

The Minnesota Star Tribune

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

H: 38° L: 32° | PARTLY SUNNY

More than 500 dead in Iran protests

Tehran warns that U.S. military, Israel would be targets if they try to protect protesters.

By JON GAMBRELL
The Associated Press

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - A crackdown on nationwide protests in Iran has killed at least 538 people and even more are feared dead, activists said Sunday, while Tehran warned that the U.S. military and Israel would be “legitimate targets” if America uses force to protect demonstrators.

More than 10,600 people have been detained over the two

weeks of protests, said the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, which has been accurate in previous rounds of unrest in Iran in recent years. It relies on supporters in Iran crosschecking information. It said of those killed, 490 were protesters and 48 were members of security forces.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult. The Associated Press

has been unable to independently assess the toll.

The Iranian government has not offered overall casualty figures for the demonstrations.

Those abroad fear the information blackout is emboldening hard-liners within Iran’s security services to launch a bloody crackdown. Protesters flooded the streets in the country’s capital and its second-largest city again Sunday morning.

U.S. President Donald Trump has offered support for the protesters, saying on social media that “Iran is looking at FREEDOM, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!”

Trump and his national security team have been weighing a range of potential responses against Iran including cyberattacks and direct strikes by either U.S. or Israel, according to two people familiar with internal White House discussions who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The White House, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment, has not indicated it has made any decisions. The massive ongoing U.S. military deployment to the Caribbean has created another

SEE IRAN ON A5 »



EMRAH GUREL • The Associated Press

A woman, with her face painted with the colors of the Iranian flag, joins with others during a small demonstration in Istanbul on Sunday.

Allegiant to buy Sun Country



Minnesota’s Sun Country Airlines will be acquired by low-cost rival Allegiant in a deal valued at \$1.5 billion, the companies announced Sunday, Jan. 11. The acquisition will reshape the future of the No. 2 passenger carrier at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and an airline with a 43-year history in the Twin Cities. More on this developing story at startribune.com

Photo by DAVID JOLIS • The Minnesota Star Tribune

‘I’m a physician,’ he said. ‘Don’t care’ was the reply.

ICE shooting raises a complicated question.

By JEREMY OLSON
The Minnesota Star Tribune

A terse exchange between a bystander claiming to be a doctor and federal immigration agents at the scene of the Renee Good shooting on Wednesday, Jan.

7, raises fresh questions about when and if bystanders with medical training should be able to render aid at crime scenes.

“Can I check a pulse?” yelled the bystander, standing across Portland Avenue from Good’s lifeless body inside her crashed SUV, video footage of the exchange shows.

“No,” an agent replies. “Back up.”

“I’m a physician!”

“I don’t care.”

Neither the purported doctor nor the agent in the exchange have been identified. But experts in emergency response said both were likely acting within their training, and they couldn’t determine whether bystander aid might have changed the outcome. Good was taken to HCMC in

Minneapolis after she was shot in the head while trying to flee the federal agents and pronounced dead at the hospital, according to Minneapolis police accounts and video of the scene.

Doctors and other licensed medical professionals and first responders in Minnesota are obliged to help injured people at emergency scenes under the

state’s Good Samaritan law. However, when law enforcement agents are in control, they have authority to accept or refuse that help as they assess the safety and security of emergency scenes, medical and EMS officials told the Minnesota Star Tribune.

Police officers have been “more than willing to take my

SEE ICE ON A8 »

Problems at food supplier persistent

Recent recall had been foreshadowed by issues raised years earlier.

By VICTOR STEFANESCU
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Raed Azem, the manager of Jimmy’s Market in north Minneapolis, learned about the massive recall through a friend.

He didn’t hear from the food supplier, Gold Star Distribution, after rodent and bird contamination forced it to recall all of its products, including those that landed in Azem’s tiny shop.

He threw away his inventory and is looking for a new distributor.

“There is no trust” with the distributor, Azem said.

But regulators have known for years about infestations at Gold Star.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors found decomposing rodents, birds flying through the warehouse and a roof leaking in 2018, according to a warning letter. The company admitted to continued “rodent and avian contamination” in the recall issued last month.

During a reporter’s impromptu tour of the site last week, water still dripped down from the warehouse’s roof onto boxes of merchandise in one area of the building.

The recall affected all food products in the warehouse, which the public notice said affected dozens of small stores and halal markets in Minnesota, exposing consumers to the risk of serious illness.

An FDA spokesperson said in an email the agency cannot comment on “current regulatory matters pertaining to this firm. The agency closed out the warning letter because of Gold Star’s voluntary corrective actions addressing pest activity as well as improving facilities,

SEE RECALL ON A8 »

Trump eyes Greenland, and Europe figures its best bet is a negotiation

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR, ERIC SCHMITT, STEVEN ERLANGER and JEANNA SMIALEK
The New York Times

LONDON - For Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen of Denmark and leaders across Europe, the threat of violence from their American allies was shocking. Stephen Miller, one of Presi-

dent Donald Trump’s closest aides, was asked Monday to rule out the use of military force to seize Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of Denmark. Miller not only refused, he also questioned Greenland’s status, ignored its historical ties to Denmark and mocked the idea that Europe could stand up to U.S. troops.

“The real question is, by what right does Denmark assert control over Greenland?” Miller said on CNN. “Obviously, Greenland should be part of the United States.”

Although Frederiksen had long taken Trump’s threats seriously, Miller’s blunt comments blew apart what had been

SEE GREENLAND ON A8 »

UCare CEO’s pay in 2024 topped \$1.2M as the company foundered

By CHRISTOPHER SNOWBECK
The Minnesota Star Tribune

When Hilary Marden-Resnik became chief executive at UCare almost four years ago, the health insurer was growing and generating record profits.

Today, the Minneapolis-based nonprofit is winding down operations. State officials

took it over in December after UCare posted a half-billion-dollar loss. Hundreds are losing jobs. Marden-Resnik has told colleagues she’s stepping down with the Jan. 1 sale of its remaining business to Medica, a rival health insurer.

The most recent public tax filings show Marden-Resnik received \$1.27 million in pay



Hilary Marden-Resnik received a salary of \$800K and bonus pay of \$279K in 2024.

in 2024, including a base salary that declined to \$800,000 and bonuses and incentives

SEE CEO ON A5 »

TOP NEWS

Hamas says it will dissolve its Gaza government when new Palestinian body takes over. **A3**

NATION & WORLD

A bipartisan package is scrapping many of the science funding cuts Trump called for. **A2**

STATE & REGION

Trailblazer Andrea Jenkins looks back on her time at Minneapolis City Hall. **A4**

SPORTS

College football in NIL era isn’t perfect, Jim Souhan writes, but it’s better than it’s ever been. **C1**

BUSINESS

Red Wing Shoes begins a major rebranding campaign. Theme: “Made the Hard Way.” **D1**

VARIETY

Laura Yuen: Millions of kids turn to AI companions that validate, flatter and flirt. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Grateful Dead fans are mourning the death of founding member Bob Weir, a guitarist and songwriter for the kings of psychedelic rock. **A2**

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THE MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE

Minneapolis, St. Paul MN • Volume XLIV • No. 283
January 12, 2026

