

Towns hits late 3 to beat Warriors
SPORTS



IN WITH THE OLD
Twin Cities is a hot spot for vintage
VARIETY

MONDAY
March 27, 2023

StarTribune

41° 20°
Sun and clouds today as we hope for spring. **A10**

2021 PULITZER PRIZE FOR BREAKING NEWS

A painful recovery ahead



Response to police watchdog panel high

15-member commission draws 160 applicants, the most in over a decade.

By RANDY FURST
randy.furst@startribune.com

Applications have poured in from Minneapolis residents hoping to join a 15-member board that will conduct oversight of the city's Police Department.

Until the March 20 deadline, city staff received more than 160 applications for the new Community Commission on Police Oversight — the most for any city committee or commission since at least 2010.

Created last fall by the City Council, the CCPO replaces previous watchdog groups — including the Office of Police Conduct Review and the Police Conduct Oversight Commission — that were criticized as ineffective before going dormant last year.

Minneapolis Civil Rights Director Alberder Gillespie said the new board will “provide a critical forum for the public to have meaningful engagement in police oversight.”

The earlier board was under fire from some of its former leaders who felt they had been unfairly reined in by police administration and the city and believed their recommendations were ignored. Meanwhile, city officials felt the board had become dysfunctional and needed a new process and a fresh start. The new commission structure was drafted by the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department, and its final form was approved during a marathon City Council meeting last December.

Sarah McKenzie, a city spokeswoman, said in an email See **OVERSIGHT** on A7 ▶

Mississippi clears tornado debris even as searches continue for the dead

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG and EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press

ROLLING FORK, MISS. — Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction across a long swath of Mississippi, even as furious new storms Sunday struck across the Deep South.

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm ripped through several towns late Friday. A man also was killed in

Alabama after his trailer home flipped over several times.

Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings and municipal offices after hundreds of people were displaced.

Jarrod Kunze drove to the hard-hit Mississippi town of Rolling Fork from his home in Alabama, ready to volunteer “in whatever capacity I’m needed.” He added, “Everything I can see is in some state of destruction.”

See **STORM** on A10 ▶



THE AFTERSHOCKS

Top photo, a man salvaged a jacket from a ruined home in Rolling Fork, Miss., on Sunday. Many buildings were ravaged by the late Friday storm. At left, resident Lorlie Smith sobbed at a Red Cross shelter while talking about her losses. At least 26 are believed dead across the South.

Photos by JULIO CORTEZ and RORY DOYLE • New York Times, AP

Storm unusual: Tornado on ground for 59.4 miles. **A10**

New details in plan to put nukes in Belarus

Putin's comments underline his efforts to keep the West unsettled.

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI, VIVEK SHANKAR and ANDREW HIGGINS • New York Times

President Vladimir Putin of Russia said he would be able to position nuclear weapons in Belarus by the summer, a claim that analysts said was likely bluster but underscored the Kremlin's determination to use its vast nuclear arsenal to pressure the West to back down from its support of Ukraine.

Western officials condemned Putin's remarks as irresponsible, even as they said that they saw no indication that Russia was making changes to how it deploys

nuclear weapons.

Putin, in an interview released before his broadcast on Russian state television Sunday, provided new details of a plan that he first floated last year to base Russian weapons in Belarus, a close ally. He said that 10 Belarusian warplanes have already been retrofitted to carry Russian nuclear weapons, and that a storage facility for the warheads would be ready by July 1.

“The United States has been doing this for decades,” Putin said, insisting that his plan is no different from the U.S. practice of positioning nuclear weapons in allied countries — an assertion that Western officials rejected.

The Russian leader has repeatedly raised the specter of using nuclear weapons See **UKRAINE** on A7 ▶

Mille Lacs Band fills digital gap with \$11.4M grant

By JENNY BERG
jenny.berg@startribune.com

MILLELACSRESERVATION— When Ishkodekwe sews moccasins in her apartment near Lake Mille Lacs, she likes to stream a TV show or movie for some background noise.

“But the building itself doesn't have internet,” Ishkodekwe, 72, said of the elder

housing near the southwestern shore of Mille Lacs.

Ishkodekwe, whose English name is Carol Hernandez, found a provider to set up internet in her unit. But the service is glitchy and slow at best.

That should change within the coming months as work begins on a tribal-owned high-speed fiber network that

will connect to hundreds of homes and businesses across the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands, including more than 350 households and seven businesses that now have no internet access.

The lack of reliable internet has made it difficult for members to apply for jobs, work from home or participate in virtual learning. Lead-

ers expect it will be transformative, bringing schools, businesses and health clinics firmly across the digital divide.

The project is being funded by an \$11.4 million grant from the federal government to improve broadband access on tribal lands.

“We're isolated — in a See **GRANT** on A3 ▶

Gravel company to Cottage Grove: Annex us, please

By MATT MCKINNEY
mckinney@startribune.com

A sand and gravel mining company in Grey Cloud Island Township that recently has sought to expand wants next-door neighbor Cottage Grove to annex 120 acres of its property, saying the city is more capable of providing needed services.

The request from Aggregate Industries, a subsidiary of Holcim US, will require approval from the Cottage Grove City Council and an administrative law judge, with the first hearing expected next month.

“Given physical development, planning, intended land use and the industrial nature of the property, Cottage Grove

is much more capable of providing the services required by the property within a reasonable time,” the company stated in its petition for annexation, which was signed by Aggregate General Manager Tom Schmit.

The company's Larson Quarry in Grey Cloud Island Township has been in operation since the 1950s, providing

sand and gravel for the construction of roads, bridges, commercial buildings and homes, said Holcim spokeswoman Jacqueline Clark. The company wants a partner who “recognizes the potential for unique recreational space and residential development on this property after mining of the property is completed.”

See **LAND** on A3 ▶

TOP NEWS

ISRAELI CRISIS GROWS DEEPER

Netanyahu fires defense chief who broke ranks; vote gutting judiciary likely this week. **A4**



NATION & WORLD

Death-row appeals stall: Despite campaign pledge, Biden takes no action. **A4**

Trans health care fight: Veto puts Kentucky in thick of national turbulence. **A2**

MINNESOTA

Brooklyn Center shooting: Six under 18 wounded, none seriously hurt. **A6**

Students on Mpls. school board: Two representatives savoring the experience. **A5**

SPORTS

New rules for pitchers: Twins adjust to tighter time limits on the mound. **C1**

Final Four: San Diego State, Miami (Fla.) join Fla. Atlantic and UConn in Houston. **C4**

BUSINESS

Buying your first home: These tips can help smooth out the rocky road. **D1**

Complaints against credit bureaus: The number filed almost doubled in 2022. **D1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Crowd came for 'Joker,' not Trump: A scene in New York was a movie shoot, not a protest in support of ex-president. **A2**

More of what matters to Minnesota. All day. Every day.

ONLINE: startribune.com • TIPS: 612-673-4414 • COMMENTS: 612-673-4000
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Call 612-673-4343 or go to startribune.com/subscribe

STAR TRIBUNE
Minneapolis, St. Paul MN
Volume XLI • No. 357
March 27, 2023