

Jackley: Program Aiding In Meth Fight

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says a system to electronically report the sale of cold medicine is working to block sales to people who might want the product to make the illegal drug methamphetamine.

The Legislature this year approved joining the electronic registry run by the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators. Retailers and pharmacists began using it in July.

Jackley says that in the first three months, nearly 1,700 questionable sales were blocked. The blocked sales included a little more than 2,000 boxes of cold medicine that contained pseudoephedrine, an ingredient in meth.

Jackley says the real-time data-sharing is doing what it's designed to do, without inconveniencing people who are buying cold medicine for legitimate use.



Jackley

Mountain Lion Taken Near L&C Lake

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A mountain lion has been harvested in northern Nebraska.

The state Game and Parks Commission says the 157-pound male mountain lion was harvested Sunday in Knox County near Lewis and Clark Lake. It marks the first mountain lion harvested in the Prairie Unit since it opened in January.

Mountain lion hunting in the unit is open until the end of the year. All other mountain lion units are currently closed.

SF Man Faces Charges In Assault

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A man is facing several charges after police say he punched and poured beer over his girlfriend and her 2-year-old son in Sioux Falls.

The *Argus Leader* reports 32-year-old Lindsey Jordan Chasing Horse Sr. has been charged with simple assault, resisting arrest and felony abuse or cruelty to a minor.

He's being held at Minnehaha County Jail. The Sioux Falls Police Department says they don't know if Chasing Horse has an attorney.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says Chasing Horse was upset over text messages sent to his girlfriend on Sunday. Clemens says Chasing Horse poured the alcohol on his girlfriend and her son inside of a vehicle. He says Chasing Horse dragged the woman out of the vehicle by her hair and punched her.

Clemens says Chasing Horse also hit her and her son later at a mobile home.

Trial Delayed For Child-Rape Suspect

ABERDEEN (AP) — The trial for a Columbia-area man charged with rape, sexual contact with a minor and kidnapping has been delayed until late February.

Fifty-six-year-old Thomas Kline has pleaded not guilty to 16 felony charges. He's free on bond pending trial.

Brown County prosecutor Chris White tells the *American News* that the trial was delayed to allow the defense to get more information, including medical records of the child authorities say is the lone victim in the case that spanned eight years.

Kline could face life in prison if convicted of the more serious charges against him.

Neb. Drops Taxes On Farm Equip. Parts

HASTINGS, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska farmers and ranchers who want to fix some of their equipment will be able to save a little money, now that the state has dropped taxes on repair and replacement parts.

The state last week dropped the sales or use taxes it had been charging on repair and replacement parts for agricultural machinery and equipment that qualify. The change was prompted by a measure the Legislature passed earlier this year. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Annette Dubas, of Fullerton, the *Hastings Tribune* said.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau has cited estimates that the state's farmers and ranchers collectively will save between \$9 million and \$10 million a year.

"Nebraska's previous sales tax policy put Nebraska farmers and ranchers doing business with in-state equipment dealers at a competitive disadvantage with their counterparts in neighboring states," said Steve Nelson, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, in a news release. "It also created an incentive for Nebraska farmers and ranchers to cross state lines for repair needs."

According to the Nebraska Department of Revenue, ag repair and replacement items do not qualify for the exemption unless they would show up on parts lists for given pieces of qualifying machinery or equipment, including irrigation systems. Generic equivalents also are covered by the exemption. To qualify, the machine or device in question must be used directly in commercial agriculture. Repair or replacement parts can include items such as antifreeze, spark plugs, tractor tires and irrigation well motors.

Repair or parts vendors must collect the taxes unless customers provide a properly completed Nebraska resale or exempt sale certificate.

Man Dies In Tree-Trimming Accident

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — A 76-year-old Norfolk man has died after being struck by falling tree branch in Cass County.

The accident was reported at 10:10 a.m. Saturday at a property in rural Plattsouth. The Cass County Sheriff's Office says Lon Marotz died at the scene before he could be flown to a hospital.

The *Norfolk Daily News* says the accident occurred as Marotz trimmed a tree at his daughter's residence.

Cameraman Suffering From Ebola Arrives In Omaha

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — An American video journalist who contracted Ebola while working in Liberia stepped off a jet Monday under his own power on his way to a Nebraska hospital where he will be treated for the disease in a specialized containment unit.

At the bottom of the jet's steps, Ashoka Mukpo was loaded onto a stretcher for the ambulance ride to the Nebraska Medical Center.

Mukpo, 33, was working as a freelance cameraman for NBC News when he became ill last week. He is the fifth American with Ebola to return to the U.S. for treatment during the latest outbreak, which the World Health Organization estimates has killed more than 3,400 people.

Mukpo's parents said they tried to talk him out of going to Liberia last month, but he told them he wanted to report on the severity of the epidemic.

"I told him I thought he was crazy," said his father, Dr. Mitchell Levy.

"And I begged him from a mother's perspective. I said please don't go," Diana Mukpo said. "But there was nothing to do. He was determined."

Before returning to Liberia last month, Mukpo had lived there for two years while working as a researcher for the Sustainable Development Institute, a nonprofit focused on the concerns of workers in

mining camps outside Monrovia. He only returned home to Providence, Rhode Island, in May.

It's not clear how Mukpo was infected, but Levy said it may have happened when he helped clean a vehicle someone died in.

