



the alley



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COURTESY MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND REC

Spark'd Studios coming to Phillips Community Center

By RAECHEL BOSCH

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is bringing a new Spark'd Studio and community room to Phillips Community Center. The center's existing teen and multi-purpose rooms, located just off the main lobby, are currently undergoing a full renovation. The redesigned space will feature updated furniture and new technology to support a wide range of afterschool youth programming, community activities, and special events.

As part of the renovation, a dedicated office is also being added for a full-time Youth Technology and Career Skills Specialist. This staff member will mentor youth and lead afterschool programs focused on technology, creative exploration,

career readiness, and skill-building opportunities.

Phillips Community Center will become the sixth Spark'd Studio operated through Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Existing Spark'd Studio locations are already open at Powderhorn Park, Harrison Park, Luxton Park, Whittier Park, and Graco Park.

Spark'd Studios are youth-centered spaces primarily serving ages 10-19 through afterschool programming built around youth interests, mentorship, creativity, and career exploration. During the school year, studios open weekdays beginning at 3 p.m., with summer hours starting at noon.

Each studio includes a core set

of creative and technology-focused resources, including MacBook laptops, iMac desktop computers, editing and design software, 3D and vinyl printers, video cameras, audio recording equipment, musical instruments, art supplies, and gaming consoles.

Spark'd Studios were created to expand access to technology, digital media, and creative spaces for young people within Minneapolis parks. Through Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the program supports youth in exploring their range of interests, building skills, and making connections in a welcoming community environment where they already recreate. Many youth have expressed the benefit of

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Machine Shop Class is Moving to Roosevelt Next Year

By HOLDEN LARSON, Staff Writer at *The Southerner*

the alley is honored to continue highlighting news and articles from *The Southerner*, newspaper of South High School. This article is reprinted with permission.

The machine shop class at South is scheduled to move to Roosevelt for the start of the new school year next fall. It is a class that a lot of students really enjoy, and it can spark interest in many future careers. Moving a machine shop costs a lot of time and money, and many students are disappointed and confused about why the decision was made to move it to Roosevelt.

The district has a plan to create elective centers, or hubs, at different high schools throughout the city. Roosevelt is planned to be the center of manufacturing because they already have automotive, construction, and welding classes, and the machine shop will be the next new addition



HOLDEN LARSON

The current machining shop at South High before the move to Roosevelt.

to their arsenal of manufacturing electives. If a student from South wants to take machining next year, they will have to take a shuttle to Roosevelt for half of the day due to the 2-hour block schedules utilized at Roosevelt.

Joe Hyser, South's machining teacher, says these elective centers are kind of an experiment

for the district. Hyser says that he is worried that he won't have as many students at Roosevelt next year. "Here at South, I'm guaranteed [around] 20 students per class. And a diverse class, meaning there are a lot of females too. But when I'm at Roosevelt,

Continued on page 11...

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Grand Opening of New Cultural Center

By EMILY JARRETT HUGHES

BACK PAGE:
HEART OF THE
ARTS 2026!



COURTESY MIKWANEDUN AUDISOOKON

Youth interns help with the earth block construction.

Indigenous Peoples Task Force invites the community to join them in celebrating the grand opening of their new center for Indigenous wellness through culture and arts, Mikwanedun Audisookon, on Wednesday, June 24.

Mikwanedun Audisookon means "remember our teachings" and reflects that culture is the thread that weaves together all of programs at the Task Force.

For nearly four decades the Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) has been nurturing community health and Indigenous resurgence.

The intersecting crises of HIV, unhoused relatives, and opioid mis-use have led the IPTF prevention and care services to become increasingly comprehensive. The new building affords more clinical space in addition to a healing room and spaces to learn cultural arts and wellness practices.

Ikidowin Youth Theater Ensemble has grown from a humble peer education program into a troupe that has performed across the country. The theater space in the new building will represent the first indigenous owned theater in the Twin Cities.

As programming in regenerative farming and indigenous foodways has grown, the new building provides teaching gardens, a commercial kitchen, and café space.

Continued on page 4...

Memories of Neil

By MATTIE WONG

COURTESY KATHI WONG

My grandfather, Neil Clark, was born in the 1920s in southern Arkansas into a poor farming family. He joined the Army as a young man, scarcely twenty, and fought in WWII. For the longest time, the only thing we knew about Neil in the war was that he had earned a Silver Star, but none of us knew how or why.

The thing is, my grandfather never talked about the war. Not to anyone. Our family pieced together stories over the years, even going to a reunion of his infantry division in Memphis, Tennessee.

There we learned Neil had been

Continued on page 11...



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thealley

Alley Communications is a Not-For-Profit organization.

The Mission of Alley Communications is

- promoting art and culture,
- advocating for issues,
- building healthy community,
- facilitating deliberation,
- lifting every voice,
- documenting history,
- agitating for change,
- giving truth and democracy a jog forward.

Guided and Informed by: Phillips residents

Governed by Directors: Steve Dreyer, Luke Gannon, Susan Gust, and Natalie Mazey

Operated by Editorial Leadership Committee: Mara Brooks, Mary Ellen Kaluza, and Harvey Winje.

Business Facilitated by: Erick Boustead

Production Facilitated by: Mattie Wong

Page Coordinators: EPIC News; MPNA News.

Social Media: Susan Gust, Anais Lowe

This month's contributors to the alley: American Legion Post One, American Swedish Institute, Anjali Daverey, Steve Dreyer, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Four Sisters Farmers Market, Linnea Hadaway, Sam Eagle Hawk, Hennepin History Museum, Dwight Hobbes, Emily Jarrett Hughes, Laura Hulscher, Sue Hunter Weir, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Lake Street Mpls., Holden Larson, Marti Maltby, Tim McCall, Howard McQuitter II, Mikwanedun Audisookon, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Mike Neumann, Open Eye Theatre, Owamniyomi Okhodayapi, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Pillsbury House + Theatre, Quatrefoil Library, ReEntry Lab, Christina Smith, Thomas R. Smith, Somali Museum, Somali Week MN, Soomaali House of Art, South High Arts Program, Kathi Wong, Mattie Wong

DONATIONS

Thank you to neighbors, readers, advertisers, subscribers, and GiveMN. Alley Communications is a Not-for Profit 501C-3; donations are tax deductible.

the alley is delivered to homes, businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and in nine adjacent neighborhoods.

Board meetings: 6:30 PM 2nd Tuesday by Zoom. Editorial Leadership Team 1st Wednesday 8:30 -10:00am.

Correspondence becomes the property of the alley and may be published.

Opinions in the alley newspaper and its social media are those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Alley Communications, its Board, Editorial Leadership Committee, or other neighbors or writers.

Alley Communications P.O. Box 7006 Mpls., MN 55407

submissions: copydesk@alleynews.org ads: business@alleynews.org talk with us: connect@alleynews.org

Submissions due the 12th day of the previous month



Franklin Library News

1314 E. Franklin Ave. | 612-543-6925 | www.hclib.org

M, F, SA 9AM-5PM • TUE-THURS 12PM - 8PM • SUN 12PM-5PM

Compiled by Christina Smith, librarian, on May 15th, 2026.

CLOSURE: Juneteenth, Friday, June 19th

YOUTH + FAMILIES

BABY STORYTIME

Every Tues Starting June 23rd 3:30 pm- 4:15 pm

For children from birth to 24 months & their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, write, and play together. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, & movement in a format especially designed for babies. Siblings welcome.

LET'S READ DROP IN!

Starting June 13th Tues and Thurs: 4:00 – 7:00 pm Saturdays: 1:00 -3:00 pm

Free in-person reading support for K-5 students. Students and trained volunteer tutors meet weekly one-on-one to work on grade level reading skills.

LEGO® STAMPING

Tues, June 16, 2026 4:00PM – 7:00PM

Entering grades 1-4. Drop-in program. What do fractals, nature, art & LEGOs have in common? Patterns! Learn about pattern and printmaking basics as you use LEGO bricks to build and print your own images! Materials provided. Collaborator: Caponi Art Park. Funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

ADULTS

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 12:30-2 PM Join Franklin Library staff for free coffee & conversations with neighbors.

ADULT TUTORING

Every Saturday, 10 am-12 pm Are you an adult looking to improve your literacy skills? Would you like help with homework? Are you studying for your GED? Adult Tutoring is a drop-in program for adults seeking 1:1 help with basic level reading, writing, math, and English language. Adults will work with trained volunteer tutors at the library during tutoring hours. Drop-ins are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis.

