

Issues-Programs List for April-June, 2023

Energy

Work continues on plugging and reclaiming abandoned oil wells

Prairie Public Broadcasting | By [Dave Thompson](#) 1:15

Published June 19, 2023 at 1:46 PM CDT

North Dakota's Mineral Resources Director says the state is continuing its efforts to plug and reclaim abandoned oil wells.

Lynn Helms said the state has received \$25 million from the Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act for that work. "That \$25 million is intended to plug 88 orphan wells, and reclaim all 88 of those sites, as well as another 51 sites," Helms said. "A total of 139 reclamations."

State Finances

Bank of ND shows record profits — Burgum criticizes Legislature for taking \$150 million of profits for the General Fund

Prairie Public Broadcasting | By [Dave Thompson](#) 1:59

Published May 30, 2023 at 9:17 AM CDT

The Bank of North Dakota is reporting record assets of \$10.2 billion, at the end of 2022. Bank President Todd Steinwand told the state Industrial Commission the loan portfolio grew to a record \$5.4 billion. Business loans were up by \$675 million, and agriculture loans increased by \$8 million.

Tax Reform

Legislature passes 'substantial' tax relief, including income and property tax

Prairie Public Broadcasting | By [Dave Thompson](#) 1:12

Published April 27, 2023 at 5:57 AM CDT

The Legislature has approved a comprehensive tax relief bill – that includes both income and property tax relief. The conference committee on House Bill 1158 met 13 times, before coming out with this version. Under it, income tax brackets are reduced from 5 to 3, and the lowest tax bracket would pay no income tax. It also provides a \$500 property tax credit – that a property owner would have to apply for – as well as increased benefits under the Homestead Credit law.

Gender/Sex

Senate passes a number of 'transgender' bills — including a ban on gender-affirming care for minors

Prairie Public Broadcasting | By [Dave Thompson](#) 1:37

Published April 4, 2023 at 8:21 AM CDT

The North Dakota Senate has passed a number of bills impacting transgender people. One of the measures is HB 1254. It would ban and criminalize gender-affirming care for transgender minors. It imposes felony charges on doctors who perform sex assignment surgeries, and misdemeanors for doctors who prescribe hormone therapies or puberty blockers to children.

Education

Interim committee to look at new Minnesota tuition program

Prairie Public Broadcasting | By [Dave Thompson](#) 1:35

Published July 5, 2023 at 7:57 AM CDT

The chairman of the ND Legislature's interim Higher Education Committee says his panel will be looking at a new Minnesota program to provide free college tuition to some Minnesota students. It's called "North Star Promise." That program will provide free tuition to students from Minnesota families that have annual incomes of \$80,000 or less, beginning in 2024. And that would likely affect North Dakota colleges that have a high percentage of Minnesota students.

NPR pieces aired between 6 and 8 am.

Agriculture and Environment

MORNING EDITION 04/10/2023 0:03:35 More Midwest farmers are planting 'cover crops' in the off-season to help the climate Agriculture / Farmers / Climate Change.

Business, Economics and Finance

MORNING EDITION 04/04/2023 0:04:56 Oil producers will cut production. What's that mean for the U.S.-Saudi relationship? Oil & Gas / International Relations

Agriculture and Environment

MORNING EDITION 05/29/2023 0:03:41 Climate change is increasing the fire risk on the mostly treeless Great Plains Forest & Brush Fires / Climate Change / Fires & Firefighters / Housing

Medicine and Health

MORNING EDITION 05/19/2023 0:04:58 More states increasingly restrict access to medical care for transgender people Transgender People / Patients / Bans / Medical Procedures & Treatments / Law & Legislation.

Education

MORNING EDITION 05/23/2023 0:06:41 Schools feel pressure to reassess disciplinary policies including a role for police Police / Secondary Education / Students / Suspensions & Dismissals / Violence