# The Bombogenesis hits with a fury!



Encircle Independent

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Shaun Wanner was chipping away at the ice that had accumulated on the roof. He said that he has never seen this much snow around his house and his biggest fear is water getting into his basement as his backyard is full of snow. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This tree at the apartments on Garfield Street was full of ice after the storm. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**Tree pulls service from house** A tree fell down behind the house of Brad and Chelsey Sheridan, 207 N. 4th St., in Groton, resulting in some minor damage. The tree fell on the service line, ripping the meter socket from the house. The house still had power, but the City of Groton Electric Dept. and Locke Electric restored the line in less than half an hour.



A crew from Northern Electric braved the blizzard conditions yesterday afternoon to replace a broken pole north of Groton. According to Groton Police Officer Damian Bahr, Bob Swisher came with his tractor to move snow so they could do

# March 13-14 Blizzard in Review

Bombogenesis is a term that you do not hear a lot about, especially here in the upper midwest. What is a Bombogenesis? It's when a low pressure system has a drop in barometric pressure over a short period of time. The dramatic drop can cause what we just experienced this past week with high wind, snow and floods.

A low pressure system of rare intensity tracked across the Great Plains on Wednesday, March 13th and Thursday, March 14th 2019. Significant weather hazards began across South Dakota during the morning of the 13th as a broad arc of heavy precipitation moved from south to north. A rain/snow line was in place through much of the day, generally along the western side of the James Valley. Heavy rain of generally 1 to 2" as well as freezing rain in some cases affected those to the east of this line, and heavy snow of generally 6 to 12" fell to the west of it. Strong and widespread north wind gusts of 45 to 70 mph developed during the evening of the 13th and lasted through much of the day on the 14th. Temperatures cooled during this time, and widespread blizzard conditions were observed across our forecast area. Severe snow drifts of up to 12 feet or higher were left in the storm's wake by the 15th across portions of central South Dakota. Impacts included minor flooding, countless vehicles in ditches, widespread road closures for extended periods (including portions of I-90), as well as power outages. This event capped off an incredibly snowy February and start to March, further setting the stage for potential springtime flooding.



#### their work. This was located at 124th and SD37. (Photo by Damian Bahr)



This is the view of Third Avenue West in Groton as the road is closed to through traffic due to the snow drifts. The same is true for Fifth Avenue West and 16th Avenue. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Somewhere under all of that snow is SD37 south of Groton. . (Photo by Kristen Gonsoir)







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paperpaul@grotonsd.net ~ 605-397-7460 Tina Kosel, Office Manager <u>office@grotonsd.net</u> ~ 605-397-7285 Notices: <u>legals@grotonsd.net</u> News Items: <u>news@grotonsd.net</u> Deadline to submit items: Noon Monday]Yearly Subscription Rates: 12 Month Rate: \$39 (includes tax) The Groton Independent (USPS# 230-440) is published weekly with its periodicals postage paid at Groton, SD. **Postmaster: Send address changes to** Groton Independent,

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# **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society ceremony was held Monday, March 18. Pictured above are the members and the new inductees. In front, left to right, are National Honor Society Members – Anne Marie Smith, Cassandra Townsend, Tylan Glover, Alexis Simon and Emily Thompson. In back, left to right, are the Inductees – Payton Colestock, Kaitlyn Anderson, Kaycie Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn, Taylor Holm, Caitlynn Barse, Ashley Garduno and KaSandra Pappas. (Photo by Renee Marzahn)



# Show Choir takes 2nd at Mitchell

**Groton Prismatic Sensations show** choir took second place at the Mitchell Show Choir Competition held Saturday. It was the final competition for the

Season. (Screenshot photo of Robin Jensen's video posted on Facebook)

# **Journey to America the Great** Editor's Note: Yankton, S.D., journalist Brian Hunhoff gave the keynote speech last Friday at

a Sioux Falls naturalization ceremony for new citizens from 40 different countries. Following is an edited version of his remarks.



By Brian Hunhoff, Yankton County Observer

est honors of my life 237 men and women completing the jour-

I'm one of the lucky a farm 60 miles from here. That means my citizenship came easy. It was a birthright.

The same is true of most U.S. citizens. Just six percent are naturalized. You took the path less traveled and became Americans the hard way.

It's not an easy process. Not a fast process. Most of you worked and waited years for this day. You became Americans through sacrifice, determination and your vision of a better life. As such, you're unlikely to take this blessing of citizenship lightly.

And it is a blessing. America means equal opportunity and pursuit of happiness. America means rich and poor have the same rights. We support truth, justice and the rule of law. And no one in America - not even the President is above that law.

America's greatest achievements are not skyscrapers or jets. Our strength lies in our compassion, in our communities, where our people care for one another; where neighbors help neighbors – and strangers – in times of need. America is big cities and small towns; cornfields and main streets; veterans and nurses; teachers and truck drivers; factory workers, farmers and firefighters. America is working one place 40 years or changing jobs every year if you want to. America is open government and voting and running for office if you want to. America is a nation of immigrants, multicultural by design. We should be a celebration of diversity. America should mean respect and dignity for all people. America is red, white and blue. We're also black, white and brown. America is Democrats and Republicans and Independents. America is any religion or no religion – the right to pray freely or not pray at all. America means liberty to be who we want to be and fighting for that freedom if need be. It means standing up to bullies who disguise

#### It's one of the great- bigotry and cruelty as patriotism. America is a place we rise above that which to be here with the separates us to build a stronger nation on that which unites us.

America is also hard to please. We like to ney to this special day. complain. Polls show many think our country is on the wrong track. We sometimes have to ones. I was born on stop and look around to remember we would not want to live anywhere else.

Our leaders in America disappoint us at times. I speak out when that happens, but I never lose hope and pride in our country. We're not defined by a single leader. We're bigger and better than one person or moment in time.

We can bring our polarized country closer together by rediscovering shared values like freedom and equality. Those principles are more important than partisan beliefs that divide us.

I told a friend I was writing a speech called 'Journey to America the Great.' He laughed and said, "I'd call it 'America the Corrupt' or 'America the Greedy'"

Well, America is not perfect. But America is great. And we're better than we were. Slavery was one of this country's original sins. Horrible treatment of American Indians was another. We moved forward and became better by admitting our mistakes and not forgetting those citizens. Thank you for taking the journey to this day. It's a supreme achievement. We're proud of you.

I hope all 237 of you will be active citizens. We need people with your perseverance and fresh perspectives to help solve America's problems. We need your courage and commitment to help us keep our flame of freedom burning bright.

God bless you and God bless America the beautiful, which has been great since 1776.

Our country became even greater and more beautiful today, because of you.



shameful chapters in American history.

As William Faulkner wrote, "The past is not dead. It isn't even past."

