

Sioux Falls Continues To Grow With Big-ticket Developments

BY KELLY THURMAN
 Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS — Building-permit valuations this year are up \$100 million over last year, with a number of big-ticket items still expected to get started.

Though 2012 probably won't shape up to be a record year in permits — the \$523 million in 2007 set a high bar — it could come close if permits for a number of large planned projects, including the events center and Costco, go through yet this year.

Through July, Sioux Falls has issued permits totaling \$253 million, with new construction as well as remodeling and additions for residential and commercial segments all above average.

"It continues to show this is a viable market," said Michael Bender of Bender Commercial Real Estate Services. "It all starts with growth of jobs, and if we have job growth, we have people growth, and if we have people growth, we're going to have continued construction."

While residential and remodeling projects are running at a record high, the new commercial segment also is strong. So far this year, \$66.5 million in permits have been taken out — double the \$29.3 million last year.

Already in August, another large project, the Hilton Garden Inn hotel downtown, with a permit value of \$14.5 million, is going through the permit process. Other large projects, including the Scheels remodeling and expansion, the events center project and a proposed Costco store, would add millions in permit valuation to the city's books.

"I keep telling people internally, 'You guys, you've got to get ready because we're going to get swamped at the end of the year,'" said Jeff Schmitt, the city's chief planning and zoning official.

Schmitt said a number of other projects are in the hopper but are not done deals, including a second Sam's Club that is progressing on the east side, and a possible third Wal-Mart somewhere in Sioux Falls.

At the beginning of the year, Schmitt said hitting \$300 million in permit valuations through the end of the year sounded like a solid goal.

"Now at \$253 (million), if Costco, Sam's Club, if all these things start happening, we're going to have a really big year. But a lot of things still have to happen to have that take place," Schmitt said.

So far this year, besides a few large institutional projects, such as a new middle school in Harrisburg, many of the commercial projects have been smaller. A number are \$1 million to \$2 million, Schmitt said.

Remodeling and addition projects for residential and commercial segments also remain strong. In fact, residential remodeling and additions are experiencing a record year, with \$25.5 million in permits.

"People continue to say: 'I'm going to continue to reinvest in my property. The economy is still not right to move. I'm going to put that new bathroom in,'"

Schmitt said. "They're still doing that, and they're starting to build."

Whether it's commercial or residential, many in the industry said pent-up demand probably was a factor in the bump this year.

Bender said he expects the city can hit \$350 million in permits this year. He's not surprised that remodeling and additions continue to be a big chunk of the pie. He doesn't expect new construction to outpace additions and remodeling until at least next year.

"We're still in the last stages of people saying, 'I'm just going to stay, put I'm just going to expand,'" Bender said. "We're not seeing a ton of speculative construction. What you're seeing is really healthy construction. It's businesses that need to expand."

Ron Nelson of Nelson Property Consultants said activity is brisk in a number of areas from retail to office and industrial.

He's the busiest he's ever been in the five years of his company.

"Everybody has been sitting on the sidelines for so long," said Nelson, who represented Costco in its Sioux Falls deal.

Besides pent-up demand, low interest rates probably are helping to push sales on the residential side.

Trademark Homes has about a dozen homes it's working on, and owner Erik Christensen said the company expects to have 22 closings this year. That's not its largest year ever, but the projects are larger, so Christensen expects a record year in dollar sales.

"People are thinking that it would be foolish not to build right now," he said of interest rates, adding that people are feeling better about the economy.

Copper Creek, a new development on the city's east side, is planning its third road extension since last fall to accommodate the swift sale of lots, said Ryan Jansa, residential development manager with VanBuskirk Cos., who is developing Copper Creek.

So far this year, the company has sold 47 lots and has another 15 pending at Copper Creek. The company has sold close to 100 lots in all 11 of its subdivisions.

In the past few years since the economy sputtered, its lots have sold almost exclusively to residents wanting to do a custom home. But this past year, about 30 percent of their sales have gone to builders doing speculative construction.

"That's a major indicator of confidence in the market is when the builders see the turnover happening at a quick enough pace that they're confident in putting up a spec house and also the fact that the lenders are becoming more confident," Jansa said.

Add in low interest rates, and Jansa said homebuying opportunities are ripe.

"With the interest rates as low as they are, if you have aspirations of ever building a new home and you let this period of time go by without doing it, it's going to cost you money eventually," he said.

Patrol Says 9 People Died During Sturgis Rally

STURGIS (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says nine people died at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which officially ended on Sunday.

The Patrol says eight people died in fatal accidents, including an Oakes, N.D., woman who was killed Friday when her motorcycle struck a pickup truck driven by a Colorado man.

Authorities say the victim, 43-year-old Sheila Coleman, was not wearing a helmet.

The Patrol says 50 people were injured in accidents during the rally, down from 80 last year.

