

# PROGRESS

MAGAZINE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



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Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence



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to the Fight

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Cancer Institute  
Aberdeen

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**SANFORD**  
WOMEN'S



# Avera Cancer Institute Aberdeen.

Expert cancer services, right here at home.

Avera Cancer Institute Aberdeen now has a state-of-the-art home in the newly completed Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence.

With more than double the size of the current institute, this \$14.5 million, 27,000-square-foot facility addresses the growing need for cancer care in the region.

“Avera St. Luke’s has a 25-year history as the region’s leader in cancer care. Our new facility helps us move forward into the next generation of cancer care services, which offer many hopeful advancements,” said Todd Forkel, President and CEO of Avera St. Luke’s Hospital.

Located south of the southeast wing of Avera St. Luke’s Hospital, the facility is designed to offer comprehensive cancer care under one roof.

Medical oncology services will be supported by 23 chemotherapy stations in a combination of private, semi-private and group settings. “Our chemotherapy stations are designed with patient choice in mind. It’s all about serving patients in the best manner possible for their recovery and well-being,” said Richard Conklin, MD, Medical Oncologist. “This complements the high quality care through evidence-based protocols and the latest advancements in drug therapy that are available.”

Radiation therapy patients have access to the latest technology through the new, fully digital Elekta Infinity™ linear accelerator. “This machine offers greater imaging capability for highly accurate and precise treatments, as well as the versatility to provide a full range of radiation treatments, tailored for each patient through Elekta’s treatment planning software,” said Troy Adolfson, MD, Radiation Oncologist.

Patients will have access to cutting-edge care through telemedicine, also known as Avera eConsult, and the opportunity to participate in clinical research trials.

Enhanced supportive services includes patient navigation, massage therapy and other therapy services, nutrition counseling, chaplaincy, social work and financial counseling.

Surgical care – a key treatment for many cancer patients – is also available at the same location through Avera Cancer Institute’s connectedness to Avera St. Luke’s Hospital.

The facility has a patient-friendly design, with amenities to serve patients that include valet parking.

The Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence was named in honor of the Meyers, who devoted a great deal of time raising awareness about the outstanding care Coach Meyer received throughout the Avera system.

## The public is invited to an open house:

Thursday, Jan. 21

1 - 4 p.m., Ribbon cutting at 2 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce Business Afterhours will be hosted at Avera Cancer Institute Aberdeen the same evening, Jan. 21, from 5:15 - 7 p.m.



# Goodbye 2015...Hello 2016!



**Gail L. Ochs**  
President, IOM  
Aberdeen Chamber

It's hard to believe that another new year is upon us. 2015 was my 17th year at the Chamber and while much has changed during that time, I'm proud that other things haven't. For example, each year your Chamber Board of Directors meets to discuss

annual priorities and sets goals for committees, staff and volunteers. For 2016 your Board of Directors has approved the following Program of Work:

## Goal 1 - Member Services

We will further strengthen our relationships with members by increasing interaction, communicating benefits of membership, and providing education on issues affecting them.

1. Continue membership task force to explore and recommend annual membership dues levels, benefits, sponsorships and participation for 2017 implementation.
2. Engage and connect new and different Chamber member employees and their families with Chamber and community activities for retention efforts.
3. Promote importance of shopping local and supporting small business through enhanced marketing and social media efforts.
4. Promote Membership Benefits through Chamber publications, so-

cial media and membership packet.

## Goal 2 – Organization Enhancement

We will continuously evaluate our organization and its Chamber events, efforts, programs, committees to meet the needs of membership and the community.

1. Implement Gift Certificate Task Force to research and implement new gift certificate program and/or upgrades.
2. Implement Task Force to explore options for membership software and recommend program that will provide better efficiency and advanced benefits and features.
3. Update both the chamber and Aberdeen community websites for modernization and mobile accessibility.

## Goal 3 – Workforce Development

We will continue to work with our members and local and statewide organizations and agencies to meet the employment needs in our area.

1. Clarify the Chamber's role in workforce development initiatives and establish goals in conjunction with the Development Corporation and other local organizations.
2. Facilitate or co-sponsor training/discussions on cultural and generational diversity in the workplace.
3. Facilitate discussion on workforce roadblocks to include but not limited to public transportation, housing, wages, childcare, etc.

## Goal 4 - Community Development

We will champion our community's successes and support issues and opportunities that will improve our community's quality of life and further the growth and development of our region.

1. Implement Chamber For Good online website for community organizations and agencies to promote their needs to the public.
2. Connect leaders with local, regional and statewide opportunities to serve on boards and committees that impact Northeast South Dakota.
3. Facilitate discussion on community master plans and coordinate efforts to achieve community goals.

As you can see, we've got a lot of work ahead and a lot of research to do in 2016 to ensure that our programs and services are the best they can be for our membership.

I would also like to send a special thank you to several board members. First to JoEllen Lindner who served as the 2015 Chair of the Board. Her background working in the Chamber and non-profit industry was so beneficial when discussing programs, strategies, and best practices. Also, thank you to departing board members Neal Wietgreffe (2014 Board Chair), Jerry Glatt, Brad Olson, Mary Davis and Mark Malchow. Thank you for leaving the Chamber a better, stronger organization.

# Announcing Chamber's New Public Relations Director



**Lisa Anderson**  
Director of Public  
Relations, Committees  
& Programs, Aberdeen  
Chamber

Having volunteered for the Chamber for the past 12 years – first as a Diplomat and then an Ambassador – the transition to being an employee at the Chamber was quite seam-

less. The mission of the Chamber of Commerce is something I believe in, and I care about the advancement of business in our community, especially those that are smaller and family-owned. As the Director of Public Relations, Committees and Programs, my current responsibilities are a combination of duties I've performed in past positions, which I will use for the good of Aberdeen,

the surrounding area and the Chamber of Commerce. I live in Aberdeen with my husband Carl, son Garrett Gross and two Shorkies named Mojo and Rocky. Currently, I serve as the Marketing Director for the Boys & Girls Club Capital Campaign, sit on the Club's Board of Directors and volunteer at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

# Colleagues & Friends of Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce



**Carl Perry**  
2015 Chamber  
Board Chair;  
Sr. VP Progressive  
Financial

It is a great honor to serve as your Chairman for 2016. It will take a team to make our year successful. Along with our outstanding staff led by Gail Ochs and dedicated board members, our Chamber represents a network of businesses and

individuals working together to grow and enhance business in our community. Ultimately our goal is to continue to do what makes this a great community to live, work, play and do business. The sign of any stable and successful organization is con-

tinued improvement year after year. JoEllen Lindner has done an incredible job in relating our statement of work to the committees and the organization.

We have new and exciting events and growth in membership. The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce continues to innovate and evaluate itself, making it one of the most successful, stable and influential chambers for our size in the country.

"Write your story" is our theme for 2016! This year represents the Aberdeen Area Chamber's 132nd anniversary and what an incredible story we get to tell. We want to be sure to recognize businesses that have hit fifty, seventy-five and one hundred year anniversaries and share their stories!

Strong leadership is the difference in good and great communities; the stakeholders involved and decisions made these 132 years have positioned the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, the Aberdeen community and Brown County as an exceptional area!

Please join us at one of our events this year. All you have to do is show up, we'll take care of the rest. If you have questions, ideas, concerns or would like to participate we welcome your interests!

My home email is cperry91@abe.midco.net and my business email is cperry@progressivefinancial.com I will talk with you again in the next Progress magazine.

## Ambassador Hat & Mitten Drive Keeps Kids Warm

Once again the Ambassador Committee gathered new hat and mittens for children in the Aberdeen area that may be without. The committee set out boxes and hung up signs at local businesses as well as made calls to colleges throughout Aberdeen.

This year the Ambassadors collected over 500 items. There were several community members that

donated, with special recognition going to the residents at Primrose Retirement Communities. The residents collected over \$300 to purchase new items.

Thank you to everyone that took time out of their day to donate. We know the children appreciate your generosity!



### Board of Directors

#### Executive Board

Carl Perry, Chair Progressive Financial Services  
Cory Bollinger, Chair-Elect Aberdeen American News  
Dr. Marje Kaiser, Vice-Chair SDSBVI  
Eric Brenner, Treasurer Alliance Contracting  
Dawn Williams, Secretary SD Dept. of Labor  
JoEllen Lindner, Past Chair Northern State University

#### Full Board

Julie Fischbach Mainstream Boutique  
Robert Goscicki Aberdeen Federal Credit Union  
Nadine Gropp 3M Company  
Jack Hollinsworth JDH Construction  
Jim Kreber, ADC Board Liaison Wooden Mallet  
Jeff Poppen Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center  
Matt Prehn US Bank  
Cody Roggatz City of Aberdeen – Regional Airport  
Tanya Shafer Twin City Fan Companies  
Gretchen Sharp, CVB Board Liaison Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation

### Chamber Staff

Gail Ochs President  
Jessica Rehder Director of Member Services & Events  
Lisa Anderson Director of Public Relations, Committees and Programs  
Heidie Holmstrom Finance Manager  
Desireah Day Administrative Assistant

Tom Snyder Avera Mother Joseph Manor  
Katie Washnok Blackout, Inc.  
Mike Bockorny, Ex-Officio Aberdeen Development Corp.  
Heath Johnson, Ex-Officio Aberdeen Downtown Assoc.  
Brenda Moore, Ex-Officio Aberdeen CVB

www.aberdeen-chamber.com • 605.225.2860



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# Chamber's Ag Appreciation Banquet Held

Along with the appreciation we have for our local ag community all year, the Aberdeen Chamber's Ag Committee always does a stellar job of putting on an annual banquet to pay homage to area farmers and ranchers. And 2015 was no exception. On Friday, November 13th, about 550 people filled the DEC to share camaraderie, enjoy a great meal and recognize a few people who have given much to the business of raising crops and livestock. We also enjoyed a message of gratitude & inspiration from SD Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch, and capped the night off with fun, fantas-

tic 50's music from the Holy Rocka Rollaz.

The 2015 Farm Family of the Year Award was presented to the Daryl & Lisa Streckfuss Family, sponsored by the Farm Forum. Darwin Kern earned the Making a Difference Award for his contributions to helping area ag producers. Both awards were well-deserved and we congratulate them all for their hard



work and dedication. Please plan on joining us next November for the 2016 banquet. We look forward to seeing you there!

