

Johnson staffer to visit Clay County July 25

U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) announced today that Erik Nelson of his Sioux Falls office will hold an Economic Development Outreach Day in Clay County on Wednesday, July 25. Nelson will visit Vermillion and Wakonda. "Many South Dakotans are unable to travel to my offices in Rapid City, Aberdeen or Sioux Falls. Outreach Days help me remain in touch with the concerns of South Dakotans," Johnson said. "South Dakotans are my number one priority, and I want to make sure that everyone regardless of

where they live has the opportunity to meet personally with my staff." Johnson has always encouraged South Dakotans to call, write or visit his Service Offices in Rapid City, Aberdeen, Sioux Falls or Washington, DC to share their concerns. South Dakotans may also call Johnson's office toll-free by dialing 1-800-537-0025 or e-mail at <http://www.johnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=ContactForm>. Local residents who wish to make an appointment with Nelson may call 1-800-537-0025.

Rule change would delay new standards for teaching

The South Dakota Board of Education has approved an administrative rule change that would delay a requirement that school districts evaluate teachers based on the standards for teaching approved by the board a year ago. The delay will give districts until the 2014-2015 school year to align their evaluation instruments to the new standards for teaching. "We are asking for this change due to requests from school leaders," said Secretary of Education Melody Schopp. "This change will clarify for all those involved that teacher evaluation may be based on existing local standards until

the 2014-2015 school year, at which point it must be based on the new standards. The extra time can be used to align evaluation instruments and gain familiarity with the new standards." During the 2010 legislative session, lawmakers tasked the Department of Education with establishing standards for teaching in South Dakota. A work group consisting of teachers, education leaders and experts from around the state studied the issue and recommended the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching. The Framework for Teaching consists of four domains broken into 22 indicators of good teaching.

Aalfs Auditorium at USD to host 39th Honor Choir Concert Aug. 3

The University of South Dakota and the South Dakota American Choral Director's Association will present the 39th annual South Dakota Honor Choir Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 3 at Aalfs Auditorium inside Slagle Hall on the USD campus. Guest conductor Dr. Lynne Gackle of Baylor University and 150 of South Dakota's best high school choral musicians will perform several classical and contemporary musical selections. Recent USD graduate and Yankton native Scott Arens will serve as accompanist for the performance. Tickets are \$10 for general admission seating and will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m. the day of the show. Hundreds of students from across the state auditioned for the South Dakota All State Honor Choir. Students chosen for the choir will begin six days of rehearsal on Sunday, July 29 at the Muenster University Center Ballroom. Activities throughout the week for the choir members include a dance, talent show,

movies and a barbecue. Under the leadership of the South Dakota American Choral Directors Association, the South Dakota All-State Honor Choir - formed in 1974 - provides a quality musical experience for the state's top high school vocalists. Current president of SD-ACDA is Dr. David Holdhusen, director of choral activities at USD. The annual summer event is hosted at one of South Dakota's universities or colleges with the choir conducted by some of the nation's finest musical directors. This is the second consecutive year and sixth time overall that USD has hosted this prestigious choral event. For more information about the 39th annual High School Honor Choir Concert at USD, contact Holdhusen at (605) 677-5721 or e-mail David.Holdhusen@usd.edu. For more information about music at USD, contact the Department of Music at (605) 677-5274 or e-mail music@usd.edu.

Open house planned for Manning

An open house will be held for retiring Vermillion postmaster Michael Manning next week. The event will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, July 27, in the lobby of the Vermillion Post Office, which is located at 16 Court St. Coffee and cookies will be

served while they last. Manning has served with the post office for more than 34 years.

OBITUARIES

Yvon Vaillancourt
Yvon Donat Vaillancourt, 60, of Vermillion, passed away Monday, July 9, 2012. He was born in Cornwall Ontario on March 18, 1952. Yvon graduated from USD and received a degree in vocational auto mechanics. He was married to Katherine Ida Vaillancourt. Yvon spent his career always mindful of his impact on those he served. He spent most of his years working in education, or in financial services. He is survived by his wife Katherine; his son, Stephen Vaillancourt with his wife Jennifer; his daughter, Audra Vaillancourt; and his son, Michael Vaillancourt with his wife Anne and their two daughters Hailey and Riley. A memorial service was held Sunday, July 15 at Valiant Vineyards in Vermillion at 2 p.m. Cards or donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to 46312 313th St, Vermillion, SD 57069.

