

Henning Woman with a Gun Arrested after Argument

8-26-14

A Henning city worker intervened in a domestic Monday morning. A male and a female were involved in a verbal argument. He was also able to take a gun away from the female. The 22-year-old Henning woman was arrested on a misdemeanor domestic assault charge and a felony charge of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Otter Tail County Deputies and officers from New York Mills, Parkers Prairie and Battle Lake Police Departments responded to the call.

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JoyDell Nealis

AP-ND--Ten Commandments Lawsuit,130

Appeals court upholds decision that keeps marker

Eds: Resending for online points. APNewsNow.

FARGO, N.D. (AP) - An appeals court has upheld a federal judge's decision allowing a Ten Commandments monument to remain on city property in downtown Fargo.

The Red River Freethinkers group filed a lawsuit alleging that the city gave the monument a religious purpose in voting more than five years ago to keep it. A judge dismissed the suit after the city argued that the complaint had no merit.

A three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ruling in a decision released Monday.

The monument was donated to the city in 1958, to commemorate an urban renewal project. It was installed on its current site near the Fargo Civic Auditorium in 1961.

City commissioners originally voted to relocate the marker but decided to keep it after complaints from citizens.

AP-WF-08-26-14 1016GMT

Signs Work Session

8-19-14

The work session on signs for Fergus Falls City Council resulted in one small change in policy. The words "per sign" were taken out so it now reads "The annual temporary sign permit \$50 will be required by the sign owner/operator."

The change was given a first reading at the council meeting following the work session.

The city also plans to do a better job in communicating that signs cannot be placed in the boulevard. They have been confiscating rummage sale signs that were improperly placed, prompting many phone calls to city hall. Per state statute, signs cannot be placed in the right of way of all roads including city streets. They also cannot be placed on trees or utility poles.

Third City Deer Hunt to be Held in Fergus Falls

7-28-14

There will be another city deer hunt in Fergus Falls this Fall. Hunters are selected by a lottery and must pass a proficiency test. The hunt is conducted only on certain city owned property. Hunters pay a city permit fee of \$20 in addition to the DNR license requirements. They must obey all state hunting regulations plus the city rules. This is the third year the city has offered the special hunt. The hunt was started after a council member noted an increasing number of vehicles hitting deer within the city limits. Applications are available on the Fergus Falls City website; they can also be picked up at the police department. A bow hunt map is also on the website. Applications need to be turned in by August 15th.

MD 8am

FF Streets to be Open During Crazy Days

7-23-14

Fergus Falls City Council approved a change for downtown Crazy Days. In the past, the entire street has been blocked off to traffic. This year the street will remain open but some parking spots will be blocked off with cones as “buffer zones” between merchants outside on the sidewalks and traffic. The change passed the committee and was approved by the full council. Crazy Days is this Thursday (July 24) in Fergus Falls.

Property taxes decline in Minnesota

7-22-14

Property Taxes will be going down and homeowners will see the biggest decrease in Minnesota. Overall, homeowner property taxes are going down by \$171 million this year, a 5.2 percent drop from 2013. For the last 12 years, Minnesotans saw an average annual increase of 5.7 percent in the property taxes after refunds each year. Property tax levies, excluding refunds, have increased by \$124 million, but \$75 million of that increase comes from new construction/property for homestead and businesses, a release from the Minnesota House DFL Caucus states.

For 2014, homeowners, renters and farmers will see \$45 million in additional direct tax relief. More than half a million homeowners will see an average 3 percent increase in their homestead property tax refunds, and about 350,000 renters will see an average 6 percent increase in renter property tax credit.

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Sign Fee Not Waived for Classic Car Club

7-22-14

The city sign ordinance was once again discussed at last night's (Monday's) city council meeting. The Classic Car Club came with a request to waive the fee for their 12 signs or to pay just one \$50 fee. 12 signs at \$50 each would be \$600 just to put up signs for a couple of days. Don Lynn told the council that the club has lost money or barely broke even at their last six car shows.

The council voted to deny the request to waive the fees and discussed setting a work session to look at the sign ordinance to possibly waive the fees in the future for non-profits. No date for a work session was given at the meeting.

MINNESOTA-7TH DISTRICT

In NW Minnesota, plucky challenger for Peterson

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. (AP) - The man Republicans hope will give longtime Representative Collin Peterson a legitimate challenge in Minnesota's massive 7th District can't see his constituents from across the room, but they can sure see him.

