

# Timeline: A look at history of Star Tribune

An overview of key events in the life of the newspaper.

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## May 25, 1867

The Minneapolis Tribune prints its first issue, under publisher Col. William S. King. Early stockholders include Dorilus Morrison, a businessman and Minneapolis' first mayor, and W.D. Washburn, a flour-mill industrialist and lawyer.

## 1891

After financial difficulties and several ownership changes, the paper is purchased for \$450,000. One of the two buyers is William J. Murphy, who published a paper in Grand Forks, N.D.

## Aug. 19, 1920

The Minneapolis Star publishes its first issue.

## June 1935

The Cowles family, publishers of the Des Moines Register, buys the Minneapolis Star, an evening paper that's No. 3 in circulation behind the Journal and Tribune.

## Aug. 1, 1939

The Cowles family buys the Minneapolis Journal, another evening paper.

## May 1, 1941

The Cowles' Star and Journal Company merges with Minneapolis Tribune Company, still owned by the Murphy family. The Cowles family now owns the Minneapolis Morning Tribune, the evening Star-Journal and the evening Minneapolis Times (which ceased publication in 1948).

## Nov. 13, 1946

The Tribune and Star increase price from 3 cents to 5 cents. A front-page item in the Tribune blames material and production costs.

## Feb. 1947

Evening paper is renamed Minneapolis Star.

## May 1948

Nat Finney, in the Minneapolis Tribune Washington bureau, wins a Pulitzer Prize for outstanding national affairs reporting for his stories about the Truman administration's efforts to impose secrecy on the affairs of federal civilian agencies in peacetime.

## May 18, 1948

Sid Hartman's first byline in the Minneapolis Tribune. (His first column for the Minneapolis Daily Times was Sept. 11, 1945.)

## 1956

The Star becomes the first major newspaper to regularly publish full-color news photos.

## 1959

Minneapolis Star photographer Bill Seaman wins a Pulitzer Prize for photography of the aftermath of a crash in which a 9-year-old boy died.

## April 1982

Citing declining circulation, the Minneapolis Star ceases publication. The staffs of the

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Gallery: The Star Tribune building on Portland Avenue made way for a park.

Star and Tribune combine to produce a daily morning paper, the Star and Tribune. An afternoon edition continued for several months but was discontinued.

**Aug. 31, 1987**

Name becomes Star Tribune Newspaper of the Twin Cities, and it prints its first St. Paul edition.

**April 12, 1990**

Star Tribune reporters Lou Kilzer and Chris Ison win the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for "Fire in St. Paul," which exposed a thriving industry that profited from arson and suspicious fires with the assistance of firefighters.

**June 1995**

Launch of subscriber-based Star Tribune Online service on the Interchange network, plus initial creation of an Internet site.

**June 18, 1996**

StarTribune.com launches.

**March 19, 1998**

Shareholders approve \$1.4 billion sale of Cowles Media Co., parent company of the Star Tribune, to McClatchy Newspapers of Sacramento, Calif. The price is believed to be the biggest ever paid for a company whose primary asset is a newspaper.

**Dec. 26, 2006**

McClatchy Co. announces the surprise \$530 million sale of the Star Tribune, its largest newspaper, to Avista Capital Partners, a New York-based private investment group.

**Jan. 15, 2009**

The Star Tribune, saddled with high debt and declining advertising, files a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

**Sept. 28, 2009**

The Star Tribune emerges from bankruptcy. The reorganization plan provides for a small group of debt investors, including Wayzata Investment Partners, to take over 95.5 percent of the company.

**Jan. 7, 2010**

Former Time Inc. executive and Fridley native Michael Klingensmith is named Star Tribune publisher.

**July 2012**

Wayzata Investments acquires a controlling interest in the Star Tribune by buying the portion held by Credit Suisse for \$32 per share. The transaction valued the Star Tribune's equity at \$49 million and put the "enterprise value" at \$125 million.

**April 15, 2013**

The Star Tribune wins two Pulitzer Prizes. Brad Schrade, Jeremy Olson and Glenn Howatt win the local reporting award for a series about home day care deaths of children. Steve Sack, with the Star Tribune since 1981, wins for his editorial cartoons.

**Feb. 11, 2014**

The Star Tribune completes the sale of five blocks in downtown Minneapolis that will be in the shadow of U.S. Bank Stadium, the new home of the Minnesota Vikings.

**June 30, 2014**

Mankato businessman Glen Taylor purchases the Star Tribune for about \$100 million.

**March 2015**

The Star Tribune moves from its longtime home at 425 Portland Av. to the recently renamed Star Tribune Building, part of the Capella Tower complex in downtown

Minneapolis.

**May 6, 2015**

The Star Tribune buys alternative weekly City Pages.

**April 18, 2016**

The Star Tribune is a finalist for two Pulitzer Prizes. Chris Serres, Glenn Howatt and David Joles are finalists in the local reporting category for a series on Minnesota's dehumanizing treatment of the disabled. Steve Sack is a finalist for his editorial cartoons.

**April 10, 2017**

Steve Sack is a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartoons.