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EMPLOYEE NEWS & UPDATES

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**4th Annual Name the Snowplow Contest
Closes Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023!**

**SDDOT staff will vote once the
contest closes.**

**Watch for the voting link in an
upcoming Information Interchange
from Secretary Jundt.**

We will announce one officially named
snowplow within each of the 12 SDDOT
geographic areas in December!

Find the entry form as well as previous
snowplow contest winning names and
photos on the SDDOT website.

<https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/of-interest/sddot-snowplow-naming-contest>



The Secretary's Corner



Leadership Development Opportunities

Over the last five years, SDDOT has taken a purposeful and proactive approach to providing leadership opportunities to develop strong, capable leaders. As more and more SDDOT employees become eligible to retire, it is our responsibility to equip all employees to continue the momentum found within our organization.

The document below provides different levels of leadership for employees to become involved. I encourage employees to work with their supervisor to discuss career goals and available training opportunities that will assist with personal and professional leadership skill development.

Watch for the “Leadership Development Opportunities” poster placed around SDDOT offices and shops.

Snap the QR code with your mobile device to explore options!

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

First-Time DOT Supervisors

Newly promoted or assigned to a supervisor role for the first time in a career.

- *AASHTO Management Institute (Transportation specific)* - 4-day, Instructor-Led
- *NHI Maintenance Leadership Academy* - 10.5 Days, Instructor-Led + 16.75 Hours of Independent Study

Mid-Level Supervisors - 3+ yrs

Members of an organization who follow the direction of upper management while meeting the needs of those below.

- *AASHTO Leadership Institute (Transportation specific)* - 9-day, Instructor-Led

Executives

Highest level managers who communicate the vision and align the organization forward. Limited to Executive Team.

- *AASHTO Executive Institute (Transportation specific)* - 4-day, Instructor-Led

Talk to your supervisor about enrolling!



Emerging Leaders

Individuals seeking opportunities for skill development to prepare for leadership roles.

- *DOT Western States Coalition Leadership Academy* - 2-Weeks, Instructor-Led
- *DOT Leadership Development Program* - 1-Year, Instructor-Led

Other Programs

- *BHR Ignite Leadership* - Self-Paced
- *Performance Excellence Network (PEN) Leadership Events & Webinars* - Ongoing
- *Governor's Leadership Development Program* - 1-Year (Graduate Certificate)

Click to learn more!

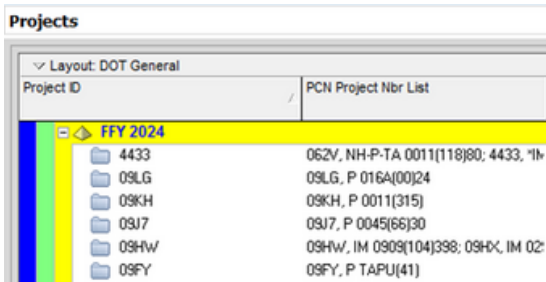


Primavera Tips/ Tricks

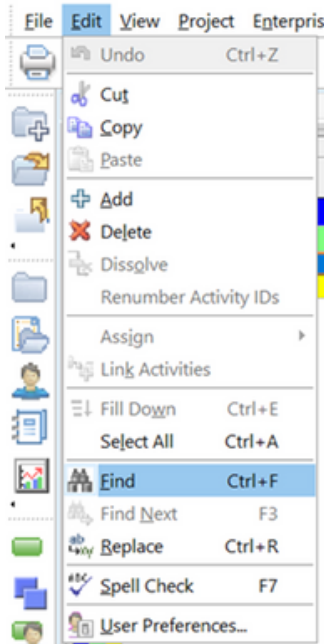
SDDOT utilizes Primavera P6 scheduling software for the design phase of a project. Additionally, Primavera software is utilized for various aspects of project management to help with managing resource workloads (current & future) and to assist in the delivery of projects in a timely matter. Through the SDDOT “Connecting the DOTS” newsletter, the Project Delivery Team will begin providing periodic tips to help staff utilize the Primavera software.

This tip demonstrates how to **Search (or Find)** information within the software.

1. On the **Projects** tab, select the column you want to search, in this example “Project ID” is used.

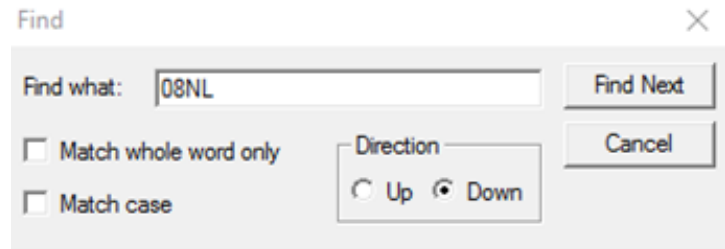


2. Type **Control + F** on the keyboard or use the menu at the top of the screen and Select “Edit”, then Select “Find”.

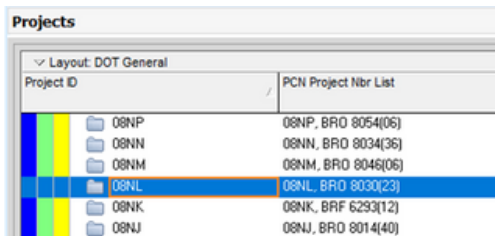


The following pop-up will appear:

- Type in the Project ID (Project Control Number - PCN) you are searching for and
- Select “Find Next” or Select “Enter” on the keyboard.



3. The software will navigate to the PCN you searched for and highlight the project.



The search function works on other tabs as well, such as in the **Activity** tab if you want to search for example, an Activity ID (“3055”) or Activity Name (“Gradeline”).

If you have questions about the Primavera software, please reach out to the Project Delivery Team at Earl Berg via email at earl.berg@state.sd.us or 773-7191 or Kathryn Johnson at kathryn.johnson@state.sd.us or 773-3567.

Finance Corner

PROCEDURE . . .

Here are the two most common errors for vouchers needing to be reset at the 1 p.m. or 4 p.m. run!

1. A remit message cannot contain special characters.

This error means that special characters are being added in the remit message that are not allowed. BFM allows the following characters in the Description and Remit Message fields:

- ✓ 0-9
- ✓ A-Z, a-z
- ✓ Space
- ✓ Pound sign (#)
- ✓ Ampersand (&)
- ✓ Dash (-)
- ✓ Period (.)
- ✓ Comma (,)
- ✓ Slash (/)
- ✓ Dollar sign (\$)
- ✓ Colon (:)
- ✓ Semi-colon (;)
- ✓ Parentheses ()

2. No active vendor found.

This error means the vendor is not found in the vendor list. The vendor may be inactive, no longer in the system, or may need a group number. Make sure your vendor number was entered correctly and obtain a new W9 if it was.

You can call **Susan Geigle** for vendor inquiries at 605-773-3265.

2023 Hall of Honor Inductee Banquet for Greg Klein

Greg Klein was officially inducted into the South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor on Nov. 8, 2023.

The purpose of the Transportation Hall of Honor is to recognize individuals who have made a lasting, valuable, or unique contribution to South Dakota's air, highway, public transit, or rail transportation system.

Nominations will be accepted once again by the HOH committee in spring 2024.



Secretary Jundt presented Greg with a plaque at the induction ceremony held at Joy Ranch in Watertown.



Greg expressed his deep appreciation for the induction honor.

3RD ANNUAL SDDOT HOLIDAY SMACKDOWN

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

ABERDEEN HAS AGAIN DECLARED THE 2023 COLLECTION A FOOD SHELF DRIVE

COLLECTIONS WILL BE TAKEN DECEMBER 6 - 12

(7 a.m. 12/6 - 4 p.m. 12/12 Central Time or 6 a.m. 12/6 - 3 p.m. 12/12 Mountain Time)

NEW THIS YEAR!

Since many people work for a region but live and work out of another region, this year, there will NOT be any formula. Its just can for can, box for box, dollar for dollar competition. AND due to request, the collection will be a full week. Go SDDOT! Let's make a difference!

Reminder of how it works:

1. Each region will choose and coordinate with food shelf in their area and let Kari Kroll know its name by 12/4.
2. Each region will also choose a contact/ representative for their region to oversee adding up the totals for the region and communication them to Kari Kroll before the deadline noted below. Let Kari know who it is by 12/4.
3. Starting at 7 a.m. CT/ 6 a.m. MT on Wednesday, December 6, each region will collect as many food items and dollars as possible until 4 p.m. CT/ 3 p.m. MT on Tuesday, December 12 to be donated to their designated food shelves.
4. By 4:15 p.m. CT/ 3:15 p.m. MT on December 12, the region contact/representative MUST EMAIL Kari Kroll the total number of food items AND the total number of dollars collected for the ENTIRE REGION.
5. The winning region will be announced by 9 a.m. CT/ 8 a.m. MT on December 13.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE WINNING REGION??

