



# January 2023 Connecting the DOTs

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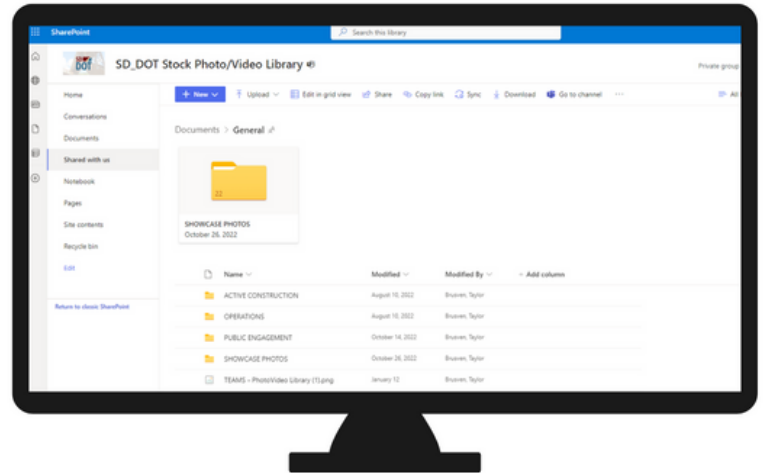
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## SHAREPOINT SDDOT PHOTO AND VIDEO LIBRARY

*\*Click the graphic below to access*



**Click the graphic to access SharePoint.** This photo/video library will be available to all SDDOT employees, as well as others within the State needing photos such as the Governor's Office. The site will include high quality photos that can be used for publications, presentations, and more.

Email [DOT.Communications@state.sd.us](mailto:DOT.Communications@state.sd.us) if you have photos/videos to add to the library. Also, if you are searching for a "particular" look or photo, and aren't finding it; please let us know!



### SDDOT Mission:

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

### SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation by being the best



## The Secretary's Corner

Thanks to everyone who played a key role in Governor Noem's 2nd Inauguration.

**DOT had 32 staff who assisted!** Find more information and photos in this newsletter.



Despite relentless snowstorms, SDDOT team members across the state came together to collect food and money to help those in need through our **2022 Holiday Smackdown competition.**

### Winning Region: Aberdeen

I want to personally thank **Kari Kroll, Executive Assistant**, for the time and effort she gives to organizing this annual fundraising event (and many others)!

Kari, please know your efforts are greatly appreciated by all of us; and most certainly all recipients.



ABERDEEN REGION/AREA COLLECTION



WATERTOWN COLLECTION



HURON COLLECTION

**Holiday Smackdown 2022**  
We collected \$1737 and 5024 items for 14 organizations across the state in the midst of a blizzard. **AMAZING!**



MITCHELL REGION/ AREA COLLECTION



CENTRAL OFFICE COLLECTION



BELLE FOURCHE COLLECTION



WINNER COLLECTION



RAPID CITY COLLECTION



HOT SPRINGS COLLECTION



MOBRIDGE COLLECTION

## Better Lives Through Better Inaugural Transportation

By June Hansen

*Inaugural Celebration*

On Jan. 7, 2023, Governor Kristi Noem was sworn in for her second term as South Dakota's 33rd Governor. There is the ceremonial swearing in of the Governor and other constitutional officers at the Capitol, but there are also many celebratory events in conjunction with the formal swearing in. The Inauguration is officially hosted by the city of Pierre. It's a big deal for the Capitol City every four years.

DOT staff play an important role in the transportation, much like we do every day. What does that mean? We solicit vehicles from the local car dealers to drive for the event and then we provide drivers/escorts for the day to drive the Constitutional Officers and Justices of the Supreme Court. There are a lot of odds and ends like ordering specialty Inaugural license plates and flags for the vehicles.

We also arrange for transportation for the extended Noem and Rhoden families, and work with River Cities Transit to provide a free shuttle service between the two evening balls which are held at the Capitol and Ramkota.

