

'Summer Of Service' Program Set

SIoux FALLS — A new nationwide initiative — a "Summer of Service" — seeks the help of Sioux Falls area residents to create and build partnerships to grow the number of individuals and organizations serving veterans here.

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System and VA Dakotas Regional Office are renewing their commitment to veterans by inviting the community to visit and explore opportunities to serve veterans during an open house on June 30. This will take place from 3-5 p.m. in the front foyer.

"We have made progress over the past year addressing the challenges we face in delivering care and benefits to millions of veterans and their families," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "While there is more work to do to honor our commitment to veterans, we also recognize VA cannot do it alone. We are asking Americans everywhere to join the Summer of Service and help us give back to those who have given so much to our nation."

VA will be working closely with congressional partners, veterans service organizations, local communities, private sector and non-profit organizations and VA employees to identify new and innovative ways to support VA's commitment to care for those who "have borne the battle" and their families.

The department has an outstanding volunteer program, which will be highlighted throughout the country this summer. VA will build upon the ongoing work of its more than 350,000 employees and 76,000 volunteers around the nation — including approximately 1,000 employees and 480 volunteers at the Sioux Falls VA. While the central focus of the campaign will be increasing volunteerism and partnerships, it will also provide individuals and communities an opportunity to support other important priorities. Despite a hiring effort that brought more than 11,000 net-new employees onboard over the past year, the Sioux Falls VA needs specialty health care providers including psychiatrists, emergency medicine physicians, a urologist, an endocrinologist, neurologist, oncologist/hematologist, ENT, plus nurses and housekeepers.

Volunteers can help serve veterans by calling the Sioux Falls VA Voluntary Services department at 605-333-6851 to join VA in caring for America's Veterans or to provide donations.

State Funds University Research

PIERRE — Eight faculty members from public universities are the latest to receive competitive state research grants through the South Dakota Board of Regents.

"These competitive grants direct additional resources to university researchers to acquire the equipment and graduate research staff necessary to further their research projects," said Nathan Lukkes, the regents' vice president of research and economic development. "These projects support undergraduate and graduate students, as well as strengthen the universities, and ultimately the state, by generating commercial activity."

A total of 30 grant proposals were submitted; eight were funded for a total of \$450,513. For the third year, more faculty members were given an opportunity to compete for funding by splitting the grants into two award levels.

All but two of the eight research projects are newly funded. Second-year funding was received for research by the University of South Dakotas Meghann Jarchow and South Dakota State University's Reinaldo Tonkoski.

This is a list by University of South Dakota of the researchers, funded projects, and grant awards:

University of South Dakota
• Dr. Hongli Sun, Biomedical Engineering — "Erythropoietin Immobilized Biodegradable Nanofibrous Scaffold for Bone Tissue Engineering" (Grant award: \$100,000)

• Dr. Meghann Jarchow, Biology — "Prairies in Multifunctional Landscapes: Understanding the Effects of Disturbance and Plant Phenology (Year 2 Continuation Proposal)" (Grant award: \$24,965)

• Dr. Jing Liu, Physics — "Development of a Segmented p-type Point-Contact High-Purity Germanium Detector for Rare-Event-Search Experiments" (Grant award: \$25,000)



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Molly Larson, a Junior in Yankton County 4-H, gave an illustrated talk at the 4-H Public Presentations Contest. She spoke about the importance of youth getting enough sleep.

4-H'ers Present Ideas, Experiences, Projects

Speaking in front of other people and groups of people is a life skill.

Yankton County 4-H members were reminded of this on Friday, June 19, after the Public Presentations contest. Judge Jan Schiferl of Fordyce, Neb., reiterated that for the rest of their lives the 4-H members would be communicating with others.

Ten presentations were given at the contest. Participating youth ranged from 8 to 18 years old.

In 4-H, a presentation is an activity in which someone shows, describes, or explains something to a group of people. Youth are given the opportunity to share and teach information they have learned that can be useful to others.

Youth can give several different types of presentations, and the Yankton County contest included public speaking, illustrated talks, and demonstrations. Topics varied from food preservation, parts of a dog, making sun catchers, and more.

Throughout the presentations, youth gained experience in having a positive stage presence, organizing their thoughts and information, and presenting that information to others, according to Stephanie Siebrandt, Yankton County 4-H Program Assistant.

"Our youth are going to become valuable leaders in the community," Siebrandt said. "This contest allows them to practice and fine tune their communication skills so they are prepared and confident when communicating down the road in their life."

