


U.S. BRINGS RYDER CUP HOME

Holding off Europe, U.S. enjoys first victory since 2008 **SPORTS**



MONDAY
October 3, 2016

StarTribune

73° **57°**
Warm sun today
cooler days ahead. **A14**

TOP NEWS

COLOMBIA NIXES PACT WITH FARC
The stunning vote derails peace plan that was to end a 52-year war with rebels. **A4**



Ethiopians die in stampede
Festival turns tragic after police disperse protesters; dozens killed. **A3**

Profs teach Wikipedia 101
College students assigned to update the online encyclopedia. **A2**

License plates benefit habitat
State hopes drivers will gobble up new plates to help fund DNR effort. **A5**

Smokestacks coming down
WWII-era ruins in UMore Park became an eyesore. **A8**

LOCAL NEWS
Our rush hours aren't so bad
U study looks at how heavy traffic can limit job access across U.S. **A8**

Robber targets Heritage Park
Glean rhye; neighbors warned about suspect knocking on doors. **A9**

Wilson creates good vibrations
Beach Boys star wasn't in great form, but the fans didn't care. **E3**

SPORTS
Lynx sweep, move to finals
Win at Phoenix puts them three wins away from WNBA title. **C3**

Joseph likes the dirty work
Vikes' nose tackle emerging as one of NFL's elite. **C3**

BUSINESS
Egan a new retail hot spot
Central Park Commons joins outlet mall to draw big-name stores. **D1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?
Lady Gaga is now touring dive bars instead of big arenas to showcase songs from her new album. **A2**



DANGER DOWNSTREAM A TAINTED RIVER'S REACH



Christine Holland of River Keepers collected trash on the Red River, which has become a massive storm sewer flowing into Canada.

POLLUTION EXPANDS, EXACTING HIGH TOLL

Part 2 of 3 • Story by JOSEPHINE MARCOTTY • Photos by AARON LAVINSKY • Star Tribune staff

GRAND BEACH, MANITOBA—On the last glorious Sunday in August, lifeguard Mack Danyluk walked down the most famous beach in Manitoba as the sun set fire to a bank of clouds right where the blue lake merged with the western sky.

Danyluk had one eye on the kids still romping in the water, but the other was on the turquoise stains that streaked the golden sand. "There's tons of it," she said, wrinkling her nose at the blue-green algae lining the beach and floating like a dense mat of grass clippings in the shallows. "It just stinks."

It also threatens to kill Lake Winnipeg, proudly known as the sixth Great Lake among the Canadians who flock to its famous beaches and fish its waters for walleye. In just two decades, pollution in the lake has doubled, with most of it coming from



The beach at Lake Winnipeg showed traces of algae, stark evidence of increasing pollution.

"It's like a big gun barrel. And we are on the other end."

Robert Kristjansson, about Red River pollution affecting Lake Winnipeg

the Red River that runs north through the rich agricultural lands of Minnesota, the Dakotas and Manitoba.

The deterioration of Lake Winnipeg is a stark example of what Minnesota faces as its rivers are increasingly contaminated by the transformation of the land around them: The price flows inevitably downstream, and it's excruciatingly difficult to fix.

Visitors to Lake Winnipeg find that their treasured short summers are marked by increasing numbers of sometimes toxic algae blooms, which chase swimmers away from the beaches and foul the nets of fishing families that have made their living here for generations. Temporary dead zones — water devoid of aquatic life — are starting to appear in the lake's vast northern basin, a sign that the lake may soon reach a tipping point.

While the Red River provides only 15 percent of the water in Lake

See **RED RIVER** on **A6** ▶

Affordable housing's fade inspires fund

By EMMA NELSON
emma.nelson@startribune.com

After years of watching the Twin Cities' affordable housing market grow increasingly tight, a group of affordable housing advocates, nonprofits and private companies has decided to take the problem into its own hands.

The Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, a nonprofit affordable housing lender, is developing the nation's first regional pool of money to help buyers who want to preserve affordable housing buy apartment complexes when they come up for sale.

It's an effort to counter a national issue that housing advocates say has reached a crisis point: a booming rental market in which buildings that have served low-income tenants for decades are being sold and upgraded, with rent increases that push tenants out.

"If we just let the marketplace deal with this, there will be a catastrophe," said Rick Kahn. See **HOUSING** on **A10** ▶

SIR NEVILLE MARRINER 1924-2016



MIKE ZIEFF • Star Tribune file

Conductor led a 'golden era' of orchestra

By PAT PHIEFER • pat.phiefer@startribune.com

Sir Neville Marriner, outspoken music director of the Minnesota Orchestra from 1979 to 1986, died early Sunday in London. He was 92.

Marriner, who returned to lead the orchestra on several occasions, was scheduled to conduct again in Minneapolis in January.

He was founder of the famous Academy of St. Martin in the Fields chamber orchestra, with which he made hundreds of recordings. The orchestra has sold more than 30 million discs and Marriner

is celebrated as the world's most recorded conductor.

