

progress

MAGAZINE

2022 | JULY - AUGUST

aberdeen-chamber.com



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aberdeen
CHANGING THE GAME

The Official Magazine of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce



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W-2021184 09/20

Sanford Aberdeen's decade of growth

Since the Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center opened in July of 2012, Sanford Health has worked to improve the lives of Aberdeen area residents by increasing access to quality care.



At the same time, Sanford Health has invested heavily in the Aberdeen community, knowing that health care goes beyond the walls of hospitals and clinics.

With a focus on delivering world-class health care to rural areas like Aberdeen, Sanford Health has set itself apart and changed countless lives for good.

Care close to home

Sanford Aberdeen's story began in November of 2008 when the United Clinic became the Sanford Aberdeen Clinic. Four years later, when the organization constructed the three-story \$60-million medical center, Sanford Health offered patients new opportunities for expert care in northeast South Dakota.

In the decade since, Sanford Aberdeen has expanded access to many specialty services, including orthopedics, emergency medicine, cardiology, oncology, surgery, and women's care.

The organization has also upgraded its facilities and technology while increasing the number of staff and providers to meet growing patient needs. What was initially a team of 100 Sanford Aberdeen employees in 2008 is now 450, including 60 physicians and advanced practice providers.

"Our employees are top-notch and continue to treat our patients and families with the utmost respect and quality close to home in Aberdeen," said Executive Director Ashley Erickson.

Steve Redmond, MD, chief of staff for Sanford Aberdeen, has been caring for Aberdeen residents since 1994. He said Sanford Health draws patients from across the region and drives the local standard of care.

"There are patients coming to Aberdeen from areas I never used to see," Dr. Redmond said. "The Sanford presence has

made everyone step up their quality of service, making our city a great place to receive care."

In the community

Truly healthy communities prioritize preventive care, mental health and well-rounded development for their residents.

That's why Sanford Health is proud to partner with local high schools and colleges in career exploration and learning experiences, scholarships, and sports medicine programs.

It's also why Sanford Aberdeen plans to expand its behavioral health services in the coming years.

"Our top two community health priorities are improving physical activity and nutrition among residents and increasing access to health care providers, particularly for mental health services and education," Erickson said.

Leaders like Erickson understand that for the organization to continue growing in healthy ways, it must help its communities do the same. Since 2012, Sanford Health has directly contributed \$15 million to the Aberdeen community. But that's not the whole story.

The organization's economic impact—which includes wages paid to residents and the economic activity those wages induce, plus the revenue Sanford Health has created for other local businesses—totals nearly \$600 million since the opening of the medical center.

"We take pride in making Aberdeen a better place to live," Erickson said. "Our care extends beyond our hospital and clinics, as we are active in the communities we serve, investing substantial resources to ensure better health for all."

The future of rural health care

As Sanford Health works to become the premier rural health system in America, one thing stays in focus: the patient.

"Everything revolves around the patient," Dr. Redmond said. "I practice in a rural area because I like being close to the people I care for and being part of their lives. We speak the same language."

To better serve patients in rural areas like Aberdeen, Sanford Health has plans to expand its virtual care services. Backed by a \$300 million gift, a new virtual care center will be built in Sioux Falls in the coming years, reflecting the organization's claim that it is here for all – no matter a patient's spot on the map.

SANFORD
HEALTH

Introducing the Chamber's New Title Structure



Gail Ochs

Chief Executive Officer, IOM, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber Board of Directors recently met and discussed some title changes to better clarify roles and responsibilities of Chamber board members and Chamber staff. The goal is to modernize these titles, so our Chamber members know who to reach out to with questions on membership, programs and events when necessary. We believe they will also be more consistent with other Chambers and non-profit organizations moving forward.

Titles for members of the Executive Board will now be:

- President of the Board: Kellie Ecker-Kolb, South Dakota Manufacturing & Technology Solutions
- Vice President of the Board: Katie Washnok, Blackout Industries
- Treasurer of the Board: Dr. Sandra Welling, One-Legged Pheasant Brewery
- Secretary of the Board: Cam Schock, Climate Control
- Past President of the Board: Robert Goscicki, Area Federal Credit Union

The Chamber also made some recent staff changes and changes to some of their current roles and responsibilities. My title will change from President to Chief Executive Officer. If you have any specific questions on our organization as a whole, the Board of Directors, Program of Work, staff, policies, or positions, you'll want to reach out to me. I also do

my best to keep you informed and educated through Community Affairs Luncheons, Legislative Cracker Barrels, Candidate Forums, Aberdeen Day, weekly email correspondence, and the Chamber's website. I also facilitate the Leadership Aberdeen program and can get you and your team involved in committees and programs that focus on workforce and education, transportation and military/veteran issues.

Kami Spieker's new title will be Promotions & Partnerships - If you're a member and want to make the most of your benefits, you'll want to visit with Kami. Plus, if your businesses want to host a ribbon cutting or groundbreaking, she and the Chamber Ambassadors will be there and help promote the event on social media. Kami also organizes monthly Business After Hours Mixers, so if your business would like to host or sponsor, give her a call. Her goal is to help you partner with the Chamber in any way that helps make your business more successful whether that's through the many special events she manages, or through other Chamber programs and opportunities.

Julia Coon's new title will be Outreach & Engagement - Julia will focus on membership recruitment and events and programs designed to help you, our members, retain your employees through Chamber involvement and engagement. She is also probably the first person you meet when you contact the Chamber to register for an event and get information on a Chamber program. Julia's goal is to get your business and your employees engaged and connected through groups such as Diplomats, Leadership Aberdeen, or the EDGE for young professionals. She also organizes the New Employee Welcomes, so send your new employees her way.

Lisa Anderson, Marketing & Collaboration - Lisa is continuing her role as she focuses on promoting and marketing the Chamber and our community as much as she can. Call her for opportunities of interest to you, our members, to promote your business through our PROGRESS Magazine, the Membership Directory, and other Chamber resources. If you are interested in participating in hands-on committee work through the Ag Committee, Enhance Aberdeen Committee, or the Health & Wellness Committee, she would love to get you involved in their events and efforts too!

We are also excited to welcome Tiffany Hannasch to the Chamber team. Tiffany's title will be Finance & Administration. She previously worked for the Ipswich City Finance Department. If you have questions on a Chamber invoice, need to make a payment on your account, or need to bill us for services you have provided, she will be the one handling all accounts receivable and payable for the Chamber. Plus, if your business wants to accept the Aberdeen gift card, she will get you setup or do an update at your business. Please make sure you welcome Tiffany when you see her!

MENTAL WELLNESS IN THE WORKPLACE

WEBINAR SERIES

Free and open to all

Geared to employers seeking answers on employee mental health issues.

Attend one or both. Unique information will be presented at each.

8:30-9:30 A.M.

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(506 S MAIN ST) OR
VIA ZOOM**

7.19.22

Amber Reints, Avera Health

- suicide awareness
- data trends
- how to ask the question

8.23.22

Kimberly Dorsett, Richardson Law Firm & Angela Hyde, NAMI South Dakota

- legal issues surrounding mental health & employees
- the importance of taking care of your brain

(CONTACT THE CHAMBER FOR ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS)

605.225-2860

brought to you by these
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Commerce committees:

**health & workforce
wellness & education**

SCAN ME

aberndeen-chamber.com/events-programs/mental-wellness-in-the-workplace

Chamber Leadership

Executive Board

Kellie Ecker Kolb, President	SD Mfg & Tech Solutions
Katie Washnok, Vice President	Blackout Industries
Dr. Sandra Welling, Treasurer	One-Legged Pheasant Brewery
Cam Schock, Secretary	Climate Control
Robert Gosicki, Past President	Area Federal Credit Union

Staff

Gail Ochs	Chief Executive Officer
Lisa Anderson	Marketing & Collaboration
Kami Spieker	Promotions & Partnerships
Julia Coon	Outreach & Engagement
Tiffany Hannasch	Finance & Administration

Full Board

Tom Cogley	Cogley Law Office Prof LLC
Justin Feickert	Quality Quick Print
Zach Flakus	NSU Foundation
Liesl Hovel	Northeastern Mental Health Center
Kila LeGrand	Sanford Aberdeen
Brodie Mueller	The Market on the Plaza
David Novstrup	Wylie Thunder Road/Allevity Entertainment
Jarrett Rix	Rix Farms Inc/Rix & Company
Courtney Rott Jr	Riddles Jewelry
Abby Murano, CVB Board Liaison	Dakotaland Federal Credit Union
Mike Sommers, ADC Board Liaison	Double D Body Shop
Spencer Sommers, ADA Board Liaison	Co-op Architecture
Mike Bockorny, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Development Corp.
Casey Weismantel, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Area CVB
Shelley Westra-Heier, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Downtown Assoc.

www.aberdeen-chamber.com • 605.225.2860



This magazine is a bi-monthly publication of the Aberdeen Area Chamber & of Commerce.

