

Health

is

Welfare

House HHS Bill

04-29-15

Care facilities throughout the state – including several in House District 8A – would receive substantial funding increases through a Health and Human Services bill passed by the Minnesota House Wednesday (this) morning.

State Representative Bud Nornes says one of the most positive things about the legislation is it provides a significant investment in nursing homes and helps to diminish disparities in state reimbursement rates that have left Greater Minnesota at a disadvantage. He says, "We live in an aging society and face increasing demand for long-term care, so this increased support will help to ensure citizens receive the care they deserve."

The House bill implements a statewide reimbursement system that will result in a funding increase for nursing homes, particularly in Greater Minnesota, totaling more than \$138 million. In addition, the bill includes \$90 million for a one-time, five percent cost-of-living adjustment for home and community-based care workers.

Nursing home facilities affected in this area are Perham Living, with a \$1.9 million increase; Pioneer Care Center in Fergus Falls, with a \$1.6 million increase; Good Samaritan Society of Battle Lake, with a \$641,000 increase; Broen Memorial Home in Fergus Falls, with a \$1.7 million increase and Pelican Valley Health Center in Pelican Rapids, with a \$446,000 increase.

The bill now advances to a conference committee for reconciliation with a Senate Health and Human Services bill.

NEWSN
12PM
7A
NWSC
8A

Education Program About Dementia to be Held in Perham May 26
5-19-2015

The 2nd class in the 4-part education series on Dementia will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at New Creation Lutheran Church in Perham. Hosted by Perham Living, the presentation will be given by Dr. Jane Winston and will feature a panel of local individuals and families living with dementia. Registration is not required.

700
12PM

Otter Tail Humane Society Carefully Screening Intakes

06-01-2015

While no new cases of canine flu have been reported in the area, the Otter Tail County Humane Society is taking precautions and screening dogs very carefully to ensure that it does not come to this area. Humane Society Director Jacqlin Keenan says they were ahead of the curve even before the disclosure of the outbreak in the Detroit Lakes Area:

KEENAN 31 SEC

OUTCUE: "... SO FAR SO GOOD HERE."

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health has confirmed that the same virus hitting Chicago was found in five dogs at a Detroit Lakes kennel. All of the dogs affected back in early April have since fully recovered. Animal health experts believe the influenza was spread when a dog from Yorkville, Illinois was brought to the Minnesota facility March 30.

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GA
newsB
700

7:30

Fergus Falls Salvation Army Cuts ^{To} Lunch Only 2 Days A Week

06-03-2015

The Salvation Army in Fergus Falls has been forced to cut daily lunches down to just 2 days a week. It's not due to funding either. Lt. Linda McCormick explained their dilemma:

OUTCUE: "Correct information straight from me."

~~A 'safe-serve' license is required for the position.~~ McCormick says that if someone is able to come in with those qualifications, the Salvation Army would then go back to serving lunch the entire week. Since the early years of the 20th century, generations have helped and been helped by the Salvation Army with the service center located at 622 E. Vernon Avenue in Fergus Falls.

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6A
newsB
7:30

Lake Region Run

06-06-15

By all accounts, the 2015 Lake Region Run in Fergus Falls was a huge success.

The weather that looked iffy at first, treated runners and spectators well. The organizational aspects appeared to work flawlessly. And the course set out for the half marathon was no pushover.

Samantha Van Wechel, a former Fergus Falls resident, was the first female across the finish line in the half marathon.

Van Wechel mentioned all the hills runners had to climb, but mentioned that she ran the Boston Marathon this year which was good preparation. And her summer of racing is not over...

... "in Winnipeg." :08

Lake Region Healthcare CEO Larry Schulz says he was impressed by the great organization of the races and the great volunteers. He says the Lake Region Run is just one component in trying to make Fergus Falls one of the healthiest communities in Minnesota...

... "as well." :09

Proceeds from the Lake Region Run will be used at the Cancer Care and Research ^{Cancer} ~~facility~~ _{guide}. It will help fund purchases and the Navigator program which helps people through the treatment system.

LA
News C
800
7:30

Rental License Revoked

06-08-15

An out-of-state owner of rental properties in Fergus Falls has had his license to rent revoked on some of the properties.

Building and Zoning Administrator April Zumach says the city received numerous complaints from renters back in August last year. City staff have been trying since to get the landlord to fix the problems the city documented...

... "here in Fergus Falls." :25

Zumach says the list of deficiencies tied to the properties owned by Morgan Krause was very long. Some problems were fixed, others were not.

At this point, the families living in those rental properties will have to make other arrangements.

Krause now has three options: he can let the properties sit while he still has to maintain them so they don't become a blight, he can sell the properties, or he can bring them up to city standards and ask the city council whether they'd be willing to give him another license.

NEWS
7:30
NEWS

Bird Flu-Next Steps

06-12-2015

With no new commercial farm bird flu cases reported in nearly a week in Minnesota and Iowa, farmers, scientists and government officials hope the worst outbreak of bird flu in the U.S. is winding down. Otter Tail County Emergency Management Director Patrick Waletzko says his office remains vigilant...

WALETZKO 31 SEC

OUTCUE: "Just so that we're ready."