Statistics released Sunday show that 251 people were arrested for driving drunk during the event, up from 235 last year. Misdemeanor drug arrests were up from 149 to 185. Felony drug arrests were down from 43 last year to 34 this year.

Preliminary reports show that traffic numbers were up over 2011.

S.D. House Candidates: Ryan Pick Helps Them

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Democratic and Republican candidates for South Dakota's lone House seat say they like the selection of Paul Ryan as Mitt Romney's running mate, albeit for different reasons.

Republican Rep. Kristi Noem says she has interacted on several occasions with Ryan and believes Romney made a great decision for his vice presidential pick.

Noem calls Ryan a "bold leader who's been able to offer real solutions and tell people the truth."

Noem's challenger, Democrat Matt Varilek, tells the *Argus Leader* that Ryan's work on a controversial budget and health care plan will help Democrats rebuke Noem and others who supported it.

South Dakota Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he hopes Ryan's expertise as chairman of the House Budget Committee will refocus the campaign on ideas and policy.

Calls Come Earlier This Year For Bat Business

CANTON (AP) — The owners of a South Dakota roofing company say they're getting more calls these days for their side business, which is bat removal and control.

Jim and Laura Woods, of Canton, say their bat business is usually not as busy this time of year. Generally the calls from homeowners begin to increase in September.

Laura Woods tells KELO-TV that the bats likely woke up early from hibernation because of the mild winter and it threw off their internal clocks. So they're heading inside earlier than normal.

Woods says her company, known as Nice Bats, is getting calls from as far away as Pierre, Brookings and Sioux City, Iowa.

Officials Report Decline In Foster Care Kids

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Officials say the number of children in foster care is on the decline in South Dakota — and it's a good sign.

Authorities say the 17 percent decline in the state's foster care children since 2005 could be due in part to better support services for troubled families and more placements with extended family members.

The number of foster care children in South Dakota has dropped from 1,704 in 2005 to 1,404 in the last fiscal year. Records show that about 10 percent of those children in the state wind up being adopted.

Greg Boris, spokesman from South Dakota Voices for Children, tells the *Argus Leader* that he believes the state is moving in the right direction by trying to maintain children in the home.

S.D. Tourism Industry Is Having A Good Year

PIERRE (AP) — State officials report that South Dakota's tourism industry is having a good year.

The South Dakota Tourism Department says hotel occupancy statewide is up 7.8 percent so far this year, meaning hotels and motels are filling more rooms compared with the same period last year. Nationally, hotel occupancy is up only 3.4 percent.

Taxable sales reported by motels, campgrounds and other tourism-related businesses are up 7 percent for the year so far.

And the department reports that the number of new visitors to its primary tourism promotion website in the second quarter was up nearly 28 percent from a year earlier.

Neb. Officials To Kill Fish In North Platte Lake

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says it plans to makeover a North Platte lake, starting this month when it kills off the lake's entire fish population.

The North Platte I-80 City Lake will be treated with the chemical rotenone on Aug. 21 to kill off the fish.

There will be no public access to the lake during the poisoning. Game and Parks is now salvaging desirable fish from the lake and stocking them in other I-80 lakes.

Game and Parks officials say undesirable species dominate the North Platte fishery, producing limited fishing opportunities. This fall, the commission will restock the lake with largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish, and additional fish species will be considered.

A ban on live bait fish at the lake will go into effect following the renovation.

OBITUARIES

Kerrie Knakmuhs

SCOTLAND — Funeral services for Kerrie L. Knakmuhs will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, August 13 at Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland with Rev. Jonathan Vehar officiating. Organist is Jan Kocer. There will be visitation one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

Honorary casketbearers will be all of Kerrie's nieces and nephews and City of Scotland employees Larry Auch, Ray Beecher, Bob Green and Brian Humphrey. Active casketbearers will be Scotland Mayor Ron Orth and Scotland City Council members Dick Behl, Joe Bouza, Ron Dvorak, Jerry Neugebauer, Victor Settje and Amy Thum. Inurnment will take place on Tuesday, August 14 at 10:30 a.m. in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Kerrie Lynn (Bjorum) Knakmuhs was born on Saturday, November 1, 1969 at Tyndall, South Dakota to Elden and Patricia (Engel) Bjorum. She was baptized in the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. She was raised on the family farm one half mile west of Scotland, and graduated from Scotland High School in 1988. Kerrie married Brian Goehring on September 10, 1988 at the Salem Reformed Church in Menno and two children were born to this union. She worked at Steven Ellis Auto in Yankton, the Cargill Elevator in Scotland, the Scotland Good Samaritan Center, the Menno-Olivet Care Center, the



Kerrie Knakmuhs

Hutchinson County Conservation District, the South Dakota Human Services Center in Yankton, and later became City Finance Officer for the City of Scotland. Kerrie married Steve Knakmuhs on March 31, 2006 at Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland. She loved to vacation in northern Minnesota and the Black Hills. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading and making "Stamping Up" cards to give to her friends and family. Kerrie especially treasured the time spent with her family. She died on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at her residence in Scotland at the age of 42 years, 9 months, and 7 days.

