

Education

>>MN State Month Offers Higher Education Benefits

(Undated) -- Twenty-six colleges and seven universities across Minnesota are offering students ways to save on higher education costs during October, which is Minnesota State Month. These faculties will be waiving admission fees, offering new scholarships, and undergraduate tuition for the state has been frozen at 2022 levels until spring 2025. Chancellor Scott Olson says, "the colleges and universities of Minnesota State are always the most affordable, most accessible higher education options in Minnesota, but these programs offer students the opportunity for an extraordinary education while avoiding or limiting student debt."

>>Twin Cities Marathon Cancelled Due to Hot Weather in Minnesota

(Minneapolis, MN) -- It may be fall on the calendar but officials in Minnesota pulled the plug on the Twin Cities Marathon Sunday due to the heat. Organizers cancelled Sunday's event just hours before the start time. Over 20-thousand people were registered to take part in the annual marathon and ten mile races. Organizers say they aren't rescheduling the event due to its size and all the resources needed to stage a major marathon. The Twin Cities set a record-high temperature of 92 degrees on Sunday.

>>Liz Cheney Speaking at U of M Carlson Lecture Series

(Minneapolis, MN) -- Former U-S Representative Liz Cheney is speaking tonight (Wed 6pm) at the University of Minnesota. The Wyoming Republican will present the Distinguished Carlson Lecture in the Northrop Auditorium. Cheney was removed from G-O-P leadership and lost re-election after criticizing former President Trump for his alleged role in the January 6th insurrection. She is the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney and considered a specialist on national security and foreign policy.

>>Moorhead Resource Officers to Return to Schools Friday

(Moorhead, MN) -- Resource officers will be heading back into Moorhead Area Public Schools Friday. The officers were removed from the schools in August because of a new Minnesota law that the Moorhead Police Department said put the officers at risk of civil or criminal liability. Police departments, the Minnesota Police Chiefs Association and other professional law enforcement groups were concerned that the law would hinder the work of resource officers in controlling fights or other disturbances. Moorhead Police said the Minnesota Attorney General's Office and legal counsel were able to clarify the new restraint law and its implications, leading to officers returning to the schools.

WITH CLARIFICATION FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MOORHEAD POLICE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ARE BACK. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MADE THE DECISION. S-R-O-S WERE REMOVED ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL OUT OF CONCERN WITH A NEW "USE OF FORCE" LAW THAT WAS APPROVED IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION. POLICE CHIEF SHANNON MONROE SAYS HE FEARED THAT THE LAW MAY HAVE SUBJECTED HIS OFFICERS TO CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY.

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Time: 19s

Title: MHD. CHIEF RESOURCE

Description: MHD. CHIEF RESOURCE

Out-cue: "IMMINENT COMMERCE HARM"]

WHILE MONROE SAYS HE'S COMFORTABLE WITH THE LATEST LEGAL OPINION, HE SAYS HE BELIEVES THE LEGISLATURE WILL HAVE TO WORK TO FINE TUNE THE LAW.

Minnesotans have the opportunity again this fall to nominate that unique educator for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Doug Doohar is with Education Minnesota:

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[G:\scripts\Audio\trteacher11.mp3] :10 "TO THESE TEACHERS"

(Nominating them for Teacher of the Year is a great way to show appreciation and I know having worked on this program for a long time what it means to these teachers)

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The Minnesota Teacher of the Year also becomes Minnesota's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

>>Crow Wing County R-N Facing Federal Charges of Fraudulently Obtaining Pain Meds

(Baxter, MN) -- A registered nurse in central Minnesota is accused in federal court of fraudulently obtaining prescription opioid medications from a hospice clinic in Baxter. Prosecutors allege 33-year-old Cambie Broker, an R-N case manager, entered false prescription requests into the clinic's software program to obtain oxycodone, fentanyl and hydromorphone for illegal sale and personal use. Broker made her initial court appearance Wednesday before a U-S magistrate judge.

