

The Minnesota Star Tribune

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H: 62° L: 47° | CRISP FALL DAY

Retrial puts brutal murder back in spotlight

By JEFF DAY
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Nearly six years after an elaborate plot culminated with the kidnapping and murder of a Minneapolis real estate agent, the alleged mastermind will again stand trial before a jury — the latest chapter in a saga involving multiple defendants, reversed convictions and drug smuggling allegations leveled against a defense attorney.

Lyndon Wiggins, who was serving life in prison before his 2022 murder convictions were thrown out by the Minnesota

Supreme Court over faulty jury instructions, is back in Hennepin County District Court accused of playing a key role in the execution of 28-year-old Monique Baugh.

The retrial figures to be exhaustive. It has taken more than a week to land on the necessary 16 jurors for the trial. Court documents show the potential witness list at well over 150 names, with both

sides intending to call alleged co-conspirators in the crime that shocked Minnesotans for its ruthlessness.

Baugh, whose daughters were 4 and 2 years old when she was killed, was kidnapped after being lured to a fake real estate showing on New Year's Eve in 2019. The kidnapers scheduled the showing because they were searching for Jon Mitchell-Momoh, Baugh's boyfriend and father of their

children. The crime was allegedly a murder-for-hire scheme because Wiggins and Mitchell-Momoh were in a dispute over a record label contract. Baugh was put into a U-Haul truck for hours and pressed for Mitchell-Momoh's address.

The killers arrived and shot Mitchell-Momoh three times while his children were inside the house. He survived.

Baugh was executed, shot three times while her hands were bound with duct tape, and her body was dumped in a north Minneapolis alley. When police



GLEN STUBBE • The Minnesota Star Tribune
A photo shows Monique Baugh with one of her children. Baugh, a 28-year-old real estate agent, was kidnapped and murdered in 2019.
SEE RETRIAL ON A7 »

Waiting with elation, relief, anxiety

Trump expected to be in Israel for exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners.

By ISABEL KERSHNER
The New York Times

JERUSALEM — Israelis and Palestinians prepared Sunday for an exchange of all of the living hostages still held in the Gaza Strip for about 2,000 Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, the cornerstone of a new ceasefire agreement.

The Israeli government said the exchange was expected to begin Monday morning local time, but Israel was prepared for it to happen even sooner. Under the agreement, Israel is supposed to free the Palestinian prisoners — scores of them serving life terms for deadly attacks on Israelis — in parallel with the hostage releases.

“This is a historic event that blends sorrow over the release of murderers and joy over the return of hostages,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a recorded statement broadcast Sunday evening.

On both sides, there was relief mixed with elation after two devastating years of war. Adding to the hope: The opened truce between Israel and Hamas, which was brokered by the United States and Arab mediators and began at noon Friday, appeared to be holding over the weekend.

As part of the first phase of the ceasefire deal, Israeli forces have withdrawn to a new defensive line inside Gaza.

The war created a dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the deal provides a pathway for desperately needed food, medicine and other supplies, which are starting to flow in.

On Sunday, efforts appeared to be underway to increase aid deliveries, with dozens of trucks crossing the border from Egypt, according to news footage. The

SEE GAZA ON A10 »



JEHAD ALSHRAFI • The Associated Press

A Palestinian woman carrying a child walks with other children among destroyed buildings Sunday in Gaza City. The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas held for a third day.



LEILA NAVIDI • The Minnesota Star Tribune

State Sen. Omar Fateh, left, and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey participate in a mayoral debate Sept. 26 in Minneapolis.

How the Israel-Hamas war became an issue in the Minneapolis mayoral race

By DEENA WINTER
The Minnesota Star Tribune

The Israel-Hamas war hasn't been core to the stump speeches, campaign flyers or social media messages of Mayor Jacob Frey or state Sen. Omar Fateh, his leading challenger, in the run-up to this fall's contest for Minneapolis mayor.

But it's there. The Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America included a pro-Palestinian stance as a lit-

mus test for its endorsement. At the city's DFL convention in July, a resolution passed calling on the city to boycott, divest and sanction the state of Israel, an issue that progressive advocacy group Our Revolution also asked about in its own candidate questionnaire. More recently, Jewish media outlets have highlighted controversial statements by current and former Fateh campaign staffers about Israel.

How did a conflict on the other side of the world come to

be an issue in the Minneapolis mayor's race?

While a ceasefire agreement has raised the prospect of peace in the region, two years of war has exacerbated tensions between progressives and establishment Democrats all over the country. It's a divide reflected in the positions of the city's two leading candidates for mayor and underscored by their backgrounds: Frey is Jewish and Fateh is Muslim.

SEE MINNEAPOLIS ON A10 »

Welcome respite: Ceasefire brings comfort, concern to local leaders, advocacy groups. **A10**

Coming one month before a city election that could tip the balance of power in Minneapolis City Hall, a new documentary from former KARE-11 anchor Rick Kupchella paints a dark picture of the state's largest city while taking aim at several City Council members on issues ranging from taxes to commercial real estate, migration to the city's business climate.

Billed as a public education campaign, the film, “A Precarious State,” has drawn some 300,000 views on YouTube and aired statewide on ABC affiliates last week as a paid advertisement.

Asked if it was released to influence city elections, Kupchella, in an interview with the Minnesota Star Tribune, said it wasn't, but he also said it was necessary to release the film while it was still relevant.

The film doesn't interview or mention Mayor Jacob Frey, who's battling several challengers for a third term,

WHAT TO MAKE OF 'A PRECARIOUS STATE,' A FILM ON MINNEAPOLIS

Producer paid to broadcast documentary focusing on crime, test scores and socialism.

By MATT MCKINNEY • The Minnesota Star Tribune

but a woman who appeared in the documentary told the Star Tribune she agreed to be in it after she was told it would portray Frey in a positive light.

Kupchella won't say who paid for the film, though he did tell the Forum of Fargo-Moorhead that it was produced with the help of “business and community leaders.” He said donors weren't eager to come forward publicly in today's supercharged political climate. “I think it's a very important story that we uncovered here,” he said in an interview. Here's what to know if you watch:

Crime statistics and police funding

A graphic video of a 2024 gun battle at 19th Street and Nicollet Avenue airs several times as Kupchella or others quoted in the film say the city is run by gangs, that there's “open warfare on the streets” and that the gun battle is

SEE DOCUMENTARY ON A7 »

TOP NEWS

Trump administration rescinds layoffs of scientists at CDC who were mistakenly fired. **A4**

NATION & WORLD

Trump says he may warn Putin he'd consider arming Ukraine with Tomahawk missiles. **A4**

STATE & REGION

Jury awards \$4 million to man who lost his leg after chasing Metro Transit bus. **A5**

SPORTS

Wild posted franchise record in shots, four power-play goals and still lost home opener. **C1**

BUSINESS

Pre-truancy officer keeps kids in class by day, scares them in haunted houses at night. **D1**

VARIETY

' Fargo' star William H. Macy shares favorite memory from Minnesota summer visit. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Metro Transit will soon begin testing 14.5 miles of Green Line light-rail extension tracks after the final pieces were recently installed. **A5**

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