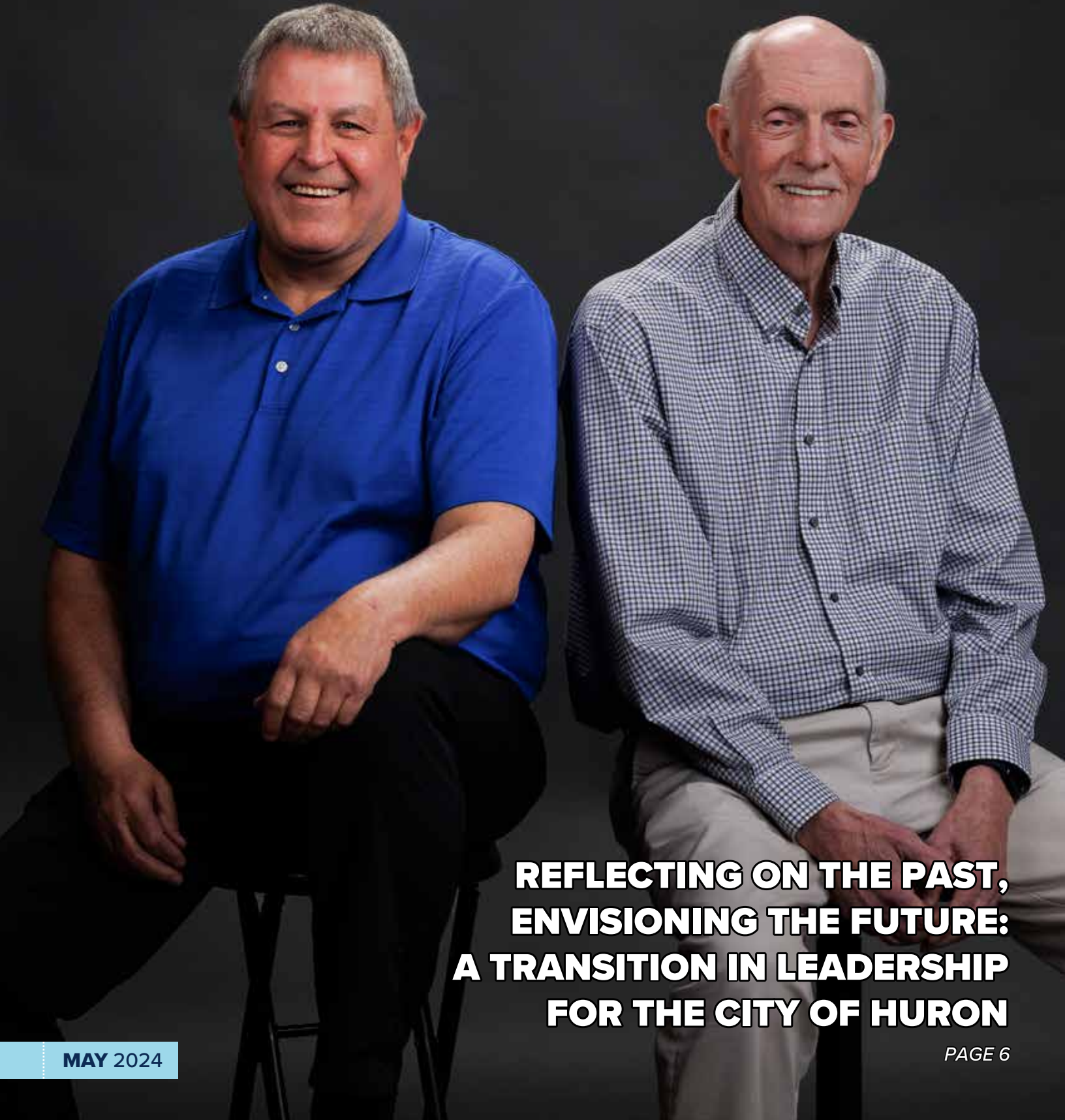


COMMUNITY // BUSINESS // AGRICULTURE

PRAIRIETRACKS



**REFLECTING ON THE PAST,
ENVISIONING THE FUTURE:
A TRANSITION IN LEADERSHIP
FOR THE CITY OF HURON**

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MAY 2024

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www.huronsd.com



— FROM THE — CEO's Chair

Ted Haeder, President/CEO
Greater Huron Development Corporation

I quit.

My last day was April 7, 2024, and it ended a little after 8:00 p.m. Walking away under my own terms feels good. I leave with no regrets.

Along the way I learned lessons that have served me well and will serve me well as the next chapter begins. I learned the value of preparation, why effective communication matters, and how much a unified team can accomplish. I learned how to enjoy positive results and how to gracefully accept negative outcomes.

Playing basketball after turning 50 was a goal I set for myself recently. Now that threshold has been crossed and it is time for me to be done.

I know it is time for me to be done because my body is telling me that now is the right time to walk away. The aches and pains after playing are no big deal. The feeling that something is going to snap, crackle, or pop is something else entirely. My ability to play the game I love has fallen far enough that I need to be done before I slow down more or something worse happens.

My body has been pushed far enough and if I continue to push then, sooner or later, something is going to have to give. Recovering from an injury would be inconvenient. Missing time on the golf course or being forced away from officiating basketball is no longer worth the risk.

So, I bid a fond farewell to my basketball playing days.



GHDC SAYS THANK YOU! MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

AgSense LLC	Coca Cola Bottling Company
Avail Wealth Management	Picek Construction
Carr Chiropractic Clinic	Ferguson Electric
ELO Professionals LLC	Midland Contracting
Pepsi – WP Beverages LLC	Lewis
Welter Funeral Home	Dakota Energy
Manford Music & Vending, Inc.	Huron Title Company
Farmers & Merchants Bank of	Mid Dakota Rural Water System
First National Bank	Office Equipment Services
IMEG	Premier Equipment
Karls TV & Appliance	

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.

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RINGER WANTS TO KNOW...

WHEN IS THE GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD FOR UNITED WAY HEARTLAND REGION?

