

Minneapolis, chefs to challenge wisdom of bottled water

Minneapolis city officials and leading restaurant chefs are combining forces against bottled water. Bottled water has been criticized for being too expensive -- more than a gallon of gasoline -- unfriendly to the environment and failing to outperform tap water for taste. A national corporate accountability group called on Minnesotans last fall to pledge to boycott bottled water in favor of municipal water. Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak endorsed the push, noting that his city's water often tops commercial bottled water in blind taste tests. Jeremy Hanson, an aide to Rybak, said the mayor's office has stopped serving bottled water. --Paul Walsh • 612-673-4482

Bottled Water Video

This NBC Today Report talks about the latest controversy over plastic bottles and the chemicals that can be part of these containers,

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/24046273#24046273>

Troubled Water - Wednesday, April 30, 2008

"Troubled Water" is the topic of Gustavus Adolphus College's 28th annual MAYDAY! Peace Conference to be held **Wednesday, April 30, 2008** on the college campus. Dr. **Aaron Wolf**, department of geosciences at Oregon State University and a leading expert on international water politics, opens the daylong conference at 10:00 a.m. in Christ Chapel. The afternoon keynote speaker hosted in Alumni Hall is **Wenonah Hauter**, executive director of Food and Water Watch, a consumer advocacy organization in Washington, D.C. Conference organizers are planning several topic-related workshops, a resource center, the touring "Native Waters: Sharing the Source" exhibition at the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, a film series, and other social-action activities. The conference, an annual event designed to educate the campus community and beyond about issues related to peace, human rights, and social justice, is open to the public at no charge. For more information, contact the Office of College Relations at Gustavus (call 507-933-7520 or e-mail collegerelations@gustavus.edu).

Cargill profit rises 86 percent on global demand for grains

Cargill Inc., the largest U.S. agricultural company, said fiscal third-quarter profit rose 86 percent because of surging global demand for fertilizers, grains and food ingredients. Net income climbed to \$1.03 billion in the three months ended Feb. 29, from \$553 million in the same period a year earlier, Minnetonka-based Cargill said today in a statement. Cargill, which processes and distributes grains, oilseeds and other agricultural commodities, is benefiting from increasing demand from emerging economies that has pushed prices to records. Wheat futures have soared 93 percent in the past year while soybeans climbed 86 percent and corn gained 54 percent. "Demand for food in developing economies and for energy worldwide is boosting demand for agricultural goods," Chief Executive Officer Gregory Page said in the statement. "Relative to demand, world grain stocks today are at their lowest levels in 35 years." Plymouth-based Mosaic Co., a Cargill unit and the world's second-largest fertilizer maker, said on April 4 profit surged more than 12-fold to a record \$520.8 million, or \$1.17 a share, as rising crop prices boosted demand for fertilizers. Cargill is the ninth-largest U.S. ethanol producer, with distilleries in Blair, Neb., and Eddyville, Iowa, that have a combined capacity of 120 million gallons a year, according to the Washington-based Renewable Fuels Association. Closely held Cargill, which doesn't disclose sales by business unit, has 158,000. (By Choy Leng Yeong - Bloomberg News)

U to be land of 10,000 new energy-saving light bulbs

The University of Minnesota says it has a bright idea for its 10th annual Beautiful U Day, which has annually celebrated "beautification and sustainability" at the school. After years of planting trees and flowers, and picking up litter, organizers are giving away 10,000 compact florescent light bulbs this Thursday. These energy-efficient bulbs are for use in residence halls, offices and meeting rooms all across campus. The U puts the bulbs' annual cost savings at \$57,634. (PAUL WALSH - Star Tribune)

Job Opening: Chief Executive Officer for National Wild Turkey Federation

The National Wild Turkey Federation is looking to hire a full-time chief administrative official (CEO). For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/turkeyfederationjob.pdf>

