

# THE Groton Independent

South Dakota  
 Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 136 No. 33 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, April 10, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889



**Tylan Glover sang a solo entitled, "Someone Like You."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Madeline Schuelke performed a solo entitled, "Count On Me."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Desiree Yeigh (back) and AnneMarie Smith did a piano duet entitled, "The Greatest Showman Medley."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## POPS Concert



**Ashley Garduno played the piano and sang, "Hit the Lights."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Samantha Pappas performed a solo entitled, "What Makes You Beautiful."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



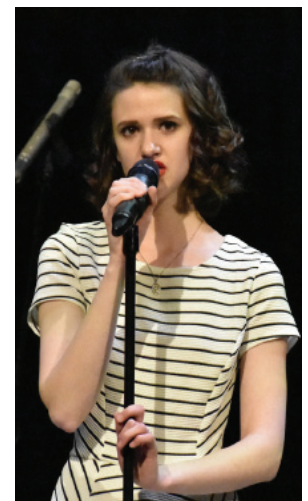
**Trinity Smith sang a solo entitled, "Rainbow."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The Jazz Band performed several selections. They were "Green Onions," "My Only Wish," "Love Potion Number 9," "Don't Know Why" and "Birdland."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Alexis Hanten sang a solo entitled, "Summertime."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**AnneMarie Smith sang, "Love Is Here to Stay."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Cody Swanson and Tylan Glover had a duet entitled, "Take What You Got." Also pictured are Austin Fordham, Roger Frank II, Brandon Barrett and Ron Parker.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**Right: Julianna Kosel sang, "Legends."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**A good size crowd showed up for the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

- \* Junior High Track meet at Sisseton for April 11 is cancelled
- \* NSU Indoor track meet for April 11 is cancelled.
- \* The KG Roundup scheduled for Friday is rescheduled for April 30th.
- \* The Girls Golf Meet at Milbank scheduled for Monday is cancelled.
- \* Varsity track meets scheduled for Tuesday at Webster and Deuel are cancelled.
- \* Tuff Tigers Awards has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 18.

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 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter  
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## Two GT Robotics teams compete at U.S. Open Robotics Championship

G-Force and G.A.T. Wrenches were two of seven South Dakota high school VEX robotics teams to compete in the Create U.S. Open Robotics Championship in Council Bluff, Iowa last week. Both Groton teams were able to reach the elimination rounds (playoffs) of their divisions! There were 234 high school robotics teams competing at this tournament from 35 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and China. These teams were divided into four divisions. The two day U.S. Open is an Invitation only tournament, so the right to attend must be earned.

G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Thomas Cranford, Adrian Knutson, Corbin Reich) was doing well during the first day and one-half with six wins, three losses and one tie. They were in 17th place in their division when the qualifying rounds ended. This was the highest ranking of any South Dakota team in all four divisions. Noah Tullis works hard leading his team to develop a very competitive robot. Alliance selection of 24 alliances created the bracket for the elimination rounds. However, G.A.T. lost their first round match by two points. The elimination rounds are single loss elimination, so that put them out of the tournament.

G-Force (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Dan Feist) had a tough start to their tournament, losing the first two matches when their robot stopped moving part way through the match. With the help of VEX technicians, they were able to determine that most likely the radio receiver was being blocked by the metal on their robot, even though they had not moved it from previous tournaments. But they moved the receiver for the third match and the stop did not reoccur. Thank you VEX technical support. They came back from the two losses



Pictured left to right are Dan Feist, Tannor McGannon, Corbin Reich, Lee Iverson, Isaac Higgins, Adrian Knutson, Travis Townsend, Alec Dutchuk, Noah Tullis, Steven Paulson, River Pardick, Thomas Cranford, Isaac Smith, Nick Morris, Jim Lane. (Courtesy Photo)



Pictured left to right area Adrian Knutson, Nick Morris, Travis Townsend, Jim Lane, Corbin Reich, Steven Paulson, Isaac Smith, Lee Iverson, and alliance partner from China. (Courtesy Photo)

to end the qualifying rounds in 35th place in their division with a record of four wins and six losses. After alliance selection, allied with a team from China who was ranked 33rd at the end of the qualifying matches, G-Force and their alliance partner won their first match handily and won the second round match by one point, both of these matches were upsets when they beat higher ranked alliances including the second ranked alliance. But they were not able to continue this upset string, they lost their match in the third elimination round, when mechanical problems caused their cap lifting fork not to deploy.

Seven other Groton robotists attended the tournament. The tournament gives them a chance to see many different robot designs and learn building technics. During the tournament, the non-competing robotists are required to do research to answer several questions about the other robots at the tournament and write a report with the information they found. Hopefully this will help them earn their way to the U.S. Open next year! Attending the U.S. Open gives GT Robotists a great opportunity to see a lot of great robot in action without the expense of traveling the VEX Robotics World Championship in Kentucky. The robotists would love go to Worlds but that is too many dollars and not a good use of the limited resources.

