

Medicaid Bill Supporters Rally At Neb. Capitol

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Supporters of a Nebraska Medicaid bill are urging residents to contact their state senators directly, to try to bring the measure to a vote in the Legislature.

Lawmakers and advocacy groups held a rally Wednesday outside the Capitol to garner support for the proposal, which has stalled because of a filibuster. The bill would offer Medicaid coverage to an estimated 54,000 low-income, childless adults as part of the federal health care law.

Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha told the gathering that an estimated 16 Nebraska hospitals would close without the expansion, and others would have to cut services.

Supporters need 33 senators to compel a vote on the bill. The measure is supported by 89 state hospitals, the Nebraska Medical Association, AARP and Nebraska Appleseed.

The bill is LB577

U.S. Midsection Could See Bad Weather

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Forecasters say portions of the central United States could see severe weather this weekend and Monday.

The Storm Prediction Center at Norman, Okla., said Wednesday a bout of “fairly substantial” bad weather is possible in Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas on Saturday, from Oklahoma to Iowa on Sunday and from Oklahoma to Illinois on Monday.

Storms could become steadily worse through the period — starting with hail and high winds Saturday and evolving into a system with tornadoes possible by Monday in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

The bad weather could extend into Tuesday but forecasters said a longer term storm prediction was not possible yet.

Officers, Family Gather For Memorial Service

PIERRE — Law enforcement officers from federal, state and local agencies gathered to remember their fallen colleagues on Wednesday.

KCCR radio reports that family members of the fallen officers also attended the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service at Madison Avenue Church of Christ in Pierre. The service included songs, a video tribute and prayer.

Sixty eight law enforcement officers from South Dakota have died in the line of the duty.

SDSU Adding American Indian Studies Major

PIERRE — The state Board of Regents says South Dakota State University will begin offering an undergraduate degree in American Indian studies starting this fall.

The school in Brookings has offered a minor in American Indian studies since 1994.

The regents say the bachelor of arts degree will equip graduates to work with tribal governments and in other public-sector careers, including a wide range of jobs that involve research, communications and analytical skills.

SDSU is also adding an online-only option to its master’s degree in journalism geared to professionals already working in news and media.

Aberdeen Man Sentenced In Assault

ABERDEEN — A 27-year-old Aberdeen man has been ordered to serve three years in prison for beating a woman until she passed out and then choking her until she nearly died.

The Aberdeen American News reports that Tobiah D. Witte was sentenced Wednesday to five years in prison with two years suspended after pleading guilty to aggravated assault.

Prosecutor Jodi Brown says it was one of the worst assault cases she has seen. The victim told officers that she saw stars and bright lights as a result of the Jan. 25 attack, and she also had marks on her throat from being choked.

Witte told the judge his actions were a violent episode while he was drunk.

Judge Tony Portra said Witte’s actions “went beyond all bounds of decency.”

Woman Charged With Theft Related To Loans

MITCHELL — A 21-year-old White Lake woman is accused of taking out \$67,000 in loans from a Mitchell bank under false pretenses.

The *Daily Republic* reports that Kourtney Hauge is charged with grand theft. Authorities say she took out two loans from BankWest in Mitchell, one for about \$24,000 and the other for about \$43,000.

Court documents say she told the bank the first loan was for the purchase of a 2008 Dodge Ram and the second was for the purchase of a horse trailer.

Court documents say she failed to provide the bank with purchase titles for the vehicles, and the truck is registered to another person with a lien already against it.

Hauge is scheduled to appear in court later this month.

Quirk In Health Law Will Affect Few In Dakotas

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — A quirk in the federal health care law that could force tens of thousands of people who identify as Native American to start paying for insurance or pay a fine isn’t expected to affect many people in the Dakotas.

American Indians who are enrolled members of federally recognized tribes are exempt from the Affordable Care Act’s requirement that people carry health insurance or pay a minimum \$695 annual fine once it’s fully phased in. Officials say that applies to most Native Americans in North Dakota and South Dakota who get free health care through the Indian Health Service, a branch of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Those who identify as Native American but who aren’t enrolled members of such tribes would have to buy insurance or pay the fine, even if they have been receiving and continue to qualify for free or subsidized health care through the IHS.

The number of Native Americans in North Dakota who are not enrolled tribal members is “very

small,” said Scott Davis, executive director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission. He is a member of the Standing Rock Lakota Hunkpapa and Turtle Mountain Chippewa.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 42,996 people in North Dakota and 82,073 people in South Dakota identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native. Those figures roughly match enrollment numbers reported by tribes in both states.

J.R. LaPlante, state secretary of Tribal Relations in South Dakota, said no one appears to track the number of Americans Indians who are not enrolled in a tribe, but officials generally believe the number of non-enrolled Native Americans is small in South Dakota.

“I think that’s the general assumption that the majority of people that would self-identify as Native American are indeed members of a federally recognized tribe. I think that’s probably a general assumption, but it’s hard to say for sure,” said LaPlante, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

The Indian Health Service provides free health care to enrolled

members of tribes, their descendants and some others as part of the government’s treaty obligations to American Indian tribes dating back nearly a century. The agency seeks to bill Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance for care given to patients who have that coverage. Under the health care overhaul, tens of thousands of people who identify as Native American but are not enrolled tribal members will have to start buying insurance or paying the fine for not doing so.

In the Dakotas, the IHS provides care through clinics and hospitals on and off reservations. In South Dakota, there are Urban Indian Health Clinics in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Pierre that are funded through a contract with the IHS.

