



DECEMBER 2021

# Connecting the DOTs

Thanks for voting for the 2021-2022 Snowplows!

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### "Dale"

### Honorary Plow named by Gov. Noem

Dale is located in the  
Watertown Area.



### Aberdeen Region:

Aberdeen Area: Blizzard of Oz

Huron Area: Termiblader

Watertown Area: Control/Salt/Delete

### Mitchell Region:

Mitchell Area: Highway Hero

Sioux Falls Area: Quick Thaw McGraw

Yankton Area: Thank Me Blader

### Pierre Region:

Mobridge Area: Drift Dominator

Pierre Area: Snow Problemo

Winner Area: Plow Patrol

### Rapid City Region:

Belle Fourche Area: Mr. Snow Jangles

Custer Area: Snow Squatch

Rapid City Area: West River Shiver

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### SDDOT Mission:

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

### SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation

### SDDOT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ICONS



SERVICE

WORKFORCE

ASSETS

SAFETY

PROCESSES



## The Secretary's Corner

### Giving Gifts To Remember

**Have a blessed holiday season with your loved ones.**

**May you spend quality time to rejuvenate and celebrate our Savior's birth.**

At Christmas, giving gifts is a wonderful way to show love and appreciation and build relationships – both at home and work. Unfortunately, the true meaning of Christmas, to celebrate the birth of our Savior and reciprocate gifts of love to others, has become secondary to commercialism that is so prevalent in our society today.

Although our desire to give gifts of love is admirable on our behalf, the end result has evolved into a season that has become materialistic, expensive, and a commercial venture to give out of obligation. I would like to encourage you this Christmas to break the mold and consider giving a gift that reflects love in a way that is very inexpensive but means so much to the recipient. These gifts also help build deeper relationships that are so critically needed in our world today. In fact, I would encourage giving these gifts all year to strengthen your personal and professional relationships.

#### **The gift of listening.**

This means you really listen -- no interrupting, no daydreaming, no glancing at your cell phone every few minutes, and no planning your response. Just listen.

#### **The gift of laughter.**

Everyone loves to laugh. Cut out a cartoon, clip a joke, copy a riddle, or save a clever article. Your gift will say, "I hope this puts a smile on your face."

#### **The gift of a compliment.**

Give more compliments to your friends, family members, and coworkers. A simple "Your smile lights up the whole house" or "Your creativity is amazing" or "Your help on that project really saved the day" can be of tremendous value to people.

#### **The gift of a handwritten note.**

Write notes to show appreciation! Put your notes where they will surprise those special people--in their lunches, among their socks, on the front seat of their car, in a desk drawer – or even send the note by mail.

#### **The gift of a favor.**

Do favors for those special people on your list. Help with the dishes, clean out the basement, shovel the driveway, or run to the store. This gift is made more valuable when it anticipates a request rather than when it responds to one.

(Credit for portions of this article given to Dr. Zimmerman's Tuesday Tips)



# Aberdeen Region Earns 1st Annual SDDOT Holiday Smackdown

By Kari Kroll, Executive Assistant

**With a total of 3614 points, the Aberdeen Region earned the 1st Annual SDDOT Holiday Smackdown trophy! In total, SDDOT collected 4,985 items and raised \$3,224.**

**Points awarded:**

- 1st Place: Aberdeen Region
- 2nd Place: Rapid City Region
- 3rd Place: Mitchell Region
- 4th Place: Pierre Region
- 5th Place: Central Office

**As the trophy holder for 2021, Aberdeen Region will choose the statewide SDDOT collection for 2022.**



**THANK YOU** to everyone for your generosity and drive to do good for our communities. (Find photos on the following pages!) Below is the list of food pantries that will benefit from this amazing food drive.

**Aberdeen Region**

- Aberdeen Region Admin, Operations, and Area – Salvation Army (Aberdeen)
- Huron Area – Salvation Army (Huron)
- Watertown Area – Salvation Army (Watertown)

**Central Office** - PARS (Pierre Area Referral Services)

**Mitchel Region**

- Sioux Falls Area – Feeding South Dakota
- Mitchell Region and Mitchell Area – Mitchell Food Pantry
- Yankton Area, Menno shop, and Tyndall shop - Contact Center Yankton
- Beresford shop - Emmanuel Church
- Junction City shop - Trinity Lutheran Church & University Food Pantry (Vermillion)



**Pierre Region**

- Pierre Area - PARS (Pierre Area Referral Services)
- Mobridge Area - McIntosh Food Pantry
- Winner, Presho, Mission, Martin, and White River - Winner Thrift Store
- Murdo - United Methodist Church
- Kadoka - Community Action Program

**Rapid City Region**

- Rapid City Region and Rapid City Area – Feeding South Dakota & Cornerstone Rescue Mission
- Hot Springs – Hot Spring Food Pantry
- Custer – Custer Food Pantry
- Spearfish – Spearfish Food Pantry
- Lead – Lord’s Cupboard
- Belle Fourche – Compassion Cupboard

# Branding Resources - For You!

New TEAMS backgrounds available . . .