How to write a LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed. Three important criteria: no foul language, do no harm to an individual, must be "signed" by the author. Short and succinct is better - under 300 words if possible. Letters may be edited for length.

email your letter to copydesk@alleynews.org no later than the 12th of the month, by 5pm SHARP.

To the Editor*, ...Through my work in public health and aging policy, I have seen how deeply delayed diagnosis [of Alzheimer's] can affect individuals and their families not just medically, but emotionally and socially as well. Early detection is not just a clinical step; it is an opportunity to provide dignity, support, and better outcomes. The Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act is an important step forward. ... As a resident of the fifth congressional district, I am grateful to Representative Ilhan Omar for co-sponsoring this bill. ... To learn more about the ASAP Act, blood tests, clinical trials, and available support for individuals and families impacted by dementia, visit www.alz.org/mnnd. Sincerely, Anjali Daverey, Twin Cities * edited for length*

PHILLIPS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Phillips Voices: Sam Eagle Hawk

The Phillips Community Oral History Project aims to document, amplify, and empower the multicultural and multi-generational voices of those in the Phillips Community to tell their own stories on their own terms.

This month, Sam Eagle Hawk talks about his experience moving to Phillips and his favorite parts of living in the neighborhood.



Could you start by introducing yourself with your name, your pronouns, and your age? My name is Sam. I'm about 63.

And what is your relationship to the Phillips community? Oh, I've been here since the 80s and 90s. And then up and down Franklin, Cedar, Chicago, Lake Street.

What brought you to the Phillips neighborhood? Jobs, when they used to be here. I just worked day labors, painting houses, cleaning up people's yards if they asked for it. Like a handyman, do that off and on. Same thing in the winter, do the sidewalks, driveways, stuff like that. Help take out the garbage and get in and out of neighbors around Phillips. But some of them moved on or passed away.

Do you have a favorite of those jobs that you like to do? Probably just raking up yards and painting houses. Helping take out the garbage to the street. Make sure the neighborhood's clean. People keep up the garbage.

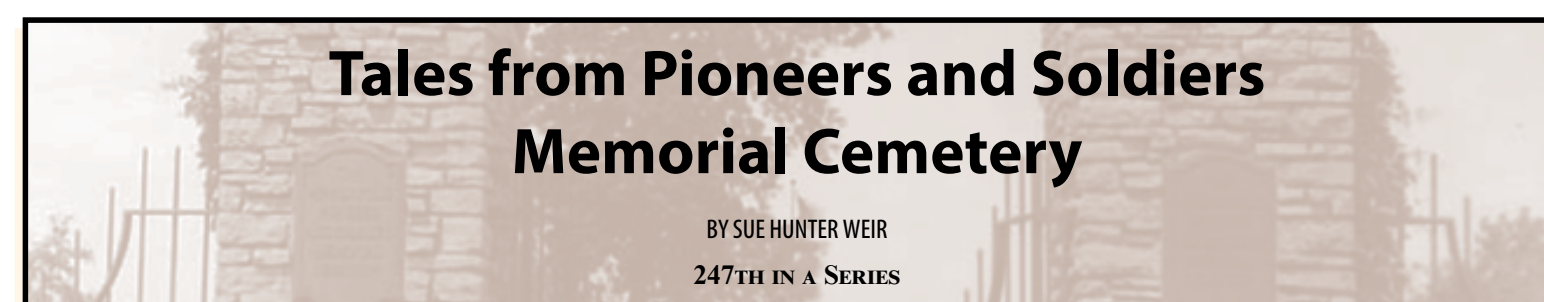
So you were mainly working for people in the neighborhood? Yes. It's fun to get to know them. They don't offer money, they only have lunch. You don't have to pay me or feel nothing. Have lunch, we can have something to eat. Sandwiches, pie, chips. People eat stuff. If they want to invite me into their house, I'll have to sit down at the table and eat. If they want to talk about other jobs, other neighbors, they need help with other stuff like help clean out their garage, take stuff to the yard. Where the garbage trucks come and pick them up. Help them take them back to the garages. Make sure everything's safe. Later on, the next day, someone else says, I know a person that would actually help. But he doesn't ask for money. If they do, they're like \$10, \$20. What they can afford. But make sure the neighborhood's clean, and their place is clean. Go to the next door.

It's fun to get to know them. They don't offer money, they only have lunch. You don't have to pay me or feel nothing. Have lunch, we can have something to eat.

I've asked a version of this question, but can you tell us what you love about this neighborhood? Oh, the access to the streets, buildings, some places that's walking distance so I don't have to walk or ride a bus or take, I don't own a car but if you want to give me a ride, I'll, just down the block. You can drive me down the block but, no, nothing changed but everything's still access.

You also mentioned, like in the 80s and the 90s you would get lunch in exchange for work. Do you feel like there's something similar like in that vein that happens in this neighborhood today? Mm-hmm. Not that I know of. No? No. Well, my friends, they say some people come out and give them food on the streets like sandwiches. People come up and they pull a little wagon and I think they're church groups or some kind of group. They have wagons going around passing out sandwiches and free water. There in the hot summers, I came across some people like that.

the phillips community oral history project is a joint effort by alley communications and the united phillips coalition, including phillips west neighborhood organization (pwno), east phillips improvement coalition (epic), and midtown phillips neighborhood association, inc. (mpnai).



Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

BY SUE HUNTER WEIR 247TH IN A SERIES

Chloe Adens, Harriet Morgan Jones, Katie and William Smith, and Lafayette Mason One Family's Tale: A Gift for Music and Civic Leadership

Chloe Adens* was the first of four generations of her family to be buried in the Cemetery, and hers was the first recorded burial of an African American in what was referred to at the time as Layman's Cemetery. She was born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania sometime around 1803. In 1790, Pennsylvania passed a law that stated that the child of an enslaved mother was either a free person of color or, in some cases, was an indentured servant until they reached the age of 28. Whether Mrs. Adens began life as a free person of color or as an indentured servant is not known.



Members of American Legion Post One who spent the day getting the Cemetery in good shape for the Memorial Day Program. Amazing friends and supporters of the Cemetery.

She arrived in Minnesota sometime between 1850 and 1860. She had two children: a son, Jacob, who did not come West with her, and a daughter Harriet, who did. Harriet was born around 1832 and would have been in her late teens or early twenties when they moved here.

Harriet Adens married Morgan Jones on June 29, 1870. Not a great deal is known about her other than that she was a singer, a talented musician, with a gift that she passed on to her daughter and grandchildren. Harriet died on December 19, 1896, at the age of 59. The cause of her death was simply recorded as "heart."

Cemetery's Oldest

Harriet's husband, Morgan Jones, was born in Virginia on August 10, 1805. He was enslaved from birth. In 1823, his enslavers moved to Missouri taking Morgan with them. He remained there until about 1865.

In 1906, he told a reporter that "...as soon as the slaves were pronounced free, I started for Minnesota."

He found work as a laborer, and it was here that he met

Harriet, his future wife. Over the years, he became a widely recognized and popular man about town. He died of "old age" on December 8, 1906, at the age of 101. He is the oldest person buried in the Cemetery.

Harriet and Morgan's daughter, named Katherine (Katie) Luella Jones, was born on May 4, 1861. She was a gifted coloratura soprano and composer who performed at numerous benefit concerts. She was a founding member of St. Peter's AME and Bethesda Baptist churches. Katie had two children, a son and a daughter, with her first husband, George Mason. It is not clear what happened to him, but in 1889, Katie married William Smith. They were together until her death, at age 79, from breast cancer on January 29, 1941.

Lafayette Mason, Katie's son, was born on May 17, 1880. He shared his mother's musical gifts. He was a well-known pianist, performing both popular and classical music, and was mentioned frequently in the local Black newspapers. And, like his mother, he was generous with his time and talent, giving many concerts for a variety of religious and civic organizations and causes. Before he began his musical career he

attended South High School where, in 1898, he was elected captain of the football team. In 1907 or 1908 he joined the city's fire department where he served with Captain John Cheatham, the city's first Black firefighter. Lafayette died on April 18, 1910, five weeks short of his 30th birthday, from typhoid fever complicated by acute tuberculosis.