Donna Keeler, the executive director of the state’s three Urban Indian Health Clinics, said her organization has to charge all patients on a sliding scale based on income, but many are covered by Medicaid, the state-federal program that provides health care for low-income people. Keeler said she is encouraging those who qualify to get private insurance because it will increase their ac-

cess to preventative care and specialty services such as surgery and cancer treatment.

Keeler said she wants her organization to be a partner with the insurance plans that will offer policies through the health exchange, a marketplace where people will be able to buy insurance coverage. For people of certain income levels, the cost of that insurance will be subsidized.

“If they need specialty care, they would have wonderful access to help pay that through an insurance plan,” Keeler said.

Davis said his office is working with tribes and others in North Dakota to figure out how the Affordable Care Act will affect Native American health care. He said federal officials have not yet met face-to-face with tribal officials, so he is considering contracting with a private health care expert to look at the new law’s effect on Native Americans.

Non-Indian hospitals are also part of the planning because IHS facilities refer patients to them for major surgery or other advanced care that IHS facilities are not set up to provide, Davis said.

“It’s important that we all know this thing together and know how it’s going to play out,” Davis said.

Changes Made To Neb. Wildfire Control Bill

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A bill designed to help fight wildfires in rural Nebraska advanced Wednesday to a final legislative vote after lawmakers agreed to reduce the number of fire-fighting planes.

The new legislation would reduce the number of single-engine aerial tanker planes stationed in Nebraska from two to one. It also would increase the number of bases that are equipped to service the firefighting plane. The state would have to contract to construct at least two single-engine air tanker bases, and develop at least one mobile base.

Lawmakers approved several changes to the measure before giving it second-round approval. A final vote is required before it heads to Gov. Dave Heineman. The bill’s sponsor, Sen. Al Davis of Hyannis, said the changes stemmed from a compromise with Lt. Gov.

Lavon Heidemann and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

“Rapid response is absolutely necessary to prevent wildfires from growing into the 40,000- or 60,000- or even 80,000-acre fires that Nebraska experienced last year,” Davis said.

Nebraska experienced 1,570 wildfires last year that burned a total of 786 square miles — an expanse nearly seven times the size of Omaha, according to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

According to state emergency officials, 98 percent of the wildfires were caused by lightning strikes, and the combined cost of ground-level firefighting, aerial suppression and mutual aid from other states cost Nebraska about \$12 million.

Davis said last year’s firefighting effort was delayed several times because of a lack of available planes from out of state, equipment failures with National Guard helicopters, and state emergency officials who were slow to request planes.

The bill would also require the Nebraska Forest Service to thin forests, and develop markets for the wood shavings. Davis said the shavings could be used for pets, landscaping mulch, fence posts and fuel for heating and cooling.

The state would contract for access to the plane for three or four months during the summer fire season. The bill’s total cost was cut to about \$2.4 million over the next two-year budget period, from the original \$3.45 million.

Nebraska State Forester Scott Josiah told a legislative committee in February that the size, frequency and overall number of fires have increased dramatically since 1989. Josiah said last year’s fire burned one-third of the trees in the Pine Ridge Ranger District in northwest Nebraska. Only 80,000 to 100,000 acres were left untouched, he said.

The bill is LB634.

S.D. Man Pleads Guilty To Sex Trafficking Charges

SIoux FALLS — A South Dakota man is expected to spend more than 30 years behind bars after pleading guilty Wednesday to a federal sex trafficking charge.

Tajahn Clinton, 35, of Sioux Falls, was arrested a year ago and initially charged with one count of sex trafficking a child. Since then, the list of charges against Clinton has grown, as has the number of alleged victims. Officials say that he victimized nine people, three of whom were minors.

Clinton pleaded guilty to sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion. His plea follows two guilty verdicts in recent months from other men in sex trafficking cases

that included some of the same victims, the *Argus Leader* newspaper reported.

Carl Campbell, 35, was convicted in February of sex trafficking involving two minors and one adult. Emmanuel Nyuon, 34, was convicted a month ago on two sex trafficking counts that involved a 14-year-old girl. The two now await sentencing, as does Clinton.

Another man named Moham-

ad Araboudi, described by police as a business partner of Nyuon’s, awaits trial on four sex trafficking charges.

Each case involved online prostitution advertisements.

KSFY-TV reported that in Wednesday’s plea deal, the parties agreed that Clinton would likely be sentenced to 402 months — or 33 1/2 years — behind bars.

Susan Omanson, a Sioux Falls

minister who works with victims, told the newspaper that she’s impressed by the track record of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in South Dakota in recent years as it relates to trafficking cases.

“There’s a real sense that we have a problem, and we’re going to do everything we can to deal with it,” she said. “Pretty soon, the traffickers will understand that this isn’t a safe place to do business.”



Success is a choice.

Choose the University of South Dakota Graduate School.

We have a program for you.

APPLY TODAY!


www.usd.edu/grad

Programs offered in Vermillion, S.D. and numerous programs available off-campus and online.





For more information contact:
GRADUATE SCHOOL
414 E. Clark St. • Vermillion, SD 57069
605-677-6240 • 800-233-7937
grad@usd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA



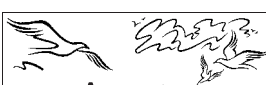
With Fondest Memories





We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

*On Saturday, May 25th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net
a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.*



Aneta Burrows
Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Dan, Ann & Sarah

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together.
My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
9. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
15. I have written my own message and it is included.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo.

Fill out the form below and mail to:

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/With Fondest Memories
319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078

Deadline: Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Name of deceased _____	
Date of birth _____	Date of passing _____
Number of selected verse _____ OR Personal message (25 word limit) _____	

Print your name here _____	
Phone Number _____	Address/City/State/Zip _____