If you're ready for a new TEAMS background; find additional options here:

<M:\DOT\Common\DOTPictures&Logos\Teams Backgrounds>



Original Version



New Option



New Option

## Branded Table Covers, Runners, and Pull Up Banners

Ordering Information Here:

<https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/media/branding-and-identity-guidelines>



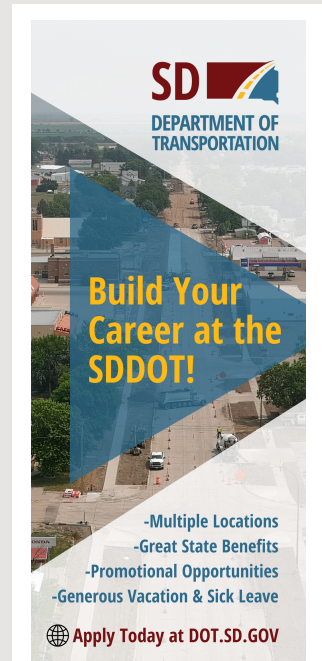
Table Runner



Table Cover



Example Banner



Career Fair Example

## SDDOT Personal Clothing Order

SDDOT Personal clothing orders will be available during the month of January! More information to come after Christmas!

There will be 16 different men's/women's clothing items in various styles offering different price points. Example Items below:



## Professional Headshots

The communications team is taking headshots for interested SDDOT staff to update profile pics in Teams and Outlook; as well as for other needs you may have for presentations. Supervisors will send information when photo opportunities will be available in each Region.



# Branding Resources - For You!

## Safety Posters:

Please find a variety of safety posters for use within your office and shops.

<https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/media/branding-and-identity-guidelines>

When you click on the link above, you will be taken to the SDDOT Branding and Identity Guidelines page. Scroll toward the bottom of the page until you get to the "Safety Posters" and "Winter PSA Flyers" section.

Click the red buttons and you will be redirected to the posters. When you find a poster that you would like to use, right click the poster and hit "Save Image As." Once that is done, you will be able to print the posters and hang them around your office or shop!



## PUT THE FREEZE ON WINTER DRIVING MISHAPS

Please slow down and use "extreme caution" when your visibility or traction are affected, and to stop driving altogether when conditions get dangerous.

**Other rules to keep in mind this winter:**

- ★ Pre-trip and post-trip inspection requirements
- ★ State and local laws for snow or ice removal, tire chains, and idling
- ★ The "adverse driving conditions" exception for hours of service



**Remember the Rules When the Weather Turns Cool!**



## WINTER SURVIVAL KITS

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER BEFORE IT STRIKES



### SOME KEY ITEMS TO HAVE IN YOUR VEHICLE:

✓ BOOTS, JACKETS, GLOVES	✓ JUMPER CABLES
✓ BLANKETS	✓ BASIC TOOLS
✓ CELL PHONE CHARGER	✓ PENCIL AND PAPER
✓ FLASHLIGHT AND SPARE BATTERIES	✓ BOTTLED WATER AND SNACKS

**BETTER LIVES THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORTATION**



## Mentoring Minute

By Rick Walton and John Villbrandt



As we start this year's Mentoring Journey and you start meeting with your Mentor/Mentee, just a few suggestions – best practices to keep in mind.

1. Communicate/Set your expectations
2. Have goals/topics for every meeting
3. Be prepared to listen AND share
4. Take responsibility! The program is Mentee driven – don't expect your Mentor to do everything.
5. Maintain confidentiality.
6. Schedule your next meeting before you leave your session.
7. Update and evolve your Mentoring Plan as needed.

Remember, your Mentoring journey is an excellent opportunity to help develop your career path, build, and establish a network of professional relationships, develop, and enhance your skill set, acquire personal insights from your Mentor and/or a situational Mentor, and improve your leadership qualities. The opportunities/possibilities are endless. All it takes is your commitment and participation!

**Helpful Hint:** There are great tools available to help you plan for and prepare your mentoring meetings.

Check out **The Power of Productive Meetings (AFE 75C8) on LMS** for pointers on how to prepare for a focused, productive meeting.

