

progress

MAGAZINE

2021 | JULY - AUGUST

aberdeen-chamber.com

Avera St. Luke's Hospital
celebrates
120 YEARS

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aberdeen
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The Official Magazine of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce

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celebrates
120 YEARS

When the diphtheria epidemic struck Aberdeen, the Presentation Sisters opened St. Luke's Hospital on Oct. 18, 1901.

In the 12 decades since, we've faced epidemics and the most recent pandemic. We've torn down and rebuilt. We've expanded our services, increased our footprint, merged, consolidated and moved services or facilities, and grown our employee base. We've welcomed babies — like the Fischer quintuplets in 1963. We've adapted to changes in capacity, demand, technology and more.

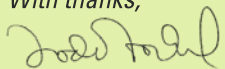
And we've always felt supported by this community and those communities surrounding it.

We are blessed to have such a rich history in Aberdeen and we look forward to continuing to provide compassionate, quality care in our region. Our employees work hard and tirelessly to meet the need of the day, just as the Sisters did 120 years ago. Each one carries out the Avera mission as the hands and feet of Jesus.

We're blessed and humbled.

Happy Birthday,
Avera St. Luke's Hospital!

With thanks,



Todd Forkel
Regional President and CEO

Highlights BY DECADE

FIRST DECADE 1901-1910

- A diphtheria epidemic in Aberdeen led to the beginning of Avera St. Luke's Hospital. On Oct. 18, 1901, St. Luke's Hospital, a 15-bed facility, was dedicated as the Presentation Sisters' pioneer health care facility.



FIFTH DECADE 1941-1950

- The Lincoln Hospital placed north of the hospital was completed in April 1941. Known as the Annex.
- A polio epidemic swept the region in the mid-1940s, and St. Luke's became the Center for the National Foundation for Polio.
- Six iron lungs were flown in, and physical therapy services began for the first time.

EIGHTH DECADE 1971-1980

- The Annex building deed was transferred to the Presentation Sisters, who renovated it as housing for the Sisters and long-term nursing care. It was renamed Lourdes Hall.
- A new South Wing was added to the 1928 hospital building.

11TH DECADE 2001-2010

- In 2006, a new four-story, 70,000-square-foot addition housing ICU, the Surgery Center, the BirthPlace and physician clinics was completed.
- Grew to more than 1,500 employees in the hospital, clinic and long-term care divisions.

12TH DECADE 2011-2020

- New addition in 2012 to the Physical & Aquatic Therapy Center consolidated outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies.
- The Avera Cancer Institute moved into the newly constructed Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence in 2016.
- St. Luke's Careflight merged with Avera Careflight in 2017.
- By the end of the decade, the Avera Human Performance Center opened.

SECOND DECADE 1911-1920

- Another wing was added to the hospital in 1913.

THIRD DECADE 1921-1930

- In 1926, the South Dakota Department of Health required the updating of hospital facilities. The Sisters built a newer, expanded hospital — resulting in a facility with 159 beds in 1928.
- Physicians' wives organized the Auxiliary in 1925 to raise money for charity care.

SIXTH DECADE 1951-1960

- The School of Anesthesia opened in 1951.
- The first floor of the medical Annex was designated as a mental health clinic.
- St. Luke's Auxiliary reactivated in 1959.

NINTH DECADE 1981-1990

- By 1981, the hospital grew to 160 beds and 20 bassinets, a medical and dental staff of 66 members and 472 full-time employees.
- In 1988, St. Luke's consolidated with the other private hospital in Aberdeen, Dakota Midland Hospital. This changed the name to St. Luke's Midland Regional Medical Center.
- Additional space allowed the start of a comprehensive Rehabilitation Center.



13TH DECADE BEGINS 2021

- Providing quality care amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Moving forward with master campus plan, starting with the decommissioning of Lourdes Hall and the former Northeastern Mental Health buildings.



FOURTH DECADE 1931-1940

- The former Lincoln Hospital was purchased. Moving the four-story brick structure was an immense job to undertake, and work began Sept. 14, 1940, for the 11-block move.

SEVENTH DECADE 1961-1970

- In 1962, Sr. Stephen Davis, hospital administrator, organized the Citizens' Advisory Board.
- The Fischer quintuplets were born Sept. 14, 1963, giving St. Luke's Hospital worldwide recognition.

10TH DECADE 1991-2000

- The hospital received international spotlight with the birth of the Schweitzer/Uchytill twins. The twins were carried by their grandmother, but were the biological children of her daughter and her daughter's husband.
- A new East Wing was built in 1993.
- The hospital merged with long-term care facilities at Mother Joseph Manor in 1994.
- In 2000, the Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen and the Benedictine Sisters of Yankton joined their health ministries and became co-sponsors of a new organization called Avera Health. St. Luke's became Avera St. Luke's Hospital, co-sponsored by the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters.



Get Involved in Aberdeen This Summer!



Gail Ochs
President, IOM,
Aberdeen Area
Chamber of
Commerce

During the summer months, most of us are a little more relaxed and for some, it is the time to maybe work a little less and have a little more fun. Especially after the year we have had, right? But why not use some of your time this summer to give back to our community? A few hours of your time could really make a difference in your life and the lives of those around you. Think about what causes or organizations you are passionate about and get involved in them. You can also get your kids, family and friends involved. Once you've decided to help, why not increase your impact by asking friends and family to join your cause. Kids are home and looking for something to do and it is never too early to teach a lesson of compassion and community. Sure, relaxing is great, but helping others is also proven to be good for the mind, body, and soul. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Volunteer With A Local Non-Profit Organization. Now is a great time to get to know Aberdeen and find out what type of involvement would be the most helpful. This could be volunteering to serve food at the Salvation Army, helping with projects for the Brown County Fair, organizing

donations for Safe Harbor, or helping set up the downtown summer concerts. There are so many ways to give back. Check out local non-profits and their needs at www.chamberforgood.com/aberdeen

- Clean Up. Picking up trash might not sound too appealing, but there are hundreds of places including parks, playgrounds, trails, and ditches around our area that could use some TLC. This takes no planning or advance notice, and you can include your whole family. Just bring some gloves and a couple of garbage bags and clean up the space as you enjoy using it.

- Do a Random Act of Kindness for A Neighbor. Volunteering your time and energy can help strengthen your neighborhood with simple gestures of kindness. Lending a helping hand to a neighbor who is juggling handfuls of groceries, moving a piece of furniture, or how about mowing their lawn. A generous act can leave a lasting impression.

- Donate What You No Longer Need. We have several places in Aberdeen where you can donate items that you no longer need, but can be used by somebody else. Donate at the Salvation Army, Goodwill, Roncalli Nearly New, The Help Build It Center, Kids Against Hunger, and more. If you are going to donate, make sure it's good – clean, not broken, and appropriate for the time of year. You may want to call before you drop off to check if what you are donating is needed right now.

- Participate in Fundraisers and Charity Events. Aberdeen has several events scheduled this summer that benefit our local non-profit organizations and other good causes. By simply participating in these events, you help them keep their doors open and offering their services to the community. So, get that golf team together or buy a raffle ticket today! See many of these events at visitaberdeensd.com

- Serve the Elderly. Elderly people are the backbone of our community but unfortunately, often are the ones most looked over. Look out for your elderly neighbors and help them with small tasks that will keep them independent and living in their own homes. Or why not contact a local nursing home or assisted living center and see if there is someone you can visit or somehow you can help. This past year has been difficult and many in a nursing home have no family or friends to visit.

- Start A Club or Team. If you are complaining that there's "not a _____ in my area," take the initiative and start one yourself. There are probably at least a few others thinking the same thing. Whether it is a sports team or interest group, others will appreciate you stepping up and taking ownership. You may want to check out Facebook to see if anything similar exists. If not, go for it!

I hope you have a great summer and choose to explore new ways to give back and make an impact. As Booker T. Washington said, "those who are the happiest are those who do the most for others".

BARN DANCE FUNDRAISER



Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.

LIVE BAND @ 8:00PM BY:



Avenger Joe

September 18, 2021
 Doors Open - @ 4:00PM
 Dinner Served - @ 5:00PM
 Silent Auction - @ 4:00PM
 Live Auction - @ 6:15PM

Ticket Price
 Individual \$20 – Family \$40
 -Tickets can be purchased at the Hitch 'N Post or at the door!



SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center
 38815 130th St. Aberdeen, SD
 1 mile N. Holgate Middle School
 (605) 226-1099



JACK THOMPSON RIDING ARENA

Chamber Leadership

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Kellie Kolb, Chair-Elect	SD Mfg & Tech Solutions
Katie Washnok, Vice Chair	Blackout Industries
Todd Forkel, Treasurer	Avera St. Luke's
Dr. Sandra Welling, Secretary	Presentation College
Jack Hollinsworth, Past Chair	JDH Construction

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Stacie Wiedeubush	Finance & Administration
Karni Spieker	Membership & Engagement
Julia Coon	Outreach & Events
Alice	Support & Logistics

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Brodie Mueller	Market on the Plaza
David Novstrup	Allevity Entertainment/Wylie Thunder Road
Matt Prehn	Midstates Group
Andy Rehder	3M Company
Carn Schock	Climate Control
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Spencer Sommers, ADA Board Liaison	CO-OP Architecture
Guy Trenhaile, CVB Board Liaison	Healthcare Plus FCU
Mike Bockorny, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Development Corp.
Casey Weismantel, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Area CVB
Shelley Westra-Heier, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Downtown Assoc.

www.aberdeen-chamber.com • 605.225.2860



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COVER: Avera

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Aberdeen, SD 57401



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Companies. For advertising opportunities,
contact Jason Pelzl at 605.225.5287 or
1.800.456.2431

The Chamber is "Back in the Game"

It is an exciting time of year here in Aberdeen this summer. Summertime heat is in the air and bringing with it the abundant activities that a flourishing community like ours has to offer. The Chamber has been very busy so far this year with our activities and events we host in order to serve our businesses, members and individuals. A highlight of some of the events were:

- The second Business After Hours mixer of 2021 – Yelduz Shrine
- Community Affairs Luncheon with US Senator John Thune
- Edge Event at the Aberdeen Wings Game
- 2021 Chamber Golf tournament at Moccasin Creek Country Club
- The third Business After Hours mixer of 2021 – Malchow Plaza

Here are some more events planned for July and August:

- The fourth Business After Hours mixer of 2021 – CashWa Distributing
- Leadercast - at the DEC
- New Faculty Luncheon – at the DEC
- Brown County Fair Pancake Breakfast – Holum Expo Building
- Collegepalooza – Downtown Aberdeen

I wish to remind you again, that your Chamber membership extends to you and your employees and we welcome your involvement! Whether you take advantage of our advertising opportunities, take part in one of our seminars, sponsor an event, serve on a committee, or attend one of our networking events, your engagement will help you develop your business network through invaluable connections.

We recently celebrated the graduation of the 2021 Leadership Aberdeen class. The Leadership Aberdeen program is designed to analyze characteristics associated with leadership, develop individual skills, and gather an awareness of trends, challenges and issues that face the Aberdeen area. The class members spent their time learning more about our community as well as developing their individual skills. The area leaders in business and industry and our local government officials play a huge part in the success of this program with the valuable time they spend educating the class on their areas of expertise. The Leadership Aberdeen employers and families are greatly appreciated for allowing them the time spent to learn and grow through this program. We know that each of the participants gained insight of the community, developed new friendships and provided value to their employers.

I hope to see them continue their Chamber relationship by volunteering for our committees and participating in the many Chamber events. A job well done.

Our Chamber is enjoying a hot summer filled with great activities. Please remember to share your ideas, your time, and your talents while we keep the Aberdeen Area successful, relevant, and vibrant.



Robert Goscicki
2021 Chamber
Board Chair, Area
Federal Credit
Union



ADA Benefits Everyone



Eric Vetter

Century 21,
RentAberdeen.com
& Mayor's Advisory
Committee for
People with Disabilities;
Chamber
Ambassador & Member
of the Enhance
Aberdeen Committee

Thirty-one years ago on July 26, 1990, a law called the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed. You may think to yourself that this law really doesn't matter to you, right? Consider this statistic: one in every four 20-year-olds will become disabled before they reach the age of 65. At the age of 16, I thought I was invincible, and it never crossed my mind that I may one day have a disability due to an accident. It has been 28 years since that day, and I have been in a wheelchair ever since.

Without this law, imagine needing to go to a store to get something, needing to use a rest room, or wanting to go to a sporting event only to realize there is no way you can get in because you have to go upstairs. Having this law in place makes all these activities possible along with ensuring access to reasonable accommodations in employment, access to public services, telephone relay services and many other things that may be taken for granted. This law has meant freedom to so many people and may mean something to those who unfortunately don't know they will become disabled, whether it be for 30 days or for the rest of their life.

Sometimes you may not realize the ways you

benefit from the ADA. For example, the curb cut at the end of a sidewalk that you or your kids use each time you ride their bike from street to street is due to the ADA. Each year, the Aberdeen Mayors Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities celebrates the signing of this law by having a celebration. During this time, individuals can try out different products and learn about services that help people with disabilities every day.

This year, we are planning our celebration the afternoon of July 25th at the Red Rooster. Don't forget to like and follow our Facebook page for updates on this event. You can follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/Aberdeenmayorsadvisorycommittee>. Come enjoy free food, free entertainment, and even try out my track wheelchair if you'd like! Happy 31st birthday ADA! You have changed the lives of millions of people.



Leadership South Dakota Alum Includes Sommers

Spencer Sommers, Design Architect with CO-OP Architecture in Aberdeen, is a recent graduate of Leadership South Dakota, Class of 2020-2021. Graduation was March 26th in Chamberlain, SD.

The 40-person class visited the communities of Pierre, Brookings, Rapid City, Yankton, Mission and Sioux Falls where they heard from speakers including US Senator John Thune, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, US Representative Dusty Johnson, US Senator Mike Rounds, Sioux Falls Mayor Paul Tenhaken, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender, Mike Huether, and more.

Leadership South Dakota builds leadership, critical thinking and public speaking skills through instruction and experiences participants won't get anywhere else that prepare them to become the

next generation of leaders in the state. Their Mission & Vision Statement is: Leadership South Dakota inspires leaders for a stronger South Dakota by connecting leaders who will invest in themselves, engage communities and elevate South Dakota.



Congratulations Spencer!

THE 2021 DOWNTOWN SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

WILL BE HELD STARTING AT 6PM AT THE MALCHOW PLAZA!

JULY 15TH: RHINO

AUGUST 27TH: BON JOURNEY



FOR MORE DETAILS GO TO [HTTPS://ABERDEENDOWNTOWN.ORG/EVENTS-PAGES/SUMMER-CONCERTS/](https://aberdeendowntown.org/events-pages/summer-concerts/).



New Building

Enhance Aberdeen Business Recognition

The following business was recognized by the Chamber's Enhance Aberdeen Committee for exterior improves made to their property that increases the quality of life for our residents.

Aberdeen Development Corporation/Malchow Plaza
506 South Main Street

New Chamber Members

Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean, Owner
605-229-0123 • 402 N Main St, Aberdeen
dakotaoutdoors@midconetwork.com



Dakota Outdoors has a variety of sporting goods for every season and is the area's only full-service bike (including BMX), fitness, and hockey shop. They also have the largest dart selection in the area. Services include skate sharpening, skate rental and repair & maintenance of bikes & fitness equipment.

Germ-A-Light

Peter van Vuuren, Owner
605-216-9321 • peter@germ-a-light.com
1020 6th Ave SE Ste 1, Aberdeen • germ-a-light.com



Reduce germs, bacteria, and viruses with UV and visible lighting solutions. While disinfecting and cleaning your facility. Germ-A-Light's UV sterilized SaniLEd will save you cash, time, and energy. Their vision is to unlock the incredible power of light for a better world and healthier lives. They attain this by living their values, dedication, passion for sustainability, and a chance to improve people's lives. Approved by the EPA, SGS, and FDA.