**Pictured are the SDDOT drivers, escorts, and shuttle support personnel**



**Back Row:** Doug Gorham, Lexi Lassle, Larry Dean, Randy Brown, Ryon Bollinger, Danny Varilek, Tom Kallemeyn and Derek Ferwerda **Middle Row:** Carol Evans, Marilyn Patterson, Brenda Thomas, Katlyn Wieme, Dustin Witt, Emeline Hoblick, Ariana Griffey, Dail Mollard, Chris Ott and Bill Englehart **Front Row:** Kim Zerr, Dani Doorn, Kathryn Johnson, Rip Ray, Brenda Sharkey, Michele Beeler, Cody Lorenz, Shane Carnahan and June Hansen

One of the unique parts of the event is the motorcade between the Capitol and Ramkota between the two balls. While the attendees are enjoying the Capitol Ball, the DOT folks are outside moving 30+ cars into the right order outside the east door of the Capitol. This is so that the dignitaries we're transporting can get into their cars quickly and the motorcade is ready to roll when the Highway Patrol gives the word. Local law enforcement controlled each intersection and stood at attention as the motorcade moved through Pierre.

Article continued . . .

## Inaugural Celebration

**Pictured is the east door of the Capitol with all the vehicles getting ready to make the trek between the Capitol and Ramkota.**



On the Sioux Avenue (U.S. Hwy 83/U.S. Hwy 14/S.D. Hwy 34) even local motorists pulled over as the motorcade went by to show their respect. It was an awesome sight to see.

It's important to note how closely we work with the Highway Patrol and Governor's Security Detail to assist us with our operation. No different than a winter storm, we're in constant contact with the Highway Patrol. Special thanks to all the Highway Patrol Troopers and Governor's Detail Officers that we worked with throughout the Inaugural events.

Chris Ott and June Hansen serve on the Inaugural Committee which has been meeting for over six months to prepare for the event. The committee has a combination of state government staff, city government employees and community leaders. Within the DOT there were 32 people working on Friday, Saturday, and some into wee hours of Sunday morning to support the Inaugural transportation operation. It was truly a team effort.

During the Swearing In Ceremony, **Secretary Jundt** had the honor of assisting Secretary of Tribal Relations, David Flute, with presenting a quilt to Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden. It's tradition for the quilt to be draped around the honoree as the picture shows Secretary Jundt and BIT Commissioner Jeff Clines doing.



**Kari Kroll** also had an important job of assisting with the Swearing In Ceremony and the Grand Marches at both the Capitol and Inaugural Balls. She was responsible for getting all the Inaugural participants such as the Governor, Lt. Governor, Constitutional Officers and Supreme Court Justices in the right order and in the right place for all of these events. Think it's easy to say that DOT was well represented throughout the Inaugural events.



**Thanks to the entire DOT team for going above and beyond to make the 2023 Inaugural Celebration a huge success. It's not the typical way to spend a Saturday in Pierre, but it is a memorable one.**



### Wellmark members get more

Blue365 isn't the only way you get more for being a Wellmark member. As part of your health plan, you also have access to services like:

- **myWellmark®** — one spot to discover tools and resources for getting the most out of your health care.
- **BeWell 24/7™** — get connected with a real person who can help you with a variety of health-related concerns. Just call 844-84-BEWELL (239355).
- **Doctor On Demand®** — see a board-certified doctor from virtually anywhere using a smartphone, tablet or computer.



### Register for Blue365 today!

Go to [Wellmark.com/Blue365](https://www.wellmark.com/blue365). All you need to register is a valid email address and the first three characters of your Wellmark ID number.

## Getting to Know Blue365 and other Health Benefits by Heidi Olson - Human Resource Manager Bureau of Human Resources (BHR)

Often New Year's Resolutions involve living a healthier and more balanced lifestyle. Luckily, **Blue 365** can help make your New Year's goals attainable.

**Blue 365 is a program sponsored by Wellmark that can help you stay healthier while spending less.** Many of the discounts are available nationwide and are available to you and any family member covered by your health plan.

With Blue 365, you can find deals on apparel and footwear, fitness tracking devices, fitness centers and gyms, hearing and vision, nutrition, travel, and home and family.

