Summer Reading Programs Started Monday

6-2-14

Fergus Falls Registration began yesterday (Monday) for the Public Library's summer reading program. This year's theme is called "Paws to Read". Fergus Falls Library Director, Erin Smith told city council that more than 550 signed up Monday for the summer reading program. As a major incentive this year, there will be weekly prizes and a weekly trivia challenge as well as a grand prize of a Kindle Fire, of course the more book logs turned in, the greater the chances for each of the drawings. A wealth of info can be found on the library's website at ffpubliclibrary dot o-r-g, or just stop by the library and ask for the summer reading logs.

Perham-

During the months of June and July the Library will hold two weekly 'lunch bunch book clubs' for youth plus special weekly activities like magic, storytelling, or art taught by artists from the New York Mill Regional Cultural Center. Activities begin next Tuesday, June 10. For more information visit the Library website perhamlibrary dot org (http://www.perhamlibrary.org/)

Schools

School Board

Registration begins June 2 for Perham Area Public Library summer reading program
6-2-14

Registration begins June 2 for the Perham Area Public Library's summer reading program. This year's theme is called "Paws to Read". During the months of June and July the Library will hold two weekly 'lunch bunch book clubs' for youth plus special weekly activities like magic, storytelling, or art taught by artists from the New York Mill Regional Cultural Center. Activities begin next Tuesday, June 10. For more information visit the Library website perhamlibrary dot org (http://www.perhamlibrary.org/)

Rothsay School Ground Breaking Thursday

5-20-14

The Rothsay Public School will be holding a ground-breaking ceremony on May 22, 2014 at 4:00 pm of their $19.4 new PreK-12 School. The Architect of the building is Wold Architects out of Minneapolis, Minnesota and the building contract for the project is Comstock Construction.

Underwood School Bond Passes

5-21-14

Underwood School District voters said "yes" to a bond referendum Tuesday by 50 only votes. Yes votes were 275, no votes were 225. The 3.4 million dollar plan will be used for new band and choir rooms, new bus garage and adding fire sprinklers in the high school wing.

Underwood Voters to Decide Bond Vote May 20th

5-14-14

Voters in the Underwood School District will vote on a bond referendum May 20th. The cost of the proposed plan is 3.4 million dollars. The money would be used for new band and choir rooms, new bus garage and adding fire sprinklers in the high school wing.

The old band room and an old locker room area would become a fitness center with cardiovascular equipment and free weights.

For more information, call the school at 218 826 6101 extension 104.

Pelican Rapids Holds Multi-faith Baccalaureate Service

5-19-14

For the first time ever, the Pelican Rapids High School Baccalaureate program was a multi-faith service. The Class of 2014, which included the largest contingent of Somali students, chose to represent Muslim students at the traditionally Christian-oriented Baccalaureate with readings from the Quran, as well as the Bible.

THE PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT IS A LITTLE SURPRISED AND VERY DISAPPOINTED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S DECISION THAT WILL REQUIRE THE DISTRICT TO RETURN TO A FIVE DAY SCHOOL WEEK A YEAR FROM NOW. DEB WANEK SAYS THE DISTRICT SWITCHED TO A FOUR DAY WEEK IN 2010, BECAUSE OF RISING COSTS. SHE SAYS THE 4-DAY WEEK HAS HAD OVERWHELMING COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

>Media : WANEK COSTS
Length: 00:00:13.3 OutCue: "not to cut more".<PSI_END_OBJECT>

WANEK STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING THE DECISION WILL MEAN BUDGET CUTS BUT SHE SAYS THE DISTRICT HAS SOME FINANCIAL ISSUES THAT WILL HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT.

5/14/14 DONTHOMASHANEY

Pelican Rapids School to Have One More Year of 4-Day Weeks

5-14-14

A money-saving experiment by a handful of Minnesota school districts that switched to four-day school weeks is winding down because of academic performance concerns.

Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius has told seven of the 11 rural districts with four-day weeks to return to normal schedules.

Cassellius says students aren't making adequate academic progress because of the shorter weeks.

The shorter weeks proved popular with families and teachers because of the resulting three-day weekends. They also saved money that was going to transportation costs.

Five districts have been approved for a transitional year and will return to five-day weeks by the 2015-16 school year. Three districts will revert this fall, one voluntarily. Three others with four-day weeks will come up for renewal in 2015 or 2016.

Pelican Rapids is one of the school districts that went to a four day week. Their application for the 2014-2015 school year has been approved for a four-day week but will be a transitional year.

The District will need to move back to the 5 day school week for the 2015-2016 school year.

Fergus Falls Bond Vote Passes

5-14-14

Fergus Falls voters said "YES" to a bond referendum yesterday (Tuesday.) The yes votes were 2528, no votes 1535, that translates into 62 percent voting yes.

The 2.73 million dollar bond will be used to for demolition of the old football bleachers and buying new ones, more track lanes added to the outdoor track and upgrades made to the pool and auditorium.

Pelican Rapids School to Have One More Year of 4-Day Weeks

5-14-14

A money-saving experiment by a handful of Minnesota school districts that switched to four-day school weeks is winding down because of academic performance concerns.

Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius has told seven of the 11 rural districts with four-day weeks to return to normal schedules.

Cassellius says students aren't making adequate academic progress because of the shorter weeks.

The shorter weeks proved popular with families and teachers because of the resulting three-day weekends. They also saved money that was going to transportation costs.

Five districts have been approved for a transitional year and will return to five-day weeks by the 2015-16 school year. Three districts will revert this fall, one voluntarily. Three others with four-day weeks will come up for renewal in 2015 or 2016.

Pelican Rapids is one of the school districts that went to a four day week. Their application for the 2014-2015 school year has been approved for a four-day week but will be a transitional year.

The District will need to move back to the 5 day school week for the 2015-2016 school year.

FF School Vote Today

5-13-14

Fergus Falls school district voters go to the polls today to decide a school bond referendum. The funds would be used for new football bleachers, adding more track lanes, retiling the pool and upgrades to the electrical and sound system in the auditorium.

More information on the referendum and information on voting locations can be found on the school website.

The polls close at 8 pm.

FF School Board Vote Tuesday

5-7-14

Darrel Tungseth

The Fergus Falls School Board hopes the third time is the charm- for their bond referendum. Second term school board member, ~~Daryl Tongseth~~, explains why they need the approval:

:25 " As far as how it effects us, it's financial. We don't have the money to make these improvements in the regular budget and that is why we go out to the public for these bond referendums, to get the money. It's like borrowing money for house. You don't borrow money to buy groceries or clothes but when you have a big item you have to go and borrow the money and pay for it over time."

After two failed bond requests, the projects have been scaled back 56 percent. The funds would be used for new football bleachers, adding more track lanes, retiling the pool and upgrades to the electrical and sound system in the auditorium.

The estimated cost on a $100,000 would be $8.82 per year. A detailed proposal was mailed out to voters and is also available on the school website.

Poles are open Tuesday, May 13 from 7 am to 8 pm. Absentee ballots are available now at the Otter Tail County Government Service Center (510 W. Fir Ave.)

happened in northern Minnesota, where swarms were so thick that some loons abandoned their nests to flee the bugs.

BIODIESEL MANDATE

Biodiesel mandate increases to 10 percent

(Information in the following story is fro Press, **http://www.twincities.com**)

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Minnesot is week.

Starting Tuesday, state law will Minnesota to contain at least 10 perce rop back down to its current level of 5 per

Supporters say the requirement will economically and environmentally. Biodies l and Minnesota is third in the nation for s highest biodiesel mandate in the country.

Minnesota Trucking Association presiden cells the St. Paul Pioneer Press the biodiesel industry is gn to stand on its own and doesn't need a mandate.

The state's three biodiesel plans can produce 63 million gallons of fuel each year, mainly from soybeans.

CATHOLIC CHURCH-ISLAMIC CENTER

Closed church gets new life as Islamic center

(Information in the following story is from: St. Paul Pioneer Press, **http://www.twincities.com**)

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - One of the oldest Catholic churches in St. Paul had to close down because of a dwindling congregation, but it's been given new life as an Islamic community center.

A St. Paul Pioneer Press report says the Church of St. John parish was built in 1886. It closed in 2013, but it reopened Friday as the Darul-Uloom Islamic Center.