Previously a violinist, he began his conducting career as the first music director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, from 1969 to 1978, before succeeding Stanislaw Skrowaczewski at the podium of the Minnesota Orchestra in 1979.

"Looking at our roster of conductors, I still consider the Marriner years our golden era," Richard Cieslik, orchestra president at the time, said in 2003. See **MARRINER** on **A9** ▶

ELECTION 2016 RACE FOR PRESIDENT

Trump's tax issue divides local GOP

Some admonish him for not releasing returns, but others call it a nonissue.

By ALLESON SHERRY
alison.sherry@startribune.com

WASHINGTON — Intense new scrutiny of Republican Donald Trump's tax returns is revealing a deep divide among local GOP leaders in an election year that is testing allegiance to the party's presidential nominee.

Former Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson, a Republican, is criticizing Trump for refusing to release his tax returns, saying the issue directly affects national security. He said voters have the right to know if he has financial ties to foreign countries.

"It started out on the level of transparency and tradition; then it was that he doesn't pay any taxes, well we know now that's true; maybe he doesn't give to charity, well we know that's true, too," Carlson said. "That's embarrassing."

Trump's refusal to make his tax returns public has blossomed into a central issue in the campaign, with a range of polls showing voters saying he should release his tax records. Trump has refused to do so, saying he's been advised not to while he is being audited by the Internal Revenue Service.

The criticism reignited this weekend after the New York Times published tax records it obtained showing that Trump

See **TRUMP** on **A14** ▶

Speaking of taxes: A look at the candidates' tax plans. **A4**

Confly scoop? Times risked legal action by publishing returns. **A4**

Nurses alter rules on voting

An aggregate tally will decide if Allina strike ends.

By JEREMY OLSON
jeremy.olson@startribune.com

The union leading a strike against five Allina Health hospitals is changing how it will tally votes Monday night when more than 4,000 nurses decide whether to accept a three-year contract and return to work.

Results will be counted in aggregate for nurses at all five striking hospitals, rather than letting each hospital vote the contract up or down individually. Prior contract votes this summer were voted separately for United Hospital in St. Paul, Mercy Hospital in Croon Rapids, Unity Hospital in Fridley, and Abbott Northwestern Hospital and the Phillips Eye Institute in Minneapolis.

The change by the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is based on a review of a 2001 contract document indicating that bargaining units for Abbott, Mercy, Phillips and United should negotiate together on contract items such as health

See **NURSES** on **A10** ▶

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ANGER DOWNSTREAM THE RED RIVER

GROWING POLLUTION CARRIES A HIGH COST

RED RIVER from AI Winnipeg, it carries almost 50 percent of the phosphorus that is creating the algae blooms in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Now, after years of research and growth pressure from Canadian governments, the United States and Minnesota have signed on to a simple plan called the Lake Friendly Accord. Cut phosphorus pollution from farms, cities and water treatment plants by 50 percent.

But in recent decades the Red River has become a massive storm sewer. Pollution at the Canadian border has been rising since 1994 and there's little concern in how to stop it.

"We are going downhill," said Jeff Lewis, executive director of the Fargo-based Red River Basin Commission, a cross-border organization charged with finding a solution.

The slow progress creates a sense of despair among the Winnepigeons who spend their summers in the cottage communities that ring the southern part of the lake. "It's a very horrible feeling," said Nancy Hodgson, who raised her children and now her grandchildren in the storybook village of Victoria Beach.

Property values have dropped, said her husband, Brian Hodgson, the reverend or mayor — of the town, who fears the losses may reflect Lake Winnipeg's growing reputation for pollution and algae blooms. Now kids are starting to cut their feet on the razor-sharp, razor-matted shells that litter the beaches — another gift from the Red River.

"I guess we have you Americans to thank for that, too," he said, teasing gently.

About this series
Danger Downstream examines the way dramatic changes to Minnesota's landscape are jeopardizing water quality.

Part 1: Deforestation, irrigation and urban development pose growing threats to the watershed of the Upper Mississippi, and Minnesota is in a race to protect it.

Part 2: Pollution is rising in the Red River, but the price to pay for downstream with massive and sometimes toxic algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg.

Part 3: In western Minnesota, an ambitious but simple experiment on the Chippewa River shows what it would take to save a river before it's too late.

More online
Explore the Mississippi River watershed and the threats it faces through interactive graphics, video and photos at startrib.com/rivers



The Red River of the North starts in Brokenside and flows north for 500 miles, forming the boundary between Minnesota and the Dakotas. It's a prairie river that cuts through some of the richest farmland in the world. But over the last century the landscape has been re-plumbed. It's now a massive network of ditches and drainage tiles that carry pollutants into the river and down to Lake Winnipeg, a popular fishing and resort destination Canadians fondly call "the sixth Great Lake."



A WAY OF LIFE: The Red River, and the pollution it carries, empties into Lake Winnipeg. Agricultural pollution is feeding sometimes toxic algae blooms that harm beaches and foul the nets of fishing families, such as the Kristijansons, at left, that have made their living here for generations. Above, farmers participated in an experiment to harvest cattails for fertilizer, which would benefit crops and water.

