



SEPTEMBER 2026

Connecting the DOTs

2026 State Fair

Thanks to all SDDOT employees who shared their time and expertise at the **South Dakota State Fair**.

Pictured are team members staffing the booth: **Sec. Joel Jundt; Craig Smith, Director of Operations; Thad Bauer, Inventory Management & Research Program Manager; Todd Hertel, Aberdeen Region Operations Engineer; Brad Letcher, Huron Area Engineer; Rachel Soulek, Communications Specialist; Doug Kinniburgh, Local Government Assistance Engineering Supervisor; Danny Varilek, Operations Support - Transportation Specialist; and Julie Stevenson, TZD Coordinator.**

Staff not pictured are **Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Region Engineer and Lane Goldsmith, Aberdeen Area Engineer.**



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The Secretary's Corner



A Shared Commitment and Responsibility to Ensure Everyone Arrives Home Safely - Every Day!

Recently, SDDOT announced the first steps toward implementation of TZD—a long-term commitment to reducing fatalities and serious injuries on South Dakota roads. But TZD did not just begin this year. For several years, SDDOT has researched and analyzed how to strengthen our approach to roadway safety. That process included the comprehensive **“2024 Reduction of Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes” Research Study**, which examined how the Department could build upon existing safety efforts and bring greater focus and coordination. Through the study, along with goals outlined in the [2024 Strategic Highway Safety Plan \(SHSP\)](#), the foundation was established for TZD implementation in South Dakota.

TZD is not simply a slogan or public awareness campaign. The research, which included input from a cross-section of stakeholders, clearly identified the need for a unified, data-driven approach involving all of us internally; as well as fellow state and local agencies, law enforcement, tribal partners, community organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Safety is one of our core values at the South Dakota Department of Transportation—**safety in all we do**. It is also central to our strategic objective of ensuring everyone goes home safe every day.

Thanks to your continued efforts, we’ve made meaningful strides in strengthening our safety culture, and I want to express my sincere appreciation for the commitment you make daily. To continue our goals of elevating our key safety principles across the department, we will be assigning a short set of training courses to all employees. These courses have recently been added to the new employee curriculum, and these training videos are equally valuable for all staff. The following courses will be assigned to every employee:

- Zero Tolerance for Distracted Driver (15 minutes)
<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/video/fd5c1e95-566c-4636-97e4-dbbbb7f82581>
- Walking Working Surfaces (15 minutes)
<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/course/0f09ce9c-9306-4128-be93-abe110c119a0>
- Safety and You Awareness (8 minutes)
<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/course/389f0477-6237-4e78-aa40-1aa7842aef39>
- Culture of Early Reporting (16 minutes)
<https://sdlearn.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/course/88085a1c-bfec-4acf-b711-62eb341f8f74>

Your dedication to improving our safety culture truly makes a difference. Thank you for your commitment, your adaptability, and your willingness to embrace practices that keep us safe.

Together, we are building a workplace where safety is more than a requirement—it’s an expectation and a shared responsibility.

South Dakota Transportation Commission Annual "On the Road Tour" (Sioux Falls)



Each year, the Transportation Commission holds a meeting in conjunction with area tours to learn more about local transportation needs and projects. These annual tours provide an opportunity for the Commissioners to connect with local staff and see infrastructure improvements firsthand.

The Transportation Commission plays an important role in guiding South Dakota's public transportation system. Working closely with SDDOT staff, Commissioners review and approve transportation projects, help shape funding priorities, and provide oversight of investments that support safe, efficient travel.



Sioux Falls Mayor Christine Erickson welcomed the Transportation Commission to Sioux Falls. Mayor Erickson discussed the highly valued working relationship between the city and the SDDOT.



