

A look at what's happening in the area



SURVEY SAYS

What do you think of the Republican-led efforts to get rid of Obama's health care plan?

36 PERCENT

Against it because it is a political stunt

52 PERCENT

Support it because it could lead to a better plan

5 PERCENT

I have another opinion

7 PERCENT

Not sure

There were 525 responses.
* * *

A new poll can be found at www.norfolkdailynews.com



Water releases

OMAHA — The Corps' Missouri River Basin Water Management Division, which operates the Missouri River main stem reservoir system, announced Friday that it has evacuated all but about 200,000 acre feet of flood-water from the system.

Jody Farhat, chief of the Water Management Division, said the current forecast shows system storage reaching the desired level of 56.8 million acre feet by March 1.

Runoff in 2010 totaled 38.8 million-acre feet, the third highest in 113 years of record. Gavins Point releases averaged 25,200 cfs in December compared to the long-term December average of 19,200 cfs.

Releases from Gavins Point will be increased from 17,000 cfs to 19,000 cfs in early January. Releases are forecasted to average 18,500 cfs during January, and 20,000 cfs for February.

New beef cuts

WEST POINT — How to obtain new value-added cuts from the beef chuck roll will be demonstrated at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, at the Nielsen Community Center here. Included will be step-by-step instructions on how to fabricate the chuck roll into beef ready for the grill. Participants will be able to sample each of the cuts that will be grilled.

The chuck roll is usually ground into hamburger or cut into roasts but is packed with steaks, roasts and boneless ribs. Meeting sponsors include University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Nebraska Beef Council, and the feeders associations in Cuming and Burt counties. For more information, contact the Cuming County extension office at 372-6006.

Dine-out

NORFOLK — There will be a food night at Valentino's on Wednesday, Jan. 12, for Sacred Heart School's Home and School Association. A percentage of sales from 5 to 9 p.m. will go to the association.

Benefit carnival

NORFOLK — A carnival featuring games and prizes will be hosted from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, at Christ Lutheran School in Norfolk. The fun events will include face painting, a cake walk and human bowling.

Proceeds will support Jennifer and Ivan Rasch, missionaries in Jos, Nigeria.



PHOTOS BY DENNIS MEYER/DAILY NEWS

ANDY RICCHIO, 3, makes a sign during the January Signing Storytime at the Norfolk Public Library in the photo above. The class, taught by Megan McWilliams of Norfolk, is planned weekly through the month of January and is for children up to the age of 4.

In the top right photo, Caper Jordan, 2, makes the sign of "pig" during storytime.

In the bottom right photo, daycare provider Tracy Anderson helps Lexie Langenberg, 1, as Ava McDonald, 3, looks on during storytime.



Signing makes communication easy

By **GRACE PETERSEN**
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Communication isn't always easy for youngsters.

That's where sign language steps in.

Norfolkan Megan McWilliams started signing with her first child when she was about 9 months old.

"She obviously wanted or needed something and I couldn't figure out what she wanted or needed," she said. "I read in some parenting magazines that signing could help to fill in those communication gaps."

She started studying signs off of the Internet, and then found Signing Time, which offers DVDs, CDs, workbooks and flash cards.

"They have an order, a structure to their program and so then that just exploded the communication between us," she said.

When she had her second daughter, she knew she wanted to teach her sign language from day one. Now she's almost 2 years old and knows at least 110 signs.

"It's pretty cool to go, 'What is the word she is trying to say right now?'" she said. "Now she can sign with it and I can instantly know what it meant, instead of having to wait to figure it out what that verbalization meant at that point in her life."

Sign language can be used for more than just being able to communicate before actually talking. It can help toddlers sound words out and more clearly explain what they're saying.

"If (children) continue into the manual alphabet, it's going to open up worlds into their reading and spelling ability," McWilliams said. "Just think about being a first-grader and having a way to (spell) on your hand. You're touching, you're feeling that word. It's another way the brain looks at that word."