My cynical friend's father was a WWII veteran, so he knows America is capable of greatness. Next year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in this country – Aug. 18, 1920. That was another time we became better than we were. Just imagine how much the combined intelligence of our nation's voters increased that day!

Neil Armstrong's 1969 walk on the moon was another great moment ... Rosa Parks refusing to give a white man her seat on an Alabama bus in 1955. That isolated moment of courage has been making a difference ever since. America has a great big heart and a strong heartbeat. We still inspire democracy and human rights in other countries. We still enjoy the liberty to make our own American dreams come true.

Congratulations on becoming United States

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# Internet coverage, reliability in rural areas hinders development

#### **By: Tom Griffith**

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. Find more in-depth reporting at www.sdnewswatch.org.

urban-rural digital divide, endangering resi- hospital even farther. dents' quality of life and economic development efforts unless significant investments are made vices at West Central Electric Cooperative in in advanced mobile technology, a new study Murdo, understands those communications suggests.

Dakota and Virginia's Old Dominion University square miles of service territory, stretching interviewed and surveyed rural South Dakota from the Cheyenne residents last fall to determine their perceptions River on the north to of coverage, capacity and speed of Internet the White River on the access.

While South Dakota's economy has outpaced tus Flats near Kadoka national economic growth over the last two de- on the west to the cades, Bob McNab, an economist and director Missouri River on the of Old Dominion's Center for Economic Analysis east. and Policy and the study's lead author, says many participants indicated their rural networks area, the less coverhave insufficient coverage, capacity and speed age there is," Tucker for basic health and safety, let alone quality of said. "In our job, it's life.

"The most intriguing finding was, if you look get a hold of a numat mobile coverage maps, providers would say ber when we have outage-type scenarios, the entire state is covered," McNab noted. "But when something goes wrong." what we found was the facts on the ground While Tucker credits providers such as Golden compared with urban consumers."

committed to bringing high-speed internet to a good signal. every corner of the state, enabling advances and increased employment in industries such connection isn't lost," he said. "Especially when as bio-tech, cybersecurity and technology.

ment of Agriculture has set up a \$600 million an option. Getting in touch with linemen who grant and loan program to internet service are out servicing lines is our biggest challenge." providers to encourage them to provide service to rural areas and other spots where service with her husband, LeRoy, along the banks of companies to invest in improving Internet accan be expensive. And recently, U.S. Sen. John the Belle Fourche River 30 miles east of Sturgis. Thune, chairman of the Senate Communications Their nearest neighbor is three and a half miles Subcommittee, held a hearing on "The Impact up the road. of Broadband Investments in Rural America," examining the FCC's efforts and other opportu- Internet service and cellphone coverage was nities to make broadband more easily available as tough as drilling the 120-year-old family in rural areas.

Experts know improving digital connectivity in remote areas is expensive and convincing comes from Wall and I'm on the end of the providers to make the investment likely will phone line which comes out of Sturgis," she require substantial public-private partnerships. said. "At one point, the phone company said,

handle daily communication needs.

#### GOOGLET ENCENCIAL DAT NEWSWITH

## **Keal-life challenges**

Living and working in rural South Dakota poses real-life challenges that urban dwellers seldom encounter. A grocery store or gas South Dakota is threatened by a growing station can be 30 minutes to an hour away, a

Jessie Tucker, the manager of member serchallenges better than most. His coop's 3,700 Researchers from the University of South members are scattered across roughly 7,000

south, and from Cac-

"The more rural the really challenging to

are dramatically different for rural consumers West Technologies with improving coverage and reliability in recent years, he said he still Expanding broadband access in the state is finds himself stopping his vehicle along couna priority of Gov. Kristi Noem. On her "Priori- try roads several times per week when his ties Tour" in late February, Noem said she is cellphone shows a couple of bars, inadicating

"You pull over when you have a signal so the we are working with line crews, if we need It is also a focus nationally. The U.S. Depart- communications, at times a cellphone is not

To hear Shirley describe it, getting reliable homestead's first well.

"I'm on the end of the electric line which In the meantime, rural residents struggle `Quit calling and complaining because we're to run businesses, complete transactions and not going to improve that line anyway,' so we had to switch to satellite."

After investigating and employing several

Mbps (Megabits per second) upload speed. Meanwhile, North Dakota ranked 17th; Iowa ranked 35th; Nebraska ranked 40th; and New Jersey, where Old Dominion University is located, stood at first in the U.S.

But data collected for the study indicated that broadband coverage throughout South Dakota is spotty, at best. For instance, 100 percent of Harding County residents have access to 25/3 Mbps service, while none of the residents of Dewey County could make the same claim. By comparison, 94.4 percent of

"Solutions require effective cooperation across all these levels to address this issue. Mitchell can't do it on its own. Pierre can't do it without buy-in across the state. There have to be effective communications and collaboration across all those levels and we have to incentivize better high-speed coverage in rural areas," David Earnest, chair, USD Department of Political Science

the residents of New Jersey's Cumberland County, the county with the lowest broadband coverage in the state, could access the same level of Internet services.

Although the study confirmed suspicions of a growing urbanrural digital divide, both professors said it did not delve into

solutions to the issue.

"We haven't systematically explored complex solutions," Earnest said. "That will be the next step. This is really a shared problem between the federal government and state and local governments.

Solutions require effective cooperation across all these levels to address this issue. Mitchell can't do it on its own. Pierre can't do it without buy-in across the state. There have to be effective communications and collaboration across all those levels and we have to incentivize better high-speed coverage in rural areas."

Noem said she budgeted \$5 million to lever-Shirley Wetz raises horses, cattle and sheep age with federal funds to incentivize Internet cess and reliability throughout South Dakota.

> "Frankly, if we don't have high-speed Internet access everywhere in South Dakota, we can't be successful," the governor said recently in Rapid City.

> In a column published in the Argus Leader in January, Noem said that she would involve the state's rural telecommunications companies and wireless service providers in finding ways to increase their service levels.

"What's more, I want to bring in companies with emerging technologies in the fixed wireless arena, such as Microsoft's Airband initiative, that may offer more cost-efficient ways to provide fast, reliable service to our most difficult to serve locations. And I see 5G technology, which promises faster, more reliable service over cellular data networks," Noem wrote. According to McNab and Earnest, the Federal Communications Commission is planning to spend more than \$6 billion over the next decade and ease regulatory requirements to close the digital divide. The study by USD and ODU researchers attempted to focus on one largely rural state and add the voices of residents to the ongoing "My internet phone, which I use for the analysis on the coverage, capacity and speed of mobile networks. The two professors said the study reinforced their belief that investments in mobile Internet, particularly new fifth-generation (5G) networks, could help rural areas better



**Rural South Dakotans told research**ers from Old Dominion and University of South Dakota that their rural networks have insufficient coverage, capacity and speed for their basic needs.