# Chamber Elects New Board Members

## ROBERT GOSCICKI

*Aberdeen Federal Credit Union, President & CEO*  
 Wife Jennifer, sons Robert II and William

"The desire to serve the community through leadership initiatives, community involvement and volunteerism are the factors that enticed me to be involved at the Board level for the Aberdeen Chamber. Working together to develop partnerships within the community will create a stronger future for all of us. It's important for me to involve all Chamber members and add value to the membership experience."



Robert is also involved with the Government Affairs Committee, NSU School of Business Advisory Board and the Credit Union Executive Society.

## MATT PREHN

*US Bank, Business Banking Manager*

"I've been involved with the Chamber for many years. I respect the work they do and appreciate the programs & events they plan throughout the year. It's a priority to help serve our community and look for ways to improve it. I have two boys, Max (13) and Anderson (9),



that will benefit from a strong, progressive community with businesses that are willing to support the non-profits, schools and other programs. That's a big motivator for me."

Matt is also involved with Chamber Ambassadors, Junior Achievement, Sertoma Club (including Sertoman of the Year), Parks & Rec Board, YMCA Board, United Way and Leadership Aberdeen graduate.

## CODY ROGGATZ

*City Of Aberdeen, Regional Airport, Transportation Director*

My family has been involved in the ag industry in the upper Midwest for over 100 years. I have been in the transportation industry for over 10 years in different areas of the country.



"I have been actively involved with the community since moving to Aberdeen in April 2014. Serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board is another great opportunity to make Aberdeen a better place to live and conduct business. The Chamber has positive programs for young leaders in our community, and my experience with these programs provides advocacy for the Chamber Board as well as encouragement to expand educational opportunities for young leaders."

Cody is also involved with the Chamber Transportation Committee, Chamber Diplomats, Aberdeen Exchange Club, Mayors Advisory Committee for Disabled Persons, Avera St. Luke's Community Advisory Board Member, South Dakota Airport Manager's Association and is a Leadership Aberdeen graduate.

## KATIE WASHNOK

*Blackout Inc., Owner/Operator*  
 Husband James; Baby Washnok due in May

"My family and I strive to support, give back to and promote the Aberdeen community in any way we can. I think the Chamber of Commerce is the rudder that steers any community. So, to be involved in a leadership capacity, in such a critically pivotal part of our community, is an honor and a privilege. I will be Aberdeen's loudest, most hard-working cheerleader!"



Katie is also involved with Chamber Diplomats, Junior Achievement, Brown County Republicans, American Diabetes Association, Sanford Diabetes Support Group, Shriner/Shrine Hospitals, Aberdeen Downtown Association, First United Methodist Church, PEO, and Sizzlin' Summer Nights.

# Business After Hours Schedule



**Jessica Rehder**  
Dir. of Member Services & Events, Aberdeen Chamber

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors a Business After Hours networking mixer each month from 5:15-7 PM at various business locations. The event is held to encourage networking among the city's business leadership

and employees. It is an ideal way to establish contacts and build relationships with fellow businessmen and women. These mixers attract 150-200 people and allow members to get better acquainted with your business in an informal setting.

2016 Business After Hours will be held at the following locations.

**January 21st** - Avera St. Luke's, Don & Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence

**February 11th** - TBD (Open)

**March 10th** - TBD (Open)

**April 14th** - Non Profit Month  
**May 12th** - Sportsmans Club of Brown County

**June 9th** - Bethesda Home of Aberdeen

**July 7th** - Aberdeen Downtown Association-Downtown Concert Series

**August 11th** - No Business After Hours due to fair week

**September 8th** - NSU - JFAC

**October 13th** - Chamber Week

**November 10th** - TBD (Open)

**December 8th** - Midcontinent Communications

Businesses still have time to choose a month to host. Cost to host depends on the level of involvement that the business would like.

**Sole Host: 6 Available per year \$2000**

- Exclusive Hosting! No other hosts or sponsors
- Promotion as sole host in PROGRESS Magazine, In Touch radio show, email notification, social media, etc.

- Coordination of evening's agenda to promote host and facility
- Opportunity to address crowd during evening agenda
- Coordinate menu and offerings with Chamber Staff

**Event Host-6 Available per year \$600**

- Booth at the event
- Coordination of evening's agenda
- Promotion as sole host in PROGRESS Magazine, In Touch radio show, email notification, social media, etc.
- Opportunity to address crowd during evening agenda

**Sponsor: 36 available per year \$300**

- Booth at the event
- Coordination of evening's agenda

If you would like to talk about hosting/sponsoring Business After Hours please contact Jessica Rehder at 225-2860 or [jessica@aberdeen-chamber.com](mailto:jessica@aberdeen-chamber.com).

# Winter Events in the Hub City



**Sabrina Metz**  
Marketing, Sales & Events Specialist, Aberdeen CVB

2015 was a year full of events and activities for Aberdeen, but like with all good things, it must come to an end. That is not to say that 2016 won't be another great year for our fine city! Organizations and committees are already planning events

for this year, and there is a lot going on. Here's a quick rundown of what's coming in the following months.

January will host the 70th Annual Snow Queen Festival at the Aberdeen Civic Arena. This festival includes the Junior Snow Queen competition on January 9, and the crowning of the Snow Queen on January 16. January will also include a Chicago Tribute Band named Transit Authority on January 23rd, and the

second annual citywide Yogathon on January 30th.

Viking fans can rejoice – Chuck Forman will be the speaker for the Boys & Girls Club Awards Banquet at the Dakota Event Center on February 26! You can also check out the Winter Big Boy Toy Show on February 13-14 and the Ag Expo on February 23-25, both scheduled at the DEC. Across town, the Ramkota will be hosting the Bridal Style Show on February 21 and Safe Harbor's Mardi Gras on February 27.

With Easter on March 27, the yearly Easter Egg Scramble, sponsored by the Aberdeen Optimist Club will be on March 26th out at Wylie Park Pavilion. And, Aberdeen will be seeing the Shrine Circus at the Civic Arena early this year. Mark your calendars for March 24-26 to attend this family fun event. You should also



check out The Diamonds, presenting "Bandstand Boogie!" brought to you by Aberdeen Community Concerts.

This is just a small snippet of events happening in our city this winter. To check out all of the activities happening in town go to: [VisitAberdeenSD.com/AreaEvents](http://VisitAberdeenSD.com/AreaEvents). If you are an organizer of an event, and want to be listed on the Aberdeen calendar, please contact Sabrina at [smetz@VisitAberdeenSD.com](mailto:smetz@VisitAberdeenSD.com).

# Meet the 2016 Committee Chairs



**Christa Coyne, BSN, RN, CIC**  
*Health & Wellness Committee*

Employer: Sanford  
Aberdeen Medical Center  
Position: Infection Prevention/Employee Health/Worker's

Compensation  
Family: 97 year old Grandmother Evelyn, Mom Janet, Sister, Brother in law, 1 niece and 1 nephew  
Hometown: Webster, SD  
Goal for the Health & Wellness Committee: To promote wellness for the Aberdeen Workforce through events and educational opportunities that promote healthy living in the

Aberdeen area.  
Why I Volunteer: Promoting wellness and illness prevention is a key to keeping an age diverse community strong for years to come.  
Other Community Involvement: Violinist with the Aberdeen University/Civic Symphony, multiple church related events.



**Stan Wise**  
*Ag Committee*

Employer: Farm Forum  
Position: Editor  
Family: Wife - Renee, son - William, daughter - Sydney

Hometown: Pontotoc, Mississippi  
Goal for the Ag Committee: The Ag Committee already does a great

job of helping the community learn about area agriculture and providing a great lineup of insightful speakers for the committee members. I'd like to continue that tradition. If I could add anything to that, it would be to incorporate more unconventional types of agriculture into our mix of activities, including honey, fruits and vegetables, pulse crops, community supported agriculture, and agritourism. These types of farms and

products allow smaller operations to remain profitable, and they offer one way to help combat the depopulation of rural areas while adding to the variety of our ag landscape.  
Why I Volunteer: Serving on the Ag Committee offers me the chance to both learn and provide learning opportunities for others. I strongly believe that an informed population results in a better world.



**Eric Vetter**  
*Ambassador Committee*

Employer: Century 21 & RentAberdeen.com  
Position: Broker Associate/Owner  
Family: just me

Hometown: Cresbard SD  
2016 Goal for the Ambassadors: I would like to help increase Chamber membership for our new businesses

in town by following up with the businesses we do ribbon cuttings for. Make sure they are aware of all the benefits of the chamber and stay in contact with them so they know they are appreciated.  
Why I Volunteer: I have always love helping people and I feel by volunteering in our community I am helping people understand our community and make Aberdeen a better place to live. I also get to meet a lot of people whom I would not have

been able to meet and build relationships where I can refer people to them if I have a situation where someone could use their help.  
Other Community Involvement: President on the CVB board; member of the Mayors Counsel for People with Disabilities; Avera Citizens Advisory Board; Partners in Community Pride; member of the Aberdeen Board of Realtors



**Michael Bockorny**  
*Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair*

Employer: Aberdeen Development Corporation  
Position: CEO  
Family: Wife; Kristi,

3 children; Matt (16), Connor (13) & Emily (10)  
Hometown: Huron  
2016 Goal for the Government Affairs Committee: To allow all citizens the opportunity to be knowledgeable

and participate in the processes of our government.  
Why I Volunteer: I believe in participating in making our community better tomorrow than it is today and look to do my part in making this happen.  
Other Community Involvement: Board of Directors for the Aberdeen Area Boys and Girls Club; Member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Endowment Committee; Member of Exchange Club & Board of Directors for Cedar Mall Shopping Center, Rice Lake, WI.



**Devin Reints**  
*Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair*

Employer: Dakota Broadcasting  
Position: Assistant Manager  
Family: Wife Ashley, Daughter TBA in

April  
Hometown: Langford  
2016 Goal for the Government Affairs Committee: To help keep the local voters as informed as possible about local / state issues and candidates in 2016  
Why I Volunteer: It helps give me a sense of fulfillment  
Other Community Involvement: Shriners, Masons, JA, and several other Chamber Committees



# Meet the 2016 Committee Chairs



**Rich Kezar**  
*Military/Veterans Committee*  
 Employer: Retired 3M Company  
 Position: Engineer  
 Family: Married wife Linda; 3 grown children David, Dawn, Jimmy; 4 grandchildren

Hometown: Aberdeen SD  
 2016 Goal for the Military/Veterans Committee: Provide awareness and recognition to the Veterans and Active Military in the community and their families.  
 Why I Volunteer: Retired and time to give back to the community I was raised in.  
 Other Community Involvement:

Aberdeen City Planning and Zoning Boards, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sacred Heart Church Properties and Cemetery Committees, Sioux Council Boy Scouts of America, Brown County CERT, Brown County Citizen Corps Council, Hub City Amateur Radio Club, South Dakota Boys State



**Aaron Kiesz**  
*Partners in Community Pride Committee*  
 Employer: City of Aberdeen  
 Position: City Forester

Family: Wife Alison Kiesz; Children Wyatt 7, Cody 6  
 Hometown: Aberdeen  
 Goal for the PICP Committee: To promote and help with the beautification of Aberdeen.  
 Why I Volunteer: To be a part of making our community a great place

to live.  
 Other Community Involvement: Design & Appearance Committee (Downtown Association), President Community Tennis Association, Worship Ministry Team (Bethlehem Lutheran).