Center spokesman Feisal Elmi says there are a lot of East Africans in

contd...

King says the board will probably have to wait until August before taking any action.

DIVERSION LAWSUIT

Lawyer for diversion group says suit has no merit

FARGO, N.D. (AP) - The lawyer for a group of government officials managing a flood-control project for Fargo says a state lawsuit filed by Red River diversion opponents is no different from a federal complaint and has no merit.

President Obama signed a water project bill earlier this month that authorizes construction of the nearly $2 billion channel that would move floodwaters around the metropolitan area. Some upstream landowners believe there are better options and last year filed a federal suit.

Robert Cattanach is the attorney for the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority. He says the suit filed in Minnesota last week by the Richland-Wilkin Joint Powers Authority is meant to delay the project.

Wilkin County State's Attorney Tim Fox, a member of the Richland-Wilkin group, says the issue deserves a trial in state court.

HEMP SEEDS CONFISCATED

APNewsBreak: Hemp seeds seized at US-Canada border

DENVER (AP) - Hundreds of pounds of industrial hemp seeds bound from Canada to Colorado have been seized by federal authorities in North Dakota.

The seizure marked the latest bump along the road to legalization of marijuana's non-intoxicating cousin.

The federal Farm Bill signed into law earlier this year allows cultivation of hemp under certain circumstances. But importing hemp seeds requires permission from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Hemp activist Tom McClain says he was carrying 350 pounds of seeds for industrial hemp known as X-59, or Hemp Nut, when border agents stopped him.

The seeds were confiscated Saturday at the crossing near Pembina, North Dakota, after McClain says he declared the seven bags. McClain has not been charged with a crime.

contd...

 F/1 —

*6400 AP-SD--Bison-National Mammal,130
Senators want bison declared national mammal
Eds: Resending for online points. APNewsNow. Will be updated.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - U.S. senators from the Dakotas and other areas are making another attempt at having the bison declared the national mammal.

Sens. Tim Johnson and John Thune of South Dakota and John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota are among those introducing the National Bison Legacy Act on Wednesday. The bill is backed by the Intertribal Buffalo Council and the National Bison Association.

Similar legislation introduced in 2012 stalled in Congress.

Tens of millions of bison once roamed most of North America, but overhunting reduced the population to about 1,000 animals by the turn of the 20th century. Conservationists including President Theodore Roosevelt saved the species from extinction in 1905 by re-establishing herds in Oklahoma, Montana and South Dakota.

About 400,000 bison now roam pastures and rangelands across North America.

AP-WF-06-11-14 1019GMT

USDA, medical center break ground for Tioga clinic

TIOGA, N.D. (AP) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Tioga Medical Center are breaking ground for a new 15,000-square-foot clinic in the city.

Jasper Schneider with the USDA says this project will double the size of the existing clinic in North Dakota's oil patch. Construction is expected to be finished in 2015.

The medical center serves Divide, Williams, Burke and Mountrail counties. The USDA says the medical campus has quadrupled its number of patients in the last four years.

The federal agency has agreed to provide a $6.5 million direct loan and a $1.5 million loan guarantee through The Bank of Tioga. The medical center and the Bank of North Dakota will also finance the project.

OBAMA-WATER PROJECTS-DIVERSION

Red River

Obama authorizes Red River diversion project

FARGO, N.D. (AP) - A water projects bill signed into law by President Barack Obama includes the proposed $2 billion Red River diversion for Fargo-Moorhead.

Obama signed the bill Tuesday during a White House ceremony. Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker was on hand.

The 36-mile diversion project would move floodwaters through a channel around Fargo and neighboring Moorhead, Minnesota, a metro area that has faced major flooding in the last several years. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act authorizes construction of the project, but Congress must separately pass legislation to pay for it.

Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Commander Col. Dan Koprowski says the diversion is one of the top priorities for the corps' Mississippi Valley Division.

AP-WF-06-11-14 0708GMT

The project includes building earthen levees and 4.5 miles of diversion channel. Construction of the channel began in 2010. Since then, 3.5 miles of channel have been excavated. Construction of the remaining mile is scheduled to begin this year.