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**Groton Area's**

**KG Roundup**

**has been rescheduled to April 30th**

All scheduled times will stay the same. Please contact Heidi Krueger at the elementary school to confirm this new date.

**605/397-2317**

# Public vaping ban passed in S.D. amid some controversy

By: Bart Pfankuch

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. Find more in-depth reporting at [www.sdnewswatch.org](http://www.sdnewswatch.org).



**A law banning vaping in public places from bars and restaurants to workplaces and stores takes effect July 1 in South Dakota. Some oppose the ban and the way it became law.**

On July 1, the use of e-cigarettes or other vaping products will become illegal in almost all South Dakota workplaces and public buildings, including bars, restaurants and casinos.

After a somewhat hurried process, lawmakers in March voted to treat e-cigarettes the same as combustible tobacco products when used in public places. Gov. Kristi Noem signed the bill into law on March 27, allowing South Dakota to join a dozen other states with similar laws.

When the law takes effect, anyone vaping or using e-cigarettes in public buildings or a workplace could be charged with a petty offense, which is a civil charge that usually carries a fine.

Backers of the measure claim it will protect the air quality in public spaces and allow non-users to avoid breathing or smelling aerosol clouds from vaping that can contain addictive nicotine or other toxins. They also said the ban will help reverse the growing trend of vaping by youths.

"We need to stop the vaping process where we can, and this is a step in the right direction," said Rep. Carl Perry, R-Aberdeen, the lead House sponsor of the ban. "You're helping kids, and you're helping people who go out for dinner; you're keeping second-hand vaping products out of their face and out of their lungs."

But opponents of the ban, including some conservative lawmakers and representatives of the vaping industry and the beverage and gaming association, say the law is unnecessary and infringes on the property rights of business owners and the freedom of adults who legally use vaping products.

They argue that unlike smoked tobacco, e-cigarette vapors dissipate quickly and the science is incomplete on whether second-

hand vapors have the same health impacts as second-hand smoke. Opponents also say the law is unnecessary because most South Dakota businesses that don't want vaping inside their walls have already banned it and that adult-focused businesses should be allowed to decide whether to allow it.

"It wasn't done right, and I think this is going to be a big surprise for a lot of folks," said Caleb Rose, co-owner of Black Hills Vapors, which has locations in Rapid City and Spearfish. "A lot of folks like the fact they can vape inside of a bar, and for some it makes it more effective as a smoking replacement because they don't have to go outside."

During House debate on the measure, Rep. Tim Rounds, R-Pierre, said he supports keeping children away from e-cigarettes but wasn't

public places.

While few studies and data collection have been done on adult use of vaping products, the evidence is clear that e-cigarette use is rising dramatically among youth.

In one year, from 2017 to 2018, e-cigarette use rose by 78 percent among high school students and by 48 percent by children in middle school, according to the Youth Tobacco Survey released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In an ironic twist, some studies show that vaping products — marketed as a way for adult smokers to quit tobacco — may actually entice youth users to become smokers.

The U.S. Surgeon General reported in 2016 that early evidence suggests that e-cigarette use is "strongly associated" with the use of traditional tobacco products by youths and young adults.

Across South Dakota, educators are increasingly raising alarms about vaping among high school and middle school students. Many say the trend of youth use is being driven by the arrival of Juul devices, which resemble a USB flash drive and deliver a nearly undetectable amount of nicotine vapor.

Lawmakers who sponsored the vaping ban consistently gave statistics about youth use, yet the law contains no language related to minors.

David Benson, a lobbyist with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said the ban could indirectly reduce youth use of vaping products.

"There's a perception factor here that if you're a family and you're bringing your kids to a restaurant or to an activity at a public place and there are individuals engaging in e-cigarette use, it sends the wrong message that this is acceptable," Benson said.

Benson provided a 7-page handout to the governor before she signed the bill into law with an overview of studies suggesting that vaping products are targeted at youth and also that vaping products contain potentially harmful elements that have yet to be fully examined.

The reports said that nicotine can negatively affect youth brain development and damage the cardiovascular system or hurt a fetus during pregnancy. The data also indicate that some e-cigarettes can contain formaldehyde, volatile organic compounds and metals including nickel and lead, though in smaller amounts than in tobacco cigarettes.

"The Surgeon General report indicates that e-cigarette aerosol is not harmless, and our goal is to reduce that risk of exposure from the toxic elements in that aerosol," said Benson, who testified in favor of the bill during committee hearings. "We see this as a first step in the work that our advocates are engaged in to address this growing concern."

