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INSIGHT NEWS

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Dr. Josie Johnson honored

Dr. Josie Johnson, a pioneer of compassion and service, was captured in one of her most poignant moments when the Minnesota Department of Human Services honored Dr. Johnson with its Humanitarian Award.

Twin Cities area most regressive in educating children of color

In an area that is generally considered one of the most progressive in the nation, when it comes to educating children of color, the Twin Cities is among the most regressive. In a region full of wealth, talent and resources, children of color are falling academically at an alarming rate. In a report released last year supported by the city of Minneapolis, only 47 percent of African American third graders in Minneapolis public schools were reading at or above grade level. This is comparable to percent of white students in the district who are reading at or above grade level. The same report revealed that in 2011, a policy by parents of white elementary school children completed high school within five years, compared to 47 percent of their white counterparts. The achievement gap is not unique to the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS). Though narrowing, the gap is still...

POVERTY A Minnesota epidemic

For many an epidemic has been spreading right before our eyes. It is invisible, it is silent, it is often ignored. The way it has spread is in quiet, often unassuming, ways. It is not just in the inner city, it is in the suburbs, in the exurbs, in the rural areas. It is in the pockets of our society, in the shadows of our success. It is a hidden epidemic that has become a public health crisis. It is an epidemic that is not being treated by our society.

Ellison, Democrats post solid wins by mobilizing grassroots voters



Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and his Democratic colleagues in Minnesota have won a significant victory in the 2012 congressional elections. Ellison's win was a testament to the power of grassroots organizing and mobilization. He was able to connect with voters in a way that traditional media could not. His efforts in mobilizing voters were a key factor in his victory.



L-R: William Crocker, Gust Martin (see other), Roger Brown, Raymond (see other), Brian Lamb, Metro Transit general manager Nadine Babu, central station: Hugh Hamilton, Light Rail operator Carol Nordstrom, central station sign and Ellen Gray, Metro Transit general manager.

Commuter Nadine Babu hailed as Metro Transit's 3 billionth customer

Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) has celebrated the 3 billionth customer on the system for the Metropolitan Transit Authority. The customer is Nadine Babu, a commuter who has used the system for many years. Her journey is a testament to the success of Metro Transit in providing reliable and efficient service to its customers.

Archie Comics: Happy Xmas! Archie presents the ultimate Christmas of Archie. PAGE 08	Lifestyle: Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree. PAGE 09	Arts/Entertainment: A holiday treat for the whole family. PAGE 10	Most Successful Business Profiles: Meet the winners. PAGE 11
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NASHVILLE, TENN — *Insight News* took first place for the newspaper Layout and Design category in National Newspaper Publisher's Association Merit Awards last week.

"We have a great product and a great team producing a high quality journalism experience for our readers," said Al McFarlane, *Insight News* editor.

The *St. Louis American* won the top award for general excellence for the second consecutive year Thursday night at the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) Annual Merit

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Awards ceremony. For the first time, the NNPA also presented excellence awards for two smaller categories. Winning in Category B was the *Houston Defender*. *The Miami Times* won in Category C.

"There were many exceptional entries this year," said Karl B. Rodney, Merit Awards Chairman and publisher of the *Carib News*. "We congratulate not only the winners, but other papers that exemplify excellence every week."

Mary Alice Thatch, publisher of the *Wilmington Journal*, was selected "Publisher of the Year" by her colleagues. Thatch was the driving force behind the NNPA's successful national campaign win pardons of innocence for the Wilmington Ten. Her paper provided the lead coverage of the issue. The stories were then distributed to member newspapers by the NNPA News Service.

NNPA Legacy Awards were presented to Jesse Jackson, Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and James Farmer, former vice president of General Motors Acceptance Corp. (GMAC). The NNPA's Front Page Award was presented to Roland Martin, host of "Washington Watch with Roland Martin" on TV One cable network, and Larry Waters, Senior Director of Community Commerce and Partnerships for MillerCoors.

Merit Award winners were (in order of 3rd, 2nd, then 1st place):

BEST EDITORIAL

1. Skanner
2. Philadelphia Tribune
3. Afro

BEST COLUMN

1. St. Louis American
2. Los Angeles Sentinel
3. Philadelphia Tribune

BEST NEWS STORY

1. St. Louis American
2. Florida Courier
3. New York Amsterdam News

BEST FEATURE STORY

1. Philadelphia Tribune
2. Houston Forward Times
3. Call & Post

BEST LAYOUT & DESIGN (Broadsheet)

1. St. Louis American
2. Miami Times
3. Insight News

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BEST LAYOUT & DESIGN (Tabloid)

1. Houston Defender
2. Washington Informer
3. Los Angeles Watts Times

BEST LIFESTYLE

1. Philadelphia Tribune
2. Houston Forward Times
3. Call & Post

BEST YOUTH WRITER (16-23)

1. Philadelphia Tribune
2. New York Amsterdam News
3. Houston Forward Times

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS (Broadsheet)

1. St. Louis American
2. Houston Defender
3. Los Angeles Sentinel

BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS (Tabloid)

1. Chicago Defender
2. Washington Informer
3. Los Angeles Watts Times

BEST CHURCH PAGE

1. Miami Times
2. Indianapolis Recorder
3. South Florida Times

BEST SPORTS SECTION

1. Houston Defender
2. Daily Challenge
3. Los Angeles Sentinel

BEST BUSINESS SECTION

1. St. Louis American
2. Miami Times
3. Pittsburgh Courier

BEST ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

1. St. Louis American
2. Los Angeles Sentinel
3. Miami Times

DIGITAL EXCELLENCE

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1. Pittsburgh Courier
2. St. Louis American
3. Miami Times

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

1. St. Louis American
2. Houston Defender
3. Miami Times