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PRAIRIETRACKS



**WHY DO YOU
DO WHAT
YOU DO?**

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JANUARY 2024



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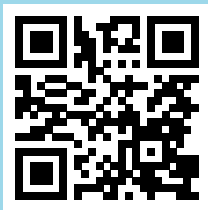
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— FROM THE — CEO's Chair

Ted Haeder, President/CEO
Greater Huron Development Corporation

"The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them."

– Ernest Hemingway

I trust people.

This has a lot to do with how I was raised. We didn't have a secret hidden key to the front door of the house I grew up in because we never locked the doors. Leaving the keys in a running car in the grocery store parking lot on a frigid winter day was normal.

A few things happened in 2023 that caused me to question my trust in people. Nothing occurred that created long-term damage or resulted in significant financial hardships. Digging out of the resulting hole won't be a problem.

What happened is in the past and nothing I do will change what was done. The actions of others are beyond my control. What I can do is learn from the experience, forgive the offender, do my best to not let it happen again, and move on with life.

Shutting down because something bad happened isn't growth. Dealing with adversity is how we grow. So, I welcome the bumps and bruises, the opportunity to heal my wounds, and knowing that I will emerge as a better person as a result of the experience.



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- Thru 1/15 **Huron Arts Council - Festival of Trees**
Huron Event Center
- Jan 1 **Draw Doubles Dart Tournament for Levi Rogers**
1pm • Hurst's Corner
- Jan 4 **Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance**
Huron Event Center
- Jan 6 **Elks Hoop Shoot**
9am • Huron Middle School
- Jan 6 **UGLY Sweater Party!**
8pm • Hurst's Corner
- Jan 8 **Take Charge of Your Health**
5:30pm • Intentional Health and Wellness Center
- Jan 12-13 **Karen New Year**
9am • Nordby 4H Exhibit Hall
- Jan 13 **Meat Bingo**
2pm • Hurst's Corner
- Jan 13 **Bingo**
6:30pm • Holy Trinity Catholic School – Multipurpose Room
- Jan 14 **Elks Pancake Feed Proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish**
9am • Huron Elks Lodge
- Jan 18 **281 Girls and Boys Basketball Tournament**
Huron Arena
- Jan 18 **Food Giveaway**
11am • People's Transit
- Jan 20 **Winterfest**
10am • Nordby 4H Exhibit Hall
- Jan 20 **Ignite - Mind, Body & Spirit**
10:30am • Top Floor Events
- Jan 20 **8th Annual James Valley Shrine Club:
Indoor Ice Fishing Tournament**
5pm • Huron Campus Center
- Jan 22 **JVCS - One Act Play Performance: Username**
7pm • James Valley Christian Auditorium
- Jan 24 **Region 5B One Act Play Competition**
9am • James Valley Christian Auditorium
- Jan 25 **State of the Schools**
12pm • Huron Event Center
- Jan 27 **Special Olympics: Polar Plunge**
11:30am • Ravine Lake Public Beach
- Jan 27 **Huron Connect Soup Saturday**
3pm • Thunderbird
- Jan 27 **Diamonds & Denim Gala and Auction**
5:30pm • Holy Trinity Catholic School – Multipurpose Room
- Jan 28 **Bingo**
1pm • Huron Area Senior Center
- Jan 28 **Huron Area Concert Association Presents: Empire Trio**
7:30pm • Huron High School Auditorium

- Every Tuesday **Parenting Class: Understanding Me up to Age Three**
5:30pm • Huron Public Library
- Every Tuesday **MS Society Fundraiser - Crown the King**
6pm • Red Arrow Bar
- Every Friday **Chase the Ace of Spades**
6:30pm • Hurst's Corner
- Every Friday **VFW Bingo**
7pm • Huron Mall
- Every Friday **Karaoke**
9pm • Sportsmen Bar

Why Do You Do What You Do?

BY ASHLEY CURNOW, RDN

When you first meet someone, you often ask “what do you do?”. Certainly, it's valuable to know what someone does for a living, but I believe it is all more important to ask the question, “why do you do what you do?”. That's their story. That's where their passion comes from. That's what sets them apart from someone else. Everything happens for a reason. We may not know it or understand it at the time, but there is a reason for everything. There was a reason my life has unfolded as it has, and part of that reason is the **why** behind what I do every day. It's my story.

As anyone's story should, mine begins at the very beginning. My mother's pregnancy with me was unique. While morning sickness is fairly normal for women to experience, my mom was on the far end of that spectrum. She required a feeding tube and pic line for nutrition through the entire pregnancy. She even earned herself a helicopter ride to Sioux Falls. What a Lucky Gal!

As soon as I was born, the problems began. I was unable to eat. Every time I would be fed, I would become violently ill. Because I couldn't eat, I couldn't grow. I earned the diagnosis of failure to thrive pretty easily. I quickly ended up in the hospital. I spent a majority of my time at the University of Minnesota's Children's Hospital and Children's Nebraska Hospital. My life was sustained almost entirely from IV fluids and medications. The doctors were unable to determine a cause for my condition.

My family is a key component in my story. My dad worked nearly around the clock, three jobs at most times, to provide for our family. My mom had no choice but to stay with me, even though she would not have chosen to be anywhere else. My dad did everything he could to ensure everyone was exactly where they needed to be. Beyond my parents, aunt Kim and Uncle Drew helped to raise my older sister, ensuring my ailments did not cause her to miss out. My grandparents never lost hope either. My grandmother once cooked Thanksgiving dinner in Huron and drove it all the way to Minneapolis to feed the floor I was on, even though I could not eat it.

After roughly a year of worsening health and no indications of improvement, the doctors determined the cause to my suffering. They diagnosed me with being allergic to protein, the macronutrient found in virtually every food. Our digestive tracts are designed to break down protein so it can be absorbed. However, mine did not work as designed. My parents were initially ecstatic with this news. They figured an “allergy shot” could be administered and their child would be good as new, only to find out there was no cure. “In a world full of obesity, your child will starve to death”, was the line the doctors provided.

They were prepared to take me home to die. They had made arrangements for my dad to pick up my mom and I to take us home. A general surgeon, Dr. Dan Saltzman, waltzed into our room and requested to be made my primary care doctor until my dad arrived. It went against all the hospital rules, but the request was granted. My mom describes it as something from a movie. The doctor picked me up, took me to the OR, and placed a feeding tube in my nose. The tube would administer a specifically crafted formula that I could more easily break down. By some miracle, this worked.