Rose, of Black Hills Vapors, said some people do vape in public buildings or try to discreetly take a quick puff where maybe it wouldn't be considered polite.

But Rose said most vape users are aware of their surroundings and respectful of others around them.

"I feel like the industry is normalizing itself and can regulate itself," he said. "As far as being used in movie theaters, or being used in a restaurant and someone is reaching over a booth and blowing clouds into a baby stroller, that's just not happening."

Rose said the public ban is unlikely to have a negative impact on his sales or the popularity of vaping. He said anything that draws atten-



**Caleb Rose, co-owner of Black Hills Vapors in Rapid City and Spearfish, at left, and Zach Burckhard, general manager of the Rapid City store, support strict rules to keep vaping products away from people under 18. But they do not think an indoor vaping ban passed by the 2019 Legislature will help keep kids from vaping.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch

convinced a statewide indoor ban for adults would prevent youth use.

"We've got unintended consequences here," Rounds said. "We're trying to protect our youth by telling adults, 30-, 40-, 50-year-olds that when they go to a casino or a nightclub or a facility that is for adults, they aren't allowed to use this."

Rounds said the ban violates the rights of business owners.

"It does take away that proprietor's right, that property owner or that person who is in business, it takes away their right to allow that to happen on his property or her property," he said.

## Growth in vaping leads to regulation

The category of e-cigarette products includes a wide range of hand-held devices that ignite a gel to produce a cloud of vapor, often including nicotine, that is inhaled by the user. Vaping has increased sharply in the past decade.

Among users and sellers, the products are considered safer than cigarettes, with fewer known carcinogens and less smell and after-taste. They also say e-cigarettes help addicted smokers wean themselves away from smoking and eventually quit.

But the e-cigarettes have drawn the wrath of parents, educators and policymakers who worry over the dramatic rise in use by youths, despite a state law banning sales to minors under 18. Hundreds of cities across the nation have passed local bans on vaping use in

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**Continued from previous page**

tion to vaping increases public interest and awareness and may lead more smokers to give it a try as a cessation method.

**“I feel like the industry is normalizing itself and can regulate itself. As far as being used in movie theaters, or being used in a restaurant and someone is reaching over a booth and blowing clouds into a baby stroller, that’s just not happening.”**

**- Caleb Rose, co-owner of Black Hills Vapors in Rapid City and Spearfish**

**Slow start, fast finish to vaping ban**

Unlike the South Dakota public smoking ban that underwent heavy debate in 2010 and a statewide referendum with more than 315,000 total votes (64 percent voted in favor), the public vaping ban came about quickly and passed with relatively little fanfare or discussion.

Perry’s first draft of the bill – presented as a broadly worded “vehicle” bill – would have imposed the same 35 percent excise tax on e-cigarettes that is now collected on tobacco sales. His new tax was quickly rebuffed by his Republican colleagues, so he regrouped and met with public health groups to craft the measure that ultimately passed.

Some people affected by the ban said it was difficult to monitor the bill and participate in the discussion because it changed quickly and dramatically in a short time period. The revised measure passed the House on a 48-19 vote and in the Senate by a 21-13 vote.

“They kept talking about starting a conversation, and we’d like to be part of that conversation,” said Rose, who has now registered as a lobbyist and supports the new Dakota Vaping Association that supports thoughtful e-cigarette legislation. “But we’d like to be invited and not have to scramble when it is hoghoused and changed the morning of a vote.”

The vaping association opposes youth e-cigarette use and backs banning online e-cigarette sales, a common way for underage users to obtain products, Rose said.

A vape shop owner in Pierre predicts that the vaping ban may lead some adult e-cigarette users to either return to smoking cigarettes or take up the habit anew.

Michael Shoup, owner of Oahe Pawn in Pierre, which also sells vaping products and

rents trucks, said some of his e-cigarette customers are professionals in Pierre who use vaping as an alternative to smoking cigarettes. Those customers, who include an attorney and state office workers, discreetly vape at work or at a bar but will have to go outside when the ban takes effect.

“They didn’t have to leave their desk at work or if they went to a pub, they didn’t smell like a cigarette and have that taste on their tongue all day, so it worked well for them,” Shoup said. “Now, they’ll have to go outside and be with cigarette smokers, which creates a big temptation to return to smoking.”

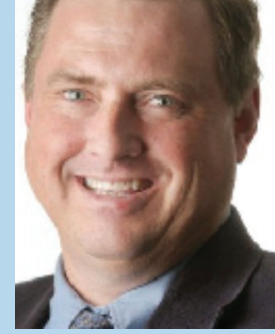
Shoup’s business will be affected by the vaping ban in that his customers will no longer be allowed sample vape products inside. The law for e-cigarettes will be the same as for cigarette and cigar stores in which it is legal to smoke inside if the business gets 75 percent or more of overall revenue from the tobacco products.

