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— FROM THE — CEO's Chair

Laurie Shelton, President/CEO
Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau

Welcome Spring! Spring makes us feel alive and energized as we see new life coming up all around us. That is how I have felt the last couple months when hosting our Annual Meeting Celebration and Huron Rising 2.0.

Our Annual Celebration "Leap into Progress" had such a sense of community at the event. Awards were presented to so many deserving members of our community for their commitment and excellence: Rhonda Kludt as Outstanding Volunteer of the Year; Drew Weinreis as Volunteer of the Year; Lance Tschetter received our New Rising Star Award and Rich Bragg as our Distinguished Civic Service Award Recipient along with Jordan & Kelsi Stricherz for the Mayors Award for Excellence. During the celebration we asked for ideas from our attendees on what they would like to see in our community and asked them to put them on the building boards that were placed throughout the room. We will be using these to help when working on our strategic plan. Another highlight and show of support came from our dessert dash; we raised over \$7200 to go toward new street banners to beautify, welcome and greet visitors and residents throughout our main streets. Thank you to all those who attended, donated and to those that brought such delicious desserts. What a wonderful evening of fellowship!

Another source that made me feel energized was the Huron Rising 2.0 gathering that brought together so many different members of our community to share their ideas on what the future of Huron should look like. Kudos to Dr. Bill Anderson for facilitating this community roundtable and to Huron Community Foundation who initiated Huron Rising in 2018 and allowed the Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau, Greater Huron Development Corporation and the City of Huron to be part of the committee in hosting Huron Rising 2.0 that brought about so many wonderful ideas. The ideas that flowed and the discussions that were had seemed to have a similar feel of what we wanted for our future. We want a vibrant community! Those attending were asked to be part of the Huron Rising 2.0 sub-committees to help not just come up with ideas, but to be part of the solution. If you have not yet signed up, please call the Chamber today!

Our mission is to serve our members by strengthening business, supporting visitors and enhancing community! I am proud of that mission and we work hard to keep that in focus. As a Chamber member, you not only invest in yourself but in the community, and your investment allows us to run our programs and events and to promote and grow both businesses and community. We need you and you need us!

It takes a village and our village needs those willing to serve, to get involved and be part of getting things done. I am so proud of Huron and share with my peers in other cities how well we all work together. The City, County, School District, Huron Community Foundation, Greater Huron Development Corporation, United Way Heartland Region and the Chamber & Visitors Bureau to get things done. Young, old and in between; together we can make a difference for our future.

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RINGER WANTS TO KNOW...

WHO ARE THE THREE MAYORAL CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF HURON?

Find the answer to Ringer's question in this edition of Prairie Tracks. Call the Chamber at 352-0000 or email wanda@huronsd.com with your answer and phone number by April 15th for a chance to win **\$25 in Huron Bucks**.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 1 **Shrine Circus**
2:00 PM and 6:00 PM • Huron Arena
- 3 **Painting with the Brit Lady**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM • Gigi's
- 3 **Parenting Class: Understanding Me up to Age Three**
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM • Huron Public Library
- 5 **Artistry Uncorked**
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM • Huron Businesses
(See Chamber Facebook Page)
- 5-6 **JVCS Stewardship Dinner Theater: No Name in the Street**
5:30 PM - 12:00 PM • JVCS Auditorium
- 5-7 **Heartland Pool & Dart Tournament**
Huron Event Center, Nordby 4 H Exhibit Hall, Huron Arena
- 6 **3rd Annual Beer Madness by Huron Connect**
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM • Fire Pit, Scoreboard, Red Arrow,
Hurst's Corner & Sportsmens Bar
- 6 **Painting with the Brit Lady**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM • Gigi's
- 9 **Christian Learning Center Godfather's Fundraiser**
11:00 AM - 7:30 PM • Godfathers's Pizza
- 9 **Chamber Mixer - Center For Independence**
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM • 562 21st Street SE
- 9 **Evening Prayer**
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM • Grace Episcopal Church
- 9 **Theology in the Wild**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM • Scoreboard
- 11 **MOPS Meeting**
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM • Living Hope Alliance Church
- 11-14 **She's Going Places Designs - Scrapbooking Event**
12:00 AM - 11:59 PM • Huron Event Center
- 12 **JVCS Junior-Senior Banquet Grand March**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM • JVCS Auditorium
- 13 **KCBS Certified BBQ Judging School**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM • Nordby 4H Exhibit Hall
- 13 **Meat Bingo**
2:00 - 4:00 PM • Hurst's Corner
- 14 **Brunch at Top Floor Events**
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM • 31 4th Street SE
- 14 **Huron Concert Association Presents: The Garms Family**
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM • James Valley Christian Auditorium
- 16 **JVCS Elementary Speech Session**
12:00 AM - 11:59 PM • James Valley Christian School
- 16 **American Lutheran Church Spring Salad Luncheon**
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM • American Lutheran Church
- 16 **Huron Tiger Girls Golf Tourney**
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM • Broadland Creek Golf Course
- 18 **Food Giveaway**
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM • People's Transit
- 18 **Lincoln Day Dinner**
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM • Huron Event Center
- 18 **State of the City Luncheon**
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM • Huron Event Center
- 18 **Kindernook Spaghetti Supper**
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM • Grace Episcopal Church
- 18-20 **SD Electrical Council**
12:00 AM - 11:59 PM • Huron Event Center
- 19 **JVCS ABC's of Praise by the 1st Grade Class**
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM • James Valley Christian School
- 20 **Tea & Scones with the Brit Lady**
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM • Top Floor Events
- 20 **Outta the Attic - OPEN**
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM • 225 Lincoln Ave SW
- 23 **Digital Spring Cleaning Lunch & Learn**
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM • Huron Community Campus
- 23 **JVCS 7th - 12th Grade Spring Concert**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM • James Valley Christian School
- 23-24 **Huron Lions Pancake Days**
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM • SD State Fairgrounds - Expo Building
- 24 **JVCS Cleanathon**
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM • James Valley Christian School
- 24 **Senior Health Resource Fair**
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM • Stoneybrook Suites Assisted Living
- 24 **Parkinson's Support Group**
1:30 - 2:30 PM • HRMC Legacy Plaza Auditorium
- 25 **MOPS Meeting**
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM • Living Hope Alliance
- 25 **SD Chamber Post Legislative Luncheon with David Owen**
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM • Huron Event Center
- 25 **Allison Eide Christian Concert**
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM • Huron Christian Church
- 25-27 **SD Newspaper Association Conference**
12:00 AM - 11:59 PM • Huron Event Center
- 26 **JVCS Senior Class Play**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM • JVCS Auditorium
- 27 **1 Man, 1 Mulligan Golf Tournament**
12:00 PM • Broadland Creek Golf Course
- 27 **Beer Pong**
12:00 PM Sign Up, 1:00 PM Start • Hurst's Corner
- 28 **Brunch at Top Floor Events**
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM • 31 4th Street SE
- 30 **Craze for a Cause - Huron Sertoma Club**
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM • Huron Event Center
- Every Tuesday **MS Society Fundraiser - Crown the King**
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM • Red Arrow Bar
- Every Tuesday **GriefShare**
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM • Huron Christian Church
- Every Wednesday **Queen of Hearts Raffle**
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM • Fire Pit Pizzeria
- Every Friday **Chase the Ace of Spades**
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM • Hurst's Corner
- Every Friday **VFW Bingo**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM • Huron Mall (NE Door)
- Every Friday **Karaoke**
9:00 PM • Sportsmen Bar

The Tiny Sunflower's Sizeable Impact on Huron, South Dakota

BY TED HAEDER, Greater Huron Development Corporation President/CEO

The four guys on the cover: Jarrid Graff, Tobey VanderLaan, Greg Bich, and Danny Dale, have quietly helped turn Huron into a destination for sunflower growers in South Dakota and surrounding states to send their crop. They also have a hand in how those same sunflowers are processed before being purchased as a bag of Wild Dutchman sunflower seeds or loaded into a rail car bound for Mexico.