- Bragging rights and a huge, shiny, fancy, coveted trophy to display for a year.
- Certificate signed by the secretary to display for all time.
- The honor of selecting what type of *collection* will be held the following year.

Fall 2023 New Employee Orientation

Over 70 new employees attended the fall orientation in Pierre.

On Nov. 7 and 8, 2023, a record number of new employees joining the SDDOT gathered at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre for New Employee Orientation.

June Hansen, New Employee Orientation Coordinator, began with a welcome followed by presentations by Joel Jundt, Secretary of Transportation; Craig Smith, Director of Operations; Kellie Beck, Director of Finance and Management; Mike Behm, Director of Planning and Engineering; as well as Area Engineers, Travis Dressen, Jason Humphrey, Mark Peterson, and Todd Seaman.

The second day included presentations from Dustin DeBoer, Legal Counsel; Heidi Olson, BHRA; and Doug Sherman, Winner Area Engineer.

The group ended the orientation with a tour of the Materials Lab and an equipment show.



Operations Director Craig Smith presented information about the DOT's strategic plan.



New employees broke into groups to learn about materials and equipment used every day at the SDDOT.





November Mentoring Minute What's Your Favorite "Failure"?

By Brad Remmich and Jason Baker

The August 2023 issue of The Mentoring Messenger was titled "**Finding My Favorite Failure.**" This topic inspired us to reflect upon our careers – one who is midway through, and one who is only weeks away from retirement.

We all know that failures can hurt, be embarrassing, and cause problems. But what we don't always consider (or remember) when they occur, is that failures are better viewed as lessons learned. We often focus on getting beyond the failure and forgetting that it happened so we can forget the pain, embarrassment, or problems.

One of the most effective ways we learn is through failure. Even as parents, sometimes the best way for us to teach our children is to allow them to fail. Of course, this is in somewhat of a controlled environment. Perhaps the most iconic example is learning to ride a bicycle. Everyone fails, but eventually learns from those failures and it becomes second nature.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation recognizes that failures will occur. Often times, the failures are addressed as learning experiences and discussed in anonymous group settings. **In addition, the Mentoring Program offers an avenue to travel through other's "failures" without the embarrassment, grief, or issues. Mentors and mentees both can learn from each other – and better yet, situational mentors can provide lessons they've learned, all in a controlled, educational setting.**

When I reflect on my failures during my time with the Department, I always revert to a simple ADA ramp that I provided direction to build a certain way. Although relatively minor in the grand scheme of things, this ADA ramp catches runoff water from the road and ponds where pedestrians travel. Everything is compliant with the ramp, but I failed to ensure drainage was maintained. The point is that mistakes, or "failures," are okay if they are learned from and not simply repeated. Don't immediately forget the failure, reflect on it, learn from it, and teach others if the opportunity arises.

So, what is your favorite "failure"?

Recent Mentoring Events:

Mentoring Midpoint Energizer was held on Nov. 1, 2023.

The Mentoring Midpoint Energizer is an annual event held approximately mid-way through the mentoring program to discuss how the program is working for the pairs, what could be improved, and rejuvenate the momentum toward achieving the mentees' goals.

Find photos from the recent Midpoint Energizer event on the next page...

November Mentoring Minute continued . . .



June Hansen, Civil Rights Compliance Specialist and Mentoring Program Coordinator, addressed the mentoring group.



Mentoring pairs discussed progress and plans to finish the program.

Brad Remmich, Airport Construction Specialist, received a gift from the Mentoring Committee for his service and dedication to the program and for his upcoming retirement. The gift was presented by **P & E Director Mike Behm**; craftsmanship by **John Villbrandt, Mobridge Area Engineer**.



Upcoming 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
 Commission Room (Pierre) and Microsoft TEAMS

Mentoring Extra Event

Communication in the Workplace and Beyond

Jan. 23, 2024 from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. (CT)
 Led by SDDOT Communications Team
 Microsoft TEAMS

Make Time for Mentoring!



