

Noem staffer in Vermillion July 28

U.S. Representative Kristi Noem (R-SD) announced today that Peter Eckrich of her Sioux Falls office will hold a constituent outreach day in Clay County on Thursday, July 28. Eckrich will be available from 11 a.m. to noon at Café Brulé in Vermillion.

"As South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I take the role of my staff and I meeting with South Dakotans to hear about the issues that are important to them very seriously. It is my hope that individuals needing help with a federal agency or simply wishing to pass on their concerns to me will stop by," said Noem.

Aside from this opportunity, Eckrich also plans on visiting with community leaders in the region. Any area resident is invited to contact Rep. Noem's Sioux Falls office at 605-275-2868 if you would like to set up an appointment or if you need immediate assistance. If you are unable to find time to come to Vermillion on July 28, you can always reach the office via the website, www.noem.house.gov.

Vilsack invites applications to promote business development

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants to support regional economic development strategies and promote job creation.

"The Obama Administration is working on a regional basis to build networks of strong, self-sustaining rural communities," Vilsack said. "This program will help create jobs and assist in identifying and developing business opportunities in rural areas."

Almost \$2.5 million is available through USDA Rural Development's Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program. The program promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities and regions with exceptional needs.

The RBOG program provides training and technical assistance grants for business development, entrepreneurs, and economic development officials and assists with economic development planning. Funding is available to rural public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Native American tribes and cooperatives with primarily rural members that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the membership.

Applications for Rural Business Opportunity Grants are due August 1, 2011. Application instructions may be obtained from the July 1, 2011 Federal Register, page 38604, www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-01/html/2011-16555.htm or by contacting a USDA Rural Development State Office.

CHIEF

From Page 1

4,000 who are in transient. Dutch Harbor is the biggest fishing port in the United States by volume of fish, so basically it's a small village surrounded by a giant work camp," Betzen said. "It doesn't have a lot of the amenities of civilization; you have to jump on a plane and go 700 miles for \$1,000 to go shopping ... so my wife said it was time to get back to civilization, and that's what we've been working on for the past year."

Betzen applied for open positions in Vermillion and in several other law enforcement agencies. Vermillion city officials were the first ones to call him back after receiving his application.

Betzen said he and his wife began researching Vermillion to learn all they could about the community. "We got more and more excited the more we learned," he said. "The location, the fact that it is a small college town, and when I came out to interview, I arrived here a couple days early, and I talked to a realtor, and went around town and talked to different people, and met with some members of the Lions Club."

"I just got the impression that Vermillion is a wonderful town, almost ideally situated in that it was close enough to decent-sized cities in that you could drive to them, and far enough away in that it is still a little American town where people wave to each other and say 'hi.' There isn't, what I like to call, that pervasive fear that seems to exist in a lot of big cities. That really appeals to us," he said.

Betzen's son, Noah will begin his freshman year at the

In June, President Obama signed an Executive Order establishing the first White House Rural Council, chaired by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The White House Rural Council will work throughout government to create policies to promote economic prosperity and a high quality of life in our rural communities.

Since taking office, President Obama's Administration has taken significant steps to improve the lives of rural Americans and has provided broad support for rural communities. The Obama Administration has set goals of modernizing infrastructure by providing broadband access to 10 million Americans, expanding educational opportunities for students in rural areas, and providing affordable health care. In the long term, these unparalleled rural investments will help ensure that America's rural communities are repopulating, self-sustaining, and thriving economically.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$150 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Betzen also has a daughter, Sasha, and a granddaughter who live near Richland, WA, and a stepdaughter, Carly, who lives with her husband in Palmer, AK, and works as a radiology technologist.

He believes the term "law enforcement" doesn't adequately describe the role that a police department plays in a community like Vermillion.

"Small communities in general, and really all communities want police officers because they want to have a peaceful environment to live in," Betzen said. "Law enforcement is more of a tool that we use, though it has come to be the focus of most police work ... because it is a big part of the job."

"But I really look at police work as basically public service," he said. "We fill in the gaps, we're around 24 hours, and we help with all sorts of problems, and many of those problems don't have a solution with a ticket or an arrest."

"I guess my philosophy is one of personal service, and I'd like to pass that on to the officers that work with me. Clearly, a huge part of our job is we get called to deal with violations of the law, but often we get called for other things, and those can be as important or more important than violations of the law in that we are able to help people with whatever problems they may have," Betzen said.

City Manager John Prescott said the city conducted interviews for the chief's position in late April, and extended an offer to Betzen in May. He will be paid \$70,000 annually. He arrived in Vermillion last Friday, and in the past week he was involved in a whirlwind of meetings as he prepared to begin his new

S.D. Farmers Union campers 'Growing Healthy Cooperatively'

Young people from across Clay County learned to live healthier lifestyles, make better food choices, and work together to make their communities healthier during the annual Clay County Farmers Union camp held Tuesday, June 21, in Vermillion.

