

# progress

MAGAZINE

2023 | JULY - AUGUST

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## Creating a Dream Home: The Power of Interior Design

Transforming a house into a home that reflects your unique style and personality is no small feat. Connie Reuer's recent interior design project with Montgomery's in Aberdeen exemplifies the magic that happens when expertise, vision, and collaboration merge to create something truly special.

Connie had previously worked with the Montgomery's team in Sioux Falls and was thrilled to discover the same level of quality and service at their newest location. As a blank canvas, Connie's new build offered endless possibilities to design a space that would capture her contemporary style with a transitional twist.

With a clear vision in mind, she turned to Montgomery's for their comprehensive interior design services. From the initial consultation to the final touches, the team worked closely with Connie to bring her dream home to life, creating a clean, minimalist look while ensuring the space felt warm and inviting.

Reflecting on the experience, Connie expressed her satisfaction with the results, saying, "Working with the Montgomery's team was a dream come true. They understood my vision and executed it flawlessly. My home now reflects my style and feels like a true sanctuary."

The transformation of Connie's space is a testament to the power of interior design. If you're seeking to transform your space and bring your vision to life, we invite you to experience the design expertise and exceptional home furnishings that Montgomery's offers. Together, we can create a home that truly reflects your style, personality, and aspirations.



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**Gail Ochs,  
IOM**

Chief Executive  
Officer,  
Aberdeen Area  
Chamber of  
Commerce

# How Does the Chamber Help with Workforce Recruitment? Read on to Find Out!

At the Chamber, we understand that workforce recruitment and retention is a key issue facing our members, and that's why we are dedicated to offering programs and services to assist our member businesses in cultivating, retaining, and attracting the talent they need. These efforts enhance and complement other workforce and business recruitment and retention efforts of our partner organizations. As a community, we are stronger when we work collaboratively. Everyone wins when we each bring our collective resources to the table, maximizing our organizational talents, strengths, and initiatives. If you have any questions on any of our initiatives listed below, please reach out to me!

- Chamber members can post **Job Listings** that link to both the [aberdeensd.com](http://aberdeensd.com) and [aberdeen-chamber.com](http://aberdeen-chamber.com) websites. The information can also be posted on the *Aberdeen Area Jobs* Facebook page, which we co-manage with the Aberdeen Development Corporation.

- We promote the **Right Move Landing Page** through relocation packets and digital media targeted at cities across the United States. Those cities are selected based on input by local employers, GOED, SD Department of Tourism and marketing data. It's a one stop location for people or businesses looking to relocate to Aberdeen. The site provides great content, testimonials, videos, etc. <https://aberdeensd.com/the-right-move>.

- This year, we are expanding our efforts on **Relocation Data Tracking & Assistance** by hiring *The Relocation Companion*, <https://therelocationcompanion.com>. The company, out of Sioux Falls SD, provides communities with relocation support services. This is a new effort and one we just kicked off in May 2023. We believe the data and materials will be invaluable resources for our businesses and community to improve recruitment and retention efforts moving forward. Their services include:

- Community Relocation Strategic Assessment, Plan, and Implementation,
- Relocation Resource (Relocation Roadmap) Design Elements Customized to the Aberdeen Community,
- Unlimited Resource Downloads,
- Employer Relocation Education Training Materials,
- Co-branding on Resources and Initiative,
- Email Campaign Strategy, Planning and Drafting,
- Social Media Post Mapping, and
- Annual Updates for Relocation Resources, Renewed Rights to Materials and Data Review.
- The Workforce and Education Committee facilitates the **Hub City Link** Program. People planning to relocate to Aberdeen, or who have recently moved here, are directed to a survey by their employer or through their relocation packet. The survey is



designed to get them connected in the community with areas of interest for themselves and their families. Chamber staff and/or a Chamber volunteer reach out to each individual to provide them with additional information and contacts.

- We provide hundreds of **Relocation Packets** to local companies to utilize when interviewing and hiring candidates. We also provide packets to newcomers who contact our office or reach out to us via both social media and the [aberdeensd.com](http://aberdeensd.com) and [aberdeen-chamber.com](http://aberdeen-chamber.com) website.

- We work with local businesses to provide **Community Tours** for candidates they are interviewing or for individuals they have recently hired. It provides those individuals and families with the opportunity to ask questions about the community and we can highlight all of the great attributes of our community.

- We host **New Employee Welcome Mixers** each month to assist new citizens and new employees in getting connected in the community. We understand that making that first introduction and knowing how to get involved can be difficult. We also know that engaged employees = retained employees. When employees have meaningful connections and engagement outside of work, they are more likely to stay in the community.

- We host **EDGE** luncheons and events. These events, for young professionals aged 21-40, are designed to help retain and engage young workers in our community. Events are free and participants get the opportunity to meet other people in their age range, share common interests, and learn about the opportunities available to them to have an impactful life in our community.

- The Workforce and Education Committee will be hosting the first **Innovation Workforce Summit** on October 19 and 20, 2023 in Aberdeen. The Summit will provide employers and HR professionals with resources and information they can use in recruiting, retaining, and upskilling their employees. We are securing keynote and breakout speakers and facilitators now.



## Chamber Leadership

### Executive Board

Katie Washnok, President	Blackout Industries
Cam Schock, Vice President	Climate Control
Zach Flakus, Treasurer	NSU Foundation
Kila LeGrand, Secretary	Sanford Aberdeen
Kellie Ecker Kolb, Past President	SD Mfg & Tech Solutions

### Staff

Gail Ochs	Chief Executive Officer
Kami Spieker	Events & Partnerships
Julia Coon	Membership & Engagement
Kathy Bjerke	Finance & Administration
Lisa Anderson	Marketing & Collaboration

### Full Board

Marcus Garstecki	Northern State University
Alexandra Grieben	Dacotah Bank
Jane Kuhn	Agtegra Cooperative
Kila LeGrand	Sanford Aberdeen
Brodie Mueller	The Market on the Plaza
Mike Quast	Aberdeen Family YMCA
Jarrett Rix	Rix Farms Inc/Rix & Company
Courtney Rott Jr	Riddles Jewelry
Daryl Thoennes	3M Company
Tanner White	Avera St. Luke's
Mike Sommers, ADC Board Liaison	Double D Body Shop
Spencer Sommers, ADA Board Liaison	Co-Op Architecture
Dawn Thorstenson, CVB Board Liaison	Aberdeen Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Mike Bockorny, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Development Corporation
David Novstrup, Ex-Officio	Wylie Thunder Road/Allevity Entertainment
Alexa Sheldon, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Downtown Assoc.
Casey Weismantel, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Area CVB

[www.aberdeen-chamber.com](http://www.aberdeen-chamber.com) • 605.225.2860



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COVER: Montgomery's

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# Chamber Week Reminds Us How Blessed We Are

The week of June 5th – 9th we celebrated the triumphant return of Chamber Week – the first since 2019 and the Covid era, and it was great to be back!

We kicked off the week with the annual Chamber Golf Tournament, a new addition to the Chamber Week lineup. Then we loaded up a shuttle with volunteers from different committees and groups from across the chamber, randomly pulled 35 chamber members' names from a hat, and surprised them all around town on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We brought them goodie baskets with our "Aberdeen Summer Road trip" theme to show them how much we appreciate their membership and invited them to our FREE Business After Hours on Thursday at Mina Lake. We capped off a great week with an open house at our newly remodeled Chamber office on Friday.

