

progress

MAGAZINE

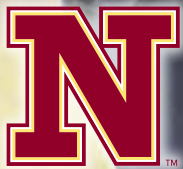
2023 | SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

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NORTHERN
INNOVATION AND
STARTUP CENTER

aberdeen
CHANGING THE GAME

The Official Magazine of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce



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W-2021184 09/20



Northern State University (NSU), in a strategic partnership with the Aberdeen Development Corporation (ADC), launched the Northern Innovation and Startup Center to foster a culture of tech innovation, provide valuable ideation and incubator programs for the community, and bring expertise from successful tech startups to Aberdeen.

Bea Smith, Director of the Northern Innovation and Startup Center, hopes to support and inspire aspiring tech entrepreneurs. Smith explains, "Our goal is to serve the Aberdeen

community and region and make it a place where technology is embraced, innovation is celebrated, and a fail forward culture of entrepreneurship is shared broadly."

Aberdeen's economy is built on entrepreneurship – from the hospitality industry to the finance and wealth management industry. Sharing the stories of Aberdeen's solid entrepreneurial foundation will inspire would-be tech entrepreneurs and help build a tech startup culture in Aberdeen and surrounding communities. Through intentional programming and networking opportunities, the Startup Center will connect serial entrepreneurs, experts in business practices and educators with entrepreneurs, community members, and students.

The Northern Startup Center is hosting startup workshops and ideation and incubator programs this fall, which are designed for and open to students, community members, and individuals from Aberdeen and the surrounding region. In addition, programs are offered in a HyFlex format – meaning content can be accessed in person, online synchronously, or online asynchronously. Scan the QR code or visit our website for more information about upcoming events.

Northern State University will host a Technology and Entrepreneurship Summit on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in the Johnson Fine Arts Center, featuring the trailblazing tech visionary Dr. Radhika Dirks, who has harnessed the power of artificial intelligence to drive groundbreaking innovations on a grand scale. To register for the summit, scan the QR code or visit our website.

Director of the Northern Innovation and Startup Center Bea Smith and Coordinator Kendra Hinz (pictured on the cover) are the first contacts for anyone looking to ideate or launch a startup in the Aberdeen area. They can be reached at 605.626.2815 or through the Northern Innovation and Startup Center website.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

SEPT. 12

4-5 P.M.

BUDGETING 101: ALIGNING BUDGETS WITH ENTREPRENEUR'S VALUES, GOALS AND CONSTRAINTS

Professor Joshua VanLaecken, NSU

Location: K.O. Lee Library

SEPT. 21

3:30-5 P.M.

IDEATION WORKSHOP

Interactive workshop helps entrepreneurs explore big and disruptive ideas to spark business ideas and creative designs

Dr. Dan Shannahan and Dr. Sal Villegas, NSU

Location: Beulah Williams Library, NSU

SEPT. 26

4-5 P.M.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, MARKETING! CREATING CAPTIVATING PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS & AUDIO

Professor Jason Knowles, NSU

Location: Beulah Williams Library, NSU

SEPT. 28 - NOV. 16

EVERY THURSDAY | 3:30-5 P.M.

INCUBATION PROGRAM

Over 8 weeks, participants will refine business ideas and build startups from the ground up.

Dr. Dan Shannahan and Dr. Sal Villegas, NSU

Location: Beulah Williams Library, NSU

OCT. 24

4-5 P.M.

PROTECTING CREATIVITY: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Jeffrey Proehl - Registered Patent Attorney - Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith

Location: K.O. Lee Library

NOV. 15

9 A.M.- 4 P.M.

TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

Keynote: Dr. Radhika Dirks

Location: Johnson Fine Arts Center, NSU

DEC. 6

1-3 P.M.

BETTER EVERY DAY - STORIES OF GRIT, GROWTH AND GLORY

Keynote: John Meyer, CEO and Founder of Lemonly

Location: Johnson Fine Arts Center, NSU



NORTHERN
INNOVATION AND
STARTUP CENTER



Chamber to Host Workforce Innovation Summit in October



**Gail Ochs,
IOM**

Chief Executive
Officer,
Aberdeen Area
Chamber of
Commerce

Last fall, the Chamber's Workforce & Education Committee met during their annual committee retreat to discuss goals for 2023. What developed from that discussion was that we needed to focus our efforts on workforce recruitment and retention. From there a subcommittee was formed to develop a conference that would provide our employers and their teams with information, tools and resources to help them recruit and retain a skilled workforce. The Workforce Innovation Summit will be held October 19th and 20th at the Best Western Ramkota in Aberdeen. The 2-day conference will feature two keynote presentations and several breakout sessions.

The first keynote will be Anne Bonney. Anne is a fun, energetic international motivational keynote speaker and trainer. She is also an authority on Change Management, best-selling author of *GET OVER IT!*, host of Igniting Courage Podcast, and an experienced leadership workshop facilitator. The second keynote will feature Dr. Thom Flamboe. Many of you know Thom from his years living right here in Aberdeen. His presentation "If you were a corporation, would people want to buy stock in you" is sure to leave you laughing, and crying. Dr. Thom is the author of *Can You Fix Him?* and has worked with athletes for the last 15 years assisting with improving both their athletic and mental performance and has been a Certified Sports Counselor. He has

a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and is a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Exciting right? But that's not all, as we have several outstanding speakers and trainers lined up to lead breakout sessions on several topics including:

- Reducing Staff Turnover
- Internship Program Development & Best Practices
- Attracting, Leading & Retaining Unbeatable Teams
- Having Hard Conversations & Ditching the Drama
- Recruiting in Today's Environment
- Supporting a Neurodiverse Workforce
- Employee Physical & Mental Wellness
- Employment Law & What You Need to Know
- Effective Employee Communication
- Hiring & Onboarding
- Developing a Positive Mindset
- State and Educational Resources & Partners

All this and more, plus the chance to network and share ideas with your peers. Check out more information below or at www.aberdeen-chamber.com/WIS.

Hope to see you there!

2023 WORKFORCE INNOVATION SUMMIT

October 19 & 20, 2023 - Best Western Ramkota

A Conference to Build Partnerships and Advance Recruitment and Retention Efforts in the Aberdeen Area

aberdeen
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

KEYNOTES AND BREAKOUT TOPICS

- Igniting Your Courage to Embrace Change
- Reducing Staff Turnover
- Internship Program Development & Best Practices
- Having Hard Conversations & Ditching the Drama
- Recruiting in Today's Environment
- Supporting a Neurodiverse Workforce

- Employee Physical & Mental Wellness
- Employment Law & What You Need to Know
- Effective Employee Communication
- Hiring & Onboarding
- Developing a Positive Mindset
- State and Educational Resources & Partners
- And More...

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For more information, go to www.aberdeen-chamber.com/WIS, call (605) 225-2860 or email info@aberdeen-chamber.com

Chamber Leadership

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Cam Schock, Vice President	Climate Control
Zach Flakus, Treasurer	NSU Foundation
Kila LeGrand, Secretary	Sanford Aberdeen
Kellie Ecker Kolb, Past President	SDSU Extension

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

Full Board

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Alexandra Griebien	Dacotah Bank
Jane Kuhn	Agtegra Cooperative
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

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

COVER: Northern State University

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Aberdeen, SD 57401



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Celebrating Outstanding People in Our Community

When I came into my term as Chamber Board President I set a yearlong goal to celebrate our community; all the phenomenal things that happen here and the even more outstanding people that make them happen. But the wheels were set in motion the previous summer when nominations for the inaugural class of Aberdeen's Top 4 Under 40 were opened, and last fall when the first class was honored.

We as rural Americans are by nature humble people; our way of life is often not touted as being as flashy and exciting as metropolitan city scapes, and sometimes we fall victim to downplaying our achievements and excellence by diminishing it by our size, alone. I would argue that point by emphasizing the fact that we as a thriving micropolitan have all the same amenities, opportunities and capabilities of large communities, plus we just do it all with a smile in a space where everybody knows your name. And that deserves to be celebrated!

Last year, over 40 were nominated, top 12 named and interviewed, and ultimately the 2022 Top 4 Under 40 crowned.

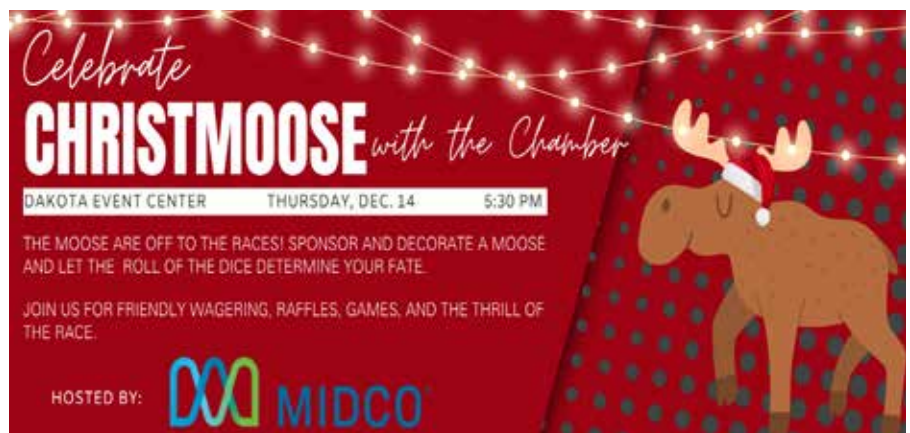
This year saw almost 50 nominations, again a top 12 to be interviewed (featured in this edition of The Progress on p. 14), and on September 21st at the Chamber's annual ABBY Awards banquet, the winners of the 2023 Aberdeen Top 4 Under 40 will be announced. The best thing about the 4 Under 40 is every one of the nominees has already had an impact on our community in their own capacity. Collectively they brandish thousands of hours of volunteerism and service to our community, along with accomplishments some twice their age could only dream of. These are not the future leaders of our community – they are the ones who didn't wait for "their time". They stepped up to do it. They live leading as a verb. And the best part is, although already accomplished, I know many of them are just getting started!

With that, congratulations to all our 2023 nominees. These are people who make Aberdeen a better place to call home. We're blessed to have each and every one of them in our community.

And thank you for helping my dream of celebrating our community and those who make it awesome a reality!



Katie Washnok
2023 Chamber Board President,
Blackout Industries



Member Milestones



10 Years

Fit & Fire Studios at Profiling Beauty Health & Wellness Center

Candace Briscoe, Owner
224 1st Ave SE • 605-290-4947
profilingbeautyhwc@gmail.com
fitandfirestudios.com



10 Years

TownePlace Suites by Marriott

Bryana Darling Rombs, General Manager
402 Norwood St • 605-725-3500
tps.gm@hvc.net
marriott.com



10 Years

Youth Development Center @ Aberdeen Family YMCA

Mike Quast, CEO
5 S State St • 605-225-4910
mquast@aberdeenyumca.org
aberdeenyumca.org



20 Years

The Corner Book Shoppe

Elizabeth Svensen, Owner
504 S State St • 605-225-3852
svensen@abe.midco.net



25 Years

Hepper's Sports Center

Wade Hepper, Owner
501 N Hwy 281 • 605-225-9279
heppers@nvc.net
hepperssportcenter.com



30 Years

Twin City Fan Companies

Jami Jensen, Plant Manager
515 Commerce St • 605-226-1766
jjensen@tcf.com
twincityfan.com/facilities

Member Milestones



60 Years

Steel Structures of Aberdeen Inc.

Mark & Toni Knight, Owners
6 N Dakota St • 605-225-9345
ssamark@nvc.net
steelstructuresofaberdeen.com



65 Years

Lager's Inn

Lowell & Denise Punt and Loren Dayton, Owners
20 3rd Ave SW • 605-229-0922
lagersinn@gmail.com
lagersinn.com



75 Years

Hub City Radio

Brian Lundquist, Co-Owner
3304 S Hwy 281 • 605-229-3632
info@hubcityradio.com
huubcityradio.com



135 Years

Montgomery's

Mark Malchow, Manager
3502 7th Ave SE • 605-262-4700
m.malchow@montgomerys.com
montgomerys.com

Welcome New Members

Amethyst BOLD

Sherry Ristau, Owner
1008 Clover Court
sherryristau@amethystbold.com
563-271-3945

Amethyst BOLD is a faith and relationship based leadership company.

Dakota Herb

Ryan DeFea, Store Manager
3307 7th Ave Se Suite 110
ryand@dakota-herb.com
605-467-0388



Dakota Herb is a medical marijuana retail business with a valid license to sell cannabis products. We strive to produce and distribute high-quality & affordable cannabis to all licensed patients.

Dakota Pet Care

Chanda Nilsson, DVM, Owner
701 N Production St
chanda@dakotapetcare.com
605-982-2640

Full service companion animal veterinary clinic.



Interstates

Rick Stugelmayer,
Regional Manager
3011 8th Ave Ne, Suite 301
rick.stugelmayer@interstates.com
605-725-2039



An industrial electrical engineering, electrical construction and control system provider.

Marjorie Kaiser

marje113@outlook.com
605-380-0112
Individual member



Ambassador Visits



Relocation

Aberdeen Home Builders Association

Hope Brudvig, Executive Director
125 S 2nd St • 605-225-2055
aberdeenhba@gmail.com
aberdeenhba.com



Expansion/New Playground

Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area

Mike Herman, Executive Director
1121 1st Ave SE • 605-225-8714
bgca@midconetwork.com
bgcaberdeen.org



New Business

Dakota Herb

Ryan DeFea, Store Manager
3307 7th Ave SE, Ste 110 • 605-610-8777
ryand@dakota-herb.com
dakota-herb.com



New Business

Dakota Pet Care

Dr. Chanda Nilsson, Owner
701 N Production St • 605-982-2640
info@dakotapetcare.com
dakotapetcare.com



New Business

Designn.Studio

Gabriela Gellhaus, Owner
1206 S Main St • 605-290-5121
gabrielle@designn.studio
designn.studio



New Business

Four Dogs Luxury Pet Grooming

Kayli Breitag, Owner
624 6th Ave SW • 605-626-1449
grooming@fourdogslc.com
facebook.com/photo/?fbid=194273990249942&set=a.106910818986260

Ambassador Visits



Relocation

Homes Are Possible Inc
Darin Beckius, Executive Director
125 S 2nd St • 605-225-4274
info@homesarepossible.org
homesarepossible.org



New Business

Healing Points Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
Megan Pierson, M.Ac.Om
614 S Main St, Ste 1 • 605-252-3198
healingpointslc@gmail.com
healingpointslc.com



New Business

Hub City Holistic Center
Jane Stoudt, Owner
614 S Main St, Ste 1 • 605-216-7992
jane@hubcityholistic.com
hubcityholistic.com



Groundbreaking

Investment Center Advisor Group
Bob Gunderson, CFP & Mike Huck, CFP, Principals
221 S Brown County 19 • 605-225-0104
robert.gunderson@lpl.com & mike.huck@lpl.com
icagroupaberdeen.com & investmentcenteradvisors.com



Expansion/New Playground

Kuhnert Arboretum/Aberdeen Parks, Recreation & Forestry
2110 S Dakota St • 605-626-7015
aaron.kiesz@aberdeens.sd.us
aberdeen.sd.us/250/Kuhnert-Arboretum



Relocation

United Way of Northeastern SD Inc
Aaron Schultz, Executive Director
123 S 2nd St • 605-225-0212
aaron@uwnesd.org
uwnesd.org

Diplomat Visits



Century 21 Investment Realtors

Al & Dar Burgard, Owners
1409 6th Ave SE • 605-225-7179
Century21@nvc.net
aberdeencentury21.com



CorTrust Bank

Mark Hahler, President
2016 6th Ave SE • 605-229-5069
mhahler@cortrustbank.com
cortrustbank.com/locations-atms/abern-deen-sd



Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott

Austin DesLauriers, General Manager
2901 6th Ave SE • 605-229-9990
austin.deslauriers@marriott.com
marriott.com/hotels/travel/abrfi-fairfield-inn-and-suites-aberdeen-sd



Lee Park Golf Course

Jon Murdy, PGA Head Golf Professional
1028 8th Ave NW • 605-626-7092
jmurdy@icloud.com
abern-deen.sd.us/148/Lee-Park-Golf-Course



Safe Harbor

Gina Karst, Executive Director
2005 S Merton St • 605-226-1212
ginak@safeharborsd.org
safeharborsd.org



The UPS Store

Patsy Hauge-Lehr, Store Manager
1020 6th Ave SE • 605-225-0324
store4543@theupsstore.com
locations.theupsstore.com/sd/abern-deen/1020-6th-ave-se

Aberdeen Downtown Artists Awarded

Four Aberdeen artists recently received awards and cash prizes for their artworks that appear on the windows of downtown businesses as part of the Downtown Art Project. Award winners were:

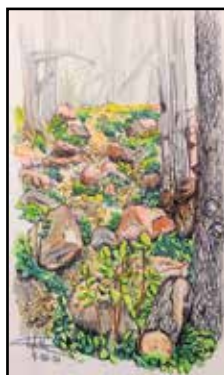
- **First Place:** Kyla Fesler for *Palisades Campground*, a watercolor/pen work displayed at Capitol Theater, 417 S. Main Street.
- **Second Place:** Donna Marmorstein for *Rhythmic Migrations*, a digital work at the Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 506 S. Main Street.
- **Third Place:** Amy Heinz for her watercolor *After the Rain*, displayed at the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, 514 S. Main Street.
- **Honorable Mention:** Kelsey Hedlund for her acrylic work *All Seasons, All South Dakota* displayed at the Northeastern Mental Health Center/Blackstone Building at 14 S. Main Street.
- **People's Choice Award:** Kelsey Hedlund also won the Peoples Choice Award, which was voted on by people who visited the Aberdeen Area Community Foundation website.

Alexis Doerr, Lecturer of Art at Northern State University, serves as project director and oversaw solicitation of art proposals, judging, and installation of the artworks. Project judges were Megan Biegler, AACF board member, Alexa Sheldon, Aberdeen Downtown Association executive director, and Steve Thithavong, Aberdeen Area Arts Council executive director.

Other artists whose work is featured are:



In the photo, the artists are joined below by members of the AACF board: (left to right) Kelsey Hedlund, Honorable Mention and People's Choice; Heath Johnson, AACF board chair; Amy Heinz, Third Place; Donna Marmorstein, Second Place; Kyla Fesler, First Place; Hannah Walters, AACF board member; Megan Biegler, AACF board vice chair; Alexis Doerr, project director.



- Calvin Giroux, at Rhodes Anderson, 401 S. Main Street
- Kayleen Hermans, at Brown County Health, 402 S. Main Street
- Allison Kimble, at Anytime Fitness, 321 S. Main Street
- Nadya Preszler, at 318 S. Main Street
- Tia Swiontek, at Northeastern Mental Health Center/Blackstone Building at 14 S. Main Street.

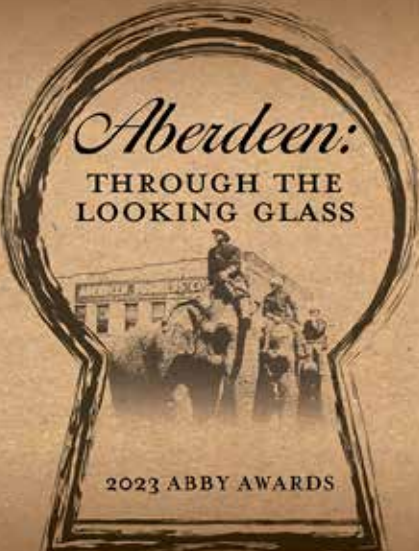
In addition to the individual artworks, a collage of works submitted by Aberdeen Achieve at Central High School is on display at Anytime Fitness, 321 S. Main Street.

