

\$2



THE Groton Independent

South Dakota

Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 136 No. 43 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, June 19, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889



The Lazy Farmers that helped clean up the James Cemetery as their community service this year include:

Alicia Davis, Lexi Osterman, Liza Krueger, a visitor, Aubrey, Camille, and Jacob Craig, in back Travis Townsend, Jamesen Stange, and Lane Krueger (Photo by Pam Davis)

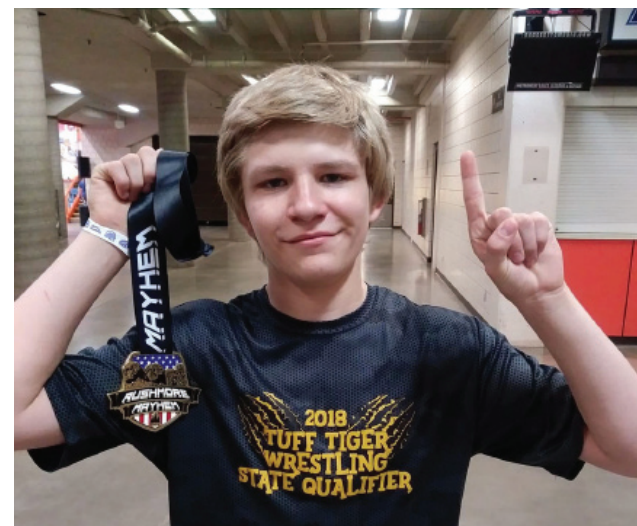


Work has begun!

Work has begun on State Street, north of Third Avenue West. The top layer is being ripped off and then it will be dug down where the fabric and base will be properly put down. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



This beautiful shot of the rainbow was posted on Ann Thorson's facebook page.



Dragr Monson wins Mt. Rushmore Mayhem

Dragr Monson competed at the Mt. Rushmore Mayhem in Rapid City this week. At the beginning of the tournament, Monson ended up being bumped up from 120 pounds to 126 pounds. None of this three matches went past the first period.

In the first round, he pinned Lane Wilfong from Peyton, Colo., in 23 seconds. In the second round, he defeated Jaxon Rohde, Anthem, Ariz., by technical fall, 13-2. And in the championship match, he defeated Andrew Middleton, Calera, Alabama, by technical fall, 10-0. (Photo from Wendy Monson's Facebook Page)



A new South Dakota State Law now requires that all public schools must display the nation's motto, "In God We Trust." The one at Groton Area was hung up yesterday, as reported by Kim Weber's facebook page.

Denny Palmer walleye fishing tournament

First Place: Ron Anderson, Blake Anderson, Taylor Anderson, total weight, 17.46. Biggest fish was 5.64.

Fourth Place: Jason Hanson, Grant Gilchrist, Landon Johnson, 14.31.

30th Place: Rich Zimney, Tami Zimney, Rod Kluess, 9.56.

64th Place: Connor Hanson, Justin Freeland, Jackson Waage, 7.37.

70th Place: Doug Sombke, Steph Sombke, Brett Sombke, 6.89.

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 Theatre opens at 7 pm with movies starting at 7:30 pm, Friday through Monday.
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 6/29 – Secret Life of Pets 2, PG
 7/6 – Closed – Happy Fourth!

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CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you for the cards, phone calls and visits. I received for my 95th birthday. Also would like to thank my family members for the party at Rosewood.
 Thank you
 DeLoris Knoll

To the individuals who contributed to our "Bridal Shower Box" at Lori's Pharmacy.

Thank you so much for your generous gifts! Jacob and I received many beautiful kitchen decor and other kitchen items. We are very excited to begin setting up our home together with such wonderful things! I am truly blessed to have grown up in such a supporting community. I hope that the future communities Jacob and I make our home in are as generous as the Groton community.

Thank you so much,
 Breanna Marzahn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAKOTA ROYAL CHARITY DRAFT Horse Show - 6-horse hitches from 10 states. Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD 1 pm June 22 & 23.
<https://www.facebook.com/dakotaroyaldraftshow/>

BIDS

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS: City of Webster, SD will receive sealed bids on building addition/remodeling project. For more informational 605-345-3241 or write PO Box 539, Webster, SD 57274. Due by July 1, 2019.

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: Head Maintenance/Custodial at Haakon School District. Application online: philip.k12.sd.us salary negotiable. Contact Jeff Riekman 605-859-2679. Equal opportunity employer

LOAN OFFICER WANTED at Consumer's Federal Credit Union. Send resume to PO Box 69, Gregory, SD 57533 or for more information call (605) 835-8749.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER full-time at Hermosa School, 4-day school week starting 8/19/19. Salary DOE. Complete application www.csd.k12.sd.us, Custer School District, 527 Montgomery St., Custer, SD 57730, 605-673-3154.

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Hoops Reunion
 John and Mary Hoops reunion will be held on June 23rd at the community center. Pot Luck dinner at 12:30 with chicken and drinks provided.

Why drug expiration dates don't matter

Dr. Frank Shallenberger, MD

You should never take a medication that has passed its expiration date, right? After all, it's probably completely ineffective. And it might even be toxic.

Well, I have some news for you. Expiration dates mean little to nothing. And here's how we know:

Some folks at the Department of Defense noticed that they had large and expensive stockpiles of drugs that were past their expiration date. So they commissioned the FDA to test these expired drugs to see if they were still usable.

