

Clay, Union, Yankton Counties Welcome New Face to 4-H

By Katie Clausen
For the Plain Talk

The success of 4-H programs and their positive impact on youth is dependent upon the people who take the time and effort to make 4-H work. Luckily for youth in Clay, Union, and Yankton counties, there is a new leader ready to grab the bull by the horns; Lauren Hollenbeck.

"I'm originally from Minnesota," Hollenbeck said. "I grew up with, and was heavily involved, in the 4H and FFA program there."

Hollenbeck's love of agriculture, 4-H, and FFA extended into her adult life, where she moved from Welcome, MN to Brookings to continue her agricultural education.

"After graduation I went to South Dakota State University," Hollenbeck said. "I have a Bachelors of Science degree in Animal Science and a Bachelors of Art degree in Spanish."

After graduating from college, Hollenbeck ventured to the Southeast to work in food production.

"From there my husband went to grad school in Arkansas," Hollenbeck said. "So I followed him there and after he graduated we were both working at Tyson Foods."

Hollenbeck worked at the headquarters of Tyson Foods, a heavy hitter in meat production in the United States, as a food scientist. While her time in Arkansas was educational, something pulled her back to the Midwest.

"I wanted to be closer to family," Hollenbeck said.

"My husband works for BPI now, so this is the perfect area for us, the south east corner."

Her new position with the extension offices in three counties is something she is looking forward to beginning.

"I am the youth program advisor," Hollenbeck said. "Within 4-H I'll be responsible for helping with fair activities and getting all of those things set up."

Hollenbeck will be hands on with the youth programs 4-H has available for local kids, such as clover buds.

"Also, I'll be running some 4-H programs," Hollenbeck said. "I'm also responsible for other youth activities such as after school programs, where I will go in and do a science project or something along those lines."

After school programs and other youth organizations have Hollenbeck to look to for education as well.

"It's not only kids that are involved in 4-H," Hollenbeck said. "It's all through the school, public library and boys and girls clubs and organizations like those."

She is open to learning about the community and meeting new groups.

"If they want me to come in and do a program we can come in a set that up too," Hollenbeck said.

Manning the controls of three counties will be a big project for Hollenbeck to take on, but she has confidence due to the structure already set in place.

"I think definitely being stretched between the three



A Midwest native, Lauren Hollenbeck recently accepted a position with Clay, Union and Yankton County 4-H programs. She has hands on experience with livestock showing and judging.

COURTESY PHOTO

counties will be a challenge; it is a large group of kids to get to know," Hollenbeck said. "But I have a lot of help, so that is good."

4-H is educational, artistic, and conducive to youth development and learning.

"I think it really teaches kids responsibility and leadership skills," Hollenbeck said. "If I hadn't had that 4-H and FFA experience I don't know where I would've ended up. It really helped me with leadership."

"There are just so many

programs in 4-H that you can choose to be involved in."

Hollenbeck is looking forward to fair time the most. Clay, Union and Yankton counties all have their own fair held annually. Youth who have participated in 4-H use the fair as a platform to display projects they have been working on and compete for recognition in events.

"That is something I always looked forward to when I was in 4-H," Hollenbeck said. "Getting to see everyone's projects is really exciting."

experience and that they are compassionate and trustworthy.

"I look for people that are honest and reliable and have experience or have background," Nesselhuf said. "Its personal- I like people who want to help other people."

Because the TLC staff is so positively affected by their goal of providing good care to Vermillion residents, they often care for each other as well. It is a reciprocal relationship between staff and clients.

"We're not a family business but if feels that way," Nesselhuf said. "The staff and I are very close and we love who we work for. It feels like a family."

Relationship development is often an unexpected yet heartwarming side effect of the service.

"One of the things I hear a lot when we work with clients is that we have become like a member of their family," Nesselhuf said. "And that is so rewarding. You really get close to them."

Nesselhuf continues to reach out as both part of her desire to continue her educational and growth as a care provider and to make sure a multitude of groups who require care are represented.

"I just came back from an Alzheimer's support

group," Nesselhuf said. "There are a lot of services we provide and a lot of services needed."

TLC is branching out to help other types of families in need.

"I am now doing more autistic care, and that's kids of all ages where I come in and help," Nesselhuf said. "It gives parents some time to address other things going on."

The care Nesselhuf provides can help families take a break, and often a much needed deep breath, while knowing their loved one is being cared for.

"One of the advantages is that it's helpful to families who need to get things done," Nesselhuf said. "I think the caring part and seeing people live fulfilling lives is the best, one of my mottos is 'live life to the fullest' and I believe everyone is entitled to that."

While TLC is growing, Nesselhuf has aspirations for what the care giving service could expand into in years to come.

"My future goal in life is have a place where adults can come in Vermillion and be cared for," Nesselhuf said. "I think Vermillion could use that."

Contact touchinglivescaregiver@gmail.com for more information on TLC services.

MEET VERMILLION'S CITY MANAGER: JOHN PRESCOTT

Meet John Prescott
By Zach Wetzel, for the Plain
Talk

John Prescott is a dedicated voice for the community as the City Manager of Vermillion.