The Aberdeen Area Community Foundation (AACF) created the Downtown Art Project with funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Knight Aberdeen Fund, which is held at the South Dakota Community Foundation.



Patrick Gallagher

Community Development Coordinator, South Dakota Community Foundation



**Aberdeen:
THROUGH THE
LOOKING GLASS**

2023 ABBY AWARDS

*Thursday,
September 21st*

DAKOTA EVENT CENTER

<i>Social</i> 6:00	<i>Awards</i> 7:00
<i>Tickets</i> \$50	<i>Table of 8</i> \$400

Hosted by the Chamber Diplomat Committee

Rooster Rush 2023 is Just Around the Corner



Katherine Grandstrand Quail

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

While many people were out preparing for back-to-school or making a few more summer memories before fall, we at the Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau were deep into planning for Rooster Rush. This year we have a whole slate of events planned to celebrate traditions, hunters and their canine companions.

Third Annual Pup Crawl

The first big splash will be the third annual Pheasant Phestival Pup Crawl, a dog social we launched in 2021 that supports homeless pets in the Aberdeen area. This year's event is set for Sept. 28 from 4-7 p.m. Dogs and their owners are welcome to stop by Malchow Plaza to hang out with one another, visit one of our many vendors and grab a hot dog in exchange for a free will donation that will go to the Aberdeen Area Humane Society and Pet Rescue League. There are also a few pet-friendly businesses downtown the pups could visit. All dogs must be leashed and well-tempered to this type of event. If your dog isn't a fan of big crowds, let them stay home and make it a humans' night out. All dog lovers are welcome!

If your business is interested in becoming a vendor, head to visitaberdeensd.com/pupcrawlvendors to sign up! We're asking for a minimum \$25 donation to either the Aberdeen Area Humane Society or Pet Rescue League. Registration closes Sept. 25.

Float on By

Look out for our pheasant-themed float in the Northern State University Gypsy Day Parade the morning of Oct. 7. Our mascot, Luna, may be making an appearance!

Pheasants Forever Fall Shootout

The Northeast South Dakota Pheasants Forever chapter is hosting a Fall Shootout and Hunters Social Banquet on Oct. 20 at City Lights Bar & Grill. Doors open at 5 p.m. There will be raffles, games, auctions and free admission! Bring family, friends and fellow hunters for a night of fun. This is a kid-friendly event. This event raises funds for the local chapter to enhance pheasant habitat in the Aberdeen area, including the Aberdeen Pheasant Coalition program.

Welcome Hunters

Non-resident opener is Oct. 21, and we'll be greeting hunters at the airport on Oct. 19 and 20 with traditional World War II pheasant sandwiches and Aberdeen hunter goodie bags. If you have a coupon or special offer you'd like to include in those bags, contact Casey Weismantel



at caseyw@visitaberdeensd.com. All materials must be dropped off to our office on or before Oct. 1. We're located in Malchow Plaza, 506 S. Main St., Suite 1.

Lookout for decorations welcoming hunters throughout the city and feel free to join along! We love seeing marquees and video boards display welcoming messages throughout the season. If your business plans to decorate, let us know! Give us a call 605-225-2414 or info@visitaberdeensd.com. We'd love to feature your creative ideas on our social media platforms.

Aberdeen Wings Rooster Rush Night

We want to Bust the Barn at the Odde Ice Arena on Nov. 4 as the Aberdeen Wings take on the Minot Minotauros on Rooster Rush Night. You can purchase tickets at tickets.aberdeenwings.com and help us set the all-time attendance record. We'll be giving away t-shirts at the game and one lucky winner will take home a remote-controlled Zamboni cooler filled with Rooster Rush swag.

Rooster Rush Shirts

Don't forget to wear your Rooster Rush shirts during hunting season! This year's design celebrates the rush of the flush here in South Dakota. If you didn't get a shirt through your employer, watch our social media (@[visitaberdeensd](https://www.facebook.com/visitaberdeensd) and @[huntfishsd](https://www.facebook.com/huntfishsd) on Facebook and Instagram) to find out where you can purchase a t-shirt or hockey hoodie.

Aberdeen Hospitality

Come October, we'll start seeing license plates from all over the country. Offer visitors some local flavor. When hunters are at our restaurants, bars and coffee shops, recommend Aberdeen favorites like chislic, bison burgers or ranch dressing. Extend the hospitality beyond the opener; pheasant season lasts through the end of January, so look out for hunters throughout the fall and winter!

Help us make Rooster Rush 2023 the most successful yet!

2023 Aberdeen CHS Hall of Fame Banquet Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the 2023 Aberdeen Central High School Hall of Fame Banquet are available for purchase. The seventeenth annual CHS Hall of Fame Banquet is scheduled for 5:00 pm Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Central High School in conjunction with Homecoming Week activities. Banquet tickets are \$40.00 per person. Prices increase to \$45.00 September 15, 2023. Tickets are available at the APS Foundation Office at 1224 3rd Street South Aberdeen, SD 57401 or by calling (605) 725-7118. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.AberdeenPublicSchoolsFoundation.org.

The following individuals and teams will be honored at the 2023 CHS Hall of Fame Banquet: Academics/Achievement

Dr. Gayle Ann (McLaughlin) Bortnem, Class of 1970

Dr. Kent Halstead, Class of 1948

Kevin Krage, Class of 1974

Athletics

Kevin Andersh, Class of 1981

Hannah Kastigar, Class of 2013

Anthony C. Schwan, Jr, Class of 2002

Fine Arts

Don Briscoe, Class of 1959

Brian Cummings, Class of 1966

Mary E. Hollan, Class of 1978

Distinguished Service

James "Jim" Nelson, Class of 1959, ASD 1972-2000

The CHS Hall of Fame is a special project of the Aberdeen Public Schools

Foundation. For more information, contact the Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation at (605) 725-7118 or visit the foundation website at www.AberdeenPublicSchoolsFoundation.org. The Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes excellence in education by forging partnerships among the schools, community and alumni.



Gretchen A. Sharp
*Executive Director,
Aberdeen Public
Schools
Foundation, Inc.*

Aberdeen Public School District Fall Update

This fall, the Aberdeen Public School District is moving ahead with innovative new projects—while continuing its longtime commitment to empowering students to succeed.

The district made a move toward online forms for the fall, encouraging all parents to register for Infinite Campus to access student information such as school picture forms, the technology agreement and elementary classroom assignments.

"We want to reach our parents in the most convenient, accessible way possible, while also streamlining our own processes," said Aberdeen Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Becky Guffin.

Parents who still need to register for Infinite Campus should contact their child's school, or find the link under the "Students and Families" tab at aberdeen.k12.sd.us.

Exciting new initiatives are also underway at the A-TEC Academy at Central High School. That includes a new greenhouse and farm bots for agriculture classes, a digital art class green screen with virtual reality, and an e-sports lab, among others. An open house event is planned for the A-TEC building later this school year once projects are completed.

Homecoming 2023

Tradition also continues at the school district this fall, with Homecoming 2023 coming up later in September. Events will take place at all schools across the district the week of Sept. 18-22, including athletic matches for CHS Golden Eagles teams.

On Sept. 23, the Central High School Hall of Fame Banquet will take place at CHS. For tickets and more information, visit AberdeenPublicSchoolsFoundation.org.

Then on Sept. 24, CHS Athletic Director Dawn Seiler will be inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame at the 2023 ceremony in Sioux Falls. To learn more, visit sdshof.com.

School District Social Media

To stay up to date with the latest Aberdeen Public Schools news, be sure to follow the school district on social media. The district's social media accounts are as follows:

- Facebook: facebook.com/AberdeenPublicSchools
- Instagram: instagram.com/aberdeenpublicschools
- Twitter: twitter.com/AberdeenSD61



Elissa Dickey
*Communications and
Marketing Director,
Aberdeen Public
School District*

Chamber Announces Top 4 Under 40 Finalists

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce has chosen the 2023 finalists for the Top 4 Under 40. In its second year, this program recognizes the efforts of young leaders in our community and region.

Nominees are between the ages of 21- 39; are Aberdeen and/or Brown County residents; exemplify the qualities of a true leader; are enroute or have already truly impacted our community and area for the better through their careers & professions, community & civic involvement, personal or philanthropic efforts, etc.; and make our community and region a better place because they're in it.

The Chamber received a total of 26 completed applications. The Executive Board of the Chamber narrowed candidates down to the top 12 finalists who include: Aaron Smith, Aberdeen Wings; Alexandra Grieben, Dacotah Bank; Ashley Hansen, Sanford Health; Dr. Amy Munsterman-Wills, Legacy Chiropractic; Dr. Blake Heinz, Avera; Fallon Helm, Revive Day Spa; Kerry Konda, Aberdeen School District; Lance Vilhauer, American Bank & Trust; Lucas Bruns, True North Wealth Management - Northwestern Mutual; Matt Campbell, My Place Hotels of America; Olaf Hanson, Dacotah Bank; and Tim Hanigan, Banner Engineering.

From these final 12, the top 4 will be selected and revealed at the 2023 ABBY Awards held on September 21, 2023, at the Dakota Event Center. They will also be publicly recognized in the November/December PROGRESS Magazine, social media, website, etc. Each recipient will receive a \$250 cash prize.

If you have questions, contact the Chamber at (605) 225-2860 or gail@aberdeen-chamber.com.