**Cody Roggatz**  
*Transportation Committee*  
 Employer: City of Aberdeen  
 Position: Transportation Director  
 Family: Kevin and Julie Roggatz, Parents (Small Business Owners in Montevideo, MN); Jessi Roggatz, Sister (Elementary Teacher at Harrisburg School District); Jordan and Calie

Dalton, Brother-in-Law and Sister (Jordan-Financial Advisor at Principal Financial Group in Sioux Falls, Calie-High School Teacher at Washington High School in Sioux Falls).  
 Hometown: Montevideo, MN  
 2016 Goal for the Transportation Committee: To continue to grow community participation and encourage input to our committee. Community feedback helps our organizations better serve the area transportation needs into the future.

Why I Volunteer: Aberdeen is a great community with a great group of individuals that donate thousands of hours each year doing little things to make our community a better place to live. I enjoy doing what I can with these folks to try to always move Aberdeen forward.  
 Other Community Involvement: Chamber of Commerce-Diplomats, Aberdeen Exchange Club and Mayor's Advisory Committee for Disabled Persons



**Janet Hedges**  
*Workforce & Education Committee*  
 Employer: 3M  
 Position: Human Resources Supervisor  
 Family: Husband-Jeff; 2 daughters-

Sarah & Sadie  
 Hometown: Aberdeen, SD for 30+ years; before that Frederick, SD  
 Goal for the Workforce & Education Committee: Create stronger and

meaningful collaborative working relationships between education, government and business leaders to develop and attract a stronger and better workforce. Raise awareness of the employment and career opportunities that are available in the Aberdeen community to students and current and future residents.  
 Why I Volunteer: I volunteer to better understand our community's challenges, to gain new skills, to develop friendships, and to make a difference. The number one reason

I volunteer is about others. It's about giving back to our community and the people in it.  
 Other Community Involvement: Aberdeen Area Human Resources Association, Project SEARCH Business Advisory Council, Aberdeen Chamber Health & Wellness Committee, Roncalli High School, Governor's Office of Economic Development, Workforce Committee, Department of Labor & Regulation, JSAP Instructor, Junior Achievement, "Excelling Through Ethics" Instructor



**Adam Christenson**  
*Diplomat Committee*  
 Employer: Schwan Financial Group  
 Position: Director of Client Service & Marketing Director

Hometown: Aberdeen, SD  
 2016 Goal for the Diplomat Committee: Expand our network of community-focused, energetic individuals who have a passion for their community and the people in it.  
 Why I Volunteer: Volunteerism is an investment in our community and

the people who live in it. I want to be an engaged member of the Aberdeen community, not just live here.  
 Other Community Involvement: Ag Committee, Junior Achievement, Roncalli Booster Club, Aberdeen Mason.

# Businesses Identified in City Beautification Efforts

Each month, the Partners in Community Pride committee members recognize businesses that have completed projects that enhance the appearance of our city. In 2015, the following businesses were identified for their beautification efforts. Thank you for being great partners in community pride!

- January - Brown County Sheriff's Office (jail and juvenile detention with their aid in city clean-up efforts)

- February - Kessler's Holiday Gas Station
- March - Caribou Coffee
- April - Brown County Landfill & City of Aberdeen (residential cleanup), Aberdeen Originals
- May - Depot Apartments
- June - City Hall
- July - My Place, O'Reilly Auto Parts



- August - Aberdeen Mall, 224 Holdings
- September - City of Aberdeen (Melgaard Park Cement work, ADA Accessible Curb Cuts)
- October - Dakota Outdoor Living
- November - Hobby Lobby & Dairy Queen, Steven Lust Automotive
- December - Hospitality Services; My Place Corporate Office

## CHAMBER COMMITTEES:

### AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Purpose: to establish communications between the business community and the rural agriculture community; to increase education, promote interest and understanding of the agriculture community. The Ag Committee meets the second Friday of every month at noon.

### AMBASSADORS

The Ambassador Committee serves as the public relations arm of the Chamber. Members are selected on a nomination basis to represent the Chamber at new businesses, ground breaking ceremonies, and ribbon cutting events. The Ambassadors meet the second Tuesday of every month at 12 pm for a monthly meeting and visits, but also meet throughout the month to attend community events as indicated above.

### CART – COMMUNITY ACTION RESOURCE TEAM

CART Meets every Thursday at the Chamber office from 8:30-10 am. Topics focus on Aberdeen

and regional issues, projects and events. All are welcome – promote your events, business and projects; network with community and business leaders; get informed.

### DIPLOMAT COMMITTEE

Purpose: to strengthen membership by recruiting new members, visiting current members, and implementing retention strategies. (Committee selection is on a nomination basis.) The Diplomat Committee meets the second Thursday of every month at 3:30 pm at various locations in the Aberdeen area.

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Purpose: To strengthen communication between the community and government entities; and serve as the catalyst for forums, panels, town meetings, etc. The committee meets the first Thursday of every other month at noon at the Ramada.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Purpose: to provide information and resources to Chamber members so that they may better provide an environment which promotes wellness amongst their employees. The Healthcare Committee meets the first Wednesday of every other month at 8 am at various locations.

### MILITARY/VETERANS COMMITTEE

Purpose: to promote a positive working relationship among the community, employers, and area military and veteran groups while also heightening the awareness of the military and veteran presence in the Aberdeen area. The committee meets the first Tuesday of every other month at noon at the National Guard Armory.

### PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY PRIDE COMMITTEE

Purpose: to coordinate residential and commercial projects that serve to beautify and cleanup the community with assistance

from the community, city and county governments. The committee meets the first Friday of every month at 9 am at the Chamber.

### TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Purpose: to coordinate city, county and state officials to communicate key issues and projects for the community in the areas of ground, rail, air, rural, and city roads. The Transportation Committee meets the last Tuesday of every other month at 3:30 pm at the Chamber.

### WORKFORCE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Purpose: to implement projects that partner the business community and educational institutions together to foster cooperation and interaction between business and education to ensure needs are being met. The Committee meets the third Wednesday of every other month at 3:30 pm at the Chamber.

# January

- 1..... **South Dakota Governor's 6th Biennial Art Exhibition** 9 AM, January 20, 2016, 5 PM @ Dacotah Prairie Museum
- 1-3 ..... **Lady Cougar Classic**, 8 AM-8 PM @ Odde Ice Arena/ Brown County Fairgrounds
- 9 & 16 .... **70th Annual SD Snow Queen Festival**, 7 PM-9 PM @ Civic Theatre
- 9..... **Pepsi Hot Shot Competition**, 12:30 PM-5 PM @ Washington Street Gym
- 14..... **Wine at the Ward**, 7-9 pm @ Ward Plaza Bar
- 15-18 ..... **Winter Crazy Days**, 10 AM-6 PM @ Aberdeen Mall
- 16..... **Snowshoe Hike** Through Forest Drive at Richmond Lake 1 PM- 3 PM @ Richmond Lake
- 16..... **James Valley Model Railroad Open House**, 1 PM-4 PM @ Old Milwaukee Railroad Depot
- 16..... **Aberdeen Wing's NAHL Hockey**, 7 PM-10 PM @ Odde Ice Arena
- 21..... **SD Jazz Festival Concert**, 7:30 PM-9 PM @ Aberdeen Civic Theatre
- 22..... **Free Skate Day**, 3:45 PM-9 PM @ Aberdeen Ice Rinks
- 23..... **Bowl & Brew**, 3-6 pm @ Village Bowl
- 23..... **Transit Authority**, 7 PM-9 PM @ Aberdeen Civic Theatre
- 29..... **Aberdeen Wing's NAHL Hockey**, 7 PM-10 PM @ Odde Ice Arena
- 29..... **Aberdeen Open 8-Ball Pool Tournament**, 8 AM-January 31, 4 PM @ DEC
- 30..... **Aberdeen Citywide Yogathon**, 10 AM-4 PM @ YMCA & Profiling Beauty
- 30..... **Aberdeen Wing's NAHL Hockey**, 7 PM-10 PM @ Odde Ice Arena

# February

- 6..... **Dakota Territory Gun Collector's Association Show**, 9 AM-February 7, 5 PM @ Best Western Hotel
- 10-13 ..... **NSU Presents: Gidion's Knot**, 7:30 PM-9:30 PM @ NSU Student Center
- 12..... **Aberdeen Wing's NAHL Hockey**, 7 PM-10 PM @ Odde Ice Arena
- 13-14 ..... **Winter Big Boy Toy Show**, 10 AM-4 PM @ Dakota Event Center
- 13..... **Aberdeen Wing's NAHL Hockey**, 7 PM-10 PM @ Odde Ice Arena
- 19..... **Aberdeen Wing's NAHL Hockey**, 7 PM-10 PM @ Odde Ice Arena
- 20..... **James Valley Model Railroad Open House**, 1 PM-4 PM @ Old Milwaukee Railroad Depot
- 20..... **Presentation College Black and White Ball**, 6 PM-10 PM @ Ramkota
- 20..... **Aberdeen Wing's NAHL Hockey**, 7 PM-10 PM @ Odde Ice Arena
- 21..... **Hub City Radio's Bridal Showcase**, 12 PM-5 PM @ Best Western Hotel
- 23-25 ..... **Aberdeen Ag Expo**, 9 AM-6 PM @ Dakota Event Center
- 26..... **Boys & Girls Club Annual Awards Banquet**, 5:30 PM-8:30 PM @ Dakota Event Center
- 27..... **Safe Harbor's Mardi Gras**, 5 PM-11:30 PM @ Ramkota Convention Center

## Nominate a Champion Today!

You must know someone that deserves to be recognized for a Community Champion Award. Nominate them today! Call the Chamber at 225-2860 or email [info@aberdeen-chamber.com](mailto:info@aberdeen-chamber.com). Applications also available at [www.aberdeen-chamber.com](http://www.aberdeen-chamber.com). Applications submitted by January 15th and awards presented on February 9th.