COVER: Sanford Aberdeen

INFORMATION:

Provided by the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, 516 South Main Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401



Designed & printed by Quality Quick Print/
Midstates Inc., Midstates Group
Companies. For advertising opportunities,
contact Jason Pelzl at 605.225.5287 or
1.800.456.2431

We Make Recognizing Awesome Easy!

How do you recognize awesomeness? Maybe I should ask – Do you recognize awesomeness? If you don't, you should - in your employees, coworkers, businesses that you patronize, your kids or the neighbor's kids, our local organizations... you name it!

How many times have you gone into a business and thought to yourself "Wow! They are outstanding! Somebody should recognize them" or "They really do so much for our community!" and then went about your daily activities without passing on the compliment. We all remember the childhood story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. Recognition doesn't happen because you will it. Don't assume that your gratitude is known. There are so many businesses and individuals out there that quietly go about making our community, our region and our state a better place, yet rarely are they recognized and appreciated for their efforts. In a time where businesses struggle to get product and employees are just as hard to come by, it is more important than ever to recognize awesomeness!

I admit, it is easier for some to express appreciation and gratitude – and they come by it so naturally! While others fear sounding awkward, disingenuous, cannot seem to find the right words or perhaps are just plain shy so they refrain from doing so. We sorely underestimate the positive consequences of expressing gratitude; any effort – clunky or refined – is well received. The positive effects do not stop with the receiver. The mood of the giver is often elevated as well. Receiving (and giving) positive feedback lets people know that they are appreciated and noticed and helps to incentivize more of the same behaviors. Compliments create a ripple of kindness and encouragement. This spreads to everybody you meet and beyond.

A few thoughts come to mind of what you can do right now to recognize awesomeness:

- Handwrite a note – emails are great but a handwritten note showing your appreciation is even better. Regardless if it is a child, employee or business, handwritten notes are appreciated. How often do you see a notecard tacked up at a business vs. an email? When writing, speak from your heart; sincerity is the most important aspect of praise. And be specific - mention specific qualities, traits or actions that you appreciate and value.
- If you want to go one step further – if you received exceptional service from an employee, write a note to the business owner as well.
- Write a review – Were you wowed by a business or organization that has an online presence? If so, write a review on their Facebook page or website or other social media.
- Maybe putting words together is not your thing. You can recognize efforts with a special treat – taking the time to bake a container of cookies or stopping by to get a favorite coffee or ice cream treat or dozen caramel rolls shows that you were thinking of them.
- I admit, I saved the best idea for last. Your local chamber can make recognition really easy - we are now accepting nominations for our annual ABBY Awards!

ABBY awards are a great way to recognize those businesses, individuals or groups in your life that helped make Aberdeen and the surrounding communities a better place to live, work and



Kellie Ecker Kolb

2022 Chamber Board President, South Dakota Manufacturing & Technology Solutions

continued on page 5

JULY - AUGUST 2022

We Make Recognizing Awesome Easy! (continued from page 5)

play. Best yet, anybody may nominate a business or organization – and they do not need to be a chamber member. There are so many great things happening in our community and we need everybody to participate in the nomination process.

There are 10 categories to choose from (more

details on the chamber website at abern-deen-chamber.com/events-programs/abby-awards-program regarding each one):

- Agribusiness
- Bridge Builder
- Community Involvement (Business)
- Community Involvement (Non-Profit)
- Customer Service (Retail)
- Customer Service (Service)
- Health & Wellness
- Manufacturing
- Professional Services
- People's Choice (All applicants who apply for an ABBY award in any category are eligible, votes are tallied locally for this award)

Here is your call to action. Pick up your phone. Let's not procrastinate and underestimate the impact of our nomination. This is super simple, and you can do it right now! Call the Chamber office at 605-225-2860 with the ABBY Award category and business or organization's name that you think is awesome and you want to recognize. You can also submit your nomination by emailing info@abern-deen-chamber.com, too. That's it. Your work is done, and this is where the Chamber staff takes over. They will reach out to the business to let them know they were nominated for an ABBY award and ask them to complete an application in the category they were nominated for.

While anybody can do it, let's not assume that somebody will nominate those awesome businesses and organizations in our community, because in the end, nobody may do it, while everybody will agree that it should have been done!

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

ABERDEEN FAMILY YMCA 21st ANNUAL BULL RUN

Saturday, July 30, 2022

Aberdeen, South Dakota

REGISTRATION STARTS: Monday, June 6

½ Marathon, 10K, 5K

Fun Walk, Munchkin Run

1st event begins at 7:00 am

REGISTER FOR
COTTON OR
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Chip Timing provided
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ENTRY FEES

½ Marathon, 10K and 5K

Adults: (ages 19 and up) \$30.00 per person
(\$40 after Sun. July 24, 2022)

Students: (18 and under) \$20.00 per person
(\$30 after Sun. July 24, 2022)

Munchkin Run* (ages 3-12) \$12.00 per person

Walkers: (Adult or Student) \$12.00 per person

*All Munchkins receive a medal and a t-shirt.

Entry fee includes a 2022 YMCA Bull Run

t-shirt for all participants ages 3 and up.

Family Rate: \$70.00 (\$90 after July 24, 2022)

Family rate includes a t-shirt for all
participating family members

ENTRY FEE SUBMISSION

Register and pay online at our web site at

www.abern-deenymca.org. Or complete the entry form, and
mail with check made out to the Aberdeen Family YMCA to:

Aberdeen Family YMCA
5 South State Street
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

EVENT DIRECTOR

Terrill Meier

Questions: (605) 225-4910
tmeier@abern-deenymca.org

RACE DAY SCHEDULE

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to assure quick check-in and efficient ordering of t-shirts and food. Registration will be held in the YMCA parking lot beginning at 6:30 am.

- 6:30 am Registration Opens
- 7:00 am ½ Marathon starts
- 8:00 am 10K, 5K starts
- 8:00 am Fun Walk after 10K, 5K start
- 9:30 am Munchkin Run (age 3-12)

Awards ceremony following the Munchkin Run.

AWARDS

Male and female overall winners in ½ Marathon, 10K and 5K, will receive a 2022 YMCA Bull Run running shirt. All ½ Marathon runners will receive a participation medal.

1st, 2nd, 3rd place medals will be awarded in each
age category for male and female.

AGE CATEGORIES

12 & under	13-19 years
20-29 years	30-39 years
40-49 years	50-59 years
60+ years	

(age on race day)

SITE INFORMATION

Aberdeen Family YMCA
5 South State Street
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
All events will start and finish at the YMCA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Stations provided along all routes.
(Water, Gu Gel, 1st Aid, Porta-Potty)
- Refreshments will be available at the finish area.
- For your safety no bikes, roller blades or scooters
allowed for Fun Walk. Strollers and wagons welcome!
- Walkers must use the sidewalks at all times.

Thank you to our sponsors...



Self-Care Highlighted at Wellness Fair

Lives get busier. Stress levels get higher. And there's no time like now to begin a regular self-care routine to combat what life throws at us. That was the point of the inaugural Self-Care Wellness Fair hosted by the Chamber's Health & Wellness Committee and the KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library. With five speakers and eight information tables on hand, attendees were able to get two hours' worth of valuable information they could take home and incorporate into their daily lives.

There are many ways to take time out for ourselves, and a handful of those ideas were presented at the fair:

- Zen Sleep: Annie Schlecht, MOTR/L, Certified Sleep Consultant – Sleep Well, Be Well: Practical tips to improve your sleep
- 5 Minutes of Me Time: Candace Briscoe & Amber Hanson – simple techniques to improve your overall health
- Stress Less!: Rebecca Christensen, LPC-MH, LPC, NCC – Tips & techniques to decrease stress and increase joy in your daily life.
- Declutter Mind Chatter: Megan Frewaldt – Quiet your mind and learn simple meditation.

Information tables were staffed by: Modern Day Healthcare, Avera Addiction Care Center &



Communities That Care, Aberdeen Community Health Center (Horizon Healthcare), Heart & Sole Foot Zone Therapy, Northeastern Mental Health Center, Brain Intercept, MWNRG.org and Natural Abundance. Dempsey's Proper Hot Dog Company cart and TJ's BBQ food truck were also on hand to provide dining options for lunch.

Special thanks to the Health & Wellness Committee members who helped before and during the event: Amber Hanson, Erin Kaszynski, Cassie Aesoph, Amy Sanderson, Angela Huffman, Jordan Mouna, Robyn Ewalt & Jessica Rehder. Your support is appreciated!

This wellness fair was created to take the place of the Wellness Symposium which ran from 2018-2021 and has been discontinued.