Aaron Smith
Aberdeen Wings



Alexandra Grieben
Dacotah Bank



Ashley Hansen
Sanford Health



Dr. Amy Munsterman-Wills
Legacy Chiropractic



Dr. Blake Heinz
Avera



Fallon Helm
Revive Day Spa



Kerry Konda
Aberdeen School
District



Lance Vilhauer
American Bank &
Trust



Lucas Bruns
True North Wealth
Management -
Northwestern Mutual



Matt Campbell
My Place Hotels of
America



Olaf Hanson
Dacotah Bank



Tim Hanigan
Banner Engineering

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Growing Business and Workforce from Within

Greetings from the Aberdeen Development Corporation (ADC). In the last issue of the Progress magazine, I highlighted some initiatives the



ADC is very focused on. One of the areas, a concentration on retention of graduating students from NSU, will be the content of this article.

I have mentioned over the past six months there has been a lot of interest in our market from businesses looking to expand their business to our community. The first questions asked by any business looking at Aberdeen are always the same; first, what does the workforce look like and what does the incentive package include? As of late, the workforce question has dominated the discussion and I expect this to continue long into the future. The bottom line is that the math related to workforce just does not add up to lead to large workforce availability. To make growth possible in Aberdeen (and almost every other community as well) from a workforce solution perspective, a combination of many approaches is necessary. To this end, we are choosing to put our focus on retaining individuals who are already here in our community but are not permanent residents: NSU students.

I mentioned prior, the first step in this effort has been launched – the Aberdeen Internship Network. Now we are preparing to launch the second step in this effort, which be called Pathways. More information on this program will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. One of the paths within this program will be modeled after a recent success, where the ADC and NSU came together on a tremendous partnership several years ago. This partnership has had many successes over the years, but we recently

spawned our first large success – the support and launch of a new business in Aberdeen, eqUTI.

eqUTI started as an idea by a now former student of NSU, Grace Kramer, who graduated from NSU in May of 2023. Grace participated in an annual Business Pitch Competition held in November of each year at NSU for students. At this competition we are looking for students who have an idea which could be turned into a business. Those who are interested will apply to the Governor's Giant Vision contest each year. This past year Grace was selected and placed second in the student category. Based on this success and Grace's desire to take a leap of faith and officially start eqUTI as a business, I had her come and pitch her business to Hub City Capital (an angel investment group made up of Aberdeen business people). After hearing from Grace, the group made the largest single investment in any startup it ever has.

This investment will allow Grace to realize her dream of starting her own business, but it also is a shining example of just one of the components of Pathways – to grow our own businesses and retain NSU students right here in Aberdeen! Additionally, we can use this example of a startup here in our community as an inspiration to other NSU students to undertake internships, pitch an idea they may have for a business or stay here in our community after graduation to work, live and play. This will boost our economy in countless ways and allow the ADC to continue to recruit new business to our community.

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



**Mike Bockorny,
EDMP**

*Chief Executive Officer,
Aberdeen Development
Corporation*

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for a CENTURY**

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Thursday, October 12 from 5:15 to 7:00 pm at the Aberdeen Civic Arena

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Date Est: 3M:1902; Aberdeen: 1974

Years in Aberdeen: 49

Employees: 600+

Products: 3M Aberdeen product profile includes various disposable and reusable respirators and furnace filters and automotive aerospace, industrial, electrical, and medical tapes.



MISSION: The global manufacturing leader in the safe and quality production of respirators, filtration, and adhesive tapes that people trust daily for protection and to improve their lives.

COMPANY PROFILE: 3M Aberdeen supports 3M's four business groups: Safety & Industrial, Transportation & Electronics, Health Care, and Consumer. 3M Aberdeen is the largest manufacturer of N95 respirators in the U.S. for 3M. Additionally, 3M Aberdeen on average produces over 30,000 miles of automotive, aerospace, industrial, electrical, and medical tapes annually.

Where Your Products Go/What They're Used for: 3M Aberdeen is a leading plant in 3M's Safety & Industrial Business Group, and are market leaders in safety, tapes, adhesives, and abrasive applications.

In the personal safety space, 3M Aberdeen produces a full portfolio of respirator protection solutions for multiple industries and hazards, including industrial welding, painting, health care, construction, and home improvement. 3M utilizes technologies to create respirators that help filter particles and other airborne contaminants. Whether a customer needs protection from dangerous fumes produced in some chemical operations, relief from a dusty environment, or protection from airborne pathogens, 3M Aberdeen provides the products that are relied on worldwide. Within the Transportation & Electronic Business Group, 3M Aberdeen supplies a diverse range of tape products for electronics, automotive, industrial, aerospace and health care applications. Products include:

- acrylic plus tapes for solar applications
- automotive attachment tapes that go into 33 million vehicles a year
- aerospace films and coatings such as the coatings that go onto helicopter blades to extend their life from abrasive wear/tear
- films that can help technology be seen in direct sunlight
- industrial transfer tapes

The 3M Aberdeen facility is experienced and capable at being responsive to changes in customer demand. There have been significant demand increases associated with world events to protect people in the face of national and global emergencies, for example most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. The 3M Aberdeen teams are flexible and responsive to ensure 3M can supply and meet customer demand with quality product.



Date Est: 1979

Years in Aberdeen: 44

midstatesgroup.com

Employees: 160



MISSION: Creating positive long-term relationships with our customers and employees.

Company Profile: Midstates Group excels in driving high value print & media solutions into our customers. Our team of over 200 experts work with clients to create communication strategies, offer cost-effective marketing solutions and deliver exceptional printed products.

HOURS OF OPERATION/SHIFTS:
1st shift from 8am-4pm M-F;
2nd shift 4pm-12am M-F; 3rd shift 12am-8am M-F; weekend shift 12pm-12am F-Sun

WHERE OUR PRODUCTS GO/WHAT THEY'RE USED FOR:
Commercial printing that reaches customers nationwide.



Date Est: 1966

Years in Aberdeen: 34

bannerengineering.com

Employees: 430

Products: 64 product lines with 7000 unique parts built in Aberdeen



MISSION: At DemKota we provide our customers, locally and around the world, with elite products by sourcing our cattle from our neighbors: ranchers and feeders located in the heartland. We strive for quality in every cut of beef through sustainable farming, cattle feeding, and harvesting practices focusing on animal welfare.

COMPANY PROFILE: Banner employees are proud to work for a privately held company, known worldwide for quality and durability. Our commitment to innovation shows through continuous, market-driven evolution of productions and technology. We believe that if our product meets our expectations, it will exceed yours.

HOURS OF OPERATION/SHIFTS:
1st Shift Monday - Thursday (7 am - 4:30 pm, Friday 7 am - 11 am, 2nd Shift Monday - Thursday 4:30 pm - 3 am, Weekend Shift Friday-Sunday 7am - 1:30 pm

WHERE OUR PRODUCTS GO/WHAT THEY'RE USED FOR: Banner's sensors, measurement solutions, LED lights and indicators, machine safety, and industrial wireless tools are at the heart of automation. Banner's award-winning products and solutions are helping companies around the world increase efficiency, reduce costs, safeguard equipment and protect personnel.



Date Est: 1983

Years in Aberdeen: 4

agp.com

Employees: 70

Products: 2



MISSION: Ag Processing Inc is committed to serve local cooperatives and producers by providing competitive markets for agricultural products and value added services while generating competitive returns through cash flow and equity growth.

COMPANY PROFILE: Ag Processing Inc (AGP) is a cooperative that processes and sell soybeans, grains, and related products. We have become one of the largest soybean processing cooperatives in the world and our plants process beans that can be used in a variety of products such as animal feed, vegetable oil, and biofuels.

HOURS OF OPERATION/SHIFTS: 24/7 - 12 hour rotating shifts

WHERE YOUR PRODUCTS GO/WHAT THEY'RE USED FOR:
Soybean Meal + Soybean Hulls = Livestock Feed
Soybean products serve international markets such as Mexico and Canada.



Date Est: 2012

Years in Aberdeen: 10

blackoutind.com

Employees: 3.5



MISSION: Blackout Industries, an industry leader in design and production of after-market motorcycles parts. Made from a patented blend of injection molded urethane, one of only two systems in the country, to create the lightest weight, virtually indestructible parts in the world. All designed and manufactured in South Dakota, USA. We've worked diligently to bring our South Dakota made products to the global market, sending parts and complete motorcycle builds, all around the world. We strive every day to share our South Dakota style work ethic with the world; no job is complete with expectations met, but only when expectations are exceeded.

HOURS OF OPERATION/SHIFTS: 9:00am – 5:00pm M-F...except when it's not, except when it's 24/7, 365. Entrepreneurship!

WHERE OUR PRODUCTS GO/WHAT THEY'RE USED FOR: We build parts to customize American Big V-Twin motorcycles (Harley Davidson and Indian). Our parts are virtually indestructible. We ship to clients and take online orders from all over the world.



TWIN CITY FAN COMPANIES, LTD.



Date Est: 1974

Years in Aberdeen: 30

careers.tcf.com

Employees: 220 (Aberdeen)

Products: 100+



MISSION: To be the global designer and manufacturer of air moving equipment that is most admired for our people, products, and performance.

COMPANY PROFILE: Twin City Fan Companies, Ltd. is comprised of a diverse group of fan companies that manufacture a full spectrum of air moving equipment across the globe. We have five facilities in South Dakota and multiple international manufacturing sites. Our product portfolio includes the highest quality centrifugal, axial and wall mounted fans in addition to a full line of power roof ventilators, air make-up units, door heaters and related HVAC equipment. We have completed thousands of successful installations worldwide for Fortune 500 companies and

local businesses and have earned a proven track record within the global fan industry for tackling the most technically complex applications.

HOURS OF OPERATION/SHIFTS: Days, Nights, Weekends

WHERE OUR PRODUCTS GO/WHAT THEY'RE USED FOR: We produce over 400 models of fans that are as varied as the solutions they provide. Some of the applications in which our products are used include tunnel ventilation, laboratory fume exhaust, grain drying for paper processing, car wash drying, industrial cooling, indoor swimming pool exhaust and pollution control.



