

SD Childhood Obesity Rate Unchanged

PIERRE (AP) — The percentage of children in South Dakota considered overweight or obese remains stable. The Health Department says about one-third of children fall into the two categories — a rate that hasn't changed much for four straight years. Chronic Disease Epidemiologist Ashley Miller says it's good that the rate has leveled off, but officials want to see it come down. She says the Health Department offers a variety of resources to help encourage healthy diets and increase physical activity for kids. A total of 181 schools submitted student data for the 2014-15 *School Height and Weight Report*, accounting for about 37 percent of students in the state.

Crash Killed 2 Women In Northeast Neb.

PENDER, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say two women died when their vehicle ran off a highway and crashed in northeast Nebraska. The accident occurred Sunday afternoon on U.S. Highway 75 in Thurston County. The Nebraska State Patrol says the vehicle rolled down an embankment, ejecting the woman. They died at the scene. The patrol identified them as 30-year-old Britney McCauley, of Walthill, and 24-year-old Brianna Wolfe, of Macy. The patrol says investigators suspect alcohol use was a factor in the crash.

Man Ordered To Pay In Fraud Case

PIERRE (AP) — A federal judge has ordered a South Dakota man to pay back more than \$279,000 for having claimed and received unemployment benefits that he wasn't entitled to. U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has ordered 43-year-old John Dewayne Ford, of Pierre, to repay \$220,000 for the forty false claims he submitted to the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board and more than \$59,000 in damages. Ford last year pleaded guilty to theft of government property and was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay more than \$19,000 restitution. Federal law allows the government to ask for triple the amount of damages, and civil penalties of not less than \$5,500 per violation. Ford was a conductor and engineer for the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad from May 2010 through April 2012. He submitted the fraudulent claims during that period.

Man Tries To Hide Meth While Arrested

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City Police say a man arrested over the weekend tried to hide baggies with methamphetamine while he was being booked at the Pennington County Jail. Police say 32-year-old Rapid City resident Trevor Chipps was arrested Saturday after police responded to a report of a disturbance. Police say Chipps was taken to the county jail, where officers observed him trying to hide something between his seat and the wall while he was in the booking area. Police say it was then that three baggies that later tested positive for meth were confiscated from Chipps. Records show Chipps was arrested on various charges including possession of a controlled substance. Chipps is being held without bond. It wasn't immediately clear Monday if he has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Man Sues Comedy Club Over Broken Leg

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man is suing an Omaha comedy club, claiming he broke his leg while under hypnosis during a 2014 show. William M. Bendorf, 38, of Omaha filed the lawsuit this month against the Funny Bone Comedy Club, the Omaha World-Herald reports. Bendorf's attorney, Richard Shicker, said the performer believed Bendorf was no longer hypnotized when he sent him and others on stage back to their seats, telling them to use the stairs. The lawsuit says Bendorf was still in a trance and walked off the stage, breaking his leg. Shicker said Bendorf's injury "continues to be painful for him." "He was in that zone — that sort-of unconscious state. He didn't snap out of it until he crashed to the ground," Shicker said. "It was definitely a rude awakening." A woman who answered a phone at the club Monday referred questions to the club manager, who she said was out of town. The manager didn't immediately return a message left by The Associated Press. Online court records don't list the name of an attorney who could comment on the club's behalf. The club has 30 days to formally respond to the lawsuit.

Wanted Man Nabbed In So. Sioux City

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. (AP) — A man wanted on Iowa and South Dakota warrants has been arrested in northeast Nebraska. Authorities say 19-year-old Zachary Frye, of Sioux City, was arrested Saturday afternoon in South Sioux City after a chase that began in Woodbury County, Iowa. The passenger in the vehicle told police he pulled the emergency brake to stop the vehicle. The passenger was not arrested. Charges against Frye include felony eluding, willful reckless driving and several drug counts. His attorney didn't immediately return a call Monday from The Associated Press, seeking comment on Frye's behalf.

Man Injured After Gas Line Breaks

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A man has been injured after a gas line from his kitchen stove apparently erupted in flames at a home near downtown Lincoln. The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that the man was transported to a hospital with injuries that might be life-threatening. City Fire Inspector Damon Robbins says a caregiver found the man inside the house around 11:30 p.m. The man was outside the house and covered in a blanket when firefighters arrived.

Meyer Cancer Center To Open In Aberdeen Next Month

ABERDEEN (AP) — A \$14.5 million cancer center in Aberdeen named for legendary college basketball coach Don Meyer and his wife is set to open next month. A Jan. 21 grand opening celebration has been scheduled for the Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence, which will be home to the Avera Cancer Institute, the *American News* reported. The center will be nearly triple the size of Avera's current cancer facility and have state-of-the-art equipment and expanded services. Patient service is to begin Feb. 1. Meyer was one of the winningest coaches in college

basketball history, compiling 923 victories in 38 seasons at Northern State University in Aberdeen, Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. The native of Wayne, Nebraska, died in May 2014 after a long battle with cancer, at the age of 69. Doctors discovered the inoperable form of cancer in September 2008, when Meyer was critically injured in a car accident that led to the amputation of his left leg below the knee. The cancer center project was announced in April 2013. Avera hosted a kickoff event in April 2014, which was Meyer's last public appearance before his death.

