

Groton Area School ballots are now ready in the HS Business Office for absentee voting.

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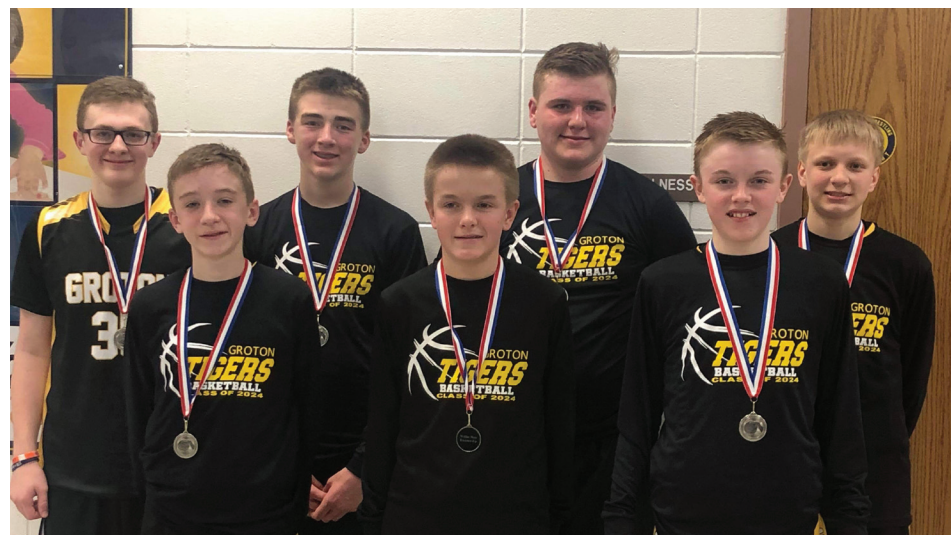
Vol. 136 No. 31 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, March 27, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889



Area Girls' State

Back row : left to right : Sponsored by Claremont Legion Auxiliary Post #262- Kayla Jensen, Sponsored by Groton Legion Auxiliary Post #39- Kim Kohrs, Sponsored by Groton Legion Auxiliary Post #39-Ashley Flihs, and Sponsored by Columbia Legion Auxiliary Post #58-KaSandra Pappas

Front row: left to right : Sponsored by Columbia Legion Auxiliary Post #58-Rylee Rosenau, Sponsored by Groton Legion Auxiliary Post #39-Payton Colestock, and Sponsored by Pierpont Legion Auxiliary Post #99- Caitlynn Barse and missing from picture Sponsored by Groton Legion Auxiliary Post #39-Nicole Marzahnn.



2nd place at Willie Mac for the 7th grade boys

Back row: Holden Sippel, Colby Dunker, Logan Ringgenberg, Jacob Zak.

Front row: Braxton Imrie, Dillon Abeln, Lane Tietz. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)



Fourth Grade Legion Auxiliary

Americanism essay/poetry winners
4th grade place winners for the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism essay and poetry contest through Groton and Columbia Auxiliary units.

Dylan McGannon 2nd place poetry Columbia Unit, Jayden Helvig 1st place poetry Groton Unit, Teagan Hanten 1st place poetry Columbia Unit, Halee Harder 1st place essay Columbia Unit, Kira Clocksene 1st place essay Groton Unit, and Caroline Bahr 2nd place poetry Groton Unit. (Courtesy photo)



Middle School Legion Auxiliary Essay and Poetry Winners

Middle School place winners of the American Legion Auxiliary essay and poetry contest through the Groton and Columbia American Legion Auxiliary Units.

Back row: Tate Larson 1st place essay Groton Unit, Jacob Lewendowski 2nd place essay Groton Unit, Colby Dunker overall winner Groton unit, Andrew Marzahnn 2nd place essay Columbia Unit, Lexi Osterman 2nd place essay Groton Unit

Middle row: Emma Kutter 2nd place essay Groton Unit, Alexis Geffre 1st place poetry Groton Unit, Payton Mitchell 2nd place poetry Columbia Unit, Rebecca Poor 2nd place poetry Groton Unit, Gretchen Dinger 1st place essay Groton Unit, Ellie Weismantel overall winner Columbia unit

Front row: Kayla Lehr 1st place poetry Columbia Unit, Abby Jensen 2nd place essay Columbia Unit, and Hannah Monson, 1st place Columbia Unit.

Missing Logan Pearson 1st place essay Groton Unit. (Courtesy photo)

Last day of school is May 22

The last day of school will be Wednesday, May 22nd, with staff inservice on May 23-24. Easter Monday will remain a no-school day. During the discussion of the final day of school, Superintendent Joe Schwan recommended that the final day be May 24th with teacher inservice May 28-29. Board Member Deb Gengerke questioned on extending the school year that much. "It's financial cost versus benefit," she said. "We're still running buses and we're still serving lunch. In my mind, it's quality versus quantity." Schwan said when the calendar was adopted, the district had 33 days over the minimum requirement for the elementary school and 16 days over the minimum for the middle/high school. The senior's last day is Friday, May 10. The original last day of school was May 16, so only four days will be made up.

There are two major projects that will cost the district about \$250,000. The first is replacing the boiler in the 1934 addition. It needs to be replaced. The board accepted a proposal from Obermiller Nelson Engineering for the project. They are the same ones who did the elementary project. The new boiler would need the ability to be retubed from steam to hot water in the event it gets moved to the gym area. The second project is tuck pointing at the elementary school.

Continues on back page

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163-mile Big Stone South to Ellendale Transmission Line energized

Big Stone City, South Dakota, March 21, 2019: On February 5 crews from co-owners Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities, Co., energized the 163-mile, 345-kV Big Stone South-Ellendale (BSSE) Transmission Line after eight years of planning and three years of construction. The \$215 million line extends from the Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, to the Ellendale Substation near Ellendale, North Dakota.

"The team completed construction on time, under budget, and with a stellar safety record," said Project Manager Al Koeckeritz from Otter Tail Power Company. "I'd like to extend a special thanks to communities and residents throughout the project area. Your partnership has brought us to the finish line. Thank you."

The project is one of 16 multi-value projects approved by the Mid-continent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and state regulatory agencies. "This portfolio was designed to improve reliability of the electric system and increase system capacity to address growth in demand, support public policy by enabling renewable energy to be integrated into the system, and boost regional economies by creating jobs, supporting local businesses, and contributing taxes," said Otter Tail Power Company President Tim Rogelstad. "Congratulations to the project team and all those who touched this project."

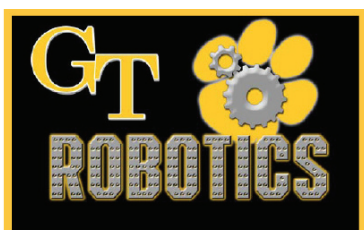
The project used local and regional contractors, including Webster-based Webster Scale, Inc.; Rapid City-based Brink Constructors, Inc.; and Sioux Falls-based Jacobsen Tree Experts.

High-voltage transmission lines, such as BSSE, allow access to diverse generation resources in a large geographic area. As the Regional Transmission Organization, MISO manages these high-voltage transmission lines and dispatches—or balances—generation resources to ensure all customers within MISO's 15-state footprint receive the reliable energy they need with the most cost-effective mix of resources available. MISO cost-allocation mechanisms allow recovering project costs from all customers who benefit from the line, so Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota customers will pay less than one percent of the project costs.



Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden Club met at the Groton Rehab Center with Eunice McColister and Pam Rix hosting. Vice president, Marg Overacker opened the meeting leading the pledge. Nine members answered roll call. National Garden club will be held June 2-8. The state meeting will be held June 8 in Sioux Falls. Next meeting will be at Groton Rehab Center at 5:30 p.m. on April 15 with Pat Larson and Eunice McColister hosting and Linda Gengerke giving the program. Following the meeting Linda Gengerke gave the program on "New and Improved varieties of Old Favorite." She showed pictures of old toy trucks filled with succulents.



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Groton Coffee Cup

March 19 Team Standings: James Valley 29 champions, Biker Chix 27, Kens 26, Ten Pins 22.

High Games: Mary Jane Jark 189, 182; Vickie Kramp 169, 166; Nancy Radke 165.

High Series: Mary Jane Jark 483, Vickie Kramp 478, Sue Carlson 456

Conde National League

March 20 Team Standings: Pirates 28½, Cubs 22, Giants 22, Braves 21½, Tigers 21, Mets 17.

Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 194; Collin Cady 193, 191, 185; Russ Bethke 193, 182; Lance Frohling 173.

Men's High Series: Collin Cady 569, Russ Bethke 523, Butch Farmen 515.

Women's High Games: Sandy Hoops 181, Mary Larson 179, Kayla Johnson 169.

Women's High Series: Mary Larson 476, Vickie Kramp 445, Sandy Hoops 431.

Groton Prairie Mixed

March 21 Team Standings: Foxes 49 ½ Cheetahs 47, Coyotes 45, Shih Tzus 37 ½ Jackelopes 32, Chipmunks 29.

Men's High Games: Roger Colestock 209, 202, Brad Larson 204, Doug Jorgensen 203, 201

Women's High Games: Karen Spanier 183, Brenda Madsen 168, Sue Stanley 161

Men's High Series: Doug Jorgensen 588, Roger Colestock 567, Brad Waage 538

Women's High Series: Nicole Kassube 460, Karen Spanier 450, Vicki Walter, Sue Stanley 410

Complaints Filed Seek Revocation of Law Enforcement Certifications

Pierre, SD (March 21th, 2019) – Four sworn complaints were recently filed with the South Dakota Attorney General's Office Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training Commission seeking the immediate and permanent revocation of law enforcement certifications of Brown County Sheriff Mark Milbrandt (R), Brown County Chief Deputy David Lunzman (R), former Brown County Deputy Ross Erickson, and recently hired Madison police officer Mathew Wollman (R).

The Commission made news in December 2018 when it charged and subsequently revoked Marshall County's Sheriff Dale Elsen's (D) SD law enforcement certification for making inappropriate sexual comments. In December 2017, a U.S. Court judge awarded former DCI Special Agent Laura Kaiser over \$1.5 Million in damages and costs against the state of South Dakota in a verdict stemming from sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation suffered by Kaiser while working jointly with the Brown County Sheriff's Office. Governor Noem's 2018 Republican primary win over former Attorney General Marty Jackley is credited by many to Noem's negative campaign TV ads in which Noem used the Kaiser court judgement to mock Jackley being tough on crime and attacked Jackley for dismissing and ignoring Kaiser's complaints. Despite these facts, neither the Commission nor Governor Noem filed complaints with the Commission to address the notorious illegal and unethical conduct of the offending officers who cost the state of South Dakota over \$1.5 Million.

The Commission was the subject of recent Legislative hearings in SB127. Legislators and former law enforcement officers expressed concerns publicly and in private that there appears to be a double set of standards in how the Commission deals with persons who are politically connected.

"The illegal actions highlighted in these four filed complaints make the misconduct Sheriff Elsen's was accused of, pale in comparison." Said Senator Stace Nelson (R-Fulton) who filed the complaints. "There is nothing worse in law enforcement than bad cops. Allowing people who have been proven to be dishonest and unethical, to remain in authority over the public as law enforcement officers, defeats the whole purpose of the Commission and is a massive failure to protect South Dakotans." South Dakota has witnessed some significant criminal cases involving law enforcement officers in the news over the last several years. Some are concerned that it is a symptom of failings in our Commission to police the police and of ensuring SD's law enforcement employment standards are properly adhered to. "We have a new Attorney General with Jason Ravensborg and the Commission under him will be staffed with his new appointments. We briefly discussed concerns about these problems and he expressed willingness to review the Commission to see where it can be improved upon to ensure efficient, fair, and consistent high law enforcement standards of conduct are being equally enforced across South Dakota."

Senator Nelson is a retired NCIS federal agent, and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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Stressed farmers face continuing economic decline

By: Bart Pfankuch

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch. Find more in-depth reporting at www.sdnewswatch.org.

A 5-year slide in the agricultural economy in South Dakota and across the Great Plains has left many producers operating at a loss and is putting some in jeopardy of losing their farms.

A major decline in most commodity prices is the primary cause of the losses, but extended drought and recent flooding combined with a lingering trade war with China and other importers have added to the financial and emotional stress on farmers and ranchers.

Some producers are reducing family living expenses, delaying building repairs or equipment purchases or even selling assets to stay solvent. Recent government reports have highlighted a rise in farm bankruptcies in the Midwest and point to growing concerns over depression among farmers that can lead to suicide.

U.S. Department of Agriculture data show that net farm income — essentially a farmer's take-home pay — is down significantly in all Great Plains states from 2013 to 2017 and that total cash receipts for agricultural products trended downward as well.

Scott VanderWal, a farmer from Volga who is president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation and a vice president of the American Farm Bureau, said farmers and ranchers in South Dakota are reeling from the slow but steady decrease in income.

"We're really in the fifth year of declining equity for farmers and ranchers," VanderWal said. "We're at the position where there isn't an ag commodity that has made any money in the past five years."

In the short term, the downward trend is exerting high stress on farmers and their families and forcing many to make tough financial choices. The overall state economy, including sales tax collections that fund most government services, will take a hit, VanderWal said.

"It's going to be hard on everybody, and it will be hard on Main Street," VanderWal said. "Chemicals, feed, equipment, groceries, all the places farmers go to town to spend money, when times are bad, we don't go spend that money."

But a larger, longer-term worry hovers over the depressed farm economy.

According to VanderWal and others, if things don't bounce back, the potential long-range impacts could alter South Dakota agriculture at a fundamental level for generations years to come.

The extended downturn could cause more farmers, ranchers and dairy operators to declare bankruptcy. Older farmers may cash out and leave the industry while they still have some land and equipment equity remaining. Younger producers with limited equity may not be able to sustain losses and could get out of farming. Potential new entrants into the industry may choose another career option if they don't see a path to profitability.

Ultimately, the potential exists that corporate or foreign interests may buy up farms and turn families that were once landowners into contract employees who farm the land but don't have the stability or commitment to stewardship that follows ownership.

"Whether it's five years or 10 years, it's very serious and we could have fewer family farms in the end," said Jerry Runia, 60, who farms and ranches near Estelline in Hamlin County. "We want to keep this a rural state, and if it changes like that, I think it affects everybody."

Right now, people trust family farmers. In the future, will you trust whatever owner-investor is running it?"



Cattle are part of the lifeblood of the Bar Bell Ranch run by Josh Geigle and his father on their property 15 miles north of Wall. Financial hurdles challenge the Geigles and other South Dakota ag producers. Photo: Bart Pfankuch

Incomes fall, stresses rise

Both big-picture data sets and individual balance sheets show the depth of the economic crisis in agriculture.