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



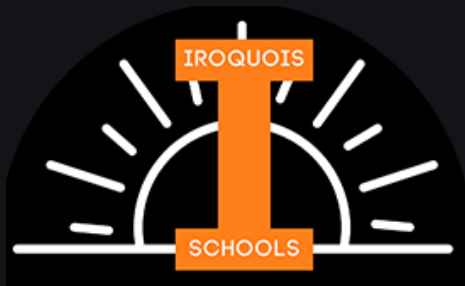
Schedule a checkup

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 2 **Huron Tigers Girls Golf Invitational**
10:00 AM-1:00 PM • Broadland Creek Golf Course
 - 2 **Celebrate Recovery**
6:30 PM-12:00 PM • Bethesda Church
 - 2 **JVCS 6th Grade Spring Concert**
7:00PM-9:00 PM • JVCS Auditorium
 - 3-4 **Elks Convention**
Huron Event Center
 - 3-5 **Junior High Regional Rodeo**
The Dakota Events Complex
 - 4 **Lake Byron Lake Wide Garage Sale**
9:00AM-2:00PM
 - 4 **Mother's Day Bingo**
11:30AM-1:30PM • Huron Area Senior Center
 - 4 **Cinco DeMayo Celebration**
6:00-8:00PM • Holy Trinity Catholic School
 - 4 **Leadership Huron Casino Night**
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM • Huron Community Campus
 - 7 **JVC Golf Invite**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM • Broadland Creek Golf Course
 - 7 **GriefShare**
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM • Huron Christian Church
 - 10-12 **SD Heartland 3D Futurity Barrel Racing**
The Dakota Events Complex
 - 11 **Primary Election Forum**
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM • City Hall
 - 11 **Sip & Shop with Mom Vendor & Craft Show**
9:00AM-3:00PM • Huron Event Center
 - 11 **Bingo**
6:30pm • Holy Trinity Catholic School
 - 11 **Summer Shakes**
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM • Dakota Dstate Fair Speedway
 - 12 **Brunch**
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM • Top Floor Events
 - 12 **JVCS Commencement Ceremony**
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM • JVCS Auditorium
 - 13 **Parent's Night Out**
6:00-7:30PM • Campus Center
 - 14 **Theology in the Wild**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM • Scoreboard Bar & Grill
 - 14 **May Chamber Mixer**
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM • Revv Aviation
 - 16 **Food Giveaway**
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM • People's Transit
 - 16 **Huron Area Concert Association Presents: 7000 Miles to Broadway**
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM • HHS Auditorium
 - 17-19 **3L Team Roping Finals**
The Dakota Events Complex
 - 17-19 **Broadland Creek Invite**
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM • Broadland Creek Golf Course
 - 18 **Culver Run**
12:00 PM - 6:30 PM • Shooters Saloon
 - 18 **Outta the Attic Open**
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Outta the Attic
 - 20 **Beat the Rush – Get Your Season Passes**
4:00-6:00PM • Splash Central Water Park
 - 22 **Parkinson's Support Group**
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM • HRMC Legacy Plaza Auditorium
 - 25 **Spring Vendor and Craft Fair**
9:00AM-2:00PM • Huron Area Senior Center
 - 26 **Brunch**
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM • Top Floor Events
 - 29 **Food Truck Wednesday**
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM • Memorial Park
 - 30-31 **East Regional High School Rodeo**
Heartland Rodeo Arena
-
- Every Tuesday** **MS Society Fundraiser - Crown the King!**
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM • Red Arrow Bar
 - 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
 - Every Friday** **Karaoke**
9:00 PM • Sportsmen Bar



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- STATE ACCREDITED K-12
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- Iroquois is home to 292 residents.

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Reflecting on the Past, Envisioning the Future: A Transition in Leadership for the City of Huron

As Huron welcomes Mark Robish as its newly elected Mayor, it's an opportune time to reflect on the achievements and challenges during Gary Harrington's tenure. With a peek into the vision for the city's future, we chatted with both leaders about the past and the aspirations for the journey ahead.

Mayor Gary Harrington

I have enjoyed the last four years serving the City of Huron as the Mayor, and several years before that as a City Commissioner. There were definitely some challenges we encountered during my term as Mayor, but we also had successes that I am proud of.

The first and biggest challenge was Covid 19. I was thankful that Mayor Paul Aylward stayed on as Mayor for an additional six weeks and I took over that role on June 8, 2020. While it was certainly a challenge, I was thankful for all of the people in our community who stepped up and worked together to get through a very difficult time.

In 2022 we had two derecho storms, one in May and one in July. Those storms caused extensive damage to public and private properties. I was proud of the street department and others for their quick action to get the mess cleaned up. We helped our neighbors and came together as a community to help where needed.

In January 2023, we experienced devastation with fish dying because of lack of oxygen at the James River which raised concerns from our citizens. We acted quickly and did what was needed to resolve this problem.

Some of the successes, upgrades and investments that happened during my term include: new waste water treatment facility; new solid waste transfer station; the purchase of 77 acres in southeast Huron for the City's future housing development; assisting with the promotion of city-wide projects; including The DEX.

We worked with Greater Huron Development Corporation and the Huron Chamber to bring new businesses to Huron and maintain current businesses. The City Commission worked hard to wisely spend tax dollars where needed and I worked with the DOT on the City's behalf on the highway 37 construction updates.

I have been fortunate to have great department heads at City Hall and staff to help me the last four years.

I wish continued success for the City Commission and the newly elected Mayor, Mark Robish.

Incoming Mayor, Mark Robish

I cannot even begin to tell you how much it means to me for all your support, encouragement and prayers that I received during this campaign. It is very humbling to know I have been entrusted to lead your city and your community. I am the luckiest guy in town. As I said throughout my campaign, I want to be a leader that serves. But it would be impossible to do this alone. We need to help, support and trust each other along the way.

Working together is the border for this puzzle we call "Huron". It's not fair to think that one piece is more important than the next. Reality is that each piece has a certain shape and a certain importance in order to complete the puzzle. If as few as one piece is missing or neglected then it makes for an incomplete puzzle.

While I serve as Mayor, it will be important to identify our weaknesses and use our strengths to allow for our great city to be successful now, and into the future. I will challenge you to hold city government accountable on running a safe and efficient city. I will challenge the community to support each other and hold each other accountable. We have so much to offer in Huron. While we will always work to enhance our community with new things, we have to reflect on what we do have. Then support those current businesses and activities we have, so they don't go away. There are so many events that happen in our community. When we support those events, the small events lead to bigger events, and those lead to the success of the community.

It is so encouraging and exciting to see so many young professionals starting their careers and raising their families in Huron. It is especially encouraging to see the young people who grew up in Huron decide to come back and live their adult lives here as well. During my time as Mayor, it will be critical to oversee the housing development southeast of town and housing throughout town for new and existing families to want to live in Huron. We have to develop more housing so we can continue to attract and recruit new businesses to town. Working with Greater Huron and the Huron Chamber to attract businesses and new events to town to continue to raise the bar in Huron.

My campaign slogan was "Leadership that Serves". I challenge you to hold me accountable to serve. Like I said earlier, I am the luckiest guy in town. I get to serve the City of Huron.



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Steve and Karen Marcus Establish Sub Fund with \$100,000.00 Contribution to Huron Community Foundation

Steve and Karen Marcus were born and raised in the Huron area. They graduated from Huron High School as did their three sons. Jason is a custom home builder in Spearfish, Adam is a certified financial planner in Rapid City and Richard is managing director and head of equity sales at Oppenheimer living in Cary, N.C.

Steve and Karen owned and operated Olsen Implement in Huron with Karen's father, Nels Olsen, until his retirement in 1990 and continued working together until selling the business in 2013.

With two of their three sons living in the Black Hills area, they now split their time between Huron and the Black Hills with a few winter months spent in Arizona.



Over the years, they contributed personally and through their business to deserving local causes. Now with the opportunity to team up with HCF, they can be assured that programs and projects have been researched and found to be worthy recipients. They also appreciate the fact that there is an advisory council comprised of their friends and neighbors who oversee the fund while reviewing and vetting applicants.

"Steve & Karen's generous contribution to HCF will continue their legacy of supporting Huron charities throughout their lifetime and generations to come. We are honored to partner with the Marcus Family in choosing the Huron Community Foundation." said HCF President, Steve Gohn.

Dealing with an endowment like HCF and SDCF will provide perpetual funding for worthy Huron organizations.

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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Kevin Van Diepen

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BY CANDI BRILEY, South Dakota State Fair Assistant Director

If a word cloud were to form out of any of the State Fair crew's thoughts at any given time in a day, a few words may present themselves more prominently, depending on who you are asking, but the theme would remain the same; we are at master level of juggling and have a crazy number of objects to juggle!