South Dakota

GFP To Hire Contractor To Collect Spending Data

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Game, Fish and Parks Department plans to pay a Florida company to study people's spending on outdoor recreation in South Dakota. The contract will be with Southwick Associates and will cost about \$40,000, according to Scott Simpson, GFP's information and education chief. "This is going to be an email survey. We're going to try to minimize our cost and still get accurate information," he told members of the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission at its Dec. 10 meeting. The target is mid-summer 2016 for results, he said. John Cooper of Pierre, the commission's chairman and the former head of the department, agreed with the project and spoke favorably about the company. "I think this is really, really needed. We get questions all the time," Cooper said. Commissioner Barry Jensen of White River, a rancher and a former legislator, agreed. "It's really needed. An absolutely great idea," Jensen said. The department wants information

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SCOTT SIMPSON

that is more detailed about specific regions of South Dakota. "Results will be used for things such as business planning purposes, legislative issues, increasing awareness about the need for conservation and more," Simpson said recently in an email responding to a reporter's follow-up questions. In the past GFP has used estimates generated every five years by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those estimates have been based on small samples of information in states that have small populations and therefore could be more likely to be inaccurate. "By conducting our own survey, as many states have done over the past decade, we are able to sample at a level that will provide more precise estimates," Simpson said.

"It will also allow us to gather information specific to South Dakota, such as the economic contribution of pheasants or the economic contribution of deer hunting in the Black Hills," he continued. Simpson said the results would include estimates of resident and non-resident users, days of activity, total spending and spending per activity and would cover jobs, tax revenues, income such as salary, wages and business profits and total economic activity created by recreational dollars. "There is no expectation," Simpson said about the results. "It is safe to assume we will see some increases and decreases when comparing comparable data in the national survey," he continued. "The numbers will, however, be more accurate and organized into categories that will be more appropriate for our department," he said.

Storm Could Dump 6 Inches Of Snow On Southeast South Dakota

BY BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — A major winter storm impacting the central U.S. is not expected to cause major problems in the Dakotas, but it's likely to add to what already has been a busy year for snow removal in South Dakota's largest city. Sioux Falls has received just under 30 inches of snow from three big storms the past two months. That's just 2.5 inches shy of the city's snowfall total for all of last winter, and the city could get 3 to 5 inches more by the end of Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service. "I would expect that by this time tomorrow, we'll have more snowfall this (winter) than we did last year," NWS meteorologist Todd Heitkamp in Sioux Falls said. City Street-Fleet Manager Galynn Huber said he already has had to ask the City Council for more money for snow removal this winter — up to an additional \$2 million to augment the \$7.2 million budgeted through the end of the calendar year. Sioux Falls averages about four snowfalls over more than half a foot each winter, and this winter there's already been three of those. Huber attributes it to the El Nino, or warming of the tropical Pacific that affects weather worldwide, which he said is bringing more Pacific moisture into the region.

"It's been a very active winter for us," he said. A succession of severe weather events across the country in the last week has led to at least 43 deaths. The latest storm was causing problems from Texas to the Great Lakes and clipping the northern Plains, where snowstorms typically sweep in from the Rockies or Canada. "It's not your typical snowstorm. We're actually kind of pulling a piece of energy from that major system in the southern and central Plains back into the northern Plains," said Todd Hamilton, a weather service meteorologist in Bismarck. "It's kind of a weird little system." Extreme southeastern South Dakota started Monday under a winter storm warning, but the National Weather Service downgraded it to a winter weather advisory by the afternoon, with up to 6 inches of snow expected in the area near the border with Sioux City, Iowa. The system also was expected to drop 1 to 2 inches of snow late Monday into Tuesday in southern and western North Dakota. However, forecasters said the storm shouldn't cause major problems in either state, despite gusty winds that could accompany the snow. "We don't think it's going to cause severe whiteout conditions," Heitkamp said.

Lending Interest Rate Measure Certified In SD

PIERRE (AP) — A measure that would cap money lenders' interest rates in South Dakota is on its way to the ballot for the 2016 election. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Monday that her office validated the measure. Krebs' certification can be challenged through Jan. 27. The office looks at signatures and petition completeness as part of its review before the measures can appear on the ballot. The proposal would limit interest rates from money lenders licensed in South Dakota to 36 percent annually. Supporters say the proposal is aimed at protecting consumers from predatory lending. Opponents have said that short-term lenders would be forced out of business in the state if the measure passes. The ballot measure would have to receive a majority of votes cast to be approved.

Authorities Arrest Man In Good Samaritan Attack

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities in eastern Nebraska have arrested a man in connection to an attack against a good Samaritan on Christmas Eve. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office says 30-year-old Bryan K. Reiber, of Lincoln, was arrested Sunday on suspicion of aiding and abetting terroristic threats. Court records do not list any attorney. Chief Deputy Jeff Bliemeister says Reiber is one of two men suspected of attacking Joel Schrader on Thursday. Schrader tells the *Lincoln Journal Star* he was helping the men after they knocked on his door and sought help for car trouble. Schrader says he went outside to look at their car before the men assaulted him and threaten to shoot him. Authorities say the

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New Year's Eve
50¢ Traditional Wings
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FREE CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT

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Breakfast**
Pancakes, French Toast, Eggs,
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Children 6-10 \$4.00 - Under 5 free
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From All Of Us
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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Sunday
5-7pm Cook's Choice
New Year's Eve
Prime Rib Dinner
5:30-8:30
No Kitchen Menu 12/31
New Year's Day
Tom & Jerry's
2pm-5pm
Lunch Served
**Saturday
Entertainment**
No Band
Regular Menu 5:30-8:00
Bingo Wed. at 7:00p.m.
Sunday at 6:30p.m.
Happy Hour M-F
4:30-6:00
Chislic Served Last
Wednesday of Month

SAVE THE DATE...
7th Annual
Lesterville Winter Ball
Saturday, February 6
Details to Follow

**Cootie Pup Tent #12
New Year's Day Raffle**
FREE Tom & Jerry's
2 - 5pm
(food will also be available)
Raffle begins at 4pm with many
prizes to give away!
You could win a loin or turkey!
**Raffle tickets are available
10 for \$3.**
**VFW 209 Cedar
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