Roseau is in far northwestern Minnesota. The town of 2,600 was hit by a major flood in 2002.

BUDGET UPDATED

Taxes

Minnesota tax collections below mark for 4th month

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - For a fourth straight month, Minnesota's tax collections have come in slightly below expectations.

The Department of Minnesota Management and Budget reported Tuesday that the state took in $17 million less than anticipated in May. That's 1.1 percent below the amount officials estimated in a February long-range forecast. Income and corporate taxes missed the mark the most.

For the fiscal year, which closes this month, the state is $95 million below its revenue benchmark.

Officials stress caution in interpreting the monthly figures because they look only at the revenue side and don't account for changes in state spending patterns. They add that timing of individual income tax payments and refunds can shift the month-to-month figures.

A more-comprehensive report is due in July.

TARGET-PERSONNEL

Target names chief information security officer

NEW YORK (AP) - Target Corp. says it has named Brad Maiorino as senior vice president, chief information security officer as the company overhauls its security department in the wake of a massive data pre-Christmas breach.

The nation's third-largest retailer, based in Minneapolis, said Tuesday that Mairorino will join the company Monday and be responsible for the company's information security and technology risk strategy.

He will help ensure the retailer and its customers are protected against internal and external information security threats.

contd...

FARGO (KFGO-AM) - North Dakota's new voter identification law is causing a small percentage of voters to be turned away at the polls. Secretary of State Al Jaeger describes the number affected as a "small handful."

The new law requires voters to possess an acceptable I-D with a current home address.

Some residents on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation were turned away because their tribal I-D's didn't include the proper information.

Jaeger says other residents have tried to use passports as I-D's, which are not recognized for voting.

Voter turnout was low: 13 %

Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker has been elected to a third term. Walaker defeated challenger Brad Wimmer 56%-44%.

Court: State office project foe must cover losses

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - A former lawmaker plans to take his fight against a new Senate office building to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The state Court of Appeals said Tuesday that former Rep. Jim Knoblach of St. Cloud must come up with an $11 million bond if he wants to press his case forward.

Knoblach says he doesn't have $11 million, so he plans to appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court.

The bond must be posted by next Tuesday. If it is, arguments in the case would be held in June.

The building is projected to cost $90 million. Taxpayers would cover all but $13 million.

The state expects to break ground on the building in July.

OIL SAFETY

Railroads, pipeline companies to pay for safety

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - A new Minnesota law aims to protect the state from hazards created by increasing amounts of oil passing through Minnesota by rail and pipeline.

Gov. Mark Dayton signed the bill Tuesday. The law requires railroad and oil pipeline companies operating in Minnesota to help pay for training and emergency preparedness programs.

State officials will collect $2.5 million annually from railroad and pipeline companies for three years. That money will help first responders get ready for derailments and spills.

The law provides for new safety measures, including three new inspectors that railroads also will fund. A $2 million state program will pay for crossing improvements such as gates and signals. Railroads must install better lighting in areas where trains with more than 25 tanks of hazardous material are assembled and dissembled.

PATIENT DEATH-SECURITY HOSPITAL

Security Hospital fined for January patient death

contd...

A 6TH GRADER AT HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL IN MOORHEAD IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN A CLINICAL STUDY INVOLVING MEDICAL MARIJUANA ONCE THE GOVERNOR SIGNS A BILL LEGALIZING IT. 13-YEAR OLD BRETT SOLUM HAS EPILESPY AND SUFFERS 100 SEIZURES A DAY. HIS PARENTS, PAUL AND AMBER SOLUM, ARE HOPEFUL MEDICAL MARIJUANA WILL BRING NORMALCY BACK TO HIS LIFE.....

OBJECT>Media : AMBER SOLUM
Length: 00:00:28.0 OutCue: "EXCEL ACCADEMICALLY"
.<PSI_END_OBJECT>

THE FAMILY TRAVELS TO MAYO CLINIC IN ROCHESTER EVERY THREE MONTHS FOR CHECKUPS, STUDIES, AND UPDATES ON THE VARIOUS MEDICATIONS BRETT TAKES. THAT'S WHERE HE WOULD GET HIS MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN PILL OR LIQUID FORM. (THE FAMILY LEARNED BRETT HAD EPILEPSY WHEN HE WAS FIVE AFTER HE FELL AND HIT HIS HEAD AND STARTED SEIZING).