Narrowing down the topics to write about this time is proving to be a challenge, but I'll focus on a few major upcoming events like Wheel Jam, the SD BBQ Championships, DEXtravaganza featuring Thomas Rhett, and then circle back around to some fun concert announcements that were made for the 2024 SD State Fair.

First, yes, I said Thomas Rhett! Arguably one of the top names in country music, Thomas Rhett will be joining us for the DEXtravaganza on Thursday, June 13 as we celebrate the grand opening of the DEX: Dakota Events CompleX. Tickets are on sale now at sdstatefair.com or can be purchased at the Nordby Exhibit Hall or by calling 866.605.3247. This is an unprecedented event, so we look forward to the thousands of people who will be joining us!

Join us just days before the DEXtravaganza for Wheel Jam and the SD BBQ Championships on June 6-9. The weekend is always action packed, and this year will be no different. The Wheel Jam Truck Show, Backstreet Cruisers Car Show, Xtreme GraphiX Bike Show, Iverson Auto Classic Car and Motorcycle Show N Shine Showcase and Pick Up Party, along with the prestigious Original SD BBQ Championships are all woven into a weekend of non-stop thrills.

Rev up your engines because we're doubling the fun with not one, but two nights of heart-pounding stock car racing! The adrenaline-fueled action begins with Wild Race Car Night sponsored by Dakotaland Federal Credit Union on Thursday, June 6, followed by Challenge Cup XXII presented Olympic Motors on Saturday, June 8.

Live music can be enjoyed on Friday and Saturday nights with Urbandale Lane sponsored by 18 Wheel Truck Promotions on Friday, June 7 and the Big Jim Jam Fest featuring The Downboys on Saturday, June 8.

And what's an event without delicious food and enticing vendors? Indulge in your favorite fair treats and explore a plethora of shopping opportunities at Wheel Jam!

Extend the fun and camp with us for the weekend! Camping is available at Wheel Jam for just \$30 per night.

For more information and a detailed schedule of events, visit www.wheeljam.com. Don't miss out on the excitement of Wheel Jam—it's an experience you won't forget!

Jumping to the SD BBQ Championships, there are still chances to get involved! If you have a secret recipe or concoction burning a hole



in your pocket, enter one of the many contests that are part of the SD BBQ Championships and show the rest of the competitors and public what you have! From the Backyard BBQ to the F.A.T. Friday Chili Challenge to the Kansas City BBQ Society sanctioned standalone rib contest or the master series four meat competition, there is a contest for any level. We added a Kids Que this year so even the youngest BBQ aficionados can get involved. Find all the details at sdbbqchampionships.com.

As promised, circling back around to the fair, we announced that Trace Adkins welcomed by Legend Seeds will play the grandstand on Sunday, September 1. Goo Goo Dolls will bring their hits to the grandstand on Friday, August 30. Trace Adkins and the Goo Goo Dolls join previously announced Riley Green welcomed by Pioneer on Saturday, August 31. Tickets go on sale in June. For presale information, call the SD State Fair Office at 605.353.7340 or check out sdstatefair.com.



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Some exclusions may apply. See store for details. Good thru Dec 31, 2024.

May Athlete of the Month: Alex Schumacher

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

Alex Schumacher, a senior at Miller High School, is a multi-sport athlete competing in cross country, track, and basketball. He began sports at an early age, playing basketball with his dad and brother, and initially joined cross country to stay in shape during the off season. Recently, Alex wrapped up his tenth and final high school basketball season as a four-year starter and three-time team captain. Additionally, Alex is an accomplished cross-country runner, having earned 15th at the Augustana Twilight in the fall, 2nd place at Region 4A, and 11th place at State Class A last season. With track season underway, Alex is training and competing in the long-distance events of 800m and 1,600m runs, with personal records of 1:58:28 and 4:31 respectively. Alex was the 800m event 2023 Region 4A champion and 6th place winner for State Class A and hopes to have a successful senior season.

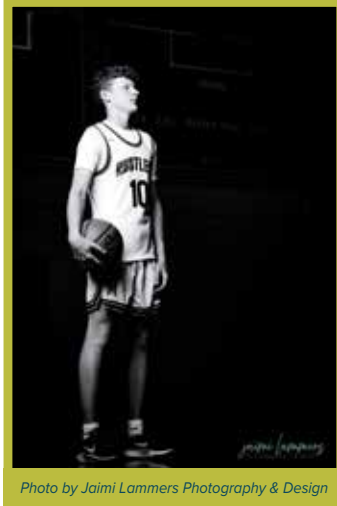
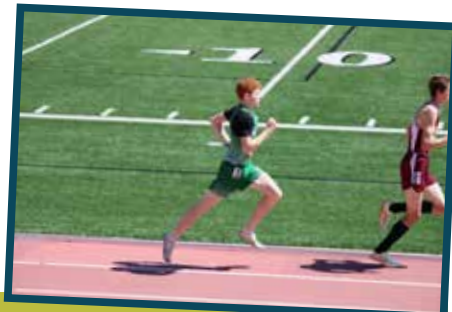


Photo by Jaimi Lammers Photography & Design

A great lesson Alex has learned through sports is doing the little things that matter. He believes small efforts can lead you to success, athletically or academically, but also in life. Whether it's practicing a couple extra minutes, studying longer, or extending a friendship to a quiet kid, doing the little things right can make a positive impact in all aspects of your life. Head Coach Tom McGough shared, Alex has been "recognized as an Academic All-State in cross country, basketball, and track – a testament to his exceptional skill and ability to balance rigorous academics with a demanding athletic commitment." Alex prioritized his academic studies and earned high marks while actively participating not only in sports but the school community. He served in the student council and competed in Future Farmers of America in the career and leadership development events the past four years. This fall Alex looks forward to attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls to major in biology and compete in cross country and track at the collegiate level. His plans include pursuing a career in physical therapy.



The application process for our scholarship ended May 1st. You may look for our scholarship recipient announcement in the July edition of Prairie Tracks and on our social media.

Getting to know Alex

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Excuses make today easier, but tomorrow harder. Discipline makes today harder, but tomorrow easier."

FAVORITE FOOD: Chicken Alfredo

HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORTS CAREER: Joining the 1000-point club in basketball with my family present to celebrate this achievement.

FAVORITE CLASS: Anatomy has helped me to figure out what career I would like to pursue.

FUN FACT: I've never missed a high school game or meet.

BUCKET LIST: I would like to travel to a few national parks in the Southwest and try skydiving.



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HURON AREA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Sales Tax Collected	March '23	March '24	% Change
Sales Tax - 1%	353,187	358,107	1%
Second Penny	353,187	358,107	1%
Third Penny (BBB)	38,968	34,698	-11%
Year-to-date combined total	2,369,377	2,395,482	1%
**Real Estate Statistics	March '23	March '24	% Change
Sales	10	10	0%
Average Sale Price	155,140	182,567	18%
Year-to-date Total Sales	26	27	4%
Active Listings	27	36	33%
Average List Price	215,740	209,729	-3%
YTD Average Days on Market	112	97	-13%
Building Permits	March '23	March '24	% Change
Residential			
New Homes	0	2	200%
Garage	0	0	0%
Remodel	7	19	171%
Estimated Value	46,759	704,327	1406%
Commercial			
New	0	0	0%
Remodel	8	2	-75%
Estimated Value	1,292,111	62,999	-95%
Year-to-date combined total	3,258,903	2,135,956	-34%
Employment (County)	February '23	February '24	% Change
Total Workforce	9,275	9,155	-1%
Total Employed	9,060	8,911	-2%
Total Unemployed	215	244	13%
Unemployment Rate	2.30%	2.70%	17%

**Real Estate Statistics courtesy of Huron Board of Realtors

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Thank You HSDF Founders Club and Lifetime Giving Donors

BY RHONDA KLUDT

Thank you to the 84 individuals and businesses that comprise the **HSDF FOUNDERS CLUB**.



