

State health department urges vaccination as flu activity increases

People who've delayed getting vaccinated for flu may want to proceed now that flu virus activity is widespread in South Dakota, says a state health official.

"We do encourage people to get vaccinated early in the season but it's still not too late to get immunized," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the Department of Health. "The flu virus is likely to be with us for several weeks, if not months, so getting vaccinated

now can provide important protection from the flu."

Kightlinger noted that this year's flu activity is occurring earlier and at higher levels than recent years, other than the 2009 pandemic. To date, South Dakota has reported 469 laboratory-confirmed cases of flu and 135 flu-related hospitalizations. There have also been nine deaths reported, all over the age of 75.

Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone, but

some are at higher risk for complications – pregnant women, people older than 50 and people with chronic medical conditions. Health care workers and household contacts of high-risk populations such as those with young infants should also be vaccinated. Children are another high risk group, accounting for significant cases and hospitalizations each year and helping spread flu in the community. The department offers free flu vaccine for kids

from six months to 18 years.

In addition to vaccination, to prevent the spread of the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand gel ;
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze;
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth; and,
- Stay home if you're sick.

Learn more at <http://flu.sd.gov>.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 12/28/12-1/3/13
Charles E. Wright, 611 Applewood Drive, Yankton; Speeding other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Amanda Lynn Bergland, 303 Giles Pl., Albert Lea, MN; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$54.00 plus costs
Joseph Bronik, 116 Court Street, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Cody Jay Garvey, 716 6th Ave., Brookings; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Cody Lang-Kipp, 3200 Halley Dr. #2, Yankton; Speeding other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs
Scott Hansen, 47512 276th St., Harrisburg; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Danielle Lee Stevenson, 813 W. Main Street, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Barbara Irene Evans, 925 Katherine St., Vermillion; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed

Wakinyan L. Zephier, 1013 Kim Lane, Vermillion; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$204.00 plus costs
Morgan Mary Freidel, 707 E. Cedar, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Darla D. Hansen, 31458 468th Ave., Burbank; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Cases Disposed 1/4-10/13
Stacy S. Huber, 415 Pinehurst Ave., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Ethan L. Cleaver, 1510 East Lewis Street, Vermillion; Speeding other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Tamzin Arika Gonzales, 46913 Burbank Road, Burbank; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Jacob Gene Brooks, 4608 E. Alpine Cir., Sioux Falls; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Bruce Wade DeGroot, 16814 Crystal Springs Road, Chesterfield, MO; Speeding other

roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Elmer Isaias Hernandez-Lemus, 109 E. Luverne #216, Luverne, MN; No drivers license, dismissed; Speeding other roadways, dismissed
Brett Daniel Browne, 21 East Bloomingdale, Vermillion; Pet violations-animal at large dog/cat, \$104.00 plus costs
Brett Browne, 21 East Bloomingdale, Vermillion; Pet violations-animal at large dog/cat, \$104.00 plus costs
Danielle McKinley, 703 Annie St., Newcastle, NE; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs
Matthew John Glanzert, 914 8th St., Brookings; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Amanda Marie Louise Hazel, 57975 889 Rd., Newcastle, NE; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$204.00 plus costs
Trace Anthony Jensen, 610 Coyote Street, Vermillion; Municipal speeding, \$39.00 plus

costs
Sharon Armela Orth, 113 Ironwood, Horace, ND; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Jeanie Pickett, 833 E. Duke Street #38, Vermillion; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs
Jennifer James, 117 W. Clark St., Vermillion; Speed limits in areas of highway construction, \$154.00 plus costs
Linda Ramold, 115 S. Spruce, Ewing, NE; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$54.00 plus costs
Brittany Marie Vondrak, 349 Lakeshore Drive #8, N. Sioux City, SD; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Scott Jerome Hiltunen, 409 Regal Drive, Yankton; speeding other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Brittany Bygness, 1011 Lincoln St. #2, Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

GUNS

From Page 1

Republicans in Congress over raising the debt ceiling, Johnson had strong words for the GOP.

"The Republican priorities are messed up," he said. "The Republicans insist that wealthy

people be protected from taxation, and yet they want Social Security and Medicare to be cut. That's the wrong priorities as far as I'm concerned.

"I'm encouraging the president not to negotiate on the debt ceiling," Johnson added.

He also stated that he has no major issues with Obama nominees Jack Lew and Chuck

Hagel, who have been nominated as Treasury Secretary and Secretary of Defense, respectively.

"Unless a person is obviously, egregiously wrong for the job, I think the president deserves his own picks as the Cabinet secretaries," Johnson said.

