

Neb. Health Officials Urge Flu Shots After Jump

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska health officials continue to urge people to get a flu shot after a jump of cases in Douglas County. Officials said Tuesday that the county has 27 confirmed cases of influenza. That’s well above the normal five or fewer at this point in the season. Douglas County Health Director Dr. Adi Pour says it’s too early to say what the jump means. But he says it’s not too late for people to get vaccinated. Officials say the flu season lasts two to three months. It peaks around February or March.

Fatal Fire Was Human-Caused, Not Malicious

RAPID CITY (AP) — The Rapid City Fire Department says a late-November apartment building blaze that killed four people was started by a resident but investigators do not believe it was malicious in nature. Officials have not released the cause of the Nov. 27 fire and say the investigation is continuing. Killed in the fire were 51-year-old Marcia Rock and three of her grandsons: 9-year-old Thomas Rosado, 5-year-old Dustin Rosado and 3-year-old Marquez Hawk Wing. Officials say they died of smoke inhalation.

Man Sentenced To Prison For Beating, Rape

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) — A man convicted of beating and raping a Beatrice woman has been sentenced to up to 41 years in prison. The Nebraska Attorney General’s office says 30-year-old Joseph Buttercase was sentenced Tuesday to 20 to 30 years for first-degree sexual assault, four to five years for false imprisonment, 20 months to five years for strangulation and one year for third-degree domestic assault. The sentences are to run one after the other. Prosecutors say Buttercase brutally beat the 29-year-old woman over a three-hour period in July 2011 after they argued at his home. Buttercase was convicted in August.

Man Given Prison Time Over Machete Attack

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A judge has sentenced a Lincoln man to four to six years in prison for attacking another man with a machete. The *Lincoln Journal Star* reported Tuesday that Juan Cruz will serve time for the Jan. 1 attack that sent his victim to the hospital with several injuries, including to his head. Cruz pleaded guilty in October to second-degree assault. Police say Cruz broke into the victim’s apartment and attacked him with a two-foot machete. The victim used a hammer to fight back. The newspaper reports the victim told authorities the attack was over a woman.

Huron Enacting Ban On Texting While Driving

HURON (AP) — Huron is the latest city in South Dakota to ban texting while driving. KOKK radio reports that the ordinance approved by the City Commission on Monday night also encompasses distracted driving. Mayor Dave McGirr says that includes everything from eating pizza to reading a newspaper while driving. The ordinance also bars drivers with learners’ permits from talking on a phone while driving. The ordinance will go into effect sometime around the start of the new year, with police giving motorists a grace period while they become familiar with the new law. The fine for texting while driving will be \$100, and the fine for distracted driving \$15.

Gold Exploration Resumes At Site Of Leak

KEYSTONE (AP) — Work has resumed at a gold exploration drilling site in western South Dakota where a leak occurred last week. The site was shut down when bentonite leaked into Battle Creek near Keystone. Bentonite is a claylike material used as a drilling lubricant. The Rapid City Journal reports that state officials do not expect any environmental damage.

South Dakota STD Cases Rise

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Online acquaintances, a changing population and a relaxed view of risks have fueled what officials call an alarming increase in sexually transmitted diseases in South Dakota. Chlamydia infections in the state have doubled since the late 1990s, and gonorrhea is twice as common now as it was five years ago. There also have been 17 cases of syphilis in the state this year after no cases were reported last year, according to the *Argus Leader* newspaper. “It’s because the media sells sex,” said Caitlin Hicks, 22, a coffee shop worker in Sioux Falls. “Kids are getting exposed to it at a younger age and are growing up too quickly.” State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger said the fear of AIDS that swept the public consciousness in the 1980s helped curtail other diseases as well. That is not the case anymore because treatments for HIV-AIDS have improved, he said. “With gonorrhea, we’re at rates we haven’t seen since the 1980s. Chlamydia has never been this high,” Kightlinger said. The state has worked with federal officials to control and treat STDs. Two physicians from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention spent two weeks in South Dakota at the invitation of the Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center in Rapid City and officials on the Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River reservations, Kightlinger said. One result has

been what health officials call expedited partner therapy to treat gonorrhea, where one person can deliver medication to another who is reluctant to step forward. In Sioux Falls, the state’s largest city, health officials began a program last summer to combat HIV-AIDS that also addresses other diseases, using a three-year \$390,000 grant from the CDC channeled through the state Health Department. City officials have offered HIV testing at a variety of events since June and offer it each Monday at a community health clinic. “We’re trying to de-stigmatize testing for STDs,” city Health Director Jill Franken said.