I lived off of that tube for 10 years, every 6 months having it replaced. I was hooked to a pump on an IV pole every night. At age 10, the medical team felt my digestive tract showed enough improvements that the tube could be removed. I took it out myself that very night. We slowly began introducing foods. It took us six years to get my diet where it is now- where I strictly avoid gluten, eggs, fish and shell fish, nuts and tree nuts, and believe me- I live a glorious life with that diet.

Initially the doctors told my parents to be prepared. I would not walk or talk due to being deprived of nutrients. So naturally, I picked a job that allows me to talk all day, and I became a runner at a young age. It's important to defy the odds every now and then. Running became an instrumental element of my life, allowing me to get stronger and push myself mentally and physically.

I attended school at Wolsey-Wessington where I graduated at age 16. I ran cross country and track all five years. For college, I called Dakota State University my home. I ran cross country and track there as well and was able to use that as an avenue to take me to different places and experience different things. That was the best decision of my life because I met my wonderful husband and best friend, Braden.

It was only fitting that I became a registered dietitian and set out to help people through their nutrition and other areas of their lifestyle including: sleep, exercise, stress, relationships, and supplements.

Dr. Wayne Carr, the rest of the team at Carr Chiropractic and I communicated prior to my graduation and made arrangements for me to start working at the clinic. We didn't know what the position would hold exactly, but I was comfortable with seeing where it went. Over the past almost four years, our entire organization has been blessed with the opportunity to serve a record number of people from near and far. Health is one of the most important components to someone's life, without it, we are simply just surviving. We are so excited that in 2023 we were able to expand with Intentional Living, our functional medicine portion of the organization

As far as my own health goes, I know how crucial it is that I stay well. I work to lead by example. From maintaining a morning routine that allows me to partake in one of the things I love- running, to a diet filled with nutritious foods, to a good night's sleep, I keep up on it all.

And for the future- I don't plan on slowing down any time soon! I am excited about upcoming adventures personally and professionally. Through hard work and determination, I qualified to run the Boston Marathon in April. I cannot wait for that experience. My patients bring so much joy to my life. I anticipate meeting and helping more people, locally and from all over the United States.

“Tell your story. There is power in your story, no matter how devastating. There is not one thing that happened to you that did not also happen for you.” – Oprah Winfrey





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Gratitude for a Fulfilling Career of Caring

BY DR. CY B. HAATVEDT, HRMC General Surgeon

Dear friends and neighbors,

It has been my great privilege to have helped care for so many of you and your loved ones over the past 29-plus years. The confidence and trust that you have shown me during this time has provided me with a profound sense of gratitude and satisfaction. I feel quite blessed to have found this community, where I have been welcomed from the very beginning, and continue to feel the warmth and acceptance of the folks of Huron.



After nearly thirty years of practicing medicine and surgery in the Huron community, I have made the decision to set aside my clinical practice. As of December 31, 2023, I will no longer perform patient exams or schedule procedures.

I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank you!" to each one of my patients and their families. Many have come to be friends, and the relationships that have developed have given so much richness to my life. In addition, I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and confidence. Dr. Robert Hohm deserves a special thanks for his mentorship and fellowship.

My deepest appreciation and fondness go to the surgery nurses, techs and anesthesiologists with whom many days, weekends and nights have been spent. These people all deserve kudos... they have supported me and have made me better than I am. The administration, Medical Staff and nursing staff, along with all the support staff including lab, X-ray, maintenance, dietary and others too numerous to mention at Huron Regional Medical Center likewise have my enduring gratitude. Lastly, I am grateful to my wife, Teresa, and my family for the support throughout my fulfilling career.

As I look forward to the next stage of life, I will continue to enjoy being part of this wonderful place we call home and will remain at HRMC as Chief Medical Officer where I look to ensure we continue to provide excellent, compassionate care to each of you. Once again, I thank you all!

Happy New Year

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We look forward to working with you in 2024.*

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BY CANDI BRILEY, South Dakota State Fair Assistant Director



As we say good-bye to 2023, and welcome 2024, we look forward to doing “more in ‘24”! First, we found it worthy of looking back at some highlights.

The annual SD State Fair proved to be a spectacular (and hot!) celebration of community, agriculture, and entertainment. From thrilling carnival rides to mouthwatering fair food, attendees were treated to an array of experiences that embodied the spirit of the state. The fairgrounds were transformed into a vibrant tapestry of colors, lights, and sounds, creating unforgettable memories for families and friends alike. The ribbon cutting and opening of the DEX: Dakota Events Complex was certainly a highlight!

This fall we conducted a survey to assess fairgoers' preferences for grandstand entertainment and to gauge their overall fair experience. The company that conducted the survey was impressed by the number of responses we received, so thanks to all who participated! 1,522 surveys were completed, representing 267 communities. In short, food, concerts, and livestock shows are fair favorites. Tradition and people are the drivers for repeat attendance.

We specifically addressed a future challenge, and the question was “How do we grow or maintain attendance?” Top responses were:

- Need to tell people why they should go to the fair
- Lean into family fun
- Consider the acts that are performing in the grandstand
- How the grandstand can be expanded and leveraged to attract new types of attendees
- Expansion of camping and solutions for prospective attendees that don't camp

It was also fun to read responses to “In your own words, why do you enjoy attending the SD State Fair?” A handful were:

- “It is one of the great highlights of the year for my family and myself, the atmosphere, events, and let's not forget the food as well as the competitions.”
- “There are so many fantastic sights and tastes to enjoy! This is a great place to re-connect with old friends and make new ones. SD State Fair is a treasured tradition and I hope it is there for many more years to come!”

- “Family entertainment and safe clean environment. A true agriculturally based fair. Reasonably priced.”

It's important to extend our appreciation beyond the five days of the fair and recognize the significant amount of activity that takes place at the fairgrounds year-round. In 2023, as of November when numbers were pulled together, the fairgrounds hosted 219 events!

While the annual fair is a highlight, the fairgrounds serve as a hub for a variety of equestrian and livestock events, continuous community engagement and entertainment. Notable events include Wheel Jam, SD Summer Spotlight, Agtegra Customer Appreciation, Smashin Cans Barrel Race, SDRA Rodeo Finals, and the Mason Moody and Jazz McGirr Invitational. These activities play an important role in contributing to the economic vitality of the community. Acknowledging the year-round significance of the fairgrounds underscores its role as a dynamic space that enriches the local fabric beyond the exciting hustle and bustle of the fair's limited duration.

