



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Odilia Ellis arrives in style, courtesy of her nephew Kent Goeden, to celebrate her 90th birthday with a family dinner at JoDeans.

Fireman Initiates State-Wide Program To Support Emergency Responders

Midwest MedAlert, Inc. of Arlington, SD announces plans to initiate a state-wide program to protect South Dakotans while supporting the state's emergency response organizations. The effort has the support of both the SD Firefighters and EMS Associations.

The company, founded by Arlington volunteer fireman Jim Heuer in March of this year, offers a bright red USB personal medical information and alert device, called a MEDAlert, that is formatted to store a person's comprehensive health history.

The device gives emergency responders with a laptop computer instant access to critical health information in times of need and allows individuals the ability to keep all health care providers abreast of their current condition- enabling providers to better manage their care.

The device fits easily in a pocket, an accessible area of a purse, on a keychain or placed on a lanyard and worn as a necklace. Parents of children with known health conditions can keep schools and daycares informed of their children's health status by printing a copy of the information stored on the device and providing the information to school health officers or daycare directors.

The device is not covered by insurance, but qualifies for Flexible Spending and Health Savings Accounts. People with known health conditions have successfully deducted the cost of the device. The retail price of the device is \$50.

Simple instructions allow individuals to enter their medical data- emergency contacts, physician contacts, existing conditions, medications, allergies, surgical history and more- on the device in the privacy of their own homes, and allow individuals to update the device when changes occur to their condition, thus eliminating the need to repurchase medical information jewelry with each change in a person's health status. The device is compatible with both PC and Mac computers.

"As technology develops, so does the way we do our jobs, affecting the way we

gain information and communicate. This type of technology will allow EMS personnel access to vital information that otherwise may not be available on patients that may be unresponsive or unable to communicate," said Eric Van Dusen, state president of the South Dakota EMS Association. "This is an effective and efficient way for us to extract information to help better our care."

The "Protecting South Dakota Program", being initiated by Heuer, will offer the device to the states emergency responders at a deep discount- to be utilized for training responders to recognize and utilize the device.

"It is my goal to have every EMT, Firefighter, Law Officer- anyone that might be called to respond to an emergency- be able to recognize and utilize the device" Heuer said.

The company will then work with those organizations to offer the device in their communities as a fund raising resource for their organization, allowing the organization to keep a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the device in their communities.

"Another goal of the program is to raise enough capital to place a computer on each ambulance and on one fire truck per department in the state" he added. "This would afford people protection as they travel across the state." Any additional funds raised can be used for training, purchasing equipment or daily operations.

"I encourage our response organizations to utilize the program being developed to enhance emergency care throughout the state," he said, adding that organizations and individuals "can feel free to contact me to discuss how we can work together for a safer South Dakota."

The company serves South Dakota and the surrounding states. For those interested, order forms can be downloaded from the company's website. Dr. Jim Heuer can be reached at 605-203-0631 or jim@midwest-medicalert.com. Further information can be obtained at www.midwestmedicalert.com.

Home-Safe-Home

Some say the electric feeling of buying and moving into your own home never wears off. When you own the floors you're standing on, the walls surrounding you and the roof over your head, you also own great satisfaction from the hard work that resulted in your home becoming yours.

Yet, just as it was hard work to achieve the American Dream of homeownership, being responsible for maintaining and, inevitably, repairing your own home can be just as much hard work. USDA Rural Development's Home Repair Program is an affordable way to keep your home safe, accessible and energy efficient.

The program provides very-low income rural homeowners with a one percent-interest fixed-rate loan of up to \$20,000 for essential things like leaky

roof repairs, improving accessibility, or even upgrades to heating and cooling systems to make a home more energy efficient. Seniors age 62 and older, who cannot qualify for a loan, may be eligible for a grant of up to \$7,500, or a loan and grant combination to make needed repairs and improvements.

