Northern Minnesota contingent advocates for mining in Washington D.C.

Stakeholders and industry leaders discuss past, present and future of industry in area

Jesse White

A contingent of Minnesota mining industry leaders and stakeholders visited in Washington D.C. Thursday morning, sharing their thoughts on the past present and future of the industry, during a first of its kind forum hosted by U.S. Congressman Pete Stauber.

The forum, entitled “Min- Mining and American Potential: An Opportunity for a Brighter and More Secure Future,” was held in front of a bipartisan group of congressmen from the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Congressional Western Caucus.

The purpose of the forum, according to a press release announcing the event, was “to highlight how northern Minnesota is well positioned to help the United States end its overreliance on foreign sources for critical minerals, provide high-quality jobs, and provide a steady stream of revenue to our local communities.”

A key point discussed during the forum was the potential for the Biden administration to relax regulations on energy security and mining.

“Northern Minnesota has an extraordinary opportunity to lead the nation in mining once again. This forum is the first step in moving towards a policy that will allow us to easily and effectively use our natural resources to the benefit of our local communities and the United States,” Stauber said.

Supreme Court halts COVID-19 vaccine rule for US businesses

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court has stopped a major push by the Biden administration to boost the nation’s COVID-19 vaccination rate, a requirement that employs- mask mandates and other measures, arguing it was out of scope.

At the same time, the court is allowing the vaccine mandate to proceed with a vaccine mandate for more health care workers.

The court’s 6-3 ruling Thursday comes during a spike in coronavirus cases caused by the omicron variant.

The conservative majority concluded the administration overstayed its authority by requiring employers to impose the Occupational Safety and Health Admin- istration’s vaccine-or-test rule on U.S. businesses with at least 100 employ- ees. More than 80 million people would have been affected and OSHA had estimated that the rule would save 6,500 lives and prevent 250,000 hospitalizations over six months.

“OSHA has never before, before this, before this period, executed significant health or safety regulations of this nature, as an agency,” Justice Neil Gorsuch, said.

Yet the majority wrote in an unsigned opinion that it was the court that was overstepping with an unsigned opinion.

In dissent, the court’s three liberals argued that it was the court that was acting as a “lawless minority” and that it was the court that was within its authority to render judgment for the health of workers.

“Acting outside of its authority, the Court has ignored the consensus of health experts, OSHA’s own accident statistics, and its own precedent,” Justice Elena Kagan wrote.

Chisholm Council takes up short-term rentals

Blye Buckhake

City of Chisholm is in the process of creating a policy to regulate short-term rentals in areas that are currently zoned residential (R-1 and R-2).

Concerns over the po- sibility of an abundance of unregulated rentals mainly for weekends and overnight stays pay- ing up in residential neighborhoods prompted the city’s Planning and Zoning Commission and city council to address the topic.

City Building Inspector see Chisholm

Maki announces bid for St. Louis County Attorney

JESSICA GRESKO

St. Louis County Attorney Kim Maki announced Thursday that she has submitted interest in the position of St. Louis County Attorney and will run in the November general election.

“It’s been an honor and privilege to serve as the St. Louis County at- torney for the past three years. Even though we have accomplished great work during that time, there are so many initiatives that I want to see realized,” Maki said.

Gabrielle A. Krystein

Gilbert officials mull future of school buildings

A couple of options include repurposing or demolish- ing school buildings.

LINDA YUSSEN

GILBERT — The future of Gilbert’s school buildings, which will no longer be used as the new Rock Ridge School Dis- trict across the street, was up for discussion at the city’s working session this week.

City Building Shopper see Gilbert

Schools move online

Biden concedes defeat

Biden said he’s “not sure” the major elections and voting rights legislation can pass Congress.

“Today’s election is a stark reminder of the danger we face and the need for urgent action,” Biden said.

“Democrats have come together to pass legislation that will protect our democracy and our elections, and we must see this legislation passed in the near future,” he added.

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SCHOOLS move online

Minneapolis Public Schools will pivot to online instruction for two weeks.

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