

Visiting Hours

# National Hospital And Nursing Home Weeks

BY PAMELA J. REZAC, ED.D.  
President & CEO, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

This week marks National Hospital Week and National Nursing Home Week. We are paying tribute to the pride, professionalism and people of health care and long term care with the slogans "A Guiding Light for Changing Times" and "Team Care: Everyone Pitches In," respectively. As most people are aware, these are changing times for health care. Avera Sacred Heart Hospital is following the trends and staying out in front of the changes brought on by the Affordable Care Act and the many other forces in health care, such as new technology and aspects of patient- and resident-centered care.

Although these weeks in and of themselves are cause for celebration, I observe outstanding care and service that deserves recognition day in and day out at Avera Sacred Heart. America's hospitals play a unique role in our health care system. The care and safe haven that hospitals provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year is a major contributing factor in fostering the health and well being of the community and region. Community full-service hospitals and their staffs stand ready, around the clock, to provide a full spectrum of high quality, compassionate care, to respond to disasters and pandemic disease, and to care for all regardless of their ability to pay. Whether it's

emergency, curative or preventative care, full-service community hospitals exist to meet everyone's needs.

In addition to improving the health of the community, hospitals throughout the nation are large employers within a community. This brings economic benefits to these communities. In Yankton, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital is the largest employer in the Yankton region with more than 1,200 employees and a payroll and benefits of approximately \$57 million. That is a tremendous economic impact on the Yankton community and region.

The celebration of National Hospital Week (NHW) began in 1921 when a magazine editor suggested that more information about hospitals might alleviate public fears about the "shrouded" institutions of the day. From that beginning, Hospital Week expanded to facilities across the nation. Today, National Hospital Week has grown into the nation's largest health care event.

May is a busy month for health care recognitions as we have also been celebrating National Nurses Week (May 6-12).

Health care plays a vital role in every community. Here in Yankton we are truly fortunate to have the very finest health care available — from physicians, to nurses, to technicians, to support staff — Yankton holds a true treasure of health care services.

# Changing Ag Safety And Health

BY DR. MIKE ROSMANN

There are gradual but significant shifts occurring in the way agriculture is being conducted, regulated and in the way agricultural research is being funded. These shifts reflect broad political differences among elected leaders and within the public.

A stalwart conservative voice has emerged which demands more free enterprise and "less government," which translates into fewer regulations and less funding for agricultural priorities at the federal level and in many states, along with steady or lower taxes on corporate enterprises and individual producers.

The roots of the conservative movement can be traced mainly to the Reagan presidential era. An 18 percent reduction of federal food safety inspectors this year due to the budget sequester can be attributed to this movement.

Simultaneously, a strident and emerging "liberal left" advocates for reduced commodity price supports but stronger governmental roles in environmental and producer health and safety protections and research.

The liberal movement is aligned with proponents of progressive taxation, organic and sustainable farming, and worker and consumer rights. The roots of this movement are sometimes labeled as "socialism," and have antecedents in the eras of FDR and JFK.

Regardless of how one feels about the pros and cons of each movement, there are real changes in agriculture that have implications for all agricultural producers. This column is meant to inform readers about the ongoing changes and not to promote any particular political view. Readers' thoughts are requested.

Many federally funded programs affecting agriculture are being cut back or eliminated. During recent meetings of the Regional Advisory Committee for the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (See: www.public-health.uiowa.edu/GPCH/) I learned all eleven regional and national centers for agricultural safety and health training and several other categories of grant-funded research are slated for elimination, along



Dr. Mike ROSMANN

with a number of state-funded public health regulatory agencies.

For the past 24 years, many agricultural safety and health programs were part of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health budget, but they are not included in the budget proposals currently being considered by Congress. These programs have supported a substantial share of the research,

faculty salaries and graduate student stipends at mostly university-based centers.

These programs contributed to significant strides in agricultural safety and health. For example, their research has established that 65 percent of agricultural-related fatalities are due to roll-overs of tractors, skid loaders and ATVs, almost always when the machines do not have roll bars or cabs for protection. In Scandinavian countries where these are mandated, operator deaths have almost been eliminated.

Another outcome over the past score of years is the development of programs to educate farm families about the dangers associated with farming and how to minimize them, resulting in significant reductions of fatalities of children and adults while engaged in farming.

Federal funds no longer make behavioral counseling available to curtail farm stress and farming-related suicides, both of which are serious problems in the agricultural community.

Changes are occurring on the state landscape as well. To illustrate, taking photographs of consolidated animal feedlot operations (CAFOs) without permission from the owners has been banned in several states.

