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On the cover



The SDTA team and Rude Transportation, Inc. join Rick and Julie Hoogendoorn to purchase gifts for the Truckload of Giving.



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MESSAGE FROM THE Chairman

Good day, ladies and gentlemen. I can't believe the holidays are upon us; it seems like January was yesterday. I hope each one of you has a joyous and safe holiday season. Remember, Jesus is the reason for the season.

On the 16th of December, I will be at the Black Hills National Cemetery to help lay wreaths on the graves of veterans for Wreaths Across America. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a wreath, together, we donated 110 wreaths for service members and their families. I can't wait to see even more support next year. I can't think of a better way to honor our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they made for this country.

Christine and the staff are starting to make plans for the 2024 Call on Washington. On April 9th and 10th, we will be traveling to DC, where we plan to meet with OOIDA and ATA along with our legislative delegation. During this visit, we will get the opportunity to voice our concerns and learn about new legislation that may affect the trucking industry. There's no time like the present to get involved and have our voices heard by the people who can make a change.

From Karen and I, we hope you have a very Merry Christmas!

Safe travels,

Bob Willey

Bob Willey Trucking

bwilleytrucking@gmail.com



Call on Washington 2023. Pictured are Barry Pottle, Bob Willey, SDTA Chairman, Rep. Dusty Johnson, and Christine Erickson, SDTA President.



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MESSAGE FROM THE **President**

Christine's Corner

As the year comes to a close, we extend our deepest gratitude to the hardworking members of SDADA. Your dedication, resilience, and commitment to the industry has been the driving force behind our success. Wishing you all a well-deserved break to spend with friends and family, joyous holidays, and a prosperous New Year filled with safe journeys ahead. Thank you for keeping the wheels of progress turning.

SDADA and SDTA jointly held our annual legislative events in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. We were able to put our policy discussions to the center stage to numerous legislators. Thank you to all of our members and legislators who were able to attend. It was a great opportunity to have our vices heard and share our stories. Be on the lookout for our weekly 'Under the Dome' communications during the 2024 Legislative Session.

As we step into the new year, we embark on a legislative session filled with opportunities to shape our industry's future. Let's approach the challenges ahead with collaboration, insight, and a commitment to positive change. Together, we may create policies that benefit all and contribute to the betterment of our industry. Cheers to a productive and impactful legislative session in the coming year!

Save the date! The Winter Legislative Reception is on February 12th, and our winter board meeting is on February 13th. As we work together to navigate the legislative landscape, your presence is important.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Onward,

Christine M. Vinatieri-Erickson



DECEMBER 2023 DRIVER OF THE MONTH



Robert Hamilton, K&J Trucking, Sioux Falls, SD, was selected as the December 2023 Driver of the Month by the South Dakota Safety Management Council.

Robert has been a solid driver for K&J Trucking. He's yet another person they wish they could clone. He has never received a customer or driving complaint in the nearly 12 years he has been with the company. Robert strives to do things right. He has driven over 3 million miles, including over 1.5 million with K&J Trucking, Inc. The only accident he has had was in February of 2011, when his truck was blown over.

Robert is always eager to assist new drivers with questions they have. He provides guidance, but leaves it up to them to put the wealth of knowledge he has shared to good use. He has a very calm demeanor. When a problem arises, he deals with it calmly. He is constantly eager to learn and do the right thing. Robert takes great pride in his accomplishments in this profession and always maintains integrity in his work.

Robert and his wife, Micky, reside in Sioux Falls.

The South Dakota Trucking Association joins the Safety Management Council in congratulating Robert Hamilton for being selected as the December 2023 Driver of the Month.

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A nomination form & rules can be found on page 25 or online at www.southdakotatrucking.com under Membership Opportunities.



