

# Noon News



**Today**  
High: 49 Low: 40  
Light showers



**Tomorrow**  
High: 46 Low: 40  
Mostly cloudy

Thursday, October 8, 2009

More faculty and staff news:  
[thepoint.healthcare.uiowa.edu](http://thepoint.healthcare.uiowa.edu)

## Flu keeps City High students at home

Around 400 students were not at City High School in Iowa City yesterday, most of them home sick with the flu, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reports. Around 350 students were absent on Tuesday. Reported symptoms included body aches, headache, and fever. City High Principal Mark Hanson said he thinks homecoming events last week may have been a contributing factor in spreading the illness.

## State faces \$415 million budget shortfall

State officials must make deep cuts in state spending over the next nine months, the *Des Moines Register* reports. The three-panel Revenue Estimating Conference yesterday projected that state revenues will run nearly \$415 million lower than predicted in March. Iowa Gov. Chet Culver said he will consider all options, including an 8.4 percent across-the-board cut, if not more, to the state budget.

## Iowa scores high in Commonwealth Fund report

Iowa and Hawaii tied for second nationally—behind Vermont—on cost, quality, and other measures of health care, according to a scorecard report released today by the Commonwealth Fund. Iowa ranked in the top quarter of all states in every category except avoidable hospital use and costs.

## Senate health bill priced at \$829 billion

The Congressional Budget Office said yesterday that the latest version of the Senate Finance Committee health care proposal would expand coverage to 94 percent of all eligible Americans at a 10-year cost of \$829 billion and cut federal deficits by \$81 billion over a decade, the Associated Press (AP) reports. Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee hope to vote on the measure next week.

## Jobless claims hit 9-month low

The number of U.S. workers filing new claims for unemployment insurance fell to a nine-month low last week, Reuters reports. The Labor Department said claims for jobless benefits dropped 33,000 to a seasonally adjusted 521,000 for the week that ended Oct. 3—the lowest level since early January.

## Woman found under 8 feet of trash

Jacksonville, Fla., police found the body of a 71-year-old woman after wading through a home filled with garbage piled eight feet high, the AP reports. Officers were checking on Carina E. Decampo late Tuesday after worried family members called authorities to say they hadn't heard from her in weeks.

## Taliban suicide attack kills 17

A suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle near the Indian Embassy in the Afghanistan capital of Kabul today, killing 17 people and wounding 76, the AP reports. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, the deadliest in Kabul since Sept. 17, when a suicide bomber killed 16 people.

## Report: 1 in 4 people practice Islam

The global Muslim population stands at 1.57 billion, meaning that nearly 1 in 4 people in the world practice Islam, according to a report released yesterday by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. The three-year project noted that Muslims live throughout the world, not strictly in Arab nations.

## Study: Text messaging helps smokers quit

A review of four studies conducted in New Zealand, Britain, and Norway found that smoking cessation programs that used text-messaging advice doubled the chances that smokers would kick the habit for up to a year. The findings were published by the Cochrane Collaboration, an international research group.

## At the end of the day, 'whatever' is what it is, anyway

The term "whatever" was found to be the "most annoying in conversation" by 47 percent of American adults surveyed in a Marist College poll released yesterday. "You know" peeved a quarter of respondents. Other annoying terms included "anyway," "it is what it is," and "at the end of the day."

## Browns send Edwards to New York

The Cleveland Browns traded frustrated wide receiver Braylon Edwards to the New York Jets yesterday, giving the surprising 3-1 Jets a deep-threat playmaker for rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez.

## Today in history

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**On this day in 1871, the Great Chicago Fire erupted. The blaze destroyed four square miles of the city, killing more than 250 people and leaving some 90,000 homeless.**

**MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON BACK**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- An Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting for patients, families, visitors, and hospital staff is at 7:30 tonight, Conference Room G, Elevator F, Level 7.
- Tune in to an interview about pediatric heart disease with Diane Atkins, MD, airing at 7:30 and 9:50 a.m. tomorrow on the AM-800 KXIC “University of Iowa Health Care Today” program.
- Sign up by Friday for a spot at the Rehab Therapies Department’s Annual Staff Arts and Crafts Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16, in the Pappajohn Pavilion Lobby (Elevator I, Level 1). There are still openings for staff participants; vendors must sell only homemade items. Contact Diane Denny at 356-1104, or Sue Tietz or Barb Young, both at 356-1459.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- To all health care providers: Thank you for your efforts to improve communication by using the whiteboards located in inpatient rooms. Doing this helps our patients understand their care and better prepare for going home—one of their most important goals! Do you need more whiteboard markers? E-mail Laura Mason at [laura-mason@uiowa.edu](mailto:laura-mason@uiowa.edu) or call 356-4973.
- Help UI Children’s Hospital win a game room makeover from Xbox 360® and Children’s Miracle Network! Visit [xbox.childrensmiracletnetwork.org](http://xbox.childrensmiracletnetwork.org) and vote for UI Children’s Hospital. Also, every time a person votes (up to 10 times per day), he or she is entered to win one of five Xbox 360® Elite consoles. Runs through Oct. 16. Questions? E-mail [cmn@uiowa.edu](mailto:cmn@uiowa.edu).
- Go pink in October! Wild Rose Gifts is observing October as Breast Cancer Awareness month. Come by from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends for pink t-shirts, buttons, mugs, jewelry, and more.
- Report safety and quality of care concerns to a supervisor, manager, or the Compliance Helpline at 384-8190. If you feel your concern is not adequately addressed within the organization, report concerns to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The hospital does not discipline employees who report a concern to JCAHO.
- The 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. North English vanpool has an opening. Contact Cindy at 335-1885.
- Interested in starting an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. North Liberty vanpool? Contact Sara Knepp at [sara-knepp@uiowa.edu](mailto:sara-knepp@uiowa.edu).
- Interested in an 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Marion vanpool? Travel only to Old Capitol area. Contact Kimberly Patzner at [kimberly-patzner@uiowa.edu](mailto:kimberly-patzner@uiowa.edu) or call 384-2504.
- Interested in starting a 7 a.m. to 4:30 or 5 p.m. Solon vanpool? Contact Brian at [brian-cornwall@hawkeyesports.com](mailto:brian-cornwall@hawkeyesports.com).
- The 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. West Liberty vanpool has two openings. Contact Bruce Browning at 335-1226.
- The 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Keota vanpool has an opening. Contact Necole at 353-4343.
- The 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Davenport vanpool has openings. Contact Pam Arp at 356-8842.
- The 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Williamsburg vanpool has an opening. Contact Racheal at [racheal-niensteadt@uiowa.edu](mailto:racheal-niensteadt@uiowa.edu) or call 384-7447.
- The 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anamosa-Mt. Vernon vanpool has an opening. Contact Linda at [linda-thomsen@uiowa.edu](mailto:linda-thomsen@uiowa.edu) or call 335-8581.

## RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS INVITED

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**More studies listed at:** [www.uihealthcare.com/depts/clinicaltrials/volunteer.html](http://www.uihealthcare.com/depts/clinicaltrials/volunteer.html).

- Healthy volunteers ages 50 and older who have no gastrointestinal symptoms are invited to participate in a research study examining the ability of the body to absorb fructan, a carbohydrate present in a typical diet. For more information, call 384-9756 or e-mail [jessica-paulson@uiowa.edu](mailto:jessica-paulson@uiowa.edu).
- A UI study on lung disease seeks current and former smokers ages 45 to 80 who are non-Hispanic white or African-American. The study aims to look for genetic differences and learn why some smokers develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and others do not. People with a respiratory disorder other than COPD are not eligible to participate. Participation involves one or two visits. Call 353-8862 or e-mail [kimberly-sprenger@uiowa.edu](mailto:kimberly-sprenger@uiowa.edu).
- Children ages 4 to 6 who do and do not stutter are invited to participate in a research study consisting of one visit per year over five-years. Each visit will consist of several one- to two-hour sessions scheduled over five or six days. Compensation. Children must speak English as their native language. Contact Patricia Zebrowski at 335-8735 or Amanda Berns at 335-9766.
- Healthy female volunteers ages 25 to 40 who have given birth in the last five years are invited to participate in a research project involving ultrasound of the uterus. Participants should have regular menstrual cycles (25 to 35 days apart), have no history of infertility, and be off all methods of birth control for three months. The study involves a single 30-minute appointment. Compensation. Contact Michelle Maifeld at 353-8491 or e-mail [jill-goodman@uiowa.edu](mailto:jill-goodman@uiowa.edu).

Contact *Noon News* at [noonnews@healthcare.uiowa.edu](mailto:noonnews@healthcare.uiowa.edu). Persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations in order to participate in programs at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics may discuss their needs with Concierge Services in advance at 356-1900.