Date Est: 2015

Years in Aberdeen: 8

demkotaranchbeef.com

Employees: 800

Products: More than 3,000



MISSION: At Demkota we provide our customers, locally and around the world, with elite products by sourcing our cattle from our neighbors: ranchers, and feeders located in the heartland. We strive for quality in every cut of beef through sustainable farming, cattle feeding, and harvesting practices focusing on animal welfare.

COMPANY PROFILE: The Demkota Way Demkota Country. We like to call our precious corner of the earth Demkota Country. Located in the beautiful Upper Midwest of the United States. Our headquarters is in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

This land is home to us and perfect for the cattle raised here. With an ideal climate,

room to roam, and the finest feed in America, our cattle live their lives as nature intended. Our cattle are sourced from family farms.

Who We Are. We believe there are no better cattle anywhere than here in South Dakota and the surrounding area. We are targeting quality to keep customers coming back for more. We have to be competitive; we're not a true niche market, like grass-fed or organic; we're more mainstream but we are value-added.

We build our strategy around quality, from the cattle we source to superior processing methods to our customer service, and we're confident that if we stick to these goals our product will always find a home.

Humane Animal Treatment. Demkota is a national leader in the humane treatment of cattle. We believe that as ranchers, we have a duty to take care of the animals that provide for and sustain our way of life. Our facility was designed under the guidance of Dr. Temple Grandin, renowned Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State. In addition, we have a 100% rating in providing humane animal treatment per the FDA regulations for Good Manufacturing Practices.

How We Do It. Sustainability. To us, Demkota Country is the most beautiful place in the country to live, work, and raise a family. We recognize our livelihood depends on nature's bounty. We consider it our duty to be a steward of the land we call home. We embrace the responsibility of ensuring the Demkota way endures for years to come. To do this our products and processes are socially responsible, environmentally sound, and economically viable. **Food Safety.** We follow strict HACCP protocols to prevent food-borne illness to provide the most disciplined and sanitary approach to food processing. We're certified to the SQF Edition 9.0 standard meaning that Demkota complies with the highest international and domestic food safety regulations. **Processing and Packaging.** Our state-of-the-art processing takes place in our own plant which is devoted solely to the production of beef. We utilize air-tight, shrink-wrapping technology with chilled water dissipation which removes any residual heat prior to shipment and ensures that you always get the highest quality cuts. The Best Partner You'll Ever Have - You've Got Our Word on That. We're rooted in Demkota Country, its community, traditions, and attitudes. We're ranchers and beef lovers. And we're people of our word.

HOURS OF OPERATION/SHIFTS: 24 hours/7 days a week. Production is only single, day shift.

WHERE OUR PRODUCTS GO/WHAT THEY'RE USED FOR: We provide elite beef products to vendors locally and worldwide.

Demkota Human Resources Inspiration: At Demkota, we are united to sustainably grow by delighting more consumers. We feed America. We stand committed to responsible, sustainable practices that extend to every facet of our business, our consumers, and our communities. Every day, we're transforming the beef industry with bold thinking and unprecedented results. If you share our passion – and are ready to create the future, build a legacy, and lead as a solid citizen – there's only one thing to do: join our table and let's make life delicious! To explore career opportunities and join our team,

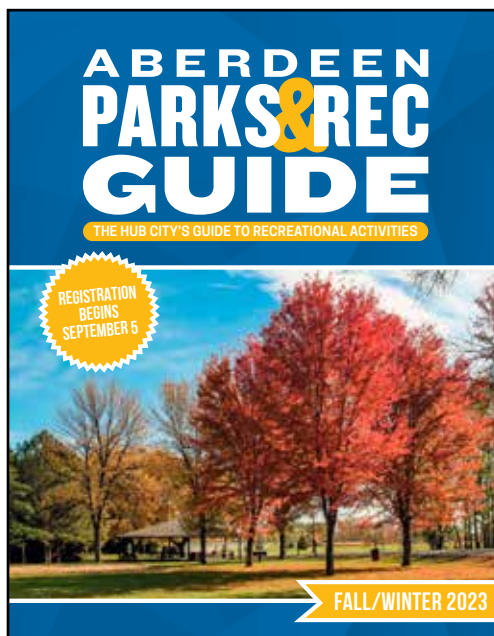
APRF Has You Covered for Fall & Winter Activities

APRF Has You Covered for Fall & Winter Activities

The Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has been busy making plans for a wide variety of fall activities. The fall/winter brochure has been distributed in the mail and is posted online at www.aberdeen.sd.us/parksandrec, where you can also register for classes.

The Department offers many programs for people of all ages:

- skating lessons
- recreational skating
- open gyms
- tot gym
- Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center (ARCC) youth & teen classes
- ARCC Dance Program classes (ballet, tap, modern, jazz, Acro Dance, social dance and more)
- ARCC music program private instrument lessons, strings program and voice lessons
- ARCC Visual Arts School for students grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-12
- Adult volleyball and basketball leagues
- Adult fitness & wellness classes
- ARCC classes such as pottery, glasswork, paint, paper & pen, fiber & textile arts, computers & technology, and special interest



classes

- Dog obedience classes

Aberdeen Area

Senior Center has a wide range of weekly and monthly activities as well as special events for people 50 and older.

The YAPatorium teen center provides a place for youth ages 10-17 to come to check out all the activities happening there. Give the skate park at Melgaard Park a try too!

Major special events planned for the fall include the Haunted Forest on October 27 & 28, Central Park tree lighting on November

16, Winterfest-A Winter Arts Festival on November 18 & 19 and the Holiday Celebration for Youth on December 11.

Take a walk through one of our many parks or a bike ride on our miles of trails. And don't forget the new playground and trail at the Kuhnert Arboretum is a great way to enjoy the fall.

Submitted by Gene Morsching, Recreation Superintendent, Aberdeen Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

Economic Indicators

Aberdeen is a regional hub for Northeast South Dakota. We have taken some time to put together a brief overview of some of our economic indicators, and hope to highlight one of our top strengths, which is our strong industry diversity. We look forward to offering insight into key economic and industry specific indicators in Progress Magazine moving forward.

PROVIDED BY
aberdeen
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



1.05% Population
Change 2012-2022

\$62,070
Median
Household
Income in 2021



2.0%
Unemployment Rate

Industry diversity is high for Aberdeen, SD. This means that employment is distributed more evenly between the 11 industry clusters compared to the typical Micropolitan MSA. A region with high diversity can signal economic stability and more easily withstand economic pressures, while a region with low diversity can signal economic instability.

Aberdeen is home to a diverse collection of manufacturing facilities, financial institutions, food and animal processing facilities, educational institutions and more. These industries, combined with strong Agricultural production create a strong balance of industry in our region.

Aberdeen Industry Diversity Rank: 9
(out of 542 Micro MSAs)



	Population	Labor Force (April 2023)	Labor Force Participate Rate (April 2023)	Jobs (2022)	GRP (Gross Regional Product)	Imports	Exports
Brown County, SD	37,697	20,113	67.69%	22,837	3.4B	4.1B	5.2B
South Dakota	912,613	481,542	68.89%	516,340	68.8B	73.3B	92.6B

Sources: US Census Bureau, SDDL, Lightcast



**Mark your calendars for the
South Dakota Film Festival
at the historic Capitol Theatre**

FEATURING



September 14-17, 2023
SouthDakotaFilmFest.org



a little bit of everything
AAHS 2ND PAW SALE

Aberdeen's largest "2nd hand" sale

Brown County Fair Grounds Expo

***First Pick Friday: Sep 29, 2023 6pm-7pm**

Pay \$20 & gain access before the regular sale starts Sat

Sale Day: Sep 30, 2023 9am-3pm

Donations may be dropped off at the Expo:

Sep 17 from 1 PM to 4 PM

Sep 18-22 from 3 PM to 7 PM

& Sep 23-24 from 1 PM to 4 PM

*No clothing, large appliances, magazines, encyclopedias,
metal desks, exercise equipment or old TVs accepted*

Questions? Contact: Jan, (701) 471-9616



**WALK
WITH US**
TO PREVENT SUICIDE

REGISTER TODAY

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

September 9, 2023

Odde Ice Center



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention
South Dakota



Register at afsp.org/AberdeenArea

2023-2024



HOME
SCHEDULE



SEPTEMBER
22 & 23 BIS

OCTOBER
13 & 14 AUS

NOVEMBER
3 & 4 MIN
10 & 11 STC

DECEMBER
1 & 2 MNT
15 & 16 AUS
29 & 30 STC

JANUARY
19 & 20 MNT
26 & 27 NIO

FEBRUARY
9 & 10 NIO
16 & 17 BIS

MARCH
8 & 9 BIS
22 & 23 NIO

APRIL
5 & 6 AUS

AUS = AUSTIN
BIS = BISMARCK
MNT = MINOT
NIO = NORTH IOWA
STC = ST. CLOUD

Puck Drops @ 7:30pm

[TICKETS.ABERDEENWINGS.COM](https://tickets.aberdeenwings.com)

South Dakota's Expanding High School Business Competition is Open



Kelly Weaver

*Regional Director,
Small Business
Development
Center*

The capacity to have a great idea knows no boundaries. Students are invited to submit their best business ideas to the 2023 BIG Idea Competition between September 1 and October 31. Over \$50,000 in cash and scholarships to be awarded this year. The BIG Idea Competition continues to expand as will feature one of South Dakota's own successful young entrepreneurs, John T. Meyer, at the final competition in December.

