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Developer interested in Big Ox site

Unnamed firm considers taking over failed plant's property

NICK HYTREK
nhytrek@siouxcityjournal.com

SOUTH SIOUX CITY — A developer has expressed interest to South Sioux City in buying the site of the failed Big Ox Energy renewable fuel plant.

Nothing is certain at this point, and South Sioux City city administrator Lance Hedquist said he couldn't provide specific details, but the unnamed company is looking at 54 acres in the Roth Industrial Park that would include the Big Ox buildings. The city owns 37 acres of the property, and the South Sioux City Community Development Agency owns the other 17 acres.

The South Sioux City Council and CDA will have a joint meeting Monday

in which Hedquist said they are likely to establish the proposed sale price for the property. Once the price is set, Hedquist said, city officials will learn how serious the developers are.

No commitments have been made by the interested company. Hedquist said he couldn't divulge the company's name or what industry it's involved in. The company first contacted the city about eight months ago.

"They reached out to us," Hedquist said.

Since then, Hedquist said, the city has done background research on the company, and what the city has learned thus far is "very favorable," Hedquist said.

Hedquist said it's possible a sale, if the price is right, could occur later this summer, at which time more information about the potential development could be revealed.

Please see **BIG OX**, Page A3

COVER STORIES



TIM HYNDS PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Gallery 103's Terri McGaffin talks about pieces included in an Art Walk, taking place 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday at five downtown art galleries. Gallery 103, located in the Ho-Chunk Centre, is one of several art venues participating in Art Walk, exhibits that feature artwork based on record album covers.

Downtown ArtWalk highlights the connection between musical art, fine art

EARL HORLYK
ehorlyk@siouxcityjournal.com

SIOUX CITY — After years of CD dominance, vinyl records and colorful album covers are making a comeback with music lovers.

But can these throwbacks to an earlier time also double as a canvas for original art?

That was the challenge given to the 14 area artists participating in "Got Ya Covered," the theme for Downtown Sioux City's summertime ArtWalk, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The walk begins at the Sioux City Art Center (225 Nebraska St.) before continuing to Gallery 101 and 3 Rivers Art Gallery (600 Fourth St.) then heading west to Art SUX (515 Fourth St.) and ending at Vangarde Arts (416 Pierce St.)

With "Got Ya Covered," each artist was asked to create an original piece utilizing a vinyl record, an album cover or both as central material.

Here's the catch: some percentage of the original album or cover must remain visible, ensuring that the source material remains recognizable as part of the final product.

Gallery 103's Terri McGaffin doesn't mind

creating an art exhibit with a bit of a twist. She and her ArtWalk partners asked artists to create pieces, utilizing gameboard pieces in the summer of 2024 and puzzle pieces in the summer of 2025.

"I think this year's theme was much more personal because our musical choices take us back to a very specific time and place," she explained.

Even more important, people may not want to mess around with a cherished record album.

Chief among McGaffin's must-not-touch album art were The Rolling Stones' 1971 "Sticky Fingers" (featuring an edgy design by Andy Warhol) and Stevie Wonder's 1973 "Innervisions" (with a mystical, ethereal portrait of Wonder's face materializing from deep cosmic darkness).

Instead, for her "Got Ya Covered" piece, she produced a work containing cover art from Don McLean's 1971 classic "American Pie."

Naming her art "American Die," McGaffin said her piece was a statement against gun violence.

Please see **ARTWALK**, Page A3



If you go

WHAT: ArtWalk's "Got Ya Covered"

WHEN: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday

WHERE: Five galleries including the Sioux City Art Center, Gallery 103, 3 Rivers Art Gallery, Art SUX and Vangarde Arts

Susie Rodriguez's mixed media work, "Red Rock," is shown at Gallery 103 in Sioux City. The gallery, located in the Ho-Chunk Centre, is one of several art venues participating in Art Walk, exhibits that feature artwork based on record album covers.



SIOUX CITY COUNCIL

City OKs new date for sewer rate hike

Extra revenue from higher sewer rate won't be as much as projected

DOLLY A. BUTZ
dbutz@siouxcityjournal.com

SIOUX CITY — The city of Sioux City won't be able to collect as much additional annual revenue as projected from a sister cities sewer rate increase.

The City Council voted Monday to authorize an adjustment to the date that a 27.4% sewer rate increase goes into effect for the metro sister cities.

The rate increase was initially expected to generate an additional \$1 million in annual revenue for Sioux City. South Sioux City's departure before the increase becomes effective would reduce that revenue projection to \$787,200.

The council approved third and final reading of the ordinance that will increase sewer rates for South Sioux City, North Sioux City, Dakota Dunes and Sergeant Bluff on May 11. That rate increase will now go into effect July 1, 2027, rather than Nov. 1, 2026. However, South Sioux City is expected to depart from Sioux City's regional wastewater treatment plant in February, before the new effective date.

Please see **RATE HIKE**, Page A2

9 Sioux City police chief applicants advance

DOLLY A. BUTZ
dbutz@siouxcityjournal.com

SIOUX CITY — Nine of the 19 individuals who submitted applications to become the next Sioux City police chief have been pre-screened and will participate in the assessment process, City Manager Mike Collett said Monday.

The "assessment center," which is part of the civil service exam and consists of a written exam, oral exam and presentation, helps determine who makes it onto the eligibility list, which will be certified by the Civil Service Commission and then presented to Collett, who acts as the hiring manager.

Human Resources Director Janelle Bertrand said those participating in the "assessment center" need a passing score of 70% to be placed on the eligibility list.

"We're going through the assessment process next week. We expect to have those results the following week," Collett said. "We expect to start the interview process the first week or two of August. We intend to have three panels in that interview process."

Please see **CHIEF**, Page A3