

THE Groton Independent

South Dakota

Growing Families & Opportunities

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Stolles have Yard of the Week

The Bill and Penny Stolle yard at 404 E 6th Ave. was chosen as last week's Yard of the Week. The Yard of the Week is chosen by members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Pictured are Nancy Oar, Audrey Jacobson, Tom Oar and Clint Jacobson. (Courtesy Photo)

Jacobsons meet Mountain Men Star

Clint and Audrey Jacobson took a vacation to the Yaak area of Montana where they own some lots. They had to go back to take care of business with the lots. But they got more than a business trip. They had the opportunity to see and visit with Tom and Nancy Oar.

Tom was one of the stars of Mountain Men, a show on the History Channel. Tom has recently retired from the show and was not in the Season eight series that started in June.

Tom and Nancy have moved to Florida, but still have property in the Yaak area.

While the Jacobsons were on vacation, there was a school benefit for the Yaak School. It is a five-student school with one teacher. The benefit was for purchasing books and computers for the school.

"We were hoping to meet Tom when we got there," Clint said. "And lo and behold we did."



Class of 89 Class Reunion

Front row: Glenda (Mahoney) LaMee, Jill (Hanson) Sandve, and Collin Gengerke,

Middle row: Todd Thurston, Tina (Brotzel) Kosel, Sandy (Brown) Sippel, Teri (Harry) Foertsch, Rhonda (Meister) Foote, Becky (Flihs) Larson, Troy Bahr, Tim Thurston, and Dwight Strom,

Back row: Sherry (Ringgenberg) Miller, Ward Dirksen, Lisa (Nierman) Adler, Robin (Wanous) Williamson, Paula (Pray) Winther, and Dean Townsend. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Geist Bridal Shower

Please join us for a bridal shower honoring Andee Geist,

Bride-to-be of Kody Conlon Saturday, July 27th, at 1 pm

Aberdeen Senior Citizens Center 1303 7th Ave SE

Aberdeen, SD

The couple is registered at Target, on Amazon.com, and Lori's Pharmacy

The following was posted on the Groton Kiwanis Facebook Page:



Tom and Nancy Oar own this store along the Yaak River in Montana. Audrey Jacobson is pictured with Wil who works at the store. (Courtesy Photo)

It is with deep sadness that after 66 years in service to the community of Groton, the Groton Kiwanis Club announces that the service organization has made the difficult decision to close the local chapter.

A decline in membership numbers for the Groton chapter was cited as a major factor in the decision. The experience of the Groton Kiwanis mirrors that of countless other service organizations across the country. Service clubs nationwide struggle to maintain viable membership numbers, in today's internet connected constant connection society.

Kiwanis members will continue their legacy of service to the Groton Community as part of other community organizations. Meetings will be held in the future to determine the plan for the club's assets.

Groton Kiwanis Club is grateful for the many years of support they have received from the Groton community.

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Webster Theatre
 Theatre opens at 7 pm with movies starting at 7:30 pm, Friday through Monday.
 7/27 to 7/29 Toy Story 4, PG
 8/3 to 8/5 Yesterday, PG 13
 8/10 to 8/12 Lion King, PG
 8/17 to 8/19 Lion King, PG

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Classifieds and Card of Thanks
 The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at www.grotonsd.net. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.
 1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
 4th consecutive week is free
605/397-NEWS (6397)
 PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

BIDS

WAYNE TOWNSHIP, MINNEHAHA COUNTY is taking sealed bids on a 1973 John Deere 401B industrial tractor with Tiger six foot side rotary mower. Deadline August 12th. 605 366-6847.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

FOR LEASE: Small town business café. On State Highway in North Central South Dakota in the heart of hunting haven and 60 miles east of Missouri River. Interested parties contact Hosmer City Office (605) 283-2748.

LEGION CLUB FOR SALE, Gettysburg, SD. Includes historic 1910 wooden bar, 60x160 annex building for community events. Excellent income potential. