

KIDS FIRST



Birth Trauma Part I

This is a very disturbing topic and one which most parents are very unfamiliar with. Traumatic Birth Syndrome (TBS) estimated to be the 6th leading cause of infant death, is mostly under reported and misdiagnosed. Birth is a very normal biological process. It does not require "management" as a disease, yet it is treated in the manner of a sickness. Both pregnancy and birth have special significance to a pediatric chiropractor as often a pregnant mom and child are exposed to harmful routine practices which are poorly researched and

effects not well documented. Most parents simply trust their doctor and that's it. This blind, simplistic view can be life-threatening to an infant. My concern, when dealing with pregnancy, is the status of mom's spine and nervous system so that she can maintain a healthy pregnancy, have a good, uneventful delivery, and have a healthy baby. In a nutshell; often Vertebral Subluxations affect the mother's spine, changing the physiology of pregnancy, and affecting the baby in utero. How, you ask? An interference in the function of mom's nervous system will affect the manner in which the baby rotates and turns in the womb for an example. It will also affect baby's nutrition and hence growth. These factors can lead to what is called **In-Utero Constraint**. A situation where, in the last trimester of pregnancy, the baby is trapped in a precarious position from which it is unable to free itself. This can lead to serious consequences during birth. I

feel very strongly that all pregnant moms should have a check-up with a pediatric chiropractor to help them and their babies through pregnancy and delivery. I have mentioned alcohol consumption by mom and its effect on the development of the baby's nervous system in a previous column. I did not mention smoking. Although a pregnant mom may not smoke, she and her baby may be exposed to the toxic effects of second-hand smoke at work, home, etc. The fetus can be the receiver of second hand smoke and evidence suggests low birth weight, as well as body malformations can be the result. As well, many women take over-the-counter medications and do not question their safety. The feeling seems to be that if it is not prescribed then it is "safe." Let me be emphatic here. **All drugs affect your baby!** Most effects have not been researched yet. The safety of prescribed

medications on the fetus has not been researched but it is well documented that in the adult population, properly prescribed medications are the **fourth leading cause of preventable death!** Another concern is the use of routine procedures which can be life-threatening for the unborn child. **Amniocentesis and Chorionic Villi Sampling** for example, can lead to spontaneous fetal abortion in 0.5-1.5% of cases. Be careful out there! I'll continue in two weeks.

If you need additional information, please call me personally at 605-665-8228 and visit my website: www.plathwellness.com

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S.D. Lawmakers Expect State Revenue Growth

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — The legislative committee putting together South Dakota's next state budget decided Friday that an improving economy will provide millions more dollars in tax revenue than previously expected, but committee members said the Legislature should be cautious in spending the extra money. Senate Appropriations Chairman Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, said rising gasoline prices, unrest in many parts of the world and other factors could cause the U.S. economy to stall. "While we have a positive trend and things are starting to look better, there's a lot of uncertainty out there," Brown said. The Joint Appropriations Committee on Friday formally adopted revenue estimates that indicate tax collections for the current year will be about \$12 million more than Gov. Dennis Daugaard predicted when he presented his proposed budget in December. The panel decided revenue for the next budget year, which begins July 1, will be

about \$10 million higher than the governor projected. The revenue estimates give the committee an idea how much can be spent when it finishes work next week on the state budget for next year. The panel will submit the proposed budget to the Senate and House for approval before the main run of this year's legislative session ends Friday. Next year's state budget will spend more than \$4 billion in state, federal and other funds. Lawmakers pointed out the expected extra revenue only amounts to about 1 percent of the \$1.2 billion portion of the budget funded by state tax collections. The committee's revenue estimates are based on reports submitted Thursday from the governor's budget office and the Legislature's own staff. The economists said South Dakota's economy is growing faster than the national economy, partly because the agricultural economy has been good, profits have rebounded in credit card banks, and the state's unemployment rate is roughly half the national rate. South Dakota's state budget is particularly dependent on the sales tax, which provides more than 60 percent of the state's ongoing

tax revenue. Sales tax collections are expected to grow by about 3.8 percent this year and 3.7 percent next year. Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, said personal income in South Dakota has grown faster than the national average, and the state's agricultural base has been helped by high crop yields and prices. "I think we're in a situation where South Dakota is doing very well. The economy is growing," Tidemann said. "But we're part of the larger family called the United States. Right now the country is not growing as quickly as South Dakota." The governor and the Legislature last year cut spending in most state agencies and programs by about 10 percent for the current budget year. Daugaard has proposed increased state aid next year for school districts and the hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities that provide health care to poor people in the Medicaid program. In addition to the overall state budget, the Legislature is also considering a number of special spending measures that would allocate money to specific programs or projects, he said.