The online application as well as various resources and examples can be accessed at the BIG Idea website: www.BIGIdeaSD.com. In addition to the overall competition awards, students can compete for five special category awards. For the marketing design competition, students can create an ad to support their business idea. Special category awards will be given for the best ideas in Wellness, Agriculture Innovation, and Hometown Business. Blackout Industries will sponsor a new Makers category this year to recognize a business which makes physical products.

The BIG Idea Competition has always been marketed to South Dakota high schools. After recognition in a guidebook by the Institute of Competition Sciences, BIG Idea has received growing interest outside of South Dakota. Last year, a virtual competition was held for out-of-state students in addition to the traditional in person event for South Dakota students. Both competitions will be incorporated going forward.

Understanding the basics of business is an important life skill, regardless of career path, which is important to our sponsors. BIG Idea helps students interested in pursuing a business connect with resources and mentors to help further their entrepreneurial growth and business success. Students and teachers alike testify to the value of the competition - over 60% of participants say they are more interested in starting a business after competing.

Applications submitted by the October 31, 2023 deadline will be reviewed and ranked. The top scoring entries will make a verbal presentation to determine the

winners. Finalists will receive cash awards of \$100 to \$1,000 along with college scholarships to Northern State University and SD School of Mines & Technology. One winner will be chosen from among all the marketing design entries as well as each of the special categories. Prizes for these awards are \$500 cash and \$500 scholarship to Northern State.

The final competitions are set for December 5 (virtual) and December 6 (in person). All finalists and award winners will give an elevator pitch for their business idea at the Awards Ceremony at Northern State University. The Awards Ceremony is open to the public and will feature keynote speaker John T. Meyer, co-founder of Lemonly and Executive Director of Leadership South Dakota. John and will share the stories and memories of his own entrepreneurial journey in his presentation, "Better Every Day - Stories of Grit, Growth, and Glory"

Since inception in 2007, the BIG Idea Competition has involved 4,750 students from 135 schools in 19 states. Competition guidelines, sponsors, and past winners can be found at www.bigideasd.com. Questions regarding BIG Idea can be directed to Kelly Weaver at (605) 698-7654 x144 or kelly@growsd.org.

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 also serves as President of BIG Idea, Inc. She can be reached at (605) 698-7654 x 144 or kelly@growsd.org. The Center is hosted by GROW South Dakota.



Prairie Arabesque Graces Downtown Aberdeen

The Hub City's first major downtown artwork, *Prairie Arabesque*, was installed on the pedestal in front of Engels Event Company on Wednesday, July 12th. The artist is Steve Bormes, an Aberdeen native and found object sculptor based out of Sioux Falls. The piece was create in honor of Aberdeen resident Avett Wigdahl. As Steve put it, 'Prairie Arabesque celebrates life and the intersection of art & agriculture on our prairie'. The Aberdeen Area Arts Council, Aberdeen Downtown Association, Aberdeen Area Community Foundation and Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce worked collaboratively to bring the sculpture to town. Find out more about Steve's art at stevebormes.com and Steve Bormes Art Lighting on Facebook. And, of course, check out his creation on Main Street Aberdeen! (Photo courtesy of Aberdeen Area Arts Council)

Heupel Part of Leadership South Dakota 2024

Tarah Heupel, Marketing Business Partner with Sanford Aberdeen, is participating in Leadership South Dakota, Class of 2024.

According to leadershipsouthdakota.com, over the course of eight months, the participants will expand their knowledge, meet extraordinary leaders and develop skills to contribute to South Dakota's success.

The program kicks off in September in Pierre to study state government, then class members will travel to Brookings for an in-depth look at ag & manufacturing; Rapid City – tourism; Madison – rural South Dakota & cybersecurity; Mission – Native American history & culture; and Sioux Falls, health & finance, before graduation in Chamberlain next March.

"It's an honor to be selected for Leadership South Dakota", Heupel said. "I'm excited to dive into this unique opportunity to grow both personally and professionally while learning from some of the most talented and engaging leaders in our state. So many past participants speak to the transformational nature of the program, and how it can inspire change well after graduation. I'm entering into this experience with a desire to learn and grow, both from the sessions and from the other participants."



Chamber Chicken Challenge Champs

Pierson Ford-Lincoln hosted the 7th annual Chamber Chicken Wing Challenge at the August 10th Business After Hours. The committees that took part, and the sauces they created, include:

- Ag – Save a Horse, Ride a Chicken Wing
- Ambassadors – Smokin' Hot
- Board of Directors – Drunken Chicken Wings
- Diplomats – It's Peanut Butter Jelly Time
- Health & Wellness – Up in Flames
- Workforce & Education – BarbieQ



Each attendee was given the opportunity to vote for their favorite flavor (People's Choice) and a panel of three judges (Alexa Sheldon, Mike Wiese & Kyle Zimmer) awarded the Judge's Choice.

And the winners are.....



Judge's Choice - Diplomat Committee



People's Choice - Ag Committee

A special thanks goes out to D's Fast Food & Catering for supplying the cooked wings, to which each team added their sauces.

Chamber Big Dates

ABBY Awards

Thursday, September 21, 6 pm, Dakota Event Center

Ag Committee

Thursday, September 21, Noon, Chamber

Thursday, October 19, Noon, Chamber

Ambassador Committee

Tuesday, September 12, Noon, Chamber

Thursday, October 10, Noon, Chamber

Business After Hours

Thursday, September 14, 5:15 pm, Schwan Financial Group

Thursday, October 12, 5:15 pm, Manufacturing Month at Aberdeen Civic Arena

Chamber Executive Board

Monday, September 11, Noon, Malchow Plaza Board Room

Friday, October 13, 8 am, Chamber

Chamber Full Board

Wednesday, September 20, 11:30 am, Chamber (Board & Staff Retreat)

Wednesday, October 18, 8 am, Chamber

Diplomat Committee

Thursday, September 14, 3 pm, Chamber

Thursday, October 12, 3 pm, Chamber

Enhance Aberdeen Committee

Friday, October 27, 8:30 am, Chamber

Field to Fork: A Farm to Table Connection

Friday, September 8, 5:30 pm, Centennial Village at Brown County Fairgrounds

Health & Wellness Committee

Wednesday, September 6, 12 pm, Conklin Clinics

Wednesday, October 4, 12 pm, TBD

Military & Veterans Committee

Tuesday, September 5, Noon, Chamber

New Employee Welcome

Thursday, September 14, 4:15 pm, Schwan Financial Group

Thursday, October 12, 4:15 pm, Aberdeen Civic Arena

Youth Career Expo

Wednesday, October 4, 8 am, Barnett Center on NSU Campus

Workforce & Education Committee

Tuesday, October 17, 8:15 am, Chamber

Workforce Innovation Summit

Thursday, October 19, 11:30 am, Best Western

Ramkota Convention Center

Friday, October 20, 8:30 am, Best Western

Ramkota Convention Center

The Chamber office will be closed
September 4 and October 9.

A Strong Economy Helps Us Compete with China



John Thune
US Senator (R-SD)

The threat that China poses both militarily and economically is widely recognized. I'm proud that the Senate recently passed a strong defense bill that will enable the U.S. military to better deter Chinese aggression. But we also need to compete with China from a position of economic strength, and a key part of doing that is strengthening American industry and building a more resilient economy.

There's widespread agreement that competing with China requires stronger industry at home. But how we go about doing this matters. The president and Democrats in Congress have shown a preference for costly taxpayer subsidies for select industries. The level of government involvement in the economy they envision is a significant departure from our tested free enterprise system. And it's worth asking, what will be the result of increased government involvement in our economy in the long term? Will it stifle innovation in our most important engines of growth? Will small businesses and start-ups be able to compete with large, government-subsidized firms?



We now know that the green energy subsidies included in Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act are largely going to large companies and often to companies based in foreign countries, including China. And the Biden administration has implemented subsidies

for semiconductor manufacturers in a way that goes far beyond the scope of the program. They are giving preference to companies using union workers and, in some cases, conditioning funding on companies offering employee benefits that align with their social agenda. This is the opposite of creating a level playing field – it's government using taxpayer dollars to pick winners and losers.

I believe that government should be focused on creating conditions in which businesses large and small can grow, innovate, and create jobs. Republicans' 2017 tax reform provides an example of this sort of pro-growth policy at work. It lowered our sky-high corporate tax rate to make American businesses more competitive and made it easier to recover the cost of a small business, farm, or ranch investing in themselves. The result was a stronger economy with rising wages and job creation, and companies bringing production back to the United States. Republican-led tax reforms have made our economy more resilient, and making these pro-growth policies permanent would give American businesses and entrepreneurs the certainty they need to compete and grow.

We also need to resume a real and robust trade agenda. Trade opens new jobs and opportunities for American workers. It opens new markets for our agricultural products and other goods and services. And while the Biden administration has been largely inactive on trade for over two years, the rest of the world has not. In fact, China is negotiating or implementing a number of new trade agreements. It's clear that if the United States stays on the sidelines on trade, China will be happy to fill the vacuum. So, competing with China will require that we stay engaged and lead on trade.

The United States must rise to the occasion to compete with China. We have to compete from a position of economic strength, but we won't get there with the heavy hand of government meddling in the economy. I believe that America succeeds when innovators and entrepreneurs are empowered to do what they do best and government steps out of the way. I'll continue to push for pro-growth policies that put us in the best position to create opportunity at home and compete around the world.

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MONTGOMERY FURNITURE RECEIVES ACTS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE SOUTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME

On Saturday, July 22, 2023, South Dakota Hall of Fame Board Directors Gerry Likness and Dr. Loren Tschetter presented Montgomery Furniture with an Act of Excellence Award.



Acts of Excellence awards are reserved for those extraordinary individuals and organizations who are serving their communities in meaningful ways. Montgomery Furniture was considered worthy of the prestigious award for its long



Photo (Left to Right): South Dakota Hall of Fame Board Director Gerry Likness, Clark Sinclair, Connie Sinclair, Eric Sinclair, Neala Sinclair, and South Dakota Hall of Fame Board Director Dr. Loren Tschetter.

history of business in South Dakota and its excellent service.