If you contributed to the **FOUNDERS CLUB** and wish to advance to the **LIFETIME GIVING**, that amount will be applied towards your Lifetime Giving level of choice. We will tailor a payment plan for options that fit your needs. The **LIFETIME GIVING PROGRAM** will have lasting impact on educational initiatives and scholarships for our students.

Thank you to these **LIFETIME GIVING** donors to date:

***LIFETIME GIVING ORANGE LEVEL - \$5,000 Pledge:**

- HURON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION-CRAIG MATTHESEN FUND
- CY & TERESA (EDDY) HAATVEDT
- MARGARET A. LEHR
- STEVE & KAREN MARCUS

***LIFETIME GIVING BLACK LEVEL - \$10,000 Pledge:**

- WINGS FOUNDATION
- GERAD & RANAE PUTERBAUGH
- WINTLE FAMILY

***LIFETIME GIVING TIGER LEVEL - \$25,000 Pledge:**

- TERRY, NANCY, WALKER, BROOKE SCHILTZ

If you are planning an HHS CLASS REUNION this year, please reach out to any of the members of the board for information regarding the foundation and events we are planning during HHS Homecoming weekend: Brad McGirr, Terry Nebelsick, Garret Bischoff, Marcia Zwanziger, Kathy DeBoer, Jeff Duffy, Ryan Goehner, Jodi Hegg, Craig Lee, Rhonda Kludt and Superintendent Dr. Kraig Steinhoff as well as HYLIC Student Board Members Chloe Culver and Ellie Puterbaugh or email info@hsdfoundation.com.

BY JEN BRAGG, United Way Heartland Region Executive Director

United Way Heartland Region 2025 Grant Applications



The United Way Heartland Region is now accepting 2025 Grant Applications. The United Way is committed to funding programs that have a meaningful impact and address needs in our region with an emphasis on health, education and financial stability. Organizations who seek funding must be a 501c3 organization in good standing with the IRS. Funds from this grant cycle will be paid quarterly throughout 2025. Please review the following timeline for submitting your application:

May 1st - May 10th - Grant application period. Electronic applications and three hard copies along with supporting material must be received by 5:00 pm on May 10th. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

May 13th- 17th - Review period. The UWHR board will review each grant application to prepare for the upcoming interviews. Dates and times of interviews will be determined upon receipt of applications, and announced this week.

May 20th - 22nd - Agency interviews. Each agency requesting funds will meet during scheduled appointments with an interview panel made up of UWHR board members. This year there will once again be an option for in person meetings at the Huron Campus Center, or virtual interviews via Zoom for all agencies applying for funding.

For more information or to receive an application, call (605) 352-3537, email uwhuronsd@gmail.com, or visit our website www.liveunitedhuronsd.com.

Student United Way-HYLC Announces Grant Recipients

The Student United Way-HYLC is proud to announce that their 2024 grant process is finalized, and the group has awarded nearly \$7,000 in grants to agencies within our community. Organizations selected to receive funding this spring are as follows: BelieveFest School Supply Giveaway; Dakotaland Museum; Heartland Region Backpack Program; Heartland Region Pheasants Forever Pollinator Project; Huron Public Library Feed and Read Program; Huron Public Schools Destination Imagination, Madison Book Vending Machine, Preschool Partnership, Prom Committee, and Post Prom Committee; Jan Manolis Family Safe Center; People's Transit Children Transportation Fund; SD State Fair Foundation Kids Que; Sleep In Heavenly Peace.

A group of high school students who are dedicated to community leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropy, HYLC works to make investments in the community's youth by offering grants to organizations that create opportunities for Huron's very own. Agencies applying for funds must be a non-profit organization, qualifying for tax exempt status. Projects or initiatives must directly impact the lives of youth in the Huron community, and not duplicate services of other organizations in the area. To date, the Student United Way-HYLC has given out over \$52,000 to the youth in our region.

Huron Rising 2.0 Update

Over 100 people attended the information session for HR2.0 on February 27th to discuss the future of our community. The committee has been meeting to review the information and feedback provided by Bill Anderson and Heather Burns. As plans begin to develop, the committee would like to assign smaller work groups to tackle the concerns and ideas brought forth. If you are interested in serving in a specific capacity or working with a group, please contact the Huron Chamber & Visitor's Bureau at 605-352-0000.





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Mark your Calendars for 2024 Food Truck Wednesdays

BY ASHLEY LINDGREN

Huron Connect is excited to announce the return of Food Truck Wednesdays! Food Truck Wednesday was established last year by the Huron Connect leadership team as part of their motto to connect, grow, and live. Mirroring other communities in South Dakota who host monthly food truck events, Huron Connect members were excited to create these opportunities, right here in Huron.

For those who were unable to attend the events last year and are unsure what to expect – FTW are FREE to the entire community. Huron Connect partnered with different community entities and sponsors to bring free entertainment and activities. The first event, which kicked off the excitement for Food Truck Wednesday's, was a collaboration with United Way Heartland Region and Modern Woodman of America as a fundraiser for the Dolly Parton Imagination library. June brought a fun-for-all-ages magic show by Magic Joe, sponsored by several local businesses, and July brought Dunk-a-Doc partnership with HRMC to raise money and awareness for the new Dialysis center.

Alongside the free entertainment was a lineup of amazing food trucks, including our very own local food trucks, Scotty Ds BBQ and Faith Bubble Tea.

Food Truck Wednesday will continue to take place on the last Wednesday of the months of May, June, and July from 5:30-8:30pm at Memorial park. The specific dates are May 29th, June 26th, and July 31st. Previously, the FTW occurred in Campbell park, however with anticipation of the Dakota Ave construction set to occur during the summer months of 2024, the group chose to move the location to Memorial park to accommodate travel, parking, and space.

Huron Connect leadership team currently consists of eight community members who volunteer their time to promote and support community connection and development within Huron. The eight members are Ashley Lindgren (True Reflections Counseling), Jacob Lindgren (Edward Jones), Brianna Johnson (Huron Chamber liaison), Dr. Will Carr (Carr Chiropractic), Landon Neugebauer (Greater Huron Development), Houstyn Heinz (ELO CPA and Advisors), Dustin Mattke (American Trust Insurance), and Dani Lowe (Huron School District).

If you're curious on how to become involved within the community or interested in what it looks like to be on the Huron Connect leadership team email us directly at connect.huron@huronsd.com.

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BRENDA ARTEMAN

Looking to Increase Your Activity in the Community?

The Huron Chamber & Visitor Bureau has multiple committees that we invite you to be a part of. These committees work to enhance our community along with bringing in visitors. See the descriptions below for a committee that fits you! If you are interested in being a part of one of our amazing committees, please reach out to Brianna Johnson at 605-352-0000 or email program.events@huronsd.com

Ambassadors: Ambassadors are volunteer representatives of the Chamber responsible for welcoming new businesses and engaging with and promoting chamber investment benefits to existing and prospective members of the Chamber. Our Ambassador Committee also represents the Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau at ribbon cuttings, first dollar presentations, grand openings, and groundbreaking. The committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at noon. Chamber Mixers are the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 4:30-6pm. Ribbon Cuttings and Ground breakings are scheduled as needed.