William Smith was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 30, 1861. He relocated to Missouri where he lived for a short time before moving to Minneapolis. He was the city's first Black postal clerk, and after he was promoted, was reported to have been the first Black foreman in the country's postal service. In his obituary, he was described as "...one of the most brilliant public speakers" and used his skill to promote the activities of the NAACP and Urban League. He was also the associate editor of Spokesman-Recorder. He died on September 5, 1944, from a cerebral thrombosis (stroke) at the age of 82.

Katie's daughter, Essie Mason, was born on February 27, 1882. She, too, was an accomplished musician, who played the piano and organ at her church. She followed in her stepfather's activist

footsteps by serving as secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP. She never married but was a highly regarded member of the Sabathani Church. She died on May 19, 1969, at the age of 87, and is the only member of the family not buried in Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery.

Chloe Adens, Harriet Morgan Jones, Katie and William Smith, and Lafayette Mason are all buried in the family plot, Lot 69, Block C. Their graves are unmarked.

For further information about Lafayette Mason and Morgan Jones, visit: https://alleynews.org/2017/12/the-cemeterys-oldest-morgan-jones-60-years-aslave-41-years-freedman/

*Her name is variously spelled Aidens and Adams.

SUE HUNTER WEIR is Chair of Friends of the Cemetery, an organization dedicated to preserving and maintaining Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. She has lived in Phillips for almost 50 years and loves living in such a historic community.

Something I Said...

ICE, Klan - Domestic Terrorism

By DWIGHT HOBBS



Dwight Hobbes

Between masked ICE agents and the Klu Klux Klan, any difference is negligible, if at all, cowardly domestic terrorists hiding from sight in broad daylight. Anonymity is a powerful weapon, license to strike, ruthlessly abuse and violently oppress, sans accountability. Strikes mind numbing panic, blood racing fear.

Make no mistake, just as Mississippi KKK murdered James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, so ICE did murder Renée Nicole Macklin Good and Alex Pretti. In cold blood. Because, they could get away with it. President Donald Trump has accomplished the unthinkable. Reversing civil rights, throwing around the term "domestic terrorism" while that's what he's unleashed on any and all Americans who don't further his supremacist agenda. As PBS reported back in 2024, "Trump seeks a second term vowing to dramatically expand his use of the military at home and suggesting he would use force to go after Americans he considers 'enemies from within.'" Vanity Fair interviewed his former chief of staff, John Kelly, documenting that "[He]...warned that Trump admires dictators—including Hitler, Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un—and that he frequently expressed frustration at the limits the Constitution placed on his own power." The New Times quoted Kelly, "[Trump] prefers the dictator approach to government"

One thing he does not prefer is defiance. Makes no secret of weaponizing whatever government agency best suits his vengeance against enemies merely perceived or proven. If Donald Trump thought he could get away

Continued on page 4...

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Office Hours!

Interested in writing? Want to hear more about the process? Are you a business in the neighborhood? Want to find other ways to support community and local journalism?

Find us this month at:
Thursday, June 18th
10am-12pm
Wildflyer on Minnehaha

WHO CAN ENTER
Youth in 3rd - 12th grade

DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Original, simple illustrations (No AI-generated designs)
- Use pen, paper, crayons, paint, etc.
- Drawing must include "Clean Sweep 2026"

CLEAN SWEEP T-SHIRT CONTEST 2026!

Design the official Clean Sweep T-shirt and inspire our community!

Prize: \$100 Visa Gift Card
Submission dates: May 11th through June 30th
Winner will be contacted in July!

THEME IDEAS

- Sustainability
- Community
- Cleaning

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN!

Klan, cont. from page 3...

with repeating Adolf Hitler's "Night of the Long Knives", he'd go for it in a heartbeat. Stopping short, he's nonetheless following his hero's playbook. He doesn't realize, though, that unlike Germany, America refuses to roll over and play dead.

South Minneapolis tragically became a turning point with the deaths of Renée Nicole Macklin Good and Alex Pretti. Then, came the subsequent scapegoating of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. Director of the United States National Counterterrorism Center Joe Kent quit, washing his hands of the Israel-U.S. war on Iran, denouncing it as he walked out the door. The U.S. Supreme Court, which let the president skate on 34 felony convictions, no longer had his back and ruled against his abuse of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to blackmail the world with tariffs. Whereupon, of course, he had a fit and turned on the justices like he does everyone else who doesn't grant his way.

ICE, cut from the same cloth as the Klan, simply wearing masks instead of hoods has seen its storm trooping occupation expelled. South Minneapolis, which didn't sit still for the next Reich, saw to that.

DWIGHT HOBBS, a long-time Twin Cities journalist and essayist, is the author of *Let Me Tell You About All Flowers*.

POEM

PINK-JACKETED WOMAN

By THOMAS R. SMITH

No one could track all that was going on, but a pink-jacketed woman horrifically, dangerously close caught it on video. Alex Pretti beaten to the ground, shot in the back ten times in five seconds she recorded through terror and confusion, and managed to escape without ICE seizing her phone. Helped by a woman who gave her a different coat for cover, the "pink-jacketed woman" vanished, escaped to explode the regime's lies. When I hear the word "cowardice" I think of muscle-bound, gun-toting thugs claiming self-defense against protesters with signs and whistles, and how Homeland Security shields them from legal accountability. When I hear the word "heroism" I think of Stella Carlson, the "pink-jacketed woman," who absorbed the trauma up close and with nothing but her bravery to shield her gave the whole world the truth.

THOMAS R. SMITH is an American poet, essayist, teacher and editor. His work has appeared in numerous anthologies and journals in the U.S. and internationally.

Center, cont. from page 1...



Designed as a "Living Building," Mikwanedun Audisookon itself represents indigenous values. Part of the lower level of the building is constructed from stabilized compressed earth blocks. These earth blocks were made by youth interns on site with soil from the Twin Cities. It is a building material with low environmental impact, effective at preventing mold and mildew growth, and reduces the building's energy needs for heating and cooling.

Everyone in the community is welcome to the grand opening celebration 1-4 PM on June 24, 2313 13th Ave S, Minneapolis.

The Women's Environmental Institute

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Since 2003, WEI has led initiatives in East Phillips that improve human health and the environment. From our farm in North Branch, we offer weekly produces boxes spring summer and fall!

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Peace House Community - A Place to Belong

Grace in the Face of Destruction

By MARTI MALTBY



Marti Maltby

Last month I wrote about the need to use power wisely, and the temptations that everyone faces when they get power over others. Power can be used for our own prestige and comfort, or for the good of others. We have plenty of examples every day of each of those options playing out in front of our eyes.

Since I wrote that article, I have been reading *Missionary Conquest: The Gospel and Native American Cultural Genocide* by George E. Tinker. It is a wonderful example of using power well, along with being a great book on many other levels. Tinker looks at four missionaries who are revered for their work among Native peoples in

North America, but he shows how they all contributed to the destruction of Native societies, and the results that still haunt us today. One of the missionaries he writes about is Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple, an Episcopal clergyman who worked in Minnesota and after whom the federal building at Fort Snelling is named.

As Tinker notes, Whipple was genuinely concerned for the well-being of the Indians in Minnesota. He presented their case to various Presidents, including working to get President Lincoln to pardon over 300 Dakota Indians who were condemned to death after the Dakota War in 1862. However, Tinker also points out that Whipple believed the Natives' wellbeing would best be served if they abandoned their traditional way of life and converted, not just to Christianity, but to American/European culture. To Whipple, salvation includes men wearing trousers, having short hair, and farming their own plot of land. The changes he promoted, while well intentioned, ripped apart the fabric of Indian culture and led to generations of suffering.

Cupcake by Jenny Guillas Perez, 11th grade; *Cloud Box* by Kim Vargas Amador, 12th grade; *Yellow Sandal* by Zoe Hopper-Gramenz, 12th grade; *Blue Sandal* by Zoe Hopper-Gramenz, 12th grade



At this point, you may be asking why I said Tinker's book is a great example of power used well when it describes power being used poorly. The answer revolves around Tinker rather than Whipple and the other missionaries. Tinker was a member of the Osage Nation from Oklahoma, meaning he came from the community that the missionaries had harmed. He wrote long after they had died when they had no way of defending themselves. He could have written a damning book that condemned them as racist, genocidal individuals who caused the destruction of much of the Indian ways of life. He had the chance to paint them as villains who used God as a justification for hateful acts. He could have dwelt on the pain and suffering they caused, and then wished that same pain and suffering on them. He didn't.