Rural Gold

Krysti Mikkonen, Owner
605-380-3770 • krysti@ruralgold.com
104 S Main St 3M, Aberdeen
ruralgold.com



Rural Gold tells the story of success and the gold that can be found even in rural places. It's about helping amazing businesses, their owners and individuals dig in and find what makes them unique & amazing through website development, social media marketing, consulting, coaching and more. Their goal is to get you on the path to pure gold, both the intrinsic inner gold and the valuable real gold that has a solid dollar value, to give Rural Gold clients the life they always wanted.

seventh annual
BANDS, BREWS & BBQ

SATURDAY **JULY 31st** **CENTENNIAL VILLAGE**
12:00pm - 12:00am
Free Entry/Free Will Donation

MUSIC STARTS AT 1PM
with The Union Cattle Band taking stage at 9pm

Cornhole Tournament starting at 5pm
Food Vendors and Cold Drinks all day

seventh annual
BANDS, BREWS & BBQ
S.D. Snow Queen Festival
Aberdeen, S.D.

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proceeds benefit SD Snow Queen Scholarship Fund

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seventh annual
BANDS, BREWS & BBQ
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Aberdeen, S.D.

for more info
check us out on
Facebook!
SD Snow Queen

50%
payout

presented by the South Dakota Snow Queen Festival

CORNHOLE
TOURNEY

\$25
per team

JULY 31st

4pm Registration
Bags Fly @ 5pm

Bags provided or bring your own!

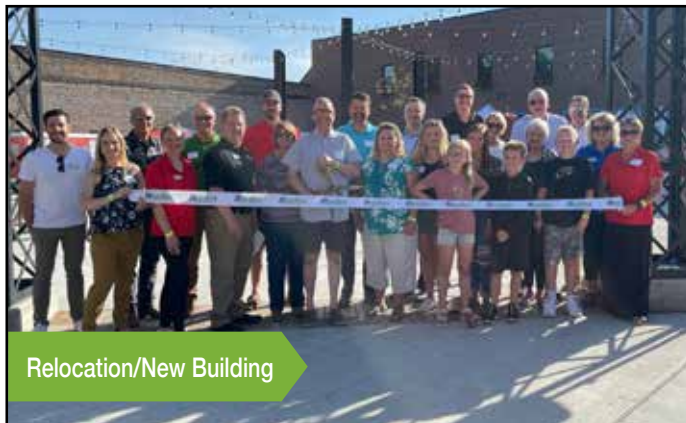
Centennial Village - 400 NW 24th Ave, Aberdeen SD

Ambassador Visits



New Business

365 Nutrition
 Sheimarie Medina
 603 Riverside Dr • 605-252-6800



Relocation/New Building

Aberdeen Development Corporation & Malchow Plaza
 Mike Bockorny, CEO
 506 S Main St • 605-229-5335 • adcsd.com



New Business

Blank Canvas Salon
 Amanda Harr
 601 Riverside Dr • 605-725-2244



New Business

Blessing Cuts
 Angel Casanova
 603 Riverside Dr • 605-824-2270
 facebook.com/Blessing-Cuts-101332135369238



Relocation

Dakota Broadcasting
 Michael Anthony, General Manager
 506 S Main St, Ste 3 • 605-725-5551
 dakotabroadcasting.com



Relocation

Helms & Associates
 416 N Production St • 605-225-1212
 helmsengineering.com

Ambassador Visits

Business Milestones



Liquid Capital of the Dakotas
 Bob Baker
 208 S Main St • 605-216-2196
 sd.liquidcapitalcorp.com



Aberdeen Catholic Foundation
 David Vetch, Executive Director
 13 2nd Ave SE, Ste 6 • 605-218-0072
 aberdeenroncalli.org/support-acss/aberdeen-catholic-foundation



Rohly's Bar
 Pat Rohl & Michael Rohl
 1524 6th Ave SW • 605-225-9629
 facebook.com/Rohlys-Bar-111644595538800



Diamond Dry Cleaning & Laundry
 Aaron & Haley Salem
 1108 6th Ave SE • 605-262-0132
 diamonddrycleaningandlaundry.com



TripleC Window Cleaning
 Ethan Westby, Owner
 605-777-0489 • triplecpros.com



Merxbauer-Maier Dental LLC
 D. David Lee Merxbauer & Dr. Taylor Maier
 1021 Circle Dr • 605-725-0800
 thebestdentalcenter.com

Business Milestones

Congratulations to these businesses and organizations on their milestone anniversaries!



Aberdeen Home Builders Association
320 S Main St • 605-225-2055
aberdeenhba.com



Runnings
1815 6th Ave SE • 605-226-2600
runnings.com



Wireless World
3828 6th Ave SE • 605-225-5999
wirelessworld.com



Borns Group
Virgil Borns & Lee Borns
503 N Brown County 19 • 605-226-3356 • bornsgroup.com



Lutheran Social Services
110 6th Ave SE, Ste 200 • 605-262-6300
lsssd.org



Aberdeen School District
1224 S 3rd St • 605-725-7100
aberdeen.k12.sd.us

avera eCARE SENIOR LIVING SERVICES NOW OFFERED AT PRIMROSE

Primrose Retirement Community in Aberdeen Cottages – Memory Care is now offering Senior Care services through Avera eCARE®.

Avera eCARE Senior Care provides 24/7 telehealth access to geriatric-trained clinicians, ranging from registered nurses to certified nurse practitioners, physicians, pharmacists and more, specifically for assisted living, memory care and retirement communities like Primrose.

Utilizing a mobile cart equipped with advanced virtual care technology, local staff can easily consult with the eCARE Senior Care team regarding fall assessments, minor illnesses or health issues, questions about medications and more.

Residents benefit from improved access to care, improved health and well-being, and avoided trips to clinics and emergency rooms. Residents and family members also appreciate access to specialized care around the clock and on weekends.

Primrose Retirement Communities, LLC, headquartered in Aberdeen, South Dakota, provides high-quality independent living, assisted living, and memory care communities across the country which specialize in personalized services and resident-focused care. The mission of Primrose Retirement Communities is to create happy and healthy living environments for seniors. Since the opening of the first Primrose community in Aberdeen in 1991, Primrose has grown to include over 40 locations in 19 states. For more information, contact Jessi Weldon, Director of Sales & Marketing at 605-226-3300 ext. 3988.



FLAKUS NAMED NSU FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND CEO

Zach Flakus has been named the new President and CEO of the Northern State University Foundation.

Flakus, a Northern alum and longtime NSU administrator, started his new position leading the Foundation in mid-June.

Most recently, Flakus worked as General Manager of Jackrabbit Sport Properties (South Dakota State University) for Learfield/IMG College, in Brookings. Prior to that, he served as NSU Deputy Director of Athletics, as well as Director of Athletic Development/Associate Athletic Director and Associate Director of Alumni Services, both for the NSU Foundation.

"I'm thrilled for this opportunity to return to Northern and lead the Northern State University Foundation," said Flakus, who received his bachelor's and master's degrees from NSU. "It's an exciting time for the NSU campus and I'm looking forward to continuing the positive momentum."

Michael Bockorny, chairman of the NSU Foundation Board, said Flakus was the right choice for the position.

"His history with Northern and extensive industry experience are the perfect combination to guide the Foundation forward," Bockorny said. "We're thrilled that he's taking on this position, and excited for what the future holds."

Flakus replaces former Foundation President and CEO Todd Jordre, who retired in April after serving in the role since 2004.



FLAKUS

ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021 STAFF RECOGNITION

- Megan Maple, MME 5th grade teacher - LG Electronics USA and InnerExplorer Teacher Super Hero award

- Dr. Becky Guffin – honored by the SD Superintendent's Association as South Dakota Superintendent of the Year. This is a prestigious award recognizing exceptional leadership in South Dakota.



Maple



Mach



Guffin



Brownell

- Josh Mach – honored by the SD Basketball Coaches Association as 2020-21 Region 1 Assistant Boys BB Coach of the Year.

- Gene Brownell – honored by the South Dakota High School Athletic Administrators Association as Region 1 Athletic Director of the Year.



Swenson



Heerman

- Michael Swenson - South Dakota High School Coaches Association's 2021 Middle School Wrestling Coach of the Year.

- Peggy Heermann – honored by Special Olympics North America as South Dakota Coach of the Year.



Board of Directors

- ASD Board of Education - Associated School Board of South Dakota (ASBSD) Gold Level Award. The ASBSD Board Recognition Program is designed to recognize school boards for their dedicated and ethical service to the students of South Dakota. This program will recognize board members' participation in outside activities, board development and training, and demonstrated leadership at various areas and levels.