In this issue of the Progress, you can see pictures of Chamber Week. The pictures show the fun, but I wish they could capture the pride in our community that was felt that week, both from our volunteers and by area community members and business owners as they told us about their business or organization at our visits. Aberdeen is a great place because of the people who call it home, and this week was a perfect illustration.

I want to say thank you to each of the volunteers who helped make Chamber Week a smashing success - but a special thanks to our outstanding Chamber staff who put in all the hard work to make sure everyone had a great time, and each of the special events went off without a hitch.

Our community has its challenges, like any other – but if you're ever in need of a reminder of what a phenomenal community we live in, grab 20 of your closest friends and hop on a bus tour around town with the sole intent to spread fun and joy. You're sure to see what a gem we are truly lucky to call home!

Happy Chamber Week!



**Katie Washnok**  
2023 Chamber Board President,  
Blackout Industries



# Member Milestones



5 Years

## Catching Fireflies Boutique

DeAnna Hauge & Gina Sommers, Owners  
601 Riverside Dr • 605-725-3473  
cffboutique@gmail.com  
catchingfirefliesboutique.com



15 Years

## Aflac, Ashley Bennett LLC

Ashley Bennett, Owner  
909 N Main St • 605-277-4815  
ashley\_twiss@us.aflac.com  
aflac.com/ashley\_twiss



15 Years

## Revive Day Spa

Fallon Helm, Owner  
301 S Main St • 605-725-4242  
revive.r3@gmail.com  
reviver3.com



20 Years

## Dakota Financial Services

2324 8th Ave NE, Ste 1 • 605-229-5200  
Cassie Monson, Manager  
cassie@dakfs.com  
dakotafinancialservices.com

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50 Years

## Schwan Electric

Travis & Laura Sichmeller, Owners  
801 Railroad Ave SE • 605-225-9211  
travis@schwanelectric.biz  
schwanelectric.biz



# Ambassador Visits



New Business

## **A+ Realty**

Austin Stage, Broker/Owner  
218 5th Ave NW • 605-228-4087  
austin@aplusrealtyteam.com  
aplusrealtyteam.com and aberdeensdhomes.com



New Owner & Name Change

## **Fetherhuff Tax & Accounting**

Marne Fetherhuff, Owner  
2301 8th Ave NE, Ste 125 • 605-229-4803  
marne@fetherhufftax.com  
fetherhufftax.com



New Business

## **Forum's Nutrition**

Anthony Brunmaier, Owner  
901 6th Ave SE, Ste 100 • 605-377-0512  
forums.nutrition@gmail.com  
forums.nutrition



New Business

## **Kore Cares In Home Services**

2301 8th Ave NE, Ste 200 • 605-705-2880  
aberdeen@korecares.com  
korecares.com



New Business

## **LifeServe Blood Center**

2727 6th Ave SE, Ste 102 • 605-287-4903  
abbie.arneson@lifeservebloodcenter.org  
lifeservebloodcenter.org



Renovation

## **Moccasin Creek Country Club**

4807 130th St NE • 605-226-0900  
clubhouse@moccasincc.com  
moccasincc.com

# Ambassador Visits



Relocation & Expansion

## Rebalance Massage & Bodywork

Jolene Malsam, Owner  
2211 8th Ave NE, Ste 3102 • 605-622-0672  
rebalancesd@gmail.com  
rebalancesd.com



New Business

## Sydlee

Danae Kirschman, Owner  
816 6th Ave SE • 605-262-0152  
sydlee2022@sydleecoffee.com  
sydleecoffee.com

# Diplomat Visits



## Lewis Family Drug

Kevin Hed, Chief Pharmacist  
119 6th Ave SW • 605-262-0283  
lewis43@lewisdrug.com  
lewisdrug.com



## Twist Cone

Lee & Sandy Klitzke, Owners  
503 N 3rd St • 605-225-9047  
twistconeaberndeen@gmail.com  
twistconeaberndeen.com

# New Members

## Down to Earth Health

Anna Rostad  
Owner  
10 5th Ave SW | Aberdeen  
605-290-4460  
downtoearthhealth@outlook.com  
down-to-earth-health.square.site



## Brown County Farm Bureau

Jeff Wolff  
12897 395th Ave | Bath  
605-353-8057  
jeff.wolff@hotmail.com  
sdfbf.org



## Electric Eel Garage

Jerry Dougherty  
President  
2821 8th Ave NE, Units 4 & 5 | Aberdeen  
605-216-1099  
electriceelgarage@gmail.com  
electriceelgarage.com



## Brandon's Handyman Service\*

Brandon Frey  
Owner  
Aberdeen  
605-228-2620  
brandonfreyhandyman@gmail.com



## Muzed Entertainment

Ben Abeyta  
Owner  
Aberdeen  
605-377-3906  
babeyta1982@gmail.com



## Minds Matter, PLLC

Tiffany Hoeft  
Owner  
405 8th Ave NW, Ste 303 | Aberdeen  
605-380-0137  
tiffany@mindsmatter.life  
mindsmatter.life





# Chamber Week Road Trip Visits

The revival of Chamber Week brought surprise visits to Chamber members chosen at random. Staff, board and committee volunteers packed the Lagers & Zoo Bar shuttle to drop off goodies and learn more about each business. We appreciate the hospitality shown at all visit locations!



Aberdeen Area Arts Council



Aberdeen Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department



Aldersgate Church



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# Chamber Week Road Trip Visits



House of Glass



InsuraCrop



Interior Design Concepts



Jark/Worlie Auction Service



Jensen Rock & Sand



Karl's TV & Appliance



Kore Cares



Lien Transportation



Minerva's



Northern Electric Cooperative



Prairie Heights Healthcare



Production Monkeys



# Chamber Week Road Trip Visits



Profiling Beauty Health & Wellness Center



Quest Construction



Revive Day Spa



SDSU Extension Aberdeen Regional Center



Thatzza Pizza



The Boston Fern



Titles of Dakota



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# Aberdeen Hosts First-Ever SDHSAA Girls State Softball Tournament



## Katherine Grandstrand Quail

*Convention Sales & Marketing Director,  
Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau*

If you were in town the first weekend in June, you might have noticed some increased traffic.

The Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the City of Aberdeen hosted the first ever SDHSAA girls state softball tournament. There were 24 teams from three classes in town for the action.

The new Players Field Complex and Koehler Hall of Fame Field served as the center of all the action. The tournament started with an all-team ice cream social sponsored by the Aberdeen Hotel Alliance and the Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau on the Malchow Plaza. Tournament games wrapped up on Saturday of the three-day event with all three



championships being played on both the north and south sides of the city.

We were so excited to have the athletes, coaches, families, and fans here for this amazing inaugural event.

## National Travel and Tourism Week

Aberdeen once again celebrated National Travel and Tourism Week in style, with hot dogs on the Plaza, a free showing of "National Lampoon's Vacation" and the entrance of Storybook Land and the Tin Man's Slide lit in red.

National Travel and Tourism Week is a project of the U.S. Travel Association, promoting tourism throughout the country. This

year, the week celebrated 40 years.

In a recap of the week, the Storybook Land sign being lit up in red was featured along with 14 other attractions throughout the country, including three others – Hot Springs Mammoth Site, the Corn Palace and Falls Park – in South Dakota. Congratulations to Storybook Land for this national recognition. (See photo next page.)