Lisa Anderson
Marketing & Collaboration,
Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce

August 27th Melgaard Park
12pm to 4pm Fun for the whole family!
Music /Games /Snacks






DKG ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE
August 25-27 • Wylie Park Pavilion

Thursday, August 25 • 9am - 7pm
Friday, August 26 • 9am - 7pm
Saturday, August 27 • 8am - 12 noon

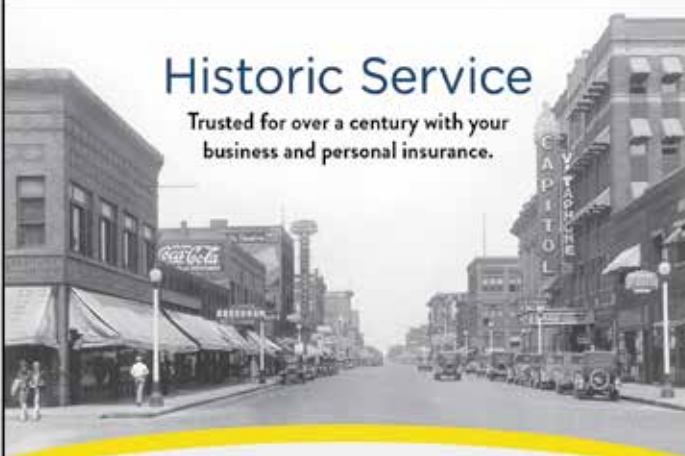
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Hosted by Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Epsilon Chapter

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beyondtheballoon.square.site



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Tandy Walker, Administrator
1701 3rd Ave SE • 605-846-6300
tandy.walker@sincerisl.com
derianlodgesl.com



New Ownership

Derian Place

Tandy Walker, Administrator
1801 3rd Ave SE • 605-226-1515
sinceriseniorliving.com/derian-place



Relocation

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Mikala Simon, Director of Therapies
1206 S Main St • 605-250-1200
msimon@mdhc-llc.com
moderndayhealthcare.com



Expansion

Players Field South

City of Aberdeen, Owner
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aberdeen.sd.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/10



New Business

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Abbie Franks, Agent
224 1st Ave SE, Ste 5 • 605-940-5544
abbie@theexperience.com
theexperience.com

Ambassador Visits



New Business

Tommy's Express Car Wash

Shanna Pugh, Marketing Coordinator
515 S 2nd St, Ste 400 • 605-277-8220
shanna@christiansoncompanies.com
tommys-express.com/locations/sd165

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Tommy's Express Car Wash

Sanna Pugh, Marketing Coordinator
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605-277-8220



shanna@christiansoncompanies.com
tommys-express.com/locations/sd165

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Internship and Job Fair

Thursday, September 22, 2022
11 AM TO 2 PM | 4 PM TO 7 PM

Open to all Community Job Seekers & Aberdeen Area Students

To register your business, please visit:
<https://northern-csm.symplicity.com/events>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
NSU Career Services at careerservices@northern.edu or 605-626-2416



ESTD 2019

FIELD to FORK

A FARM-TO-TABLE CONNECTION

Interact with local ag producers and learn about production methods that get food from their farms to your tables.

- Food & beverage stations (wines & beers included)
- Music by Seth Anderson



SEPTEMBER 9, 2022  **5:30 - 7:30 PM**

at **SPURS THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER (33815 130TH ST)**



\$50 PER TICKET. MAX 120 TICKETS SOLD.

ORDER TICKETS AT ABERDEEN-CHAMBER.COM/EVENTS-PROGRAMS/FIELD-TO-FORK
OR EMAIL INFO@ABERDEEN-CHAMBER.COM

(This is a casual event. Prepare for South Dakota outdoor weather.)

Diplomat Visits



Angelhaus

Nathan Gelhaus, Owner
1717 E Melgaard Rd • 605-725-7777
info@angel.haus • angel.haus



Haggerty's Music

Tanner Schabot-Shultis, Manager
224 S Main St • 605-262-0326
haggertysaberdeen@gmail.com
haggertysmusic.com



Happy Health Shack LLC

Lisa Tye, Owner
10 5th Ave SW • 605-725-4224
happyhealthshack@gmail.com • happyhealthshack.com



Hitch'n Post Western Store

Terry & Kathryn Larson, Owners
2601 6th Ave SE • 605-229-1655
hitchnpostwestern@yahoo.com



Mattress by Appointment Hub City

Abigail Cogley, Owner
416 S Main St • 605-481-1243
abby.cogley@gmail.com • mattressbyappointment.com/locations/sd/aberndeen



McQuillen Creative Group Inc.

Troy McQuillen, Owner
423 S Main St, Ste 1 • 605-226-3481
troy@mcquillencreative.com • mcquillencreative.com



Parkview Nursery Inc.
Darin Latt, Owner
304 E Melgaard Rd • 605-225-7818
darin@parkviewnursery.com
parkviewnursery.com



Schwab Audiology
Dr. Elizabeth Schwab, Owner
3001 6th Ave SE, Ste 2 • 605-725-4455
reception@schwabaudiology.com
schwabaudiology.com

Would you like the Chamber Diplomats to visit and tour your business? Give Julia a call at (605) 225-2866 to set it up!

Aberdeen Out of the Darkness Walk

September 17, 2022

Walk to Fight Suicide



Register at
afsp.org/aberdeensd



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention



Doers...for the least of these. (Matthew 25:40)

Aberdeen StepUP Ministries is a faith-based organization. Our mission is to work alongside and partner with existing missions and agencies in the community by offering additional resources to carry out the full mission of Christ, where he asked of his followers: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and visit the imprisoned. (Matthew 25:35-39). Our plan is to do as Jesus said, "What you do unto the least of these my brethren, you do unto me."

Our group plans to help children in the foster care program with new clothing, as well as providing other impoverished children with clothing, diapers, and other resources whose needs are not able to be met by SD DSS.

Another area of ministry is to provide additional resources in the community to assist the homeless, by assisting existing agencies, such as Journey Home, Salvation Army and community churches who now are renting hotel rooms, by providing alternative housing for these needy people. In this way, we will free up funds for these agencies to enable them to aid more people in other ways.

Additional goals are to assist our clients with life skills, including budgeting skills and well as cooking, cleaning, and shopping skills to save money. Another skill is to increase empathy by giving back to the community. One area we will work extensively in is getting helping people get proper credentials to be able to get a job and a more permanent place to live.

Would you be willing to "step up" and help us give these folks a "step up"?

Aberdeen StepUP Ministries

PO Box 1025 (mailing address)

1302 8th Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD 57402

Email: AberdeenStepUp@zohomail.com

Dale Bain – 605-329-2222

Jim O'Donnell – 605-971-8595

Joe Embury – 605-290-7928

Chuck Weisser – 605-824-2200

Alton Vilhauer – 605-216-0982

Business in the Know - After the Primaries



Julie Johnson

*Attorney at Law
and Registered
Lobbyist*

The Legislature met, went home, and candidates ran for re-election - some in the primary and some in the general election. The primaries are now behind us and we have a better picture of who will be representing us in the next Legislature. So, now what?

This year will be jam-packed with a lot of activity to which the business community and entrepreneurs will want to pay attention. For our region, there are many such issues and a lot of follow-up coming in the next 6 months before the Legislature reconvenes in January.

• **July 1 effective dates** - July 1 is an important date in the world of law-making, policy making, and small business. A lot of laws go into effect on July 1. Feel free to reach out to learn whether there are any such laws specific to your industry about which you would like more information.

• **Taxes or Fees** - There are no new taxes or fees coming into effect as the new fiscal year begins on July 1. That may help our business plans and bottom lines.

• **Housing** - The state is working on implementing the new housing infrastructure investment made by the Legislature, through the SD Housing Development Authority. We will stay plugged into that process throughout, as we still have huge housing needs for which some assistance with infrastructure will be very helpful. Fortunately, the Aberdeen and regional stories helped to shape this policy.

• **Child Care** - There are some federal funds that

flowed through to the state for childcare. We will try to maintain a "seat at that table" as the details about the distribution of those funds are decided and announced.

• **Water** - "SD WINS" (the joint effort of WEB Water, BDM and City of Aberdeen) is working through possible state infrastructure investments into this amazing plan. A lot of this work will take place during the legislative interim also. Stay tuned for that.

• **Regional Jails** - Brown County, and the counties in the region, have a "seat at the table" in the summer interim study work taking place around regional jails, juvenile justice and the state's incarceration construction plans. It is an important time.

• **November 8** - The general election will be on Nov. 8, with several key races also, although some were decided on primary day. Don't forget to vote on Nov. 8.

• **Ballot Measures** - There will be ballot measures on recreational marijuana as well as Medicaid expansion on the Nov. 8 ballot. We'll do some additional analysis and writing about what they contain from a business perspective.

With all of this going on, we may get ready for 2023 a little more quickly than normal. We'll have seats at all of those tables. Stay tuned for more. And please stay engaged.

Julie M. Johnson is an Attorney at Law and Registered Lobbyist from Mina Lake. She also serves as the District Director for SCORE in South Dakota.

STORIES
MUSIC
ART
FOOD
FUN FOR ALL!

JULY 15 - 6:30-8:00 PM & JULY 16 - 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

There is no admission charge for this festival that features published children's authors, storytellers, entertainment and hands-on arts and crafts activities for children and adults of all ages. Come out for the day or the weekend and enjoy the park, stories, music, art, food and fun for all!

