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2026 PULITZER PRIZE



FOR BREAKING NEWS

H: 97° L: 77° | HOT; STORMS LATE

AIPAC looms over state Senate race

Even as lobby group becomes key issue for Democrats, role in election is unclear.

By SYDNEY KASHIWAGI
The Minnesota Star Tribune

In Minnesota's race for its next U.S. senator, the Democratic Party's divide over Israel has become impossible to ignore.

For decades, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee — the influential lobbying group that advocates for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship — has

spent millions supporting Democrats and Republicans who support their mission.

But the war in Gaza and now Iran has fractured Democrats over Israel, and a candidate's relationship with AIPAC has become almost as politically important as their position on

the conflict itself.

Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan has seized on that shift, making AIPAC one of her sharpest lines of attack against rival Rep. Angie Craig. She has portrayed the organization as part of "a band of super villains" in the race while criticizing Craig for

accepting its support in previous congressional campaigns.

Craig has responded by emphasizing that she isn't accepting AIPAC money in the Senate race while defending her record on Israel and Gaza.

The political reality, however, is more complicated than

either campaign suggests.

While Flanagan has cast AIPAC as a defining contrast with Craig, the group's role in Minnesota's Senate race is difficult to pin down. And before making AIPAC one of the central targets of her campaign, **SEE AIPAC ON A8 »**



GENERAL MILLS FIGHTS TO KEEP ITS RELEVANCE

One of Minnesota's oldest companies struggles to win back shoppers and return to growth.

Story by VICTOR STEFANESCU • Photo by AARON LAVINSKY • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Minneapolis' new crowd-drawing bar Lonely's offers typical fare such as \$18 pitchers of Budweiser. But for the menu at the watering hole, part-owner Eric Odness wanted to include a staple in his home: \$7 pizza rolls.

"It was just something kind of simple and fun," Odness said of General Mills' Totino's snacks. "And I think they're delicious."

General Mills is striving to make everybody think like Odness — to stay relevant as American diets shift again.

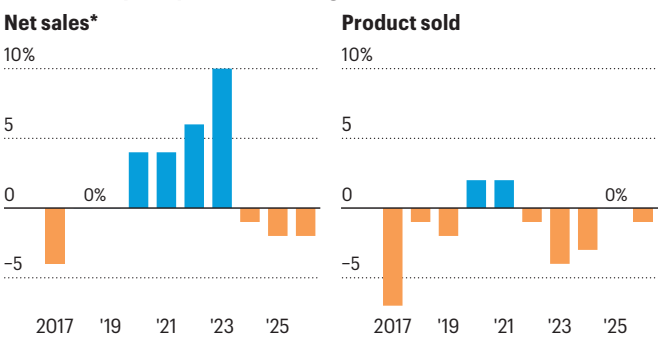
The 160-year-old maker of household staples is facing declining profits and revenue as it struggles to lure shoppers to its marquee brands such as Cheerios, Gushers and Pillsbury dough.

Even a pandemic boost that sent sales higher was short-lived because the company raised prices across its portfolio — a move industry watchers said went on for too long and sent too many of their customers to cheaper products.

SEE GENERAL MILLS ON A11 »

GENERAL MILLS SEES DECLINING SALES

Year-over-year percent change



*Adjusted to control for irregularities in sales due to foreign currency translation, acquisitions, divestitures and a 53rd week impact; Fiscal calendar ends last Sunday in May.

Source: General Mills

JIM FOSTER • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Post Modern Times now reckoning with an exhausted neighborhood

Story by JENNIFER BROOKS • Photo by ANTHONY SOUFFLÉ • The Minnesota Star Tribune

A Minneapolis restaurant took prices off the menu.

Neighbors say they paid a price.

It's been six months since the cafe on the corner of Chicago Avenue and East 32nd Street

changed its name from Modern Times to Post Modern Times and stopped charging for food.

Money or no money, anyone could get a smile, a table, a meal. Anyone but federal immigration agents.

It was a feel-good story in the bleakest days of the ICE surge and as news spread on social media, a reported half-million dollars in donations poured in. Enough money for owner Dylan Alverson to keep running his restaurant

on donations and goodwill.

But donations ran low, and so did neighborhood goodwill.

Alverson announced last Friday that the restaurant is closing for a few weeks, starting Sunday,

SEE POST MODERN ON A8 »





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