State and national officials warn that the outbreak is not officially over but that it's significant that new cases have slowed considerably. On the more than 200 farms nationally where the virus killed birds, efforts are focused on completing carcass disposal. In laboratories the virus is under intense study to develop a vaccine, to determine how it evaded biosecurity measures designed to contain it and what can be done to keep a repeat of the spring outbreak from happening again.

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State and national officials warn that the outbreak is not officially over but that it's significant that new cases have slowed considerably. On the more than 200 farms nationally where the virus killed birds, efforts are focused on completing carcass disposal, a process expected to be completed by Sunday. In laboratories the virus is under intense study to develop a vaccine, to determine how it evaded biosecurity measures designed to contain it and what can be done to keep a repeat of the spring 2015 outbreak from happening again.

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NewsN
12PM

Local Medical Facility Recognized By March Of Dimes

06-16-2015

Tri-County Health based in Wadena has reduced the number of elective inductions and cesarian deliveries performed before 39 weeks of pregnancy thereby promoting as much development as possible and is being recognized by a national charitable organization. March of Dimes is highlighting the efforts of Tri-County Health in women's health issues and the over-all well being of babies. In a unique partnership with the Minnesota Hospital Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the March of Dimes has initiated a campaign called "Healthy Babies Are Worth The Wait". The March of Dimes Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the health of mothers and babies. It was founded by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1938 to combat polio. It has since taken up promoting general health for pregnant women and babies.

800

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Schomacker Nursing Home Bill

06-19-15

Beginning January first, nursing homes around Minnesota will start to get financially healthy again. That's when the Senior Care Reimbursement Reform Bill goes into effect.

The bill was authored by Representative Joe Schomacker of Luverne. It creates a cost-based reimbursement system that closes the gap in funding between metro and rural nursing homes.

Schomacker and local legislators were at PioneerCare in Fergus Falls Friday afternoon to be honored by nursing home advocates who say the legislation signed into law is a game-changer for their industry.

Schomacker says of the 315 nursing homes in the state, all but two, that realized funding increases separately, will be affected. But he doesn't know about those that were forced to close in the past...

... "to find out." :22

At least five nursing homes within 60 miles of Fergus Falls went out of business due to inadequate funding.

For PioneerCare, the legislation means an increase next year of close to \$1.6 million. And staff at the facility, as well as at others, will see pay raises and possibly additional hires so the jobs are competitive with other industries.

newsB
700
7A
8A

Two Physicians at Lake Region Apply For Medical Cannabis Training

06-25-2015

With the adoption of medical cannabis by the Minnesota Legislature in May of last year, two Fergus Falls physicians will be applying to get certification, in the event that they will enroll patients in the system. Lake Region Healthcare CEO Larry Schulz says they wanted to provide another option for patients at their facilities....

SCHULZ CANNABIS 17 SEC

OUTCUE: "here in Fergus Falls."

According to Schulz, of the eight state dispensaries, the closest would be Moorhead. He also points out that the drug will only be available as a liquid or in pill form.

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5PM/6AM
6A
FOO
newsC
7:30

Genealogy Workshop June 25 in Perham

6-22-2015

A free genealogy workshop will be held June 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the History Museum of East Otter Tail County in Perham. The workshop will include on-line research tools to help you discover your roots, including free access to world-wide ancestry dot com.

800
12PM

Republican SCOTUS Reax

06-26-15

Minnesota Republicans say the Supreme Court's ruling upholding nationwide tax subsidies for health insurance gives Minnesota an opening to shift to the federal exchange.

The prospect of eliminating those subsidies put the fate of the HealthCare.gov insurance marketplace in question. The Supreme Court issued a 6-3 ruling Thursday that allows the subsidies to continue flowing to consumers who shop through the federal exchange.

Republican lawmakers have frequently criticized Minnesota's own troubled exchange, MNsure. Representative Tara Mack says the high court's ruling is an opportunity to put an end to the headaches MNsure has caused...

... "Minnesota families." :19

State Representative Mary Franson of Alexandria says Minnesota is one of only 14 states that created its own health coverage – one that Minnesota's taxpayers have spent over \$250 million to build.

A proposal to abolish MNsure and move to the federal marketplace by 2017 stalled in this year's legislative session.

Democratic Governor Mark Dayton says officials need to give MNsure more time to prove it's viable.

Tri-County Health Care Family 5K Run/Walk July 11 in Bertha
6-29-2015

Tri-County Health Care and the Bertha Clinic and Wellness Center are sponsoring a Family 5K Run/Walk in Bertha on July 11. Registration begins at the Bertha Area Wellness Center at 7:15 a.m. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Bertha High School Student Council.

500
600
800

Summer Food Safety

06-30-2015

With Summer Picnic Season here food safety is very important. One of the uncommon foods we do not usually think of is ice. Julie Hamre, Lead Clinical Dietician with Lake Region Healthcare advises extreme caution when dealing with this and other lesser known foods that can cause food poisoning if not cared for properly...

HAMRE FOOD SAFETY 30 SEC

OUTCUE: "...coming from an ice cream machine."

To make sure you handle packaged ice safely, treat it like it's a food. Use clean, non-breakable utensils to handle ice, such as tongs or an ice scoop. Also, avoid touching ice with dirty hands or glasses. Raw foods that will be packed with loose ice in a cooler should be wrapped securely to prevent water from the melting ice from cross-contaminating the foods in the cooler, for example, carrying juices from raw meat to vegetables.

News 7 (5pm)
7A
7:30
8A
800