>>MN Teachers Attending MEA Conference in St. Paul

(St. Paul, MN) -- While Minnesota students are taking a break, educators across the state will attend the annual M-E-A conference today (Thurs) in St. Paul. Education Minnesota Vice President Monica Byron says this is a time for them to come together to be able to engage in some new learning and then be able to take that back to their classrooms next week and apply it. Last year educators had the option to join the conference virtually, Byron says this year it's in-person only. This year's keynote speaker is Brittany Wagner, star of Last Chance U and author of Next Chance You.

>FPD Asks for Public's Help in 5 Linked Arson Cases

(Fargo, N.D) -- Fargo Police are asking for the public's help in identifying the person or group responsible for intentionally setting five garage fires throughout the summer. Police say the fires were set between June 27th and September 30th, with four all in one block and the fifth just two blocks away. Anyone with information is asked to call the Fargo Police Department or tip anonymously by texting FARGOPD to 874411.

Minnesota State Community and Technical College has been named the Number 1 Best Community College in Minnesota, and eight of the college's online degree and certificate programs have also earned national Top 10 honors, from three leading college planning websites.

The Best Community College in Minnesota designation was awarded to M State by Niche.com, while the online program Top 10 rankings, including three No. 1 spots, out of all two-year colleges in the U.S., are from BestColleges.com and EduMed.org.

M State President Carrie Brimhall said in a statement; "We are thrilled that M State has been named the Best Community College in Minnesota, and that so many of our online programs have been recognized as being among the best in the nation,"

The start of a new school year is just around the corner and new this year free breakfast and lunch for all Minnesota students. Allison O'Toole is CEO of Second Harvest Heartland:

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[trschoolmeals1.mp3] :14 "PLAY AND THRIVE"

(That is a total game-changer for our state. Hungry kids can't learn. So I am just so excited for the fall, we will have a level playing field. Kids will have the food they need to learn and play and thrive)

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O'Toole says while this is a good first step, there are still a lot of other people who are facing food insecurity, including a number of seniors. She says we need to be keeping our eye on those folks too.

>>Concordia-Moorhead announces zero tuition next fall for students from families making under \$90K

(Moorhead, MN) -- Concordia College in Moorhead says starting in the fall of next year, it will cover full tuition costs for new students from families with adjusted gross income under \$90,000 a year. What the school calls the "Concordia Promise" is renewable for up to four years and includes 100 percent of standard full-time tuition using a combination of federal and state aid along with existing Concordia scholarships. There is no GPA requirement. Housing, food, fees, and other costs are not included. "Reducing the financial burden of education through the Concordia Promise will allow our students to better focus on their mission, their dedication, and their potential to influence the affairs of the world," says college President Dr. Colin Irvine. "This is a game-changer for families in our region and across the country who may have thought a private college education was out of their reach."

>>All Sides Await Rulings in Minnesota Election Cases

(St. Paul, MN) -- Stakeholders are waiting for judges' rulings in two high-profile election cases in Minnesota after last week's developments. The Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that Mille Lacs County District Judge Matthew Quinn overstepped his authority when he told convicted felons at sentencing that they can't vote until they finish probation, Quinn at the same time declaring Minnesota's new felon voting law unconstitutional which the higher court overruled. But there's a separate case challenging the constitutionality of Minnesota's new felon voting law which an Anoka County judge has under advisement -- and Election Day is tomorrow in a number of Minnesota municipalities and school districts. And the Minnesota Supreme Court is considering a request to keep former President Donald Trump off the Minnesota ballot in 2024.

>>Dozens of School Elections Tuesday in Minnesota

(St. Peter, MN) -- There are no statewide, congressional or legislative races on Election Day Tuesday but there are dozens of local school elections. Greg Abbott with the Minnesota School Boards Association says we're going to have a total of 60 school districts asking for either a bond, a capital project levy or an operating levy. Abbott says 2023 is a considered an "odd" year for school board races and there are only about 31 districts that have their general elections and there's another 27 special elections for a board seat. He says there are usually 300 districts with school board races in an even year.

