

MIDWEST DIGEST

Neb. Lawmakers Begin Closing Budget Gap

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska lawmakers have given first-round approval to a plan to close a roughly \$48 million gap in the current, two-year state budget.

Many state agencies would face 2 percent budget cuts, but many key services — including the Nebraska State Patrol and centers that care for mentally disabled people — would be spared.

The plan also includes tapping a couple of cash funds and taking \$3 million from the state's rainy-day fund. The state also expects to receive nearly \$19 million more federal stimulus dollars than originally expected.

Lawmakers said current budget problems will likely be dwarfed by a projected \$670 million shortfall during the next two-year budget cycle that begins in July 2011.

Man Sentenced in Huron Shooting

HURON (AP) — A 21-year-old man who pleaded guilty in the shooting of another man over a cell phone bill has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Yomar Rodriguez pleaded guilty last month to a reduced charge of aggravated assault. He had been charged with attempted murder for the shooting of 28-year-old Jose Fernando Alicea outside a Huron apartment complex on Dec. 4.

Rodriguez had faced up to 15 years in prison for the shooting. Authorities say Rodriguez fired a .22-caliber rifle four times, hitting Alicea in the leg once, during a dispute over a cell phone bill.

Neb. Governor Against Prenatal Care Plan

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A compromise plan that would provide state-funded prenatal care to about 1,500 women through the end of the year was shelved on Tuesday because of Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman's opposition.

Ditching the plan appears to sharply decrease chances that the pregnant women, more than half of them illegal immigrants, will receive state-funded prenatal care this year.

A key lawmaker wasn't ready to give up hope, saying "stay tuned." But she added that there weren't any legislative deals in the works to attract votes.

Heineman, through a spokeswoman, declined to comment on his decision not to support the compromise language that would have extended benefits to the 1,500 women through the end of the year. He also does not support the original bill that will be debated Wednesday.

Under the compromise proposal, only the women who lost coverage early this month after federal officials said the state couldn't allow unborn children to be eligible for Medicaid would continue to get state-funded prenatal care. The funding would have ceased at the end of this year.

DNA Expert Takes Stand in CSI Chief Trial

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — A DNA expert testified Tuesday in the trial of a crime scene investigator charged with evidence tampering in a double slaying that there was so much DNA on a piece of filter paper submitted by the CSI chief that she had to dilute it to test it.

Kaye Shepard, an analyst at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Human DNA Identification Laboratory, said that among other items she tested a piece of filter paper that Douglas County CSI chief David Kofoed said he used to collect blood evidence while searching a car.

The car was linked to Matthew Livers and Nicholas Sampson, who were initially charged in the 2006 killings of Livers' aunt and uncle, Wayne and Sharon Stock of Murdock. The men spent months in jail before being cleared.

Shepard, testifying for prosecutors, said she had at least seven times the amount of DNA she needed to conduct her tests.

Prosecutors have argued that Kofoed felt pressured to find evidence to shore up a case against Livers and Sampson. Kofoed's attorney, Steve Lefler, has argued that the accidental cross-contamination, not sinister motives, explains how the speck of blood ended up in the car.

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A+ Students of the Week



Mary Lingenfelter
School: Bloomfield High School
Age: 17 **Grade:** 12th
Parents: Kimberly & Burton Lingenfelter
Academic Achievements: Academic All-State, "A" Honor Roll all 4 years of HS, 3rd Place at TEAMS competition, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl Member, Student Council
Extracurricular Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Dance Team, Speech, Band, NHS, Student Council
Favorite Subjects: Accounting
Best School Memory(s): Beating West Boyd in sub-districts



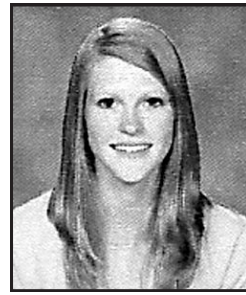
Ali Gieselman
School: Bloomfield High School
Age: 18 **Grade:** 12th
Parents: Leon & Diane Gieselman
Academic Achievements: "A" Honor Roll, 4.0 GPA, Colorado School of Mines Math & Science Award Winner, NSAA Academic All-State
Extracurricular Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Softball, FFA (Treasurer), National Honor Society (President), Speech, Band, Luther League, Ruritan Rising Senior
Favorite Subjects: English & Trigonometry
Best School Memory(s): FFA trip to Washington, D.C. and playing sports.