BA 5/16/14 11:15AM

A MOORHEAD COUPLE IS HOPING THE LEGALIZATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA WILL BE A LIFE-CHANGER FOR THEIR 13-YEAR OLD SON. BRETT SOLUM, SON OF PAUL AND AMBER SOLUM, HAS EPILEPSY AND SUFFERS 100 SEIZURES A DAY.....

Media : GRAND MAL DAD
Length: 00:00:16.6 OutCue: "MEANS EVERYTHING"
.<PSI_END_OBJECT>

THE FAMILY TRAVELS TO MAYO CLINIC IN ROCHESTER EVERY THREE MONTHS FOR CHECKUPS, STUDIES, AND UPDATES ON MEDICATIONS. ONCE THE GOVERNOR SIGNS THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGISLATION, BRETT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN A CLINICAL STUDY INVOLVING MEDICAL MARIJUANA. HIS PARENT'S ARE HOPING IT ELIMINATES HIS SEIZURES SO HE CAN LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.

BC-MN--State Caregivers-Fingerprinting,130

Minnesota readies to fingerprint caregivers

(Eds: APNewsNow. Will be updated)

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Minnesota is poised to begin requiring fingerprint background checks for state workers who care for the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups.

The Star Tribune reports (**http://strib.mn/RPVDYL**) legislation that requires those employees be fingerprinted and photographed is awaiting Gov. Mark Dayton's signature. It would start in October.

The Department of Human Services has conducted criminal background checks on most groups of caregivers since 1991, but the fingerprinting effort is the largest expansion of state screening in more than two decades.

Last fall, the newspaper reported that licensed nurses in Minnesota can practice for years despite histories of criminal convictions, including drug thefts.

DHS now conducts background checks only when caregivers are hired or switch jobs, which means crimes can go undetected so long as a caregiver sticks to one employer.

Information from: Star Tribune, **http://www.startribune.com**

AP-WF-05-14-14 1149GMT

Two other Republican candidates, Marty Seifert and Jeff Johnson, have made small TV ad purchases in the race.

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Toughest e-cig restrictions won't advance

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - An attempt to treat electronic cigarettes like regular smokes has stalled in the Minnesota Legislature.

A House-Senate conference committee on Tuesday decided against adding e-cigarette use to the indoor air laws that would have prohibited their use in most public spaces. The Senate had passed the toughest measure, but House members say they lacked sufficient votes to move ahead.

Lawmakers are tackling the emerging devices that deliver nicotine and emit a vapor. They are primed to restrict sales so minors can't access them and they can't be used on school grounds. The liquids would also have to be sold in tamper-proof bottles that make it hard for young children to open.

But public health advocates wanted to outlaw their use in bars, restaurants and other venues.

LESCH-NATIONAL GUARD

DFL Rep. Lesch released from National Guard duty

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - A Minnesota state representative has gotten a pass on National Guard duty that would have required him to miss the rest of the legislative session.

Rep. John Lesch, a Democrat from St. Paul, had been summoned to Camp Ripley for training. But House DFL spokesman Mike Howard said Lesch had requested and been granted a release.

Lesch's return simplifies things for Democrats as they seek to pass a borrowing bill for construction projects around the state. The party now needs just eight GOP votes for the necessary supermajority if Democrats stick together.

Lesch enlisted in the National Guard during fall 2009. He also missed a part of the 2010 legislative session while training at Fort Benning in Georgia.

contd...

BC-MN-XGR--Smartphone Kill Switch,131

Minnesota House OKs smartphone 'kill switch' bill

(Eds: APNewsNow.)

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - The Minnesota House has passed a bill requiring smartphones and cell-connected tablet computers sold in Minnesota to feature an anti-theft "kill switch."

The House backed the bill Thursday by a vote of 73-58. It would apply to all new smartphones and cell-connected tablet computers sold in the state after July 1, 2015.

The kill switch is intended to allow the device's owner to remotely disable it if it's lost or stolen. The legislation also aims to prevent manufacturers and carriers from adding additional fees to customers for access to the technology.

