

### Group Searches For Oldest Living S. Dakotan

South Dakota Health Care Association's Century Club is in search of the 2011 Centenarian of the Year. In order to qualify for this honorable recognition, your birth date must be before June 4, 1899.

According to Century Club records, Beryl Kapaun who lives in Salem was born June 4, 1899, is currently the oldest living South Dakotan. Beryl is looking forward to celebrating her 112th birthday.

The Century Club is open to everyone in the state of South Dakota upon reaching his or her 100th birthday. There are no dues and every inductee receives a specially designed, framed certificate and membership card. The Century Club has inducted nearly 1,000 members since it began in 1997. A specially designed, framed certificate will be presented to the current oldest living Century Club member recognizing him or her as the "Centenarian of the Year."

If you know someone in your community that would qualify for the Centenarian of the Year or you want an application to induct someone in to the Century Club, contact LuAnn Severson, Century Club Coordinator, South Dakota Health Care Association at 1-800-952-3052 or write: Century Club, South Dakota Health Care Association, 804 N Western Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 or you may download an application at [www.sdhca.org](http://www.sdhca.org).

### May Is Internet Safety Awareness Month

SIoux FALLS — United States Attorney Brendan V. Johnson is asking parents and school administrators to help educate children about the dangers posed by online predators. The statistics illustrating the problem are stark. One in seven youths will or has received an unwanted sexual solicitation and one in three will be exposed to sexual material online. Of these, less than 5 percent will report the contact or material to an adult.

As another school year draws to a close, the risk that children will spend more time online heightens their vulnerability, particularly if they are unsupervised. United States Attorney Johnson recently sent a letter to school administrators across the state enclosing a list of internet safety tips for parents and children. Electronic copies of the tip sheet are available on the South Dakota U.S. Attorney's website at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/psc.html>.

"Protecting children from harm has always been a basic obligation of law enforcement, but children today face online dangers that were virtually unheard of two decades ago," Johnson said. "That's why we need to increase our efforts to educate parents and children, as well as enforce federal criminal laws aimed at taking online predators off the streets."

Recent efforts to raise internet safety awareness among students have been successful. Over the last two years, the South Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (comprised of federal, tribal, state, and local officers) has educated thousands of high school and middle school students about online dangers. However, younger children also face risk of being victimized by online predators.

# Memorial Day Weekend Travelers Ready Go

SIoux FALLS — AAA projects 34.9 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, a slight increase of 0.2 percent – or 100,000 travelers – from the 34.8 million people who traveled one year ago. The Memorial Day travel period is defined by AAA as running from Thursday, May 26, to Monday, May 30.



South Dakota, the statewide average for regular gasoline today is \$3.907. On May 19, 2010, the average was \$2.846.

"In 2010, Memorial Day travel experienced a gain of more than 14 percent. This year we expect to add slightly to that gain due to an anticipated increase in air travel and an improvement in the overall domestic economic picture," said AAA South Dakota spokesman Mark Madeja. "Many travelers have told us they'll compensate for higher fuel costs by cutting back in other areas of spending."

AAA's projections are based on economic forecasting and research by IHS Global Insight. The Boston-based economic research and consulting firm teamed with AAA in 2009 to jointly analyze travel trends during the major holidays. AAA has been reporting on holiday travel trends for more than two decades. The complete AAA / IHS Global Insight 2011 Memorial Day Holiday Travel Forecast can be found at [AAA.com/news](http://AAA.com/news).

Overwhelming majority of Americans to travel by automobile, down slightly nationally from last year but up a bit in South Dakota

Approximately 30.9 million people nationwide plan to drive to their destination, a small decline from the 31 million who drove last year. In South Dakota, AAA expects 104,797 motorists will take to the highways over the holiday period, an increase of 0.4 percent over last year. In spite of gasoline prices more than a dollar per gallon higher than a year ago across South Dakota and the U.S., auto travel continues to be the dominant mode of transportation. Almost nine out of ten holiday travelers will be getting there by motor vehicle during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The national average price today for regular self-serve gasoline is \$3.905, compared to \$2.852 this time last year. In

increase from last year. In South Dakota, the auto club predicts 5,686 South Dakotans will fly this year over Memorial Day, a jump of 12.3 percent over year ago levels. The remaining three percent of holiday travelers are expected to travel by other modes, including rail, bus and watercraft.

- Airfares, hotel rates and car rental rates all rise

According to AAA's Leisure Travel Index, Memorial Day holiday airfares are expected to be 14 percent higher than last year with an average lowest round-trip rate of \$201 for the top 40 U.S. air routes. Hotel rates for AAA Three Diamond lodgings are expected to increase five percent from a year ago with travelers spending an average of \$148 per night compared to \$142 last year. Travelers planning to stay at AAA Two Diamond hotels can expect to pay 10 percent more with an average cost of \$109 per night. Weekend daily car rental rates will average \$38, just \$1 higher than last year.

- Average travel distance up 27 percent; median spending down 14 percent

According to a survey of traveler intentions, the average distance traveled by Americans during the Memorial Day holiday weekend is expected to be 792 miles, which is 27 percent greater than last year's average travel distance of 626 miles. Air travel is expected to gain a larger share of overall travel, and is likely the cause of a substantial increase in the average travel distance compared to a year ago. Median spending is expected to be \$692, a decrease of 14 percent from \$809 last year.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 52 million members (89,000 in South Dakota) with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA South Dakota can be visited on the Internet at [AAA.com](http://AAA.com).