"IT STARTS WITH US" CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S CENTER AT AVERA ST. LUKE'S

The Avera Foundation in Aberdeen announces "It Starts with Us," a campaign to support the remodel of the Women's Center at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. The campaign launched on Mother's Day, May 9.

"It Starts with Us" will provide a full remodel of the existing Birth Place, allowing space for the following:

- New welcome center
- Private entrance
- Renovated family suites
- Remodeled nursery
- Dedicated operating suites
- Family areas
- Enhanced educational space and state-of-the-art technology

In accordance with Avera's Gospel value of compassion, the plans include an Angel Suite. Unfortunately, not all births go as planned. Situations where moms and dads leave the hospital without flowers, balloons and, most importantly, the child that they had planned a life for happen all too often. The time provided in the hospital is precious as it is the only physical time the family has with their child. It would be incredible to have the patient and family "sheltered and protected" during this extremely unimaginable time.

That is why the Angel Suite will be a protected and private area designed for families challenged by stillborn/neonate bereavement and miscarriages. The calming environment provides an area in the hospital for families challenged by stillborn/neonate bereavement and miscarriages. The environment also provides a homelike setting to make the overall experience gentler for all involved.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Avera 
St. Luke's

Absolutely @ The Legislature: 2021 Interim



Julie Johnson

Attorney at Law
and Registered
Lobbyist

South Dakota has a “citizen legislature”, which means that they get their work done and then they go home, essentially. Yet, a lot of work gets done in what we call the “legislative interim”—the period of time between legislative sessions.

During the 2021 Legislative Interim, there is a considerable amount of work being done by legislators, study committees, and the business community. Legislators are busy, as are those who represent various business groups.

Marijuana Studies—There are two very important marijuana studies: the Medical Marijuana Study and the Adult Use Marijuana Study. Without getting into them too deeply, two groups are looking at the details of implementation of the two ballot measures that passed last November. Like the passage of either measure or not, there are many important provisions that were not included in the language passed by the voters. And one ballot measure, “recreational marijuana”, is pending a constitutional challenge in the SD Supreme Court.

What does this mean for business? Neither ballot measure is ready to implement in South Dakota. Thus, business should await the next steps before entering into these business sectors. Much remains in this realm.

Housing Study—A very important study has been undertaken on needs for workforce in housing. This work has begun. Aberdeen’s work in this area will be important in the learning and next steps here. Housing is an issue in nearly every community across the state. There are a lot of hopes for this study.

Redistricting—Another important interim project for Aberdeen (and the whole state) is the Legislative Redistricting Committee. This committee does the work to look at the census data and redraw the lines of the legislative districts in order “reapportion” the population of each legislative district. Ten years ago, this was a very difficult undertaking, particularly for Aberdeen. The committee has a process it has put in place to gather input and make decisions, for approval by a special legislative session on November 8 and 9 in Pierre. Included in the process is a hearing in Aberdeen on Oct. 14. Pencil that in on your calendar.

Mental Health of First Responders—This work continues some work begun a few years ago in the “interim” to look at mental health services, which is important work.

Appropriations—The Interim Appropriations Committee also does a lot of important study of issues throughout the interim.

Others—There is an assortment of other legislative committees working in the interim: Government Operations and Audit, Rules Review, Retirement Laws, Bonding, Ag Land Assessment, and the Legislature’s Executive Board.

In the midst of all of this, a committee of both houses has been created to track the American Rescue Plan and how the State could spend those recovery dollars allocated to the State. Stay tuned on this topic.

It turns out that I’ll pay attention to several of these committee on behalf of several groups or interests from our area. If you have additional curiosity about them, or needs for more detail, please feel free to reach out to me.

The Legislature is undertaking a considerable body of work in the 2021 Legislative Interim!



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MIXER Calendar

THURSDAY
JULY 8, 2021

CashWa Distributing (810 3rd Ave SE)
5:15-7:00 pm



THURSDAY
AUG 12, 2021

Pierson Ford-Lincoln (701 Auto Plaza Drive)
5:15-7:00 pm



THURSDAY
SEPT 23, 2021

Northern State University Regional Sports Complex (15th Ave & S State St)
5:15-7:00 pm



THURSDAY
OCT 14, 2021

Aberdeen Civic Arena (203 S Washington St)
5:15-7:00 pm

Manufacturing Month

THURSDAY
NOV 11, 2021

Dacotah Bank (308 S Main St)
5:15-7:00 pm



THURSDAY
DEC 9, 2021

Christmas with the Chamber at the Dakota Event Center (720 South Lamont Street)
Sponsored by Midco 5:15-8:00 pm



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Wiedebush Selected for Fellowship Program

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation recently announced Stacie Wiedebush, Director of Finance and Administration of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, was selected to participate in the fifth cohort of its premiere business leadership program. The Business Leads Fellowship Program trains and equips leaders from state and local chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, and trade associations with resources, access to experts, and a network of peers to build their capacity to address the most pressing education and workforce challenges.

"We created the Business Leads Fellowship Program in response to the needs of our state and local chamber partners," says Cheryl Oldham, Senior Vice President of the Center for Education and Workforce. "They, better than anyone, see the critical link between education and economic development, and we are glad to be able to support them as they take on this critical leadership role in their community."

Following a competitive application and selection process, Stacie Wiedebush was selected along with 34 other state and local chamber executives and association leaders to participate in the fifth class

of this program. The yearlong virtual program, which concludes with an in-person meeting in June 2022, will cover the entire talent pipeline, including early childhood education, K-12, higher education, and workforce development.

Upon completion, Business Leads Fellows will join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's dedicated network of 200 chambers of commerce and statewide associations from around the nation who regularly engage on education and workforce initiatives.

For more information on the Business Leads Fellowship Program, visit the program's website businessleads.uschamberfoundation.org.



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JULY 2 - AUG 6 - SEPT 3
 HANG OUT ON MALCHOW PLAZA
 AT 7PM FOR FREE LIVE MUSIC.
 VISIT ABERDEENDOWNTOWN.ORG/EVENTS/FIRST-FRIDAY FOR MORE DETAILS.

The Salvation Army is offering
sack lunches
 to children throughout
 the summer.

Students can pick up a sack lunch at these locations Monday through Friday.

16th Street Park	11:20 - 11:30 a.m.
Garfield Park.....	11:30 - 11:40 a.m.
Frontier Park	11:35 - 11:40 a.m.
Aldrich Park	11:50 - 12:00 p.m.
Manor Park	12:05 - 12:15 p.m.
Dakota Square.....	12:20 - 12:25 p.m.
Roosevelt Park.....	12:35 - 12:40 p.m.
Melgaard Park	12:55 - 1:10 p.m.
Central Park/YAPA.....	1:20 - 1:25 p.m.

NSU to Offer Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry This Fall

Starting in fall 2021, Northern State University will offer a new Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, which combines components of the biology and chemistry programs.

The degree will provide a strong background for health-related professional schools and careers, and will help prepare students for qualifying exams. It will also streamline the path to graduation for students, providing another option for those who double major in biology and chemistry.

"We're creating a program that's going to fit the needs of our students coming here for our pre-health programs," said NSU College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Alyssa Kiesow. "When you get into medical, dental or veterinary school, you have a better foundation than a student who would just have a chemistry degree or a biology degree because biochemistry bridges the two degrees."

The biochemistry program will also better prepare students for the qualifying exam to be accepted into a graduate program – for example, the MCAT for medical school, said Dr. Elizabeth Haller, associate dean, who oversees curriculum for CAS.

The creation of the biochemistry degree is an example of Northern responding to student needs. In the past, Kiesow said, only one biochemistry course was offered. But Dr. Jon Mitchell, associate professor of biology, kept hearing how much the course helped alumni in graduate school. So the course was expanded to two, and now, the entire program has been created.

That decision-making process is what NSU science programs strive for, Kiesow said. Similarly, faculty listened to student needs when the decision was made to have a full cadaver lab in the new Jewett Regional Science Education Center.

"We've been pushing to build our programs based on what the students have said and what students' needs are," she said.

That's also an indication of the kind of individualized learning students receive at Northern.

"We're a small institution really centered on student needs," Kiesow said. "We have one-on-one communication with our students and one-on-one

activities in the lab."