AVERA ST. LUKE'S NAMES NEW REGIONAL PRESIDENT AND CEO

Avera announces that Daniel Bjerknes has been named Regional President and CEO of Avera St. Luke's Hospital. As top executive in the Avera St. Luke's region, he will be responsible to provide leadership, direction and administration across all aspects of care delivery at all facilities within the region and will be a member of the Avera senior leadership team. Bjerknes comes to Avera from Williston, N.D., where he was President of Catholic Health Initiatives St. Alexius Health-Williston. He has 15 years' experience in health care leadership roles in behavioral health and critical access hospitals. He's led strategic, mission-focused functions in human resources, support services, clinic and hospital operations as well as growth in service lines. Before entering into health care administration, he had a rich background as director of human resources and conflict management consultant. He holds a master of arts in counseling from the University of North Dakota and bachelor of arts in psychology from Concordia College at Moorhead, Minn. Bjerknes will begin his new role Aug. 15. He and his wife of 19 years, Sommer, have three sons, Reider, 16; Gustav, 14; and Odin, 10.



Chris Pearson, who served as the Agtegra CEO since 2017. Jason joined Agtegra Cooperative after serving the industry at Bunge North America, where he held multiple positions including Director of North America Origination, Director of Interior Assets, and Center Gulf Region Manager. Jason is currently a member of the board of directors of the National Grain and Feed Association, a trustee on the National Grain and Feed Foundation, and a past chairperson of the Indiana Grain & Feed Association. He is a graduate from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag-Business.



BUSINESS BRIEFS



The segment in the May/June Progress Business Briefs regarding Kathy Gubin's award as Nurse of the Year should have read it was presented by the local 40-8, not the American Legion. We apologize for the error.

SINCERI RETAINS FORMER STAFF

Although two former Primrose retirement communities in Aberdeen changed hands recently, the staff have remained



the same and continue to focus on creating the best environment possible for their residents. Derian Lodge and Derian Place are Sinceri Senior Living Retirement Communities in which every resident is a member of the family. Derian Lodge is an Independent Living Retirement Apartment building featuring 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Derian Place is an Assisted Living Senior Community for those requiring minimal assistance throughout the day. Both Derian Lodge and Derian Place feature luxury amenities, state of the art engagement programming, home cooked meals, daily housekeeping, on-site maintenance, loving staff and a family focused environment. Staff pictured are Cassie Schnathorst, Amanda Koens, Erin Paulson, Amy Johnson, Tandy Walker, Kelsey Hunt, Jamie Bertsch and David Cope.

KLOOTWYK NAMED AGTEGRA CEO

The Agtegra Cooperative Board of Directors is pleased to announce and welcome Jason Kloodwyk as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Jason is a seasoned agricultural executive with over 20 years of experience. Jason has been with Agtegra since 2019 and has held the roles of Chief Operating & Risk Officer and SVP, Grain Marketing & Rail Logistics. He succeeds

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HEALTH

is as important

as your

PHYSICAL

HEALTH

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MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

nemhc.org

Ballpark Menu Features Healthy Items



Lisa Anderson
Marketing & Collaboration,
Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce

With the opening of Players Field South this spring came the opportunity to switch things up at the concession stand and offer healthy items for players and spectators. As you may remember, Aberdeen is part of the Healthy HometownSM Powered by Wellmark program. The program provides a list of tactics communities can engage to make their communities healthier. At a meeting earlier this year, Aberdeen's Wellmark representative, Angie Brown, advised this would be a good tactic to work on once she found out the new fields would be opening this year.

Angie and I met with Dewey Tullar, President of Hub City Softball, and presented the idea to him about adding healthy items to their menu. Dewey and the rest of his crew were receptive to the idea, and

the ball started rolling (pun intended). Angie supplied a list of suggested items and some of those options now appear on their menu. Wraps, cheese & crackers and cheese sticks were added full-time while other options – fresh fruit, peanut butter protein balls and salads – will be offered part-time, during tournaments. Wrap choices include Chicken Bacon Ranch, Buffalo Chicken, Turkey, Club, and Veggie.

Although this is the first year trial for these items, and options will most likely change depending on their popularity, it's comforting to know the families who head to the ball park after work for a full evening of games are able to find healthy choices next to the fan favorite ballpark staples. We appreciate Hub City Softball for their willingness to give this a shot. We hope you will help them make these items a home run!

 <p>FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOT DOGS \$2.50 BRATS \$3 WALKING TACO \$5 SUPER NACHOS \$5 NACHOS \$3 PIZZA \$3 WRAP \$6 <p>MEAL DEALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOT DOG, CHIPS & POP \$6 BRAT, CHIPS & POP \$6.50 	<p>SNACKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRETZEL \$3.50 CHIPS \$1 SUNFLOWER SEEDS \$2 -3 OZ DAKOTA STYLE \$3 -6 OZ WILD DUTCHMAN \$3 SLIM JIM \$1 PEANUTS 2/\$1 CHEESE & CRACKERS \$1 PICKLES \$1 CHEESE STICK \$1.50 PICKLE JUICE \$1.50 	<p>TREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MONSTER COOKIES \$3.50 CANDY BARS \$2 DUM DUMS 3/\$1 RING POPS \$1 AIR HEADS 3/\$1 JUMBO FREEZIE \$1 ICE CREAM BAR \$1.50 ICE CREAM SANDWICHES \$1.50 NUTTY ROYALE CONE \$1.50 ORANGE PUSH UP \$1.50 SNICKERS ICE CREAM BAR \$2.50 	<p>BEVERAGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 OZ POP \$3 20 OZ POWERADE \$3 16 OZ BODY ARMOR \$3 20 OZ DASANI WATER \$3 750ml SMART WATER \$3.50 16 oz MONSTER ENERGY \$4 HOT CHOCOLATE \$2 COFFEE \$1.50 
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business after hours MIXER Calendar

THURSDAY
JULY 14, 2022

@ Sanford
Hosted by Sanford Aberdeen

SANFORD
HEALTH

THURSDAY
AUG 11, 2022

@ Engels Event Company
Hosted by Aberdeen Area Community Foundation

ABERDEEN AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

THURSDAY
SEPT 1, 2022

@ Pierson Ford-Lincoln
Hosted by Pierson Ford-Lincoln

PIERSON INC.
Ford LINCOLN

THURSDAY
OCT 13, 2022

@ Aberdeen Civic Arena
Manufacturing Month

MANUFACTURING
MONTH

THURSDAY
NOV 10, 2022

@ Montgomery's
Hosted by Montgomery's

MONTGOMERY'S

THURSDAY
DEC 8, 2022

@ Dakota Event Center
Hosted by MIDCO

MIDCO

Transportation Commission Approves BIG Program Fund Increase

The South Dakota Transportation Commission approved an increase to the Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) program fund category to \$33 million from the previous annual allocation of \$15 million at their regularly scheduled May meeting.

By Administrative Rules, the Commission reviews and approves procedures and reevaluates funding levels each year. In 2015, the South Dakota Legislature created the Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) fund that provides \$7 million for local government bridges derived from license plate fees. With the funding level increase approved by the Commission, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will add \$26 million in state funds, for a total of \$33 million available in the BIG program for the 2023 grant cycle.

In addition to increased funding levels, the Commission also approved procedural changes designed to streamline funding reimbursements, provide contingency funds for additional protection of local budgets impacted by high inflation, and authorize local administration for all replacement grants.

"The SDDOT commends the Transportation Commission for reviewing BIG procedures and state funding in support of this vital local government program designed to preserve, rehabilitate, and replace local government structures," said Joel Jundt, Secretary of Transportation. "These structures provide the link that drives the interconnectedness of our state's overall transportation system; while enhancing statewide economic development overall."

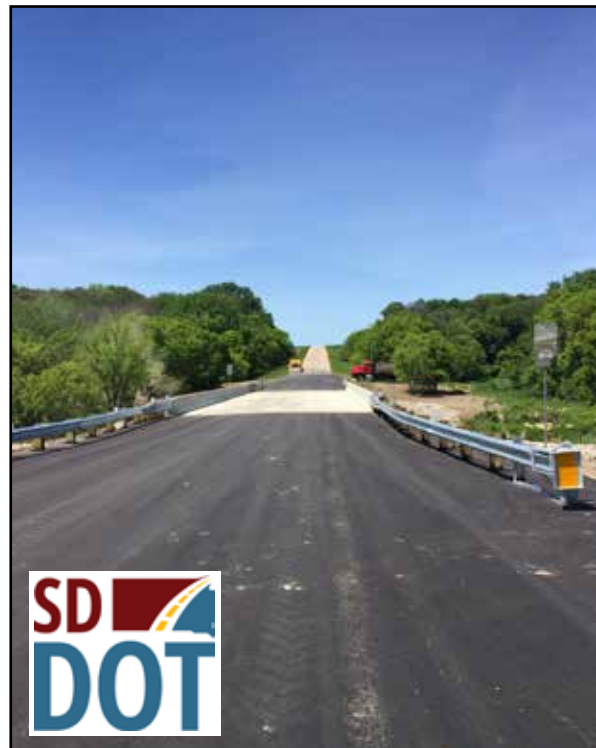
The BIG program was created by the 2015 legislative session in Senate Bill 1 (SB 1). SB 1 states that in order to be eligible for a BIG funding, a county must impose a wheel tax. In addition, a county must have a County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan to detail proposed county highway and bridge improvement projects within the county for the next five years. Cities are not required to have a transportation plan, and they do not have statutory authority to establish a wheel tax. Local governments are required to pay a minimum of 20 percent matching funds; and have three years to expend the grant award.