A Camera, Two Kids and a Camel

On May 8th (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. is the program – Celebrate Mother's Day a few days early as Minnesotan Annie Griffiths Bolt shares highlights and moving stories behind three decades on the road for National Geographic, more often than not with children in tow! For more information, <http://www.hennepintheatredistrict.org/eventdescription.asp?theshow=NGANNIE08>

Events:

April 17th (Thursday) is the “**Rain Gardens for Water Quality**” presentation at 7:00 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center outside of Henderson. For more information, <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/pdfs/raingardenney.pdf>

April 19th (Saturday) is an **Earth Day event and Youth Energy Summit (YES) Awards Ceremony** at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/prairiewoodsearthday.pdf>

April 19th & 20th (Saturday and Sunday) is the **Green Living Expo** at the RiverHills Mall in Mankato from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information <http://www.riverhillsmall.com/html/EventDetail.asp?ecd=139580>

April 26th & 27th (Saturday and Sunday) is the **Lac qui Parle Outdoor Expo** at the Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information <http://www.exploreminnesota.com/event.aspx?EntityID=21425> At the same time check out the Salt Lake Birding Weekend in Lac qui Parle County.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Water Quality Articles:

Ag dept says E-20 works well. Increasing the amount of renewable ethanol blended into gasoline from 10 to 20 percent does not present problems for current vehicles or fuel dispensing equipment and provides similar power and performance, according to a new study released by the State of Minnesota, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/agdepte20workswell.pdf>

Anoka County wetland sale turning into a quagmire. The 10 acres of Columbus wetlands is virtually worthless, claims its owner, who said he paid less than \$18 in property taxes on the land last year, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/anokacountywetlandslandsalequagmire.pdf>

Community must limit global warming. Two mayors from Albert Lea and Austin recommend all citizens work together to come up with solutions that are fair and that will dramatically cut the amount of carbon dioxide, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/communitymustlimitglobalwarming.pdf>

Critics take aim at climate change recommendations. The final report of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group isn't even out yet, but it's already coming under fire, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/criticsaimclimatechange.pdf>

Free electronics recycling, take 2. A free drop-off was swamped last year. This attempt is bigger, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/freeelectronicsrecyclingtaketwo.pdf>

Conservationist Erickson states population is ‘hanging on a thread’ with current oil consumption. According to Rochester resident Norm Erickson, the sun might be one of our energy saviors as oil production reaches that maximum point, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/hangingonthreadcurrentoil.pdf>

High grain prices are a deterrent for federal program. High grain prices are proving to be a disincentive for farmers to re-enroll their Conservation Reserve Program acres, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/highgrainpricesdeterrent.pdf>

Minneapolis poised to scrap land sale tied to disputed power plant. Minneapolis officials canceled the land sale and two state senators seek to block the emissions plant, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/minneapolisdisputepowerplant.pdf>

Minnesota puts teeth into carbon-reduction policy. As governors and presidential candidates ballyhoo their embrace of broad measures to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, Minnesota is quietly developing a regulatory policy that would make it a national leader in requiring industries seeking air-pollution permits to demonstrate how they would reduce emissions linked to climate change, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnputsteethcarbonreduction.pdf>

Times Writers Group: Saving Earth, 1 yard at a time. With a few simple steps you can keep your yard eco-friendly, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/savingearthoneyard.pdf>

SMPA signs 20-year wind-energy agreement. Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency plans to purchase enough electricity to power 39,000 homes with its largest wind power deal to date, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/smpawindenergyagreement.pdf>

Taste: Sharing the wealth with Community Supported Agriculture. There’s no easier way to eat your vegetables than by buying a share in Community Supported Agriculture and getting a weekly supply of fresh produce, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/tastesharingcommunityagriculture.pdf>

Twin Cities see a bright future. Chris Born doesn’t have a monthly energy bill. In fact, in March, Xcel Energy paid him \$18, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/twincitiesbrightfuture.pdf>

14 Twin Cities restaurants join tap-water brigade. The restaurants will reduce the use of bottled, non-carbonated water and promote the cities’ high-quality tap water, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/twincitiesrestaurantstapwater.pdf>