That doesn't happen in bigger schools, where graduate students often teach in labs and classrooms.

"We don't have that here," Kiesow said. "It's faculty teaching the lectures, faculty teaching the labs, faculty really shepherding the students through the process and providing the mentorship and guidance they need to get into the graduate schools."

One of the reasons Northern's acceptance rates for medical and dental school is well over 80 percent is because of that faculty support and guidance, she said.

Haller said Northern also provides numerous opportunities for undergraduate research, working directly with faculty.

"You're working literally side by side with a faculty member rather than with graduate students," she said.

For more information, visit <http://northern.edu/programs/biochemistry>, or contact NSU Admissions at 605-626-2544 or admissions@northern.edu.



Leadercast is the world's largest one-day leadership conference, broadcast LIVE from Cincinnati and simulcast to locations all around the world, including Aberdeen on **Wednesday, August 11th at the Dakota Event Center.**

Change is constant. Nothing ever goes quite as we planned. If we didn't believe this before 2020, we all know it now. Leaders everywhere are realizing that they must make major shifts in order to move forward to achieve their purpose. Changing directions is hard. It's risky. But it's the only way to get where we need to go. The speakers shown above are practitioners who have successfully navigated through their own personal and professional shifts.

- Registration and Breakfast Snacks: 7:30 am
- Start Time: 8:00 am
- Lunch Served: 12:00 pm
- Session Resumes: 1:00 pm
- Conclusion: 3:30 pm
- Cost: \$90 Chamber Members, \$110 Non-Chamber Members, \$70 for Leadership Aberdeen alumni and \$680 for a group of 8 from one business
- Register: www.aberdeen-chamber.com/leadercast, info@aberdeen-chamber.com or (605) 225-2860

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Having S'More Fun at the Chamber Golf Tournament

The annual Chamber golf scramble, with a camping theme, took place on Monday, June 7th at Moccasin Creek Country Club. Despite record-breaking heat of 99 degrees, the field of 29 teams kept their cool and all finished between 3 and 20 strokes under par. Thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible: 3M Company of Aberdeen, Area Federal Credit Union, Climate Control, Dacotah Bank, Domino's Pizza, Hub City Radio, Insurance Plus, JDH Construction, Legacy Financial Partners, Midco, Plains Commerce Bank and Quality Quick Print. Congrats to all flight winners!



Flight 1, 1st Place – Harms Oil/Transource
Eric Hamiel, Tom Hamiel, Scott Hamiel & Brandon Bulson



Flight 1, 2nd Place – Domino's Pizza
Marv Bonnet, Larry Bohling, Darin Duvall & Rachel Duvall



Flight 1, T 3rd Place – Eide Bailly LLP
Anthony Schwab, Jon Schwab, Jerry Johnson & Ryan Weigel



Flight 1, T 3rd Place – ZuntaFi
John Heier, Cole Kukowski, Eric Comstock & Spencer Aberle



Flight 1, 5th Place – Helms & Associates 1
Corey Helms, Randy Bacon, Bob Babcock & Bob Kieso



Flight 1, 6th Place – Mark Mehlhoff Insurance
Seth Anderson, Lorne Serr & Brian Jorgensen



Flight 1, 7th Place – Helms & Associates 2
Leif Redinger, Mike Schmidt, Brandon Smid & Lucas Hoover



Flight 1, 8th Place – Glacial Lakes Energy
Brett Hoffman, Dan Hoffman, Karen Hoffman & John Withers



Flight 1, 9th Place – READiTECH
Andrew Meyer, Scott Young, Michael Wegehaupt & David Malsam



Flight 1, 10th Place – US Senator Mike Rounds

Bob DeJong, Austin Hieb, Sara Mayer & Jennifer Hieb



Flight 2, 1st Place – Presentation College

Alex Tyrrell, Daniel Garrett, Marcus Garstecki & Andrew Hansen



Flight 2, T 2nd Place – Fore Drunks Sake

Carl Anderson, Kyle Haaland, CJ Huber & Dathan Spieker



Flight 2, T 2nd Place – US Bank

Jarrold Kannas, Troy Holtey, Jim Cramond & Jim Kuch



Flight 2, T 4th Place – Molded Fiber Glass/3M

Rod Ochsner, Ben Smith, Tony Schwan & Eric Schwan



Flight 2, T 4th Place – Midco

Paul Foust, Ben Ries, Zach Anderson & Cody Folden



Flight 2, 6th Place – KDSB

Dave Sandve, Jon Knott, Peyton Brust & Matt Dorfschmidt



Flight 2, 7th Place – The Gnats

Barry Winkler, Randy Utecht, Karl Alberts & Paul McDonald



Flight 2, T 8th Place – Northern State University

Terri Holmes, Layton Cooper, Justin Fraase & Saul Phillips



Flight 2, T 8th Place – Northern Valley Communications

Scott Stolle, Darren Torrence, Jeff Evenson & Brent Hanson



Flight 2, 10th Place – JDH Construction

Mike Herman, Jessica Rehder, Ona Hughes & Jack Hollinsworth



Flight 3, 1st Place – RAM Housing Specialists

Kayla Heuer, Sea Atwood, Travis Heuer & Rich Galbraith



Chamber Golf Tournament (cont.)



Flight 3, 2nd Place – AGP
Matt Smith, Eric Paulsen, Jeff Thaler & Colton Zumpfe



Flight 3, 3rd Place – Those Coaches Wives/ Shoe Science
Michael Hill, Laura Hill, Tiffany Langer & McKenzie Serfoss



Flight 3, 4th Place – Plains Commerce Bank 2
Jodi Kannas, Tammy Doerr, Lance Vilhauer & Vicki Jorgenson



Flight 3, 5th Place – BankNorth Warner
Carey Nilsson, Jared Steger, Chip Fuhrman & Jason Jung



Flight 3, T 6th Place – Huff Construction
Jordan Ryckman, Chad Huff, Todd Jordre & Steven Lust



Flight 3, T 6th Place – Plains Commerce Bank 1
Dan Amdahl, Rachele Carrels, Matilda Grobe & Jeff Grobe



Flight 3, 8th Place – Burdette Electric/Climate Control/Court Services/Department of Labor
Scott Geffre, Mike Brumbaugh, Brad Burdette & Cam Schock



Flight 3, 9th Place – Montgomery's
Mark Malchow, Jennifer Shawd, (Eric Farthing), Terry Glanzer & Neil Jensen



Sizzlin' SUMMER NIGHTS
AUG. 27-28 2021
MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN ABERDEEN

free concert friday night 6 pm - 11 pm
car & bike show saturday 4 pm - 8 pm

NSU Gypsy Day Parade Registration Now Open

After two years with festivities either reduced or canceled due to a winter storm and COVID-19, Northern State University is excited to once again celebrate its homecoming this fall.

Gypsy Day 2021 is Saturday, Oct. 2, with the 105th annual parade that morning in downtown Aberdeen. Parade registration is now open at this link: https://northern.formstack.com/forms/nsu_homecoming_parade_float_registration.

Entrants will decorate their float based on the theme, and a panel of judges comprised of Northern and community leaders will present awards in various categories.

Homecoming week takes place Sept. 27-Oct. 2, with the theme of "Wolves of the Galaxy." The week's festivities will also include coronation of a queen and marshal. Candidates are:

- Queen: Ashley Bruzek, Zoe Hardwick, Tyra Steinwand, Jordyn Sterud and Hattie Weismantel.
- Marshal: Matej Cip, James Heisinger, Jacob Swanson, Garret Thompson and Thomas Undlin.

This year, the annual Gypsy Day football game will be played in the brand new Dacotah Bank Stadium, part of the Regional Sports Complex opening this fall on the NSU campus. For ticket information, visit nsuwolves.com. For more information, visit the NSU homecoming webpage or contact the NSU Student Affairs office at 605-626-3007.



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Monday, August 2nd

Moccasin Creek Country Club

10:30AM Registration & Lunch

12:00PM Tournament Start | 5:30PM Awards Dinner

Each golf registration includes:

Green fees, carts, BBQ lunch, complimentary beverages, goodie bag, happy hour, sit down awards dinner, silent auction, putting contest, raffles, and other benefits!

presentation.edu/alumni/golf



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Net Proceeds to benefit Farm Rescue (farmrescue.org)
(This is a casual event. Prepare for South Dakota outdoor weather.)

