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Vermillion's past ■ p. 2

American Legion Auxiliary promotes Halloween safety

Every year around Oct. 31, children's fantasies come true. They look forward to dressing-up as their favorite character and knocking on neighbor's doors to ask the age-old question "Trick or Treat?" Not too surprisingly, they usually get what they want – a bag full of sweets and goodies.

Parents and children can properly prepare for a safe night by taking time to review the following safety tips and suggestions: a responsible adult should always accompany children; costumes should be light in color to aid visibility, be fire resistant, and not pose a tripping hazard; use make-up instead of vision-blocking masks; always use sidewalks and obey traffic signals; always cross the street at corners – never cross the street between parked cars; never go into a house for any reason; never go with somebody without prior parental permission; only accept sealed and wrapped treats; always wait until an adult checks all treats at home before eating.

The American Legion's National Commission on Children and Youth is very concerned about the welfare of our nation's youth. The Vermillion American Legion Auxiliary Wallace Unit #1 wants you to keep trick-or-treat safety in mind during this Halloween season.

Welcome Table to meet Oct. 26

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Oct. 26 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota. The Oct. 26 meal will be sponsored and served by Coffee Shop Gallery.

Thanks to the USD's Alpha Phi Sorority for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

Sobriety checkpoints planned next month

The South Dakota Highway Patrol has sobriety checkpoints scheduled in November in the following counties: Bennett, Brown, Brule, Campbell, Codington, Davison, Day, Hughes, Jerauld, Lake, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Sanborn, Spink, Pennington, Roberts, and Union.

For sobriety checkpoint text message alerts, visit actcivilized.com.

Chills and thrills at haunted house

The Vermillion Drama Boosters and the VHS Thespians Club will present two evenings of chills and thrills in their annual haunted house, Friday, Oct. 23 and Saturday, Oct. 24, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The haunted house is located in lower Vermillion, the old house on the west end of Chestnut Street, past the grain elevator at the end of the corn field.

The cost is \$5 per person.

Researcher's work focuses on new method of breast cancer detection

By David Lias
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Self-exams, doctors' visits and regular mammography screenings remain the best options for early detection of breast cancer in women.

Kristi Egland, Ph.D., hopes to expand those options.

Egland, an associate scientist at Sanford Research/USD in Sioux Falls, is working to develop a reliable blood test that can detect breast cancer in its early stages. She also serves as assistant professor with the Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota.

Egland is an associate scientist at the Cancer Biology Research Center, Sanford Research/USD in Sioux Falls. She is also an assistant professor in the Department of OB/GYN at Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota. The goal of her research program is to develop a blood test for breast cancer detection by utilizing the immune system as a cancer biosensor.

"My research focuses on developing a sensitive blood test for breast cancer," she said. Currently, no such test involving blood to detect breast cancer exists.

Egland believes that focusing on the way the human body reacts when it detects cancer cells may hold the key to developing a reliable blood test.

"Instead of detecting cancer proteins in the blood, we are proposing to detect antibodies that our immune system makes against the cancer proteins," Egland said. "Our immune system surveys our bodies, and can tell the difference between normal cells and cancer. Those two types of cells are obviously different."



Kristi Egland, Ph.D.

The human immune system can distinguish those differences quite effectively. It makes antibodies against the proteins in breast cancer cells that aren't normally found in a healthy woman.

"We want to detect these antibodies instead of the (cancer) protein, because the immune system has a natural amplification process," Egland said. "The immune system can see a few cancer proteins and

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Egland: Pledge to 'Know Your Girls'

By David Lias
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Kristi Egland is working in conjunction with Yoplait to raise money for research and educate young women about breast cancer in the Save Your Girls campaign.

"Yoplait is now trying to educate a new generation of breast cancer activists. The target audience is referred to as "Generation Y. That would include 20-year-old women," Egland said. "That would include women who are finishing college, starting to

get their first job."

Women of this generation are more likely to get information from the internet, and access sites such as Facebook to interact with their girlfriends.

"Yoplait is starting a new online Facebook marketing campaign to educate young women about breast cancer, and the theme of this campaign is called 'Know Your Girls.' It's supposed to have a double meaning, with girls meaning your breasts and your girlfriends.

"The idea is that you take a

pledge, and the pledge is that you know what's normal for you," Egland said. "It's breast health awareness. It's not just doing a monthly exam and knowing what your body is like once a month. It's always knowing what the normal state of your body is."

Part of the pledge, she added, is for women to seek the advice of a doctor immediately if they believe they have detected a problem with their breasts.

"When I was done nursing, I

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Sanford Vermillion on front lines of early detection of breast cancer

By David Lias
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Since mid-May, digital mammography has become the norm at Sanford Vermillion Hospital. And in the few months that it has been offered in the community, it has greatly enhanced the ability of health care providers' efforts to detect breast cancer in its early stages.

"From a lay perspective, most of what we hear out there today is that there are very few advantages to con-

tinuing to use analog – that digital is quickly becoming the standard in the industry," said Tim Tracy, CEO at Sanford Vermillion. "I would say that in the very near future, analog is going to be very closed to being phased out."

Tracy, whose expertise lies in administration, not radiology, said even he can notice the many advantages of digital mammography.

"I can look at the images myself, and it's very, very easy to see the differences between digital and ana-

log," he said. "They talk about the margins of the tissue – with an analog image, those margins may have appeared fuzzy. You can clearly see the margin in a digital image."

Sanford Vermillion's digital mammography equipment offers radiologist the ability to take very specific, high resolution images. "There is also technology available which allows radiologists to use a computer to screen an image followed up by the read from the physician," Tracy said, "which I understand enhances the

accuracy across the board, because the computer may catch some things, and the physician is able to follow up on that. And of course, the physician catches things the computer never would because of the training he or she receives. But the image quality and the ability to hone in on a small piece of tissue are really two of the major advantages."

From a business perspective, Sanford Vermillion's new mammo-

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Charges filed in fatal accident

By David Lias
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Charges have been filed by Clay County State's Attorney Teddi Gertsma relating to a deadly accident that occurred east of Vermillion nearly a month ago.

According to a press release from Gertsma's office, Alyxandra Harter, Omaha, NE, is being charged with careless driving and driving on the wrong side of the road. Both charges are Class 2 misdemeanors that carry a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail, a \$500 fine, or both.

At approximately 11:35 p.m. Sept. 17, Harter, a junior at the University of South Dakota, was traveling westbound in the east-bound passing lane of Highway 50 when her vehicle struck a car head-on being driven by Elizabeth Lias, 21, of Sioux Falls.

Lias, a senior at USD who was lawfully traveling eastbound, was



Elizabeth Lias

pronounced dead at the scene.

Harter was taken to Sanford Vermillion Hospital and later flown to

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USD student is back from the H1N1 brink

By Jill Callison
Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Earlier this month, Kelsey Mullenix had three questions for her family.

What, wondered the 19-year-old, was she doing in a hospital? How much time had elapsed since her last clear memory when she visited an acute-care clinic?

And why on Earth was she relearning how to swallow applesauce? "My first memory of being awake was a throat doctor (who) came in and was teaching me how to swallow water and eat soft foods," Kelsey says.

"I was like, why am I doing this? I didn't know I'd been asleep for nine days. I didn't know I had a breathing tube."

Kelsey is one of 258 South Dakotans who were diagnosed with H1N1 in the week that ended Sept. 26.

At that point, 471 state residents had been diagnosed with the dis-

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