The Transportation Commission was tasked with creating administrative rules regarding the application process and timelines, the guidelines and criteria for approval of applications, and the distribution of funds from the local BIG fund. The Commission also developed the administrative rules for the plans. The rules are to provide the format of the plan and the time by which an update of the plan must be submitted.

Since 2015, 203 structures have had preliminary engineering (PE) completed, been replaced, rehabilitated, or had preservation work completed. Over the next three years, 215 structures are planned to have PE completed, be replaced or rehabilitated, or have preservation work done.

Applications for the next round of the BIG program are due Aug. 1, 2022, for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) category.

For more information regarding the BIG program, contact Doug Kinniburgh at 605-773-4284 or visit <https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/local-governments/bridge-improvement-grants>.



The 124-foot three-span double-tee bridge on 122nd Street near Sisseton, over the Little Minnesota River, was recently replaced with BIG funding. The structure was at the end of its service life and replacement was the only viable option. The South Dakota Department of Transportation, Roberts County, Clark Engineering, and Swingen Construction Company partnered to construct the new 130-foot three-span continuous concrete bridge. The bridge was opened to traffic in the spring of 2021, well ahead of the scheduled project completion date.

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Swingin' Clubs and Singin' Songs

The annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Scramble, complete with golf course karaoke, took place on Monday, June 6 at Moccasin Creek Country Club. The field of 35 teams was a record for this event; which was even better than the record-breaking heat of 2021. Participants – including the Dancing Queens – wanted to Dance With Somebody. Maybe Sweet Caroline? Regardless, it was a good Party in the USA

with a special guest appearance by Rod Stewart.

Thanks to all our sponsors for making this event possible: 3M Company; Area Federal Credit Union; Climate Control; Dacotah Bank; Hub City Radio; Insurance Plus; JDH Construction; Legacy Financial Partners; Plains Commerce Bank; Quality Quick Print and Domino's Pizza for sponsoring the karaoke cart.



Flight 1, 1st Place – Dacotah Bank
Trevor Steen, Jordan Kline, Lloyd Sanderson,
Chad Vetter



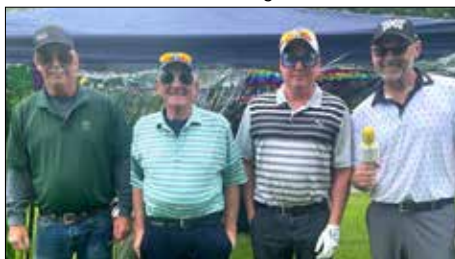
Flight 1, 2nd Place – Centennial Homes Inc
Corey Casanova, Lee Kludt, Kevin Johnson,
Rob Aldinger



Flight 1, 3rd Place – Northern State University
Terri Holmes, Justin Fraase, Jordan Wiedrich,
Blake Day



Flight 1, 4th Place – Avera St Luke's
Richard Molseed, Amy Blackstone, Tanner
White, Eric Schwan



Flight 1, T 5th Place – JDH Construction Inc
Jack Hollinsworth, Steve Casanova, Derek
Gorecki, Michael Herman



Flight 1, T 5th Place – Presentation College
Andrew Hansen, Marcus Garstecki, Sophia
McDermott, Carley Jeffery



Flight 1, T 7th Place – 60's Hits
Eldon Wanna, Randy Utech, Paul McDonald,
Karl Alberts



Flight 1, T 7th Place – Glacial Lakes Energy
David Feldt, Paul Calkins, Matt
Hausmann, Brett Hoffman



Flight 1, T 7th Place – Kessler's
Roger Legge, JD Kessler, Reed
Kessler, Tim Kessler



Flight 1, 10th Place – ZuntaFi 2
Eric Comstock, John Heier, Chad Schuldt,
Mark Comstock



Flight 1, 11th Place – Dakota Financial Services
Tyler Oliver, Carlos Camacho Marrero, Tim
Hannigan, Zach Harry



Flight 1, 12th Place – DRN/READiTECH
Scott Young, Andrew Meyer, David Malsam,
Michael Wegehaupt

Swingin' Clubs and Singin' Songs (cont.)



Flight 2, 1st Place – House of Glass

Chris Jung, James Peterson, Brandon Holweger, Scott Bain



Flight 2, 2nd Place – Domino's Pizza

Rachel Duvall, Darin Duvall, Marv Bonnet, Larry Bohling



Flight 2, T 3rd Place – RDO Equipment

Kyle Haaland, Tim Gillick, Scott Norman, Jason Sieh



Flight 2, T 3rd Place – Helms & Associates 2

Leif Redinger, Brooke Edgar, Lucas Hoover, Brandon Smid (not pictured)



Flight 2, T 5th Place – 3M Company

Brent Bonn, Kyle Heitkamp, Joel Nitschke, Amber Lutz



Flight 2, T 5th Place – Helms & Associates 1

Mike Schmit, Bob Kieso, Corey Helms, Bob Babcock



Flight 2, T 7th Place – Huff Construction Inc

Chad Huff, Scott Bretsch, Ron Hilsendeger, Mike Bockorny



Flight 2, T 7th Place – Northern Valley Communications

Scott Stolle, Darren Torrence, Jeff Evenson, Brent Hanson



Flight 2, 9th Place – Horizon Health Care Inc

Adam Eggert, Scott Weatherall, Wayne Holweger, Lyla Bultema



Flight 2, 10th Place – BankNorth/Steger Lawn Care/Avera/Retired

Chip Fuhrman, Jared Steger, Carey Nilsson, Jason Jung



Flight 2, T 11th Place – Dagel, Jakober & Associates

Shelby Marcotte, Dawn Fredrickson, Charlie Jakober, Brady Fuhrman



Flight 2, T 11th Place – Jency Agency

Jason Gonsor, Peggy Kalt, Bob Kiesz, Carl Anderson

Swingin' Clubs and Singin' Songs (cont.)



Flight 3, 1st Place – Blackout Ind

James Washnok, Katie Washnok, Aaron Smith, Brad Bunt



Flight 3, 2nd Place – AGP

Matt Smith, Jordan Dvorak, Dillon Freudenthal, Matt Kadrlik



Flight 3, 3rd Place – Montgomery's

Mark Malchow, Kyle Malsom, Eric Farthing, Neil Jensen



Flight 3, T 4th Place – American Bank & Trust

Rachelle Carrels, Lance Vilhauer (aka Rod Stewart), Jeff Grobe, Brent Heinert



Flight 3, T 4th Place – Northwestern Energy

Dean Marske, Rob Fouberg, Mike Williams, Mike Sommers



Flight 3, T 4th Place – Plains Commerce Bank

Cody Hageman, Vicki Jorgenson, Tammy Doerr, Trevan Korthour



Flight 3, T 7th Place – Climate Control Inc

Scott Geffre, Brad Burdette, Cam Schock, Mike Brumbaugh



Flight 3, T 7th Place – Mark Mehlhoff Insurance

Lorne Serr, Samantha Serr, Chris Burckhard, Meghan Sell



Flight 3, 9th Place – ZuntaFi 1

Angie Johnson, Norma Hopfinger, Kristy Robertson, Shanna Hoven



Flight 3, 10th Place – Bloom Law Office Prof LLC

Amanda Cook, Brittney Currence, Mariah Bloom, Cynthia Peckham



Flight 3, 11th Place – RAM Housing Specialists Inc

Sea Atwood, Rich Galbraith, Kayla Heuer, Travis Heuer

GOLF CART KARAOKE



2022 Chamber Golf Tournament

Committee Chronicles

Ag - The committee met on May 19 at the Brown County Fairgrounds. Speakers Rachel Kippley & McKenzie Bierman spoke about the new Ag Adventure Center at the fair, which connects agriculture with education. The June meeting was held on the 16th at the SDSU Extension Regional Center with speaker Jason Ramsdell with Dakota Layers in Flandreau. They are currently working on the Field to Fork event in September as well as a campus education event at NSU in September, in conjunction with the Ag Bowl. They are also exploring changes in the Ag Appreciation Banquet for 2023.

Military & Veterans - The committee is working on details for a summer seminar to include a panel of speakers to address resources and opportunities

available to active military and veterans in the area. They are also updating the Military & Veteran Discount Brochure that is printed and available online.

Transportation - The Committee is primarily discussing local and regional road construction projects coming up this Summer and Fall.



Workforce & Education - The WFED committee is working on putting a list together for future Business Breakfast meetings with topics ranging from retention, cyber security, culture sensitivity and resources available. They are also looking at a different way to make the job fair more appealing to the public. This group will soon start focusing on manufacturing month and new faculty luncheon.




