

# Extension: Kennedy named to area position

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The South Dakota State University Extension announced Monday the appointment of Will Kennedy as 4-H youth program advisor for Yankton, Clay and Bon Homme counties.

Kennedy served as the Clay County 4-H/youth development educator before the Extension underwent restructuring in October.

"In my position, I worked in Clay County, and I was in Yankton County a fair amount as well. So I am familiar with those counties, and I'm excited to work with them. I met quite a few of the 4-H families from Bon Homme when we were talking about the consolidation, and they seemed like an awfully good group," Kennedy said. "I think it'll be an exciting new time. It will take some time getting used to for everyone, but it's going to be a good consolidation with the three counties."

Kennedy, who will officially began

his new position Thursday, said his first plan of action will be to re-familiarize himself with the area.

"We're going to get to know the people in the counties, touch base with them again, and figure out which schedule works best for everyone involved," he said.

Kennedy said he will divide his time among the three Extension offices, which each county has committed to funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

"I will have part-time housing in each county," he said. "The offices will be open full time, but I will only be there part time in each county."

While his schedule has yet to be determined, Kennedy said there will be a 40/40/20 split for his time devoted to each county. This amount was determined by the level of support each county chose to invest in the program.

"Basically it's two days a week in Bon Homme, two days a week in Clay, and one day a week in Yankton," he

said. "And that's just a typical week. When it comes to youth development, the schedule is usually anything but typical."

Having served part of the area already, Kennedy said his experience should help give him a head start with the new position.

"We've already been through some of the learning experiences — the bumps in the road," he said. "But at the same time, we have to look to the future and not get hung up on the past. We have to keep looking forward and creating new opportunities."

Kennedy said the task he most looks forward to is educational programming.

"We have done a lot of the science technology, engineering, and mathematics programming — making science fun for the youth. I really look forward to continuing to do that, along with the traditional 4-H duties — being involved with the county fair, livestock, and things like

that," he said.

While he looks forward to his involvement in those areas, Kennedy admitted that serving multiple counties could pose some challenges.

"It's going to be a little different in that there are going to be three of everything for the most part, but I have an awful lot of faith in the 4-H groups in each county that they'll work with me and we'll make it work," he said. "Yankton has just an outstanding 4-H program assistant in place right now in Lauren Fosheim, and I will be working with her, so that's going to be a good opportunity as well."

SDSU Extension will ultimately hire 32 4-H youth program advisors to support the county-specific needs of the 4-H program. Advisors hired to date include the following:

Aurora, Buffalo, Jerauld and Sanborn counties: Audra Scheel; Beadle County: John Madison; Bon Homme, Clay and Yankton

counties: Will Kennedy; Butte/Lawrence counties: Elizabeth (Betsy) Burtzloff; Brookings County: Sonia Mack; Campbell/Edmunds/McPherson/Walworth counties: Jeff Mueller; Charles Mix/Douglas counties: Stephanie Chambliss; Clark/Spink counties: Kim McGraw; Codington County: Jodi Loehrer; Davison/Hanson counties: Alice Nickelson; Day/Marshall counties: Jennifer Ringkob; Deuel/Grant counties: John Keimig; Gregory/Tripp counties: Megan Peterson; Haakon/Jackson/Jones/Mellette counties: Carrie Weller; Hamlin/Kingsbury counties: Aren Fields; Harding/Perkins: Ida Schmidt; Hutchinson/Turner counties: Deanna Gall; Lake/Moody counties: Amanda Stade; Lincoln County: Amber Lounsbury; McCook County: Alicia Reif; Miner County: Maria Feldhaus; Roberts County: Tracey Lehrke.

## Oldest South Dakota male celebrates 108th birthday

William Knuppe was born in Parker in December of 1903. Later, moving to New Underwood, and working as a farmer and rancher most of his life, William "Bill," can now add another name to claim as "South Dakota's Century Club's Oldest Living Male." Bill is planning to celebrate his 108th birthday later this month at the Good Samaritan Society in New Underwood.