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

Food stations include:

- Veggies & fruits
- Charcuterie (crackers, cheese, eggs, meat sticks, summer sausage, energy bites)
- Sheep, beef, pork, goat & dessert
- Beverages (wines & beers) included*
- Music by Seth Anderson
- Farmers Market

**Tentative menu. Subject to change.*

STORYBOOK LAND FESTIVAL

JULY 16-17, 2021



The Storybook Land Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 16 and 17, 2021 in Storybook Land in Wylie Park. There is no admission charge for this festival that features published children's authors, storytellers, entertainment and hands-on arts and crafts activities for children and adults of all ages. Come out for the day or the weekend and enjoy the park, stories, music, art, food and fun for all!

PUTTIN' FOR PAWS

Charity golf event to benefit the Aberdeen Area Humane Society

JULY 17 | 10 AM
18 HOLE, 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE
ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB
ABERDEEN, SD

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

Meal Included Along With Raffles, Prizes & Fun!

\$240/team

To register, call 605-228-4749, email aahsboard1200@gmail.com
 or online at www.anewleashonlife.net/golf



Chamber Big Dates

Ag Committee

Thursday, July 15, Noon, SDSU Extension
 Thursday, August 19, Noon, SDSU Extension

Ambassador Committee

Tuesday, July 13, Noon, TBD
 Tuesday, August 10, Noon, TBD

Brown County Fair Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, August 22, 8 am, Clubhouse at Fairgrounds

Business After Hours

Thursday, July 8, 5:15 pm, CashWa Distributing
 Thursday, August 12, 5:15 pm, Pierson Ford

Chamber Executive Board

Wednesday, July 14, 12 pm, Chamber & Zoom
 Wednesday, August 11, 12 pm, Chamber & Zoom

Chamber Full Board

Wednesday, July 21, 8 am, ADC Board Room & Zoom
 Wednesday, August 18, 8 am, ADC Board Room & Zoom

Community Affairs Luncheon

Thursday, July 1, Noon, Best Western
 Ramkota Convention Center
 Thursday, August 5, Noon, Best Western Ramkota
 Convention Center

Diplomat Committee

Thursday, July 8, 3 pm, Chamber
 Thursday, August 12, 3 pm, Chamber

Enhance Aberdeen Committee

Friday, July 9, 9 am, Chamber

Health & Wellness Committee

Wednesday, July 7, 8 am, Primrose Retirement Community
 Wednesday, August 4, 8 am, Happy Health Shack

Leadercast

Wednesday, August 11, 8 am, Dakota Event Center

Military & Veterans Committee

Tuesday, August 3, Noon, National Guard Armory

New Faculty Luncheon

Monday, August 16, Noon, Dakota Event Center

Table of Plenty

Monday, August 30, 5pm, Zion Lutheran Church

Transportation Committee

Tuesday, August 24, 3:30 pm, Chamber

Workforce & Education Committee

Thursday, July 22, 11 am, TBD
 Thursday, August 26, 11 am, TBD

The Chamber office will be closed Friday, August 20 due to working at the Brown County Fair.

Presentation College's Radiologic Technology Program Achieves 100% Pass Rate



Dr. Trisha Waldman

Dean of Health and Natural Science/Acting Dean of Social Science and Humanities, Presentation College



Carrie Mestas M.S. RT(R)(CT)

Radiologic Technology Program Director, Presentation College

Presentation College is proud to announce that the 2021 Radiologic Technology graduating cohort achieved a 100% pass rate for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification examination. The ARRT is a leading credentialing organization that recognizes qualified individuals in medical imaging.

"PC's curriculum is designed for students to learn concepts in-depth in the classroom prior to their clinical rotations. Students then have the unique experience of working with different registered radiologic technologists at our various clinical sites. This provides the students the advantage of seeing a variety of exams and the ability to apply the information they learned in the classroom. Students within the program also have the advantage of small class sizes and a low instructor-to-student ratio. The faculty, clinical partners, and students have the opportunity to form lifelong bonds throughout the time the students are in the program," said Carrie Mestas, Radiologic Technology Program Director at Presentation College.

Presentation College offers both associate degree and bachelor's degree levels in Radiologic Technology, as well as an online bachelor completion program for certified radiologic technologists. The bachelor's degree is accredited through the Joint Review Commission on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation offering accreditation of traditional education programs in radiologic technology. Accreditation by the JRCERT offers significant value to the Radiologic Technology Program at PC by assuring the program's continued excellence.

"We're very proud of our graduates! The students' success is evidence of both the hard work of the students and the dedication of the faculty and clinical sites that assist in educating PC's students. We are thankful to have great clinical partners who play a vital role in the development and support of our students, as well as faculty who continually challenge students to achieve their fullest potential," said Dr. Trisha Waldman, Dean of Health and Natural Science at Presentation



PRESENTATION COLLEGE

College.

According to the U.S. Bureau for Labor Statistics, the job outlook for Radiologic Technology is projected to grow 7 percent from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations. As the population grows older, there will be an increase in medical conditions that require imaging as a diagnostic tool. Additionally, South Dakota is ranked number two in the nation for states with the highest concentration of jobs and location quotients in Radiologic Technologists and Technicians.

Founded in 1951 in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Presentation College has a professional focus in undergraduate programs including Health and Natural Sciences, Nursing, and Social Science and Humanities. To learn more about Radiologic Technology at Presentation College please visit: www.presentation.edu today.

Diplomat Visit



DTOM Veterans Ranch

Chris Reeder, Founder/CEO

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Weekday Getaways Have Their Perks

Aberdeen is a popular weekend getaway. Those hoping to make a last-minute weekend camping reservation have learned that the hard way. All of the fun Aberdeen offers on the weekend is available during the week, usually with fewer people and sometimes at lower prices.

Americans are notorious for leaving vacation days unused, in 2018 that number was 768 million and experts estimate even more than that went unused last year due to the pandemic. So here's five reasons to use those vacation days this summer and book an Aberdeen trip Sunday through Thursday.

It's The Same During The Week

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

Shorter Lines

There's usually fewer people at attractions like Storybook Land and the Aberdeen Aquatic Center, meaning shorter lines for rides and water slides.

Deals

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

Less-stress Booking

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

Weather

Doesn't it seem like the nicest summer days are during the week when you're stuck at work? Get outdoors during the week and soak up that great weather before it disappears!

What are you waiting for? Start planning your Aberdeen escape today!



Katherine Grandstrand
Convention Sales & Marketing Director,
Aberdeen Area
Convention & Visitors
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JULY - AUGUST 2021

Religion in the Workplace

Religious freedom is one of the fundamental rights held by every person. While many employers are aware they cannot make decisions to fire or hire based upon a person's religious beliefs, religious discrimination can actually take many other forms easily overlooked, creating unintended liability. In 2020, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") processed over 2,600 complaints for religious-based discrimination.

One such complaint arose in Florida, where the EEOC argued Frito-Lay violated federal law when it fired a newly promoted route sales representative in the West Palm Beach area because he could not train for the position on Saturdays due to his religious beliefs. The employee completed approximately five weeks of training without having to train on Saturdays. However, despite learning he could not work on Saturdays because of his Seventh-day Adventist religious beliefs, Frito-Lay scheduled him to train on Saturdays and terminated him after he failed to report to training on two consecutive Saturdays. The Company agreed to pay \$50,000 to settle the religious discrimination lawsuit filed by the EEOC.

Complaints regarding time off to observe religious holidays are also on the rise. While employers commonly offer paid days off for Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter, what about similar paid time off for holidays recognized by other religions? As of now, the law permits employers to choose which holidays the workplace will be closed and those days employees will be paid holiday pay. But, if an employee requests a different day off citing religious

observance, the EEOC and courts caution employers to grant the request with at least unpaid time off as a religious accommodation.

