

BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Photo by Eric Selchert

Leadership Belle Fourche

March 20, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: BFDC Conference
Room - 5th & Grant Plaza, 608 5th
Ave

BFDC Board of Directors Meeting

March 19, 2024

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Location: BFDC Conference
Room - 5th & Grant Plaza, 608 5th
Ave.

Contact us to work with our team for connections to the resources to take your business to the next level. Whether starting a new business or expanding an existing business, we can connect you with resources to help. Contact us here: 605-892-5065



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Our Community.**

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BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP



Leadership Belle Fourche Ring Container Tour with David Vandenberg

February Session:

- The class met at the Belle Fourche REC Center for the BFHS Career Learning and Community Fair. This event has been held for many years designed to help students see a career pathway if they don't have one in mind, or are unsure. As a part of the class, we take a look at workforce development and how our school system is working to help in this arena.
- Industry tour tomorrow at Ring Container.

Butte County

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Community Meeting

**March 20, 2025
2:00-3:00PM**

Butte County Courthouse

839 5th Ave
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
Second Floor Court Room



Join us for a discussion about natural hazard mitigation in Butte County!

Join us as we explore the risks and vulnerabilities in Butte County related to natural hazards. We will also discuss project ideas to reduce the impact from natural hazards and increase community resilience.

New Domino's Operating Partners Bring Passion and Experience

Ryder Heitz /
news@bellefourchebeacon.com

The new Domino's in Belle Fourche isn't just another pizza place—it's a dream come true for its new local part-owners, Jessica Work and Corey Auwerter. With deep roots in the area and over a decade of experience with the company, the couple is excited to bring their passion for pizza and community to their new home.

Originally from Rapid City, Work and Auwerter were managing the Domino's in Box Elder when they decided to pursue their longtime goal of franchise ownership.

"We've always wanted to own a Domino's," Work said. "Back in 2020, we realized our house had skyrocketed in value, so we sold it and used the profits to invest in this opportunity."



New Domino's Operating Partner Jessica Work (left) and General Manager Cory

Their journey led them to Alan Irwin, a franchisee who owns multiple Domino's locations in Wyoming and North Dakota. Initially, the couple set their sights on Hot Springs, gathering data and even preparing a presentation to pitch their plan. But after a Skype meeting with Irwin, he proposed an alternative—Belle Fourche. "He told me, 'I know you have your heart set on Hot Springs, but what about Belle Fourche?'" Work recalled. "It's close to your family, the population is growing.' And I just said yes, because I was like, yes, yes, I'll do whatever. I mean, I'm in."