For more information, please contact the SDTA office at 605-334-8871 or michelle@southdakotatrucking.com

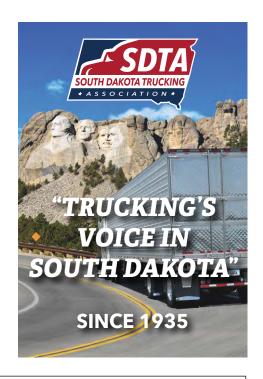


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Upcoming __Events_



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Annual Legislative Reception and Sundae Bar 6:00 p.m. Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center Pierre, SD

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

SDTA Winter Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center Pierre, SD

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

SDTA Winter Board of Directors Meeting 12:30 p.m. Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center Pierre, SD

APRIL 9-11, 2024

Call on Washington Washington, D.C.

MAY 9, 2024

SDTA Spring/Summer Executive **Committee Meeting** 10:00 a.m. AmericInn Chamberlain, SD

MAY 9, 2024

SDTA Spring/Summer Board of Directors Meeting 1:00 p.m. AmericInn Chamberlain, SD

MAY 9, 2024

Social Hour, Dinner and Calcutta for the Annual Cliff Tjaden Fishing Event 6:00 p.m. AmericInn Chamberlain, SD

MAY 10, 2024

Annual Cliff Tjaden Fishing Event 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Cedar Shore Marina Oacoma, SD

MAY 18, 2024

SD Truck Driving Championships 7:00 a.m. Southeast Technical College Sioux Falls, SD

JUNE 6-9, 2024

Wheel Jam State Fairgrounds Huron, SD

JULY 18, 2024

SDTA East River Golf Event 9:00 a.m. **Brandon Golf Course** Brandon, SD

AUGUST 21-24, 2024

National Truck Driving Championships Indianapolis, IN

SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2024

National Truck Driver **Appreciation Week**

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2024

SDTA 89th Annual Convention Deadwood Mountain Grand Hotel and Casino Deadwood, SD





It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we're sending you our warmest wishes! May your holidays be filled with joy and cheer.

