

Wild: Bobby Brink and family celebrate his return to Minnesota. **B1**



Dining diary: Recalling our favorite special-event venues. **Eat, C1**



Local: Revamped Festival of Nations returns to St. Paul. **A2**



Keep up with all the latest food and news in the Twin Cities.



Sign up at:

twincities.com/newsletters

PIONEER PRESS

Serving our community for 176 years

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 | TWINCITIES.COM |

War in Iran

Tankers, oil facilities and airport all become targets

Tehran seeks to upend global markets

By Jon Gambrell, Sam Mednick and David Rising
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran fired on commercial ships Wednesday and targeted Dubai International Airport, escalating a campaign of bottling up the oil-rich Persian Gulf as global energy concerns mounted and American and Israeli airstrikes pounded the Islamic Republic.

Iran's response to the surprise Israeli and U.S. bombardment that started 12 days ago has upended trade routes, choked supplies of fuel and fertil-

izer coming out of the Gulf and threatened air traffic through one of the world's most-traveled regions. Both sides have dug in, hoping to outlast the other.

REPORT: NEW SUPREME LEADER INJURED

An Israeli intelligence assessment, meanwhile, found Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, was wounded at the start of the war — on the day when his father and predecessor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed in an

See **IRAN** on Page A7



A man walks along the shore in Khor Fakkan, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday as oil tankers and cargo ships line up in the Strait of Hormuz. With the Strait bottled up, the International Energy Agency agreed Wednesday to release the largest volume of emergency oil reserves in its history. **Page A7.** ALTAF QADRI — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report: U.S. at fault in strike on school

Errant Tomahawk missile killed 175, mostly children

By Julian E. Barnes, Eric Schmitt, Tyler Pager, Malachy Browne and Helene Cooper
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — An ongoing military investigation has determined that the United States is responsible for a deadly Tomahawk missile strike on an Iranian elementary school, according to U.S. officials and others familiar with the preliminary findings.

The Feb. 28 strike on the Shajarah Tayyeb elementary school building was the result of a targeting mistake by the U.S. military, which was

conducting strikes on an adjacent Iranian base of which the school building was formerly a part, the preliminary investigation found. Officers at U.S. Central Command created the target coordinates for the strike using outdated data provided by the Defense Intelligence Agency, people briefed on the investigation said.

Officials emphasized that the findings are preliminary and that there are important unanswered questions about why the outdated information had not been double-checked.

Striking a school full of children is sure to be recorded as one of the most devastating single military errors in recent decades.

See **AIRSTRIKE** on Page A7

GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

RAIDERS ARE READY



Cretin-Derham Hall guard Olivia Laughlin (2) and her teammates cheer on their team during the Class 3A quarterfinal against fifth-ranked Hill-Murray on Wednesday at Williams Arena in Minneapolis. Cretin-Derham Hall won 84-65. More coverage of the girls state basketball tournament is in **Sports, Page B1.** CRAIG LASSIG — SPECIAL TO THE PIONEER PRESS

OPERATION METRO SURGE

St. Paul tallies economic impact

Immigrant workers lost \$118M in income, early estimate says

By Frederick Melo
FMELO@PIONEERPRESS.COM

When federal agents swarmed the Twin Cities this winter, many customers and workers stayed home, and some restaurants and small businesses cut hours, shifted to takeout only or shuttered entirely, especially in immigrant business corridors.

What kind of economic impact did Operation Metro Surge, the Trump administration's mass deportation operation in Minnesota, have in St. Paul?

City Hall officials acknowledge their numbers are rough estimates at best, but based on a similar U.S. census data methodology used by the city of Minneapolis a few weeks ago, the Capital City's foreign-born workers lost an estimated \$118 million in income across January and February alone. Officials say the early numbers are approximations, based on census numbers and surveys and anecdotes from employees.

The St. Paul figure dwarfs the \$94 million in estimated lost wages in Minneapolis, not that it's a competition.

"That number ... will create a gap in income and hardship in paying for a range of monthly necessities, from food to transportation to housing," reads a March 9 memo from research analyst Bob Spaulding, prepared for St. Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Renters are already falling behind on rent, compounding a housing crisis that existed even before Operation Metro Surge. St. Paul's analysis found a "rent gap" of nearly \$16 million per month, or \$31.92 million in total, which again is slightly higher than what Minneapolis estimated.

See **ICE** on Page A8

ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lowe to fill interim school board seat

Board picks parent, metro education professional for position vacated by Vue's resignation

By Imani Cruzen
ICRUZEN@PIONEERPRESS.COM

Brandon Lowe, a district parent with an administrative background in pre-K-12 education who works for the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage school district, will join

the St. Paul Public Schools board as an interim member on April 10.

The SPPS board on Tuesday selected Lowe to serve through December after interviewing five candidates. Lowe will take former board member Jim Vue's seat on the seven-member board.

Vue, who had served on the board since 2020, resigned Feb. 17.

Board Chair Uriah Ward recused himself in February from the candidate selection because of a potential conflict of interest — candidate Lesley Lavery is the co-chair of the disserta-

tion committee overseeing Ward's doctoral dissertation at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga. Board member Chauntyll Allen also previously notified the board she would be absent Tuesday.

See **SCHOOLS** on Page A9



Lowe

SECTION A Local, News, Obits, Opinion, Business
SECTION B Sports, Weather
SECTION C Eat, TV, Advice

WEATHER FORECAST
THU. H: 41 L: 29
FRI. H: 35 L: 24
SAT. H: 38 L: 28
Full weather report B6

CONTACT US
Newsroom 651-228-5490
Subscriber services 651-717-7377
Ads & other info 651-222-1111
Reader advocate 651-228-5446

©2026 St. Paul Pioneer Press (Northwest Publications)

Volume 177, issue 319
THU
8 63426 00045 6