

Animal rabies cases up in 2011

The number of animal rabies cases rose to 40 in 2011, up from 32 cases the year before, according to the annual rabies surveillance report recently released by the Department of Health.

“We can’t emphasize enough how important it is for people to vaccinate their pets for rabies,” said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the department. “Skunks are the main reservoir of rabies in South Dakota and the risk of skunks exposing pets is always a possibility.”

Rabies risk is statewide, with 63 counties submitting 711 animals for testing in 2011 and positives coming from 23 counties. The 28 wild animal positives included 20 skunks, six bats and two raccoons; the domestic animals included four cats, four cattle, three dogs and one horse. South Dakota’s last human rabies case was reported in 1970.

Skunks and other infected wild animals can pass rabies to pets or livestock, which can then expose humans. A non-vaccinated pet bitten by a rabid animal will likely have to be put to sleep, noted Dr. Russ Daly, state public health veterinarian.

“Rabies vaccinations for pets are widely available and not expensive,” Daly said. “Getting your pet vaccinated not only protects people, it may save the life of the pet as well.”

Rabies vaccination should also be considered for other animals with human contact, said Dr. Dustin Oedekoven, state veterinarian.

“Most people are aware of the need to vaccinate pets for rabies but don’t always think about vaccinating horses and other valuable livestock. We recommend vaccinating any livestock that has frequent contact with people, such as horses that are kept close to home or interact with kids,” Oedekoven said.

In addition to vaccinating pets, reduce the risk of rabies with these precautions:

- Do not handle, adopt, or attempt to feed wild animals. Teach children to avoid animals they don’t know and to tell you immediately if they are bitten or scratched by any animal.
- Avoid any animal, wild or

domestic, that behaves strangely and immediately report it to your local veterinarian, animal control, conservation, or law enforcement office.

- Do not handle dead, sick or injured animals. If you must, use heavy gloves, sticks or other tools to avoid direct contact. Farmers and ranchers should wear gloves and protective eyewear when treating sick animals to prevent exposure to saliva.
- Close outdoor trash containers tightly to avoid attracting skunks and raccoons.
- Clear wood or junk piles away from homes to deter wild animals from moving in.
- Do not handle bats. If bats are found in a room with small children or sleeping people, call the Department of Health, your physician or local animal control officer.

If you suspect rabies in a wild animal, pet or livestock – or if your animal has been bitten by a possibly rabid animal – contact your veterinarian immediately. If you have a potential exposure to rabies, wash the affected area with soap and water right away and call your doctor or the Department of Health. Your veterinarian will instruct you as to handling of animals involved.

If the animal is dead, save the carcass for laboratory testing, being careful not to damage the head. If the animal is alive, contact your local animal control authorities so it can be captured for examination or observation. If you are bitten or scratched by a rabid animal, rabies vaccination can prevent human disease.

For more information about human rabies control, call the Department of Health at 1-800-592-1861 or see the web site at <http://doh.sd.gov/DiseaseFacts/Rabies.aspx>.

For information on animal rabies control call the Animal Industry Board at (605) 773-3321 or see the web at <http://aib.sd.gov/diseasecontrol.shtm>.

Information about rabies control and prevention is also available in this SDSU Extension publication, http://pubstorage.sdstate.edu/AgBio_Publications/articles/exex11026.pdf.

LIBRARY

their own fundraiser together, Kozak said.

“We had a tremendous response from the community, both from the individuals and from Main Street,” he said.

Johnson and Kozak said that when the fundraising package was put together, they wanted to provide individual donors with an incentive to donate.

“This will be in the form of a bronze plaque that will be somewhere in the entryway or somewhere in the library,” Kozak said. “We’re in the process now of verifying names of individuals, because the last thing you want to do is pour a bronze plaque and have someone’s name other than how they would like to see it.”

The proposed expansion project will include adding more than 11,000 square feet of space between a proposed first floor and basement addition north of the current building.

An additional 780 square feet of space will be added on the south end.

The city council awarded the bid for the project to Welfl Construction of Yankton earlier this year.

Last year the city council had appropriated \$1.4 million in second penny money, a Community Development Block Grant that brought in approximately \$192,500 and Edith Seigrist, a longtime University of South Dakota library science professor had donated \$800,000 toward the project before she passed away in July 2011.

“I really thank you and the Library Board, and also the Library Foundation for all the work that’s gone into (the project),” said Mayor Jack Powell. “I would also like to thank our council and the

Hutterites topic of Union Co. Historical program

The Union County Historical Society will host its annual gala on Saturday, April 21 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the Elk Point United Parish Church located at 601 South Pearl Street in Elk Point.. A social hour will begin the evening at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers. A typical Hutterite meal will be served family-style at 6 p.m. Tickets (\$15 per person) for the dinner may be purchased from Kathy Noll (605.565.3001) or Sherri McKee (712.551.6200). The program, funded in part by the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities www.sdhumanities.org, will begin at 7 p.m. There is no charge to attend the program which is open to the public.

Joanita Kant will present “Hutterites of South Dakota.” The 40-minute photo and lecture program is based on her contacts and friendships with Hutterites since 1976 in eastern South Dakota. From colony clothing patterns, to children rearing practices, to food customs, to their history since their founding in 1528 in Europe, she examines their worldview. She has been a scholar for their Speaker’s Bureau since the early 1990s.