- Woman of Spirit
- George
- STAR
- Emerging Leader
- ViTality
- Family Business of the Year
- Hometown Hero
- Spotlight
- Entrepreneur of the Year

## CHAMBER BIG DATES

- Military/Veterans Committee**  
January 5, Noon, National Guard Armory
- Health & Wellness Committee**  
January 6, 8 am, Chamber
- Government Affairs**  
January 7, Noon, Best Western Ramkota (*SD Chamber President David Owen presenting the Pre-Legislative Tour*)
- Partners in Community Pride**  
January 8, 9 am, Chamber
- Ag Committee**  
January 8, Noon, SDSU Extension Office
- Ambassadors and Diplomats Joint Meeting**  
January 12, 4 pm, Best Western Ramkota
- Retail Coalition**  
January 13, 10:30 am, Public Safety Building
- Governor's State of the State Address**  
January 14, Noon, Best Western Ramkota
- Workforce & Education Committee**  
January 20, 3:30 pm, Chamber
- Business After Hours**  
January 21, 5:15 pm, The Don & Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence, Home of Avera Cancer Institute
- Leadership Aberdeen Kickoff**  
January 21, 3:30 pm, State Street Medical Square
- Partners in Community Pride**  
February 5, 9 am, Chamber
- Community Champions Luncheon**  
February 9, Noon, Best Western Ramkota
- Diplomats**  
February 11, 3:30 pm, Chamber
- Business After Hours**  
February 11, 5:15 pm, TBD
- Ag Committee**  
February 12, Noon, SDSU Extension Office
- Aberdeen Day**  
February 18, State Capital, Pierre
- Cracker Barrel**  
February 20, 10 am, TBD
- Transportation Committee**  
February 24, 3:30 pm, Chamber
- Cracker Barrel**  
February 27, 10 am, TBD
- Military/Veterans Committee**  
March 1, Noon, National Guard Armory
- Health & Wellness Committee**  
March 2, 8 am, Chamber
- Government Affairs**  
March 3, Noon, Best Western Ramkota (State of the City Address)
- Partners in Community Pride**  
March 4, 9 am, Chamber
- Cracker Barrel**  
March 5, 10 am, TBD



**CJ's Patisserie**  
224 1st Ave SE, Suite 5  
www.cjspatisserie.com  
622-0607



**Dairy Queen**  
2416 6th Ave SE  
www.dairyqueen.com  
725-4437



**Hair Addictions**  
416 S Dakota Street, Suite 2  
725-6989



**Max & Dazy**  
831-331-9747



**Schwab Audiology**  
3001 6th Ave SE, Suite 2  
www.schwabaudiology.com  
725-4455



**Western Corporate Image**  
701 Enterprise St N.  
www.westernprinting.net/corporate-image  
229-1480



**United Way of Northeastern South Dakota**  
 202 S Main St, Suite 200  
 www.uwnesd.org  
 225-0212



## FIND THE ABERDEEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce is on Facebook and Twitter. Like us on Facebook by searching for Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce. Look for our handle, #aberdeenchamber on Twitter.

### \*YOU ARE AN AWESOME AMBASSADOR

### YAAAA WINNERS\*



Congratulations to Lisa Anderson of Dakota Broadcasting, October YAAAA Award winner. She is being presented the award by Dan Goetz, QQP (2015 Chair).



Congratulations to Jennifer Gray of Aspire, November YAAAA Award winner. She is being presented the award by Lisa Anderson, October YAAAA Award winner.

## Chamber Welcomes New Members

**Area IV Senior Meals**  
 405 8th Ave NW, Ste 203A  
 Aberdeen  
 areaiv@nvc.net  
 (605) 229-4741  
 Emily Richardt

**CJ's Patisserie**  
 224 1st Ave SE, Ste 5  
 Aberdeen  
 perihaberling@gmail.com  
 (605) 216-8937  
 Alex & Peri Malsom

**Hub City Events, LLC**  
 2203 20th Ave NW  
 Aberdeen  
 brodie919@gmail.com  
 (314) 484-3274  
 Brodie Mueller

**Karlen, Dean**  
 PO Box 187  
 Aberdeen  
 (605) 225-9011  
 Dean Karlen

**Buhl's of Britton**  
 601 Main St  
 Britton  
 (605) 448-5112  
 George Schott

**Hair Addictions**  
 416 S Dakota St, Ste 2  
 Aberdeen  
 jencantalopec@hotmail.com  
 (605) 725-6989  
 Jennifer Cantalope-DeHoet  
 & Bailie Schaffner

**Irl Hicks, Inc.**  
 1206 Main St  
 Britton  
 (605) 448-5600  
 Irl Hicks

**MT Feeds LLC & Smith Haygrinding**  
 42848 108th St.  
 Britton  
 suz@venturecomm.net  
 (605) 470-0286  
 Susan Smith



**Aberdeen Downtown Association**  
514 S Main St  
www.aberdeendowntown.org  
226-3441



**SD Department of Labor and Regulation**  
420 S Roosevelt  
626-2340  
www.sdjobs.org



**Dacotah Bank**  
308 S Main St  
225-5611  
www.dacotahbank.com



**J. Gross Equipment**  
5856 East Hwy 12  
229-4037  
www.jgrossequipment.com

## The Training Place Moves to Smart Center



**Mike Bockorny**  
Chief Executive  
Officer, Aberdeen  
Development Corp.

Did you hear? The Training Place is open for business in its new location in the Smart Center (416 Production Street N). The Aberdeen Development Corporation took over management of The Training Place in August, and a ribbon cutting and open house were held on September 29th to celebrate the new space

and new staffer – Jill Vining, Training Coordinator.

The Training Place has been serving Aberdeen and northeast South Dakota since 1985 when it was incorporated as The Aberdeen Area Career Planning Center (AACPC). In 2009, AACPC shifted its organizational focus to work and technical skills training as NewTec, Inc. (North Eastern Work and Technical Education Center). More recently, the name was updated to The Training Place to better communicate the company's mission and scope of work – workforce training and corporate solu-

tions.

The Training Place offers core classes in Microsoft Office Basics, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Word; as well as QuickBooks and CDL. They also offer specialty courses in topics such as OSHA and advanced welding. New to The Training Place offerings: business consulting in topics like strategic planning, team building and leadership. More information can be found on TTP's new website [www.thetrainingplace.net](http://www.thetrainingplace.net) or by emailing [JillVining@ttdpsd.net](mailto:JillVining@ttdpsd.net).

# The Training Place Scheduled Courses

## Survival Spanish

Starting January 5th from 5:30-6:45pm every Tuesday and Thursday in January

## 40-Hour Basic Wire Feed Welding

Starting January 5th from 4:30-8:30pm. Class will be held twice a week.

## Access

Tuesday, January 12th from 8:30am-5:00pm

## Excel Beginner

Thursday, January 21st from 8:30am-5:00pm

**CDL Classroom:** January 25-27th from 5:30-9:30pm each day  
February 22nd from 5:30-9:30pm

## MS Office: The Basics:

February 9th from 8:30am-5:00pm

**Microsoft Word:** February 25th from 8:30am-12:30pm

Check out other course offering at [thetrainingplace.net](http://thetrainingplace.net) or call Jill at 605-725-1833.

# Upcoming Quickbooks Workshops



**Kelly Weaver**  
Regional Director,  
Small Business  
Development Center

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC), in partnership with The Training Place, will be offering the following QuickBooks workshops on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. QuickBooks

Pro software will be used for the workshop presentation. Participants will view the software live on screen but will not have individual computers. Kelly Weaver of the Small Business Development Center will be the instructor. Registration is limited, so sign up today!

## QuickBooks: The Basics

WHEN: Tuesday, February 2, 2016;  
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

WHERE: Smart Center, 416  
Production Street, Aberdeen, SD

COST: \$65 by January 26th, \$70  
after January 26th

QuickBooks: The Basics is designed for those who may be considering a computerized accounting system or those QuickBooks users who are starting or would like to explore these features and how the data is managed. Topics covered will include Chart of Accounts, Customers, Vendors, Invoicing, Check Writing, Bills, and Reports.

QuickBooks: Inventory and Payroll

WHEN: Tuesday, February 2, 2016;  
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Smart Center, 416  
Production Street, Aberdeen, SD

COST: \$65 by January 26th, \$70  
after January 26th

QuickBooks: Inventory and Payroll will provide an overview of how inventory and payroll are processed by QuickBooks and the basic concerns to be addressed when setting up and using these features. Topics covered include Inventory Items, Inventory Types, Purchase Orders, Payroll Items, Payroll Checks, Payroll Liabilities, and Reports.

Attend both and save! Participants can attend both classes for a fee of only \$120 by January 26th, \$130 after January 26th.

For more information or to register, contact Jill Vining at The Training Place at 605-725-1833 or [jillvining@ttdpsd.net](mailto:jillvining@ttdpsd.net). Seating is limited and seats are reserved once payment is received. Payments should be sent to The Training Place, 416 Production Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401. The Smart Center is located ½ mile north of RDO Equipment Company.

# Membership Has its Perks

The Chamber's Member Benefit logo is hot off the drawing board! This logo will be used on electronic and print media to indicate advantages our Chamber members receive, such as:

- Discounts on Chamber-sponsored events
- Priority business referrals
- Direct link from Chamber Website business listing

- Networking events
- Education and training programs
- Involvement opportunities
- Chamber publication ad opportunities
- Build credibility with consumers
- And more!

Find out how you can reap the benefits of being a Chamber member. Call Jessica Rehder today at 225-2860.



## Sanford Aberdeen to Host “Cooking with the Cardiologists”

In celebration of Heart Month in February, Sanford Aberdeen will host an interactive cooking class featuring heart-healthy dishes.

For the annual Cooking with the Cardiologists event, Aberdeen chefs Jake Collins and Mary Collins will teach participants to prepare a heart-healthy salad, beef entrée and dessert. The chefs will be joined by Sanford Aberdeen’s interventional cardiologists Puneet Sharma, M.D., and Rahel Alemu, M.D., as well as registered dietician Lisa Kopecky.

Participants will receive samples of all the prepared recipes, as well as wine tasting for those 21 and older.

Cooking with the Cardiologists will be held Monday, Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Cash-Wa’s test kitchen and classroom, located at 810 Third Ave. SE. Space is limited, and registration is required. The class fee is \$10 per person.