Supporters say the proposal will crack down on cellphone theft in Minnesota. The smartphone industry contends the requirement would not keep up with rapidly-evolving technology.

The Star Tribune (**http://strib.mn/1ntBeDC**) reports the Minnesota Senate passed its own version last week.

Information from: Star Tribune, **http://www.startribune.com**

AP-WF-05-08-14 2317GMT

Westrom Would Like to Hear Opinions on Marijuana Issue

5-6-14

Minnesota State Senator Torrey Westrom (R-District 12) would like to hear from people in his district on the medical marijuana issue:

"On Tuesday the Senate will be taking up and discussing the medical marijuana bill that has been moving through several committees recently. I'm interested to hear from more and more constituents on this. This issue has been receiving a lot of attention and certainly there are some compelling stories about people that medically have turned to this alternative with maybe some seizure disorders, cancer and some diseases like that that have noted that its helped. Those are compelling stories, but of course the fact remains that it is still an illegal substance in our state and this would put very strict confines around the use of medical marijuana, promoted or suggested by doctors, and only limited to the use of medical marijuana use as a medicine and not recreational use and so that is the controversial issue coming up that will be in the Senate on Tuesday this week."

Call Senator Westrom's office 651-296-0556 or send an email.

AP-MN--Right Now,1261
Latest Minnesota news, sports, business and entertainment
TAX CUTS

Taxpayers should know of rebates by June 27

(Information in the following story is from: Star Tribune, **http://www.startribune.com**)

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota taxpayers should know by late June if they qualify for income tax breaks approved by the 2014 Legislature.

State revenue officials are plowing through 260,000 income tax returns from Minnesotans who are likely to qualify for additional tax rebates.

Revenue staffers have reviewed about 52,000 tax filings and plan to have them finished by June 27.

Between now and then, Minnesotans will either automatically receive an additional refund, or be asked for additional information or be told they need to file an amended return.

~~The Star Tribune (**http://bit.ly/1onYcvF**) report~~s more than 1.1 million Minnesotans filed their income taxes after the new tax law took effect April 1. That means their filings would have come in under the new laws and not required review.

MN-XGR-MEDICAL MARIJUANA-SENATE DEBATE

Minnesota Senate passes medical pot legislation

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - The Minnesota state Senate passed a bill Tuesday that would legalize marijuana for medical purposes.

The measure is more ambitious than Gov. Mark Dayton and law-enforcement officials have said they would support.

In a 48 to 18 vote, senators approved legislation that would make Minnesota the first state that prohibits smoking marijuana used for medical purposes. Twenty-one other states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana.

The House expects to consider its medical-marijuana measure on Friday.

Both pieces of legislation would allow patients to use marijuana in

contd...

AP-MN--Right Now,1261
Latest Minnesota news, sports, business and entertainment
TAX CUTS

Taxpayers should know of rebates by June 27

(Information in the following story is from: Star Tribune, **http://www.startribune.com**)

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota taxpayers should know by late June if they qualify for income tax breaks approved by the 2014 Legislature.

State revenue officials are plowing through 260,000 income tax returns from Minnesotans who are likely to qualify for additional tax rebates.

Revenue staffers have reviewed about 52,000 tax filings and plan to have them finished by June 27.

Between now and then, Minnesotans will either automatically receive an additional refund, or be asked for additional information or be told they need to file an amended return.

~~The Star Tribune (**http://bit.ly/1onYcvF**) reports~~ more than 1.1 million Minnesotans filed their income taxes after the new tax law took effect April 1. That means their filings would have come in under the new laws and not required review.

MN-XGR-MEDICAL MARIJUANA-SENATE DEBATE

Minnesota Senate passes medical pot legislation

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - The Minnesota state Senate passed a bill Tuesday that would legalize marijuana for medical purposes.

The measure is more ambitious than Gov. Mark Dayton and law-enforcement officials have said they would support.

In a 48 to 18 vote, senators approved legislation that would make Minnesota the first state that prohibits smoking marijuana used for medical purposes. Twenty-one other states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana.

The House expects to consider its medical-marijuana measure on Friday.

Both pieces of legislation would allow patients to use marijuana in

contd...

