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After 280 staff votes were cast, here are the 4th Annual Name the Snowplow Contest Winners by Area . . .

Aberdeen:	Snow Boss
Belle Fourche:	Not My First Snowdeo
Custer:	Snow-Key the Bear
Huron:	Saltosaurus Rex
Mitchell:	Plow Bunyan
Mobridge:	Snow Crusher
Pierre:	Blade of Glory
Rapid City:	Scoop! There it is!
Sioux Falls:	South Da-Snow-Ta
Watertown:	Frostimus Prime
Winner:	Clearapathera
Yankton:	Salt, Rattle, & Roll



The Secretary's Corner

Employee Meetings:

Thank you for attending one of our SDDOT employee meetings in October and November. We hope you found value in the experience. We truly appreciate your time and participation.

Please find recorded employee meetings on the Intranet under the **Employee Resources Tab** with the heading **2023-2024 Employee Meetings**.

[Click here to watch an employee meeting](#)



2023 Annual Report:

Thanks to the collective efforts of many, the South Dakota Department of Transportation continually provides a safe and effective public transportation system across South Dakota.

The SDDOT 2023 Annual Report is available on our website at <https://dot.sd.gov/> within the **Reports** section. You can also click on the report graphic to link directly to the report. Copies of the report will be provided to legislators as they arrive for session in January.

Collaboration is key. The work of our 1,000-member SDDOT team is not possible without the contribution of many across our state. We owe our success to many partners in local, tribal, federal, and state government, and to the taxpayers whose funding makes our work possible.

We are also thankful for the constant support of Governor Noem and our South Dakota congressional delegation who helped to secure federal funding for vital projects to make our state highways safer for all users, including freight handlers, residents, and tourists. This support enhances access and economic development for communities of all sizes across our state.

**The vision of the South Dakota Department of Transportation remains steadfast . . .
Better Lives Through Better Transportation.**

**Thanks for the vital role you play with the SDDOT! Merry Christmas to each of you.
Please be safe as you enjoy this time of celebrating the Savior's birth.**



3RD ANNUAL SDDOT HOLIDAY SMACKDOWN

Region vs. Region vs. Region vs. Region vs. Central Office

The 2023 winner is ...

MITCHELL REGION

\$3274
statewide

Mitchell Area/Region

Yankton Area

Custer Area

Rapid City Area/Region

7390
food items
statewide

Aberdeen Area/Region

Huron Area

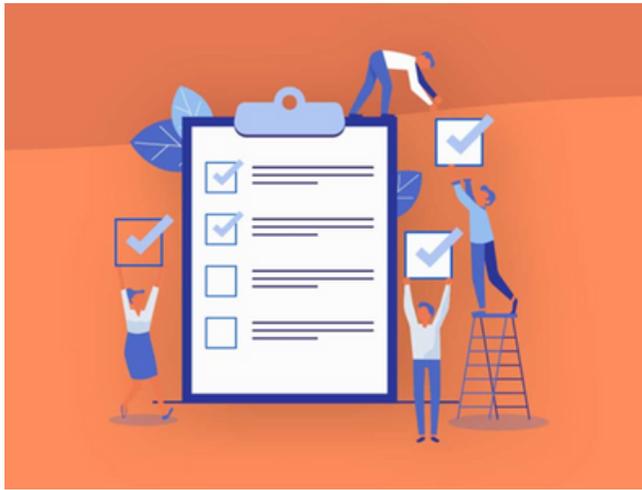
Watertown Area

50%
MORE than
2022

Central Office



ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: VOUCHER DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS



DELETIONS:

When requesting a voucher to be deleted, please email Brandy Hansen (1st point of contact) or Tracy Boom (2nd point of contact) the following information:

- Vendor Number
- Invoice Number (not the voucher number)
- Dollar Amount of Voucher
- Explanation of why the voucher needs to be deleted

This information will ensure the correct voucher is deleted.