Click the "Mentoring Minute" title on this page to be brought directly to **The Power of Productive Meetings (AFE 75C8) on LMS** to learn more.

Have a great Mentoring year!



## 2021 Indigenous Bowl Brings Tribes Together at U.S. Bank Stadium

Being invited to play in the 7G Foundation Indigenous Bowl is an honor for all those involved and a memory that will last a lifetime for the select high school football players chosen for the roster. This year, 13 South Dakotans were invited to play in the 2021 Indigenous Bowl. Among them was Richard Hagen, the son of Oelrichs Lead Highway Maintenance Worker Shayne Hagen.

Fifty-four native student-athletes representing over 30 tribes took the field at U.S. Bank Stadium, home of the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021. The days prior to kickoff, the athletes were able to participate in leadership training, attend speeches from various coaches, and tour the Vikings stadium.

Hagen, a linebacker who represented the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe and Pine Ridge High School at the game, was a member of the Gold Team (a.k.a the "Golden Boyz"). The game was closely contested throughout, but the Gold Team claimed an 18-14 victory.

When the final buzzer rang, both teams could consider themselves winners because of the relationships built and lifetime memories created.

Congratulations to Richard Hagen on being able to take part in such a memorable event and to represent South Dakota on the big stage.

*\*Hagen was recently named to the Rapid City Journal's "Best in the West" 9-man football team.*



Hagen sported #51 at the game





## TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve  
December 2021

### NHI CLASSES

NHI 134078a Managing Highway Contract Claims: Analysis & Avoidance

Jan. 11-13, 2022 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sioux Falls

NHI 135056 Culvert Design

Jan. 11-13, 2022 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

### TLN WEBINARS

The Rules of Contract Interpretation

Jan. 11 | 9:30 -11 a.m. | Zoom

Listen Up! Becoming a Better Listener

Jan. 12 & 13 | 12:30 – 4 p.m. & 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Zoom

**CERTIFICATIONS** (Remember to register for a session with a date, not just the event)

#### Earthwork

Mar. 21-23 | 1 p.m. | Pierre

#### Structures

Feb. 14-17 | 8 a.m. | Pierre

#### ACI: Concrete Field Testing

Mar. 2 | 8 a.m. | Rapid City

Mar. 24 | 8 a.m. | Pierre

#### Concrete Plants

Jan. 18-20 | 1 p.m. | Pierre

#### Erosion & Sediment Control

Feb. 8-9 | 8 a.m. | Pierre Feb. 22-23 | 8 a.m. | Rapid City Mar. 1-2 | 8 a.m. | Sioux Falls

#### QC/QA Aggregate Testing:

Jan. 10-11 | 1 p.m. | Pierre

Mar. 7-8 | 1 p.m. | Pierre

#### QC/QA Hot Mix Testing:

Jan. 12-14 | 8 a.m. | Pierre

Mar. 9-11 | 8 a.m. | Pierre

#### QC/QA Mix Design & Production Control

Mar. 28-31 | 1p.m. | Bismarck, ND

#### QC/QA Roadway Inspection Recertification Test

Due April 15 | Online

#### QC/QA Aggregate Testing Recertification Test

Due April 15 | Online

#### QC/QA Hot Mix Testing Recertification Test

Due April 15 | Online

#### QC/QA Mix Design & Production Control Recertification Test

Due April 15 | Pierre

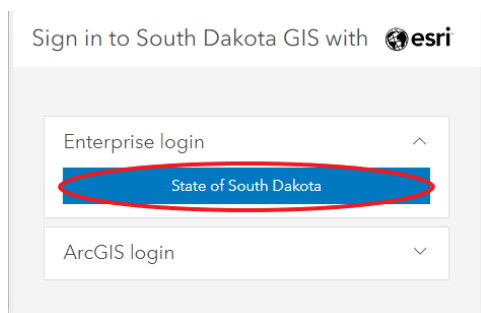
## ArcGIS Enterprise and what you need to know!

By Kimberly Zerr and Kathryn Wesson

This month, the GIS team would like to highlight an important change that will occur soon for all SDDOT staff who utilize an iPad for mobile data collection.

With the transition of our online data to the new ArcGIS Enterprise platform comes a new – and easier – login process, using your state email and password. If you have not heard from us yet regarding this change, please take a minute to read the login instructions below, as they will guide you through this process. The GIS team will contact you when it's time to setup your new account!

1. To set up your ArcGIS Enterprise account, use an internet browser to go to <https://sdgis.sd.gov/portal/home/> and click on State of South Dakota.