Celebrating GIS Day and the New GIS Data Hub

By Kimberly Zerr and Kathryn Wesson

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, was GIS Day. What is GIS Day? It's an annual event to celebrate GIS and GIS technologies and highlight real-world applications. Even if you don't use GIS directly, chances are high that your work has been impacted by GIS somewhere in the Department. GIS technology has been in use at SDDOT since 1993!

The GIS Team recently launched a new hub website with links to internal and external web apps, dashboards, training documents, links to videos, and other GIS information. You don't need special software to access the site, but to maintain security, you must email the GIS Team for access. [Click here to visit the site](#) (and create an account in the GIS Portal). Then email Kimberly Zerr or Kathryn Wesson. We'll set you up!



South Dakota Department of Transportation
November 15 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

Happy GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Day from the SDDOT!

GIS technology helps the SDDOT capture, display, and analyze location data to make better transportation decisions for the state.

Here are a few ways that GIS helped with the Lacrosse Street diverging diamond interchange.

#SDDOT #SD511 #GISDay



Discovery Career Day in Pierre

The SDDOT had the opportunity to meet with 7th graders about transportation and logistics at Discovery Career Day in Pierre! During the SDDOT session, teams of students worked together to move an object from one side of the "river" to the other in the most efficient way with the materials provided.

The students did a great job working together to problem solve through the complex logistical situations.

Thanks to **Teri Morford, Andrew Undt, and Peter Iverson** from the SDDOT Office of Bridge Design for assisting with the event!



BETTER CHOICES
better health[®]
 GOOD&HEALTHY SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITIES

BETTER CHOICES, BETTER HEALTH-SD

WORKSITE WORKSHOP

STATE EMPLOYEES | WELL-BEING POINTS: 200

BCBH-SD WORKSITE WORKSHOPS are supported by SD Bureau of Human Resources and Administration for state employees to discuss the challenges of balancing work and their health. Participants will learn new techniques to manage their health conditions, and how to balance work and home life with an emphasis on stress management.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Anyone looking to better manage their health.

2024 WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE:

Registration opens for each workshop after the previous one fills

Jan. 3 - Feb. 9 : Wednesday & Friday
 9:00 am - 10:00 am CT / 8:00 am - 9:00 am MT

Jan. 9 - Feb. 15 : Tuesday & Thursday
 9:00 am - 10:00 am CT / 8:00 am - 9:00 am MT

Jan. 22 - Mar. 4 : Monday & Thursday
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT / 11:00 am - 12:00 pm MT

WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- *Living a Healthy Life* Book
- Completion Certificate
- 200 Wellness Points

FORMAT:

- **Zoom:** Live sessions
- Led by 2 trained leaders
- Small group of 8-12 participants
- 1 hr. sessions, twice a week for 6 weeks

TO RECEIVE WELL-BEING POINTS, YOU MUST ATTEND AT LEAST 8 OF THE 12 WORKSHOP SESSIONS AND COMPLETE THE ENROLLMENT AND POST-WORKSHOP SURVEY.

**REGISTER
TODAY!**



**Additional BCBH-SD
Workshops: [Here](#)**



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

For more information:
betterchoices.betterhealth@sdstate.edu | 1.888.484.3800

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TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
November 2023



[NHI 134077: Contract Administration Core Curriculum](#)

Feb. 14-15 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Pierre

[First Aid/CPR/AED](#)

Dec. 7 | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Pierre

[Public Right of Way Guidance \(PROWAG\) Videos](#)

[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

[Navigating Difficult Conversations](#)

Nov. 30 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Zoom

[How to Handle Difficult Customers](#)

Dec. 12 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Zoom

[Getting Things Done](#)

Dec. 19 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Zoom

TLN SNOW & ICE WEBINAR SERIES

[Using Winter Weather Technology](#)

Dec. 1 | 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Zoom

[Blending Salt Brine](#)

Dec. 8 | 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Zoom

[Using Mobile Data to Guide Roadway Treatments](#)

Dec. 15 | 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Zoom

BALDRIGE LEADERSHIP COURSES

Nov. 30 | [Communities of Excellence: People are the Beginning and End of Your Story](#)

Dec. 14 | [Planning, Learning, Improving: The Value of After Action Reviews](#)

Jan. 10 | [Intro to DEI: Identifying & mitigating UNCONSCIOUS BIAS](#)

Certification Courses - Next Page



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](#)



