



# The Minnesota Star Tribune

The state party says it found “substantial failures” in the Minneapolis convention’s voting process.

By RYAN FAIRCLOTH, MATT MCKINNEY and SUSAN DU  
The Minnesota Star Tribune

The Minnesota DFL took the unprecedented step Thursday of revoking the local party’s endorsement of state Sen. Omar Fateh in the Minneapolis mayor’s race, citing “substantial failures in the convention’s voting process.”

Fateh, a democratic social-

ist challenging Mayor Jacob Frey, won the endorsement at the end of a Minneapolis DFL convention in July that saw dozens of challenges, delays and miscounted votes. The local party’s endorsement of Fateh raised his profile and brought comparisons to New York lawmaker and fellow democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani, who won the mayoral primary in New York City.

On Thursday, the state DFL’s Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee released a report that found that the electronic system used by the Minneapolis branch of the party at its convention was “substantially flawed.” The first ballot in the mayoral endorsing contest was undercounted by 176 votes, the state party said.

As a result, candidate DeWayne Davis was improperly

dropped from contention when he should have made it to the second ballot, the report said. For those reasons, the committee concluded that the first and second rounds of voting for the mayoral endorsement “must be disregarded in [their] entirety.”

The decision means Fateh will no longer be identified as the DFL-backed candidate in the race. He also won’t have access to party lists of voters and other

resources.

Graham Faulkner, Fateh’s co-campaign manager, admonished the state DFL committee for its decision. He said that “28 mostly outstate, establishment Democrats, including many Frey donors and supporters, met privately and voted to overturn the will of Minneapolis residents.”

“Our campaign sees this for

**SEE MAYOR ON A10 »**



Mayoral candidate Omar Fateh



THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR



## Let the fun begin

Minnesotans beelined to the State Fairgrounds on Thursday as the 12-day Great Minnesota Get-Together opened in Falcon Heights. Clockwise from top, fairgoers get a bird’s-eye view from aboard the SkyGlider; a newborn lamb explores her pen alongside her mother at the Miracle of Birth Center, and hungry visitors wait for cinnamon rolls as night fell. The State Fair runs through Labor Day.

Photos by ALEX KORMANN and JEFF WHEELER • The Minnesota Star Tribune

## Space, the final frontier – admission is free

Story by ELEANOR HILDEBRANDT • Photo by ANTHONY SOUFFLÉ  
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Call it one giant leap for the Minnesota State Fair.

The Great Minnesota Get-Together features extraterrestrial items this year, including a moon rock, with NASA and the Science Museum of Minnesota’s exhibits at the North End Event Center.

“NASA Lands at the Fair for the First Time,” a program highlighting the future of space travel and exploration, will coincide with Journey to Space until Sunday.

Members of NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Cleveland will be at the fair for the first four days. Mike Lammers, an Albert Lea (Minn.) High School graduate and deputy chief flight director at Houston’s Johnson Space Center, was there on opening day Thursday talking to fairgoers.

“It’s cool that people are interested in what we do at NASA,” Lammers said. “You come back and people think that it’s

**SEE NASA ON A7 »**



A Minnesota State Fair visitor checks out spacesuits on opening day Thursday at the Science Museum’s Journey to Space exhibit.

## Trump fine tossed; fraud case proceeds

Court: \$450M judgment was too high, but he still committed the crime.

By JONAH E. BROMWICH and BEN PROTESS • The New York Times

NEW YORK - A divided New York appeals court on Thursday threw out a half-billion-dollar judgment against President Donald Trump, eliminating an enormous financial burden while preserving the fraud case against him, a remarkable turn in the battle between the president and one of his fiercest foes.

One of the judges, Peter Moulton, concluded that while Trump had done harm in inflating the value of his properties and other assets, “it was not the

cataclysmic harm that can justify a nearly half-billion-dollar award to the state.”

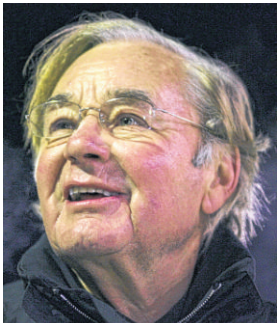
But the decision to eliminate the penalty was a rare point of agreement among the five-judge panel, whose lengthy ruling otherwise reflected deep discord.

While the court effectively upheld the fraud judgment against the president, several of the justices raised major questions about the case, which was decided by a state trial judge last year. A primary goal of their decision was to allow Trump to move to New York’s highest court, giving him another opportunity to challenge the finding that he was a fraudster.

Despite the complexities, Thursday’s ruling handed

**SEE TRUMP ON A3 »**

**D.C. crackdown:** Trump says Washington operation may be model. **A4**



**ERICH SAILER**  
1925-2025

### He turned Buck Hill into ‘slalom factory’

By ALEX CHHITH and BOB TIMMONS  
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Erich Sailer, a legend of Minnesota downhill ski racing who made little Buck Hill in Burnsville a launchpad for Olympians and thousands of others in the sport, has died.

Sailer, 99, taught more than 25,000 skiers in his career and was honored in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. He was credited with having a hand in coaching the entire U.S. women’s Olympic slalom team in 2002. Locally, he helped make Buck Hill, with just a 310-foot vertical drop, a “slalom factory.”

Lindsey Vonn, his most celebrated student, quickly honored her old coach upon the news of his death on Tuesday.

“There is no doubt that I would not be the person or skier I am today without him. The entire ski racing community would not be the same without him,” the three-time Olympic

**SEE SAILER ON A6 »**

## More price-wary shoppers pick Walmart over Target

By CARSON HARTZOG  
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Walmart continues to gain momentum – and market share – as back-to-school shopping winds down, leaving Target and other competitors struggling to keep up.

Executives at both companies said they remain cautious about the holiday shopping season, as tariffs slowly push prices higher.

However, Walmart executives said Thursday consumers were still willing to spend, even

as middle- and lower-income shoppers pull back on some discretionary purchases.

Walmart and Target are widely seen as predictors of consumer mood because of their nationwide reach. With costs rising because of tariffs and other factors, the retailers said they were making decisions daily about merchandise and pricing.

Minneapolis-based Target reported Wednesday that same-store sales were down more than 3% for May, June and July.

**SEE CONSUMERS ON A7 »**