> Get B&W 8.5x11 copies for just 9 cents at the Groton Independent, 21 N Main, Groton.

providers over a period of years, Shirley Wetz settled on a separate Verizon phone that al- a role for companies ready to invest in new lows her to access the Internet at her home, albeit with a hefty price tag of \$100 per month. But, even far from the comforts of town, the rancher said Internet access remains critical to the couple's livelihood.

"It's costly number one, and it took time to figure out what would work for us," she said. "I run two horse sales out of my house and I have photos coming in all the time, which I need to post to websites and Facebook, and send to the printer who does our catalog.

house, only gives us a half a bar," Shirley Wetz said. "My regular cell phone doesn't have any bars at the ranch. So, if I want to make a call, I have to drive up the hill."

# Spotty service is problem compete in a global economy, and more cost-

According to the study, South Dakota ranked efficiently than broadband. 34th in the nation in residents with access to The study noted that investments in mobile broadband coverage, defined as a minimum networks are necessary to sustain economic

#### **Continued from previous page**

growth and improve the quality of life of rural residents.

"If South Dakota wishes to broaden its economic base and participate in the scientific and engineering developments that propel many other states, it must consciously promote investments in technology," McNab said. Those investments will be critical to allowing rural residents to compete with their urban counterparts and stem out-migration from the most remote regions of the country, he said.

The consequences of that urban-rural digital divide are evident in the fact that South Dakota's two largest communities are growing in population, while rural counties continue to lose residents, he said.

"South Dakota as a whole is attracting people, with net migration applied to Sioux Falls and to a lesser extent, Rapid City," McNab said. "But rural counties continue to lose population."

While most rural residents "make do" with the Internet connections they have, others participating in the study questioned why the state's Internet service lags behind their urban counterparts.

As one respondent told researchers, "If the Taliban can upload videos in Afghanistan, how can I not get Netflix to play in America? It is 2018, and we are smart people. We should be able to watch a movie without it buffering."

#### **About Tom Griffith**

Tom Griffith, Deadwood, S.D., reported this story for South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. A fourth-generation South Dakotan, Griffith has been



a journalist, editor and photographer in Arizona, Montana and South Dakota. He also has written or co-authored more than 70 books and his travel features have appeared in more than 250 magazines and newspapers worldwide.

# Storm sewer change order approved

Terry Herron reported that it would cost \$11,185.70 to do a storm sewer inlet repair project at the southeast corner of Washington Street and Sixth Avenue West. It was not part of the summer street project. There will not be a summer chip seal project this year so there would be money available to do this project. Herron said the city will still do the crack seal project this spring. The council approved the change order. "It will help make the whole intersection look a lot better," Herron said. Councilman Jay Peterson suggested that the city try to get the snow hauled away from the work zone.

Next Tuesday the load limits will be in place where garbage pickup will be on Main Stre Street, Railroad Avenue and Broadway. Peterson said he would like to go on record to say "thank you" to the city employees for all of their work in snow removal and for opening up the drains around town. At the recommendation of Doug Hamilton, the council adjusted the Legion coach salary from \$3,500 to \$3,000. The council hired Ashley Fliehs and Erin Unzen as ticket takers. Spencer Locke and Aaron Severson will be splitting the wage for the junior teener team. The city council then went into equalization. Doug Sombke came before the board said that his valuation rose by 10.73 percent compared to 4 percent for his surrounding neighbors. Russ from the Assessor's office will be doing a complete evaluation of his home on Friday, both inside and outside. Sombke said the biggest issue is that assessors have not been properly trained in doing valuations and it's different from county to county. Then the city continued going through each property in town. The residential properties in town increased in valuation by about 4 percent.



### To Straighten the Bent Bones of Children

Starting sometime in the middle ages, throughout many lands, there were "bonesetters" who knew about splinting, how to treat broken bones with splints made from sticks, leather and clay. They even had a guild, a medieval union of sorts, a cohesive group of workers organized to ensure quality, consistency and education. Medical schools for physicians existed at that time, but neither bonesetters nor surgeons attended those schools.

In the 1700s, Nicholas Andre', a researcher and professor of medicine at the University of Paris, formally described splinting, a technique used by bonesetters, as a method to treat boney deformities, such as clubbed feet in newborn children. He likened it to the straightening of young tree saplings. Andre' wrote a textbook on the subject entitled L'Orthopedie. The ancient Greek word orthos means free from deformity, to straighten; and the ancient Greek word paideia refers to the art of raising a child. Together they provide for the name of a present-day surgical specialty. Literally, orthopedics means to straighten the bent bones of children.

Surgical methods in the 1700s and 1800s were very immature. Anesthesia was first

developed during the early 1800s and ether was widely used during the Civil War. After the war, surgeons brought their surgical experience home to small towns throughout the U.S. It wasn't until after the war that we learned of bacteria and discovered we could avoid infection following surgery. In addition, X-rays were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895, which allowed for the marvelous and revealing image of our internal boney structure.

These advancements helped set the stage for expanding the focus of orthopedics from casting and making-straight the boney deformities of children. In the 1890s, Evan Thomas, a well-known bonesetter from Liverpool, England, encouraged his son Hugh to go to medical school. While learning medicine, Hugh learned from his father bone setting and casting methods, which at the time were not being taught in schools. The younger Thomas was influential in bringing this curriculum to medical schools. He later set up practice with his nephew Robert Jones, and the two worked to develop orthopedic surgical methods in treating bone injuries in construction workers, and then war injuries in military men during World War I.

Thus, we trace the evolution from bonesetters, and straightening the bones of children; to anesthetized yet unsterile amputations during the Civil War; to bone setting taught in medical school; to surgical repair of boney injuries in World War I; to the marvelous everdeveloping field of orthopedic surgery today. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow The Prairie Doc® on Facebook, featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming live and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

## **Instant Replay Topic**

Editor's Note: There must have been some controversial call at the end of the game that prompted this response from the SDHSAA. Apparently, from twitter accounts, there was no conference among the three officials on a controversial call at the end of the game. Here is an excerpt from the Sioux Falls Argus Leader:

RAPID CITY — The Class AA semifinals came to a controversial conclusion Friday night, with senior Luke Ronsiek hitting a shot at the buzzer to lift No. 3 O'Gorman to a 43-42 win over No. 2 Yankton.

Down one, Ronsiek received a pass from Canyon Bauer on the near wing with about 2.6 seconds remaining. Ronsiek dribbled around Rex Ryken and into the lane. He went airborne with less than a second left, pulling the ball back ever so slightly before tossing it towards the hoop.