>Klobuchar Recognizes Vietnam Vets in Minnesota Veterans Day Program

(Inver Grove Heights, MN) -- A special recognition for those who served in Vietnam during the State of Minnesota Veterans Day program this weekend. U-S Senator Amy Klobuchar says the Vietnam War ended 50 years ago and those veterans were not welcomed home with a parade, balloons or a military band. She says, "they got hit with tomatoes, and I think one of things that we've learned from that conflict among many things is that we can have disagreements on war, but we never take it out on the warriors on the front line." Klobuchar says the recently passed PACT Act expands extensive health care to Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

>>4 MN Schools Participating in Student Mental Health Pilot Project

(St. Paul, MN) -- Four Minnesota school districts are getting federal money for a pilot project to track student mental health with a software platform already in use in schools across the country. Stephanie Downey, a Bemidji-based suicide prevention coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Health, says schools can screen students for risk factors and assess their situation. Downey indicates the software will streamline the process and lessen chances of a student falling through the cracks. The four districts participating in the pilot program are: LaPorte in north-central Minnesota, Luverne in the far southwest, North Branch in east-central Minnesota and Anoka-Hennepin -- the state's largest school district.

>>Alexandria Police Continue Investigation Into Fatal Stabbing

(Alexandria, MN) -- Police in Alexandria continue to look for a suspect in a fatal stabbing last month. Fifty-eight-year-old Desiree Frederick was found stabbed to death in the home she shared with a family member November 24th. Officers have sent multiple items of evidence to the B-C-A lab and have served several search warrants, as well as scrubbed through hundreds of hours of recorded data. Anyone with information about Frederick's death is asked to call 9-1-1.

>>Minnesota Educators Awarded Grants to Support Ag Literacy in Classrooms

(St. Paul, MN) -- Thirteen state educators looking to provide more agricultural experience for students will receive grant funding from Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC). Each teacher will be awarded an Agricultural Literacy Grant, worth up to \$500, and designed to fund projects that support agriculture and food systems education from kindergarten to high school. Topics that will be explored through this year's projects include agricultural careers, aquaponics, and the farm-to-fork process.

>>Salvation Army Reports Lack of Red Kettle Donations

(Roseville, MN) -- Officials say Red Kettle donations are down heading into the final weeks of the Salvation Army's annual campaign. Spokesman Dan Furry says we all thought when we came out of the pandemic that things would kind of go back to normal, but that was immediately followed by higher costs for food, rent, utilities, and gas. Furry says when you have increased costs donations tend to dip and it's very difficult to absorb that so they have more and more people coming to the Salvation Army for that reason. Furry says they are greatly in need of bell ringers at their kettles.

>>State Commission to Pick Final Minnesota Flag Design Tuesday

(St. Paul, MN) -- A special commission is scheduled to adopt the official design Tuesday for the new state flag. Members picked a base design Friday that features a Navy blue outline of Minnesota with a white star and green, white and blue stripes. Vice chair Anita Gaul says, "we will now come together on Tuesday we'll discuss a few more modifications, but in some way shape or form this is the new Minnesota state flag." Gaul says you can check out design F-1953 on the State Emblems Redesign Commission webpage. The final design must be submitted to Minnesota lawmakers by January 1st.

>>U of M Med School, CentraCare to Celebrate New St. Cloud Campus

(St. Cloud, MN) -- The University of Minnesota Medical School and CentraCare come together this morning (MON) to commemorate the approval of plans to develop a regional campus in St. Cloud. Dean Jakub Tolar (Jacob Toe-lar) says the new site in St. Cloud will have 24 new students a year beginning in 2025 and up 96 students by 2029. This is the U of M Med School's first new campus in 50 years. CentraCare C-E-O Ken Holmen said medical students will get hands-on experience working in small-town hospitals and the flavor of the Saint Cloud program will be those who really have an interest in rural health care.

It's National Education Week, an over-century-old observation meant to address the American education system and literacy rates at the time, something that is still an issue today.

Groves Learning Organisation (GLO) spokesperson Katharine Campbell says according to the Minnesota Department of Education, in 2019...

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[G:\scripts\Audio\awnatedweek1.mp3] :12 (STRUGGLING READERS NOW)

"59% of Minnesota students were reading at grade level. We are now down to about 50% of students, which means that 50% of the students in our state are struggling readers now."

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Campbell says on a positive note, this spring's passing of the Minnesota READ Act, Reading to Ensure Academic Development, has been a huge boost in molding the science of reading into a framework of good literacy instruction for students.