

Noon News



Today
High: 50 Low: 35
Partly cloudy



Tomorrow
High: 49 Low: 32
Partly cloudy

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

More faculty and staff news:
thepoint.healthcare.uiowa.edu

Flu vaccinations still recommended

UI Hospitals and Clinics will suspend the mandatory aspect of its influenza immunization program following yesterday's decision by labor arbitrators to exempt members of two unions from the program. Flu shots will not be mandatory for any individual working or serving within UI Hospitals and Clinics. Infectious disease specialists still recommend immunization for health care workers against all strains of influenza to prevent the spread of the illness and its potential complications, and to protect our patients.

Wal-Mart shrinks Iowa City store plans

A new Wal-Mart Supercenter planned for Iowa City will be smaller than originally outlined, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reports. A request to trim 25,000 square feet off the size of a new Wal-Mart at 1001 Highway 1 West and create two additional commercial lots is on the Nov. 6 agenda for the Iowa City Planning and Zoning Commission. The request will reduce the size of the store to 150,000 square feet.

Report: Alcohol is Iowa's most abused substance

Substance abuse treatment data released yesterday by the Iowa Department of Public Health showed alcohol accounts for 61 percent of all clients, followed by marijuana (23 percent) and meth (8 percent). Medicine abuse is Iowa's fastest growing form of substance abuse—state narcotics enforcement officials opened 243 percent more pharmaceutical cases last year, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reports.

Elections could alter political landscape

This is Election Day, and political analysts are looking at gubernatorial and congressional races across the U.S. to determine the national political landscape, the Associated Press (AP) reports. Some analysts say defeats in Virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial races would be setbacks for Democrats.

Philly transit strike halts buses, subways

Transit workers in Philadelphia went on strike this morning after contract talks stalled, the AP reports. The strike halted bus, subway, and trolley operations in the city and stranded thousands of commuters who rely on public transportation. Union members have been without a contract since March.

Sniper attorneys to appeal execution

Attorneys for convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad plan to appeal today to the U.S. Supreme Court to stop his execution next week at a Virginia prison. Muhammad was the mastermind of a three-week killing spree in 2002 that left 10 people dead in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Tropical storm slams Vietnam

Tropical Storm Mirinae sparked severe flooding in parts of central Vietnam today, forcing families onto rooftops, the AP reports. At least 11 people have been killed and two others are reported missing. The storm also killed 20 people when it hit the Philippines with typhoon strength over the weekend.

Karzai promises reform

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai today welcomed his new term—achieved after his main opponent withdrew from a runoff election—by reaching out to opponents and promising to banish the corruption that has undermined his administration, the AP reports. Karzai was declared president yesterday.

Man gets prison for aiming laser at planes

Dana Christian Welch of Orange, Calif., was sentenced yesterday to 2-1/2 years in prison for aiming a handheld laser at two airliners as they approached an airport in May 2008. The laser beam struck one pilot in the eye, causing "flash blindness," and interfered with the pilots' ability to land the other plane.

Phillies stave off Series elimination

The Philadelphia Phillies stayed alive in the World Series by defeating the New York Yankees 8-6 last night. The Yankees lead the series 3-2. Game 6 is set for tomorrow night at Yankee Stadium.

Today in history

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On this day in 1986, a Lebanese magazine broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran, a revelation that escalated into the Iran-Contra affair.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON BACK

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Check out the Gallery Art Sale today through Thursday in the Pappajohn Pavilion Lobby (Elevator I, Level 1). Hours: today and tomorrow 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. A portion of the proceeds from this event will benefit UI Children's Hospital through Children's Miracle Network.
- "Women and Cancer" is the focus of the next "Health For Your Lifetime" program from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. tonight in the East Room (Level F, Elevator 8). Carol Scott-Conner, MD, PhD, from Surgery and Michael Goodheart, MD, and Kimberly Leslie, MD, both from Obstetrics and Gynecology, will discuss breast, cervical, endometrial, and ovarian cancers. The event is free but registration is encouraged. Call 335-8886 or toll free 877-MEDIOWA or visit www.uihealthcare.com/register.
- 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 Diabetic Eye Month with Tim Johnson, MD, airing at 7:30 and 9:50 a.m. tomorrow on the AM-800 KXIC "University of Iowa Health Care Today" program.
- Don't miss the UI Faculty and Staff Health Fair from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow at the UI Field House. Stop by for free screenings, health and wellness information, health plans and benefit information, a blood drive by the DeGowin Blood Center, door prize registration, a participant bag, giveaways, and more. The event is sponsored by UI Health Care, UI Wellness, UI Staff Council, UI Division of Recreational Services, and the UI Community Credit Union.
- Hardin Library is offering the open workshop "How Can We Help You With Scholarly Communications?" from 3 to 4 p.m. tomorrow. Contact kelly-thormodson@uiowa.edu for more information.
- The "Lactation Chat" breastfeeding support group held Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. has been cancelled until further notice.
- *Animal Vegetable Miracle*, the One Community, One Book selection, is available at 20 percent off at Wild Rose Books or may be checked out of the Patients Library. Read it and join Wild Rose Books for a book discussion and refreshments from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday in the East Room (Elevator F, Level 8). Come anytime. Call 384-8908 with questions.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- UI Health Care Employees, it's time to enroll in your health plan, and here's a great reason to choose UI Health Care providers and services this year: Beginning in January 2010, co-pays for office visits to any UI Health Care provider will be only \$5, while co-pays to non-UI providers will now be \$20 per office visit. For more reasons to choose UI Health Care, visit www.uihealthcare.com/enroll.
- UIHC Child Care Center, located in Westlawn, currently has full- and part-time openings for children in the Pre-K classroom and in the 2-1/2 to 3-1/3-year-old room. Please call 335-9666 or e-mail uihc@brighthorizons.com for more information.
- Personal mail should be deposited in U.S. mailboxes located throughout the main level of UI Hospitals and Clinics.
- Interested in starting a 7 a.m. to 4:30 or 5 p.m. Solon vanpool? Contact Brian at 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 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 or call 335-8581.
- The 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. south Cedar Rapids vanpool has an opening. Contact Dan at 353-5770.
- The 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. northeast Cedar Rapids vanpool has an opening. Contact Sally at 353-7843.
- A 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cedar Rapids vanpool has an opening. Contact Don Johnson at 213-1390 or donald-johnson@uiowa.edu.

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS INVITED

More studies listed at www.uihealthcare.com/depts/clinicaltrials/volunteer.html.

- Healthy volunteers age 18 to 50 who do not smoke, are not pregnant, and have no history of heart problems are invited to participate in a study on the effects of albuterol on blood vessel function. Will require two hours; compensation. For more information, call 356-0578.

Contact *Noon News* at 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.