[Click here to learn more about Blue 365.](#)

### **Biometric Screenings and Preventive Exams with your Doctor:**

To meet the biometric screening qualification for the current beneFIT Well-being program year ending March 31, 2023, register for one of the remaining on-site screening events or schedule your annual wellness preventive exam, complete the Physician Form with your doctor, and submit the form as instructed by March 31, 2023.

After this benefit year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the benefits program will no longer offer on-site biometric screenings. Beginning FY24, employees can receive their numbers and meet the screening qualification by getting a preventive exam with a primary care provider. Resources are available on the BHR website to help you find providers in your local or preferred area if you do not already have one.

<https://bhr.sd.gov/benefits/benefit/NextYearScreenings.pdf>

Research shows that regular check-ins with a primary care provider (PCP) can lead to the early detection of major healthcare concerns. It can also keep chronic problems like diabetes, asthma, and congestive heart failure from turning into emergencies and costly hospital stays. These are invaluable intrinsic rewards. If you and your spouse (if on the plan) get a preventive exam and complete your online health assessment, the employee may earn a financial reward as well! **Details on the rewards can be found here:** <https://bhr.sd.gov/benefits/benefit/>.

If you receive your annual wellness exam between April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, you can submit your physician form for the FY24 biometric screening qualification. The FY24 physician form will be available on April 1, 2023.

Article continued . . .

## Health Benefits Continued by Heidi Olson- BHR

**Coding:** There have been concerns raised regarding how medical providers code your appointments, and surprise charges that arise from your preventive exam. The good news is that using an in-network provider greatly increase the chances of visits being coded correctly since they are familiar with what is included in a preventive exam. Wellmark has also confirmed that they are letting their network know that the State of South Dakota is no longer offering on-site biometric screenings, and they should expect to see employees seeking to establish care with a primary care provider.

### A few pieces of information for you to consider:

- 1.If you feel that something should have been coded preventive, you can call your provider and ask that they submit notes to Wellmark.
- 2.When you make your appointment, be sure to designate that it's your annual preventive exam.
- 3.Take a copy of the Preventive Services list and let your doctor know that you are concerned about additional costs. **For a complete list of covered preventive services, visit: <https://bhr.sd.gov/benefits/FY22Files/WellmarkACAPreventive.pdf>**
- 4.If your preventive exam uncovers a health issue, and that visit then requires diagnostic services, the diagnostic services will be paid at normal plan benefit rates.



## 2023 South Dakota Airports Conference The Lodge, Deadwood, SD March 29 and 30, 2023

Some of the following topics will be discussed at the conference:

- DBE Requirements and Reporting
- Rapid City Terminal Project
- AOPA
- Regional Air Mobility
- Attracting and FBO
- P-308-H (Heavy) Emulsified Asphalt Surface Treatments
- Virtower
- Flight Training update
- Airport security
- FAA – various topics

**Registration form and information is available on our website at:**  
<https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/aviation/airport-conference>



## January Mentoring Minute

By Tim Wicks & Brad Norrid



With the coming of the new year, many of us use this to make a new start, or at least to attempt a new start. Some want to lose weight, exercise more, add a good habit, or get rid of a habit that is not so good. Often, these New Year's Resolutions fall by the wayside and are forgotten until next year (or later), while some of our New Year's resolution are successful and even life changing for us. **How about making the Mentoring Program a New Year's Resolution?** It's a chance to gain some knowledge, learn a new skill, improve yourself, or all of the above. As a bonus, it comes with its own support system and it's free! The mentoring program provides a coach and scheduled events to help you to continue along the path and stick with it for a whole year. Consider joining the mentoring program if you are looking for a mentor or would like to be a mentor. Both can be rewarding with a relatively small amount of time and effort. The new mentoring session sign-up will start in March. Keep your eyes peeled for this great opportunity!