Results were: (name, age division, presentation type/topic, ribbon placing): Keeley Larson, beginner, demonstration—"harry potters," purple; Tatum Hohenthauer, beginner, demonstration—making sun catchers, purple; Tatum Hohenthauer, public speaking 4-H camp, purple; Lexi Maier, junior, demonstration—food preservation, purple; Lexi Maier, junior, illustrated talk—computers, purple; Abby Larson, junior, illustrated talk—hot air balloons, purple; Molly Larson, junior, illustrated talk—"sweet dreams," purple; Heather Maier, senior, illustrated talk—parts of the dog, purple; Stephanie Hauger, senior, demonstration—T-shirt yarn dog toy, purple; Stephanie Hauger, senior, demonstration—homemade dog treats, purple.

For more information about 4-H, how to join 4-H, or the Special Foods contest contact Stephanie Siebrandt at the Yankton County Extension Office at 605-665-3387 or visit yankton4h.com.

Taking Care Of Behavioral Health Is Good Business For Farmers

BY DR. MIKE ROSMANN

Sponsored by Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health



Dr. Mike ROSMANN

Agriculture is essential to the survival of the world's burgeoning population. While about half the populations of underdeveloped nations are farmers, less than 2 percent of the U.S. population and other highly developed nations are farmers.

Their callings are similar but their methods are different; farmers in underdeveloped areas of the world use the agricultural technology of highly developed nations in degrees varying from very little to some. That's not necessarily a negative circumstance.

Farmers in underdeveloped countries usually have not altered their environments as much as large-scale modern farmers have. Whether or not the drastic modifications that accompany industrialized food production enhance survival in the long run is a question without a sure answer.

The challenges of producing food and materials for clothing, shelter and renewable fuel stir the deepest feelings that give farmers fulfillment or shattered dreams. While filled with ample rewards, the health of many hardy, modernized agricultural people also is imperiled by threats few could conceive of a century ago.

Many of the threats are those that accompany modern agricultural production: complex chemicals that can alter life, genetic modification of plants with unknown long-term effects, planetary conditions that affect farming like global warming and political uncertainties with hard-to-predict countries like Russia and China that can waylay well-made business plans.

The insufficiencies of food production in underdeveloped nations do not necessarily require adoption of genetically modified seeds, imported fertilizers, and artificially-created herbicides and insecticides in order to be resolved. Their insufficiencies of food and other basic necessities can largely be overcome by reduced civil strife, the elimination of corruption within their governments, mechanization, and knowledge of horticulture, animal, poultry and fish science.

When relatively primitive farmers in India adopted modern agricultural

practices, such as applying insecticides on their rice fields, their suicide rate skyrocketed.

Suicide increased partly from insecticide exposures but other factors also contributed, including but not limited to economic competition from ever-larger mechanized produc-

ers, shifts from local to global markets, little interest in farming by offspring who became educated and dismay by small operators that their centuries-old heritage was disappearing.

Although suicide rates of India's farmers and those in other modernizing countries in Southeast Asia rose considerably over the past three decades, they are still much lower today than in many developed countries, including the U.S.

The annual rate of suicide by farmers in India is currently about 2 per 100,000 persons, whereas it is twelve times that in the U.S. What explains the worse behavioral health in modern nations than in most third world countries?

A combination of factors that are mostly not adequately addressed affect U.S. farmers' behavioral health and the remediation of problems, such as but not limited to the following:

- Cultural beliefs held by many people in rural areas that behavioral health of individuals should be kept private, like drinking habits, episodes of depression, violent tendencies and unusual sexual urges

- Beliefs that hard work, luck and prayer will advance emotional well-being more than anything else because not much can be done to manage emotional health issues like anxiety, fears, and thoughts of self-destruction

- Insufficient number of behavioral health care-givers, such as psychiatrists, psychologists and other behavioral health professionals in rural and frontier areas, for the number of these professionals per 100,000 persons is half that of the same professionals in non-rural areas

- Too few professional caregivers who work with the agricultural population have the necessary training in agricultural behavioral health to equip them to understand the culture and occupational factors that enhance vulnerability of the agricultural population to behavioral health problems, like exposures to toxic agricultural pesticides

- There are increasingly fewer easily approached points of confidential and culturally appropriate contact for farmers needing help, such as farm crisis telephone hotlines, websites and referral services

Good health, including behavioral health, is a factor that contributes to agricultural profitability, according to research findings of the Certified Safe Farm Project that is being conducted through the University of Iowa.

The behavioral health and safety of agricultural producers are among the least researched factors that affect agricultural producers but they are among the most important.