Stop by the Welcome Desk at Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center

to register or visit [www.sanfordaberdeen.org](http://www.sanfordaberdeen.org) for more information.

## Prairie Business Magazine Announces 40 Under 40 List

Prairie Business magazine is proud to announce its annual 40 Under 40 list, featuring 40 of the top business professionals under the age of 40 in the northern Plains.

These 40 inspiring and dedicated professionals come from a wide range of industries and have made significant impacts in their chosen professions, industries and communities.

They are entrepreneurs, industry experts, executives and nonprofit and community leaders. The selected 40 will be honored in the December issue, which is available today on [www.prairiebizmag.com](http://www.prairiebizmag.com).

“We are pleased to present this year’s 40 Under 40 honorees,” says Lisa

Gibson, editor of Prairie Business. “The competition was fierce, with so many deserving, impressive nominees. The final list was chosen from a pool of about 160 and each deserves this recognition through professional achievement, community involvement and volunteerism. Congratulations to you all.”

We are thrilled to have two of our best & brightest from Aberdeen also recognized. They include Tanya Shafer of Twin City Fan and Ryan Rivett of My Place Hotels. Congratulations!

*About Prairie Business magazine: For more than 15 years, Prairie Business magazine has served as the only business-to-business magazine dedicated to the northern Plains region. More than 20,000 print and digital copies are distributed*

*monthly. The magazine focuses on the success and opportunities in the northern Plains states of North Dakota, South Dakota and western Minnesota and covers a variety of business topics including higher education, finance, architecture and engineering, agribusiness, energy, health care, economic development, tourism, technology and construction.*



Tanya Shafer



Ryan Rivett

This year’s 40 Under 40 include (listed in alphabetical order):

Aimee Copas  
Amanda Godfred  
Andrew Christensen  
Andrew Eitreim  
Ashley Kingdon-Reese  
Ben Dold  
Brad Krogstad  
Brady Hansen  
Brady Nash  
Brandon Storm

Caleb Bulow  
Cam Knutson  
Chris Thorkelson  
Ciara Stockeland  
Deana Wiese  
Emily O’Brien  
Eric Sivertsen  
Gabriel Mejia  
Gerald E. Tracy II  
Jacob Mills

Jenni Huotari  
Jeremiah Christenson  
Jessica Ruhland  
John Berdahl  
John Dwyer  
Jonathan Sickler  
Kari Tews  
Katie Marcotte  
Lindsey Meyers  
Matt Bitzegaio

Mike Pagán  
Paul Jarvis  
Preston Page  
Rikka Brand  
Ryan Lagasse  
**Ryan Rivett**  
Stephanie Schoenrock  
Tana Trotter  
**Tanya Shafer**  
Taylor Cupp



# Confucius Institute Offers Community Classes

Starting in February and at the request of area community members, the Confucius Institute at Northern State University will begin offering Mandarin Chinese to individuals and businesses in Aberdeen and the northeast South Dakota region.

Participants with every level of interest and knowledge—from basic to conversant—are welcome. The Confucius Institute can accommodate all levels of interest and skill and promises a fun and engaging learning environment.

In addition to learning Mandarin, students will have the opportunity to learn about current customs and practices in China. Class sessions also will cover ancient Chinese traditions and arts, such as calligraphy, tea service, dumpling making, paper cutting, etc.

Sessions will meet twice a week at a time and on days that work best for each group. Classes will run for six weeks each with several sessions offered throughout the semester. Sessions will be taught by a Confucius Institute staff professor from the University of Jinan, China, who has been specially trained to teach Chinese as a second language. A \$45 class registration fee will cover the cost of books and supplies.

According to Confucius Institute Director Dr. Naomi Ludeman Smith, Mandarin is the most spoken language across the globe and is fast becoming the second most popular language to learn.

“While it’s true that becoming fluent in a second language like Chinese can take years of study, a basic knowledge and skill can offer an increased understanding and appreciation of China and it’s rich culture,” Ludeman Smith said. “These six-week courses will provide learners with a comfort level to begin interacting more confidently with their Chinese contacts.”

China boasts one of the world’s fastest growing economies, ranking third globally, and is predicted to match the U.S. in global influence in just a few years. “Learning Chinese and its traditions can enhance a person’s skill to thoughtfully understand

and engage with the China economy,” Ludeman Smith said. “We’ve already received inquiries from South Dakota business people wanting to become more involved in doing business in China.”

The Confucius Institute at Northern State University continues to expand on a growing international population in Aberdeen. There are 42 different global cultures represented on the Northern State campus, and several culture groups that call Aberdeen home. This same growth is happening in Brookings and Sioux Falls.

“As someone who has made my life studying intercultural activity, I find it wonderfully refreshing to see such diversity in this area,” said Ludeman Smith. “As a university, we have a priority to increase students’ global preparation. As a community resource, we want to allow individuals and businesses in the region and throughout the Dakotas to take advantage of the same opportunity to prepare for global involvement.”

Ludeman Smith concluded, “This is a grand opportunity to become one of the first to join the Confucius Institute’s community classes to learn Mandarin. While



learning Mandarin may sound challenging, we believe those who join us will have a fun time doing so.”

Learn Chinese and you’ll see the world in a slightly different way. Be sure to follow us on Facebook (ConfuciusNorthernStateU) for updates about future events and class offerings. Or email us at Confucius@northern.edu and we’ll get started on the journey together!

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# Drones: Unmanned Aircraft System



**Lynn Lander**  
Aberdeen City  
Manager

Each year municipalities are presented with problems and solutions because of changing times. Technology advances are the primary catalyst which forces cities to embrace or chase change. A hot topic making headlines be-

cause of the recent availability to the general citizenship at a reasonable price is the (UAS) unmanned aircraft system known as the drone.

The Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration established a task force which was comprised of individuals from a diverse group of aviation and non-aviation perspectives. The FAA charged the task force with the following objectives: Develop and recommend

minimum requirements for UAS that would need to be registered; Develop and recommend registration processes and Develop and recommend methods for proving registration and marking. The recommendations coming from the task force was a step to deal with the proliferation of recreational drones because the FAA already has rules that limit the use of drones for commercial purposes, like delivering packages. The Consumer Technology Association has estimated that 400,000 drones will be sold this holiday season in the United States. Upcoming registration should help deter improper usage in manned aircraft space. Manned aircraft space is that space above 500 feet above ground in populated areas.

Registration of unmanned aircraft may create some accountability. However, cities with any population densities will be looking at issues beyond protecting manned aircraft

space. The City of Chicago was the first big city to enact drone regulations. Some operating regulations enacted by Chicago included the following:

- No person shall operate any small unmanned aircraft over property that the operator does not own, without the property owner's consent
- Operate a drone outside the visual sight of the operator.
- Operate a drone over any open air assembly unit, school yard, hospital, place of worship, prison or police station, without the property owner's consent.
- No flying between dusk and dawn.
- No drones may be equipped with a firearm or other weapon.

I expect privacy advocates, drone enthusiasts, entrepreneurs and governmental officials will be busy addressing the newest technology evolution throughout the nation as well as Aberdeen.

## Transit Authority Coming to Civic Theatre Jan. 23

Transit Authority takes the stage in the Civic Theatre on January 23 at 7:00 pm for a musical salute to the greatest horn-driven rock band to ever hit the stage – Chicago. Since performing their very first shows together in the early spring of 2003, Transit Authority has become known throughout the U.S. as the premier tribute band to the iconic group Chicago.

Transit Authority has assembled some amazingly talented musicians who meticulously capture all the nuances of original recordings and will honestly make you believe you are witnessing the real thing performing mega-hits such as "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?," "Hard Habit to Break," "Saturday in the Park," "You're the Inspiration" and many more. Transit Authority's mission is to recreate the excitement of the original Chicago sound with each and every performance.

Tickets are on sale now at the ARCC complex – 225 3rd Ave SE - or online at

[reaArtsCouncil.com](http://reaArtsCouncil.com). Tickets start at \$8 (students), \$15 (adults) and \$25 (Premium). All seats are reserved.

For more information on Transit Authority or the Aberdeen Area Arts Council, please contact us at 605-

226-1557 or visit our web site at [www.aberdeenareaartsCouncil.com](http://www.aberdeenareaartsCouncil.com). Like us on Facebook for chances to win tickets to events.

## Winter Fun Starts Here!

The Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has been busy making plans for a wide variety of Winter activities. The Winter/Spring Brochure will be distributed in the Aberdeen American News on Sunday, January 3 and also is posted online at [www.aberdeen.sd.us/park-sand-rec](http://www.aberdeen.sd.us/park-sand-rec).

The Department offers many programs for youth of all ages. The Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center (ARCC) offers an extensive listing of youth classes like Pottery Pals, Me & My Shadow, Beginning Painting and Art Start just to name a few. In addition, the ARCC Dance Program offers classes for all ages. Other Youth offerings include Skating Lessons, Recreational Skating, Open Gyms and Tot Gym.

The Community School of Music is for grades 5 up through adults and offers private instrument lessons for most band instruments, an extensive Strings Program, beginning Guitar; as well as voice lessons.

Adults and Teens are not left out either! Women's Basketball league is being formed, along with Open Gyms, Recreational Skating and Cross Country Ski Lessons. There are many Fitness/Wellness classes such as Women's Morning Exercise, PiYO and Pilates. The ARCC Dance Program offers many adult classes as well. The ARCC offers an extensive variety of adult/teen classes in the areas of Pottery, Computer & Photography, Paint, Paper and Pen, Fiber

Arts, Jewelry Design and Special Interest classes including a variety of Dog Obedience Classes, Basic Car Care and Arts for Wellness offerings. The Social Dance Classes include Senior Line Dance, Country Two Step, Ballroom Dancing, Swing/Two Step Workshop and Salsa Classes. If you have thought about doing something new, now is the time! Take a Class at the ARCC!

Aberdeen Area Senior Center has a wide range of weekly activities, such as Pool, Whist, Line Dancing and Pinochle just to name a few. Several monthly activities are scheduled, such as the Young at Heart Book Club, Technology Club, Vet's Coffee Hour, Bingo and Scrabble. On top of all this there are many special events planned and a nice exercise room. If you are 50 and over this is the place to become involved!!

The YAPatorium provides a great place for teens to enjoy. We encourage youth ages 11 – 19 to come check out all the activities happening here! This includes Study Group, Art Crew, Pool Night, Magic the Gathering, Open Mic, Musician Jam and Movie Nights. The ARCC offer most of the adult classes also to teens, as well as Teen Only classes like Finger



Crochet a Rug, Wet Felting and Wire Sculpture. Don't forget the Teen gyms, Rec skating and Skating Lessons!

