

N.C. GOV. WARNS TEXTERS: 'HOPE U R NOT DRIVING NOW'

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina has become the seventh state to pass a ban this year on texting while driving. So how did Gov. Beverly Perdue get the word out? She had an aide send a text message Friday announcing the governor has signed the ban into law.

Using abbreviations common to the text-messaging world, Perdue spokeswoman Chrissy Pearson tapped out a message announcing the signing: "This msg 2 u was composed while I was behind my desk, not behind the wheel. Hope u r not driving now."

State lawmakers passed the legislation last week and the law takes effect Dec. 1.

A national highway safety group says North Carolina becomes the 14th state in recent years to bar texting while driving in hopes of curbing driver distraction and accidents.

AIR FRANCE CRASH FAMILIES TO GET 1ST COMPENSATION

PARIS (AP) — Air France focused on aiding families of victims from the crash of Flight 447, offering a first advance on compensation on Friday while investigators worked quietly to solve the mystery of what brought the jet down. The top European air safety agency said, meanwhile, there was not yet enough evidence to issue a mandatory recall of an external air speed monitor suspected of contributing to the disaster.

Air France chief executive Philippe Gorgeon told RTL radio that the airline plans to make an advance of about \$24,400 for each of the 228 victims, with no strings attached.

He said it is also may hold a memorial for all the victims of the May 31 crash, Gorgeon said.

Some relatives of French victims have accused Air France of a lack of sympathy and of failing to keep them informed about the crash investigation.

But Gorgeon said the airline has had trouble even reaching some relatives of victims, who came from 32 countries.

DEATHS

There are no obituaries in today's edition of the Hibbing Daily Tribune

SWAN LAKE



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Bonding bill requests determined

■ City to forward priorities for 2010 session

by Kelly Grinsteinner
Assistant Editor

HIBBING — City governors have written the city's wish list — seven projects totaling just shy of \$33 million — and will pass it along to state lawmakers for consideration of state appropriations during the 2010 bonding session.

The list of capital projects was prioritized and the request authorized by the council on Wednesday. It will be written in resolution form and forwarded to the Minnesota Management and Budget Office for state capital appropriations. The resolution must be submitted by June 25.

Topping the list is a request for \$12.85 million for upgrade and expansion of the Memorial Building, including installation of a new elevator and improvements to the curling club.

The intent would be to make the Memorial Building a multi-purpose, regional facility able to accommodate a range of ages and activities.

Mayor Rick Wolff acknowledged the effort of the committee working to create the Central Range Renaissance Project, suggesting that the city offer to partner with that entity.

"There was talk that the Memorial Building should be the site of this project, so we need to talk to and see if we

can coordinate the request with the private side," said Wolff. "Showing a public, private partnership may give this more oomph."

The No. 2 request is \$666,181 for upgrades and high-energy efficiency improvements to the Hibbing Public Library, including new windows, roof, flooring and additional work on the air handling system, among others. The city will tout the uniqueness of the building and the aim of making it a green facility.

The No. 3 and No. 4 request will be \$350,000 for replacement of the Carey Lake Bike Trail and \$325,000 for sidewalk reconstruction,

respectively.

A request for \$250,000 to make modifications at the two volunteer fire stations is next, followed by a request for \$3.5 million to extend utilities to the west from the intersection of Highway 169 and Highway 73 toward Keewatin.

The last — and largest — request is \$15 million for maintenance of the South Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$2 million) and mercury mitigation efforts (\$13 million).

The law states that state funding for local projects is limited to no more than 50 percent of total capital costs, therefore the requests should be submitted with substantial

financial commitments from local governments. Also, projects that have clear regional or statewide significance traditionally fare better.

Clerk Pat Garrity said the city should make a request for all of the projects, but should consider itself lucky if one project gets funded.

City Attorney Dick Sellman was directed to write the resolution and forward it to the state.

Kelly Grinsteinner can be reached at kelly.grinsteinner@mx3.com. To read this story and comment on it online go to www.hibbingmn.com.

Magnetation gets loan from IRRB

■ Jobs to increase by 12

by Bill Hanna
Mesabi Daily News

EVELETH — Magnetation Inc. has another Iron Range Resources Board loan.

And the area will benefit with more jobs.

The board on Thursday approved a \$1.485 million loan for the Keewatin area company that recovers iron particles from existing natural iron ore and taconite tailings basins to produce iron concentrate.

Magnetation CEO Larry Lehtinen said after the loan was OK'd that the money will enable the company to increase permanent positions from 22 to 27 and contract employees from 10 to 17.

"This will move us from 32 to 44 workers in the operation," he said.