On Monday, his symptoms of fever and nausea still appeared mild, Levy said. During his treatment, his parents will have to rely on a video chat system in his hospital room to communicate with him.

Meanwhile in Texas, a Liberian man with Ebola who started showing symptoms while visiting the U.S. remained in critical condition at a Dallas hospital.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said he would create a state task force to ensure Texas develops a rapid-response plan if an outbreak develops in the state.

Perry also called on federal officials to implement screening procedures at all U.S. points of entry. He said screeners should take travelers' temperature and conduct other assessments to determine their overall health.

Doctors at the Nebraska isolation unit — the largest of four in the U.S. — will evaluate Mukpo before determining how to treat him. They said they will apply the lessons learned while treating American aid worker Rick Sacra, who was allowed to return home to Massachusetts after three weeks, on Sept. 25.

Sacra received an experimental drug called TKM-Ebola, as well as two blood transfusions from another American aid

worker who recovered from Ebola at an Atlanta hospital. The transfusions are believed to help a patient fight off the virus because the survivor's blood carries antibodies for the disease.

In Dallas, the Liberian man was listed in critical condition. Thomas Eric Duncan has been hospitalized at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital since Sept. 28. He is receiving an experimental medication called brincidofovir.

Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Duncan's health had "taken a turn for the worse," but he declined to elaborate.

Officials are monitoring the health of nearly 50 people who had varying degrees of contact with Duncan.

Dallas City Council member Jennifer Staubach Gates, who represents the neighborhood where Duncan fell ill, said some fearful volunteers are refusing to enter the area, which is forcing nonprofit organizations to recruit additional volunteers.

She told reporters Monday that residents of the neighborhood have been turned away from their workplaces and retailers. She said they are being directed to legal-aid representatives for assistance.

The virus that causes Ebola is not airborne and can only be spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids — blood, sweat, vomit, feces, urine, saliva or semen — of an infected person who is showing symptoms.

Little Opposition Seen So Far To Nebraska Minimum Wage Rise

BY JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A proposal to increase Nebraska's minimum wage to \$9 an hour by 2016 has encountered little organized opposition this fall, but business groups remain wary of its effect on profits.

Voters will decide on the increase on Nov. 4. Besides affecting wages, political experts said the measure will likely help Democrats in other races by boosting voter turnout.

Omaha state Sen. Jeremy Nordquist said he thinks it's time to increase the minimum wage from its current \$7.25 because Nebraskans who earn that much are struggling.

"If you put in a 40-hour work week, you should be able to go home with a paycheck that lets you afford the basics," said Nordquist, who is a Democrat and one of the leaders of the minimum wage campaign.

But if the wage does pass, it is certain to increase costs for businesses. Creighton University economist Ernie Goss said the only options businesses will have is to increase their prices, reduce their labor costs by cutting hours or jobs or accept a smaller profit.

Goss said there will definitely be an impact on business, but it's hard to predict how big the impact will be beforehand.

Goss said the most likely outcome will be that many small businesses will



reduce their employees' hours, but it will vary across the state.

"People want to ignore the laws of supply and demand when they propose increasing the cost," Goss said.

The Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, its Omaha counterpart and other major business groups in the state have decided not to mount an organized campaign against the minimum wage proposal.

Barry Kennedy, executive director of the Nebraska Chamber, said his group isn't actively fighting the measure, but his members would prefer that Nebraska's minimum wage remain equal to the federal one.

Kennedy said being forced to pay higher wages can put businesses at a competitive disadvantage, especially if they are located near another state.

"We really believe there are better ways of helping these people than the minimum wage," Kennedy said.

Still, supporters of the measure be-

lieve it is a good idea because it's unlikely Congress will increase the federal minimum wage given the political deadlock in Washington D.C.

Nordquist said several business owners have told him they can handle a gradual wage increase like the one proposed by passing along the costs to customers. The proposal would boost wages to \$8 in January 2015 and then \$9 in January 2016.

Proposals to increase the minimum wage are generally popular with voters. New Jersey approved an \$8.25 hourly minimum wage last year, and in 2006 voters approved minimum wage increases in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Ohio.

This fall, five states will vote on minimum wage measures, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Besides Nebraska, the others are Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois and South Dakota but the Illinois measure is only an advisory vote.

The popularity of minimum wage measures also helps boost turnout at midterm elections. Democrats are likely to benefit because some of the measures main supporters — labor unions and left-leaning groups — generally support Democratic candidates.

Dan Marvin, executive director of the Nebraska Democratic Party, has said he expects the measure to help any candidate who supports the increase but that's most likely to be Democrats.

Pierre Begins Redistricting Work

PIERRE (AP) — A new committee has begun meetings to redraw the boundaries for elementary schools in Pierre.

Roughly 20 teachers, administrators, school board members and parents throughout the city's four elementary schools met for the first time Monday to begin the redistricting process. Two of the schools, McKinley and Washington, are set to close in the spring. The area will transition to three elementary schools next fall, including a new building that's currently being built.

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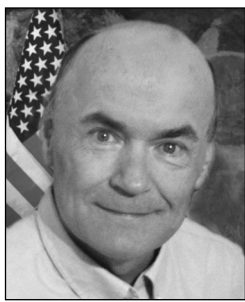
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Fair Wages

I worked to get the minimum wage increase on the ballot.
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Health Care

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