

Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT INSIDE TODAY!

April 2019
A Special Supplement to
The Bemidji Pioneer
and BuyLine

How to make a front door Pop

Emerging Deck Trends

Sunday
April 28, 2019

The Bemidji Pioneer

Today's forecast



High 48° Low 34°
Weather, Page A2



Photos by Jordan Shearer / Bemidji Pioneer

Jeanne Thunder and Kevin Jones Jr. speak with Lianne Lussier and Betty Hanson, first and second from right, on April 18 about a petition to legalize marijuana in Red Lake Nation.

Minn. lawmakers agree to pursue conformity with federal tax rules

GOP, DFL disagree on how to get there

By Christopher Magan
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — If Minnesota lawmakers can overcome their differences, it should be easier to file your state taxes next year.

You might even get a tax cut. Or pay more.

With a month left to go in their legislative session, tax policy is front and center again at the Capitol. The Legislature has more work to do on the topic than usual this year because they were unable to agree on a bill in 2018.

The biggest thing they want to do is take advantage of changes in the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. That requires either "conforming" to federal tax policy or coming up with Minnesota-specific tax provisions.

Republicans and Democrats agree that passing a conformity bill is important. Without one, state taxes will remain dramatically different from the federal code.

The agreement pretty much ends there.

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party members see federal tax conformity as a chance to raise new revenues to fund priorities like education, health care and what they like to call "community prosperity." They've proposed more than \$1 billion in new revenues largely from raising taxes on businesses and the wealthy.

DFLers also want to increase gas taxes and fees on car sales and registrations to pay for transportation needs. And they don't want to let a 2% tax on health care providers sunset in 2020 as planned.

Describing House Democrats' plan, tax committee chair Rep. Paul Marquart, of Dilworth, said: "It finds those resources and sets the foundation for a DFL budget that invests in people and invests in making this state better."

Republicans don't like any of Democrats' big ideas. They say higher taxes won't make Minnesota better.

Instead, they've offered a tax bill that raises some new revenue, but the new money goes toward tax cuts for the middle class and businesses. They've characterized their plan as "protecting the taxpayer," arguing that letting residents keep more of their money is best for the economy.

"The best thing we can do for Minnesota, the best social program for Minnesota is a job and opportunity," said Sen. Roger Chamberlain, R-Lino Lakes, who leads the Senate tax committee.

Why tax conformity?

The federal tax changes passed by the Republican-controlled Congress and signed by President Donald Trump in 2017 dramatically remade the country's tax code. Rates for individuals and corporations were lowered, but in exchange, a lot of popular credits and deductions were curtailed or eliminated.

TAX RULES: Page A6

A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

Advocates hope to legalize marijuana in Red Lake Nation

By Jordan Shearer
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Red Lake
Kevin Jones Jr. and Jeanne Thunder have a message for the tribal members behind every door they knock on: it's time to legalize marijuana in Red Lake Nation.

Armed with clipboards and dressed in T-shirts that read "Red Lake Nation for Legalization," the two advocates have been driving from house to house, speaking to residents about a petition that would allow people to use the drug within the reservation's boundaries.

Regardless of what may happen to marijuana legalization throughout Minnesota, there's a handful of residents in Red Lake's sovereign community who are trying to take matters into their own hands. That's because, for a large number of band members like Jones and Thunder, there's no shortage of reasons to legalize marijuana.

From declogging the judicial system to bringing more revenue into the community to helping those with medical needs, they're convinced the



Marcus Harcus, executive director of the Minnesota Campaign For Full Legalization, speaks on April 13 at a forum at the Red Lake Community Center about the possibility of legalizing marijuana in Red Lake Nation.

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Sanford, Hospice Foundation partner on upcoming program

By Matthew Liedke
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BEMIDJI — The Hospice Foundation of America and Sanford Health are partnering this week to open a dialogue about supporting those dealing with loss.

On Tuesday, April 30, Sanford Bemidji Medical Center will be one of many host sites broadcasting an HFA program titled "Aging America: Coping with Loss, Dying and Death

If you go

What: "Aging America: Coping with Loss, Dying and Death Later in Life."
When: 1 to 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 30
Where: Sanford Bemidji Medical Center, 1300 Anne St.

Later in Life." This is the 26th annual program by the HFA and its been shown in Bemidji nearly just as long.



"We've been doing this ever since I've been with Hospice, and that's 23 years," said Tracy

Johanns, a licensed social worker for Hospice through Sanford Health. "We've been having this for a long time in the community. It's an important thing for people to learn more about the how-to-

help in the grief process."

According to the HFA, this education for care providers is becoming more important, as an estimated 10,000 people in the United States turn 65 daily. The program has been designed to help mental health professionals, health care providers and the community as a whole better support aging Americans.

PARTNER: Page A5

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