

It's an Art, Not a Science

Written by Josh Nyquist, Maintenance Coordination Manager

Mike Tyson once said, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched." Long before that, 5 years before L. G. Everist started in Illinois, a Prussian philosopher named Helmuth von Moltke put it this way, "No plan survives first contact with the enemy."

Businesses rely on planning. We build a sales strategy, map out production, and budget our operating costs. We use these plans to help answer key questions: Where are we going? What resources do we need? What risks have we identified? And then we organize these in spreadsheets, emails, and documents to make everything make sense.

During the fall in the Midwest, we create our plans for winter maintenance. Our teams start tearing down plants, inspecting equipment, and working on projects. We collaborate with our suppliers and vendors on our equipment, ordering materials, and help with repairs.

Then we get punched - repairs take longer, a key vendor fails, staffing issues, or production changes. This does not invalidate the plan, but opens the door to resilience. When that first punch hits, and we stay calm, communicate the new reality, acknowledge uncertainty while remaining confident, and focus on correction and not blame, we can be the most effective at delivering solutions. Planning is crucial to success, but surviving adversity relies on how we react when reality does not want to cooperate.

The words Moltke wrote in 1871 have stayed relevant to today. Leaders such as Churchill, Eisenhower, Nixon and others have referenced not only the need for planning, but it is also important to have the ability to step away from the plan and react to reality. As our locations start up, we can look back on how our plans came together or what marks we missed and learn how we can improve our next planning process.

As we are looking to tackle another season of production, we should be ready to take any punches that come our way and rely on the experience and knowledge of the people who deliver products and solutions.

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Featured Photos

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Throwback to 1975 - Supplying rip rap for the Corps of Engineers at Spring Creek Recreation Area north of Pierre, SD.



Trucks like the 1976 Autocar KT450 played a key role in moving large volumes of material efficiently. There was a small fleet for the Colorado operations in the late 70s and 80s.



Quartzite slabs from Jasper were utilized for the den in the new Red Wolf enclosure at the Sioux Falls Zoo & Aquarium - where expansions are underway and will feature more stone features.



Joe Smith Retires

After 48 years at the LGE Hawarden location, Joe is officially retiring. He reflected on past work and changes to the site over the years, and surprisingly handed out a single hug to a coworker - a good laugh and (probably) the highlight of Jose's year. Thank you for all that you have contributed, and best wishes, Joe!



Birthdays This Week

- Sherry LePera - Sioux Falls
- Lance Pollman - Sioux Falls
- Paul Lebahn - Dell Rapids Shop
- Scott Van Den Top - D & I
- Dale Bille - Summit
- Kody Bratzel - Hawarden
- Joe Smith - Hawarden
- Dave Sheveland - Akron Shop
- Joshua Otten - Hawarden Cement
- Jared Otten - Hawarden Cement
- Brian Hanneman - Myrl & Roy's
- Travis Witt - Myrl & Roy's
- Loralee Polzin - Myrl & Roy's
- Andrew Crandall - Nelson
- Linsey Sapp - Ace Ready Mix

Milestone Anniversary

- Pete Luehmann - Jasper
- Candace Zirbel - Summit
- Jacob Hughes - Ortonville

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