The overall net farm income in South Dakota — the money left over for the state's 31,000 farmers after they pay all expenses — has been mostly on a steadily decline over the past five years.

According to data from the USDA, net farm income in South Dakota fell 61 percent during that five years, from \$3.7 billion in 2013 to just \$1.4 billion in 2017. Net income fell by 68 percent from the peak year of 2011, when it was \$4.5 billion.

As a result, the state saw its national ranking in net farm income fall from ninth in 2013 to 19th in 2017.

Meanwhile, the number of farms in South Dakota and across the Great Plains remains in steady decline. The Rushmore State had 36,250 operating farms in 1985, about 32,000 farms in 2013 and fewer than 31,000 in 2017. North Dakota lost about 2,000 farms from 2008 to 2017.

Debt service and capital payments to lenders was the top expense for South Dakota farmers in 2017 at \$1.2 billion, ahead of seed purchases (\$916 million), fertilizer (\$792 million), miscellaneous costs (\$789 million) and livestock purchases (\$750 million).

Reduced revenues and rising expenses are a bad combination for the balance sheet of individual farmers, according to Nate Franzen, president of the Agri-Business Division at First Dakota National Bank in Yankton.

For nearly 20 years, Franzen and his colleagues have tracked the profitability of the bank's agricultural borrowers. For a long time, the worst year was 2002 when 64 percent of farmers made a

profit and 36 percent lost money, Franzen said. The peak in profits came amid soaring commodity prices in 2012 when 93 percent of farmers operated in the black.

Since then, the losses have mounted for many producers and Franzen's recent profitability reports have all been worse than the former low point in 2002.

"These last four years, we ranged from 52 percent making money to 63 percent making money," Franzen said. "Basically, invert that and over the last four years, we've had anywhere from 48 percent to 37 percent losing money."

The current downward trend is different, and perhaps more vexing, than the farm crisis in the 1980s that quickly led to foreclosures and bankruptcies due to a simultaneous crash in prices and spike in loan rates, Franzen said.

"This time it's a grind, it's happening slowly," he said. "They lost money in 2012 or 2013, and it wasn't a complete disaster, but in 2014, 2015 and 2016, they lost a little more each year."

The slow slide has caused some producers to make drastic choices, Franzen said. Some have sold off land or equipment to raise money quickly. Others have divested of one form of farming or one part of their operation that isn't as profitable or isn't their specialty. And a few, especially those near the end of their careers, are making the hardest choice of all.

"It's a grind where they're whittling away at their equity to where some are saying, enough is enough, and they're getting out completely," Franzen said.

Outside of their families, the most critical personal relationship for many South Dakota farmers and ranchers is with their banker.

In most cases, producers must approach their lender every year to get operating loans of \$100,000 or even \$500,000 or more in order to finance their farm operations for the coming year. That money is owed with interest at year's end, and if a producer wants to make a profit, they must generate enough revenue to cover the loan and have money left over. The economic dance has been going on for generations and is one that both sides rely on to keep their businesses in the black.

Producers are asked to present a detailed business plan for the coming year to justify the size of their loan or line of credit.

Franzen said he and other bankers are sympathetic to the economic downturn but must also keep a close eye on borrowers and their habits to ensure loans are paid back. Franzen said his institution strives for consistency in how it treats customers and approach their loan requests in good times or bad. But he acknowledged that in hard times, bankers must use more scrutiny, eyeing expenses such as planned

vacations or equipment purchases and sometimes suggesting that borrowers curtail spending or reduce family living expenses.

CASH FLOW FALLING FOR GREAT PLAINS FARMERS

This chart shows the total agricultural cash receipts for seven Great Plains states. Farm revenues jumped in the mid-2010s when prices and demand were high, but have fallen the past five years in all states. South Dakota sales dropped 11.8 percent from 2013 to 2017.

Farm cash receipts (in billions)

State	2008	2013	2017
Iowa	\$23.7	\$30.6	\$26.6
Minnesota	\$15.7	\$21.7	\$17.1
Montana	\$2.8	\$4.1	\$3.5
Nebraska	\$16.5	\$23.1	\$21.3
N. Dakota	\$6.9	\$8.8	\$7.8
S. Dakota	\$7.7	\$10.1	\$8.9
Wyoming	\$1.0	\$1.7	\$1.4

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

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"It probably feels like it to some people that banks are tightening up and asking for a lot more details and in some ways, we are looking at things more thoroughly and more deeply," Franzen said. "It's no different than any business. If times are good, it's easier to give bonuses or raises, and as soon as times toughen up, you have to tighten up your belt."

Franzen said critical components of producer success in South Dakota are a willingness to adapt and try new technologies or methodologies and the ability to create and execute a detailed, long-term business strategy.

"From farm to farm, one thing I often say is, 'We've got haves and have-nots in agriculture,'" Franzen said. "The haves have been really proactive in monitoring their positions and adapted, and they're doing fine and are making money in this environment. The have-nots expanded at the wrong time, they bought too much, they elevated their cost structure and they're having a hard time making money."



Josh Geigle, a South Dakota farmer and rancher from the Creighton area, north of Wall, S.D., tells of the "roller coaster" ride that many agricultural producers go on as they try to make ends meet. Photo by Bart Pfankuch

Planning for a tough future

Josh Geigle sees himself in the "have" category in Franzen's equation.

Geigle and his father raise cattle and grow winter wheat, safflower, corn and millet on about 3,900 acres of land known as the Bell Bar Ranch.

The farm lies in a small, wind-protected valley along Pleasant Ridge about 15 miles north of Wall in far eastern Pennington County.

Geigle and other farmers and ranchers across South Dakota knew they were in a boom period in the early 2010s and that the high prices for crops and cattle likely would not last, and they were right.

Geigle, who has about 150 to 160 breeding cows at any one time, has seen prices for new calves fall from a high of \$1,600 a head around 2013 to roughly \$1,000 or less per head now.

The financial challenges arise not only due to a loss in income, but because expenses to keep the farm going have increased, further cutting into net revenues.

"The biggest thing is that our expenses never go down," said Geigle, 39, a married father of three who sometimes gets help on the farm from his 5-year-old son Sully. "Your feed costs, fuel costs, fertilizer costs never go down, and they certainly have not followed the downward movement of the market."

Geigle and others try to cut back on expenses by forgoing a family vacation, scaling back on birthdays and holidays and putting off needed repairs to homes, barns or equipment. Yet there are some costs that cannot be cut, Geigle said.

"You can skip that family vacation but you can't skip buying fertilizer for your crop or you'll have low yield and it will cost you even more money," he said.

Geigle, who has a degree in agriculture systems from South Dakota State University, said there's a nagging stress that follows farmers

throughout the entire year. Most producers only receive one or two paychecks a year after harvests or cattle sales, and with constant variability in commodity prices, it is difficult to plan for expenses or know when to spend money to aid their farms or families.

"There's highs and lows. There's days you feel like you have the world by the tail and you can be really generous and maybe improve some equipment here or your barn here or your house there, and then there's days where you're going, 'Man, I don't know if we're going to have enough to make it through the end of the year...we maybe shouldn't have made those improvements to the house,'" Geigle said. "It's kind of a like a roller coaster or arguing with yourself all the time."

The most worrisome issues arise when – as with the current agricultural economy – prices fall or weather or other crises arise over a period of several years and producers cannot sustain the extended losses, Geigle said.

"If you come up \$10,000 short three or four years in a row, it's not that big of a deal," he said. "But if you're \$50,000 or \$60,000 short a few years in a row, you've got big troubles and the bankers will start to look hard at that."

