



Vermillion PLAIN TALK

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Highlights

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Welcome Table to meet Nov. 2

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Nov. 2 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota. The Nov. 2 meal will be sponsored and served by SAE.

Thanks to the Coffee Shop Gallery for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

Health care town hall to be held Nov. 5

Local health care providers George Fournier, MD, Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C.; Doug Neilsen, MD, Yankton Bone, Joint and Sports Medicine; and Michael Peterson, MD, Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center will be three of four panelists at a health care town hall meeting at 7 p.m. at the Avera Professional Office Pavilion and Education Center in Yankton. They will be joined by South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organization President and CEO Dave Hewett. The title of the meeting is "Health Care Reform: Not What the Doctor Ordered."

This forum is free and open to the public. Each panelist will share his thoughts on the current health care reform issues facing our country. Each panelist will speak for approximately 10-15 minutes and then the floor will be opened to questions from the audience.

Doug Ekeren, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital vice president of planning and development, will be the moderator. This town hall is not meant to be a political event, but is intended to increase awareness about health care reform issues.

Halloween event at Hy-Vee Oct. 30

The Vermillion Schools Halloween PTA Party will be held at Hy-Vee Friday night the 30th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This is for all students K-5.

They can go to Sanford Vermillion Care Center till 5:30 then head to Hy-Vee for the PTA Party! There will be a special kid's meal for them, Spooky Dogs, Scary Mac & Cheese and dirt dessert for \$2.

The events include pictures, Halloween cookie decorating, treats, scavenger hunt and live radio remote.

Plain Talk poll results

Poll results 10-22-09
Should the state raise taxes for road repairs?
Yes29 Votes
No35 Votes
Undecided 2 Votes
To participate in the Plain Talk Internet poll, log on to www.plaintalk.net.

Over 60,000 square feet of fun

Groundbreaking held for new USD wellness center

By David Lias
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Several individuals involved with the planning of USD's new wellness center quietly sunk shovels into a small mound of dirt Monday morning to symbolize the beginning of construction of the university's new 61,000 square foot wellness center.

The roar of powerful backhoes echoed in the background, making it apparent that the early stages of preparing the building site, located north of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts, for the construction process is well underway.

"This state of the art facility will transform the way our students, staff, faculty and community view fitness," said USD Athletics Director Joel Nielsen, who also served as co-chair of the Wellness Center Planning Committee. Construction is planned to continue year-round, with the building being ready for students in 2011.

The Wellness Center Planning Committee was formed two years ago by USD President James Abbott to determine the best way to offer student fitness on the campus.

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University of South Dakota athletic director Joel Nielsen explains the features of the new USD wellness center, shown in the artist's renditions to the right. The groundbreaking was held Monday shortly after the ceremony for the 61,000-square-foot facility that will cost \$11 million. It will open in 2011. (Photo by Randy Dockendorf/Yankton Media Inc.)

Some H1N1 vaccine will be available at upcoming clinic

By David Lias
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It appears that the the absentee rate in the Vermillion School District due to the H1N1 flu and other illnesses is abating, according to Superintendent Mark Froke.

"We saw our peak as far as absenteeism in the district due to illness," Froke told the Vermillion School Board Monday. "We had about 150 students absent in the district last Thursday, which represented about 12 percent of the total enrollment."

This week, the absentee rate has dropped. "We've turned the corner on illness this week in the school," he said. "Today, we had a total of 83 gone, representing 6.6 percent. Typically, we will have between 3 and 4 percent of the student body absent, on average. What's happening is sort of what's been projected to happen - it was supposed to peak in mid-October, and then go down for a time, and then increase again."

It also appears that some H1N1 flu vaccine will be available in Vermillion on Oct. 29, when an immunization clinic will be held at Vermillion High School from 2 to 7 p.m. for infants and children from Clay and Union counties. Seasonal flu vaccinations also will be offered.

At one time, it appeared that the H1N1 vaccine may not be administered because of a shortage of supply.

"At the end of last week,

we got into some discussions with the state, trying to get some H1N1 available," said Matt Lavin, school board member. "They weren't releasing any at the time. We've since been able to acquire about 800 doses."

Initially, the state health department was not going to allow H1N1 vaccine to be administered at the upcoming Vermillion clinic.