State Senator Torrey Westrom lost his sight at age 14 in a car accident on his family's western Minnesota dairy farm. But Westrom is a big man with a commanding presence when he works a room, and he hasn't lost an election in nearly 20 years as a politician.

Westrom says 24 years for Peterson is long enough. And national Republicans are pouring substantial money into the race for the first time in memory.

Peterson's not sweating it for now. He says most of the people he talks to thank him for advancing the last farm bill.

Political
Cotting

Deputy Protected by Vest near Crookston

9-19-14

CROOKSTON, Minn. (AP) - Authorities say a northwestern Minnesota sheriff's deputy was saved by his bullet-resistant vest when he was shot by a suspect who was then wounded by police. The state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension says officers answered a 911 call about shots fired inside a home near Crookston just after 1 p.m. yesterday. As deputies spoke with family members outside the home, the suspect began firing at them from inside. A Polk County deputy was struck in the back of his bullet-resistant vest. Shots were exchanged, and the suspect was injured and taken into custody.

Absentee Ballots Now Available

9-19-14

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota's early voting window officially opens today. The state expanded its absentee process so people can vote early in-person or by mail without needing a valid excuse for doing so. Officials expect to see an uptick in ballots submitted well in advance of November 4th.

MNsure

(ALEXANDRIA, Minn.) - Today, Torrey Westrom released the following statement in response to the news that PreferredOne, MNsure's insurer with the most enrollees and the lowest premiums, will not be participating in the Exchange this year:

"This is the latest unfortunate example of why ObamaCare isn't working for Minnesotans, but it certainly will not be the last. Western Minnesotans who lost their health insurance plans last year are bracing for higher premiums, while struggling with fewer and fewer options for health coverage on the table. To make matters worse, 24-year incumbent Collin Peterson quite literally said he won't work to repeal ObamaCare, ~~even though our district and Minnesotans are being negatively impacted.~~ We need to repeal this unworkable law, and start over with common sense solutions that increase options for families, not limit them."

PreferredOne, the Golden Valley-based insurer, offered nearly 59 percent of the health insurance plans of the plans available on MNsure, including plans with the lowest premiums. According to KSTP, their move to pull out of the exchange "could signal big rate increases to be unveiled in early October, and that could have a significant impact on the elections."

Cross Country Trail Becomes Election Issue

9-11-14

A proposed Perham to Pelican Rapids recreational trail is becoming an issue in the County Commissioner election. With County Commissioner Wayne Johnson being a vocal supporter and his opponenet Everett Erickson being on record as firmly against it. Supporters and those against it recently met up at a Friends Of The Maplewood State Park annual meeting. Erickson's concerns are with right of ways and that some land aquisition may be necessary. Commisioner Johnson's supporters ~~are~~ point out the economic impact of a trail which would run through a state park and one of the most abundant area~~s~~ of lakes in the state. ~~Partnership 4 Health has also contributed \$10,000 and Otter Tail County about \$35,000. A petition with hundreds of names was submitted to the county board and a vote will determine where the project goes next.~~

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AP-MN--Right Now, 905

Latest Minnesota news, sports, business and entertainment
MINNESOTA SENATE

Foreign policy, tax debate stoke Senate race

 ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - The race between Senator Al Franken and Republican challenger Mike McFadden is moving past introductions and into attacks.

McFadden and fellow Republicans this week increased their efforts to tie Franken to President Barack Obama. They're now highlighting the unrest in the Middle East and the president's comments that his administration doesn't yet have a strategy for combating Islamic State extremists. A group of Republicans and veterans criticized Franken's approach to foreign policy at a press conference Friday.

McFadden says Franken has supported foreign policy blunders by Obama at the expense of America's national security.

Meanwhile, Franken's campaign debuted a new ad Friday suggesting McFadden's investment bank moved offshore to pay lower taxes. McFadden's team says the charge isn't accurate.

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR-BUSINESS

Minnesota chamber backs Republican Johnson

 ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota's Chamber of Commerce on Friday backed Republican Jeff Johnson over Democratic Governor Mark Dayton as the business community at large weighs how big of a role to play in the governor's race.

The decision Friday came after both Johnson and Dayton went before a chamber political committee. Four years ago, Dayton didn't even vie for the nod.

