

YOUTH

Quality Story Time

07-10-17

Saturday

Experts have long recommended children be introduced to reading as early as possible – and now, new research can help parents make story times even more beneficial for their little ones. An international study headed by researchers at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center found greater brain activation in four-year-olds when they are "highly engaged" during reading time. Dr. John Hutton explains that means asking them questions and getting them more involved in reading – which he says works like a "turbo charge" for the brain...

... "really want to do." :14

The study suggests parents develop a reading routine that allows them to spend quality time with their child and a book on a daily basis. That also means turning off cell phones, which Hutton says are the most common preventable barrier to a quality story time.

Hutton adds that long-term studies are needed with very young children to better understand the parent-child connection to healthy brain development and literacy skills.

DL Considers Tobacco 21

07-21-17

Detroit Lakes is considering revamping its ordinance regarding the sale of tobacco products. City officials are considering changing the age from 18 to 21 to purchase any tobacco products. And they're considering dealing with changes in the tobacco product market.

Partnership 4 Health's Jason McCoy says the Tobacco 21 initiative can reduce the amount of tobacco in a high school by over 50 percent in less than five years...

..."happens right here." :21

A public hearing will be held on the proposed tobacco sale ordinance at an August city council meeting.

2A
1627

Child Support Awareness Month

08-22-17

This month we recognize the support offered to families who may have separated or divorced parents. August is designated as Child Support Awareness month. In Becker County there is an entire division for child support services available to local households. Becker County Human Services Department Head Denise Warren says there are 11 people working with child support cases...

CHILD SUPPORT1

:21

IN THAT

Warren says the department handles a scope of services including location of non-custodial parents, establishment of parentage, establishment of support (child, medical, child care) orders, enforcement of support (child, medical, and child care) orders, and collection and disbursement of funds.

LA

7:30

1627

Warren

New Child Care Training

08-23-17

Tens of thousands of Minnesota children and their families stand to benefit from new federal requirements for child-care providers. There is new training in 11 specific areas for providers in the Child Care Assistance Program, from dispensing medicine to emergency preparedness. Cory Woosley with Childcare Aware Minnesota says it's all about keeping children safe...

... "make those kids safe." :13

She says Child Care Aware is offering the training free of charge through September 30th for providers who are part of the state's Child-Care Assistance Program. That's also the deadline for those providers to complete the training.

7A

Encouraging Fair Play In High School Sports

08-30-17

With school starting in just a few days for most schools in Otter Tail County, sporting events will follow. Some events are even scheduled before the first day of school. Every year parents and spectators are reminded about conduct and good sportsmanship and why it should be a high priority. Fergus Falls Kennedy Secondary Superintendent Dean Monke...

MONKE SPORTSMANSHIP 30 SEC

OUTCUE: "...why we play."

Other initiatives are being taught as well through coaches and materials distributed from the league. The Minnesota State High School League is a voluntary, nonprofit association of public and private schools with a history of service to Minnesota's high school youth since 1916.

1425

NB 5/9

PRW
DLM

Juvenile Center Major Expense Major Expense For OTC

09-06-17

It's becoming an issue in all parts of West Central Minnesota, juveniles in trouble and causing lots of it. The West Central Regional Juvenile Center in Moorhead is where these young people are sent between the ages of 12 to 18, who have committed a crime and which is punishable in the adult system, and also youth who have been sentenced by the courts for up to 90 days. They service 11 counties around the region, including Otter Tail County, which averages around thirty intakes per year. During Tuesday's board meeting Otter Tail County Commissioner Wayne Johnson of Pelican Rapids questioned why so much money was being spent on services for so few individuals...

Comm Johnson WCRJC Cost 30 SEC

OUTCUE: "...we're only talking thirty kids."

The main issue is that Otter Tail County is using more beds than they have pre-paid for. Center Director Steve Larson told commissioners that if they were to purchase more of the beds up front that it would actually be cheaper for the county in the long run. Larson also revealed that they usually they receive a majority of boys, but now girls are being brought in at a higher rate than ever, in fact a thirty percent increase has been seen in just the last couple of years.