2026 Upcoming Employee Meetings



Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026 - Central Office Staff - Community Bible Church in Pierre

9 - 10:30 a.m. (CT)

Group #1: Secretary, Training, Legal, ITS, Project Development, Planning Administration, Local Government, Environmental, Materials & Surfacing, Internal Services, Internal Audits, Finance, Aviation Services, and Air, Rail & Transit

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (CT) Celebrate Success Event/Lunch

2 - 3:30 p.m. (CT)

Group #2: Road Design, Right-of-Way, Transportation Inventory Management, Research, Bridge Design, Operations Administration and Operations Support



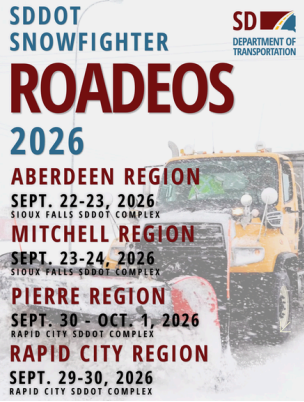
Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2026 - In Pierre

10 - 11:30 a.m. (CT) - Mitchell and Aberdeen Region Field Engineering



Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2026 - In Pierre

12 (Noon) -1:30 p.m. (CT) - Pierre and Rapid City Region Field Engineering



The SDDOT Snowfighter Roadeos are held every other fall to give plow operators a chance to test and improve upon winter driving skills prior to the snow removal season. The driving course is a scored competition that allows drivers to test their skills against fellow drivers in their region.

The top five scoring drivers in each region move onto a statewide competition held in Pierre in October. All statewide winners will be featured in the October newsletter!

Below are photos from the Aberdeen Region Roadeo.



Below are photos from the Mitchell Region Roadeo.



All ROADEO photos (including Unit/Region pictures) will be available on the Intranet at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/roadeo.aspx>.

2026 Aberdeen Region Snowfighter Rodeo Winners

Aberdeen Region:

1st - Travis Bergeson, Unit 172 - Sisseton
 2nd - Jesse Spitzer, Unit 151 - Webster
 3rd - Stacey Hinders - Unit 171 - Clear Lake
 4th - Kevin Swartos - Unit 171 - Brookings
 5th - Jared Tolzin - Unit 191 - DeSmet
 Rookie - Casey Duvall - Unit 152 - Ipswich
 Skidsteer - Travis Bergeson - Unit 172 - Sisseton



Aberdeen Region winners from left to right are Rookie winner, **Casey Duvall**; 5th place, **Jared Tolzin**; 4th place, **Kevin Swartos**; 3rd place, **Stacey Hinders**; 2nd place, **Jesse Spitzer**; 1st place winner and Skidsteer winner, **Travis Bergeson**; and Aberdeen Operations Engineer, **Todd Hertel**,

Mitchell Region Snowfighter Rodeo Winners

Mitchell Region:

1st - Curt Theisen - Unit 271 - Sioux Falls
 2nd - Tyler Small - Unit 291 - Junction City
 3rd - Douglas Boyden - Unit 271 - Sioux Falls
 4th - Austin Martensen - Unit 291 - Junction City
 5th - Darrick Delozier - Unit 292 - Yankton
 Rookie - Corey Kirkpatrick - Unit 252 - Mitchell
 Skidsteer - Nathan Loecker - Unit 292 - Yankton



Mitchell Region winners from left to right are Rookie winner, **Corey Kirkpatrick**; Skidsteer winner, **Nathan Loecker**; 5th place, **Darrick Delozier**; 4th place, **Austin Martensen**; 3rd place, **Douglas Boyden**; 2nd place, **Tyler Small**; 1st place, **Curt Theisen**, and Mitchell Region Engineer, **Travis Dressen**.

Pierre Region Snowfighter Rodeo Winners

Pierre Region:

1st - John Hunt - Unit 391 - Kadoka
 2nd - Larry Anderson - Unit 352 - Hayes
 3rd - Aaron Richardson - Unit 392 - Martin
 4th - Carl Brown - Unit 391 - Kadoka
 5th - Beau Walker - Unit 352 - Philip
 Rookie - John Hunt - Unit 391 - Kadoka



Pierre Region winners from left to right are Rookie winner and 1st place, **John Hunt**; 2nd place, **Larry Anderson**; 3rd place, **Aaron Richardson**; 4th place, **Carl Brown**; and 5th place, **Beau Walker**.

