden horizons and give children a chance to learn new skills or to improve or perfect skills, which can increase self-confidence.

Camps can also help children expand their worlds. In one study, 93 percent of kids interviewed said that their camp helped them get to know kids who were different from themselves.

At camp, it's necessary to be together, share work, play and communicate in a way to bring people together instead of fostering disagreement. Campers do almost everything together without the pressures of cliques and family, offering the freedom for campers to be themselves.

For shy children or kids who feel they need their parents with them always, the



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Summer Camp!



safe environment of camps let them feel free to explore the world. Kids at camps are also liberated from the restrictions and routines of school bells, planned extra-curricular activities followed by homework, dinner and bedtime.

While camp schedules

advantages that kids from more advantaged families. Camp can help these kids gain new responsible skills of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, teamwork and relationship skills.

One study of 80 camps by the American Camp Associ-

teem, independence from parents and social skills — such as leadership and decision-making — from the beginning of the camp to the end of the session.

Camps can also promote group norms where being silly is acceptable, but teasing and bullying is not. It's up to the camp councilors to demonstrate cooperation among each other, becoming role models for the campers. Many camps use songs, skits and rallies to showcase honesty, caring, respect and responsibility.

At the end of the days activities, there is often a time where campers are encouraged to reflect on the happenings of the day. Campers and staff can think about the things that transpired since they woke up. Have they made a new friend? Have they learned a new skill or learned something about themselves that they hadn't before realized? While this is rare at a regular school, this can become a lifelong habit that each individual can take back home.



Trumpet player at a MacPhail summer music camp

have structure, they allow more time for spontaneity. Overnight campers wake up, have a good breakfast and after a day of activities, share a community dinner. When it gets dark, it's time to head back to the cabin or the tent for a good night's sleep. But it's much less restrictive, and the increased freedom gives kids a chance to set goals and decide to try new things.

Camps also help with offering healthy foods and a lot of physical activity in the form of fun games for kids, without the pressure of competition or being judged.

What camps offer can be especially important for city kids. Being out in Mother Nature with no cell phones, no video screens, radios or televisions — just trees and grass and wild animals — in a safe but supervised setting, can be a new and often life-changing experience. This can be particularly important for children from lower income families who often don't have the same

ation showed that the children who attended camps showed increases in self-es-

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Cam, from page 1

violence.

“In recent years, Minneapolis has struggled to maintain its foundational approach,” said Cotton who is now the Executive Director of the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College. “Once a national leader in the violence prevention field, frequent leadership and staffing changes have placed this critical work in the hands of individuals with limited expertise in violence prevention. The results have led to damaging public discourse and misleading public narratives casting doubt on the effectiveness of the work and those who deliver it. Most importantly, these circumstances have led to our communities not receiving the violence prevention services needed to keep them safe.”

This appears to be confirmed by a 139 page “Minneapolis Community Safety Ecosystem Asset and Gap Analysis” report released in December 2024 by the New York University Policing Project. “The most significant overall finding,” it said, “is that there is too much informality in the management of city programs and contracted services.”

The city also settled a lawsuit last year that alleged illegal contracting practices within the department. Earlier this year the departments director resigned, and there are other staff vacancies. “Half of the positions within the department are vacant,” said Ward 10 Council Member and Council Vice President Aisha Chughtai, “including the position that manages Group Violence Intervention and Youth Group Violence Intervention

contracts.”

In response to the proposal to move oversight to Hennepin County, former-judge Todd Barnette, who serves at the pleasure of the mayor, held his own press conference and wrote a piece that was published in the Star Tribune newspaper attacking city council members and questioning their motives.

Barnette said that the proposal was made “because some council members don’t like who was selected” to get the contracts, and that “we cannot afford to let political games jeopardize the progress we’ve made” even as he appeared to be engaging in those “games” himself.

“Unfortunately,” said Ward 2 Council Member Robin Wonsley after the piece came out, “the Frey administration leadership publicly spread baseless accusations that the proposal was motivated by corruption by council members.”

“I asked Commissioner Barnette repeatedly to provide any evidence of his allegations, he failed to answer any questions or provide any evidence,” said Chughtai.

Problems can be traced back to March of 2022, well before Barnette was appointed, when Mayor Jacob Frey proposed — and the city council approved — creating a new Office of Community Safety that included a new department of neighborhood safety. The restructuring moved the OVP from the city’s health department into the new department.

By June of that year, the director of the OVP, Cotton, resigned. In her time leading the department she had built on work started in 2006 and led by then-Minneapolis Commission-

er of Public Health, Gretchen Musicant. By 2021, under their leadership, Minneapolis had joined nine other cities as part of the Obama administration’s National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and released a revised Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence.

Minneapolis’ public health approach was based on the “Cure Violence” program that has been independently evaluated extensively, and found to have contributed to violence reductions in several cities — including New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Halifax. It is credited with helping accomplish reductions in homicides by 34 percent in Indianapolis, and in youth homicides in Boston by 63 percent.

“Violence prevention is an emerging science rooted in evidence-based strategies,” said Cotton. “These approaches backed by research are a complement not competition to law enforcement. Each is valuable independently, but together these pieces create a comprehensive ecosystem for reducing violence.”

“Minneapolis can reset this work, course correct new strategies and once again be a role model to other cities, but it will require innovative infrastructure, collaboration and rebuilding public trust in violence prevention,” said Cotton, “A recommitment to its core principles and focusing on evidence-based practices is essential to Minneapolis’ success.”

In March, the council is set to approve 6 new contracts with community organizations, totaling \$799,988, for Group Violence Intervention (GVI) services. Last year, according to a recent staff report, the small

department had contracts with 60 different groups providing a variety of services.

People are right to wonder if contracting out so much violence prevention work to so many entities is wise. Is the appearance that elected officials are influencing decisions and that community organizations are somehow beholden to them worth loss of trust and confidence that often follows?

Could more of the work be done by city employees, where oversight, training, and supervision would be easier, and the durability of effective programs more likely?

Should more contracts be moved to other departments within the city, like the Behavioral Crisis Response program which was moved to the Fire Department?

One place to start to look for solutions is the NYU Policing Project’s asset and gap analysis. That report offers more than 50 recommendations to improve governance, oversight, accountability, and coordination to “realize the full potential of its community safety ecosystem.”

The establishment of an advisory, or coordinating board, like the Safe and Thriving Communities Work Group proposed by Wonsley, Chughtai and Ward 9 Council Member Jason Chavez, also has promise.

Cotton believes community credibility is essential for any group contracted to do violence prevention work and that the city must invest in them with “rigorous training, technical assistance, and genuine expertise in violence prevention.”

“Minneapolis,” said Cotton, “has the opportunity to reclaim its leadership in this space and build a safer future for all.”

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Biking across America

Donna Minter, a 67-year-old Minneapolis grandmother, is riding her bicycle 3,200 miles across America — beginning April 1 in San Diego,

CA and ending June 2025 in St. Augustine, FL — as part of a Grammy Climate Ride. This adventure fundraiser is a 70-day bicycle/camping trip, or-

ganized by Climate Ride, and is designed to raise awareness of clean energy and climate change.



Donna Minter (photo/ climategen.org/blog/get-outside-with-grammy)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wings and wing nuts

May America be as fortunate as that Delta jet in Toronto — everyone walks away safely, and the right wing disappears forever.

David K. Porter

Air traffic controllers

Most people appreciate the service of air traffic controllers, but airports and airlines often don't. Congress usually appropriates funds for improved ATC tracking and communication systems over 3 to 5 years, complicating use and safety; changes in biennial reauthorizations make implementations chaotic and expensive.

Meanwhile, DOGE and President Trump have reduced — and plan to continue reducing — funding and staff at FAA, NAS, and NTSB. Is the recent batch of aviation crashes the result? Of course it is! Air Traffic management risks include busy-hour complexity, and staffing remote ATC at intermediate airports overnight involves unscheduled flights — so controllers may be busy when called — unaware of an earlier call or assigned to two flights simultaneously. That was part of the recent collision near Reagan National Airport, and of a fatal crash in Minnesota not long ago.

U.S. Senators and Representatives tolerate this now and seemingly are not alarmed. Some are even less informed than their constituents OR their caucus' Transportation Committee delegates. So, yes, aviation safety is not a political goal.

Jim Spensley

Southside Family Charter School embraces change

BY BASIL SHADID

For over 50 years, Southside Family Charter School (SFCS) has provided social-justice focused education in South Minneapolis. Now, as the school transitions from a K-8 to a K-5 program, and shifts to a teacher-powered model, SFCS is embracing change while staying true to its mission.

Transitioning to a K-5 model refines the school's focus on early education. SFCS remains committed to providing small class sizes, a curriculum rooted in social justice, and hands-on learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

SFCS is also adopting a teacher-powered model, aligning with its values of collaboration and community, where teachers lead curriculum, policies, and culture. "This shift feels like a natural evolution of our collaborative teaching and consensus model," says Kaarunya Jayachandiran, a teacher at SFCS for 12 years. "We support one another to create better expe-

periences for all students and respond to their needs."

A Legacy of Community and Activism

Southside Family School began as the dream of Susie and Pete Oppenheim in 1972. From its earliest days, it was a community dedicated to social justice and hands-on learning. "Family school is more than a school," Susie Oppenheim once said. "It is an ever-growing, evolving, multigenerational community that is unabashedly dedicated to social justice education."

SFCS's commitment to social justice remains strong. Through its travel study program, students have traveled to the American South to meet civil rights activists, marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, visited the Grace Lee Boggs Center in Detroit, and engaged firsthand with the history and ongoing struggles of the civil rights movement.

