

Editor Of Columbus Telegram Retiring

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — The editor/publisher of the Columbus Telegram has announced his intention to retire. James Dean told readers in a weekend column that he'd be stepping down on Friday after nearly 50 years of newspapering. Dean said he and his wife, Jeanette, will do "some traveling and camping and getting involved in activities we did not have time for in the past."

The 67-year-old Dean joined the Lee Enterprises property as editor in April 2005. He is a native of Wood River, Nebraska.

6 Men Arrested For Soliciting Child Sex

STURGIS (AP) — South Dakota's attorney general says publicity and undercover stings helped cut the number of people who solicited sex from children during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Marty Jackley says six men were arrested during this year's annual event, which ended Sunday. That's down from nine arrests last year.

He says five of the six are from another state or Canada and five are likely to be charged in federal or state court. He says there are some mitigating circumstances in the sixth case.

Jackley says the undercover sex trafficking operations by state and federal authorities are having a positive impact and showing results, but it's still a problem that needs to be addressed.

Wheat Harvest Lags Behind It's Average

STIOUX FALLS (AP) — The spring wheat harvest in South Dakota continued to lag far behind the five-year average as below-normal temperatures persisted throughout the state.

The U.S. Agriculture Department says in its weekly report that spring wheat harvested was reported at 11 percent, compared to last year's 19 percent and the average of 55 percent.

Winter wheat harvested was at 75 percent, ahead of last year's pace but behind the five-year average of 88 percent. Topsoil moisture conditions rated 23 percent short and 77 percent adequate or surplus. Scattered rain showers were reported across the state for the week.

Pasture and range conditions were rated 10 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 54 percent good and 13 percent excellent.

Patrol Probes Death Of Jail Inmate

HASTINGS, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska State Patrol is investigating the death of a 39-year-old inmate at Adams County Jail in Hastings.

The body was found in a cell around 6:30 a.m. Saturday. Sheriff Gregg Magee says the man's death does not appear to be from natural causes.

Magee identified the man as Matthew Arterburn. Magee says the jail had been waiting on paperwork to send Arterburn to a state prison so he could serve his time there on convictions for child pornography.

Magee didn't release any other information about Arterburn's death.

Wastewater Spills Into River In SF

STIOUX FALLS (AP) — Officials say initial lab tests indicate that a wastewater spill into the Big Sioux River won't affect people or wildlife.

Sioux Falls Public Works officials say they're continuing to monitor the river and expect more test results later in the week.

The city in a statement says about 9,000 gallons of "treated biosolids" made it into the river Sunday before the spill at the water treatment plant was contained with an earthen berm. Wastewater Superintendent Mark Perry says biosolids are solid organic materials from treated sewage.

He says treated biosolids have a high ammonia content but river water tests have come back normal.

The contractor responsible for the spill — Veit, of Rogers, Minnesota — is working to clean up the spill area. That's expected to take through Wednesday.

Sturgis: Big bash or big traffic jam?

STURGIS (AP) — This year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally has wrapped up, and many of the people leaving say they can't wait to come back for next year's 75th anniversary bash.

Others are worried about the potential ramifications of an influx of a million people — double the normal rally attendance. That's the amount many officials expect next year.

Sturgis Rally Director Brenda Vasknetz tells the *Rapid City Journal* that she's confident the city can handle that large of a crowd.

Sturgis Buffalo Chip complex President Rod Woodruff isn't so sure. He worries that that 75th rally could turn into one big traffic jam.

Nebraska Man Dies In Motorcycle Crash

OSMOND, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a northeast Nebraska man has died in a motorcycle crash involving a semi-trailer.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Office says the crash happened Monday morning on Highway 121 near the community of Osmond.

Authorities say the motorcycle struck the semitrailer as it was attempting to make a left turn. The driver of the motorcycle, a 37-year-old man from Plainview, was killed.

The 63-year-old driver of the semitrailer was not hurt. Authorities have not released the drivers' names.