## A lost sheep

On a recent trip to Storybook Land to visit her cousin Mary, Little Bo Peep – who is not a resident of the park – left one of her sheep behind. We need your help finding the sheep! The sheep was last seen in Storybook Land. Because the park is fenced in, it cannot leave.

Will you help us find the sheep? There might be a reward! Those that find the sheep can enter to win a prize from the Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The prize will consist of tickets or passes to Aberdeen attractions and/or Aberdeen SWAG. All those that enter must be at least 13 years old. A smartphone with a working camera and internet connection is needed to enter the drawing.

## Submit your events

Have a festival, convention, or concert you want to promote? Head to [AberdeenAreaEvents.com](http://AberdeenAreaEvents.com) and submit your event! While you're there, make sure to check out all the other great events going on this summer and beyond in Aberdeen!



# APSF Funds eSports Equipment and Hydroponics for Agricultural Education

This year's Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation \$15,000 District Collaboration Grant is enhancing student achievement and engagement in the Aberdeen School District through eSports equipment and growing tower hydroponics equipment for agricultural education.

With the goal of implementing a high quality co-curricular eSports experience for high school students, the APS Foundation helped purchase equipment for the new eSports club. To complete the eSports room, ergonomic chairs were purchased for each gaming station. Since it is important for eSports participations to physically exercise and not



stay stationary for extended periods of time, under desk ellipticals and upright stationary bikes are available for students to use in between matches.

The APS Foundation is also enhancing agriculture education courses by offering hands-on experiences with hydroponics. With the addition of a new greenhouse this fall, the high school students will have an opportunity to learn about different growing techniques such as hydroponics. This is a revolutionary way to grow food with less water and soil. This process is used in small spaces as the growing happens vertically. The growing towers will be used to grow leafy greens such as lettuce, kale, arugula, and herbs.

The Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation District Collaboration Grant was matched by the school district to fund these projects.



**Gretchen A. Sharp**

*Executive Director,  
Aberdeen Public  
Schools  
Foundation, Inc.*



## LIGHTING UP **RED** ACROSS THE U.S. TO *spotlight* TRAVEL



Storybook Land in Aberdeen was one of only 15 attractions from across the nation featured in the US Travel Association's 2023 National Travel & Tourism Week recap book. Other South Dakota sites include Mitchell, Sioux Falls and Hot Springs. Having four of the 15 locations featured in the book is a huge win for South Dakota! Thank you to Dawn Thorstenson, Aberdeen Parks, Recreation & Forestry and all who had a hand in making this happen. Congratulations!

To find out more, check out [NTTW\\_RecapBook\\_23.pdf](#) at [ustravel.org/events/national-travel-and-tourism-week](https://ustravel.org/events/national-travel-and-tourism-week).



# Who Will You Nominate for an ABBY Award?



**Gail Ochs,**  
**IOM**

Chief Executive  
Officer,  
Aberdeen Area  
Chamber of  
Commerce

Nominations are being sought for the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce's 29th annual ABBY Awards. The awards banquet will be held on Thursday, September 21st at the Dakota Event Center.

Anyone may nominate a business or organization in the following categories by going to: <https://aberdeen-chamber.com/events-programs/abby-awards-program> or by calling the Chamber at 605-225-2860 or emailing [info@aberdeen-chamber.com](mailto:info@aberdeen-chamber.com).

The **Agribusiness Award** is presented to a business that has demonstrated exceptional performance in the development and advancement of the agriculture industry in South Dakota through farming, ranching, services, resources and related programs.

The **Bridge Builder Award** is presented to a business or organization that has demonstrated exceptional performance in collaborating with community educational institutions and agencies to expand their workforce to include under-served segments such as students, individuals with special needs, veterans and minority groups.

The **Community Involvement - Business Award** is presented to a business that has demonstrated exceptional performance in its support of the community through its involvement and support of programs, events or voluntary groups that serve to enhance the community.

The **Community Involvement - Non Profit Award** is presented to a non-profit organization that has demonstrated exceptional performance in its mission to serve the community through programs and resources such as arts & culture, sports, education, volunteerism, financial assistance, etc.

The **Customer Service - Retail Award** is presented to a business that has demonstrated exceptional performance and service in the retail



sector.

The **Customer Service - Service Award** is presented to a business that has demonstrated exceptional performance and service in the service sector.

The **Health & Wellness Award** is presented to a business or organization that has demonstrated exceptional performance in providing and promoting health and wellness and related programs and services within their company and/or community.

The **Manufacturing Award** is presented to a business who has demonstrated exceptional performance and innovation producing and distributing manufactured goods.

The **Professional Services Award** is presented to a business or organization that has demonstrated exceptional performance providing support services to businesses in our community.

Once a nomination is made, the Chamber will contact the nominee and ask them to complete an official award application by August 18, 2023. All ABBY award winners are selected by a panel of judges from throughout the United States, with the exception of the People's Choice, which is voted on locally from nominees in all nine categories.

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# Evolving Economic Development and How We Are Responding

Greetings from the Aberdeen Development Corporation (ADC). By the time of this printing, I will have entered my 10th year at the ADC. It's hard to believe how fast time has passed! What is most amazing to me is how much economic development has changed post COVID compared the many years prior. I was recently visiting with an individual who has worked in economic development in South Dakota for over 42 years. During our conversation he said something which has stuck with me over the past few months. His comment was that economic development has changed more in the past three years than it has in the previous forty years. He went on to explain his rationale for this comment and as I processed his words, I came to the conclusion he is spot on. Below is a synopsis of why he is right and how the ever-evolving world of economic development is affecting Aberdeen.

We are living in a post pandemic era. As advanced as our society is today scientifically and technologically, we still experienced a pandemic which resulted in multiple deaths worldwide. In fact, the World Health Organization recently put out an updated number of COVID deaths and we are fast approaching over 7 million fatalities. Beyond the unfortunate number of deaths, there are numerous individuals who were infected with COVID who are still suffering from lingering effects.

The pandemic caused the economic engine to take an internal look and figure out how to respond. This happened right here in our community as it did across the world. We experienced rapid business expansions, rapid business contractions and business closures and now we are dealing with settling in to the new normal. The challenge is we do not yet know what the new normal is and it is likely to be a while for us to settle on what the new normal is. As I write this, the ADC is involved in multiple conversations with businesses looking to expand into our market. This is great, yet the challenges remain and some of the challenges are directly related to the dramatic changes my colleague referred to in our conversation.

Just look at some of the environmental factors which have happened in just a few short years: Government responded with massive stimulus dollars. Inflation went crazy high, causing prices of everyday necessities to skyrocket. The Federal Reserve had to respond to inflation by raising interest rates. Despite all this our economy has stayed resilient and growth opportunities exist for Aberdeen. Below are just a few examples of actions the ADC is taking so Aberdeen can capitalize on these opportunities.

1. We need more housing despite high interest rates – After two years, developers in Aberdeen will have access to a \$200 million fund appropriated by the State Legislature (thank you legislators!). These funds will assist in the infrastructure costs of new single family housing lots and multi-family developments. The ADC was proud to be one of the many organizations who

banded together across our state to work for these funds to be appropriated.

2. Development of Overpass Business Park – The ADC has purchased land on the north side of the 2nd street overpass. Over the summer and into the fall, the ADC will be redeveloping this property to create a location for businesses to expand or start in. Additionally, property which was formerly an eyesore for our community will be cleaned up and put to much better use.