Before there was a state of South Dakota, there was Montgomery Furniture. For 135 years, this company has served South Dakota families. During that time, the same family has owned the business and has been a significant presence in the business community of South Dakota. Such longevity is truly rare and distinctive.

In 1884, George H. Montgomery left Vermont, heeding Horace Greely's advice: "Go West, young man." In 1888, one year before South Dakota became a state, Montgomery reached the area of Alexandria, SD where he established a furniture store and funeral home. The business grew and prospered, and in 1902, Montgomery and his brother-in-law, William Ryburn, built a two-story home in downtown Alexandria which housed the store, a bank, a law office, and Masonic Temple. After Montgomery passed, he left the business in the hands of his son, W.R. Montgomery, and his son-in-law, Gilbert Loomer.

A fire in 1964 destroyed the original building, but the family re-built. That same building houses Montgomery Furniture today. Over the years and generations, the business has expanded across the state with locations in Madison, Howard, Arlington, Sioux Falls, and Mitchell—offering furniture, home accessories, and flooring.

Today, Clark Sinclair and his son, Eric Sinclair of Madison, are co-owners. Eric is the fifth generation of the hardy family who arrived in

Dakota Territory, settled, put down roots, and stayed.

An exhibit featuring Montgomery Furniture and their legacy will be on display at the SD Hall of Fame's Visitor and Education Center in Chamberlain this summer (and throughout the year), along with the other 2023 Act of Excellence recipients.

The South Dakota Hall of Fame is a 501c3 organization designed to Honor, Inspire, and Educate. The Hall's mission is to Champion a Culture of Excellence and the SD Hall of Fame lives out its mission through its programming, including the Acts of Excellence Program. This year, 15 organizations/individuals have been chosen for their Acts of Excellence.

FIVE AVERA HOSPITALS NAMED 5-STAR FACILITIES

Five Avera hospitals have been named 5-star facilities by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Star ratings enable consumers to more quickly and easily assess the patient experience and quality of care information that is provided on the Care Compare website.

The sites earning the highest (5-star) rating include:

- Avera Heart Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD
- Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center, Marshall, MN
- Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD
- Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, SD
- Lakes Regional Healthcare (an Avera affiliate), Spirit Lake, IA

"Our health care workers are dedicated to providing high quality, compassionate care to every patient at every encounter," said Dan Bjerknes, Regional President and CEO. "Earning the highest possible star rating reflects that commitment. It's an honor to be recognized for the efforts our care teams strive for every day."

CMS updated data on Care Compare, including the overall hospital quality star rating, on July 26, 2023. This recent data refresh included 4,000 hospitals. The Care Compare overall hospital rating system summarizes a variety of quality measures into a single star rating, making it easier for consumers to compare hospitals. The overall star rating summarizes quality information, including mortality, safety of care, readmissions, patient experience, and timely and effective care. The five top performing Avera sites consistently exceeded national scores.

Additional information is available at [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).



BUSINESS BRIEFS

SOUTH DAKOTA BALLET

The South Dakota Ballet, in their 4th year since being founded, has announced their first tour to Aberdeen!

Performance

September 23, 2023
7:00 pm
Aberdeen Civic Theater

Gala Post Event Reception

Following performance
Aberdeen Recreation & Cultural Center

These artists will leave you inspired & deeply moved by their athleticism & grace.

Tickets: \$40 per person available at southdakotaballet.org
Corporate sponsor benefits: info@southdakotaballet.org

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Investigations in the Workplace and Employer Obligations



Kim Dorsett

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

Assume a female employee in your workplace reports she has been subjected to inappropriate sexual comments and unwanted touching in the workplace. What is your obligation as the employer? Do you tell her to toughen up, fire her, or immediately fire the person she has accused of inappropriate behavior? Ideally, your response should be none of the above. Unfortunately, Silver Bay Seafood Restaurant is learning this lesson the hard way, having recently been sued by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) related to allegations it violated federal law when it subjected a female employee to a sexually hostile work environment.

According to the EEOC's lawsuit, in February 2021, a female employee working for the company was subjected to inappropriate sexual comments and unwanted touching by a male head server. The female employee reported the harassment to the company owners and to a manager, but they gave no indication they took the complaint seriously or that they would address the situation, and they did not investigate the reports. The lawsuit further alleges this was not the first time that head server had harassed a female employee. The EEOC claims that the company knew or should have known of the head server's propensity for sexual harassment and that it failed to take appropriate corrective action to

eliminate the sexual harassment from the workplace. The EEOC seeks monetary relief for the employee, including

compensatory and punitive damages.

The takeaway for all employers is clear – when an employer becomes aware of any incident relating to sexual harassment or a sexually hostile work environment, it is critical the employer take prompt and effective action to fully investigate the situation and eliminate the conduct.

Your next question should then be, "How do I conduct this investigation?" Investigations can be complex, so the best advice is to consult with an attorney or independent third party with experience in conducting such investigations. At a minimum, an employer must take prompt, reasonable and effective corrective action, which includes:

- (1) Conducting a thorough investigation of the complaint by interviewing the accuser, the accused, and any witnesses to the conduct;
- (2) Promptly informing all parties of the results of the investigation;
- (3) Taking appropriate corrective action to enforce the employer's anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies;
- (4) Maintaining confidentiality to the extent possible; and
- (5) Ensuring all persons involved follow the employer's anti-retaliation policy and ensuring no one participating in the investigation is subjected to any form of retaliation.

There are no specific step by step legal requirements, but the EEOC has published some guidelines. Ultimately, for any employer or employee faced with reports of inappropriate conduct in the workplace, the best practice is to consult with a professional who can guide everyone through the process of an investigation, provide advice as to the best actions to take once completed, and help everyone avoid a visit from the EEOC.

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

ABERDEEN COMMUNITY THEATRE MURDER AT CAFÉ NOIR

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Enjoy a delicious meal & drinks while helping a private investigator solve a "Murder at Café Noir," a secluded island spot filled with colorful and suspicious characters. Can Rick Archer solve the crime before anyone else meets an untimely end?

All reserved seating; tables will have 8 seats. For more information, please visit AberdeenCommunityTheatre.com or follow us on Facebook.com/ACT415

Funding our Adversary's Economy?

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, and MSCI, a top stock-market-index compiler, have been investing American retirement dollars in Chinese companies that strengthen China's military and pose security threats to America. Not just that, but more than 60 of these companies have been flagged by U.S. agencies for security or human-rights violations.

This means Americans have been funding our biggest adversary's growth for years. The same communist government that steals Americans' personal data from apps like TikTok, spies on our allies' imports and exports, and sets up CCP police stations in America. Those are just the tip of the iceberg.

We've known it's a possibility that asset management firms have been investing in CCP-backed companies for a while and Congress has been working to bring clarity and accountability to these firms. Recently, the Select Committee on China launched an investigation into several venture capital firms for their funding of Chinese



tech companies. In the Senate, a bill is being worked on to require American companies that invest abroad, especially in countries like China, to disclose certain investments. The bill would also create a panel to review and block these investments that are national security concerns, similar to how the Council on Foreign Investment in the

United States (CFIUS) works.

MSCI and BlackRock manage a total of over \$22 trillion in assets. While these investments in Chinese companies can yield a high return, putting our national security at risk is not a wise trade. The means do not justify the ends.

The Select Committee on China expressed these concerns in a letter sent to BlackRock and MSCI. We requested a full accounting of the investments in Chinese companies—the American people deserve to know where their dollars are going and the type of un-American behavior it's advancing. I hope the Select Committee receives a response soon so we can hold these firms accountable.



Dusty Johnson

*US Representative
(R-SD)*

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Prairie Songs Concert at Central Park September 8



Laura Ptacek

*Director of Corporate Partnerships
Friends of South Dakota Public
Broadcasting*

Hello from the Friends of South Dakota Public Broadcasting!

It has been a whirlwind of a summer, and there's no slowing down heading into fall. The biggest news for Aberdeen is the FREE Prairie Songs concert coming to town. The concert is at Central Park at 7 pm on September 8. Bring your family, your lawn chair and your dancing shoes!

Featuring the musical talents of South Dakota's very own bands, The Clover Fold and Humbletown, we invite you to join us for a night of incredible music in this highly interactive and engaging concert live, in-person!

In the past these concerts have been held on opposite ends of the state and included acts such as Eliza Blue, Fiddles & Friends, Jamie Lynn and the JAS Quintet. This year, in addition to the two annual concert events, Friends and the network wanted to provide a concert to the Aberdeen community at no cost to attendees. This is the first time we have done a free concert, because we see the value of this area to our overall goals for the upcoming year. We have secured some amazing sponsorships from the Aberdeen Area Arts Council, McQuillen Creative Group, the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce and others that were not available at press time, along with an incredible amount of help from Dan and Angie Cleberg and Nick and Nicole Fischer. Many thanks also go out to all the entities that have helped spread the word about this event!

We have seen increased and new support

from businesses and organizations in northeastern South Dakota, and that, combined with having a representative serving this area on a daily basis has definitely made the network itself take notice.

The network is excited to focus efforts on our part of the state, and my goal is to get as many new sponsors as possible in our area. When a business or organization aligns themselves with SDPB, it only elevates both parties. It's a win-win!

I hope to see you all at the concert on September 8!



Chamber's Youth Career Expo Set for October 4th



**Gail Ochs,
IOM**

*Chief Executive
Officer,
Aberdeen Area
Chamber of
Commerce*

Would you like to reach approximately 1,400 potential future employees? The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce's Workforce & Education Committee will host the 13th annual Youth Career Expo in the Barnett Center on the campus of Northern State University on the morning of Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 8 am until approximately 10:30 am.