Shoup’s vape sales aren’t that high, so customers will have to step outside. He said that

is not a major inconvenience but could deter some customers from trying nicotine-free vaping gels as they slowly wean off nicotine.

“They are penalizing the people who are trying to use vaping to get off cigarettes, and there is nothing in the language that addresses youth use,” Shoup said. “Moving it outside won’t stop kids from using it. If anything, it will give it even more of a mystique.”

**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.

**More POPS Concert/MS Talent show photos**



**Hailey Monson and Alyssa Fordham were the Masters of Ceremony.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Dragr Monson pours some pop for Dorene Nelson.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Sierra Ehremann and Shaylee Peterson had a vocal duet entitled, “Love Someone.” They were accompanied by Ellie Weismantel at the middle school talent**



**The junior high boys choir sang, “The Sound of Silence” at the middle school talent show.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Many businesses already have banned vaping indoors, including Meadowbrook Lanes in Rapid City. The public vaping ban passed by the 2019 Legislature will take effect in public buildings, businesses, bars, restaurants and workplaces on July 1.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch

**41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL KINGSWOOD RUMMAGE SALES** Southwest Sioux Falls, SD

Wed.-Fri., April 24-26 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Sat., April 27 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
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**Brown County  
April 2, 2019  
Meeting Minutes**

APRIL 2, 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 Feickert, Kippley, Sutton, and Wiese. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve the Brown County Meeting Minutes from March 26, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Payroll #7: Commission \$5,528.71; Auditor \$8,544.99; Treasurer \$13,619.51; States Attorney \$23,486.08; SVA-WA \$1,389.40; Maintenance \$8,005.57; Assessor \$13,142.13; Register of Deeds \$8,771.39; Veterans Service Office \$4,287.53; GIS \$2,367.50; Information Technology \$8,218.78; Human Resources \$2,206.10; Sheriff \$37,279.92; Jail \$50,031.58; Coroner \$2,550.00; Court Security \$6,142.56; JDC \$23,251.95; Welfare \$2,409.63; Museum \$8,604.56; Fairgrounds \$5,016.60; Fair Board \$3,891.99; 4H \$649.48; Weed \$163.00; Planning and Zoning \$2,443.10; Highway \$64,744.02; Communications \$22,816.94; Emergency \$4,079.58; Teen Court \$565.92; 24/7 \$3,024.99; Landfill \$11,186.13. Matching Benefits: FICA \$21,637.52; Medicare \$5,060.45; Health Insurance \$132,729.98; Dental Insurance \$7,515.12; Life Insurance \$1,131.18; SDRS \$64,303.43 Insurance: SDACC \$14,093.00.

Professional Fees: Aberdeen Area Human Resource Assn \$225.00; Assn of SD County Weed & Pest \$150.00; Avera Queen of Peace \$93.55; Avera St. Luke's \$281.39; Carrels & Bain Family Dental \$143.54; Certified Languages \$999.90; Cogley Law Office \$495.90; Dohrer Law Office \$537.20; Haar Law Office \$16.80; Horn Law Office \$332.00; Interprecops \$155.00; Kuck Law Office \$4.80; Pennington Co. Jail \$560.00; RAM \$1,910.25; Sanford Clinic \$412.70; Sanford Health \$529.52; SDACES \$30.00; SD Attorney General's Office \$299.00; SD Retirement System \$6,393.25; Jodi Sudweeks \$85.00; Taliaferro Law Firm \$569.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$193.85; Groton Independent \$578.72. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$773.65; Steven Dayton \$200.00; Ecolab \$117.60; Exhaust Pros \$151.95; Finnesand Floor Covering \$225.00; Hase Plumbing & Heating \$8,000.00; HF Jacobs & Son \$6,724.00; Hoven Auto Repair \$51.04; Olson's Pest Technicians \$320.00; Productivity Plus \$510.28; Running's \$187.38; SD Bureau of Admin \$9.00.

Supplies: Advance Stores \$65.51; AgTegra \$27,107.82; Ameripride \$69.75; Correct RX Pharmacy \$25.97; Crescent Electric \$194.95; DSS Image Apparel \$217.50; LG Everist \$2,215.25; Pantorium \$77.00; Pheasantland Industries \$898.61; Running's \$129.99; SD Bureau of Admin \$105.66; Sherwin Williams \$365.23; West Payment Center \$1,750.67. Travel & Conference: Doug Fjeldheim \$236.88; JKM Training \$1,599.00; Rachel Kippley \$214.32; Lorman Education Services \$209.00; Mac's \$2,145.98; Greg Markley \$198.06; Menards \$17.88; Mark Milbrandt \$312.00; Jo Miller \$11.00; Pennington Co. Jail \$161.10; Derek Ricci \$201.35; SDAAO \$175.00; Duane Sutton \$118.44.