Ag Committee: The committee meets the 1st Monday of the month from 12-1pm and works to promote and thank the ag producers and business in our community. They host the Ag Appreciation Banquet in December, provide Harvest Bags to our farmers, coordinate the 3rd Grade Farm Tour that brings in students from the Huron Public School District, James Valley Christian School and Holy Trinity Catholic School. The committee also maintains two trolley shuttles that run during the SD State Fair and solicit sponsor signage on the shuttles to promote local businesses.

Governmental Affairs: Meets 2nd Friday of the month at 8am at the Chamber Board room. The Governmental Affairs committee advocates for issues that affect businesses and the quality of life in the Huron area. Our committee strives to keep the community informed on issues, improve communication between the community and governmental entities, and take a leadership role in political forums.

Parade of Lights: The first half of the year this committee works on revitalizing and sometimes generating new Christmas Lanes. The second half of the year is focused on the Parade of Lights and several holiday contests. The contests include: coloring contest for elementary students from Huron, Wolsey, Iroquois and Hitchcock-Tulare schools and a Christmas Lane Game BINGO/scavenger type hunt during December as a fun holiday experience that helps to showcase the homes that work to provide a memorable holiday display. They also host a Holiday Wreath and Christmas Tree Auction. The committee meets the 1st Tuesday of the month from 12-1 via zoom or in-person at the Chamber.

Ringneck Festival: This committee coordinates hunting teams to come to Huron for a Bird Dog Challenge and a six-man competitive hunt. Ringneck Festival is a three-day event held the first weekend in November. Scholarship opportunities are available for volunteers that help with the bird dog challenge or six-man competitive hunt. We could NOT do this event without land owners that offer up their land for a day along with the volunteers helping with the scorekeeping and the event set. The Ringneck Festival hosts teams competing from all over the United States. The committee meets from March through December at 5:15pm in the Chamber Board room.

SD BBQ Championships: This committee hosts a "smoked" meat and chili competition contest during Wheel Jam. They coordinate teams to come to Huron and participate in the Original SD BBQ Championships which is a KCBS sanction event. It is held at the SD State Fairgrounds and is a two-day event held the first weekend in June. Beginning with on Friday the F.A.T Friday Chili Contest, KCBS Rib Competition and Kid's Que followed by the Backyard BBQ and KCBS four meats competition on Saturday. It is a weekend of fun and good food! The committee meets January through July at 5:15pm at the Chamber Board room.

2024 - First Quarter

WELCOME New Huron Chamber Members

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(605) 353-6710

Wager Family Chiropractic

259 Dakota Ave S, Suite 3 - Huron
(605) 554-0777

Jennifer Hieb

221 Brown County Highway 19 S, Suite 112
Aberdeen

H&R Block

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(605) 352-2291

6B Seed & Supplies LLC

39525 220th Street – Alpena
(605) 354-0682

Scotty D's BBQ South Dakota

1075 Iowa Ave SE – Huron
(605) 350-2640

Mary Neugebauer, Realtor

1544 Dakota Ave S - Huron
(605) 354-3428

La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant

2993 Dakota Ave S – Huron
(605) 352-3001

Cricket Wireless

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(605) 350-9845

Fosheim Law Office

303 Illinois SW – Huron
(605) 352-0702

Mercy Thai Restaurant

2357 Dakota Ave S – Huron
(605) 352-2215

Venture Communications

218 Commercial Ave SE – Highmore
(605) 852-2224

Tokyo Sushi & Hibachi

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(605) 554-0880

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Sally Stansfield - Huron
(973) 670-3320

Sandstone Inn

1274 3rd Street SW – Huron
(605) 352-6748

Riverside Motel

710 3rd Street SE – Huron
(605) 352-6748

Peaceful Pines Senior Living

1714 Ohio NW – Huron
(605) 321-7606

JE Construction LLC

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(605) 352-6748

American Legacy Land Co

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(605) 350-6939

Beadle County Genealogy Group

21256 408th Avenue – Cavour
(605) 354-4829

The "In Between"

BY JAKE LINDGREN



Like a broken record, I say the same thing every year..."we need to do something to get through the in between, or "purgatory" as I like to call it, of seasons. Inevitably, there's always a time of year, usually in March or April, when there's no ice for ice fishing but open water fishing isn't good yet; there's nothing to hunt and it just gets frustrating around the Lindgren household. I recently spoke with someone who use to have similar frustrations as I do, so he shared a few unique ideas to stay outdoors.

Terry Nelson is the owner and operator of West Prairie Resort and Guide Service north of Pierre. Between fishing and hunting clients, their busy season runs from mid-May through the end of the year. Terry told me that years ago, he struggled with "cabin fever" during his off-season. When asked about his favorite things to do now during that time of year, he rattled off several. "My absolute favorite thing to do in the early spring months is to go down to Texas to shoot pigs." Acknowledging that that isn't realistic for most people, he made a few other suggestions. "People don't realize how good fishing on the Missouri River in February, March, and April can be," he said. "If you get a day or two of nice weather, the walleye fishing is incredible below the dams." The third suggestion he made was coyote hunting, specifically with thermal vision scopes. "Coyote populations are high right now making the success rates go up," he said. We talked about not everyone having access to thermal scopes, but they are becoming much more popular and affordable. "Our first night out this year, a buddy and I shot seven coyotes."

As I previously stated, the "in between" can cause some people (A.K.A. me) to become a little stir crazy, but there are plenty of opportunities our state provides if a person is willing to think somewhat "outside the box."



As I previously stated, the "in between" can cause some people (A.K.A. me) to become a little stir crazy, but there are plenty of opportunities our state provides if a person is willing to think somewhat "outside the box."

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SD BBQ Championships

BY CANDI BRILEY, South Dakota State Fair Assistant Director

See how your chili and meat smoking skills stack up against others at the F.A.T. Friday Chili Challenge and Backyard BBQ People's Choice contest that is part of the Original SD BBQ Championships June 7-8 that's held in conjunction with Wheel Jam.

The Chili Challenge has two divisions, individual and group. Businesses and organizations can enter the group division – what a great team activity and opportunity to connect with the public!

The registration fee for the Chili Challenge is \$20 and offers payouts in overall judged and people's choice competition. The payout in each division for people's choice is \$75.00 for first place, \$50.00 for second place, and \$25.00 for third place. For the overall judged competition, first place receives \$250.00, second place gets \$125.00, and third place takes home \$50.00.

Have you been sharpening your BBQ and meat smoking skills this past year? The Backyard BBQ is open to all skill levels and is a great entry level contest to take part in and to connect with other BBQ enthusiasts. Entering is a great value as the registration fee is only \$20 and all of the meat is provided to the teams.

The four meat divisions are: 1) pork butt donated by SD Pork Producers, 2) turkey breast donated by Dakota Provisions, 3) brisket donated by C&C Cattle and TKS Haygrinding, 4) boneless leg of lamb roast donated by the SD Sheep Growers, Lynn and Diane Perry, and Kepp's Chislic

The payout per meat division for the people's choice judging is \$125 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place. The payout per meat division for the blind judging is \$150 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

A Kids Que was added this year where even the youngest BBQ aficionados can show off their skills. With ground beef being the star, creativity can run wild! There are two age divisions, with great prizes being handed out in each division.