From the bustling energy of the annual fair to the countless gatherings, events, and activities that transpired in between, it's been an exciting year. As we reflect on the memories created, we eagerly anticipate the promise of another exciting year ahead. The fairgrounds stand as a testament to the enduring significance of the grounds, where traditions are upheld, memories are made, and stories are shared. Here's to more in '24!

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

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January Athlete of the Month: Erik Salmen

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

Erik Salmen started playing a variety of sports at an early age with the encouragement of his parents, who were athletes throughout high school and college. A senior at Hitchcock-Tulare High School and member of the varsity football team the past four seasons, Erik was named the 2023 Preseason Player of the Year, 2023 All-State Linebacker, and All-State Running Back in 2021 and 2022. His impressive accomplishments and recognitions include 1,000+ yards rushing each of his last three seasons, 200+ tackles total from 2021-23, 2022-23 All-Around Team Player Award, and 2X Team Captain. Erik writes, "Talent will help you succeed early in your life, but hard work and putting in effort for a goal is what will allow you to succeed later in life." Furthermore, the hard work Erik exhibits in all activities sets him apart from others and is an attribute he prides himself on. His athletic talent extends to the baseball field where he's competed as a four-year varsity starter earning the SDHSBA All-Region Selection twice and making appearances in three state tournaments. Head Baseball Coach Tommy Gregg noted, "Every year [Erik] is always looking to improve a different part of his baseball game, whether it is hitting for power, fielding or baserunning. He is willing to stay late to get extra practice time in." Coach Gregg applauds how Erik stands out as a person for his kindness, his effort to create exceptional team chemistry, and his work ethic as a farmhand, student, and member of the community. Erik also has passionately pursued basketball for the last twelve years and track for seven, making him a truly accomplished multi-sport athlete.



In the classroom, Erik has an impeccable straight-A transcript demonstrating the dedication he puts towards his courses. Juggling a non-stop athletic schedule and schoolwork can be challenging, but Erik seems to have mastered a great balance. He also makes time to participate in extracurriculars as the Senior President of the Student Council, a member of the youth group at his church, a referee of youth sports and volunteer for community service projects such as building the pickleball courts. Upon graduation, Erik will continue his education at Black Hills State University to pursue Law Enforcement or Business, while competing in football.

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](http://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 Erik:

FAVORITE QUOTE: "It's not about how hard you can hit! It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward! That's how winning is done." - Rocky Balboa

FAVORITE FOOD: Lasagna

FAVORITE LATE-NIGHT SNACK: Cheez-Its®

HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORT CAREER: Winning the state championship in football 12-0 against Herreid-Selby in 2022.

FAVORITE CLASS: Weightlifting - I enjoy getting mentally and physically stronger while spending the hour with my dad (the teacher).



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HURON AREA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Sales Tax Collected	November '22	November '23	% Change
Sales Tax - 1%	316,401	424,986	34%
Second Penny	316,401	424,986	34%
Third Penny (BBB)	37,533	43,328	15%
Year-to-date combined total	8,499,528	9,220,563	8%
**Real Estate Statistics	November '22	November '23	% Change
Sales	6	6	0%
Average Sale Price	160,980	200,480	25%
Year-to-date Total Sales	168	130	-23%
Active Listings	26	31	19%
Average List Price	186,940	229,663	23%
YTD Average Days on Market	81	84	4%
Building Permits	November '22	November '23	% Change
Residential			
New Homes	0	0	0%
Garage	2	2	0%
Remodel	13	8	-38%
Estimated Value	99,464	99,740	0%
Commercial			
New	0	1	0%
Remodel	4	2	-50%
Estimated Value	806,080	112,956	-86%
Year-to-date combined total	13,768,670	11,640,900	-15%
Employment (County)	October '22	October '23	% Change
Total Workforce	9,257	9,308	1%
Total Employed	9,080	9,132	1%
Total Unemployed	177	176	-1%
Unemployment Rate	1.9%	1.9%	0%

***Real Estate Statistics courtesy of Huron Board of Realtors*

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HRMC Foundation Health Care Scholarships



BY LEVI KARY, HRMC Foundation Executive Director

The Huron Regional Medical Center (HRMC) Foundation, through the generosity of our donors, helps provide opportunity to local students interested in pursuing healthcare careers while ensuring high quality care is available in Huron for years to come. Just this month, the HRMC Foundation celebrated six Commitment Scholarship recipients who graduated from the Southeast Technical College Huron Nursing Program and are all staying in Huron to begin their careers.

Through our partnership with Build Dakota, the Commitment Scholarship is a full-ride scholarship designed to address high-need areas in the medical field. In exchange for a work commitment, the length of which depends on their program, the recipient has their education costs covered. This support allows the student to concentrate on their studies without the financial burden of schooling, which gives them a great opportunity to succeed.

For students who aren't ready to commit to return to the community after completing their program, the Foundation offers the Interest Scholarship. While the award amounts are smaller, the Interest Scholarship can help cover some of the costs of an education in health care. This is a great option for someone who is committed to a career in health care but is unsure about their future plans. In 2023, the Foundation awarded over \$55,000 in scholarships to local students pursuing health related fields.

HRMC Foundation scholarships applications are now open. Applications can be found online at www.hrmcfoundation.org and are due March 31, 2024. Please call the HRMC Foundation at 605-353-6319 if you have questions about applying for a scholarship or if you would like to discuss how your donation can impact the future of local health care.



Katherine Huntley-Gomez, an HRMC Foundation Commitment Scholarship recipient, who recently completed her LPN degree through the Southeast Technical College Nursing Program in Huron and works at HRMC.