Tinker is incredibly gracious throughout his book. He is clear about the destruction the missionaries caused, pointing out the contradictions between their goals on the one hand, and their complicity with governmental policy and of imposing their own culture on the Indians on the other hand. He uses their own letters and speeches to demonstrate that the missionaries had some understanding of the risks of their approach. But he never paints them as monsters or caricatures. Instead, he repeatedly says that they were the product of their

culture and the beliefs of their time. He argues that in many ways they could do no differently from what they did because of their social and intellectual limitations. He doesn't excuse the results of their work, but he doesn't wholeheartedly condemn them either.

Tinker's writing reflects his realization that anyone can use power badly. He sees the missionaries as products of their times, just as we are products of our times. The missionaries often were more enlightened than those around them and pushed society towards a more humane and respectful understanding of Native peoples. Likewise,

we all try to make society better. But we don't always agree on what "better" looks like, and in 100 years, others may look back on the mixed results of our efforts with either grace or condemnation. The graciousness that Tinker shows to his subjects is a wonderful example of power used well.

MARTI MALTBY is an avid cyclist, Director at Peace House Community, and an obnoxiously proud Canadian.

HOME | FOOD | CULTURE

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EPNI RECEIVED \$4 MILLION FROM STATE LEGISLATURE, CREATING A PATH TO PURCHASE ROOF DEPOT

This week was historic for the East Phillips community.

Details of the deal:

- The purchase will be finalized in the next few months
- The property will be split – a northern half and a southern half. The northern half will be retained for municipal use.
- EPNI will purchase the southern half for \$6.12 million. Funding sources are:
 - \$2 million of already awarded state funding in 2023
 - \$4 million in state bonding from the 2026 legislative session.
 - \$120,000 cash from EPNI.
- EPNI has signed a separate short term lease to begin building farm infrastructure in the Roof Depot southern parking lot and envisioning long-term development (see the Alley issue May, 2026)

Thank you for advocating over the last 12 years for a better future.

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION AT THE ROOF DEPOT ON JUNE 12, 4-6PM



From now until July 31, 2026, get **\$500 off of closing costs** on your mortgage loan!*

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JUNE EVENTS

The alley recommends confirming all events beforehand.

ARAGTI WADAAG RESIDENCY EXHIBIT Through June 20 Soomaal House Gallery 2200 Minnehaha Ave Minneapolis, MN 55404 Free

Aragti Wadaag Residency provides Somali-American artists with a supportive environment to think, work, and develop their creative practices. This year's residents are artists Abdimalik Ahmed, Miski Omar, Mumtaz Salad, and Sabrin Nur. A film Screening of *Nafta Neef Sii* with Sabrin Nur & Nadwa Hussein will be held on June 6, and an open Mic Night with Abdimalik Ahmed on June 13. Check the Soomaal House facebook page for details. Gallery Hours during the exhibit are 2 - 5 PM, Saturdays and Sundays.

BETTER THINGS 5X5 READING AND OPEN MIC Tuesday, June 2 7 PM Moon Palace Books 3032 Minnehaha Avenue Free

Re-Entry Lab's Better Things May 5X5 reading features 5 fantastic writers: mk zariel, Antonio Duke, Willard Malebear Jr., Adrien Wright, and Eemanna, followed by a community open mic hosted by Davi Gray and Erin Sharkey. ASL interpretation will be featured for the entire event. Please note that masks are required at Moon Palace Books. Learn more about this month's readers at reentrylab.org/better-things.

ILLUMINATING IMMIGRATION IN MEDIA: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES FROM SWEDEN AND THE TWIN CITIES Thursday, June 4 6 - 8 PM American Swedish Institute 2600 Park Avenue Sliding Scale: \$1 - \$20

Immigrant communities around the world have specific information needs and have historically benefited from news sources dedicated to their distinct experiences. Panelists from Sweden and Minnesota (*Sahan Journal*) will discuss their experiences working for mission-driven newsrooms covering stories for and about immigrants in Sweden and Minnesota. Registration: asimmn.org/events-calendar/illuminating-immigration-in-media-contemporary-perspectives-from-sweden-and-the-twin-cities/.

FOUR SISTERS FARMERS MARKET Thursdays through Oct. 11 AM - 3 PM 1414 E Franklin Avenue Free

The wait is over! Phillips' own neighborhood Market celebrating Indigenous pride, health, and well-being launches its season on Thursday June 4. Enjoy local food, handcrafts, and community spirit every Thursday through October. SNAP/EBT benefits, Market Bucks, Gus Produce Market Bucks, cash, and cards are accepted and welcome. Follow the Four Sisters Farmers Market facebook page for special weekly programming, including art making, music, and food.

ALL AT ONCE COLLECTIVE: BOUNDLESS / SIN LÍMITES June 4 - 14 Pillsbury House + Theatre \$5 - \$45

All at Once, a Twin Cities-based collective of puppeteers of color, presents a time-traveling puppetry performance depicting a young person who is carried through memory, myth, and the histories of South Minneapolis while sheltering from ICE. Blending visual storytelling with memory, myth, and place, All at Once creates an immersive experience that bridges personal and collective transformation. For showtimes and tickets, visit pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/production/all-at-once.

6TH ANNUAL POETRY AND JAZZ AT THE CEMETERY Saturday, June 6 2 PM Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery 2945 Cedar Ave S Free

Join neighbors and friends for relaxing afternoon of poetry and music by local artists in beautiful surroundings. Light refreshments will be served. Service animals only, please.

GRAVE MATTERS: THE STORY OF A CITY AS TOLD THROUGH ITS CEMETERY Sunday, June 7 1 - 2:30 PM Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery 2945 Cedar Ave S \$15 - \$20

Join Alex Weston from Hennepin History Museum for a guided walking tour of the historic Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery, home to a diverse cross-section of average Twin Cities' residents buried there between 1853 and 1919. The tour highlights forgotten individuals as opposed to the wealthy and well known in order to reconstruct a history of Minneapolis from the



The Somali Independence Day Festival on Lake Street.



A guided tour at Lake Street Mural Day.

"ground up." For more event details and to register, visit hennepinhistory.org/event/grave-matters-the-story-of-a-city-as-told-through-its-cemetery-3.

GUILLOTINE CITY June 11 - 14 Open Eye Theatre 506 E 24th Street Sliding scale: \$10-\$25

Presented by Commutator Collective, *Guillotine City* is a darkly comic neo-noir set in a not-so-distant future of the Twin Cities. The premise? A factory machinist is courted by two opposing political leaders: will she choose socialist revolution, charismatic politics, or a secret third path? Recommended for ages 13 and up. For details on the production and to get tickets visit openeyetheatre.org/guillotine-city.

LAKE STREET MURAL DAY Saturday, June 13 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Midtown Global Market 920 E Lake St Free

The third annual Lake Street Mural Day will be a four-hour free family-friendly event featuring self-guided and group mural tours, mural-themed games, and more - all experienced among 35+ businesses at the Midtown Global Market. Register for group tours is online at visitlakestreet.com/public-art; for all other activities, just show up!

MIDTOWN ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL June 13-14 Midtown Global Market 920 E Lake Street Free

Midtown Global Market is bringing back the Midtown Arts & Music Festival for its second year - now

SOMALI TRADITIONAL WEAVING WORKSHOP Saturday, June 13 2 - 4 PM Somali Museum 2925 Chicago Avenue Greenway basement (ground) level Free

Come join a hands-on cultural experience to learn traditional weaving techniques and create intricate and vibrant woven artworks. This is a wonderful space to learn and listen to the stories and experiences that shape this beautiful craft from the Somali Museum's Weaving Instructors. For more information, visit the Somali Museum of Minnesota facebook page.

READING BEYOND THE PAGE Saturday, June 13 3 PM Quatrefoil Library 1220 E Lake Street Free

This one-of-a-kind poetry event hosted by the pre-eminent 2SLGBTQIA+ library in the Twin Cities features the art of five writers who have gone into, though, around, and/or beyond gender(s). The readers are Tanesha Nicole Kozler, Alice Paige, July 23, Gene Gazelka, and Davi Gray. RSVP at qlibrary.org/event/reading-beyond-the-page.