Nestled in the heart of Huron, South Dakota, Advanced Sunflower stands as a beacon of innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural landscape. This company has become synonymous with excellence in sunflower production, not only in South Dakota but across the Midwest. With a relentless dedication to quality, sustainability, and community, Advanced Sunflower is emerging as a trailblazer in the agricultural sector.

The company founders, Danny Dale and Wayne Lindberg, have ties that can be traced back to a chance meeting at a birdseed trade association conference in Florida in 2002. Their shared interest in processing sunflowers brought them together and they joined forces just over a decade ago when they started Advanced Sunflower.

Since then, the business has quietly grown from a few employees and a single location on the east side of the South Dakota State Fairgrounds to one of Huron's 20 largest employers operating in multiple locations. Wayne is now focused on his other business, Sunbird, while Danny has taken on new partner in Jarrid Graff to run Advanced Sunflower.

Greg Bich and Danny have joined forces to develop and expand the capacities of another business called Southern Sun for further processing of sunflowers through processes like roasting and bagging. This venture allows them to partner with producers of edible sunflower seeds like Wild Dutchman.



Wild Dutchman sunflower seeds started almost 20 years ago on the Wayne and Shirley VanderLaan farm near Mound City, South Dakota. Their website (<https://southernunsd.com/>) contains the following startup story: "The plan was hatched for Wild Dutchman Sunflower seeds on a roadtrip. While snacking on generic seeds we got to thinking: How could you create a really unique seed? One that used less salt without losing any flavor. Experimental roasting started as soon as we got home. We shared some with our friends, and word got out: Hey, these are pretty good! A little sweet, not too salty, and a hearty crunch."

Tobey VanderLaan and his daughter, Shellby, proudly represent the next generations to operate the family business and they have developed a strong enough relationship with Danny, Jarrid, and Greg to trust them to roast and package all of their edible sunflower seeds right here in Huron.

Looking ahead, the sunflower business in Huron shows no signs of slowing down. Increasing production capacity and exploring new markets keeps the industry poised to continue its upward trajectory. However, amidst the growth and expansion, one thing remains constant with Huron's businesses dealing in sunflowers: an unwavering commitment to excellence, sustainability, and community.

Sunflowers have reshaped the agricultural landscape in Huron and beyond. Through a combination of innovation, sustainability, and community engagement, Huron is emerging as a beacon of excellence in sunflower production. As it looks to the future, Huron is poised to continue leading the way in agricultural innovation, setting new standards of excellence for generations to come.

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The Chapmans Establish Sub Fund with a gift of \$100,000.00 to the Huron Community Foundation

Anson and Sheron Chapman are lifelong residents of Huron. "Gene and Sheron Champman are a great example of giving back through their lifetime," said Gohn. "Huron Community Foundation is grateful to partner with them in honoring their commitment to Huron. They have a personal belief to pay it forward during their lifetime and will accomplish this through their newly created fund."



Their intentions were to provide funding to charities with the greatest need in the Huron community and believed the local community savings account was the best way to accomplish this. They most liked the idea of being able to give many types of assets to their endowment. SDCF and Huron Community Foundation are grateful to partner with them in meeting their charitable goals.

Individuals, families and organizations can establish their own named fund under the umbrella of HCF with a minimum \$100,000 deposit. Established named funds can recommend to HCF their desire for future grants. Learn more here: SDCommunityFoundation.org/HCF or for more information, please contact Steve Gohn at 605-354-1118.



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BY CANDI BRILEY, South Dakota State Fair Assistant Director

As the seasons change and the air becomes charged with anticipation, the fairgrounds emerge as a bustling hub of excitement and activity. This year, the atmosphere is even more electrified, with an array of thrilling announcements that have been made.

The excitement that revolves around big announcements never gets old; there's something magical about the anticipation and reveal.

Kicking off our wave of announcements was the unveiling of new building names adding a fresh chapter to the fairgrounds' history. We announced the renaming of two deep-rooted buildings on the South Dakota State Fairgrounds; the new names capture the essence of the state fair's heritage and traditions while accurately recognizing the activities taking place in the buildings.

Effective immediately, the Women's Building will be known as Horizons Hall, and the Family Living Center/Tech Center will be named Midway Mercantile. The new names were selected through a collaborative process involving input from stakeholders and fairground officials.

The decision to rename these buildings stems from a desire to accurately represent the multifaceted nature of their usage and to better align with the dynamic and diverse activities hosted within them.

Horizons Hall, formerly known as the Women's Building, reflects the expansive range of activities taking place within its walls. It is a versatile space that hosts a wide array of events including weddings, celebrations, and craft shows. During the annual State Fair, it is a place for South Dakotans to showcase their creative talents through culinary, needlework, crafts, and more during the fair.

Midway Mercantile, formerly The Family Living Center/Tech Center, encapsulates the bustling and diverse shopping experiences that visitors can enjoy within its premises and represents the spirit of innovation, interaction, connection, and commerce. This space is home to commercial vendors bringing unique goods, hand crafted items, and new innovations to fairgoers, making it a true mercantile destination. From technological innovations to homeware, Midway Mercantile is a one-stop-shop where fairgoers can explore an extensive array of offerings, where shopping meets variety.

The next major announcement we had was the reveal of our first headliner for the SD State Fair. Country music star Riley Green welcomed by Pioneer will entertainer fairgoers at the SD State Fair Grandstand on Saturday, August 31.



After being named the Academy of Country Music's 2020 New Male Artist of the Year, a former MusicRow Breakout Artist of the Year, and a CMT "Listen Up Artist," Green has been riding a wave of success. This year he's played to an average of 65,000 fans each night serving as direct support for Morgan Wallen and Luke Combs and is selling out

his own headlining shows. He certainly is no stranger to the big stage and country music.

His songs like the No. 1 PLATINUM hit "There Was This Girl," the 2X-PLATINUM-certified heart-tugger "I Wish Grandpas Never Died", and his chart-topping collab with Thomas Rhett, "Half of Me," have made Riley synonymous with what country music does best: making listeners feel something with his no-gimmick, relatable writing and classic feel.



Attending a Riley Green concert promises a memorable experience with great music and a lively atmosphere.

