



MORNING EDITION

**Vikes, Wolves not interested in Coleman plan**

By Brian Lambert | Thursday, May 26, 2011

**St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman's big idea plan to finance some sports venues, and close down the Target Center, met with essentially zero enthusiasm among the Vikings and Timberwolves.**

Patrick Donnelly of Fox Sports North writes: "... the plan was predictably met with skepticism from both the Vikings and Timberwolves. 'From the team's standpoint, we appreciate his thoughts and opinions, but **we're focused on Arden Hills,' said Jeff Anderson, the Vikings' assistant director of public affairs.** 'We have our agreement with Ramsey County, and we're excited about our partnership with them. So we're 100 percent focused on making that partnership work.' ... the Timberwolves said they're not interested in moving across the river. 'While we appreciate Mayor Coleman's efforts to advance the stadium conversation, **we are very happy with our home in Minneapolis,' said Ted Johnson, the team's Senior VP and Chief Marketing Officer.** 'We continue to believe that the best path forward is the sensible solution of renovating Target Center, which has been such a tremendous economic engine for this region for the past 20 years.'"

**A benefit concert for the North Minneapolis neighborhood hit by the tornado last week will be held at the State Theater on June 12.** Chris Riemenschneider of the Strib writes:

"Some of the Twin Cities most prominent musicians, including Sounds of Blackness, Soul Asylum and Robert Robertson, are lining up to perform at 'Northside: A Twin Cities Community Benefit,' on June 12 at the State Theatre. Robertson and members of Sounds are some of the many participating performers who have called north Minneapolis home, along with Tonia Hughes, Sara Renner and Triad 4 Christ. **Invitations have also gone out to a few members of musical 'royalty' with North Side roots (If you have to ask, think about a glyph).** Other confirmed participants include Brian 'G.B.' Leighton, Billy McLaughlin, Billy and Paul Peterson, and the event's chief organizer, folk activist Larry Long."

MPR's Brett Neely covered **T-Paw in DC, talking to an audience at the conservative Cato Institute.** "Before a subdued crowd at the libertarian Cato Institute, Pawlenty cast his record as governor of Minnesota as one filled with the kind of 'hard' decisions he would also make as president. When pressed for specifics by both the audience and reporters about whether he supported House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's (R-WI) plan to end the current Medicare single payer insurance system and replace it with vouchers for private medical insurance, **Pawlenty demurred from answering the question directly. 'I think in general, the direction of it is positive, but I'm going to have my own plan, and so we're going to have some differences from his plan,' Pawlenty said,** promising to release more details soon. Although Pawlenty pledged to rein in government spending, he also said the Pentagon should remain off limits to budget cuts, saying, 'The rate of

growth can be slowed down, but it shouldn't shrink in absolute terms." Obviously you don't want to do anything to imperil those who can afford it least.

Larry Bivins of the St. Cloud Times was also at the Cato speech. He writes: "Speaking to reporters later, **Pawlenty said 'there are no sacred cows, and we are going to have to make everybody make a contribution' toward debt relief.** When asked about the apparent contradiction on defense, Pawlenty said: 'We need to make sure we maintain it as a priority. The rate of growth can be slowed down, **but it should not shrink in absolute terms.**' Pawlenty's defense of military spending drew a rebuke from the organization that hosted him and has given him good marks for his fiscal stewardship as governor of Minnesota. 'There is a difference between military spending and defense spending,' said Ed Crane, Cato's president. 'The Constitution provides for a military to defend the U.S. — not to democratize the world. One would hope that presidential candidates would consider America's commitments overseas very seriously before endorsing those commitments.'"

**Christmas is coming early for local TV stations.** A \$1 million TV ad campaign will soon appear defending Gov. Dayton in the stand-off against the "all cuts" budget of the GOP. Baird Helgeson of the Strib writes: "Alliance for a Better Minnesota has launched a \$1 million television advertising campaign urging Minnesotans to back DFL Gov. Mark Dayton's plan to tax the wealthy. The ads, which will be seen statewide, start two days after legislators adjourned with no deal and are the first clear sign that both sides have started the battle to win over the public. While the Alliance ads air, Dayton and DFL leaders will do a state fly-around Thursday to personally bring their message to Minnesotans. Meanwhile, Republicans will unveil a website Thursday that questions Dayton's leadership. On Wednesday, state **Republican Party Chairman Tony Sutton kicked off a fundraising effort that assured prospective voters that when Republican leaders negotiate with Dayton 'I promise you they will not budge on their pledge to not raise taxes.'**"

