October 30, 2026

Roxsand

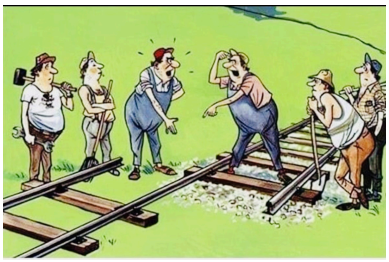
From Clear Goals to Solid Foundations

Written by Clark Danielson, Track Maintenance Supervisor

Setting goals is not always easy, but it is an important way to give direction, purpose, and to measure progress. There needs to be consideration for what you are trying to achieve or accomplish and how you are going to get there. Short-term goals can be on a day-to-day basis, but could take years or even decades to achieve.

It was nearly 20 years ago when the D & I Railroad first installed a segment of continuous welded rail (CWR) on its railroad. It was over 22 miles long, stretching from Elk Point, SD, to almost Hawarden, IA. The rail project wasn't even close to being done before we were already in the early stages of setting another goal to get the entire line upgraded to CWR or "ribbon rail". While ribbon rail isn't necessarily maintenance-free, it is much more efficient. If you know anything about steel, you know that it expands and shrinks with temperature. So, obviously, trying to maintain a neutral temperature for our climate is critical. If it's installed too cold, you are subject to track buckling and sun kinks, and if it is installed too hot, there can be rail breakage and pull-apart. The fact is that the old, jointed track is around 80 years old and isn't as reliable as newer, heavier rails. The goal isn't just replacing the rail itself, but making the line altogether safer and more reliable while reducing risk.

This year, the goal was to make another leap to make the railroad safer. 12 more track miles are being prepped to have CWR installed. A portion will be completed by this fall and the remainder next spring. This will complete the Dell Rapids mainline segment and leave only a few miles to complete on the Hawarden Subdivision. It is so rewarding to see projects this important come together and take shape, as it takes a team effort by many to get there.



Making mistakes can be frustrating and embarrassing. Accepting them and learning from it is the key.

"Never Waste a Failure"

-Nick Saban, legendary former professional and college football coach









Two photos show 1600' strings of rail being unloaded to later be installed and made into CWR at Baltic, SD. The other two close-up images show the process of flash welding rails together by using 480 volts of DC current to join rails - literally melting them together.



Hawarden Holiday Express

Tickets go on sale on Saturday, November 7th for the holiday train ride aboard the D & I Railroad. Tickets for the event will be released, starting at 10am, on the Hawarden Area Arts Council's Facebook page for the event - Saturday, December 5th. The Arts Council has been a fabulous partner and facilitator of holiday spirit. The photo by Ross Heeren shows the scene last year, as the Hawarden Holiday Express made its way through the snow. We are excited for another fun, safe event to wrap up 2026!

Everist Overlook at Jacobson Plaza

Phase II of Jacobson Plaza was completed in early October in Sioux Falls, SD. This section extends the current site to include a flat, spacious green space for recreation and gatherings, mixed seating options, and the *Everist Family Overlook* to view the upper section of the falls. This addition uses Sioux Quartzite boulders from multiple LGE quarries to seamlessly blend the stone with the natural rock at the falls. The community of Sioux Falls is thankful for donors like the Everist and Jacobson families, pictured below, for bringing these spaces to life.



Birthdays This Week

Jonathan Scholten - Akron
Roger Osterholt -Dell Rapids Shop
John Decker - Akron
Frederick Fedeler - Dell Rapids Shop
Dale Lovre - Ace Ready Mix
Moises Solis Loera - Ace Ready Mix

Milestone Anniversary

Reed Schade - Sioux Falls
Eliel Priego Pablo - 88th Transload

2026 Midterm Elections

The U.S. midterm elections will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Voting procedures and deadlines vary by state. Visit **USA.gov**'s *Voting and Elections* page for more information.

Weekly Throwbacks





The above picturesque site is of Silverthorne, Colorado operations - sand, gravel, and ready-mix concrete. The operation was first largely utilized to supply materials to build ski resorts in the 1960s.

The advertisement from December 16th, 1916, posted in the Sioux City Journal, was shared with us this year via Facebook. LGE greatly appreciates the amount of information and photos we've gotten as we share our weekly #ThrowbackThursday posts on our social platforms.

If you know someone that would like to receive the Roxsand, have them send their personal email to info@LGEverist.com and request to be added to the mailing list.

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Audio Version

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