Quasquicentennial Farm and Ranch Award at South Dakota State Fair

Farm families that have enjoyed 100 or 125 years of life on the farm or ranch have the opportunity to be honored during the South Dakota State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 30. Century Farms have been recognized at the State Fair since 1984 by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) and the South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB). Farms and ranches that had been family-owned for 125 years or more were recognized in a quasquicentennial event last year. That tradition will continue this year. Recognition of the Quasquicentennial Farms will immediately follow the Century Farms program. "Farm and ranch families are the backbone of South Dakota agriculture," said SDFB President Scott VanderWal. "Families that have survived 125 years of drought, floods, winter storms, insects and difficult economic times should be recognized for

their great achievements." A farm or ranch is eligible for Century Farm recognition if at least 80 acres of original land has been continuously owned by the same family for 100 years or longer. A Quasquicentennial Farm must meet the same acreage requirements and be owned by the same family for 125 years or longer. "It takes many generations of commitment to keep a farm or ranch in the family for 100 or 125 years," said South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Walt Bones. "These farm and ranch families represent the steadfast dedication that South Dakota has to agriculture. Agriculture is here to stay." Application forms can be obtained online for both the Century Farm and the Quasquicentennial Farm recognition at www.sdfbf.org or <http://sdda.sd.gov/Secretary/Century-Farms> or by calling 605-353-8052. All

forms must be completed and notarized before being returned by Aug. 13 to the South Dakota Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 1426, Huron, SD, 57350. The South Dakota State Fair will run Aug. 30-Sept. 3 at the State Fairgrounds in Huron. You can find the South Dakota State Fair on Facebook and Twitter. For more information, log onto www.sdstatefair.com. Agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 industry, generating nearly \$21 billion in annual economic activity and employing more than 80,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

4-H State Fair information on iGrow

Each year more than 9,000 South Dakota youth actively participate in 4-H programming. The South Dakota State Fair is an annual event where many of these youth celebrate what they've learned throughout the year and compete with other 4-H members from across the state through display exhibits, livestock exhibits, and judging and speaking contests. The 2012 South Dakota State Fair is held in Huron Aug. 30-Sept. 3. This year, as South Dakota 4-H members and volunteers prepare for the big event, they will have 24-7 access to 2012 South Dakota State Fair information thanks to SDSU Extension's iGrow.org Web site. "Making State Fair resources available on iGrow is an important step in achieving our goal to make information and forms accessible quickly and

conveniently," said Peter Nielson, 4-H Youth Development Program Director. In 2011, more than 5,000 4-H members were responsible for 14,319 entries. Not a simple task explains Nielson, as each entry has to pass a qualification process in order to compete at the state fair. "Members' entries must receive an endorsement through a purple ribbon at their County Fair in order to show the project at the State Fair. Although project completion can be worked out in a number of ways, the main method of project completion has been, and will remain the South Dakota State Fair," Nielson said. Projects are key to the hands-on learning model 4-H has embraced since the organizations beginning in 1902. As youths engage in developing skills in a variety of

areas from livestock judging and food and family to Robotics and Videography/Photography; their projects need to meet certain criteria to qualify for fair entry. Today this information and much more can be found on igrow.org/4h/south-dakota-4h/. The page includes the 4-H Division Handbook, schedules, score sheets and forms. Daily schedules are listed in the events section of the site at <http://igrow.org/events/>. iGrow is the teaching platform used by SDSU Extension to assure state of the art program delivery. For more information on how to become involved in 4-H as a member or volunteer, contact your local 4-H youth program advisor. Listings are available at igrow.org.

Raizola attends NSO session

A total of 835 high school seniors have enrolled for the 2012 fall semester at Southwestern Oklahoma State University as part of the New Student Orientation Program on the Weatherford campus. Among the students who enrolled at the July 16 NSO session is Brenden Jesus Raizola of Vermillion SD High School. SWOSU is offering one more enrollment opportunity for high school seniors who are planning to attend SWOSU this fall. The session is August 17 and classes begin August 22 at SWOSU. Students must apply and be accepted to SWOSU before they can attend an enrollment session.

Heartland Humane Society meet and greet Aug. 4

Heartland Humane Society welcomes the community to meet their dogs available for adoption on Saturday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Yankton Mall's east parking lot. The Yankton Mall is located at 2101 Broadway Ave. Heartland Humane Society will have several different sizes and breeds of dogs available to meet and adopt. Anyone interested in adopting an animal is encouraged to fill out an application prior to the Meet and Greet. Applications must be reviewed and approved prior to adoption. You can pick up an application at the shelter or find it online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net


For more information on either event, contact Heartland Humane Society 605-664-4244 or email hhs@midconetwork.com. You can view all animals up for adoption on the shelter's website or on Petfinder.com. Heartland Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves southeastern South Dakota and northeastern Nebraska, protecting and enhancing the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people. Visit Heartland Humane Society online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net

S.D. Guard unit to deploy to Afghanistan

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 235th Military Police Company has received their official mobilization order for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 235th and its 124 assigned members are scheduled for deployment in January. The unit received an alert order for possible deployment in October. The mobilization order confirms the unit will deploy overseas. The mission of the 235th is to provide security for U.S. military

personnel, installation and facilities and to guard prisoners of war and civilian internees. The unit's headquarters is located in Rapid City with a detachment based in Sioux Falls. The unit will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This will be the third mobilization for the 235th, deploying in support of Operation Noble Eagle at Fort Carson, CO, in 2003, as well as in support of OEF in Afghanistan in 2006.

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