Kant first worked with Sunset Colony near Britton, during the production of a book, The Hutterite Community Cookbook, published by Good Books in 1990. In 2004, she conducted research at over 40 colonies in South Dakota, eventually resulting in the book, Hutterites of South Dakota: The Schmiedeleut with over 525 colored photos published in 2006 by Llumina Press. An honors graduate of The University of South Dakota with a B. S. degree, Kant earned an M. S. in geography from South Dakota State University in 2008 while working as a graduate teaching assistant. In 2009, the South Dakota Humanities Council awarded a media grant to East Central Literacy Council for the publication of Kant’s 2008 master’s paper, now available from John Miller’s Prairie View Press as the book, Gentle People: A Case Study of Rockport Colony Hutterites. It is currently used as a textbook at the university level.

Rockport Colony near Alexandria is iconic and emblematic among the estimated 45,000 colony Hutterites in North America because of events associating this place with World War I. Their story is expected to have wide appeal among all denominations of Hutterites, as well as Mennonites, Germans from Russia, university students, and the general public.

Kant currently resides in Brookings where she is a fulltime graduate student and research assistant at SDSU, studying for a Ph. D. in Biological Sciences with emphasis in plant science. Her current research interests are heavy metals levels in traditionally edible plants on Pine Ridge Reservation and

USD fraternity to raise funds for charities through ‘Week of Service’

The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Pi Chapter at the University of South Dakota, is hosting “PIKE Week of Service,” April 10-17, to raise money and awareness for local and national charities.

Cycle for Life, PIKES in the Park and Change for Change are three programs that will help the PIKE fraternity raise money for leukemia and lymphoma research and local domestic violence shelters.

Cycle for Life is a national philanthropy event hosted by Pi Kappa Alpha in memory of Taylor Trudeau, a brother from the University of New Hampshire, who died after a year-long battle with lymphoma. Cycle for Life

event participants will be able to take half hour spinning classes for \$10 at the USD Wellness Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning April 15, while the sixth annual PIKES in the Park is scheduled for 5 p.m., on Thursday, April 12 at Prentis Park in Vermillion. PIKES in the Park includes food, games and live music for a \$5 cover charge. The fraternity’s newest fundraiser, Change for Change, is a weeklong event that will raise awareness and funds for local domestic violence shelters as Pi Kappa Alpha and local sorority members will live in boxes outside the Muenster University Center in efforts to collect clothing, toiletries and monetary donations for shelters in Sioux City, Iowa, and Sioux Falls, S.D., and Vermillion.

Students along with members of the community are encouraged to participate in all of these events. For more information, please visit the “PIKE Week of Service” on Facebook: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/PIKE-Week-of-Service/237598772993937.

Daugaard announces \$2.2M for Landfill

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved a nearly \$2.2 million grant and loan package for Vermillion to expand its regional landfill.

The \$2,161,210 funding package includes a \$522,210 grant from the Solid Waste Management Program and a \$1,639,000 low-interest loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.

The project involves constructing a new six-acre, solid-waste disposal cell that will provide landfill capacity to accept solid waste through 2020. The expansion project also includes constructing a leachate collection system and a one-million-gallon leachate storage pond.

The estimated total cost of the project is nearly \$2.4 million. The loan terms are 3.25 percent interest for 30 years.

The Solid Waste Management Program provides grants and loans for solid waste disposal, recycling, and waste tire projects. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program provides low-interest loans for wastewater, storm sewer projects, and nonpoint source projects which include certain activities at landfills.

The board met Thursday and Friday in Pierre.

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night before. Planning the floor plan took about two months.”

After seeing how well the festival went, Patel said she plans to be involved next year, too.

“My favorite part of the whole thing was, we tried to get the kids involved and we played musical chairs,” she said. “That was the newest thing, and everybody felt like they liked it. So, we’ll keep that going for next year, and however many years people want to do it, trying to keep the audience involved.”

Need Help Planting a Crop?

Call Farm Rescue, the nonprofit organization that plants and harvests crops for family farmers who have experienced a major injury, illness or natural disaster. Up to 1,000 acres planted free of charge. Go to **farmrescue.org** or call 701-252-2017 for an application.

APPLY NOW; PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY APRIL 15.



Attention Taxpayers: Notice of Property Tax Increase of \$15,000 Resolution for Opt Out

The Governing Board of Vermillion Township do state that the above said board is unable to operate under the tax limitation measure currently in statute. We therefore OPT OUT of such tax limitation in the amount of \$15,000 starting with the calander year 2012 taxes payable in the calander year 2013. This opt out will be for 5 years, which will be through taxes payable in the calander year 2018. This action has been taken by the board and approved by at least two-thirds vote of the board.

This decision may be referred to a vote of the people upon a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters in the district and filed with the governing body within twenty days of the first publication of this decision.

Unless this action is referred to a vote of the people and reversed by such a vote, this resolution authorizes the county auditor to spread the excess levy to raise tax dollars in the above stated amount.

Duane Holoch, Board Chairman
Tom Merrigan, Board Member
Michael Hauck, Board Member
James Orr, Treasurer
Michelle Hauck, Clerk
Dated: March 19, 2012



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St. Mary Elementary, Salem, SD (K-8th) seeking Part-time Principal/Part-time Technology Instructor (full-time educator)

To begin no later than July 1, 2012. Must be a practicing/faithful Catholic with minimum of 5 years teaching experience and a Master's Degree in School Administration. Salary/benefits commensurate with education/experience. Send resume/cover letter by April 13, 2012 to:

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