Lead = All

Lake Melissa in Becker Co Infested with Zebra Muscles

6-27-41

Minnesota DNR has confirmed the first zebra n find in the Detroit Lakes area. A citizen collecting shells on Lake found a zebra muscle on the south end of the

AIS

Lake Sallie, upstream from Melissa was searc not found there.

Lake Melissa, Mill Pond and Minnow Pond (a Pond) are connected to Lake Melissa via the been declared infested with zebra muscles.

The DNR reminds boaters to clean, drain a remove the drain plug and dispose of unwa

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventspread_watercraft.html

 AIS —

BC-MN--Aquatic Invasive Species ,139
3 states team up on aquatic invasive species
Eds: APNewsNow.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Midwest boaters are being urged to drain and clean their boats and trailers to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species across their borders.

Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have teamed up for a public service campaign to encourage boaters and anglers to avoid spreading zebra mussels, spiny water fleas and other aquatic invaders when they travel between states.

Wisconsin DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp says the three states share a common goal of stopping aquatic hitchhikers to keep the Great Lakes and inland waters healthy.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Landwehr says the multi-state production offers a consistent message and a coordinated approach to address the problem.

In addition to YouTube, the 30-second spot is airing on outdoor programs, public television, fishing and sports channels across the three-state area.

Online:

The spot is available at **http://tinyurl.com/nunhhx4**

AP-WF-06-10-14 0905GMT

BC-MN--Invasive Species-Minnesota,131

Tax bill adds $10M a year for invasive species

(Eds: APNewsNow. Will be updated.)

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - The tax bill signed by Gov. Mark Dayton provides an extra $10 million a year for local government programs to fight the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Counties and lake organizations say having that consistent funding source will give their efforts a big boost.

Minnesota Public Radio reports (**http://bit.ly/1jKrups**) that local invasive species programs vary widely across Minnesota. Some counties fund aggressive programs with help from lake association fees and taxes from lake improvement districts, while others have nothing. That scattershot approach has been a weak link in the fight to stop the lake-to-lake spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and other damaging species.

The new money will go to counties based on the number of boat landings and watercraft parking spaces, targeting counties with the most heavily used lakes.

Information from: Minnesota Public Radio News, **http://www.mprnews.org**

AP-WF-05-23-14 1343GMT

Man sentenced to 5 years for enticement of minor

A Texas man who was arrested in an online sex trafficking sting has been sentenced to more than five years in prison.

Fifty-year-old Lawrence Hundley, of Porter, Texas, pleaded guilty to coercion and enticement of a minor.

Hundley was one of 14 people in Williston and Dickinson arrested in an investigation tabbed "Operation Vigilant Guardian."

U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland sentenced Hundley to five years and three months in prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release.

A federal public defender was not immediately available for comment.

BAKKEN PRODUCTION NUMBERS

North Dakota now produces 1M barrels of oil a day

WILLISTON, N.D. (AP) - North Dakota is now producing 1 million barrels of oil per day, with a large part of the credit due to the rich Bakken shale formation in the western part of the state.

The state's Department of Mineral Resources on Tuesday released the April production numbers that show the oil fields' record level. In March, the state produced 977,000 barrels per day.

It joins Texas, Alaska, California and Louisiana as the only states ever to produce more than a million barrels per day.

The Bakken and the Three Forks formation below it account for the vast majority of North Dakota's production. Experts knew the Bakken held millions of barrels of crude, but it wasn't until oil prices reached record levels that the technology was developed to extract it.

OIL TRAINS-WASH

Speakers testify against oil trains

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) - Numerous speaker committee that they oppose the rapid increa oil from the Bakken fields of North Dakota .

Trains
Oil Pipelines

contd...

WILLISTON AIRPORT GRANT

Williston's airport gets $1.8M federal grant

WILLISTON, N.D. (AP) - The U.S. Department of Transportation is awarding Williston's Sloulin Field International Airport a $1.8 million grant to rehabilitate its taxiway.

U.S. Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp made the announcement Thursday.

The grant is the latest in a series of federal and state grants to North Dakota airports. The state's Land Board awarded oil patch airports $8.9 million on Wednesday and the Department of Transportation granted North Dakota airports more than $18 million in May.

