



## Toppmeyer: College coaches on the hot seat

SPORTS, 1B

# St. Cloud Times

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | SCTIMES.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Cartel leader's death leads to violence

### U.S. assisted in raid; Mexican president says unrest has calmed

**Lauren Villagran, Kathryn Palmer and Zac Anderson**

USA TODAY

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Feb. 23 that normal activity had resumed following a day of violence in several regions of the country.

"Today, there is tranquility," she said,

adding that peace had been secured and blockades largely cleared.

The U.S. State Department partially relaxed its security alert for Americans in several Mexican states, which had initially included the international vacation hot spots of Puerto Vallarta, Guadalajara, Tijuana, Cancun, Cozumel, Playa del Carmen and Tulum. However,

some areas remained under a "shelter in place" advisory from the U.S. government Feb. 23, including the states of Baja California, Nayarit and Jalisco, including Tijuana and Puerto Vallarta, and parts of a dozen other Mexican states.

The unrest was triggered by the Feb. 22 killing of a powerful cartel lead-

er in a military operation.

Nemesio Oseguera, commonly known as "El Mencho," was Mexico's most-wanted cartel leader, with a \$15 million bounty for information leading to his capture. He rose through the ranks and launched a deadly coup to become the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, or CJNG. The criminal enterprise rapidly grew into a

**See CARTEL, Page 2A**



Co-owners Craig Sexton and Mike Noelting started SNX Technologies in 2008. TEAGAN KING/ST. CLOUD TIMES

## Local company behind some common furniture items

**Teagan King**

St. Cloud Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Visitors to one of Sauk Rapids' many manufacturers will be met with a small team of machinists, working in a large open space full of equipment for shaping metal, testing machines and transporting supplies.

The work stations are surrounded by walls lined high with equipment and shelves, chemicals for glue and other equipment made in house.

In its Sauk Rapids facility, manufacturer SNX Technologies creates equipment that is responsible for a small but important detail on some of the most common furniture found in schools and offices around the country.

"Literally (almost) any restaurant, school, office, you'll see all the edges done (by our machines)," co-owner Mike Noelting said.

Co-owners Craig Sexton and Mike Noelting started SNX Technologies in 2008, importing machines from Italy to sell in the U.S. In 2015, they started

manufacturing the machines themselves after having quality concerns about the imported items, and the team then brought all operations in-house in 2018.

SNX Technologies manufactures contour edgebanders, machines that apply finished plastic or wood edges to furniture like office and school desks. The company also produces products such as cleaning and anti-static chemicals and hotmelt glues for

**See FURNITURE, Page 2A**

## Minnesota ICE agents reduced

**Madison McVan**  
MINNESOTA REFORMER

Department of Homeland Security officials say fewer than 500 immigration agents remain in Minnesota now that Operation Metro Surge has concluded, U.S. Rep. Angie Craig said Friday after touring the Whipple Federal Building with U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar.

That's still three times the pre-surge number of ICE agents in Minnesota, which was 150, Gov. Tim Walz said earlier this month.

Omar, a Minneapolis Democrat, and Craig, a suburban Democrat running for U.S. Senate, inspected the Whipple building Friday at noon after providing seven days' notice to Homeland Security, which the agency now requires.

All detainees were moved out of the building half an hour before the members of Congress arrived, Omar and Craig said.

"It seems a little too convenient, knowing that our scheduled visit was going to be at 12 p.m., that the last detainees would be transported out of the facility at 11:30," Omar said.

Democratic lawmakers have sued the Trump administration over its policy requiring visits to ICE detention facilities be scheduled a week in advance; federal law grants them unannounced access to facilities holding people awaiting deportation.

Craig said the Whipple building's detention area was clean and empty.

"What we saw today was very, very different from what the state has experienced under Operation Metro Surge," she said.

Immigration agents are now averaging around 20 arrests per day, Craig said, and those detainees are quickly transferred and held in county jails.

Craig said she's taking everything

**See AGENTS, Page 3A**



**The market won't wait. And neither should you.**

Buying or selling? Don't wait—make your move now.

Discover more at [addressUSA.com](https://addressUSA.com)



**Know your home's value. Then make your move.**

My dream home...

Help me sell fast...



### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [sctimes.com/enewspaper](https://sctimes.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 165 | No. 215  
Subscribe 877-424-4921  
©2026 **\$3.00**