He is surprised about the opposition that has sprung up to Hagel's nomination, but doesn't

think that will ultimately be a deciding factor.

"I expect that Chuck Hagel will be confirmed," Johnson said.

Finally, Johnson stated that he hopes to see a five-year Farm Bill negotiated by March.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

MIDEAST

From Page 1

Alawite group.

"The Alawites are considered by Sunnis to be non-believers because they are the progressive religious sect over there," Abourezk said. "For example, they don't require the women to wear veils, where Sunnis mostly do, and the dictator of Syria provides freedom of religion to everybody."

Abourezk said that "entire Alawite villages" are currently being slaughtered by the Syrian rebels.

"Pay no attention to what the American press says about this," he said. "They're following the government line. The government line is to support the rebels, and they're not going to run anything on television or in major newspapers that will help Assad. They want Assad out, so the press goes along with it."

The former senator's wife comes from Syria and is herself an Alawite. Her family

still lives in an Alawite area, he said.

"She talks to them every day by telephone to make sure they're OK," he said. "They give her the news every day, and Alawite villages, one after the other, captured by the rebels, and they slaughter the people there. Then they take photos of it and they say, 'The government did this.'"

"The propaganda machine by the rebels is almost perfect, and they're being aided by money from Saudi Arabia and Qatar," he said.

Abourezk added that if there were no involvement from Israel, "we wouldn't be involved as much as we are."

The main reason for this is lobbyists, he said.

"The Israeli government has a lobby in Washington that threatens and terrifies every politician in Washington, except for one or two," Abourezk said. "They didn't terrify me, although they came after me many, many times."

"The American government is virtually under the control of the Israelis when it comes to foreign policy in the Middle East. I

know it's harsh to say, but it's true, and I've seen it first-hand. It deals with money. ... If they don't agree with your position on Israel, you don't get any money. You'll have money given to your opposition," he said.

As a result, Abourezk said the Israeli government gets a pass on issues such as the occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and the 2010 attack on flotillas that left nine people dead, including one American.

"Our government never said a word about it," Abourezk said.

The only solution is to pass a law regarding the financing of election campaigns, he said.

"If you have that, you don't have the Israeli lobby threatening people with cutting off their campaign money," he said.

Toward the end of the event, Abourezk said the U.S. would not support an occupation anywhere else in the world.

"In this case, we send Israel money," he said.

The event was moderated by Dr. Benno Wymar.

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

the middle school, and additional camera surveillance at all four schools.

Suggested improvements to the high school include replacing and/or repairing existing door locks and repairing some door latches so that the doors close easily.

Froke also noted that Austin and Jolley schools – two of the district's older buildings – need a comprehensive intercom, telephone and clock system.

"I contacted a security firm to come in and take a look at our schools, and provide some quotes for you to look at at a later point," he told board members. "There are definitely some things that need to be addressed."

At the middle school, for example, there are some doors that open to the inside off a commons area.

"In the case of a fire, you want the doors opening out so that kids and staff can move out of that area fast rather than pulling back on the doors to get out," Froke said. "During normal operations, there are some things that you just don't notice, but when you start taking a look at your facilities in terms of security, there are some things that stick out."

How quickly every item that's been identified will be implemented will depend on the total price tag.

"When we get the quotes back and I share them with you, maybe we won't be able to do all of these in one or two years," he said. "We'll just have to see what the costs will be."

Froke noted that much time has passed since any of the exterior door locks on any of the school buildings have been changed.

"I've had in my mind that it would good to have an electronic key system ... but that gets into an expense as well," he said. "Most all of these

items are capital outlay area items."

"Like the rest of the nation, Vermillion certainly shares with the loss of those at Sandy Hook," said school board member Shannon Fairholm.

"One thing that a lot of people aren't aware is that Sandy Hook was actually ranked as one of the most secure schools in the nation. If someone wants to get in, no matter how good of a school and no matter how good the security, they're going to get in."

A lone gunman broke into Sandy Hook Elementary School the morning of Dec. 14, 2012, and killed 26 people – 20 young children and six adults – before taking his own life.

"I am grateful for the team that has come up with these things for us to take a look at and there is always room for improvement," Fairholm said.

Modern intercom and telephone systems have been

put in place in recent years at the high school and middle school.

"The communication (system) is very weak at Austin and Jolley," Froke said. "That's definitely a security issue. On a day-to-day basis, even, when we're working with children, you don't want a teacher leaving a classroom to come to the office to seek assistance from the principal. It's best if they can pick up a phone and call the office."

At the top of the superintendent's list of suggested security upgrades is the addition of interior locks on classroom doors.

