

## SOUTH DAKOTA LEGAL NOTES

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### Maxx Hickey Joins Swier Law Firm

Swier Law Firm, Prof. LLC is pleased to announce the expansion of its nationally-recognized legal practice with the addition of Maxx Hickey.

Maxx will be joining the Business and Corporate Practice Group in the law firm's new Sioux Falls office and will focus on business entity selection, general corporate matters, estate planning, business planning, and taxation issues.

***"Maxx will be an invaluable member of our law firm," said Senior Partner Scott Swier. "He is well-versed in business law, estate planning, and taxation issues and will provide our clients with excellent legal service in these areas."***

Maxx graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law where he was a member of the Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity, and focused his studies on business law. Prior to joining Swier Law Firm, Maxx worked as an associate at Bangs McCullen Law Firm in Sioux Falls.

Maxx grew up in South Dakota and attended the University of Kansas earning a degree in political science and a minor in business. His hobbies include golfing, spending time with family and friends, and the University of Kansas Jayhawks.



### Swier Law Firm Establishes "Future Leaders" Scholarship Program

Swier Law Firm has announced the establishment of a scholarship program to assist outstanding seniors at Avon High School.

Beginning this spring, college-bound seniors graduating from Avon High School are eligible to apply for Swier Law Firm's "Future Leaders" Scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded each year and the selection process will be based on academic and extra-curricular achievement, school and community service, financial need, a commitment to excellence, and a clear plan for future success. The scholarships will first be awarded during the Avon High School's graduation ceremony in May 2014.

"Our law firm is incredibly excited to have the opportunity to encourage students in Avon to pursue higher education," said Scott Swier, senior partner at Swier Law Firm. "Avon is a community that takes immense pride in helping our school and students achieve their goals. As our law firm thought about ways to give back to the community, a scholarship program seemed to be a great way to recognize our high school students for their hard work and provide an opportunity for future success."



# The Impact of the Federal Government Shutdown on South Dakota Business

The federal government has now entered its second week of shutdown and people across the nation are feeling the impact, including South Dakotans.

Many South Dakotans have asked, "How will this shutdown impact my business?" The answer - in a multitude of ways.

First, the great South Dakota landmarks that attract tourists from all over the world are not open for business, and as a direct result of these closures, people are cancelling their trips to explore the Badlands and see the faces of Mount Rushmore. These cancellations directly affect many area businesses' bottom lines.

Second, chances are many of us know or are friends with a federal employee. Currently, there are hundreds of thousands of federal employees not receiving their incomes and likely tightening their financial belts. This results in decreased spending which impacts South Dakota businesses.

Finally, if you were planning to start a business and acquire a new loan from the Small Business Administration (SBA), chances are you will be waiting for awhile. In anticipation of the federal government shutdown, the SBA was flooded with applications before October 1. Unfortunately, those applications not processed before September 30 will not be handled until the shutdown is lifted.



## *kids corner*

We all started school in Avon in August. Kate is in kindergarten, Will is in first grade, and I am in third grade. Kate is working on her letters in school. Will is learning about nocturnal animals and how to read. And I am working on multiplication.

The homecoming theme this year in Avon was heroes. Kate was a super pirate for homecoming. Will got to dress up as a firefighter, and I was a superhero. We got to make a float for the law firm for the parade. It was a building. Uncle Chris dressed up as Batman and we had a pirate football player on our float too. We even helped make the float by stuffing napkins into chicken wire for the building. It was a lot of fun!



We have enjoyed spending a lot of time with our friends since the beginning of the school year. We have been going to a lot of the Avon Pirate football games and volleyball games.

We are getting ready to paint pumpkins for Halloween. For Halloween, I want to be a 1950's girl, Will wants to be a pirate, and Kate is going to be a witch!



We are very excited to dress up and go trick or treating!



# South Dakota Department of Agriculture Reminds Producers to Document Livestock Losses

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) reminds producers who have lost livestock during the recent blizzard to document losses. Proper documentation is critical to ensure processing of potential claims.

***“This early season, record setting blizzard is devastating to our producers and our thoughts are with them,” said Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch. “We are working to coordinate with ag industry stakeholders to establish and execute a response plan.”***

SDDA is working closely with the Office of Emergency Management, Animal Industry Board, Brand Board and Governor’s Office on recovery efforts.

Producers should document all livestock losses with pictures, vaccination and hauling receipts, or any other records for possible future use in disaster relief programs. Third-party verification of losses is recommended. If you have questions regarding livestock identification, please contact the South Dakota Brand Board at 605.773.3324.

Affected producers should contact their local county emergency manager listed below.



**Bennett County: Jeff Siscoe, 605.685.5994**

**Butte County: Martha Wierzbicki, 605.569.2766**

**Corson County: Brad Schell, 605.273.4481**

**Custer County: Mike Carter, 605.673.8152**

**Fall River County: Frank Maynard, 605.745.7562**

**Haakon County: Lola Roseth, 605.567.3515**

**Harding County: Kathy Glines, 605.375.3313**

**Jackson County: Jackie Stilwell, 605.488.0334**

**Jones County: Angie Kinsley, 605.669.7101**

**Lawrence County: Paul Thomson, 605.578.2122**

**Meade County: Angella Sutton, 605.347.7623**

**Mellette County: Karen O’Brien, 605.259.3371**

**Pennington County: Dustin Willett, 605.394.2185**

**Perkins County: Kelly Serr, 605.244.5243**

**Shannon County: Frank Maynard, 605.745.7562**

**Todd County: Kara Walking, 605.429.3246**

**Ziebach County: Mike Burgee, 605.365.5129**

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board (AIB) will be coordinating disposal of livestock carcasses. Brand Board inspectors will be involved in identifying livestock and livestock carcasses.

For carcass disposal information, contact the AIB at 605.773.3321. Disposal guidelines are available at <http://aib.sd.gov/pdf/Carcass%20Disposal%20Guidelines%202011.pdf>

Individuals experiencing disaster-related stress should contact a local community health provider or call Youth and Family Services in Rapid City at 605.342.4195 or 605.342.4870. Information is also available at <http://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealthservices/community/outpatientservices.asp>

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