> From all of us at ISTATE TRUCK CENTER Sioux Falls, SD







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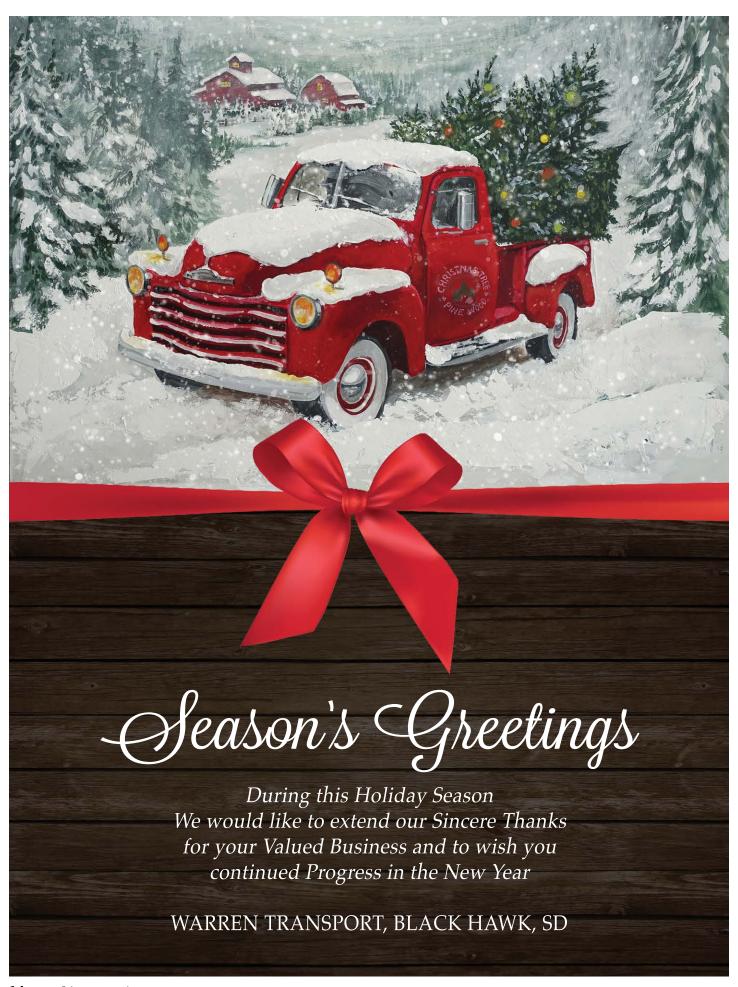
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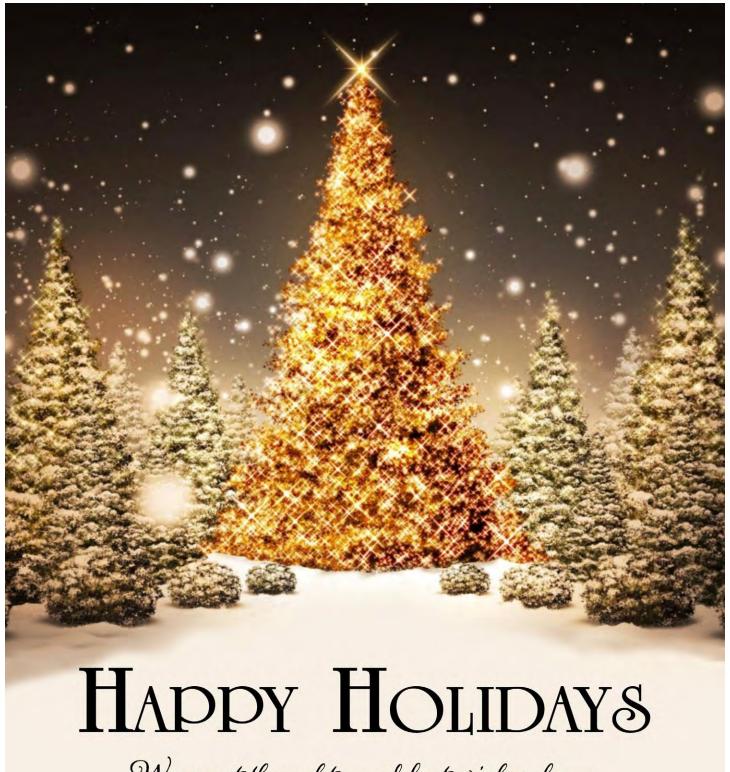
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Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a very happy new year.

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Hands On. Open Mind.

JA Inspire is much more than a career fair. It brings together the business community and local schools to inspire middle school students to start thinking about their future career goals and how to achieve them.

JA Inspire is a career-based event filled with learning experiences that are designed by individual industry teams to align with what the industry will need from its future employees.

Unlike traditional career fairs, the students do the interviewing rather than the employer. They asked Captain Whitehead and Captain Schmidt about their experiences trucking, and in turn, they learned about the skills needed to get into the trucking industry. The event is designed to transform students' abstract ideas about a career into tangible ambitions and plans.



On Wednesday, November 29th, more than 3,500 8th grade students from all over southern SD participated in JA Inspire. SD Road Team Captains Mike Whitehead (FedEx Freight), and Gary Schmidt (Cliff Viessman, Inc.), along with Trevor Johnson and Michelle Wells of SDTA, volunteered at the event.

Junior

A semi truck was setup by Cliff Viessman Inc., allowing students to climb up and check it out. Most of these students had never been in a truck before and were excited to get a good look at the living quarters. They were blown away by the fact that the driver has a bed, TV, microwave, refrigerator, etc.

This is SDTA's fourth year participating, if you include the virtual event that was created for the students in 2021. Each year this event grows.

