

Rapid City Being Hit Hard With Flu

RAPID CITY (AP) — The Department of Health says as the flu season begins, Rapid City is coughing and aching worse than any other South Dakota city. The *Rapid City Journal* reports that health officials have recorded 131 cases of influenza in the state as of Dec. 14, with a disproportionate number in Rapid City. State epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says seasonal flu outbreaks usually began in either Rapid City or Sioux Falls before spreading across the state. There has been only one death in South Dakota this season. Kightlinger says that person died in Minnehaha County in October and was in their 70s. Health officials say 38 people died last season, and all but four were older than 65.

Man Accused Of Stabbing Brother

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man has been accused of stabbing his brother in Omaha on Christmas Eve. Omaha police say they responded to a radio call Tuesday night about a cutting incident involving two brothers who were allegedly fighting. They entered a residence and found a 24-year-old man with a stab wound. He was transported to a local hospital with an injury that was not life-threatening. The man's brother, 21-year-old Dylan Whitlatch, was taken into custody for questioning. He was booked into Douglas County Corrections on a felony charge of assault and use of a weapon to commit a felony. Court records do not list an attorney for Whitlatch.

Nebraska

Dead Teen's Family To Donate Organs

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — The family of a teen killed in a car accident plans to donate her organs to others. Savannah Robertson, of Plattsmouth, was in a two-vehicle crash on Sunday on U.S. Highway 75. The 17-year-old died Monday. Robertson's passenger, 14-year-old Jenna Miner, of Murray, died at the scene. Robertson's family told Omaha television station KETV that they decided to donate the teen's organs while she was on life-support. Her father, Philip Robertson II, said he wants something good to come out of the accident.

"She was just a good girl. She was all about giving. A couple days ago she gave — she cut off her hair to give to Locks of Love," Robertson said. The donation of her organs and tissue is being processed by Nebraska Organ Recovery. Robertson said his daughter's organs will help eight people, while her tissue could go to 40 more. "People are going to have a very Merry Christmas and the gift of life come tomorrow," Robertson said on Tuesday. Nebraska Organ Recovery has helped thousands of families manage the organ donation process.

"It truly is the most unselfish gift of all — giving of yourself to save someone else's life," said Tom Neal, with Nebraska Organ Recovery. The car crash happened Sunday morning near Plattsmouth when a car driven by Robertson crossed the center line and collided with a car driven by 36-year-old Travis Laporte, of Papillion. Laporte and his brother, 34-year-old Kevin Laporte, of Bellevue, were in good condition Monday at the medical center. Miner's father said the girls were close friends who were on the way to Omaha for Christmas shopping.

More Than 2,500 SD Residents Sign Up With Exchange

SIoux FALLS (AP) — More than 2,500 South Dakotans have signed up for health insurance on the new federal exchange that's part of President Barack Obama's health care law. Avera insurance plans chief administrative officer Debra Muller tells the *Argus Leader* that she thinks the new

law is helping people who needed the help. Most of those who have enrolled have qualified for some level of subsidy in which tax money will help pay for coverage under provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The law seeks to provide more peo-

ple with insurance through subsidized private insurance offered through on-line marketplaces called exchanges. Individuals had faced a deadline to enroll by Monday to be covered Jan. 1, but the federal government extended the deadline by 24 hours.

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