Northern State University hosted the May Health & Wellness Committee meeting. The group met at Sinceri's Derian Lodge for their June meeting.



The Workforce & Education Committee met on May 19 on the NSU campus.



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SMS Students Benefits from New Club



Gretchen Sharp

*Executive Director,
Aberdeen Public
Schools
Foundation*

Students at Simmons Middle School are now able to get first-hand learning about different cultures and languages thanks to a new club. The Language Ambassadors Club is made up of over 30 students who represent nine different languages: Spanish, Karen, Malayalam, German, Russian, Chinese, Swahili, Mam (a Mayan language) and Sign Language. The purpose of the club is for members to be a helpful, friendly face to new students who are learning English.

The club has grown and evolved to incorporate all students who are interested in other languages and cultures. Guest speakers are invited to visit the school to share their culture and the advantages of speaking more than one language. Those speakers have included Sign Language interpreters, Northern University students from Cuba and Bolivia, Aberdeen Central High School students from Thailand, a principal who taught German, and an Aberdeen student studying three languages who plans to major in International Relations. Even members of the school



have shared about their culture and path to learning a second language. Language Ambassadors Club Advisor Margie Moore believes learning about other languages and cultures helps acknowledge and respect all people in the school and community.

Avera St. Luke's Announces Building Project



Avera St. Luke's Hospital has announced a \$17.25 million construction project that addresses a series of key needs in Aberdeen, including behavioral health, women's services and orthopedics.

- First is a new free-standing inpatient behavioral health facility with clinic services for mental health care and well-being.

"Avera St. Luke's has provided inpatient behavioral health care in our hospital in the past, yet this is an opportunity to bring those services up to date with this new free-standing facility that incorporates both inpatient and clinic services. Avera has been a leader in our region in behavioral health services for six decades, and this project will build upon that strong history," said Tom Seyer, Chair of the Avera St. Luke's Hospital Board of Trustees.

The behavioral health facility will be constructed adjacent to the Avera St. Luke's Physician's Plaza and it will involve removing the west half of Physician's Plaza, the oldest section of the building. "This allows us to keep our facilities up to date while at the same time addressing an important need that Avera excels at," said Kelli Fischer, Chief Nursing Officer at Avera St. Luke's.

This location will address some previously unmet needs with new services, including Behavioral Health Urgent Care similar to what was recently added in Sioux Falls. "This concept is cutting-edge and rare across the country. It's providing that special environment for behavioral health crises and provides a front door to mental health services that's more appropriate than the medical emergency department," Fischer said.

This new construction will double the number of inpatient beds available for mental health treatment in the Aberdeen region.

- Second in this plan is renovation of the current women's center. Plans to remodel the women's center have been on the table with support being raised by the Avera Foundation.

"This larger overall project is a chance to enhance these plans. Focused on the comfort of patients and families, this will be a modernized, private and peaceful environment for every stage of birthing, from admission to delivery and postpartum," said Tess Moeller, Vice President of Operations at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

- Third is renovation of the 8th Avenue NW clinic for orthopedics and related specialties including physical medicine and rehabilitation, pain management and therapy. Renovation will modernize the existing space plus accommodate a new MRI – an important diagnostic tool for these specialties.

Construction will begin in late summer and will take place in a phased approach over the following 18-24 months. All departments would remain fully operational throughout the project.

"Avera offers numerous important specialties in Aberdeen including orthopedics, oncology, psychiatry, surgery, women's and children's, sports medicine and more," Moeller said. "In the past, Avera has undertaken projects to support these specialties and high quality care, close to home, for example, the Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence constructed in 2015 to house the Avera Cancer Institute."

"Overall this is a significant investment to modernize, improve and expand health care services in our community," Seyer said. "It will provide our excellent health care teams in Aberdeen with the tools and facilities they need to advance the care and well-being of those we serve in the Avera St. Luke's region."

Presentation College Receives Largest Gift in History of College

Focus on Rural Health Care Program Expansion, Partnership, and Student Scholarships

Presentation College has received a \$5 million anonymous gift in support of its newly minted strategic plan, including partnering to expand rural health care programs. The gift will enhance growth of PC's 2021 nationally 4th-ranked online LPN-to-BSN program to extend it to nearly all 50 states. It will also provide support for reimagining existing programming and spaces on the PC campus in Aberdeen, as the campus explores partnership with other academic and health care institutions to extend its outreach in the rural Midwest. This tremendous donation also provides a substantial boost to student scholarships.

"The scope of the gift ensures the entire college and its stakeholders will benefit," said Dr. Paula Langteau, Presentation College President, "and as the single largest donation that the College has received in its more than 75-year history, it represents a significant investment in the future of PC." The gift follows closely upon PC's release of its new strategic

plan this past fall, when the College also announced a plan to pursue partnerships with other educational and health care organizations to extend the outreach of the campus in preparing quality health care workers to enter the market where they are needed more than ever. "This gift not only positions the college for a planned partnership to advance PC's Nursing and Rural Healthcare programs," said Langteau, "but it represents the level of commitment of our community, filled with people and organizations eager to be stakeholders in support of PC's outreach and growth, to serve our community in ever greater ways. We are truly blessed to receive such acknowledgement and support."

Matthew Blair, PC's Vice President for Mission and Advancement added, "This timely contribution adds to the already remarkable fundraising year the College is experiencing, with members of the community, alumni and staff showing their support for the exciting next chapter in PC's life."



NSU Gypsy Day Parade Registration Now Open



Registration is now open for the 106th annual Northern State University Gypsy Day Parade, set for Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022.

The parade will begin at 9 a.m. in downtown

Aberdeen. Entrants will decorate their float based on this year's theme, "Wolves on Broadway." A panel of judges comprised of Northern and community leaders will present awards in various categories.

Online parade registration is now open at northern.edu/gypsy-days.

Gypsy Days, Northern's homecoming week, takes place Oct. 3-8 on campus and in the community. Festivities will also include Wolves athletic events, the NSU Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni banquet, and coronation of a queen and marshal.

The 2022 queen and marshal candidates are:

- Queen: Maray Larson, Kaityln Morrison, Laurie Rogers, Taren Tschetter and Elizabeth Votava.
- Marshal: Laine Converse, Dylan Eckart, Sam Masten, Isaiah Nolan, and Drew Veflin

For more information, visit the NSU Gypsy Days webpage, www.northern.edu/campus-life/gypsy-days.

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Aberdeen Home to SBA 2022 Family Owned Small Business of the Year



Michele Arends

*Economic Development
Specialist,
South Dakota
District Office,
U.S. Small Business
Administration*

The Novstrup family, owners of Wylie Thunder Road, a family entertainment center in Aberdeen, is the U.S. Small Business Administration South Dakota 2022 Family Owned Small Business of the Year. Co-owners Al and Kathy Novstrup along with Kathy's brothers started the business in 1994 with a 800 foot go-kart track and 10 karts. Today, the Novstrup's, along with son David and daughter-in-law Holly, have grown Wylie Thunder Road operations to include 37 go-karts, bumper boats, an 18-hole mini golf course, Euro Bungy trampolines, and the Laser Maze Challenge/Beam Buster. Over the years, the Novstrups expanded Thunder Road to three additional cities. Two of those locations have been sold within the extended family – and are still operating today. The Novstrup family was nominated for the award by Kelly Weaver, Aberdeen Small Business Development Center, a U.S. Small Business Administration Resource Partner.

The Novstrups consistently leveraged SBA resources for assistance in starting and growing their businesses and leaned on free and confidential technical business assistance from the Aberdeen SBDC and SBA guaranteed lending for business growth and economic disaster recovery. It was a big step in February 2020 with the pandemic for Al and David to start a branch of Thunder Road -- Allevity



SBA SD leadership presented the 2022 Family Owned Small Business of the Year award to the Novstrup Family, owners of Wylie Thunder Road, Aberdeen, in celebration of National Small Business Week. Pictured L-R, Jaime Wood, SBA SD District Director; Kathy, Al, David, and Holly Novstrup, owners of Wylie Thunder Road and Allevity Family Entertainment, Aberdeen; Kelly Weaver, Regional Director and Business Counselor, Aberdeen Small Business Development Center; and, Bryson Patterson, SBA SD Deputy District Director.

Entertainment -- in east Aberdeen. Allevity is an indoor entertainment center featuring laser tag, arcade games, interactive climbing wall, axe throwing, party rooms and café. A similar expansion took place at the Sioux Falls location in 2020. Both proved to be job creators as the Novstrups doubled their staff since 2019 currently employing 24 part-time employees and two full-time employees.

The Novstrups embraced clean energy early on – since 2005, a unique part of their business plan includes running their 137 go-karts at all their locations on “America's renewable energy source” E-85 Ethanol, produced in the Aberdeen area. The Novstrups claim the switch to E-85 significantly improved air quality for their employees and customers.