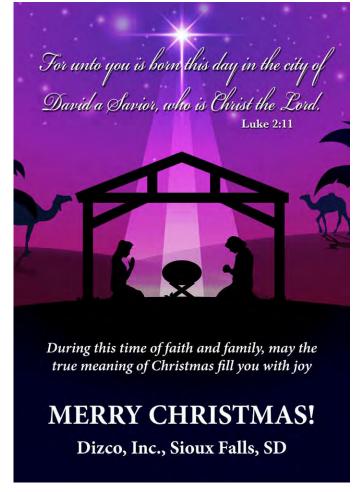




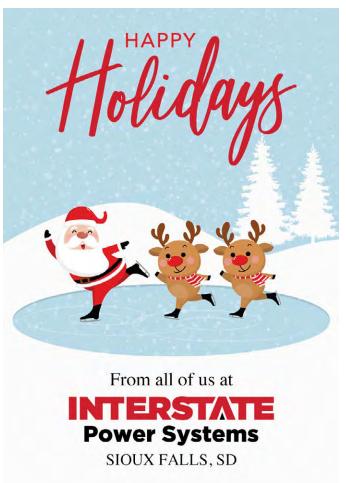




















South Dakota Trucking Association and Rude Transportation Raise \$14,500 in Spectacular Truckload of Giving Event for Sioux Falls Children's Charities

The South Dakota Trucking Association (SDTA) is thrilled to announce the overwhelming success of its Truckload of Giving event, held in partnership with Rude Transportation, to benefit the Children's Home Society and Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls. This heartwarming event crushed its goal of \$10,000 and raised an impressive \$14,500, thanks to the generous contributions of donors, sponsors, and the supportive South Dakota trucking community.

The Truckload of Giving event, a collaborative effort between SDTA and Rude Transportation, exemplified the power of partnerships in making a positive impact on the local community. The funds raised were utilized to purchase a diverse array of gifts for kids 18 and under from popular retailers,

Target and Scheels, with the sole intention of bringing joy and warmth to the children at Children's Home Society and Sanford Children's Hospital during the holiday season.

The highlight of the event occurred at the Sanford Event Barn during the Christmas Gala on Saturday night in Sioux Falls. All the gifts were unloaded from the truck at the event, creating a spectacular visual representation of the community's generosity and compassion. Attendees at the Christmas Gala added to the festive atmosphere by contributing additional gifts, enhancing the impact of the event.

Following the gala, the donated gifts, along with those purchased by donations to SDTA, will be gathered at Rude Transportation on Wednesday. Volunteers will diligently sort and prepare the gifts for distribution, ensuring that each child receives a special and thoughtful present during the holiday season.

"The success of the Truckload of Giving event reflects the incredible generosity and community spirit that defines South Dakota. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rude Transportation, our partners, sponsors, and everyone who contributed to making this event a resounding success," said Christine Erickson, President at SDTA.

SDTA expresses sincere appreciation to its partners, Rude Transportation, and the local businesses, Target and Scheels, for their invaluable contributions to this heartwarming initiative. The collective efforts of the South Dakota community have not only brightened the holiday season for the children but have also exemplified the positive impact that can be achieved when a community comes together for a common cause.

In a special acknowledgment, SDTA recognizes the tremendous support of Rick Hoogendoorn and his wife Julie, who have been actively involved in the Christmas Gala and generously donated to both Children's Home Society and Sanford Children's Hospital in the past. They inspired the Truckload of Giving event and it was conducted in support of Rick, who was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Rick and Julie during this challenging time.







To everyone who contributed to the tremendous success of the 1st Annual Truckload of Giving!