Presales begin on May 28 for VIP Tables sales, followed by June 10 for Backrest Holders, June 12 for Friends of the Fair, and general public sales on June 17. Pricing and ticket information can be found at www.sdstatefair.com.

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April Athlete of the Month: Kadyn Fast

BY MATT NIEDERBAUMER, CFP® Vantage Financial, Partner, Senior Wealth Advisor

Kadyn Fast of De Smet High School is a multi-sport athlete competing in football, basketball, track, golf, and clay target shooting. Kadyn grew up watching his sister play sports and began his athletic journey in 3rd grade on the basketball team with his dad as his coach. Fast forward to high school where Kadyn successfully finished his ninth football season with having 3x State B Semi-Final appearances. Kadyn earned All-State 1st Team Cornerback and All-Conference 1st Team at the Dakota Valley Conference the last two seasons. Additionally, Kadyn is a four-year varsity shooting/point guard starter and senior captain of the basketball team. He has earned multiple awards including the MVP Hanson Classic award as a sophomore and the MVP Entringer Classic his junior year. The Bulldogs were State B Champions the last three years and just wrapped up their current season placing at 2nd at State. Being part of a team has taught Kadyn many valuable lessons including the importance of each player “putting the needs of the team above [his] own.” He also noted that trust and communication are key components to succeed, and each person’s strengths and weaknesses should be acknowledged, whether you are leading the team or taking on a support role. Assistant Coach Becky Geyer remarked on Kadyn’s “unmatched drive to excel, always putting in the extra hours to be the best he can be.” Kadyn has shown himself to be “the ultimate team player” and is “a proven leader, both on the court and in the classroom,” she shared.



Kadyn’s focus and dedication extends to the classroom where he has excelled in all his courses. He has enjoyed playing trumpet for eight years, and participating in Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor’s Society, and Future Farmers of America. With a busy schedule like Kadyn’s, he has developed strong time management and organizational skills, which will serve him well in the next chapter. Currently, Kadyn is still undecided about which college he will attend. He plans to compete in basketball at the collegiate level and to pursue his interest in agricultural studies. After college he plans to return home to help run the family farm.

To obtain an application for the Athlete of the Month Scholarship program email bfast@vfplanning.com, visit Vantage Financial Partners website at www.vfplanning.com, or ask your high school guidance counselor. If you are a high school senior who plays sports, attends a SD high school, you are eligible to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship.

Getting to know Kadyn

FAVORITE QUOTE: “Dedication makes dreams come true.” - Kobe Bryant

FAVORITE FOOD: Super nachos

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHT: Winning the Basketball State B Tournament three years in a row.

FAVORITE CLASS: Algebra II with Mr. Vockrodt. Math is my favorite subject; I like solving equations and working with numbers.

FUN HS MEMORY: I forgot my basketball shoes one time for a regional championship game. Although I had to wear my friend’s street shoes that were a size and half too small during the game; we did end up winning!

FUN FACT: I am an avid hunter and angler. I enjoy both archery hunting and rifle hunting. Hunting geese is my favorite.

BUCKET LIST: Visit Alaska, hunt Elk in the Black Hills, go deep sea fishing and catch a marlin.

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Sales Tax Collected	February '23	February '24	% Change
Sales Tax - 1%	379,333	447,764	18%
Second Penny	379,333	447,764	18%
Third Penny (BBB)	30,289	40,068	32%
Year-to-date combined total	1,624,034	1,644,569	1%
**Real Estate Statistics	February '23	February '24	% Change
Sales	11	12	9%
Average Sale Price	201,820	175,872	-13%
Year-to-date Total Sales	25	23	-8%
Active Listings	28	45	61%
Average List Price	220,536	214,696	-3%
YTD Average Days on Market	90	119	32%
Building Permits	February '23	February '24	% Change
Residential			
New Homes	0	0	0%
Garage	0	0	0%
Remodel	3	7	133%
Estimated Value	19,000	46,759	146%
Commercial			
New	0	0	0%
Remodel	9	8	-11%
Estimated Value	1,399,747	1,292,111	-8%
Year-to-date combined total	1,920,033	1,368,630	-29%
Employment (County)	January '23	January '24	% Change
Total Workforce	9,199	9,119	-1%
Total Employed	9,028	8,964	-1%
Total Unemployed	171	155	-9%
Unemployment Rate	1.9%	1.7%	-11%

**Real Estate Statistics courtesy of Huron Board of Realtors

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The Huron School District Foundation would like to thank Sherman Gose and Rich Reimer for their service on the board. The expertise they provided was invaluable as they helped launch the foundation with a mission to provide enhanced opportunities for the future of the district.

As we move into our second year, we are proud to announce two new board members to the HSD Foundation.



RYAN GOEHNER

Ryan Goehner, and his wife, Heather (Sieler), were both 2002 graduates of Huron High School. They live in Huron with their two sons, Lincoln (13) and Logan (11). Ryan is currently employed as CEO at Dakotaland Federal Credit Union.

Ryan added, "The Huron School District has made a big impact on my family and I am honored to be part of the Huron School District Foundation Board. With the support of many businesses, individuals, and past graduates, the Foundation will be able to impact the current and future students at Huron High School."



KATHY DEBOER

Kathy DeBoer and her husband, Bob have two children, both of whom are Huron High School alumni. Scott and his wife Heather are parents to Colton (8), JayLee (6), Trajan (4) and a fourth child due in April. Their daughter Heidi is married to Hunter Anshutz (also an HHS alumni) and they have two boys Myles (2) and Maverick (4 months).

Kathy worked in the Huron School District for 24 years as a high school counselor and is now retired. "While there, I had the opportunity to work with some amazing teachers, students, administrators, and community members," said Kathy. She added, "I am proud to live in Huron and am impressed with the dedicated and caring people who live here. I am grateful to be a part of the Huron School District Foundation."



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Sertoma Fundraiser "Craze for A Cause" Planned April 30

The Huron Sertoma Club is hosting their annual fundraiser on Tuesday, April 30th at the Huron Event Center. The social starts at 5:30, with a buffet served at 6:15 and fun and games beginning at 6:45.

Grand prize will be two \$500 dollar winners going to all who purchase a ticket. Need not be present to win. "Craze for a Cause" is a fun raffle game giving everyone a chance to win prizes along with silent and live auction items throughout the night.

Tickets are \$30 which includes the meal and chance to win the grand prize. Tickets are available from any Sertoma member or at the door.

Come join us for a fun evening and make a charitable contribution to help support our community and youth.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Digital Spring Cleaning for Business

With warmer weather upon us many people are starting to tackle a list of Spring-cleaning chores. This change of season while it brings about growth can certainly encompass a whole new set of challenges for some small businesses (like road construction right outside of your storefront – for example). Although, just as Spring-cleaning signifies a season of renewal, the opportunities that come from embracing change in business, can also be bountiful.

With rapidly evolving technology, evaluating your business's online presence can be one of the most profitable tasks you cross off your list. Your business is likely listed in several online directories whether you added it or not. This could render your information inaccurate or worse, inappropriate. Regular updates to your online directories with major platforms such as Google, Bing, Facebook and many more are essentially vital. The good news is, there are quick and simple ways to manage this and these sites are also brimming with free opportunities to maximize your ability to reach more customers.