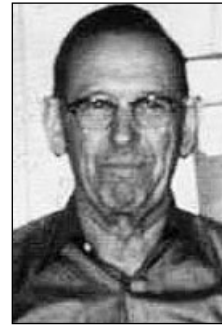
"Right now, we have door locks that lock on the outside, and they don't lock from the inside," he said. "In the case of an emergency, when we have a lock-down drill, the teacher has to fumble with the keys, get outside the door, and lock the door from the outside."

OBITUARIES

Arthur E. Brown

Arthur E. Brown was born in Vermillion, on Sept. 6, 1911, where he grew up and graduated from high school.

He originally served in the National Guard and was transferred to active duty due to WWII. He served in the US Army in Darwin, AT and he received the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon with Bronze Star, and Bronze Star for East Indies Campaign.



ARTHUR BROWN

Brown; siblings, David and Veronica Brown, Helen Hansen, Vera Huetson, Lucille Wheelock, and Frances Weyer; wives, Francis Margaret (RN) and Berdenia Brown; sons, George and Tom Brown; and grandson, Van Groves.

Art is survived by his daughters, Arlyce (Bill) Lewis, Margaret (Joe) Pia, Marie Brown, and stepdaughter, Lana (Tom) Cockbill; grandchildren, Vicki Groves, Cully (Guy) Maxwell, Janine (Bryan) Large, Joseph (Amanda) Pia, Brian (Rhondi) Pia, Christina (Donny) Spinella, David Souza, Veronica (Christian) Pehl, Nicole (Ralph) Towell, and Tammy (Steve) Walker; and 18 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the American Legion, 6 S Walker St., Vermillion, SD 57069-3309; American Legion, 939 W. Main St., Merced, CA 95343; or to the OLM School Foundation, 1400 E. 27th St., Merced, CA 95340.

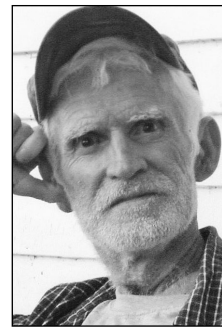
A Catholic Mass will be held Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 at Our Lady of Mercy, Canal & 21st St., Merced, CA at 10 a.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Stratford Evans Merced Funeral Home.

Earl Brown Jr.

Earl Dean Brown Jr., 69, of Vermillion, SD, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Autumn Winds Care Center in Yankton, SD, after an eight-year battle with COPD and emphysema.

Earl was born Aug. 18, 1943, in Vermillion to Earl Sr. and Lillian (Delaney) Brown. He graduated from Vermillion High School and



EARL BROWN JR.

and working with animals was his passion. He enjoyed teaching and showing his two grandsons all about the farm and spent most of his free time with his children and grandchildren.

He will always be remembered for his kind and loving spirit and willingness to help others.

He is survived by his wife Linda of Vermillion, his children: Kimberly Ann (David) Nissen of Seward, NE, Mark Brown of Vermillion, Paula Marie (Rocky) Abbott of Davenport, IA, and Tod Micheal (Julia) Brown of San Antonio, TX. Grandsons Landen and Chase Nissen, and three sisters: Kitty Moore and Joyce (Chuck) Rydstrom, all of Vermillion, and Marylou (Don) Bouck of Burbank, SD and an Aunt Alice Brown of Vermillion and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Tom.

Private family services were held and burial of ashes will be at a later date.

hansenfuneralhome.com.

Margaret Nelson

Margaret M. Nelson, 93, of Overland Park, KS, passed away Jan. 15, 2013. Visitation will be held Wednesday, Jan. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 24 at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Vermillion. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Margaret was born Jan. 8, 1920, in Mitchell to Ross and Martina (Ahern) Fowler. She graduated from Vermillion High School. Margaret worked for many years in the doctors' offices in Vermillion as an

assistant.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Nelson; two sisters; and an infant son, Tommy.

She is survived by two sons, Dick Nelson and wife, Ruby, and Jim Nelson and wife, Leslie; and daughter, Nancy Hecker. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to St. Agnes Catholic Church, Vermillion, SD. Condolences may be left at www.amosfamily.com (Amos Family Funeral Home and Crematory 913-631-5566).

"We have that in all of our buildings, and it would be better if we could have an interior lock on all of those classroom doors," Froke told the board. "I've contacted a contractor to go through and give us a quote on all of those, and I'll be bringing that to you to see what you think of that."

Safety issues have been a topic of discussion at recent

meetings the superintendent has had with the district's teachers. Such input has revealed some doors on buildings that needed only minor repairs to their latches, while some doors have been "sprung," Froke said, and need to be pushed hard before they will latch.

"We have to look at those as well," he said.

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Lynn Lawrensen, Videographer
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