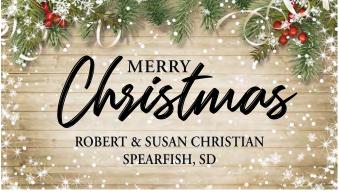
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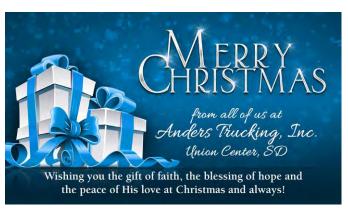
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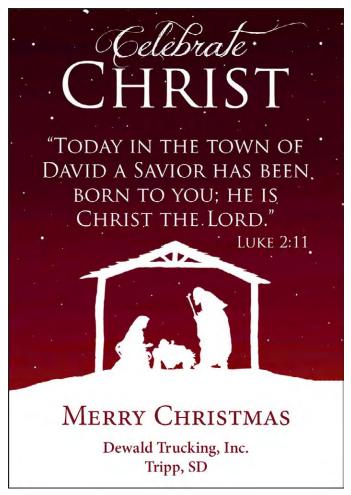
Melinda Misemer Gary Schmidt Dan Kippley Eric Siciliano Kirk Bloemendaal Michelle Wells Patty Hinz Trevor Johnson Noah Stoeckman Rick & Julie Hoogendoorn

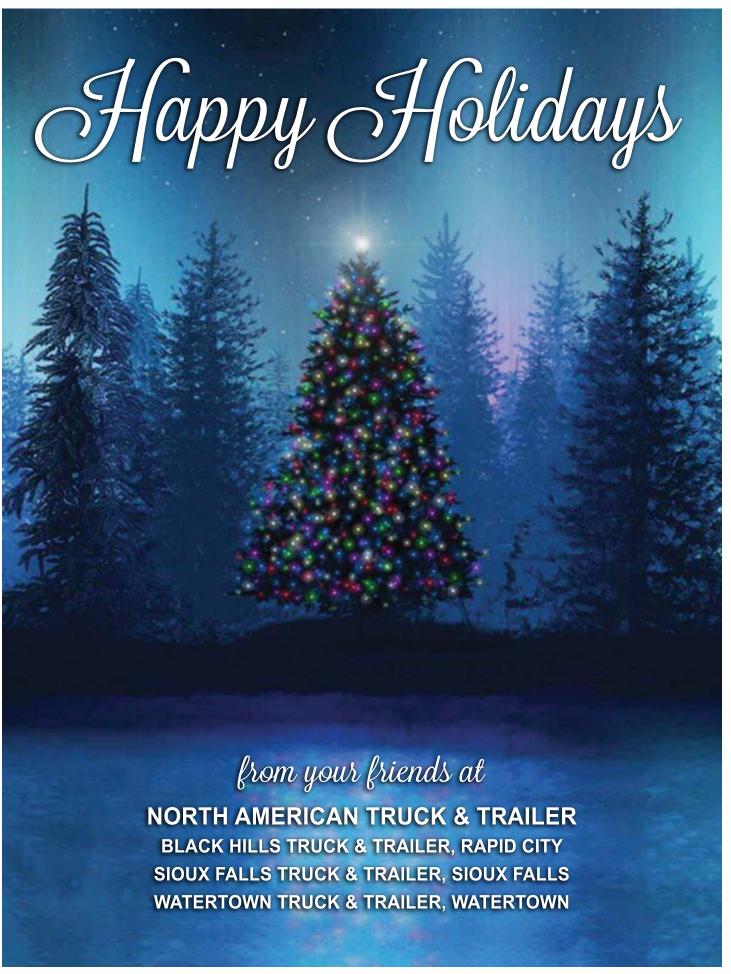














DRIVER OF THE MONTH NOMINATION FORM & RULES

	L)ate:	Jacket Size:	
Name of Driver:			Age:	
Marital Status:	Spouse's Nam	e:		
Residence Address (in full):				
Children & Ages:				
Name of Carrier:				
Home Terminal Address (in full):				
Phone Number:	E	mail:		
ears Employed by Present Employer:		Total Years of Experience:_		
Type of Equipment Operated: 🗌 Truck 🔝 Tra	ctor-Semitrailer	☐ Doubles ☐ Other		
Type of Driving: Over the Road City	Other			
Total Mileage:	N	lileage with Present Employer	:	
of Accidents:Chargeable	Dates:			
Non-Chargeable	Dates:			
Has your driver ever been selected as a Driver o				
Participation in truck driving championships or other transportation related activities:				
			·····	
Basis of Nomination:				
With this entry, company agrees to send their dr Convention, where the driver will participate in a p honors. Interview times will be scheduled Friday a	ersonal interviev	Drivers not being interviewed w		
With this entry, the company agrees to submit Driver of the Year Entry Form for National Competition if your driver is selected as the South Dakota Driver of the Year.				
Submitted by:		Title:		