TRAINING UPDATE

Learn ~ Engage ~ Improve
November 2023

CERTIFICATION COURSES

	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>CONCRETE PAVING</u>	December 12 (T) December 13 (W) December 14 (T)		Becker Hansen Building 700 E Broadway Pierre, SD 57501
<u>CONCRETE PLANTS</u>	January 16 (T) January 17 (W) January 18 (T)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Becker Hansen Building 700 E Broadway Pierre, SD 57501
<u>STRUCTURES</u>	February 12 (M) February 13 (T) February 14 (W) February 15 (T)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Ramkota Amphitheater II 920 W Sioux Ave Pierre, SD 57501
<u>EARTHWORK</u>	March 18 (M) March 19 (T) March 20 (W)		Becker Hansen Building 700 E Broadway Pierre, SD 57501
<u>EARTHWORK</u>	March 20 (W) March 21 (T) March 22 (F)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Becker Hansen Building 700 E Broadway Pierre, SD 57501
<u>EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL</u>	February 6 (T) February 7 (W)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Becker Hansen Building 700 E Broadway Pierre, SD 57501
<u>EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL</u>	February 21 (W) February 22 (T)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Courtyard by Marriott 580 Watiki Way Box Elder, SD 57719
<u>EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL</u>	February 27 (T) February 28 (W)	8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Best Western Ramkota 3200 W Maple St Sioux Falls, SD 57107
<u>AGGREGATES</u>	January 8 (M) January 9 (T) January 10 (W)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Sioux Falls DOT Training Room A & SF Area Shop 5316 W 60th St N Sioux Falls, SD 57107
<u>AGGREGATES</u>	January 22 (M) January 23 (T) January 24 (W)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Sioux Falls DOT Training Room A & SF Area Shop 5316 W 60th St N Sioux Falls, SD 57107
<u>AGGREGATES</u>	January 29 (M) January 30 (T) January 31 (W)		Aberdeen HP Conference Room and DOT Area Shop 2735 US 12 Aberdeen, SD 57401
<u>AGGREGATES</u>	February 5 (M) February 6 (T) February 7 (W)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Pierre Region Materials Lab Classroom 104 S Garfield Pierre, SD 57501
<u>AGGREGATES</u>	March 4 (M) March 5 (T) March 6 (W)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Rapid City Region Lab and Meeting Room 2300 Eglin St Rapid City, SD 57701
<u>SOILS</u>	January 10 (W) January 11 (T) January 12 (F)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Sioux Falls DOT Training Room A & SF Area Shop 5316 W 60th St N Sioux Falls, SD 57107
<u>SOILS</u>	January 24 (W) January 25 (T) January 26 (F)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Sioux Falls DOT Training Room A & SF Area Shop 5316 W 60th St N Sioux Falls, SD 57107
<u>SOILS</u>	January 31 (W) February 1 (T) February 2 (F)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Aberdeen HP Conference Room and DOT Area Shop 2735 US 12 Aberdeen, SD 57401
<u>SOILS</u>	February 7 (W) February 8 (T) February 9 (F)	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Pierre Region Materials Lab Classroom 104 S Garfield Pierre, SD 57501
<u>SOILS</u>	March 6 (W) March 7 (T) March 8 (F)		Rapid City Region Lab and Meeting Room 2300 Eglin St Rapid City, SD 57701

Community Engagement:

SDDOT team members from the Winner Area recently hosted clients from Community Connections, Inc. for a tour of our SDDOT office and equipment. Our team had a blast showing the wide array of equipment the SDDOT operates and chatting about winter maintenance activities with the group.



Community Connections, Inc. is a non-profit organization, based out of Winner, that provides services and support to those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Our crew enjoyed meeting David, Damon, Donald, Jasper, and Greg from Community Connections, Inc.

Thank you to Gregg Ulmer, Highway Maintenance Supervisor (neon yellow sweatshirt) and Wyatt Reis, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker (yellow sweatshirt), for leading the tour!



Damon colored this picture for the SDDOT guys as a way of saying thank you for the tour.



Leading the Way with Recruitment:

Tyler Small, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker in Yankton, drove the tow plow through the D-Days parade in Vermillion in October. In addition to the “Don’t Crowd the Plow” messaging on the side of the tow plow, he was also recruiting! On the front of his plow it states, “We are hiring - apply online or call us today!”



Community Engagement:

Corey Weerheim, Equipment Technician, Matt Trabing, Project Technician, and Doug O'Neil, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, took trucks to Ethan School for a Touch a Truck event!