Building a Sustainable Future

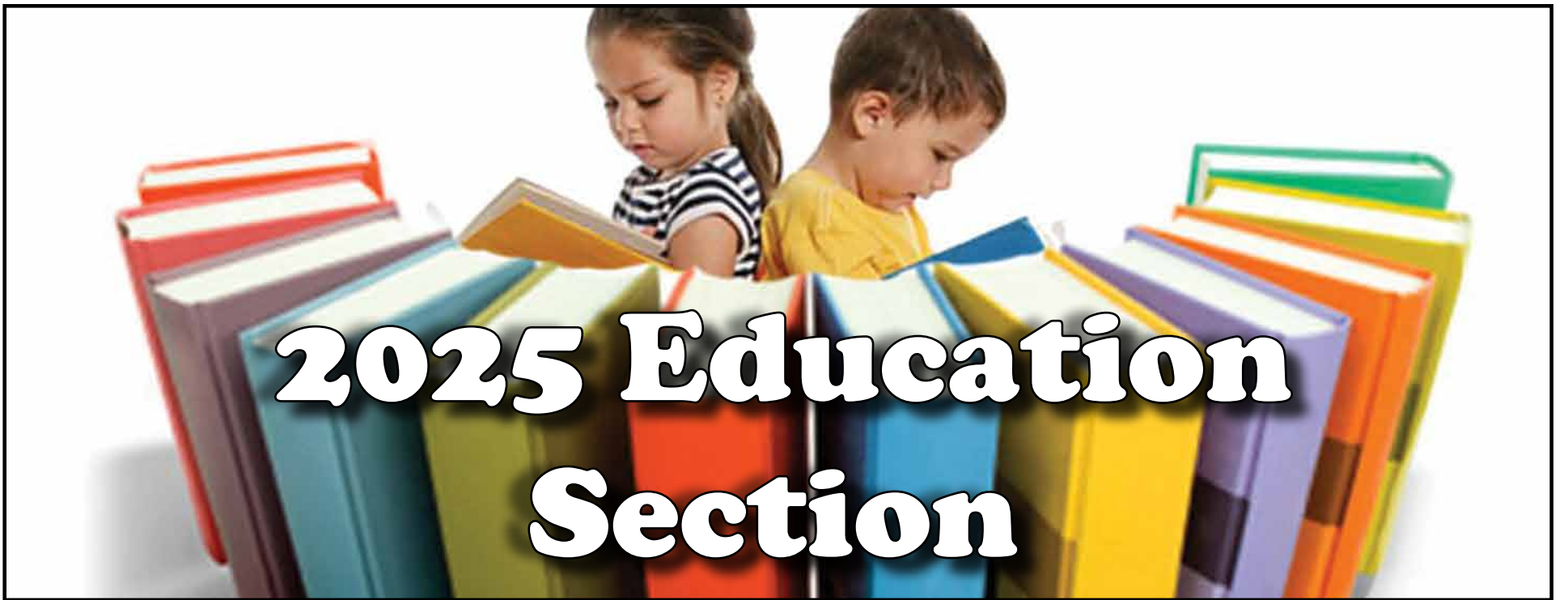
As SFCS embarks on this new chapter, community support will be essential to its success. "Our school thrives because our community believes in us and our vision for social justice," says Brynne Macosko Paguyo, a teacher at SFCS for over 20

years. "We are looking for families who share this vision — educating and developing student activists who understand the systems of our world and strive to change them for the better."

With its deep roots in activism, a passionate team of educators, and a commitment to social justice, Southside Family

Charter School is embracing this transition as an opportunity to continue building a strong, connected community dedicated to empowering young learners.

SFCS offers school tours Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Learn more at southsidefamilyschool.org.



2025 Education Section

Education special: Less good news as systems struggle with budget cuts and attacks on education

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

State and nationwide education news

We may as well lead off by addressing the huge elephant in the room: the unfolding story of Trump 2.0, and particularly the administration’s bumbling efforts to eliminate the Department of Education.

There is a lot of linkage, and overlap, between this “crusade” and the more ef-

fective (shockingly so) efforts to stamp out all vestiges of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in all areas of American life, public and private. That should not be surprising. A Feb. 15 article in Time explores and explains the intertwined history of federal education policies and attitudes about equality and access. Time: “President Donald Trump says he is preparing an executive order to shutter the Department of Education.

But this idea is hardly a new one: it has been a part of conservative Republican orthodoxy since 1980, when candidate Ronald Reagan promised to close the newly opened department. [In fact] the idea of eliminating the Department of Education — and any federal control over education — is even older than that. The history goes back all the way to the Civil War and to America’s foundational struggle over slavery, citizenship, and fed-



Protesters rally in Oklahoma City

eralism.”

A federal Department of Education was set up as part of the Reconstruction program under President Andrew Johnson in 1867, but

within a year, it had been demoted to an obscure office and soon withered away. It wasn’t until almost 100 years later that the Carter administration enacted the

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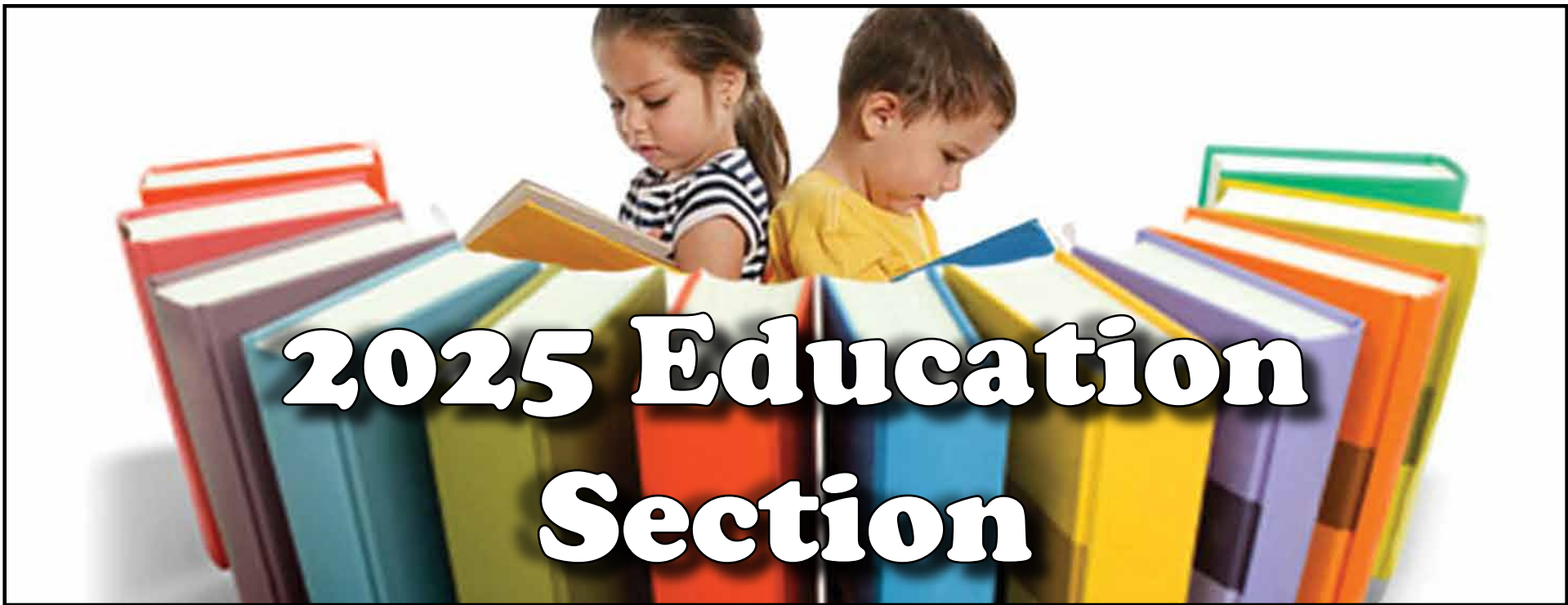
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2025 Education Section

present DoEd, in 1979. In 1981, newly elected President Reagan started trying to dismantle it, and so has every Republican administration since, and a couple of

whole piece here: tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-DoEd.

Here is a bonus – a video of Sen. Bernie Sanders grilling Trump’s choice for heading the Department of

families, and educators. In addition to wrecking the government, the main Trump 2.0 agenda is to deport all the immigrants – and a few thousand citizens that get swept up by accident – re-write history, repeal all civil rights laws, and just make trans people go away and not exist.

Sahan Journal published a piece on how schools are planning to protect kids in advance of anticipated ICE raids when a late January Executive Order rolled back the limits on ICE raiding “sensitive areas,” including schools and churches. See tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-SchoolsvICE.

In other state and national news:

- What could education look like without high stakes testing? recorder.com/doug-selwyn-dec-14-58264468
- Gov. Walz proposes \$109 million budget cut that would eliminate aid for private school students. Minn-



MPS parent Muna Garad, showing support for heritage language programs

Post, Peter Callaghan, Feb. 17

- Rethinking Schools Spring 2024 issue focuses on “Teaching Palestine”. rethinkingschools.org/issue/volume-38-no-3
- See Sahan Journal’s top five education stories of 2024 listed by Becky Z. Dernbach. sahanjournal.com, Dec. 23, 2024

Zeroing in on Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)

We ended our October 2024 piece with a cliff-hanger; MPS board member Faheema Feerayarre – representing District 3 – had resigned in September, and a replacement was to be appointed in November. Meanwhile there was an election

See Education page 10



MPS Board student reps.

neoliberal Democratic ones as well.

Just as the Civil Rights Movement – and many BI-POC and immigrant communities today – see education as the first and vital step on the path to equality, those who oppose racial equality or immigration start their campaigns by attacking schools, the teaching of history in schools, the use of the language that describes values like equality and justice, and the foundational idea of free public education itself. Read this great piece in Time for all the details: time.com/7225339/history-efforts-end-department-of-education.

As for what the future holds, The American Century has this to say: “While outright abolishing the department would require an act of Congress, the administration is expected to try to get as close as possible through executive actions – even when those actions may be illegal. There are many unknowns in terms of how this might play out in the executive branch and through legal challenges in the courts, but all of the likely scenarios create harmful risks for students and families.” Read the

Education, Linda McMahon: tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-BernieTrumpsPick.

Other assaults on the federal support of DEI and on immigrant populations are already underway as I write this in February, and they are having a major negative impact on schools, students,



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2025 Education S

Education, from page 9

pending for District 6. In early November, Greta Callahan — former president of the MPS educators' union (MFT) — was elected to the school board, and in mid-November, the school board voted to appoint Lucie Skjefte as the District 3 representative. Skjefte is the chair

of the MPS American Indian Parent Advisory Committee, is a member of the Red Lake Nation, and has a son attending Southwest High School.