The recent flooding that has left parts of eastern South Dakota and much of Nebraska awash in snowmelt and rainwater is a serious concern that could cause a short-term or long-term spike in financial losses or even bankruptcies.

"Some people are a crop failure away from not being able to cover loans," Geigle said.

Knowing that, Geigle said he dedicated himself this year to developing a 5-year plan for managing his herd in a new way in hopes of enhancing revenues and limited expenses. He said his banker was impressed and he had no trouble getting his annual six-figure line of credit.



Josh Geigle, who farms and ranches near Wall, discusses the personal decisions producers make in dealing with a poor agricultural economy. Photo by Bart Pfankuch

Sleepless nights, long days

Runia, of Estelline, has built up significant equity by farming the same land for 38 years. He runs breeding cattle, grows corn and soybeans and operates a feedlot with his son-in-law.

Still, even seasoned producers like Runia are suffering from the economic downturn.

"It's been a huge change in the last five years," Runia said. "You can just look at your books and see, where is my growth income, how far down has it been, and it's just been down, down, down."

On a recent day, Runia awoke at 3:30 a.m. and couldn't get back to sleep.

"It was stress," he said. "I was thinking about stuff, tossing and turning for an hour, and I could not get back to sleep."

Runia told his wife he was getting up and got into a loader and did some farm work until daybreak. After that, he did the rest of his daily chores and slept a little better the next night.

"It was one of those things where I had to physically do something to get away from that stress, from thinking about that stress," he said. "That's the day-to-day type of thing I'm dealing with, this whole worry and stress about things."

Overall, Runia is in a strong financial position, **Groton Independent** ♦ Wed., March 27, 2019 ♦ 5

but he has seen his long-term equity erode some during the extended downturn.

"I constantly tell myself, 'If I just pray more and turn it over to the Lord, it will help,'" Runia said. "It doesn't hurt, don't get me wrong. But it's still a reality you've got to deal with; it's real financial stress."

VanderWal, of the farm bureau, said such worry is not new to farmers, but has gotten worse for some producers in the past few years, especially as the average age of farmers continues to rise.

He said agriculture was booming while the overall American economy tanked during the Great Recession from 2008 to 2012. But when things bounced back in most sectors of the American economy, the nation's agricultural industry did not follow suit.

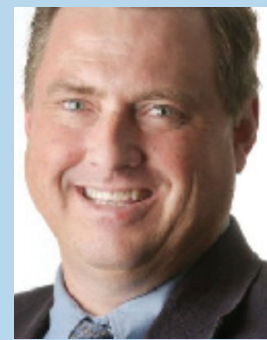
VanderWal has made it a mission to protect the future of farming. He recently flew to Wisconsin to attend a program that encourages young people to enter the industry. He has also traveled to Washington to push for emergency payments to help farmers endure the trade war. A top goal remains the expansion of future uses of South Dakota agricultural products and developing of new export markets in Asia, South America and elsewhere.

"You can't idle your way to prosperity, so we continue to try to get better all the time," VanderWal said.

In the meantime, ValderWal and other producers will keep their chins up and hold onto the belief that hard work, ingenuity and some luck will reverse the current negative economic trendlines.

"Farmers and ranchers by our very nature are very optimistic," he said. "Hopefully, we're getting toward the bottom and we'll take off again."

ABOUT BART PFANKUCH



Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal. Bart has spent almost 30 years as a reporter and editor.

Groton School Notice of Election

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

A School District Election will be held on April 9, 2019, in all the voting precincts in Groton Area School District No. 06-6. If the polls cannot be opened because of bad weather, the election may be postponed one week.

The election polls will be open from seven a.m. to seven p.m. central standard time on the day of the election.

At the election, the following offices will be voted upon:

Three, 3-year terms for school board member between:

Travis J. Harder
Clint Fjelstad
Tigh Fliehs
Deborah Gengerke

The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:
Andover Area Precinct #1, (which includes Andover Town, Andover Township and Farmington Township) – Andover Senior Center.

Bristol Area Precinct #2, (which includes Bristol Town, Butler Township, Lily Town, Bristol Township, Butler Township, Kidder Township, Lynn Township, Oak Gulch Township, Scotland Township, Troy Township, Union Township, Valley Township and York Township as well as Clark County residents in Warren Township) – Bristol Community Center.

Columbia Area Precinct #3, (which includes the City of Columbia, Brainerd Township #7, Shelby Township #8, Cambria Township #15, and Garland Township #46,) – Columbia Community Center

Groton Area Precinct #4, (which includes the City of Groton, Wards 1, 2, & 3, and Claremont Township #10, Riverside Township #16, Groton Township #17, Henry Township #18, Bath Township #19, Gem Township #24, East Hanson Township #25, Garden Prairie Township #26 East Rondell Township #27, Bates Township #44, Putney Township #48, and West Hanson Township #49 as well as Spink County residents in Beotia Township, Conde Township and Olean Township) – Groton Community Center.

Voters with disabilities may contact the business official for information and special assistance in absentee voting or polling place accessibility.

Michael J. Weber, Business Official

Groton Area School District
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$27.38. 17364

(2t. Mar 25 & Apr. 1, 2019)

Latex and Mylar Balloons
Groton Daily Independent
21 N Main
Downtown Groton
605-397-NEWS (6397)

Groton IRP
Electric Customers
Comments Needed
NOTICE OF SOLICITATION
OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

NOTICE is hereby given that Heartland Consumers Power District, on behalf of the City of Groton, is requesting written comments from the Customers of the Groton Municipal Electric System.

Comments can relate to: Current electric conservation measures that are being used in the City of Groton

Both power supply and energy conservation options for meeting the future electric needs of Groton

Offer ideas and promote the efficient use of electricity in Groton

This public solicitation for written comments is being conducted to comply with a federal regulation, which requires the City of Groton to seek public participation regarding the implementation of an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Groton must adopt an IRP in order to continue to receive its allocation of electric hydropower from Western Area Power Administration. Heartland Consumers Power District, one of Groton's power suppliers, is assisting with this project and will accept comments for 10 days following this notice.

Please send written comments to Heartland Consumers Power District, PO Box 248, Madison, SD 57042; Attn: Adam Graff. Heartland will also be accepting comments electronically via the email address, IRP@hcpd.com.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$16.98. 17356

Brown County
March 19, 2019
Meeting Minutes
MARCH 19, 2019 - GENERAL MEETING

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

MINUTES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the Brown County Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Payroll #6: Commission \$5,528.71; Auditor \$8,119.45; Treasurer \$13,584.18; States Attorney \$23,509.12; SVA-WA Grant \$1,389.40; Maintenance \$7,978.59; Assessor \$12,425.33; Register of Deeds \$8,771.39; Veterans Service Office \$4,458.05; GIS \$2,367.50;

Information Technology \$8,362.71; Human Resources \$1,243.61; Sheriff \$39,338.66; Jail \$53,341.24; Court Security \$6,384.61; JDC \$23,220.87; Welfare Office \$3,786.79; Museum \$8,397.44; Parks & Fairgrounds \$4,885.75; Fair Board \$3,869.65; 4-H \$576.12; Weed \$0.00; Planning and Zoning \$2,489.82; Highway \$61,194.35; Communications \$25,401.30; Emergency Management \$4,079.58; Teen Court \$665.28; 24/7 \$3,098.20; Landfill \$11,261.60. Matching Benefits: FICA \$20,787.09; Medicare \$4,861.56; HSA \$150.00; Health Insurance \$64,509.28; Dental Insurance \$3,779.28; Life Insurance \$585.14; SDRS \$21,373.49

Professional Fees: Avera Queen of Peace \$280.65; Avera St. Luke's \$65.35; Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$2,931.90; Best Western Ramkota - Aberdeen \$285.00; Ryan Dell \$1,673.20; Dependable Sanitation \$20,562.32; William Gerdes \$1,340.00; Interprecorps \$90.00; Mark Katterhagen \$18.00; Lucy Lewno \$170.00; Lincoln Co. Treasurer \$528.40; Darcy Lockwood \$18.00; Marco \$75.00; Jerald McNeary \$3,966.80; Pauer Sound \$78.00; Sanford Health \$183.75; SD Dept. of Health \$1,580.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$634,158.35; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$4,230.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$172.40; West Payment Center \$165.00.

Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$260.70; Friends of SD Public Broadcasting \$222.75; Glacial Lakes & Prairie Tourism \$155.00. Rentals: 446-Praxair \$25.40.

Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Area Radiator \$30.00; At Your Service Heating & Cooling \$4,590.92; Cintas \$285.72; DSG \$24.77; GCR Tires & Service \$11,357.44; Heartland Heating & Cooling \$82.96; J & K Painting \$496.91; Lien Transportation \$1,055.00; Marco \$150.00; Midwest Erosion Control & Seed \$2,746.00; Pantorium Cleaners \$44.00; PowerPlan \$10.00; Sewer Duck \$140.00; Thee Glass Doktor \$180.00; Vosika Fencing \$942.00. Supplies: Aberdeen Area Radiator \$1885.00; Advance Auto \$794.86; Behnke Pit \$8,178.39; Century Business Products \$6,806.58; Crescent Electric \$291.00; Dakota Electronics \$106.90; GCR Tires & Service \$80.50; Glacial Lakes & Prairie Tourism \$250.00; Gov-Connection \$125.81; Heartland Heating & Cooling \$65.00; Lucy Lewno \$6.50; Marco \$138.51; Menards \$49.11; Midstates Printing \$963.58; Motorola Solutions \$1,560.00; North Star Energy \$48.00; NVC \$26.25; PowerPlan \$12,747.31; Sander's Sew'n' Vac \$81.98; Sherwin Williams \$34.57; Thee Glass Doktor \$220.02. Travel & Conference: James Ingram \$330.33.

Utilities: CenturyLink \$560.04; City of Hecla \$408.26; Dependable Sanitation \$402.00; James Valley Telecommunications \$217.50; Northern Electric \$3,123.32; NWPS \$3,912.49; NVC \$3,527.15; Verizon \$260.10. Other: JRWD \$11,416.57;

Safe Harbor \$651.00; SDACO \$714.00.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Commission Assistant/HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes:

Acknowledge resignation for Glen Neumiller, full-time Highway Labor Grade 3, effective March 15, 2019 and request to fill vacancy.

Approve hiring Harley Beck as full-time Dispatcher effective April 8, 2019 at \$16.71 per hour.

Acknowledge revised start date for Joseph Kraft approved on March 5, 2019 from March 25, 2019 to March 18th, 2019 for full-time appraiser at \$17.92 per hour.

Acknowledge resignation of Ryan Vogel, full-time Chief Deputy State's Attorney effective April 26, 2019 and request to fill vacancy of Deputy States Attorney.

Approve hiring Jennifer Stoddard as Deputy State's Attorney effective April 22, 2019 at a pro-rated salary of \$54,000 per year.

Acknowledge appointment of Karly Winter as Chief Civil Deputy State's Attorney effective May 6, 2019 and approve salary change from \$61,725.93 to \$63,725.93 per year.

Acknowledge appointment of Ernest Thompson, Chief Criminal Deputy State's Attorney effective May 6, 2019 and approve salary change from \$56,520.87 to \$61,520.87 per year.

Approve salary change for Chris White, State's Attorney from \$82,620.92 to \$84,620.92 per year effective May 6, 2019.

Approve salary change for Ross Aldentaler, Deputy State's Attorney from \$51,520 to \$54,000 per year effective May 6, 2019

Approve salary change for Jodi Brown, part-time Deputy State's Attorney from \$18,100.23 to \$19,100.23 per year effective May 6, 2019.

Approve salary change for Brittany O'Day, victim specialist from \$50,382.49 to \$52,200.49 per year.

Approve the following employee step increase, effective March 24, 2019: James Ingram at \$17.03 per hour. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACT: Moved Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following contract: 2019 Fair - Dr. Darah Preszler (judge 4H) payment declined. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID - WEED CHEMICALS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Weed and Pest chemicals, to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD on April 9, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWAL: Moved by

Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve the following application for renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses to operate outside of the Municipality: applicants Venus & Kit Donley DBA Mansfield Bar & Grill, (Lots 11-14, Block 4, Mansfield, 32-121-64) request renewal for Retail ON-Sale Liquor and Package Liquor. 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: Mosbrucker Rodeo for lease of the Expo Building and Expo Addition on April 5-6, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORD 134- FIRST READING: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve First Reading of Ordinance #134, an Ordinance to amend Title 4 - Zoning, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, to rezone the following described property from its present zoning designation of Chapter 4.17 Conservation District (CN) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential District (R-3): W 1/2 SE 1/4 of Sec 20-T128N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. (37574 104th Street). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

ORD 135- FIRST READING: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to approve First Reading of Ordinance #135, an Ordinance to amend Title 4 - Zoning, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, to rezone the following described property from its present zoning designation of Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agricultural District (M-AG): Anderson Outlot A in the SE 1/4 of Sec 14-T128N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. (10255 393rd Ave). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to appoint the following as fair board members for first three year term (2019-2021): Suzanne Moen and Seth Duncan. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

WEATHER CLOSING EMPLOYEE PAY: Non-essential employees will receive one-half days' pay administrative leave. Non-essential employees can use one-half days' vacation or sick time for the second half of the day. Employees who are essential and required to work will receive one-half day vacation leave.

HECLA DUMPSTER SITES: Brown County approached Hecla City Council regarding relocating the dumpster site. Hecla City Council voted four to one against moving the dumpster location.

WEATHER RESPONDERS THANK YOU: Commissioner Sutton thanked highway, emergency responders and everyone who has helped keep our community safe during our winter storms.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Representative Carl Perry, District 3, gave an update on the 2019 state legislative session.

RELOCATION OF COUNTY OFFICES: Work session with affected departments was held to discuss moving offices from the Millim Building at 1019 1st Ave SE into the courthouse. No action taken.

LOAD LIMITS: Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, met to discuss current road conditions and upcoming load limits. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel, per SDCL

1-25-2(1) with Chris White and Gary Vetter in attendance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chair declared the executive session closed, with the following action taken: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve Roxy Hilgenberg as interim Welfare Director starting March 25th, 2019 at a salary of \$49,000 per year. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:50 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$100.79. 17357

Brown County
Consolidated
Equalization

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CONSOLIDATED EQUALIZATION BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen School Board, sitting as a County Board of Equalization (SDCL 10-11-66) of Brown County, SD will meet in the Commissioners' Chambers in said County on TUESDAY, the 9th day of April, 2019, (being the second Tuesday in April) for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of said County for year 2019.

All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment are required to submit written notice to the County Auditor no later than April 2, 2019.

