

EDUCATION

Minnesota College Students More At Risk For Problem Gambling

03-16-2017

This month is being recognized nationally as problem gambling month, and the focus is on college students. Nearly 6 percent of college students in the United States have a gambling problem or issues. The Minnesota Department of Human Services has started a new campaign called "JUST ASK MN", to raise awareness with young people about the risks associated with gambling. DHS Assistant Commissioner Claire Wilson...

DHS Asst Commissioner Claire Wilson 20 SEC

OUTCUE: "...so that they connect young people with help."

"JUST ASK MN" includes a website and social media outreach that will hopefully connect a younger demographic to the actual consequences and better understanding the signs of a gambling problem.

JLM
PRW

2650
1626
7:30
1189
Lynn

2-2
51M
10/20/20

Teacher Layoffs Bill

03-17-17

Use Saturday

When Minnesota school districts get into financial trouble, faculty positions are often the place school boards look to to balance the budget. But the old rule of thumb – last hired, first fired – could be a thing of the past with legislation passed Thursday by the Minnesota House.

The bill gives more power to local school districts to decide which teachers are cut from the roster. Democrats say taking away teacher protections will almost certainly make the state's teacher shortage worse, especially in rural areas.

But Republican State Representative Bud Nornes, one of many co-authors of the bill, says students deserve the best teachers possible, whether young or old...

... "part of the faculty." : 10

Nornes says it would be just another tool for administrators to have at their disposal.

The bill has been introduced in the Senate and has been given a first reading.

DLM
PRV

Cleveland Elementary 5th Grade Classes Officially Moving To Kennedy

03-15-17

At Monday's School Board meeting the Fergus Falls school board unanimously approved the Cleveland 5th Grade Students to be integrated into Kennedy Secondary School.. Superintendent Jerry Ness...

NESS BOARD APPROVES MOVE 29 SEC

OUTCUE: "...in between there's very minimal contact with other students." The approval also necessitated a change to the school calendar. May 31st of this year will be the last day of school with June 1st to be the official moving day for the 5th grade classrooms and all of its supplies to Kennedy.

1628
KMSJ

7A
1626
8A

Electrical Upgrade Planned For Kennedy Secondary

03-14-17

Last night's Fergus Falls School Board meeting revealed that a major electrical upgrade is on track for Kennedy Secondary School. The timeline appears to be around mid August. Fergus Falls School District Business Manager Mark Masten says the whole school will lose power for most of the day while a new transformer is installed...

MASTEN ELECTRICAL 25 SEC

OUTCUE: "...very interesting to see how this comes through."

In other school board news, the 2017-2018 School Calendar was approved, which will make June 1st of this year a no-school day. The day will be used by staff to prepare for the 5th Grade Cleveland Elementary classes in the planned re-location to Kennedy Secondary School.

1628
Masten

7A
4025
8X

Pelican 4 Day School Week Likely Ending

03-06-2017

The 4 day School week was originally meant as a temporary fix for budget concerns at Pelican Rapids schools. However, it became popular for parents, educators, and students. Sadly, it appears there is a strong possibility that it will be no more going into the 2017-2018 school year. Outgoing Superintendent Deb Wanek says students were actually getting more class time with the 4 day week...

WANEK 4 DAY 20 SEC

OUTCUE: "...so that we wouldn't have to do anymore cuts.

Wanek says a new exemption has not been sought for next year. Every year the district has to go back to the legislature to get a new exemption. The incoming Superintendent or board may not want to pursue that path.

GA
2650
1626
7:30
1627
1189
Navy

No Snow Days?

03-06-17

Minnesota lawmakers are considering legislation that could bring an end to snow days. A Minnesota House committee heard legislation that would let schools substitute snow days for home learning, or e-learning, days. Fergus Falls Kennedy Secondary Principal Dean Monke...

MONKE NO SNOW DAY 19 SEC

OUTCUE: "...more complicated in practice."

According to the proposal, families would be notified at least two hours before school starts and students would begin their online coursework at the beginning of the school day. Snow days are safe for now, as the committee didn't vote on the bill, but laid it aside for possible inclusion in a larger education bill.

6A
1207
7:30
1627
1189

1628
NEWS 1

WCA Chooses New Superintendent

03-01-2017

West Central Area Schools have decided on a new superintendent after an exhaustive search. Barry Schmidt was announced Tuesday as the new Superintendent. This is Interim West Central Superintendent Dr. Chuck Cheney...

DR CHENEY SUP ANNOUNCE 13 SEC

OUTCUE: "...he's going to be a great asset to this district."

West Central Schools had narrowed their Superintendent search down to 4 candidates about 2 weeks ago, with an original pool of 24. Schmidt will start his new job July 1st.

1628
News 1
7A
1625
8A

11/6/82

RW
OLM
70

Tungseth Recognized For Service

02-25-2017

Longtime Fergus Falls School Board member Darrel Tungseth was recognized for his 10 years of service to the school board. Elected in November of 2016, Tungseth came in at a very divisive time in terms of budget concerns and building decisions, but current board member Matthew Lemke says he was respected and fair to all concerned...

LEMKE ON TUNGSETH 15 SEC

OUTCUE: "...well said, agreed."

Darrel Tungseth tendered his resignation on February 19th due to ill health. Superintendent Jerry Ness will announce later today, the direction the board plans to go, whether someone would be appointed or a special election called. In other board news, Twin Cities firm Weatherproof Technologies won the bid for the roof restoration at Cleveland Elementary to be completed by year's end.

LA
1207
9:30

Ness

Fergus Falls 5th Grade To Move To Kennedy

02-14-17

It's now official, the Fergus Falls 5th Grade Classes will start the process of transitioning all 5th grade classes to Kennedy Secondary School. The resolution passed at Monday's Fergus Falls School Board meeting. In discussion leading up to the vote new school board member Steve Vigasaa expressed frustration...

Vigasaa 19 SEC

OUTCUE: "...I don't understand why we waited until so late."

A Facility Planning Committee will now be set up with various community leaders to help and direct the transition.

1189

Library Lobbyist

02-07-17

The fate of legislation authorizing a half-cent sales tax to pay for the expanded and remodeled Fergus Falls Public Library is in the hands of local legislators.

A resolution to spend \$10,000 for a lobbyist to shepherd the library bill through the legislative process failed by one vote.

Alderman Rod Spidahl says the \$10,000 could be used in other ways to help the library project. He's been assured getting legislative approval is a rubber stamp process...

..."let's use 'em." :15

Mayor Ben Schierer says the library project is huge for the city, and he for one doesn't want to take a chance with something going wrong at the legislature...

..."one tenth of one percent." :15

One council member was absent from last night's meeting. Four council members were in favor of hiring the lobbyist and three were against it. Five "yes" votes were required to pass the resolution.

7A
1625
8A
1189
1628
mmsj

Fergus Falls School Board Discusses 5th Grade Over-Crowding

01-24-2017

The Fergus Falls School Board is looking to parents and Fergus Falls residents for input on the delicate issue of where the 5th Grade classes will go in the district. There is not enough room at Cleveland Elementary for them and the facilities are experiencing over-crowding. Currently, the district is considering a move to Kennedy Secondary School. Superintendent Jerry Ness...

NESS ON 5TH GRADE MOVE 18 SEC

OUTCUE: "...no matter where they're located that's certainly our goal."

Kennedy Secondary School is the current location for sixth through 12th grade. There is one public meeting remaining on Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Secondary School auditorium, as well as tours beginning at 5pm.

1628
News 1
GA
1207
2650
7:30

PRW
D.M