
August 11, 2022



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

Employee health plans built for
quality care and lower costs



Today's Minnesota Headlines

Medtronic offers to pay tuition for employees' college study

STAR TRIBUNE: Medtronic this summer rolled out a program to pay all undergraduate college tuition costs for employees in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Since the program started in early June, the company has seen more than 1,100 staffers express interest from 44,000 eligible employees. They can choose any course or degree program at six universities, including Arizona State University and University of Wisconsin-Madison, with online learning.

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MDI invests \$3.2 million in Grand Rapids

BUSINESS NORTH: Plastics manufacturer MDI is installing a new, state-of-the-art polypropylene extruder – a machine used to create sheets that are converted into custom and standard containers – at its Grand Rapids facility.

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HVAC manufacturer Daikin Applied Americas promotes Jeff Drees to CEO

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL BUSINESS JOURNAL: Daikin Industries Ltd, has named Jeff Drees to be its next CEO and president of Daikin Applied Americas. Drees will take over for Mike Schwartz, who is retiring at the end of August after 11 years as CEO at the Plymouth-based HVAC systems manufacturer.

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General Mills' classic Monster Cereals are back with a reimagined look

MPR: General Mills is releasing four limited-edition Monster Cereals boxes as part of a new collaboration with pop artist KAWS. Franken Berry, Count Chocula, Boo Berry and Frute Brute are back for this year's seasonal release. Fans are particularly excited about the appearance of Frute Brute, which is available for the first time since 2013.

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Talon to explore Upper Peninsula for nickel

DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE: A mining company looking to develop a nickel mine in Aitkin County now has the exploration rights for a 400,000-acre area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

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Local entities combine efforts to help prevent farm accidents

FARIBAULT DAILY NEWS: Wednesday's event at the Rice County Fairgrounds was a follow-up to a farm safety seminar held this winter. It was hosted by the Community Co-op Oil Association, Faribault Fire Department, and University of Minnesota Extension, Rice and Steele counties, along with assistance from the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Kashkari stakes out the most aggressive stance on lifting interest rates

STAR TRIBUNE: Neel Kashkari welcomed the first better-than-expected inflation report in many months on Wednesday but said it did not change his view on the need for more aggressive interest rate hikes even if it means triggering a recession.

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Early count shows strong, but not record-breaking turnout in Minnesota primary

WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE: Final counts from Minnesota's primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 9, are yet to be certified, but Secretary of State Steve Simon said voter turnout appeared to be "relatively strong" compared to other years.

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Governor Walz visited Owatonna to talk job growth and economic expansion

KIMT: Wednesday Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan visited southern Minnesota to meet with business leaders and discuss job growth and economic expansion.

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Around the Nation

Breyer, Gorsuch join to promote education about Constitution

AP: Recently retired Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer has become the honorary co-chairman of a nonpartisan group devoted to education about the Constitution, joining Justice Neil Gorsuch at a time of intense political polarization and rising skepticism about the court's independence.

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Two new laws aim to bolster efforts to combat PPP, EIDL fraud

THE BUSINESS JOURNALS: President Joe Biden signed into law two new pieces of legislation to give the government more time to tackle fraud in the Small Business Administration's many Covid-19 rescue programs.

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Around the World

Give & take: West gives Ukraine weapons, bans Russian coal

AP: On a day of give and take, Western nations made more pledges to send arms to Ukraine while the European Union's full ban on Russian coal imports kicked in on Thursday amid claims sanctions against Moscow now even affected its defense exports.

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Polio vaccine boosters are offered to London children as the virus spreads

NPR: Children ages 1-9 in London were made eligible for booster doses of a polio vaccine Wednesday after British health authorities reported finding evidence the virus has spread in multiple areas of the city but found no cases of the paralytic disease in people.

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The Economy

Gas prices dip just below \$4 for the first time in 5 months

AP: Gasoline prices dipped to just under the \$4 mark for the first time in more than five months — good news for consumers who are struggling with high prices for many other essentials.

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How inflation hit households in July: higher prices for food, electricity and alcohol consumed at home

WALL STREET JOURNAL: U.S. consumers paid more to eat in July, facing higher prices for peanut butter, meats, eggs and other foods than the month before, the Labor Department said Wednesday.

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In Human Resources Now

4 steps to turn your health plan into a growth plan

HR EXECUTIVE: The largest health crisis in modern history created a tipping point for every business. The global workforce is overwhelmed, over-worked and burnt out, and employers are challenged by unsustainable costs and complexity.

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The red flags to avoid in your next job posting

THE BUSINESS JOURNALS: A new survey, by payroll, benefits and HR company Paychex, asked more than 800 Americans who had looked for a job in the last year and 200 hiring managers what they looked for in the job application process.

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