The game clock appeared to have expired before the ball left Ronsiek's hand, but the official along the far sideline immediately motioned that the basket counted.

As the Knights began celebrating underneath the basket, Yankton coach Chris Haynes ran across the court with his arms extended, pleading with the officials. But the call had been made and with no replay or recourse available, the decision was final and the game was over.

This was the response from Dr. Daniel Swartos, SDHSAA Executive Director:

The SDHSAA is aware of the situation that occurred at the end of the Yankton/O'Gorman State AA Boys Basketball Semifinal this evening in Rapid City. NFHS rules do allow states to adopt instant replay in basketball under very limited circumstances. The SDHSAA process for rule changes involves passage by member votes at an advisory committee level, followed by a vote of the state athletic directors, and finally two readings by the SDHSAA Board of Directors. While the topic of instant replay in basketball has been previously broached in South Dakota, it has never left the advisory stage of our membership's rule change process. As such, instant replay is not currently used in SDHSAA basketball nor any of our other activities. Further, per our Constitution and By-Laws, officials decisions in any contest are by their nature necessarily regarded as final and shall not be considered as the basis for protest.

It is the intention of the SDHSAA to again examine instant replay in basketball throughout the coming year, and we will follow the wishes of our membership in regards to this topic. It will go through the same rule change process as anything else, and would be implemented if approved by a vote of the state Athletic Directors and two readings of the representative SDHSAA Board of Directors.



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#### Brown County March 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes MARCH 12, 2019 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Fjeldheim at 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Kippley, Sutton, and Wiese. Absent was commissioner Feickert. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to approve the Joint Aberdeen City/Brown County Meeting Minutes from March 4, 2019, and the General Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims:

Professional Fees: Borns Group \$8,747.73; CharityTracker \$162.00; Cogley Law Office \$4,238.90; Dohrer Law Office \$256.50; Vic Fischbach \$3,000.00; Michelle Gaikowski \$17.00; Haar Law Office \$456.83; Mark Katterhagen \$30.00; Dana Larson \$50.00; LexisNexis \$107.25; Darcy Lockwood \$30.00; Jerald McNeary \$1,005.80; Mikelson Law Office \$219.00; NE Mental Health Center \$2,470.00; SD DENR \$3.119.78: SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$2,335.12; SDAAO \$375.00; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$2,444.00; Siegel, Barnett & Schutz \$4,093.50; Kristi Spitzer \$1,800.00; Jodi Sudweeks \$680.80; Taliaferro Law Firm \$1,471.60; Yankton Co. Sheriff \$50.00; Yankton Co. Treasurer \$303.00; Sara Zahn \$17.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,851.55; Groton Independent \$554.89; Hub City Radio \$600.00; Northern Exposure \$255.00. Rentals: Hart Angus Farms \$300.00; Eugene Mitchell \$50.00. Repairs & Maintenance: AgTegra \$315.00; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$720.00: Butler Machinery \$414.67; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$587.50; Dakota Electronics \$42.00; Dakota Oil \$110.70; DMC Wear Parts \$365.96; GCR Tires & Service \$802.00; Gillund Enterprises \$6.00; Horn Plastics \$693.00; I-State Truck Center \$9.00; Laursen Asphalt Repair Equip. \$22.18; Lawson Products \$16.48; Lucy Lewno \$270.00; Lien Transportation \$1,332.50; Midwest Erosion \$926.00; PowerPlan \$240.21; Productivity Plus \$15.35; TranSource \$12,370.04. Supplies: AgTegra \$34,125.74; Ameripride \$210.29; Bakken Build Maint, \$500.00; Cartney Bearing \$40.27; Cash-Wa \$5,797.73; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$1,828.76; Crescent Electric \$2,147.41; Dakota Electronics \$103.50; DFP \$2,941.96; Dakota Oil \$4,282.71; Dean Foods \$643.20; DMI \$7,740.00; Digi Security \$1,753.00; DMC Wear Parts \$11,600.00; DSS Image Apparel \$95.70; Earthgrains \$609.80; Farnam's \$874.52; Fastenal \$637.83; Full

Circle Ag \$4,973.23; Gillund Enterprises \$412.32; GovConnection \$1,145.38; Green Iron Equip. \$36.44; Heartland Paper \$893.61; Hecla Implement \$10.00; Hedahl's APH \$122.59; Horn Plastics \$4,171.50; I-State Truck Center \$127.59; Interstate Battery \$117.95; J. Gross Equip. \$40.18; Kessler's \$92.25; Laursen Asphalt Repair Equip. \$298.75; Lawson Products \$221.85; Leidholt Tool Sales \$20.27; Lucy Lewno \$13.00; Mac's \$313.03; Menards \$1,106.93; Pantorium Cleaning \$14.00; Productivity Plus \$495.53; Quality Welding \$51.20; Reuer's Auto Service \$22.50; Satellite Tracking of People \$416.00; SD Federal Property Agency \$314.00; Sewing Shoppe \$26.00; Sherwin Williams \$82.94; Stan Houston Equip. \$59.85; Tractor Supply Co. \$28.90; Tri-State Water \$32.50; TrueNorth Steel \$99,369.00; VistaPrint \$14.98; Wallwork Truck Center \$399.52; Walth Safety Service \$765.52; Web Water Bottling Co. \$13.00. Travel & Conference: Sarah Hartje \$25.85; Chris Hemen \$42.00; Jerry Lehrkamp \$42.00; Cathy McNickle \$172.87; Mike Rohrbach \$42.00. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$1,968.61; AT&T Mobility \$39.24; Centu-ryLink \$51.47; Economy Propane \$1,783.35; Exec. Mgmt.

\$88.10; Midcontinent \$783.06; Northern Electric \$86.00; NWPS \$8,398.44; NVC \$26.02; Town of Frederick \$62.78; Web Water Development Assoc. \$75.03. Machinery & Equip.: TranSource \$282,313.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve the following Commission Assistant/HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Approve hiring McKenzie Bierman for 4-H Summer Intern effective May 30, 2019, at \$12.11 per hour. Approve hiring Jill Crosby as full-time dispatcher effective March 25, 2019, at \$16.71 per hour. Approve hiring Tales Aucoin at full-time dispatcher effective March 25, 2019, at \$16.71 per hour. Acknowledge resignation of Clifford Rhodes full-time Welfare Director effective March 5, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following agreement: RDO Equipment Company for lease of the Holum Expo Building on March 27-28, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITORS REPORT OF AC-COUNT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Kippley to approve the February 2019 Auditor's Report of Account with the County Treasurer in total amount of \$12,932,368.49 (total amount of actual cash @ \$4,973.00, Cash items (bad checks) @ \$27.00, US Bank @ \$72,204.56, Dacotah Bank @ \$5,698,771.55, Petty Cash/Change Funds @ \$2,600., Fund Investments @ \$7,143,629.08). All members

present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve the following Abatements: Terry Thompson @ 637.12. Brown County @ \$5,882.70 (sold on tax deed). All members present voting aye. Motion carried. SPECIAL EVENT BEER LI-