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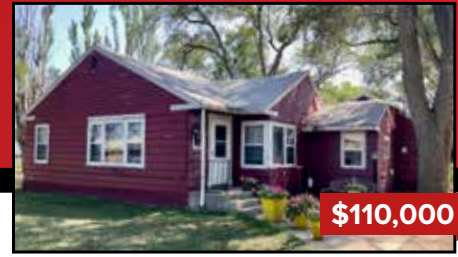
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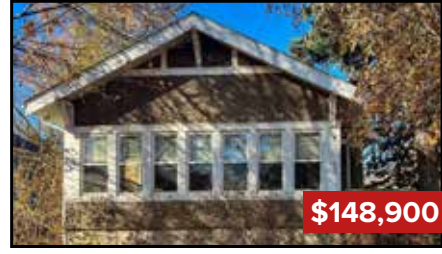
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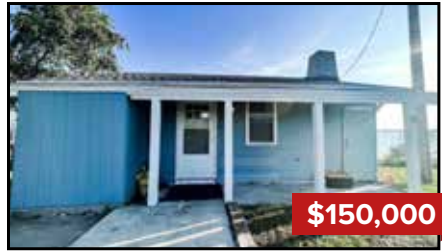
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\$150,000

40395 Robeson Ln • Huron
Lake Byron Cabin



\$150,000

702 Wallace Ave • Wessington Springs
2 bed, 2 bath



\$155,000

445 Wisconsin Ave NW • Huron
2 bed, 2 bath



\$184,900

135 15th St SE • Huron
3 bed, 2 bath



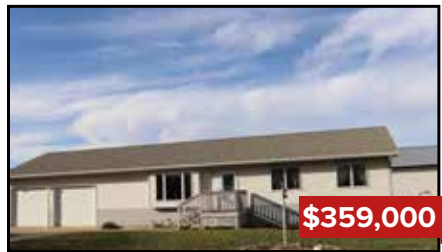
\$349,000

1730 Riverview Dr • Huron
3 bed, 2 bath



\$350,000

452 7th St NE • Huron
3 bed, 2 bath



\$359,000

421 Quapaw St S • Iroquois
4 bed, 3 bath



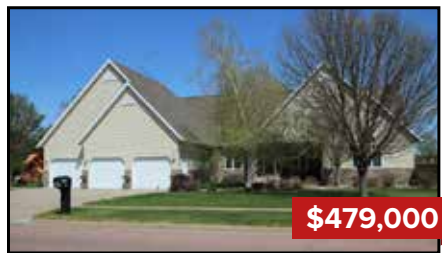
\$395,000

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Lutheran Social Services
Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Leadership Huron
Huron Area Center for Independence
Dakota Dog Rescue Services, LLC

Heartland Region Backpack Program
Friends of the Huron Public Library
Huron Ministerial Association
Jan Manolis Family Safe Center
United Way Heartland Region
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BY TED HAEDER, GHDC President/CEO

A groundbreaking for the new office building for Prairie Smiles Family Dentistry took place November 28, 2023. The office will be located at 1265 Dakota Avenue South in Huron and will be able to accommodate all the latest technology while offering comfort and convenience.

The new building will be roughly 6,000 square feet and is expected to take 8-10 months to complete. Picek Construction of Huron is the general contractor for this project.

Prairie Smiles has also recently added a new dentist to the practice, Julianne Loewen, DDS this summer joining owner dentist Abigail Faul, DDS. She has been a welcome addition to the practice and is currently accepting new patients.



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**Holy Trinity 5th Grade
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RINGER WANTS TO KNOW...

WHO IS THE NEW PROGRAM AND EVENTS DIRECTOR AT THE HURON CHAMBER & VISITORS BUREAU?

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 January 15th for a chance to win \$25 in Huron Bucks.



The Power of Social Connection

Numerous studies have shown that staying socially active has a positive impact on overall well-being and happiness. Seniors who engage in regular social interactions often experience reduced feelings of isolation and depression. Building and maintaining relationships not only brings joy, but also contributes to a sense of purpose and belonging.

StoneyBrook Suites Assisted Living is designed with the well-being of seniors in mind, and a crucial component of this design is promoting social activity. We recognize the importance of creating and nurturing an environment that encourages social activity for our residents.

Organized Social Events We offer a diverse range of activities, from fitness classes and games to coffee hour and entertainment. These organized activities provide our residents with opportunities to socialize, share experiences, and build lasting friendships.

Community Dining Our residents enjoy three home-cooked meals a day in our bright and beautiful dining room, fostering an atmosphere that promotes conversation and meaningful connections around the table.

Common Spaces Throughout the facility residents enjoy common areas, such as our coffee shop and courtyards, where they can gather for casual conversations, engage in group activities, or simply enjoy each other's company. These spaces are designed to facilitate interaction and create a sense of community.

Supportive Staff The dedicated staff at StoneyBrook Suites play a crucial role in fostering social connections. They organize and facilitate activities, provide emotional support, and ensure that residents feel encouraged to participate in community life.



Have you noticed complaints of loneliness, depression or social withdrawal with an elderly loved one? Losing a spouse or close friend, or having limited social opportunities due to lack of mobility or transportation, may leave your loved one lonely and depressed. This can be one of the signs it's time to consider assisted living. We invite you to schedule a tour and see the quality of life available to your loved one at StoneyBrook Suites.

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BY BILLI AUGHENBAUGH,
De Smet Community Foundation



Hello! My name is Billi Aughenbaugh and I am your new reporter bringing you all the fun news and events we have going on in De Smet!

I originally grew up in Lake Preston and am now married to my husband, Matt, and we have two kids - Ronni, 3.5 and Luke, 2.

I wear multiple hats around the community. I own my own social media company, Socially Untapped, with many clients all around the area, including the De Smet Development Board. I also am involved with the Kingsbury Journal where I am the News and Advertising Coordinator.

I am excited to start writing for this column! If anyone ever has questions or ideas on what to write, please reach out to me at billi@sociallyuntapped.com or my number is 605-860-0161.

New Chiropractic office opens in town!

Rylie Osthus, a graduate of De Smet, has opened a new chiropractic office in De Smet! Osthus graduated from De Smet High School and went to Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell. She obtained her chiropractic degree from Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, MN.

She then returned to Mitchell to begin work with Dakota Family Chiropractic, which provides chiropractic adjustments/examinations and other treatments and modalities such as ultrasound, electric stimulation, cupping, IASTM (muscle scraping), physical therapy, as well as muscle release techniques are also used.

The new chiropractic office is located at 101 Joliet Ave. SE in De Smet with current hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. “I am so excited to be back serving the community that served me and helped me grow up to the woman I am today!” shared Osthus.

For more information, contact Dr. Rylie Osthus at (605) 860-2222 or visit the website at dakotafamilychiro.com.



De Smet Area Concert Series Presents Outstanding 2024 Schedule

The De Smet Area Arts Council presented a strong lineup of exciting performers for the 2024 De Smet Concert Series.