Special Events planned for the Winter includes Pepsi Hot Shot Competition, Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest, Optimist Club Family Free Throw Contest and the Corporate Cup.

Go Skating at our two Outdoor Ice Rinks—enjoy a cup of Hot Chocolate and Rental Skates are available if you can't find your own. Cross Country Skis can be rented at the Manor Park Rink and a trail is groomed in the park. In addition, the Odde Indoor Ice Arena is a great place to skate. Don't forget the Baird Park Sledding Hill! Check out the Winter/Spring Brochure and sign up for one of the many programs. Winter Fun begins with the Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

## Roland Pond Retires

Roland Pond retired December 24 from Insurance Plus after 21 years as a farm agent and department manager. He specialized in farm property and casualty; crop hail and multi-peril insurance. His honors include 2014 IIASD Crop Agent of the Year. Roland is a graduate of Northern State University and farmed for a few years before starting work at Production Credit Association in 1975. He worked there for 11 years before joining South Dakota Wheat Growers where he worked for seven years.

Roland is very active in the Aberdeen community; is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce and continues to participate in various Chamber committees. He is a past president and member of the Lions Club, is an accomplished vocalist and is active in the United Methodist Church, including singing in the Praise Team. He also was a member and performed with the Aberdeen Barbershop Chorus and was one of four singers in the Preacher's and Pal's quartet for many years.

Roland is married to Rita and they have a son Kevin who lives in Brookings with his wife Nichole.



## Northern Electric Wins Inaugural Year's Christmas Light Contest

Nominations were solicited for businesses in and around Aberdeen displaying the best Christmas lighting display. In its first year, the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Partners in Community Pride committee judged 18 businesses that were nominated by businesses and individuals for their holiday spirit. The contest, designed to encourage beautification of the community and promote holiday spirit, was promoted through the month of November with judging the week of December 6th.

The winner of the first Partners in Community Pride Christmas Light Contest, Northern Electric Cooperative, was announced at Christmas with the Chamber on Thursday evening, December 10. In addition to bragging rights for a year, Northern Electric received a prize package worth over \$1000 to include decoration/light allowance for next year, a catered meal for up to 30 people courtesy of JDH Construction, a free half page ad in the Progress magazine and a traveling trophy. Honorable mention went to Calvary Chapel.

Earlier in the week, several members of the Partners in Community Pride Committee toured the area with the task of judging the best outdoor (or visible from outside) business holiday light display. The contest is designed to encourage beautification of the community and promote holiday spirit. The following 18

businesses were judged for their Christmas lights and lighted decorations: Primrose Corporate, Avera Mother Joseph Manor Retirement Center, Northern Electric, Northwestern Energy, Anthony's Jewelers, Nicolet Park, Siegel Barnett & Schutz, Malchows, Engel Music, Schwan Financial, Geffdog, Spitzer Miller Funeral Home, Avera St. Luke's Hospital, House of Glass, Central Park, Dacotah Prairie Museum, Calvary Chapel and Climate Control.

For more information about next year's contest or about the Partners in Community Pride Committee, please call the Chamber at 605-225-2860.



*Kellie Ecker, Chairman, Partners in Community Pride Committee, presents the Holiday Spirit Traveling trophy to the Northern Electric Cooperative, the first business to win the Chamber's Christmas Light Challenge. Char Hager and Ben Dunsmoor accepted the trophy at Christmas with the Chamber on December 10, 2015.*

## Biggest Loser Community Challenge Begins Soon!

Healthy people, healthy companies and healthy communities is what the Biggest Loser Community Challenge is all about...and Aberdeen is taking part! It's a company wellness competition beginning this February, featuring:

- Fun Company vs. Company Competition
- Powerful Team Building
- 8 Weeks of Unique Challenges
- Individual Private Wellness Accounts
- Interactive Health Tools
- Dynamic Leaderboards
- Motivation from Celebrities
- Challenge Mobile App
- Over 10,000 Prizes to be Won!

For just \$100 per team of 4, you can get all this and help your employees on a journey to a healthier life. For more info, check the Chamber's Facebook page, call us at 225-2860 or email [lisa@aberdeen-chamber.com](mailto:lisa@aberdeen-chamber.com).



# Winners Announced for Big Idea Competition

The 9th Annual BIG Idea Competition was a BIG success with 263 entries involving over 400 students from 37 schools. The event wrapped up Thursday, December 3rd, on the campus of Northern State University and the winners were determined from among the eight final entries with over \$5,000 in cash and scholarships awarded.

Haley Ketteler of Pierre T.F. Riggs High School took first place with Bent Perspective, an Origami store focusing on teaching the customers how to make origami artwork. Second place went Caveman Custom Iron by George Bernard and Mark Wesolick of St. Thomas More High School, hand-crafted ironwork that could be used for home décor and tools. The third place prize went to MaKayla Price of Wessington Springs High School with KP Photography which is a photography business that gives one fifth of their profits to charity.

The Marketing Design competition is an option for students create a logo and ad for their business idea. The \$500 cash award was sponsored

by McQuillen Creative Group. One hundred ten entries were judged in this category, and the winner was The Calving Book App by Ellen Schlechter of Faulkton High School.

The final event required finalists to make a 6 minute presentation on their idea for the four final judges – Chad Evans of Centennial Homes, Paul McDonald of Dacotah Bank, Paula Carlson of Great Lakes Higher Education Corp., and Rod Tobin of Siegel, Barnett & Schutz. After the presentations, all participants were invited to a panel discussion with Peri Malsom of CJ's Patisserie, Terry Schiltz of Ag Sense, and Brett Newton of World Classrooms. They spoke about all aspects of being an entrepreneur. Each panelist shared their achievements and struggles in starting and owning their own business, and offered advice for those who might one day want to turn their BIG Idea into reality.

The BIG Idea Competition encourages students to consider new ideas as well as opportunities that can be implemented locally and to

support them in creating an entrepreneurial view of their future. The competition is coordinated by the Small Business Development Center. Sponsors for 2015 included Sanford Health, East River Electric, REED Fund, Midcontinent Communications, Dacotah Bank, Student Loan Finance Corporation, Northwestern Energy, Aberdeen Development Corporation, McQuillen Creative Group and the Tom and Danielle Aman Foundation. The Competition is a result of the input and collaboration of many organizations including: Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, Aberdeen Downtown Association, Aberdeen Catholic School System – Roncalli High School, Aberdeen School District – Central High School, Northern State University, and Presentation College.

Questions regarding the competition can be directed to Kelly Weaver of the Small Business Development Center at (605) 626-2565 or [kweaver@midco.net](mailto:kweaver@midco.net). For more information about the competition, see [www.BIGIdeaSD.com](http://www.BIGIdeaSD.com).



### Winners with Sponsors

SEATED L to R: Mark Wesolick, George Bernard, Haley Ketteler, and MaKayla Price. STANDING L to R: Brady Carda, Sanford Health; Kelly Weaver, BIG Idea Committee; Tracy Freidel, St. Thomas More High School; Jennifer Wegleitner, Presentation College; Cheryl Ulmen, Pierre Riggs High School; Charlotte Mohling, Wessington Springs High School; Dr. Bill Broucek, Northern State University; and Kila LeGrand, Sanford Health.



### Marketing Design Winner – The Calving Book App

Abby McQuillen, McQuillen Creative Group; Mary Schlechter, Faulkton High School; Jennifer Wegleitner, Presentation College; Ellen Schlechter, Faulkton High School; Dr. Bill Broucek, Northern State University; Kila LeGrand, Sanford Health; Kelly Weaver, BIG Idea Committee; and Brady Carda, Sanford Health.

Picture Credit: Dawn Sahli Photography

# Am I Getting Paid for This? Employee Travel Time



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

Employees often have love-hate relationships with work related travel. Although 'traveling for work' conjures up visions of conferences in the Bahamas, complete with powder sand beaches and drinks with little umbrellas, the reality is often a

one day trip across the state in July, fueled by gas station coffee, while driving the company car with the broken air conditioner. In each case, there are specific rules that must be complied with as to what travel time must be compensated.

## COMMUTING VERSUS WORK TRAVEL TIME

An employee who travels from home to work before starting the regular work day, and returns to home at the end of the work day, is engaged in ordinary home to work travel, which is not compensable work time. However, the law requires

that a nonexempt employee be paid for travel during work hours. For example, if you require an employee to travel to another location on the way to work to perform a task, such as purchasing office supplies, then the time the employee arrives at the store until she travels to the office is compensable work time.

## WORK ON A ONE DAY ASSIGNMENT

An employee who regularly works at a location in one city, but is given a special one day assignment in another city, must be compensated for that work time. Time spent traveling to and returning from the other city is work time, except that the employer may deduct time the employee would normally spend commuting between the regular work site and home.

## OUT OF TOWN AND OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Travel that keeps an employee away from home overnight is travel away from home. Travel away from home is compensable work time when it overlaps with the employee's workday. This includes both hours

worked on regular days during normal working hours, but also during corresponding hours on nonworking days. This means that when nonexempt employees travel out of town or overnight for work purposes, some portion of the travel time is usually compensable as work time and may even result in overtime.

For example, if your employee must travel to an airport for a flight, the travel time from home to the airport is treated as noncompensable commute time. However, the time spent at the airport and traveling to the business location is compensable work time. The same is true when the employee travels back home.

However, as a general enforcement policy, the Department of Labor will not consider as work time that time spent in travel away from home, outside of regular working hours, as a passenger on an airplane, train, boat, bus, or automobile.

Problems can arise for employers who fail to properly count hours as compensable travel time. Further questions about this or any other business topic may be directed to me at 605-225-6310.

# New Seed Grant for Business Led Initiative

Did you realize the Chamber's Workforce & Education Committee is starting a new business led initiative in 2016? It's a grass roots venture to find and support businesses that wish to employ people with disabilities. Thanks to a seed grant through the State's Department Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Aberdeen will be one of three new locations (along with Yankton and Brookings) to be included in the expansion of the program that began in Sioux Falls in 2009. Rapid City was added last year.

The Chamber has completed a letter of intent requesting approval for the grant to start the business initiative. The \$10,000, one-year contract, will begin January 1, 2016, with possible future funding available. A group of local business representatives have

been identified to be members of the Task Force being formed to establish goals for the year. The Task Force will work to expand the number of business-led organizations that employers can go to for education, technical assistance and consultation when employing individuals with disabilities.