The new loan money will go toward four additional magnetic separation wheels as well as other equipment and engineering services. That would allow the company to double its capacity to about 300,000 tons of iron ore concentrate a year, according to Lehtinen.

Magnetation Inc. now has four loans with the IRR totaling \$4,482,776. The company also has received a \$1 million state grant for its work.

Board member and state Rep. Tom Rukavina, DFL-Virginia, was highly critical of Lehtinen for what he said in a publication regarding state taxes and how he believes

they hinder entrepreneurship.

"You have received \$5 million of taxpayer money, including \$1 million of free money and yet you criticize the legislature. Mr. Lehtinen, you've received quite a bit more back than you've put in," Rukavina said.

Lehtinen responded that he was just providing his personal opinion on how state taxes can stifle entrepreneurship.

Board member and state Rep. Tom Anzenc, DFL-Balsam Township, strongly defended the Magnetation Inc. loan.

"This is a gamble where we are seeing 44 people working. I think that's a good gamble compared to some of the others we deal with," he said.

No unallotment for taconite production taxes

■ IRRB votes to freeze portion of budget

by Bill Hanna
Mesabi Daily News

EVELETH — The Iron Range Resources Board got a Christmas-in-June gift of \$3.8 million earlier this week when the governor did not "unallot" any taconite production taxes paid to the agency by the mining companies in lieu of property taxes.

And the board, meeting Thursday to approve a Fiscal Year 2010 budget that kicks in on July 1, voted right away to freeze \$2 million of that money to fund possible early retirements to cut agency FTEs.

"I think it's critically important to reduce the number of FTEs right now through early separation so that we don't have to do layoffs later. And if that takes \$2 million, let's do so. It's important for future stability," said board member and state Sen. Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook.

"Taconite production is down and will be down for some time to come."

He was backed up by board member and state Rep. Tom Rukavina, DFL-Virginia, who said the two legislators worked to get legislation passed that allows such early retirement buyouts.

"Commissioner, you should listen to what Senator Bakk and I are saying. Things are terrible out there right now. We are going to be in serious trouble next year," Rukavina said.

Commissioner Sandy Layman said she "appreciated the legislation that made the accommodation for us," but did not endorse spending for the early retirement early in the meeting.

However, Bakk later moved to "encumber" \$2 million of the \$3.8 million in production tax revenue that was not cut by the governor for employee early separation. His motion passed unanimously.

The board approved a Fiscal Year 2010 budget that includes \$53.634 million in revenues and \$44.846 million in expenses, with a projected \$8.787 million carryover to next year.

Early in the week, the agency was looking at \$14,331,178 million in taconite production taxes, but the governor's decision to not "unallot" a percentage of those funds put \$18,201,241 in the agency's coffers for the new fiscal year.

"Unallotment" is an executive branch tool that allows the governor to cut funds approved but not yet

See **Unallotment**, Page A5

Shine on

■ Local youth on winning solar car team

by Matt Nelson
HDT Intern

HIBBING — The future looks bright for Jason Grimes.

Grimes, a Hibbing native, is a member of the Solar Vehicle Project team at the University of Minnesota (UofM). The team recently won the Formula Sun Grand Prix, a race between solar cars held in Cresson, Texas.

After a period of 30 hours spread out over three days, the team finished first out of 11 teams. The



Photo Submitted

Jason Grimes and the rest of the Solar Vehicle Project team recently won the Formula One Sun Grand Prix in Cresson, Texas.

race was judged by distance rather than speed.

The UofM team's car, nicknamed Centaurus, drove a total of 487 laps around a 1.7 mile Formula One track, according to Grimes.

Grimes, who will be a senior at the UofM in the fall, became interested in the project early on in his college career. He is majoring in aerospace engineering and mechanics.

The weather didn't start out so nice the first day of competition, according to Grimes, which created an obstacle for some of the team's competitors.

Centaurus, however, is unique because it has a 70-pound lithium battery that absorbs energy from the sun and stores it for use when the weather is less than cooperative. According to Grimes, Centaurus could drive up to 250 miles on a cloudy day.

See **Shine**, Page A5

Districts see financial implications in aid payment delay

■ Deferral leads to lost interest, borrowing by schools

by Anna Kurth
Staff Writer

HIBBING — Area school districts are gearing for the financial impact of state aid payment delays.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty this week released his recommended unallotments and payment delays to resolve the projected \$2.7 billion budget gap in the Minnesota state budget biennium for 2010-2011.

While the recommendations do not cut funding for K-12 education, area school districts

are planning for some financial impact as a result of the delayed payments.

Administrators for both Hibbing and Nashwauck-Keewatin school districts reported to their school board directors recently the impact expected as a result of delayed payments.

