

The Minnesota Star Tribune

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

H: 63° L: 41° | HEAVY RAIN, THUNDERSTORMS

New security eyed for state officials

Attacks on Hortman, Hoffman prompt look at State Patrol unit to guard legislators.

By RYAN FAIRCLOTH
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Minnesota lawmakers are considering creating a new unit within the State Patrol to protect constitutional officers, Supreme Court justices and legislators

after last summer's deadly attack on two lawmakers.

The change is among many safety measures legislators are considering following the assassination of former House Speaker Melissa Hortman and attempted slaying of state Sen.

John Hoffman. Legislators also are looking to make their home addresses, phone numbers and children's names private data and require law enforcement agencies to develop safety protocols for elected officials.

Hoffman, DFL-Champlin, was shot nine times in the attack in his home last summer. He is carrying the bill to create a new protective services unit within

the State Patrol's Capitol Security division. The unit would be tasked with providing security to any constitutional officer, Supreme Court justice or legislator who is the target of a credible threat.

"Political violence is unacceptable and it must be rejected, but we must also adjust to this new reality," Hoffman said during a Senate committee hearing

on April 21.

Hoffman said he has continued to receive threatening voicemails and emails since the attack.

Eight state troopers would be assigned to the new protective services unit under the bill. As many as 30 more troopers would receive personal security training and be strategically placed throughout the state to

respond to threats as needed.

The unit also would provide security at the offices of the Attorney General, Secretary of State and State Auditor, conduct threat assessments and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and the Legislature's sergeant-at-arms.

The protective services unit would cost about \$13 million in **SEE SECURITY ON A5**

FARMERS' WORRIES GROW AS PLANTING SEASON ARRIVES



Photos by RICHARD TSONG-TAATARIU • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Minnesota growers expect rough year because of war, trade troubles.

By VICTOR STEFANESCU
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Around 2 a.m. on the late February day the U.S. went to war with Iran, a soybean and corn farmer in St. James, Minn., texted his local fuel supplier, who then scrambled to purchase diesel for the upcoming season.

The Middle East conflict was going to balloon diesel fuel and fertilizer prices. And for Minnesota farmers already dealing with razor-thin profit margins, that could be the difference between survival and failure.

"Had he not responded to

me, I think we would have been in trouble," farmer Andrew Karau said.

Farmers' harvests in 2025 were mostly unprofitable, and many growers are expecting to again lose money this year. And that's not just because of the war's impact; the prices for crops continue to flag, and President Donald Trump's ongoing trade war is limiting international buyers.

As a result, officials expect farmers to grow fewer acres of crops across the state this year compared to last year.

"I think farmers by nature are optimistic — if we weren't,

we wouldn't be farming," said Rob Tate, a corn and soybean farmer in Cannon Falls, Minn. "So we do have hope that at some point in time, things will get better. But right now, this is a tough spot for most of our producers to be in."

The income from Minnesota farms growing corn and soybeans, often planted after each other on the same fields to improve crop yield, remained low in 2025. Government payments hoisted these operations roughly up to the break-even line, data from the Center for Farm Financial Management **SEE FARMERS ON A5**



Andrew Karau, a farmer in St. James, Minn., plants corn during a sunny day last week. Minnesota farmers likely will be dealing with high prices for fuel and fertilizer because of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran and low prices for crops due in part to an ongoing trade war.

Alleged shooter's writings examined

Messages before D.C. dinner railed against Trump's policies.

By ERIC TUCKER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and MICHAEL BALSAMO • The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The man accused of opening fire at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner railed against Trump administration policies and referred to himself as a "Friendly Federal Assassin" in writings sent to family members minutes before the attack that authorities increasingly believe was politically motivated, according to a law enforcement official familiar with the investigation.

The writings, sent shortly before shots were fired Saturday night at the Washington Hilton, made repeated references to President Donald Trump without naming him directly and alluded to grievances over a range of administration actions and recent events, including U.S. strikes on drug smuggling boats in the eastern Pacific, the official said Sunday.

The official was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Investigators are treating the writings, along with a trail of social media posts and interviews with family members, as some of the clearest evidence yet of the suspect's mindset and possible motives.

Authorities also uncovered what the official described as numerous anti-Trump social media posts linked to the suspect, Cole Tomas Allen, a 31-year-old California man accused of trying to breach a security checkpoint at the dinner while armed with multiple weapons.

Allen's brother contacted police in New London, Conn., after receiving the writings, according to the official. In a statement, the New London **SEE DINNER ON A8**



Provided by Kinney family

Brecken Kinney, 12, of Mahtomedi, with his mother, Marit Sivertson, and pediatric neurologist Dr. Randal Richardson after his first dose.

Trial treatment brings hope to Minnesota boy

A drug infusion is hardly dramatic, especially for a kid like 12-year-old Brecken Kinney, who has been poked and prodded his entire life to treat his Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

But the fluid pumping in his veins on Feb. 20 was no ordinary infusion. It was a new therapy that could halt or even reverse a progressive disease that often leaves people immobile by age 12 and dead by 30. So the Mahtomedi sixth-grader and his family celebrated.

Brecken flashed his dimpled smile as he posed for pictures with his mother, father,

Gillette Children's is first to offer test of therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

By JEREMY OLSON • The Minnesota Star Tribune

brothers, nurses and doctors at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in St. Paul. The drug is experimental, with the potential for unknown risks, but it offered hope.

"Your risk tolerance is different with a devastating disease that is 100 percent fatal," said his mother, Marit Sivertson. "We know for certain what will happen with the do-nothing

approach."

The excitement is centered on del-zota, a therapy developed by Avidity Biosciences that coaxes the body to produce dystrophin — a protein that strengthens muscle fibers in the body. Without dystrophin, muscles die and vital organs fail.

About 20,000 Americans, mostly boys and young men, are diagnosed with Duchenne,

or DMD, because of genetic defects that cause their bodies to produce little or no dystrophin. Del-zota is only suitable for about 7% of them with a specific genetic defect, but it addresses the problem by bypassing the mutation so that the gene can instruct the body to produce dystrophin.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last year granted early access to the therapy while it is still being evaluated for full approval, but only to patients with no other options and only at hospitals with structured **SEE THERAPY ON A5**

TOP NEWS

GOP Sen. Thom Tillis says he's ready to confirm Kevin Warsh, Trump's pick as Fed chair. **A2**

NATION & WORLD

As allies try to revive talks, Trump says U.S. is clearing mines from Strait of Hormuz. **A3**

STATE & REGION

A proposed trail gives cyclists and walkers a path across northern Hennepin County. **A4**

SPORTS

Matt Boldy proves unshakable in the Wild's overtime win that evens playoff series. **C1**

BUSINESS

Minnesota startup responds to funding loss with new product to help nursing mothers. **D1**

VARIETY

A deep dive examines what led to the end of the Basilio Block Party music festival. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Beers from Minneapolis, Fridley, Duluth and Rochester breweries win medals — including two golds — at the World Beer Cup. **E5**

THE HEART AND VOICE OF THE NORTH

Online: startribune.com • News tips: 612-673-4414 • Comments: 612-673-4000
Subscriptions: 612-673-4343 or go to startribune.com/subscribe

THE MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE

Minneapolis, St. Paul MN • Volume XLV • No. 23
April 27, 2026