Now if you're a regular reader, you know that I often disagree with the FDA. But in this particular instance, the FDA did a great job.

They looked at over 100 common prescription and over-the-counter drugs. And what they found was astonishing: 90% of the drugs tested were still good 15 years after their expiration date! And some of them were still good 25 years after expiration!

At this point, you may be wondering why there's such a big gap between expiration dates and drug effectiveness.

One reason is that there are no rules about how long manufacturers have to test drugs for effectiveness. If they want to test for only 6 months, they can do that. If they want to test longer, they can do that, too. It's entirely up to them.

And here's the rub: It's not in the drug companies' best interest to have longer expiration periods.

Francis Flaherty was the director of the FDA drug-testing program for years. He told the Wall Street Journal that "manufacturers put expiration dates on for marketing, rather than scientific, reasons. It's not profitable for them to have products on a shelf for 10 years. They want turnover."

Unfortunately, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies still go by the expiration dates set by the drug companies. That means you and I are expected to replace medications when the drug companies want us to, even if they're still perfectly good.

Joel Davis is a former FDA expiration-date compliance chief. He also spoke to the Wall Street Journal, and told them "most drugs degrade very slowly." And he went on to say, "in all likelihood, you can take a product you have at home and keep it for many years, especially if it's in the refrigerator."

So what should you do?

Well first of all, you should be aware of some important exceptions. Nitroglycerin, insulin, and liquid antibiotics are very sensitive to decay. So if you use these medications, you need to make sure they're up to date.

Second, if you have medications you use for life-threatening conditions, I recommend that you keep those up to date, too.

For everything else, you can use unopened medications for at least two years past their expiration date.

Yours for better health,
Frank Shallenberger, MD

Sources:

https://www.ghdonline.org/uploads/drugs-Stability_Profiles-vencimiento.pdf

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1395800/>

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By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

A Prayer for Aging from the Ancient Medicine Wheel

Nothing has touched my soul and spoken to aging with grace quite like the ancient Indian medicine wheel and the traditions that have evolved from it. From the National Library of Medicine, I learned that in the Americas, Indian tribes have multiple interpretations of the four directions, but the following prayer is my own, geriatrician's interpretation of a version from the book Black Elk Speaks and Oyate (Nakota, Dakota, Lakota) tradition.

First, we get down on our knees and feel the soil, the sacred Mother Earth, bringing the world around us, the animals, plants, prairies, lakes, mountains, the environment of our planet from where all food and sustenance comes. Earth is foundation. Then we stand up on our tiptoes, and raise our arms to sacred Father Sky, the sun, stars, clouds, rain, wind, air and breath of life, light and dark; from where all energy flows and ebbs. Sky is infinity. Earth and sky, the beginning and the end.

Around the central campfire and within the circle, first we bow east, symbolized by red, rising sun, springtime, birth, blood, the very young; a sense of innocence, youth. May we have hope for a future with an open mind to all things new and true.

We bow south, symbolized by yellow, full sun, summer, sexuality, the anticipating young woman and young man; a sense of unconquerable power and invulnerability, early adulthood. May we have the courage and strength to fight for justice.

We bow west, symbolized by black, setting sun, an approaching dark thunderstorm, oncoming night, autumn, resignation, the reality filled community leader and medicine woman/midwife; a sense of the horrors of war and reality of loss, mature adulthood. May we have the gravity to protect freedom of choice and face vulnerability with honest eyes.

Finally, we bow north, symbolized by white,

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starry night, winter, old age, wisdom, the sagacious elder and teacher; a sense of beauty, grandchildren and the circle of life, an experienced body and mind, release from the fear of change and death. May we have insight to savor family and friendship, and the good sense to walk in another's moccasins.

Inside the circle is the tree of life, where we become aware of our self, our consciousness, tribe, community, country, world, and our connection to all direction.

Dear Mother/Father of Earth and Sky, thank you for your blessings, the sacred hoop of life, and especially the wisdom to find release from fear of death. May our sisters and brothers of all Clans and Nations realize our sacred connection and, in harmony, savor the joy and even the sorrow of our circle of life and aging.

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STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2020-2023 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 9, 2019	AmericInn	Aberdeen	7:00 PM (CDT)
July 10, 2019	Highland Conference Center	Mitchell	7:00 PM (CDT)
July 11, 2019	Ramkota Hotel	Rapid City	7:00 PM (MDT)
July 15, 2019	Ramkota Hotel	Pierre	7:00 PM (CDT)
July 18, 2019	Webinar	Visit www.sddot.com for a link to participate	2:30 PM (CDT)

Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should submit a request to the department's ADA Coordinator at 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting.

For more information please go to www.SDDOT.com

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Groton Independent ♦ Wed., June 19, 2019 ♦ 3

Frederick School June 10, 2018

Meeting Minutes

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL
DISTRICT #6-2

JUNE 10, 2019
The meeting was called to order on June 10, 2019, at 7:00 pm by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Rich Achen, Jon Ellwein and Alex Hart. Dan Nickelson was excused. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kosters, Business Manager Janel Wagner, Connie Groop and Thersia Cox.

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 18-165 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, carried.

Action 18-166 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meeting held May 13, 2019 as amended since publication – add Bus Driving employment agreements to Action 18-161; May 2019 financial report, agency accounts and investments; District bills and May 2019 payroll. All aye, carried.