It remains unclear how active a role the chamber and other prominent business groups will have in the governor campaign. In 2010, business entities put more than \$1.3 million into a television campaign aimed at stopping Dayton.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION-FIBER-OPTIC CABLE

Cable for Minnesota governor's mansion shelved

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Governor Dayton Holds Roundtable Meeting In Breckenridge

9-3-14

In a sometimes contentious packed space normally reserved for court hearings Governor Mark Dayton met with area leaders, representatives and citizens and discussed concerns relating to the proposed F-M Diversion at the Wilkin County Courthouse in Breckenridge. Local Reps in attendance included Rep. Torrey Westrom, Rep. Paul Marquart, Rep. Jay McNamar, and others. Tim Fox the Wilkin County Attorney said going to court may be an option:

Tim Fox Cut 27 Seconds

"I don't care what anybody tells me, I think its the areas of--it will soon approach a million dollars--but the Diversion Authority has spent to do everything they could possibly do to prevent a federal court from reviewing this case, now I hear this talk that this is, has been reviewed by everybody and its the most wonderful plan in the world, if it is truth that it complies with federal law, state law, let a judge review it."

12 cemeteries in Richland and Wilkin Counties and possibly more, could be under water with some of the diversion plans as well as many other properties and family home-steads.

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AP-MN--Right Now,1298

Latest Minnesota news, sports, business and entertainment
MINNESOTA PRIMARY-GOVERNOR

Johnson emerges to take GOP governor primary

 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Hennepin County commissioner Jeff Johnson has captured the Republican nomination for Minnesota governor over three major rivals.

Tuesday's victory means Johnson advances to a fall showdown with Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton. It's also a validation for the Republican Party, which endorsed Johnson this spring before what turned into the party's first competitive primary for governor in 20 years.

Johnson beat former House Speaker Kurt Zellers, business executive Scott Honour and former House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (SY'-furt). Johnson benefited from the phone calls, canvassing and other outreach that came with party support and helped make up for better fundraising by some of his rivals.

It is Johnson's second bid for statewide office. He lost in a 2006 campaign for attorney general. He has previously served in the Legislature.

MINNESOTA PRIMARY-SENATE-GOP

McFadden wins Minnesota GOP Senate primary

 MINNESOTA (AP) - Businessman Mike McFadden has won Minnesota's Republican Senate primary and will take on Sen. Al Franken in November.

McFadden defeated retiring state Rep. Jim Abeler and several lesser-known candidates in Tuesday's primary.

A political newcomer, McFadden was the front-runner after he was endorsed at the party convention in April. He argued he was the only candidate who could raise enough money to beat Franken. He criticized the first-term senator as being too close to Obama and for his support of the president's health care overhaul.

Outside political groups are starting to look at the Minnesota race as Republicans hope to win back control of the U.S. Senate. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce promised aggressive spending on behalf of McFadden even before Tuesday's primary. Democrat-aligned groups have not yet poured much money into Minnesota.

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MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Jeff Johnson's primary opponents say they're lining up behind the GOP's nominee for governor in hopes of unseating Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton this fall.

Johnson beat former House Speaker Kurt Zellers, former House Majority Leader Marty Seifert and businessman Scott Honour Tuesday to capture the GOP nomination, starting a 12-week sprint to the general election. The four candidates held a joint press conference Wednesday.

Johnson says he'll wrap pieces of his primary challengers' campaigns into his own pitch against Dayton - Zellers' firm stance against tax increases, Honour's "cut no corners" approach and Seifert's rural Minnesota roots.

Democrats immediately struck out against Johnson, branding him as an extremist and friend of the Tea Party who will drag Minnesota backward if elected.

*6390 AP-ND--Obit-Wall,83

Governor says Wahpeton lawmaker improved education

Eds: APNewsNow.

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - A Republican state lawmaker from Wahpeton has died.

The North Dakota governor's office says Rep. John Wall died Friday. He was 70.

Wall was elected to the North Dakota House in 2004. That came following his retirement from a 34-year career of teaching high school English and journalism.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple says Wall worked hard on improving education funding for kindergarten through high school and on education policy in general.

Dalrymple says Wall was an "outstanding legislator" and a "kind and thoughtful person."

AP-WF-07-21-14 2157GMT

An official at Milwaukee-based Roundy's confirmed to the St. Paul Pioneer Press (<http://bit.ly/1wRUZHn>) the stores will be closing.

Meanwhile, Rainbow stores that were part of the deal have been handed over to their new owners.