Thank you to our top event sponsors: SD Sheep Growers, C&C Cattle, Carr Chiropractic Clinics, PC, In Memory of Karl Blessinger, Humphrey THC, Dakota Provisions, SD Pork Producers, Kepp's Chislic, Agtegra, TKS Haygrinding, Independent Health Solutions, Advanced Sunflower, Daily Plainsman, Premier Equipment, Slumberland, Lincoln Auto, LSI-Jack Link's, Montgomery Real Estate, Potter's Shoes, Lone Wolf Spices, Zig's Electric, Protective Coating Specialist, The Carpet Center, Mack Metal, and Trussbilt.

For more information on how to enter, log on to www.sdbbqchampionships.com or call 605.353.7354.

There's A Day For That...

BY REBECCA GILBERT

Since 2013 the number of fires in the United States has risen by 12.2%. With an ever increasing population the threat of fire is lurking and our first line of defense is our city and volunteer fire departments. When we dial 911 to call for help these folks jump to our aide and respond at a moments notice. In many cases they leave their "day" job and come to our rescue.

In my case two volunteer fire departments were called out to our house fire in the middle of the night. They battled flames but the house was burnt to the ground by the time they arrived around 3:20am. They contained the fire and were extremely helpful to us. They were there for us in our time of need. When I see that there is a day to honor our firefighters you can bet that I am all in.

May 4th is International Firefighters Day. When you see a firefighter, thank them! Make a donation to your local volunteer department. Buy the guys at the station donuts. Do something to recognize the commitment these people make on a daily basis to serve and protect our community.

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A Glance at the Shimmering Success of the 25th Annual Papa Luigi Event

More than 430 guests graced the Huron Event Center on March 23 for a night of glitz, glamour and goodwill at the 25th annual Papa Luigi event. The air buzzed with excitement as attendees donned their most elegant shiny and sequined attire to mark the occasion of the silver anniversary of Papa Luigi. This year, the event embarked on a new journey with the inaugural "Dancing with the Stars" theme.

Seven local star-couples took center stage, captivating the audience with dazzling dance routines, carefully prepared and practiced with local professional dancer and instructor, Tarin Oyler. Donations poured in, with each contribution serving as a vote for the couples' routines, raising \$21,000 solely from votes.

The heart and history of Papa Luigi was highlighted as each couple brought to life a themed routine inspired by memories of past Papa Luigi events. Dr. Anthony and Emma Loewen garnered the most votes with their rendition of "Poker Face" channeling the energy of a 1920's Las Vegas soiree, earning the mirror ball trophy.

Through donations, sponsorships, auction proceeds and table sales, the 25th Annual Papa Luigi raised more than \$75,000, breaking all known records of the event. Our heartfelt thanks to our star couples, sponsors, businesses and individuals who provided auction items, volunteers, and all who attended with a special acknowledgement for Tarin Oyler, who spent countless hours instructing and guiding our dancers and providing vision for the event.

Funds raised through Papa Luigi will help to advance the mission of the HRMC Foundation of ensuring high-quality local health care for generations to come. As we reflect on this momentous milestone, we invite you to join us in our journey toward a healthy Huron. Your support is integral to our shared vision of a thriving community. Visit www.hrmcfoundation.org or contact the HRMC Foundation at 605-353-6315.

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Sources

1. <https://www.cfp.net/get-certified/certification-process/exam-requirement/about-the-cfp-exam/scoring-and-results/exam-statistics>

2. According to the latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, there are around 330,300 financial advisors employed in the U.S. <https://www.financestrategists.com/financial-advisor/advisor-types/how-many-financial-advisors-are-in-the-us/>

According to the CFP® Board, there are 98, 883 CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERS™. <https://www.cfp.net/knowledge/reports-and-statistics/professional-demographics>

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Small Business Loan Basics

BY KELLY WEAVER, Small Business Development Center, Regional Director

Over the years I have worked with hundreds of existing and prospective business owners. When business loans are part of the discussion, there are many opportunities for education. Here are some basics to keep in mind.



A Different Animal – Business loans are very different from car and home loans in terms of requirements, time tables, underwriting. Businesses rely on a stream of business profits to make loan payments so cash flow is critical. A business plan is important to demonstrate this cash flow and illustrate how the business owner will implement the plan. You will be better served to present a complete package to a lender to act on rather than dribbling information to them bit by bit.

Personal Credit – Your personal credit DOES affect your ability to get money for your business. Your credit score is an indication of your ability to manage money, and cash flow management is critical in business.

Down Payment – Funders expect you to bring something to the table. Cash is preferred but assets you own and will use in the business (equipment, inventory, vehicle, etc.) can also be considered part of your down payment. The exact amount is dependent on the specifics of each project with a common range of 10-30%.

Equity vs. Collateral – Equity is the cash or assets the owner(s) is investing in the business (your 'down payment'). Collateral is the assets (business AND personal) that are pledged to your loan. Lenders expect repayment from the business profits. If there is a default, the liquidation of collateral is a secondary way to recover their funds.

If at First You Don't Succeed – If the first request is not successful, get as much information as you can from the lender as to the reason why. See if those can be filled by reimagining the financing request or involving additional funding sources or credit enhancements in the project.

It's Not Always About You – Keep in mind that certain industries are riskier than others. Your ability to get financing is sometimes influenced by the industry or that particular lender's experience with that industry. Each lender has its own policies so don't be afraid to approach more than one if needed.

There can also be confusion about funding options available. Each business is unique so funding sources are unique to each project. The Small Business Development Center can explain what programs fit and help brainstorm options to consider. Understanding the basic tenets of business financing is critical to success.

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What a Friend...We Have in Jesus



BY CRYSTAL LIEN, PrairieTracks Contributing Writer

If as Christians we are to be known by our love (John 13:35), then it's safe to say that where there is love, there is relationship, friendship, camaraderie. In our lifetime some friendships will be forever; some, however, are purposed only for a season. And for those friendships that we only get for a season, a moment in time, we should resist the urge to deprecate or deflate their importance. That season-long bond may have served its God-ordained purpose. All friendship, no matter how close or far, or how long or short the duration, will go through seasons...seasons of change, seasons of growth, seasons of quiet, seasons of dormancy, seasons of pressure. As we go through changing times in our own lives as individuals, our friendships will also, and the cultural rhetoric of devaluing friends/friendships that are seasonal is indicative of our deeper lack of social and emotional skills and maturity.

As long as we are headed in the same direction- heaven bound- then the transition experienced in life will be able to sustain changing relationship. The goal isn't to simply "get through" these seasons or to survive; the goal is to let the Potter's hands mold us, refine us with His fires and sanctify us as we sojourn this side of heaven alongside other sojourning travelers. Our love for each other in Christ can remain unbroken- even in seasons of change and separation. Friendship will be in a constant state of shifting as our physical and emotional nearness waxes and wanes in these naturally occurring seasons of life. A good friend should draw us nearer to Jesus. Just because a friend frustrates us or doesn't serve us or meet our needs the way we dictate does not mean we end that friendship. Some friendships will be refined by seasons of wrestling and difficulty. Some friendships transition because it is God's will (Isaiah 43:19). God may be doing a new thing in your life or your friend's life, and we need to make space for it.