SDDOT Trick or Treat Station at LaFramboise Island in Pierre



Back Row: Ed Kaelin, Jerry Ortbahn, Danny Varilek, and Clark Guthrie.

Front Row: Monica Ortbahn and Shelley Larson

Rebecka Wallingford, Grants & Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinator, took her son Leo to the DOT Trick or Treat station at LaFramboise Island.

It was a cold afternoon, but there were close to 600 kids who braved the weather.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates



November 2023 Longevity:

- **Phil Clements, Pavement Management Engineer – 25 years**
(Central Office – Project Development)
- **John Huber, Highway Maintenance Supervisor – 25 years** (Yankton Area)
- **Graham Smith, Region Design Engineer – 25 years** (Rapid City Region)



Larry Andersen Lead Highway Maintenance Worker from Hayes received his **30 year** plaque from **Dean VanDeWiele Pierre Area Engineer**.



Keith Lunstra Lead Highway Maintenance Worker from Sioux Falls received his **10 year** pin from **Corey Pinkley Mitchell Region Traffic Engineer**.



Christal Collins, Region Materials Technician, receiving her **Impact Award** certificate from nominator **Tom Horan, Region Operations Engineer**.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates

Jay Peppel, Mitchell Area Engineer, was “Facebook Famous” on the **Mitchell SD Happenings page** for being a great neighbor!

Jay took time out of his day to rake leaves and haul to the dump for his neighbor! It sounds like Jay is “well known” for always helping out!



On Oct. 30, 2023, **Danae Dean’s** husband (Chris) adopted her daughter and she officially became Raya Dean.

Raya wanted to be a “Dean” when Danae and Chris got married this past February. Over the summer, they got the process started and Raya finally got her wish!

Next month she will have a newborn baby to share with you too! **Danae is an Auditor in Central Office.**

Beau Tell Secker was born on Nov. 8, 2023, to Rachel and Logen Secker of Eureka.

Beau weighed in at 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 inches long. **Beau is the 11th grandchild of SDDOT Winner Area Engineer Doug Sherman and his wife, Val.**

Beau is shown in the picture with his older siblings Izzy and Barrett as well as his grandparents, Doug and Val Sherman.





SDDOT Employee News and Updates

November New Hires:

- Michael Spurr, Highway Maintenance Worker - Bison
- Hans Anderson, Highway Maintenance Worker - Woonsocket
- Jason Schoon, Highway Maintenance Worker - Salem
- Isaac Engebretson, Journey Transportation Technician - Watertown
- David Burwitz, Consultant Management Engineer - Sioux Falls
- Anthony Wika, Highway Maintenance Worker - Ipswich
- Daniel O'Rourke, Equipment Technician - Huron
- Jerry Graham, Highway Maintenance Worker - Ipswich
- Troy Byrne, Highway Maintenance Worker - Martin
- Courtney Stoel, Right-of-Way Specialist - Sioux Falls
- Matthew Thompson, Right-of-Way Specialist - Sioux Falls
- Craig Valenti, Highway Maintenance Worker - Rapid City
- Brad Bartling, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mission
- Dan Alfson, Highway Maintenance Worker - Custer
- Kyle Rold, Highway Maintenance Worker - Rapid City

November Promotions & Lateral Position Changes:

- Steven Theunissen, Highway Maintenance Worker - Rapid City
- Austin Tietz, Highway Maintenance Worker - Mitchell
- Clyde Baker, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker - Faulkton



Sympathy is extended to SDDOT co-workers, family, and friends of Neil Schochenmaier of Pierre.

Neil, who was an engineering supervisor in the road design office in Pierre, passed away on Nov. 2, 2023, as the result of an automobile accident.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 9, 2023, at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre, followed by burial in the Rosebud Cemetery at Bonesteel, SD.



Sympathy is extended to **Rafe Jacobsen, Transportation Project Manager in the Aberdeen Area Engineering Unit**, on the passing of his father. **Edmund "Joe" Jacobsen**, passed away on Nov. 13, 2023.



Mass was held on Nov. 21, 2023, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Brookings.



Sympathy is extended to SDDOT co-workers, family, and friends of Ron Merriman, Pierre. Ron worked at SDDOT for his entire career, retiring in 1999.

Ron passed away on Nov. 21, 2023. Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at the First United Methodist Church in Pierre with burial at a later date in Howard.