CORRECTIONS:

When requesting changes to be made on a voucher that has already been entered, please email Brandy Hansen (1st point of contact) or Tracy Boom (2nd point of contact) the following information:

- Vendor Number
- Invoice Number (not the voucher number)
- Dollar Amount of Voucher
- Detail of requested change(s)
 - Company, Account, or Center changes
 - DOT project coding changes:
 - contract numbers, inventory ticket numbers, item codes, equipment numbers, etc
 - Item description changes

We cannot make changes to the following:

- **Invoice Number**
- **Invoice Date**
- **Total Amount of Invoice**

The voucher will need to be deleted and re-entered with an "X" behind the invoice number.

This information can also be found in the DOT Accounting Procedures Manual at:

<https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/fin/AccountingProceduresManual.pdf>

Road Design Holds 19th Annual Chili Contest

On Thursday, Dec. 5, 2023, Road Design held the 19th Annual Chili Contest. By 8 a.m. the halls were filled with the aroma of 10 different chilis vying for coveted titles. After four long hours of stirring and heating those special recipes, the feasting began. Along with the chili, numerous desserts and beverages were brought in to cap off the ensuing food coma!

A special thanks to the judges - pictured below left to right: **Chad Babcock, Environmental Manager; Jordon Kitts, Project Development Federal Funding Specialist; and Andy Vandel, Research Engineering Manager.**

The judges selected "This Chili is User Friendly" by Mark Liang as the winner of the 2023 contest!

Along with the judge's choice, those who partake in the feasting get a vote for their favorite chili (People's choice) as well as the chili name they think has the most character (Best Name). The best name went to **Sam Gilkerson with "George Santos I'm Out of Here Chili"**. He earned a bottle of Special Seasoning for his future culinary endeavors.



In memory of Neil Schochenmaier, the award for the People's choice was changed from a silver ladle to a traveling trophy, now known as the "Shocky Traveling Trophy". This year, the title was given to Mark Malone for his "Tame Enough for Gen. Pop" chili.

Other entries (in alphabetical order):

- Stacy Bartlett "Drunken Chili"
- Ryon Bollinger "Is This Campbell's?"
- Randy Gossard "Cumin Get It"
- Mark Malone "Too Hot for the Title"
- Jon Nelson "Kevin's Chili"
- Billy Schwarz "Unclassified Excavation"
- Bill Thomas "Runs to the Finish Chili"



First Aid, CPR, and AED Training - Pierre Region Photos provided by Carol Evans, Safety Coordinator





December Mentoring Minute

Happy Holidays from the Mentoring Committee



We want to thank **Brad Remmich** for his years of service on the Mentoring Committee as Program Co-Coordinator. We wish Brad a long and happy retirement.

We also want to announce that **Scott Eisenbeisz** is the new **Program Co-Coordinator**. Please reach out to Scott or June Hansen if you have mentoring questions.

Upcoming 2024 Mentoring Events:

Extra Mile Mentoring Book Club

Jan. 11, 2024 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (CT)
 Featured book: **Good to Great** by Jim Collins
 Led by Mike Carlson, Rapid City Area
 Engineer in Commission Room (Pierre) and
 Microsoft TEAMS

Mentoring Extra Event

Communication in the Workplace & Beyond
 Jan. 23, 2024 from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. (CT)
 Led by SDDOT Communications Team
 Microsoft TEAMS

Make Time for Mentoring!



Pennies for Robert Fundraiser - Farmer Joe has a full beard!

No Shave November at the Central Office is used as a fundraiser for **Pennies 4 Robert**, a local charity that provides transportation cost support for those with cancer in Pierre. Although many of the gentlemen here laid their razors down for the month, the goal is to get everyone involved, not just the guys.

This year, it was Farmer Joe of SDDOT Farms beard that the central office

was growing. He was clean-shaven on November 1, and as you can see in the picture, he has a full beard thanks to the donations received. For each dollar raised, Farmer Joe's beard grew.

A special thanks to Larry Dean and Rayleen Rageth (pictured above)! Larry coordinated two major fundraisers – a couple of Thanksgiving-themed cookie trays (**thanks Logan Gran**) that were raffled off in time for the big turkey dinner as well as a 50/50 raffle on Dec. 1st. Rayleen collected and tracked all the money donated. Thanks to them, the event was a success.

In the end, we raised \$1,235 cash plus change that was presented on Dec. 8, 2023. Way to go Central Office!