Cathy McNickle, County Auditor, Brown County, SD
Dated this 19th day of March, 2019.
(0327.0403)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$18.81. 17358

Brown County
County
Equalization

NOTICE OF MEETING OF COUNTY EQUALIZATION BOARD
Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners, sitting as a County Board of Equalization (SDCL 10-11-25) of Brown County, SD will meet in the Commissioners' Chambers in said County on TUESDAY, the 9th day of April, 2019, (being the second Tuesday in April) for the purpose of reviewing, correcting and equalizing the assessment of said County for year 2019.

All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment are required to submit written notice to the County Auditor no later than April 2, 2019.

Cathy McNickle, County Auditor, Brown County, SD
Dated this 19th day of March, 2019.
(0327.0403)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$17.04. 17359

Brown County
Weed & Pest
Chemical Dealers

NOTICE TO CHEMICAL DEALERS

Sealed bids will be received in the Chambers of the Brown County Board of Commissioners, Brown County Courthouse Annex at Aberdeen, South Dakota

57401 until 8:45 A.M. on April 9th, 2019, at said time and place all bids will be publicly opened, read and considered for furnishing of chemical for the Brown County Weed and Pest Department for 2019.

Proposal Guaranty: No deposit or bond will be required at time of bid opening.

Contract: Brown County will give notice to the successful bidder that his proposal has been accepted, and said bidder shall within ten (10) days thereafter enter into a contract with Brown County in accordance with the bid as accepted. Successful bidder shall furnish proper certificates of insurance as required by Brown County. Contract for the chemicals shall be firm and will be in effect for a period of eight months from April 1 to November 30, 2019.

Sealed envelopes containing bids shall be addressed to Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota and be marked "Chemical Bid for Brown County Weed and Pest Board" and to be opened at 8:45 A.M. on April 9, 2019.

The Brown County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid they deem to be in the best interest of Brown County. Brown County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax and State Sales Tax. Specifications are on file and may be obtained at no charge at the office of the Brown County Auditor and the Brown County Weed and Pest Office.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor.
(0327.0403)
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$35.85. 17360

Westport Town
Sewer Surcharge
Improvements

RESOLUTION NO. 9
TOWN OF WESTPORT
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A SURCHARGE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SEWER SYSTEM, FOR PAYMENT OF REVENUE BOND AND YEARLY REVIEW OF RATE

1. Surcharge for Bond Issue. There shall be charged a monthly surcharge for the services provided by the improvement financed by the Revenue Bond Series 2018. The surcharge shall be segregated from other revenues of the utility and shall be used for the payment of the revenue bonds. Provided that such surcharge shall create net income, remaining from time to time after first paying all reasonable and current expenses of maintenance, repairs, replacements and operation, sufficient to fund interest, reserve and debt service fund annual requirements.

2. Rates and collection. The Town does hereby establish the special charge or surcharge payable by each customer of its System who receives or benefits from the services of the Project. Such charge or surcharge shall be set at a level which will produce income at the times and in amounts sufficient to pay when due the principal of and interest on the Revenue Bond Series 2018 and all other payments as may be required under the loan agreement and Revenue Bond Series 2018.

3. Revenue Bond Series 2019 Surcharge. The following sewer debt service surcharge shall be applicable to all customers served whether in or out of the town or whether retail or sales or resale:

The active sewer base charge is hereby reduced from \$35.00 to \$7.00; Inactive base charge is hereby reduced from \$35.00 to \$7.00; The Business/Piggyback base charge is hereby reduced from \$70.00 to \$42.00 and the Revenue Bond Series 2018 Surcharge shall be \$28.00 per active, inactive user, and Business/Piggyback, per month.

This surcharge shall become effective July 1st, 2019. This surcharge shall remain in effect until such time as the revenue bonds are discharged. The initial surcharge shall be collected at the same time as other charges of the sewer system. The surcharge is found to be equitable for the services provided by the improvement.

4. Segregation. The debt service surcharge shall be segregated from other income of the Sewer System in a separate account and is pledged to the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources for the payment of the loan payments on the Revenue Bond Series 2018.

5. Yearly review. The amount of the surcharge shall be re-

Continues on next page

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Continues from previous page

viewed from year to year and may be modified in order to provide such funds as are set forth herein. The charges shall be reviewed yearly by town personal and administratively adjusted, upwards or downwards, pursuant to SDCL § 9-40-15 to such amounts as may be necessary to pay principal, interest, and other charges as may become due and owing under the Revenue Bond Series 2018.

6. Billing and Accounting. The surcharge shall be included in the monthly user sewer bill. Nothing contained herein requires the surcharge be indicated on the billing; however, the surcharge segregation shall be indicated on the books of the Town.

7. Surcharge not to create constitutional indebtedness. The charges provided herein are for the purpose of paying the Revenue Bond, Series 2018 of the Town which do not constitute indebtedness within the meaning of Article XIII, Section 4 of the South Dakota Constitution.

8. Severability. If any one or more of the provisions of the shall be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, by final decree of any court of lawful jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof.

Adopted at Town of Westport, South Dakota, this 4th day of February 2019

APPROVED:
Mike Wilson
Town of Westport
(Seal)
Attest: Doreen Hertel
Finance Officer

Adopted: February 4th, 2019
Approved: February 4th, 2019
Published: March 27, 2019
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$45.71. 17361

**Frederick School
March 11, 2019
Meeting Minutes
OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL
DISTRICT #6-2
MARCH 11, 2019**

The meeting was called to order on March 11, 2019, at 6:00pm by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Richard Achen and Jon Ellwein. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kusters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Janel Wagner.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Action 18-114 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve the agenda as amended: add #20-3 and #20-4 to item #14. All aye, carried.

Action 18-115 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held February 11, 2019; February 2019 financial report, agency accounts and investments; District bills and February 2019 payroll. All aye, carried.

709.89; CWD, FFVP 716.42; Dakota Supply Group, repairs 312.60; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 640.86; GDI News, publishing 272.07; Graves IT Solutions, service call 45.00; Green Iron Equipment, repairs 278.71; Hoffman, Andrew, BB ref 150.00; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 256.18; Jostens Inc, yearbook deposit 1,081.60; Mac's Inc, repairs 13.79; Main Street Station, repairs/cell phone reimbursement 325.00; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, repairs 24.26; Menards, supplies/repairs 168.23; Merchant Services, lunch payment fees 41.90; Mid-American Research Chemical, supplies 39.37; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electricity 5,362.62; Myer, Beverly, BB ref/clock 85.00; Myer, Shekota, BB ref 100.00; National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Assoc, coach training 1,400.00; North Central Special Education Cooperative, local share assessment 8,344.43. Food Service Fund: Blue Ribbon Maintenance Supplies, supplies 139.05; Child & Adult Nutrition, food 163.06; CWD, food/supplies 3,821.22; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 40.80.

Enter Dan Nickelson and Alex Hart at 6:13pm.
The following reports were presented:
A. Jeff Kusters - Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director
B. Jessica Ringgenberg, K-8 Principal
Action 18-116 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to set regular school board meetings to be held monthly on the second Monday at 7:00pm. All aye, carried.

Action 18-117 Motion by Hart, second by Nickelson to open certified staff negotiations for

Action 18-123 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to approve Open Enrollment applications #20-2, #20-3 and #20-4. All aye, carried.

Action 18-124 Motion by Nickelson, second by Achen to approve the following fund transfers: \$700.00 from General Fund to Drivers Education; \$2,000.00 from General Fund to Food Service; \$150,000.00 from Capital Outlay to General Fund; and transfer \$500,000.00 Special Education from checking to SD FIT. All aye, carried.