RULES:

Driver may be nominated for Driver of the Month for any outstanding act of heroism, a contribution to highway safety, an extraordinary act of courtesy, an exceptional deed or act of service to mankind within the community reflecting positively on the motor carrier industry, or for a long period of safe and courteous driving. An outstanding act shall be deemed to mean unusual or other than the normal every day courtesies afforded by truck drivers.

ELIGIBILITY:

- 1. The nominated driver must be an employee of a member in good standing of the South Dakota Trucking Association.
- 2. The nominated driver must have been an employee of the present employer for at least two years and have a minimum of five years overall experience.
- 3. South Dakota domiciled* drivers are eligible for nomination for an outstanding act performed in any state. * The intent of the word "domiciled" shall be interpreted to mean: Any driver reporting to or regularly dispatched from a terminal within the state of SD (in keeping with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations definition of his/her home terminal) regardless of where the driver may dwell.

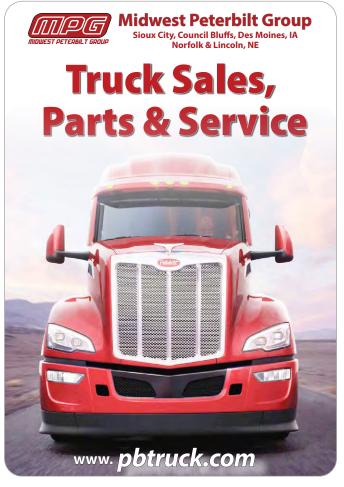
- 4. A driver may receive the Driver of the Month award only one time in any contest year. He/she may be renominated in any subsequent year.
- Nominations for outstanding acts on the highway shall be accompanied by supporting evidence (letters, statements, news clippings, etc.). A clear, factual account is absolutely necessary. Vague generalizations will not be accepted.
- 6. A copy of recent driver motor vehicle record check must accompany the nomination.
- Drivers nominated and not selected as Driver of the Month will be held over and used in the following month's selection.
- Entries must be in the SDTA office no later than the 10th of each month for that current month's contest.
- Nominations may be made by any party, but must be approved by the employer or a representative of the employer.
- 10. The annual contest will run from September of the previous year through August of the current year.
- 11. Company agrees to submit a professional head and shoulders photo of the winning driver.

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Eric Miller | Staff Reporter | Transport Topics

Nearly 30% of crash-related heavy truck towing invoices included excessive rates or unwarranted additional charges. according to a new comprehensive truck towing analysis by the American Transportation Research Institute.

The ATRI report, "Causes and Countermeasures of Predatory Towing," made public on Nov. 29, took a deep dive at a long-festering controversy within the trucking industry. Focused on towing practices from 2021-2023, the goal of the study was aimed at improving the relationship between the towing and trucking industries.

The most common types of predatory towing were excessive rates, experienced by 82.7% of motor carriers, and unwarranted extra service charges, experienced by 81.8% of carriers, the study said.

"A majority of carriers encountered additional issues such as truck release or access delays, cargo release delays, truck seizure without cause, and tows misreported as consensual," the report concluded.

"Predatory towing is a costly issue for motor carriers as well as compliant towing companies, and it has been overlooked for too long," said Shawn Brown, Cargo Transporters Vice President of Safety, and former chair of ATRI's research advisory committee. "With reliable data analysis and a thorough regulatory review, ATRI's report sheds light on the sources of the problem and paths forward for addressing it by both regulators and trucking fleets."

