

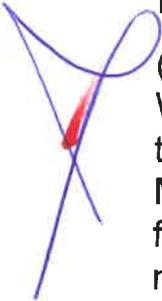
Environment

>President Trump Rallies Minnesota Supporters at Duluth Airport



(Duluth, MN) -- President Trump rallied more than a thousand supporters at the Duluth International Airport Wednesday night. Trump claimed that former President Obama closed the Iron Range and he re-opened it. The president touted an executive order he signed that would expand domestic mining and start production of critical minerals. Trump also praised U-S Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett as many people in the crowd held up signs that read "Fill That Seat." He began the speech talking about the first presidential debate and said, "we won big last night." Protesters lined Airport Road in Duluth. Trump made a quick stop at M-S-P Airport in the afternoon and attended a private fundraiser at the home of Cambria C-E-O Marty Davis on Lake Minnetonka.

>>Bill Protecting Boundary Waters From Mining Passes House Natural Resource Committee



(Washington, DC) -- A bipartisan bill aimed at protecting the Boundary Waters and Super National Forest from copper-nickel mining is headed to the U-S House floor. The legislation sponsored by Congresswoman Betty McCollum would prohibit mining on more than 234-thousand acres of federal property. The land includes the proposed site of the Twin Metals mine near Ely. The measure passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee Wednesday. Republican Congressmen Tom Emmer and Pete Stauber spoke out against the bill during a hearing on Capitol Hill.

>>Federal Judge Dismisses COVID Restriction Challenge by Senate Candidate Lewis



(St. Paul, MN) -- A federal judge is dismissing a lawsuit by U-S Senate candidate Jason Lewis challenging Minnesota's coronavirus restrictions. The judge rejected his arguments that the rules unconstitutionally limit his freedom to campaign and that Governor Tim Walz acted within his authority to respond to the public health crisis when he imposed restrictions on crowd sizes, travel and other measures meant to slow the spread of COVID-19. Lewis says he intends to file an appeal. He said this fight is "for every Minnesotan whose business was hurt, who missed a paycheck, or lost their job because of this one-size-fits-all economic lockdown."

>>Sauk Rapids Bar Temporary Closed For Violating COVID-19 Health Guidelines

(Sauk Rapids, MN) -- A central Minnesota bar is closed 72 hours for violating state COVID-19 guidelines. The owner of Rollie's Rednecks and Longnecks bar in Sauk Rapids says state inspectors noticed members of his staff not wearing masks over their noses and mouths. Roland Hogrefe called the temporary closure a "government overreach." He says he's already been in contact with some state representatives who plan to bring it up at the State Capitol. Rollie's and Rednecks was removed from tourism websites last spring for displaying Confederate memorabilia.

>>Lawyers For DNR, PolyMet Mining Ask Court To Reinstate Permits



(Minneapolis, MN) -- Lawyers representing the Department of Natural Resources and the PolyMet cooper-nickel mine are asking the Minnesota Supreme Court to reinstate three important permits. Those lawyers say the state agency acted within its authority when it finally decided there was no reason to hold a contested case hearing on the project. The high court heard arguments Tuesday. The Minnesota Court of Appeals rejected similar arguments in January. PolyMet wants to build the first of what could become several mines in the Iron Range near Babbitt, with a nearby processing plant in Hoyt Lakes. The company says that would mean hundreds of jobs. Opponents say similar mines worldwide have caused major pollution problems multiple times.

>>Minnesota House Could Vote On Bonding Bill Wednesday

(St. Paul, MN) -- Maybe the fifth time is the charm. The Minnesota House could vote on the statewide bonding bill today (Wednesday) and, if that vote is taken, the Senate would vote Thursday. Lawmakers returned to the Capitol Monday for a fifth special session. Delays have been caused when lawmakers connected the need for various infrastructure projects with the governor's peacetime emergency powers during the COVID-19 pandemic. With some of the concerns resolved, there is hope the gridlock will be broken and the votes will be taken.

Federal Appeals Court Rules Against Minnesota's Absentee Ballot Extension
(St. Paul, MN) -- A ruling by a federal appeals court means that all absentee ballots in Minnesota must be returned by 8 p-m on Election Day. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals overruled a lower court ruling that allowed ballots postmarked by November 3rd to be counted within seven days of the election. The Minnesota Secretary of State's Office extended the deadline due to increased demand for absentee ballots during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Trump campaign and Republicans argued the action violated the Constitution - and the federal appeals judges agreed. Minnesota D-F-L chair Ken Martin said in a statement, "the Republican Party is responsible for potentially disenfranchising thousands of Minnesotans who were prepared to vote by mail in the coming days."