Farming is safer in terms of physical injuries and fatalities in the U.S. and many developed countries, due to better designed agricultural equipment, devices such as mobile phones, safety education and preventive measures like wearing impervious gloves when working with hazardous materials.

However, the occurrences of stress, depression and death by suicide are significantly higher among U.S. farmers than people with similar demographics but who are not farming—about 60 percent greater. The same is true in many other advanced countries, such as Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Recognizing that behavioral health issues can be managed with knowledge and by adequately trained and culturally acceptable professionals, is a good investment, for emotionally healthy farmers are more successful than unhappy farmers.

Addressing agricultural behavioral health issues is necessary at federal, state, local and university levels. All these problem are correctable.

Readers may contact Dr. Rosmann at www.agbehavioralhealth.com

GFWC Donations

Homeless Shelter



SUBMITTED PHOTO
General Federation of Woman's Club (GFWC) donated \$300 to the Homeless Shelter with proceeds from the Spring Fashion Show. Pictured is Pauline Akland, President of GFWC presenting the check to Carol Pooler, Director of the Homeless Shelter.

Habitat For Humanity



SUBMITTED PHOTO
General Federation of Woman's Club (GFWC) donated \$300 to Habitat for Humanity with proceeds from the Spring Fashion Show. Pictured is Pauline Akland, President of GFWC presenting the check to Julie Dykstra, Habitat Executive Director. GFWC also provides meals/ snacks in the spring and fall to the Habitat workers.

Noem's Office Seeking Fall Interns

WASHINGTON — Rep. Kristi Noem is accepting applications for fall internships in her Washington office, as well as in her offices in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Watertown.

Student interns in Representative Noem's office will assist staff with various constituent service and communications projects, as well as assist with legislative research. Both South Dakota and Washington, internships provide students with first-

hand knowledge of the legislative process and the countless other functions of a congressional office.

College students who are interested in interning in any of Rep. Noem's offices should submit a resume, cover letter, and references to Christiana. Frazee@mail.house.gov by Aug. 3.

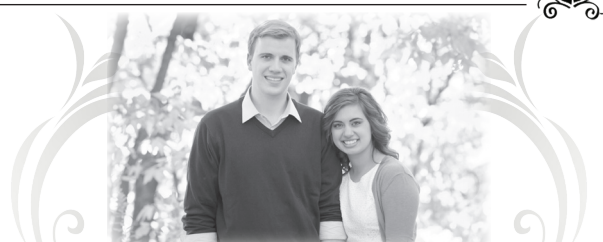
For more information, contact Christiana Frazee at 202-225-2801.

50th Anniversary Celebration



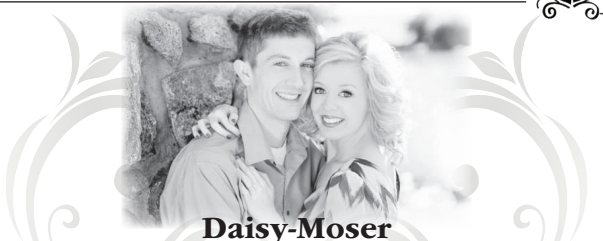
Mr. and Mrs. Anderson
Wayne and Mary Lou Anderson of Yankton, SD will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 26th, 2015.

Their four children Lance (Lisa) Anderson, Leigh (Kevin) Thelen, Lana (Darren) White and Lars (Jessica) Anderson have given them 11 beautiful grandchildren. To celebrate this special occasion, Wayne and Mary Lou will have a special weekend at Lake Okaboji with their whole family.



Schaeffer-Kyriss

Courtney Schaeffer and Kody Kriss are pleased to announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. Parents of the couple are Wesley and Danielle Schaeffer of Utica, SD, and Jack and Linda Kyriss of Lesterville, SD. Courtney is a student at South Dakota State University and Kody is a law student at the University of South Dakota. The couple is planning a July 25, 2015 wedding at the First United Methodist Church in Yankton.



Daisy-Moser

Taylor Daisy and Kellen Moser of Yankton announce their engagement and upcoming wedding. Parents of the couple are, Welly and Tammy Daisy of Yankton, Michael Moser of Rapid City, and Shelly and Tom Jones of Fargo, ND. Taylor is a graduate of Stewart School of Hairstyling. She is the owner of Luminous Skin and is a secretary at Yankton Middle School. Kellen has a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of South Dakota and is currently pursuing his Masters Degree. He is employed at Gayville-Volin School District as an English teacher and coach. The couple is planning a July 4th wedding at Riverview Reformed Church in Yankton.