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ST. PAUL

Housing challenges studied

New report, online dashboard examine rents, affordability, housing production

By Frederick Melo
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Residential rents in St. Paul have flattened out, and after adjusting for inflation, they've actually fallen a bit.

That may come as a surprise, given that housing production has been tepid in the capital city. New housing units are rolling

out at about one-fifth of the pace from their recent peak just a few years ago. Supply isn't growing like gangbusters, but neither apparently is demand.

"Five years ago, it was over 2,000 new units being permitted," said Libby Starling, the senior community development adviser at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. "In 2025, it

was less than 400. That's a significant drop-off."

The city has adjusted some regulations in order to spur development. When St. Paul lifted zoning rules in 2023 that had long prevented multi-unit rentals from being built on lots that previously hosted detached single-family homes, how much "missing middle" construction followed?

INSIDE: Property owners asked about impact of rent control. **A6**

The answer is 47 duplex, triplex and fourplex units, according to Starling, whose research team recently took a deep dive on a wide range of housing issues in St. Paul.

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WAR IN IRAN

Iran claims to close strait

In response, Trump threatens tolls if deal is not reached in 60 days

By Kareem Chehayeb, Bassem Mroue and Munir Ahmed
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TYRE, Lebanon — Iran on Saturday said that it closed the Strait of Hormuz because of Israel's attacks in Lebanon and warned that while negotiators were going to Switzerland for talks with the United States on their interim agreement, not much likely will happen if the fighting doesn't stop.

President Donald Trump, in response, threatened to impose U.S. tolls in the crucial waterway if a final deal with Iran isn't reached in 60 days, saying the money would be for "services rendered as the Guardian Angel to the countries of the Middle East." His social media post underscored that the agreement calls for toll-free travel for 60 days.

The announcements indicated a rough start to technical-level U.S.-Iran talks that key mediator Pakistan said will begin Sunday, with Qatari mediators also participating.

Iran's joint military command said the strait was closed because of the U.S. "clear breach of its commitments" by failing to end the war.

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INSIDE: If deal with U.S. is secured, Iran's economic outlook could be its strongest in decades. **A7**

MINNESOTA

A NEW HOME, WITH LOVE



Ten-year-old Hanna Bartley, left, gives some attention to Bucky, a year-old beagle held by Hanna's mother, Janelle Ruswick, at the family's Minnetonka home this month. The family adopted the beagle from the Bond Between on Memorial Day. Named after the University of Wisconsin-Madison mascot, Bucky was one of the beagles acquired by animal welfare groups from Ridgman Farms, a dog breeding and research facility in southwestern Wisconsin. **PHOTOS BY JOHN AUTEY — PIONEER PRESS**

Bred for biomedical research, these beagles are now sniffing out life as family pets

By Molly Guthrey
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Hanna Bartley's parents had an important deadline to make recently.

The 10-year-old wanted a dog before she turned 11 in October.

On Memorial Day, four months before Hanna's birthday, that deadline was met.

"He is your dog now," Jenae Nelson, the beagle's foster parent from the Bond Between, told Hanna and her parents, Janelle Ruswick and Nate Bartley, when



Bucky explores the yard of his new home, where he is slowly warming up to his family.

they came to fetch their newly adopted dog from her home in Bloomington.

Welcome home, Bucky. It's been a long road for this beagle and many others like him from

Ridgman Farms in Wisconsin.

"You're going to go to a new home, they're nice people," Nelson assured the nervous dog. "The world is going to be safe."

Bucky, a skittish guy who seemed to prefer keeping himself pressed into a corner between a door and a wall, would need some convincing. Like many of the Ridgman beagles, the dog, originally called Owl, was not accustomed to being out and about in the world, a bit like a spooked bird or a barn cat or aliens new to Earth.

See **BEAGLES** on Page A16

ANALYSIS

Trump weighed suspending a constitutional right

White House aide pushed back on idea to suspend habeas corpus for unauthorized immigrants

By Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan
NEW YORK TIMES

Last spring, Will Scharf, an archconservative lawyer serving as the White House staff secretary, wrote a secret memo to the chief of staff that reflected growing unease in the West Wing about one of the extreme measures being weighed by Stephen Miller, the power-

ful adviser driving President Donald Trump's deportation campaign.

Dated April 29, 2025, and stamped "confidential," the memo was careful and lawyerly but amounted to a warning against end-running the rule of law. The subject line read: "THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS."

Habeas corpus — the centuries-old right to force the government to justify, before a judge,

why it has locked a person up — is enshrined in Article I of the Constitution. Scharf's memo, in its unassuming way, was a blinking red warning light. The second Trump White House was deliberating an explosive new claim of presidential power: the suspension of habeas rights for unauthorized immigrants.

The suspension of habeas corpus has occurred just a handful

of times in U.S. history, and always under the most dire circumstances of war or invasion. Yet to a greater degree than previously known, administration officials, encouraged by Trump, actively weighed taking that step in the early months of his second term — this time to accelerate the mass deportation of immigrants in the country illegally.

See **HABEAS** on Page A8

EAST METRO

How did projects fare in bonding?

A look at which requests got funding, which didn't from 2026 Legislature

By Imani Cruzen, Elliot Mann and Talia McWright
PIONEER PRESS

Lawmakers passed a \$1.2 billion bonding package during the past legislative session — with a number of east metro projects included.

For St. Paul, the final package — reached as part of a bipartisan deal between Gov. Tim Walz and legislative leaders last month — contained \$50 million in starter money for the planned renovation of the Grand Casino Arena complex.

Of that amount, \$40 million is aimed at modernizing Roy Wilkins Auditorium, a 5,800-seat auditorium built in 1932. Another \$10 million in cash or appropriations bonds would support project planning and design for the arena renovation.

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