Pawlenty's recommendations included \$1.7 billion in payment deferrals and adjustments for all public K-12 schools in the state.

The recommendations require school districts to recognize \$600 million in proper-

ty tax receipts early in 2011 and defers payment of \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2010 and \$100 million in fiscal year 2011. Both accounting shifts have been used in the state to create one-time savings in the past, according to the governor's proposed unallotments and administrative actions release.

The state aid deferrals will account for 27 percent of state aid to districts in 2010.

The deferrals will require Hibbing School District to use an estimated \$3.2 million of its \$5.7 million cash reserve fund

balance to cover the district's bills while it waits for the deferred payments to arrive, said Scott Wirtanen, business manager.

The district will receive the funds, but dipping into the fund balance to cover expenditures before the payments arrive will cost the district to miss out on an estimated \$75,000 in interest earnings, he said.

Interest earnings on the fund balance are used by the district in its general operating fund. The district is still waiting for

more accurate information before the exact amount that will be lost in anticipated interest can be calculated, said Hibbing Superintendent Robert Belluzzo.

Wirtanen said the Hibbing district is fortunate that it has a fund balance.

"Thank God we have a reserve we can fall back on," he said. "... In the next two years our cash balance will be

See **Districts**, Page A5

Shine: Team working on next car

From Page A1

"(The battery) was definitely a huge advantage for us," he said. "We were able to go pretty fast that day, lapping a lot of cars."

Centaurus is named after a constellation in the sky that contains the closest stars to Earth, according to the Solar Vehicle Project Web site. It is made out of fiberglass, carbon fiber and kevlar. It weighs about 420 pounds, and is about six meters long.

At its fastest, the car can theoretically travel 80 miles per hour; however, the maximum speed allowed during the race was 65 miles per hour.

"On a sunny day, it can go 55 miles per hour all day long," said Grimes.

The Solar Vehicle Project team chooses the design for its cars two or three years in advance. The design for Centaurus differed from blueprints of the past because of a rule change that required the driver of the vehicle to be sitting up rather than lying down.

According to Grimes, a project member sought advice from a Lockheed Martin engineer, who drew a rough, pyramid-like image and suggested they design Centaurus that way.

"The students on the team took that initial shape and made a car looking like that (using professional engineering software)," said Grimes. "We kept tweaking with it until we have what we have now."

The second day of the competition was clear skies, which posed a new challenge for the team. Members were concerned that the battery would malfunction or overheat if it had too much power.

The team solved the problem by driving faster. Centaurus now used not only the energy being provided by the sun, but also a certain amount from the battery to keep it from charging to the point that it would shut down.

Participants faced problems other than mechanical. The University of Waterloo car from Canada tipped on its side,

according to Grimes. "They would've been in second place, but it messed up their rims, and they had to spend a lot of time repairing that," he said.

The third day of racing was as sunny as the second — and the team knew they were going to win.

"(The cloudy skies on the first day) allowed us to get into the lead," said Grimes, "but the other two days we got in the lead even more."

The team finished 94 laps over the second place winner.

Grimes said that the Solar Vehicle Project is currently working on its next car, which will compete in the North American Solar Challenge next summer. In that race, participants travel from Dallas, Texas, to Calgary in Alberta, Canada, over a period of nine days. The team has been working on the car for nearly a year.

Grimes said that the Formula One race was "pretty much a practice race" for the North American Solar Challenge.

Today's Top News Stories



Here's a quick look at the headline news in the United States and the around the globe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats got a sobering glimpse of what it would look like if their ambitious health care overhaul ran into a wall — and they quickly pulled back to regroup and get moving again.

Trying to regain the initiative, House Democrats on Friday unveiled draft legislation they said would cover virtually all of the nation's nearly 50 million uninsured as President Barack Obama has promised. However, they offered few details on how to pay for it.

The president welcomed their action as "a major step toward our goal of fixing what is broken about health care while building on what works."

But in the Senate, two committees were getting bogged down, struggling to cope with a trillion-dollar-plus price tag over 10 years. Their House colleagues simply steered away from costs and focused on the promised benefits of the legislation.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brash Texas billionaire R. Allen Stanford was indicted and jailed Friday on charges his international banking empire was really just a Ponzi scheme built on lies, bluster and bribery.

The Justice Department announced charges against Stanford and six others who allegedly helped the tycoon run a \$7 billion swindle. At a court hearing in Richmond, Va., a federal judge agreed with prosecutors that Stanford poses a flight risk and ordered him to remain in custody until a future detention hearing in Houston.