State regulatory officials cannot take on-site or aerial photos of CAFOs in restricted areas. Animal rights proponents claim CAFOs have something to hide, such as inhumane

conditions for animals, while proponents of these measures assert certain photographers tell a false story about actual animal treatment.

What alternative funding sources are available for agricultural research, safety and health? With reduced federal and state funding, agricultural education and research institutions increasingly have to depend on private foundations, individuals and corporate entities for financial support.

Because most corporate and private entities have gains from their investments as their aim, it is not clear if they will support vital agricultural safety and health efforts.

Given their profit motive, will corporate and private entities pick up the financial slack to support the kinds of unbiased research and education needed to advance the safety and health of food, the environment and people?

Examples of topics that need to be scientifically evaluated include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The long term effects of growing genetically modified organisms on environmental health and on consumers (a growing body of research findings is accumulating in Europe; few investigations in this area are being pursued in the U.S)

- The effects of long-term glyphosate use on the environment and on consumers (little research has been done in this area, and it is a priority, given its intensive use in agriculture)

- The effects of seed treatments for insects and fungi on beneficial insects (e.g., honey bees), animals and humans, and

- How to make workers safer in enclosed spaces such as grain bins.

What are your thoughts about what needs to be done to improve the health and safety of agricultural producers, consumers, and the environment? What should be researched and who should pay for it? This column is a good forum to consider producers' ideas.

Dr. Rosmann resides on his farm near Harlan, Iowa. Contact him through his website: www.agbehavioralhealth.com.

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## SCHOLASTICS

### BAILEY GULLIKSON

BROOKINGS — Bailey Gullikson of Gayville was awarded the Jerome Norgren Water and Wildlife Conservation Scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year at South Dakota State University.

Gullikson is a senior majoring in wildlife and fisheries sciences at SDSU, where he is active in the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club. He is the son of Dave and Sarah Gullikson and is a 2010 graduate of the Gayville-Volin High School.

Jerome Norgren was born August 25, 1903, in Centerville. The family settled in McCook County and later moved to a farm in Orland Township, Lake County, in 1942. He graduated from Centerville High School and later served in the Army during World War II. He farmed in Orland Township most of his life, up until he moved to Madison to live with his sister, Carolyn. He passed away Dec. 15, 1998. During his lifetime, he was an avid conservationist, gardener, and a keeper of honeybees. He was also a poet-philosopher who enjoyed writing on the quandaries of nature, life, death, and humanity itself.

### JERRICA HUBER

BROOKINGS — Jerrica Huber of Yankton was awarded the Anna L. Rowe Scholarship in Education and Human Sciences for the 2013-2014 academic year at South Dakota State University.

Huber is a junior majoring in exercise science at SDSU, where she is active in Pre-Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Club, Honors College, LeadState Community Service Project, Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference (presenter) and is an Anatomy Intern. She is the daughter of Todd and Lisa Huber and is a 2011 graduate of the Yankton High School.

This scholarship was funded with a bequest from the estate of Anna L. Rowe. Anna was born on

May 26, 1915 at Flandreau. She graduated from South Dakota State College with a B.S. degree in Home Economics in 1937.

After earning her degree, she taught home economics in several high schools in South Dakota. She married Donald Rowe on July 1, 1939 in Sioux Falls, and shortly afterward the couple moved to Poynette, Wis. Mr. Rowe was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin who taught school in Rutland and Flandreau, and was the first vocational agriculture teacher in Poynette. Before retiring in 1974, Mr. Rowe was a county agricultural agent in Columbia and Wood counties in Wisconsin. He also served in the same capacity in Delta and Calhoun counties in Michigan.

Anna continued to teach home economics in Wisconsin and at Michigan State University Extension Services. She also taught Family Resource Education in Menominee County, Mich. After retirement, Anna and Donald made their home in Winneconne, Wisconsin. Anna was active in the First Presbyterian Church, the Winneconne Civic League, the East Winneconne Homemakers, the Eastern Star and the White Shrine of Oshkosh, Wis.

Donald died on March 23, 1997, and Anna died on Nov. 27, 1999.

### MEG HENRICKSON

Meg Henrickson of Yankton participated in commencement exercises Sunday, May 5, at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. A total of 598 students participated. Roxana Saberi '97, author, journalist and human rights advocate, spoke at the ceremony.

Henrickson, the daughter of Andrew and Teresa Henrickson, graduated with degrees in philosophy and political science.

