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Tick tock, tick tock

TRIBUNE PUBLISHER
GOT LIFESAVING
MEDICAL HELP JUST IN
TIME AFTER TICK BITE
LAST SUMMER

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When it comes to health care treatment, certain things never should be put off from doing.

Hastings Tribune Publisher Darran Fowler certainly can attest to this.

Fowler, now 61, battled high fever, chills and sweats in unbroken sequence for eight days in August 2024 before being admitted to Mary Lanning Healthcare on Aug. 13 in guarded condition.

Though he'd taken a self-administered COVID-19 test, he had no idea how sick he truly was until he was examined in the emergency room and admitted to the hospital for the first time in his life.

"At that point (prior to admission), I thought, 'This is some sort of flu-type thing and I just have to tough it out and ride it through,'" Fowler said. "I would go to work feeling sort of OK in the morning and gradually begin to feel like crap in the afternoon."

Fowler said he often



Courtesy photo

Darran Fowler gives the thumbs-up Aug. 22, 2024, as he and his wife, Toni, leave Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings where he was treated for Rocky Mountain spotted fever. He was admitted to the hospital Aug. 13 with symptoms of high fever, confusion and extreme weakness.

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Protect yourself from dangers of tick bites

SPECIES' RANGES MAY
CHANGE OVER TIME DUE
TO CLIMATE,
ENVIRONMENTAL
FACTORS

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While not all ticks carry the same diseases, tick bites bring nothing good for human health.



Bever

Whether it's bacteria or viruses, ticks can leave their human hosts with other unwelcome visitors that can cause debilitating illnesses and, in the worst-case scenario,

death.

The South Heartland District Health Department, which serves Adams, Webster, Clay and Nuckolls counties, wants to be sure area residents understand the risks from both ticks and mosquitoes are real here in southern Nebraska.

"We encourage residents and visitors alike to protect themselves from exposure to ticks and tick bites," said Michele Bever, health department executive director. "The highest risk of being bitten occurs during the spring and summer, so if you are spending any time in tick habitat, now is the time to make sure you are doing frequent tick checks. Prompt re-

moval of ticks decreases the likelihood of a tick spreading disease."

Nebraska's public health departments conduct annual vector surveillance, which includes trapping and testing of mosquitoes and ticks within their respective jurisdictions.

In the four-county South Heartland Health District, the health department collaborates on this activity with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, trapping mosquitoes every other week from late May through late September or early October.

Ticks, on the other hand, are collected in early summer from two sites designated by the state agency. In 2024,

ticks were collected from the Liberty Cove Recreation Area west of Lawrence and from Roseland Lake near Roseland.

According to NDHHS, tick collections involve a process of "tick dragging or flagging" in which a white flannel cloth is used to collect the ticks, which then are identified to species under a microscope.

Bever said tick trapping in the health district over the past four years has yielded primarily American dog ticks of the Dermacentor species, and that some of them had tested positive for rickettsia, which can cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever

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Harvard special election canceled

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HARVARD — A special election to remove the acting mayor here has been canceled, according to a news release from the Clay County Election Commissioner.

Cassie Aksamit, who serves as Clay County election commissioner and county clerk, issued notice of the cancellation on Tuesday.

She wrote that Nebraska law prohibits a recall petition from being filed against an elected official for three reasons, one of which being "within six months after the beginning of their term of office."

Since acting Harvard Mayor Nathanael Brown took the oath of office on Sept. 16, 2024, six months hadn't elapsed when a recall petition was filed against Brown on Jan. 17.

Due to the required timeline outlined in the statute, Aksamit canceled the special election and waived all costs associated with it.

The special election had been scheduled for June 10, which would have included ballots being mailed to all active registered voters in Harvard about 20 days before the election.

Brown became mayor of the town of 945 in September 2024 following the resignation of Keith Ljunggren.

Brown was president of the Harvard City Council at the time, having been elected in an uncontested race in 2022 to represent Ward 3. He was the council member who had served the longest at the time.

Danita Smith, a lifelong resident and wife of a Harvard Police Department officer, filed a petition to remove Brown from office on Jan. 17, claiming she didn't believe the mayor had the best interests of Harvard in mind.

Smith collected at least 75 signatures to force a special election, which was 35% of the number of votes cast for the office in the most recent election.

Brown said the trouble started when he started asking questions about the Harvard Police Department operations and its chief, Wayne Alley.

Alley was the subject of an executive session to discuss disciplinary action or termination during the April 8 council meeting, but the matter was postponed until after the outcome of the recall election was known.

Brown also received calls to resign his position after he was captured on video making disparaging comments about community members in private conversations outside the city hall building.

Trump appeals for Qatar's help in persuading Iran to give up its nuclear program

ZEKE MILLER,
JON GAMBRELL AND
AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — President Donald Trump urged Qatar on Wednesday to use its influence over Iran to persuade the country's leadership to reach an agreement with the U.S. to dial back its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

Trump, who is visiting the Gulf nation as part

of a three-country Middle East swing, made the appeal during a state dinner held in his honor by Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Qatar, over the years, has played the role of intermediary between the U.S. and Iran and its proxies, including during talks with Tehran-backed Hamas as its 19-month war with Israel grinds on.

"I hope you can help me with the Iran situation," Trump said during remarks at the formal dinner. "It's a perilous situation, and we want to do the right thing."

The appeal to Qatar came after Trump told leaders at a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting earlier Wednesday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, that he wants "to make a deal," but Tehran must end its support of

proxy groups throughout the Mideast as part of any potential agreement.

The U.S. and Iran brokered a nuclear deal in 2015, during Democrat Barack Obama's administration, in which Iran agreed to drastically reduce its stockpile of uranium and only enrich up to 3.67%. But that deal was scrapped during the first Trump administration.

Today, Iran enriches up to 60%, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels, and has enough stockpiled for multiple nuclear bombs should it choose to build them.

The Qatari emir told Fox News Channel on Wednesday night that "we agree that we want a nuclear-free region, and we cannot afford a nuclear race in that region."

But, Al Thani said,

"Iran has its right to have a nuclear — a civilian nuclear power, while not also representing any challenge or any threat for anyone in the region." He said the issue needs to be resolved diplomatically.

The U.S. and Iran have engaged in four rounds of talks since early last month about the country's nuclear program.

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weather

78 TODAY Sunny. Breezy, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
53 TONIGHT Breezy. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Details, page A3

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