

## Community collaboration drives strong Brookings economy



Communities across South Dakota are bringing in less tax money than expected. That isn't the case in Brookings. Inside KELOLAND takes a behind the scenes look at what's happening to spur growth and keep the economy going strong in Brookings.

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### Discover Brookings: City-Wide Scavenger Hunt to be held June 10

Brookings Economic Development Corporation's newcomer program, Beyond Connections, is hosting a unique "Welcome to Brookings" event with a city-wide scavenger hunt on June 10. Both current and new residents are encouraged to participate.

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### South Dakota among first with 5G technology?

The future of broadband in South Dakota is increasingly the future of business here, and the challenges are many, especially in a largely rural state.

While South Dakota is relatively well equipped with broadband internet access and an expanding network of fiber optic lines, the next step is close on the horizon.

Wireless providers are working now to build out dense-network, small-footprint cell technology that will prove crucial for what's next: fifth-generation mobile data, or 5G. South Dakota's senior U.S. senator, John Thune, is spearheading federal legislation to speed up 5G deployment before 2020.

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### SDSU engineering degree pays off for Sioux Falls fire rescue captain

Biology and civil engineering graduate Mike Murphy played a key role advising personnel on how to stabilize and move parts of the structure in the rescue efforts following the Copper Lounge building collapse.

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### Building Brookings Blog

5/16/17 - "#BeBrookings Campaign" by Stacy Aesoph, Director of Workforce Development

5/22/17 - "What's in a Number" by Jennifer Quail, Director of Entrepreneur Support

### Marco's Pizza coming to Brookings

The new pizza place will be on the former site of the Backyard Grill. An anticipated opening date has not been announced. [More](#)

### SDSU students develop mobile apps as part of online class

As part of the new social media minor offered at SDSU, students in the Mobile Media Design and Applications class develop apps from conception to launch, mimicking what app developers do. [More](#)

### Research Spotlight Increasing grain size, weight may improve wheat yields

Larger, heavier wheat kernels—that's how associate professor Wanlong Li of the SDSU Department of Biology and Microbiology seeks to increase wheat production. Through a three-year, \$930,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, Li is collaborating with Bing Yang, an associate professor in genetics, development and cell biology at Iowa State, to increase wheat grain size and weight using a precise gene-editing tool known as CRISPR/Cas9. [More](#)

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### Links

[Brookings Area Makerspace](#)

[LiveinBrookings.com](#)

[Brookings - Bring Your Dreams](#)

BROOKINGS ECONOMIC HEALTH UPDATE Year To Date Comparison			
	<u>Apr 2016</u>	<u>Apr 2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>County Employment</b>			
# of Employed Workers	18,625	18,992	+2.0%
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.8%	
<b>Construction</b>	<u>Jan-Apr 2016</u>	<u>Jan-Apr 2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Building Permits	122	110	-9.8%
Permit Value	\$20,473,847	\$14,017,153	-31.5%
<b>Sales Tax</b>			
Retail Taxable Sales	\$112,980,108	\$114,086,171	+1.0%
Total Taxable Sales	\$216,945,983	\$219,447,922	+1.1%
Gross Receipts (3rd B)	\$ 29,883,598	\$ 32,309,719	+8.1%

**VISION BROOKINGS III UPDATE**  
Goal: \$2.5 Million Raised To Date: \$2,584,788 Cash Value: \$2,434,088  
Investors: 119 - THANK YOU!

### 43 New Investors Join Vision Brookings Initiative

Brookings Economic Development Corporation, the managing organization for Vision Brookings, is excited to announce that so far 43 new businesses and individuals have invested in Vision Brookings III, bringing the total number to 119.

"We are very pleased with the response from businesses and community leaders regarding the Vision Brookings III campaign," stated Al Heuton, BEDC executive director. "One in every four people we contacted has chosen to invest, and we are thrilled that so many new investors see the tremendous impact Vision Brookings has on the region."

Vision Brookings supports economic growth initiatives including workforce development, business development, entrepreneur support and the Research Park at SDSU.

*Join us in creating a bright and prosperous future for Brookings!  
Contact BEDC at (605) 697-8103 to participate in Vision Brookings III.*