In an application submitted to the Century Club, Bill was asked what he thinks contributed to his longevity. He quickly replied, "I had a wife who was a good cook!" Knuppe married Mathe Kring on July 3, 1930 and they enjoyed 79 years together.

The Century Club is a creation of the South Dakota Health Care Association and has recognized nearly 1,000 South Dakotans since its beginning in 1997. Century Club sponsors created the Club to recognize both the contributions and the years of these special individuals.

The Century Club is open to residents of South Dakota upon the celebration of his or her 100th birthday. There are

no dues and every inductee receives a specially designed certificate and membership card signed by sponsors. Once a year, the current oldest living Century Club Member is recognized as the "Centenarian of the Year."

South Dakota Health Care Association in conjunction with KELOLAND Television, announced this past summer that Beryl Kapaun of Salem was named the "2011 Centenarian of the Year!" According to Century Club records, Beryl Kapaun, a current resident at the Golden LivingCenter in Salem, born June 4, 1899, is the oldest living South Dakotan. Beryl celebrated her 112th birthday in June. This recognition is a three-peat for Beryl as she has remained the oldest living South Dakotan for the past three years earning the honor.

You may submit names for the Century Club by visiting [www.sdhca.org](http://www.sdhca.org) and downloading a Century Club Application or call LuAnn Severson, Century Club Coordinator, at 1-800-952-3052.

## 43rd annual South Dakota Pork Congress set

The South Dakota Pork Producers Council (SDPPC) announces their 43rd Annual Pork Congress to be held at the Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel and Exhibit Hall on January 12 and 13, 2012.

The two-day trade show will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, January 13. Exhibitors will display the latest in technology, equipment, feeds, and vet supplies. Admission to the trade show is FREE and a pork loin feed is available to all in attendance Thursday beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Ramkota Exhibit Hall Annex.

In the morning on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. an educational seminar will feature Dr. Steve Meyer, president of Paragon Economics, who will discuss the economic outlook for the pork industry, including input costs.

A PQA Plus® certification session is available on Thursday, Jan. 12 at 1 p.m. in the seminar area of the exhibit hall. PQA Plus® is a voluntary program for pork farmers to demonstrate to

consumers their commitment to providing the best care possible for their animals while also providing the highest quality and safest product possible. Following the PQA Plus® training session producers will be able to get TQA® Certification at 2 p.m. Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) is a program designed by the National Pork Board to give handlers an understanding of how to handle and transport pigs.

Thursday's events culminate with a live auction that evening which raises funds for SDPPC's Non-Checkoff funds. The auction takes place after the Master Pork Producers Recognition Banquet in the Washington Room of the Ramkota Hotel.

SDPPC also holds its Non-Checkoff and Checkoff Annual Meeting of the Members during the Pork Congress and the election of the 2013 Pork Act Delegates and 2012 NPPC Delegates.

During the annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, the SDPPC will present several awards to

industry leaders, including a pork environmental steward award to a McCook County pork farmer, Ferlyn & Karen Hofer of Canistota, whose concern for the environment is evident through their daily farm practices.

We will kick off Friday afternoon with a cooking demonstration from the SDSU Meats Department. They will be going over different techniques in cooking pork.

The second seminar on Friday begins at 2 p.m. educating those about the False Beliefs about Pig Behavior by Nancy Lidster of DNL Farms. This seminar will educate producers of the false beliefs about pig behavior that created problems for Lidster's in the 1980s are still causing pig handling problems for the pork industry workers today. She will go over ineffective handling methods requiring more time and often extra people whose efforts could be invested and profitable in other tasks.

New this year for seminars will be a panel discussion that will allow producers to come in and

ask industry leaders questions about management, finance, nutrition, ventilation and animal handling.

The event culminates with a SIP Reception to all members on Friday evening. There will be a Silent Auction to help raise money for the SDPPC Pork PAC. This reception is open to all current members and prospective SIP members. This great event helps to inform the members of how their Non-Checkoff money is being used and the event will take place in the Roosevelt Room of the Ramkota Hotel.