Utilities: BDM Rural Water \$36.00; CenturyLink \$549.61; Midcontinent \$390.96; NWPS \$12,028.76.

Jurors: Alvin Anliker \$960.48; Matthew Bartl \$10.84; Kimberly Bauer \$10.84; Luke Bergjord \$10.84; Daryl Bierman \$13.36; Mike Bickel \$960.48; Judith Blitz \$10.84; Ronald Bolduan \$10.84; Kathy Bowen \$10.84; Henry Bowker \$10.84; Carol Bratton \$10.84; Allan Braun \$11.68; Ranata Brunson \$11.68; Jonathan Buchele \$10.84; Dylan Buckingham \$10.84; Hailea Carlson \$103.36; Dale Carr \$25.96; Zhenqing Chen \$11.68; Shelly Dias \$101.68; Heidi Forred \$11.68; Julia Fountain \$10.84; Scott Franz \$10.84; Agnes Giroux \$775.20; Michael Glynn \$115.12; Kary Haar \$101.68; Scott Hagen \$11.68; Ronald Hall \$101.68; Vicki Hehn \$1,045.76; Tiffany Hoefft \$16.72; Nicole Holmes \$10.84; Andrew Huff \$101.68; Ashley Iverson \$1,187.28; David Jakes \$981.92; Thomas Janish \$11.68; Hollis Johnson \$30.16; Jaime Johnson

\$11.68; James Knapp \$10.84; Steve Kohles \$11.68; Christeen Krahl \$10.84; David Larson \$10.84; Tim Larson \$10.84; Ruth Latterell \$10.84; Derald Lout \$11.68; Lori Lux \$10.84; Robin Mailloux \$10.84; Billy Maunu \$11.68; Ramona Metz \$826.88; Marlene Miller \$11.68; Corey Mitchell \$1,218.40; William Moon \$101.68; Timothy Murray \$10.84; Priscilla Nelson \$10.84; Rae Nelson \$10.84; Javier Nunez \$101.68; Katie Olson \$14.20; Tiffany Poirier \$101.68; Donna Reich \$11.68; Simone Rernleitner \$10.84; Jeffrey Rich \$10.84; John Romeo \$661.76; Jamie Rossow \$26.80; Melledy Rostad \$11.68; Richard Rovang \$11.68; Brian Russell \$10.84; Jennifer Schaudaman \$19.24; Peggy Schut \$10.84; Elizabeth Schwab \$12.52; Leonard Severson \$1,016.80; Jesse Shoultz \$12.52; Carmen Siefkes \$18.40; Chad Sietsema \$103.36; Lyle Smith \$12.52; Vanessa Smith \$103.36; Karla Sollie \$20.08; Keith Sprinkel \$101.68; Tim Stadel \$13.36; Sherri Stahl \$12.52; Mari Sundberg \$10.84; Daryl Swanhorst \$11.68; Mike Ullrich \$101.68; Danny Unser \$11.68; Tarah Usselman \$11.68; Donald VanDover \$20.92; Jesse Wagemann \$10.84; Andrew Winterboer \$16.72; Tyler Wipf \$11.68. 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:

Acknowledge Military leave of absence for Mike Lout, part-time Landfill, for 1 year; and further approve request to fill vacancy during that time.

Approve employee classification change from Full-time Correctional Officer to Full-time Jail for Alexis Storm, effective April 12, 2019; and further approve request to fill vacancy.

Approve the following Employee Step Increases, effective April 7, 2019: Jeff Kirnan @ \$20.35 per hour, Jo Forsting @ \$18.12 per hour, Kristin Barstad @ \$18.99 per hour, Patricia Kendall @ \$16.61 per hour, Jeremy Batista @ \$17.09 per hour.

Acknowledge retirement of Sue Gates, Museum Director, effective June 28, 2019; and further approve request to fill vacancy. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACT: Moved Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following contracts for 2019 Fair: Joy Braun (judge 4H); Becky Erickson (judge 4H); Vonnie Schmitz (judge 4H) payment declined. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

DOE ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization met for conference per SDCL 10-3-14, discussing the 2019 County Consolidated Boards of Equalization and the Agricultural Land Assessment Plan for 2020.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize the Chair sign Application, submitted by Northern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway #3, Sec 20-T128N-R63W, Brown County, SD to provide electrical services. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABERDEEN AIRPORT HIGH VOLUME PUMP: Lynn Lander (City Manager), Michael Schmit (Helms Engineering) and Rich Krokkel (City Transportation Director) met to discuss a City/County agreement regarding usage of the High-Volume Pump.