Ending May 31, 2019	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND	PENSION FUND	FOODDRIVERS ED SERVICE FUND	TRUST & AGENCY
Beginning checking Balance	\$177,451.30	\$183,915.23	\$143,661.21	\$7,798.67	\$1,950.03	\$796.38
Revenue:						
Taxes.....	\$248,134.64	\$242,155.21	\$161,709.05			
Local Sources.....	\$510.40	\$207.20			\$1,058.10	\$1,000.00
Interest	\$3,216.62	(\$3,186.81)				\$5,512.00
Federal & State	\$44,479.73		\$1,078.08		\$3,538.39	\$2.11
Total Revenue	\$296,341.39	\$239,175.60	\$162,787.13	\$0.00	\$4,596.49	\$1,000.00
Disbursements						
Bills.....	\$23,958.97	\$5,213.20	\$6,136.00		\$3,496.80	\$229.25
Payroll	\$143,864.80		\$16,786.05		\$4,794.05	\$2,273.00
Total Disbursements	\$167,823.77	\$5,213.20	\$22,922.05		\$8,290.85	\$2,502.25
Total checking balance	\$305,968.92	\$417,877.63	\$283,526.29	\$7,798.67	(\$1,744.33)	(\$705.87)
Beginning investment balance ..	\$370,714.98	\$1,493,634.20	\$956,175.05	\$45,189.23		
Interest	\$2,048.69					
Total investment balance.....	\$372,763.67	\$1,493,634.20	\$956,175.05	\$45,189.23		
Ending Balance.....	\$678,732.59	\$1,911,511.83	\$1,239,701.34	\$52,987.90	(\$1,744.33)	(\$705.87)

Brown County June 11, 2018

Meeting Minutes

JUNE 11, 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 Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes from June 4, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL: Moved by Kippley seconded by Sutton to approve the following claims:

Payroll: Commission \$5,528.71; Auditor \$8,615.64; Treasurer \$13,967.57; States Attorney \$21,618.97; SVA-WA \$1,389.40; Maintenance \$8,322.42; Assessor \$13,891.72; Register of Deeds \$8,771.39;

May 2019 Payroll – General Fund salaries 86,240.40; Special Education salaries 10,778.81; Food Service salaries 2,638.81; Drivers Education 1,510.18. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 27,275.85; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 837.01; American Funds, retirement 1,115.50; Delta Dental, insurance 1,612.74; Express Collections, garnishment 475.40; Reliastar Life, insurance 261.78; Security Benefits, retirement 417.50; VSP, vision insurance 270.28; Wellmark, health insurance 18,640.00, SD Retirement 15,178.14; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.50.

General Fund: Bledsoe Chiropractic, DOT physical 80.00; Brown County Treasurer, credit card fee 1.50; Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt & Burns LLP, legal fees 624.66; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 355.75; Dakota Broadcasting LLC, radio ads 500.00; DRN, fees 521.25; Farmers Union Oil, repairs 13.10; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 11.49; Faulds BP, gasoline 26.31; GDI News, publishing 147.38; Get & Go, gasoline 28.00; Graham Tire Aberdeen, repairs 163.42; Graves IT Solutions, database backup 300.00; Hauff Mid America Sports, sports awards 230.80; Hobby Lobby, poster 29.99; Hub City Radio, radio ads 500.00; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 239.40; Ketterling Photography, team photos 85.50; Leola School District 44-2, 2018-19 reconciliation 2,841.74; Mac's Inc, repairs 170.01; Main Street Station, cell phone reimbursement 25.00; Me-

nards, repairs/supplies 304.21; Merchant Services, lunch payment fees 22.65; Mid-American Research Chemical, supplies 2,038.74; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electric 3,115.85; O'Reilly Auto Parts, repairs 5.55; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 75.00; Podoll, Lance, mileage 317.52; Quality Quick Print, postage 3.40; School Specialty, supplies 419.96; Sheraton Sioux Falls, State track travel 564.00; South Dakota Medicaid, Medicaid admin fee 59.34; Town of Frederick, utilities 202.68; Trust & Agency Account, Imprest reimbursement 1,393.15; United States Postal Service, PO Box fee/postage 132.00. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, printer contract 630.34; Brown County Treasurer, license 21.20; CWD, dishwasher 8,285.00; rSchool Today, scheduler software 248.45. Special Education Fund: Bain, Larissa, mileage 75.60; Trust & Agency Account, Imprest reimbursement 402.00. Food Service Fund: CWD, supplies 285.03; Wilson, Wyatt, lunch money refund 30.5.

Connie Groop and Thersia Cox shared information regarding a community recycling program that is in the development stages. They offered suggestions on ways the school could begin recycling efforts with little to no cost to the district. Ms. Cox offered to be responsible for the management of a recycling program at the school.

Exit Ms. Cox and Ms. Groop at 7:19 pm.

The following reports were presented: Jeff Kosters, Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director, K-8 Principal in Mrs. Ringgenberg's absence, NCSEC in Dan Nickelson's absence and Leola-Frederick Co-Op Committee meeting.

Action 18-167 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve the 2019-2020 North Central Special Education Cooperative Comprehensive Plan. All aye, carried.

Action 18-168 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve the 2019-2020 membership with Associated School Boards of South Dakota. All aye, carried.

Action 18-169 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to approve the amended 2019-2020 employment agreement for Thersia Cox to add cell phone reimbursement. All aye, carried.