Rapid City Region Snowflighter Rodeo Winners

Rapid City Region:

- 1st - Kyle Rolf - Unit 452 - Rapid City
- 2nd - Jesse King - Unit 472 - Faith
- 3rd - Colin Karley - Unit 469 - Rapid City
- 4th - Lance Black Horn - Unit 452 - Rapid City
- 5th - Karl Hulin - Unit 471 - Belle Fourche
- Rookie - Lance Black Horn - Unit 452 - Rapid City



Rapid City Region winners from left to right are 1st place, **Kyle Rolf**; 2nd place, **Jesse King**; 3rd place, **Colin Karley**; 4th place and Rookie winner, **Lance Black Horn**; and 5th place, **Karl Hulin**.

Below are photos from the Rapid City Region Rodeo.



Below are photos from the Pierre Region Rodeo.



Aberdeen Region Safety Award



2026 Aberdeen Region - Safest Unit awarded to **Watertown Unit 171** (Brookings, Clear Lake, Hayti, and Watertown)

Mitchell Region Safety Awards



2026 Mitchell Region - Safest Unit awarded to **Sioux Falls North Unit 272** (Madison and Flandreau)

Pierre Region Safety Award



2026 Pierre Region - Best Unit awarded to **Eagle Butte Unit 372** (Eagle Butte, Isabel, and McIntosh)

Rapid City Region Safety Award



2026 Rapid City Region - Best Unit awarded to **Belle Fourche Unit 471** (Belle Fourche, Buffalo, and Newell)

Congratulations to the Pierre Region on the Safest Region Statewide Award



Safety Champions - Zero Preventable Accidents Awards

Pierre Unit 351, Eagle Butte Unit 372 and Belle Fourche Unit 471 - find these pictures on the Intranet at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/roadeo.aspx>.



September Mentoring Minute:

Celebrating June Hansen 2026 South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor Inductee

By: Tim Wicks and Scott Eisenbeisz

The Transportation Hall of Honor recognizes individuals who have made a lasting, valuable, and unique contribution to South Dakota's air, highway, public transit, or rail transportation systems. Established in 1972, the Hall of Honor now includes 101 distinguished members.

June Hansen was selected as one of the 2026 inductees. She joins fellow 2026 honoree Kari Karst, who will be formally recognized at a banquet on Oct. 1, 2026. Watch for photos in the October newsletter.



A Leader in Collaboration, Mentorship, and Inclusion:

Throughout her SDDOT career, June has worn many hats, each contributing to a more connected, supportive, and forward-thinking organization. Mentoring is just one piece of the many contributions June has made to the Department of Transportation and the people of South Dakota.

Strengthening Tribal Partnerships:

As the SDDOT Tribal Liaison, June has been instrumental in fostering communication and collaboration with South Dakota's tribal nations. Her efforts have built lasting connections, improved understanding, and helped strengthen statewide partnerships.

Building the SDDOT Mentoring Program:

June played a key role in creating the Department's formal internal mentoring program—an initiative that has empowered hundreds of employees to grow professionally, connect with colleagues, and envision clear career paths. Her leadership helped cultivate a Department culture centered on learning and development.

Welcoming New Team Members:

Recognizing the importance of strong beginnings, June helped develop the New Employee Orientation Program. Her work ensured new hires feel supported, informed, and welcomed from day one—reinforcing a sense of community within SDDOT.

Advancing Accessibility:

June guided the creation of the Department's ADA Transition Plan, shaping a long-term, thoughtful approach to improving accessibility across SDDOT facilities. Her leadership in this area continues to influence how the Department serves all South Dakotans.

On behalf of the Mentoring Committee, mentors, and mentees . . . we're proud to dedicate the September edition of the Mentoring Minute as a spotlight on June to recognize the countless ways she has strengthened the Department.

Finance Corner

DID YOU KNOW?

The SDDOT Accounting Procedures Manual contains a wealth of helpful information.

You can access the manual on the SDDOT Intranet (under Finance/Budget) at <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/fin/AccountingProceduresManual.pdf>.

You don't need to spend extra time searching through the table of contents.

- Hover over and click on any topic or page number.
 - This will take you directly to the section you want.

- You can also search for specific topics by pressing the "CTRL" and "F" keys.
 - A search box (magnifying glass icon) will appear, allowing you to quickly find key words or subjects.