Senators Hoeven and Heitkamp hosted Federal Aviation Administration head Michael Huerta in Williston in April to push the case for more federal funding for state airports.

A number of North Dakota airports have struggled to keep up with the sharp rise in demand brought on by the oil boom in recent years.

OIL TRAINS-EMERGENCY ORDER

States balk at keeping oil train info from public

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) - U.S. railroads forced to turn over details of their crude oil shipments are asking states to sign agreements not to disclose the information. Some states are refusing, saying the information should be public.

Federal officials last month ordered railroads to make the disclosures following a string of fiery tank car accidents in North Dakota, Alabama, Virginia and Quebec, where 47 people died.

The information due Saturday includes route details, and train frequency and emergency response information for trains hauling 1 million gallons or more of crude.

BNSF, Union Pacific and CSX are seeking agreements that the information won't be publicly shared. They say the information is security sensitive.

contd...

BC-ND--Gas Capture,121

ND requires natural gas capturing plans

Eds: APNewsNow. Will be updated.

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - North Dakota oil companies must submit a gas capturing plan with drilling permit.

The new rules went into effect this month.

The state Industrial Commission, which regulates North Dakota's oil and gas industry, unanimously endorsed the proposal in March in an attempt to cut down the amount of natural gas that is burned off and wasted as a byproduct of oil production.

North Dakota drillers currently burn off, or flare, more than 30 percent of the valuable gas. That compares to the national average of less than 1 percent.

A group representing hundreds of companies working in North Dakota's oil patch say the industry expects to be capturing 85 percent of the gas by 2016, and 90 percent within six years.

AP-WF-06-02-14 1255GMT

*1153 AP-US-Senate-Keystone-Pipeline,129
Senator: Ukraine unrest shows need for Keystone
AP Photo WX202
Eds: APNewsNow. With AP Photos.

WASHINGTON (AP) - The head of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is arguing that instability in Ukraine makes the case for building the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Louisiana's Sen. Mary Landrieu says the proposed pipeline from Canada to the United States would contribute only marginally to air quality problems, telling MSNBC the approval process "has been too slow."

Landrieu sidestepped a question about President Barack Obama's hesitance to proceed, but said, "I think he has some serious questions about how much it would contribute to the deteriorating climate situation."

Landrieu adds, quote, "Americans look at what's happening in Russia and Ukraine - I think it sends shivers up their spine and it should."

Senate Democrats and Republicans have been bickering over whether to allow a vote to construct the pipeline.

AP-WF-05-06-14 1155GMT

THE DERAILMENT OF ANOTHER TRAIN HAULING CRUDE OIL FROM NORTH DAKOTA. THIS TIME, IT HAPPENED IN DOWNTOWN LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA. RAIL CARS CAUGHT FIRE AND OIL SPILLED INTO A RIVER. SENATOR HEIDI HEITKAMP SAYS IT ISN'T YET KNOWN WHAT THE CAUSE OF THE DERAILMENT WAS.

Media : HEIDI LYNCHBURG
Length: 00:00:20.4 OutCue: "ON THE RAILS".<PSI_END_OBJECT>

HEITKAMP HOSTED TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY ANTHONY FOXX JUST A WEEK AGO IN CASSELTON, THE SITE OF DECEMBER'S DERAILMENT AND MULTIPLE EXPLOSIONS. FOXX VOWED TO KEEP PUSHING FOR SAFER AND STRONGER OIL TANKER-CARS AND SAID THE D-O-T IS ON THE VERGE OF ANNOUNCING NEW SPECIFICATIONS.

JURGENS/JCM 5-1-14 3:01PM

At the GOP meeting held in Fergus Falls on the evening of June 17th, the membership filled several vacant leadership positions.

The new leadership were elected to fill the unexpired terms of office of leaders who had resigned.

Elected as chair of the Republican Party of Otter Tail County is Andrew Braderick of Pelican Rapids.
The new deputy chair is David Lindberg of Fergus Falls. Jeff Wiebe of Ottertail township was elected as Vice chair for State House district 8B. Donald Davenport, Clitherall was elected a region leader for eastern Otter Tail county.

Bill Schulz, Secretary, Republican Party of Otter Tail County.

Political