



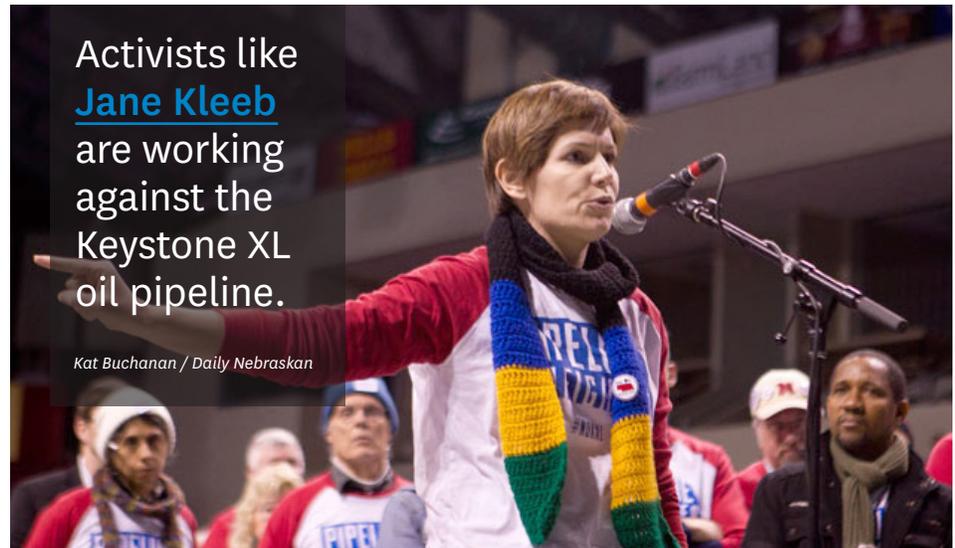
## Top Stories

### Nebraska Keystone Opponents

As developers of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline await a decision from the Obama Administration, landowners have a new plan to fight the project. Nowhere has the idea been more controversial than Nebraska, where farmers and ranchers fear it could damage land and water. Among those opposed to the pipeline is the Harrington family, who are backing a plan to build a barn here powered by solar panels and a residential-sized wind-turbine that will serve as a meeting center for pipeline opponents. Some landowners are refusing to sign easements, and other opponents along the route are working on resolutions against the pipeline. (*Marketplace*, 7.23.13) Find out **more** about **opposition** in **Nebraska** and the **Keystone XL Pipeline**

### Bilingual Pesticide Labels Urged

Advocates for farmworkers are pushing the government to do more to protect them from exposure to pesticides. A new report from the group Farmworker Justice points out that under the current rules, farmworkers don't get nearly as much information about hazardous chemicals they may encounter. Pesticides carry warning labels that spell out health risks and how workers should protect themselves—but



Kat Buchanan / Daily Nebraskan

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those labels are usually in English, and the vast majority of agricultural workers are Hispanic. (*The California Report*, 7.19.13) Read **more** on this story, the **report** from Farmworker Justice, **worker protection** guidelines and pesticide exposure.

### Changing Definition of Cancer

A group of experts advising the nation's premier cancer research institution has recommended changing the definition of cancer and eliminating the word from some common diagnoses as part of sweeping changes in the nation's approach to cancer detection and treatment. The recommendations, from a working group of the National Cancer Institute, say that some premalignant conditions should be renamed to exclude the word carcinoma so that patients are less frightened and less likely to seek what may be unneeded and potentially harmful treatments. The group also suggested that many lesions detected during cancer screenings should not be called cancer at all. (*The New York Times*, 7.29.13) Read **more** about this story, **cancer**, and its **prevention and control**.

## Funding Agency News

### Rate of HPV Vaccination Declines

Top officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics announced that HPV vaccination rates among young girls declined between 2011 and 2012. The human papillomavirus is the most common sexually transmitted infection and can cause serious health problems, including genital warts and certain cancers. An estimated 79 million Americans are currently infected with HPV, and about 14 million people become newly infected each year. According to the CDC, coverage for the three-dose vaccine series—which is also strongly recommended for boys—remains near 33 percent, far short of the goal of 80 percent. (*CDC*, 7.25.13) Read the **press release**, and **more** on **HPV**.