Kerrie will be remembered always by her husband, Steve Knakmuhs of Scotland; a son, Tyler Goehring of Lesterville; a daughter, Stephanie Goehring of Lesterville; three stepdaughters: Joy (David) Rueb of Tyndall, Stephanie (Dan) Cain of Viborg, and Candy Knakmuhs and friend Cory Bjorum of Scotland; four grandchildren: Jordan Rueb, D.J. "Donald" Rueb, Alexys Rueb and Britney Rueb; her father, Elden Bjorum of Scotland; four siblings: Kristine Mc-

Cann of Vermillion, Brian (Brenda) Bjorum of Valley Springs, Jodi (David) Fischer of Menno, and Cory Bjorum and friend Candy Knakmuhs of Scotland; three brothers-in-law: Mike (Annie) Knakmuhs of Brainerd, Minnesota, Paul (Nancy) Knakmuhs of Lamberton, Minnesota, and Mark Knakmuhs of Rapid City; two sisters-in-law: Bernice Batalden of Mesa, Arizona and Julia (Roger) Paluch of Sioux Falls; an uncle, Lynn (Nancy) Bjorum of Scotland; an aunt, Darlene Slowey of Yankton; eleven nieces and nephews: Hillary McCann, Sarah McCann, Andrew McCann, Courtney Sirvoy, Krista Bjorum, Brady Bjorum, Benjamin Fischer, Nicole Fischer, Kyliah Knakmuhs, Skylor Knakmuhs and Jaymison Knakmuhs; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

In addition to her maternal and paternal grandparents, she was preceded in death by her mother, Pat Bjorum, in 2010, a niece, Brianna Bjorum, her parents-in-law, Edward and Dorothy Knakmuhs, and a brother-in-law, Todd Knakmuhs.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 13, 2012

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Evie Daily

WAGNER — Private family services for Evelyn "Evie" Daily, 81 of Wagner will be held Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at the ZCBJ Cemetery, rural Wagner.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home of Wagner is in charge of the arrangements.

Evelyn "Evie" Daily was born on October 22, 1930 in Wagner, SD to Alvah and Ethel (Wallace) Coles. She passed away Friday, August 10, 2012 at her home in Wagner, under hospice care. Blessed to be by her side were her son and daughter. Evie attained the age of 81 years, nine months and 20 days.

Evie lived her childhood in Wagner and graduated from Wagner High School.

On July 25, 1952, Evie married Norman "Bud" Daily. Bud was Evie's loving husband for 57 years. Bud passed away June 16, 2009. In the early years of marriage, Evie was employed by the Bell Telephone Company as a switchboard operator. In the early 50s, she left that position to become a full time homemaker. Evie's greatest joy in life was being a devoted wife and loving mother and grandmother.

Evie will always be remembered for her many friends and her willingness to help whoever she could. She loved to cook and bake and loved the sharing of it even more. Evie enjoyed her coffee, daily walks and music. She played the organ, clarinet and piano, but she especially loved playing on an old upright piano when she could find one.

Just as important to Evie was



Daily

the role she played in her nieces' and nephews' lives. She was a second mom to them and she loved them each as her own.

Thankful for having shared her life are her son, Ron and wife Andrea Daily of Surprise, AZ; daughter Dawn and husband Ken Mueller of Crofton, NE; six grandchildren and three great grandchildren; sister-in-law Marilyn Zylstra and husband, Ed of Wagner; many loving nieces and nephews; and many friends.

Evie was preceded in death by her husband, Bud; infant son, Dennis; three sisters: Margaret Bode, Vivian Scherer and Dorothy Zolnowsky; one brother, Bill Coles; and son-in-law, Lynn Wysuph.

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Gaye Eide

IRENE — Gaye L. Eide, 75, of Irene died Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012, at the Dougherty Hospice House, Sioux Falls.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Calvary Lutheran Church, Irene, with the Rev. Mark Ostrem officiating. Burial will be in the Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, rural Irene at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Visitation begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday evening at the church, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

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Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Virgil Schmidt
who passed away on
August 15, 2011

SPC Dennis Gregory Jensen
who passed away on
August 16, 2011

Helen Sathe
who passed away on
August 19, 2011

Alice Oertle
who passed away on
August 19, 2011

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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Solitaires

A social group of widows/widowers of all ages that meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Hospitality Center on the grounds of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Wednesday, August 15
6pm Potluck Dinner
6:45pm Bingo

Mark Your Calender For These Events
September 19 • October 17 • November 14


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