Last year alone 38 South Dakota rural homeowners were able to make necessary improvements to their homes they did not realize they could afford. Some installed new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors or replaced old insulation. Some widened doors and added ramps. More importantly, these South Dakotans renewed the pride they felt the day they bought and moved into their own home.

One homeowner from Dupree discovered they were able to afford to

make the bathroom handicapped accessible, replace storm doors, and fix broken windows with a 504 Home Repair loan and grant. They worked with the South Dakota USDA Rural Development Office in Pierre to make it happen, and you can, too.

Being a homeowner is hard work and a big responsibility, but you have a partner who wants you to succeed. USDA Rural Development wants to keep rural American homes safe, accessible and energy efficient. We also want to help homeowners preserve the pride in their homes. To learn more, call (605) 352-1132 and visit with Janell Telin, Single Family Housing Program Director or email janell.telin@sd.usda.gov.

First Annual Boys & Girls Club Raffle Event

The Boys & Girls Club hosted their 1st annual vehicle raffle event on Wednesday. The event also included groundbreaking for the new facility to be built north of the Middle School. The community was invited to bring family and friends along to see the groundbreaking, enjoy great food, play games and have the chance to win a 2015 Chevy Equinox or an iPad.

The winner of the 2015 Equinox was Chris Specht of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Yankton. The winner of the iPad was Della Tschetter of Brookings.

Thank you to all who came out and celebrated with the Boys & Girls Club and made the event one to remember! A special thank you to all of the sponsors and those who donated in kind gifts, early bird prizes and food. Each of you helped to impact over 500 kids in our community!

Public Universities Seek Tuition Freeze For Coming Year

PIERRE - The South Dakota Board of Regents wants to freeze in-state student's tuition for the coming year, with an ultimate goal of bringing the ratio of funding from students and state government back to 50-50 over three years. A \$4.7 million budget request for next year will be forwarded to Gov. Dennis Daugaard to prevent more higher education cost shifting to students, regents said.

In 2014, the public university system received extra funding to hold the line on state-supported tuition and mandatory fees for resident students, as well as program and delivery fees. While a similar request was made in 2015, the governor and legislators did not fund it.

"Our goal is clear," said Regents President Randy Schaefer. "An investment in keeping tuition affordable for resident students provides a huge economic return to the state. It means we can educate a more highly skilled

workforce to attract high-tech business and industry, build a stronger tax base, and create a better quality of life in South Dakota."

In addition, the regents will request state investments to address deferred maintenance on academic buildings, increase need-based scholarship support, restructure tuition and fees to give National Guard members a bigger tuition reduction, and support new math initiatives to help students succeed in college.

Other ongoing requests seek financial support for new initiatives to move campus research-initiated inventions into the marketplace and create a Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment at the University of South Dakota to educate health care and human services professionals about child sexual abuse. The center is a priority for a state-appointed group known as Jolene's Law Task Force.

The budget request overall seeks \$14.2 million in new and ongoing state resources linked to specific priorities of the six public universities and two special schools. The regents have asked Gov. Daugaard to make a tuition freeze for resident students the highest priority when he puts together a recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

The board also identified \$14.2 million in one-time budget requests. Those priorities are to create a matching fund for capital construction projects, replace routing equipment for a high-speed telecommunications network that links South Dakota researchers to their colleagues across the globe, and to purchase high-priority research equipment and help support industry-sponsored research on the campuses.

A Northwest South Dakota Region Selected As A "Stronger Economies Together" Region

South Dakota USDA Rural Development and South Dakota State University Extension announced that a northwest South Dakota Region was selected as a Stronger Economies Together (SET) region. Consisting of Perkins, Corson, and northern Meade counties in South Dakota, the northwest South Dakota Region will now benefit from a focused initiative to explore regional economic advantages and to formulate an economic blueprint for their multi-county region that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of that region. The Region will be joining 21 other regions across thirteen states participating in SET during 2015.

