

Nebraska: Lincoln — Gov. Heineman said that he will veto a gas-tax increase of about 1.8 cents per gallon approved by legislators to boost the state's road-building budget. The Legislature approved the spending in its \$6.8 billion, two-year state budget. Heineman said now is not the time for a gas-tax raise, because prices are at an all-time high.

Nevada: Las Vegas — State and federal fire officials warned that two years of extreme drought, plus unusually hot and dry weather this year may compound and extend the wildfire season in southern Nevada. Bob Trodahl, fire chief with the National Park Service at Lake Mead, said that fires will be coming year-round.

New Hampshire: Concord — The state House agreed to raise the school dropout age to 18. The measure passed the Senate and Gov. Lynch has said he would sign it. Students currently can leave school at age 16, simply by meeting with a principal and getting signed approval from a parent or guardian.

New Jersey: Trenton — Calls to the state's counterterrorism tip line more than doubled in the week after authorities said they foiled an alleged plot to kill soldiers at Fort Dix. The tip line received 65 calls May 8-14, compared with 30 from May 1-7. "The ones that have merit get referred to the FBI," Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Richard Canas said.

New Mexico: Deming — A group of Seabees will build a new barrier along the New Mexico-Mexico border. The Navy's construction force is expected to take six weeks to build the barrier on either side of the Columbus port of entry, said an agent with the U.S. Border Patrol.

New York: New York — Police will use 10 Segway transporters this summer in Central Park, Coney Island and other parks and beaches around the city. Commissioner Raymond Kelly said the devices will give officers "a lot more range and a lot more mobility" on pathways and boardwalks. More than two dozen officers have been trained to ride the battery-powered scooters.

Oklahoma: Tulsa — A police officer was justified in shooting and wounding a man who reportedly was pointing a gun at another man's head, a Tulsa County prosecutor said. The wounded man, Floyd Henderson, 74, is charged with two counts of feloniously pointing a weapon and one count of attempted kidnapping connected with the incident.

Oregon: Salem — Sponsors of a bill that would require fluoridated water in cities with at least 10,000 people did not have enough votes to win House passage. Fluoride opponents — a coalition of environmentalists — say it doesn't make sense to add a chemical to clean water.

Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh — Councilwoman Twanda Carlisle, who is charged with diverting more than \$40,000 in taxpayer money, lost her bid for re-election in the Democratic primary. Unofficial results show that the Rev. Ricky Burgess received 50% of the vote, compared with 16% for Carlisle. Six other challengers split the other votes. No candidates ran for the Republican nomination. Carlisle has denied any wrongdoing.

Rhode Island: Narragansett — The U.S. Coast Guard was searching for a fisherman who fell overboard in the waters about 95 miles south of Montauk, N.Y. Crewmembers on the 76-foot Barbara Ann fishing vessel said they threw the man a life ring, but it landed out of his reach. The Coast Guard said Victor Blanco, 37, of Providence was not wearing a life jacket.

South Carolina: Florence — Lake City police Sgt. Debra Yvonne Williams, 41, took \$40 from a suspect in exchange for dropping a domestic violence charge, the sheriff said. Williams was arrested after a three-month investigation and charged with misconduct in office, authorities said. She was suspended March 13 while the State Law Enforcement Division investigated.

South Dakota: Edgemont — A Canadian company has started drilling 155 test holes looking for uranium in the southwest end of the state. State officials

Utah: Salt Lake City — The city has set up receptacles at two police stations as part of a new pharmaceutical drug disposal program. Pharmaceutical compounds are resistant to conventional wastewater treatment and can contaminate water supplies when flushed down the toilet, officials said.

Vermont: Montpelier — Gov. Douglas hasn't decided whether to sign a bill that would allow patients suffering from diseases that cause nausea, chronic pain, wasting and seizures to use marijuana to ease symptoms. Lawmakers agreed this month to expand current law that allows patients with HIV/AIDS, cancer and multiple sclerosis to use the drug. Douglas can sign it, veto it or allow it to become law without his signature.

Virginia: Virginia Beach — The federal government has reached a settlement with nearly 2,100 property owners in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. Homeowners there sued, claiming that jet noise from nearby Navy installations devalued their property. The deal, made after several months of negotiations, is worth up to \$34.4 million and is expected to bring a median payment of \$5,000 to those who accepted the settlement.

Washington: Olympia — A citizen panel approved pay raises for Gov. Gregoire, state lawmakers, judges and other elected officials. The governor's pay will rise to \$167,000 in September of 2008, up from about \$151,000. Other state-wide elected officials will get raises ranging from nearly 10% to more than 12% during the next two years.

West Virginia: Charleston — The National Council on Problem Gambling may reroute hotline callers away from the state's treatment program if the state Lottery pursues a plan to take over the service. The Lottery says it would improve efficiency to pay providers directly. Critics say it's a conflict of interest for an agency that promotes gambling.

Wisconsin: Wausau — Black bears have wandered into three communities in recent days and have drawn crowds of gawkers. It's not uncommon for hunorv