The picture is still not all rosy at MPS. Budget cuts last for at least a year, and then, in the case of school systems, they usually get cut again. Although the tech levy did pass in November — thank

you, Minneapolis voters! — the same systemic problems are around. In December, Sahan Journal reported that one in five Minneapolis elementary schools exceed limits on class sizes. Parents and teachers are still complaining about the redistricting project, which started before the COVID epidemic and was not halted, despite

the numerous challenges.

But there is still a lot to celebrate in MPS, and some of the most troublesome aspects are improving or were averted due to the many activists and parents who show up to school board meetings. We briefly covered in October the story about heritage language programs, and how they were pulled back from the brink. The then-new superintendent even formally apologized to parents for the stress of having to fight for these vital programs. But they were saved, and these programs are unique and exemplary, in MPS, in Saint Paul, and elsewhere in Minnesota.

Another big point of pride is in our student body. Whereas most school boards have no student representation, the MPS board now has



Linda McMahon, Donald Trump's Secretary of Education pick

two student representatives on it. The school board reps for the 2025 school year are Isiah Martin and Lyn Ampey, who started their 11-month term in February. The MPS website gives their biographies:

At Camden High School, Isiah Martin is an active



MPS Board District 3 rep. Lucie Skjefte

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MPS Board District 6 rep. Greta Callahan



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student leader in his school community, and is part of the Camden Beacons Leadership Team (BLT), Good Trouble, BSU, and Student Council. He has been involved in the "Change the Name" process that renamed Camden from its former name, Patrick Henry High School.

At Southwest High School, Lyn Ampey started a club dedicated to teaching students about the medical field and post-high school careers paths in medicine, for which she has a passionate interest. In addition to being a member of the National Honor Society and the Black Student Union, Ampey is also a member of Southwest's Site Council.

If you're primarily interested in MPS and its board, you can get the whole scoop on the present school board members and information on how to attend school

Section

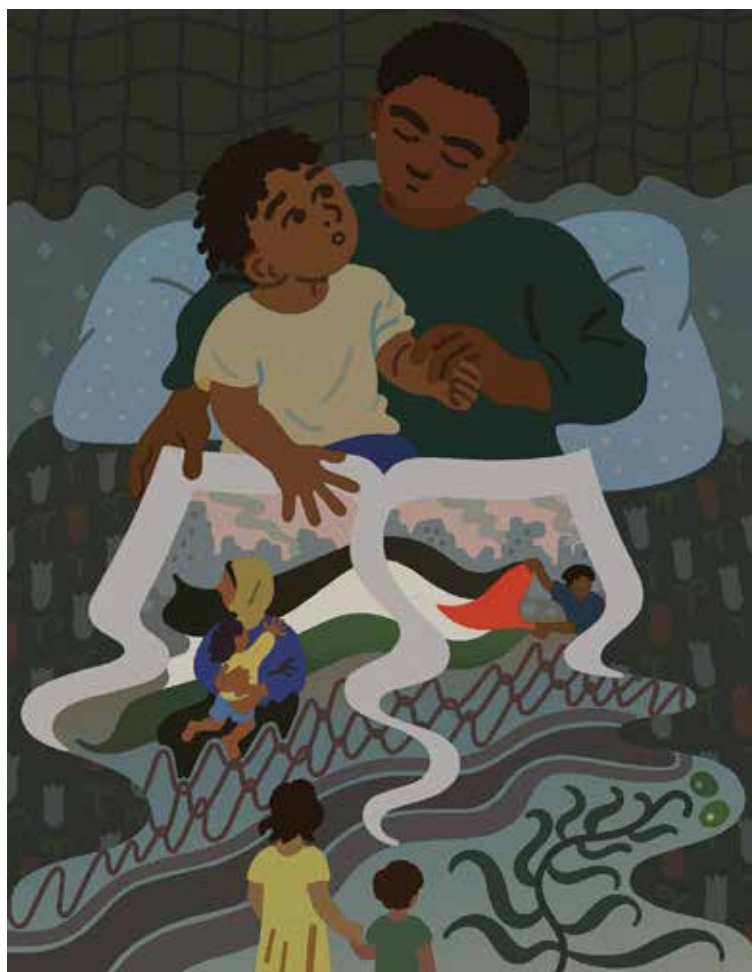
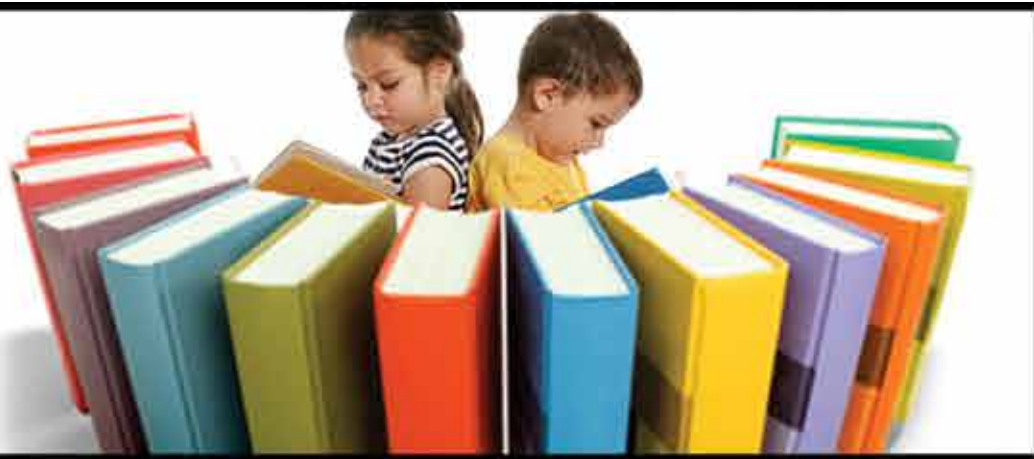


Illustration by Sophia Foster-Dimino for Teaching Young Children About Gaza.

the last few weeks the national landscape for higher education has shifted. In response, the University is reassessing many programs, including those related to diversity, equity, and inclusion,' he wrote.

"He stressed that he had been working closely with university administrators and 'advocating against overreaction.'

"Nonetheless, in light of this ongoing reassessment, it is clear that we have no choice but to pause the search for our next assistant dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion,' he wrote. 'The upcoming finalist visits that were scheduled will be canceled.' "

Bring Me the News covered the story of 185 Special Education students at St. Thomas whose grants were canceled by the new administration in early February: "The University of St. Thomas is planning to appeal a decision by the federal government after it canceled a grant program that impacts 185 students pursuing careers in special education, amid wide-ranging cuts by the Trump Administration on previously approved federal funding.

"A spokesperson for the university tells Bring Me the News the purpose of the fed-

eral grant originally awarded in 2023 was 'to help address teacher shortages through scholarships and recruiting and preparing special education and elementary school teachers' in the state."

In this case, they may be able to have the cuts reversed since DEI is not

the main purpose of these grants. But for scores of similar programs, in Minnesota and across the country — whether providing tuition help, funding faculty positions, or enabling research — if courts uphold Trump's orders to end DEI, there may not be much recourse.



University of St. Thomas, one of many schools facing grant cuts

board meetings at the MPS website mps.schools.org. Also check out the Dashboard on that site for in-depth access and data on all of MPS's controversies, plans, failures, and successes.

Higher education — news and views

Some of the earliest attacks from the Trump administration hit U.S. universities and colleges, including MN state and non-state institutions. Funding cuts from the outset hit academic research especially hard, upending college and university budgets. Schools of Education find that a significant chunk of their curriculum will be impacted, if not made non-compliant in toto, by Executive Orders reversing decades of DEI policy and practice.

A Sahan Journal article from Feb. 7 explains details of the University of Minnesota's scramble to comply, along with pushback efforts of faculty and students. Telling the story from the viewpoint of a young law professor who successfully advocated for more support for students of color, the piece by Becky Z. Dernbach

describes events unfolding in January and early February: "William McGeeveran, dean of the law school, announced the hiring pause in a January 31 email to law school students, faculty and staff.

"As you are all aware, in



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Musk against the rest of us

BY CLINT COMBS

Elon Musk's expanding influence — spanning political campaigns, government policy, and bureaucratic overhauls — has challenged the norms of checks and balances in American governance not seen since the Andrew Johnson Administration. Whether it's his covert political spending or ambitious plans to overhaul the federal bureaucracy, Musk's actions have highlighted the vast power of billionaires in shaping the future of both government and political systems, often with minimal oversight and accountability.

At a virtual zoom event sponsored by Public Citizen, Jon Golinger detailed how campaign finance laws — particularly those around disclosure and disclaimers — are failing to arm voters with crucial information about who is funding political messages. This lack of transparency, Golinger argues, has left voters in the dark and allowed the world's richest man to exert influence without accountability.

Golinger emphasized the importance of transparency for an informed electorate. "When voters have real information about who's feeding them ads, they make good decisions," he said, before diving into a specific case study on Musk's covert spending during the 2022 election.

"We all know who's running the show right now," Golinger said referring to Musk. "It seems like he's the actual president at the moment." This comment set the stage for a deep dive into Musk's political spend-

ing and the tactics used to conceal his influence from the public. Golinger pointed to a New York Times article revealing that Musk's companies had been under investigation by over a dozen federal agencies, adding another layer of complexity to Musk's political involvement. (For example, 375,000 Tesla vehicles have been recalled due to power steering efficiencies). "Mr. Musk has half a dozen companies that have been the subject of several dozen investigations," Golinger said, before connecting the dots to Musk's substantial political donations.

Golinger detailed how Musk spent over a quarter billion dollars in the 2022 election, much of it funneled through opaque channels. He focused on a particularly deceptive instance where Musk's \$20 million donation to the RBG PAC remained largely undisclosed until after the election. "This is how they hide it," Golinger explained, referring to the loopholes in federal law that allow donors to remain anonymous if their contributions are timed correctly. The RBG PAC — named after Ruth Bader Ginsburg — ran abortion-themed ads promoting Donald Trump's more moderate stance on abortion, but didn't reveal Musk's involvement until after voters had cast their ballots.