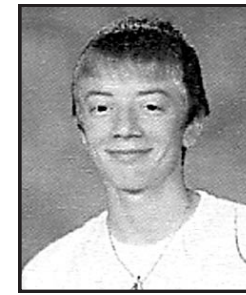
Hannah Seagren
School: Bloomfield High School
Age: 16 **Grade:** 11th
Parents: John & Myrna Seagren
Academic Achievements: Lettered in Band, Choir, Drama & Speech; 2nd Place Freshman/Sophomore Lewis & Clark Conference Quiz Bowl (2008), 1st Place Freshman/Sophomore Lewis & Clark Conference Quiz Bowl (2009), "A" Honor Roll
Extracurricular Activities: Band, Choir, Drama, Speech, FFA, FCCLA, Church Youth Group, Church Choir, National Honor Society
Favorite Subjects: English
Best School Memory(s): Having fun with friends at speech meets and one-acts competition.



Karrah Johnson
School: Bloomfield High School
Age: 16 **Grade:** 11th
Parents: Les & Amy Johnson
Academic Achievements: Academic Quiz Bowl Participant, Math Contest Participant, JETS Participant, Wayne State Business Competition Participant, "A" Honor Roll
Extracurricular Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, FCCLA, 4-H, Junior Class Officer, FCCLA Officer, National Honor Society
Favorite Subjects: Math & Chemistry
Best School Memory(s): Last year's volleyball team making it to districts, and hanging out with all my close friends, especially in study hall.



Lynndsy Hauger
School: Bloomfield High School
Age: 17 **Grade:** 12th
Parents: Scott & Kristi Hauger
Academic Achievements: '08-'09 Academic All-State, "A" Honor Roll, Principal's Academic Award
Extracurricular Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Softball, NHS, Band, FFA
Favorite Subjects: PE
Best School Memory(s): Our band trip to Chicago.



Colton Wilson
School: Bloomfield High School
Age: 17 **Grade:** 11th
Parents: Joe & Barb Wilson
Academic Achievements: People to People Student Ambassador, Who's Who, Quiz Bowl, Honor Roll, JETS competition, 4.0 GPA
Extracurricular Activities: Basketball, NHS, FCCLA, Football, Youth Groups, Junior Class Officer
Favorite Subjects: Math & Science



Brooke Hopkins
School: Bloomfield High School
Age: 17 **Grade:** 11th
Parents: Shannon & Lois Hopkins
Academic Achievements: NHS, Honor Roll, Academic Quiz Bowl, JETS competition, 4.0 GPA
Extracurricular Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Student Council, NHS, FCCLA
Favorite Subjects: Algebra
Best School Memory(s): Yearbook class.

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Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
 Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: www.kidscoop.com
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Paddy O'Brien's Potato Patch

In Ireland, potatoes have been an important source of nutrition for centuries. Today's page is packed with fun facts about the tasty tater!

Welcome to Paddy O'Brien's Potato Patch. Can you find your way through the patch to the pot of gold?

How many shamrocks can you find on this page?

What is a tuber?
 A tuber is a swollen part of a plant that stores energy. The potatoes we eat grow underground and the plant above ground uses the energy stored in the potato to grow. So, potatoes are tubers.

Tater Trivia

During the Alaskan Klondike gold rush (1897-1898), potatoes were practically worth their weight in gold. Potatoes were valued for their vitamin C. And gold, at that time, was more plentiful than nutritious foods!

Lookalike Leprechauns

Find the two identical leprechauns.

Taters are Tops!

Potatoes are packed with vitamin C and minerals your body needs for energy. A potato is one of the best sources for potassium you can find in the produce section. Potassium helps keep blood pressure at a normal level.