Action 18-170 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to accept the following 2019-2020 administrative contracts, certified contracts, and employment agreements with salaries to be published in July 2019: Jeff Kosters, Superintendent/9-12 Principal, Athletic Director, Drivers Education teacher, Bus Driver, Head Golf Coach, Junior High Football Coach, Head Girls Basketball Coach; Jennifer Anliker, teacher; Lance Podoll, Bus Supervisor, Bus Driver; Richard Bakeberg, Bus Driver; Mark Christianson, Bus Driver; Thersia Cox, Bus Driver; Keith Underberg, Bus Driver; Jim Dumire, Grounds Maintenance; Marty Morlock, Grounds Maintenance; Jessica Ringgenberg, Drama Club Advisor; Brock Pashen, Head Boys Basketball Coach,

Yearbook Advisor; Sarah Sumpston, Junior High Girls Basketball Coach, Science Fair Advisor; Caitlin Podoll, Oral Interp Advisor; Marty Morlock, Head Track Coach; Janelle Barondeau, Head Cross Country Coach and Don Nickelson, Junior High Boys Basketball Coach. All aye, carried.

Action 18-171 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve Elde Bailly to perform the Fiscal Year 2019 financial audit. All aye, carried.

Mrs. Wagner discussed the updated preliminary Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Set Fiscal Year 2019 closeout meeting for June 28, 2019, at 11:00 am via telephone.

Set Fiscal Year 2020 budget hearing for July 8, 2019, at 6:30 pm in the school library.

Action 18-172 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve Open Enrollment application #20-5. All aye, carried.

The school board would like to congratulate Brooklyn Podoll and Issac Sumpston for qualifying for the State Track Meet. The school board would also like to thank Ms. Labesky for many years of teaching and wish her well in retirement.

Action 18-173 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to adjourn at 8:53 pm. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

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per hour, Polly Rush @ \$21.37 per hour, Jaclyn Nagel @ \$17.77 per hour, Sarah Hartje @ \$15.92 per hour.

Approve the following step increase effective June 7, 2019: Jeremias Vega @ \$16.74 per hour.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Feickert – Nay, Commissioner Sutton– Aye, Wiese– Aye, Kippley – Nay, Fjeldheim– Aye. Motion carried. Commissioners Feickert and Kippley opposed approving the request to fill the vacancy of museum manager position because of budget concerns.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following contract for 2019 Brown County Fair: WPR @ \$2,000 for rodeo; Brown County Old Time Tractor Pullers Association @ \$1,200 for tractor pull. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

LEASE AGREEMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve and authorize the Chair sign the following lease agreement: Rob VanMeter for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp July 4-5, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign documentation to assign claim against an individual to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting a lien. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RIGHT OF WAY: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve right of way for Web Water Development for Brown County highway 13, section 22, township 124 north, range 65 west, Brown County SD. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

PLANNING AND ZONING JURISDICTION DISCUSSION: Procedural needs for expand-

Frederick Town Peterson

Variance Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING
Application has been made to the Frederick Town Board for a Variance Petition. A Special Meeting will be held in the Frederick Community Center, 406 3rd Ave, Frederick, South Dakota, on July 1, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of having a Variance to Permitted Uses and to setbacks in a Residential District.

Petitioner: Gary Peterson
Description of property: Lots 3 & 4, Block 14, 1st Addition to Frederick, Town of Frederick, Brown County, South Dakota. 303 2nd St.

Reason: Petitioning for a Variance to build a spec house and Variance for a 15 foot front yard rather than a 25 foot front yard to preserve a tree in the backyard.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2019.

Frederick Finance Officer
Diane Bruns
PO Box 546
Frederick, SD 57441
Office: (605) 329-2242

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ing Brown County planning and zoning jurisdiction to encompass the 3-mile boundary around Aberdeen City. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Kippley, seconded by Wiese to go into executive session to discuss personnel per SDCL 1-25-2(1). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

REGISTER OF DEEDS RECORD MANAGEMENT: Roberta Nichols, Register of Deeds, met to discuss scanning and records management. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to go into executive session to discuss personnel per SDCL 1-25-2(1). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

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

2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor, discussed preliminary budget needs and centralized purchasing. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal per SDCL 1-25-2(1,3). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

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

SOFTWARE UPGRADE: Erica Coughlin, HR Director, met to discuss an upgrade to the accounting and personnel management software. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Sutton seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 11:15 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$91.09. 17611

Westport Town June 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting
June 3rd, 2019

The Town of Westport met on June 3rd, 2019 with Tim Selzler, Shane Storm, Mike Wilson and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General
NWPS (\$290.97), Fireworks-Justin Ellefson (\$500.00), Menards- Playground (\$4,098.00) Running (\$522.51) Payroll – Matthew Wilson (\$481.01), Tim Selzler (\$100.00), Shane Storm (\$535.00), Michael Wilson (\$1,016.00), & Doreen Hertel (\$900.00).

Sewer
NWPS (\$96.18), NRWA –loan repayment (\$210.13) & Payroll –Doreen Hertel (\$300.00).

Water
WEB (\$1,140.29),SD Association of Rural Water System (\$345.00), Water Maintenance District (\$408.16), Payroll- Doreen Hertel (\$300.00).