Despite federal laws requiring disclaimers on campaign ads, the only required message was something vague like "Paid for by RBG PAC." "There was no indication that Musk, one of the wealthiest people in the world, was behind this multimillion-dollar campaign," Golinger

said. He argued that this kind of covert spending is not only legal but also quite common, especially after the Citizens United decision opened the floodgates for unlimited, anonymous political donations.

"The system is broken, and the voters are not getting the full picture," Golinger said. He emphasized that stronger disclosure laws, at both the federal and state levels, are crucial to addressing this issue. While Citizens United made it easier for wealthy individuals like Musk to influence elections, it also affirmed the importance of transparency. "Disclosure permits citizens and shareholders to give proper weight to the different speakers and messages," Golinger said. However, the loopholes that allow donors to conceal their identities until after the election still leave voters in the dark about who is truly shaping their votes.

Golinger's call for reform is echoed by Erin Chlopak from the Campaign Legal Center, who added "The unchecked power of these wealthy individuals is fundamentally undermining democracy." Senator Sheldon Whitehouse also weighed in, critiquing the Supreme Court's refusal to acknowledge the consequences of Citizens United. "The unchecked influence of a few billionaires like Musk is shaping the future of American governance, and it's time the Court and Congress address this before it's too late," he said. The power of billionaires, Whitehouse noted, is a "profoundly damaging force in American democracy."

Musk's influence is not limited to the political arena. He has also set his sights on reshaping the federal bureaucracy, a move that raises serious constitutional concerns. Musk and his team of so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" workers have about six months of temporary access to overhaul key aspects of the federal government. Their mission? To ransack key aspects of popular agencies — like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau — and render them useless without Republican lawmakers tak-

ing a vote.

One of the most vocal critics is Nick Bednar, a professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, who told reporters that Musk's actions could run afoul of federal laws protecting government employees. Bednar points to the potential risks of allowing Musk's team to push through changes without sufficient checks and balances. "The federal government has more data on American citizens than almost any other institution," Bednar said. "If we're removing the guardrails that protect that data, there's no telling who might gain access to it."

Another key legal issue revolves around the handling of government employees. Bednar highlighted that if non-responses to Musk's emails are treated as resignations, this would violate federal law, which mandates that resignations be voluntary. "This isn't voluntary. It's more like a threat," Bednar argued, comparing the situation to someone being forced to respond to an ultimatum under duress.

The proposed changes come at a time when scrutiny over the influence of billionaires in public policy is reaching new heights, especially given Musk's track record of using his wealth to shape political discourse. Musk's proposed overhaul shows that without proper oversight, these changes could

lead to significant abuses of power and further erode democratic norms. Musk's ambition to reshape government institutions could leave employees and the public vulnerable if these changes are made without full transparency and respect for existing legal frameworks.

Both Elon Musk's involvement in political campaigns, and his efforts to reshape government, highlight concerns about the concentration of power among a small group of billionaires. Despite this, many Democrats, including House Minority Whip Hakeem Jeffries, have been strikingly reluctant to take a firm stand against figures like Musk and Trump. For instance, Jeffries refused to call for the removal of New York Mayor Eric Adams, even after the DOJ dropped charges against him in exchange for his cooperation to Trump's mass deportation order.

The fight for electoral reform and government accountability is not just about changing laws — it's about empowering the public and restoring integrity to the political process. As Golinger puts it, "When voters have the real information, they make good decisions." Now, more than ever, it is essential for those who care about democracy ensure that transparency and accountability are restored within both political campaigns and government institutions.



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

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US interventions in Latin America

BY JOHNNY HAZARD

In progressive U.S. circles, there is a lot of talk about new Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum's way of dealing with U.S. President Donald Trump and his repackaging of U.S. interventionism. Let's look at some of that history and how it affects current Mexican reactions and responses, and while we're at it, we will look at the reactions of other Latin American governments to the threat of mass deportation from the U.S. of their immigrant citizens.

An incomplete timetable of U.S. interventions in Mexico:

1836: Texas "independence", in which crackers from Kentucky and Tennessee decided that Texas belonged to them, not to Mexico and, having moved their slaves and families in, fought to separate themselves from Mexican jurisdiction. (None of the people who died in the battle of the Alamo had lived in Texas for more than two years.)

1845: The U.S. openly annexed Texas.

1846-8: U.S. invasion, known in the U.S. as the "Mexican-American War", resulting in the loss of more than half of what was then Mexico, more than two million square kilometers.

1914: Invasion and occupation of the port city of Veracruz for seven months because someone refused to salute the U.S. flag.

Bombings and imposition of martial law. Unverifiable number of Mexican civilian deaths.

1916: In the "Punitive Expedition", troops led by general John Pershing crossed from Texas and New Mexico into Chihuahua to look for revolutionary leader Francisco (Pancho) Villa — whose army had, weeks earlier, entered the border town of Columbus, New Mexico to confront the owner of a gun shop who owed them weapons. They never found Villa, because he was an expert guerrilla fighter hiding in his mountainous home territory, with the support of his allies and even of his adversaries who were angered by the U.S. invasion.

July 25, 2024, and beyond: U.S. military, CIA or DEA involvement in the extralegal detention of alleged narco boss Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, in which he was tricked into flying to the north of Mexico from his native state, Sinaloa, but really taken to New Mexico, blurring the lines between kidnapping and extradition. Then-president López Obrador demanded an explanation from the Biden administration, no credible response so far from Biden, much less from Trump. It seems that Joaquín Guzmán López, son of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, was negotiating to turn himself in to U.S. authorities and that the plot to kidnap Zambada was hatched in that context. As a result of this intensification of the feud between the Zambada faction and the Guzmán faction of

the Cartel de Sinaloa, murders in the state, and especially in the capital city, Culiacán, went from fewer than 40 per month at the beginning of the year to 143 in September and 182 in October. Seven months after the illegal detention and extradition of "El Mayo" Zambada, the city is still in a state of siege, with few businesses and services able to open, schools often closed, and curfews frequently in effect. The U.S. has, as usual, claimed to have played no role in provoking this chaos.

Sheinbaum's pronouncements about Trump in the wake of his imposition of tariffs and other threatening behavior are well-known; here is a look at some Latin American presidents who have been bolder and, of course, at a few others who have been lackeys:

Brazil: President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is a founder of the BRICS movement, whose other leaders were already agitating before the re-ascension of Trump to create a new currency, though Lula himself favored proceeding more slowly. Sheinbaum's mentor and predecessor, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, meanwhile, had a surprisingly conservative reaction to this proposal, boasting that Mexico was part of North America and was not interested in alternatives to the hegemony of the dollar.

Honduras: A coup in 2009 against President Manuel Zelaya was condoned and covered up by the Obama-Biden ad-

ministration. This coup set the stage for the election of right-wing president Porfirio Lobo — later determined to be a narco — indicted in his country, and banned from the U.S. The current president of Honduras is Xiomara Castro, Zelaya's wife; she has responded to Trump's attacks on Honduran immigrants by threatening to close U.S. military bases in Honduras. These bases were used to intervene in Nicaragua and El Salvador in the 1980s, back in the good old days when some liberals and all leftists within the U.S. opposed such interventions.

Colombia: President Gustavo Petro responded to Trump's deportation of a few hundred Colombians by refusing to let a U.S. military plane land with migrants whose hands and feet were bound by ICE thugs. He later sent the presidential plane to bring them back under more humane conditions and suggested that the thousands of U.S. citizens living in Colombia without visas or legal residency regularize their situations. He is also one of the Latin American presidents who has spoken most strongly against Israeli

military policies and U.S. support of them. Petro's moral authority has more recently been undercut by a scandal in which he promoted an ally accused of sexual violence to a high-level government position and most of his cabinet protested or resigned. Among those protesting was Francia Márquez, the first Afro-Colombian and first woman vice president.

Trump retains support from the laissez-faire gangster caucus: presidents Javier Milei of Argentina, Nayib Bukele of El Salvador, Daniel Noboa of Ecuador, and José Raúl Mulino of Panama. Milei is in free fall in recent weeks because of a scandal in which he and his associates created a crypto currency that suspiciously rose and fell erratically in value, causing many of his followers to lose large sums. This and other incidents show that Milei may be the mentor and Trump the prodigy, not the other way around. Bukele is eager to turn El Salvador into a center of violent rehabilitation for migrants in general, not just for Salvadorans, as has been the case throughout his term; he has contracted to Trump to receive deportees from wherever.

Rent, from page 1

Benedict Law Group PLLC, believes that using algorithms to set rental prices may violate antitrust laws. "The most troublesome part of what plaintiffs around the country are alleging about RealPage is this ability for landlords to opt into automatic rental price increases," Benedict said. "This might look more like an agreement to coordinate on price." He noted that antitrust law prohibits explicit agreements between competitors to fix prices, comparing RealPage's practices to traditional price-fixing. Benedict further explained, "If two landlords called each other up and said, 'Hey, let's charge the exact same price for, you know, the same square footage apartment, that's price-fixing, plain and simple, kind of an open and shut case. In this situation, you know the auto-accept feature means that landlords are basically using RealPage's algorithm as like an intermediary to set prices for them, and without making an independent pricing decision, if they agree to just follow whatever the recommendation is, because other landlords are doing that too. They've, in effect, agreed to charge the same price that other landlords are



charging. So that's how it starts to get into the neighborhood of looking like an agreement not to compete on price."

Minnesota, along with seven other states and the DOJ, has filed a lawsuit against RealPage, accusing the company of facilitating price-fixing among landlords. RealPage collects sensitive data — such as lease terms, occupancy rates, and pricing information — from landlords, which is used to generate pricing recommendations. These recommendations lead to uniformity in rental prices, potentially fostering anti-competitive behavior. "We allege that these landlords are fully aware that their competitively sensitive data will be used in RealPage's software to generate pricing recommendations for their rivals."

Recognizing the slow pace of the courts, local government of-

officials, including Wonsley, have pushed for quicker action. The proposed ordinance provides a local solution to prevent the harmful effects of algorithmic pricing on renters. Wonsley emphasized that the ordinance gives Minneapolis the power to act while waiting for the legal case to unfold. "The ordinance, independent of the lawsuit, really gives the city an opportunity to ensure that this harmful technology is essentially not a barrier to our city's goal in making sure that our housing market is both equitable and affordable," Wonsley said.