In the ninth year of De Smet concerts, five Sunday afternoon performances are scheduled April through September with renowned entertainers who have performed on RFD-TV and internationally, coming to the stage at the De Smet Event Center Midstate Theatre.

APRIL 28: Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience, returning by popular demand

MAY 19: Doug Allen Nash, Nashville recording artist performing Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond impressions

JUNE 9: Matt King, internationally renowned 'Elvis' impersonator

AUG. 18: Penny Gilley, RFD-TV host of the Penny Gilley Show

SEPT. 8: 'American Pie,' Pat and Donna Surface performing a unique variety/tribute show

A sixth special bonus concert for 2023 was held Nov. 12 as a tribute free to all veterans, with patriotic singer Jimmy Weber performing to a large, appreciative audience. A check for \$701 was sent by the Arts Council to the Veterans Honor Flight program from a free-will donation given by those attending the concert.

Season tickets remain at the cost of \$60; individual tickets purchased at the time of each concert are \$20.

Call (605) 854-3502 to purchase season memberships or buy them at the De Smet Event Center.

There's still time to join the fun - 2024 IMPACT Classes

The IMPACT Leadership Team is ready to kick off their fun classes and tours held January through February! Approximately 50 people have registered, but there is room for more. IMPACT is a mixture of tours, guest speakers, exercises, and games designed primarily for those over 50 but all are welcome to attend. Some opportunities are Brookings Hospital Robotics Tour, pub crawl, Valentine's Day dinner, many guest speakers, fitness and exercise classes, yoga, bingo, game days and lots more! Classes begin January 8. A fee of \$50 is collected at registration and participants attend as many sessions as they choose. Call 605-854-6060 for information.

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kingsbury County Food Pantry open every Tuesday afternoon, 1 – 4 PM, 221 Calumet Ave

AA Meetings @ Ward's Store & Bakery every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| Jan 4 | LifeServe Blood Drive
Event Center • Call 605-854-6060 | Jan 21 | Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest
1:00 p.m. |
| Jan 2 | 'The Sharing' Community Meal
United Methodist Church • 6:00 p.m. | Jan 24 | Feeding South Dakota Giveaway
Washington Park • Noon |
| Jan 13 | Kingsbury County Cattleman's Annual Dinner
Event Center | Jan 26 | Roller Skating
Event Center • 7 - 9:00 p.m. • All ages welcome! |
| Jan 19 | Roller Skating
Event Center • 7 - 9:00 p.m. • All ages welcome! | | |

CHECK OUT THE MANY JOB OPENINGS IN DE SMET at www.desmetsd.com under Job Opportunities

Huron Rising 2.0 “Revisit Our Future” February 2024 Date to be Announced

BY STEVE GOHN, Huron Community Foundation President

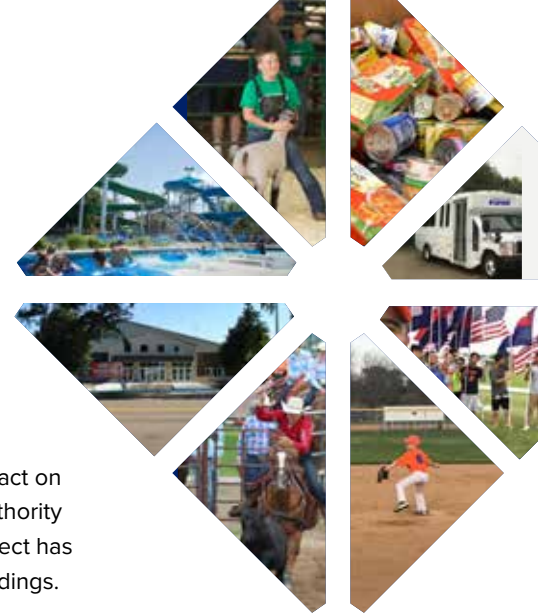
The purpose of the visioning session was to identify community priorities that were used to create a roadmap for HCF, elected officials, and other Huron nonprofit organizations to prioritize funding for future Huron projects. The group identified issues such as housing and downtown development as top priorities that needed attention in our community. HCF used the information gathered to determine funding priorities. Two specific funding projects have had remarkable impact on our community. The Housing Rehab Specialist position has been added to the Huron Housing Authority staff to help rehabilitate and renovate deteriorating properties. The Downtown Revitalization Project has helped numerous properties in the downtown core area revitalize and repurpose abandoned buildings.

We are ready to move into the next phase and Revisit the Future of our community. The HCF Advisory Council believes in working with like-minded groups to create lasting, impactful change. Steve Gohn, President of HCF stated, “Huron continues to grow and its needs as a community are evolving every day and we want to be sure that we have a clear understanding of what the community values and desires are as we move forward.”

The listening and design session will once again be facilitated by Dr. Bill Anderson and HCF Advisory Council member, Heather Burns.

Following the session, the results will be compiled into an Executive Summary and shared with the participants and the community. The results will be used to guide Community Foundation investment and fundraising efforts, and shared with other nonprofit and governmental entities.

Questions about the Foundation or the Huron Rising event should be directed to HCF President Steve Gohn at 354-1118 or hcf@huronsd.com.



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Creating Change in 2024

BY JEN BRAGG, United Way Heartland Region Executive Director



This time of the year really has a way of bringing out the best in people. With one year ending and resolutions starting, people are often hoping to make the coming year the best and most meaningful one yet. At the United Way, our mission is to connect community resources with community needs. So why not let the United Way Heartland Region help you make the most of 2024-- for everyone in our community? A donation to the United Way helps strengthen our community and improve the lives of those around us, to help create that fresh start for all. With our broad reach within the community and our work with so many agencies who provide a wide array of projects, you can be assured that your year-end gift will make the biggest impact on those in our community who need it the most. When you give to the United Way Heartland Region, you help people change their lives. Together we can:

CREATE STRONG STARTS FOR CHILDREN

United Way Heartland Region serves as the financial partner for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, providing children with monthly books in order to build a home library and a love of books, and prepare them to read as they enter Kindergarten. We support the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in our region, fund the BelieveFest school supply giveaway, provide the Delta Dental Bus and the After-School ICU Bus at the Middle School-- all programs to help level the playing field, ensuring that all children learn and grow alongside their peers.