This is an opportunity to market careers in your company and industry to a large group of high school juniors and seniors from approximately 15 area schools who will be attending this event, along with Post-High Planning Days (which runs concurrently).

This expo will allow you to link career options with the skills, qualifications, aptitudes, and interests of these students, as well as promote your business to a potential future workforce. Please help us make this event as exciting, interactive, and informative as possible. Remember this is NOT a job fair, however you can promote internship opportunities.

There is no registration or booth fee for Chamber members as it is a benefit of your

membership with us. It is \$50 for non-Chamber members to participate.

We will have half of the Barnett Center for displays and businesses who participate should:

- Plan to have hands-on or interactive activities. Something visual that will attract students to your booth (i.e. equipment and machinery).
- Post a sign listing the various career options in your industry.
- Bring along one or more employees who can interact and describe their job, education, training, and answer questions.
- Display or demonstrate skills or tasks that are common to your industry.
- Provide promotional materials and handouts of each career description, required education and/or training, and starting salary.

Bring along one to two door prizes with your company logo.

If you are interested in participating, please email info@aberdeen-chamber.com or call (605) 225-2860 for a registration form to be submitted by September 20, 2023.

ACCA 2023-24 Season Begins in September

The Aberdeen Community Concert Association is proud to announce that their 84th Season will open with International Classical Crossover Quartet **Vox Fortura** on Friday, September 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center in the Harvey and Cynthia Jewett Theater.

Next is the Irish Tenor, **David Shannon**, often referred to as Ireland's Greatest Showman, on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Don't miss the amazing sound and music of **The Starlets** on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

SD Jazz Festival Concert follows on Thursday, February 29, 2024. The 54th South Dakota Jazz Festival will feature an outstanding guest soloist, who will collaborate with he

NSU Jazz Ensemble in what promises to be a spectacular concert!

Concluding this amazing season will be **Shaun Johnson & The Big Band Experience** on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Interior Design Concepts located at 21 North Main will serve as the ACCA Campaign Headquarters and box office. Memberships can be purchased there during store hours as well as online or at the first concert.

For more information check the ACCA newly designed website at www.aberdeencommunityconcerts.org.

Submitted by Gene Morsching, ACCA President



The first ever Hats Off to Ag event was held on Thursday, July 27th at Engels Event Company. This new event replaced the former Ag Appreciation Banquet. The Chamber worked in conjunction with the Aberdeen Downtown Association and

their July free downtown summer concert, featuring the Chad Cooke Band, to create an ag appreciation night in downtown Aberdeen. Some of the elements of the former banquet that continued into Hats Off to Ag are the Farm Family of the Year Award, which was earned by the Aaron & Nina Vilhauer family, and the Making a Difference Award, which was presented to Lisa Anderson with the Chamber of Commerce. Elaine Kub, CFA, an economist and national ag speaker from the Ipswich/Roscoe area, specializing in commodity markets, was the keynote speaker.



The Vilhauers – in back: Lance, Aaron, Nina & Lyndsey; in front: Lawson & Lainey



Lisa Anderson

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October is Manufacturing Month – Let's Celebrate Small Business Manufacturers!

As summer winds down and we head into autumn, the U.S. Small Business Administration is excited to highlight small business manufacturing in October – Manufacturing Month! Manufacturing is one of South Dakota's top industries and an important aspect of the government and global supply chain. While it's common to perceive manufacturing as large businesses, many South Dakota manufacturers are small – having from one to 500 employees. From small pieces of jewelry to IT components to value added agriculture products and processed food to large pieces of equipment, urban and rural manufacturers across the state started with an idea that turned into a lucrative business and way of life. The SBA and many other federal agencies alongside federally funded resource partners provide support to small businesses wanting to start and grow revenue through exporting and government contracting.

EXPORTING plays a crucial role in international trade, economic growth, and globalization. Foreign countries hold two-thirds of the world's purchasing power, and nearly 96% of consumers reside outside the U.S. For small business owners, exporting can significantly impact their businesses. Here are some benefits of exporting:

- **Economic Growth:** Exporting allows businesses to access larger markets, leading to increased sales.
- **Diversification:** Expanding into international markets reduces dependence on domestic sales, providing a buffer against economic fluctuations.
- **Profitability:** Exporting can lead to higher profits, as businesses can tap into markets with higher demand or less competition.
- **Job Creation:** Companies engaged in exporting often create more jobs to meet the increased production demands.

Expanding small business markets through exporting is made easier by leaning on a network of support providers. Here are some resources for export and trade assistance:

- **SBA Office of International Trade** provides information on its Trade Tools for International Sales site to help small businesses explore opportunities in other markets, as well as export financing options. <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/export-products/trade-tools-international-sales>.
- **U.S. Department of Commerce / U.S. Commercial Services:** <https://www.trade.gov/us-commercial-service>
- **U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs):** Each center across the U.S. is staffed by professionals from public and private organizations with experience in export assistance for small- and medium-sized businesses. <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/export-trade-assistance/us-export-assistance-centers>
- **Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)**

offer free one-on-one technical business consulting with emphasis on business plan development, financial projections, and market analysis. Visit www.sdbusinesshelp.com to find the center closest to you.

- **SD Trade** the only nonprofit in the state with sole mission of assisting small businesses with exporting and importing. <https://southdakotatrade.com/>. SD Trade is the host for **SBA State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)** grants designed to assist small businesses with foreign market research, export trainings, participation in foreign trade missions and trade shows, website development to attract foreign buyers, and more. <https://southdakotatrade.com/>

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS can be a lucrative opportunity for businesses and requires planning, preparation, and persistence. The federal government uses special programs to help small businesses win at least 23% of all federal contracting dollars each year. Some of the SBA flagship certifications for contracting include the following categories: service-disabled veteran owned small business, woman owned small business, HUBZone, and 8(a) for socially and economically disadvantaged business owners. Participating in these programs helps small businesses:

- Win a fair share of federal contracts.
- Qualify for exclusive set-aside and sole-source contracts.
- Partner with established contractors to win contracts.
- Get business mentoring and education to learn how federal contracting works.
- In addition to SBA assistance, APEX Accelerators (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Centers) provide technical assistance to businesses interested in selling products or services to federal, state, and local governments. Additionally, APEX Accelerators can help your small business determine if you're ready for federal contracting.

In person and virtual small business counseling sessions for government contracting are available through the SD APEX Accelerator offices: <https://sdbusinesshelp.com/procurement-technical-assistance-center/>. For additional information on government contracting visit <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting>.

COMING UP! On November 1, 2023, join SBA SD, U.S. Commercial Services SD, and many resource partners for a **Small Business Summit** at the SD Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls. Information and training on exporting, government contracting, and many other business topics will be featured during the event. To register for the event visit www.sba.gov/southdakota.

More information on Manufacturing Month is available at <https://www.trade.gov/manufacturing-month>.



Jaime Wood

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



SD Legislative Work Goes on Through the Summer



Julie Johnson

Attorney at Law
and Registered
Lobbyist

As we write this article, our policy makers in Pierre and elsewhere are working hard on issues that pertain to our region and preparing for their next sessions. By our next article, they will have taken some policy positions on key issues and make recommendations to the next legislative session and to others.

Over the course of the summer to date, much work has gone into several key issues important to us, such as implementation of the housing infrastructure investments the state has committed and identifying other key solutions. By the next Progress magazine, we hope to be able to report that projects in Aberdeen and the region were successful in receiving some of those loan or grant funds for the infrastructure portion of significant housing projects in our area. Aberdeen's fingertips are on that fund, and we are the proud supporters of several applications from our area.

Here are some of those issues for which we are awaiting recommendations that help us:

• **Long-Term Care and its Sustainability**—A key group of lawmakers volunteered for this study committee, which is important to this region and beyond. That talent should be able to identify several key recommendations that the state and

legislature may be able to implement to sustain the long-term care system throughout the state.

• **County Funding Issues**—Another key group of lawmakers are serving on this committee, including a few who have served as county commissioners. They are doing some thoughtful hearings, with a few more to come, to identify ways the state can assist the counties with their mounting resource issues, especially without many financial options.

• **Appropriations**—The Interim Joint Appropriations Committee is working hard once again to do several things: keep their eyes on the state's revenues, as well as remaining federal ARPA dollars, childcare progress, workforce issues everywhere, and so much more. We hope to be able to host them in Aberdeen by the time you read this article to show them how their resources are being valued and deployed in our area.

• **Water**—We are hoping that additional state and federal resources can be deployed in our region for the WEB Water, Aberdeen and BDM project, known as "WINS". Considerable engineering, preparation, legal and policy work has been undertaken to deploy the resources WEB has invested plus the federal and state resources awarded recently. We can all be very proud of this work. This project is "ARPA ready".

And so many more! Stay tuned for the next Progress magazine with updates on these great pieces of work and more.

Julie Johnson is an attorney licensed in South Dakota and a registered lobbyist. She does a great many regional issues around development opportunities, workforce, tax, small business, entrepreneurship, HR, water, NSU and more. She can be reached at johnson2@abe.midco.net.

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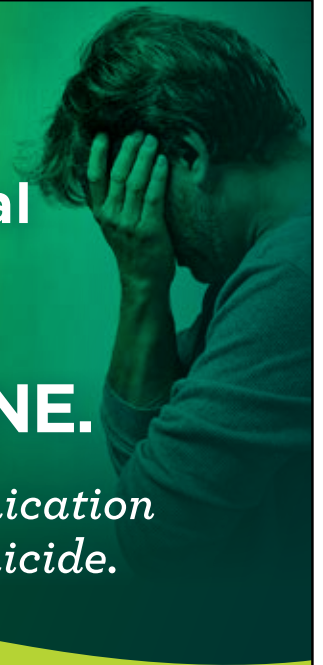


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