



Morning Digest

A compilation of the day's news from leading sources

MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GROWING MINNESOTA

October 5, 2021



19% savings? Now, that's Minnesota nice.

Employee health plans built for quality care and lower costs



Today's Minnesota Headlines

PwC is going all in on remote work. A virtual tidal wave may follow.

THE BUSINESS JOURNALS: The announcement that consulting giant PricewaterhouseCoopers will allow tens of thousands of its employees to work from home sent shockwaves through the business world. But it could be the start of an even larger wave.

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Wells Fargo is pushing back its office return, but U.S. Bank, Huntington and others stand pat

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL BUSINESS JOURNAL: Below is a rundown of where the 10 largest banks in the Twin Cities are when it comes to returning employees back into the office.

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Home building permits in Twin Cities down for second month, but still high

MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE: During September, builders were issued 564 permits for single-family homes, 13% fewer than last year, according to data compiled by the Keystone Report for Housing First Minnesota. For multi-family construction, mostly rental apartments,

enough permits were issued to build 1,152 units, which was more than double last year and the highest since January.

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Essentia Health imposes additional visitor restrictions

BRAINERD DISPATCH: Due to increasing COVID-19 patient volumes, visitors will be restricted at Essentia Health facilities beginning Tuesday, Oct. 5.

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Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce announces 2021-22 board of directors

BUSINESS NORTH: The Board of Directors perform an oversight function to the chamber, making policy decisions and planning goals to support the chamber's mission and members. The transition of board members, effective immediately, represent a diversified group of professions from various business sectors.

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Laurentian Chamber of Commerce names businesses of the year

BUSINESS NORTH: The Laurentian Chamber of Commerce is headquartered in Mountain Iron. The chamber represents the Quad Cities of Eveleth, Gilbert, Mountain Iron, Virginia, and surrounding communities.

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Understaffed and at capacity, Minnesota vet clinics are struggling to keep up

MPR: Veterinarians, under constant stress and with smaller staffs, sometimes have to turn people and their animals away.

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DFL House leader Ryan Winkler announces candidacy for Hennepin County attorney

MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE: Minnesota House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler announced his candidacy Tuesday for Hennepin County attorney. The Golden Valley DFLer joins former Hennepin County Chief Public Defender Mary Moriarty as a formal candidate in the November 2022 general election to succeed Mike Freeman, who is not seeking another term.

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Opinion/Editorial

More than ever, jobs for the disabled are vital

MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE: I'm in my first year as president and CEO of MDI, a local manufacturer and social enterprise with approximately half our workforce comprised of people with disabilities. At MDI, we provide skilled labor, resources and workspace to meticulously assemble and package products and create plastic solutions for companies of all sizes at four sites in Cohasset, Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Minneapolis.

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Around the Nation

Arizona senator condemns activists pursuing her on campus

ASSOCIATED PRESS: U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema said Monday that activists who confronted her outside an Arizona State University classroom and filmed her inside a restroom were not engaging in “legitimate protest.”

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Biden to Republicans: 'Get out of the way' in debt-ceiling crisis

REUTERS: President Joe Biden said on Monday the federal government could breach its \$28.4 trillion debt limit in a historic default unless Republicans join Democrats in voting to raise it in the two next weeks.

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Around the World

Blinken meets Macron as US seeks to heal rift with France

ASSOCIATED PRESS: French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Tuesday to explore potential cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and other areas as the Biden administration moved to repair damage caused to relations by excluding France from a new security initiative.

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Japan signals more active role on China's tough stand on Taiwan

REUTERS: Japan's new government signalled on Tuesday a more assertive position on China's aggressive posture towards self-ruled Taiwan, suggesting it would consider options and prepare for "various scenarios", while reaffirming close U.S. ties.

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The Economy

Oil at seven-year high after modest output increase

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Oil prices jumped Monday after OPEC and allied oil producing countries stayed with their gradual approach to restoring output slashed during the pandemic, agreeing to add only 400,000 barrels per day in November.

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Stock market's hot summer became a swoon. Where does it go next?

NEW YORK TIMES: Just four weeks ago, the stock market looked unstoppable. Seven straight months of gains had left the S&P 500 index up 21% for the year, corporations enjoyed record profits and economists predicted the fastest growth in decades.

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In Human Resources Now

Talent, innovation and 4 more themes from the 2021 HR Tech Conference

HR EXECUTIVE: HR and business executives cannot ignore the fact that many educated and able-bodied people are opting out of the workforce. This is happening for a variety of reasons: They are leaving unsatisfactory or downright toxic workplaces, they are becoming

entrepreneurs or they are following their dreams. Madeline Laurano, founder of Aptitude Research, pulled no punches: “You have to pay people more money. You have to provide flexibility to let them work from home and you need to rethink your company’s standards around work and life,” she said.

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Getting blunt on marijuana policy

TLNT: Shortly after marijuana was legalized in Denver, I became an HR director for a construction company based right there in the Mile High City. The company had yet to update any policies regarding positive drug tests, and by Week Two I was thrown into the blaze to handle an employee drug test.

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