PROVIDE MEALS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

The United Way funds and facilitates the Heartland Region Backpack Program, a supplemental food program that serves 595 children over the weekend when they don't have access to school lunches. We help the Salvation Army provide weekend meal bags and hot lunches over the noon hour, and provide funding to stock their food shelf. We also help the Christian Ministerial Association bring Feeding South Dakota to the community, providing Free Food Giveaways every month to those in need.

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HAPPY New Year 2024

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Huron Parks & Recreation Department

FUND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO THOSE ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

We provide funding for the Adult Basic Education and English Literacy Program at Cornerstones Career Learning Center. This program helps ensure that our newest citizens will be the most productive community members possible, and help prepare them and their families to enter our work force, become economically self-sufficient, and contribute to our community.

HELP PROVIDE A FRESH START

United Way is proud to call both Beadle County Drug Court and Hope House partner agencies in the coming year. These programs work daily to provide support to those in our community who are trying to turn their lives around. Often entering these programs with nothing but the clothes on their back, both programs work to provide safe environments for their participants to grow, helping them develop healthy habits, and become the best versions of themselves for their friends and family.

These are just a few examples of how we will be working to improve our community in the coming year. Are you ready to help create that change? There are many ways you can make an impact in our community. You could start a United Way campaign at your workplace, host an event benefiting our work, or make a tax-deductible gift. Reach us at uwhuronsd@gmail.com, or call at 352-3537 to discuss ways you can help make a difference in our community today.

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CASE II

Chosen

BY CRYSTAL LIEN, PrairieTracks Contributing Writer



What does it mean to be chosen? How about chosen by God?

As parents living in this uncertain world, we can very easily be overtaken by fear. The world is frightening. Even now.

Especially now!

We have no way of predicting what this future world will look like for our children or the potential cruelty they will endure. But know that what is happening comes at no surprise to our Creator. We must not doubt that He will equip them and give them all that they need (Hebrews 13:21).

Parents, do not worry (Matt 6:34); our children were born for such a time as this (Esther 4:14). God created them and called them to this exact moment in time. Stand on that truth and determine to raise this generation up to know the power in which they walk as children of God! (Isaiah 46:10) Train them up in the authority of His word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God IS in control (Psalm 118:6). Empower them to know they CAN change the world.

Stop breathing fear into your children, disheartening them with your woe, worry and hopelessness.

Breathe faith instead. Instill hopefulness that they can do great things with God by their side.

Burden them not with worry, anxiety, distrust.

Equip them with belief, courage that only God can grow, Truth, and fighting Words.

Teach them not how to “be mean”, gossip, and how to leave others out of their circle.

But enable them with kindness, inclusion, and gentleness.

Stop passing your “flesh” fear, your mean, your judgement, your grudge onto your children. What a heavy burden of which to laden the innocent. We do more harm than good when we do so. Instead, we can choose to trust our children to their Creator. “For such a time as this” these children were created. They were put in this very moment in time for a great big purpose. Allow it! Yes, this world is scary and has evil running amuck; but evil has ALWAYS run amuck! It has never ceased to exist. And God is greater than any evil that dwells. It’s in His promise to us (Luke 10:19). He has already conquered it! (Mark 12:27) Believe! “Oh, ye of little faith” (Matt 8:26), believe. If we had faith but as tiny as a mustard seed (Matt 17:20-21)...what good could we do, what hope could we spread, what Truth could we share.

But we don’t.

So, we do not.

Instead, we share fear, hate, judgement, oppression. Stop. This generation of youth is divinely placed. Equip them. Teach them to armor themselves not with a closed-off heart and heated words but with the very armor of God. Steep them daily in the Truth and teach them how to wield their swords well (Eph 6:11) for their battles will be many. This world is waiting for an Esther, a Job, a David, a Daniel. Where in our midst are the Mary’s, the Rahab’s, or the Deborah’s? And what of the Peter’s full of rash and hasty action, quick tempered but capable of great loyalty and love? Is there a tenacious Paul rising

up to lead and focus and build?

Oh, Mother full of fear, don’t take away that child’s calling because of your own consternation and trepidation. Have faith that God loves that child you bore infinitely more than you can fathom and His call for their life is glorious and worthy and full of awe. Allow it. Encourage it. Embolden this generation to stand in the face of fear and evil and darkness because we will need them to.

Every person in all of history has been placed in the exact time they lived because of God’s sovereign plan. He knows what we can handle because “He knit us in our mother’s womb” (Psalm 119:13). He created these children for the now, for this moment, this challenge, this world in which they are living. Don’t be scared for your children (Psalm 56:3); be honored that God chose YOU to be their parent and to help raise the generation that will be facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime.

Rise up.

Rise to this challenge. Do not sit in fear and worry and sulk with downtrodden spirit. Raise your Joshua and James and Jael and Miriam! Raise this child of God to be ready to “stand firm”. Trust me when I say God is not trembling. He has an army that we are helping to raise that WILL drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth.

Rise, child of God.

Don’t let your fear steal the greatness that God has placed in them. Don’t let your worry cripple their courage that has been bestowed by God. Don’t let your hopelessness snuff the hope-filled light lit by the breath of God.

God asks us to participate in HIS plan because it strengthens our faith. We will face uncertainty, adversity, failure, suffering and, yes, fear all while trying to fulfill God’s plan for our lives, as will our offspring. But we must believe that God is working all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Cling to the Word and stand boldly in Truth. Be brave, little one.

Give God your babies to mold into His warriors and let the Lion roar.

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Life Lessons Learned from a Hunting Season

BY JAKE LINDGREN



This time of year, as another hunting season comes to its conclusions, I almost find myself in a mourning state of mind with nine months to go until next years hunts roll around. After a couple days of self-pity parties, I was able to reflect on some lifelong lessons I was able to take away from my experiences this past season.

Lowering expectations can lead to happiness

I had the unique opportunity to take my two-year old son, Oak, to the deer stand...not once, but five times this season. If I'm being transparent, the first time or two was really challenging. I wanted him to move less, be quieter, and not fidget with everything in sight. After changing my mindset from trying to harvest an animal to simply enjoying watching a two-year old interact with nature, it became incredible. We had a blast, and he still talks about it on a regular basis.

Sharing experiences

In past years, I pretty much stuck to solo-style hunting. This hunting season, I was able to take share some days in the field with people I hadn't got that experience with previously. I spent a weekend hunting elk with my father-in-law in Western SD on our first adventure together, and we made some memories that we will talk about forever. I also got to witness a good friend shooting his first deer, take a kid for their first deer hunt, and pheasant hunt with my brother for the first time in 15 years.