Wanna know more? Join us on April 23, 2024 from 11:30-1pm at the Huron Campus Center for a hands-on digital spring-cleaning session where you will learn how to quickly and effectively clean-up and enhance your online presence for optimal growth.

This session is presented by Erica Woodbury with Digital.leigh, LLC. Woodbury has a passion for marketing and small business. Having gained knowledge and experience supporting the small business community through her previous work with Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau, she has continued to hone her skills by providing marketing content for a variety of small businesses. Here's what one of her clients says after only one week of updates, "Whatever you're doing must be working, I've had messages and phone calls like crazy. We've gotten five bookings in last two days".

Cost for this session is \$30 and includes a light lunch. Registration by calling the chamber at 352-0000 or email cvb@huronsd.com.

A Call to Action for Suicide Prevention and Awareness in our Community

BY KELSI STRICHERZ

Suicide is a topic not often talked about however, in recent years, South Dakota has faced a growing concern regarding suicide rates, shedding light on the urgent need for prevention and awareness efforts. According to statistics from the South Dakota Department of Health, the state's suicide rate has consistently been above the national average, highlighting an urgent need for action to address this public health crisis. Sadly, suicide is something that reaches all corners of our state, from urban to rural to the reservations, even here in our own community. In South Dakota, suicide is the leading cause of death among individuals ages 10 to 19-year-olds and 20 to 29-year-olds in 2022 (SD DOH Vital Stats). This figure represents more than just numbers; it signifies lives lost, families devastated, and communities left grappling with grief and pain.

Amidst these alarming statistics, it's crucial to recognize the warning signs of suicide and take proactive steps to support those in need. Some common indicators that someone may be at risk of suicide include:

- Expressing feelings of hopelessness or worthlessness.
- Withdrawing from social activities and isolating oneself.
- Engaging in reckless or self-destructive behaviors.
- Talking about feeling trapped or being a burden to others.
- Making statements about wanting to die or end their life.

It's important to take these warning signs seriously and offer support and resources to individuals who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts or feelings. Protective factors are environmental or personal characteristics that help to protect people from suicidal behavior. By increasing protective factors, individuals are less likely to experience suicidal thoughts and feelings. Some protective factors include:

- Access to effective behavioral health care
- Connectedness to individuals, family, community, and social institutions
- Life skills (e.g., problem-solving and coping skills, ability to adapt to change)
- Self-esteem and a sense of purpose or meaning in life
- Cultural, religious, or personal beliefs that discourage suicide

In times of crisis, it's essential for individuals to know that help is available and accessible. One valuable resource for suicide prevention and support in South Dakota is the National 988 crisis line. By dialing or texting 9-8-8, individuals can connect with trained professionals who can provide immediate assistance, information, and referrals to local resources and services. Whether someone is in need of counseling, crisis intervention, or support groups, 988 serves as a 24/7 lifeline for individuals and families navigating mental health challenges and crises.

To answer the call to action in Huron, several community members, pastors, representatives of various businesses and mental health professionals have been meeting for the last several months forming Huron CARES focusing specifically on supporting the behavioral health needs of our community by advocating, providing resources and education to individuals in their wellness journey. Huron CARES and Beadle County Survivors have recently collaborated to brainstorm strategies, based in research, to our community including programs to support mental health in youth and education to our community.

These organizations have teamed up with a local high school student passionate about suicide awareness and the 211 Helpline out of Sioux Falls to bring a suicide prevention event aimed for high school students and their caregivers along with community members. This event will be hosted at the local movie theater showing My Ascension which chronicles the story of 16-year-old Dutchtown High School varsity cheerleader Emma Benoit, who was paralyzed by a suicide attempt, which propelled her on a mission to use her painful experience to help others find hope and stay alive. Following the documentary, there will be additional information provided by the 211 Helpline on suicide prevention and an open panel discussion focused on increasing awareness and understanding of suicide in our community.

We invite the community to join us in these efforts to get educated and bring to light the taboo topic of suicide. If you or someone you know is in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts, don't hesitate to reach out for help. Remember, you are not alone, and support is available. Text or call 988 today to access the assistance and resources you need to stay safe and supported. Together, we can make a difference and prevent suicide in South Dakota.

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Celebrating National Donate Life Month with Local Impact

Every year, April is recognized as National Donate Life Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the selfless generosity of organ and tissue donors and their families, while raising awareness about the critical need for organ, eye, and tissue donation. This month serves as an opportunity to honor those who have saved lives through donation and to encourage others to register as donors, ultimately offering hope to the thousands of individuals awaiting life-saving transplants.

For individuals suffering from organ failure or other life-threatening conditions, receiving a transplant can mean the difference between life and death. The gift of donation provides hope and a second chance at life to those in need. In our small community, seven individuals have received kidney transplants the past few years, among many other who have received other life-saving transplants. Those community members can now live, work, and play alongside us because of the selfless act of another person.

Others who may not be facing life-threatening conditions can also benefit from organ and tissue donation. Birth tissue and other donated tissue is used in the treatment of painful, non-healing wounds, burns, ulcers, eye injuries, neurological damage and reconstructive procedures. The HRMC Birthing Center participates in a birth tissue donation program through Dakota Lions Sight & Health to help facilitate new families in donating birth tissue that would normally be discarded following a planned delivery via c-section. 16 birth tissue donations were facilitated at HRMC in 2023, with each donation typically impacting the lives of about 75 people. That means local parents have helped up to 1,200 people just last year.

The impact of organ donation extends beyond the recipients themselves. Families of donors often find solace in knowing that their loved one's legacy lives on through the lives they've saved. It's a testament to the enduring power of compassion and generosity even in the face of tragedy.

Despite the life-saving potential of organ donation, there remains a gap between the number of individuals in need of transplants and the availability of organs. National Donate Life Month plays a crucial role in raising awareness and encouraging people to take action by registering as donors.

You can celebrate National Donate Life Month and make a difference in the lives of those awaiting transplants by registering to be a donor at donatelifenet.net. Expecting parents interested in birth tissue donation are advised to consult their obstetrical provider before contacting Dakota Lions Sight & Health.




Kirk Olson was a recipient of a donated kidney, and received successful transplant after three years of dialysis and five years on a kidney transplant list.

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huronregional.org/cutest-baby-contest

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How Sweet the Sound

BY CRYSTAL LIEN, PrairieTracks Contributing Writer

There is nothing in this world that can cause my faithfulness to stream down my face like old praise music sung by the church as one voice. Nothing. I start off swaying to the beat, raising my palms open wide to show reverent rejoicing, singing unabashedly. And then, then something simply overcomes and overwhelms me to the point of chin quivering and emotion overtaking my song, my put together stance, my polished-for-church appearance. I can't explain it. It happens almost every Sunday during praise and worship. It simply fills my cup and overrunneth in tear-streaked trails down my face. It isn't of sadness or distraught or internal turmoil. It is truly the acknowledgement of my soul that I was indeed lost and now am found, and that is too glorious not to celebrate.