MIDTOWN ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL June 13-14 Midtown Global Market 920 E Lake Street Free

The annual Somali Heritage and



LAKE STREET MPLS

extended to a full weekend of creativity, performances, and family-friendly fun all under one roof. Expect live music from Minnesota artists; cultural dance and interactive experiences; visual art from emerging and established artists, local makers and community educators; incredible global food and shopping. For schedule and programming details, visit the Midtown Global Market facebook page.

JUNETEENTH ICE CREAM SOCIAL Thursday, June 18 5 - 7 PM East Phillips Park 2307 17th Avenue S Free

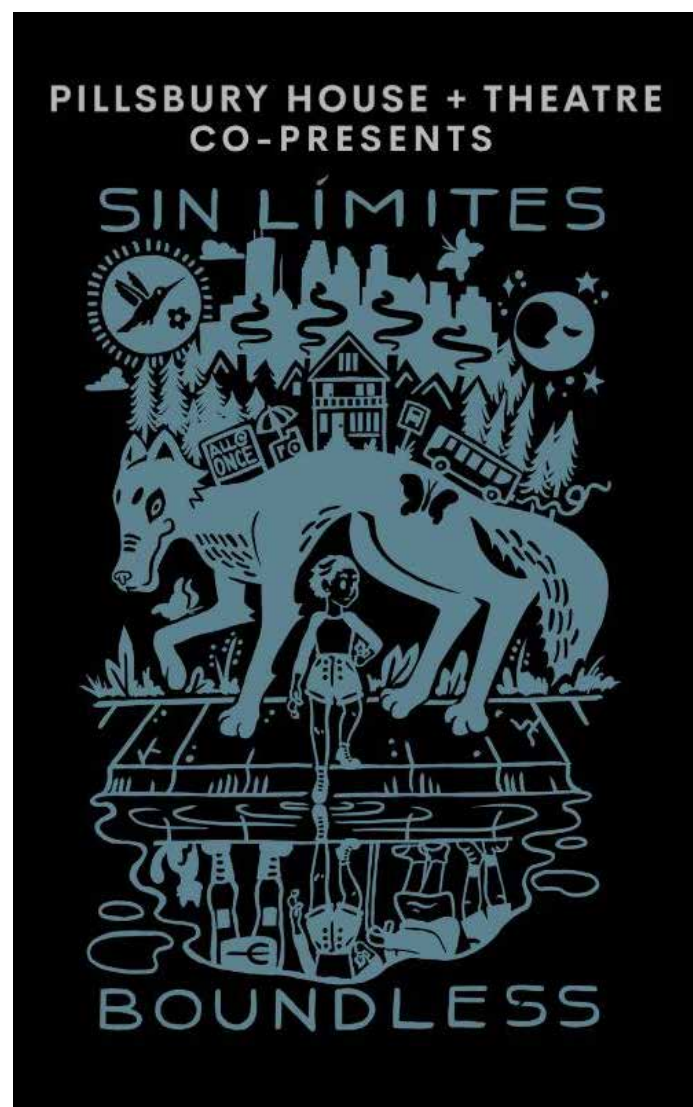
Cool off on a hot summer evening and join fellow neighbors for East Phillips' annual ice cream social honoring Juneteenth, a celebration of resilience and freedom. Expect community joy, ice cream, yard games, inflatables, and music for kids and families.

JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION Saturday, June 20 11 AM - 3 PM Midtown Global Market 920 E Lake Street Free

Celebrate this year's Freedom Day Celebration at Midtown on Saturday, June 20th. Details to come; check the Midtown Global Market facebook page for more information.

SOMALI HERITAGE AND ARTS SUMMER FESTIVAL Saturday, June 20 3 - 7 PM 806 E Lake Street Free

The annual Somali Heritage and



Arts Summer Festival is a joyful outdoor gathering dedicated to highlighting the powerful role of art in building community. With live traditional music, interactive art stations, and a marketplace featuring local Somali artists, it is a great opportunity for people of all backgrounds to honor heritage and explore how artistry connects us to one another.

ASI WORLD CUP VIEWING PARTIES June 20 and 25 American Swedish Institute 2600 Park Avenue Free w/admission

Watch two of Sweden's World Cup matches in great company at ASI. On June 20th at 12pm, Sweden goes head-to-head with the Netherlands. Come back on June 25th at 6pm to watch Sweden take on Japan. Details at asimmn.org/series/world-cup-viewing-parties.

SKATEBOARDING DAY AT ELLIOT Sunday, June 21 Noon - 7 PM Elliot Park 1000 E 14th Street Free

Do you love skateboarding or want to learn more about it? Skateboarding Day at Elliot Skate Park will feature fun for the whole family, including games, prizes, food trucks, music, and skateboarding related activities. Show off your skills in a contest, learn new ones from skate instructors, and see demonstrations by the pros. Explore local vendors then skate off into a group ride through the city! For more information call (612) 370-4772.

WORLD CUP ON LAKE STREET: A WEEK-LONG FUTBOL WATCH PARTY! June 23 - 27 El Nuevo Campo 2709 E Lake St Free

Like it or not, the World Cup is happening - and Lake Street is ready to experience it on a big screen along with local food, a beer tent, and plenty of cheering! Soak up everything Lake Street has to offer by grabbing takeout from one of the neighborhood's amazing local restaurants and setting up a blanket or chair wherever you like. It's a laid-back celebration of great soccer and the incredible local businesses that make Lake Street the place to be. For schedule information, refer to the World Cup on Lake Street event page on facebook (host is Lake Street Mpls), or visitlakestreet.com/events.

MIKWANEDUN AUDISOOKON CULTURAL CENTER GRAND OPENING Wednesday, June 24 1-4 PM 2313 13th Avenue S Free

Join the Indigenous Peoples Task Force in celebrating the grand opening of a new cultural center dedicated to Indigenous wellness through culture and the arts. Mikwanedun Audisookon, which means "remember our teachings," will provide a theater space, teaching garden, commercial kitchen, healing and clinical spaces. Everyone is invited to welcome and learn about this wonderful new space in our community.



LAKE STREET MPLS

Somali Independence Day Festival



World Cup on Lake Street: This year's watch parties begin on June 23rd.

FOUR SISTERS FARMERS MARKET JUNE/JULY SCHEDULE

June 4th - October 29th EVERY THURSDAY FROM 11 AM - 3PM 1414 E Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis MN

- JUNE 4: Opening Day - Music by Will They Kiss
- JUNE 11: Diabetes Friendly Food Demo & Bingo
- JUNE 18: Celebrating Indigenous Art with Artist in Residence Sydney Ockenga
- JUNE 25: Good Trouble - Seed Bomb Activity with EPNI
- JULY 2: Music at the Market - James Harvin
- JULY 9: Food Demo - Maternal Health Awareness
- JULY 16: Artist in Residence Sydney Ockenga
- JULY 23: Good Trouble - Water Talks and Drainage Marking with Hennepin County
- JULY 30: Wellbeing Fair

DIJONES@NACD.ORG 612.425.4678 EXT. 110 NACD.ORG

WIKIPEDIA DJ. KHALED

See more HEART OF THE ARTS on the back page!

HIS SECOND ALBUM WE THE BEST (2022) SPRAWLED THE HIT SINGLE "I'M SO HOOD" (FEATURING T-PAIN, TRICK DADDY, PINK ROSS AND PLEIS). HIS TWO SUBSEQUENT RELEASES—HE GLOBAL (2020) AND VICTORY (2019)—BOTH PEAKED WITHIN THE TOP TEN OF THE BILLBOARD 200. THE LATTER WAS SUPPORTED BY THE SINGLE "ALL I DO IS WIN" (FEATURING T-PAIN, LICKORS, SNOOP DOGG AND PINK ROSS), WHICH RECEIVED TRIPLE PLATINUM CERTIFICATION BY THE RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (RIAA).

FATHER OF ASAH (2019), CONTAINED THE SONG "HIGHER" (FEATURING NIPSEY HUSSLE AND JOHN LEGEND), WHICH WON BEST RAP/SUNG PERFORMANCE AT THE 62ND ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS—KHALED'S FIRST GRAMMY AWARD WIN. HIS EPONYMOUS TWELFTH ALBUM (2021) AND THIRTEENTH ALBUM, 600 DID (2022), BOTH DEBUTED ATOP THE BILLBOARD 200.