There are two major categories of heavy-duty towing consensual and nonconsensual, ATRI said. Consensual towing occurs when a vehicle owner, or any other person who has legitimate ownership or control over the vehicle, requests a T&R company's services of their own volition.

The other category, police-initiated crash/disabled vehicle towing — occurs when a truck has been involved in a crash or is disabled and interfering with traffic flow or public safety. In these cases, police take control of the scene and call towing services for the vehicle.

The issue of excessive towing charges has become a hot-button topic for motor carriers in recent years. One 2021 case reported by Transport Topics and highlighted in the ATRI analysis involved a Wisconsin motor carrier who was hit with a \$202,000 towing and removal bill after one of its tractor-trailers hauling a truckload of cheese had to be pulled from a ditch on I-64 in central Virginia.

Rising towing costs have for several years been on American Trucking Associations' radar. "The trucking industry knows that predatory towing and excessive pricing or creative billing are problems, but there's never been a comprehensive look at these issues until now," said Mike Matousek, director of ATA's government freight conference. "There's a ton of information for the industry to review and consider in ATRI's report, but this is something that every carrier should become familiar with — especially the stateby-state compendium of towing regulations."

Continued on Page 31.



ATRI Analysis Looks at Predatory Truck Towing continued from Page 29.

For its study, ATRI surveyed 350 motor carriers, who were asked to identify which of eight primary types of predatory towing they had experienced, and to rank them based on their impact on operations. Predatory practices are listed in rank order from most to least impactful, with the percentage of carriers that experienced each issue at some point included in parentheses:

- Excessive hourly or per-pound rates (82.7%)
- Unwarranted additional equipment or labor charges (81.8%)
- Excessive daily storage rate (77.7%)
- Vehicle release delays or access issues (71.7%)
- Cargo release delays (61.6%)
- Vehicle seizure without cause (55.7%)
- Tow operators misreporting nonconsensual tows as consensual (53.5%)
- Damage due to use of improper towing equipment (59.2%)

ATRI said the towing and recovery industry is highly localized, reflected in the fact that most T&R-related regulations generate from municipalities and county governments. But some states are taking action.

"Within the past few years Maryland, Arizona and Colorado have all passed statewide laws regulating the T&R industry," ATRI said. "Maryland directly addressed the concerns of motor carriers when it passed House Bill 487 in 2022. For police-initiated towing, the bill outlawed per-pound billing, created guidelines to allow for the release of cargo, and established a committee that would recommend rates for heavy-duty T&R and handle invoice disputes."

ATRI said other states have not been as successful in their efforts to regulate the T&R industry. In 2021, Missouri's governor vetoed House Bill 661 on the grounds that it over-regulated the market. Had the bill passed, it would have established a committee to determine reasonable rates for T&R services and to review complaints regarding the nonconsensual police-initiated towing of commercial motor vehicles.

To read the full report go to: https://truckingresearch. org/2023/11/causes-and-countermeasures-of-predatory-towing/