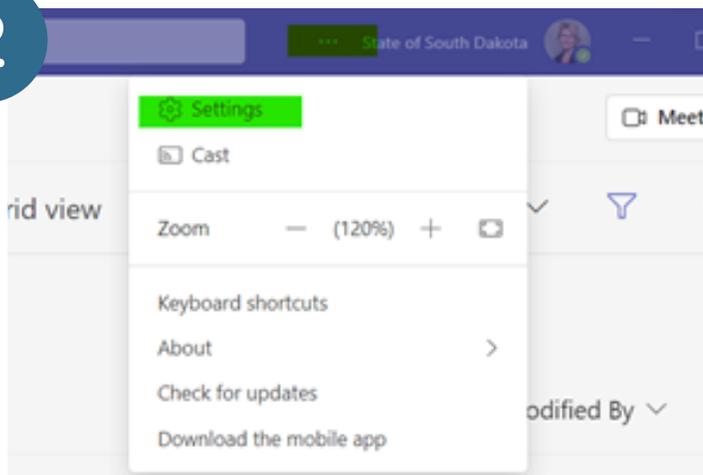


Adding a Secondary Ringer on Microsoft Teams

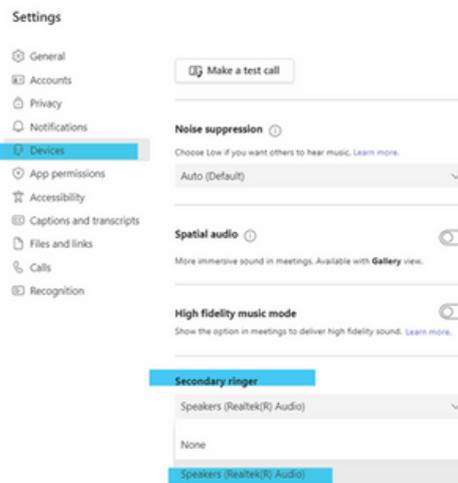
Do you sometimes miss Microsoft Teams calls because you had headphones plugged in and did not hear the ring? Here is how to add a secondary ringer!

1. From Teams select the ellipses next to your Account image.
2. Select Settings
3. Select Devices --> Secondary Ringer--> select your speaker system

2



3



Christmas Visits Bring Music and Joy to Region/Area Offices

SDDOT employees in the **Rapid City Region and Area** were greeted with a very thoughtful surprise when they arrived on Dec. 15, 2023. A mysterious Secret Santa had left bags of goodies for every single employee. The bags were filled with chocolates, beef jerky, peanuts, mints, lip balm, and more.

While the Secret Santa has yet to reveal him/herself, we want to extend a huge thank you for the act of generosity! Christmas came early!



The Mobridge Area Office was treated to caroling from the Mobridge-Pollock High School Select Girls Ensemble.

Brianna Hintz, daughter of Brian Hintz, Mobridge Equipment Technician, was one of the talented singers. Brianna is wearing the lime green Santa hat!

Get Started With Blue365

Just by being a Wellmark member, you have access to Blue365. When you sign up, you get exclusive discounts for wellness products and services you use every day.

Savings are just a click away

Register for Blue365 at [Wellmark.com/Blue365](https://www.wellmark.com/blue365). It's free and you can start saving right away. Browse the discounts and be the first to know about the latest deals to hit Blue365 through a weekly email sent right to your inbox.

Wondering what types of deals are available? Here are just a few ways you can save money while meeting your health and personal goals:



APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR. Save up to 20 percent on Reebok® shoes or 30 percent on Skechers®.



FITNESS. Get access to a network of gyms near you and virtual classes for as low as \$19.99 per month. Plus, track your health with discounted wearables from FitBit®, Garmin® and Polar®. If you'd rather work out at home, you can save up to 40 percent on bikes, rowers, and treadmills.



HEARING AND VISION. Save an average of \$1,000 on LASIK eye surgery. Or, get discounts on eyeglass and frames, and up to 60 percent off hearing aids.



HOME AND FAMILY. Get up to \$2,000 off closing costs through Rocket Mortgage®. Or, make sure your pet's health is covered with 10 percent off pet insurance.