KHALID MUHAMMAD KHALID; BORN NOVEMBER 26, 1978) [3] IS AN AMERICAN DJ AND RECORD PRODUCER. ORIGINALLY A MIAMI-BASED RADIO PERSONALITY, KHALED HAS SINCE BECOME KNOWN FOR ENLISTING HIGH-PROFILE MUSIC INDUSTRY ARTISTS TO PERFORM ON SINGLES AND ALBUMS, FOR WHICH HE OFTEN SERVES AS PRODUCER AND HYPER MAN, KNOWN AS THE "ANTHEM KING". HIS DISTINCTIONS ARE HIS BOOMING VOICE PRESENCE, "MOTIVATIONAL" ABSTRACTS, MAXIMALIST PRODUCTION STYLE AND NUMEROUS CATCHPHRASES. [4]

Wikipedia DJ. KHALED by Liam Rosa, 9th grade

Midtown - East Phillips

Upcoming Events

Celebrating Our Roots
June 13th | TBD

This is a **free cooking class** with Samo and Nate, hosted by Minneapolis Edible Boulevards.

To learn more, visit:
<https://shorturl.at/KkuzB>

Monthly Community Meeting
June 24 | 6 PM -7:30 PM



In our previous community meeting, we held a grounding yoga class.

These monthly meetings serve as a space for **neighbors to come together and offer support**. As always, free food is provided, but you are welcome to bring something to share.

If you have an idea or concern about our neighborhood, feel free to stop by our community meeting or reach out to us.

For more event details, please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.unitedphillips.org>



Update From Board Chair

Dear Phillips Neighbors,

As the new board chair of Midtown and East Phillips Neighborhood Association, I am excited to share the exciting things happening! In April, the two neighborhood associations of **Midtown Phillips (MPNAI)** and **East Phillips (EPIC)** merged. This new chapter for our organizations will build on the impactful ways we have been working together over the last four years, and alongside each other for the decades before.

After moving to Phillips in 2018, I began to realize how truly special this neighborhood is and the possibilities that are held here. I am grateful for the collective wisdom and commitment of our neighbors who built our organizations, served as board members in the past, and for those who have become involved as staff, committee members, volunteers, and attendees of our events and programs through the years. It has never been clearer to me that we know how to show up for each other and make Phillips a place where everyone feels welcome and can thrive.

While much of the work to prepare for this merger was completed before I became board chair, I am excited to partner with my fellow board members and the organization's staff to steward this process.

Here's a few things I'm looking forward to:

- **Strategic Planning:** The board and staff will engage in a strategic planning process this summer to help us chart the course for the next three years and lay the groundwork for the future.
- **Increased Capacity:** The merger has led to a larger board that is already forming committees that serve our neighborhoods; these committees have members across the neighborhoods, and I look forward to the work they will do together to ensure that resources are shared equitably. Additionally, more people mean more connections! I look forward to having more opportunities to reach out to neighbors. Some committees that are in the works or are being strengthened are the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Crime and Safety Committee, and Garden Committee.
- **Increased Community Input:** The momentum from the merger and our upcoming strategic plan positions us to reach out and be in conversation with you more often. This input will help us govern and effectively guide the staff that both Midtown and East Phillips have shared for the past few years.

Thanks for being a resident of Midtown and East Phillips. I hope to see you out at an upcoming event!

Sincerely,
Brett Bellows



Call for copyediting volunteers! make an impact in local, community-based journalism

Time commitment: 3-5 hours a month
Email: copydesk@alleynews.org

See more HEART OF THE ARTS on the back page!



Sandbucket by Hamze Mahamey

Construction has Started to Restore Land, Water and Bluff near Owámmiyomni (St. Anthony Falls) in Minneapolis

Project supported by new \$4.7 million grant

OWÁMMIYOMNI OKHÓDAYAPI



To mark the beginning of the project, a private ground blessing ceremony to honor the land was held with project supporters and Tribal leaders on April 27.

By OWÁMMIYOMNI OKHÓDAYAPI

After 10 years of community-led discussions, Tribal engagement, fundraising and project design, the Dakota-led nonprofit Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi has started construction on the restoration of a five-acre site at Owámmiyomni (St. Anthony Falls), adjacent to the Upper Lock on Ĥaĥa Wakpá (Mississippi River) in Minneapolis.

Once complete, the restoration will create both a wildlife habitat and human experience at one of Minnesota's most popular and iconic outdoor spaces that reflects the significance of the sacred Dakota site before colonization.

Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi recently received a \$4.7 million grant from Mellon Foundation, directly supporting the immediate land transformation work.

"This moment marks more than the start of construction for the Owámmiyomni project – it is a step toward healing a sacred Dakota place, restoring our relationship with the land and water, and making Dakota people visible in our homelands again," said Shelley Buck, president of Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi. "We are deeply grateful for this transformative gift of nearly \$5 million from Mellon Foundation, which helps make it possible to bring Dakota voices, values and stewardship back to the River, while fundamentally reshaping how people understand Mnisota and healing historical wounds. We are grateful that the Mellon Foundation recognizes the significance of Native-leadership, tribal sovereignty and community healing. Together, we are ensuring this place is honored not as a resource, but as a living relative for generations to come."

The restoration will occur over a phased timeline, with phase one focused on the land and plant elements in 2026-2027. Phase two, which will focus on water and shoreline restoration, is planned for 2028.

Project construction began in mid-May 2026 to start the land transformation of the Owámmiyomni project, focused on site preparation and planting. Initial activities to prepare the site include removing the second level of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers central control station, a non-functioning restroom facility and the Upper Lock parking lot. Security fencing and utilities will also be relocated. From there, planting will begin to reintroduce Native species at the site, including oak savanna and upland prairie, using seeds and soils sourced from Dakota Tribal lands in Minnesota.

While the site will be closed for construction until spring 2027, the public is invited to visit the surrounding area, attend interpretive tours and participate in programming at the new Owámmiyomni Engagement Space, adjacent to the project site and located in the Crown Plaza building.

Funding for the Owámmiyomni restoration comes from a mix of public and private funders as the organization leads a \$60 million fundraising campaign. To date, \$40.5 million has been raised, thanks to early support from Paul and Mary Reyelts, Mark and Nancy Wilson, Mellon Foundation, Bush Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis Foundation, and hundreds of additional supporters. Funding is also provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Outdoor Heritage Fund.

The organization is on track to gain ownership of the federal land through conveyance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in late 2026.

About Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi

Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi is a Dakota-led organization creating a future where Dakota culture has a vital presence and Dakota values – such as mni wičóni, or water is life – are embedded into Minnesotans' communal existence. For more information, visit owammiyomni.org.

HENNEPIN COUNTY MINNESOTA

HHS/HCMC Update

The 2026 Minnesota State legislative session ended on May 18. Lawmakers voted to provide significant and much needed support for Hennepin Healthcare.

While more work lies ahead, this legislation provides stability and lays the groundwork for continued collaboration on long-term solutions that will protect access to care.

Key components include:

- Immediate funding to support the hospital this year (\$205 million)
- A long-term reserve to provide financial stability through 2031
- A state-led task force beginning in August to help shape future governance and financing

For an update on the broader legislative actions passed, please view my June Newsletter.



Angela Conley
District 4
Commissioner
District 4 Office
612-348-7884

A-2400 Government Center
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

NACo's inaugural Public Health Leadership Academy (PHLA)

Last summer I was appointed to NACo's Healthy Counties Innovation Council, which elevates trends and innovations in how Counties can promote and protect the health and wellbeing of residents.

I will be traveling to DC this month with Hennepin County ACA Sara Hollie to learn how to become better public health champions in our communities.

Leadership Positions on Board Committees

- Intergovernmental Relations Co-chair
- Public Health Chair
- Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Chair

Sign up for District 4 Newsletter



hennepincounty.gov/angelaconley

Keep up to date with on socials



Please reach out with questions, comments, or to learn more about how to get involved.

This space paid for by Commissioner Angela Conley

Movie Corner
Michael



2026
Biopic
Lionsgate

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II

When I first saw the trailers for *Michael* in January and February I was elated to say the least to see director Antoine Fugal's *Michael*. Every day on YouTube, television, and elsewhere, the public was inundated with the trailers on Michael Jackson. And why not? The late Michael Jackson, the top entertainer-dancer-singer on Earth, dazzled millions of fans across the globe. After all, wouldn't this be the "perfect" biopic?

