



# Communities awarded state grants for projects

## Pierre request on Menards project denied

By Bob Mercer  
State Capitol Bureau

Six South Dakota communities received approval for grants Tuesday from the state Board of Economic Development.

The funds were awarded under the new Building South Dakota Fund created by the Legislature last winter.

The state board approved economic development partnership grants for staff, training and equipment purposes of \$52,230 for the Faulkton area program; \$21,700 for the Gettysburg-Whitlock

The board denied one infrastructure improvement grant that was requested by the city of Pierre for \$354,285 related to the Menards hardware-store project.

Bay Development Corp.; \$62,275 for the Lake Francis Case Development Corp.; and \$54,000 for the Wounded Knee Development Corp.

The board also awarded two infrastructure

improvement grants of \$100,000 for the city of Castlewood relating to the grain terminal and \$200,000 for the city of Milbank related to its hospital project.

The board denied

economic development grants sought by the city of Wagner for \$49,000; the Gettysburg-Whitlock Bay revolving loan fund for \$25,000; and the Wessington Springs Area Development Corp. for \$5,000.

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related to the Menards hardware-store project.

In other action, the board accepted the annual Legislative Audit report regarding the previous fiscal year's operations.

"We had no findings. Very good review," said Kim Easland, a finance official in the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

## SD Cattlemen's Association meets in Pierre this week

### Grassland conversion will be one of the topics

By Lance Nixon  
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Just days after South Dakotans discussed grassland conversion as one issue Friday at the Dec. 6 Governor's Pheasant Habitat Summit in Huron, South Dakota cattle producers will consider the same topic.

### SD cattle group remains neutral on Renewable Fuel Standard

One item that will not be formally on the agenda as the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association meets this week in Pierre is any discussion of ethanol and the Renewable Fuel Standard.

But it's likely to be an informal topic of discussion given recent proposals in Washington.

The Renewable Fuel Standard is a federal program

See **FUEL**, A3

It's on the agenda today when the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association's 65th Annual Convention and Trade Show gets into full swing at the Ramkota in Pierre. Benjamin Turner, a graduate assistant from South Dakota State University, will update producers on some of the research on the topic of grassland conversion. Turner speaks at 1:15 p.m.

The South Dakota Cattlemen's Association plans a full day of events today and continues Thursday until the convention wraps up at 2 p.m. People can register on the site and those interested in any of the topics cattlemen are discussing are welcome, Executive Director Jodie Anderson said.

Registration, a trade show and breakfast get under way at 7:30 a.m. today.

Don Schiefelbein of Schiefelbein Farms speaks at 8 a.m. at a session called Cattlemen's College on the topic of making money by investing wisely.

See **CATTELEMEN**, A3

## Dakotas officials spar over which state better off

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some officials in the Dakotas are sparring good-naturedly over whether the North or the South is better off.

North Dakota's energy boom has people flocking to the state in search of jobs, and money flowing into the state coffers and the state economy. But South Dakota also has a strong economy and low unemployment, and some leaders there say that state has a better quality of life.

"North Dakota's got liquor stores that are bursting at the seams. We'd much rather have schools that are bursting at the seams," said Dusty Johnson, chief of staff for South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Johnson told the Argus Leader newspaper that some top advisers to South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard have joked about running billboards in North Dakota saying, "Today you've got a job; come to South Dakota and get a life."

South Dakota must be jealous of North Dakota's best-in-the-nation unemployment rate, near billion-dollar state surplus and booming job growth, Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce CEO Andy

See **DAKOTAS**, A6



## CALL TO ACTION

### Pheasant summit started conversation, but action, cooperation still required

By David Rookhuyzen  
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Participants in Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Pheasant Habitat Summit declared it to be a success, at least in terms of getting interested parties together to discuss important issues.

But the challenge now lies in transforming that talk into action and coming up with solutions that are favorable toward the state's largest industry while preserving one of its most cherished traditions.

Hundreds of farmers, ranchers, hunters and conservationists showed up for the seven-hour meeting in Huron on Friday to listen to and discuss what could be done to foster healthy pheasant numbers. Daugaard called for the summit after a preseason report showed a drastic population decline of 64 percent between 2012 and 2013.

Barry Dunn, dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University, said the main message to come out of the summit was the need for a collaborative spirit between farmers and outdoorsmen when it comes to bolstering pheasant numbers.

See **SUMMIT**, A6

Nebraska hunter Frank Beck hunts a game area north of Pierre on opening day of the 2013 pheasant season. (Lance Nixon/Capital Journal)

## Pierre couple shares Christmas collection in Tour of Homes

By Mary Egstad  
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For Lanny and Sharon Paulsen, Christmas and collections go hand in hand.

The rooms in their three-story house on the corner of Prospect and Willow will be filled with sets of ornaments and ceramic figures.

The more-than-100-year-old house features a foyer, kitchen and living and dining rooms that have quality woodwork. Sharon calls it "the old-fashioned kind, the good stuff." The Paulsens have been celebrating Christmas there for 42 years.

Visitors with the Tour of Homes will be able to go from room to room on the main floor to see all of their Christmas collectibles.



Sharon Paulsen stands in front of her Christmas tree. Her house will be on the Tour of Homes Saturday. (Mary Egstad/Capital Journal)

"I have a collection of the Salvation Army, the 12 Days of Christmas, and a large display of the Dickens' Village," Sharon said.

Her daughter started the Salvation Army collection. Now she has about 20 pieces because a new ornament is released every

year. Each ornament is about 5 inches tall with a coat hanger for a base and wears a blue Salvation Army coat.

Both the Salvation Army and "12 Days of Christmas" sets are Byers' Choice brand ornaments.

See **HOMES**, A6

### If you go

WHAT: Tour of Homes

WHEN: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, with lunch immediately before at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Sutley Senior Center in Fort Pierre. Details of house locations are on the tickets.

COST: \$10 for the tour. The lunch before costs an additional \$5. Tickets can be purchased at American State Bank, Hallmark Card & Candy, Hollywood Shop, all BankWest locations in Pierre, Dakota Prairie Bank, First National Bank and the Community and Youth Involved Center in Fort Pierre. Forell Bus & Limousine Service will be providing travel to the homes for an additional \$10 from the Sutley Senior Center at 1 p.m. Those interested need to call 224-0073 to reserve a seat.

MORE INFORMATION: Call Pat Duffy at 223-2701.