3. Focus on retention of graduating students from NSU – There is a lot of focus on getting new people to relocate here from other states/cities to live and work in our community. While this is a great concept, it takes resources - mainly a lot of money. This is a resource the ADC does not have currently, so we are choosing to put our focus on retaining individuals who are already here in our community but are not permanent residents: NSU students. The first step in this effort has been launched, called the Aberdeen Internship Network. You will be hearing more about this effort in the coming months; specifically, you will learn how the ADC and Chamber are coming together to enhance this programming.

These are just a few examples of the many efforts underway by the ADC. Stay tuned for some exciting announcements on additional initiatives and successes in the coming months. As always, if you know of a business or entrepreneur needing assistance, please contact our office at 605-229-5335.



**Mike Bockorny,  
EDMP**

*Chief Executive Officer,  
Aberdeen Development  
Corporation*



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## CAREGIVER SUPPORT MEETING

**TUESDAY, July 11, 2023 @ 10:00AM**  
**TUESDAY, August 8, 2023 @ 5:30PM**

*Caregiver Support Group was created to provide an added support system for those that are caring for another and may be living with the daily stressors of the process of caring for another person along with attempting to care for themselves.*



**Activity Room**  
**Aberdeen Senior Center**  
**1303 7th Ave SE**  
*2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday of Each Month*

Share Experiences ~ Receive Support From Others ~ Embrace Learning Opportunities  
 For more information or to RSVP please contact  
 Erin Paulson (605) 216-3596 or Jackie Witlock (605) 626-3330

# Golf Tournament Kicks Off Chamber Week Road Trip

First stop: Moccasin Creek Country Club

Chamber Week was revived in 2023 with the theme Summer Celebration: Road Trip to Aberdeen. To kick things off, 32 teams took to the links at MC3 on a beautiful summer day for a chance at prizes + bragging rights, as well as to celebrate being Chamber members in the Hub City. Thanks to all who participated, to our hole sponsors for making this possible and to the staff at MC3 for their five star customer service!



**Flight 1, 1st Place**  
**US Bank**

Troy Holtey, Jarrod Kannas, Jake Cramond  
& Karl Alberts



**Flight 1, 2nd Place**  
**Balla – Shot Calla**

Tom Kaiser, Conner Fiedler, Paula Krueger  
& Brad Krueger



**Flight 1, T 3rd Place**  
**Avera St. Luke's**

Eric Schwan, Kacie Garstecki, Marcus  
Garstecki & Tanner White



**Flight 1, T 3rd Place**  
**ZuntaFi 1**

Mark Comstock, Jon Vedvei, Eric  
Comstock & Spencer Aberle



**Flight 1, T 5th Place**  
**Dacotah Bank**

Tyler Wenbourne, Chad Vetter, Lloyd  
Sanderson & Jordan Kline



**Flight 1, T 5th Place**  
**ReadiTech**

Michael Wegehaupt, Kelly Fischer, Ryan  
Neal & David Malsam



**Flight 1, T 5th Place**  
**Northwestern Mutual**

Tyson Paulson, Brett Riggs, Thomas Hogg  
& Teryn Luce



**Flight 1, 8th Place**  
**Team Perry**

Matt Dorfschmidt, Connie Munsch, Dean  
Munsch & Jon Knott



**Flight 1, 9th Place**  
**New Friends**

Dathan Spieker, Isaac Bauer, Aaron  
Purkeypile & Carlos Camacho Marrero



The Chamber staff chose American Bank & Trust as the Chamber golf tournament team that went above and beyond with best use of the summer road trip theme. Pictured are Lance "Lasky" Vilhauer, Rachelle Carrels, Matilda Grobe & Jeff Grobe.





# Chamber Week Golf Tourney Results



## Flight 1, T 10th Place Domino's

Rachel Duvall, Darin Duvall, Marv Bonnet & Larry Bohling



## Flight 1, T 10th Place Huff Construction

Chad Huff, David Sandvig, Steven Lust & Zach Flakus



## Flight 2, 1st Place Centennial Homes

Corey Casanova, Lee Klundt, Melinda Orr & Rob Aldinger



## Flight 2, 2nd Place Farm Credit Services of America

Annika Walz, Matt Haas, Adam Christenson & Zach Harry



## Flight 2, 3rd Place Helms & Associates 1

Bob Babcock, Mike Schmit, Bob Kieso & Brandon Smid



## Flight 2, T 4th Place Area Federal Credit Union

Renee Kulesa, Steve Streier, April Schaeffer & Steve Everson



## Flight 2, T 4th Place House of Glass

Scott Bain, Chris Jung, Brandon Holweger & James Peterson



## Flight 2, T 4th Place Northern State University

Jacob Wiedrich, Nate Davis, Steven McKee & Dean Berry



## Flight 2, 7th Place BankNorth Warner

Jason Jung, Chip Fuhrman, Carey Nilsson & Jared Steger



## Flight 2, T 8th Place Dagel, Jakober & Associates

Matthew Zeller, Brady Fuhrman, Dawn Friedrichsen & Shelby Marcotte



## Flight 2, T 8th Place JDH Construction

Tiffany Olson, Susie Souza, Mark Papstein & Ona Hughes



## Flight 2, T 8th Place NVC

Jeff Evenson, Brent Hanson, Darren Torrence & Scott Stolle



# Chamber Week Golf Tourney Results



**Flight 2, 11th Place  
Senator Rounds**

Jake Tarrell, Bob DeJong, Jennifer Hieb & Tyler Tordsen



**Flight 3, T 1st Place  
Blackout Industries**

Brad Bunt, James Washnok, Katie Washnok & Aaron Smith



**Flight 3, T 1st Place  
Interior Design Concepts**

Kent Chapin, Jason Cox, Brian Malsom & Dan Harber



**Flight 3, 3rd Place  
Demkota Ranch Beef**

Ryan Henrichs, Rachel Line, Nathan Prugh & Ben Smith



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

Jeff Grobe, Matilda Grobe, Rachelle Carrels & Lance Vilhauer



**Flight 3, T 4th Place  
Plains Commerce Bank**

Shaye Bloch, Todd Jordre, Trevan Korthour & Adam Butcher



**Flight 3, T 4th Place  
RAM Housing**

Rich Galbraith, Teri Galbraith, Kayla Heuer & Travis Heuer



**Flight 3, 7th Place  
Helms & Associates 2**

Brooke Edgar, Craig Harrison, Leif Redinger & Lucas Hoover



**Flight 3, 8th Place  
ZuntaFi 2**

Kristy Robertson, Shanna Hoven, Sam Hulsher & Norma Hopfinger



**Flight 3, 9th Place  
SD Manufacturing & Technology  
Solutions**

Scott Kolb, Kellie Kolb, Carol Kindlespire & Laure Swanson



**Flight 3, 10th Place  
3M Company**

Joel Nitschke, Amber Lutz, Quinn Kinser & Ellen Walstad



Thank you to KaSara Sutton for letting us borrow Stevie for Chamber Week!



## Ag Appreciation Night in Downtown Aberdeen! Thursday, July 27th

ESTD

2023

# HATS OFF to AG

The Chamber's Ag Committee presents  
the inaugural Hats Off to Ag! event  
beginning at 5:30 pm  
Engels Event Company | 209 S Main St  
With guest speaker Elaine Kub, internationally  
recognized expert on the economics of  
commodity markets

[aberdeen-chamber.com/events-programs/hats-off-to-ag](http://aberdeen-chamber.com/events-programs/hats-off-to-ag)

Tickets \$25 each at the Chamber office  
**PLUS**

The free Downtown Summer Concert Series  
featuring the 2022 Texas CMA Band of the Year  
The Chad Cooke Band



## FARM TO FOOD BANK

Shop the farmers market every Saturday morning  
and make a positive difference in our community!  
Look for the blue wagon where you can place extra  
produce purchased from the market vendors. It will  
be donated to local food banks including  
The Salvation Army.