Nebraska

AG States Juvenile Lifer Hearings Should Proceed

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning requested a court order Tuesday that would let the state pardons board commute the sentences of prison inmates serving life for crimes they committed as juveniles. The attorney general filed the motion after a Douglas County judge blocked the pardons board from holding hearings on 24 cases. Douglas County Public Defender Tom Riley, who represents 14 of the inmates in a lawsuit, has said the pardons board wants to use the hearings to subvert the U.S. Supreme Court’s June ruling that threw out mandatory life sentences without parole for juveniles and commute the sentences to no less than 50 years each. Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad took similar action in July, when he commuted the life-without-parole sentences of 38 convicted killers. Branstad’s order made the inmates eligible for parole, but only after they had served 60 years in prison. In the court filing, Riley argues that the Pardons Board — made up of Bruning, Gov. Dave Heineman and Secretary of State John Gale — does not have jurisdiction to commute the sentences, because most of the inmates have not applied for commutations. Only two of the prisoners potentially affected by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling have applied for commutation, and those two are in the process of withdrawing their applications, Riley said. The lawsuit also argues that the U.S.

Supreme Court ruling invalidates the prisoners’ sentences, meaning the Pardons Board has no constitutionally valid sentences to commute. Bruning’s office released a statement Tuesday, but his spokeswoman did not answer several requests to speak with the attorney general. In the statement, Bruning said the pardons board has constitutional authority to make decisions on commuting sentences. “These hearings are the most efficient way to ensure justice is served and the public is protected from dangerous offenders,” he said. On Monday, Heineman declined to comment about the cases, saying the matter was under litigation. He referred questions to the Bruning’s office. A spokeswoman for the governor has said the Pardons Board was not planning to issue across-the-board commutations. One of the inmates scheduled for commutation hearings is Darren McCracken, who was 13 when he shot his sleeping mother twice in the back of the head in the tiny, central Nebraska town of Smithfield. McCracken, now 33, was the youngest Nebraskan ever sentenced to life without parole. Testimony at his trial revealed that he had been bullied, beaten and sexually abused by his brother for years, and that his divorced mother — a heavy drinker — had done little to stop it. Psychologists testified that McCracken likely was suffering from posttraumatic stress when he killed her.

Railroad Gauging Interest In Track In Four States

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Canadian Pacific Railway is looking into the possibility of selling 660 miles of track in South Dakota and three surrounding states, the railroad said Tuesday. The announcement came a day after CP said it was mothballing plans to extend its Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad network into the Powder River Basin to ship Wyoming coal to power plants in other states because of weakening demand for coal. The railroad did not directly link the two decisions. Spokesman Ed Greenberg told The Associated Press both decisions are part of CP’s “focus on being a more competitive and efficient railroad.” He declined to speculate on whether the 660 miles of track would be less profitable without the Powder River Basin business. CP in 2007 bought 2,500 miles of track and equipment from South Dakota-based DM&E and its subsidiaries for \$1.5 billion. CP said in a Tuesday statement that it is “inviting expressions of interest” for track from Tracy, Minn., into South Dakota, and into Nebraska and Wyoming. The track is described as the “DM&E west end.” “This portion of the CP network would be an attractive and highly viable opportunity for a low-cost operator,” CP President and CEO E. Hunter Harrison said in the statement. “There is a strong long-term franchise here for an operator willing to maintain high-quality service and explore growth opportunities with existing and future customers.” CP has made no decision on selling the track but wants to see what interest is there, Greenberg told the AP. The railroad did not announce a timeline for making a decision on the future of the track.

Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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HARVEST OF THE MONTH

CITRUS

Did you know...

- Almost $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the orange crop in the U.S. is used to make frozen orange juice concentrate.
- During the California gold rush of 1849, miners would pay \$ $\frac{1}{2}$ or more for a single lemon.
- One half of a grapefruit provides you with $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the vitamin C you need for a whole day.

Use the code!