My soul cannot handle the magnitude of singing "Amazing Grace" and the simple, magnificent beauty that "Grace" beholds. It washes over me every time, and the tears of the Truth and how utterly unworthy I am cause me to weep. I know in those moments I must look foolish to those standing up front leading our worship. Yet, I am unable to hinder its release. It's quite literally my soul crying out to my savior. I've often had the urge to hold my praising hands high, to shout "Hallelujah!", to fall prostrate in my knowing and grace-covered shame of all that I am and all that I am not. I am not worthy- yet He calls me his own and that overwhelms my weary, broken soul. I haven't succumbed to any outbursts either physical or vocal that would disrupt the flow of service. I'm culturized, when all is said and done, and I am painfully aware of my own people-pleasing habit and desire to not stand out. Yet, I feel the joy inside me just bubbling to escape. However, that amount of praise is best left for the solitary confines of closed doors. No need to cause a scene, after all.



But, why? When "peace like a river" is our desire, our prize, why wouldn't we rejoice unashamedly to the Savior who washes us white as snow? Well, we live in a very confusingly judgmental civilization where we can talk openly about an array of topics and insist on the listener be open-minded except when we discuss deity, the Holy Trinity and salvation not of our works or goodness. Our western culture is complex, diverse, and full of do's and do not's. I dare say, we are a walking dichotomy of truths and half-truths, acceptable and unacceptable, can and cannots. To proclaim the gospel and God's word openly and loudly as the only truth is scary, and opens us up to judgment, potential ridicule and so much backlash. Attacking believers for what they believe, how they act, what they say, who they talk to and on and on is more commonplace than we admit or call attention to. Because speaking that cultural bigotry would put a very real target on our back. And with that, I've laid down a gauntlet of my own accord.

I believe that the only way to salvation and to eternity in heaven is through the blood of Christ. I believe he died the death I deserve on the cross and arose three days later as victor over sin and death. I believe that grace is nothing I can earn, and I will never do enough good to win heaven. Salvation comes from God. When I sing any verse alluding to the Lions roar as he ascended to heaven, I cannot even get the words out without my soul shuddering from that Truth and causing my eyes to gush. There is so much power in our praise-filled songs. The mighty roar of the Lion is our battle cry as a believer! And walking in a way that points to Jesus is not always easy, but it is always right. Cast off the man-made rules and expectations; learn what the God of salvation says for yourself. Own that. Make God your God. And let the truth of "amazing grace" drop you to your knees.

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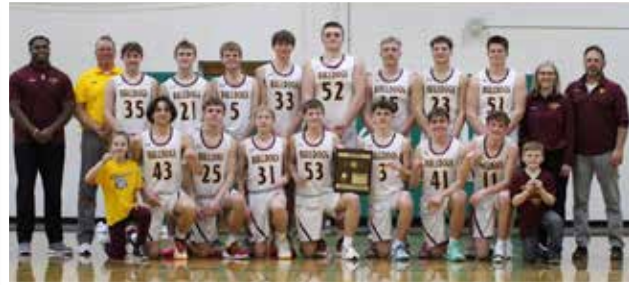
CASE IH



BY BILLI AUGHENBAUGH,
De Smet Development Corporation



Congratulations to the De Smet Bulldogs on their 6th consecutive State Tournament appearance!



SD State Archives to give Presentation

Kingsbury County Genealogical Society is pleased to host Those Old Stone Memories, a free program on how to explore cemetery and death-related records for genealogy research and historical projects. It is open to the public on Sat., April 13, 2 p.m., at the De Smet Event Center, 705 Wilder Ln, De Smet, S.D.

This program, presented by Virginia Hanson of the South Dakota State Archives, will show basic and uncommon records connected to an ancestor's death and the life created. Attendees will learn about coroners' records, wills and probate records, memorial cards, clues in photographs, death notices and obituaries. Discussions will be held on finding the cause of death, transportation records, understanding the artwork on stones and, especially, how to find those stones, among other topics.

The Kingsbury County Genealogical Society has been very active in research and collecting materials related to genealogy and family history. One of the projects is in accepting donations of funeral folders and obituaries, with a collection of over 8,000 obituaries of local and regional families.

In the past two years, two more cemeteries and many unmarked graves in the county were found. Another project the society is working on is locating homestead graves. These are burials occurring from the mid 1800s to about 1900 or later, where records were not usually kept. Many of these burials happened along Highway 14 as people traveled west and died enroute because of accidents or diseases like diphtheria.

Also of interest are the farm burials. These are burial places usually near the old homesteads. These may consist of a lone burial or a family plot on the hill behind the house.

Community-wide interest is what prompted this workshop by Hanson.

The society welcomes information from the public on the history of Kingsbury County, especially materials from early years when records were not kept or may have been lost to time.

Members and volunteers are working on updating the sexton lists and burial plat maps and creating directories of local museums, churches and libraries available for researching local history. Many resources are available for use in the office located in Lake Preston next to the Lake Preston Finance Office at 111 3rd St SE.

All are welcome to join for refreshments and this free program. Any who may be interested or involved in researching and protecting records and burial sites are welcome. If time allows, Hanson will give a demonstration on grave dowsing, which is used to locate unknown or unmarked graves.

Please contact either ptvinn@icloud.com or virginia.m.hanson@state.sd.us with questions or for more information.

De Smet's 2024 Concert Series Opens April 28 with Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience

The De Smet community is thrilled as the prestigious Shaun Johnson will return by popular demand to open the exciting 2024 De Smet Area Concert Series. Shaun brings his 'Big Band' Experience' to the De Smet Event Center stage on Sunday, April 28, at 3 PM. Season memberships and individual tickets are on sale now.

With this group, you've got Shaun Johnson, an Emmy-winning singer/songwriter who has sold nearly two million albums as part of the nationally known vocal group, Tonic Sol-fa. Add to that, the Big Band sound. Shaun has put together a group featuring some of the best instrumentalists in the Midwest to create a contemporary big band sound with a pop flair, honoring legends like Frank Sinatra & Michael Bublé, while giving the music their own twist. Shaun's original songs, arrangements and albums have won numerous awards for best pop album, gospel song and Christmas original and have been featured on television and in movies.

You may still take advantage of the cost saving of season memberships at \$60 for all five concerts, including Doug Allen Nash's Johnny Cash & Neil Diamond Tribute; Matt King as 'Elvis'; Penny Gilley from RFD-TV; and 'American Pie' with Pat & Donna Surface. If not sold out, individual concert tickets will be on sale for \$20. Call Nancy Montross, 605-854-3502, or the Event Center, 605-854-6060 for season memberships or individual ticket information.