Shane Storm made motion to pay all bills; second by Tim

Selzler.
The following deposits were presented:

City General
Brown County Collections (\$4,432.29), State of SD (\$4,354.06) & Interest (\$31.36).
Sewer

Resident Payments – (\$2,000.00) & Brown County Collections (\$157.50).

Water
Resident Payments – (\$3,285.60) & Brown County Collections (\$273.00).

NEW BUSINESS:
Mowing contract for the Sacred Heart church cemetery was signed.

The city will purchase and place briquettes in standing water, within city limits for mosquito control.

The city has purchased playground equipment; once it arrives it will be set up.
Discussion was held on loose dogs. The city is looking into what can be done.

The city has an old Dixon lawn mower that is up for sale, the motor is not working. Best offer will be accepted.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$20.57 17609

**Claremont Town
June 11, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

The board of trustees for the town of Claremont met on 6-11-19 at 7:00 p.m. in city hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees Spencer and Rasmussen present. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the minutes of the May meeting were approved. On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Spencer the following warrants were allowed.

General: George Logan Asphalt Paving, street repair, 9999.00; James Valley, phone and internet, 85.26; DMI, maintainer repair, 1323.43; NWE, lights, 308.56; Shane Johnson, gas for mower, 96.94; Charla Rye, statement pads, envelopes, 14.56; Shane Johnson, 9 meetings, 623.36; Frank Rasmussen, 9 meetings, 623.36; Jason Spencer, 9 meetings, 623.36;

Missi Smith, mowing 22 1/2 hrs, 208.00; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; Groton Independent, publishing, 12.93; Allen Kunger, road grading, 64.00; Claremont Fire works, donation, 1000.00; WSSW: First State Bank, water meters, 587.50; NWE, water, 92.86; NWE, sewer, 135.90; DENR, drinking water fee, 60.00; BDM, water used, 980.90; SD Public Health Lab, water samples, 30.00; Rural Development, water loan, 576.00.

A letter from the DENR notifying the town passed the inspection for the restricted use facility was handed to the trustees for reading. The Catex prepared by DENR reviewed and will be published along with the minutes of the regular meeting.

With no further business before the board a motion was made by Spencer to adjourn and seconded by Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Rye F.O.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$17.04. 17610



The Spike and Helen Nehls yard at 905 N. 3rd St., Groton, was chosen as this week's Yard of the Week by the members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**State of S.D.
Estate of**

Roger E. Aberle

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BROWN
IN CIRCUIT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF ROGER E. ABERLE,
DECEASED

06PRO.019-000056
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that on the 11th day of June, 2019, Kaili A. Aberle, whose address is 406 West 2nd Avenue, Groton, SD 57445, was appointed as personal representative of the estate of Jacky McKiver.

Creditors of the decedent must file their claims within four (4) months after the appointment of the personal representative on the 11th day of June, 2019, or within sixty (60) days after the date of mailing or

delivery of this written notice, whichever is later, or be forever barred.

Claims may be filed with the personal representative or may be filed with the Clerk of Courts and a copy of the claim mailed to the personal representative.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2019.

/s/ Kaili A. Aberle
Kaili A. Aberle
406 W 2nd Ave,
Groton, SD 57445
Clerk of Courts
Brown County Courthouse
25 Market Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Richard Kolker, Attorney
PO Box 467
Groton, SD 57445
(605)397-8464
tdlaw@nvc.net
(0619.0703)

Published 3 times at the total approximate cost of \$44.98. 17608



Full Pool

The capacity of the pool is 278, and Friday afternoon, it did not quite reach capacity, but over 200 were in the pool area. In addition to Groton's OST being there and locals as well, three Aberdeen YMCA vans also showed up with an additional 42 swimmers. Karla Pasteur, one of the managers, was quick to call in reinforcements for lifeguards as six were on duty during the peak time. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



**5th and Washington
to be a 4-way stop**

There was discussion on putting the stop signs back up on West Fifth Avenue at Washington St. going east and west. The Groton City Council approved to make that intersection a four-way stop at its meeting Tuesday evening.

Members present were Jay Peterson, David McGannon, Shirley Wells, David Blackmun on the phone and Mayor Scott Hanlon. Absent were Karyn Babcock and Burt Glover.

Jay Peterson was sworn in to fill the vacancy in Ward I. He will serve a one-year term. Peterson previously held the position.

The council cashed out a CD worth \$200,000 which will be used for the water tower expense.

Finance Officer Hope Block informed the council to get int their budget requests for next year. There was discussion on getting two permanent speed signs along SD37. Mayor Scott Hanlon said there is a grant opportunity for up to \$4,000. Someone would have to go to Chicago in October for the grant program.

Councilman David Blackmun suggested that the players of the State Junior Legion Tournament have their player pass be good as a pool pass for that weekend as well. The council decided that in all future state tournaments, the player pass would work as a pool pass as well for the respective weekends.

Latex and Mylar Balloons Groton Daily Independent

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70th
Mom and Dad!**

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19-PHYS-17125

Governor to enact reform of youth treatment facilities

By: Bart Pfankuch

Gov. Kristi Noem has ordered the state Department of Social Services to enact a series of wide-ranging reforms intended to improve the safety of youths sent to privately run treatment facilities across South Dakota.

"As a mom, it deeply saddens me to read the stories of these kids. Regardless of whether a situation happened 10 years ago, 10 months ago or 10 days ago, abuse is never OK."