Secure residential (correctional) treatment program for juvenile offenders

1628
NASS
NWSL

The West Central Regional Juvenile Center (WCRJC) functions as a coed 32 bed secure facility, as well as a coed 15 bed non-secure care program.

ALM
PRW

Library Expansion Commenced

09-08-17

The City of Fergus Falls has begun the expansion and remodel of the library. Comstock Construction of Fergus Falls is the project contractor. The public should be aware of noise concerns in the vicinity as pile driving will begin next week, continuing through the next three weeks. Pile Driving will only occur between the hours of 7am to 7pm and once complete the noise generated will be more moderate. An official consultant will oversee and monitor the entire construction. The expected completion is November 2018.

8A

United Way First Conversation

09-08-17

It's not something one would normally think about. But hidden in the shadows of rural Minnesota is a ^{big} problem ~~not many would think could happen~~ – human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Mary Phillipe (FILL-uh-pee), Executive Director of United Way of Otter Tail and Wadena Counties...

... "our local communities." :17

United Way has partnered with Someplace Safe to present "Conversations that Matter." A September 26th conversation talking about human trafficking and sexual exploitation will be held in Fergus Falls.

Jeanine Thompson is a regional youth advocate for Someplace Safe. Someplace Safe advocates deal with human trafficking and sexual exploitation cases routinely...

... "can be prevented." :12

The September 26th conversation will be held at the Bigwood Event Center from 11:30 to 1:00. Reserved tickets cost \$15 and include lunch and six speakers.

70A
1625
MWS

Child Care Deserts

09-11-17

There's good news and bad in newly-released data about the supply of good-quality child care. The bad news is 26 percent of Minnesotans live in so-called "child-care deserts," without sufficient care for the families who need it. The good news is that Minnesota ranks better than most states. Rasheed Malik with Center for American Progress says the data show slightly more than half of Americans don't have access to high-quality, affordable child care where they live...

..."child care deserts." :16

The study says access to child care is much like infrastructure – essential to the economy, and worth more federal investment. A similar study last year showed three-quarters of Minnesotans lived in a child-care desert. But this year's study included licensed family providers, of which there are 10 thousand in Minnesota.

The study found that in child-care deserts, families are likely to face waiting lists, make unlicensed child-care arrangements, or decide not to have a parent work full-time.

7:30

EDLM
IPRW

Shatter The Silence To Raise Suicide Awareness

09-20-17

What began with a tragedy is giving hope and raising awareness about suicide prevention with an event scheduled for September 30th called Shatter The Silence. In conjunction with Lake Region Health Care, the first annual 5k Run and Walk will start at Delagoon Park in Fergus Falls, and will continue onto the Central Lakes Trail. Event Organizer Maria Willits...

WILLITS SHATTER SILENCE 29 SEC

OUTCUE: "...even if they can't be at the walk."

There will be a brief program with a guest speaker at 6pm with the walk/run starting at sunset on the Central Lakes Trail. Shatter The Silence began as a grass roots effort in 2010 in Rothsay after the suicide of Ricky Carillo in April of 2009. Ricky would have been a 2009 graduate of Rothsay Public School.

Human Trafficking Conversation

09-26-17

The Fergus Falls Area United Way Women's Leadership Council's "Conversations that Matter" program Tuesday at the Bigwood Event Center was a hit. The subject of the conversation was "Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Rural Minnesota."

One of the panelists presented to the 144 mostly women in attendance was herself sexually exploited. Jeville Sutton says at age 12, she was a chronic runaway in the foster care system with no parents around. And she had esteem issues...

... "from me, so." :14

She was rescued from human trafficking by a woman who gave her love, support, and services. The woman loved Sutton unconditionally until she could love herself. Sutton is now 32 years old and is helping other girls who are sexually exploited.

Leadership Council President Sharon Casey says United Way was pleased to be a launching pad for discussion on this Greater Minnesota problem, which many didn't know existed...

... "to the forefront." :14

Sutton says what she's learned is that job training, housing, therapy and other services need to continue for victims past age 18 so they don't fall back into the same trap before they're capable of taking care of themselves.

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