TAX DEED SALE: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to authorize advertising the following described property to be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on April 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.: Hecla City: Lots 5-6 Block 25 of the Plat entitled N 1/2 Block 25, 35-46 inclusive and OL M to the City of Hecla. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SD RETIREMENT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to authorize Erica Coughlin, Human Resource Director, as 2nd designee for signing documentation as required to South Dakota Retirement System. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss legal, per SDCL 1-25-2(3) and to discuss personnel, per SDCL 1-25-2(1) with Chris White, Karly Winter and Gary Vetter in attendance. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Chair declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:35 a.m.. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Sara Swisher, Chief Deputy Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$89.04. 17417

**Brown County  
Notice Sale of  
Property**

NOTICE SALE OF PROPERTY Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Chapter 6-13 SDCL, the following described property will be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown

County Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota on April 29, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. This property has been approved for public sale by the Brown County Commission. Purchase price of the property along with a \$30.00 recording fee shall be paid in full on the day of the sale and a Quit Claim Deed will be issued to the successful bidder. Property offered for sale is as follows:  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:  
MINIMUM BID  
HECLA CITY  
Lot 5-6 Block 25 of the plat "N1/2 Block 25, \$ 1,000  
35 - 46" inclusive and OL M - BARE LOT  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor  
(0410.0417)  
Published twice at the approximate total cost of \$19.39. 17418



**Carter Barse and Kim Kohrs helped with the table duty after the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Volleyball Awards**

**Awards were presented Thursday evening for volleyball. Pictured left to right are Portia Kettering (Most Improved), Nicole Marzahn (Most Valuable Offensive Player), Taylor Holm (Spirit of Tiger, Academic All-State), Jennie Doeden (Academic All-State, Northeast Conference All-Conference, Most Valuable Player), Payton Maine (Northeast Conference All-Conference, Most Valuable Defensive Player), and Kaylin Kucker (Rookie of the Year). Not pictured are Samantha Menzia and Alexis Simon who both were Academic All-State recipients.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Girls' Basketball Awards**

**The awards ceremony was held Thursday evening. Girls winning awards for this season are pictured above, left to right: Kaycie Hawkins (Most Improved), Gracie Traphagen (Best Free Throw Percentage, Most Valuable Offensive Player), Jennie Doeden (Most Valuable Player, Best Field Goal Percentage, Northeast Conference All-Conference third team, Academic All-State), and Payton Maine (Academic All-State); not pictured: Eliza Wanner (Most Valuable Defensive Player), and Sam Geffre (Academic All-State).** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Boys' Basketball Awards**

**The awards ceremony was held Thursday evening. Boys winning awards for this season are pictured above, left to right: Lane Tietz (Tiger Mentality), Treyton Diegel (Most Valuable Offensive Player), Kaden Kurtz (Most Valuable Defensive Player), Chandler Larson (Scout Award), Jonathan Doeden (Most Improved), and Brodyn DeHoet (Most Valuable Player, Northeast Conference All-Conference Second Team), and Austin Jones (Hustle Award). Not pictured is Alexis Simon (Academic All-State).** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Pearson's Americanism Essay qualifies for state

The Groton American Legion Auxiliary announced its District Four winners of the Americanism essay and poetry contests. Logan Pearson placed first and will qualify for state competition, Jayden Helvig placed second and Colby Dunker and Alexis Geffre both placed third. Their photos and what they wrote follow.

## How Can We Address and Prevent Veteran Homelessness in Our Communities?

**Logan Pearson, sixth grade, Class II Essay First Place (qualifies for state competition)**

We can prevent veteran homelessness in our communities in many ways. We can start by adding the right programs within our state and local communities. We can ask our communities to open shelters or offer low income or free housing to our veterans and families.

We could ask local businesses to help raise donations to supply clothing, household needs, hygiene products, and free school meals to veteran's children. We could offer free medical care clinics to the veterans and their families. We could ask our local food service operations to donate any leftover food to the veterans and their families.

We could give them Bibles to read and ask them to come to church to offer them hope and security in God.

If we see a homeless veteran in the street, we can offer to buy them a meal, or a warm cup of coffee. One time my mom and I were driving back from our cousin's house, and we saw a man holding a sign asking for free food or money. We went to the local restaurant nearby and bought him a couple of sandwiches to eat, water to drink, and snacks for a later meal, plus \$10. He was very grateful.

We could offer to buy shelter for the night at a local motel. We could ask our local motels to give our homeless veterans a free room for the night if they have any rooms available so that our veterans could have a warm and safe place to sleep for the night and then have a nice warm shower the next day.