Action 18-125 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to appoint the 2019 election board for Frederick Community Center as Debbie Gustafson (Superintendent), Mavis Cox and Diane Bruns; and for Westport Town Hall as Laura Adema (Superintendent), Lisa Ham and Kathy Schauman; and to set compensation at \$210.00 salary; \$.42/mile;

weinstein, second by Nickelson to adjourn at 8:11pm. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$120.54. 17362

**Frederick School
Notice of
Election**

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6-2

A School District Election will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in all the voting precincts in School District No. 6-2, Frederick, South Dakota. If the polls cannot be opened because of bad weather, the election may be postponed one week.

The election polls will be open from seven a.m. to seven p.m. central time on the day of the election.

School Board Member - Two Year Term
School Board Member - Two Year Term

Candidates:
Heidi Marttila-Losure
Rich Schlosser
Richard Achen

The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:
Frederick Community Center - Precinct 22
Westport Town Hall - Precinct 14

Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the school business manager at (605) 329-2355 before the election for information on polling place accessibility for people with disabilities.

Janel Wagner
Business Manager
(0327.0403)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$27.63. 17363

Ending February 28, 2019	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND	PENSION FUND	FOODDRIVERS ED SERVICE FUND	TRUST & AGENCY	
Beginning checking balance	\$219,183.20	\$335,638.11	\$655,565.11	\$7,791.91	\$3,157.46	\$96.38	\$55,648.81
Revenue:							
Taxes.....	\$16,079.98	\$18,097.56	\$12,065.12	\$6.76			
Local Sources.....	\$623.60	\$10.00			\$4,568.60		\$5,646.68
Interest.....	\$45.96						
Federal & State	\$61,988.21		\$41.00		\$2,904.30		
Total Revenue	\$78,737.75	\$18,107.56	\$12,106.12	\$6.76	\$7,472.90	\$0.00	\$5,646.68
Disbursements							
Bills.....	\$14,712.67	\$7,493.95	\$1,624.00		\$4,709.79		\$2,124.32
Payroll	\$136,523.47		\$14,577.43		\$3,894.61		
Total Disbursements	\$151,236.14	\$7,493.95	\$16,201.43		\$8,604.40		\$2,124.32
Total checking balance.....	\$146,684.81	\$346,251.72	\$651,469.80	\$7,798.67	\$2,025.96	\$96.38	\$59,171.17
Beginning investment balance	\$357,341.77	\$1,493,634.20	\$456,175.05	\$45,189.23			
Interest	\$1,152.83						
Total investment balance.....	\$358,494.60	\$1,493,634.20	\$456,175.05	\$45,189.23			
Ending Balance.....	\$505,179.41	\$1,839,885.92	\$1,107,644.85	\$52,987.90	\$2,025.96	\$96.38	

February 2019 Payroll - General Fund salaries 81,774.99; Special Education salaries 9,215.69; Food Service salaries 1,963.71. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 24,455.91; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 837.01; American Funds, retirement 1,115.50; Delta Dental, insurance 1,612.74; Midwest Credits, garnishment 212.22; Reliastar Life, insurance 261.78; SD Retirement 13,752.68; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.50; Security Benefits, retirement 417.50; VSP, vision insurance 270.28, Wellmark, health insurance 18,640.00.

General Fund: A&B Business Solutions, staples 83.90; Amazon, supplies 82.98; Auto Value Aberdeen, repairs 34.95; Bricks Tv & Appliance, repairs 438.33; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 1,003.88; Crawford Trucks & Equipment Inc, repairs

125.00; North Central Special Education Cooperative, local share assessment 5,000.00; Northern State University, online curriculum 162.45; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 128.35; Podoll, Lance, mileage 264.60; Running Supply Inc, repairs 24.99; SD High School Activities Association, rule books 32.00; SDASBO, conference registration 75.00; SDIAAA, conference fee 340.00; Sumption, Warren, BB ref 90.00; Taylor Music Inc, supplies 91.00; Town of Frederick, utilities 195.72; Trust & Agency Account, Imprest reimbursement 992.04; United States Postal Service, postage 38.10; Weissner, Valerie, BB book 45.00. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, printing contract 630.34; Amazon, textbooks 241.33; Foreman Sales & Service, minibus 49,900.00; K-Log Inc, folding chair 32.28; Thriftbooks.com, textbook 6.79. Special Education Fund: Avera St Lukes, occupational therapy

2019-2020. All aye, carried.

Action 18-118 Motion by Ellwein, second by Nickelson to accept the resignation of Renata Winburn, effective March 14, 2019. All aye, carried.

Action 18-119 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to approve Assistant Track coaching contracts for Lincoln Flakus at \$3,162.31 and Joshua Bauska at \$3,131.00. All aye, carried.

Action 18-120 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve Drivers Education teacher contract for Jeff Kusters at \$2,000.00 for 30 hours classroom instruction and \$20.00 per hour for 6 hours driving instruction per student. All aye, carried.

Action 18-121 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to amend the 2019-2020 school calendar as presented. All aye, carried.

Action 18-122 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to schedule April 12, 2019 as a make-up day for snow days. All aye, carried.

\$15.00 required training session; \$5 cell phone use for Westport Superintendent; and \$15.00/hour for an alternative, if required. All aye, carried.

Action 18-126 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to adopt policies DIAB-E Rate Records Retention, DID-Inventories, DIE-Audits, DJ-Purchasing, DM-Cash in School Buildings, GBA-Equal Opportunity Employment, GBCA-Staff Conflict of Interest, GEBC-Use of Alcohol, Drugs, and Controlled Substances, and JEFA-Senior Privileges. All aye, carried.

Action 18-127 Motion by Hart, second by Nickelson to enter into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 (2) personnel matters at 7:01pm. All aye, carried.

President Schlosser declared board out of executive session at 8:08pm.

The school board would like to recognize the basketball teams for an excellent season.

Action 18-128 Motion by Ell-

EARTHTALK  **Questions & Answers About Our Environment**

Dear EarthTalk: Given all the advances in residential household efficiency, can you paint a picture of what the home of the future will look like?
-- Jennifer C., Valmeyer, IL

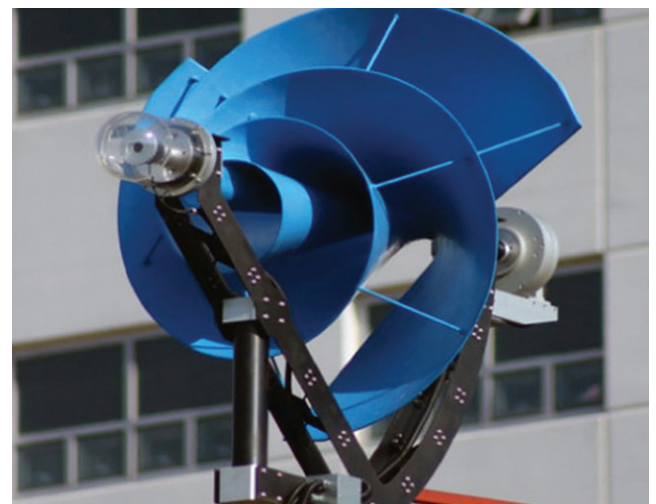
No doubt, homes in the future, whether single family dwellings or apartments in larger buildings, will be much greener than what we are all living in these days. For starters, the use of sustainable, locally sourced (and ideally recycled) materials will be the norm, not the exception, so as to avoid the unnecessary emissions and resource consumption required to make new stuff and ship it around the world.