SPECIAL EVENT BEER LI-CENSE: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign Special Malt Beverage License, submitted by Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area for special event at the Holum Expo Building (Fairgrounds – SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N- R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD), Special License effective April 5th- 6th, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ing aye. Motion carried. TAX DEED SALE: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign Purchase Agreement and Warranty Deed for sale of tax deed property at 204 5th St. North, Groton, SD 57445 March 8, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE PERMIT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Kippley to acknowledge and authorize the solid waste permit for continued operation of the rubble and compost side south of Groton. The site is operated by the City of Groton. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BIDS - GRAVEL: Time and place as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for furnishing Gravel Material. Bids were received from Behnke Sand & Gravel, Hanlon Brothers, HF Jacobs & Son Construction, Jensen Rock and Sand, and L.G. Everist. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to award all bids on Gravel Material based on location and availability, as per tabulation sheet on file in the Auditor's Office (available for public inspection Monday -Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

BID - RENTAL OF EQUIP-MENT: Time and place as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for furnishing Full/ Bare Operation Rental Service of Gravel Trucks and Road Machinery for construction and maintenance repairs on Brown County Road Projects for the year 2019. Bids were received from B&B Contracting, Hanlon Brothers, J.F. Jacobs & Son Construction, Jensen Rock and Sand, Lien Transportation, RDO Equipment, Webster Scale, and Loiseau Construction. Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to award all bids on the rental of equipment based on location and availability, as per tabulation sheet on file in the Auditor's Office (available for public inspection Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) All members pres-

ent voting aye. Motion Carried. DISCUSS AG LAND ASSESS-MENT: Discussion from H. Paul Dennert about Ag land settlement and county equalization process. Letter from Erling Podoll was presented for discus-



sion as well. AG\_LAND\_SETTLEMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign settlement agreement with county landowners. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert – absent, Sutton – aye, Wiese – aye, Kippley – abstain, Fjeldheim – aye. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to go into executive session to discuss legal, per SDCL 1-25-2(3) with Chris White, Gary Vèttér, and Karly Winter in attendance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed, with no action taken as a result of the discussion. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to go into executive session to discuss personnel, per SDCL 1-25-2(1) with Chris White and Garv Vetter in attendance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed, with no action taken as a result of the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:15 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor Published once at the total ap-

proximate cost of \$91.39. 17312

#### Westport Town March 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes Town of Westport General Meeting

March 4th, 2019

The Town of Westport met on March 4th, 2019 with Andy VanSteenwyk, John Desen, Don Schlosser, Matt Ellefson, Tim Selzler, Shane Storm, Mike Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General NWPS (\$497.03), Groton Independent (\$15.28), B & B contracting – snow removal (\$925.00), Riteway business forms (\$175.01), Harvin Schlosser (\$160.00), Brian Hertel (\$120.00), Payroll - Tim Selzler (\$175.00), Shane Storm (\$195.00), Michael Wilson (\$95.00), & Doreen Hertel (\$900.00).

Sewer NWPS (\$42.57), NRWA –loan

repayment (\$210.13) & Payroll –Doreen Hertel (\$300.00). Water

WEB (\$2,140.72), Dept. of Revenue (\$15.00), Water Maintenance District (\$321.43), Dahme Construction (\$3,987.99) Payroll- Doreen Hertel (\$300.00). Shane Storm made motion

to pay all bills; second by Mike Wilson.

The following deposits were presented:

City General Brown County Collections (\$577.56), State of SD (\$1885.55) & Interest (\$28.28). Sewer

Resident Payments-(\$1,800.00).

Water Resident Payments -(\$2,867.23).

NEW BUSINESS: John Desen, with Clark engineering, discussed the lift station with the board. There were a few requests to make some revisions with the project. John will change and submit back to the board. The project could start in late summer.

The Annual report was pre-

for Thursday March 21st.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$19.69. 17313

#### Frederick Town March 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes Town of Frederick

March Minutes

The Town of Frederick held their monthly meeting Thursday night, March 7, 2019, in the Frederick Community Center. Present were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board Members Gary Schlosser and Troy Millard, Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine, Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg, Emma Burnham Library President Teresa Cox, Al Layton, Alyssa Middleton, Cameron Prescott and Finance Officer Diane Bruns.

The meeting began at 7 PM with Chairman Campbell leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February Minutes and the 1st and 2nd Reading Minutes of the combined Rezoning meeting with Brown County Commissioners were approved with a motion by TM/GS. Motion Carried.

The Financial Statement was approved with a motion by TM/ GS. Motion Carried. A switch of metered water sales and meter fees will be made.

Approval of the amended Accounts Payable was made with a motion by TM/SC. Helms and Associates will be paid after a line of credit is set up for the CDBG and the funds are released. A bill from JHC for welding done on the Snow Plow truck will be paid this month but added to April's A/P. Motion Carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Badger Meter fees Wtr

\$115.70; Community Store supplies CC \$26.56; D. Bruns supplies Gen'I/FO \$48.06; D. Bruns wage CC \$134.83; D. Bruns wage FO \$1282.17; FDC econ dev Econ Dev \$1200: FU Oil Co propane EBL/Mun Bldg \$1381.19; G. Schlosser wage+mileage Gen'l \$198.37; GDI legals Gen'l \$64.36; Helms & Assoc delay payment WWP; JVT phones, services Gen'l/ EBL/FO/Wtr \$298.72; M. Heine wage FO \$854.24; M. Cox wage EBL \$436.13; MDU elect Sts/ Mun Bldg/SP/BP/EBL/Wtr/Swr \$1527.52; Menard's supplies CC \$31.24; R. Bakeberg Veh allow Sts/Wtr/Swr \$75; R. Bakeberg wage Sts/Wtr/Swr \$273.09; R.S. Campbell wage+mileage Gen'l \$290.72: SD Assn Twins & Twnshps dues Gen'l \$214.75: SD Dept of Rev lab Wtr \$30; SD Dept of Rev Sales Tax Garb \$71.72; Sr Nut Prog Contri-bution Gen'l \$500; T. Millard wage+mileage Gen'l \$198.37 USDA-RD AP Wtr Rpr Loan \$475; USPS stamps Wtr/Garb/ Swr \$110; WEB Water 448,400 gallons Wtr \$2406.60. Adjusted Total March A/P \$12,242.34.