When our veterans go serve our country, they fight for our freedom. I think we can at least thank them and show our appreciation by doing the simple suggestions above.



## How Can We Address and Prevent Veteran Homelessness in our Communities?

**Colby Dunker, seventh grade, Class III Essay Third Place**

In South Dakota, there are 130 homeless veterans according to the South Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs. I feel that we need to help the homeless veterans since they helped us. You can tell the problem is getting fixed because the rate of homeless veterans went down 56% in the United States. Three ways we can fix this problem is by making housing more affordable, extend transportation, and take the challenge.

A reason why vets are homeless is because the housing is so expensive. The vets have a job but still can't pay for the housing. A way we can help is by making VA housing more affordable. By doing this you can encourage property owners and landlords to house veterans in existing homes. The government could also encourage land owners and landlords to have lower rates for homeless vets as well. The government could help with move-in costs.

We can also extend transportation options. Transportation services can help keep veterans with a steady job. Transportation links veterans to steady jobs, health care, and support services are vital to have housing. Directly in our partnership with others, many states and communities provide discounted or free transit rides for veterans. Veteran service organizations and nonprofits may offer discounted or free bus or train passes to vets. Ridesharing and bike sharing are other ways to help vets get around, so they can stay off the streets.

Another way for all of us to help is by taking the CHALLENGE. The challenge stands for: community, homelessness assessment, local education, networking groups. This ongoing assessment unites homeless service providers, advocates, veterans, and citizens toward the goal of identifying and meeting the evolving needs of veterans who are homeless.

To keep our homeless vets off the street we need to help with many things like pushing to make housing more affordable for veterans, try and make there be many options of affordable housing for vets, and help nonprofit organizations such as CHALLENGE, Wounded Warrior projects and many more. The numbers of homeless veterans are going down a bit, but we still need to help so that there aren't any veterans left on the streets.



## Saddle Up for Veterans

**Alexis Geffre, sixth grade, Class IV Poetry Third Place**

Saddle up for Veterans; let's go for a ride,  
Because of everything you have done we have great pride.  
Giving up part of your life so that we may be free  
I can hardly believe all of the things you have done for me.

Saddle up for Veterans, for all they have done  
We know that at times it was not any fun.  
Some of you even lost great friends,  
Losses like that take time to mend.

Saddle up for Veterans, who are tried and true  
To the red, white, and blue and the stars and stripes, too!  
Because of your courage, bravery, and more  
We live in the best country from shore to shore.

## Saddle Up for Veterans

**Jayden Helvig, fourth grade, Class II Poetry Second Place**

For all of those who have fought for me;  
Thank you, for helping us be free!  
Soldiers old and soldiers young;  
That have fought in battles both lost and won.  
When duty called many put their lives on hold;  
They saddled up to fight for the rich, poor, young, and old.  
They have risked their lives, done their part;  
They've shone us bravery from the start.  
Now it's time to do our part;  
To give respect from our heart.  
To salute the flag when it goes by;  
To honor them, both dead and alive.



# FCCLA Style Show gives way to candle light supper

The FCCLA Style Show was replaced this year with a banquet held in the multipurpose room at GHS. A loaded baked potato with an Angel Food Cake topped with strawberries and whipped cream was served in the candle light venue. The FCCLA members were able to eat their supper with their family members.

Kaycie Hawkins, FCCLA president, gave the welcome followed by the dinner. Then Chloe Daly, FCCLA secretary, gave the Year in Review. Advisor Lindsey Tietz handed out several awards. Nicole Marzahn, FCCLA vice president, assisted with the door prizes until she drew her mom's name for the door prize that she donated! Then Nicole held the container of names and allowed other members to draw the names. The officer installation was then held.



These designer hand bags were made by Eh Tha You Say, Chloe Daly, Tiara DeHoet, Gabriella Merkel and Grace Wiedrick. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The installation of the officers was held at the FCCLA Banquet held Tuesday in the Multipurpose room. Pictured left to right are Eh Tha You Say, Gabriella Merkel, Kaycie Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn, Tiara DeHoet, Grace Wiedrick and Chloe Daly.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Eh Tha You Say was the "FCCLA Rookie of the Year." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



FCCLA members earning the Service Award were Kylie Kassube, Kaitlyn Anderson, Shyla Larson, Sam Menzia and Shannon Wiedrick. Not pictured is Taylor Holm.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Gabriella Merkel was chosen as the "FCCLA Officer of the Year." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The 2019-20 FCCLA officers are pictured with their advisor on the left, Lindsey Tietz. From left to right from Tietz are Gabriella Merkel, public relations officer; Eh Tha You Say, historian; Kaycie Hawkins, president; Nicole Marzahn, past vice president; Tiara DeHoet, vice president; Chloe Daly, treasurer; and Grace Wiedrick, secretary; not pictured is past public relations officers Kaylin Kucker. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Sage Mortenson was chosen as the "FCCLAer of the Year." (Photo by Paul Kosel)