**January is National Mentoring Month. Below are some activities for your consideration!**

### NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH ACTIVITIES

1. **Be a mentor for someone!** Join a mentoring program if available in your city, or be a helping hand to someone who needs assistance. The best part about being a mentor is that there is no age limit. Excel in one skill and it can be taught to others.
2. **Find a mentor to guide you!** Decide what goals you want to achieve. If the goals are professional improvements, search for a mentor in your work place. Finding a mentor will be easier to find once you know what goals to achieve.
3. **Treat the mentors in your life!** Thank your mentor with a nice gift this month, or take them out for lunch. Mentors tend to be very patient and deserve all the appreciation given to them. Even if money is an issue the simple gesture of thanking them for their time and work in you makes all the difference.

### Winter Storm KUDOS:

Escorting moms in labor . . . just another December day at the SDDOT for Pierre Area staffers **Les Winsell, Kyle Willis, and Steve Withers.**

Click on the photo to watch the DakotaNewsNow television feature.

Secretary Jundt has highlighted many stories/acts of heroism by the SDDOT plow operators in the Information Interchange. You can always find his latest issues on the Intranet at: <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/>

Mary and Tanner Hilton were hoping for a white Christmas when their second child was born. While they got the snow they wanted, it came with one of the worst blizzards South Dakota had seen in decades.

The Hiltons live outside of Pierre and needed to get to Avera St. Mary's Hospital during the storm, so SDDOT plow operators jumped into action!

Les Winsell, Kyle Willis, and Steve Withers (SDDOT plow operators) worked through blowing snow with zero visibility and 40 to 50-mile-per-hour winds to help get the Hiltons dug out and to the hospital in time.

Click on the link below to watch this amazing story from [Dakota News Now!](#)

[#SDDOT #SD511](#)



## From Water to Fruit/Veggies – Let’s Do It Again!

By Kari Kroll, Lead Well-being Champion



During the month of January, you had the opportunity to drink water to earn 50 points on the beneFIT program with the **Rethink Your Drink** challenge. There is another opportunity starting in February called the **Five to Thrive** challenge to earn an additional 50 points. Registration starts February 8.

**THE FIVE TO THRIVE CHALLENGE:** From Feb. 22 to March 21, 2023, track your fruit/veggie consumption for 21 of the 28 day challenge. If you log that you ate five or more servings a day for 14 days, you’ll earn 50 points. Sounds like a deliciously good time!

### What is a serving?

- 1 cup of raw or cooked fruits/veggies
- ½ cup of legumes
- 3 cups of leafy greens

The Mayo Clinic suggests the **1-2-3 approach** to help pack in all the servings and more throughout the day - 1 serving for breakfast, 2 with lunch, and 3 with dinner and snacks. Keep fresh, frozen, or canned fruits/veggies on hand so it’s easy to add them to meals and your favorite dishes.

### Need some fun ways to eat fruits & veggies? Let me help you out!

- « 1 whole banana + 1 cup frozen fruit blended into a smoothie (2)
- « 1 sliced apple + 1 cup carrots + 1 tbsp peanut butter sprinkled with cinnamon for dipping (2)
- « 1 cup fresh fruit + ½ cup of ice cream makes a great dessert (1)
- « 1 cup pepper/onion/mushrooms/spinach + 2-3 eggs would make a hearty omelet (1)
- « 3 cups mixed veggies + a frying pan makes for a great stir fry (3)
- « 1 baked sweet potato + ¼ cup salsa to top it off (2-3 depending on the size of sweet potato)
- « 2 cup veggies + 1 cup tomato sauce + pizza crust + cheese/meat (2 for ½ the pizza)
- « 3 cups leafy greens + ½ cup salsa + ½ black beans is a great base to a taco salad (3)

### Who are your SDDOT Well-being Champions??

Kari Kroll (Central Office), Monica Ortbahn (Pierre Region/Mobridge), Luke Neville (Pierre), Doug Sherman (Winner), Alicia Bauley (Aberdeen Region), JoAnn Kayser (Aberdeen), Jeff Brink (Watertown), Bonnie Palmer (Huron), Katie Peugh (Mitchell Region/Mitchell), Tanya Liska (Yankton), Logan Patrick (Sioux Falls), Krystl Vermundson (Rapid City Region/Rapid City), Brenda Butler (Belle Fourche), and Connie Zeimet (Custer)



## SDDOT Wildlife Mitigation Project Update

### Research Project Data:

In 2019, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) conducted a research project to develop guidelines for wildlife vehicle collision mitigation (SD019-02). SDDOT staff utilize the decision guides throughout the transportation decision making process to determine if wildlife collision mitigation is recommended and what type of mitigation strategy is most feasible. Some of the mitigation strategies considered include vegetation management, signage, fencing, and structures.