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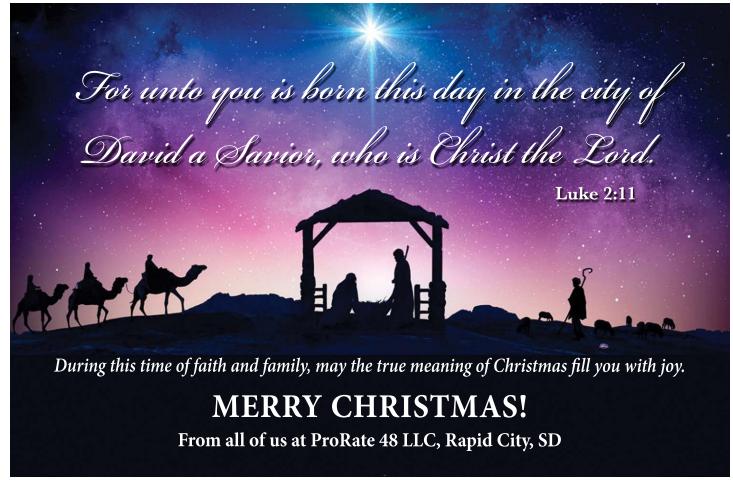
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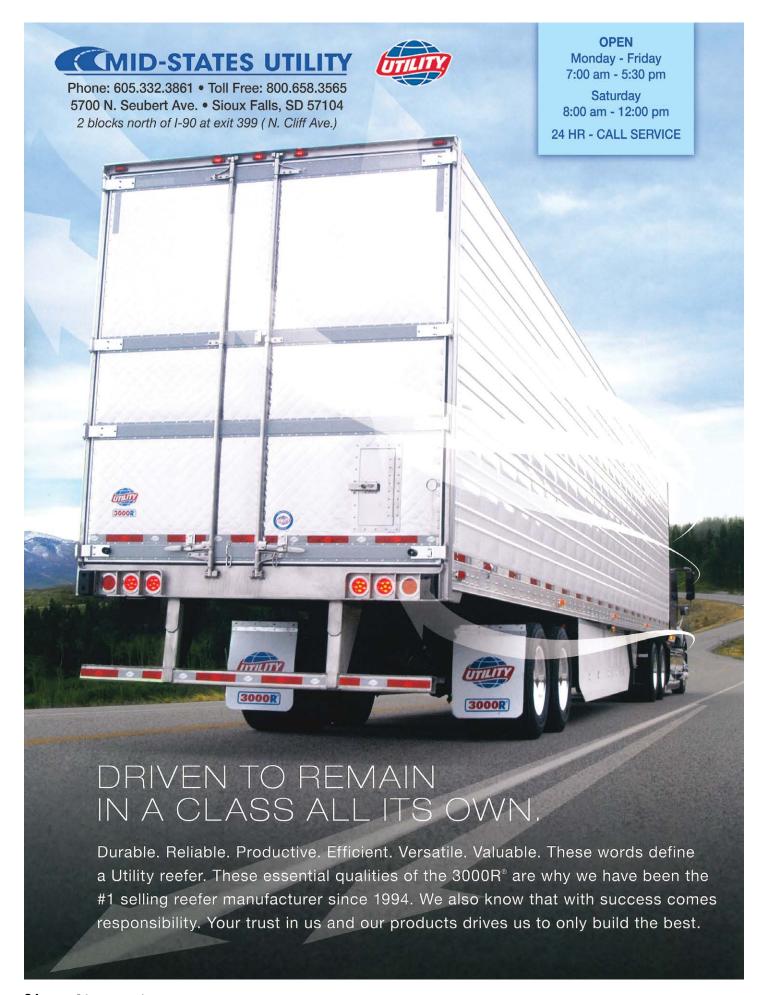


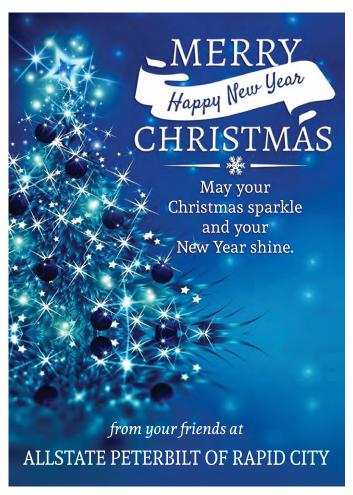
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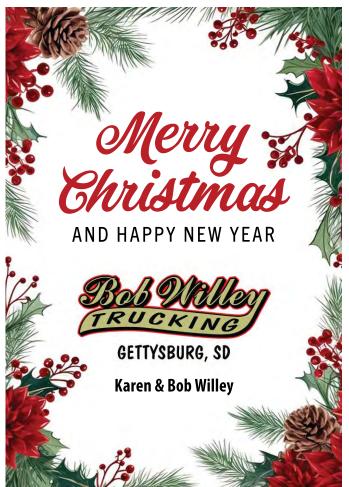


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