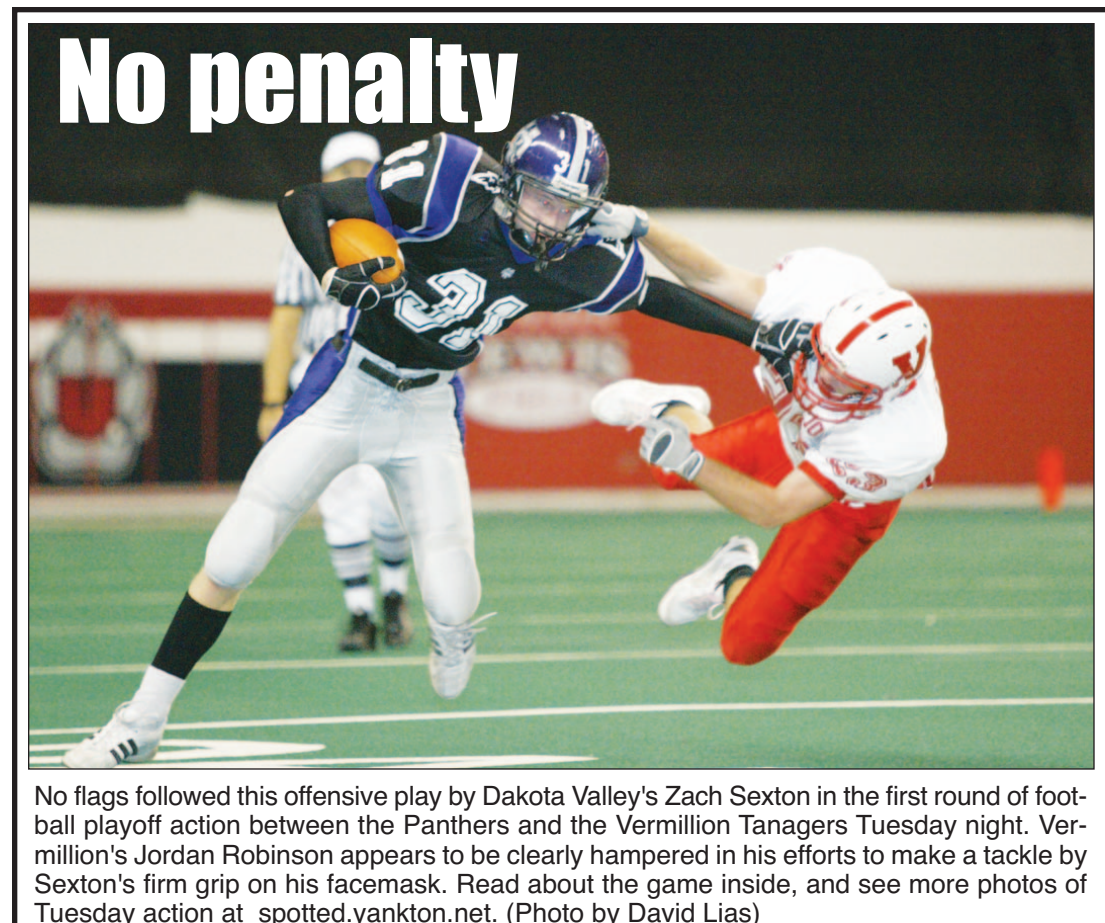
"As of Monday morning, they are going to allow us to do it, but it will be strictly limited to children between 6 months and 4 years of age," Lavin said. "We are one of three sites that are going to be doing that."

The immunization clinic will also provide seasonal flu vaccines to infants and children ages 6 months to 18 years old.

The immunization clinic is also intended to test the local point of dispensing (POD) plan.

Vermillion is one of 30 POD locations organized by the state to administer medications to a large population in the event of a large infectious disease outbreak or other public health emergency, including bioterrorism and pandemic influenza. The POD sites receive funding from the South Dakota Department of Health through federal grants.

The H1N1 vaccine will be offered through department community health offices, private clinics and other community clinics as it becomes available.



No flags followed this offensive play by Dakota Valley's Zach Sexton in the first round of football playoff action between the Panthers and the Vermillion Tanagers Tuesday night. Vermillion's Jordan Robinson appears to be clearly hampered in his efforts to make a tackle by Sexton's firm grip on his facemask. Read about the game inside, and see more photos of Tuesday action at spotted.yankton.net. (Photo by David Lias)

School board explores Web site options

By David Lias
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The Vermillion School District is exploring options that, if enacted, would enhance its Web site and make it easier for staff to post more information to students and patrons.

The Vermillion School Board listened to a unique presentation Monday night by Gary Targoff of Simplified Online Communication System (SOCS) of Lincoln, NE.

Targoff talked to the board from his office in Lincoln, through a speakerphone in the school's library. He demonstrated the various alternatives SOCS could provide the district on a large television monitor that displayed the content of a laptop screen that Targoff used in his presentation.

"SOCS is a Web hosting and Web site management tool that we provide to school districts throughout the United States," Targoff said. "We currently have 510 clients

located in 15 different states.

"What SOCS does essentially is it allows school districts to create dynamic and interactive Web sites without having to invest in the software and the servers and the hardware and the technical skills that go along with a traditional Web site," he said. "When I refer to SOCS being a hosted system, what I mean by that all of the stuff that typically falls in the lap of a staff member of the school - the server, the security, the support, the training - would be our responsibility. It leaves the school district with the responsibility of simply creating and managing information."

SOCS allows schools to create an interactive Web site that features articles that are created and managed by the school staff with skills "that are no more complicated than keyboarding skills," Targoff said. "That allows

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Joyous upset

Vermillion Tanager Ashley Ouellette, (7) smiles broadly as her teammates on the bench celebrate near the conclusion of Monday's match with Harrisburg in the Vermillion High School gymnasium. The Tanagers, once up 2-0, came from behind to win 25-22, 25-21, 20-25, 20-25, 18-16. See more photos of Monday's action at spotted.yankton.net. (Photo by David Lias)

Winter weather, holidays will curbside recycling schedules

The city of Vermillion has announced that starting Nov. 2, alley pickup for curbside recycling will be moved due to winter weather.

Vermillion citizens who are currently recycling by placing their bins in an alley are asked to place their recycling curbside until further notice. To avoid recycling bins being damaged by snow plows, the city requests recycling bins be placed next to sidewalks near driveways in a visible and accessible location free from ice and snow.

People whose curbside recycling collection

falls on a holiday should place their recycling out the Monday prior to the holiday. Recycling will be collected Nov. 9 for the Nov. 11 Veterans' Day; Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving, which is Nov. 26; and Dec. 21 for and Dec. 28 for New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

Please remember plastics #1 and #2, aluminum cans and tin cans can be put in the large green bin. Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office paper and junk mail can be placed in the small blue bin. Please place corrugated cardboard between your recycling bins.

Taking New Patients.
Chelsea M. Schuster, PA-C

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