MINNESOTA-NELSON ASSAULT

Judge likely to release CT results in Kolstad case

(Information in the following story is from: The Free Press, <http://www.mankatofreepress.com>)

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) - A judge likely will allow the attorney for former Minnesota Gophers quarterback Philip Nelson to have access to brain scans of the former football player Nelson is accused of assaulting.

A motion hearing was held Monday for Nelson. The 20-year-old is charged with first-degree assault after a confrontation with former Minnesota State, Mankato, football player Isaac Kolstad in downtown Mankato May 11. Nelson is accused of kicking Kolstad after Kolstad was punched during an altercation.

Nelson's attorney, Jim Fleming, wants 11 CT scans that were taken at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Mankato between May 11 and May 20. Fleming says he needs the medical records to prepare Nelson's defense.

The Free Press (<http://bit.ly/1o1lAkF>) reports the prosecutor was not opposed to the motion, but wanted more time to review it.

GOVERNOR CANDIDATE-SURGERY

Surgery lands GOP candidate Johnson in hospital

 ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - A Republican candidate for Minnesota governor is recovering after emergency surgery to repair a small perforation in his stomach.

Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson was resting after a successful procedure on Monday afternoon at Maple Grove Hospital. Johnson checked himself into the hospital earlier Monday.

Scot Crockett, his campaign manager, says Johnson will remain hospitalized "for a short period of time." Crockett could not elaborate on

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how long Johnson's recovery will last.

Johnson's surgery comes just three weeks before an Aug. 12 primary to select the Republican candidate who will challenge Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton in November. Johnson has the GOP endorsement. State Rep. and former House Speaker Kurt Zellers, former House Minority Leader Marty Seifert and ~~Orono~~ businessman Scott Honour also are running in the primary.

FIRE-GAS EXPLOSIONS

Accelerants fuel duplex fire, 2 rescued

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

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Two brothers were rescued from the upper floor of a St. Paul duplex in a fire that was fueled by cylinders of gas, oxygen and other accelerants.

Authorities say the two were taken to Regions Hospital where one man is in critical condition and the other in serious condition.

Fire officials tell the St. Paul Pioneer Press (<http://bit.ly/1o0Wfr6>) that back of the duplex and a nearby garage were engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived early Monday. Flammables in the garage set off small explosions as the fire burned. Firefighters found an exploded gas cylinder across the street from the duplex.

Three people who lived downstairs weren't home when the fire broke out.

OBIT-MAY

Man who guided UND to 1st hockey title dies at 87

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) - The coach who guided the University of North Dakota to its first NCAA hockey championship has died.

Dr. Robert May was 87.

May coached the program in the 1957-58 and 1958-59 seasons and led UND into the NCAA title game both years. UND defeated Michigan State 4-3 in the 1959 championship.

May's record with UND was 45-17-2.

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AP-MN--Right Now, 829

Latest Minnesota news, sports, business and entertainment
HEALTH OVERHAUL-MINNESOTA

Early snapshot of 2015 MNSure premiums coming up

 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - The state Commerce Department is preparing to release an early snapshot of 2015 premiums for policies sold on Minnesota's health insurance exchange, MNSure.

Spokeswoman Anne O'Connor says the department will most likely release the data this week.

It should give Minnesota consumers an idea of how much their insurance will cost next year, how the state's rates will stack up against the rest of the country, and whether any new health plans will offer policies through MNSure.

Many individuals who bought policies from private insurers on the exchange likely will pay more next year given that the largest and cheapest carrier, PreferredOne, abruptly pulled out of MNSure this month. But competition among other carriers could help limit any increases.

Open enrollment begins November 15th.

ISLAMIC STATE-AMERICANS-MINNESOTA

Minnesota Somalis condemn Islamic State recruiting

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Members of Minnesota's large Somali community are condemning the recruitment of youth by terrorist groups and urging collaboration to address the problem.

About 100 people attended a town hall meeting Sunday to denounce groups such as the Islamic State and al-Shabab, which together have recruited more than two dozen fighters from Minnesota.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul area is part of a pilot program to combat terror recruiting in the U.S.

U.S. Attorney Andy Luger said Boston and Los Angeles are part of the national pilot program. He told Sunday's crowd of about 100 people his ideas to Washington to find ways to address the recruitment of youth to terrorist groups.

Meeting organizers have long-advocated for a health care

contd...

Health care

BC-AP-MN--Health Overhaul-Minnesota, 1st Ld-Writethru,130

MNsure CEO: help coming for PreferredOne customers

Eds: APNewsNow. Corrects date. Will be updated.

