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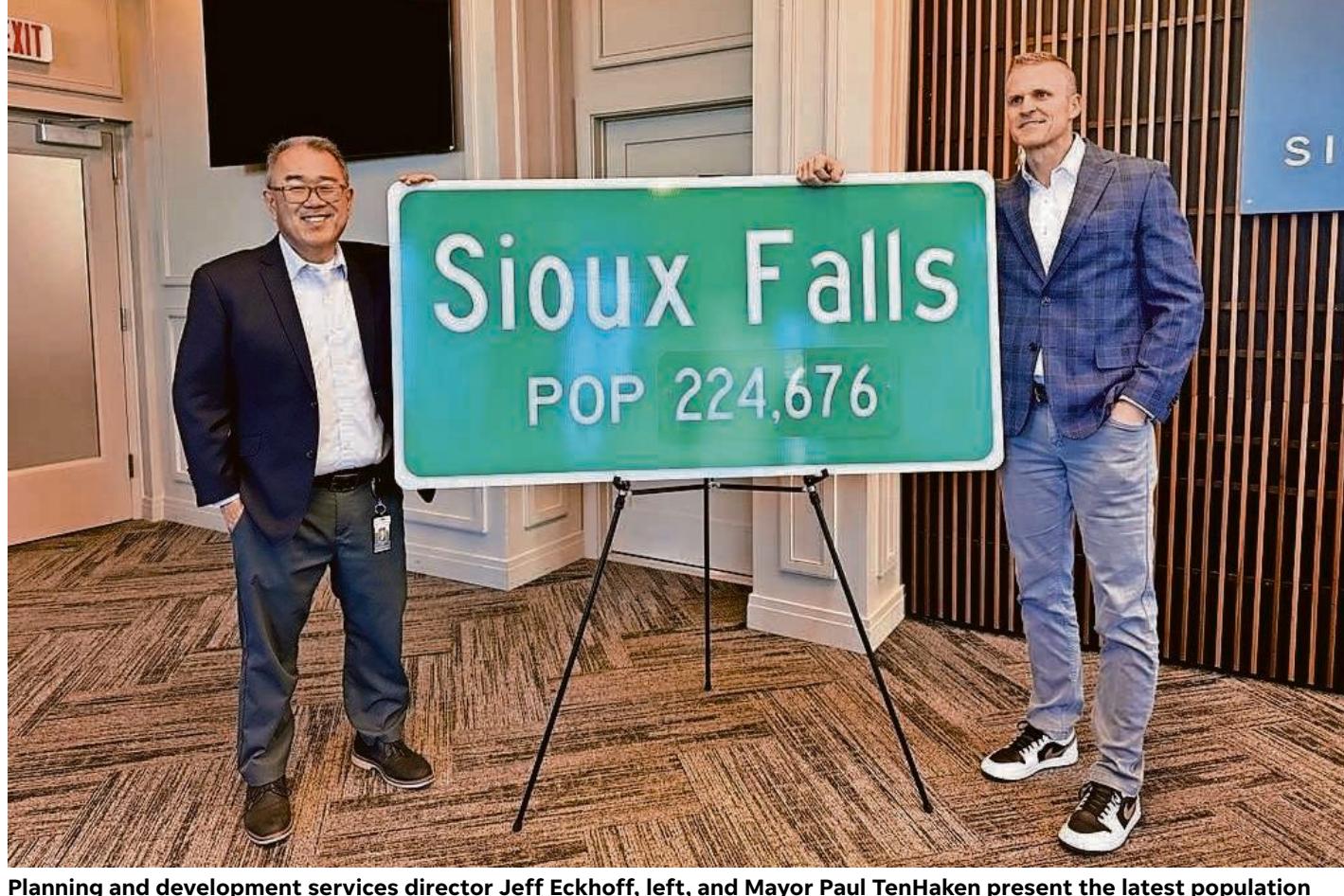
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Argus Leader

WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 | ARGUSLEADER.COM

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Planning and development services director Jeff Eckhoff, left, and Mayor Paul TenHaken present the latest population numbers on Jan. 14 at Sioux Falls City Hall during the weekly One Sioux Falls media briefing.

‘Unprecedented growth’

How will Sioux Falls manage continued progress into 2050?

Angela George

Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

You are officially one among nearly a quarter million residents in the Queen City.

Mayor Paul TenHaken announced during the weekly One Sioux Falls media briefing on Jan. 14 that the Sioux Falls population hit 224,676 in 2025, a 2.3% increase (or 5,088 more people) from 2024 and a continuing trend since TenHaken's tenure began in 2018.

It shows in infrastructure and housing. If there is anything made clear within the City of Sioux Falls' recently released Shape Sioux Falls 2050 Comprehensive Development Plan, it's that growth is no longer a question of *if*, but *how* the city will expand during the next 25 years.

TenHaken, alongside planning and development services director Jeff Eckhoff, shared numbers at that briefing with media from 2025 that reflect careful planning for the future and preparedness in housing, neighborhoods and developments.

Here's a closer look.

Commercial growth

The city issued 5,615 building permits in 2025, down from 6,183 in 2024. This was primarily due to "residential softening," the mayor said, citing more commercial projects like the CJ Schwan's construction at \$169.9 million, the Avera Women's six-story



TenHaken and Eckhoff speak Jan. 14 at Sioux Falls City Hall during the weekly One Sioux Falls media briefing. PHOTOS BY ANGELA GEORGE/ARGUS LEADER

tower at \$131 million and the Good Samaritan's Founders Crossing retirement community at \$109 million.

Other larger city projects that commenced in 2025 include expansions to the FSA Airport terminal, an addition to Central Church and the Nova and Rhys apartment complexes.

"Whenever we see a nice mix of amenities like this, it's a good sign of a healthy, growing and diversified economy," Eckhoff said.

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Note to readers

Due to the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, there will be no mail delivery on Monday, Jan. 19. Instead of receiving your Jan. 19 paper on Monday, you'll receive it in the mail on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Rhoden defends Noem amid impeachment effort

Dominik Dausch

Sioux Falls Argus Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

PIERRE — South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden is supporting his predecessor, Kristi Noem, after House Democrats joined an impeachment effort against the former governor.

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly, D-Illinois, introduced on Jan. 14 impeachment articles against Noem, who is currently President Donald Trump's Cabinet secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

The impeachment resolution accuses Noem, formerly South Dakota's governor from 2019 – 2025, of obstructing Congress, violation of public trust and "self-dealing."

Rhoden, a long-time Noem ally who succeeded after she left the gubernatorial role in January 2025 to join Trump's Cabinet, downplayed the impeachment attempt on Jan. 15 during a weekly press conference at the State Capitol Building in Pierre.

"I think it's the radical left trying to

make noise again," Rhoden told reporters.

"I think it's unmerited, and it kind of

makes me smile when somebody

takes on Kristi Noem.

"She's the toughest person I think I've ever worked around, I've ever known," Rhoden continued. "If you think she's going to back down or cave into that kind of pressure, they don't know Kristi Noem."

The Democrat-led resolution was

filed one week after a 37-year-old demon-

strator was shot and killed by John-

nathan Ross, a federal U.S. Immigra-

tion and Customs Enforcement officer,

in Minneapolis.

Videos of the incident, which took

place near Good's Minneapolis home,

have circulated widely online. They

show multiple law enforcement offi-

cers approaching Good's SUV, which

was stopped in the middle of a street.

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