Construction was completed on a wildlife fencing project in Lawrence County on Nov. 19, 2021. The purpose of the project was to install fence on Interstate 90 (eastbound and westbound) from exit eight to exit 14 near Spearfish due to high wildlife/vehicle collisions reported and where fence was not already located.

### Carcass collection data:

- 82 collected between Nov. 19, 2019 and Nov. 19, 2020.
- 100 collected between Nov. 19, 2020 and Nov. 19, 2021.
- 34 collected between Nov. 19, 2021 and Nov. 19, 2022.

In Nov. 2022, the data shows approximately a 58.54% reduction in carcasses collected when compared to 2020, and approximately a 66% reduction in carcasses collected when compared to 2021.

These results should still be considered preliminary since there is only one full year of data, but they appear promising.

Reported Crash data is provided below for the full five years before construction of wildlife fencing and the first full year after construction.

### **2016-2020 Average**

28.8 Reported Wildlife Hits and 0.8 Injury Crashes

### **Nov. 19, 2021-Nov. 19, 2022**

10 Reported Wildlife Hits and 0 Injury Crashes

In summary, in looking at crash reports from the five years prior to installation, the annual average was just under 29 wildlife property damages and one injury crash per year. When comparing crash reports after installation for one year, the number of wildlife crashes were cut by more than half with 10 property damage crashes reported and no injuries.

\*\* The carcass number is the actual amount of carcasses out on the road while the reported crashes are only those reported by a law enforcement officer. A majority of the unreported deer hits are due to the driver not calling in the report either because there is not significant damage to the vehicle (usually the case with semis) or because they only have liability coverage so reporting the crash would not benefit them.

\*\*Also, to be a reportable crash, there needs to be an estimate of at least \$1000 to a single vehicle or \$2000 if there are multiple vehicles. Therefore, for some deer hits even a law enforcement officer being called to the scene might not lead to a reportable crash.



## TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve  
January 2023

### TLN COURSES

- [Project Scheduling Series: Updating](#)  
Feb. 7 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Zoom
- [Project Scheduling Series: Analyzing Delay](#)  
Feb. 14 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Zoom
- [Project Scheduling Series: Concurrency](#)  
Feb. 21 | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | Zoom
- [Skills for Resiliency](#)  
Feb. 9 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am | Zoom
- [High Performing Teams](#)  
Feb. 23 | 9:30 am – 12:00 | Zoom

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- [AGC Traffic Control Supervisor](#)  
Jan. 26-27 | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm | Sioux Falls
- [Media Training](#)  
Feb. 21 | 8:00 am to noon | Chamberlain
- [SD Concrete Conference](#)  
Feb. 7-8 | Tue. 11:00 am – Wed. 1:00 pm | Deadwood
- [SD Asphalt Conference](#)  
Feb. 15-16 | 8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Chamberlain



### CERTIFICATION COURSES

<a href="#">Structures</a> Feb. 13-16   Pierre	<a href="#">Earthwork</a> Mar. 20-23   Pierre
<a href="#">Erosion &amp; Sediment Control</a> Feb. 7-8   Pierre Feb. 22-23   Rapid City/Box Elder Feb. 28-Mar. 1   Sioux Falls	<a href="#">ACI Field Testing</a> Feb. 14-15   Aberdeen Mar. 1-2   Rapid City Mar. 21-22   Pierre
<a href="#">Asphalt Concrete Aggregates Testing</a> Mar. 6-7   Pierre	<a href="#">Asphalt Concrete Mix Design &amp; Production</a> Mar. 27-30   Pierre  <a href="#">Asphalt Concrete Hot Mix Testing</a> Mar. 8-10   Pierre



