

## News Release

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### **Edgerton woman charged with tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Pipestone County Attorney’s Office recently charged Julie Bleyenbergh, 47, of Edgerton, with two tax-related felonies.

Bleyenbergh is charged with one count of making retail sales after her permit was revoked and one count of tax evasion.

According to the criminal complaint, Bleyenbergh ran Tally Ho Coffee in Edgerton. From 2008 to 2012, Bleyenbergh collected sales tax from customers but she did not file a sales tax return or submit sales tax to the state.

The department contacted Bleyenbergh several times, asking her to file and pay her taxes. She failed to comply, and her sales tax permit was revoked in May 2012. Bank records show she continued to make taxable sales without a permit.

Bleyenbergh owes the state an estimated \$31,000 in delinquent sales tax.

Each felony charge carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects a person or business is violating tax laws. That number is 651-297-5195, or 1-800-657-3500. Tipsters may remain anonymous and can also email the department at [tax.fraud@state.mn.us](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). In 2013, 85 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

Although most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes enforcement action against noncompliant taxpayers to ensure tax laws are fairly administered.

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