Every  
Saturday  
MAY 13 - OCT  
8:30AM-NOON

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FARMERS  
Market**

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**THE MARKET** **aberdeen**

For more information email [aberndeedfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:aberndeedfarmersmarket@gmail.com) or visit the Aberdeen Area  
Farmers Market on Facebook

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Flowers, Beef, Eggs,  
Honey, Heirloom  
Seedlings, Baked  
Goods, Sour Dough  
Bread, Icecream, Kettle  
Korn, Herbs and Blends,  
Micro Greens, Candles,  
Hand Soap, Handmade  
Decor, ArtWork & More!

**New feature alert!** Each issue of the Progress will now feature  
a Chamber member business or organization sharing why they  
are members or use the Chamber's programs and services. In  
this first 'why' of the series, Mike Quast, CEO of the Aberdeen  
Family Y and Chamber board member, shares the Y's 'why'.

### Our Chamber Why

"The YMCA uses Chamber gift cards for  
our employees which is a great way to  
recognize and reward their efforts while  
also supporting local businesses. The  
gift cards have a wide network of  
participating businesses. This gives our  
employees the freedom to choose from  
a diverse range of options, including  
restaurants, retail stores, entertainment  
venues and more. It allows them to  
select something they truly enjoy and  
appreciate."

Mike Quast, CEO, Aberdeen Family Y



Pictured are  
YMCA  
Employee of  
the Quarter  
Kaitlyn Kassube  
with Owen,  
Wesley & Ava

Photo and copy submitted by Mike Quast

# Is Your Online Presence Working for Your Business?



**Kelly Weaver**

Regional Director,  
Small Business  
Development  
Center

Much like a physical storefront, we tend to lose sight of our online presence when we are always entering from the 'back door'. It's important to take a customer facing, objective look at the online footprint of your business. Here's a few tips for 'auditing' your online presence.

- Create a consistent look across **all platforms**. Use the same logos, color schemes, font styles, and 'voice'. Create a professional look consistent with your brand. Use quality pictures of products, people and places that are appropriate. Be sure all business information is accurate (phone, email, address, website, hours). Protect your online reputation. Actively request customer reviews and respond to all (good and bad) with timely, professional responses. Strive for overall customer ratings (on individual and combined channels) of 4 or more-stars.
- Your **website** is your virtual store for online prospects. Items to review include:
  - Your navigation menu, linked text, and buttons make relevant content easy to find.
  - Navigation options and contact information are on every page.
  - Your product/service offerings are clear and easy to understand and Call to Actions (CTA's) make it clear what you want visitors to do.
  - Social media buttons are included, easy to access, and working.


- Pages look good on mobile devices.
- If applicable, email sign up is available and easy to access.
- Google Analytics is installed.

**Social media** can be a goldmine for prospecting, lead generation, and referrals. Check your social media listing/pages for:

- Your profiles "match" – bio and about language is consistent across all social channels.
- Profile and banner images are up-to- date and reflect your brand.
- Call to Actions are visible ("contact us", "view menu", etc.)
- All active social channels are linked to your website and vice versa.
- Your top-performing posts are identified and referenced as a guide for future posts.
- **Google Business Profile** is a free advertising tool for any location-based business. It's important to check the following aspects of your Google Business listing:
  - Does your business have more than one listing? (If so, remove the duplicate.)
  - Is your business category accurate?
  - Are photos current? Do they show exterior and interior of the business? Products/services?
  - Does your business description give consumers an idea about your product or service?
  - Does your listing include a link to your website and/or online menu?
  - Is your business address/service area accurate and precise (is the pin in the right location?)
  - Are you adjusting your hours for particular days, like holidays as needed?

Conducting a basic audit of these areas will help you gain a clear idea of which content, feature, or activity to improve on. Review competitors' sites for additional insight. You might be surprised how simple changes can help you better reach and engage your target audience.

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](mailto:kelly@growsd.org). The Center is hosted by GROW South Dakota.



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Need not be present to win

Contact Janae for tickets 605-229-0263 ext. 1007



# NSU Partners with Department of Education to Offer Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway

Northern State University is helping South Dakota solve the teacher shortage by creating a flexible, low-cost pathway for educational assistants (para-educators) who are working in schools to become teachers.

The South Dakota Department of Education opened applications for the Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway to thousands of para-educators working in accredited school districts across the state. The program will help para-educators pursue certification to become licensed teachers.

The Northern State University Millicent Atkins School of Education and Dakota State University are offering the courses and programs in the Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway. Para-educators will continue working and will student-teach in their home district. Northern and Dakota State faculty will offer the coursework virtually and at convenient times so para-educators can work and earn their degree at the same time.

During the 2022-23 school year, about 175 teacher vacancies went unfilled in South Dakota. Northern State University Millicent Atkins School of Education and Dakota State University are working with superintendents, the DOE, the South Dakota Department of Labor and the South Dakota Board of Regents to address the teacher shortage. The Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway program has room for 60 participants.

"It's time to start considering solutions to the teacher shortage in a unique way, and Northern State University is thrilled to be in partnership with the DOE and the DLR in developing the S.D. Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway," said Dr. Anna Schwan, Interim Dean of the Millicent Atkins School of Education. "This program has the power to be truly impactful for schools, para-educators, and most importantly, our students. We are all in this together, and this important work aimed at 'growing our own' teachers in South Dakota represents true collaboration, innovation and thought; Northern is part of the solution, and that's an inspiring feeling."

*Submitted by NSU staff*



**Dr. Anna Schwan**

## Enhance Aberdeen Business Recognitions

Congratulations to these businesses that were recognized by the Chamber's Enhance Aberdeen Committee for exterior improvements to their properties which adds value to the quality of life for or residents.



**American Family Insurance –  
Brian Jorgensen Agency**  
923 6th Ave SE



**LaBelle Brow Studio**  
14 5th Ave SW

## Chamber Big Dates

### Ag Committee

Thursday, July 20, Noon, Chamber

Thursday, August 17, Noon, Brown County Fairgrounds Clubhouse

### Ambassador Committee

Tuesday, July 11, Noon, Chamber

Thursday, August 8, Noon, Chamber

### Brown County Fair Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, August 20, 8 am, Brown County Fair Clubhouse

### Business After Hours

Thursday, July 13, 5:15 pm, Moccasin Creek Country Club

Thursday, August 10, 5:15 pm, Pierson Ford – Annual Chicken Wing Challenge

### Chamber Executive Board

Friday, July 14, 8 am, Chamber

Friday, August 11, 8 am, Chamber

### Chamber Full Board

Wednesday, July 19, 8 am, Chamber

### Dementia Friendly America

Tuesday, July 11, 11 am, KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library

Tuesday, August 1, 11 am, Chamber

### Diplomat Committee

Thursday, July 13, 3 pm, TBD

Thursday, August 10, 3 pm, TBD

### Enhance Aberdeen Committee

Friday, August 25, 8:30 am, Chamber

### Hats Off to Ag

Thursday, July 27, 5:30 pm, Engels Event Company

### Health & Wellness Committee

Wednesday, July 5, 12 pm, Chamber

Wednesday, August 2, 12 pm, Chamber

### Military & Veterans Committee

Tuesday, July 18, Noon, Chamber

### New Employee Welcome

Thursday, July 13, 4:15 pm, Moccasin Creek Country Club

Thursday, August 10, 4:15 pm, TBD

### New Faculty Luncheon

Monday, August 14, 12 pm, Dakota Event Center

### Transportation Committee

Tuesday, August 29, 3:30 pm, Chamber

### Workforce & Education Committee

Tuesday, July 18, 8:15 am, Chamber

Tuesday, August 22, 8:15 am, Chamber

The Chamber office will be closed  
on July 3, July 4, & August 18.