The prestigious SBA Business of the Year awardees are selected on business excellence as well as community service. Both Al and David Novstrup are active servants locally and at the state level. Al has served the Aberdeen community on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, Salvation Army Board of Directors, was also a delegate to the 1986 White House Small Business Conference and has served in the South Dakota Legislature since 2003. David has also served on the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and served in the South Dakota House of Representatives and the South Dakota Senate. Additionally, Wylie Thunder Road, Allevity Entertainment, and Sioux Falls Thunder Road donate hundreds of tickets or passes to school and other organizations fundraisers each year.

For SBA small business resources visit www.sba.gov/sd. For small business counseling in Aberdeen, contact the Small Business Development Center at (605) 698-7654, ext. 5.

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Saturday, September 17, 2022

at Central High School

2200 South Roosevelt Street, Aberdeen, SD

5:00 p.m. - Hall of Fame Social, CHS Commons Area

5:30 p.m. - Hall of Fame Banquet, CHS Commons Area

After dinner guests will be directed to the Thomas F. Kelly Theatre for the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and entertainment. A dessert reception will follow in the CHS Commons Area.

TICKET INFORMATION

Banquet Tickets are \$35 per person.

(\$40 per person after September 10.)

Tickets may be purchased after July 1 through the foundation website at www.AberdeenPublicSchoolsFoundation.org or Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation office at 1224 3rd St. South, Aberdeen SD, 57401. Contact the Foundation Office at 605-725-7118 or Gretchen.Sharp@k12.sd.us

If you would like to sponsor an inductee's tickets for \$70, please contact Gretchen!



Eide Bailly Insights - Free Resources for Your Business



Life Insurance for Business Owners: Planning for the Unexpected

Life insurance can be a difficult topic, but it's important to make sure it's factored into your business plan. <https://www.eidebaillyfinancialservices.com/insights/life-insurance-for-business-owners-planning-for-the-unexpected>

How to Deal with Fraud Risk Today

Internal controls to prevent fraud are more important than ever in the remote working world we are in right now. Here are ways you can protect your finances. <https://www.eidebailly.com/insights/articles/2020/6/how-to-deal-with-fraud-risk-in-a-covid-19-world>

How to Hire the Best Talent: Best Practices for Your Hiring Procedures

A little preparation goes a long way when it comes to interviewing and selecting the right candidate. Here's how you can improve your process and set your organization up for success. <https://www.eidebailly.com/insights/articles/2018/2/how-to-hire-the-best-talent>

Should You Outsource Your Accounting?

Accounting is a critical component to any business operation. Outsourcing provides management-level expertise, giving you confidence in your financials. <https://www.eidebailly.com/insights/articles/2020/6/why-accounting-matters-for-your-organization-in-a-time-of-uncertainty>

Chamber Big Dates

Ag Committee

Thursday, July 21, Noon, SDSU Extension Regional Center

Thursday, August 18, Noon, Brown County Fairgrounds Clubhouse

Ambassador Committee

Tuesday, July 12, Noon, Cornerstones Career Learning Center

Tuesday, August 9, Noon, TBD

Ask Me About Aberdeen

Tuesday, July 19, Noon, The Workshop

Tuesday, August 16, Noon, The Workshop

Business After Hours

Thursday, July 14, 5:15 pm, Sanford Aberdeen

Thursday, August 11, 5:15 pm, Aberdeen Area Community Foundation at Engels Event Company

Chamber Executive Board

Wednesday, July 10, 12 pm, TBD

Wednesday, August 14, 12 pm, TBD

Chamber Full Board

Wednesday, July 17, 8 am, Malchow Plaza Board Room & Zoom

Wednesday, August 14, 8 am, Malchow Plaza Board Room & Zoom

Community Affairs Luncheon

Thursday, July 7, 8 am, Best Western Ramkota Event Center

Diplomat Committee

Thursday, July 14, 3 pm, Sanford Aberdeen

Thursday, August 11, 3 pm, Engels Event Company

Enhance Aberdeen Committee

Friday, August 26, 8:30 am

Fair Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, August 21, 8:00 am, Brown County Fairgrounds Clubhouse

Health & Wellness Committee

Wednesday, July 13, 8:30 am, Cornerstones Career Learning Center

Wednesday, August 3, 8:30 am, Chamber

Mental Wellness in the Workplace Webinar

Tuesday, July 19, 8:30 am, Malchow Plaza Board Room & Zoom

Tuesday, August 23, 8:30 am, Malchow Plaza Board Room & Zoom

Military & Veterans Committee

Tuesday, July 5, Noon, National Guard Armory

New Employee Welcome

Thursday, July 14, 4:30 pm, Sanford Aberdeen

Thursday, August 11, 4:30 pm, Engels Event Company

New Faculty Luncheon

Monday, August 15, Noon, Dakota Event Center

Transportation Committee

Tuesday, August 30, 3:30 pm, Malchow Plaza Board Room

Workforce & Education Committee

Thursday, July 21, 8 am, Malchow Plaza Board Room & Zoom

Thursday, August 18, 8 am, Malchow Plaza Board Room & Zoom

The ADA and Mental Health Protections in the Workplace



Kim Dorsett

Partner,
Richardson,
Wyly, Wise,
Sauck & Hieb

Managing mental health in the workplace has become an emergent issue for employers due to recent events such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and financial burdens related to the recession. According to researchers, the number of people seeking help for mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression have skyrocketed. Both large and small employers alike must be mindful of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the protections it provides to disabled workers.

The ADA's definition of "disability" includes people with mental illnesses who have a physical or mental impairment that greatly limits one or more major life activity. This can include common disorders such as depression and anxiety.

The ADA protects people with a mental illness by way of:

- Anti-discrimination laws - Title I of the ADA blocks covered private employers from discriminating against qualified people with disabilities - including those with a mental illness - when they are applying for jobs. The law also protects people with disabilities and mental illnesses from discrimination in matters such as promotions, firing, wages, and other freedoms of employment.
- Requirements for job accommodations - Under the ADA, a covered employer must provide "reasonable accommodations" to qualified employees with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are changes to a work setting that allow a disabled employee to still perform essential job tasks. Examples include flexible hours, adjusted job tasks, leave (paid or unpaid), or assistive

technologies.

If an employer is aware of an employee's disability, the employer is required to make reasonable accommodations unless legally allowed exceptions are present:

- If providing the accommodation presents an "undue hardship" on the business. A hardship can exist if the accommodations are very costly or would deeply alter the nature of the business.
- If hiring or accommodating the individual poses a "direct threat" to health or safety in the workplace. That determination must be based on evidence from a healthcare provider or other source, and not on personal fears and stigmas about mental illness.

Privacy in the workplace is also important. According to the ADA, employers cannot require applicants or employees to disclose a disability (with a few exceptions described below). So, in most cases, disclosing a mental health issue or disability is a choice, not a requirement.

Once a job has been offered, however, applicants may be asked to take a medical exam before starting work. If this exam reveals a mental health related disability, the job offer can only be withdrawn if there is evidence that the person would not be able to do the essential functions of the job without an accommodation that in turn cannot be reasonably provided, or if the disability poses an actual, legitimate safety issue.

Once employed, employees generally cannot be required to disclose a mental health related disability unless requesting a job accommodation. Once the request for an accommodation is made, then the employer is entitled to ask for some medical documentation about the disability. This medical information cannot be shared with others in the workplace.

Every employer will face mental health concerns in the workplace at some point. Employers should take this opportunity to immediately review their accommodation and leave practices, procedures, and training to ensure they comply with the ADA, and other applicable state and federal laws.

**This article is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.*

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A-TEC Expansion Increases Opportunities

The A-TEC Academy opened on the campus of Aberdeen Central High School in the Fall of 2015. A two million dollar grant from South Dakota's Future Fund in conjunction with District funds were utilized to finance the original construction of the facility. This state of the art facility was built to provide enhanced college and career opportunities for all students by utilizing engaging, relevant, hands-on learning opportunities.

Since the facility opened, course offerings have expanded and now include offerings in all sixteen career clusters. The courses offered incorporate a variety of models to facilitate student learning and engagement. Students enrolled in courses at A-TEC are gaining technical, academic, and employability knowledge and skills which is essential for students to become lifelong learners, informed citizens, and prepared members of the workforce. Prior to opening the facility on campus, there were approximately 200 course enrollments which has substantially expanded to almost 1,800 enrollments for the 2021-22 school year.

The programs at A-TEC have appreciated tremendous support from several businesses and industries in the Aberdeen region with both in-kind and monetary contributions. These employers understand the importance of providing students with opportunities that build interest and skills in many

different areas and want to be part of this exciting transformation.

Due to student interest and industry demand, a major expansion is planned for A-TEC during the 2022-23 school year which will be funded through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. An 8,400 square foot classroom addition and a 4,800 square foot greenhouse will be added to the facility. The expansion will incorporate the growing demand for agriculture related courses by providing opportunities for precision agriculture through the implementation of FarmBots which utilize hardware and software to produce optimum production. Additional space will also be added for the Upper Midwest Emmy Student Award winning audio/visual technology and film courses.