In OLD BUSINESS, UT Mgr Bakeberg's Utility Report mentioned the pump at the Water Tower is still running. President Cox said Emma Burnham Library has 2 new board members. Terri Raleigh and Ashley Gunther, approved by the EBL Board. Frederick's Board approval was added to New Business. Cox and Gunther will attend a Reading Program to help establish a Summer Reading Program at the EBL for children. There was no representation from the Historical Society and no needs from the Frederick Development Corporation.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS in-

at again this Spring. The Credit Card app was filled out with Chairman Campbell and Finance Officer Bruns names on it and a credit limit of \$1000. The card was approved in January. A new printer may be needed in the Finance Office and 1st National Bank may have one to use.

The Emerald Ash Disease was discussed and it is known that the Disease is inevitably going to reach the Ash trees in Simmons Park. This is the reason for the 4-year contract with Bower Tree Service of Frederick to remove a certain amount of Ash Trees each year and replace with a hearty tree of yet unknown species.

Alvssa Middleton and Al Lav ton were acknowledged and wondered what will be done about their frozen water problem. The Board and UT Mgr Bakeberg, advised them that they had been working on the problem most of the day and found a frozen value which they have been working on to thaw out. They have purchased materials for it. Chairman Campbell explained they will run a heat wrapped line from an empty FDC apartment to Middleton's to Layton's. Following questioning by Middleton, he said if they did not have the pressure they needed, they were welcome to shower in the empty apartment. When told it could be a month before it thawed out, Middleton wondered why it couldn't just be dug up. BM Millard explained that the city must look out for all townspeople including the taxes they pay and can't take the 1st invasive approach to address the issues. "We are doing what we can under tight constraints to resolve this issue." The Board apologized for the issue and they are working hard to get it fixed. NOTE: If you notice your water running brown, it could be a sign your line is about to freeze! Take precautions and have water on hand.

NEW BUSINESS included; No election will be held as only one petition was taken out by Gary Schlosser for Board Member. He will receive the Oath of Office for a 3-year term in May.

The Brown County Association of Towns and Townships meeting is Monday evening, March 11th, in the Brown County Courthouse basement.

The Brown County Equalization meeting is also in the courthouse basement on Tuesday, March 12th at 1 PM.

Equalization Week is March 18-22 with meetings in the Frederick Community Center on Monday, March 18, at 7 PM, and Friday, March 22, at 7 PM, for grievances which need to be received by March 16th.

The Brown County Risk map showing where possible flooding could occur was available to examine from FEMA. The Maple River was not listed. A place to look for flood info is https:// www.fema.gov/floodplains-andwildlife-conservation.

A motion was made to approve the appointments of Terri Rawleigh and Ashley Gunther as new Emma Burnham Library Board Members. Motion was made by TM/GS. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENSE was about checking into a Text Alert type of messages between the citizens and Town of Frederick for warnings and notices. FO will check out pricing.

It also included "Paint SD 2019" from SD Housing Dev Authority offering an opportunity for a group of volunteers to offer the painting of local homes with SDHDA suppling paint and primer. Applications must be in by April 12th. There was information about Floodplains and Wildlife Conservation. The Board discussed mitigation if flooding does occur in our area. A large pump was secured during the conversation to use should we need to pump water from the Lagoon. The gauge to the Maple River is also under constant surveillance. The 2018 Frederick Water Report from DENR was available to look at during the meeting and is also available in the Finance Office for viewing. The April meeting will be held the second Monday of April, the 8th, instead of 1st Monday due to arrival of bills. It was questioned if the city is looking to sell a small tractor. It may be surplused at another time. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by GS/ TM. Motion Carried. Diane Bruns, Frederick Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$69.94. 17314

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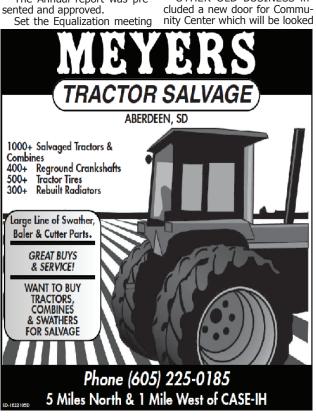
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## **Groton School** March 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

OF BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DIS-

TRICT NO. 06-6 REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2019

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Fjelstad, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals B. Schwan and Sombke, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclo-sure reported.

Moved by Harder, second Rix to approve all consent agenda items as presented: North Central Special Ed Coop agenda items, District minutes of February 11, bills, financial reports, agency reports, transportation and lunch reports, public school exemptions #19-14 and #19-15 and open enrollments #19-22 and #19-23. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary 180,837.19; FIT - 16,720.51; Medicare – 6,790.94; FICA 29,037.10; American Funds 542.80; Washington National - 98.40; SDRS - 29,312.94; HAS Contribution - 100.00; Waddell & Reed - 1,440.00; Horace Mann – 1,011.61; Thrivent – 228.90; AFLAC – 3,051.02; Delta Dental - 3,898.40; SD Supplemental Retirement - 981.19; Wellmark – 59,976.00; Reliastar Life – 742.68; Avesis Vision – 240.78; Ace Refrigeration – repairs, 326.40; Acme Tools – drill bit, 28.00; Advance Auto Parts - shop supplies, 218.21; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 37,944.67; American Solutions – lamination, 757.96; Cintas – cleaning, 607.87; Cole Papers paper, 153.00; Days Inn RC lodging, 1,200.00; Days Inn SF - lodging, 125.00; Decker locker part, 93.75; Dependable Sanitation – garbage, 1,238.00; Farnams – parts, 695.92; Geffdog - shirts, 1,064.46; Gonsoir, Kristen – meals, 32.93; Groton Area - NSF fee, 10.00; Groton Chiropractic – physical, 95.00; Groton Daily Independent – printing, 179.17; Helvig, Aaron expenses, 31.32; JW Pepper music, 836.33; Jeff's District sewer repairs, 321.00; Landig Music – music arrangement, 1,365.00; Matheson Tri-Gas – supplies, 22.25; North Central Special Ed Coop – local share, 5,000.00; Northside Implement parts, repairs, 599.14; North-

western Energy – natural gas, 8,255.79; Petty Cash, Amanda Morehouse – postage, 159.73; Quality Inn – lodging, 336.00; SDECE Conference - registration,

115.00; SDHSAA - rule books, 164.00; Cody Swanson - supplies, 33.22; Taylor Music – supplies, repairs, 109.46; Walker's Flower Shop – corsages, 32.00; Walmart Community - supplies, 315.00. Total General Fund \$397,476.04

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business - managed print agreement, 1,658.04; Agency Fund advanced pays, 1,590.09; Graphic Edge - water bottles, 1,338.56; Sweetwater – music equipment, 3,074.00; Turning Technologies – Ag Ed exams, 99.99. Total Capital Outlay

