



(SUN PHOTO BY NATALIE CIERZAN)

Those who had past experiences with Prince, including one of his ex-bodyguards Dominique Pierre-Toussaint and former Paisley Park DJ Michael Holtz, share stories during the Purple Legacy May 28 at OG Coffee & Wine Bar in Chanhassen.

The untold stories of Prince

Excelsior's Cheesecake Funk owner, former bodyguard from Eden Prairie help remember Prince

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Prince stories of all varieties made the rounds at O.G. Coffee and Wine Bar on May 28, ranging from stories of fainting Chanhassen residents, tales from former employees and even sweet stories of the singer reading to children at local schools.

All were part of a special evening called Purple Legacy, dedicated to

telling the untold stories of Prince, who was often stationed in Chanhassen at his Paisley Park music studio. Starting in April, the 10-year anniversary of the musician's death was acknowledged throughout Minnesota and the world. Paisley Park will soon host a 10th Anniversary Celebration of Life from June 3-7.

Purple Legacy was one additional way to honor him, organized by Eden Prairie resident Dominique Pierre-Toussaint, the host and founder of several Lyrical Power events, courtesy of his group Soc13ty 101 based in Minnetonka and Hopkins. The evening was

inspired by Prince's legacy, created to honor his lasting impact on Minneapolis and his belief in using art, access and opportunity to uplift communities.

In 1997, Pierre-Toussaint worked as Prince's bodyguard. One of the funniest stories of the night was when he shared about getting the job and meeting Prince for the first time.

"We're driving, it's dark, I was like, 'Dude, where are you taking me?' I was going to be a Black dude going out in the middle of nowhere in Minnesota, where are you taking me?" He said, describing the drive he took with a friend over to Paisley Park.

As they arrived at Paisley Park during an event for Sharon Sayles Belton, the first woman and Black mayor of Minneapolis, Pierre-Toussaint was entirely in the dark. He had no idea who he would be bodyguarding for and was only given "old boy" as a point of reference.

Before they walked in, Pierre-Toussaint was told specifically to not look in Prince's eyes.

"Dave Chapelle was not lying. There's an aura around this dude," said Pierre-Toussaint as he described Prince. "I see a crushed, blue velvet suit, some pumps and I can

See **PRINCE** | PAGE 8

New Minnetonka Public Schools Citizens Academy launching this fall

Applications for the inaugural year of the Minnetonka Citizens Academy are open and due by July 31, 2026

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Minnetonka Public Schools is launching a Citizens Academy for curious community members looking to better understand district operations and play a more informed role in school life. JacQui Getty, executive director of communications for the district, provided an overview of the program to members of the school board at the May 28 meeting.

District staff will select up to 25 school or residential community members to participate in the nine-month program, which will provide participants with a behind-the-scenes view of how the school district supports students from early learning through graduation.

"We're hoping [to get] up to 25 people, I think that's where we can cap it for that first year to accommodate a good experience for them," Getty said. "We're hoping

to get at least 10 people interested. I think we're going to get a lot more and I really hope so."

Selected participants will have the opportunity to engage with district leaders, visit school facilities, explore programs, and gain a deeper understanding of the decisions, systems and people that support student success every day, according to the May 28 agenda packet.

Over the course of nine sessions, the 2026-27 inaugural cohort will meet one day each month from September 2026 through May 2027, to learn more about district topics; including finance and operations, programs, curriculum and more.

"Participants should just really bring curiosity and interest in learning," Getty said, "and a willingness to engage in good conversation."

Each session will highlight different areas of the district. The first half of the program will focus specifically on district operations and systems that support students, staff and families. The second half will cover academic programs and student opportunities across the district,

See **CITIZEN** | PAGE 7