Success is built in the journey, not the result

This year I was unable to fill my buck tags for the third consecutive year. That adds up to a ridiculous amount of hours spent freezing my butt off in a tree, and I'd be lying if I told you I wasn't frustrated. But again, after reflection, I was able to point to so many great memories, even though they didn't end with me shooting a deer.

This year, like all hunting seasons, had its ups and downs, but overall, I was able to draw some lifelong memories and conclusions from it, and I think that's more important than harvesting every deer and pheasant that I set out to.

BY DARLENE DEKNIKKER

Lake Preston residents hope you all had a very happy holiday season with family and friends.

The community is looking forward to having a relaxing month ahead. It's nice to live in rural America sometimes as we get away from the hustle and bustle of larger communities.

We are very happy for our two high school girls that placed in the annual Kingsbury County Snow Queen. Savannah Perkins was second runner-up and Madison Hill was the 2023 Snow Queen this year! Congratulations Girls!!

This year Lake Preston High School has added a new program for their students. The program is Introduction to Ag Structures also known as CTE. High School Superintendent Dana Felderman



visited with me about the new program. Mr. Felderman stated that he saw a need for this program in our school. He was very passionate about how he wanted the students at LPHS to have the opportunity to learn a "life skill". There are 11 students that are enrolled in the class now. At this time, they are building a storage shed. The students have also done some community work and they are in the process of discussing their next project. Mr. Felderman said, "these are basic skills that could be common for them in their future." He added they are feeling a sense of pride in their work and with their community. It's a win- win!

JANUARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

- 2 GBB/BBB Hitchcock Tulare @ Iroquois
- 8 BBB @ Arlington 6:00
- 11 Wrestling vs. Custer, McCook Central/ Montrose, Tri- Valley (H) 5:00
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20 Wrestling @ Arlington 10:00
- 23 One Act Play Matinee 12:00 One Act Play 6:30
- 24 State FFA
- 26 GBB/BBB Castlewood (H)

Please Check out the Lake Preston School Calendar for more sports dates and the Lake Preston Facebook page for any upcoming events.

The Lake Preston Chamber would like to wish you all a spectacular 2024! Stop and visit our community. Stay safe. Stay healthy!



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Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau Welcomes Brianna Johnson

I am Brianna Johnson and I recently started as the Program and Events Director with the Chamber & Visitors Bureau.

My husband Michael and I just moved back home to Huron after living in Minneapolis, MN and Vermillion, SD over the past five years. I grew up in Huron, graduating from HHS in 2017. I received my Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota: Twin Cities, and recently completed my Master's from the University of South Dakota. Michael is a Senior Logistics Coordinator for N-7 LLC and works from home. He is also an alumni of HHS and an avid hunter.

We have a six year old, yellow lab, Baker, who loves to go pheasant hunting, swimming and sleeping in our bed. As a family, we are big fans of all things sports; football, baseball, softball, basketball, and volleyball, just to name a few. We are very competitive people, so even a game night of Yahtzee gets pretty serious.

We just got married in June of 2023 and we just purchased our first house!

We are excited to be back in the Huron community and to make Huron home again.



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Alyssa Kirk was promoted to Associate Advisor.



Jory Flanery joined the Wealth Management Team as Assistant to the Wealth Advisor.



Shelby Bierema, FPQP® was promoted to Manager of Client Relations.



Liz Opfer joined the team as Personal Assistant.



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Big Idea Breaks Records With 2023 Competition!

BY KELLY WEAVER, Small Business Development Center, Regional Director

The 2023 BIG Idea Competition marked a milestone with new opportunities for high school students. A record-breaking total of 365 entries were received involving 443 students from 77 schools. For a second year in a row, a separate virtual competition was held for finalists outside of South Dakota. These were judged by a separate judging panel and separate prizes awarded. The 2023 event wrapped up Wednesday, December 6, at Northern State University (NSU) with the Awards Ceremony. Winners from both competitions were announced along with five special category awards. A total of \$50,000 in cash and scholarships was awarded. The livestream link for the event can be found on the BIG Idea Facebook page (@BIGIdeaSD).

During the Awards Ceremony, attendees heard an inspiring message from John T. Meyer on eight rules to be “Better Every Day”. The Partners in Business Award is sponsored by Angelhaus to reward the networking and mentorship experiences teachers have incorporated into their classroom. This year’s recipients of the Partners in Business award are Shelli Eide at Centerville High School, Pam Lane at Warner and Shauna Severson at Frederick High School. A full list of finalists, category winners and honorable mention entries can be found at www.bigideasd.com.

About BIG Idea: The BIG Idea Competition aims to promote entrepreneurship, spur creative thinking and encourage students to start a business. The competition is coordinated by the Small Business Development Center and funded by Sanford Health, East River Electric, REED Fund, Dacotah Bank, First Bank & Trust, Angelhaus, Aberdeen Development Corporation, Northwestern Energy, McQuillen Creative Group, The Tom and Danielle Aman Foundation, Midcontinent Communications, GROW South Dakota, the South Dakota Agriculture Foundation, 3M, Missouri River Energy Services, Agtegra, South Dakota Retailers Association, Independent Health Solutions, Blackout Industries, and Plains Commerce. Scholarships are provided by Northern State University and South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. The competition is a result of the input and collaboration of these organizations along with: Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, Aberdeen Catholic School System – Roncalli High School, and Aberdeen School District – Central High School. For more information about the competition, see www.BIGIdeaSD.com.