NUTRITION. Eat well for less by saving \$200 in food purchases through Jenny Craig® or 50 percent off all Nutrisystem auto-delivery program orders.



TRAVEL. Travel for less with 20 percent off Fairmont Hotels and Resorts.

Visit [WELLMARK.COM/BLUE365](https://www.wellmark.com/blue365) for a full list of deals and discounts available to you.



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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:

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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.

Blue365 is a discount program available to members who have medical coverage with Wellmark. This is not insurance.

Parade of Lights Across the State Sioux Falls



Mitchell



Parade of Lights Across the State Aberdeen



Congratulations to **Aberdeen Unit 151 members Daryl Johnson, Brady Reecy, Caleb Huettl, Chaz Shuff, Robert Heupel, and Aberdeen Region Bridge member Shawn Patton** for winning the Brightest Lights Award at the Aberdeen Parade of Lights!

McIntosh



Parade of Lights Across the State Clark Shop at the Henry Christmas Parade



Scott Gilbert Benefit Raffle

While attending meetings in Pierre, **Scott Gilbert, Huron Area Project Technician**, unfortunately had his house burn to the ground. Not only was the structure a complete loss, but everything inside was also destroyed. Scott is not one to ask for help, but we feel he deserves a helping hand. He is a long-time employee and asset of the Huron Area so we are holding a raffle to help during this difficult time.

The raffle includes two guns: **1st Place is a Henry Golden Boy .22 Long Rifle and 2nd Place is a Heritage Rough Rider .22 Revolver.** *

Tickets are just \$10 each and the drawing is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024. Please contact **Bonnie Palmer, Huron Senior Secretary**, at **605-353-7140** or bonnie.palmer@state.sd.us for tickets.

If you would rather simply donate toward Scott's fund, you can Venmo to the account below (note "Donation For G") or contact **Brad Letcher, Huron Area Engineer**. Thanks everyone for helping a fellow employee!

**Need not be present to win. Must be over 18 years old to win the rifle and over 21 years old to win the pistol. Winners must be legally able to possess a firearm, background check, etc. will be completed prior to receiving the gun.*

Bradley Letcher
@chaos114



venmo



TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
December 2023



Roundabout Planning, Analysis, and Design Workshop

Jan. 31 – Feb. 1 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

NHI 134077: Contract Administration Core Curriculum

Feb. 14-15 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

NHI 380032A: Roadside Safety Design

April 16-18 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Rapid City

TLN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SERIES

First 3 Rules of Construction – Document, Document, Document

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

Documentation for Construction Delays

Jan. 16 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

Documentation for Construction Damages

Jan. 23 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

AGC: Traffic Control Supervisor

Jan. 30-31 | Sioux Falls | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Feb. 8-9 | Rapid City | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

TLN SKILLS COURSES

Transferring Knowledge Before it Walks Out the Door

January 30 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Zoom

BALDRIDGE LEADERSHIP COURSES

January 10 | [Intro to DEI: Identifying & Mitigating UNCONSCIOUS BIAS](#)

CERTIFICATION COURSES

[Click Here to View All Certification Courses and Additional Information](#)

Winner Area staff, **Gregg Ulmer** and **Matt Vobr**, provided tours to clients from Community Connections, Inc.

Pictured from Left to right: Anthony, Gavin, Damon (Cowboy hat), David, Jim (red shirt), Emery, and Greg.



The **Finance Office** hosted their annual Christmas Party at the Fieldhouse. Thanks to everyone who gathered to play games and participate in a white elephant gift exchange!

COMING SOON!