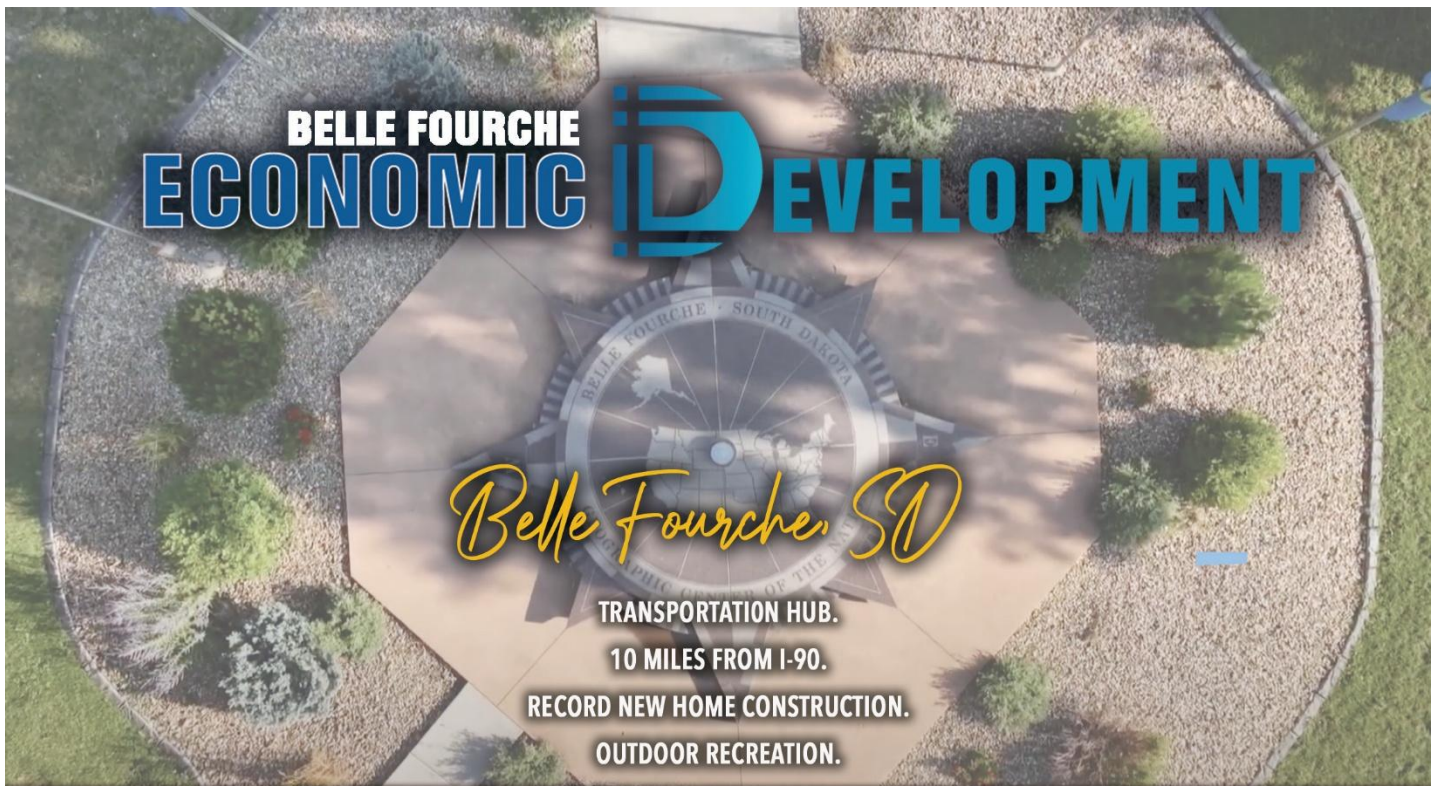
Finding the right location took time. They considered multiple buildings, including an old bowling alley, before finally securing their current spot, thanks to local property owner Doug. "Doug had reached out to us saying, hey, I heard you wanted a Domino's. We have a workout center right here. You guys can have a Domino's here. And we just were like, yes. I found out on my birthday too. So this was a birthday dream come true," explained Work.

Since moving to Belle Fourche two months ago, the couple have embraced small-town life. "We were very involved with our Box Elder community," Auwerter said. "I feel like this is a lot more of, you know, everyone's a lot more friendly and relationships close knit, which is great. Everyone's been really nice."

The couple's connection to Domino's runs deep—so deep, in fact, that it's how they met. "He was my opening driver. He showed up late. Kind of crazy," laughed Work. The couple has now been married for five years and has two children, ages six and four.

As they run the store together, Auwerter serves as the General Manager while Work is an Operating Partner. They split shifts, ensuring one of them is always available. "People are like, how do you guys work with each other? We're just a team," Auwerter said. "We both really love our jobs and the home life side of it is just having good communication." Work and Auwerter are currently in a five-year partnership with Irwin, after which they will purchase the store outright. "Alan has been incredibly supportive," Work said. "This is an amazing opportunity, and we're grateful for it."

With weekly specials and an emphasis on community engagement, the new Domino's is eager to serve Belle Fourche. "We're really blessed to be out here, and we love Belle Fourche and our community," said Work. "I hope everyone knows that."



**3 NEW HOUSING
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A New Home for Black Hills Title



Outside of Black Hills Title Company's new location. It was the old Radio Shack

By Robbi Longbrake

BELLE FOURCHE—Last week Black Hills Title got the keys to their brand new home, located at 1903 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD.

The old location was on 6th Street, right behind the old Wells Fargo building. The new location is in the old Radio Shack building. “We enjoyed being downtown, we just kind of outgrew it—we remodeled that building as much as we could for our needs, but it was time,” said Travis Martin, Title Operations Manager. “We were looking for quite awhile and waiting for the right thing to come up.”