Among those charged were executives of Stanford Financial Group and a former Antiguan bank regulator who prosecutors say should have caught the fraud but instead took bribes to let the scheme continue.

Robert Khuzami, the enforcement director for the Securities and Exchange Commission, said investigators have built "an impressive criminal case from the rubble of this massive fraud."

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The husband of Sen. John Ensign's former mistress made "exorbitant demands for cash and other financial benefits" through an attorney, an aide to the Nevada Republican said Friday.

In a statement to The Associated Press, Ensign spokesman Tory Mazzola said the demands from an attorney for Doug Hampton were made within the past month.

"The demands were referred to Senator Ensign's legal counsel, who is handling the matter going forward," the statement said.

Mazzola did not name the attorney nor immediately respond to requests for additional details.

Hampton's lawyer, Daniel Albregts, did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

Unconfirmed reports that Doug Hampton was pressuring Ensign for money have circulated since the senator abruptly came forward Tuesday and confessed to a nine-month extramarital affair with Cindy Hampton, his former campaign treasurer and Hampton's wife.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new anti-missile system ordered for Hawaii is partly a strategy to deter North Korea from test-firing a long-range

missile across the Pacific and partly a precaution against the unpredictable regime, military officials said Friday.

The United States has no indication that North Korean missile technology has improved markedly since past failed launches, and military and other assessments suggest the communist nation probably could not hit the westernmost U.S. state if it tried, officials said.

PHOENIX (AP) — The Rev. Al Sharpton on Friday called for opponents of an Arizona sheriff who has aggressively cracked down on illegal immigration to videotape alleged racial profiling by the sheriff's office.

The civil rights leader said the videos will help the U.S. Department of Justice in an investigation of alleged civil rights abuses by Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's office. Sharpton was scheduled to meet with Arpaio later in the day.

"We're gonna start some freedom rides around this county, to show how people of a certain skin color are treated different than other people," Sharpton told a crowd of several hundred people at the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Phoenix.

The meeting Friday joins two figures known for outsized egos and media antics, but Sharpton said it had a serious message. In April, Sharpton called for Arpaio to resign or be removed from office.

NEW YORK (AP) — Caution has once again overcome the stock market.

Stocks finished mixed Friday, leaving all the major indexes with their first weekly loss since early May. Tech, financial and retail stocks gained, while utilities and energy stocks were lower.

The market began the day stronger, following surprisingly good reports the day before on jobs and manufacturing. But the early gains gave way to selling in the afternoon, saddling the Dow Jones industrials with four days of losses over the past five.

With little in the way of corporate or economic news Friday, prospects were poor for restarting a rally that powered the market up as much as 40 percent this spring after hitting its lowest level in more than a decade in early March.

Traders have grown worried in recent weeks that an economic recovery may be more subdued than originally hoped and that the huge run-up in stocks may have been overdone.

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS isn't commenting on reports that veteran newsman Walter Cronkite is gravely ill.

The 92-year-old former anchor of "The CBS Evening News," who has been ailing for some time, has reportedly taken a turn for the worse, according to TVNewser and other online sites. CBS News spokesman Kevin Tedesco had no comment on Friday.

Bob Schieffer said, "All of us are praying for the best, and our thoughts are with Walter's family." The host of CBS' "Face the Nation" and a longtime Cronkite colleague, Schieffer noted that he had no current news on Cronkite's condition.

Unallotment: Mine downturn yet to be felt

From Page A1

allocated in emergencies to balance the budget. Gov. Tim Pawlenty is using "unallotment" to fill a \$2.7 billion budget hole for the next two-year cycle that begins July 1.

Taconite revenues for the agency are based on a three-year average, which means the significant downturn in the mining industry since the first of the year has yet to be felt by the IRR.

The budget includes a \$10 million allocation approved by the Legislature from the Minnesota Minerals 21st Century Fund for a possible windmill blade factory at an undetermined site on the Range.

It also includes another nearly \$6 million of property tax relief funds in the Omnibus Economic Development bill for a special IRR account to fund renewable energy initiatives.

The budget also:

- Appropriates \$8.035 million

for public works projects.

- Provides \$1 million for a Small Business Fund, which will provide loans or grants to small businesses in the Taconite Tax Relief Area (TTRA) for wage subsidies and other uses.

- Authorizes \$450,000 for a Community Business Partnership Grant Program to 18 communities in the TTRA for low-interest loans to eligible businesses for building renovations and/or expansions.

Districts: Borrow funds on aid anticipation

From Page A1

significantly harmed. Those with no cash balance will need to borrow."

Nashwauk-Keewatin is one of the district's that will have to borrow, said Superintendent Mark Adams.