Young people attended this year's camp themed, Growing Healthy Cooperatively. The kids participated in activities and games that taught them about cooperative business, rural communities, and agriculture in a fun and safe setting. There were also activities based on the Farmers Union "Growing Good Taste" curriculum, where young people learned about where their food comes from and how to make healthy choices.

"The majority of Americans are generations removed from the farm, and childhood obesity rates are alarming," said State Education Director Bonnie Geyer. "These kids learned about what makes up a healthy, balanced diet and ways to be more physically active while gaining knowledge about how their food is grown and where it comes from. South Dakota's future will be in their hands, and we want them to have the knowledge they need to make good choices in the future."

Along with activities, games, singing and swimming, each child also took part in a 'Garden Buddy' activity. They planted grass seeds in soil that was wrapped in light material. Their 'Garden Buddy' will grow over the summer and they'll be able to give



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it haircuts. Each child received a free T-shirt sponsored by Farmers Union Insurance and a free jump rope donated by Sanford Health.

Participants at this year's Clay County Farmers Union camp were: Will Hackerner, Hari Manappu, Sydney Christensen, Carter Skogsburg, Bodhi Brady, Liam Percy, Tyler Avis, Venus Reeves, Serenity Reeves, Jacob Chaussee, Roain McCormick, Maria Emilia Gamarra-Hapan, Ryan Carlisle, Skylir Allen, Phillip Hauck, Tyler Hauck, Nicole Hauck, Sophia Milson, Lauren Mandernach, Ashley Neely, Patrick

Dimoch, Jesselyn Dornbusch, Jayce Dornbusch, Evan Pohl, Anna Olson all from Vermillion; Kacie Stepp from Elk Point; and Emily Kayl from Burbank. Clay County Farmers Union Camp was directed by the Farmers Union Summer Interns Angie Koch and Brittany Gassman.

For more information on South Dakota Farmers Union and how you and your children can get involved in the organization's youth activities, visit the education page at www.sdfu.org or call Bonnie Geyer, 605-352-6761 ext. 125.

WNV

From Page 1

in the different zones, so if the larva does turn into adults, then they're caught in the traps and monitored every day," Nelson said. "That way we can estimate how many adults are in the different zones."

The traps - which are located on both city and private property - burn propane and emit a chemical called octanol that mimics mammalian breath.

The mosquitoes are attracted to the trap by this chemical and a vacuum sucks them into a bag, which is emptied each day, at which point the mosquitoes are counted and analyzed in terms of species.

Based on the number of mosquitoes there are, the city will perform another fogging of the streets. One such fogging already has taken place this year, Baedke said.

"The state sets a threshold of how many mosquitoes you want to have, compared to subjecting the whole town to fogging and insecticides," Nelson said. "At that point, they figure it's worth the attempt to try and stop it. There's always going to be bugs,

but it's just how many you can tolerate."

"(The traps are) by no means going to control the population," Baedke added. "They're just out there to give us an idea of what is there."

Nelson said that even though only one WNV case has been announced this year, the public probably can count on learning of more. September tends to be the worst month in terms of cases, he said.

However, Baedke added that the incubation period for WNV is 2-15 days, and that 80 percent of the people who are infected with it do not get sick.

Less than 1 percent of that number actually get the West Nile disease, he said.

"The chances of knowing you have it are very slim," he said.

Regardless of this, Nelson said people must do what they can to prevent themselves from being bitten in the first place by

limiting how much skin they expose and to use mosquito repellents that include DEET.

Most importantly, they must get rid of standing water near their homes, he said.

Baedke agreed, saying, "We had standing water in Barstow Park after a heavy rain, and it took me two days to pump the water out of there. But in that two days, I was able to do surveillance and find mosquito

larva that was just in the grass, just waiting to get wet. Once the water was standing, they hatched."

Common nuisance mosquito eggs can lie around for years before hatching, Baedke said.

For more information on the prevention of WNV, visit <http://doh.sd.gov/westnile/>, or visit <http://sdces.sdstate.edu/westnile>.

Enter the South Dakota State Fair
BEEF Cook-Off

Submit a Recipe by August 1st using one of the 29 Lean Cuts of Beef
Finalists will cook on Saturday, Sept 3 at Huron State Fairgrounds
Prizes: First Place - \$500 Adult / \$250 Youth - Many Honorable Mention Awards

Rules and Entry Form at www.sdbef.org

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Welcome to the World

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in June 2011:

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Alexys | Ezra | Kaiden | Makenzie | Rylan |
| Asher | Gabriella | Kameron | Mason | Tyson |
| Ayzyy | Grace | Kenzie | Miley | Vincent |
| Bentley | Grayson | Kraven | Nicholas | Westin |
| Brielle | Isabella | Kylie | Nixon | Willow |
| Caden | Jaxon | Landon | Nole | Xavier |
| Colton | Jaxson | Lenox | Owen | Zane |
| Damien | Jayden | Liam | Rachel | Zayluh |
| Elaina | Jeffery | Lyle | Raegin | |
| Emilee | Josiah | Mabel | Ryan | |



www.AveraSacredHeart.com

Every baby born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital goes home with a complimentary child passenger safety seat.