**WORKFORCE**

### NEW SDLEARN WEBSITE

Looking for professional development courses or BHR courses? Check out the new [SDLearn Learning Management System \(LMS\)](https://sdlearn.csod.com) at <https://sdlearn.csod.com>

Click State of South Dakota Employees



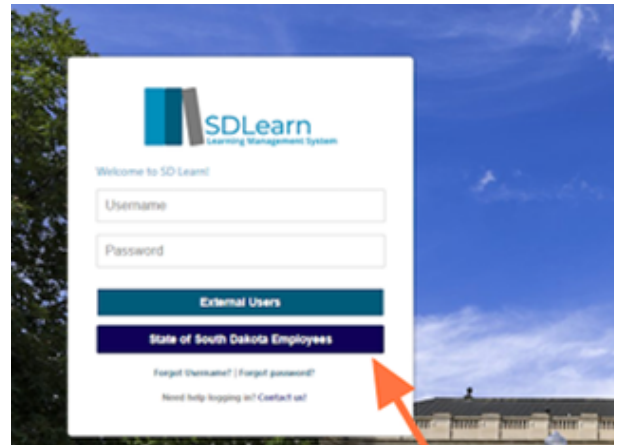
### Most Popular

<p>Online Class <b>What Are the Signs of a Strong Privacy Policy</b> 2 minutes ★★★★★</p>	<p>Online Class <b>Critical Thinking 101: Why We Need Cultural Thinking</b> 7 minutes</p>	<p>Video <b>The BEST Instruction on Tire Chain</b> 28 minutes</p>	<p>Event <b>Microsoft SharePoint Level 100</b> 1 hour</p>
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## Are there differences between DOTLMS and SDLearn LMS?

The only noticeable changes will be when you first log in. Select the State of South Dakota Employees button to access the SDLearn LMS using single sign-on. External users will access the LMS by selecting the External Users button.

The welcome screen will also be different. Four buttons on this page will allow you to search for learning, view your transcript and view a monthly calendar of upcoming classes. The fourth button is for supervisors who need access to approve employee training requests.



### Pros of the new system include:

- Register for BHR classes in the new SDLearn LMS starting immediately. [Click here to visit SDLearn](#)
- Supervisors can assign BHR classes the same way they do now with DOTLMS.

### Cons of the new system include:

- Playlists and Curriculum will not transfer to the SDLearn LMS which means all new playlists and curriculums will be refreshed.



## Now Available in DOTLMS: [Material Sampling & Testing \(MS&T\) Training](#)

Learn the basic functions of the SDDOT's Materials Sampling & Testing system (MS&T).

Navigate through various screens for creating samples and entering test results on construction projects in this self-paced online course.



HC60 MS&T Train

## SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



### 2022 Coat and Blanket Drive Results By Noel Pothast/Inventory Mgmt. & Research and Sheila Jandt/Bridge SDDOT Central Office



We delivered the donated items to the Southeast Methodist Church acting as a collection point for the Christmas Adopt a Family program administered through Pierre Social Services.

Thanks to all the generous donations made by DOT employees and their families, we collected 81 coats, 12 blankets (New and Used) and boots, hats, scarves, and gloves which will be distributed to Pierre area needy.

The donated items will sure to be warmly received as winter apparel is always a needed item within the Pierre/Ft Pierre Community.

On behalf of the Office of Transportation Inventory Management & Research and the Department of Social Services, thanks to everyone who donated items or time to this year's drive. Once again, you've helped to make it a great success!

### Road Design Holds 18th Annual Chili Contest By Neil Schochenmaier

On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, after rescheduling twice due to winter weather, Road Design held its **18th Annual Chili Contest**. Stomachs growled in Project Development and Bridge Design as the aroma of seven simmering chili entries wafted through the halls of the third floor of the Becker-Hanson building. Also enjoyed by the group were cinnamon rolls and cookies. Supervisors provided refreshments and chili toppings.

Road Design expresses special thanks to Jason Humphrey (Pierre Region), Steve Graham (Project Development), and Sam Weisgram (Project Development) for judging this year's contest.