2. On the next screen, click on State of South Dakota Employee (toward the bottom of the window).



3. Type in your State email address, then click Next.

4. You will get another screen asking you to sign into your organizational account. Use your state email address and your computer password to sign in. You may choose "Yes" to stay signed in if you wish.

Once you're signed in, please keep your profile visibility as Everyone (public) and send an email to either Kimberly or Kathryn so that we can assign you to the appropriate work groups. We'll let you know when you're ready to go!

The next time you use Field Maps on your iPad, you should choose the Enterprise login option, type <https://sdgis.sd.gov/portal/>, and follow the same steps to sign in as you did on your computer. If your iPad is shared, please tap "No" when asked if you want to stay signed in. More info to come as we start reaching out to our users. Stay tuned!



## Christmas Fun around the DOT



Front Top Left: Christmas time plowing on Iron Mtn. Rd., Stache-Master Contest Winner Marc Hoelscher, Philip Parade of Lights, Pierre Region PARS Donation, Mitchell Parade of Lights Crew, Carrie DeLange, Grinch Office Theme, Unknown, Rocking Around the Christmas Tree



## Christmas Fun Around the DOT



Front Top Left: Road Design Chili Cookoff Champs, Training Team w/ their tree, Joanne Hight caroling, Dian Dorn playing violin, Yankton Festival of Lights, Missouri Shores Collection dropoff, holiday cards to be delivered to nursing homes, Selby Shop Christmas tree



## Christmas Fun Around the DOT



Front Top Left: We've Got the Holiday Spirit Award winners F&M, Rapid City food donations, DOT food donation, McIntosh food drive, Mitchell Parade of Lights, Hot Springs food drive, Aberdeen Region Holiday Smackdown winners, food donations, Wessington Parade of Lights

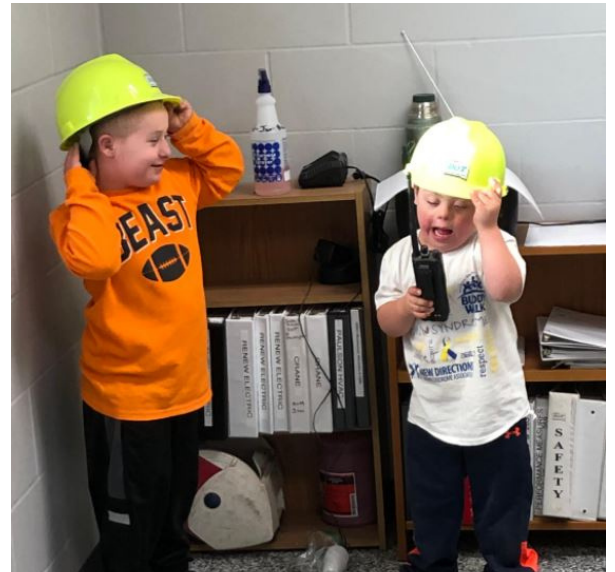


## Start 'em Young!

These cute workers are Terrence and Isaiah, the sons of **Plankinton Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Bruce Van Zee.**

While visiting the shop, the boys found a couple of hard hats and made a few "calls" over the radio.

Terrence and Isaiah were recently featured on the SDDOT social media pages to help with our recruitment efforts!



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates:

### Promotions and Lateral Position Changes:

Earl Berg, Project Delivery Engineer - Pierre  
 Michael Sherwood, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Lennox  
 Nate Crago, Region Operations Technician - Mitchell  
 Austin Kusler, Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls  
 Kevin Heiman, Engineering Supervisor - Yankton

### New Hires:

Justin Brown, Structural Engineer - Pierre  
 Nicholas Attigah, Project Engineer - Pierre  
 Joshua Janes, Road Design Engineer - Pierre  
 Joshua Christensen, Region Traffic Engineer - Pierre  
 Jared Tolzin, Highway Maintenance Worker - DeSmet  
 Keegen Riley, Journey Transportation Tech - Aberdeen  
 Riley Fink, Journey Transportation Tech - Rapid City  
 Dennis Kobernusz, Highway Maintenance Worker - Salem

### December Longevity:

Roger Bitz, Journey Transportation Tech – 30 years (Aberdeen Area)  
 Jeff Steen, Region Materials Engineer – 20 years (Aberdeen Area)  
 Jason Smith, Region Material Engineer – 20 years (Pierre Region)  
 Kelly VanDeWiele, Road Design Engineering Supervisor – 30 years (Central Office)  
 Bill Brown, Highway Maintenance Worker – 20 years (Yankton Area)  
 Warren Ice, Computer Applications Engineer – 35 years (Central Office)



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates:

**Keith G. Voegeli (Highway Maintenance Supervisor)** in Sioux Falls presenting **David Polcari (Highway Maintenance Worker)** in Sioux Falls his 10 years of service pin.