**A candle light supper was served at the first FCCLA banquet planned now to be an annual event, replacing the FCCLA Style Show.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Sam Menzia**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jennie Doeden**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**A baked potato bar was served with meat, broccoli, cheese, salsa and sour cream.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Shannon Wiedrick**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Torrence Wiseman**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jennie Doeden helped to serve the dessert.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Portia Kettering**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Shyla Larson**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Alexis Simon**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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# OST Program is in the red

During the financial report, it was brought to the board's attention that the OST balance is in the hole by \$1,900. Superintendent Joe Schwan said that there are too many delinquent accounts that will need to be brought up to date before school lets out.

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported that there are not health rate increases for next year; however, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota will offer only three plans. The Worker's Compensation rate will go up next year.

The district will be having a new website for the upcoming school year.

Schwan got a price quote from Sheyenne Transport of Webster about having them take over the route. Their cost was \$2.89 per mile while the actual cost for the district is \$1.77 per mile. The district would still need a fleet for extra curricular activities.

The next school board meeting will be Tuesday, April 23, 8 p.m.

Elementary Track and Field Day will be held Friday, May 17 with the picnic lunch at 11 a.m. and track and field events will begin at 12:30 p.m. Junior Kindergarten through fifth grade will be participating. The elementary health fair will be Monday, May 20.

It sounds like the merry-go-round will be replaced this year as the Parent Advisory Council is looking at getting it replaced.

The FCCLA Banquet will be held tonight. It will not be a style show this year but the students will be showing off their projects in the GHS Multipurpose Room starting at 6 p.m.

The Groton Area FFA Chapter will be the educators at the FFA Ag Fair April 16 at Prairie Hill Farms near Aberdeen. About 500 fourth graders go through the program.

# School Board Election

Here are the unofficial election returns for the Groton Area School Board Election:

The official vote will be canvassed on April 23rd.

- Travis J. Harder - 188
- Clint Fjelstad - 135
- Tigh Fliehs - 227
- Deborah Gengerke - 247

Harder, Fliehs and Gengerke are elected to new 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2019.

Fjelstad and Gengerke were incumbents. Board member Merle Harder elected not to run for re-election.

315 total ballots were cast, equaling a 12.5% turnout of total eligible voters in the District

## Holy Week Services

### Emmanuel Cantata

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 1106 N. 2nd St., will celebrate "The Body of Christ: Glorified, Anointed, and Sacrificed." It's an Easter Cantata that will be held Palm Sunday, April 14, 4 p.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. There will be a free will offering with proceeds directed to Becky Diegel and Hunter Schaller.

### C&MA Cantata

Members of the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church will also put on a Cantata

on Palm Sunday, April 14, at 7 p.m., at the church, 706 N. Main St., across from the city park. The presentation will be, "We are witnesses: Encounter with Savior," created by Kenna Turner West and orchestrated and arranged by Daniel Semsen. The Palm Sunday service will be carried live on GDILIVE.COM. The choir will also present the Cantata on Wednesday evening, April 17th at 7 p.m. at the Rosewood Court, 705 N. 6th St. in Groton, and Maundy Thursday evening, April 18th, at 7 p.m. in the Northwestern United Methodist Church in Mellette. The 25 members of the

choir Carrie Olson, Director, Logan Harms, sound technician, Sopranos Linda Bahr, Kim Edmunds, JoAnne Ehresmann, Deb Jacobs, Julianna Kosel, Darinda Tundy, Sierra Tunby, Altos Nancy Culter, Jana Duncan, Joyce Grenz, Ryley Harms, Kara Jetto, Glenna Remington, Tenors Rick Buhler, Bill Duncan, Adam Franken, and Bass Mike Ehresmann, Dale Grenz, Lowell Harms, Scott Krueger, Paul Perkins, Larry Remington, and Lars Tunby, Soloist will be Deb Jacobs, and Narrators are Lowell Harms, Bill Duncan, Sierra Tunby, Dale Grenz, and Deb Jacobs.

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### SEAS Living Stations

The Living Stations of the Cross will be held Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m., at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The directors are Alexis Simon and Wyatt Locke. The members of the SEAS Youth put on an impressive performance. There will be refreshments after the event. The event will be carried live on GDILIVE.COM.

### Community Good Friday Service

The Community Good Friday Service will be held at the United Methodist Church, Groton. The service will begin at 7 p.m. The offering will be used for the Family Crisis Fund. Details of the service are still being worked out.

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