When friendships change, we can continue to show sisterly/brotherly affection. Instead of harboring hurt or anger, we can choose to extend love, mercy, grace, and honor. Even good changes can be painful when they impact the status of a friendship. Not every friend walks with us our entire lives; and to have that expectation and unspoken ultimatum that one is only a good friend if they are with us forever reveals more than just a little immaturity and selfishness. With change we are certainly allowed to give ourselves space to feel the hurt, but that space also should embolden us to keep bitterness at bay, if we are functioning as a mature and mentally healthy adult. Follow Jesus' command in John 15: 12-13 to love others like he does- by laying down your life for your friend without any expectation of reciprocation. Selfless love for others is indeed a mark of a mature believer. Maybe this looks like letting your friendship go or perhaps it looks like praying for a heart to see the best in that friend and desiring good for them regardless of what that implies for us, our wants, and our needs.

Not all friendships will last a lifetime. They may sustain, yet they may change or even end completely by choice or by circumstance. Some people are placed in our lives for moments, a season or possibly an ebb and flow of closeness and separation. But no matter the length is it not better to hold all of them as blessings, as treasures given us by God even if only momentary? What a better way to view the many, many people we will encounter in our day to day lives on this earth? As a blessing instead of an insult; as a gift instead of something negative? Friendships CAN be seasonal- there is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8), and we can't cherry pick the parts we like. There IS a time to mourn, and that can apply to the death of friendship/relationship. Death does not take away from the beauty and blessing that relationship held. Some friendships will endure to our end days; others might come in and out of our lives or walk just one sweet season with us. Learn to treasure them all.

Instead of harshly judging those who have stepped away from a deep friendship with us by choice or situation, could we not offer blessings and even unrequited thanks? Thanks for loving me. Thanks for tarrying with me in my life. Thanks for letting me walk with you in a season. Maybe, if we choose to remove our eyes from self, we will see that we were placed momentarily in their lives FOR THEM. And now our job is done. We are often incredibly caught up in self and very judgmental of others. Let's instead, choose to be thankful for all those people God put in our path- even if only momentarily; and for all the paths He put us on for the blessing of another. What a better mindset that would be.

We can only invest so much time each day in a certain number of people. Have boundaries; protect and prioritize your time with Jesus (Matthew 15:38). And know the difference between acquaintances, situational friends, and deep meaningful relationships. They are not all created equally. And that is by design. Do not be offended. Be mature, gentle, kind and loving. Friendships come to natural end dates because everything is seasonal. Ultimately, we don't have unlimited time to invest in friendships. Invest in the ones God is calling you to invest in and release your death grip on the others, albeit with love, grace, and blessing. Just because a friendship is difficult doesn't mean it needs to end (Philippians 4:2). We are expected to walk together in brotherly love (1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; 2 Peter 1:7) and loving one another can be difficult without the added pressure of perfectly meeting all the needs of another. Only God can do that. So, give to God what is His; treasure the people He has put in your life for the moments you get to have them, and release the man-made expectations of what it means to "be a friend".

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BY BILLI AUGHENBAUGH,
De Smet Development Corporation

De Smet voted No. 2 Small-Town Cultural Scene in America

After a month of voting, De Smet won second place in the USA Today's Readers' Choice 2024 10 Best small-town cultural scene contest.

De Smet's cultural claim to fame included being the setting behind five of Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie" books, the De Smet Depot Museum, the sculpture walk, Harvey Dunn, Old Settler's Day and so much more.

A trip for Mother's Day this year?

Plan a road trip to De Smet with mothers in your life as their gift! While you're here, you'll find our many gift stores, a boutique, furniture stores, a bookstore, a hardware store appliance store, greenhouses and more! Plus, grab a delicious coffee drink or lunch or supper at one of our many food places in town.

Your presence could be your present this Mother's Day. Hope to see you soon!

Doug Allen Nash brings Johnny Cash & Neil Diamond Tribute to De Smet Stage May 19

Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond music comes to life on the De Smet Event Center stage on May 19 at 3:00 p.m. when Nashville recording artist, Doug Allen Nash, presents a tribute to these two American icons. Doug is well known coast to coast for his showstopping concerts using his enormous gifts as a singer, musician and dazzling entertainer. This is the 2nd concert of the 2024 De Smet Area Concert Series for all season members, plus a limited number of individual tickets are now on sale at \$20 each. Call Nancy Montross, 605-854-3502, or the Event Center, 605-854-6060, for individual ticket or season membership information.



Mark your calendar for the longest running South Dakota celebration, Old Settler's Day, to be held June 7-8-9.

See a complete list of events in June's Prairie Tracks!

May 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.

- May 5 Athletic Awards Banquet** @ Event Center • 6:30 p.m., potluck starts at 5 p.m.
- May 6 Chamber Meeting** @ Klinkel's III • 5:00 p.m.
- May 6 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony**
- May 7 Track Meet** @ De Smet
- May 7 'The Sharing' Community Meal** @ United Methodist Church • 6:30 p.m.
- May 8 City Council Meeting** @ Event Center
- May 8 Bachelorette**
- May 9 FFA Banquet** • 7:00 p.m.
- May 10 Softball Game** @ De Smet Softball Field
- May 11 De Smet Graduation** • 2:00 p.m.
- May 12 Mother's Day**

- May 13 LifeServe Blood Drive** @ Event Center
- May 13 School Board Meeting** @ School
- May 16 Preschool Graduation** @ Event Center
- May 17 Last Day of School!!**
- May 17 Last Roller Skating of the season** @ Event Center
- May 18 Youth Space** @ Klinkel's III open to youth
- May 19 Doug Allen Nash Concert** @ Event Center
- May 20 Growing YOUTH Gardens Volunteer Meeting** • 6:00 p.m.
Call Event Center with questions
- May 22 Feeding South Dakota Giveaway** • Noon @ Washington Park

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

DE SMET HAPPENINGS

See How The Ingalls Family Lived By Visiting The Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society

BY MARY JO WERTZ, Executive Director Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society

I love Spring. I know the weather is unpredictable, but it always has the feeling of a fresh start and holds the hopes of summer adventures. Rain comes instead of snow. Flowers start to pop out of the ground from their long winters nap. It always smells fresh outside.

From my schoolgirl days until today, spring and summer meant school field trips.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society is preparing for this anticipated season of field trips as well and we are eager to welcome you. We have a variety of offerings this year.

Come and work a real printing press while learning about Carrie Ingalls Swanzey and her pioneering work as a homesteader, typesetter, and editor.

Climb in our Covered Wagon and see how Laura Ingalls Wilder and pioneers like her would have packed to survive the long journey west through an unpredictable wilderness.

Learn how Pa Ingalls provided food for his family before grocery stores. See how his hunting adventures compare with ours today.

Help Ma cook the day's meals and see and touch the tools she would have used.

Experience what it would have been like to be blind like Mary and discover the obstacles she would have to overcome to survive and thrive.

Let history come alive for your students, schedule your field trip today!

Has it been a while since you have made a visit to our museum? Make sure we are part of your spring and summer adventures as well. How often can you make reading come to life before your eyes?

Visit the Surveyor's House where Laura's story began in the Dakota's.

Attend the First School and immerse yourself in the nostalgia of days gone by.

Tour the last home that Pa Ingalls built and discover the story of one of the pioneering founders of our community.

Stop by our gift shop and pick up a gift for yourself or someone you love.

Explore our Summer Exhibit opening Memorial Day, Beyond the Prairie: a Journey through the lives, writings, and relationship of Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rose Wilder Lane. We are adding a special tour to our selection this year.

Once a day we will be offering a tour of the cemetery. Our staff has done an enormous amount of work preparing this tour for your enjoyment.

There is so much to see and do. We are all so excited to see you. Make your plans today!