David was presented his pin at the Monthly Safety Meeting being recognized in front of the 271 Unit.



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**Craig Smith, Director of Operations**, received his 30 year pin from **Secretary Jundt** in November.



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Congrats to **Donny Bartscher, Region Operations Technician** for the Mitchell Region Materials Lab. Donny is retiring from the SDDOT this week after more than 30 years.

Donny, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the SDDOT and the citizens of South Dakota. Enjoy your much-deserved retirement!



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**Yankton Area Engineer Rod Gall** retired after 41 ½ years with the DOT.

Per Governor Noem Rod Gall Day was officially declared for Dec. 8, 2021. Congrats on a job well-done Rod!







Dustin Calhoun, husband of **Emily Calhoun (Environmental Scientist)**, runs the non-profit Black Hills Badges for Hope. Their annual Christmas shopping event, Badges N Kids, sponsored 225 Black Hills Area kids in need to shop for Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. Emily and daughters Ellie and Ginny volunteered to help wrap gifts during the event!



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Lily Louise Riss arrived on Tuesday, Dec, 14, 2021, at 9:53 p.m. weighing 6 lbs 9 oz and was 20" long.

She joins her 2 older brothers Camden (7) and Luca. Lily is the daughter of **Brandon Riss, Engineer Manager, Road Design.**



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**Trent Hanson, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker** in Presho receiving his 15 year longevity pin from **Jim Lolley, Unit 391 Supervisor.**



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**Jeff Steen, Aberdeen Region Materials Engineer** receiving his 20 year longevity pin from **Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Operations Engineer.**



A gorgeous early December morning at the Belle Fourche Area Office!

Photo submitted by **Amy Klein-Greba**  
**Training Specialist**

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Congratulations to Justin Hausmann for becoming your **2021 AG BROADCASTING CHAMPION** at the State Development Event in Pierre.

Justin, a member of the Winner FFA Chapter, is the son of **Mike Hausmann who is a Journey Tech in Winner Area.**

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The **Highmore Maintenance Crew** stopped by their local elementary school with their plow, Snow Mater. They handed out bracelets to the students and the kids got to explore the truck. Pre-school - sixth grade students were able to participate. To the left is a picture of the first grade class.

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**A Lego Robotics team from the Flandreau area** is conducting a survey at the Nunda/Ward exit rest stop. They are planning to display a 10 question survey within the building. The team is trying to learn if strong cross winds affect truck drivers who haul goods in dry van trailers. Good luck on your research, team! We look forward to hearing more!





**Tanner Knutson from Beresford**, scored this sweet hat and mink vest while cleaning up the right of way. It's safe to say he is now the most stylish person at the DOT!

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**Scott Eisenbeisz, Aberdeen Region Business Manager** and others had a great couple of days in the field chasing pheasants!

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**Kari Kroll, Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary** dropped off some early Christmas gifts on behalf of the SDDOT for all the good doggies and kitties at PAWS Animal Rescue.



**The Mobridge Area** donated \$456.00 cash along with 93 food items to our local Food Pantry. Great work team!



# NO SHAVE NOVEMBER STACHE-MASTER LEADERBOARD



Pictures of our gold, silver, and bronze medal (Larry Dean – Project Development, Christina Bennett – Operations Support, and Marc Hoelscher – FHWA ) winners of the Stache – Master November contest. Overall Central Office raised \$3,506 toward a Pennies 4 Robert (local charity that helps to defray travel expenses for individuals needing medical treatment).

## Road Design Annual Chili Cookoff

The 2021 Chili Cookoff had five contestants: Ryon Bollinger, John Fuglsang, Neil Schochenmaier, Billy Schwarz, and Mark Liang

And the winners are . . . for both Judge's Choice & the People's Choice: Mark Liang with his "Chili From the Far East" and the best chili name was awarded to Billy Schwarz with "**Dark Side of the Spoon**"!





## Even Santa Relies on the SDDOT!

What does Santa do when the weather is too bad for his reindeer to fly? He counts on the SDDOT to clear the roads, of course!

Thanks to our McIntosh crew for sending in pictures from their local parade of lights. A special thanks to **Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Arlen Halverson (Santa)** and **Highway Maintenance Worker, Keith Gall (Santa's Helper)** for helping the community bask in the Christmas Spirit.

Santa was delivered by snowplow to McIntosh School last week where he spent time with some of the children, and evidently heard what Keith wanted for Christmas this year too!

