

Aurora: Coach credits culture for Minnesota team's success. **B1**



Review: 'Wicked' just good enough to keep fans happy. **A3**



Britain: Andy Burnham gains Labour support to be next premier. **A8**



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★
WAR IN IRAN

Latest airstrikes are mystery

Tehran points to other Gulf states after latest U.S. campaign ends

By Jon Gambrell
ASSOCIATED PRESS

No one claimed responsibility Friday for airstrikes that hit Iran after the U.S. said it finished its attacks, leaving questions about who else may be targeting the Islamic Republic.

The strikes Thursday, just as Iran prepared to bury the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, hit areas across southern Iran. The country's theocracy hasn't directly blamed anyone, though one lawmaker warned the United Arab Emirates about allegedly providing support to the

U.S. campaign against Iran. Gulf Arab states, which Iran has targeted repeatedly since the war began Feb. 28, did not respond to requests for comment Friday about the strikes. The attacks come as those Gulf nations and the U.S. insist that the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for

world energy markets, must be open and free to ships to transit. Iran says that the strait must now be under its sole control and that vessels should begin to pay fees to Tehran — even though the world for decades has considered it an international waterway. About a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas passed through the

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ST. PAUL HARRIET ISLAND

A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY



Erin Schoonover, left, and her friend Amy Hill try to keep cool Friday as they watch Minneapolis-based band the Last Revel during opening day of the Minnesota Country Club music festival at Harriet Island in St. Paul. **JOHN AUTEY — PIONEER PRESS**

Inaugural Minnesota Country Club festival brings folk, Americana, denim and cowboy boots; it continues today

By Georgia Ross
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The inaugural two-day Minnesota Country Club music festival kicked off with a bang Friday afternoon at Harriet Island Regional Park in St. Paul.

By the time security gates opened at 12:30, long lines had already formed, though they

seemed to move quickly.

Concertgoers in denim, cowboy boots, gingham blouses and braids baked in the sun along the Mississippi River. The audience appeared younger; several said they discovered festival artists on social media. Others said they were curious to explore the new festival after attending the Minnesota Yacht Club, a summer pop

music festival also on Harriet Island produced by the same company.

With a scan of the crowd on Friday afternoon, excitement for the night's closing headliner, Treaty Oak Revival, was clear. Fans were dressed in "No vacancy" and "Have a nice day" merchandise T-shirts. Some Charley Crockett items, too; the Texas singer was

also on the Friday evening lineup. "We were up close, and we just like the energy, the vibe," said Sophie Hanson, who traveled from North Carolina to attend the festival. "It's a really big deal. I've been looking forward to this since February."

When the first opening band, Sons of Habit, played their most popular single, "Madeline," hips and hair swayed side to side. Shirts hit the grass and sunscreen went on in the 87-degree heat.

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MARINE ON ST. CROIX

Council member faces calls to resign over flag flap

John Goodfellow admits taking, and returning, city's POW/MIA flag to spark discussion

By Tyler Quattrin
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Residents of Marine on St. Croix called for City Council Member John Goodfellow's resignation Thursday after he admitted to removing — and later returning — the Prisoner of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) flag from the city's only flagpole.

At a well-attended council meeting at Village Hall, many residents of the small Washington County suburb accused Goodfellow of disrespecting veterans and the community.

After the meeting, Goodfellow told the Pioneer Press he remains uncertain about what he will do. The city is pursuing charges against Goodfellow, and he has a hearing date scheduled for October.

The alleged theft occurred around 9:20 p.m. May 15, according to a Washington County Sheriff's Office police report.

Video surveillance footage shows a car turning into the Security State Bank parking entrance, a person exiting the passenger side and walking to the flagpole. At 9:18 p.m., the

See **FLAG** on Page A10



Marine on St. Croix City Council Member John Goodfellow attends a council meeting Thursday. Residents called for Goodfellow's resignation after he admitted to taking the city's POW/MIA flag and later returning it. **TYLER QUATTRIN — PIONEER PRESS**

MINNESOTA

Pardoned sex-abuse offender deported

Tou Lue Vang was detained during winter immigration enforcement surge

By Alex Derosier
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A man convicted in 2005 of sexually abusing a young girl and then pardoned last month by a panel including Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has now been deported by the Trump administration to Laos, White House officials said Friday.

Tou Lue Vang, 42, faced deportation after immigration officials detained him during the Trump administration's winter immigration enforcement surge in Minnesota. Vang, who came to the U.S. in 1994, had his legal status revoked in 2006 after his conviction and had an order for removal.

On June 10, the three-person Minnesota Board of Pardons, which includes Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie Hudson, pardoned Vang, giving him a way to fight deportation.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he revoked Vang's legal status this week after news of the pardon emerged. Administration officials said Vang has now been sent to Laos from the U.S.

"Because of our action, this foreign criminal will never pose a threat to any American ever again," Rubio said in a video statement posted to X. "Americans should never be forced by their elected leaders to live alongside foreign sex criminals who have no right to begin with to reside in our country."

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IMMIGRATION

Witnesses dispute shooting account

Feds releasing few details about fatal Houston traffic stop

By Lekan Oyekanmi,
Jack Brook and Ryan J. Foley
ASSOCIATED PRESS /
REPORT FOR AMERICA

HOUSTON — Three men inside a van who witnessed the fatal shooting of the driver by an immigration officer in Houston said the Mexican man was shot through a passenger window and that the officer was never threatened, a lawyer who has spoken with them said Friday.

The shooting Tuesday during an attempted traffic stop by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in Houston has revived critical voices deriding the Trump administration's immigration crackdown and how ICE operates. Immigration arrests around the country recently

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