Revved-up emissions rules hit resistance. Supporters call the proposed tighter tailpipe standards responsible; the auto industry calls them “radical.” Hearings will be held this week, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/revvedupemissionsrules.pdf>

Politics clouds fate of pollution cleanup fund. A 10-year-old program hailed a success by Ramsey and Hennepin counties might not be renewed because it’s funded through a tax, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/politicscloudspollutioncleanup.pdf>

Bad vibes hindering progress at Capitol. It has been a fast-paced, bumpy ride from the beginning of the 2008 legislative session, and the hard part still lies ahead, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/badvibeshinderingprogress.pdf>

They’ve filtered the stink out of each drink. St. Paul water treatment has come a long way and now the taste and odor complaints have pretty much disappeared, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/stpaulstapwater.pdf>

Citizens' chance to participate threatened. The Senate sees the value of having hunters and anglers participate in distributing habitat funds. The House, it turns out, sees that as work reserved for legislators, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/citizenschancethreatened.pdf>

Biodegradable bags may not be as green as they seem. As though the paper-or-plastic question weren't vexing enough, now some retailers are finding that the "biodegradable" plastic bags they'd hoped would please green shoppers might not be so Earth-friendly after all, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biodegradablebagsnotasgreen.pdf>

Boat owners could face permits for water discharge. Boat owners are scrambling to sink plans that could force every recreational boat in the United States to get a water discharge permit as soon as this year, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/boatownerswaterdischarge.pdf>

County farmers await farm bill passage. Otter Tail County farmers are among farmers throughout the nation who are anxious to see agreement of U.S. House and Senate for passage of the new five-year farm bill, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/countyfarmersawaitfarmbill.pdf>

Forum Editorial: Suing over water rule a mistake. This editorial calls the lawsuit by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities against phosphorus runoff regulations a mistake, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/editorialsuingoverwaterrule.pdf>

Environmentalists protest Otter Tail plant. Representatives from local tribal and environmental groups gathered at this morning's annual meeting of Otter Trail Corporation shareholders to voice opposition to the Big Stone II project, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/environmentalistsprotestplant.pdf>

As farm prices rise, conservation acreage dwindles. The agriculture boom is turning a once-successful voluntary conservation effort into a struggle between farmers, conservationists and the government, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pricesriseaffectsconservation.pdf>

It's free, so recycling event draws throngs. Waiting a little, or waiting a whole lot, Twin Citians queue up to dump unused electronics, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/freerecyclingeventdraws.pdf>

Getting warmer, and little steps aren't enough. As November 2008 approaches, we're hearing a lot of talk about increasing our energy independence and mitigating the effects of global warming, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/gettingwarmermorethanlittlesteps.pdf>

New position filled to aid 'green' efforts. In an attempt to organize and focus its many "green" efforts, the University has created, filled, a new position: sustainability coordinator, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/newpositionaidgreenefforts.pdf>

Recycling past while looking to restaurants' future in Minneapolis supper club. In the Upper Midwest, you can't call your restaurant a supper club without conjuring certain associations, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/recyclingpastsupperclub.pdf>

Rising corn prices heat up ethanol tariff debate. A wide range of food and farm organizations have united behind a common goal: to change U.S. ethanol policy, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/risingcornpricesethanol.pdf>

Looking to add some sugar to fuel tanks. For the state's sugar beet growers, the latest farm bill offers a sweet new perk: Some of their crops would go to make ethanol, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/sugarfueltanks.pdf>

Chandler Harrison Stevens: Think globally, act locally and go green everywhere, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thinkgloballyactlocallygreen.pdf>

What's in the water? Just because the water looks clean doesn't mean you should drink it,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/whatsinthewatertwo.pdf>

Government cannot close its eyes to the pollution of waters, to the erosion of soil, to the slashing of forests more than it can close its eyes to the need for slum clearance and schools. – Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance: <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Thanks,

Scott

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