**Vying for bragging rights to the best chili in Road Design (as pictured left to right) were Mark Malone "Redneck Garden Soup", Billy Schwarz "Wind Chili Advisory", Mark Laing "This Chili Has No Secrets", Neil Schochenmaier "Snow Daze Solace", John Fuglsang "Mom's Recipe", Randy Gossard "Diverging Digestion", and Bill Thomas "Chilly Billy Back Yard Chili".**

Randy Gossard wowed the crowd with his "Diverging Digestion" recipe, earning People's Choice (silver ladle) and Best Name (bottle of Special Shit seasoning) honors; however, **Bill Thomas with "Chilly Billy Back Yard Chili" took home the best chili title (acrylic trophy and name on chili contest plaque).**



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

### SDDOT Personal Apparel Order Information



You will find SDDOT logo files, branding guidelines, and more at <https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/media/branding-and-identity-guidelines>. Also included on this page is information on how to order SDDOT apparel.

**The process of ordering apparel for the SDDOT has changed since last year.** With the launch of a new SDDOT logo, last year there was a statewide personal apparel order. However, the process has now changed to "order as needed". Because apparel orders are for personal use, they must be billed to the individual. If you would like to order SDDOT apparel for personal use (non-safety gear), we have the logo set up with Pheasantland industries, please call or email Dustin Pischel to place your order at 605-369-4426 or [dustin.pischel@state.sd.us](mailto:dustin.pischel@state.sd.us). You can use any vendor of your choice. If they need the SDDOT logo file for embroidery or screen-print, you can find the files here: <https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/media/branding-and-identity-guidelines>



### Sending well-wishes to Lyle:

**Lyle Norling, Beresford Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**, was recently diagnosed with a butterfly glioblastoma tumor in the brain. Lyle is currently working through various treatment options and has maintained his signature positive attitude. We continue to send our thoughts and prayers to Lyle and his family during this difficult time.

Visit Lyle's Caring Bridge Site: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lylenorling/journal>

**Lyle is a true SDDOT promoter!** Pictured is Lyle with elementary kids, as well as his own two grandsons, during a SDDOT snowplow safety visit at Beresford Elementary this past fall.



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

### January New Hires:

Jessica Morse, Journey Transportation Technician, Brookings  
 Ross Kraft, Highway Maintenance Worker, Isabel  
 Neal Thomas, Highway Maintenance Worker, Rapid City  
 Blaine Humann, Accounting Assistant, Pierre  
 Adam Bossert, Journey Transportation Technician, Winner  
 Gino Bellinghiere, Journey Transportation Technician, Sioux Falls  
 Jeffrey Winfrey, Highway Maintenance Worker, Clark  
 Dylan Nelson, Journey Transportation Technician, Rapid City  
 Evan Rumrill, Structural Engineer, Pierre



### January Promotions & Lateral Position Changes:

Brandon Soulek, Access Management Engineer, Pierre  
 John Keyes, Right-of-Way Program Manager, Pierre



### Project News - Did You Know . . .

The black steel pedestrian fence railing for the new **Pierre-Fort Pierre Bridge** will contain a star motif between the intermediate and top rails. Design plans for the new bridge call for a total of 263, 12-inch decorative steel stars.

Pictured is the galvanized and powder-coated star mock-up. Fabrication of the stars will take place in New Jersey, and they will then be shipped to Pierre/Fort Pierre.



**A key SDDOT project is nearing completion in Rapid City.** The Interstate 90 and North LaCrosse Street Interchange Project (exit 59) will help improve safety, reduce current intersection delays, and address future travel growth. **This project features the state's first Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI).** A DDI configuration was chosen based on a number of criteria including the ability to handle current and future traffic demands, constructability, environmental concerns, and landowner impacts. Construction began in 2021. Weather dependent, the DDI will be complete in May or June 2023.



**NATIONAL WORK ZONE  
 AWARENESS WEEK  
 APRIL 17-21, 2023**

**National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW)** is right around the corner. As we gear up for another exciting construction season, we will ask you to once again join us to promote the vital message of work zone safety.