By STEVE KARNOWSKI

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - The chief executive of Minnesota's health insurance exchange says help will be available for consumers as its largest carrier pulls out.

MNsure CEO Scott Leitz told the exchange board Wednesday he's disappointed PreferredOne won't offer new coverage when open enrollment begins Nov. 15, but four other Minnesota-based carriers will continue to do so.

He says MNsure plans to conduct targeted outreach efforts for current PreferredOne enrollees to help them pick new plans for 2015.

While PreferredOne customers can keep their current plans, their premiums could be higher next year. And those customers who now get tax credits to defray the costs will need to switch carriers to keep them.

PreferredOne grabbed 59 percent of all private-plan enrollees in MNsure's inaugural year by offering low premiums, but now says that's unsustainable.

AP-WF-09-17-14 2118GMT

Mill Street Now Closed for Clinic Construction

9-4-14

Lake Region Healthcare has started on their new clinic project. Construction fencing around the area is up and Mill Street is now closed from Vernon Avenue to Alcott. This means that the old Mill Street parking lot entrance can no longer be used.

Vice President of Marketing & Communications Katie Johnson: [audio: CLINIC ENTRANCE HERE KATIE JOHNSON]

:12 “So entering the clinic parking lot is now done at the entrance that is right in between Mill Street and Cascade Street. We put up a big red letter sign ‘clinic entrance here’.”

They have a lane marked so the patient drop off can still be used.

Right now trees and brush are being cleared for the new clinic. Medical records and billing departments are moving to the former Lakeland Mental Health building that has been redone. Next, the house on Vernon and two buildings along Mill Street will be torn down. A private ground breaking ceremony for Lake Region staff will be held.

Republicans' latest ad buy, more than \$2 million in advertisements have poured into the newly competitive district.

HEALTH OVERHAUL-DAYTON

Dayton apologizes for troubled MNSure rollout

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

ALEXANDRIA, Minn. (AP) - Governor Mark Dayton is apologizing for the troubled rollout of Minnesota's online health insurance exchange.

Dayton on Wednesday called the initial glitches with MNSure the single biggest disappointment of his first term.

But the Star Tribune reports the Democratic governor also defended the federal Affordable Care Act.

Dayton appeared at a general session of the Association of Minnesota Counties held in Alexandria. He thanked county leaders for their help with MNSure.

Dayton's Republican opponent, Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson, also spoke to the group but did not bring up MNSure.

A spokesman said Johnson would prefer to obtain a federal waiver from the Obama administration that would let Minnesota run its own health care system, but short of that, he would seek major changes to the way MNSure operates.

DAYTON-DIVERSION

Dayton: Diversion plan needs better communication

MOOHREAD, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton says the notion that Minnesota and North Dakota residents upstream from a proposed Red River diversion project are being sacrificed particularly for commercial development in Fargo has some merit.

Dayton has been in the southern Red River Valley talking mainly with upstream opponents who are unhappy the flood control proposal includes a massive holding area that would flood farmland and buildings in times of serious flooding.

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Dayton said after Wednesday's meeting in Moorhead that Fargo authorities "pretty much acknowledged" they have rejected the small-town complaints in favor of expanding Fargo, and that has hurt working relationships.

Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority Chairman Darrell Vanyo told Dayton during the meeting that the proposal was advanced by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect 200,000 residents, not to spur development.

GAS STATION SHOOTING

Still no sign of Minnesota homicide fugitive

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

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. (AP) - A Minneapolis man accused of fatally shooting his former boyfriend at a gas station last month remains at large after the third day of an intensive manhunt.

The search for 44-year-old Lyle Hoffman shifted from the Anoka County airport in Blaine to Prior Lake Wednesday after a man resembling Hoffman was spotted in and around Mystic Lake Casino.

But the Star Tribune reports authorities say a Chevy TrailBlazer is no longer believed to be connected to Hoffman. Earlier, authorities had said someone in the SUV might have picked Hoffman up.

Hoffman is accused of fatally shooting a business and romantic partner, Kelly Phillips, on August 11th at an Arden Hills gas station. Police say a suspect who held up the TCF Bank in Blaine Sunday closely resembles Hoffman.

LOW LAKE LEVELS

Judge refuses to side on White Bear Lake suit

(Information in the following story is from: Minnesota Public Radio News, <http://www.mprnews.org>)

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - A Ramsey County judge has declined to take sides on a lawsuit over White Bear Lake's low water levels.