## Transient Vendors: Get The Facts Before You Buy

PIERRE — Transient vendor season is underway in South Dakota, a time when out-of-state vendors roll into the state to sell their products and services. While many of the vendors are legitimate, the South Dakota Department of Revenue advises people to take common-sense steps to ensure vendors are reputable before doing business with them.

If you're considering hiring a person to provide repair or construction services, the department advises you to:

- Ask for a price quote, in advance, in writing.
- Question the contractor about a permanent address and telephone number, and don't assume that if the information they provide is local, they're a local business. Transient vendors often have business cards printed with local mailing services or motel addresses and telephone numbers.

- Ask for a list of local refer-

ences and check them before making a decision.

- Ask if the contractor has worker's compensation and general liability insurance. If vendors are not properly insured, homeowners may be liable for accidents that occur on their property.

- Be careful about paying for work in advance; before making final payments, make sure transient vendors have paid their local suppliers or you may be held liable for unpaid materials.

- Make sure you're completely satisfied with the work before paying the bill, and don't pay more for the job than originally quoted unless you've given written approval for the additional work or cost.

Out-of-state vendors often travel to South Dakota to sell items like fruit, seafood, meat packages, paintings, magazine subscriptions, rugs, T-shirts, sunglasses, household cleaners, furniture, stuffed animals, and

asphalting and roofing services. Asking the right questions when approached by those vendors can help you avoid making a purchase you may regret:

- Question the salesperson about the product, warranties, guarantees, etc.

- Get something in writing with the company's name, address and phone number.

- Ask to see their current South Dakota tax license. State law requires everyone selling products or services to have a current South Dakota sales or contractors' excise tax license. To verify if the license is valid, call the Department's toll-free helpline at 1-800-829-9188.

All sellers must provide you with a contract or receipt at the time of sale showing the date, merchant's name and address, and a statement informing you of your right to cancel the contract within three days. After proper cancellation, the seller has 10 days to refund your money.

If you have doubts about the vendor or think you may have been the victim of a scam, call your local police department or county sheriff's office immediately. You can also contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Office at 1-800-300-1986 or by email at consumerhelp@state.sd.us. Be prepared to give as much information as you can about the vendor, including the name of the company and salesperson; company address and telephone number; and make, model and license number (if possible) of the vehicle the vendor was driving. Without tips from the public, law enforcement officials may not be able to catch illegal vendors before they move on to the next community.

For more information on transient vendors, contact the South Dakota Department of Revenue's toll-free helpline at 1-800-829-9188, press "1" for the Business Tax Division.

## USD Foundation, Arts And Sciences College Announce Gift

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota College of Arts & Sciences and the University of South Dakota Foundation are pleased to announce a \$1 million gift from Lorraine Hart of Minneapolis, Minn.

The gift will create three unique funds in the College of Arts & Sciences — a student enrichment fund to help students gain learning experiences outside of the classroom; a student and faculty fund for the Department of Mathematical Sciences; and a named professorship in the Department of Psychology.

"We are so very thankful for this extraordinary gift and for the generous spirit shown by Ms. Hart," said Matthew C. Moen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "This long-term investment in our students and faculty strengthens the intellectual center of the University. Ms. Hart has given us a gift that shows her with wide-ranging intellectual interests, in the very best tradition of the liberal arts and sciences."

Hart, who received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from the College of Arts & Sciences at USD, was raised in Vermillion.

She enjoyed a distinguished career as an investment manager with Ameriprise. Now a resident of Minneapolis, Hart serves on many nonprofit boards and commissions, including the USD Foundation Board of Directors.

USD Foundation President Steve Brown believes this gift is indicative of Hart's personality.

"Lorraine's passion for life, USD and Vermillion is your first impression upon meeting her," said Brown. "Her demonstrated leadership on both the Foundation's Board of Directors and on the Onward Campaign Cabinet is further exemplified with this significant contribution."

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## Congratulations

### Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center New Growth Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Chamber of Commerce Ambassador committee hosted a New Growth Ribbon Cutting for the Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center located at 1115 W. 9th St. The Cancer Center is Yankton's only radiation treatment center and has recently remodeled and added the latest radiation therapy treatment with the addition of a Varian iX Linear Accelerator. You can visit them at www.averasacredheart.org/cancer or you can call them at (605)668-8850.

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## Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 27th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:  
Out On The Town — Wednesday, May 22  
Tuesday, May 28 newspaper — 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 22  
Wednesday, May 29 newspaper — 5 p.m., Thursday, May 23  
Thursday, May 30 newspaper — 5 p.m., Friday, May 24

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May 27, 2013.

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