



NORTH DAKOTA STATE AND LOCAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

CI/KR Ticker

May 1st, 2025

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NORTH DAKOTA AND REGIONAL

Judge Orders Corps of Engineers to Pay North Dakota \$28M for Pipeline Protest Costs

A federal judge has ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must pay \$28 million to the state of North Dakota to cover damages caused by protesters who gathered by the thousands in 2016 and 2017 to object to the since-completed Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) project. The pipeline currently carries more than a half a million gallons of crude oil a day across four states. U.S. District Court Judge Daniel Traynor on April 23 found that the Corps "abandoned the rule of law" when it didn't enforce its own procedures by either forcing them to leave or requiring protesters to get a special use permit to use federally owned land for their encampment. Traynor determined that the Corps is at fault for negligence, public nuisance and civil trespass. In his ruling, Traynor said the Corps intentionally avoided its duty to require a mandated special use permit and falsely announced that a permit had been granted, which prevented law enforcement from removing the protestors.

Source: <https://www.enr.com/judge-orders-corps-of-engineers-to-pay-28m-for-pipeline-protest-costs>

Company Says Thousands of Gallons of Oil Recovered from North Dakota Pipeline Spill

Workers have recovered thousands of gallons of crude oil from an underground pipeline spill on North Dakota farmland, the owner of the line said on April 10, but it remained unclear when oil would again start flowing to refineries. South Bow was still investigating the cause of the April 8 spill along the Keystone Pipeline near Fort Ransom, North Dakota, about 60 miles southwest of Fargo, the company said. The spill released an estimated 3,500 barrels, or 147,000 gallons of oil, onto farmland. The company said 700 barrels, or 29,400 gallons, had been recovered. More than 200 workers were on-site as part of the cleanup and investigation. South Bow has not set a timeline for restarting the 2,689-mile pipeline, which stretches from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Illinois, Oklahoma and Texas. The company said it "will only resume service with regulatory approvals." South Bow is working with the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Source: <https://www.coloradopolitics.com/thousands-of-gallons-recovered-from-nd-spill>

Funding for North Dakota Mitigation Projects Cancelled

Communities across North Dakota are losing a key program that has played a big role in keeping our communities safe. The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services is alerting local agencies about the recent cancellation of FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program. The program, which was cut by the federal government earlier this month, will result in the loss of over \$20 million for mitigation projects like flood walls across the state. Homeland Security Director for North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, Darin Hanson, says that many projects that were awarded the funding may not get that money. "So that those projects that had been awarded were told that they were going to get the funding, but hadn't started any of the construction yet, we expect those communities to lose that funding," said Hanson.

Source: <https://www.kxnet.com/funding-for-north-dakota-mitigation-projects-cancelled/>

Gov. Armstrong Signs Bill Banning Public School Student Cellphone Use in North Dakota

North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong gives a student the pen he used to sign a bill establishing cellphone-free public schools during a signing ceremony April 25, 2025, at Bismarck's Centennial Elementary. He was joined by first lady Kjersti Armstrong. North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong went to a Bismarck elementary school Friday to sign a bill banning public school student cellphone use from "bell to bell." "This is a game changer for our public schools, giving students the freedom to focus on learning and to interact with teachers and friends without the constant tug of their cell phones and addictive social media," Armstrong said in a statement.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/gov-armstrong-signs-bill-banning>

NATIONAL

USDOT Warns States Could Lose Federal Funding Over DEI Policies

The U.S. Transportation Secretary said on April 24 that states could lose transportation funding if they fail to comply with immigration enforcement rules and end diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in a reminder to all recipients of federal transportation funding that recipients must comply with federal laws, and that failure to do so could lead to enforcement actions. "Federal grants come with an obligation to adhere to federal laws," Duffy said. "It shouldn't be controversial – enforce our immigration rules, end anti-American DEI policies, and protect free speech. These values reflect the priorities of the American people, and I will take action to ensure compliance." Failure to adhere to those laws could "jeopardize their continued receipt of federal financial assistance from DOT and could lead to a loss of federal funding from DOT."

Source: <https://transportationtodaynews.com/dot-warns-states-could-lose-federal-funding/>

Minnesota and 11 Other States Sue Trump Administration to Block Tariffs

Twelve states are suing President Donald Trump and officials in his administration over tariffs that have touched nearly all goods imported into the United States. The suit, State of Oregon, et al., v. Trump, et al., was filed last week by Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield and 11 other Democratic state attorneys general in the Court of International Trade in New York. It names Trump, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its leader, Kristi Noem, and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and its leader, Peter Flores. "We cannot sit quietly while the president takes actions that are going to cost us jobs, increase the prices that we pay, and harm our economy," Rayfield told reporters Wednesday at a news conference held at the Oregon Department of Justice in Portland. Experts estimate tariffs could raise the cost of living for the average family nationwide by more than \$3,800 a year, according to a report from the Budget Lab at Yale University.