Prison Inmate To Be Executed In Mid-Sept.

PIERRE (AP) — A mid-September execution is set for the second of two inmates sentenced to die for the killing of a South Dakota prison guard during a failed escape attempt. Rodney Berget, 49, is to be executed by lethal injection the week of Sept. 9-15. Second Circuit Judge Bradley Zell ordered that the State Penitentiary warden set the exact date and time, Attorney General Marty Jackley said Friday. Berget and Eric Robert, 49, both waived their rights to jury trials and pleaded guilty to killing Ronald Johnson, 63, on April 12, 2011. Robert asked a judge to sentence him to death; Berget said he deserved to die. A third inmate, Michael Nordman, 47, was given a life sentence for providing the materials that Robert and Berget used to kill Johnson. Authorities say the two bashed Johnson with a pipe and covered his mouth with plastic wrap before Robert put on the guard's uniform and unsuccessfully tried to cart a large box with Berget inside through a prison gate. The penitentiary made more than a dozen procedural changes after the incident, including adding more officers and security cameras.

S.D. House Approves Extra Aid For Schools

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature has approved Gov. Dennis Daugaard's plan to give one-time payments to school districts and facilities that provide medical care to low-income people. The House voted 64-4 to pass a bill that would spend \$27 million in state funds collected this year to help schools and medical facilities next year. That money is in addition to funding increases built into the state budget. The bill will become law if signed by the governor. School districts would get an extra \$4 million in state aid for operating expenses. Another \$8.4 million would be used to train teachers in a new curriculum. State universities would get nearly \$6 million. Nearly \$8 million in state money would go to hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities for the Medicaid program.

Nebraska Revenue Forecast Remains Unchanged

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's state budget outlook will remain unchanged for the near future as the economy continues its slow climb out of the recession, the government's forecasting board predicted Friday. The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board unanimously voted to stick with its October projections for the two-year budget period that ends in June 2013. The prediction means lawmakers will have no additional cash as they set their spending plans this year, but no less than the amount expected. Their priority list includes the governor's tax cut package, child welfare reforms, Medicaid expenses and other incentive proposals designed to stoke economic growth. Board members said the strong farm economy was offset by weak retail sales and low housing values.

But they said some of Nebraska's largest cities — Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney — were faring well and trying to recruit workers for unfilled positions. "Overall, I'm fairly optimistic," said board member Fred Lockwood, of Scottsbluff. "But the economy still seems to be somewhat flat." Elk Creek Sen. Lavon Heidemann, who heads the budget-writing Appropriations Committee, said the forecast was a "non-event" for the state's current two-year budget. But he said lawmakers will face an estimated shortfall of more than \$300 million in the budget they have to set next year. "Not good news, not bad news," Heidemann said. "I was kind of anticipating a little bit more movement. But the bottom line is, we still have a little bit of money to work with." Republican Gov. Dave Heineman said the forecast signals a green light for the consideration of

his \$327 million tax cut package, which would lower individual and income taxes and eliminate a county inheritance tax over a three-year period. "This forecast is positive news and confirms that Nebraska has a steady and growing economy, and that tax relief for hard-working, middle-class taxpayers should be the top priority for this legislative session," he said. But critics in the Legislature said it was too soon to know what the state could reasonably afford. Omaha Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, a member of the Appropriations Committee, said lawmakers still have to pay for the "core functions" of government, which could include increased Medicaid costs caused by changes in the eligibility rules, and state aid for K-12 schools. "At this point, it would be irresponsible to look at revenue reduction," Nordquist said. He introduced a property-tax relief

package this year to rival the governor's, but has said the state cannot likely afford it in the face of other needs. State officials have also requested \$19.7 million to lower the average caseload for social workers in Nebraska, as part of the state's effort to reform its child welfare system. Lawmakers and the governor rely on the board's projections when setting the state's two-year budget. Board members predicted in October that the state would collect nearly \$52 million in additional revenue for the fiscal year that ends June 30, and roughly \$62 million in the following fiscal year. The board is made up of people with economic expertise from across the state, with five members appointed by the Legislature and the other four named by the governor. The group bases its projections on predictions compiled by the executive branch's Department of Revenue and the Legislature's fiscal office.

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