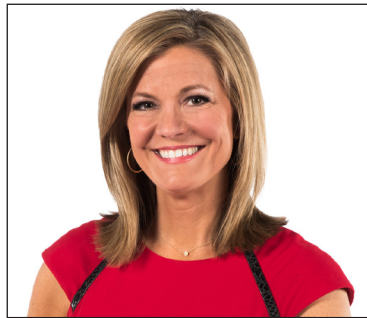


World Cup: U.S. team advances with win over Australia. **B1**



Media: KARE's Julie Nelson taking time off after boat accident. **A2**



Twins: Byron Buxton on short list for All-Star outfielders. **B1**



Morning Report

Start your day with the best and most important stories handpicked by editors each weekday.

To sign up, go to:

TwinCities.com/newsletters



PIONEER PRESS

Serving our community for 177 years

SATURDAY+EARLY SUNDAY, JUNE 20-21, 2026 | TWINCITIES.COM

MIDEAST

Sources: Israel, Hezbollah to halt fighting

Truce seen aiding stalled U.S.-Iran talks to end larger war

By Erin Cunningham, Jon Gambrell and Amer Madhani
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group agreed Friday to halt the heavy fighting in southern Lebanon

that had threatened to unravel an interim agreement between the United States and Iran to end their war, officials said. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah confirmed the truce.

It came after a heavy exchange of fire killed 47 people in Lebanon and four Israeli soldiers.

Hezbollah and Israel went to war shortly after the outbreak of the wider conflict, with Hezbollah firing rockets and drones at civilian communities in northern Israel and Israel seizing large swaths of southern Lebanon.

The interim agreement to end

the Iran war has already reopened the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran effectively closed, which cut the global economy off from significant supplies of oil and natural gas. The deal would also relaunch talks on Iran's nuclear program, the core issue over which Israel and the U.S. began the war on Feb. 28.

But the accord already faces threats, chiefly in Lebanon, with

the fighting there leading to a delay in the start of talks planned for Friday in Switzerland. The new agreement calls for a halt to military operations in Lebanon and for its sovereignty to be respected. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah is a party to the larger Iran-U.S. deal.

See **IRAN** on Page A10

Juneteenth in St. Paul

CELEBRATING FREEDOM



Reggie Wedan, 16, from Woodbury, adds his touches to a Rondo neighborhood mural at the Juneteenth celebrations Friday at Rondo Commemorative Plaza in St. Paul. Juneteenth, a federal holiday every June 19 commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S., was marked by events and celebrations around the country. Coverage on **Page A7**. **JOHN AUTEY — PIONEER PRESS**

ST. PAUL DOWNTOWN

City leaders say skyways will reopen

3 key routes closed because of building owner's troubles

By Frederick Melo
FMELO@PIONEERPRESS.COM

St. Paul City Council President Rebecca Noecker announced Thursday evening that the city has made an official commitment toward getting three long-shut-

tered sections of the downtown skyway system reopened.

Though no firm reopening date has been announced, a spokesperson for St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her's office said Friday that the mayor is on board with the general aim of returning foot

traffic through the Alliance Bank Center, Central Station and the St. Paul Athletic Club, which have been major voids in the network of mostly second-floor skybridges that connect some 47 city blocks and five miles of downtown St. Paul.

The city closed off pedestrian access through the shuttered Alliance Bank Center in April 2025, a few weeks after then-property owner Madison Equities informed tenants they needed to vacate the building as major utilities had not been paid.

See **SKYWAY** on Page A10

OBITUARY SISTER ROSALIND GEFRE, 96

Sister Roz, the 'Massaging Nun' was figure at Saints games

She also helped change how massage therapy was viewed, regulated

By Tyler Quattrin
TQUATTRIN@PIONEERPRESS.COM

Sister Rosalind Gefre spent nearly three decades giving chair massages at St. Paul Saints baseball games, becoming one of the minor league baseball team's most recognizable and beloved fixtures.

But long before fans knew her as the "Massaging Nun," Gefre led a movement that transformed how the public, and the law, viewed massage therapy at a time when

the profession carried the stigma of prostitution.

Gefre, known to many as Sister Roz, died Monday while in hospice care at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. She was 96.

EARLY LIFE

Born Mary Margaret Gefre in 1929 near Strasburg, N.D., she was the eighth of 12 children. She grew up on a farm during the Great Depression, spoke only German at home and helped her widowed mother run the farm after her father died when she was five.

See **ROSALIND** on Page A10



Sister Rosalind Gefre waves as she is lifted up by St. Paul Saints manager George Tsanus, left, and Saints co-owner actor Bill Murray during a 2016 award presentation at CHS Field in St. Paul. **JOHN AUTEY — PIONEER PRESS**

OPERATION METRO SURGE

Report alleges federal abuses

Human Rights Watch calls crisis 'manufactured'; DHS disputes accounts

By Mara H. Gottfried
MGOTTFRIED@PIONEERPRESS.COM

Human Rights Watch, which says it documents "some of the world's worst human rights abuses in armed conflicts and crisis situations all around the world," has recently focused on Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota.

In releasing a report this week, the nonprofit says it spent the past five months investigating "the far-reaching and widespread human rights violations and consequences" of the unprecedented deployment of federal immigration officers in Minnesota beginning in December.

See **ICE** on Page A3

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Brothers admit to crypto heist

Isiah and Raymond Garcia, both of Texas, sought \$8M ransom

By Imani Cruzen
ICRUZEN@PIONEERPRESS.COM

A pair of Texas brothers who held a Grant man, his wife and adult son hostage and stole \$8 million in cryptocurrency from them have pleaded guilty to federal charges and face up to 20 years in prison, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Isiah Angelo Garcia, 25, and Raymond Christian Garcia, 24, pleaded guilty Thursday to one count each of Interference with Commerce by Robbery in U.S. District Court, U.S. Attorney Daniel Rosen announced.

See **KIDNAP** on Page A10

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

WEATHER FORECAST
SAT. H:76 L:56
SUN. H:75 L:56
MON. H:75 L:57
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 178, issue 54
SAT
8 63426 00047 0