A full schedule of events is available at [www.sdppc.org](http://www.sdppc.org)

The South Dakota Pork Producers Council (SDPPC) was created in 1954 to responsibly serve, support and enhance the success of the South Dakota pork production industry. Along with managing industry issues and improving the image of the pork industry, the SDPPC works to insure a safe, wholesome product for the consumer's confident consumption.

## OBITUARIES

### Ruth Mart

Ruth E. Mart, 93, of Vermillion, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center.

Ruth Nelson was born Dec. 18, 1918 in Irene, to Lawrence and Mathilda (Mikkelsen) Nelson. She attended school in Irene and Centerville, and married Harold A. Mart on Feb. 27, 1937 in Yankton.

Ruth was very much a Christian lady and operated her own wall paper hanging and interior decorating business for many years in the Wakonda, Irene and Vermillion area. Harold and Ruth farmed in the Pleasant Valley Township until Harold passed away in 1991.

Her joy was her friends, family and grandchildren. She liked to play cards and was a member of the Sew and Chat Club for over 50 years. Ruth was a good neighbor, was always kind to people and had a gentle spirit.

Ruth is survived by her son,

Larry (Rose) Mart, and daughter, Maryln (John) Harnois, all of Vermillion; two sisters, Phyllis Boom of Centerville and Betty (Eldon) Hasche of Sioux Falls; a brother-in-law, Ralph "Ras" Peterson of Viborg; 11 grandchildren, Rick, Jody, Karla, John, Tom, Jeff, Karen, Deb, Doug, Dan and Kathy; 17 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; two brothers, Ralph and Leonard; and six sisters, Amanda, Edith, Lottie, Marjorie, Jean and Nora; and a granddaughter.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 23 at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion with burial to follow the reception in the St. Patrick's Cemetery in rural Wakonda. Visitation began at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 with a prayer service at 7 p.m. all at the church.

[hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com)

## Affordable Care Act helps improve care for patients

Thirty-two leading health care organizations from across the country will participate in a new Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) initiative made possible by the Affordable Care Act, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has announced.

The Pioneer ACO initiative will encourage primary care doctors, specialists, hospitals and other caregivers to provide better, more coordinated care for people with Medicare and could save up to \$1.1 billion over five years.

Under this initiative, operated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center (Innovation Center), Medicare will reward groups of health care providers that have formed ACOs based on how well they are able to both improve the health of their Medicare patients and lower their health care costs.

"Pioneer ACOs are leaders in our work to provide better care and reduce health care costs," said Secretary Sebelius. "We are excited that so many innovative systems are participating in this exciting initiative — and there are many other ways that health care providers can get involved and help improve care for patients."

The Pioneer ACO initiative is just one of a menu of options for providers looking to better coordinate care for patients and use health care dollars more wisely. The Pioneer ACO model is designed specifically for groups of providers with experience working together to coordinate care for patients. The Medicare Shared Savings Program and the Advance Payment ACO Model, both announced in October 2011, are also ACO options for providers. More information about the full menu of options for providers and

how to apply to participate is available here.

The 32 Pioneer ACOs underwent a rigorous competitive selection process by the Innovation Center, including extensive review of applications and in-person interviews.

The initiative will test the effectiveness of several innovative payment models and how they can help experienced organizations to provide better care for beneficiaries, work in coordination with private payers, and reduce Medicare cost growth. These payment models will allow organizations that are successful in achieving better care and lower cost growth to move away from a payment system based on volume under the fee-for-service model, towards one where the ACO is paid

based on the value of care it provides.

The Pioneer ACO model requires ACOs to engage other payers in similar efforts to reward health care providers that deliver high-quality care. The Pioneer ACO model also includes strict beneficiary protections, including the ability for patients to seek care from any Medicare provider they wish.

Selected Pioneer ACOs include physician-led organizations and health systems, urban and rural organizations, and organizations in various geographic regions of the country, representing 18 States and the opportunity to improve care for about 860,000 Medicare beneficiaries.

The first performance period of the Pioneer ACO Model will begin Jan. 1, 2012.

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