# Green New Deal is a Bad Deal for America



**John Thune**  
US Senator (R-SD)

Higher prices have become a fact of life during the Biden administration. This is especially true for energy – in South Dakota, the typical family is paying \$112 more per month for energy since President Biden took office. At the same time energy prices are straining family budgets, government policies are straining the energy industry and making our energy supply less reliable. This is no coincidence; it's the predictable result of the policies President Biden has enacted over the last two and a half years.

From the earliest days of his administration, President Biden has moved to accelerate his vision of a Green New Deal future. His early decisions to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline and pause energy development on federal lands sent a clear message that discouraged domestic production of conventional energy, which led to higher prices for American families. With the help of Democrats in Congress, the president has also increased taxes and fees on conventional energy producers, which will only drive prices higher.

The president is undertaking these policies with the promise of a transition to clean energy, but his singular focus on transitioning to clean energy is leading to a disturbing trend. Fossil fuel power plants are closing faster than new renewable

sources can be brought on line. Plant closures and increased energy demand forecasted during the summer have led to warnings of blackouts across large swaths of the country. Yet, the Biden administration recently finalized a regulation that threatens to close more fossil fuel power plants and further destabilize our electric grid.

I've long been a supporter of renewable energy, and I'm proud that South Dakota is a leader in clean energy sources like hydroelectric, wind, and biofuels. But the fact is that we are not yet at a point where we can rely solely on renewable energy. President Biden needs to shift gears and unleash American energy production of both the conventional and renewable varieties.

Republicans have been working to advance policies that would support such an all-of-the-above energy portfolio. One of the ways to do this is by reforming our outdated federal permitting processes that have mired too many projects in unnecessary and costly delays. The recently passed Fiscal Responsibility Act takes important steps toward reducing these regulatory burdens by streamlining government agencies' reviews and shrinking the timeline for getting projects off the ground. These are meaningful steps, but there's more that needs to be done to ensure government regulation and spurious legal challenges do not stand in the way of the projects we need to deliver reliable and affordable energy to Americans.

For more than two years now, the Biden administration has demonstrated its hostility to conventional energy with devastating consequences for family budgets, businesses, and the reliability of our electric grid. It's long past time for the president to recognize the critical role conventional energy continues to play in our nation's energy supply and embrace a more realistic approach. Continuing to insist on an overly ambitious green energy transition would only further jeopardize America's energy security.

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## SANFORD ABERDEEN NURSE AND PHARMACISTS HONORED

Sarah Stoebner, RN, and the Aberdeen Pharmacy Service team received awards in May during the Sanford Health Nurses Week celebration in Sioux Falls.

Sarah Stoebner received the Florence Nightingale Professional Nurse award for her outstanding involvement in the practice of the art and the science of nursing, as evidenced by strength of character, commitment and competence that has been recognized by peers as an outstanding asset to the community, nursing profession and Sanford Health organization.

The Aberdeen Pharmacy Service team received the Friend of Nursing award, which is given to an individual or group who, though not a nurse, has demonstrated



Sarah Stoebner, RN



Kirsten Nash, Pharm.D.; Stacy Anderson, Pharm.D.; Robbie Aamot, RPh.; Drew Diedrich, Pharm.D.; Josh Thurow, Pharm.D.; Nathan Bossert, Pharm.D. Not Pictured: K.C. Nelson, Pharm.D.; Billie Bartel, Pharm.D.; BCCCP; Quinten Glass, Pharm.D.

significant contributions to the nursing profession, the work environment of the health care team and the Sanford Health organization.

The nurses week celebration is an annual event for Sanford Health. This year's event, held at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, honored nurses and other health care professionals in nine categories. Nearly 590 nominations were submitted for 2023 honors.

National Nurses Week is acknowledged by health care organizations and the American Nurses Association annually.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### 2023 Free Spring Residential Cleanup Summary

April 28-May 13

#### Landfill Dropoff from 5,248 vehicles:

Trash - 380 ton

Tires - 40 ton

Metals - 108 ton

Trees - 154 ton

Total: 682 ton

#### City (In-Town) Dropoff:

Trash - 63 ton

Tires - 6 ton

Total: 69 ton

2022 vehicle count - 4,467

2021 vehicle count - 6,593

2020 vehicle count - 8,537

2019 vehicle count - 4,297

*And the Winner is...*

**Congratulations to Three22 Kitchen + Cocktails, led by Chef Jacob Collins, for winning the first Aberdeen Burger Battle!**

**Their Bourbon Bacon Burger was voted as the favorite among the ten participating restaurants. Proceeds from the event benefited the Salvation Army.**

Pictured are representatives of participating restaurants, Leadership Aberdeen 2023 class members and Salvation Army staff.

**Aspire FOUNDATION**  
20TH ANNUAL GOLF BENEFIT

**Friday, August 11, 2023**  
**Lee Park Golf Course**

Registration at 12pm  
Shotgun start at 1pm

Register at  
[www.aspiresd.org/foundation/golf-tournament](http://www.aspiresd.org/foundation/golf-tournament)

For more information call  
Janae at 605-229-0263 ext 1007

**Team Registration \$500**

Registration includes green fees, cart and meal (after tournament).

The Aspire Foundation provides financial support to Aspire, Inc. We are a non-profit organization with a mission to empower adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives.

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# Is Your Business Following Child Labor Laws?



**Kim Dorsett**

*Partner,  
Richardson,  
Wyly, Wise,  
Sauck & Hieb*

Summer is now in full swing and many teenagers are working at their summer jobs – including my son who is working full-time with his father. I fully support our businesses in hiring local youth, believing it instills valuable work ethic and accountability. However, not all businesses do so ethically. You may have caught recent stories in the news, highlighting egregious violations of child labor laws. For example, Packers Sanitation Services was recently fined \$1.5 million for employing at least 102 minors in dangerous conditions at 13 meat-processing facilities across 8 states. The child workers, sometimes as young as 13, were working overnight, using dangerous chemicals to clean back saws, brisket saws, head splitters, and other equipment. At least 3 children were injured on the job. In yet another troubling case, three McDonald's franchisees operating 62 McDonald's locations across Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland and Ohio were fined over \$200,000 after 300 minors were found to have been working in violation of federal labor laws, with two of those workers just 10 years old.

Unfortunately, the number of minors employed in willful violation of child labor laws has skyrocketed 283% since 2015. This serious problem has prompted the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services in March, 2023, with its stated purpose to increase the enforcement of child labor protections under the Fair Labor Standards Act and other laws protecting children from exploitation. In short, businesses can expect more oversight and enforcement actions as it concerns child labor laws.