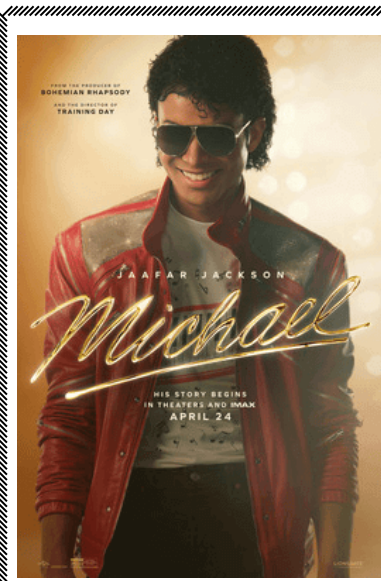
The film opens up in 1966 with the Jackson 5 and concludes with a big-time performance at Wembley Stadium in 1988. Michael's nephew Jafaar Jackson plays him. Michael and his siblings are growing up in Gary, Indiana, in a Black working class neighborhood under an authoritarian father. Joe Jackson is aptly performed by Colman Domingo and he drills his sons to be the best musicians in the music business, both R&B and Pop, with the help of Motown mogul, Berry Gordy. The children's mother, Katherine Jackson, is raising her children in the Jehovah Witness sect. Outside of one scene when Katherine mentions "Jehovah" briefly to a young Michael, there's nothing else that hints of a religious household.

The screenplay by John Logan (*Alien: Covenant*) is clumsy, vapid and tacky. Granted, it's no easy task to make a good biopic, but what happens here is inexcusable. What Jaffar Jackson does with his uncle's dance steps and singing on stage with such precision is as if he resurrected his uncle just for the movie. To say the story is flawed is an understatement. There are the scenes where Michael decides to get plastic surgery for his nose (to make it less "Negro-like") and he tells people why his skin is two or three shades lighter. The lighting of skin or just being color struck about psychological issues among many Black people historically.

The fact that Michael's other three siblings Janet, Randy and Rebbie are absent from the movie is just another reason to view the film in a negative manner. There were several legal battles behind the scenes with the Jackson estate which caused some production issues. Still, to leave main characters of the family out is not good at all, especially when it's about somebody as great as Michael Jackson. The film ends with the all-out performance at Wembley Stadium in 1988. That of course is before he's



Howard McQuitter II



Lionsgate

Cast: Jafaar Jackson (Michael), Nia Long (Katherine Jackson), Colman Domingo (Joseph Jackson), Jayden Harville (Young Jermaine), Juliano Valdi (Young Michael), Jaylen Lyndon Hunter (Young Marlon), Judah Edwards (Young Tito Jackson), Nathaniel Logan McIntyre (Young Jackie Jackson), Amaya Mendoza (Young La Toya Jackson), Larenz Tate (Berry Gordy), Kendrick Sampson (Quincy Jones).
Director: Antoine Fuqua; **Writer:** John Logan; **Cinematographer:** Dion Beebe
Running time: 127 minutes.
Rating: PG-13

under accusations of pederasty (the first accusations became public in 1993). Fugal and Logan sanitize *Michael* to an embarrassing level. Last but not least, the question should be asked: with Fugal's hackneyed *Michael* would the

film have been in better hands of Ryan Coogler, Jordan Peele, Berry Jenkins, Ava Du Vernay, Spike Lee or Kasi Lemmons?

HOWARD MCQUITTER II is a longtime movie critic. He has been reviewing movies for the *alley* since 2002.

Raise Your Voice
PHOTO: At the Capitol

By PETER MOLENAAR



Peter Molenaar



The May Issue of the alley rendered space to a Somali perspective in the aftermath of operation Metro-Surge. The above photo, taken not long ago, captured the integrity of a community, the essence of their prayer: hear the whimpering of babies beneath the rubble of Gaza.

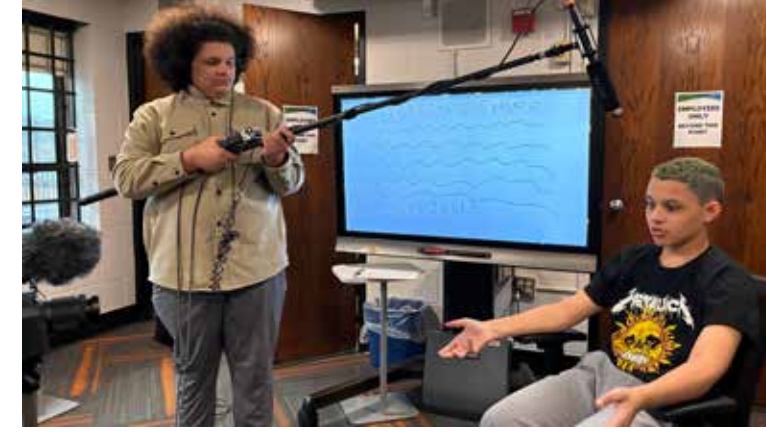
PETER MOLENAAR advocates a broad united-front, even as he describes socialism as the future solution.

Spark'd, cont.

from page 1...

Spark'd Studios being a year-round 3rd space for them, where they can spend time and make friends in addition to other traditional recreational opportunities such as sports and outdoor enrichment activities. Spark'd Studios has also helped to expand inclusion initiatives at the Park Board.

With the growing importance of media literacy and technology in young people's daily lives, self-expression, education, and future career opportunities, Spark'd Studios offer both structured classes and flexible drop-in opportunities designed to meet youth where they are and encourage creativity, collaboration, and exploration. Drop-in programming provides weekly access to studio equipment and resources for activities such as open gaming, computer use, homework help, audio recording, and digital design. Structured programs throughout the year introduce youth to creative and technical fields including creative writing, graphic design, video production, music production, podcasting, visual arts, photography, sports media, STEM, and more. In addition, the studio supports a variety of fun games, field trips, and collaborates with existing programs offered within each recreation center to provide well-rounded opportunities for social engagement and community development.



COURTESY MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND REC

Making a movie.



COURTESY MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND REC

Open Studio attendees!

Construction at PCC will last throughout the summer, with the new Spark'd Studio and Community Room opening by late fall of 2026.

All of Spark'd programs are FREE for Minneapolis Residents to participate.

Youth and families can browse our programs and register online: <https://www.minneapolisparksparks.org/sparkd>

Programs include: Making a Music Video, Girls in Tech Club, Nature Photography, Poster Design, Beats Making etc....

Questions? Email us at sparkdmpls@gmail.com or visit us online at <http://www.minneapolisparksparks.org/sparkd>

Machine Class, cont.

from page 1...

it's going to be strictly elective, meaning whoever chooses to take it takes it, and I'm afraid of my numbers being really low. I'm not confident a lot of people would take the shuttle for half the day."

Hyser says that he will certainly get students who are more serious and committed to machining as a potential career, but by moving it to Roosevelt, it isn't as likely to be introduced to new students.

At South, it is an elective, but sometimes electives fill up, and counselors will put people into machine shop. "There are a lot of students who are being introduced to machining who never would've before, and that won't happen next year." Hyser says that he has been able to introduce many students to vocational trades as a career who may not have considered them before.

Miles Novak, a freshman currently enrolled in machining at South, says that he is disappointed that it is moving to Roosevelt because it is one of his favorite classes. "I wanted to keep taking [machining], but it seems like a big hassle to take the shuttle to Roosevelt every day." Novak is

confused about why the district is putting in so much effort to move the machines to Roosevelt when they are already being thoroughly used and appreciated at South.

It seems that the district is putting in a lot of effort to move the machine shop to Roosevelt when it is already having a greatly positive impact on the students at South. Without a machine shop at South, a lot of students will be left without a great opportunity to learn about engineering.

It isn't feasible for most students to take a shuttle to Roosevelt for half of the day just to take a machining class when most students don't have other classes they are looking to take at Roosevelt. Moving machining to Roosevelt will prevent a lot of students from being introduced to engineering at a young age, and it isn't an equitable use of resources to move equipment around just to categorize electives, especially when South has yet to become an elective center for any category.

HOLDEN LARSON is a freshman staff writer in his first year working with the *Southerner*. Larson joined the *Southerner* to improve his skills as a writer and contribute to something positive at South. Larson participates in the South jazz band, where he practices guitar and drums every morning.