Homes of the future will be energy efficient. Part of this efficiency will come from better insulation, doors and windows to keep the heat/cold inside where you want it. The other part will come in the form of using renewable energy generated on-site, whether from rooftop photovoltaic solar panels, thin-film window treatments, solar shingles, micro wind turbines, kinetic energy harvesters, or other newfangled technologies. And all this self-sustaining energy will be stored in your own high-capacity batteries probably not so different from Tesla's Powerwall array.

Homes of the future will also be smart. Your appliances, A/C, lighting, home security, motorized blinds, garage door openers and other systems will be connected to your network with controls available through apps over the Internet. And chances are, your future home will be smaller. The "tiny house" movement highlights how much homeowners can save on utility bills when space is limited. Efficiency can also be about use of space as much as about use of energy. While we won't all live in tiny homes, downsizing will definitely continue to be "in."

And what about outside your home? Don't be surprised if your perfect lawn has been replaced by native plants attuned to the surrounding ecosystem. These hardy local plants won't need chemical fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides to thrive. Rainwater from your roof will be collected in cisterns, with the resulting "graywater" used to irrigate your landscaping. A green roof or vertical garden could top it all off.

While the picture painted above may seem far-fetched, it's really not, given that you could build a home that met all of the above criteria today for not much more than a conventional home. That said, it might be greener still to retrofit your existing old-school home with eco-friendly upgrades than to tear it down and build a new one, given the emissions associated with manufacturing, materials transport and assembly on a new structure. While the new home will be more efficient, it could take decades to "pay back" the "carbon debt" accrued by building from scratch.

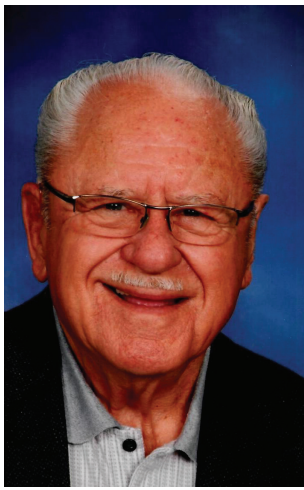


This small rooftop wind turbine from Netherlands-based start-up The Archimedes can generate 1,500 kilowatt-hours of energy each year, which would account for about 15% of the typical American household's annual energy needs.

Of course, all buildings run their course eventually, so when it is time to tear-down, it's good to know there are plenty of green options out there to replace the old homestead. And with California adopting new building codes that go into effect in 2020 calling on all new construction of single-family homes and low-rise apartments to meet zero net energy standards (whereby they generate as much power from on-site renewables as they consume from the grid), the future may be here sooner than we imagined.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

The Life of Jack Mahan



Mass of Christian Burial for Jack Mahan, 93, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Burial will follow at a later date in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Jack passed away March 20, 2019 at Sanford Aberdeen.

Derrill J. "Jack" Mahan was born on August 16, 1925 to Floyd and Blanche (Fortin) Mahan in Waubay, SD. He grew up and attended school in Turton. On October 4, 1950 he was united in marriage with Marjorie Peterson and together they made their home in Groton.

Jack began working for Bowles and Sour Motor Company of Groton in 1949. He became partner in 1961 and the business was later renamed, Pioneer Ford. Jack was part of the dealership for 65 years.

Jack was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. He also belonged to the South Dakota Auto Dealers Association, Elks Lodge and was a charter member of Olive Grove Golf Course. He enjoyed reading and watching westerns, hunting and fishing with his family and friends. Jack also enjoyed the family cottage at Roy Lake for over 50 years. No one will ever forget how much he loved to sing and have a "bump." But his true love was always farming.

Celebrating his life are his three children, Thomas P. (Alesa) Mahan of Groton, Kathy Sundling of Groton, John R. (Julie) Mahan of Helena, Montana, five grandchildren; Traci Sundling, Vince (Raeann) DeCuio, Dominic (Michelle) Mahan, Jason (Amanda) Mahan, Andrea (Steve) Foran, twelve great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, his brother, Thomas C. (Mary Ann) Mahan of Keller, Texas and his nieces and nephews, Mike Mahan, Pat Mahan, Ellen Cogdill and Kim Guhin.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife, Marjorie and his sister, Mertys Reese.

Casketbearers will be Jim White, Jesse Howard, Steve Dunker, Bill McKiver, Matt Johnson and Greg Anderson.

School Board

Continued from front

The tuck pointing that needs to be done at the elementary school will cost around \$100,000 so JLG Architect has approved to have them spearhead the project.

Brandon Clocksene talked about the school lunch program during the program presentation at the meeting. He said that the biggest challenge is trying to get more people to eat breakfast and lunch at the school. "Our quality has improved," he said. "We would like to see more of the staff to help serve. It would give a good impression on the students as well." Clocksene said he has implemented a salad bar every Wednesday to compete with Table Talks. "We're trying to get more to stay here at the school and eat. It's a good program, but it hurts our budget," he said. About 40 students attend Table Talks where a free meal is served.

Loren Bahr talked about the bus routes. The roads are somewhat sloppy, but they are getting through okay. "For as much as snow as we've had, the roads are good," Bahr said. Bus 14 is the new bus, but there have been issues with it. A new engine is being put in - still under warranty. Overall, "We've had better luck with the buses this year than we had last year," he said.

Head janitor Mike Nehls reported that the Arena will be closed June 19 through July 8 as the floor will be redone during that time. In addition, the gym floor will also be stripped this year.

Other items that Nehls talked about was the roof by the weight room has some major leaks. Looking at putting heat tapes in the down spouts and eve troughs. There is leakage in the kitchen around the vents. Look at painting the stripes in the parking lot. Nehls said that as long as he can see the stripes, he should be able to do the work himself. The mower needs to be replaced this year. The transmission in the pickup will need to be replaced. Nehls said the HVAC in the elementary school has been working great. There is no more smell and the climate control is great over there. He did report that there were a couple of issues that were not covered under warranty. Travis Kiefer, former GHS graduate, did the asbestos inspection and Nehls said everything looks good.

Beth Gustafson talked about wellness and health services. The roundup will be starting in April and she said she is trying to gather immunization information for the students. There will be a hearing screening van that will be in Groton on May 2nd. Certain grades will be tested for hearing. It will be done through the school coop. There will be a health fair scheduled for the elementary school and for the middle/high school as well. There are four elementary students and 20 middle/high school students that use inhalers.

There have been a number of slips and falls at the elementary school parking lot. Nehls said at times he has had the city come through with the sanding truck. "They've been very good at doing that," he said.

The board approved membership to the South Dakota High School Activities Association for the next school year.

There are 40 students in the district that are home schooled and there has been discussion about allowing them to participate in extra curricular activities. "That's a lot of kids with a district having 600 students," Schwan said. Board member Deb Gengerke said she has concerns about allowing those students to participate. "How do you discipline them if they don't attend the center?" she asked. "All of our students have to abide by the policies. How would you apply policies to those students?" She went on to say that participation in extra curricular activities is a privilege rather than a right. Schwan said he had three parents ask about the policy. The board decided not to change the current policy on extra curricular participation.

Lynn Miller was hired as a school bus driver effective March 18, 2019.

The board approved for St. John's Lutheran Pre-school to use a bus on May 1 for a trip to Watertown. The usual charge will be applied according to the mileage chart.

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