If you hire young workers, it is critically important for you to be aware of the long list of occupations the federal government has deemed too hazardous for minors to perform. While some exemptions apply, the following is a list of jobs that employees under the age of 18 are generally not allowed to perform:

- \* Driving or working as an outside helper on a motor vehicle
- \* Operating a power-driven woodworking machine
- \* Operating a forklift
- \* Operating metal-forming, shearing, or punching machines
- \* Operating power-driven bakery machines
- \* Operating power-driven paper-product machines
- \* Operating balers or compactors
- \* Operating power-driven saws, shears, chippers, and abrasive cutting discs
- \* Operating power-driven slicing machines in meat packing or processing



- \* Operating a power-driven hoisting apparatus
- \* Tile, brick, and related products manufacturing work on or near a roof
- \* Trenching and excavating

South Dakota has an additional set of rules for employing minors. For children younger than 16 years, they may not be employed:

- \* In any occupation dangerous to life, health or morals
- \* For more than 4 hours per school day or 20 hours per school week
- \* For more than 8 hours per non-school day or 40 hours per non-school week
- \* Later than 10 p.m. on a school night

Children younger than 14 years may not be employed:

- \* During school hours
- \* Later than 7 p.m.
- \* At any time in any factory or workshop or about any mine

South Dakota has allowed various exceptions to its laws for child actors, jobs pumping gas or detasseling hybrid seed corn during any non-school day or non-school week, employment by parents, employment necessary for the child's support, or employment using agricultural equipment. However, applicable federal laws create requirements that are more stringent in many of these cases. For further information, go to: [dlr.sd.gov/employment\\_laws](http://dlr.sd.gov/employment_laws).

There is no doubt that employing minors provides many benefits for both the employee and the employer. However, employers must recognize minors cannot perform all the same jobs that adults can perform or work the same hours. Please consult with an attorney well versed in employment laws for additional information.

\*\*\* This article is informational only and should not be construed as legal advice. For questions about this topic or any other business law matter, please consult an attorney.



# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2023 WORKFORCE INNOVATION SUMMIT



**Dr. Thom Flamboe**  
If You Were A Corporation, Would People Want to Buy Stock in You?

**Anne Bonney**  
Normalizing Change for Increased Impact

**Lyric Rivera**  
Neurodiversity 101

**October 19 & 20, 2023 - Best Western Ramkota**  
A Conference to Build Partnerships and Advance Recruitment and Retention Efforts in the Aberdeen Area

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# SPURS

GRAB YOUR BOOTS! IT'S TIME FOR A

## HOEDOWN AT SPURS TOWN



### SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

**Event Schedule**

- Doors Open - 4:00PM
- Silent Auction - 4:00PM
- Dinner Served - 5:00PM
- Live Auction - 6:15PM
- Live Band - 8:00PM

**Ticket Price**

- Individual \$25 - Family \$50

**-Tickets can be purchased at the Hitch 'N Post or at the door!**



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# WALK WITH US

TO PREVENT SUICIDE

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**Aberdeen Area Out of the Darkness Community Walk**

**September 9, 2023**  
Odde Ice Center



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
South Dakota



OUT OF THE DARKNESS  
Community Walks

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# Reflections on My First Three Years in Aberdeen



**Joe Gaa**

Aberdeen  
City Manager

As I write this article, it is early June and the annual budgeting process for the City is moving along at a steady pace. Because the budget is on my mind, I felt an article detailing the budget process would be appropriate. Then I realized I had already done that at this time last year. So now what is there left to talk about? That was a difficult question as the budget does start to overtake my mind this time of year. But then it hit me, I started working here in June 2020. That means that within a few days, I will be starting my 4th year here. Wow, that went by in a flash! But that did help spur a new idea- let's talk about some of the bigger challenges over the past three years and look at what is ahead in year four and beyond.

If I were asked to pick out the most significant topic since my arrival, that is easy water, water, water! And not just clean water, but dirty water too. Early on it came to my attention that for Aberdeen to continue to grow, we needed more water and wastewater treatment capacity. And if that isn't enough, we need more water sources, period. Most of my first year, and into my second, was determining what growth was needed at both the water and wastewater treatment plants. The first question that was answered came in wastewater treatment. A facility study was completed in 2021, a funding plan developed in 2022, and design engineering is nearing completion now. The project will bid in early 2024 and construction will begin in the spring. This will be a significant project that will take at least two years to complete. When complete, our wastewater treatment capacity will be doubled and we will be poised for growth over the next 40-50 years.

On the drinking water side, other exciting developments have occurred over the past three years that I wouldn't have guessed when I arrived. Since early 2022, the City of Aberdeen has been working in partnership with WEB Water and BDM Water (both neighboring rural water districts) to

increase water capacity coming from the Missouri River. When completed, the WINS Project (Water Investment in Northern South Dakota) will provide drinking water capacity to the service area of the three partners and will position the northeast corner of the state for substantial economic development opportunities in the future.

And while water and wastewater have been big topics wait, there's more! One exciting area that we are always working to grow and improve are our beloved Parks and Recreation facilities. One of the biggest developments on the horizon is a new ride in Storybook Land. An accessible playground was completed there last year and has been a big success. We also continue to update playgrounds in parks around the City. Continued growth in our trail system is also ongoing.

One area that I consider to be very important is street maintenance. We have seen several street re-construction projects occur and will continue to see that on an annual basis. Our public works crew does an impressive amount of work "in-house" which includes asphalt patching/paving as well as the annual chip and seal program. Crews also replace several blocks of water and sewer main each year. A big topic this year is developing a concept for a much needed public works facility. Design concepts are expected to be completed in coming months in hopes of construction in 2024.

Our public safety staff also keeps on their toes serving our community- often times in critical emergency situations. The Fire and Rescue Department continues to ensure our Firefighters/ Paramedics have the best training in both fire and medical response. Year after year we have seen increases in medical emergency calls. Currently, a new fire truck is under construction and should arrive later this year!

All things economic development have also been hot topics where we have faced some challenges and found successes. Sometimes it seems that we are constantly talking about housing, workforce recruitment, and business recruitment and retention. But when the issues are identified, then forging together as a community to resolve them is the next step. We continue to do that well in Aberdeen.

In pulling my thoughts together, we have worked hard and seen strong results in my time here. But there remains work to do. Aberdeen is already a great place to live, work and play. What we must continue to do is stay vigilant and open minded in making sure we are always taking a step forward to make it even better. If there is one take away from my three years here it is this, the people who live here care about their community and do their part to make it better every day. To stay a viable community, it takes the entire village and we are doing that, in a big way here in Aberdeen!

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## Committee Visits



The Chamber's Health & Wellness Committee held their May meeting at Derian Place.



The Aberdeen Chamber Ag Committee toured the Warner Dairy in June to celebrate Dairy Month. Silverstreak Dairies, LLC safety manager William Schanus shared info about the operation that milks 2,700 cows three times a day. He explained the robotic carousel, the cleaning process, the types of feed provided to the animals and the storage of the milk. They are a Class A dairy with milk shipped mostly to Pollock and Lake Norden.

*\*Photo & copy courtesy of Connie Group*

## Ag Fair 2023

The Chamber's Ag Committee partnered with the Brown County Fairgrounds, Groton FFA, Agtegra Cooperative and SD Soil Health Coalition to present their annual 4th Grade Ag Fair. There were approximately 550 4th graders and their teachers from Aberdeen Public, Roncalli, Aberdeen Christian, Trinity Lutheran, Frederick, Langford, Leola, Warner, Groton and Ipswich schools in attendance. Students learned about beef, sheep, pigs, goats, dairy, horses, soil health, farm safety, crops and ATV safety at educational and hands-on stations.



### THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers – each carried by someone committed to raising funds and awareness to help end this disease. It's time to add your flower to the fight.

Visit [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk) for more information about this year's event and to register.

**Walk to End Alzheimer's – Aberdeen**  
**Sunday, September 24, 2023**  
**Anderson Park**

**Edward Jones**

**WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S**  
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

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**3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE**  
1/4 of Processed Beef  
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**ONLY 600 TICKETS SOLD**  
**TICKET PRICE: \$100**

Drawing to be held at SPURS on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 OR when all 600 tickets are sold. Need not be present to win.  
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# ABERDEEN FAMILY YMCA

## 22nd ANNUAL BULL RUN

Saturday, July 29, 2023

1/2 Marathon, 10K, 5K  
Fun Walk, Munchkin Run

For information, registration, schedule, fees, race maps and more, visit  
[www.aberdeenyumca.org/events/21st-annual-bull-run](http://www.aberdeenyumca.org/events/21st-annual-bull-run)  
or contact Terrill Meier at (605) 225-4910 or tmeier@aberdeenyumca.org

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# SBA - Celebrating 70 Years!

In January 1952, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in a State of the Union address, "The prosperity of our small business enterprises is an indispensable element in the maintenance of our economic strength." From his leadership experiences during World War II and the Korean War, President Eisenhower saw firsthand the positive contributions and impact small businesses provided to the government supply chain and he sought to establish a permanent federal agency with a focused mission on supporting small business startups and growth. The next year, on July 30, 1956, Congress voted into the law, the creation of the U.S. Small Business Administration. As the SBA celebrates our 70th Anniversary this summer, we honor the 33 million small businesses across the U.S. – with 90,000 of those small businesses right here in South Dakota – for being anchors in our communities, creating job opportunities, and providing the goods and services we all depend on in our daily lives.

The SBA continues to carry on a legacy of providing aid, counsel, assistance and protection of the interests of small businesses, and preservation of free enterprise to maintain and strengthen the economy. Over the years, SBA activities have been summarized counseling, capital, contracting, and disaster recovery assistance:

## **Counseling – Entrepreneurial Development**

The SBA provides federal funding to power a national core network of business assistance organizations including Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veteran Business Outreach Centers, and SCORE (a volunteer mentor corps of retired and experienced business leaders). Additionally, SBA funds centers that support small business innovation, cybersecurity, international exporting, and more. Small business counseling sessions are free and confidential. To connect with SBA resource partners across South Dakota, visit [www.sba.gov/local-assistance](http://www.sba.gov/local-assistance).

## **Capital – 7(a) Loan Program, CDC/504 Loan Program, Microloan Program**

SBA loans are provided through partner banks, credit unions, and other lenders and are partially guaranteed by the federal government. SBA loans and lines of credit can assist

businesses with the purchase of real estate for new construction or for existing buildings, operational equipment, inventory, and other business expenses. There are a variety of SBA lending products ranging from \$500 to \$5 million to meet the needs of the borrower depending on their phase of business ownership. To learn more about SBA lending, visit [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans).

## **Contracting – 8(a) Business Development Program and federal certification programs**

The 8(a) Business Development Program is a robust nine-year business development and mentoring program to assist socially and economically disadvantaged small business owners. Businesses that participate in the program receive training and technical assistance designed to strengthen their ability to compete effectively in the American economy including for federal government contracts. Additionally, SBA offers certification programs for women, service-disabled veterans, Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones), and minority-owned small businesses. The federal government sets aside 23 percent of all federal contracts annually for the above certified small businesses. To learn more about small business federal contracting programs, visit [www.sba.gov/federal-contracting](http://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting).

## **Disaster Recovery Assistance**

In times of natural disaster, SBA may provide low-interest loan recovery assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and homeowners. To learn more about SBA disaster recovery assistance, visit [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance).

To connect with the SBA South Dakota District Office and view a calendar of small business training events, visit [www.sba.gov/southdakota](http://www.sba.gov/southdakota).



**Jaime Wood**

*South Dakota  
District Director,  
U.S. Small Business  
Administration*



**SAVE THE DATE!**

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**FIELD to FORK**

A FARM-TO-TABLE CONNECTION

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023**

**AT CENTENNIAL VILLAGE, BROWN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

.....

**[ABERDEEN-CHAMBER.COM/EVENTS-PROGRAMS/FIELD-TO-FORK](http://ABERDEEN-CHAMBER.COM/EVENTS-PROGRAMS/FIELD-TO-FORK)**

# Lots of Legislative Work in the Summer



**Julie Johnson**

Attorney at Law  
and Registered  
Lobbyist

Much attention goes into the SD legislative process during January, February and part of March these days. Yet, there is a considerable amount of work that happens in the "legislative interim", i.e., in between legislative sessions. This is peak season for such interim work.

These are some of the issues we will be watching throughout the interim, and trying to play a constructive role for our area:

**Counties:** A well-placed group of legislators are serving on a county summer study to look at how to take care of the myriad of county financial issues. Brown County, for example, has brought several of these issues to the attention of policymakers in the past few years. We will watch this study and hope for the best for this critical layer of government.

**Long-Term Care:** A great group of policymakers has come together to look at the sustainability of the long-term care system in South Dakota. Areas of the state like ours have a huge stake in the viability of long-term care facilities for those who need those services. This area has some expertise in this area, so we will watch this important work also.

**Interim Appropriations:** The hard-working Joint Appropriations Committee continues its work throughout the course of the summer as the "Interim Appropriations Committee". They monitor several issues as remaining from session or other emerging issues. Given our dependence on state

appropriations for some critical assets, we will monitor this work throughout the legislative interim.

**Housing:** This area played a significant role in the new Housing Infrastructure Finance Program created in the 2022 Legislature and clarified in 2023. By the time you read this article, the details about how the program will be implemented should be finalized and rolled out. This assists with the expensive part of housing development—all of that infrastructure. The post-legislative piece of this is an important part of the legislative process, which should be finalized when you read this. It is almost as important as the business of getting the bill passed. We have been privileged to be involved.

**Water:** Work also continues on the WINS project, a partnership of WEB Water, City of Aberdeen and BDM, to bring more water across the northern portion of South Dakota, increasing drinking water capacity. The work on this topic continues year-round.

**Child Care:** We provided considerable input into the childcare funding process that has been going on for about the last year and a half. We will continue to watch this process to look for opportunities for the growing needs of our area and our families.

**More:** This is also the time of the year when other issues are formulated, researched, written, etc. We will continue to look for opportunities for our region and its future.

ninth annual  
**BANDS, BREWS & BBQ**

**SATURDAY JULY 29th** **4:00pm - 12:00am**  
FAIRGROUND CLUB HOUSE  
the beer gardens  
Free Entry/Free Will Donation

featuring headliner  
**ECLIPSE**  
MUSIC, FOOD & DRINKS starting at 4PM

also featuring a  
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proceeds benefit SD Snow Queen Scholarship Fund

**Brown County Fairgrounds, Aberdeen SD**

SCAN ME

**PUTTIN' FOR PAWS**

Charity golf event to benefit the Aberdeen Area Humane Society

**JULY 15 | 10 AM**  
**18 HOLE, 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE**  
**ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB**  
**ABERDEEN, SD**

Check-in at 9:00-9:45 AM  
Shotgun starts at 10:00 AM

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Illustration of a dog and a cat in a golf cart on a golf course.



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