

Preps: Lakeville South, Prior Lake advance in Class 4A semis. **B4**



Congress: Speaker emerita Nancy Pelosi to retire at 85. **A4**



State Senate: Sandy Pappas to retire after 40 years in Capitol. **A2**



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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Flight cuts begin today

MSP among 40 airports targeted over air traffic control concerns

By Josh Funk and Rio Yamat
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and airports in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago are among 40 across

the U.S. that are set to see flight cuts starting Friday because of the government shutdown, according to a list distributed to the airlines and obtained by The Associated Press. U.S. airlines began canceling

hundreds of flights on Thursday because of the Federal Aviation Administration's order to reduce traffic at the country's busiest airports starting Friday to maintain travel safety as unpaid air traffic controllers exhibit signs of strain during the shutdown. The FAA announced Wednesday that it would reduce air traffic by 10% across 40

"high-volume" markets. More than 760 planned Friday flights were cut from airline schedules, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks flight disruptions.

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Inside: Judge orders full SNAP payments during shutdown. **A9**

River bed mining expansion advances

Cottage Grove OKs environmental review over objections

By Mary Divine
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The Cottage Grove City Council, over the objections of numerous agencies and residents, signed off Wednesday night on a final environmental review related to a proposal to mine the riverbed of the Mississippi River.

The council, by a 5-0 vote, approved the final environmental impact statement adequacy done by a mining company that operates a sand and gravel mine on Lower Grey Cloud Island in Cottage Grove. The company, Amrize Nelson, wants to expand and shift operations into the Mississippi River — and mine the actual riverbed.

The council's vote means the project proposed by Amrize, formerly known as Holcim-MCR Inc., will move on to the permitting stage, where officials from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will make decisions about the proposed project based on the information in the environmental impact statement, Cottage Grove officials said.

Amrize is proposing to move its mining area to reach additional aggregate reserves on about 400 acres of privately owned land that it leases adjacent to the existing facility in the backwaters area of the Mississippi River on Lower Grey Cloud Island.

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Hamline gets new president



Hamline University President Mayme Hostetter has her academic hood adjusted by Wesley Kisting, Hamline's provost and dean of the faculty, during her installation ceremony Thursday at Hutton Arena in St. Paul. **PHOTOS BY JOHN AUTEY / PIONEER PRESS**

Twin Cities native Mayme Hostetter installed at private St. Paul university

By Imani Cruzen
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Hamline University in St. Paul formally installed Mayme Hostetter, who attended schools in the Twin Cities in her youth, as its 22nd president on Thursday.

Hostetter most recently served as president of Relay Graduate School of Education, a private Manhattan graduate school for teachers that has a dozen locations around the U.S.

Hostetter said the university has accomplished many "firsts" in its more than 170 years as an institution and could be the university where students graduate on time and feel high levels of belonging and engagement with

each other. "Hamline has been the site, the source, the inspiration of so many firsts," she said. "And they all represent an important type of 'first.' They are all team wins that represent not only institutional excellence but also changing the game for the better for those who come next."

Hostetter assumed her duties as president on July 1.

FROM TWIN CITIES TO IVY LEAGUE

Growing up, Hostetter attended Kenwood School in Minneapolis and St. Paul Academy.



A beaming Hostetter, center, exits Hutton Arena during the processional following her installation ceremony.

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Stillwater denies 2 cannabis locations

Proximity to youth facilities cited; third retail site approved

By Talia McWright
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Stillwater community members sent more than 100 emails to the city's planning department expressing concern over a proposed adult-use recreational cannabis retail store opening near facilities frequented by minors.

"This would seem to violate the intent of trying to keep youth protected from bad or inappropriate influences," Carol Tregilgas wrote.

Stillwater City Council members voted late Wednesday on three businesses that applied for permits to open adult-use recreational cannabis retail stores in the city.

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Demolition of vacant St. Paul CVS ordered

Site considered a blight on Midway; drugstore chain, property owner object

By Frederick Melo
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Despite last-minute objections from attorneys for drugstore chain CVS and a mysterious property owner, the St. Paul City Council has ordered the demolition of

the vacant former CVS building at Snelling and University avenues, an eyesore property that has loomed large over Midway neighborhood discussions and even the recent mayor's race.

The seven-member council voted unanimously on Wednesday

evening to order the site at 499 N. Snelling Ave. demolished within 15 days.

"CVS has done nothing for years," said Ward 4 Council Member Molly Coleman, who noted the 600 police visits to the site in the past five years. "The clock has run out."

The CVS location, which opened in 2007, was looted during riots in May 2020, briefly reopened and then closed

permanently, attracting vandals, loiterers and open-air drug sales.

It was added to the city's official registered vacant building list in 2023 when the city revoked its certificate of occupancy following "dozens upon dozens of code enforcement abatement orders," said Marcia Moermond, the city's legislative hearing officer, prior to the council vote.

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