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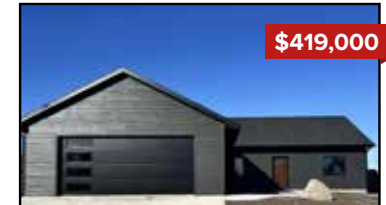
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Great People - Great Lakes

BY DARLENE DEKNIKKER

Center For Independence better known as CFI to the Community has been in our area for several years now. It is located on Main Street in the Main View Apartments and it occupies five apartments. The main office and headquarters is in Huron . CFI has eight people they support at this time, some are totally independent and others require 24-hour care. The Center provides several opportunities for people, like living skills, employment skills and getting them out in the community. One staff member stated that this job is so rewarding, you get greeted with a smile every day, "It's amazing, these people are so important to me."



Mabel Andrews is the new Supervisor. Mabel has been employed at CFI for five years now. Mabel is eager to learn more about her new job, as her new title comes with a lot more requirements. Mabel is passionate when it comes to helping others and looking forward to serving the needs of the residents. Mable stated that every day is a new day. The Center is always looking for a new face. Mabel said, "If you are a compassionate person, this is the best place to work!"



I got the opportunity to attend a "Women's Business Conference" in Aberdeen last month. It was inspiring! I had the opportunity to visit with Laure Swanson (Governor's Office of Economic Development). I'm looking forward to touching base with her again. I realized the opportunities that are available for small businesses in our area. I'm excited to share all my information with Lake Preston Forward.

Lake Preston is excited to host families in our beautiful park/ campground. Our businesses are ready to serve and help all the fishing enthusiasts as well. We encourage everyone to check out our lakes and enjoy some good family fun!

Track Side Tarps: Contact Lisa for all your outdoor covering needs from lawn mowers, furniture, to your motorcycles, boats and other needs - she has experience and is talented!

B.B. Cakes: Brenda is ready to help you with all your graduation and wedding needs! Please reach out to her by call, text or FB.

Josie Repair: Josie is gearing up for another busy season!! Stop by and visit with him and he is sure to get you back on the water!

Maynards: Need some things for Graduation or a summer BBQ? Reach out to Jasper he would love to meet all your food - party needs.

She Shed: Stop out and see what Penny has in the store! New things!!! Check out her FB for her store hours.

CALENDAR EVENTS:

- May 8th- Bachelorette " Lutheran Church" 7pm
- May 11th - Graduation Lake Preston High School Gym- 3:30 pm
- May 11th- FLEGAL FLOWERS " Planter Party" 9-12
- May 9th- last day of City-Wide Clean-up
- June - 1st Sat. LAKE PRESTON City wide Rummage

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Class of 2024

BY TOM GLANZER, PrairieTracks Contributing Writer

WRITER'S NOTE:

I read these articles to my family prior to sending them off for print... this is the second edition, my family said I could do better than the original one I wrote. I hope this one gets a passing grade from my wife and kids!

Dear Class of 2024,

This open letter to the Class of 2024 is honestly one last letter to my son, Brecken...and because he is a classmate or shares your graduation year...I feel responsible to give you one last "dad" talk before you get that high school diploma.

When I walked across the stage of James Valley Christian in 1991, I was clueless. I thought I knew what I was doing, but like every single one of you...I was absolutely unaware of life outside of high school. Humble yourself for like three minutes....like honestly....say it with me, "I don't know everything...I need to listen a little bit more." Ok, I have you now. If you are not going to be a disciplined self-starter this world is going to eat you alive.

Some of you have had some hard knocks in your young life, and are a bit more street-wise than others... congrats...that hard life has made you stronger and better. There are others that have had everything handed to them and some are a bit more talented than the rest of us... so life has been easy....well, the "easy" ends the moment you walk off the stage.

3.5 Million Seniors are in their last minutes of high school across the United States of America...and they are your competition. Let me break it to you, like maybe two of you that are reading this are in the top 10% of that 3.5 million. The rest of you, me included, will have to work hard to outshine the rest of these humans.

Some will weed themselves out of the mix. They will give into their inner voice that says, be lazy, I'm not good enough, I'm not smart enough, I am afraid to try this and fail...the list of excuses goes on, but the truth is, you make yourself...not your parents, not your grades not your grandpa's bank account. When it comes down to it, only you can make you the best you can be.

The rest of you are like me and everyone around you....average.... but here is the good news. You can be the best AVERAGE that you can be, and be successful. I have said this during a few graduation speeches and in this article, but it is worth repeating.....READ THIS SLOW...graduation day is the point in your life where people who were being paid to tolerate you....will not have to tolerate you anymore. Read that again, please.

I was extremely average...I always have been. I was always 3rd place in the 110 Hurdles, I never got called up to be a sports anchor on ESPN, I didn't even make it out of the Sioux Falls market! I also didn't always have the inner drive and desire that I possess today, and that drive and desire goes away almost every hour, but you have to battle the voice in your head. Don't listen to the voice that says be afraid and just be average, listen to the one that sets wild goals, tells you to go for a run or tells you to ask that girl out on a date. If you don't chase it you will never know what might have been.

People that chase greatness inspire me. Guys like Julian Edelman, too small for D-1 football, played college at San Mateo for a year then transferred to Kent State to play football and get a degree, but he knew deep down inside he was better than average. After changing his work ethic and buying into what his father had been telling him for years...Edelman went on to be a three year starter at quarterback for Kent State and then went on to relearn how to catch footballs in the NFL as a wide receiver. He won a few Super Bowls and a MVP alongside another "average" athlete by the name of Tom Brady.



Cameron Hanes came from a broken home with an alcoholic father, when he graduated from high school in Oregon he did nothing. Didn't have a real job, or any idea of what to do. A friend introduced him to bow hunting and took him elk hunting for the first time. His life changed. He found a career working for the local water and power company. He also found a passion. He shot his bow and trained his body every day to be as fit as he could be in order to hunt in the mountains. He is now the most successful elk hunter in American history. He has turned that passion in to a successful podcast, clothing line, and full time career. He has equipment sponsors and a trail running shoe named after his mantra of "Keep Hammering". Hanes recently quit his full time job and gets paid for his passion.

The stories above are about humans with absolutely average skills, average sized humans doing great things with the skills they were given and pushing that to its full potential. Julian Edelman is no Travis Kelce, Cameron Hanes shot millions of arrows at a target and ran thousands of miles to be the best, Caitlin Clark did not become the basketball sensation she is without hard work.

You can be average and be extremely successful. Successful isn't a six or seven figure income. Successful isn't always a perfect marriage. Successful doesn't mean you won't have struggles. Being successful is using your God-given abilities to their max potential. You know when you didn't give it your all...absolutely you know when you are slacking off. Now, the challenge is to gain an inner voice that says, no...I'm am going to do it the right way, the best I can.

I have an inner voice that yells at me...do I always listen, no. My fear of failure and letting people down was probably stronger than the inner voice telling me to be the best I can be. How hard are you going to work when no one is watching you? That is where you take yourself from below to above average.

Now that high school is over, nobody is watching you. You are your own boss...your college teachers will not care, your boss at the new job will replace you if you don't do the work. Your inner drive and discipline is the only pathway to become the best average you can be.

You may never think about anything written in this article again for the rest your life, but try to remember one last thing. You control your attitude and effort for everything you WANT to do, and everything you HAVE to do in life...so adjust your own attitude and make every moment count...this world owes you nothing.

Class of 2024, I love you and wish you all great success, and welcome to life after high school.

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