Minnesota Public Radio News reports a lawsuit filed by a group of White Bear Lake homeowners against the state Department of Natural

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*6320 AP-MN--MNsurre-Life Events, 1st Ld-Writethru,131
MNsurre trying to fix 'life event' changes backlog
((Eds: APNewsNow. Clarifies in first paragraph that backlog was caused by
people making changes to coverage. Will be updated.))

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Minnesota's new health insurance exchange is
struggling with a backlog of people making changes to coverage through the
online marketplace.

State, county and health exchange officials ~~tell the St. Paul Pioneer~~^{say}
~~Press~~ (<http://bit.ly/Z5Rrrc>) the MNsure system has made recording of "life
events," including births, marriages and address changes, a slow and
difficult process. In Dakota County, it took months for nearly 80 new moms
to get their infants added to their insurance.

MNsurre plans to hire 15 additional employees to help address a backlog
of thousands of changes.

Officials said only a few of those backlog cases are thought to
involve babies, and they say exchange and state officials have been getting
life events into the system in emergency situations. But they say the
system isn't where they want it.

Information from: St. Paul Pioneer Press, <http://www.twincities.com>

AP-WF-09-02-14 2124GMT

*6320 AP-MN--Health Cancellations, 1st Ld-Writethru,126

8,000 get false notice of health care cancellation

Eds: APNewsNow. Edits short headline. Deletes extraneous letter in second paragraph. Will be updated.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - More than 8,000 low-income Minnesotans have received erroneous notices that their health coverage would be temporarily canceled if they don't pay up.

A July 17 notice warned MinnesotaCare subscribers that they faced a four-month coverage lockout if they failed to renew their policy through the state's new health insurance exchange by month's end. The Department of Human Services says their automated reminders drew on part of an old law that locked out subscribers whose coverage lapsed.

That penalty no longer exists, and the department announced the error on Monday.

MinnesotaCare is a state-subsidized health care plan for adults who make too much to enroll in Medicaid but can't afford insurance on their own.

The department says it is sending revised notices to the 8,765 affected subscribers.

AP-WF-07-28-14 2237GMT

The Quilts of Valor left from the Underwood Legion early Saturday to deliver the quilts in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Part of the send off included remarks from Pastor Nancy Monke...Sverdrup

"I have seen quilts and I know a quilt is not just a quilt it's a story. What you are bringing with those quilts... I hope you to present these and I know it will go with it. And I know you probably have prayed for them."

They travel 14 on Sunday. They have some schedule on Tuesday to deliver the quilts. Follow their [foot.com](http://www.foot.com)

Bus route
2012

Fergus Falls Could have a Monarch Festival

10-1-14

If approved by the full council Monday, the city of Fergus Falls will be the fiscal host for a new festival. The finance committee on Wednesday heard the proposal for a Monarch Festival. It would be held in August during the same time the Prairie Wetlands is tagging monarch butterflies.

Teresa Mann explained that they needed the city's approval to be the fiscal host for a grant application.

Plans for the festival include workshops, an art exhibit, dance, music and other mediums.

City Finance Director, Bill Sonmor, said the festival could seek non-profit status if it was held a second year.

The festival will be on the consent agenda Monday at the council meeting.

BC-MN--Rural Grocers ,118

Creativity required for rural grocers to survive

(Eds: APNewsNow.)

GRANITE FALLS, Minn. (AP) - Small town grocery store owners in Minnesota know their financial survival can often involve creative ways to turn a profit.

Rural grocers gather in Granite Falls Wednesday to exchange ideas. The Southwest Food Network is hosting the group.

University of Minnesota extension educator Ryan Pesch works with the network. He says the organization's main goal is improving food accessibility in rural Minnesota. Fresh vegetables or fruit can be the first thing to go when rural grocers struggle. If the product is not sold immediately, it's a total loss.

Pesch tells Minnesota Public Radio News (<http://bit.ly/1vud8vr>) that one small town grocer sells produce from local growers on consignment. He says the store provides fresh vegetables without the risk.