Uniform policies are also being challenged. The EEOC recently filed suit against Greyhound Lines, Inc., the largest provider of intercity bus transportation in the United States, maintaining the Company violated federal law when it refused to accommodate the religious beliefs of a bus driver. According to the EEOC's lawsuit, a driver who is a practicing Muslim applied for a driver position at Greyhound's Baltimore facility. During the interview the driver told the supervisor for driver operations and safety that her religious beliefs require her to dress modestly by wearing a headscarf and an abaya, a loose-fitting ankle-length overgarment that conceals the outline of the wearer's body. Greyhound later refused to allow her to wear the abaya, claiming it would be a safety hazard, and proposed she wear a knee-length skirt over pants. The EEOC said that the driver was compelled to quit because the skirt-and-pants uniform proposal conflicted with her religious practice of modest dress by revealing the outline of her body.

These are just a few examples ways unintended religious discrimination can present itself in the workplace. If any employee tries to discuss a change in policy or procedure citing their religion, an attorney experienced in this area of the law should be consulted.

** This article is presented for informational purposes only and is not intended to convey or constitute legal advice.*



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The Chamber's Health & Wellness Committee met on the Briscoe Building Boardwalk for their June meeting. In attendance were Candace Briscoe, Profiling Beauty and Fit & Fire Studios; Robyn Ewalt, Avera; Annie Jacobson, Sanford; Patrick King, Agtegra; Jordan Mouna, Avera Addiction Care Center; Jessica Rehder, Primrose; Amy Sanderson, Northeastern Mental Health Center, Trisha Waldman, Presentation College; Jennifer Wagemann, Cornerstones Career Learning Center and Lisa Anderson, Aberdeen Chamber.

Goal Setting and Visioning as Essential Components of Community Development

On April 29, 2021 the City Council and City staff met together for a strategic visioning session. One of the purposes of the meeting was for the Council to hear department updates and priorities in advance of the 2022 budget planning that is now underway. The other purpose was for the City Council to update their goals and priorities for the immediate future. After the goals and priorities were created, additional strategies were developed to achieve those goals. The entire listing of goals and objectives was formally approved on June 7th. The goals and priorities are as follows.

City Operational Goals and Priorities

1. Water and Wastewater Improvements
 - a. Water supply
 - b. Water and wastewater treatment
 - c. Distribution and collection infrastructure
2. Parks and Recreation
 - a. Obtain land for future parks
 - b. Continue to enhance recreational opportunities
 - c. Moccasin Creek improvements
3. Administrative Planning
 - a. Staff recruitment, retention and recognition
 - b. IT improvements- website, social media
 - c. Ordinance review
4. Infrastructure Projects
 - a. Roads, bridges, and storm water
 - b. Public works facilities

Community Enhancement Goals

1. Business Recruitment
 - a. Retail incentives/recruitment
 - b. Business incubator and resources for new businesses
 - c. Strengthen downtown area/cityscape
2. Resident Recruitment
 - a. New resident welcome programs
 - b. Social media/communications
 - c. Student retention and engagement

For sake of space I have not listed the objectives related to each goal, which admittedly may make this list look a little empty. But rest assured, over the next several months you will often hear references to the goals and the status of the various goals at council meetings and in media coverage. I also plan to discuss some of these goals in future Progress articles. You will note the two categories of goals: 1) City Operations and 2) Community Enhancement. This shows a continued commitment from the City Council to not only plan for City operations, but also to be involved with a variety of community efforts and partners. The list points to maintaining a strong community and encouraging future growth. I hope you share my observation that living in Aberdeen is great and the future looks bright.



Joe Gaa
Aberdeen
City Manager

AAHRA: Not Just for Human Resource Professionals

The Aberdeen Area Human Resource Association (AAHRA) is looking for new members, and you're invited to join! Established in 1985, the AAHRA is an affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management. Whether you are new to the HR field or have many years of experience, we are a local starting point for networking, information, professional development and continued support of excellence in Human Resources. Even if your business does not have an HR department, we are here to help! Our group takes pride in also providing resources for business owners, line managers, and supervisors as they navigate the ever-changing and sometimes uncomfortable human resource environment.

Current officers include:

- Meranda Leidholdt, Aspire - President (mleidholdt@aspired.org)
- Kelly Comstock, Molded Fiber Glass SD - President Elect (kcomstock@moldedfiberglass.com)
- Kim Bowman, Dacotah Bank - Past President (kim.bowman@dacotahbank.com)
- Andrea Schwan, City of Aberdeen - Foundation Director (andrea.schwan@aberdeen.sd.us)

- Ashley Glaspell, Department of Labor - Workforce Readiness (ashley.glaspell@state.sd.us)
- Julie Johnson - Legislative Rep (johnson2@abe.midco.net)
- Kelli McCulloch, Department of Labor - Secretary/Treasurer (kelli.mcculloch@stated.sd.us)
- Kim Bot, Halo Branded Solutions - Membership Director (kim.bot@halo.com)
- Kristi Brockorny, NSU - College Relations (kristi.brockorny@northern.edu)
- Kristin Kroell, Agtegra - Social Media Director (kristin.kroell@sdwg.com)
- Laura Stoltenburg, Vocational Rehab - Diversity Director (laura.stoltenburg@state.sd.us)
- Kimberly Ludwig, Vocational Rehab - State Council (kimberly.ludwig@state.sd.us)

We host monthly meetings via Zoom or in-person where subject matter experts discuss different topics. These meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. CST. We would love you to join us! For more information on how to get involved, please contact Kim Bot at kim.bot@halo.com or Meranda Leidholdt at mleidholdt@aspired.org.



Meranda Leidholdt, SHRM-CP
Director of Human Resources, Aspire, Inc.

Innovation Programs Increase SD Small Business Economy



Jamie Wood
SBA
South Dakota
District Director

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs are coordinated by the U.S. Small Business Administration to assist small businesses in Federal Research and Development (R&D). Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR and STTR enable small businesses to explore technological development potential as well as increase revenue through commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated, and American entrepreneurial spirit increases while reaching specific research and development needs. For the purposes of these programs, the term "small business" is defined as a for-profit business with fewer than 500 employees, owned by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the U.S.

Approximately \$2.5 billion is awarded through the SBIR/STTR programs annually in federal contracts or grants. South Dakota's Gross Domestic Product has experienced positive impact due to SBIR and STTR. During the past 20 years, SD firms have competed for and won \$55 million in awards, over \$100 million in follow-on capital investments, supplied hundreds of high-tech jobs for SD college graduates, and created high-tech export

opportunities for global solutions.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is the largest participating agency with approximately \$1 billion in SBIR grants awarded each year. Over half the awards from the DoD are to firms with fewer than 25 employees and one-third to firms with fewer than 10 employees. Minority or women-owned businesses receive 20 percent of the annual awards. Historically, 25 percent of the annual recipients receive awards for the first time. In addition to the DoD, other major program participants include the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Central to the STTR program is the partnership between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. The STTR program requires small business to formally collaborate with a research institution in Phase I and Phase II. STTR's primary role is to bridge the gap between performance of basic science and commercialization of resulting innovations.

To learn more about these programs, visit <https://www.sbir.gov/> or connect with the SBA SD District Office at www.sba.gov/sd or call 605-330-4243.



15 JULY

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- Explore downtown
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Look for us at future events:




RELAY FOR LIFE *25th Anniversary*

September 10-11, 2021
6 pm - 6 am

Holum Expo Building
400 24th Ave NW
Aberdeen, SD

Blast from the Past

relayforlife.org/browncountysd

An American Transportation Revolution

From the beginning, the story of the U.S. auto industry has been one of ingenuity, of taking risks and of pushing forward. At the dawn of the twentieth century, most Americans could hardly comprehend the idea of the automobile. Yet twenty years later they had become nearly ubiquitous in American life, thanks to the insistence of entrepreneurs like Henry Ford on making the automobile affordable for the majority of Americans.

Automobiles allowed Americans to capitalize on the economic dynamism of the Roaring Twenties, and they helped Americans move and adapt during the Great Depression. They contributed greatly to the American industrial base and the know-how needed to fight and win the Second World War, and they helped propel the United States to its current status as a preeminent global economic and military power.

Visionary investments like the Interstate Highway System made cars a staple in American economic and cultural life. And cars certainly made it a lot easier to get to and from rural America. In a place like rural South Dakota, with limited public transportation, the automobile – often a pickup or an SUV – is typically the only way we get around.

Today the automobile industry stands on the brink of a new technological revolution, which promises to dramatically transform mobility once again.