The Radio Shack location provided the ability to create everything the business needed. “This was just one big open room,” explained Martin. “Now we’ve got three offices and a conference room, and then a lobby area and a break room in the back and good storage. We also have an employee bathroom and a customer bathroom, which we never had before!”

The move from downtown allowed for way more space inside the building, as well as, outside.

“We just ran out of space downtown, so this worked out great for us, to be able to move out here on this main drag,” explained Martin. “It’s wonderful! We have good parking now that is just for our office, so it works out good—easy in and out for people.”

While they have only had access to the new building for a week, they have already put the conference room to work. “We have had a few closings so far, people are really seeming to enjoy the space too,” said Martin.

After all of the finishing touches are done, look for Black Hills Title to have an open house and invite the public to see the new space. According to Martin, “we’re still kind of in the process of piecing together some things—some cabinets that are still coming in, and the sign isn’t our final sign that’s up now.”

Dr. Steve Willard Appointed Acting President of Western Dakota Technical College

The Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) Board of Trustees has named Steve Willard, Ed.D., Acting President, effective Monday, Feb. 24.

Dr. Willard, who has served as Chair of the WDTC Board of Trustees since Fall Semester 2024 and has been a board member since 2020, brings extensive experience to the interim role. Previously, he served as Superintendent of Schools for the Belle Fourche School District and has worked as a Principal and Career and Technical Education educator.

Lynn Kendall, WDTC Board of Trustees Vice Chair and Regional Public Affairs Manager for Black Hills Energy, will assume the role of Interim WDTC Board Chair during Dr. Willard's tenure as Acting President.

Christine Goldsmith, who has served as Acting WDTC President following the passing of President Ann Bolman, Ed.D., in September 2024, will continue in her role as Vice President for Finance and Operations through March 2025, after which she will pursue a new career opportunity outside of Rapid City.



"On behalf of the WDTC Board of Trustees, we sincerely appreciate Christine's leadership and dedication during this transition," Dr. Willard said. "She stepped into a challenging role with professionalism and commitment, and we are grateful for her contributions. We wish her all the best in her next endeavor."

The WDTC Board of Trustees is currently conducting a comprehensive search for the next college president, with the goal of announcing a successor before the start of the Fall 2025 Semester. This process aims to identify a leader who aligns closely with WDTC's vision and values.

"Despite the challenges of the past several months, Western Dakota Technical College continues to thrive," Dr. Steve Willard said. "Our dedicated faculty and staff remain fully committed to student success, and their hard work is evident every day. We are preparing for a large graduating class this spring, and I have no doubt our graduates will build successful careers and positively impact their communities."

ABOUT WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) was established in 1968 and is the only technical college

serving the western South Dakota region.

WDTC offers more than 40 programs in a variety of fields, including Business and Computers, Construction and Manufacturing, Energy and Environmental Technologies, Health Sciences, Legal and Public Services, and Transportation Technologies.

Ninety-nine percent of Western Dakota Technical College's most recent graduates are working, continuing their education, or are enlisted in the military per the WDTC 2023 Placement Report. There were 353 respondents out of 399 graduates surveyed. [*Placement information is derived from graduate surveys, faculty-collected data, placement surveys started six months after graduation, and the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation. Overall placement rate is figured by: (responding graduates employed, continuing education, or in military service)/(responding graduates who are seeking employment). The number of program graduates are unduplicated by CIP code.]

Western Dakota Technical College faculty, staff, and administration focus their efforts on helping students gain the skills and experiences they need to succeed. Through hands-on learning, internships, and industry partnerships, WDTC students graduate ready to make a real and immediate contribution to their employers and to their communities.

For information about WDTC, call (800) 544-8765 or (605) 718-2565 or send an email to Admissions@wdt.edu. Visit us on the web at wdt.edu.



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☐ Associate or Individual
\$50 - \$99

See page 2 for investment benefits and payment options

Page 1



GOV. RHODEN HONORS MITCHELL COMMUNITY AND TED HAEDER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

March 3, 2025

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Larry Rhoden and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) celebrated the achievements of communities and leaders at this year’s Governor’s Conference on Economic Development. Governor Rhoden announced Mitchell as the Community of the Year and presented Ted Haeder with the Excellence in Economic Development Award.