If you are unable to find a specific topic or have suggestions for additional information, please contact the Accounting Procedures Manual Team: Patti Devitt, Brandy Hansen, Mary Hoyt, or Tracy Boom.

Finance Contact List (under Finance/Budget): <https://intranetdot.sd.gov/docs/fin/FinanceContacts.pdf>

Monthly IR Pillar Report from BIT

eConstruction continues to be on track to begin training later this fall and will start working with live projects with the start of the 2027 construction season.

Construction Season Timeline (27–28)

- February 2027 train-the-trainer.
- Pilot projects in 2027 construction season.
- Expanded usage in 2028 season.

The Monthly IR Pillar Report can be found on the [Intranet](#) or using the link below.

[2026-09 DOT-BIT IR Pillar Report.pdf](#)



The monthly **KDSR (Know, Do, Share, Report Back)** is your go-to resource for staying informed about BISON and accessing key information. Review it, share it with your teams, and post it around the office.

[Sept. 2026 KDSR](#)

Questions or feedback, the BISON team is always here to help, reach out at BISON@state.sd.us.

Training & Development Opportunities

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve

Simplified coding is available for ALL training courses!

Use function 1175; no AFE needed!



Upcoming in-person courses:

- Working in Indian Country
 - Oct. 6-7, 2026 | Pierre
- NHI 130092 Load & Resistance Factor Rating of Highway Bridges
 - Nov. 30 - Dec. 3, 2026 | Pierre
- NHI 133149 Advanced Work Zone Management & Design
 - Dec. 9 - 10, 2026 | Sioux Falls

****Check the Training Calendar for BHRA Leadership Courses!****

Upcoming Webinars

- TLN: Courageous Leadership - Living a Life of Influence
 - Oct. 28 | 9:30 a.m. CT/8:30 a.m. MT | Zoom
- TLN: Snow Fighter Hydraulics
 - Oct. 27 | 9:30 a.m. CT | Zoom
- TLN: Courageous Leadership – Living a Life of Influence
 - Oct. 28 | 9:30 a.m. CT | Zoom

New Online Courses:

- Change Orders, Claims, and Dispute Resolutions
- Weiler P385 Paver
- Incident Investigation: Root Cause to Corrective Action
- Slips, Trips, and Falls

Click on the SDLearn graphic or use this link to sign in: [SDLearn](#)



Search by the **complete course name** listed.

2026 South Dakota Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedications

SSG Ronald D. McIlravy – A dedication ceremony was held on Aug. 22, 2026, in New Underwood to honor Staff Sergeant Ronald D. McIlravy. Governor Larry Rhoden, along with family members and community representatives gathered at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church to pay tribute to McIlravy's service.

The bridge over Interstate 90 (exit 78) on 161st Avenue near New Underwood, now bears SSG McIlravy' name. This program continues to create lasting memorials that honor fallen service members and keep their stories alive within communities across the state.

Photo provided by **Colin Karley, Rapid City Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**.



PFC Randolph S. Hutchinson – A dedication ceremony was held on Aug, 21, 2026, in Wakpala to honor United States Marine Corps Private First-Class Randolph S. Hutchinson. Community members, local leaders, and partner agencies gathered at the Wakpala School to recognize Hutchinson's service and sacrifice.

The S.D. Highway 1806 bridge over Oak Creek now bears PFC Hutchinson's name. Through collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs and support from SDDOT, these bridges serve as lasting tributes that educate future generations and preserve the legacy of South Dakota's heroes.

Photos from the ceremony include the unveiling of the bridge sign. Members of the SDDOT Pierre Region Signing and Striping crew are shown installing the Hutchinson dedication sign. Pictured on the left is **Gary Olivier, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**, and on the right is **Logan Gregg, Highway Maintenance Worker**.



Find additional information about Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication ceremonies on the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs website at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/default.aspx>.

New Intranet Resource: BHRA Roles & Responsibilities

A helpful new feature has been added to the Intranet to make it easier for staff to know exactly who to contact for HR questions or support. The [BHRA Roles & Responsibilities](#) page provides a clear breakdown of the tasks each member of the BHRA support team handles.