>>Secretary Of State Simon Promotes Polling Place Safety

(St. Paul, MN) -- Secretary of State Steve Simon is reassuring Minnesota voters that they can feel safe at their polling places on Tuesday. It's in response to recent reports that some groups are trying to get so-called "poll watchers" to keep an eye on "problem" areas. Simon says voters should know that state law protects them from any intimidation or interference. Simon says under Minnesota law each major political party is allowed only one person to watch at each polling place. Governor Tim Walz says that Minnesotans have a right to expect privacy and civility at the polls.

>>Gray Wolf Delisting Sets Up Battle Over Recreational Hunt In Minnesota

 (Bloomington, MN) -- Removal of the gray wolf from the Endangered Species list sets up another political battle in Minnesota because a recreational wolf hunt requires state authorization. Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan have both said they oppose wolf hunting. Minnesota Farm Bureau President Kevin Paap (PAP) says farmers and ranchers need to be able to protect livestock and pets but added "it doesn't have to be necessarily a hunt." Maureen Hackett with the group Howling for Wolves says "the vast majority of Minnesotans... want the wolf protected for future generations." D-N-R officials say they're far from making any decision on a wolf hunt and have extended their public comment period until November 20th.

DNR Using Helicopter to Stock Lakes in Remote Northeastern Minnesota

(Duluth, MN) -- The Minnesota D-N-R is using helicopters to stock trout in lakes in remote northeastern Minnesota this fall. The trucks cannot get to some of the lakes and the D-N-R has used airplanes in the past. Officials say the helicopter-based system is more efficient and effective. D-N-R chief pilot Chris Lofstuen said, "The main benefit of using a helicopter, from a resource perspective, is that more of the stocked fish survive, so there are more for anglers to catch." Choppers can hover five feet above the water to drop the fish into the lake. Minnesota has 116 lake trout lakes. The D-N-R does not stock lake trout in the 35 known native lake trout lakes.

Minnesota State Patrol Hiring Troopers To Deal With Increasing Traffic Deaths

(St. Paul, MN) -- The Minnesota State Patrol says it is hiring up to 60 new troopers as it deals with a rapidly-rising number of traffic deaths. As of last week, more than 300 people have died on state roads this year. A background in law enforcement isn't required. A spokesperson says the Patrol has hired teachers, bankers, and even college graduates who haven't found a job yet. Those chosen go through the Law Enforcement Training Opportunity program, with the tuition covered by the state. Applications will be accepted until November 15th. The Patrol is looking for a person with a passion for traffic safety and those who "have a feeling they want to make a difference."

1 Walleye Allowed For Winter Ice Fishing On Lake Mille Lacs

(Garrison, MN) -- Anglers will be able to harvest walleye again during the winter on Lake Mille Lacs this year. The Minnesota D-N-R says anglers will be allowed to keep one walleye between 21 and 23 inches - or one fish longer than 28 inches - starting on December 1st. That's the same regulation as the last two winter seasons. Winter rules are set after the D-N-R completes its annual fall netting assessment. The 2020 assessment found the walleye population has remained relatively stable over the past four years -- having rebounded from population lows seen from 2012 to 2016.

>>Trick-Or-Treater Expected To Survive Injuries Suffered In Hit-And-Run

(Robbinsdale, MN) -- A trick-or-treater is expected to survive the injuries he suffered Saturday night in Robbinsdale. Authorities are still searching for the hit-and-run driver. Robbinsdale Police were told the boy was getting out of a vehicle to go up to the door of a house Halloween evening at 8:41 p-m when he was hit by a vehicle. Witnesses told police it looked like a black sports car was speeding from the scene. The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment. Police haven't reported any arrests.

>>Department Of Justice Monitoring Voting Rights On Election Day

(Minneapolis, MN) -- The U-S Department of Justice says Minneapolis is among 44 jurisdictions in 18 states where it will be monitoring voting rights on Election Day. Personnel from the Civil Rights Division will be making sure federal voting rights laws are complied with -- a familiar assignment for those federal workers. Justice Department personnel won't be allowed inside polling places. Minneapolis is the only Minnesota location getting this special attention. Agents will be spread out over 18 states, including Michigan, Florida, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

>>GOP Senators Call For Re-Opening Bars and Restaurants at 50 % January 11

(St. Paul, MN) -- Republicans are urging Governor Tim Walz to allow bars and restaurants to re-open at 50-percent capacity when his current order expires January 11th. Senator Eric Pratt from Prior Lake said, "that was where we were at in October. It seemed to work. The numbers have been coming down." Pratt says the governor should let restaurants know by Monday so they have a week to prepare. The 2021 legislative session begins that day. A Walz spokesman said the governor plans to announce later next week what he plans to do.