APPLICATIONS
OPEN
JAN. 2

LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

2024 PROGRAM DATES:

APRIL 3-5	AUGUST 7-8
MAY 8-9	SEPTEMBER 18-19
JUNE 26-27	OCTOBER 23-24

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [SDLEARN](https://www.sdlearn.org)

Winter Engineering Meeting Group Photos

Mitchell Area



Mitchell Region



Pierre Area



Pierre Region



Sioux Falls Area



Winner Area



Mobridge Area



Yankton Area



Mike Behm, P&E Director



Craig Smith, Operations Director



Winter Engineering Meeting Group Photos

Watertown Area



Huron Area



Aberdeen Area



Aberdeen Region



Belle Fourche Area



Custer Area



Rapid City Area



Rapid City Region



Joel Jundt, Secretary of Transportation

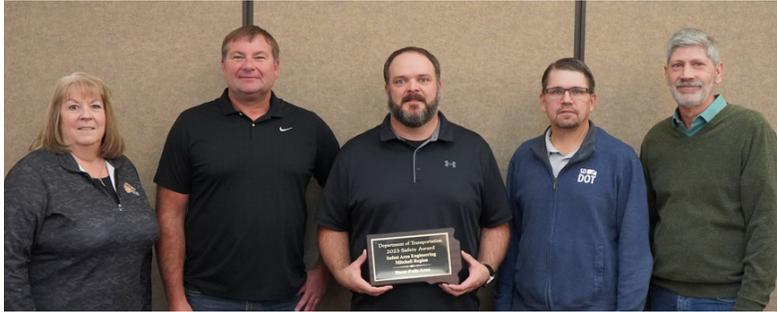


Heidi Olson, Human Resources Manager



Winter Engineering Meeting 2023 Safety Award Winners

Safest Area Engineering - Mitchell Region SIOUX FALLS AREA



Safest Area Engineering - Aberdeen Region WATERTOWN AREA



Safest Area Engineering - Pierre Region WINNER AREA



Safest Area Engineering - Rapid City Region & Safest Engineering Statewide CUSTER AREA



Safest Operations Statewide RAPID CITY REGION



Maintenance:

- Best Region State Wide - Aberdeen
- Best Unit State Wide - Belle Fourche
- Best Region Maintenance - Aberdeen
- Best Area Maintenance - Belle Fourche

Engineering & Operations:

- Safest Operation State Wide - Rapid City
- Safest Engineering State-Wide - Custer

Best Maintenance Unit by Region:

- Aberdeen Region - Watertown
- Mitchell Region - Sioux Falls
- Pierre Region - Herreid
- Rapid City Region - Belle Fourche

Safest Area Engineering by Region:

- Aberdeen Region - Watertown
- Mitchell Region - Sioux Falls
- Pierre Region - Winner
- Rapid City Region - Custer

Community Engagement:

Faulkton School Visit

Bob DeGeest, Faulkton Highway Maintenance Worker, and Cody Wangsness, Aberdeen Highway Maintenance Supervisor, took Blizzard of Oz (a previously named snowplow) to Faulkton Elementary.

Students were able to get a tour of the plow and learn about the importance of winter maintenance.



Zion Lutheran Preschool Visits Mobridge SDDOT

A local Mobridge Preschool went on a field trip to Mobridge area SDDOT for construction week. **Jesse Gosch, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker; Shane Thorstenson, Highway Maintenance Worker; Jon Helm, Highway Maintenance Worker; and Chris Byre, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker** talked to the children about SDDOT and let them sit in the plow truck and loader. They finished the day with snow plow coloring sheets and stickers.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

December 2023 Longevity:

- Ken Payne, Highway Maintenance Supervisor – 20 years (Mitchell Area)
- Terry Vogt, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker – 20 years (Mitchell Area – Armour)
- Jeff Sampson, Highway Maintenance Worker – 20 years (Rapid City Area - Deadwood)
- Brad Tisdall, Equipment Technician – 25 years (Rapid City Region)
- Joel Larson, Highway Maintenance Supervisor - 25 years (Belle Fourche Area)
- Tim Marshall, Highway Construction Project Engineer - 25 years (Mitchell Area)
- Tracy Boom, Budget Specialist – 35 years (Central Office – Finance)
- Scott Rabern, Program Manager – 35 years (Central Office – Road Design)

Tracy Boom, Budget Analyst, received her 35-year longevity recognition from **Patricia, Devitt, Accounting Manager.**



Scott Rabern, Program Manager in Road Design, received his 35-year longevity pin from **Mike Behm, Director of Planning and Engineering.**

Jenny Boehm, Transportation Specialist, celebrated 25 years of service with the SDDOT.