More information about **NWZAW** will be shared with staff via future Connecting the DOTs Newsletters and Secretary Jundt's Information Interchange as we get closer to April.

You play a role in work zone safety.



# SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .



## January Longevity:

- Travis Schnabel, Region Bridge Technician – 25 years (Mitchell Region)
- Mike Sanders, Highway Maintenance Worker – 35 years (Rapid City Area)
- Kevin Griese, Geotechnical Engineer Manager – 35 years (Central Office)

**Jay Larson (left) Mitchell Region Bridge Engineer** presented **Travis Schnabel** with his 25 year pin. **Travis is a Civil Engineering Technician for the Mitchell Region Bridge Office.**



**Karen Olson** stopped at the SDDOT, and was presented her 40-year pin from **Secretary Joel Jundt**. Karen Olson had 40-plus years with the DOT. She was a Road Design Engineering Manager when she retired in 2020.



**Greg Aalberg, Engineering Manager,** presented **Project Technician Jerome Janssen** with his 40-year pin. Jerome currently has **43 years of service** with the DOT.



**Jay Lovejoy, Journey Technician for Winner Area,** retired from the Winner Volunteer Fire Department in January with 23 years as a volunteer fireman.



A sincere thank you to **Larry Cyr – Project Engineer** (left) and **Jim Dorfschmidt – Transportation Project Manager** (right) for recruiting for the DOT at the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Job Fair held in January.



## SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

Transportation Analyst, **Lana Lambert**, is excited to introduce her new grandson, **Easton James Merrill**.

**Easton** was born in Rockwall, Texas on Nov. 15, 2022. Easton joins big sister, Mila. He weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20.5 inches long!



Pictured is the wedding celebration of **Tom Druyvestein**, **Operations Maintenance Engineer** and his wife, Chintal, held in India.

Their wedding celebration took place over several days and included multiple venues and many wedding outfits! Congratulations to the newlyweds!



The **Finance team**, and significant others, recently celebrated a Christmas gathering together.



Congrats to **Brandy Anderson, Accountant/Auditor (Central Office)** on the birth of her granddaughter, **FaithJo** on Jan. 23, 2023.

She weighed 7 lbs. 11oz. and was 19-1/2 inches long.





## In Sympathy . . .

**Sympathy is extended to Scott Pretzer, Property Manager in the Right of Way Office on the passing of his brother Rick Pretzer.**

Rick passed away on Dec. 1, 2022, at Carrington Health Center in North Dakota.

Rick's funeral service was held Dec. 6, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Carrington, ND. Burial will be in the Carrington Cemetery.



**Glenn E. Kietzmann**, of Pierre, passed away on Dec. 22, 2022. Funeral Services were held on Jan. 4, 2023, at First Congregational United Church of Christ with interment at Riverside Cemetery.

**Glenn started his 40-year career with the SDDOT in 1949.** He started as a draftsman and manually drew the maps of nearly every county in the state, as well as many statewide maps. One of his greatest accomplishments was helping to design and implement the South Dakota Interstate System.



Sympathy is extended to family, friends and DOT co-workers in the passing of **Austin Hoffman, Highway Maintenance Worker, Aberdeen Area.**

Austin was featured earlier this winter in a story about SDDOT snow operators. <https://www.dakotaneWSnow.com/2022/12/14/plow-drivers-continue-battle-snowfall-aberdeen/>

Austin died Dec. 29, 2022, in Northville. Funeral services were held on Jan. 7, 2023, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, with burial planned for a later date at Riverside Memorial Park.



**Sympathy is extended to Tyler Green, Equipment Management Specialist, and his wife Stacey, on the passing of their son, Ty.**

Ty Christopher Green was the oldest of seven children. Ty was born with a stroke disorder and Cerebral Palsy, which left him completely dependent on his parents for his day-to-day care.

Ty Green, of Fort Pierre, died on Jan. 14, 2023. His funeral was held on Jan. 20, 2023, at the Pat Duffy Community & Youth Involved Center in Fort Pierre; followed by the burial at Scotty Philip Cemetery.