The opportunities provided at A-TEC are allowing students to make informed decisions about long-term career and workforce decisions at an early age. Ultimately, these efforts are intended to assist Aberdeen's economy through the growth of jobs, incomes, and new businesses. The investments that are made in our students are without a doubt one of the most powerful things that we can do to impact our present and future endeavors.



Dr. Becky Guffin
Superintendent,
Aberdeen School
District



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Hometown Values



John Thune
US Senator (R-SD)

I was recently back in Murdo, the small town of around 500 people, right off I-90 – my hometown. Being home is always a trip down memory lane. When I think back to my childhood, my first memories are of my parents, Pat and Harold Thune, and of growing up with my three brothers and sister. And boy, we were lucky kids to have my parents at the helm.

My mom was a wonderful, loving, eternally optimistic mother, who spent most of my growing up years as our high school librarian. She was responsible for making sure we Thune kids got some culture – whether we wanted it or not. She insisted that we all learn to play the piano, encouraged me to join the swing choir, and in the summers, she even made us come inside for an hour every day to read.

My dad was our hero – a Division I basketball star and World War II combat pilot. He was a teacher at my high school, a coach, the athletic director, and the bus driver. Between him and my mom as the librarian, we Thune kids were practically never away from our parents' watchful eyes. I am so grateful to have had my dad's coaching – in sports and in life. On the court, my dad taught us players to play as a team. He didn't like ball hogs or people who were in it for personal glory. He believed your job as a member of a team was to make the people around you better. If somebody else was in a better position to take the shot, you always made the extra pass. It's an attitude I've tried to carry with me

throughout my life.

Being back in Murdo also made me reflect on just how lucky I was to grow up in a small town – and small-town South Dakota in particular. The values I saw growing up in Murdo are reflected in towns all across our state. In Murdo I learned the character of South Dakotans – the work ethic, the commitment to freedom coupled with a belief in personal responsibility, and a sense of responsibility to the broader community.

South Dakotans cherish their freedoms – and they also believe that with freedom comes responsibility. They have a deep appreciation for the Founders' vision that has allowed us to enjoy such freedom – and for the sacrifices that have been required to secure it. With that, of course, comes an expectation that each generation has to do its part to pay freedom's price and protect all that we have been given.

The South Dakota values I learned growing up helped shape my political philosophy: my belief that government should be limited and that it is best when it's closest to the people. If a matter can be handled at the state or local level, it should be. I learned that the legacy of the past is something to be cherished and preserved – while leaving room for change and adaptation when needed – and that freedom is a sacred gift, and one that must be defended. And, finally, while government is necessary, government is not where we should look for salvation.

The legacy of growing up in South Dakota is a precious one. I am deeply grateful for those years in Murdo and for the privilege of living in the Mount Rushmore State. South Dakota is the best state in the world to live, work, and raise a family. From Sioux Falls to Rapid City and every town in between, the communities and families that make up our great state are truly one-of-a-kind. I am proud to call South Dakota my home, and it is my great honor to represent the people of South Dakota in the United States Senate.



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**5:30PM Awards
Dinner**



Registration:
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Behind the Scenes of the 2023 City Budgeting Process

I am writing this article during the first week of June, which means the challenges and opportunities that come with drafting next year's City budget are becoming very real. While the process itself encompasses my life for several months, with times of heavy stress, it still remains to be a part of the job that I greatly enjoy. I think the reason why I like it is it gives us the opportunity to shape the future of our community, albeit one year at a time.

The process, at least as most people see it, technically begins in May. For me there is a fair amount of preparation that goes into being ready for May, but I won't bore you with those details. On or about May 1st we post calls for proposals for requests from outside agencies. While most funds are used for direct City purposes, a small amount of money in the general fund and a slightly larger amount in the promotion fund are shared with partnering agencies. These shared funds are mostly for health and wellness, economic development, and cultural arts programs. The unfortunate part is there are always more requests than available funds and some tough choices have to be made each year.

In May departments also begin to develop their operating budget proposals. These are submitted at the end of May and in mid-June I meet with all department heads to review their requests. By late June we have a good picture of how forecasted revenues compare with proposed expenses. Spoiler alert- there is never enough money! Therefore a fair amount of time is spent in July balancing

the budget proposal that will be submitted to the City Council in August. As an example, for the 2022 budget nearly \$1 million had to be cut from the general fund budget requests before being able to submit a balanced budget to the City Council.

In similar fashion a capital projects budget is developed in May and June. And like the general fund, there is never as much money to do everything we wish we could. This is probably one of the hardest realities for me as this is where the projects such as streets and parks, that we all want to be perfect, are funded. Having to prioritize needs in the City budget is similar to what we all do with our individual budgets, just on a bigger scale.

Now that I have bored you with the process, let's talk about the end result. A responsibility of the City Manager is to prepare a budget message each year. This message is delivered to the Council around August 1st. While I have not yet drafted the message, I do have some projected talking points. I anticipate using words such as: economic development, quality of life, drinking water, and infrastructure projects when describing key budget initiatives in 2023. Following the budget message, a draft budget proposal is submitted to the City Council for review in August. After review and possible amendments, the budget document is formally approved by the Council in September. And with that, nearly six months of work is complete.



Joe Gaa
Aberdeen
City Manager

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Using Your Business Numbers for Success



Kelly Weaver

Regional Director,
Small Business
Development
Center

Now that the tax deadline is past, you should have a good set of year end numbers to review. It's the time of year when businesses are forced to look at their numbers because Uncle Sam requires them to. For the record, I am a strong proponent that you look at the numbers for your purposes and more often than once a year.

While numbers may not 'be your thing', successful business owners figure out a way to understand their numbers and use them to their advantage. You don't need to do a full blown financial analysis to get some benefits here. Just considering certain parts of your numbers can be helpful in understanding and growing your business. Here are some examples:

- Delve into your sales and get to know where your business is coming from. Do you have sales



concentrated in just a few customers? How can you widen your customer base to mitigate that risk? What percentage of your sales come from each of your product lines, and how have they been changing over the past couple years?

- Look at your pricing. How much has the cost of your raw materials/inventory increased over the past year. Have you raised your prices accordingly? How do your prices compare to your competitors for like goods and services? Are there other ways you could package/price your product that appeals to new customers such as rent to own, leasing, maintenance contracts or subscription pricing? This area is especially pertinent in today's inflationary climate.

- Look at your labor – particularly in a service or production industry. How productive is your labor pool? Are there benchmarks you can share with your team to increase productivity? Are their tools/technology that can make your labor pool for productive?

- Review your overhead. Most expenses tend to grow over time just because no one is really paying attention. Are all expenses necessary? Are there new service choices that didn't exist when you started your business that could be a cost savings? Are you paying for more space or equipment than you really need?

Just choosing one of these areas as the focus for each year can reap benefits for your business. Pick a new area next year and before you know it, you're using your financial information year around to make good decisions for your business! Now that's a gift that keeps on giving!

Kelly Weaver is the Regional Director of the Small Business Development Center in Aberdeen which offers free, confidential business consulting to start up and existing businesses. She can be reached at (605) 698-7654 x 144 or kelly@growsd.org. The Center is hosted by GROW South Dakota.

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Escape to Aberdeen During the Week

Aberdeen is a popular weekend getaway. Those hoping to make a last-minute weekend camping reservation have learned that the hard way.

All the fun Aberdeen offers on the weekend is available during the week, usually with fewer people and sometimes at lower prices.

Americans are notorious for leaving vacation days unused; in 2021 the average worker left 4.6 vacation days on the table at the end of the year, according to the U.S. Travel Association.

Whether you're a parent hoping to make some memories with your little ones or you're a grandparent stealing them away for a getaway, planning a mid-week trip might just be the key to happiness.

So, here's five reasons to use those vacation days this summer and book an Aberdeen trip Sunday through Thursday.

It's The Same During the Week

Between roughly Memorial Day weekend and the week of the Brown County Fair, Aberdeen attractions are open every day, weather permitting. That means that everything available on the weekend is here on a Tuesday as well.

Shorter Lines

There are usually fewer people at attractions like

Storybook Land and the Aberdeen Aquatic Center, meaning shorter lines for rides and water slides.

Special Events

There are a lot of Aberdeen events that happen during the week, like Storybook Land Theatre performances and Downtown Summer Concerts. Rather than rushing to get here on a Thursday night in hopes of catching the concert, plan on leaving Friday morning, making that concert the perfect way to end your trip. Find our calendar of events at AberdeenAreaEvents.com.

Deals

There might be special deals at some attractions and accommodations to take advantage of during the week that just aren't there when demand is high on the weekend. You might just spend less during the week.

Less-Stress Booking

Because the demand is less, trying to book a hotel room, cabin or camping spot for Sunday through Thursday nights is far less stressful.

What are you waiting for? Start planning your Aberdeen escape today! Visit VisitAberdeenSD.com.



Katherine Grandstrand
Convention Sales & Marketing Director,
Aberdeen Area
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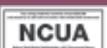
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