While the ordinance will not fully resolve the issue, it is an important step toward addressing the negative effects of algorithmic pricing. Wonsley described the ordinance as a way to "hold exploitative and bad-faith actors accountable."

While the case against RealPage moves slowly through the courts, Wonsley's ordinance offers a timely solution for the city's renters. "It's about giving the city the power to act now, instead of waiting for the courts to intervene," Wonsley concluded. The proposed ordinance could reshape the housing market in Minneapolis, ensuring more equitable and affordable housing for renters.

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EVENTS

Life of Pi
March 4 through 9,
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Orpheum Theatre
910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
 A theatrical event unlike anything else! After a shipwreck in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi survives on a lifeboat with four companions — a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a Royal Bengal tiger.

International Women's Day at Arbeiter Brewing
March 6, 5 to 9 p.m.
Arbeiter Brewing Company
3038 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls
 Arbeiter Brewing proudly stands as an Asian woman-owned brewery, in a landscape where only 24 percent of U.S. breweries are female-owned, and just 2 percent are Asian-owned. This year, to honor International Women's Day and Women's History Month, the women of Arbeiter have crafted Eff Patriarchy Double IPA — bold, balanced, and designed to celebrate strength and tenacity. Every aspect of this beer stands as a testament to empowerment. Eff Patriarchy is a deliberate collaboration showcasing our commitment to uplifting women-owned businesses, and women in the workplace in a dominantly male driven industry.

Join us in raising a glass to accelerate action!

Get To Know Your Hormones: An Expert-Led Guide to Navigating Peri/Menopause
March 6, 7 p.m.
Online
 Learn all about your hormones during Peri/Menopause from expert Clinical Nutritionist, Pip Reed. Are you navigating the ups and downs of Perimenopause and Menopause, and are ready to feel like yourself again? Join Clinical Nutritionist Pip Reed for an exclusive online masterclass designed for women aged 35-60+ ready to take back control of their health, and create hormone harmony. Information at pipreednutrition.com

Comedy for a Cause: Shining the Light in the Darkness of Human Trafficking
March 7, 7 p.m.,
Doors open at 5
The Woman's Club of Mpls.
410 Oak Grove St, Mpls.
 Our Rescue is hosting an unforgettable night of comedy, connection, and compassion featuring some of the best comedians for an evening of laughter that lightens the heart while addressing a critical mission impacting women: ending sex trafficking and child exploitation
 This unique event blends comedy and awareness, offering a space for relief amidst a challenging

topic. You'll not only enjoy an evening of humor but also gain insight into Our Rescue's tireless work to empower survivors and build a world where every child is free to thrive.
 Proceeds from the night directly support Our Rescue's life-changing programs, providing survivors the tools and support they need to heal. Together, we can turn awareness into action — and have a great time doing it.

Stand Up for Science 2025
March 7, 3 to 5 p.m.
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, St. Paul
 Science is for everyone! All ages. More info at standupforscience2025.org

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
March 7, 7 to 10 p.m.
Roxy's Cabaret
1333 Nicollet Mall 150, Mpls.
 Famous Drinks, Famous Food and "Famous" People! Join the cast of Roxy's as we pay tribute to some of the most iconic DIVAS of all time! Whitney?, Dolly?, Reba?, Babs?...You never know who might show up.. and if you can guess who's coming ahead of time, we'll have a prize for you!

WAMM 2025 Annual Meeting
March 8, 9 a.m. to noon
New City Center
3104 16th Ave. S., Mpls.
International Women's

Day Trivia Night
March 8, 5 to 7 p.m.
Urban Growler Barrel Room
2325 Endicott St., St. Paul
 To celebrate International Women's Day, Global Rights for Women and Urban Growler Brewing Company are collaborating to host a trivia night event dedicated to the trailblazing women who have changed the world. Test your knowledge on the contributions of women around the globe, and join us for an evening of trivia, libations and celebration. Prizes will be awarded to winning teams with gifts from local woman-owned businesses. Special guest appearances by local women leaders. Registration is free at this link and teams will be randomly selected. Expand your network and show your support for gender equality. Full link: urbangrowlerbrewing.com/international-womens-day-at-urban-growler

Dangers and Disasters Tours
March 8, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Mill City Museum
704 S 2nd St., Mpls.
 Flour milling could be a dangerous job. Workers were exposed to constantly moving machinery, high-powered water turbines, and tall grain elevators where one wrong move might have disastrous consequences. This tour of the Washburn A Mill will explore the dangers that workers faced on the job, including the deadly 1878 mill explosion that led to the destruction and rebuilding of the riverfront industrial district. The tour will also include discussions of daily workplace machinery hazards such as the "Humphrey manlift."

North Star Voices: Spirits Dancing
March 8, 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Minnesota History Center
345 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul
 Join us for an afternoon with photographer Travis Novitsky and learn more about the night skies of Minnesota.

David Shannon, THAT'S NOT FUNNY, DAVID! — Storytime
March 9, 1 p.m.
Red Balloon Bookshop
891 Grand Ave., St. Paul
 Red Balloon Bookshop is SO excited to welcome David Shannon back to our store to celebrate his new picture book, That's Not Funny David!
 David is back and funnier than ever in this companion to the Caldecott Honor-winning classic No, David! by bestselling picture book creator David Shannon!
 Join David for a read-aloud of the book, a drawing demonstration, a book signing, and more!

Lent Procession Service of Lessons and Hymns
March 9, 4 p.m.
Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls.
 Join Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts for a contemplative service of lessons and carols — for Lent! Typically associated with Advent and Christmas, this service is designed especially for those caught up in preparations for the coming Easter and spring seasons. It provides an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life to pray, sing, listen, smell — an opportunity to fully enter into the season of Lent, a time to renew our lives as baptized children of God.
 Free and open to the public. It will also be live streamed via the church's home page mountolivechurch.org and at youtube.com/c/MountOliveMinneapolis

Demystifying Carshare in the Twin Cities
March 12, 12 to 1 p.m.
online:
bit.ly/2025carsharewebinar
 Join Move Minneapolis and HOURCAR, the Minnesota non-profit carshare organization, along with experienced carshare users, to explore the ways carshare can meet your transportation needs.
 Carshare provides the benefits of having access to a car without the hassles, maintenance, and costs of actual ownership. This sounds great, but how does carshare work for individuals, residential properties, and businesses in the Twin Cities? How can you find and book a car when you need one? How much can you save versus owning a car?
 Find out in this webinar!

Snack and Squish "Multiplication and Division"
March 12, noon to 1 p.m.
2505 Howard St. NE., Mpls
 Clay Squared invites the community into our studios every second Wednesday of the month to make your lunch break out-of-this-world fun! Josh Blanc is a handmade tile maker, and his studio creates tiles for residential and commercial spaces. Layl McDill is a polymer clay artist that creates mixed media sculptures and teaches classes in the Clay Squared Gallery.
 We are celebrating Pi Day two days early with some math and art! And how about some pie too! Josh Blanc will talk about how the math he thought he would never use in school turned out to be something that is part of his tile making process everyday. He will let everyone play with trim tile making and getting those angles to work out.
facebook.com/share/1FLb8jAmz7/

WEN's 2nd Annual Clothing Swap
March 19, 6 to 8 p.m.
University of Minnesota ReUse Program

RADIO WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

KFAI .org

90.3 / 106.7 fm

MPLS. - ST. PAUL - THE WORLD

● COMMUNITY CALENDAR ●

Southside Pride / NEIGHBORHOOD EDITION

883 29th Ave. SE., Mpls.

Let's swap, shop, and save the planet — one outfit at a time!

Meet & Greet with NATIFS and Sean Sherman

March 19, 5 to 6 p.m.

Seward Community Co-op Franklin Store

2823 East Franklin Ave., Mpls.

We are celebrating the recent sale of the "Creamery building" to North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS), the nonprofit founded by James Beard Award-winning chef Sean Sherman. The new facility, named NATIFS Wóyute Thipi, will serve as a central hub for the organization's expanding work in Indigenous food systems and community development. Join us in the Franklin store community seating area for a meet and greet with Sean Sherman, Founder and Executive Director of NATIFS. We have had the pleasure and honor of partnering with Sean Sherman over the years to uplift native cultural and culinary traditions.

Enjoy light refreshments from NATIFS' Indigenous Food Lab Market and learn how you can help support NATIFS in expanding their mission in the community and continuing their work to decolonize cuisine and revitalize Native foodways in the Twin Cities and beyond.

Free! Registration not required but if you register via Eventbrite you will receive a reminder email the day before the event.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Through March 23

Guthrie Theater

818 S 2nd St., Mpls

On the shortest night of the year, the magical and mortal worlds

collide. What could possibly go wrong? Shakespeare gives us a clue: "The course of true love never did run smooth." In this beloved tale of mischief and merriment, four stories are cleverly woven together: the marriage of the Athenian duke to the Amazon queen; a spat between the fairy king and queen; the follies of four lovers; and the hilarious antics of amateur actors staging a play. When the exhilarating night in the forest finally resolves to (almost) everyone's satisfaction, a new day of love, joy and reconciliation dawns. Brimming with wit and wisdom, Shakespeare's most popular play will enchant you.

Erin Keefe Plays Beethoven

March 13, 11 a.m.

March 14, 8 p.m.

Orchestra Hall

1111 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.

Dobrinka Tabakova's relationship with Schubert began when she was a child and was drawn to the purity of his music. Her homage not only creates a universe where Schubert's presence is felt, it's also a cosmic portal to his Symphony No. 8. Plus, Concertmaster Erin Keefe is in the spotlight, this time with Beethoven's beloved Violin Concerto.

Chard Your Yard 2025

Garden Registration Opens:

March 28 at noon

Installation Dates:

April 26 and May 3

Offering raised garden beds and soil to residents of greater Longfellow. Our community-driven initiative makes gardening accessible and affordable by selling volunteer-installed garden beds and quality soil at cost.

We have a limited number of

subsidized garden beds available for low-income households and double-high beds for gardeners with physical disabilities.

A volunteer-driven program dedicated to promoting urban gardening and sustainability in the greater Longfellow area. Please visit our website ChardYourYard.com for more information and to check if your address qualifies for our delivery area.

