

State News

Your AARP

Finding solutions for long-term care and keeping score on issues

■ Nebraska

At the movies A health fair offering flu shots, booths with information on health and wellness, and presentations on the wise use of medicines and upcoming changes in Medicare is scheduled for Nov. 8 in Omaha. The event, called "Medicare at the Movies," will take place at the Cinema Center Theatre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is not required. For details, call 1-866-389-5651 toll free.

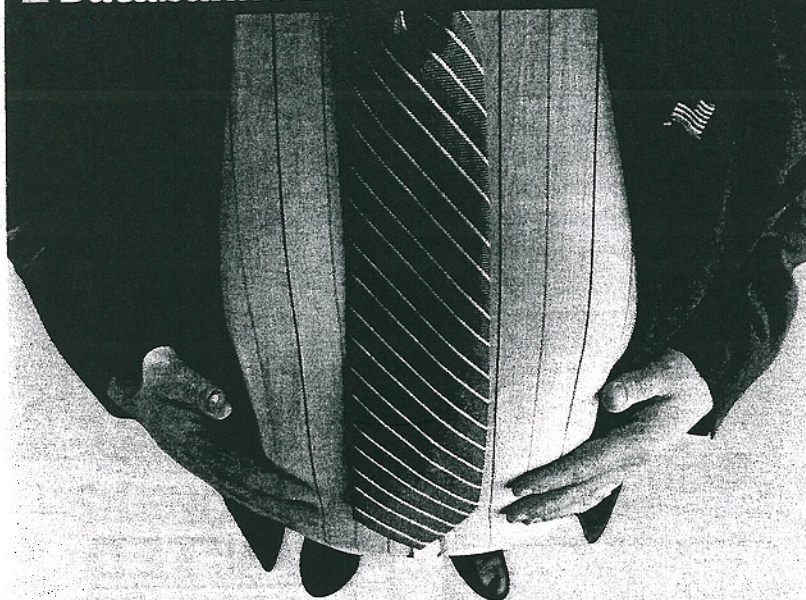
■ Meanwhile, the Nebraska Medicare Prescription Drug Coalition is holding enrollment events across the state this fall, with individual counseling available to help Nebraskans choose a drug plan or decide whether to switch plans. Go to www.answers4families.org to find an event near you. Or call the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program at 1-800-234-7119 for help with enrollment.

■ Oklahoma

Report card on aging The Oklahoma Aging Partnership has released its third annual legislative report showing how lawmakers voted on key issues. As a member organization, AARP Oklahoma compiled the report and hand-delivered copies to legislators.

■ The 2007 report lauds lawmakers for requiring assisted living facilities to monitor residents' care; requiring home health agencies to conduct criminal background checks on employees; amending the Protective Services for Vulnerable Adults Act to make financial neglect an offense; and providing greater protections for victims of identity theft and telephone scams. On the other hand, the report notes the legislature failed to provide a tax break for Oklahomans who care for elderly relatives. The report is

■ DatabankUSA



Living Large U.S. adult obesity rankings, from highest rate to lowest, based on combined data from 2004 to 2006.

1 Mississippi	18 Nebraska	35 Wyoming
2 West Virginia	19 North Dakota	36 California
3 Alabama	*20 Iowa and South Dakota	37 Nevada
4 Louisiana	22 Wisconsin	*38 New Hampshire and New York
*5 South Carolina and Tennessee	*23 Pennsylvania and Virginia	*40 D.C. and New Jersey
7 Kentucky	*25 Illinois and Maryland	42 New Mexico
8 Arkansas	27 Kansas	43 Arizona
*9 Indiana, Michigan and Oklahoma	28 Minnesota	44 Utah
*12 Missouri and Texas	29 Delaware	45 Montana
14 Georgia	30 Oregon	46 Rhode Island
15 Ohio	*31 Idaho and Washington	*47 Connecticut and Hawaii
16 Alaska	33 Maine	49 Vermont
17 North Carolina	34 Florida	50 Massachusetts
		51 Colorado

SOURCES: TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH; U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION * = TIE

■ South Dakota

Think ahead The state has launched a partnership between its Medicaid program and private insurers, allowing South Dakotans to buy long-term care policies that shelter part of their nest egg. ■ Policies approved by the Long-Term Care Partnership Program include an asset protection provision. If, for example, the policy pays out \$200,000 for care and then is exhausted, Medicaid coverage will kick in, with special rules allowing the beneficiary to keep up to \$200,000 in assets. Ordinarily, Medicaid does not allow more than \$2,000 in assets. ■ AARP South Dakota supported the legislation that created the program and encourages members to consider buying such a policy, while cautioning that long-term care insurance may not be right for everyone. For more information, go to www.aarp.org/sd or call 1-800-537-1602.

■ Wyoming

For winter warmth Wyoming residents than eligible for help with pay heating bills this winter. ■ Lawmakers increased the limits for the state's energy assistance program by about 1 this year. Under the new lines, individuals with income up to \$1,829 and with up to \$2,453 qualify for paying assistance and may be able to get help with weatherizing their homes. ■ For help with state energy assistance, call Casper at 307-472-4221 or Cheyenne at 307-246-4221. Applications, also available at senior center utility companies, may be submitted until Feb. 28, 2008.

■ North Dakota

No need to freeze \$1.3 million in low-income assistance money left over last year, the state has agreed to help North Dakotans with winter heating bills, an effort North Dakota is urging lawmakers to apply. Homeowners and renters with monthly payments of up to \$1,558 for individual households or up to \$2,038 for couples may be eligible for help with heating bills and home weatherizing. ■ The program doesn't cover state Human Services expenses; it urges residents to buy energy-efficient suppliers that offer discounts. ■ Accept monthly payments for assistance are available through county social services or by calling phone at 1-800-755-2771 or www.nd.gov/dhs, and up to May 31, 2008.

—Reports by David Runke

For other state news

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