Bureau of Human Resources and Administration (BHRA)

Contact Information:

[Heidi Olson](#), Human Resources Manager: 605-773-6943

[Kimberly Smith](#), Human Resources Generalist: 605-951-9114

[Heather Catchpole](#), Human Resources Specialist: 605-951-9119

[See BHRA Roles & Responsibilities Here](#)



To make it even more convenient, the page also includes photos of each team member so you can quickly recognize who is assisting you and connect the name with the face. This resource is designed to save employees time, reduce confusion, and ensure questions get to the right person right away. Whether you need help with payroll, timekeeping, benefits, policy questions, leave programs, or other HR processes, you can quickly find the correct point of contact.

You can access this new page directly from the BHRA section of the [employee resources page](#) on the Intranet by clicking BHRA Roles & Responsibilities.

Reminder, you can find additional helpful resources on the Intranet, including recruitment materials for hiring managers, onboarding tips, benefit information, open enrollment materials, Employee Self Service, and current job postings.



DOTNET Tour: Learning on the Road!

Recently, 13 participants in the **SDDOT New Engineer Training (DOTNET) Program**, along with transportation experts, embarked on a hands-on learning trip across South Dakota. From urban reconstruction projects in Pierre to bridge replacements in Spearfish Canyon, they explored real-world transportation challenges, connected with project teams, and gained valuable insights at every stop.

The experience deepened their understanding of project planning and development while strengthening their sense of teamwork—making the learning both impactful and memorable.



The group consisted of **Grant Brewer, Joe Cremer, Andrew Gordon, Blaise Hansen, Kirby Hurlbert, Arielle Kiepke, Eric Larsen, Jacob Larson, Carsten McNeil, Vinay Nukala, Dylan Osborn, Naren Pamarthi, Angela Protexter, Michele Beeler, Mike Behm, Tavor Diegel, Hadly Eisenbeisz, Darin Hodges, and Craig Smith**. Here's to teamwork, growth, and the road ahead!

DOT/DANR Golf Tournament

The SDDOT Central Office golf scramble took place at the Dunes Golf Course in Fort Pierre on Aug. 28, 2026, featuring six four-person teams competing in a friendly tournament.

The winning team . . .

Scott Rabern, Les Winsell, Brad Gall, and Earl Berg

The winners finished with an impressive eight under par to claim the top spot.

This year, SDDOT held its event at the same time as SDDANR, and in the combined competition SDDOT pulled ahead with a total aggregate score of 365 to SDDANR's 379, securing a solid overall victory.



A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the SDDOT managers who contributed money for pin prizes, whose support adds extra excitement and fun to the tournament each year.

South Dakota School of Mines Career Fair



SDDOT was one of 230 employers from across the country who participated in the South Dakota School of Mines Career Fair in September.

Todd Seaman (Rapid City Region Engineer), Heidi Olson (BHRA Human Resources Manager), and Kate Sieverding (Rapid City Bridge Engineering Assistant) represented the SDDOT at the career fair.

Snap. Submit. Vote.

Picture the SDDOT photo contest runs through Friday, Nov. 13, 2026.



Show us your best shot of life at the SDDOT!

Send in your favorite SDDOT-themed photo. All photos are submitted and voted on by staff, so you're part of the whole process.

Examples could include a picturesque sunset with equipment in the foreground or an overhead view of a construction zone.

Submit your entry [here](#) or scan the QR code in the graphic.

Full details are available on the Intranet under "[Picture the SDDOT](#)."

Department Impact Award Program

What are Impact Awards?

Impact Awards recognize any SDDOT employee or team who make a positive difference through teamwork, innovation, leadership, or exceptional service.

Anyone can submit a nomination for a full-time or part-time coworker or team who makes a noticeable impact at the SDDOT.

Learn More:

All nominations must be submitted by December to be considered. **Click on the graphic to access the nomination form.**



2026 IMPACT AWARDS

Submit a nomination for a team or an individual who has gone above and beyond in demonstrating the Department's mission and vision!