A link to the full report that started the initiative can be located online at [www.dhs.sd.gov](http://www.dhs.sd.gov) under Employment Works Task Force, Full Report. For more information,



contact Laura Stoltenburg at South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services; 626-2398 or [laura.stoltenburg@state.sd.us](mailto:laura.stoltenburg@state.sd.us).

# End of Fall Wrap-Up



**Dr. Bill Broucek**  
Business Dean  
Northern State  
University

This month's Progress article will be an end of fall, both calendar and academic semester, wrap-up retrospective.

Much of our efforts this semester revolved around entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship contests. In early October we

sponsored two students and a faculty member to attend Innovation Expo in Sioux Falls. Autumn Schulz, a Business Administration major who plans on completing a mortuary science graduate program, tied for first place with her idea of developing a novel means of honoring their departed loved ones. (Because Autumn is still developing her idea I cannot go into further detail.)

A few weeks later we sponsored Lexi Ward, a Management major to attend Start-Up weekend also in Sioux Falls. She worked on a project involving a new

app. This was the third consecutive year when the NSU School of Business has sent students to Sioux Falls to attend these events.

This November, in celebration of Global Entrepreneurship week, the Center of Excellence in International Business and Entrepreneurship sponsored Mr. Kunal Mehta, a New York based serial entrepreneur and author, to give a keynote lecture and act as one of the judges for our second annual Pitch Competition in which students submitted short videos of their ideas. Eight finalists were chosen who then worked with business faculty as well as faculty from the other schools and colleges of NSU to develop their pitches before a "Shark Tank" of five panelists.

To say that the atmosphere was electric that evening would be an understatement. We had lights, cameras, a 100 person audience, and even "Shark Tank" theme music. Some of the students appeared a bit nervous but they handled the pressure well and certainly gained presentation creds while being in the tank. I'm not going to say who won

because every student who participated that night won. These experiences are things that cannot be taught but need to be experienced. Once experienced, they produce benefits that can't be quantified but that last forever.

In December, I helped (by mainly staying out of the way) with the culmination of the Big Idea competition for high school students. Eight finalists from across the state presented their ideas sans cameras, lights, and audience to the judges. Later they did face an audience when they gave elevator pitches of their Big Ideas. Again, anyone who participated in this event was a winner in my opinion.

Finally, while much of this activity has been going on, I have been sitting in on Dr. Ohmer's Entrepreneurship class the latter part of the semester and hearing the final business plans of his students. The atmosphere is a bit more relaxed but some of the ideas that I heard made me wish that they had been submitted to the Pitch Competition. Northern seems to be bursting with great entrepreneurial vision. It was a great semester.

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## NSU Awarded \$1.4 Million TRIO Student Support Services Grant

A \$1.4 million TRIO Student Support Services Grant awarded to Northern State University will benefit the 165 students served annually by TRIO SSS at NSU.

This grant, distributed by the U.S. Department of Education, will be awarded over five years. Specifically, funds will be used to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education.

The mission of TRIO SSS at NSU is to empower students by providing a community of support and services that promote personal, academic, and professional growth and achievement. To be eligible for TRIO services, students must meet one or more of the following criteria: be the first in his or her family to pursue a four-year degree, meet income qualifications, or have a documented disability.

Northern's new director of TRIO-Student Support Services, Laci

Hettick, said her goal is to help the SSS program grow on NSU's campus.

"In the past, the program has had wonderful, hard-working, and dedicated directors and staff," she said. "I am hoping to not only keep the momentum going, but to expand services in certain areas."

Right now, TRIO services include academic advising, financial literacy, tutoring, peer mentoring, equipment checkout, and workshops and other programming. In the next five years, Hettick said the hope is to expand offerings in the areas of graduate school and career planning by partnering with NSU's Career Development Office.

"A key component to ensure SSS participants succeed is to connect them with career options and outlooks early and throughout their postsecondary education. In addition, influencing the development of non-cognitive factors of participants in the SSS program will play a large



*northern State* university

role in the growth of participants as they progress through their postsecondary careers," she said.

Non-cognitive factors are students' skills, attitudes, beliefs, behaviors and strategies, as they relate to academic performance.

"The goal of the NSU SSS program is to provide a foundation of non-cognitive skills that will help participants not only navigate through and succeed in postsecondary education, but also translate into having success in their careers and personal lives," Hettick said.

## 41 Countries Represented at 5th Annual NSU Culturefest



Forty-one countries from around the world were represented at the fifth annual Culturefest at Northern State University.

A total of 1,158 people attended NSU Culturefest, held Friday, Nov. 6, in the NSU Barnett Center. That includes 686 K-12 students repre-

senting 20 schools (18 high schools and two elementary schools), 215 Northern students and 257 adults.

The Culturefest Committee would like to extend a special thank you to all of the groups, sponsors, volunteers and supporters for their help in making this year's event a suc-

cess. The committee would also like to thank the high school teachers, chaperones and students for their participation.

Committee members look forward to seeing everyone again next year at the sixth annual Culturefest on Friday, Oct. 28, 2016!



# Community Celebrates Christmas with the Chamber

Christmas with the Chamber was held on December 10th, 2015 at The Dakota Event Center. Midcontinent Communications hosted the event and gave away a flat screen TV and goodies to all of the guests. The lucky winner of the TV was Brent Brandt.

The event featured both a live and silent auction of items donated by Chamber members. Over 100 items were auctioned off with benefits going toward the work and projects of the Chamber. Lance Vilhauer was the auctioneer this year with Katie Washnok as his trusty assistant.

In addition, this year the Chamber again offered a wine pull as well as a liquor pull. Individuals purchased a bottle of wine or liquor and with that purchase had a chance to win \$500. The lucky winners were Lorna Johnston of Century 21 and Mike Williams of Northwestern Energy.

Special thanks to the Chamber Diplomats who helped facilitate the event. Another thank you goes out to all of our Chamber members who donated items for the live or silent auctions and wine/liquor pulls.




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# Fueled by South Dakota



**Kristi Noem**  
US Representative  
(R-SD)

It might surprise many of us, but there are a lot of people out in D.C. who don't seem to know the difference between South Dakota and North Dakota. I know my counterpart in North Dakota often gets the question: "Is that the state with Mount

Rushmore?" No, that's South Dakota. For me, the question is: "Are you the state with all of that oil?" No, that's North Dakota, but while North Dakota has all that oil, South Dakota's corn and soybean production plays its own role in America's energy security.

Every year, South Dakota harvests more than 400 million bushels of corn and 100 million bushels of soybeans. These commodities provide a pathway toward North American energy independence that can help boost our economy and our national security.

Today, about one-third of the petroleum used in the United States is imported from foreign countries, according to the U.S. Department of

Energy. Most of this petroleum is refined into gas or diesel. Especially with conflicts arising in energy-rich areas of our world, the need to decrease our reliance on foreign fuels grows every single day. Now is the time to double down on domestic energy production, but unfortunately, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking to let off the gas.

In early 2014, the EPA proposed new Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volumes. These volume requirements, which impact corn-based ethanol and biodiesel alike, tell refineries how many gallons of renewable fuels should be blended into our overall supply. This gives both farmers and consumers more certainty and greater price stability.

The EPA's initial proposal was very disappointing, as the agency moved to significantly roll back our commitment to ethanol and biodiesel. Not only could this curb production, but the move would send the wrong message to investors, risk jobs, and threaten the creation of more developed biofuels.

I, along with a bipartisan group of 30 lawmakers, reached out to the EPA shortly after their announcement. It was important that they reverse course.

When the final numbers were announced in late November, the RFS remained beneath the levels I believe are appropriate. Nonetheless, the EPA did adjust the requirements at least slightly higher because of the pressure we put on them.

Especially at a time when the Middle East remains so volatile, our commitment to homegrown renewable fuels should not be in doubt. While the EPA is backing down, I am not. In recent weeks, I introduced an extension of the biodiesel tax credit. This legislation would ensure that domestically produced biodiesel was given a \$1-per-gallon tax credit through the end of 2016. The legislation has bipartisan support and I'm hopeful it can be wrapped into an end-of-the-year tax extenders package.

My number one responsibility is to keep the American people safe – protecting economic opportunities comes in at a close second. By throwing our support behind homegrown fuels rather than foreign oil, we are accomplishing both and creating a nation that is fueled by South Dakota in the process.

## Chamber Challenges You to Get Involved

The Government Affairs Committee of the Chamber has a busy schedule lined up over the next couple of months to keep you involved and informed about the South Dakota legislative process.

### Pre-Legislative Tour

Join us as we hear from South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry President David Owen. David will preview the 2016 legislative session from the South Dakota Chamber's perspective. The event will be held at the Best Western Ramkota on Thursday, January 7th from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Cost for lunch is \$13.00 for Chamber Members and \$18.00 for non-members.



### State of the State Address

We are proud to host Honorable Governor Dennis Daugaard on Thursday, January 14th at 12:00 pm at the Best Western Ramkota. The Governor will present the State of the State Address. Cost for lunch is \$13.00 for Chamber Members and \$18.00 for non-members.



Daugaard. Meet us there or call Gail at the Chamber if you would like to ride the bus and attend the SD Chamber Banquet that evening as well. The more the merrier!

### Cracker Barrels

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee is hosting three Legislative Cracker Barrels in 2016. They will be held on Saturday, February 20th, Saturday, February 27th, and Saturday March 5th. Cracker Barrels will run from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. They are a great opportunity for community members to speak with District 1, 2 and 3 legislators about bills and issues that are being discussed in Pierre. The Cracker Barrels are open to the public and free of charge.

### Aberdeen Day at the State Legislature

We're hopping a bus and heading to Pierre for Aberdeen Day at the Legislature on Thursday, February 18th. Our contingent will promote Aberdeen in the Capitol Rotunda, attend committee meetings, listen to Aberdeen's All City Chorus on the Capitol Steps, and meet one on one with Governor Dennis

# Delivering On Our Promise to the American People



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

In December 2014, Republicans were preparing to take control of the Senate – the first time Republicans would control the upper chamber since 2007 – and follow through on the promises we made to the American people.

Republicans were serious when we pledged to get Washington working again. It wasn't a half-hearted slogan we used to campaign for the majority, it was a commitment by which we intended to govern in the majority.

Republicans pledged to tackle the big issues, which is why in just the first few weeks of the new Republican majority, we sent a bill to President Obama that would have approved the long-stalled, job-creating Keystone XL pipeline. We also passed important legislation that gave the American people a voice on the president's misguided nuclear agreement with Iran, a ten-year balanced budget that didn't raise a single dime in taxes, a bill that funds America's men and women in uniform, numerous resolutions that would block burdensome EPA regulations, legislation

that defunds Planned Parenthood, and a bill that repeals Obamacare.

