



Minnesota governor signs gay marriage bill — B3

MSU students' trek ends at Capitol



Students from the Minnesota State University Student Association, a statewide group, visited the Capitol Tuesday to advocate — surprisingly — against a tuition freeze.

But their work continued while the Legislature sets its budget

By Dan Linehan
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About halfway through their walking trip to the Capitol, on Sunday three Minnesota State University students got some good news: The state will spend \$250 million more on higher education over the next two years.

On Tuesday, as they hobbled on sore feet around the Capitol to lobby key lawmakers crafting a final bill, there was only one

question. What to spend it on?

And these students have an unusual answer. They don't want a tuition freeze. They actually want to pay more. Three percent more.

"It sounds crazy," said Moriah Miles, who recently earned a degree in international relations from MSU. She is state chair of the Minnesota State University Student Association, a statewide body representing the 75,000 students in the

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Miles said she's willing to spend \$205 a semester more to pay for better equipment, more internship opportunities and a raise for their professors.

To Miles and others, paying a little more to get a more marketable degree is worth it. She said keeping tuition flat will do nothing to reverse the legacy of the state's lack of spending in higher education.

"We're facing the reality of our (student loan) debt in the most mature way possible," she said.

The 97-mile walk from Mankato to St. Paul was an effort to demonstrate students' commitment, said David Schieler, the only one of the three MSU students to actually walk the full distance (the others walked about 50 miles).

The trek's toll was apparent on Schieler's battered

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BRIEFS

Waldorf Technical needs students

WALDORF — Waldorf Technical Academy, a public charter school chartered by the state and authorized by Innovative Quality Schools, will open its doors in September if enough students enroll.

The school will be in the former Waldorf School. Upon receiving a grant from the Blandin Foundation, the board of Technical Academies of Minnesota decided to begin recruiting teachers and students, entering grades 9-12, for a fall opening. To open its doors, the academy will need to have 50 students enrolled by July 1.

WTA is a project-based public school focused on career and technical skills.

Meetings are being held to inform parents and high school age students about the program, the building, transportation, enrollment, and any issues of interest. The first meeting will be 7 p.m. Monday at the Waldorf Community Center.

Heat melts glue holding up delineators

NORTH MANKATO — High temperatures and wind caused problems Tuesday afternoon with the yellow tubes used as delineators on a dangerous stretch of Highway 14 between Nicollet and North Mankato.

Minnesota Department of Transportation crews completely removed the delineators after glue holding them up melted and they began to detach from the hot asphalt. The bright tubes in the middle of the highway are a safety feature designed to avoid accidents by distracted drivers.

Several head-on collisions have happened on the affected six-mile stretch of highway, MnDOT's spokesperson Rebecca Arndt said.

Arndt reminded motorists that although the yellow tubes have been removed and there's no center line at this time, drivers should not pass other vehicles in that area.

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Time to focus on

CLIMATE CHANGE



John Cross

Meteorologist Paul Douglas was the keynote speaker at the annual Senior Expo at the Verizon Wireless Center on Tuesday.

Douglas says plenty of proof climate change exists

By Robb Murray
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Meteorologist Paul Douglas says he isn't your typical voice for action in the climate change debate.

"I'm a Christian, I'm a Republican," he told an audience of several hundred attendees at the ninth annual Senior Expo in Mankato. "And I believe climate change is one of the greatest challenges we've ever faced."

We're just seeing the tip of the iceberg. We're going to be seeing more crazy weather."

With all the charm that made him one of Minnesota's favorite forecasters, Douglas made a case for taking climate change seriously.

Douglas, who rose to Minnesota fame after getting a job at KARE-11 in 1983, said he noticed in the 1990s that something odd was happening with the planet's weather

patterns. More than ever, weather was hitting extremes in a way it never had.

"It was like Mother Nature lost her equilibrium, and now we're floundering somewhat," he said. "This week, we're gonna go from frost on Mother's Day, to 100 degrees in two days. I've never seen that."

He says skeptics, meanwhile, will sound their usual refrain: "They'll say, 'Where's your climate

change, Paul? It's snowing in May.' To that I say, 'Can you see the entire globe from your window?'"

The problem with most skepticism is that people make judgments about climate change without having the facts, by listening to someone who doesn't have the facts (such as talk radio), or by making assumptions about global weather trends based merely on what's happening in their backyard.

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Occasions Group companies to become Carlson Craft

NORTH MANKATO — It started as Carlson Craft in 1948. Now the various Taylor Corp. wedding and social stationery companies will again operate under the Carlson Craft name.

The Occasions Group, formed in 2004, led the North Mankato-based company's wedding and stationery companies. But after analyzing market research among its dealers and customers, Taylor Corp. announced Tuesday the company "decided to focus our offerings across all wholesale marketing channels by going to market under one brand — Carlson Craft, the nation's most recognized brand — and invest millions of dollars to offer dealers and customers more choices and value."

The plan includes additional technology for online tools and mobile apps, as well as new designs and albums, according to a news release.

"We have a rich history in this marketplace," Mike Provenzano, president of The Occasions Group, said in a statement. "Our parent company, Taylor Corporation, evolved from the acquisition of Carlson Wedding Service in Mankato, Minn., in 1975 by Glen Taylor, who is chairman and CEO of Taylor today. This became the foundation for what would grow to become a family of companies."

Other Occasions Group companies include McPhersons in Sunman, Ind.; Artco (Stylart) in Rexburg, Idaho;

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Visit Mankato recognizes ambassadors who welcome visitors to the area

MANKATO — Visit Mankato has recognized four ambassadors of Mankato for making visitors feel welcome.

David Peters, the owner of the Courtyard by Marriott, was awarded the Hotel Travel and Tourism Award

for being the first person to build a LEED (Leader in Environmental and Energy Design) Certified Hotel in Minnesota.

The Planning Committee for the Minnesota Air Spectacular was awarded the

Attraction Travel and Tourism Award for bringing the popular event to Mankato on June 9-10, 2012.

J. Longs was awarded the Retail Travel and Tourism Award for providing a unique men's boutique that brings

customers to Mankato from northern Iowa and southern Minnesota and for working with the hotels to take care of the attire needs of business guests from around the country. Matt Long and Aaron Jones were presented with

the award for their work.

Tom Frederick, the owner of Pub 500, was awarded the Restaurant Travel and Tourism Award for his involvement in the Front Street Initiative and the City Center Partnership.



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