Source: <https://minnesotareformer.com/minnesota-and-11-other-states-sue>

U.S. Judge Arrested as Immigration Crackdown Escalates

Federal agents have arrested a Wisconsin judge on charges of obstructing immigration agents, escalating tensions between President Donald Trump's administration and the judiciary. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Director Kash Patel said on Friday that the judge was arrested for allegedly helping an undocumented migrant evade federal agents. In a criminal complaint, the US Department of Justice alleged that Hannah Dugan, a Milwaukee County circuit judge, refused to turn over the man after immigration agents showed up to arrest him in her court on April 18, and that she tried to help him evade arrest by allowing him to exit through a jury door. "Thankfully our agents chased down the perp on foot and he's been in custody since, but the Judge's obstruction created increased danger to the public," Patel said. The Justice Department has said that Judge Dugan became "visibly angry" when immigration officials arrived to arrest Flores-Ruiz in her court and called the effort "absurd".

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/us-charges-wisconsin-judge-obstructing-immigration-agents>

ICE Planning Detention Expansion as it Tries to Deport 1 Million People Annually

The Trump administration is preparing to dramatically escalate the number of private contractors it uses to help track, manage, detain and deport people living illegally in the United States, with an eye-popping potential price tag of more than \$45 billion over the next several years. The White House has set a goal of removing 1 million people annually, making good on President Donald Trump's campaign promise to conduct the largest deportation operation in history. "If we don't get these criminals out of our country, we are not going to have a country any longer," Trump posted on social media April 21. Among the newest moves are a \$72 million no-bid deal to hire a team stacked with former federal officials to fingerprint, DNA test and retina-scan detainees, help manage intake paperwork and track down high-priority targets, freeing up Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to conduct more arrests.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/trump-contractors-ice-detentions-deportations>

INTERNATIONAL

Suspect in Vancouver Ramming Attack Charged with Eight Counts of Murder

The suspect in a car-ramming attack that killed 11 people and injured dozens at a Filipino heritage festival in the Canadian city of Vancouver has been charged with eight counts of second degree murder, prosecutors have said. More charges were possible against Kai-Ji Adam Lo, 30, the British Columbia prosecution service said. Investigators ruled out terrorism and said Lo had a history of mental health issues. Lo, a Vancouver resident, appeared in court and remains in custody, prosecutors said. The attack occurred shortly after 8pm on Saturday, when a man drove a black Audi SUV down a street in the city, striking people attending the Lapu Lapu Day festival. He was arrested at the scene. The Lapu-Lapu festival, held on a warm spring day, drew nearly 100,000 people, many of whom were families with young children.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/vancouver-festival-car-attack-suspect>

Pakistan Threatens War with India After Deadly Kashmir Terror Attack

Pakistan has threatened war after being blamed by India for a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir. On Tuesday, 26 people were killed in a gun attack at a tourist spot in the Indian part of Kashmir, the disputed region that borders Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and China. The attack, for which no group has credibly claimed responsibility, was the worst on civilians in the country for nearly two decades. All but one of the victims were Indian. India has blamed Pakistan, accusing it of backing cross-border terrorism and threatening to cut off its water supply in response. Indian police said the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group was responsible for the attack and offered a 2,000,000 rupee (£17,600) bounty for information leading to arrests. On Wednesday, New Delhi said India would immediately suspend the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty "until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism". The treaty, mediated by the World Bank, divides the Indus River and its tributaries between the neighboring states and regulates the sharing of water. Both countries rely on the rivers flowing from the Himalayas for irrigation. It has so far withstood even wars between the neighboring states.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/pakistan-threatens-war-india-kashmir-170638820.html>

Russia Declares 72-Hour Unilateral Ceasefire in Ukraine from May 8

Russia has declared a 72-hour unilateral ceasefire in Ukraine to coincide with its most sacrosanct national holiday marking the World War II defeat of Nazi Germany, Victory Day, calling on Kyiv to agree to the pause. Ukraine was quick in its response, which came soon after the Russian proposal on Monday. "If Russia truly wants peace, it must cease fire immediately," Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said, according to his ministry. He reiterated that Ukraine is ready for a "lasting, reliable, and complete ceasefire" for at least 30 full days. President Vladimir Putin said Russian forces would halt fighting from midnight on May 7-8 to midnight on May 10-11. The announcement came amid rising pressure from the United States to agree to a full ceasefire in the conflict.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/russia-declares-unilateral-two-day-ceasefire-in-ukraine>

China's Huawei Develops New AI Chip to Compete with U.S.'s Nvidia

China's Huawei Technologies is preparing to test its newest and most powerful artificial intelligence (AI) processor, as it hopes to replace some higher-end products of US chip giant Nvidia, the Wall Street Journal has reported. Huawei has approached some Chinese tech companies about testing the technical feasibility of the new chip, called the Ascend 910D, the United States newspaper reported Sunday, citing people familiar with the matter. The Chinese company is hoping that the latest iteration of its Ascend AI processors will be more powerful than California-based Nvidia's H100 and is due to receive the processor's first batch of samples as early as late May, added the report. Reuters news agency reported that Huawei plans to begin mass shipments of its advanced 910C artificial intelligence chip to Chinese customers as early as next month.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/chinas-huawei-develops-new-ai-chip-to-compete-with-nvidia>

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