"South Dakota has benefited greatly by this regional coaching opportunity across the state, this is our third year engaging with regions to increase regional economic competitiveness and collaboration of resources through the SET process," said USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Bruce Jones.

USDA Rural Development and South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension are collaborating for this initiative once again to strengthen the capacity of rural communities and counties to work together in developing and implementing economic development plan. The SET Program is sponsored by USDA Rural Development and the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers.

The regional team will develop a vision and goals, examine regional demographics, opportunities, assets and barriers and create a regional economic development plan. Training and technical assistance will be delivered by a core team of SDSU Extension and USDA Rural Development staff as well as state-wide and area resource providers and experts.

The region was part of an application process earlier this year and was self-designated. The region will be supported by representatives from SDSU Extension, USDA Rural Development, State of South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development, Planning Districts, Small Business Development Center, Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. and Grow South Dakota.

Launched in 2010 by USDA Rural Development and the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers, the Purdue Center for Regional Development and their land-grant university partners, SET is now in place in more than 70 regions in 31 states.

For more information on the SET initiative in South Dakota, contact Peggy Schlechter, SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist, (605) 394-1722 or Christine Sorensen, USDA Rural Development, (202) 568-9832. To view information about SET nationwide, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/set/>.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Yankton Rotary Club has partnered with the First Dakota National Bank's First Dakota Cares program to ensure Yankton's kids are prepared for school. Members of Yankton Rotary Club are pictured here with First Dakota National Bank Employees presenting a \$700 contribution to purchase needed school supplies. The Rotary's Got Your Back fund drive occurs in late July every year. Rotary would like to thank community members and club members for their generosity.

USD Foundation Staffer Named APRA Professional Of The Year

Margaret J. Williams, director of prospect research for the University of South Dakota Foundation since 1999, was named the 2015 Professional of the Year by the international Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement (APRA).



Williams

The award recognizes outstanding professionals whose work has significantly impacted their organi-

zation's mission. Under Williams' leadership, a prospect management system was created to advance Onward: The Campaign for South Dakota. More than \$160 million has been raised during the past three-and-a-half years toward a seven-year \$250

million goal. The Foundation's mission is to provide private resources for the University of South Dakota to increase the excellence of its students' educational experience.

MEETINGS

INTERCHANGE

The meeting was called to order by President Ann Clough and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members were invited to make announcements regarding business news, opportunities and upcoming events.

Sherri Rodgers-Conti with CASA shared information

about the Golf Ball Drop fundraiser for CASA. Raffle tickets are on sale for \$5.00 or 4 for \$20.00. The Golf Ball Drop will take place during Riverboat Days near the park entrance just to the east of the water treatment plant.

Paula Tacke with Mount Marty College is selling raffle tickets for the Boys & Girls Club fundraiser. Raffle tickets are \$100 each and

give you a chance to win a 2015 Chevy Equinox or \$25,000 toward a new vehicle from Northtown Automotive. Drawing is Wednesday, August 12th.

Kathy Greenway with First Dakota National Bank reminded everyone of the school board meeting tonight. The Associated School Boards of South Dakota has recognized

Yankton with the "Award of Excellence."

Ann Clough reminded members of the city commission meeting tonight which will include review of a proposal from Dial Properties to renovate the Yankton Mall.

Jane Rupiper with Rupiper Travel was hostess. Guest speaker was Larry Rupiper with Rupiper Travel. Larry spoke of his recent trip

to Cuba with his son Brent. They will be taking tours to Cuba in early 2016. He shared some of the history of Cuba and the Cuban/U.S. relations over time. Havana beaches are very similar to Miami, the architecture of the buildings is wonderful and they have very low crime. Because they import very little and have been subject to embargo much

of Cuba is self-sustaining. Production of tobacco, sugar cane, rice and pumpkins were prevalent. Due to the years of embargo there are thousands of old cars from the 50's and 60's and very few newer than that. The population is 11.27 million.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Monday, August 17 at Minerva's at noon.