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FOR BREAKING NEWS

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Poll finds Flanagan leading vs. Tafoya



Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan

In Minnesota Poll, Hennepin and Ramsey counties give Democrat edge in U.S. Senate race.

By WALKER ORENSTEIN
The Minnesota Star Tribune

DFL Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan has a modest lead over Republican Michele Tafoya in Minnesota's U.S. Senate race, one of the few seats the GOP hopes to flip in a year when the party is facing a tough political environment nationwide.

The results of the latest Star Tribune/KARE 11 Minnesota Poll show Flanagan's lead coming from huge margins in Hennepin

and Ramsey counties, reflecting an electorate that is unhappy with President Donald Trump. That is complicating Tafoya's hopes of pulling an upset in a state that hasn't elected a Republican to the U.S. Senate since 2002.

Tim Knight, a programmer and political independent, said he has grown disillusioned with a Democratic Party he believes is too beholden to corporate interests. But he's backing Flanagan because of her progressive poli-

tics, refusal to accept corporate PAC contributions and emphasis on reducing the influence of billionaires in politics.

Knight, a veteran, said his decision to vote for Flanagan and other Democrats down the ballot this year is also driven by his opposition to Trump, particularly the administration's war in Iran.

"I am aghast at what Trump has done under his leadership. He's taking us down a really ugly road," Knight said.

Still, the polling vindicates Tafoya's belief that she is bucking national trends and locked in a tight race in left-leaning Minnesota. Republicans have a chance here, even though polling shows Democrats are more enthusiastic about voting and the GOP is scrambling to defend seats in typically conservative states like Iowa, Kansas and Texas.

Fraud in social services programs under the Walz-Flanagan

SEE POLL ON A5 »



Michele Tafoya

MINN. PRIVATE COLLEGES TOUT THEIR AFFORDABILITY



As families balk at costs, some schools cut tuition and debt and promote budget friendliness.

Story by ERIN ADLER
Photos by RENÉE JONES SCHNEIDER
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Several Minnesota private colleges have recently introduced creative efforts to prove to students and parents that they're affordable, both in the cost of attending now – tuition, room and board and fees – and the amount of loan debt students will owe after graduation.

From Winona to St. Paul, colleges and universities' new strategies include a "no-loans" program for Carleton College students getting financial aid, slashing the base tuition price at Concordia University, St. Paul and a St. Mary's University of Minnesota initiative to help pay back loans post-graduation if alumni earn lower salaries.

"The cost of college is a mystery and the only thing that people have is the



WITHIN FINANCIAL REACH

At top, first-year nursing students Brianna Asante and Gavin Vang work on dosage math in the student center at Concordia University, St. Paul on Thursday. Above, the students share a laugh. Concordia has slashed its base tuition price.

impression that it keeps on going up," said Mark Kantrowitz, a college finance expert who tracks colleges' affordability efforts. "Colleges face challenges where families are increasingly price-sensitive and focused on affordability."

Many families won't even consider attending a school when they see the high "sticker price" listed on its website and brochures. Even if few students actually pay that amount, many people don't know that and are scared off, college officials said. Students and families are also more resistant to taking on loans.

"It seems clear that the fear of debt is really changing students' college choices and it's also constraining their future options," said Alison Byerly, Carleton College's president.

Families are also increasingly looking

SEE COLLEGES ON A5 »

Rhetoric by Trump is testing GOP pitch

Demuth, Tafoya reject his remarks on Somalis.

By BRIANA BIRSCHBACH
and WALKER ORENSTEIN
The Minnesota Star Tribune

In a social media post Thursday afternoon, President Donald Trump accused Somali immigrants of bringing violence to Minnesota and urged residents to "fight back."

Hours earlier, Republican candidate for governor Lisa Demuth had offered a very different message. At a brewery a few miles from Eden Prairie High School, she was asked what she would say to Minnesota's Somali community after a reportedly gang-related shooting outside the school's homecoming football game injured two people.

"Everyone deserves safe communities," Demuth replied.

By Friday, Demuth had put more distance between herself and the president's post, which some groups called an incitement to violence.

"President Trump doesn't speak for my campaign, and it's not language I would have used," she said in a statement to the Minnesota Star Tribune.

Republican U.S. Senate nominee Michele Tafoya also pushed back: "No, I do not think President Trump's post was helpful or appropriate."

Their responses come as Minnesota Republicans try to make public safety a defining issue in the campaign's final weeks. Demuth said Thursday that recent violence had brought it "to the top of all Minnesotans' minds," arguing that tougher prosecution and sentencing would make communities safer.

Tafoya has also cited the Eden Prairie shooting while criticizing Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan's record on policing.

Republicans see a chance to regain ground in suburbs shaken by the shootings after more than a decade of Democratic

SEE TRUMP ON A8 »

U.N. issues a warning vs. mind-reading technology

Could be used to access innermost thoughts.

By JONATHAN MOENS
The New York Times

The scenarios sound like science fiction: Police officers accessing data contained in suspects' brains to forcefully extract information, or to predict if offenders might plan to commit future crimes.

But the secretary-general of the United Nations warned Thursday for the first time that neurotechnologies are

advancing so rapidly that governments' ability to access and manipulate people's brains could one day pose a threat to fundamental human rights.

The abuse of future technologies, Secretary-General António Guterres warned, could lead to arbitrary detentions, the alteration of people's mental states and infringements on privacy.

"Neurotechnology, including new and emerging forms, raises profound human rights challenges when applied to the administration of justice," the secretary-general wrote. "Its

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Minneapolis residents worry over big holes in streets



DILAN PAREKH • For the Minnesota Star Tribune
A hole at the intersection of 30th and 33rd avenues in Minneapolis. The city is upgrading 17 miles of aging water main cast iron pipes.

City is upgrading aging water main iron pipes.

By DEENA WINTER
The Minnesota Star Tribune

One day last spring, a city worker knocked on Austin Voigt's door and told her he needed to go in her basement and shut off the water as part of a water main project in northeast Minneapolis.

It was the first she had heard of it.

City contractors dug big 10-by-10-foot holes in the streets of her Columbia Park neighborhood and cut out sections of the water main near street intersections.

Then they lined them with corrugated metal and hooked up homes to water with plastic pipes installed along curbs and crossing streets, sidewalks and steps to exterior faucets.

It's part of more than 17 miles of decades-old cast iron pipes across Minneapolis that the city is cleaning up and lining this year as part of needed upgrades.

Little has happened in the four months since the workers left, she and other residents say, leaving them worried about children and pets ending up in one of the holes. They're also increasingly agitated about the temporary water lines as winter approaches.

City officials, however, say the

SEE HOLES ON A8 »