APRIL 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kingsbury County Food Pantry open every Tuesday afternoon • 1 - 4 p.m. • 221 Calumet Ave
AA Meetings @ Ward's Store & Bakery every Wednesday • 5 p.m.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|---|
| April 1 | Chamber Meeting @ Klinkel's • 5:00 p.m. | April 15 | Kingsbury Electric Annual Meeting |
| April 2 | 'The Sharing' Community Meal @ United Methodist Church • 6:30 p.m. | April 20 | Prom |
| April 4 | Thursday Night Out @ De Smet Mercantile from 5-9:00 p.m. Come for specials throughout the store + lots of fun! | April 22 | LIW Spring Concert |
| April 9 | Ward 3 Election | April 24 | Feeding South Dakota Giveaway Noon @ Washington Park |
| April 10 | City Council Meeting @ Event Center | April 26-27 | All School Play |
| April 10 | School Board Meeting @ School | April 27 | Girl Scout Earth Day Overnight |
| April 11 | Track Meet @ De Smet | April 28 | JH Track @ De Smet |
| | | April 28 | Shaun Johnson Concert |

Call 605-854-6060 for information on events and to schedule your event / meeting / conference at the De Smet Event/Conference Center!

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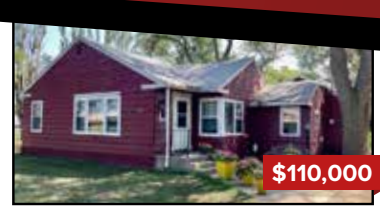
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NEW LISTING

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\$110,000

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PRICE REDUCED

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\$189,000

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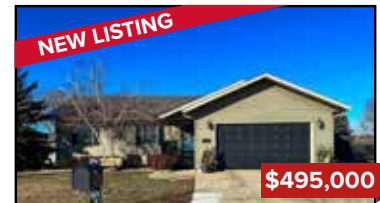
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United Way Heartland Region Closes Out Campaign

BY JEN BRAGG,

United Way Heartland Region Executive Director



We at the United Way Heartland Region board are pleased to announce the end of our 2024 campaign. For the second year in a row, our fund drive itself came up just short of our annual goal. In order to ensure our 22 partner agencies are able to continue their important work in the community, our board will be once again dipping into our limited reserve funds to ensure that each and every one of our supported programs has the funding they need to help make a difference for so many.

The board of directors and each of our partner agencies thank the community for your dedication to our work and our mission at the United Way. We strive each and every day to connect community resources with community needs, to help improve lives and advance the common good by focusing on the health, education, and financial stability of everyone in the Heartland Region. The programs that we support affect everyone in our region- men and women, young and old. Partner programs span our population from those learning to read, to those purchasing their first home. Funds help provide a hot meal for senior citizens, and provide school children in need with food for the weekend, among many other things. All of these needs, big and small, are important at the United Way. We know that by making sure these needs are fulfilled, a life can be changed. Donors like you are vital to helping us respond to our community's needs, assist our neighbors, and improve lives in our community. Your continued support ensures that these programs are funded and these needs met, which speaks volumes to both the people who run those programs and those who benefit from them. Thank you to our donors for helping us reach so many with these important programs, for helping us Live United.



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GHDC is committed to the creation and retention of jobs by improving the climate for population growth ensuring the economic vitality of the Huron region. Through the help of these and other supporting memberships, we are enabled to better fulfill this commitment. If you or your business would like to become a member of GHDC, please visit our website (www.greaterhuron.com) or call our office at 605-352-0363.

KCBS Judging School

The annual Original SD BBQ Championships, held in conjunction with Wheel Jam on the SD State Fairgrounds, is a Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) sanctioned event. To judge a KCBS sanctioned event, judges must be a certified KCBS judge. To increase the pool of certified judges and offer continued training to those already certified, a KCBS judging school will be held at the Nordby Exhibit Hall on the SD State Fairgrounds in Huron on Saturday, April 13 from 10 AM – 2 PM.

Following the judging school, a table captain class will also be held. Taking the class will result in becoming a certified KCBS table captain.

The classes teach you the art and mechanics of judging and at the end of the class, you'll be a certified judge. Those active or interested in becoming active in competitive BBQ may also consider taking the class as it teaches what the judges look for when judging.

Registration for the judging school is \$115. Registration for the certified table captain class is \$60 and participants must be a certified judge. To register, go to www.sdbbqchampionships.com or call the State Fair Office at 605.353.7340 for more information. The deadline to register for the classes is April 3. To take either class, you must be a registered KCBS member. To become a member, go to kcbs.us and click join now.

For more information, log onto www.sdbbqchampionships.com or call the State Fair Office at 605.353.7340.

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The 2024 Forbes ranking of America's Top Wealth Management Teams Best-In-State, developed by SHOOK Research, is based on an algorithm of qualitative criteria, mostly gained through telephone and in-person due diligence interviews, and quantitative data. This ranking is based upon the period from 3/31/2022 to 3/31/2023 and was released on 01/09/2024. Advisor teams that are considered must have one advisor with a minimum of seven years of experience, have been in existence as a team for at least one year, have at least 5 team members, and have been nominated by their firm. The algorithm weights factors like revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience and those that encompass best practices in their practices and approach to working with clients. Out of approximately 10,100 team nominations, 4,100 advisor teams received the award based on thresholds. This ranking is not indicative of an advisor's future performance, is not an endorsement, and may not be representative of individual clients' experience. Neither Raymond James nor any of its Financial Advisors or RIA firms pay a fee in exchange for this award/rating. Please see <https://www.forbes.com/lists/wealth-management-teams-best-in-state> for more info.

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Your Teeth: More Than Just a Pretty Smile

BY ABIGAIL FAUL, DDS, Prairie Smiles Family Dentistry

Your teeth are very important to your overall health as well as your looks. Not many will disagree that teeth are an important part of our esthetic. But why should we care about teeth as part of our health? Let's look at a couple reasons why you should try to keep those chompers strong and healthy for your entire life.

Our teeth chew our food of course!

We need our teeth to tear into that big juicy steak and chew it up to swallow. This allows our stomach to break down the steak and our intestines to absorb it. If we don't chew our food thoroughly enough, our digestive tract struggles to absorb the nutrients we need for our health. Raw fruits and veggies are great for our bodies, and we need our natural teeth to break down those healthy and fresh foods. If you lose even one tooth, you may start favoring a side to eat with which causes more wear and tear on one side. Tooth loss also distributes more force on the remaining teeth. The more teeth you lose, the more this problem compounds.

Why are my teeth so important? It's just teeth, I can get dentures and/or implants to replace them if I lose them.

Yes, while modern dentistry has many ways to replace teeth both for esthetics and function, keeping your teeth is always the best option.

If you have ever talked to a denture wearer, some drawbacks of dentures vs your natural teeth can become very clear. The first drawback is loss of function. It is estimated you only have about one sixth the chewing force of your natural teeth when wearing dentures. A second drawback is loss of taste. This happens because in order to wear an upper denture, you must cover the palate which contains taste buds!! This causes food to taste less flavorful. A third drawback is you can lose your dentures or they can break causing an embarrassing situation until you can get them replaced/repared. A fourth drawback is that you will inevitably get sores from time to time from the dentures from rubbing on your gums and tissues.

Implants/bridges improve all of these issues but they still aren't your natural teeth. Food gets stuck more easily under them requiring better home care and cleaning. The implant doesn't have a ligament that compresses with natural function and has no antibodies to fight off bacteria in your mouth. This leads one to be more prone to bone loss/recession of your gums. Perhaps the biggest drawback for many is implants are expensive or cost prohibitive. However, the one benefit implants have over natural teeth is they can't decay!