\$7,760.68. SPECIAL ED: Net Salary – 28,421.38; FIT – 2,139.72; Medicare – 1,047.12; FICA – 4,477.24; SDRS – 4,569.66; Waddell & Reed – 200.00; AFLAC - 774.68; Delta Dental – 707.34; SD Supplemental Retirement 100.00; Wellmark – 10,057.00; Reliastar Life – 192.37; Avesis Vision – 53.45; Agency Fund – advanced pay, 70.18; Avera St. Luke's – PT/OT, 7,173.00; North Central Special Ed Coop - local share, 29,570.58; Judy or Gene Williamson – mileage, 529.20. Total Special Ed - \$90,082.92.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary – 5,824.52; FIT 369.73; Medicare – 207.14; FICA – 885.64; SDRS – 637.70; AFLAC – 234.12; Wellmark – 1,526.00; Reliastar Life - 3.84; Avesis Vision – 53.33; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 203.09; Cintas - cleaning, 221.13; CWD

food, 1,977.97; Dean Foods – milk, 830.41; Earthgrains – food, 157.68; Reinhart – food, 3,521.70; SD Dept of Ed food, 892.98; SNA - registration, 48.00; US Foods – food, 3,307.78. Total Food Service 3,307.78. Total Food Service – \$20,902.76. OST Net Salary – 1,921.84; FIT – 119.02; Medi-care – 68.08; FICA – 291.08; SDRS – 224.88; AFLAC – 163.93; Wellmark - 671.00; Reliastar Life – 16.92; Agency Fund advanced pays, 350.63; CWD – snacks, 371.66. Total OST - \$4,199.04. Total Enterprise Funds - \$25,101.80.

AGENCY FUND: Total \$58,736.23.

**RECEIPTS:** Local Sources Taxes - 115,170.28; Other Local Sources - 119,221.71; County Sources - 2,154.26; State Sources - 48,759.77; Federal Sources - 32,595.13; Total Receipts \$317,901.15.

Members of the public were allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members present to speak, the board proceeded with their remaining agenda items.

Shaun Wanner introduced his student teacher Mitchell Holler, who then stayed for the remainder of the board meeting.

Building, Ground and Transportation committee members reviewed capital outlay projects at their first meeting on the 2019-20 school district budget. Superintendent Schwan pre-

sented a list of snow days affecting the 2018-19 school calendar. Administrators will survey staff to see if Easter Monday, April 22nd might be amended as a day in session rather than a day not in session. No action was taken.

Superintendent Schwan discussed potential structure changes to the North Central Special Education Cooperative. The changes would transfer Fiscal Agent duties from Groton Area School Board to the appointed nine-member Governance Board. No action was taken

The following topics were addressed in administrative reports: legislative session update, NSU Teacher Job Fair, Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Athletic Director Conference, Homecoming 2019 on September 20th, Math Family Game Night, Kindergarten Roundup and Visitation, teacher evaluations, Civil Rights data, NAEP Assessment, marter Balanced testing dates, Spread the Word to End the Word Assembly, E-Learning and Dual Credit Registration, election update, ASBSD Protective Trust Insurance meeting March 26th, work comp audit March 28th and Ellendale to Big Stone electrical

line update. The board reviewed SD Department of Health Food Service Inspections of Groton Area Elementary and Groton Area High School. Each facility received

a rating of 99 out of a possible 100.

Moved by Weismantel, second Gengerke to approve resignation/retirement of HS Counselor, Jodi Sternhagen, effective at the end of the 2018-19 contract with summer checks paid in June. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Rix to approve resignation of Head Boys Basketball coach Justin Hanson. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Weismantel to approve resignation of Assistant Boys Basketball coach Nick Strom. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Fjelstad to approve signed administrative contracts for 2019-20. Motion carried

Moved by Gengerke, second Weismantel to go into executive session at 8:15 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel including Superintendent Evaluation and SDCL 1-25-2(4) for negotiations. Motion carriéd.

President Smith declared the board out of executive session at 8:55 pm.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to adjourn. Motion carried. M. J. Weber, Business Man-

ager

Steven R. Smith, President The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$87.64. 17315

MONTHLY DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 06-6

	General Fund	Restricted Gen Funds	Capital Outlay	Special Education	Pension Fund	Bond Redemption	Capital Projects	Enterprise Fund	Agency Fund	Total for District
1. Beginning Balance	897,628.74	32,052.21	489,434.08	12,306.23	0.00	134,552.63	1,314,764.45	48,128.70	247,806.64	3,176,673.68
a. cash	897,628.74	32,052.21	489,434.08	12,306.23	0.00	134,552.63	1,314,764.45	48,128.70	247,806.64	3,176,673.68
b. petty cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Transfers in										
3. Revenue to date	2,867,731.90	0.00	861,825.63	520,615.01	580.70	123,757.08	0.00	196,348.83	610,205.51	5,181,064.66
4. Total accounted for	3,765,360.64	32,052.21	1,351,259.71	532,921.24	580.70	258,309.71	1,314,764.45	244,477.53	858,012.15	8,357,738.34
5. Transfers out										
6. Expenditures to date	2,841,077.35	0.00	1,174,714.26	418,316.36	0.00	210,266.25	295,932.50	204,101.27	651,979.07	5,796,387.06
a. encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. disbursements	2,841,077.35	0.00	1,174,714.26	418,316.36	0.00	210,266.25	295,932.50	204,101.27	651,979.07	5,796,387.06
7. Ending Balance	924,283.29	32,052.21	176,545.45	114,604.88	580.70	48,043.46	1,018,831.95	40,376.26	206,233.08	2,561,551.28
a. checking	924,283.29	32,052.21	176,545.45	114,604.88	580.70	48,043.46	1,018,831.95	40,376.26	206,033.08	2,561,351.28
b. petty cash	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
February Receipts	142,855.50	0.00	40,518.32	21,712.89	1.34	2,486.25	0.00	24,508.62	85,818.23	317,901.15
February Expenses	377,384.06	0.00	3,713.15	59,578.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,060.73	58,273.23	529,009.34
Agency Checking	206,033.08									
District Checking	2,355,318.20									
Certificate of Deposit	0.00									
Agency Cash on Hand	200.00									
Total all Funds	2,561,551.28									

# EARTHTAL Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard that China and other nations have gone gangbusters with reforestation projects that are ambitious enough to have a significant impact on cutting carbon emissions. Why aren't we also doing this here in the U.S.? -- Mickie Infurcia, Hamden, CT

A recent Boston University (BU) study tracking satellite data of vegetation coverage found that the world is indeed getting greener overall, largely thanks to an ambitious reforestation program underway in China.