According to Vermillion.us, the City's official website, the City Manager is the Chief Executive for Vermillion. The City Manager works with the City Council in matters of administration and business for the City.

"The personnel who comprise this department play a vital role for the community by acting as a link between the public and all employees," the website states.

Administration and public relations are only some of the many responsibilities of the City Manager.

The City Manager helps enforce policies and laws established by the Council.

According to John Prescott, the City Manager, Finance Officer, and City Attorney are all hired by the City Council.

"I enjoy the interaction with the City Council and the community, as well as the opportunity to help build and develop the community," said Prescott.

Prescott spent his childhood in Sioux City. He moved to South Dakota after working for a period of time in Minnesota and Nebraska.

Prescott attended college at the University of Northern Iowa. He received a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Prescott worked as an Assistant City Manager before heading to Vermillion and taking the helm as City Manager. Prescott's prior position as an Assistant City Manager helped prepare him to serve as City Manager of

Vermillion.

Prescott's time in Kearney, Nebraska was good preparation for his transition to South Dakota as well. Kearney is very similar to Vermillion in that there are very strong ties between the local university and the community.

When he's not at the office, Prescott enjoys spending time with his family.

Prescott likes to attend his kid's various sporting events. His children participate in many sports including soccer, basketball, and track.

Prescott is a fan of the Seinfeld television series, and enjoys a good laugh.

Prescott's former position in Nebraska provided some wonderful opportunities.

Towards the end of his time working in Nebraska, Prescott collaborated with the Secret Service and the city of Kearney to prepare for a visit from President Clinton.

"This was a very unique and interesting experience," Prescott recalled.

Prescott is half-Italian and enjoys quality Italian food. He loves to visit the Little Italy restaurant on Cherry Street.

As the City Manager, Prescott hires and trains city employees. He is also responsible for preparing the budget for the City Council.

Prescott appreciates the opportunity to interact on a daily basis with different people in the community. He is able to participate in a diverse range of activities, from city maintenance to law enforcement.

"This is a great position that allows me to help the community prosper and grow for the future," said Prescott. "You never know the impact the things you do now will have down the road."



LIVES

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to adult care.

"I had been in the health field the last ten years," Nesselhuf said. "I had been doing elder care for the last seven years. I started with a couple in their own home."

Special needs care and elder care are the two main focuses of TLC. They offer a wide variety of services and are able to tailor services to client's specific needs.

Services provided range from medication reminders, companionship, and transportation to and from appointments, meal preparation and daily activity to more advanced care such as Alzheimer's disease and Dementia care, colostomy bag support developmental disabilities and diabetes management

"We do 24/7 care or short shifts," Nesselhuf said. "It just depends on the support that the client requires."

Nesselhuf is qualified to provide care. After graduating from Vermillion High School, she attended Wayne State College in Wayne, NE where she obtained a degree in Human Services Counseling.

"Then I moved back to Vermillion and worked at SEDAC for five years and within those five years I was offered positions," Nesselhuf said. "I decided that I needed to go back to school and I got a degree in Long-Term Healthcare Management and I graduated from USD in May."

Nesselhuf believes the kind of care a service such

as TLC can provide is second to none.

"In the long run I see there are advantages to one-on-one care," Nesselhuf said. "You can help people be independent."

TLC sends caregivers into the homes of the elderly and disabled to help with everyday tasks, chores, and provide companionship. While there are plenty of challenges associated with caring for others, the work is ultimately rewarding.

"It's rewarding because you're able to help someone stay in their own home, it is more one-on-one," Nesselhuf said. "It's also rewarding to see clients keep their independence."

For many, the environment provided by the caregivers at TLC is the type of environment they are able to thrive on.

Clients gain the benefit of developing quality relationships with the staff, partaking in activities on their own terms and time schedules, and receive top level focus on their health care. By remaining at home, they are also often able to remain with loved ones and pets.

"I have six employees that have had background or experience in health care," Nesselhuf said. "I have a great team, they work well together and they're compassionate and caring and they want the best for whomever we're caring for."

Nesselhuf screens each employee prior to bringing them on with TLC. She requires that they have plenty of



NESSELHUF

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Clay County

The Annual meeting of the Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Clay County will be held in the Banquet Room at Red Steakhouse, 1 East Main Street, Vermillion, at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Please join us at 12:30 when lunch will be provided.

The Board of Directors would also propose the adoption of the Amended and Restated By-Laws. Copies of the proposed Amended and Restated By-Laws shall be mailed to any member who requests a copy and shall also be available to members present at the annual meeting.

-Patricia Girard, President
-Mark Donnelly, Secretary

The Public is Invited to Attend!
CRACKER BARRELS WITH OUR LEGISLATORS

Sat., Jan. 31, 10:00 am to noon

@ Vermillion City Hall Council Chambers, 25 Center St.

Sat., Feb. 28, 10:00 am to noon

@ Vermillion City Hall Council Chambers, 25 Center St.

Please join District 17 Legislators, Senator Art Rusch and House Representatives Nancy Rasmussen and Ray Ring, for an update on the 90th Legislative Session. Open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to join us for some great discussion! Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary, Clay County Democrats, Clay County Republicans, and the VCDC Legislative Affairs Committee



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