"We are concerned about what goes down river. ... But if land around here sells for \$4,000 per acre, why would I want to lose one ounce of it?"

Eric Zurn, who farms near Calloway, Minn.

impoundments that would cost \$2 billion to \$3 billion — the same price as the massive Fargo diversion project. And Lake Winnipeg's reputation is far worse than it deserves. Water quality is still good. Manitoba is taking steps to reduce the phosphorus that comes from farms and cities in the province itself, about half the total load, she said. Canadians will spend about \$1 billion in the next five years on the problem, including multimillion dollar upgrades to Winnipeg's city wastewater treatment plants.

Even so, the dilemma gets a facelift along from Winnipeggers like James Gibson, who was washing his hand while boys in red and yellow life jackets paddled Lake Winnipeg on a sunny Sunday afternoon. "There's nothing we can do about it anyway," he said, "it's all coming from the Americans."

Struggle in the valley
About 300 miles up river, just southeast of Moorhead, Americans are trying to do something about it. But replacing landscape of 60,000 square miles is expensive and divisive.

The history of just one 3-square-mile piece illustrates the forces at work.

Down a gravel road way off I-94 south of Moorhead, the crops suddenly give way to cattails and water, and a half dozen white agers sail like kites against the sky.

This is the North Ottawa Impoundment, an artificial wetland built by the state to hold the water that drains 75 square miles of farmland. It's the poster child for a binational plan to reduce flooding and pollution along the valley by holding back 20 percent of the water that flows into the river — enough storage for a 100-year event.

The statistics are impressive. The impoundment removes 84 percent of the sediment, 70 percent of the nitrogen, and 30 percent of the phosphorus by slowing down the water through a series of dikes and ponds and filtering it through plants. In a sharp contrast with the regimented landscape that surrounds it, the 3-square miles are a destination for wildlife. Thousands of ducks dot the ponds and blue herons step carefully through the mud.

But it was expensive — \$20 million. And it took 12 long years for state and local environmental officials to wear down local resistance and endless-political fights to get it done. Local farmers and township boards even appealed to former Gov. Tim Wirtz to cut the funds for the project from the state budget.

People in the community couldn't stomach the idea of purposefully flooding farmland that their grandparents had drained through sheer grit and backbreaking work, said Larry Schoenberger, who farms 3,200 acres near the impoundment and who was among those initially sought the funds for the project. And local growers, most officials hated the idea of giving up precious farmland through a nature spreader.

Schoenberger finally changed his mind, largely because "I could see we weren't going to win this one," he said. And now he recognizes the benefits. Land around the impoundment no longer floods like it used to, and farmers can widen their ditches because the water now flows in one place.

But the scale of the plan is daunting — a reminder, say conservationists, that the cost of repairing a badly impaired river can be insurmountable.

The Red River Basin needs impoundments that would cost \$2 billion to \$3 billion — the same price as the massive Fargo diversion project. And Lake Winnipeg's reputation is far worse than it deserves. Water quality is still good. Manitoba is taking steps to reduce the phosphorus that comes from farms and cities in the province itself, about half the total load, she said. Canadians will spend about \$1 billion in the next five years on the problem, including multimillion dollar upgrades to Winnipeg's city wastewater treatment plants.

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Warren Formo, who represents Minnesota agricultural groups on water issues, said that they declined to participate because they believe that they heard is that the farmers will all fall on them." He said in the meantime he said, farmers throughout the valley are doing what they can to reduce the use of fertilizers. But Lewis is frustrated. It's a clear sign, he said, that we are more willing to fight than to sit down and have meaningful discussions.

Lately, Lewis has been trying to find other ways to involve farmers, including a novel experiment that originated in Manitoba — turning cattails into fertilizer for crops.

Minnesota's first-ever cattail harvester got going during the last week of August as a forage chopper cut a swath through a stand of 6-foot-tall plants at the North Ottawa Impoundment. The stalks and fuzz are cut up through the air and into Schoenberger's trailer-truck that followed behind.

The idea is simple: The cattails suck up phosphorus from the water as they grow, then release it again after they die and decay. If the plants, with their phosphorus, are instead plowed into fields as fertilizer, both farmers and the water would benefit.

"If it works, there could be huge demand," said project coordinator Aaron Orsland.

But on that long day in August, it didn't work. The super fine cattail fuzz clogged the engine of Schoenberger's truck, cracking the radiator. Then the ground-up cattails came out in mud, big clumps when they tried to run it through a manure spreader to scatter it across a field.

At the end of the day Schoenberger pulled out of the project — he couldn't risk anymore equipment, he said. "Sugar beet is our king here," he said. "That has to come first."

After getting the bad news the next morning in his Fargo office, Lewis hung up the phone in resignation. They'll have to try again next year.

"What was I was going to be a struggle," he said. "And it was."

Joseph Murray • 612-673-2794
Aaron Orsland • 612-673-2794