The district has no fund balance and will need to borrow funds on aid anticipation to cover 2010 expenses while it waits for deferred payments to

arrive in 2011, he said.

He estimated that the deferrals will cost his district between \$20,000 to \$30,000 in interest payments.

The deferral will be a financial hit to school districts that are rural, small and declining in enrollment, he said.

"We don't have the fund balance to absorb payment shifts," he said.

While administrators are dis-

appointed about the expected losses from the payment shifts, they say the move wasn't unexpected.

"It didn't come (as) ... a surprise to us," Belluzzo said. "It's what we were anticipating."

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Jobless rate in Western U.S. tops 10 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The housing bust sent the unemployment rate in the West bolting past 10 percent in May — the first time in more than 25 years that a region of the United States has suffered double-digit joblessness.

A Labor Department report released Friday showed the West absorbing the worst of the recession, which is now the longest since World War II. California, Nevada and Oregon endured particularly heavy job losses in construction, manufacturing and tourism.

The region has been pounded because it was the epicenter of the housing boom that collapsed. As home values plummeted, the West lost jobs and wealth, and consumers grew skittish about spending.

"The West is where houses

are being abandoned most quickly because it has the largest percentage of the population under water — owing more on their houses than they're worth," said Robert Reich, labor secretary under President Bill Clinton and now a professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "They lose their capacity to borrow. All of that means that they can't buy very much."

The West reported the highest regional jobless rate for May: 10.1 percent. The last time any region had an unemployment rate of at least 10 percent was in September 1983, when the economy was emerging from a severe recession.

The region's problems also go beyond housing. Cutbacks on businesses travel are hitting

hard in Arizona and Nevada.

"It's difficult to keep major projects going — like casinos — in Las Vegas. That's pretty much come to a halt," said Steve Cochrane, managing director at Moody's Economy.com.

In California, the jobless rate jumped to 11.5 percent last month. In Nevada, it rose to 11.3 percent, and in Oregon, to 12.4 percent. All three figures were records, based on documentation going back to 1976.

In Oregon, makers of plywood, window sashes and doors have suffered from reduced demand. The state also has lost jobs in high-tech industries and at factories that make heavy trucks and recreational vehicles.

City drops request for Internet passwords

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A flood of criticism has prompted a Montana city to drop its request that government job applicants turn over their user names and passwords to Internet social networking and Web groups.

The city of Bozeman abruptly suspended the practice Friday, saying it "appears to have exceeded that which is acceptable to our community."

"We appreciate the concern many citizens have expressed regarding this practice and apologize for the negative impact this issue is having on the City of Bozeman," City Manager Chris A. Kukulski said in a release.

Since KBZK-TV of Bozeman reported on the policy Wednesday, Web forums have been abuzz over the issue. The American Civil Liberties Union of Montana immediately ques-

tioned the legality of the policy. "I liken it to them saying they want to look at your love letters and your family photos," said Amy Cannata of the Montana ACLU. "I think this policy certainly crosses the privacy line."

The city initially argued that it only used the information to verify application information. People who refused to provide the information wouldn't be penalized, the city said.

An excerpt from the city application form said, "Please list any and all current personal or business Web sites, web pages or memberships on any Internet-based chat rooms, social clubs or forums, to include, but not limited to: Facebook, Google, Yahoo, YouTube.com, MySpace, etc."

Rep. Brady Wiseman, a Bozeman Democrat, led the state's fight against the Patriot

Act when the Legislature issued a harsh critique of the federal act, arguing it trampled civil liberties and put the government into a position of snooping on citizens.

Wiseman said Bozeman had gone too far.

"Asking for passwords is over the line," Wiseman said. "I think that this notion opens up a whole new line of debate on privacy."

The ACLU has not found another government body that asks for such information, Cannata said.

"It's one thing, and I think totally reasonable, if someone has a public profile to go check it out," she said.

But private groups and profile could reveal information employers could not legally base hiring decisions on, such as a person's religion, she added.

hdt Police Pulse

HIBBING — Officers of the Hibbing Police Department recently responded to the following incidents among others:

- Cited a party for failure to yield around 9:45 a.m. Thursday following a traffic stop near the intersection of Second Avenue East and 23rd Street. Leslie F. Jensen, 21, of Hibbing, was cited.
- Took a male into custody on a warrant around 8:30 p.m. Thursday after responding to an incident in Forest Heights. Trevor M. Ross, 19, of Hibbing, was being held in the Hibbing jail.

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June 2009 Collection Schedule

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June 11th • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ELY JOINT PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY
2210 E. Sheridan St., Ely
June 18th • 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

CHISHOLM CITY GARAGE*
35 SE 3rd St
June 25th • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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