So whatever stage of life you are in, remember to treat your teeth with care and consideration as it is a very important part of your body!



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LAKE PRESTON

BY DARLENE DEKNIKKER

Lake Preston is happy about the new additions to the Prairie Ag - LP Farm Supply. Prairie Ag is one of our staple businesses here in Lake Preston and has been serving our community for decades. On an average morning, if you stop for gas or your other needs before you leave town, I guarantee, you will be greeted by several men from the community. They are usually standing around the counter having coffee and visiting. This addition will possibly find them sitting on the new stools that are available now.

As Prairie Ag saw growth in the community, they saw a need to expand. The store added a 10-door cooler for all sorts of beverages, a 2-door freezer for frozen products and an open-air cooler for sandwiches and other snacks. They will also be offering Hunt Brothers Pizza and an assorted variety of fried foods. With this expansion, they had to hire a full-time person. Becky Cass, is now the Food Manager. She is a graduate of Lake Preston High School. She and her husband have three daughters and several grandkids. Becky has had a lot of experience in the food industry. She enjoys serving the community, interacting with people and loves to help where she sees a need. There are two part time cashiers, Monica Blanchford and Jerry Jolitz. Store Manager Jim Andrew and he has been an employee for Prairie Ag for 29 yrs. He said, "I'm excited to see the growth of the store." He stated there is still a full line of hardware in the back and they are still looking for part time help. Store Hours are Monday through Friday 7am-5:30pm and Saturday 7am-3pm.



Flegal Flowers is gearing up for Spring. Watch for an April Flower Arrangement Class on her Facebook page. Appetizers and drinks will be served with the class.

Kingsbury Genealogy is gearing up to find unmarked graves in the County. If you are interested in this, reach out to President Pat Tvinnereim at (605) 860-8761.



Artistry Uncorked Wine & Art Exhibition

The Huron Arts Council and the Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau have teamed up to organize an event in Huron that combines a local art exhibition, shopping, and a touch of grape goodness!

Artistry Uncorked is scheduled for April 5, 2024, from 2-7 pm, hosted in nine Huron businesses: Walker's Flower Shop; Slumberland Furniture; SimplyUS Boutique; Potter's Shoes; Lewis Drug; Just Fabulous Boutique; Double D Western; Don't Spill the Beans; and Black Tie.

Artists will be paired with businesses, and this information will be shared on Facebook before the event.

During the event, as you visit each business, you can admire artwork by local artists, enjoy wine samples, and shop. Each location will have a registration box, and a drawing will take place after the event for \$100 in Huron Bucks! By visiting and registering at all nine businesses, your name will be entered into the draw nine times.



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Chamber & GHDC Annual Celebration Awards

The Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau and Greater Huron Development Corporation recently hosted their Annual Celebration. Awards in several categories were given to individuals in our community we celebrated the successes of 2023.



Kelsi & Jordan Stricherz
2023 Mayor's Award for
Excellence in Business

Kelsi and Jordan Stricherz have been an integral part of the Huron community, embodying a remarkable story of dedication, growth, and community impact. The couple has shown that with hard work, dedication, and unity, great things can happen.

Kelsi and Jordan both manage full-time jobs and an impressive real estate portfolio that includes rental houses in Huron, Little Rock, and Memphis, as well as commercial properties in Huron.

The couple moved to Huron in 2015. Jordan's pursuit of the Pharmacist position was not just a career move; it was also a step toward supporting Kelsi's academic endeavors at SDSU. The couple quickly made relationships with Huron area residents they met through several venues.

Their real estate endeavors, such as the redevelopment of the River's Edge building, demonstrate their commitment to enhancing the local business landscape and providing value to the community.

Kelsi and Jordan Stricherz stand as a profound example of how dedicated individuals can positively impact their community while nurturing a fulfilling family life. Their story is a testament to the potential for growth and success that Huron offers as a great place to live, work, and play while serving as an inspiration to others to pursue their dreams while lifting up those around them.



Rich Bragg
2023 Distinguished
Civic Service Award

The idea of living in a small town seemed unthinkable to an 18-year-old with dreams to be a TV news anchor and live in "the big city". However, the draw to support the family business led Rich to Marshall, MN. Rich was ready to move beyond working in the family business and the city of Huron was seeing a re-birth with new development, and exciting new growth. A new Slumberland in Huron was the right fit for the growing community, and a great opportunity for Rich to start a new life and grow his family.

Rich began to look for ways to connect in his new community, and 2007 provided two early opportunities to become involved. First, he joined the Chamber's Leadership Huron class. Elected class president, he was able to make social connections while learning about the businesses and entities that make Huron prosper. The second opportunity arose when Mayor David McGirr invited Rich to be a part of the Creating a Value-Added Community program through SD Extension. This committee taught Rich a great deal about Huron's strengths and opportunities, but more importantly he made connections with some of Huron's strongest leaders.

More opportunities soon fell into place, which led to Rich serving on the Chamber board. This opened the door for many other boards and committees. Four years ago, Rich won election as City Commissioner, providing new and greater ways to have an impact on the future of the community.



Lance Tschetter
2023 Rising Star Award

The Rising Star Award acknowledges the accomplishments of a young professional who has led in their industry and also volunteers in the community.

Lance was born in Huron and graduated from Iroquois High School in 2006. He attended SD School of Mines to be an engineer. When he came home the summer after his first year of college, the walls of the first building were going up and Lankota was taking off. He decided to stay and work in his family's business.

Being diligent and creative in producing equipment to meet the needs of farmers and other businesses to meet their production needs seems to be the theme for Lance and Lankota. Today they make stalk stompers, stalk roller for tractors, combines, planters and pretty much anything that is going through the field.

While the family business is a big part of his life, he takes time to get involved with his family. He and his wife Sammi have four active children and they stay involved in their kids' activities, including coaching hockey, flag football and baseball. And as a young business man, and father, he can be an inspiration to all of us, which is why he was selected as our 2023 Rising Star!



Rhonda Kludt
2023 Volunteer of the Year

Rhonda has been involved with many different organizations within our community and across the state. She currently serves on the SD Statewide Family Engagement Panel, and is a board member for People's Transit and Huron School District Foundation. She also serves as a Community Mentor for HYLIC- Student United Way.

Before retirement, Rhonda worked as the Executive Director for the United Way Heartland Region where she helped establish both the Backpack Program and the Preschool Partnership Program. She was awarded the Community Service Award from the Associated School Board of SD for her work with the school district on the Preschool Partnership Program and the HSD Foundation.

As a member of the Huron Community Foundation, Rhonda answered the call when the Huron Rising initiative began in 2018, and is serving on the committee for Huron Rising 2.0 project. She is on the advisory panel for the Downtown Facade Grants through GHDC.

Rhonda is a past member of the HRMC and Huron Chamber Board of Directors. She was the 2017 Community Service SHE Award winner, received the Huron Chamber Distinguished Civic Service Award in 2011 and she was a nominee for the 2019 Spirit of Dakota Award.