# Noem

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**We talk about cutting spending, but spending has escalated so much. If we don't make any cuts, in 10 years they will have to raise your taxes 60 percent.**

Members of Congress agree the debt needs to be brought under control, Noem said. However, the House and Senate have deadlocked over taxes and spending cuts, she said.

In fact, Congress didn't pass a budget for the first time since the 1970s, she said. Now, appropriations bills might not be completed by the August recess, she said, and there are talks about operating on continuing resolutions to 2013.

Noem opened Friday's meeting referring to the political paralysis surrounding the budget crisis.

"This country is facing its most predictable financial crisis in its history, and (politicians) do nothing about it because they want to be re-elected," she said.

Noem noted the situation has worsened even in the four months she has been in office.

The federal government must borrow 42 cents of every \$1 it spends, she said. A child born today automatically inherits a \$47,000 debt — up from the \$42,000 figure of just a few months ago.

"We talk about cutting spending, but spending has escalated so much," she said. "If we don't make any cuts, in 10 years they will have to raise your taxes 60 percent."

The nation faces a \$14 trillion debt, and federal lawmakers and officials now routinely refer to trillions rather than billions, Noem said.

"Everyone recognizes we are on the path to a financial crisis," she added.

The nation needs to make deep cuts while still protecting programs for veterans, senior citizens and children, Noem said.

"These programs are all going broke," she said. "We have to figure how to fix it and do it in a timely manner."

The federal budget stood at \$3.5 trillion for fiscal year 2010. Government spending accounted for 25 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), up from the former 19 percent, Noem said.

"That's how much government has grown since 2008," she said.

Most of the budget is locked into "auto pilot," she said, noting the non-defense, discretionary items account for \$666 billion of the \$3.5 trillion budget. Interest accounted for \$202 billion of the debt in fiscal year 2010.

"But I have to remind you, we are at a time of record low interest rates," she said. "We could possibly see \$1 of every \$5 (in federal spending) going to interest on the debt. That would be devastating."

### KRISTI NOEM

Foreign nations held 47 percent of the United States' debt in fiscal year 2010, Noem said. That's up from 5 percent foreign ownership in 1970 and 19 percent in 1990.

"We truly are becoming enslaved to other countries," she said.

While Congress debates which direction to take, any action on the debt is better than no action, she said. "The only radical proposal talked about is doing nothing," she said.

For the next portion of the meeting, Noem outlined the fiscal year 2012 budget resolution crafted by U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). The proposed budget is entitled "Path To Prosperity: Restoring America's Promise."

The proposal cuts \$6.2 trillion in federal spending over the next 10 years, Noem said.

The plan would create jobs, secure social programs, meet health care needs and balance the budget, she said. The proposal will bend the cost curve for federal spending and reduce debt as a share of the GDP, she said.

Standard & Poor's downgraded the nation's credit rating because of the debt and lack of a plan for tackling it, Noem said. In contrast, South Dakota was the only state to see its credit rating upgraded because of its financial practices, she said.

Taking control of spending will create economic growth, more jobs, higher wages and more prosperity, she said.

The nation also faces a challenge funding Social Security, Noem said. In 1950, there were 16.5 workers for every one Social Security recipient. In 2009, the ratio slipped to 3-to-1, and by 2040 the ratio is estimated to be 2-to-1.

American life expectancy has risen to 78 years, and 10,000 Americans go onto Social Security every day as more Baby

Boomers reach retirement age, Noem said.

Noem disputed the contention that the proposed budget will gut or eliminate Medicare. The proposal protects the current funding for those now ages 55 and older while making changes for those who are younger, she said.

Without changes, Medicare would go broke in nine years, she said.

"If we don't make changes now, there is no way to fix Medicare and protect seniors," she said, adding that health care providers and others would have time to adjust to the changes.

Noem then fielded audience questions on a number of subjects.

- An audience member asked about a court order that President Obama act on six Gulf drilling permits within 30 days and its possible impact on the proposed Hyperion refinery in Union County.

Noem said she supports an energy plan that makes more use of American resources and less reliance on the Middle East. As far as Hyperion, she said the project was moving forward but slowly.

- An audience member asked about the shipment of jobs overseas. Noem said the proposed budget contains tax reforms that make it more financially competitive for American companies to keep jobs at home.

- An audience member asked how the federal government could hit its debt limit of \$14 trillion yet continue operating until August. Noem explained that U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner used what he termed "extraordinary measures" such as delaying payments to keep the federal government afloat.

- When asked about foreign aid, Noem said the United States must carefully examine if it is helping enemy forces.

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## Habitat For Humanity Seeks Homeowners For Mulberry Street

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County is seeking homeowners for our Mulberry Street build to begin in June 2011. Applicants must demonstrate a housing need, the ability to pay, a willingness to partner with Habitat and must have lived or worked in Yankton County for one year.

Applications are being available at the Habitat office located at 231 Broadway Ste. 8 in Yankton or online at [habitatyankton-county.com](http://habitatyankton-county.com).

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian housing ministry that builds homes for families in need. The affordable home is sold to the Habitat family at a zero percent interest rate for the term of the mortgage.

For more information or for a home tour, contact Julie at 260-4224.

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