**And ... another one bites the dust.** Dayton vetoed the GOP's 20-week abortion bill, as everyone knew he would but they spent a lot of time on it just the same. David Bailey in Reuters writes: "Republican leaders wanted Minnesota to join a half dozen other states in restricting abortions based on studies that suggest a fetus could feel pain at 20 weeks. The law also created possible felony charges and civil penalties for doctors who failed to follow its regulations. **'Imposing civil penalties and making it a felony for a doctor to deliver care that is in the best interest of the patient is unconscionable,' Dayton said in a letter** notifying Republican House Speaker Kurt Zellers of the veto. Republicans hold majorities in the Minnesota Senate and House. The votes in both houses were largely on party lines and support fell short of the two-thirds needed — 45 votes in the Senate and 90 in the House — to override Dayton's vetoes."

**The shorter list would be the number of days some local publication doesn't hype the 10, 25, 40, 50 or 100 best food-related people, places and things somewhere in Minnesota.** Today it's the Strib, and they call it The Taste 50. Rick Nelson writes: "A brand of bipartisan leadership that all beer-loving voters can embrace. Pre-made pie crust that passes as homemade. A cooking oil pressed from Minnesota-grown

sunflowers. The dining-out word of the moment (one hint: It's Japanese). Minnesota's triple crown of award-winning chefs. Two don't-miss downtown street foods. The host gift that all cabin visitors should tuck into their overnight bag next to the mosquito repellent. A bacon of the gods, and swoon-worthy soft-serve ice cream. The dapper designer behind some of the Twin Cities' best-looking restaurants. Tasty summertime sweat equity. The reigning biscuit queen of south Minneapolis, if not the state. Our sixth-annual countdown to Minnesota deliciousness (with, yes, a few nods to Wisconsin and Iowa) kicks off:

"... **Kitchen humor.** Food products with "punny" names generally deserve a short shelf life. Hopefully that's not the case for Crapola!, an unusually delicious cranberry-apple, five-grain granola, produced one small batch at a time by farmers Andrea and Brian Strom in Ely, Minn.

"**Best. Cheap. Tacos. Ever.** Well, maybe not ever, but for \$2.50 a pop, it's tough to think of another fast food-er that offers freshness, quality and variety as well as newcomer Rusty Taco. If it's not a chain in the making, it should be." ... and 48 more!

**You want hard-hitting? You can't take hard-hitting** ... or at least [the PiPress thinks](#) we can all wait for another time. An editorial on T-Paw's candidacy boldly declares: "Like Minnesota, the U.S. has some sharp political divisions, and campaigns are where those divisions come into view — often to good purpose. Traditionally, Republicans have run to the right to win their party's endorsement, and then eased toward the center for the general election — just as Democrats have run to the left for the primaries and then back toward the center. Along the way, voters decide whom they like, more or less, and whom they trust, more or less. And then they choose. There is time for all that. **For now, we say, Run, Tim, Run.** Minnesota is a state that takes its politics seriously. Pawlenty is a serious political figure and he represents an important, perhaps growing, strain in U.S. politics — a strain that, judging by his announcement-day message, may well cross traditional political boundaries. Minnesotans need not all agree with him to feel a surge of pride in his announcement. In a big week for him, we wish him well." "Run, Tim, Run?" As in, "See Spot and Tim jump over Dick?"

**And I'm missing my squirrel-hunting bazooka.** [Marciella Miranda of the PiPress](#) reports: " After a tornado hit North Minneapolis on Sunday, burglars reportedly stole more than \$6,300 worth of WWII guns and other military equipment from a dark home. The missing weapons are an auto-ordnance, 1911, 45 pistol and a 9mm MP-40 semi-auto machine gun, said owner Scott Steben. **The machine gun is a federally regulated weapon**, and is registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. 'I hope these guns aren't used,' said Steben, 47. **The guns are props for war re-enactments, he said, but they still work.**" What? The guns the guys in the tri-corner hats wear when they run around in the corn fields playing army...are real?

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