— South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, reacting to the News Watch investigation of abuses of residents at Aurora Plains Academy



The governor's announcement came in response to an investigative report published June 5 by South Dakota News Watch that uncovered a decade-long pattern of physical, sexual and psychological abuse of youths at Aurora Plains Academy, a privately run, government-funded intensive residential treatment facility in Plankinton, S.D.

"As a mom, it deeply saddens me to read the stories of these kids. Regardless of whether a situation happened 10 years ago, 10 months ago or 10 days ago, abuse is never OK," the governor wrote in a statement to News Watch. "I hope we can learn and take corrective action where it is needed to protect our most vulnerable population."

Noem said she has ordered DSS, which has regulatory authority over youth treatment facilities including Aurora Plains, to review and reform licensing and inspection processes of the facilities, to seek ways to improve safety for children, to increase transparency of neglect or abuse complaints and corrective-action plans, and to push state agencies to do more unannounced inspections (only one annual, pre-announced inspection of each facility is done by the state now.)

"In light of the stories of abuse these people have shared, I have asked the Department of Social Services to produce a full analysis on the processes for licensing and inspecting these private facilities and fully evaluate the department's role in ensuring the wellbeing and safety of these children," Noem wrote. "If there are ways to improve our systems — whether that's through added resources, increased oversight, or legislation — we must act. We must do better."

The six-month News Watch investigation included a review of public records and independent injury investigations, as well as a dozen on-the-record interviews with former academy residents and employees and the parents of residents. The report showed that 400 child abuse or neglect complaints were filed against Aurora Plains over the past 10 years, but that the state investigated only 39 of those complaints and issued four corrective-action reports during that time. The report further showed that some employees were needlessly rough with residents, that some employees used illegal restraints and holds, that residents were bullied and taunted by some employees, and that a culture of secrecy and protectionism within the facility allowed the abuse to continue unabated. Several residents were left with physical injuries including injured limbs, bruising and rug burns on their faces. Some female residents reported being touched sexually or having their breasts pinched to the point of bruising.

Noem, a first-term Republican governor, said Aurora Plains was placed under a corrective-action plan by the state from 2012 to 2014 that required improvements in reporting protocols, the proper use of physical restraints on residents, the supervision of youth, the management and training of staff, and emergency procedures. She said the number of complaints filed against the facility fell after those steps were taken.

"Facilities such as Aurora Plains Academy play a critical role to a very vulnerable population," Noem wrote. "My team and I remain committed to protecting kids in this facility and helping these private facilities administer the best care for youth."

In an earlier email to News Watch, Noem wrote that improvements were required and have been implemented at the Black Hills Children's Home, a privately run residential youth treatment facility in Rockerville operated by the Children's Home Society. That facility in February lost track of 9-year-old resident Serenity Dennard, who ran away and has not been found and is presumed dead by authorities, who continue to search for her.

The president of Clinicare Corp., the for-profit Wisconsin firm that operates Aurora Plains, said in a statement that the News Watch investigation was incomplete, and "distorted" the role of academy employees in allegations of improper care.

"Because of regulatory and legal requirements regarding confidentiality ... we are not in a position to publicly address such allegations," company president David Fritsch wrote in response to a series of questions sent to him by News Watch. "That said, the reporting of several allegations misrepresents the scope of the alleged incidents with incomplete accounts that distort the response by staff members."

Fritsch declined an interview request. But in his statement, he noted that Aurora Plains employees were trained in late 2018 on a new form of physical restraint known as Safe Crisis Management, which emphasizes de-escalation and collaborative problem solving.

By state regulation, academy employees are allowed to physically restrain residents only when they are a danger to themselves or others. Former academy residents and employees told News Watch that some employees often used holds or sometimes tackled them to the ground or mashed their faces into walls or the floor. Hard restraints were done for minor violations such as not following orders, talking out of turn or failing to take medications, they said. Some employees would goad residents into acting out so they could restrain them and would then falsify reports to place the blame on residents for causing their own injuries.

Fritsch said the academy houses a difficult population, has successfully treated thousands of youths over the years and works closely with state regulators to ensure resident safety. He said the academy is fully accredited and internally reviews all reports of injuries or claims of abuse, which are also provided to the state. Fritsch pointed out that academy residents can join a student council, participate in theater, take culinary training, attend prom and engage in community service projects.

Aurora Plains is an intensive residential treatment center licensed to house 66 people ages 10 to 20, with 48 beds for males and 18 for females, according to the facility website. The site refers to its clientele as a special population "characterized by high levels of verbal, physical and sexual aggression."

Reactions to investigation pour in
The publication of the "Treatment or Trauma?" investigation by News Watch on June 5 drew strong reactions from a variety of sources.

State Sen. Joshua Klumb, a Republican from Mount Vernon whose district includes

Aurora County, where Aurora Plains Academy is located, said he knows and attends church with several academy employees who he said are fine people.

"I don't really believe there is a problem," said Klumb, who noted that he sits on a community advisory board for Aurora Plains Academy.

Klumb said it's likely that people who have alleged abuses at the academy are "disgruntled," and that he feels state oversight of the facility has been adequate. "I think we've got two sides of the story there and I have to go with the people I trust," Klumb said.

State Rep. Paul Miskimins of Mitchell, a Republican whose district includes Aurora County, said he also knows good people who work at Aurora Plains but added that it is clear mistakes were made and that abuse of some youths did occur.