Drew Weinreis
2023 Ambassador of the Year

Drew has been a Chamber Ambassador since 2013 and has previously served as the Chair of the Ambassador Committee. The committee is made up of 23 volunteers from all walks of life and professions who want to better their community. Ambassadors receive points for attending meetings, ribbon cuttings, mixers and meeting with existing and prospective chamber members. Drew regularly attends ambassador meetings, mixers and ribbon cuttings, volunteers to be the emcee or assist in other ways at these events. He also makes regular visits to Chamber members and prospective members.

Drew has always been involved in different committees and volunteer opportunities and currently serves as Huron City Commissioner, as the Public Safety Commissioner he serves on the Beadle County Humane Society Board, Community Improvement Committee, Public Safety Committee, People's Transit Liaison. Drew also serves as the Chairman of the Huron Area Center for Independence Board of Directors.

Drew began working at Dakotaland Federal Credit Union in 2012 in Member Services and is now the VP of Member Services.

What's up with QuickBooks? Round 2



BY KELLY WEAVER, Small Business Development Center, Regional Director

In late 2023, I wrote about changes happening with regard to the future of QuickBooks Desktop stating that “while QB Desktop is not yet dead, it’s future is quite cloudy.” Now a few months later, the picture is becoming much more clear. Intuit has announced that it will no longer sell several QB Desktop products to **new U.S. subscribers** after July 31, 2024 including QuickBooks Desktop Pro Plus, Premier Plus, Mac Plus and Enhanced Payroll. This information was shared with customers in February so business owners will be faced with some decisions.

Existing subscribers are not impacted by this change. Existing QuickBooks Desktop Plus and Desktop Payroll subscribers can continue to renew their subscriptions after July 31, 2024.* **QuickBooks will continue to provide security updates, product updates, and support for existing subscribers.** This is a stop sell only for new purchases, not a discontinuation (sunset) of this product line at this time. QuickBooks Desktop Enterprise products are also **not impacted** by this change, and customers can continue to purchase Enterprise subscriptions after July 31, 2024.

New customers can buy these products before July 31, 2024 and continue to renew. Any customer who has purchased a QuickBooks Desktop Plus or Enhanced Payroll subscription prior to July 31, 2024, will be able to continue to renew after July 31, 2024.* To purchase these products prior to July 31, 2024, you can contact Accountant Sales at 844-437-2620.

Business owners who continue to use their older standalone QuickBooks Desktop Pro, Premier, or Mac (versions 2021 and older) because they do not use integrated software will be the most impacted. Should you outgrow your current version or lose access due to computer compatibility or other complications after July 31, 2024, you will be forced to move to a Quick Books Online product or the more complex QuickBooks Desktop Enterprise. If you wish to continue using QuickBooks Desktop Pro into the future, you’ll want to consider upgrading to the Desktop Pro Plus platform before July 31, 2024. Expect to have some sticker shock. The cost of the Desktop Pro Plus is currently \$649 and requires an annual license renewal. You can also consider moving to QuickBooks Online which has seen continued improvements. There are versions that meet the needs of a variety of businesses, from the simplest to the most complex. Additionally, all future innovation will happen in QuickBooks Online. For customers wishing to purchase QuickBooks Desktop software **after** July 31, 2024, QuickBooks Enterprise will be the only Desktop accounting solution.

If you are ready to make the move to QB Online, the SBDC can help you access specific discounts. The discounts are 30% for 12 months for new QBO users and 50% for 12 months for QB Desktop users migrating to QBO. It’s a start.

*Disclaimer: Availability, terms, conditions, pricing, special features, and service and support options subject to change without notice.

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Das Ist Nichts

BY TOM GLANZER, PrairieTracks Contributing Writer

If you read the title of this story and thought it was a typo, get ready for a German language lesson...well, I know like 20 words. I didn't take German class in high school, I took two semesters of Spanish in college, and I am around way more friends speaking Spanish in my life...so my ability to understand Spanish is way more accelerated than my forefather's native tongue.

My heritage, as I have been told, is German and Austrian. Our ancestors came to America speaking German...at some point in recent history those people started speaking "the Queen's English"...and now for the most part the German language is forgotten among our people...just little bits remain.

I have one friend that still speaks fluent German, but only when he is on the phone, and his wife is yelling at him. Mike Waldner grew up on a Hutterite Colony where they still speak the old language, and when he is in trouble with Clara...he switches to a German conversation so we can't dog him about being in trouble with the boss.

Most of the passed down German language that remains in our family culture revolves around food. Gritzwurst is a traditional "grain sausage" meat made in a frying pan. Gashtel soup, my children's absolute favorite, is like really small dumplings or a shredded noodle soup, and you can add chicken to it as well. Deep fat fried cottage cheese pockets are called Shooten Krupfen, and are not my favorite...at all. As far as my family heritage, that is really the main things that we have hung on to from the "old world"...FOOD.

But one German phrase that never left me, that sometimes haunts me, was my Grandma Lil's favorite saying. "Das ist nichts!" She would say it about anything, anyone and anytime she disagreed or thought something didn't matter or was complete folly to her. "Das ist nichts" translates to "that is nothing".

When I would go over to Grandma Lil's with a new fancy car, she would say "das ist nichts". When my cousin Eric put 12" subwoofers and a big stereo in his big black Chevy Blazer, Grandma said "das ist nichts", when I would watch the Twins play baseball with Grandpa Walt, and we would complain about how bad they were playing, she would respond the same.

I absolutely guarantee you if Grandma Lil was alive today there are some things that would fall into her "das ist nichts" category...for example: cell phones, reality television shows, Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, self-driving cars, Door Dash, \$450 Nikes, me going to the gym for 90 minutes a day, jeans that come with holes in them, our middle son Brecken's motocross racing career, \$8 drinks from the coffee shop, heck...any coffee that cost more than \$1.50, and did I

mention Snapchat and Facebook....and you know what...she is right. "Das ist nichts".

A lot of what we spend our life on can be classified as "that is nothing". When you are honest with yourself, does it really matter? A lot of your day is spent on things that don't matter in the long run...and yes, Millennials and Generation Z, I am talking to you. Close Snapchat for one hour, and just be in the moment with your family or your friends. Life is happening all around you, and most of you are not aware of how bad your addiction to your phone really is. DAS IST NICHTS.

We pour money, time, work and tears into many things that are absolutely "nichts". When I do that, sometimes I can hear my Grandma Lil's voice in my head, "das ist nichts", then she would wave her hand, one time in a downward motion, at whatever she was talking about.

Grandma Lil probably had some things she was passionate about that didn't matter, but I can't really think of them. She loved Jesus, her family, eating together, a good afternoon nap, and a half of a hot beef sandwich on Sunday after church at The Barn Restaurant...and all of those things are really the things in life that matter.

Too often we get caught up in the things that can be simply described as "das ist nichts". Think about what you are pouring your life into and if it is really "nothing" it is time to find something that matters.

I do have one other relative that used a German phrase all the time... usually sent in the direction of me or my cousins. Uncle Skipper taught us some German. "Dummkopf" was the adjective that he liked to use to describe us sometimes...and sometimes he was right.



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