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

AP-WF-10-01-14 1217GMT

Glendalough Now Offers New Paved Trail

Minnesota DNR is celebrating the completion of the new Glendalough Trail on Friday September 26th. The trail starts at the bridge over battle creek and provides a loop through the park that traverses oak forest and restored prairie. The state park portion connects to the recently completed section of trail on county and city land between the park and Battle Lake. There will be an official ribbon cutting as well as several speakers. Park Superintendent Jeff Weirsma said there will also be a shuttle for older and non-mobile people to see the fall leaves:

Jeff Wiersma 29 Seconds

~~providing~~ *shuttle offering*
"We will also be providing a unique opportunity for people that can't ride a bike anymore to ride a shuttle on the trail, so they get to see the trail. On that shuttle ride there'll also be a handout with some interpretation of some sites along the trail. So it's a really great opportunity, other than our annual walk every spring, it's one of the few opportunities to get to actually ride on the trail for older citizens or disabled folks to get a view of how fantastic this new trail really is."

The trail cost \$500,000 to construct and was funded by the 2012 legislature bonding bill and a federal recreation Trail Program Grant.

1st Annual Battle Lake Pumkin Fest

9-24-2014

Battle Lake is definitely the place to be this weekend with the 1st Annual Pumpkin Fest. A lot has gone into the planning and generating interest for this first time event. We recently spoke with Gary Harrington about what they have planned and some of the logistics involved:

Garry Harrington 30 seconds

"I think at this time we've either got 4 or 5 what we call chunkers and we're going to be doing it out just east of town, actually on the outskirts of town. I think its going to generate a lot of interest at 3:30 in the afternoon on the 27th. We've got 16 different committees that are working on different aspects of the Pumpkin Fest, so we're trying to break it down so we have a well designed pumpkin fest for the 1st year."

Junk Fest will also be a highlight of the event as many vendors will display and sell re-purposed art, as well as a Chainsaw Woodcarver who will carve a 6ft Jack-O-Lantern.

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It to Stardom in Battle Lake September 27

al provides people with the opportunity to watch pumpkins
to the air by a catapult. But Battle Lake's Pumpkin Fest on
September 27, includes a "Punkin Chunkin" demonstration that
various means to get the orange globes airborne from
to air cannon. Other pumpkin related events and contests will
throughout the day. For more details, events, and contests visit
facebook at: Battle Lake Pumpkin Fest.

several people he was carrying a gun because he felt threatened by a detective.

Eid's attorney, John Baker, says the case shows how society often thinks war veterans are broken. Eid hasn't been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and has no criminal history.

The sheriff's office had no comment, citing privacy laws.

FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL

Fallen Rice County fire chief honored at memorial

★ ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - Hundreds of uniformed firefighters were expected to gather Sunday to remember their colleagues who died in the line of duty.

The Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service is held every year on the last Sunday of September.

Since 1881, 213 Minnesota firefighters have fallen in the line of duty. Their names are inscribed on columns throughout the memorial, located on the south side of the Capitol grounds.

This year, five firefighters are being honored. They include Rice Lake Fire Chief Matthew Frantz, who died of an apparent heart attack within 24 hours of responding to a call last December.

The four others being honored are those whose line-of-duty deaths were newly discovered. Their deaths date back as far as 1913.

FARGO BEER-EXPANSION

Fargo beer expands to Minneapolis-St. Paul market

★ FARGO, N.D. (AP) - Fargo beer has arrived in Minneapolis.

The Fargo Brewing Company unveiled its year-round selections Saturday at the autumn brew review sponsored by the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild. Additional public events are scheduled for October.

A Woodbury, Minnesota company will be distributing the beer in cans throughout the Twin Cities. It's expected to be available on tap by early next year.

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The company's year-round beers include Wood Chipper India Pale Ale, Stone's Throw Scottish Ale, Sodbuster Porter and Iron Horse American Pale Ale.

Fargo Brewing Company was established in 2010. It began producing the beer in downtown Fargo in the summer of 2013.

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FERGUS FALLS, Minn.) – Lake Region Healthcare (LRH) officially merged with the Barnesville Area Clinic on Sept. 1, and celebrated the growth with a ribbon cutting ceremony for community members on Wednesday.

The full-service clinic, originally purchased by Dr. Owen Thompson in 1972, is the fourth LRH outreach clinic. Battle Lake, Ashby and Elbow Lake Eye Care Clinic are the organization's other outreach locations.

Dr. Owen Thompson will continue to practice at the clinic along with Adam Hohman, DNP and Carrie Affield, PA-C. In addition, Ron Johnson, PA-C will continue to provide back-up coverage at the clinic.

The main focus will be primary care and wellness, treating both acute and chronic illness. Same-day appointments will also be available.