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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

By Harry Colbert, Jr.
Contributing Writer

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.

public schools were reading at an above grade level. This is compared to 19 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 students in the district completed high school within five years, compared to 47 percent of their white counterparts.

NEXT TURN TO 10

POVERTY A Minnesota epidemic



By Scott Gray
MN President 2012

For years an epidemic has been spreading right before our eyes. It is often referred to as the "silent epidemic." We are in a race against time to address and reverse this unfortunate situation. It is a crisis that is not only a financial one, but a human one.

epidemic, a great problem that has exponentially increased in the last decade being fully recognized as a public health epidemic. It is a crisis that is not only a financial one, but a human one. It is an epidemic that is not only a financial one, but a human one.

GRAY TURN TO 10

Ellison, Democrats post solid wins by mobilizing grassroots voters



U.S. Representative Keith Ellison

By Harry Colbert, Jr.
Contributing Writer

With the election a month behind, already Democrats and Republicans are looking ahead to 2014 and 2015.

Ellison, Democrats post solid wins by mobilizing grassroots voters. In Minnesota, the big news item in the early days of the congressional election was the fact that Keith Ellison had won the seat. Ellison's win was considered a historic moment for the state.



L-R: William Crocker, Gust Morris (see other), Roger Brown, Raymond (see other), Brian Lamb, Metro Transit general manager Nadine Babu, central station: Hugh Franklin, 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

By Jean B. Miller
Staff Writer

Nadine Babu celebrated her 3 billionth customer at the Light Rail station near Union Depot, 3011 Hennepin Ave., shortly after Thanksgiving.

Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) was established as a public utility in 1971 to provide the residents of the Twin Cities public transportation system. It was the first of its kind in the state.

TRANSIT TURN TO 10

 Archie Comics Swamp Doctor Thriller presents Methuselah's Curse of Swine PAGE 10	 Lifestyle 10 Christmas Trees, Oh Christmas Tree PAGE 11	 Archie Comics Archie and Friends See the smiling pages of the Archie and Friends PAGE 12	 West Broadway Business Profile Beats Street Brewing PAGE 13
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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

Insight News wins NNPA Best Layout and Design

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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