Kudos Board

KUDOS BOARD

VIEW AND POST

Make someone's day and give thanks to a coworker by posting a "shout out" on the [Kudos Board](#) on the Intranet.

Statewide Repair Shop Annual Gathering - Held in Mitchell



On Sept. 9 and 10, 2026, the **6th annual statewide mechanic and partsroom training** was held at the Mitchell repair shop.

Representatives from ForceAmerica and VariTech discussed their new flowmeters and stainless-steel brine pumps. Beckett Burners provided training on the operation, diagnostics, and repairs of their burners, which are used on many pieces of DOT equipment.

I-State Truck reviewed recalls, virtual technicians, and over-the-air updates for Freightliner trucks. Cimline covered the operation, diagnostics, and repairs of their patchers and crack sealers. **Brian Wacholz and Tim Blow** shared tips and addressed issues related to MEMS.

In 2020, **Steve Rhoades, Mitchell Equipment Shop Foreman**, sought permission from **Craig Smith** and **Joel Jundt** to establish a statewide training session for mechanics and partsroom staff—something that had not been done before. Steve shared, “Their approval made it possible to hold the first meeting in 2021 at the Mitchell Repair Shop, where the new facility was showcased. Since then, the training has been hosted in Pierre, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, and now has returned to Mitchell.”

Steve has been with the SDDOT for 37 years and is retiring in October. He views this initiative as one of his greatest accomplishments, noting, “It is not the work of one, but the whole group that makes it a success. It feels great to see it continued on.”

Thank you, Steve, for your contributions to the SDDOT and congratulations on your upcoming retirement!



September New Hires:

Cael Koentopp, Highway Construction Project Engineer, Aberdeen
Josh Mcewen, Highway Maintenance Worker, Miller
Angela Kranz, Right of Way Specialist, Watertown
Lance Black Horn, Highway Maintenance Worker, Rapid City
Duane Hannah, Highway Maintenance Worker, Rapid City
Jordan Pierce, Materials Lab Tech (Chemicals Lab Tech), Pierre
Tim Schmautz, Construction Technician (Driller), Pierre
Perry Job, Construction Technician, Pierre
Steven Marshall, Highway Maintenance Worker, Mission
Evastine Wright, Highway Maintenance Worker, Mission
Joel Sinner, Highway Maintenance Worker, Webster



September Promotions/Lateral Position Updates:

Kayla Hernandez, Transportation Utilities Coordinator, Rapid City
Jogan DeJean, Construction Technician, Huron
Kira Olson, Right of Way Technician, Pierre



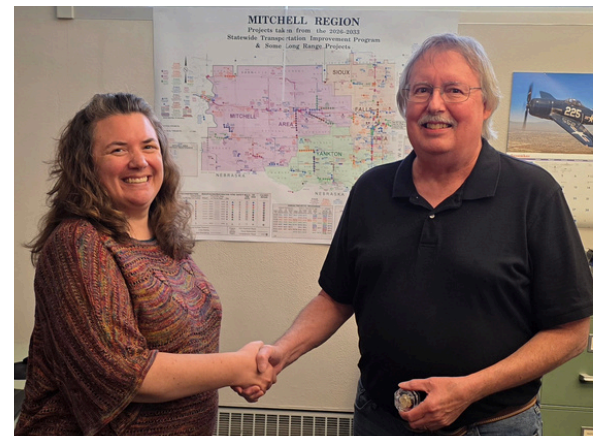
September Longevity:

Mindy Hubert, Right of Way Review Appraiser (Central Office - ROW) – 20 years
Harry Johnston, Area Engineer (Sioux Falls Area) – 20 years
Shayne Hagen, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (Custer Area) – 25 years
Mike Behm, Director of Planning & Engineering (Central Office) – 25 years
Bob Woolridge, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (Aberdeen Area) – 25 years
Andy Vandel, Engineering Manager (Central Office – Research) – 25 years
Nichole Berg, Chief Cartographer (Central Office – TIM) – 25 years
Scott Hammond, Engineer II (Mitchell Region) – 35 years
Jay Tople, Geotechnical Engineer Manager (Central Office – M&S) – 35 years



Miles of Service Recognitions:

Scott Hammond (Region Design Engineer, Mitchell)
received his 35-year longevity pin from **Stacey DuChene**
(Senior Region Design Manager, Sioux Falls).