Over the past three decades, the internet has transformed our economy and our way of life. And the next generation of the internet – 5G, which is currently being deployed across the nation – will enable a host of new innovations, including a revolution in vehicle technology: automated vehicles, or AVs.

AVs will change the way we move in numerous ways, making the transportation system safer, more efficient, and more accessible. Individuals whose mobility is currently limited – for example, Americans with disabilities – could gain new independence with the deployment of automated vehicles, allowing them to work or visit friends and family safely and easily. Or imagine a farmer in rural South Dakota who can no longer drive to get to town for appointments, prescriptions, or groceries. Access to an AV would provide an opportunity for folks to stay living on their farms as they age, or allow new freedom to those living with a disability.

For automated vehicle technology to advance, it is imperative that the regulatory framework catch up with private-sector innovation. That's why I've spent nearly five years working in a bipartisan manner on a legislative framework to govern the testing and deployment of AVs.

In the Senate, I recently introduced an amendment that I had hoped to be able to offer with bipartisan support. It would have paved the way for expanded testing and deployment of automated vehicles in the United States, under the oversight of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

My amendment, which is supported by the National Federation of the Blind, among other organizations, would have ensured that automated vehicles would not touch pavement without the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's certification that they are at least as safe as a conventional vehicle.

Unfortunately, bipartisan agreement on my proposal collapsed when special interests expressed their opposition. And I'm deeply disappointed that once again Democrats yielded to pressure from special interests against the best interests of our economy and the American people.

Advancing AV technology is not just a vehicle safety issue. It's also an issue of U.S. leadership and global competitiveness.

More than a century ago, when the automobile was invented, there were plenty of skeptics. But America's automobile pioneers didn't let that stop them. They seized the moment and pressed forward and ushered in a transportation revolution. We can do that again today. Or we can cede this moment to nations like China and let the American automobile industry fall permanently behind. I hope we'll choose to seize this moment and pass the legislation we need to usher in another American transportation revolution.



John Thune
US Senator (R-SD)

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Is Your Business Prepared for a Cybersecurity Attack?



Kelly Weaver

*Regional Director,
Small Business
Development
Center*

If you think your business is too small to worry about a cybersecurity attack, think again. A whopping 44% of small businesses were the victims of a cyberattack in 2016. 36% of these cyberattack victims lost money at an average annual cost of \$79,841. Nearly 60% of businesses fail within 6 months of a cyberattack. And 59% of small businesses have no contingency plan even though 66% of all cyberattacks target small or medium-sized businesses. In short, every business is at risk for a cyberattack.

Preparing for a cyberattack has a lot of parallels to general disaster planning – assess your vulnerabilities, address with updates and mitigation measures and have a response plan in place should the disaster actually occur. The pandemic exposed our readiness (or not) for a disaster. While we may be smarter about responding to future events, the online systems and remote working options that were put into place has increased our exposure rely all the more on cyberspace.

To understand what a cyberattack is, a couple of definitions are in order. Cyberspace is the global interdependent network of information technology infrastructures, including the Internet, telecommunications networks and computer systems. Information Systems are a discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination or disposition of information. Cyberattacks target an

enterprises' use of cyberspace for the purposes of disrupting, disabling, destroying and/or controlling data. Cybersecurity then, is simply the ability to protect or defend the use of cyberspace from cyberattacks.

There are a variety of ways in which cyber crimes are perpetuated. It is important that all members of your organization are familiar with these terms and know how to recognize them. Your network can be infected by just one person clicking on the wrong thing.

Common types of cybersecurity threats include:

- Malware is a type of software used to perform an unauthorized function or process. This unauthorized software can perform actions such as tracking keystrokes and keyboard events (key logger).
- Phishing is the practice of sending fraudulent emails in order to obtain sensitive data.
- Spyware is software that is secretly installed into an information system, often through fraudulent emails or websites.
- Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to extort money by blocking access to files or the entire computer system until the ransom is paid.
- A Virus is a type of program that replicates and infects a computer.

There are federal regulations governing data security and consumer privacy, which affect small businesses. Consult your legal and IT professionals to ensure compliance with federal and state laws

and regulations. Most notably, these laws deal with protecting consumer personal data, limits on collections, use and disclosure of financial information and health information.

More on Cybersecurity for Small Businesses

To encourage learning about Cybersecurity for Small Businesses, our national research partner SBDCNet.org has curated a collection of articles and abundant links to government and private organizations that specialize in cybersecurity. These can all be found at <https://www.sbdnet.org/category/small-business-cybersecurity/>.

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



June 7, 2021

2021 Free Spring Residential Cleanup Summary

(NO City participation/COVID)

April 23 – May 8, 2021

	TRASH	METALS	TIRES	TREES	TOTALS
BC LANDFILL	5,237 vehicles (2021) 895,620 LBS. (2021) (447.81 TON)	200,000 lbs. est.(2021) 100 ton	120,000 lbs. est. (2021) 60 ton	1,215 actual loads trees (2021) 364,500 lbs. estimate (2021) 182.25 ton (EST. x 300 lbs. per load)	6,593 vehicles (2021) 1,580,120 lbs. (2021) 790.06 ton
	6,927 vehicles (2020) 1,290,000 lbs. (2020) (645.00 TON)	400,000 lbs. (2020) 200 ton	1,400,000 lbs. est. (2020) NO LIMIT / Grant 700 ton	1,607 actual loads trees (2020) 482,000 lbs. estimate (2020) 241 ton (EST. x 300 lbs. per load)	8,534 vehicles (2020) 3,572,000 lbs. (2020) 1,786 ton
TOTALS					

VEHICLE COUNT LANDFILL: 6,593 (2021) : 8,537 (2020) : 4,297 (2019) : 4,179 (2018) : 4,592 (2017) : 3,911 (2016) : 3,866 (2015)

*PTE's: Passenger Tire Equivalents / 20 lbs. per tire
**2020 Tires: Grant / NO Limits

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**Aberdeen
Family
Fun
Festival**

Noon on
Saturday,
August 28,
2021

Melgaard Park

Meet Our Families!

Where you live matters and those who have walked this journey are often the best resources. Hear from residents themselves on life at Primrose.

How do you feel about current precautions?

I feel the staff is trying to keep us healthy and safe. We have no set rule except to wear our masks, which I feel we all should do.

How are you spending your time?

We have a wonderful staff. They keep us busy with activities like devotions, walking, crafts, etc. I love our activities.

How do you stay mentally/physically healthy?

I feel content here. I have wonderful friends to be with. We have awesome food. I have felt so much better since I moved there. They help us get to appointments.

How are you staying in touch with family?

I don't have lot of the new gadgets. I have a GrandPad tablet with which we keep in touch. Also my telephone, as I don't have a cell phone. I visit with family most everyday.

What advice do you have for others?

My advice is if you want a wonderful place to live, move here. You are welcomed with open arms by wonderful staff, and awesome food and activities!



Darlene H.
Primrose Resident

Please call Jessica at (605) 225-7626 for more information and see why our families say... *this is living!*


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ABBY Award Nominations Now Being Accepted!

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce will be presenting ABBY Awards in ten different categories at the Annual ABBY Awards Ceremony to be held on September 16, 2021. To be eligible to receive an award, businesses or organizations in the Aberdeen area must complete and submit an application to the Chamber by August 19, 2021.

To Apply: Businesses/organizations can go online to download and complete applications on their own behalf by going to <http://www.aberdeen-chamber.com/122/Award-Forms>. Or, if you prefer, call the Chamber at (605) 225-2860 and we can email the forms out to you.

To Nominate Someone: If you would like to nominate a business or organization in any of the categories listed below, give us a call at (605) 225-2860 or email: info@aberdeen-chamber.com and provide us with your nominee's name and contact information. We will do the rest!

What is the Award Process? Businesses/organizations may apply for awards in more than one category if the category applies to them. All applications are judged by Chamber and Economic Development professionals from across the United States. The People's Choice Award is the only award judged locally. All those who submit applications will receive one free ticket to the event. Please call the



Chamber at (605) 225-2860 with questions regarding the awards or process.

Award Categories:

- Agribusiness
- Bridge Builder
- Community Involvement-Business
- Community Involvement - Non Profit
- Customer Service - Retail
- Customer Service - Service
- Health and Wellness
- Manufacturing
- Professional Services
- People's Choice

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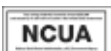


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