"It's almost certain from the report; it's too frequent to not believe it," Miskimins said. "I don't think they're all not telling the truth. That would be sticking your head in the sand and I don't believe in that."

Miskimins said he would like standards for resident care and treatment to be reviewed and improved by DSS. He also suggested that new ownership of the facility might be appropriate.

"It is of great concern to all the people of South Dakota," Miskimins said. "Whether DSS needs to step up their game to protect these young people or whether ownership needs to change, I'm not in charge of that. But if nothing happens, then I think action needs to be taken."



State Rep. Paul Miskimins, R-Mitchell, represents the district that includes Aurora Plains Academy. Miskimins said greater transparency by the facility and stronger government oversight are needed to make youths at the academy safer.

Photo: Submitted

Miskimins said greater transparency and oversight of operations and outcomes are needed at Aurora Plains, and he suggested that improved training and screening of employees could help make the facility safer. He also called for more unannounced inspections and more thorough investigations when complaints are made.

"These allegations should be taken seriously and investigated, and probably some changes need to be made in the way things are reviewed and listened to when complaints are made because it doesn't seem that the complaints were adequately responded to," he said. "Those that are pinching and sexually and physically abusing, that's wrong and everyone knows that."

Reaction to the investigation on social media was extensive, with many commenters urging the state to take action or sharing their own stories of abuse at the academy. News Watch heard directly from several former residents who told of physical and psychological abuse suffered at the academy.

Jessi Dillon, now 24 and a construction worker in Sioux City, Iowa, said he remains emotionally scarred by the way he and others were treated by employees of the academy.

Dillon wrote to News Watch and wanted to share his story after reading the investigative report. Dillon was sent to Aurora Plains at age 14 in 2009 and spent four years at the facility.

Dillon said he saw physical or mental abuse

of residents almost daily, and would frequently hear youths cry out in pain or terror either in his residential pod or from others within the campus. He said he was on three medications when he arrived but at one point was put on a dozen medications by academy staff, another frequent complaint of former residents. The medications combined to cloud his thinking and reduce his ability to control his emotions, he said.

One morning, after a restless night where his medications prevented him from sleeping, Dillon said he tried to stay in bed. Suddenly, he said, two therapeutic-support staff members showed up and physically removed him from his bed.

"Two of them picked me up and pinned me to the wall and slammed me to the ground and drug me out with my face dragging on the floor," Dillon said. "They pinned arms so far behind my back it made my chest so tight it was hard to breathe."

Dillon said residents would behave well and follow rules when treated with kindness and respect, but that many youths did not respond well to bullying, being shouted at in the face or taunted by employees who had bad tempers or seemed to enjoy harming residents.

"I understand we were kids with problems, but we still didn't deserve that disrespect and the ruthlessness the staff displayed to us," he said.

Lauren Schroeder is the mother of a boy who suffered extensive bruising and rug burns caused by overly aggressive employees during a five-month stay at Aurora Plains Academy. Schroeder hopes a call for greater oversight of youth treatment facilities by Gov. Kristi Noem will lead to real reforms and end the abuse of young people who attend the residential academy. Photo: Submitted



Lauren Schroeder, the parent of a boy who suffered extensive bruising and rug burns as a result of abuse by employees of the academy in 2015, was cautiously optimistic that the governor's directives would lead to positive change.

"I think it's a start, and while there's something behind words, there's much more behind action, so we really need to see action," said Schroeder, whose son's injuries were documented by police in Aberdeen and at Child's Voice within Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls. "The proof is in the pudding; I'm not convinced until I actually see documentation and proof that things have changed."

Schroeder said far more oversight is needed to ensure youths who reside at Aurora Plains are kept safe and receive effective treatment.

"No matter what, these kids shouldn't be physically, sexually or psychologically abused, they should be getting help," she said.

Emily Mitchell, whose son Ender Murray, then 10, suffered a black eye, bruising and rug burns during an attack by an academy employee in 2013, said she appreciated the governor's efforts to reform the youth treatment system.

Yet Mitchell remains angry over the mistreatment of her son and said that it shouldn't have taken state officials so long to listen to and believe the complaints of abuse made against academy employees by residents and their parents.

"I appreciate her taking action, but I feel like it's not enough," said Mitchell, who has pushed for youth treatment reform since her son was injured six years ago. "It really shouldn't have gone this far; we should not have had to fight this hard to get the truth out. And they should not have left my son there after they substantiated the abuse."

Mitchell said her son has post-traumatic stress disorder in addition to physical and

emotional scarring from the abuse he endured at Aurora Plains. "They abused him repeatedly over 24 months and stole his shine," she said. "They left my child a shell of who he was."



Emily Mitchell and her son, Ender Murray, share a happy moment on Ender's 17th birthday in May 2019. Mitchell said her son remains troubled by the physical and psychological abuse he suffered while living at Aurora Plains Academy as a teen during the mid-2010s. Photo: Submitted

Wisconsin facility closed after injury

Clinicare, a firm launched in 1967, now operates Aurora Plains and similar intensive youth treatment facilities in Victoria, Minn., and in Eau Claire and Milwaukee, Wis.

The mistreatment at Aurora Plains is not the first time Clinicare has faced serious allegations of injurious treatment of youths at its facilities.

In October 2013, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families revoked the license of the Wyalusing Academy in Prairie du Chien, Wis., after a boy at the Clinicare-owned facility was left paralyzed due to a damaged spinal cord resulting from three restraints by staff.