>>Minneapolis Police Fatally Shooting Felony Suspect During Traffic Stop

(Minneapolis, MN) -- The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is investigating a shooting by Minneapolis police that left a man dead. Investigators say officers exchanged gunfire with a felony suspect on Cedar Avenue Wednesday night during a traffic stop. The alleged suspect was struck and died at the scene in south Minneapolis. A woman in the passenger seat wasn't hurt. Police Chief Medaria Arradondo says the officers' body cameras were activated and they plan to release the footage today (Thursday). There were some protesters at the scene last night. The medical examiner will identify the man shot and later determine the official cause of death.

>>Minnesota Tribes Ask Appeals Court to Overturn Enbridge Line 3 Approval

(St. Paul, MN) -- The Red Lake and White Earth bands are asking the state Court of Appeals to overturn regulators' approval of the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline upgrade across northern Minnesota. The tribes argue there will be "irreparably harmed" if construction continues. An environmental group called Friends of the Headwaters already has a similar petition before the appeals court. The two bands plus other environmental groups are also trying to halt the pipeline in federal court. Backers of the project claim it's had rigorous environmental review and will bring needed jobs to the area.

There have been several cold-water rescues throughout the state already this year and as temps dip, Lisa Dugan with the DNR is reminding Minnesotans to wear their life jackets in and around the water...

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there's not as many people in the water and help may be further away and that shock of ending up in cold water is really incapacitating, it doesn't matter how strong of a swimmer you are

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Dugan also recommends bringing a whistle with you in case you fall into cold water and need to get someone's attention for help.

>>Walz Expects To Announce COVID Vaccine Plans Next Week

(St. Paul, MN) -- Governor Tim Walz says probably early next week he'll announce some specifics of a plan to roll out an expected COVID vaccine in Minnesota. Walz says one question still being debated at the federal and state levels is whether health care workers should get the vaccine first, or those in long-term care facilities. The governor says it will probably be March or April before the COVID vaccine is available to the general population. State health officials stress that just because a vaccine is on the horizon, Minnesotans can't let up COVID safety precautions -- which they say will save lives until a vaccine is widely available.

>>Wabasha County Court Hearing For Gym Not Following COVID Orders

(Wabasha, MN) -- Attorney General Keith Ellison's lawsuit against a southeast Minnesota gym will be heard today (Tuesday 10 a-m) in Wabasha County court. The A-G's office filed a restraining order to prohibit the Plainview Wellness Center from remaining open during the state's four-week "pause" on activities. Ellison says his office reached out to Plainview Wellness and its management threatened to continue operating in violation of the COVID order. Owner Brandon Reiter has been raising money online to help cover his legal bills.

>>Enbridge Line 3 Supporters Applaud Final Permit For Oil Pipeline Project

(St. Paul, MN) -- Supporters of the Enbridge Line 3 oil pipeline are applauding state regulators for granting the final permit for the two-point-six-billion-dollar project. The group Jobs For Minnesotans thanked Governor Walz, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Utilities Commission, and the D-N-R for approving "the best option to protect our communities and environment replacing an aging pipeline on which the state relies." Winona LaDuke with Honor the Earth says it's unfortunate the state is issuing permits for an "unnecessary tar-sands pipeline" even though a court appeal is still underway. Opponents warn the project will be bad for the environment and hurt Native communities along the route.



>>Flu Numbers Low Across Minnesota

(UNDATED) -- Influenza cases are down in Minnesota so far this year. There have been 15 flu hospitalizations since early fall and no one has died of flu-related illness according to the Minnesota Department of Health. Officials, who spent the late summer and early fall stoking fears of a so-called "twindemic" of flu and COVID-19, say the lower numbers may be a result of more people getting flu shots. This same reporting week last year, according to M-D-H, there were more than 15 new hospitalizations reported.

>>F-M Flood Diversion Project Clears Legal Hurdle

(Moorhead, MN) -- The Fargo-Moorhead flood water diversion project has cleared a significant legal hurdle. The Diversion Authority received a permit from the Buffalo Red River Watershed District which allows construction to move ahead. A Becker County judge dismissed the case after a settlement agreement was reached between upstream opponents and the Diversion Authority. Officials say granting the permit will help resolve other remaining lawsuits and allow work to proceed next year.

>>Attempted Murder Charge for Aitkin County Man

(Aitkin County, MN) -- A man is charged with the attempted murder of his father in Aitkin County. Dispatch received a call from a woman on November 6th stating her son told her he'd just killed his dad and was on the way to get her. Deputies were familiar with the son, Andrew O'Neil, from previous incidents. Once arrested, O'Neil told a deputy he'd pointed a gun at his father and pulled the trigger four times but the gun never fired.