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2026 PULITZER PRIZE



FOR BREAKING NEWS

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Annunciation parents back Klobuchar

They say Demuth “lied to us” over gun vote after their child was killed in mass shooting.

By RYAN FAIRCLOTH
The Minnesota Star Tribune

The parents of a 10-year-old girl who was killed in the mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church endorsed Democrat Amy Klobuchar’s campaign for governor on Thursday and accused her Republican opponent of breaking a promise to allow a floor vote in the Minnesota House on gun safety legislation.

At a news conference in south Minneapolis, Mike Moyski and

Jackie Flavin recalled inviting House Speaker Lisa Demuth into their home after the August 2025 shooting that killed their daughter, Harper, and 8-year-old Fletcher Merkel and wounded dozens of others.

They asked Demuth if she would allow a hypothetical bill banning assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines to come up for a vote on the Minnesota House floor. Demuth told them she would not block such a bill from reaching the floor, they recalled.

Months later, a gun safety package that included the bans passed the DFL-controlled state Senate and arrived in the House, which is evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. Demuth declined to bring it to the floor after pieces of the package had previously failed to make it through House committees.

“I think she lied to us in our living room,” Moyski said of Demuth. “Intentionally? I don’t know. But then continued to lie as we called it out.”

The dispute has become a flash point in the governor’s race, with Klobuchar and Moyski’s parents saying Demuth

broke her word to a grieving family.

The episode has also underscored a sharp divide between the two candidates on gun policy, an issue that took on renewed urgency after the Annunciation attack.

Demuth has rejected the characterization of the meeting with Moyski and Flavin, saying during a televised debate with Klobuchar on Wednesday night that she only promised the bills would go through the legislative process. The bills received votes in House committees, she said.

“I said bills will be introduced, they will go through
SEE ENDORSE ON A7 »



CARLOS GONZALEZ • The Minnesota Star Tribune
Jackie Flavin and Mike Moyski listen as gubernatorial candidate Amy Klobuchar speaks at Washburn Library in Minneapolis on Thursday.

Ex-boyfriend charged in 2024 death



Joshua Hanks, left, son of victim Allison Lussier, hugs Nicole Lussier, Allison's sister, as charges were announced at a news conference Thursday in Minneapolis.



Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty speaks during the news conference. “People were so persistent and just found information that closed those gaps that left us confident in charging,” she said.

Murder count comes after report revealed Mpls. police missteps.

By LIZ SAWYER
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Allison Lussier’s death was suspicious, but police and prosecutors said they lacked evidence of foul play.

An autopsy proved inconclusive about how she sustained the head injury that killed her in 2024. Top Minneapolis police officials suggested the circumstances pointed toward drug use.

But her relatives never stopped believing the 47-year-old Native American woman died in a domestic killing, at the hands of an abusive ex-

boyfriend.

On Thursday, prosecutors charged that man, Charles H. Foss, with second-degree unintentional murder and stalking.

Additional witness statements and digital forensics helped investigators in the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office determine that Foss was the last person to see Lussier alive, narrowing the window for when the violence likely occurred.

While the criminal complaint does not appear to highlight any new physical evidence discovered in the case, it leans heavily on statements

Foss made purportedly confessing to the crime.

“I think I killed the [expletive] this time,” Foss told acquaintances at a Minneapolis homeless encampment before Lussier’s body was discovered in her North Loop apartment complex on Feb. 22, 2024, according to court records.

The charging decision follows nearly three years of relentless advocacy by Lussier’s family and friends, who thrust the case into the public spotlight and forced a city audit of the Police Department’s response.

A Minnesota Star Tribune
SEE LUSSIER ON A7 »

DOJ tells court: In GOP loss, toss votes

Trump orders Alaska move in drastic attempt to avoid a losing result.

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
The Associated Press

The Trump administration has filed a lawsuit to block certification of the Senate race in Alaska if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses the contest while another candidate with the same name is on the ballot, kicking off what many have feared could become a lengthy battle between the U.S. government and states over certifying an election where the president’s party is struggling.

President Donald Trump said he ordered the Justice Department lawsuit over Alaska’s U.S. Senate race.

“I’m the one that said do it,” he said.

Many in both parties believe the fight over control of the Senate could come down to Alaska, where Sullivan faces Democrat Mary Peltola, a former congresswoman. Also on the Alaska ballot is a Daniel J. Sullivan from the tiny fishing community of Petersburg. He has said he decided to run on his own, but Republicans have contended he is a Democratic plant to siphon votes away from their candidate.

The lawsuit Thursday by Trump’s DOJ in federal court in Alaska demands that the state be blocked from certifying a Peltola win if Daniel J. remains on the ballot. “The United States accordingly brings this lawsuit to protect the integrity of the 2026 Senate election in Alaska,” the lawsuit says, contending that federal law requires states to protect the integrity of federal elections.

The legal challenge came 11 days before the Nov. 3 election and months after the final ballot was set.

SEE ALASKA ON A10 »

Judge asked to halt work plans on Trump’s arch

Construction starts on Nov. 5, Park Service says.

By GARY FIELDS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Plaintiffs in a lawsuit trying to stop the Trump administration from building a triumphal arch along the Potomac River asked a federal judge on Thursday to halt all construction plans, one day after the National Park Service signaled it would begin work Nov. 5.

The plaintiffs — three veter-

ans and a retired architectural historian — asked U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan to prohibit the administration and the National Park Service “from taking any steps to construct, or to direct or facilitate construction of, any structure in Memorial Circle, absent congressional authorization, during the pendency of this litigation.”

The NPS and the executive office of the president filed a notice Wednesday in the lawsuit saying they planned to possibly begin construction as early as Nov. 5, pending the approval of
SEE ARCH ON A3 »



JEN GOLBECK • The Associated Press
A mock-up of President Donald Trump’s proposed triumphal arch stands at the Great American State Fair on the National Mall in June.

Charges: Sex offender tried to enroll at Minn. high school

Police say a man, 29, posed as a teenage girl.

By JEFF DAY
The Minnesota Star Tribune

A 29-year-old sex offender from Oregon has been charged with three felonies for allegedly posing as a 17-year-old homeless girl and attempting to enroll at Maple Grove High School this week.

Makayla Ray Craig, who Maple Grove police identified as a male, was charged with three counts of aggravated forgery in Hennepin County District Court

on Thursday. Craig has several aliases and criminal convictions, including sexual assault and forgery for trying to enroll at an Oregon High School last year.

At a court hearing Friday in downtown Minneapolis, Craig’s bail was set at \$200,000 and an evidentiary hearing was scheduled for Nov. 18. Hennepin County prosecutor Tara Degn alleged that Craig was living in a car and had no ties to the state, while defense attorney Sarah Rose Ballard claimed Craig lived in the state for years. Maple Grove Police said in a
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