Sign language has become so ingrained in McWilliams' life that she is now a certified instructor for the Signing Times Academy. Now she wants to get Norfolk interested in sign language.

During the month of January, McWilliams will be presenting a signing storytime at the Norfolk Public Library every Wednesday from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. for children up to 4 years old.

Children will learn American Sign Language (ASL) vocabulary through stories, songs and activities. The opening week, McWilliams focused on animals. She plans to follow that up with colors and more helpful signs like milk, more, mom, dad and feelings.

"It's really hard to express your feelings without screaming when you're little," she said. "So to have signs to express that feeling is really wonderful."



DENNIS MEYER/DAILY NEWS

MEGAN McWILLIAMS signs to start the January Signing Storytime at the Norfolk Public Library. McWilliams, of Norfolk, is a certified instructor for the Signing Times Academy. McWilliams will teach animal and color signs, as well as helpful signs such as mom, dad and feelings.

Woman with area ties is given pharmacist honor

Dr. Mary Euler, associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy, is one of only 10 pharmacists in the nation being honored as 2011 American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Fellows.



Euler

Euler, daughter of Emily McCarville of Norfolk, is the first APhA Fellow on the UC pharmacy faculty.

She will be officially recognized at the APhA annual meeting in Seattle, Wash., in March.

Euler joined the faculty at the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy after having served 21 years as a faculty member and Associate Dean at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Pharmacy.

She has been active with the APhA since 1989, especially in the area of developing student leaders.

Euler served for 12 years as an advisor for the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacy (APhA-ASP).

In 1997, Euler was honored by the APhA-ASP with its Outstanding Advisor Award.

She is a recipient of APhA's Gloria Niemeyer Francke Leadership Mentor Award and the Missouri Pharmacists Making a Difference Award.

According to Dr. Michelle Easton, School of Pharmacy dean, Euler has been a major player in faculty development.

She's also been active in forming partnerships with other entities to provide immunization, medication therapy management and other advanced pharmacy service training for practicing pharmacists.

Learn about exotic animals at seminar

The AgCeptional Women committee at Northeast Community College will sponsor a free seminar soon for those interested in learning more about raising exotic animals.

Joe Hedricks of Hedrick's Exotic Animal Farm in Hutchinson, Kan., (Hedricks Promotions Inc.), will speak on Thursday, Jan. 20, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Lifelong Learning Center on the campus in Norfolk. He will speak about the raising and care of exotic animals.

Hedricks Promotions operates a bed and breakfast on the farm near Hutchinson and makes its exotic animals including giraffes, zebu, yaks, llama,

mas, alpacas, nilgas, jacob four horns sheep and more available for tours during a bed-and-breakfast stay and for special events.

Corinne Morris, associate dean of agriculture, health and science at Northeast, encourages the public to attend this free seminar.

She said it is specially designed for those interested in raising exotic animals, learning more about the animals they already have, or those who want to know more about exotic animals.

For registration information, visit www.northeast.edu and hit the calendar tab. Walk-ins are also welcome.

PUBLIC RECORD

POLICE DIVISION
Bookings (Arrests made or citations issued by the Norfolk Police Division)

Tuesday: Melanie Waltmann, 29, 1101 Norfolk Ave., possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Criminal reports
A window was damaged and property was stolen from a vehicle at 123 Jefferson Ave.

Items were stolen from a vehicle at 215 Monroe Ave.
A dealer license plate was stolen from 100 E. Omaha Ave.

Police calls
Between 6 a.m. Monday and 6 a.m. Tuesday, police responded to 172 calls.

FIRE DIVISION
Fire and Rescue unit calls

Monday, 9:01 a.m., 13th Street, rescue call, transported to Faith Regional Health Services.

Monday, 9:56 a.m., First Street, rescue call, transported to Faith Regional.

Monday, 10:07 a.m., Market Lane, rescue call, transported to Faith Regional.

Monday, 1:56 p.m., Sixth Street, rescue call, transported to Faith Regional.

Monday, 5:35 p.m., Park Avenue, rescue call, transported to Faith Regional.

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