“South Dakota is fortunate to have communities and individuals like Mitchell and Ted,” Governor Rhoden said. “Congratulations to this year’s winners and to all those working in economic development across the state to help keep us Open for Opportunity.”

The Community of the Year award recognizes a community that has made exceptional strides in economic development, job creation, and quality of life. Mitchell has demonstrated outstanding progress, securing a major soybean plant that created 85 full-time jobs.

The community is also investing in housing, launching a childcare grant program, and attracting new residents through its innovative Community Concierge Program.



The Excellence in Economic Development Award honors individuals who have made significant, long-lasting contributions to South Dakota's economic growth. Ted Haeder has been a driving force in expanding the state's economy, developing multiple industrial parks,



increasing housing opportunities with more than 200 new homes, revitalizing downtown areas with façade grants, and strengthening Huron's workforce through career and technical education programs.



Joe Fiala, commissioner of GOED, added, “Communities like Mitchell and individuals like Ted are exactly why people want to live and do business in South Dakota.”

Next year’s conference will be held in Pierre from Feb. 24-26.



RUSHMORE REGION / ELEVATE RAPID CITY - ECONOMIC SUMMIT

A deep-dive into discussions shaping our economy. Taking a national approach to the economy and then focusing more on a regional discussion. This summit is an opportunity to have a broader look on economic development while also being able to network with people from around the region.

- **Regional Economy Update** *Erick Gracia Luna | Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis*
- **Today's Factors in Dealing with the National and Global Level Business Conditions** | *J. Michael Mullis | J.M. Mullis, Inc.*
- **South Dakota as a State in which to do Business** | *J. Michael Mullis | J.M. Mullis, Inc.*

About the Speakers:

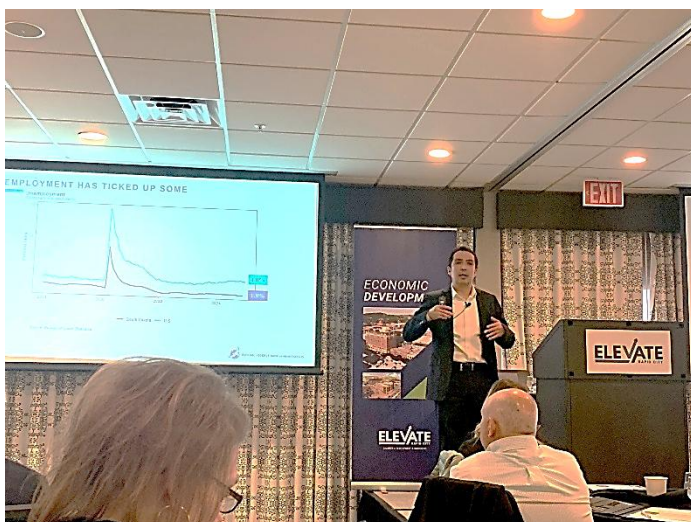


Mr. Michael Mullis founded J. M. Mullis, Inc. over 25 years ago, specializing in global project location services for private clients. His firm oversees over \$3 billion annually in new project developments worldwide, serving industries such as aerospace, transportation, manufacturing, food and beverage, renewable energy, and data services.

Mike holds degrees in Physics and Mathematics and has led over 1,350 projects globally. He is a Certified Economic Developer, a graduate and instructor at the Economic Development Institute, and a recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the IEDC Chairman's Award for Lifetime Achievement. He is a charter member of the Site Selectors Guild and active in several economic development organizations.

Mr. Erick Garcia Luna is a regional outreach director at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. His responsibilities include tracking, analyzing, and reporting on several aspects of the economy of the Fed's Ninth

District. Erick is a co-author of the Beige Book and has published articles on inflation, business conditions, and labor. His work has been featured in local and national media, including *Marketplace* and Bloomberg TV. Prior to joining the Minneapolis Fed, Erick held a variety of roles in the U.S. Senate, the City of Minneapolis, and the University of Minnesota. His academic credentials include coursework in economics and political science from the Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico City, and a degree in economics from the University of Minnesota.





Belle Fourche

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\$76,080—3 person household

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