$\frac{1}{2}$ = 0	$\frac{1}{4}$ = 2	$\frac{1}{8}$ = 6	$\frac{1}{16}$ = 8
$\frac{1}{8}$ = 1	$\frac{1}{16}$ = 4	$\frac{1}{32}$ = 7	$\frac{1}{64}$ = 9

ZESTY CITRUS SALAD

This salad is a wintertime treat and refreshing in the summer, too!

With an adult, chop 5 cups of salad greens.

Add chopped slices of orange, tangerine and grapefruit.

Make dressing by blending equal parts oil, vinegar and grapefruit.

Top the tossed salad with the zesty dressing and sliced almonds.

Grapefruit Goodies

California and Arizona grown grapefruit are in peak season during the winter through the spring. Loaded with vitamin C and other important nutrients, grapefruit is enjoyed most often as a breakfast food. People often eat half of a sliced grapefruit using a spoon.

Make a tangy treat by pouring grapefruit juice into an ice cube tray and freezing it. Yum!

Follow the maze from the orange to the juice.

My Darling Clementines

Clementines are small, mandarin oranges that were introduced into North America in the early 1900s. (Mandarin orange is a term that applies to citrus fruit including clementines, tangerines and satsumas.) Clementines are easy to peel, usually seedless and they make a healthy, refreshing addition to your lunch.

Two clementines are equal to one cup of fruit. Kids need 2 1/2 to 5 cups of fruit servings each day.

Standards Link: Health: Students know the nutritional value of foods.

Vitamin C to the Rescue

Vitamin C helps boost your body’s immune system, which is your body’s toolkit for fighting off infections and viruses. It can help you recover from colds and flu. This vitamin is especially important in the winter, during flu season.

Hold this page up to a mirror to read this message:

Is nritas xll e’l snirevne fo tid slt’lil syedl nrdw eysb no lnuv yms t’nei

How many lemons can you find?

Kid Scoop Puzzler

One of the foods with the most vitamin C, the **Kakadu plum**, is a fruit grown in Northern Australia.

Add up the numbers to find out how many oranges you would have to eat to get the amount of vitamin C found in just one Kakadu plum.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

The Online Scoop

Find a wealth of fun facts about citrus and a game to plant your own orchard at www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week’s Kid Scoop stories and activities.

WINTERTIME	E G N A R O C L C N
GRAPEFRUIT	V S L H E M R I O E
HARVEST	I M U A L N O O T T
VITAMIN	T I U R F E P A R G
CITRUS	A N I V T S M E N E
ORANGE	M E S E T I A O E R
LEMONS	I R U S H T C E N L
MINERS	N S A T A N G Y T S
SPOON	E M I T R E T N I W
TREAT	
TANGY	
PEEL	
CROP	
RUSH	
OIL	

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Recipe Changes

Find a recipe in the newspaper. Rewrite it to double the recipe. Rewrite it again so that there would be enough to feed your entire class.

Standards Link: Math: Add whole numbers and fractions.

Write On!

Wake Up!

Imagine you have slept through the winter and are waking up in springtime. Describe what happens and what you see.

Deadline: December 30 **Published:** Week of Jan. 27
Please include your school and grade.

Send your story to:
Press & Dakotan
C/o Noelle Schlechter
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7811, ext 112

Weekly Writing Corner

Apples To Oranges

Write a paragraph comparing an apple to an orange. How are they the same? How are they different?

They are different because they have different seeds and different colors. They are also different shapes.

Lisa, 2nd grade

There are many ways that apples and oranges are alike and different. Apples and oranges are both round. Apples and oranges have seeds. They are both grown on trees. But they are also very different. Apples are red, green or yellow, but oranges are orange. Apples are picked in the fall, and oranges are grown in the hot weather. I like apples, but I do not like oranges.

Grace, 3rd grade

Apples and oranges grow on trees. They are both fruits. Apples have leaves on the stem and oranges don’t really have leaves. An orange is bumpy and an apple is smooth. An apples comes in many colors and an orange is just an orange.

Natalie, 4th grade

Apples are red. Oranges are orange. You have to peel an orange. You can bite an apple. Both are fruit. Both are healthy. Both come from trees. One has a stem, and one does not. One is juicier than the other.

Annalise, 2nd grade

Let me tell you about apples and oranges. To me, both are yummy and tasty! My mom makes a fruit salad with them. She puts whipped cream on them. They are fun to peel and cut into little pieces. Plus they are round, but the apple is red, and the orange is orange. I love fruits. Do you?

Andrea, 4th grade