"China alone accounts for 25 percent of the global net increase in leaf area with only 6.6 percent of global vegetated area," says lead researcher Chi Chen of BU's Department of Earth and Environment. "This is equal to the net greening in the three largest countries, Russia, the United States and Canada, that together hold 31 percent of the global vegetated area." China's reforestation efforts date back to the 1970s when the government started requiring every citizen over age 11 to plant at least three saplings every year to augment official government-backed reforestation projects. The result has been the planting of some 66 billion trees across some 12,000 miles of Northern China over the last few decades, with the so-called "Great Green Wall of China" expected to snake along some 2,800 continuous miles by 2050. China isn't the only country hell-bent on reforestation. Pakistan embarked on its Billion Tree Tsunami campaign in 2014 and is well on its way of achieving its goal of restoring healthy forests to some 350,000 hectares of degraded land. Meanwhile, Australia's "20 Million Trees Program" aims to re-establish green corridors and urban forests across the country while mitigating climate impacts by facilitating the planting of 20 million trees by 2020. Another major reforestation effort with global impact is happening in Brazil, where the non-profit Conservation International is helping restore 30,000 of the hardest hit hectares across the so-called "arc of deforestation" in the Amazon rainforest as a key part of that country's Paris climate agreement goal of reforesting 12 million hectares by 2030.

# **Reforestation Projects**





Here in the U.S., our forebears chopped down practically every tree

### Caption: China, Australia, Pakistan, Brazil and other countries have undertaken massive reforestation campaigns, but the United States? Not so much. Credit: Garrat, FlickrCC.

they could until around 1920, but then we started to regain some of the lost tree cover over the next 40 years as abandoned farms reverted back to forest. Since then, we are barely net positive in forest cover as tree planting campaigns by the U.S. Forest Service and the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation have made up for losses from development and logging. That said, increased reforestation is not a major part of American efforts to meet climate mitigation targets given more practical ways we can achieve quicker overall emissions reductions.

Beyond the U.S., though, there is still lots of "low-hanging fruit" around the world in the form of other areas that would be good candidates for reforestation. The non-profit World Resources Institute (WRI) maintains the Atlas of Forest & Landscape Restoration Opportunities, which includes global overlay maps on current forest coverage, potential forest coverage, forest condition and human pressure on forest landscapes. According to WRI, upwards of two billion hectares of degraded or logged over forest lands around the world are ripe for restoration work if only we can muster the political will to make it happen.

Groton Independent  $\diamond$  Wed., March 20, 2019  $\diamond$  7



# The Life of Eunice Alberts

Services for Eunice Alberts, 86, of Groton were held Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. The Rev. Charlie Bunk officiated. Burial followed at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Eunice passed away Monday, March 11, 2019 at her home.

Eunice Marion was born on June 24, 1932 at home in Andover to Charlie and Gertrude (Kraai) Hein. She was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Andover. Eunice attended rural school in Day County until the 6th grade, when the family moved to a different farm. The youngest daughter and 6 years younger than her brother Howard, she became the "pet" of her older brothers and they affectionately nicknamed her "Tootie". She graduated with honors from Andover High School in 1950. She continued her education at Northern State Teachers College where she earned her teaching degree. Eunice taught school in the communities of Wheaton, MN, Pierre and Aberdeen. Eunice was united in marriage to Raymond Alberts on March 4, 1962 in Andover and together they were blessed with two daughters. Eunice enjoyed farm life, helping with the chickens, gardening, canning and freezing her harvest. Eunice and Ray could be seen at almost every auction sale in the area. Family genealogy was a particular interest and Eunice spent much time tracking family history, composing family history books and scrapbooking. Eunice returned to Northern State to renew her teaching certificate. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education on August 1, 1980.

Eunice was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, where she was active with WELCA. She served on several boards, including President of Northern Plains Conference, Secretary of Mission Action and SD Syndical Board. Eunice volunteered as a 4-H leader for ten years and as Secretary for the Summer

Festival and Brown County Fair Board. She also belonged to the Groton American Legion Auxiliary and Putney Ladies Aid for many years. Celebrating her life are her daughters, Karen (Scott) Phillips of Colton, Diane (Dean) Heimann of Omaha, NE, grandchildren: Patrick Phillips, Kevin Phillips, Emily Heimann, Nathaniel Heimann and Raymond Phillips.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Raymond in 2015, brothers Jerauld Hein, Bob Hein, Howard Hein, Chuck Hein and sister Christine.

Honorary Casketbearers were Karl Alberts, Ka Alberts, Linda Gengerke, Mary Ann Thompson, Judy Thompson, Carol Osterman, Sherry Zoellner, Emily Heimann and Ella Johnson.

Casketbearers were Patrick Phillips, Kevin Phillips, Raymond Phillips, Nathaniel Heimann, Scott Phillips, Dean Heimann and Wayne Hein.

#### SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

A school land lease auction will be held at the Brown County Courthouse Annex (Community Room) in Aberdeen, SD on March 28, 2019 at 10:00AM (CT). A list of tracts available for lease may be obtained at the Brown County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-5070 or phone (605)773-3303. You may also visit the SPL website at www.sdpubliclands.

com. Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements. (0227.0320)

Published four times at the approximate cost of \$



# The Life of Donald Protas

Services for Donald Protas, 74, of Groton will be 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2019 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Paul Kosel will officiate. Burial will follow at a later date in Union Cemetery, Groton. Military honors will be provided by the Groton American Legion Post #39.

Donald passed away March 16, 2019 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center after a four year battle with lung cancer, due to exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Donald James was born on July 28, 1944 in Buffalo, New York to Adam and Mary (Rbyarczyk) Protas along with a twin brother, Dennis.

After high school graduation, he enlisted in the US Army serving his country as an Infantry man in Germany and Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division. Don earned various awards, including the Bronze

Star and Army Commendation Medals. After his honorable discharge, he worked for the US Postal Service in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Preceeding him in death were his parents, his twin brother, Dennis, an older brother, Adam and sister, Virginia.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Deb (Herron) Protas of Groton, three sons: Michael of Aberdeen, Scott of Seneca, NY, and Philip of Springfield, VT. Don is also survived by his six grandchildren: Breven, Chase, Caitlyn, Leah, Josie and Laurana.

Casketbearers will be Steve Herron, Terry Herron, Dennis Nelson and Mike Becker.

**Red Horse delivers senior meals during blizzard** Beverly McGannon posted this on her facebook page: A big high-five to the Red Horse Café. Lisa and Darren called all of the senior citizens to see if they wanted a senior meal delivered today. I would've never dreamt of asking them to in this weather. They made hamburgers french fries and ice cream and delivered to everyone who wanted it and couldn't get to the café. That's what small-town living is all about. Darren had to go through with the big drift the snow plow left out in front, over his knees to get to my door and it was probably worse other



places. Thank you thank you. Hi, my name is B

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Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!