Adolescent Substance Use and Misuse: What You Need to Know

March 22, 9 a.m. to noon
University Lutheran Church of Hope (ELCA)

601 13th Ave. SE., Mpls.

This program has been designed to develop participants' understanding of the impact drugs and alcohol have on adolescent and their families. Come hear a keynote speaker and a panel discussion of experts and learn from organizations who are tabling.

Aquarium EXPO 2025

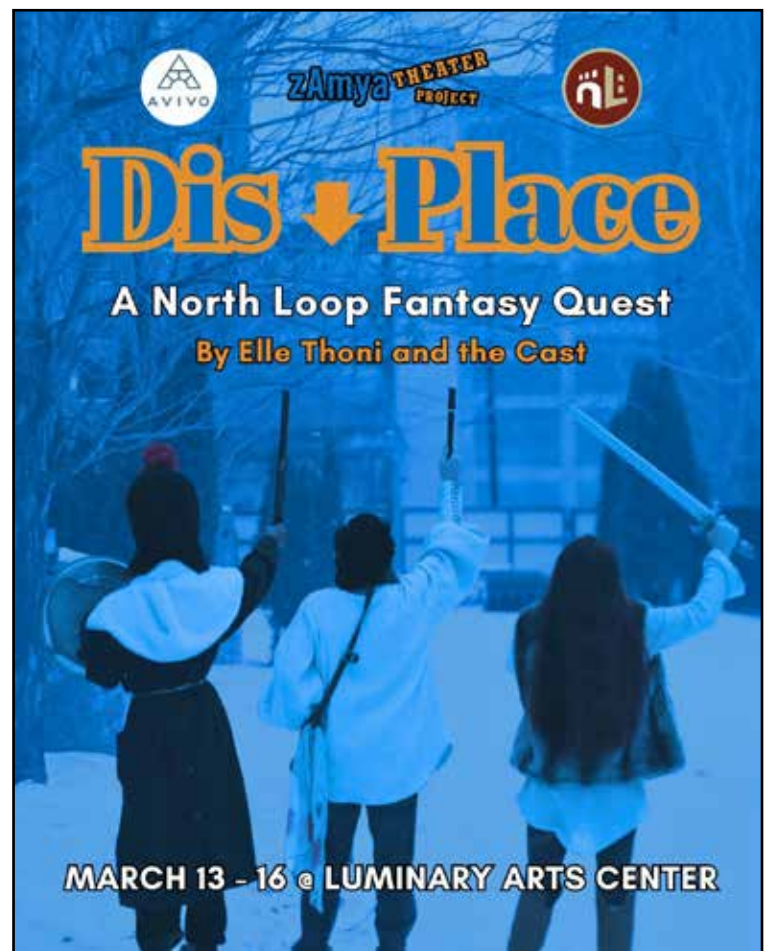
March 22, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Augsburg University

Hagfors Center

700 21st Ave. S., Mpls.

Come to this free event to see hundreds of aquariums filled with fresh and saltwater fish, plants, shrimp, etc. Attend technical sessions by experts bringing you the latest trends in the aquarium hobby. Enjoy the massive swap meet with everything aquarium-related, collect discount coupons from local fish stores and participate in raffles, silent auctions, and the like. Augsburg scientists will conduct tours of the biology, chemistry and physics laboratories located in Hagfors Center.



Avivo, the North Loop Neighborhood Association, and zAmya Theater Project present "DisPlace: A North Loop Fantasy Quest," an original production that blends real-world homelessness and housing issues with a fantasy role-playing adventure. Based on the stories shared by the residents of Avivo Village, this immersive, community-driven play runs March 13-16, 2025, at the Luminary Arts Center at 700 North 1st Street in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis.

Performances are as follows:

- Thursday, March 13 – Preview Night at 7:00 PM
- Friday, March 14 at 7:00 PM
- Saturday, March 15 at 7:00 PM (ASL interpretation available)
- Sunday, March 16 at 2:00 PM

Each performance is approximately two hours with a 15-minute intermission. The show invites audiences to experience an immersive, fantasy-inspired narrative about homelessness and housing justice.

GFS, from page 1

So, it seems, we are back to the drawing boards.

Everyone agrees we must preserve the iconic Power Fist that local artists built and placed in the center of the intersection at 38th and Chicago. What the artists did by placing the Fist in the center of the intersection was to create a roundabout. But this created traffic problems because the roundabout was not wide enough for buses to navigate. This meant detours and delays and five years of less traffic for local businesses.

A standard single-lane roundabout typically has a diameter of 66 feet. The width of Chicago Avenue is about 34 feet. We would need an additional 30 feet. Normally, that would mean taking fifteen feet from each of the four corners to widen the street, but we wouldn't want to disturb the site at which George Floyd was murdered, and the southeast corner is already fully developed. The southwest corner is the parking lot for World-wide Outreach for Christ, and the northwest corner is the for-

mer Speedway parking lot. The city should purchase through negotiation or eminent domain a fifteen feet radius of the Outreach parking lot, and, since the city already owns the former Speedway lot, there should be no problem ceding a fifteen foot radius of that parking lot for the roundabout.

This would place the center of the roundabout about fifteen feet further west. It would be unique as a roundabout because it would be off-center. Given the meaning of the Power Fist (to disturb the status quo), this would complement the intent of the monument.

The former Speedway site should be sold to Hennepin County, and the county should build a satellite service center there to distribute food stamps and welfare benefits.

The city or some private non-profit corporation (or a group of non-profits led by the Floyd Family Center) should purchase the Cup Foods/Unity Foods building that was the scene of Floyd's murder. We have mourned the unfair and untimely death of George Floyd

for almost five years, perhaps it's time now to celebrate his life. He worked security for local night clubs because he liked good food and good music. To honor that memory, we should have a place that spreads joy.

How about a barbeque joint with the best ribs in town?

You walk through the new entrance of George Floyd's Rib Joint on Chicago Avenue, right at the place he was killed, and the first thing you see is a smiling, floor to ceiling, portrait of George Floyd. He's still working security. You're given souvenir menus that tell the story of George Floyd and tempt you with Texas ribs and Minnesota coleslaw and potato salad.

He grew up in Houston, Texas, so he must have heard of Goldee's Barbeque — a Black-owned barbeque restaurant in Fort Worth. They just won the Bib Gourmand award from the Michelin Guide for "great food at a great value." They have consistently been recognized as the best barbeque in Texas by the Texas Monthly. We need to study their methods, and we need to study their sauce.

Something like that would make George Floyd proud.

Jason Chavez responds:

"There isn't support on the City Council to approve the mayor's concept plan. This doesn't mean we should delay the project all together. On Dec. 5th, 2024, we passed a resolution expressing our support for the pedestrian plaza concept layout. We will continue to pursue this route.

"It's factually incorrect to say that a pedestrian concept plan is dead on arrival per state law. There is a pathway to make this happen and we will continue to pursue this route on the City Council.

"Unfortunately, the Mayor's veto will only slow down progress and cause further delays into the future of George Floyd Square. Let's honor the lives we've lost to police violence and get this right the first time."

Jason Chavez found the nine votes to override Frey's veto at the Feb. 27 council meeting, and the plan for a pedestrian mall at George Floyd Square stays alive.

Michael Kehoe:

"The CURA survey of 6,000 residents of the four neighborhoods had findings that will not be swept under the rug. The two most important findings are:

1) 70 percent of the respondents want Chicago Avenue and 38th Street to be restored to the state it was in before George Floyd was murdered. They want the streets fully restored without any roundabouts or bump-outs. This is the clear opinion of these survey respondents.

2) 74 percent of the African Americans surveyed do not believe the spot on the street where George Floyd died is 'sacred ground.' They don't believe it. What is sacred to one person may not be sacred to another.

All of this frustration can be avoided by simply accepting what the residents have said and move the location for a George Floyd memorial over to the Peoples' Way site. It's a perfect and logical solution and one where everybody wins."

EVENTS

Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center
625 22nd Ave. S., 612-330-1000
augsburg.edu/campusministry/
fosdick/
"Shall Untruth Win?"
Fosdick Lecture on Preaching
March 6, 10 a.m.
Some describe our cultural and political moment with phrases like "post-truth," "the fall of reason" and "alternative facts." Now more than ever, courageous preachers must freshly voice the enduring wisdom of the Bible, the tradition, and religious experience to a people awash in propaganda and misinformation delivered through an inflammatory media landscape. The Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis, lead minister of Plymouth Congregational Church, will speak on "Shall Untruth Win? Faithful Preaching in an Age of Mistrust and Misinformation."

Minnesota Council of Churches
122 W Franklin Ave., 612-870-3600
Mnchurches.org
Ramadan
March 7 through 22
Iftars will take place all over Minnesota, and we are continually adding new locations. Space is limited, so please register in advance here: mnchurches.org/what-we-do/taking-heart

St. Albert the Great
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.
612-724-3643
saintalbertthegreat.org
Donut Sale
Off in April, back May 3 and 4, before and after mass
Cash and check only.
\$10/dozen

\$5/half dozen
\$1/each
Sign up to place pre-orders
For full dozens!
Sign up to volunteer!
Famous Fish Dinners for Lent
March 7, 14, 21, and 28, April 4 and 11. 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Baked and fried fish, served with potatoes, coleslaw, pasta with marinara, bread, and assorted Desserts.
Try your luck at one of our Raffles or at Bingo! Enter at the door between the church and the school.
Tickets: Adults: \$15
Ages 6-12: \$7
5 and under: Free
Cash/check/credit card accepted at dinner ticket window.
Please note: Bingo and 50/50 are cash only. Raffles are cash/check only

Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Community
4537 3rd Ave. S., 612-823-8205
stjoan.com
St. Joan of Arc Book Club
March 12, 6 to 8 p.m.
We are discussing "The Truth at the Heart of the Lie" by James Carroll. We meet in the Arc (north side of 45th Street across from the parking lot). Books chosen by surveying the group. We recommend joining our email group. Contact Lucy Petermeier: 612-823-8205 to join.
2024-25 Concert Series
March 30, 7 to 9 p.m.
Enjoy the music of Patsy Cline, performed by Joyanne Parker.

Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave. S., 612-871-7400
Plymouth.org
Book Club

March 15, 10:30 a.m.
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
Plymouth's Elaine Marsh Library
Over 3,000 books, which may be checked out for up to a month.
Open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sundays 6 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays during program year.