State records showed that the boy, who had been at the home less than a week, was taken to the ground during a restraint and lost feeling in his legs. Despite his injuries, the boy was restrained two more times as he was moved to an isolation room and left to sleep without bedding on a hard floor. He was not taken to a hospital for more than 24 hours after the injury.

The license-revocation notice from the state said, "The agency staff implemented a physical hold with a resident when there was not any imminent danger."

Clinicare initially fought the license revocation but later agreed to close the facility, according to press reports at the time.

In a separate case, an employee of the Clinicare-owned Milwaukee Academy youth facility in Wauwatosa, Wis., was arrested in August 2017 after police say he helped a 15-year-old girl run away from the facility, then gave her alcohol and marijuana before having sex with her multiple times.

In 1980, Clinicare agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of residents of its youth academy in Eau Claire, Wis. While denying any wrongdoing, Clinicare agreed to settle the suit by adopting and enforcing new policies regarding treatment of residents. The company agreed to new disciplinary policies that focused on treatment "instead of punishment."

The settlement "specifically prohibited physical and verbal abuse, withholding meals, mail and family visits as discipline, allowing children to punish one another and other inappropriate discipline." Clinicare also agreed to stop using psychotropic drugs to control behavior, except in emergencies.

Clinicare remains involved in an ongoing lawsuit filed against it by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families regarding the use of strip searches of residents at the academy.

Fritsch, the president of Clinicare, said in an email to News Watch that the firm learned lessons from the closure of the Wyalusing Academy.

"In the past, Clinicare, in consultation with state authorities, did voluntarily close a treatment facility in another state, after which we

conducted a review of policies and procedures," Fritsch wrote. "As an organization, we learned from that experience and have moved forward, committed to providing high-level services at all our institutions, including Aurora Plains Academy."

Concerns raised over private, for-profit operators

Youth treatment centers across the country have seen thousands of abuse cases, some involving deaths, owing to poor employee training and inadequate management of facilities, according to a 2017 federal Government Accountability Office report sent to Congress. Negligent operating practices and poor training and oversight of staff heightened the chances for abuse of residents in youth residential-treatment programs, the report concluded.

In a separate GAO report, the improper use of restraints was highlighted as a factor in deaths at several treatment facilities. A 1998 report by the Hartford Courant newspaper tallied 142 deaths across the country in a 10-year period caused by improper restraining of patients at residential treatment centers and group homes.

All 20 youth treatment facilities in South Dakota are privately operated, either by non-profits or for-profit entities, said Tia Kafka, spokesperson for DSS.

Privatization of correctional and treatment centers for both youths and adults is on the rise in the U.S., with about half of youth facilities now run by private non-profit agencies or for-profit companies, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Some national studies and reports have shown that compared with state-run facilities, privately operated juvenile facilities see higher employee turnover rates, less employee training, decreased facility maintenance and increased injuries for both staff and residents.

Melissa Goemann, senior policy counsel for the non-profit National Juvenile Justice Network, said treatment outcomes and resident safety are lower at institutions run by for-profit, private firms than those that are publicly owned and overseen. Government oversight of private facilities tends to be lower as well, she said.

"There's so many negative consequences that we've seen in private, for-profit facilities," said Goemann, who researched studies and reports on privately run facilities for a 2015 position paper for the network. "The private, for-profit facilities in general have a much worse track record in terms of resident and employee safety and positive treatment outcomes."

Goemann said for-profit firms need to maintain a strong, steady population of residents in order to maximize profits, sometimes taking in residents who don't really need to be there. They also try to limit spending on employee training, resident programming and other overhead expenses in order to maintain cash flow, she said.

Aurora Plains is mainly funded through the Medicaid program, with a combination of state and federal funds. In fiscal year 2018, Kafka said, the facility was paid \$7.34 million in government funds, with \$4.1 million in federal funds and \$3.2 million in state funds.

"The incentive as a for-profit company is to run the place as cheaply as possible, and that's not in keeping with providing what children need for positive youth development, which isn't always cheap," said Goemann. "Because they tend to be doing things on the cheap in terms of lower-quality employees and less training for staff, they cut programming for kids, and it all leads to a bad cycle where you have higher levels of violence and abuse situations."

Goemann also said her research showed that states where privatization is dominant, such as South Dakota, operate under a false premise that privately run facilities save taxpayers money.

"It's really a myth that these governments are saving money, but they seem to keep buying into that idea," she said. "It's our position that the government shouldn't be trying to save money off the backs of children. It should be about creating a safe space for a young person to thrive and come out better than when they went in."

Transit Fundraiser



Mandy Boe brings the food and drink to Elda Stange. Elda said that she used the transit when she had to go to the Groton Care & Rehab Center for physical therapy. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



JR, Paula and Asher Johnson go through the serving line at the Groton Community Transit fundraiser held Thursday. Serving them are Lori Westby and Lorrie Weber. Also pictured on the far left is Mandy Boe. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



David McGannon and Larry Harry were busy flipping burgers on the big grill. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Topper Tastad is pictured here moving quickly to get the donuts made. He said the key was to "keep the top full and the bottom empty. You go as fast as you can." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Arlis Doeden of the Groton Community Transit visits with people as they came to the fundraiser. She is pictured with June and Jim Ackman and Doug Doeden. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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A good size crowd showed up for the annual Groton Community Transit fundraiser. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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