BIG IDEA – FINALISTS

Back row: (From left to right) Morgan Haselhorst, Warner (3rd Place); Hunter Reede, Milbank; Carter Simon, Groton; Dallas Stoltenberg, Northwestern (1st Place); Corbin Tople, Centerville (Hometown Business Winner); Grant Schlueter, Tri-Valley (Makers Winner)

Front row: (From left to right) Jersey Deibert-McPartland and Brooklyn Bossly, Warner (3rd Place); Kasen Bender, Watertown, Kiara Tulowetzke, Watertown; Augustus Sieh, Leola (2nd Place); Cullen Pollard, Centerville (Hometown Business Winner)

Not Pictured: Bennett Gordon, Sturgis (Ag Innovation Winner); Emersen Mead, Dakota Valley (Marketing Design Winner) and Jaidryn Rice, Webster

Picture Credit: Elizabeth Varin, Northern State University

2023 SOUTH DAKOTA FINALISTS

Place	Business Name	Team Members	School Name	School Advisor
1 st	Stoltenberg Tailgate Seating	Dallas Stoltenberg	Northwestern High School	Anne Frericks
2 nd	Clean Car Detailing Co	Augustus Sieh	Leola High School	Trevor Van Tilburg
3 rd	Paw’s Who Care	Morgan Haselhorst, Brooklyn Bossly, Jersey Deibert-McPartland	Warner High School	Pam Lane
Other Finalists	Swing and a Miss	Carter Simon	Groton High School	Eric Swenson
	Environ-Mental Food	Hunter Reede	Milbank High School	Jennifer Cleveland
	Conservation Covers	Kiara Tulowetzke	Watertown High School	Tom Lenox
	Bender’s Sports	Kasen Bender	Watertown High School	Tom Lenox
	SoDak Feeds	Jaidryn Rice	Webster High School	Kaylan Pool

2023 OUT-OF-STATE FINALISTS

Place	Business Name	Team Members	School Name	School Advisor
1 st	Extentek LLC	Nir Pechuk	Davidson Academy Online (NV)	Independent Study
2 nd	ReactGlove	Omar Reyes, Ary Dhanani, Saheb Nibber	The Awty International School (TX)	Independent Study
3 rd	MentalMetrics	Abigail Hsu	Newark Academy (NJ)	Independent Study
Other Finalists	SamariAID	Pratham Muriki, Sameet Das	Valley Christian High School (CA)	Independent Study
	Luminescence	Pratham Muriki, Rohit Mekkoth	Valley Christian High School (CA)	Independent Study
	AirSense	Meghana Penmathsa	Columbus North High School (IN)	Independent Study
	TranquilTea	Parnika Amrute, Anugraha Anandh	Lebanon Trail High School (TX)	Independent Study
	Reblankit	Cindy Wang	Barrington High School (IL)	Independent Study

BIG IDEA MARKETING DESIGN WINNER

Sponsored by McQuillen Creative Group

Business Name	Team Members	School Name	School Advisor
Your Acai	Emersen Mead	Dakota Valley High School	Justine Sponder

BIG IDEA WELLNESS WINNER

Sponsored by Sanford Health

Business Name	Team Members	School Name	School Advisor
MentalMetrics	Abigail Hsu	Newark Academy (NJ)	Independent Study

BIG IDEA AGRICULTURE INNOVATION WINNER

Sponsored by South Dakota Agriculture Foundation

Business Name	Team Members	School Name	School Advisor
Hello Ag	Bennett Gordon	Sturgis Brown High School	Independent Study

BIG IDEA HOMETOWN BUSINESS WINNER

Sponsored by South Dakota Retailers Association

Business Name	Team Members	School Name	School Advisor
C & C Spaw’s Pet Grooming	Corbin Tople, Cullen Pollard	Centerville High School	Shelli Eide

BIG IDEA MAKERS WINNER

Sponsored by Blackout Industries

Business Name	Team Members	School Name	School Advisor
ArrowX	Grant Schlueter	Tri-Valley High School	Tracy Vogt

Goals

BY TOM GLANZER, PrairieTracks Contributing Writer

Happy 2024! How are your little resolutions you made a few days ago? Still kind of doing them? Well, let's change those resolutions into goals.

I hate setting goals. I don't like writing them down. I don't like sharing them with other people. I don't like failing to reaching them. I don't like the pressure they put on me. BUT...I love it when I accomplish them.

I will admit, most of my 51 years of life happened without a single goal set. Yeah, I had dreams and plans, but very seldom did I legit write down goals on a piece of paper or whiteboard with a plan to actually achieve those goals. Older and wiser, right? I started doing it for certain areas of my life a few years ago. Never really shared them with anyone, because like who really cares besides me...and that is where we start. ALONE.

There are five steps I use to develop goals for work or for my personal life. I first heard this process in a book, by retired Navy Seal David Goggins. If you don't know Goggins, start your year by reading his book "Can't Hurt Me". He likes to cuss a little, but he is the most inspiring story teller on the market right now.

Here is the process.

The first step is to just be alone. Stop with the phones! Social media is sometimes helpful and entertaining, but ultimately it is a time suck that will only lead you to compare your life to the fake life of other people who only post the things they want you to know. I know this, because I do the same thing. Get your dopamine somewhere else.

Now, figure out your purpose. What are you here for? Do you know? I really can't answer if I know for sure, but I have some passions and I chase them. I know my strong points and I exploit them.

Now that you have a purpose, or a thing to strive for, set goals. If you want to put a goal for a completion date on them do that, if you don't then just put it up there. Set five goals for 2024. Three small attainable goals, one you have to really work for, and one that you don't tell anyone, because it seems so far-fetched that

even your mom will laugh at that goal.

Goals are set, now how are you going to get to those goals. Establish a plan. A coach once told me, "If you fail to prepare, you are prepared to fail." If just going to the gym is your plan, set your workout clothes out and have your bag packed the night before. Set the alarm and don't set a back-up alarm. (please don't look at my phone...I have like 20 back up alarms) Then just go....but have a plan for when you get there. My family has seen me on numerous occasions with my workout log book open, writing out tomorrow's gym punishment. If you don't have a plan there is no way you know the path.

Finally, you need a Call to Action. This is the hardest part. Planning is easy, planning is comfortable. When the proverbial alarm clock sounds to tell you it is time to go study, start the new business, quit the job you hate and start the new one, or just get up and take the dogs for a walk....that is when you will find out if you are real or just a fake. Chances are your fear of failure is killing your ability to be real and go after your goal. Don't go through life worrying about what everyone is thinking about your successes or failures.

Don't judge your abilities by what you see others doing... they may have just been more disciplined than you for 20 years. Humans are capable of so much more than they know. You have it in you, and if this stupid little article in the back of a magazine is what got you to chase down a dream, then go and inspire others to be better. Start in your own house. Then move on to your town, then impact the world to be better.

My 2023 goals are in the past. I wrote this article in December. I already have my 2024 goals written down. Some are on a white board at work, some are in a book, a couple are on my phone. One is in my head...that is the one I won't even tell my mom. There is a plan, and every day...even if I go backwards I will start the next day pushing forward to reach those goals. I will leave you with a bit of advice that Stephanie gives me....often....with love. "Do Better, Tom!"



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