Lakewood Cemetery
3600 Hennepin Ave., 612-822-2171
lakewoodcemetery.org/
Music in the Chapel
Concert Series: LAAMAR
April 6, 3 to 4 p.m.
Tickets: \$15 Advance, \$20 door.
For full schedule and Ticket information, go to: lakewoodcemetery.org/events-calendar/music-in-the-chapel/

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 live-stream our services, so you can catch Taizé from wherever you are in real time, or anytime you want.
Inside Senior Living
A docuseries that tackles aging and the choices we face as we age.

Creator and host Melissa Fritz is a Senior Living industry professional and the daughter of a father who had dementia. She demystifies the process around choosing the right senior living solution for families in or near crisis.
Watch here: pbsnorth.org/show/inside-senior-living/
Learn more: insideseniorliving.tv

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.
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 call button and someone will come 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 and Bathroom Supplies Needed!
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
MCC has welcomed hundreds of 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 available at 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 donations off at our offices

SHARING FOOD

CES Community Emergency Services
1900 11th Ave. S.
612-870-1125, cesmn.org/
info@cesmn.org
Appointment required
Monday and Tuesday
1 to 4 pm
Wednesday 1 to 6 p.m.

Joyce Uptown Food Shelf
3041 Fremont Ave. S.
612-825-4431 (for appt.)
and emergency hours.
joyceuptownfoodshelf.org/
Monday
10:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday
9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday
noon to 4:45 p.m.
Thursday
11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Church of the Incarnation
3817 Pleasant Ave. S.
612-822-2101,
Español: 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.

See Sharing, page 17

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, dlc.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Followed by Congregational Fellowship Hour 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf
Vibrant, progressive, multigenerational congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The congregation is one focused on justice and joy, in relationship and connection to the wider community.

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 9:30 a.m.
and online on Facebook
facebook.com/felcimpls
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.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.
612-722-1083
holycrossmpls.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Ash Wednesday: March 5, 7 p.m.
Lenten Worship: Wednesdays, March 12 through April 9, 7 p.m.
Dinner included

An inclusive community encouraging lives of service.

LIVING SPIRIT
Multicultural/United Methodist
Justice — Generosity — Faith
4501 Bloomington Ave.
612-721-5025, livingspiritumc.org
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
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
Traditional Worship with Holy Communion Sunday 9 a.m.
Praise Worship Sunday 11 a.m.
(Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday)
Fellowship Sunday 12:30 p.m.

MINNEHAHA COMMUNION LUTHERAN
4101 37th Ave. S., 612-722-9527
minnehahacommunion.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. in person & online
12-step groups Tuesday through Friday evenings,
see website for more info.
Pastor: Kyle Anderson
Reconciling in Christ Congregation

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH — ELCA
5300 10th Ave. S., 612-825-6846
nokomisheights.org

Bilingual (English/Spanish)
Sunday Worship in Sanctuary 10 a.m.
Holy Communion
1st and 3rd Sunday
Adult Forum and Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Sunday worship is recorded live for viewing on Monday mornings on Facebook and YouTube.
Ash Wednesday: March 5, 7 p.m.
Worship and Imposition of Ashes
Lenten Worship: Wednesdays, March 12 through April 9
5:30 to 6 p.m., with soup supper

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT
E. 29th St. & 32nd Ave. S.
612-724-3643
saintalbertthegreat.org
Weekend Masses Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
(also live-streamed on Facebook)
Sunday noon Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
8:15 a.m. in the Chapel
Pastor: Fr. Joe Gillespie, O.P.

ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
4537 Third Ave. S.
612-823-8205. stjoan.com
Saturday 5 p.m. in the Church
Sunday 7:45 am in the Church, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the gym, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Family Mass in the Church
Video available on our website and Facebook page

We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey

SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
1822 Hennepin Ave. S.
612-377-5668
secondchurchminneapolis.com
Join us in-person or online for Sunday and Wednesday church Services.
Sunday Service and Sunday school for ages 3 to 20, 10 a.m.
Wednesday's Service with Testimonies of healing through prayer, 7:30 p.m.
Childcare is provided for small children at all services.
The Christian Science Reading Room and bookstore is open 7 days a week
To learn more about Christian Science and Reading room hours, please visit our website

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
Augsburg College, Hoversten Chapel
Riverside & 22nd Aves.
612-333-2561
trinitylutherancongregation.org
Office: 2001 Riverside Ave.
Adult Forum 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Pastor: Jane Buckley-Farlee



All directory churches are wheelchair accessible

Save the world hat trick

BY KEN SHAIN

Nearly every Minnesotan knows that a hat trick occurs when a hockey player scores 3 goals in one game. It is widely celebrated, especially when the goals are scored in each of the three periods. Though the term originated in 19th century cricket matches, it is now broadly applied to any activity in which three goals are achieved in a single engagement. Here in Minnesota, we are on the verge of scoring, perhaps, the most significant hat trick in the history of our nation. Given its scope, I call it the "Save the World Hat Trick."

With the pending sale of Glen Taylor's share in the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx to a group of private investors — that includes current owners Alex Rodriguez, Mark Lore and oligarch and political spoiler Michael Bloomberg — the city of Minneapolis and the state of Minnesota may miss yet another chance to capture a sustainable, self-renewing revenue generator with which to fund schools, roads, and public safety services — without having to rely on property taxes in favor of making billionaires wealthier. In addition, it also misses another chance to truly resolve the inequities in our city resulting from years of redlining and covenant mortgages in favor of even more commercial symbolism, exhorting all demographics to the market. Given the state's budget surplus, acquiring the Timberwolves and

the Lynx would have been an easy acquisition and resulted in self-sufficiency of public services, quality of education, lower taxes, and community happiness unparalleled in modern history. Spread equitably, we could even outscore the beast of racism, forever haunting our town since its founding.

The hat trick I am talking about is pro-sports team municipalization, and it solves all three of the abovementioned problems. But only if we score all three goals in the exercise. The city of Green Bay, Wisconsin scored two goals when it municipalized its football team a century ago and took it public so that everyone can own a share. Now, there are 537,460 stockholders on the books with rules in place prohibiting anyone from owning more than 200,000 shares. Such a plan has enabled the team to stay in its hometown, and its hometown to remain solvent from the beginning, able to resist any owner demands for public amenities under threat of moving the team to a new location. If you want to know where Packer loyalty and continued championship teams comes from, look no further than the loyalty the team shows the town. But sadly, despite great teams in well run cities among nations of every size around the world also following this practice, Green Bay — with a population of 107,395 — is the only city in the entire United States that enjoys this distinction. Pete Rozelle, former NFL commissioner, saw this as a threat and made sure it doesn't happen again by insert-

ing prohibitions into the NFL charter against owners selling their teams to public jurisdictions, closing their ranks to all but fellow oligarchs.

Well, we may have missed using our surplus to buy the Timberwolves and Lynx, but we may have another chance. The Minnesota Twins are now up for sale! The Pohlad family, long reported for its benevolent stewardship and generosity with the city that hosts their team, is now willing to sell it. As Minnesotans, we should demand that the state of Minnesota use its vaunted budget surplus so its municipalities can begin to reap the benefits of community control. Such a possibility would do more for our state and its citizens than a tax rebate, especial-

ly given the value we get for the transaction.

What sets this plan apart from the Green Bay experience, what makes it a hat trick, is that it can also be used to finally settle the issue of reparations as well. By taking the team public, our American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) neighbors and families would each receive stock in the public offering at par value. Normally this means pennies on the dollar, and will result in generational wealth for families hitherto shut out of the accumulation process. The numbers are there, the need is there, even the logic is there, only the awareness of the possibility lags.

What is even more amazing, is that our own Governor

Walz told me personally that he thought it was an interesting idea. He was the ONLY candidate at Education Minnesota's Gubernatorial Candidates Forum in 2018 who showed an interest — out of the 13 candidates to whom I introduced the concept to — and handed me business his card as he introduced me to his campaign and policy aide for follow up. Even though I have followed up periodically, without a response, given the state of things these days, perhaps now is a far better time. Please write him and let him know!

Save the world hat trick, so efficient, even DOGE should know!

Sharing Food, from page 16

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.
More information on our Facebook page or our website

Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Ave. 612-827-2504
clchurch.org

Calvary Emergency Food Shelf
612-827-2504, ext. 3.
clchurch.org/food-shelf
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) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
We do require mask, sanitizer and temp check.

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 all, no questions asked. Just simply drive or walk up to the church.

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

First Nations Kitchen
firsnationskitchen.org
Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.
Weekly To Go meals and Produce Give Away. We cook fresh, organic, indigenous meals and give away organic produce. This is a barrier-free food program. To donate or volunteer contact: director@firsnationskitchen.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 have changed many things to protect guests and 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
Second and fourth Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday, 1 to 5 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 Nicollet Ave. S., 612-871-7400
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Kenny Neighborhood Chili Cook-off draws lovers of 'Minnesota Hot'

BY STEPHANIE FOX

It was cold and snowing outside on the first day of February, but inside City Church, it was warm (and sometimes spicy, in a Minnesota way) at the Kenny Neighborhood's second annual Winter Chili Cook-off. Mike Ferrin, the Kenny Neighborhood Association Co-Coordinator, said that the seven contestants were competing for a trophy designed to look like a chili pot and a \$50 gift certificate to local business, South Lyndale Liquors.



Fresh chili ingredients

Kenny Association Treasurer Kim Rosenfield said that the neighborhood was looking to hold an event the weekend before the Super Bowl. "I can't take full credit for this idea," she said. "We were inspired by a chili contest at the Fulton Neighborhood. It's the dead of winter and we wanted something cozy to do, something that helps our neighbors meet

each other when people are stuck inside their homes."

Last year's chili event drew a lot more people, nearly 80 neighbors, but this year only about 25 showed up, deterred perhaps, by the weather. But chili makers arrived to (literally) stand behind their crockpots of chili and serve to the chili tasting crowd. The seven chilies featured included a white chicken chili, an elk chili, a beef chili, a beef/pork chili, a three bean with ground beef and beans chili, a 7-pepper beef and pork chili and a venison chili.