Memories, cont.

from page 1...

instrumental in keeping himself and three other soldiers safe after they had gotten separated from their battalion in France. In trying to return to their battalion, they had stumbled across a camp of German soldiers set up in small depression. Neil spearheaded a plan to shoot over the heads of the Germans from multiple angles, making it seem as if there were far more American soldiers than there were.

Their battalion finally found them, and were able to capture an entire camp of German soldiers without any injuries to either side. We never knew until 2004, years after Neil had passed.

After the war, Neil ran one of the newspapers in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. That was my family's business, and sparked my own interest in newspapers. (I am currently the layout designer for the newspaper you are holding in your hand!) My mom would tell me about Christmas Eves spent in the print shop, the whole family pitching in to lay type for printing the next day's paper. In those days, you had to physically make each newspaper plate by placing metal type together in the form before running it through the ink presses.

My grandfather never spoke of the war, but he was quietly and vehemently anti-war. He would run a full page in the paper that merely said,

"WAR IS HELL. Seems to me we should figure some way to stop it!"

He got a lot of push back in Pine Bluff for publicly using the word 'hell'.

Later, an internet search pulled up a gift my grandfather sent to Lyndon B. Johnson. During the Vietnam War, he sent a shovel to the White House with a note saying that Lyndon should personally bury every soldier who died in Vietnam. That shovel is kept somewhere in the National Archives, in an interesting collection of "gifts" sent to Presidents over the years.

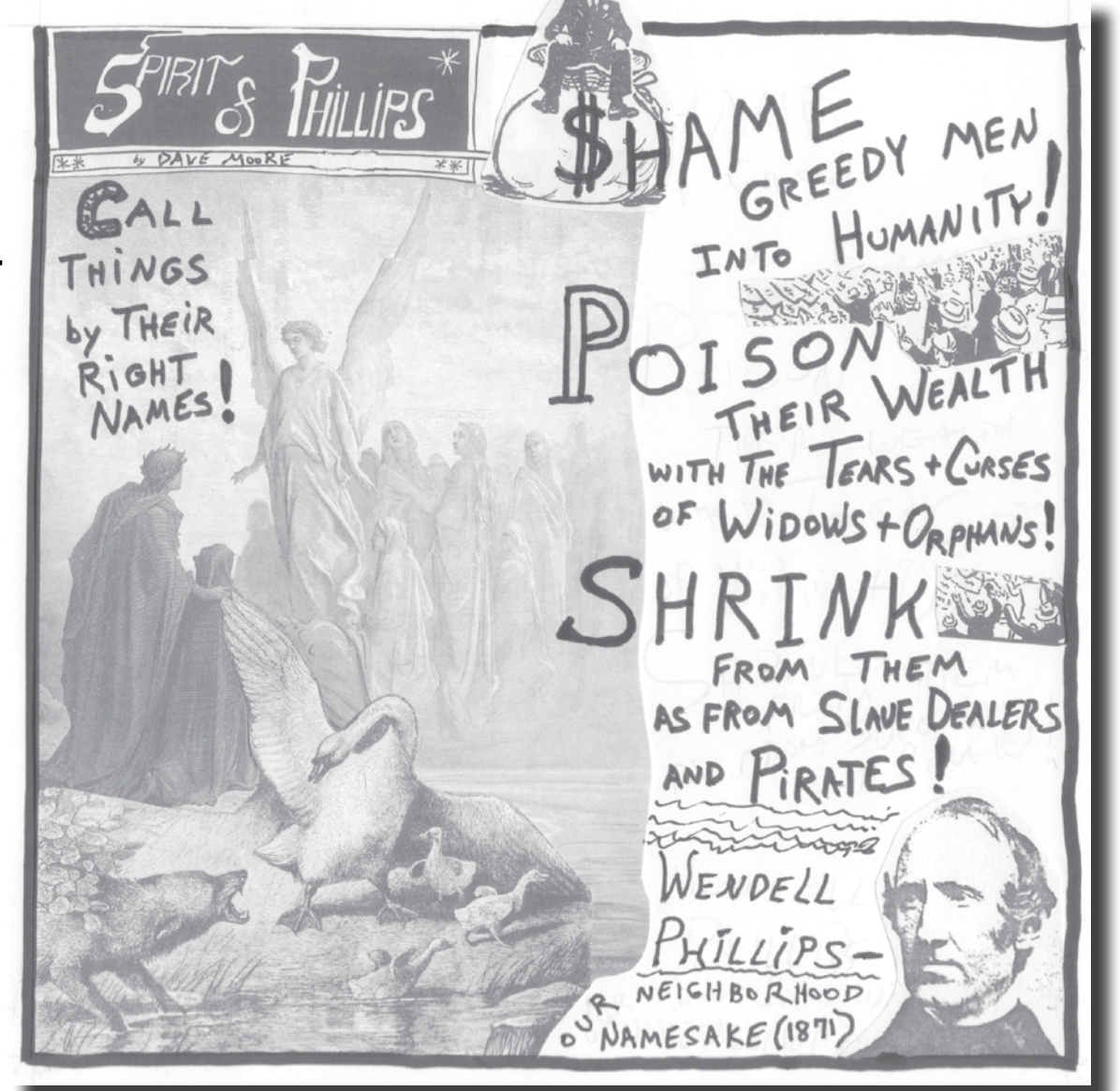
The memories of the war were hard for my grandfather, and he never really recovered. These days we'd probably say he suffered PTSD along with addiction, which often go hand in hand. He is remembered fondly and loved, though the alcoholism was a constant ghost in his relationships with his family.

Neil Clark died in 1998 when I was 8 years old, and my memories were of a gentle man who gave me his old binoculars and would go on walks with me around the trailer park in Pine Bluff he lived in, pointing out birds and trees. He taught me how to identify my first plant - sassafras. Everytime I see sassafras or smell anything that smells like sassafrilla or root beer, I think of my grandfather.

He lived his life struggling with the aftermath of war, and knew very acutely that war was never to be entered flippantly, under false pretenses, or before every other diplomatic option had been exhausted.

MATTIE WONG is the layout and graphic designer for the *alley*. She daylights as a ecological landscape designer with Radicle Land Collective.

PHILLIPS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION
COMMUNITY MEETING
NEIGHBORHOOD LAND DEVELOPMENT
JUNE 11, 2026 // 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
CENTER FOR CHANGING LIVES (2400 PARK AVENUE)
There's a lot of construction and lot development happening in our neighborhood this year, some new projects and some continuing. June's Community Meeting will feature representatives from neighborhood development projects who will provide updates about the projects and answer questions. Food will be provided



▲ DAVE MOORE & LINNEA HADAWAY have lived here since the Reagan 80s and became life partners while originating the cartoon series "Spirit of Phillips."



HEART OF THE ARTS 2026

HEART OF THE ARTS was held at Modus Locus Gallery from May 1st - 14th. Warm shout out to the visual art teachers, without whom we could not enjoy these works of art: **Drew Nelson**, Drawing I-II, Sculpture, Art Club | **Corbin Doty**, Comic Art & Design | **David Olson**, Ceramics | **Cynthia Berger**, 3-D Art, 2-D Art, Drawing, Painting

Special thanks to South High Foundation for their longtime support of the arts at South High School. Thanks, too, to Ephraim Eusebio of Modus Locus Gallery for hosting the Spring Art Show these past many years.



Dorothy for Halloween by Caroline Luhman, 10th grade; *The Lorax*, by Freya Bowman, 11th grade



Phones by [top] Clare Mallery, 12th grade; [middle] Carlee Laroque, 9th grade; [lower] Mathew Panora, 9th grade



Ceramic Heads (left to right): Butthead by Phoebe Martinson 11th grade; *So Beautiful* by Maryam Jeylani, 10th grade; *Luffy* by Terrell Kirkpatrick 12th grade; *Lucky* by Jordan Toaquiza, 11th grade; *Gem* by Ricardo Ocampo, 12th grade; *Self-Love* by Rebecca Ruis, 11th grade; *Dobby* by Lillian Singleton Hill, 11th grade



Calaveras by Ceramics 1 Students, grades 9 -12



Record Player by Margaret Osgood, 12th grade; *Whale Shark* by Wren Close, 9th grade; *Robot* by Remy Sanchez, 11th grade; *Guitar* by Ricardo Ocampo Baron, 12th grade; *Hammerhead Shark*, Anonymous

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We are grateful to the Minneapolis Institute of Art for sponsoring this year's Heart of the Arts spread of South High School artists.

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