Jenny is pictured receiving her longevity pin from **Jack Dokken, Air, Rail, and Transit Program Administrator.**



Josh Olson, Senior Bridge Engineer, received his 15 years of service pin from **Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Operation Engineer.**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates

December 2023 Retirements:



Brad Remmich (left), Airport Construction Specialist, retired from the SDDOT in December after 21 years. Brad is pictured at his retirement gathering with **Jack Dokken, Air, Rail, and Transit Program Administrator.**



Brian Versluys, Highway Maintenance Worker for the Aberdeen Area retired in December with 23 years of service with the SDDOT. Pictured are **Brian (left) and Aberdeen Area Engineer, Bruce Schroeder.**



Jerri Williams, ROW Manager - Audits & Administration, retired after 33 years with the SDDOT. Handing Jerri her plaque is **John Keyes, ROW Program Manager.**

Front Row: Carole Binger (Retired - ROW Technician), Jerri Williams (Retired - ROW Manager, Audits & Administration), Peggy Brilz (Retired - ROW Technician)
Back Row: Gena Boren (Current ROW Technician), Jennie Bucholz (Retired - ROW Technician)



Ray Haenfler, Equipment Technician (Roving Mechanic), with the Yankton Area DOT retired in December after 23.5 years. Handing Ray (left) his plaque is **Greg Rothschadl, Yankton Area Engineer.**

SDDOT Employee News and Updates



Ken Payne, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, presented **Dave Priebe, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (left)**, and **Dale Kunkel, Highway Maintenance Worker (right)**, with their 15 and 10 year longevity pins.



Dail Mollard, Labor Law Compliance Officer, is happy to introduce her grandchild, Oliver Dean Mollard. He was born on Oct. 30, 2023; weighing over 8 lbs. and 21.5 inches in length.



December New Hires:

- Kenneth Spiger, Region Materials Technician - Pierre
- Bridger Krave, Project Engineer - Sioux Falls
- Kevin Barry, Structural Engineer - Pierre
- Bradey Schmidt, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mitchell
- Brandon Rausch, Journey Transportation Technician - Mobridge
- Austin Martensen, Highway Maintenance Worker - Junction City
- Corey Engelstad, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mitchell
- Barron Andrews, Highway Maintenance Worker - Bonesteel
- David McGaugh, Highway Maintenance Worker - Faulkton
- Michael Nicholson, Highway Maintenance Worker - Miller
- Steven Nowak, Equipment Technician - Yankton
- Hunter Kokenge, Highway Maintenance Worker - Menno
- Dirk Leiseth, Highway Maintenance Worker - Pierre

December Promotions & Lateral Position Changes:

- John Weeldreyer, Stormwater Engineer - Pierre
- Jordan Lipp, Journey Transportation Technician - Rapid City
- Brian McPhail, Highway Maintenance Worker - Sioux Falls
- Bradley Reecy, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Aberdeen
- Clayton Fosheim, Roving Mechanic - Winner

Danae Dean, Auditor (Central Office), introduces Maverick James Dean. Maverick was born on Dec. 11, 2023, at 7:47 a.m.; weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20.5 inches. Congrats Danae!



In Sympathy:



Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Mark Hoines** who passed away on Dec. 12, 2023. Services are pending at this time. Mark's death was sudden and unexpected.

Mark worked closely with SDDOT staff in his role with FHWA and his wife Nancy also worked for the SDDOT.



Sympathy is extended to **Michele Gabert, Accounting Assistant**, in the passing of her father, **Bob Godfrey** on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023. Funeral services were held on Dec. 15, 2023, at Faith Lutheran Church. Interment was at Immanuel Cemetery, Murdo SD.



Sympathy is extended to **Christina Bennett, State Construction and Maintenance Engineer**, on the recent passing of her grandmother. **Joan Bennett, of Brookings**, passed away on Nov.29, 2023. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Dec. 6, 2023, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Brookings.



Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Don Zeller of Pierre**, who passed away on Dec. 7, 2023. A Memorial Mass was held on Dec. 15, 2023, at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church.

Don was a long time BIT employee who worked on SDDOT systems for a large part of his career.