Tasters voted for their favorites on a nearby laptop computer and the top three were celebrated as the best chilies in the Kenny Neighborhood.

When the votes were counted, Kevin and Syl Lyons came in third. The second-place chili award went to Jason and Kelly Barbes. The winner, serving the Beef-Pork medium-hot chili was City Council Member Linea Palmisano. "This year, both my kids had multiple events on the day of the chili cook-off, so I had to drop off my 'unmanned' crock of chili and hope for the best. I also asked Park Board President Cathy Abene and Mayor Frey to help serve the chili. It was a metaphor of what we're here to do every day, after all."

"I have been in multiple chili contests in different neighborhoods before, because I love cooking and feeding people in the community," she said. "Looking back, most of my direct service, volunteer roles in my life have been about bringing food to people who need it, in myriad ways. It brings me joy."

"I'm stunned that I beat the entry where the guy was using the elk that he had hunted himself. I didn't really think I was going to win. I got text messages (about coming in first) from the neighborhood staff and Cathy Abene and I was floored."

Palmisano attributes her winning chili to advice she got from a former chef. "One evening I was speaking with a constitu-



First-place winner, Council Member Linea Palmisano

ent, Rob, who has been a chef in his past, and he offered to mentor me in chili making. This basically just meant a lot of discussion about quality ingredients that don't cost a ton and how many people make the mistake of adding too much cumin or using store bought chili powder, which is useless in his opinion."

He also gave her advice about ingredients not usually associated with classic chilies. Coffee or chocolate are special ingredients, which add depth, he told her. "And that while I'd been trying out a beef/lamb mixture he suggested that she should try a beef and pork combination, a better fit for a Midwestern audience," she said.

"Cooking is something that everyone learns to do, some way or other we are always needing to feed ourselves. It's a great connector of cultures, I am trying to improve upon myself and try new things. It's a challenge to feed my growing boys and get to all the evening demands of my job," she said.

Linea Palmisano's winning chili recipe 'Kenny Dearest Chili'

Using ingredients donated for the chili by family, friends and members of the community, Palmisano put together her winning chili. These included MN State Fair Blue-Ribbon garlic and farmer's market heirloom tomatoes, flash-frozen last summer. Her chili mentor donated cooked Rancho Gordo beans.

"And what I think put it over the top was adding the hot sauce made from dried Scotch Bonnet and Trinidad Scorpion peppers given to me by Kevin, the friendly Armatage mail carrier."

"I also added a large white onion, 16 oz. of chicken broth and ½ cake of good quality bittersweet chocolate. I purchased 1.5 lbs. of lean ground beef and 1.5 lbs. of ground pork from the local co-op."

First, to make the hot sauce 'tincture' she rehydrated the

dried peppers in a small amount of hot water about 10 minutes, she said. "You could also purchase a variety of dried peppers from most grocery stores (look at description to see if recommended for chili making), just make sure to take the seeds out. Coarsely chop them up and add an acid.

"For the acid, I used some of the tomato juice from the freezer bags of tomatoes," she said, "but you could use diluted cider vinegar or even lemon juice"

"And, I added 2 Tbsp. of a friend's homemade hot sauce for diversity of peppers. I then used the hand blender until it became a watery puree. Add a few pinches of salt. Think Ta-

looms which is roughly 30 oz. of crushed tomatoes (if you use canned). Add the cooked beans or 28 oz. of canned beans."

"It's important that the beans are soft but not with broken skins. If cooking the beans yourself, add that broth into the pot as well. If using canned, you should drain and replace lost liquid with chicken broth," she said.

Let it all simmer for about 15 minutes and near the end of that time, put in ¼ cake of good quality bittersweet chocolate. Then taste and add another ¼ cake if you think it's needed.

"This is the time to taste it a lot, and consider adding a bit more of the spices to taste. Then, start checking for consistency. Is it too thick? Add more chicken broth."

This is one of those meals that is much better the next day.



Mayor Jacob Frey tasting a chili entry

basco sauce in terms of consistency. Set aside, you will use it later in this recipe and at the end," she said. "Then, start the cooking. This takes about an hour overall."

"I heat my largest pot on the stovetop with a couple tablespoons of olive oil on medium-high heat, add the diced white onion and cook until softened, about four minutes."

"Then add the ground beef and ground pork along with 4 ground cloves of garlic, 1 tsp. ground up cumin, 2-3 tsp. of ground up fennel seed, which will give the chili a more sausage-y flavor, salt/pepper, and about half of the hot sauce or rehydrated pepper 'tincture' depending on your personal preference for heat. This will start to cook into the meat as it browns, about 5-10 minutes. Make sure to use a wooden spoon and break up the ground meat as it browns," she said.

Reduce heat to medium and add in diced tomatoes, with most, but not all, of their juice. "I used approximately 14 flash-frozen medium heir-

loom tomatoes, which will meld. "You'll still want to add in more chicken broth after it is refrigerated overnight, as the consistency will thicken substantially, especially if you've used the bean broth," she said.

"Since it was WAY under 38 degrees on our back porch, I knotted the lid down onto the Dutch oven with a kitchen towel and placed it out back. I then reheated it in the pot it was in, adjusting the consistency by adding a bit more chicken broth, before transferring it into the crockpot (for the contest.," she said. "Taste it again, it might have gotten more mild and the pepper tincture comes in handy to add a bit more heat."

At the contest, the remainder of the chili pepper tincture was on the side, ready for serving, with people adding a little or a lot, depending on their spice preference. "Personally, I add a big dollop of sour cream to my bowl," Palmisano said. The trophy now sits on Palmisano's desk at city hall.

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Italian Eatery is back, a foodie fundraiser for scholars, and a mini-review of Mario's Pizza

BY DEBRA KEEFER RAMAGE

(Re) Openings and closings

ie Italian Eatery (4724 Cedar Ave., S.) is back, and it has “by Travail” appended to its name. The incredibly popular Italian fancy casual place was greatly mourned when the owner-couple, Eric and Vanessa Carrara,

favorite reopened under new ownership just three days earlier. May Day Cafe was sold to its workers when the long-time owner wanted to retire. The cafe was closed briefly then reopened February 7. It, too, has retained almost all of its original recipes and treats. Its new slightly extended hours are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., seven days

close for an indefinite time on March 30. Most, if not all, of its products will still be available from Herbivorous Butcher in NE Minneapolis.

Food industry news and views

Automations are rip-offs – for both workers and customers – according to The Nation and most customers. Electronic shelf labels that allow stores to raise prices on a whim, shopping apps that can mine your data, and facial recognition are some of the scary bits. See tinyurl.com/DKRatSSP-Automation.

An ICE raid in Rochester led to the arrest of two brothers employed at Nupá, a popular Mediterranean chain. The restaurant was forced to close because of it.

There has been a shake-up at the Twin Cities edition of online magazine Eater, one of



Travail team at ie Italian Eatery

closed it. But restaurant group Travail stepped in and now it's back. Racket covered the soft opening with one of the original eatery's biggest fans and her verdict is: it smells the same, the spaghetti is the same, it's pretty much the same. The full opening was Feb. 10.

Another South Minneapolis

a week. Video of the opening: youtube.com/shorts/7JYN_RJH-CM

Momo Café, a coffee and tea house with a Tibetan vibe, opened on Central Avenue NE in mid-February.

Herbie Butcher's vegan fried chicken take-out on 48th Street, just west of Chicago Avenue will



Momo Café in NE



EATSS Indigenous Food event at the Guthrie



Nupá in Rochester closed due to ICE arrests

my favorite sources of foodie intel (twincities.eater.com.) Although the online magazine continues to publish city editions, the staff is now a Midwest bureau combining Chicago, Detroit, and us under one editor. Former TC Eater editor Justine Jones quit just before the shake-up and was not replaced.

We note the passing away of Louie Sirian at 88, whom the Strib called “one of the last old-school saloonkeepers.” He was the owner of Lee's Liquor Lounge for almost 40 years, and operated two other bars in the 1980s and 1990s.

Beyond Meat and the National Basketball Players Association (the NBA players' union) has put out a plant-based cookbook featuring many Beyond products. It's free to download. I did so; I like it. You can download it here: beyondmeat.com/en-US/go-beyond-the-buzzer.

The Guthrie was host to a unique and impressive fundraising event on Feb. 18. EATSS, an acronym for Epicurean Award to Support Scholars, combined an afternoon of tastings with an early evening concert by Ru-



Marios Artichoke Pizza

fus Wainwright. Funds were raised for the Native American College Fund. Chefs were Paul Natrall (Squamish Nation – owner of Mr. Bannock, Vancouver's first Indigenous food truck), Anthony Bauer (Turtle Mountain Chippewa – founder of Traditional Fire Custom Cuisine), Andrea Condes (Andean Native, Caracas, Venezuela – founder of Four Directions Cuisine), and Nathan Davis (Turtle Mountain Chippewa – owner/operator of A'Wiisinin Food Truck).

Grigio. Sam had a fancy version of Pepperoni Pizza. Knowing we would both be taking home leftovers due to the largeness of the pizzas, I imparted Deb's Law of Pizza – If it's not good cold out of the fridge the next day, it was never good pizza. I got four more meals out of mine! Sam referred to my law as “the morning after test” (very poetic), and confirmed that the pepperoni also passed it. If you would like a traditional Sicilian pan pizza with focaccia-like crust, try Mario's.

Mini-review #1 – Mario's Pizza (St. Paul)

I went to Mario's on an icy night in early February with the same comrade, Sam, as last month, as both my designated pork-eater and my designated driver. We were a bit nonplussed by the prices, but then even more so by the enormous size of the pizzas, which caused me to re-adjust my judgement of the price.

I had the Artichoke Pizza and a glass of a quite tasty Pinot

Mini-review #2 - CookUnity

I gave CookUnity, a ready-to-eat meal service, a try, but ended up canceling after one week due to frustrations with the website and interface. What attracted me to Cook Unity was that it is the only meal service that really ought to work for a single person. The minimum order per week is six 1-serving meals and you can skip weeks. But mainly, this is touted as a chef-driven meal program, with the names of the chefs on all the dishes. The meals were not bad, but there is only so high you can go with what's essentially a 21st century non-frozen TV dinner. I was not that impressed.

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