

Vikings: Andrew Van Ginkel happy with new role as a mentor. **B1**



Soccer: U.S. men's team to play October match in St. Paul. **B1**



Theater: Lin-Manuel Miranda signs on to 'Purple Rain' team. **A3**



Fun Things To Do Over The Weekend
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ST. PAUL

Ready or not, time to move



From left, Adam K., Samie Lund, Michael "Pops" Ivory and Isaac Thomas sit at their space at the Pig's Eye encampment in St. Paul on Tuesday, one day before the city's scheduled sweep to clear the area. They plan to move to other encampments in the city.

PHOTOS BY TYLER QUATTRIN — PIONEER PRESS

Residents of large homeless camp prepare for today's scheduled shutdown as county, state officials continue to call for a pause

By Frederick Melo, Imani Cruzen, Hannah Brueske and Tyler Quattrin
PIONEER PRESS

On Tuesday morning, less than 24 hours before the city of St. Paul was scheduled to clear its largest homeless encampment in Pig's Eye Regional Park, Ramone Scarborough was busy relocating his tents a short walk across the street to Warner Road.

Moving his belongings took him 30 trips in two days, he said. Like Scarborough, many residents of the sizable tent community off Fish Hatchery Road have no plans to abandon their dwellings for a first-come, first-served downtown shelter bed that may not be available the next night.

For a variety of reasons, they've clung tightly to communal living on the margins, and the best

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Signs opposing the city's planned sweep are posted on trees at the Pig's Eye encampment.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Blanche clears crucial vote on path to AG

Committee advances nomination to Senate, which is expected to confirm

By Glenn Thrush and Michael Gold
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Todd Blanche, whose role in a much-criticized deal to resolve President Donald Trump's lawsuit against the IRS nearly scuttled his confirmation as attorney general, cleared a crucial hurdle Tuesday after the Senate Judiciary Committee narrowly approved

his nomination.

After a week of uncertainty, Blanche was confirmed by a 12-10 vote along party lines, exemplifying a widening schism over the direction of a department at the center of Trump's effort to punish and humiliate his perceived enemies.

Blanche, the president's former defense lawyer and the acting attorney general, broke an impasse over his confirmation after



Blanche

proposed \$1.8 billion compensation fund that could have been used to pay Jan. 6 rioters and limit the scope of a deal granting broad tax immunity to Trump and his family.

Blanche's nomination now advances to the Senate floor, with a

he reached an agreement with two Republican holdouts on the committee late Sunday. Blanche released written assurances that he would kill a

vote possible as early as this week. He is expected to be confirmed, even though several Republicans have yet to commit to supporting him. Two lame-duck Republicans, Sens. John Cornyn of Texas and Thom Tillis of North Carolina, voted with their party's majority on the committee after briefly defying the White House over concerns about the highly unusual fund and a tax immunity deal that could save the president \$100 million.

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MIDDLE EAST

Progress made in strait talks

U.S. could scuttle Iran-Oman deal by retaining blockade

By Samy Magdy, Aamer Madhani and Matthew Lee
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran and the Gulf Arab state of Oman have made progress toward a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a potential breakthrough that could help wind down the war in the Middle East, regional officials said Tuesday.

Under the emerging agreement, ships would enter the Persian Gulf through an Iranian-controlled route and exit through a route controlled by Oman, with service fees charged for providing security and preserving the maritime environment, two regional officials told the Associated Press.

They said negotiations are still underway and that the final agreement could take a different form, with any deal linked to lifting the U.S. blockade on Iran's ports. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations unfolding behind closed doors.

Any agreement formalizing Iran's control of the strait would mark a significant strategic victory for Tehran. For that reason, the U.S. could seek to block the deal by refusing to lift the blockade. The strait was an open international waterway before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28.

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MINNESOTA

Hastings data center pause gets council OK

Others have passed similar measures to mull zoning updates

By Elliot Mann
SPECIAL TO THE PIONEER PRESS

The Hastings City Council on Monday night moved forward a potential pause on any data center development, joining a growing number of cities across the state considering such a measure.

The ordinance calls for a moratorium on any data center projects for one year, allowing Hastings city staff to study the impact of these facilities, while also considering how to better define such facilities within city code.

The city council on Monday approved the first reading of the proposed moratorium and will consider final adoption at its Aug. 17 meeting, when they will also solicit comments from the community with a public hearing.

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IMMIGRATION

ICE will use prison in west-central Minnesota

Private owner of the Appleton facility confirms 5-year contract with agency

By Mary Murphy
FORUM NEWS SERVICE

The Prairie Correctional Facility, an idle private prison in Appleton, Minn., will soon be used by U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement.

CoreCivic, a company that owns dozens of immigration detention centers across the country, confirmed Tuesday that it has been awarded a contract with ICE. The contract begins Aug. 11 and

will last for five years, according to CoreCivic.

"While this facility has been idle since 2010, we have made investments to help ensure an efficient reactivation in the event of a new contract," CEO Patrick D. Swindle said in the release. "The geographic location of this facility, similar to our other recent contract awards, improves our

ability to support our government partner throughout the United States."

Appleton is in west-central Minnesota, about 50 miles from Willmar, and about 150 miles from Fargo, Sioux Falls and the Twin Cities. Speculation about ICE using the facility, which has 1,600

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