### E-Records Transform Health Care

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that the use of electronic health records are transforming the way health care is delivered—from



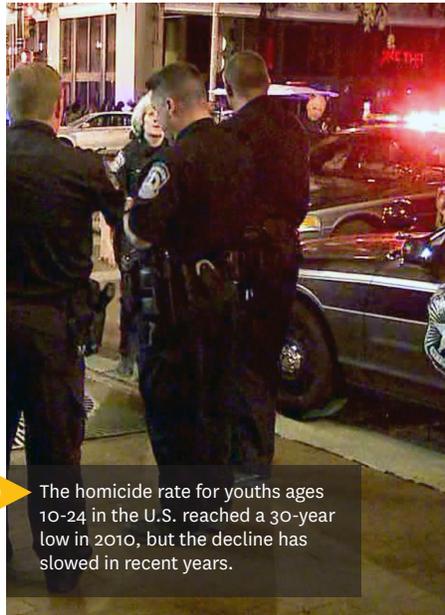
### Who We Are

Hollywood, Health & Society is a program of the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center, and is a free resource for entertainment writers working on health and climate change storylines. We have been funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The California Endowment, the Grantham Foundation, Climate-Works, Skoll Global Threats Fund and an anonymous donor, among others.

helping to fill prescriptions to ensuring the smooth transfer of care summaries when patients switch physicians. Through a program begun in 2011, eligible health care providers that have adopted the use of electronic records can receive incentive payments. Among the CMS findings:

- More than 190 million electronic prescriptions have been sent, reducing the chances of medication errors.
- Health care providers sent 4.6 million patients an electronic copy of their health information.
- More than 13 million reminders about appointments, required tests, or check-ups were sent to patients.

A CMS spokeswoman said electronic health records “result in better overall health outcomes” (CMS, 7.17.13). Read the [press release](#)



The homicide rate for youths ages 10-24 in the U.S. reached a 30-year low in 2010, but the decline has slowed in recent years.

## U.S. Youth Homicide Rate Drops

The homicide rate for youths aged 10- to 24-years old in the United States reached a 30-year low in 2010, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), but the decline has slowed in recent years, particularly for groups at high risk for violence. Data from the years 1981 to 2010 showed that the murder rates varied substantially, with a sharp rise from 1985 to 1993 that was followed by a decline that has slowed since 1999. Even with the slower downward trend, the youth homicide rate in 2010 was 7.5 per 100,000, the lowest in the period examined. The CDC said that the findings indicate the need for increased use of youth violence prevention strategies, especially for engage high-risk youth (CDC, 7.11.13). Read the [press release](#)

## → Real People, Real Lives



Otto Greule Jr. / Getty Images

**JON LESTER** is a starting pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. During the 2006 season he was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma, a rare form of blood cancer. A year after his diagnosis, Lester was back on the mound, winning Game 4 of the World Series to clinch the championship. He says the disease, in part, was a blessing, bringing

him closer to his parents. After recovering, he was sent to the minor leagues on a rehabilitation assignment, where he met his future wife. He and his wife, Farrah, are now involved in NVRQT, or “Never Quit,” a campaign that supports kids in the fight against cancer and helps raise funds for research. (CNN, 7.17.13) Read [more](#) about Jon’s story, [blood cancer](#) and [anaplastic large cell lymphoma](#).

**EVEN WITH STAGE IV LUNG CANCER**, there are moments when 32-year-old Chip Kennett feels blessed. Over the course of two

weeks in April, those moments were many, as 325 friends and family members contributed \$56,800 over the Internet to help defray his out-of-pocket medical costs. Kennett’s wife, Sheila, says she was overwhelmed by the generosity. The Kennett family of Alexandria, VA., is one of thousands turning to the Internet to raise money for medical bills. The Kennetts acknowledge they are lucky to have good health insurance—even so, they have paid thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses. (The Washington Post, 7.1.13). Read more about the [Kennetts](#), [lung cancer](#) and how the [Affordable Care Act](#) could help.

**DIRECTOR LISA BIAGIOTTI** spent almost three years, traveled 13,000 miles and conducted more than 400 interviews to create *deepsouth*, a documentary about an HIV/AIDS epidemic that continues to grow in the American south. Though the region is home to 37% of the U.S. population, more than half of all new HIV diagnoses occur there. Family values in the region and the perceived shame often lead residents to keep quiet. Moreover, poverty, lack of education, a broken social infrastructure and poor access to health care have worsened the situation. Biagiotti has been touring with the film and showing it at various festivals in the U.S. (Public Radio International, 7.10.13). Read [more](#) about the documentary, [HIV/AIDS](#), or watch a [trailer](#) of the film.



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