Miles of Service Recognitions continued:

Shayne Hagen (Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Oelrichs) left received his 25-year longevity pin from **Clarence Bowman, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Hot Springs.**

Congrats to Clarence who retired on Sept. 8, 2026! Thank you for your dedicated work with the SDDOT!



Mike Behm (Planning & Engineering Division Director, Pierre) left received his 25-year longevity pin from **Secretary Joel Jundt.**



Through the South Dakota Board of Regents, all full-time state employees may apply for reduced tuition at South Dakota public colleges and universities including BHSU, DSU, NSU, SDSMT, SDSU, and USD. To further invest in our employees, a couple years ago SDDOT initiated the opportunity for partial tuition reimbursement for employees enrolled in out of state universities.

Jonathan Egge recently completed his engineering degree utilizing the SDDOT out of state university partial tuition reimbursement program. Jonathan noted how valuable the out of state reimbursement option was in helping him reach this career advancement goals.



Jonathan, pictured with his family, noted, "Thank you to everyone who worked to implement the partial tuition reimbursement program. I graduated Aug. 7, 2026, from the University of North Dakota with my Civil Engineering degree. On Aug. 24, 2026, I started as an Aberdeen Region Design Engineer."

Learn more about tuition reduction and reimbursement opportunities for in state and out of state colleges and universities [here](#).

The BOR reduced tuition program information is available at [Cost & Aid | South Dakota Board of Regents](#).



New Family Members:



Lyra Katherine Murphy was born on Aug. 29, 2026 weighing 8 lbs. 14oz.

Lyra is the daughter of **Siana Murphy (Mitchell Region Design Engineer)** and husband **Michael**. Lyra joins two brothers, Thor and Walker.



Sonny Lee Rothschadl was born on Aug. 27, 2026, to Beau and Emma Rothschadl of Yankton.

Sonny weighed 8lbs. 3 oz. and is the first grandchild of **Lauri and Greg Rothschadl (Yankton Area Engineer)**.



Breck James Rosberg was born on Sept. 9, 2026, to **Spencer and Kennedy Rosberg** of Yankton.

Breck is the grandson of **Abby Mueller, Mitchell Region Operations Technician**.



Dylan Riedl (Wildlife Biologist, Pierre) and Ariana were married on Aug. 8, 2026.



Erin (Mullen) Masloski (Region Senior Secretary, Aberdeen) and Alex were married on Aug. 22, 2026.



In Sympathy . . .

Sympathy is extended to family, friends, and former co-workers of Joe Kukal, who passed away on Aug. 25, 2026. Joe served as a Highway Maintenance Worker in Kadoka for approximately 10 years.

His celebration of life was held on Sept. 4, 2026, at the Kadoka City Auditorium.

[Link to Obituary](#)



Sympathy is extended to family, friends, and former co-workers of **Rod Lillebo**. Rod served as a Lead Highway Maintenance Worker in Presho.

Rod passed away on Aug. 28, 2026. No services are planned at this time.

[Link to Obituary](#)



Sympathy is extended to family, friends, and former co-workers of **Darrell "Lynn" Kennison**. Lynn worked in the Office of Railroads which later became Air, Rail, & Transit.

Lynn passed away on Sept. 17, 2026. Services were held on Monday, Sept. 28, 2026, at Lead-Deadwood Memorial Chapel of Lead, SD.

[Link to Obituary](#)



Sympathy is extended to family, friends, and former co-workers of **Robert "Bob" Standiford**. Bob served as a Highway Maintenance Supervisor in Hayes.

Bob passed away on Sept. 17, 2026. A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. CT on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, at the Hall in Hayes.

[Link to Obituary](#)



Sympathy is extended to family, friends, and former co-workers of **Jim Whetham**. Jim served as a lead highway maintenance worker as well as Highway Maintenance Worker in Armour for 18 years.

James passed away on Sept., 2026, in Armour. Funeral mass will be held on Thursday, Oct. 1 at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Armour.

[Link to Obituary](#)