Presidential Potatoes

French fries were introduced in America when they were served in the White House by this president. Use the code to reveal his name.

WIN LOSE MATCH GAME
 Now have a friend try! Who found the most?
 Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

In October 1995, the potato became the first vegetable to be grown in this environment. NASA and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, created the technology with the goal of feeding astronauts on long space voyages, and eventually, feeding future space colonies. Color the even-numbered squares green to reveal the answer.

9	5	7	9	5	1	9	7	3	1	5	3	1	5	9	9	5	3	1	5	9
5	8	4	2	3	4	6	2	5	4	8	4	5	2	4	8	7	2	4	2	7
3	2	1	3	9	2	5	4	9	2	9	6	7	6	7	1	9	8	5	9	5
1	6	8	2	3	8	2	8	7	6	4	2	5	2	1	5	3	4	6	2	7
7	5	3	4	7	4	9	7	5	8	5	4	3	4	9	7	5	2	9	5	3
1	3	9	8	5	6	3	5	3	2	3	8	1	8	3	5	7	8	5	7	1
3	6	2	6	3	2	7	9	5	8	1	6	9	2	2	6	5	6	4	2	5
9	7	9	5	3	9	5	3	1	5	9	3	5	9	3	1	5	9	7	7	3

Standards Link: Number Sense: Identify even and odd numbers.

The Online Scoop

Watch a video to discover how you and a parent can make healthier, non-fried French fries at: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

POTATOES
 LEPRECHAUN
 ENERGY
 TUBERS
 SWOLLEN
 NUTRITIOUS
 TATER
 PATCH
 STORED
 WEIGHT
 TOPS
 SOURCES
 BLOOD
 GOLD
 POT

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

T	O	P	S	D	E	R	O	T	S
N	U	A	H	C	E	R	P	E	L
S	Y	T	T	D	L	O	G	D	T
E	G	C	P	U	T	U	O	A	H
C	R	H	D	A	B	O	T	S	G
R	E	R	T	G	L	E	P	O	I
U	N	O	O	B	R	D	R	S	E
O	E	N	E	L	L	O	S	W	
S	U	O	I	T	I	R	T	U	N

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Potato Poetry
 Pick 10 words at random in today's newspaper. Then, try to write an amusing poem about potatoes using all 10 of the words you chose. Ask your teacher if you can read your poem to your class.
 Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write in a variety of genres including poetry.

Write On!

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

*It was so fast that...
 I was so happy that...
 It jumped so high that...
 Think of an exaggerated way to write about something.*

Deadline: April 11 Published: Week of May 9
 Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

Spud Talk

Paige Golden
 Sell those Spuds. I think the best way to eat potatoes is baked.
 1. They're awesome with sour cream and cottage cheese.
 2. The skin of the potato has great a nutritional value.
 3. You don't have to add a lot of toppings to the baked potato. With mashed potatoes you add all that butter and salt, YUCK!
 You can't go wrong with the traditional baked potato. So the next time you think about having potatoes, think baked!

Alex Huntley
 What's your favorite kind of potato? Grilled, seasoned, tater tots, mashed, potato chips? Well the best way is fried! Sure mashed potatoes are good, but fried you can put it with anything! Ketchup, mustard, or mayo! Potato chips are so bland! You can't put any thing on it! Let's say you're eating steak, the waiter asks you what side dish you want, you can either have French fries, mashed potatoes, or tater tots go with the French fries!

Brianna Benjamin
 Mashed Potatoes
 I love to eat my potatoes mashed. Mash potatoes are delicious especially when I drown them with gravy. Sometimes when I am at restaurants I like them with them with the skins in the potatoes they are yummy. I love them because when I was a baby I had a sensitive tummy and I couldn't have baby food so I got to have mashed potatoes. That is why I love them so much!

Andrew Pietz
 If you are like me, you like potatoes in almost any form. I am here to tell you the best way to eat them is potato chips. They are crunchy and salty, plus they come in so many different flavors it is impossible not to find one you like. They taste great with almost any food, any time of the year. Best of all, you don't have to cook them yourself. Just open up a bag and enjoy.