I was glad we were able to help secure the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) expansion, which was an effort nearly nine years in the making. As I said in March 2015 when the expansion was first announced, while this was a long process, I'm proud we're able to provide our servicemen and women with the resources they need to be successful in a combat environment. In early December 2015, PRTC commanders and airmen completed their first of what I hope will be many successful large force exercises.

It was a humbling experience to play an integral role in getting the first long-term highway bill in more than a decade signed into law. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, of which I am chairman, can be credited with nearly half of the legislative text included in the final version of the bill, including reforms that will enhance safety, provide regulatory relief, streamline grant programs, and improve the accountability and efficiency of oversight efforts. Having served on the conference committee

that negotiated the final version, I was in a unique position to ensure South Dakota's interests were given key consideration.

States like South Dakota that depend on freight rail to ship products to and from their communities will benefit from the important Surface Transportation Board (STB) reforms that I helped usher through the Commerce Committee and full House and Senate. These reforms – the first of their kind for the STB – will end the uncertainty faced by businesses and agriculture producers and help protect the consumers who are ultimately impacted by disruptions in freight transportation.

While we've been able to accomplish a lot of important things for the American people, there is more work to be done. We plan to spend the second year of the 114th Congress the way we've spent the first: fighting to make our economy stronger, our government more efficient and more accountable, and our nation and our world safer and more secure.

## Retail Coalition Launches January 13

A partnership between local retailers, The Chamber, and the Aberdeen Police Department, the Retail Coalition allows retailers to share information, ideas and discuss employee training. If you're a retailer, and you're interested in learning more about dealing with retail theft, make plans to attend. The first meeting of the Retail Coalition will be held in the Community Room at the Public Safety Building, 114 2nd Ave SE, on Wednesday, January 13th at 10:30 a.m.



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# Black & White Ball: Champagne & Chocolate

Presentation College's annual Black & White Ball is set to take place February 20, 2016!

This year's theme, "Champagne and Chocolate," will celebrate the college's 65th anniversary with festive flair! The evening includes a cocktail hour, dinner, dessert, silent and live auctions, plus musical guest "Tami and the Bachelors."

The Black & White Ball is the College's largest scholarship fundraising event of the year. You won't want to miss it!

Call 605.229.8454 to reserve your place today! Sponsorships, tables and individual tickets are available.



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**ERIC PAYNE ATTAINS MASTER FARM CERTIFICATION DESIGNATION**

Eric Payne of Insurance Plus of Aberdeen, has achieved the On Your Side® Master Farm Certification designation from Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company,



Des Moines, IA. Master Farm Certification is the next step in Nationwide Agribusiness' On Your Side Farm Certification program. Farmers and ranchers can depend on a Master Farm Certified agent to have an in-depth understanding of their farming operations, provide detailed risk assessments, educate them about exposures, match coverages to meet their needs, and provide professional, knowledgeable service.

"We're excited Eric has become Master Certified," said Eldon Swinger "We have made a commitment to help protect farmers and ranchers in our area with the highest levels of professionalism and service. Master certification tells our area farmers that we'll keep investing in training to be sure we're positioned to help protect them now and into the future."

The Master Farm Certified des-

ignation is also intended to help farmers and ranchers recognize agents who have made a continuing commitment to understanding the complex risks faced by the agriculture industry. Only agents who successfully complete the program will be awarded the designation, and agents must uphold education and service commitments to retain their Master Certification.

"Nationwide Agribusiness developed this multi-level certification program to provide additional education and resources to insurance agents who have made a commitment to protecting farms and ranches," said Jerry Hillard, Farm Sales AVP, Nationwide Agribusiness. "We're proud of the agents who complete the program and are excited about the level of service farmers and ranchers can expect from partnering with Master Farm Certified agents."

Insurance Plus is an independent insurance agency, with a rich heritage resulting from a merger of firms whose influence in the Aberdeen community and area spans over 100 years. As an independent agency they represent over 25 different insurance companies, which provide coverage for all types of risk. Contact Insurance Plus by calling 605-225-4270 or emailing eric@ins-plus.com.

**ABERDEEN HEALTH AND REHAB INTRODUCES NEW DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Aberdeen Health and Rehab is pleased to announce and welcome Mike Brown as their new Director of Marketing and Community Relations. Mike will hold



a vital role in the overall development of Aberdeen Health and Rehab's senior living community, rehabilitation services and transitional care. Mike will be responsible for the development and implementation of marketing strategies, coordination of public relations activities as well as maximizing referral communication. Mike comes to Aberdeen Health and Rehab with over three years of marketing experience as an Account Executive at Hub City Radio. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Aberdeen Area Arts Council, Mike is greatly involved in the Aberdeen community.

Aberdeen Health and Rehab, a Tealwood Care Center, is a 95-bed skilled nursing facility located at North Highway 281, specializing in short term rehabilitation, long term care and secure memory care.

*Please submit staff changes, additions, promotions or recognitions for Business Briefs to Lisa Anderson at [lisa@aberdeen-chamber.com](mailto:lisa@aberdeen-chamber.com).*

*Please join us for food, drinks and a great time -bring your friends and family\* too!*

**OPEN HOUSE**

Wednesday, January 20th, 5:30pm-7pm

\*Special announcement at 6pm\*

Aberdeen Senior Center  
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Contact Amanda Twete (228-1072) or Allison Disbrow (290-0332) with questions.





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SECRETARY OF STATE  
SHANTEL KREBS

South Dakota Secretary of State  
Q3 BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY

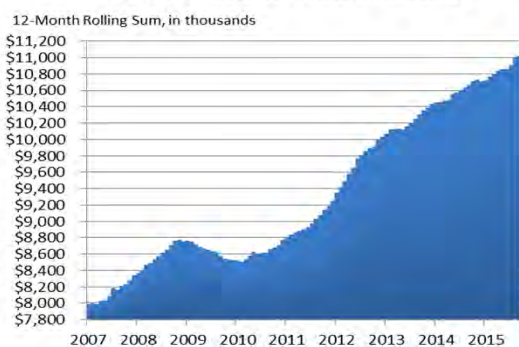
In partnership with the  
Secretary of State



Third Quarter 2015

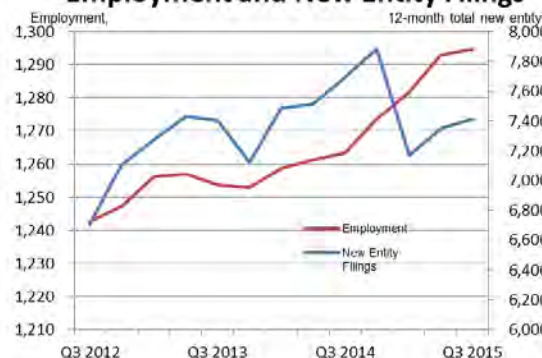
**Secretary's Minute:** By running efficiently, operating like a business, and meeting statutory compliance, we were able to generate an additional \$1.5 million for a total of nearly \$7.5 million turned over to the state's general fund. A 25% increase in revenue. The Secretary of State is most likely the first government institution that a new business will come in contact with. It is my belief that first experience with government in South Dakota will shape the impression of South Dakota's entire business climate, which is why it is so important for us to work together to ensure South Dakota offers a first-rate experience for everyone in the business and lending community.

South Dakota Taxable Sales



Source: South Dakota Department of Revenue

Employment and New Entity Filings



Note: Red line displays actual seasonally adjusted employment numbers. Source: Seasonally adjusted South Dakota total nonfarm employees from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Labor Market Information Center, SD Department of Labor.

Third Quarter 2015 Economic Highlights

- Trade name and Trademark filings slipped in Q3.
- SD unemployment rate is ranked the 5th lowest in the U.S. at 3.5%, a decrease of 7.9% over Q2 2015.
- Most national economic indicators improved in Q3.
- Building permits were up by 3.1% in Q3.
- Employment growth has continued in Q3.
- Building permits were up by 3.1% in Q3.
- Although retail sales slightly dropped in Q3, taxable sales grew by 1.4% in Q3.

SOUTH DAKOTA	Current Period	3 Months Prior	Percent Change over Prior Period	Annual Percent Change	5 Year CAGR*
<b>Wealth</b>					
Personal Income (millions of dollars)	38,414	39,518	-2.8%	▼	-1.3%
Retail Sales, 12 mo. trailing (millions of dollars)	27,451	27,511	-0.2%	▼	6.2%
Taxable Sales, 12 mo. trailing (millions of dollars)	11,014	10,864	1.4%	▲	3.3%
<b>Business Outlays</b>					
Annual Wages per Employee	9,919	10,283	-3.5%	▼	3.0%
Retail Gasoline Price (dollars per gallon)	2.38	2.74	-13.1%	▼	-23.0%
<b>Economic Overview</b>					
Employment (in thousands)	431,600	431,000	0.1%	▲	1.8%
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.8%	-7.9%	▼	6.1%
Initial Jobless Claims	174	226	-23.0%	▼	-2.8%
Continuing Jobless Claims	1,021	1,447	-29.4%	▼	-2.8%
Building Permits, Number of Units, 12 mo. trailing	4,510	4,374	3.1%	▲	-9.2%
Valuation (thousands of dollars), 12 mo. trailing	667,678	662,139	0.8%	▲	-10.4%
FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price Index	256	251	2.0%	▲	3.2%
Total Business Bankruptcy Filings	10	11	-9.1%	▼	0.0%
Chapter 7	7	4	75.0%	▲	0.0%
Chapter 11	-	1	-100.0%	▼	-100.0%
Chapter 13	2	4	-50.0%	▼	100.0%

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Quarterly Personal Income (SA)(Q2/15); South Dakota Department of Revenue (NSA) (8/15); South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (SA) (Q1/15); US Energy Information Administration, Weekly Retail Gasoline and Diesel Prices, Midwest (10/19/15); Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES (SA) (8/15); US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (NSA) (9/27/15); Census Bureau, New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized (NSA) (8/15); FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price Index (SA) (Q2/15); Administrative Office of the US Courts (Q2/15). \*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

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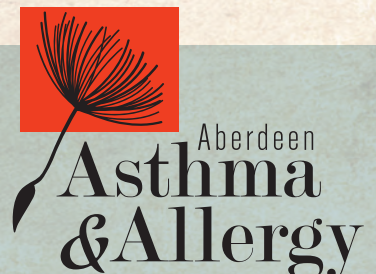
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