Man Pleads Not Guilty In Brutal Killing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An 18-year-old Rapid City man accused of brutally killing a man in a West Main Street alley last month has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

The amended plea was added Monday by Michael Hand's lawyer after Hand pleaded not guilty to second degree-murder. Hand remains held in jail under a \$500,000 bond.

Authorities say the body of 47-year-old Myron Rock was found on July 6. An autopsy showed that Rock died from blunt force trauma and strangulation.

SD State Officials Look Into Avera's Medical Offer

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials are investigating the legality of an arrangement in which Avera Health is covering out-of-pocket expenses of state employees for some medical services.

Avera has offered to help state workers with their medical bills if they seek the care they need from Avera rather than from two competitors that secured state contracts after competitive bidding. Avera, which owns St. Mary's Hospital in Pierre, says the arrangement spares many state employees a drive from the state capital to Sioux Falls for medical care.

"Care should be delivered close to home," said Rob Bates, Avera's senior vice president of managed care services.

Competitors Sanford Health and Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital say Avera is subverting the bidding process.

"You can't waive someone's copay and deductible to gain their business," said Blake Curd, a surgeon and part owner of Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital.

The South Dakota Bureau of Human Resources is looking into the matter, Commissioner Laurie Gill told the *Argus Leader* newspaper.

A change in the state's health insurance plan this summer identifies preferred providers to give medical care to state employees and their families in five major, or Tier 1, categories. Sanford won the bidding to be the preferred provider in three of the five categories: cardiac, orthopedic and bariatric services. Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital won

the bid for services in gastroenterology. Avera secured the contract for kidney care.

The move was part of a wider effort to save money for the health plan, which had been operating in the red. State employees who choose services from a facility other than the preferred provider pay more out of pocket for their care. Avera has offered to cover that difference in cost for 10,000 patients.

Bates said it is common sense. "Many times you would have to drive hundreds of miles to reach a Tier 1 provider," he said.

Curd, who also is a state senator, said, "I think it's illegal."

Lincoln Schools Welcoming Nearly 400 New Teachers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nearly 400 teachers new to the Lincoln Public Schools district will be leading classes this year. That's on top of the more than 300 educators who were first-time district hires last year. The 384 new teachers at Lincoln Public Schools this year will help fill a void created when, in addition to the normal number of resignations, more teachers than usual retired at the end of the 2013-14 school year, associate superintendent Eric Weber told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

The district has more than 3,100 teachers employed for the 2014-15 school year. It saw an enrollment jump of around 1,000 students for classes starting Tuesday. Last year, school registration increased by more than 930 students. The school board approved adding 50 full-time

teaching positions this school year in order to meet the growth in student enrollment.

About half of the teachers new to the district will be starting their first jobs in education. Weber said the district typically hires many new teachers, because there's a "wide pool of qualified people out there."

"A lot of people would say a school district can hire new teachers for less money, but we don't necessarily target that," he said. "We want the very best teachers we can find, and we are finding them."

More teachers could be hired in the district depending on how many students are counted in Lincoln classrooms in early September, Weber said.

Kearney Residents Cleaning Up After Flood

KEARNEY, Neb. (AP) — Residents of Kearney are cleaning up debris and repairing damage after heavy rain caused flooding in the central Nebraska city.

The *Kearney Hub* reports at least 3.89 inches of rain fell Friday night, flooding streets and some buildings in Kearney.

Buffalo County Emergency Manager Darrin Lewis said most of the rain fell in less than an hour. That caused floor drains in many homes in eastern and central Kearney to back up.


"Water was coming up through the floor drain with the storm drains full," Lewis said. "The storm drains were maxed out."

Several power poles fell in north Kearney during the storm, and Lewis said that

some businesses reported finding water several inches deep inside their buildings. One business that was especially hit hard was the Kearney Drive-In Self Storage, where floodwater poured into all 378 units. Many people who rent storage units spent the weekend trying to salvage what they could.

The company that operates the storage business doesn't cover any damage to personal property stored inside, so many renters may be out of luck unless they carried renters' insurance.

Renee Behn said she rents three storage units, including one where she kept a restored 1964 Ford Mustang that was damaged. The personal property she kept in storage totes was also damaged by the flooding.



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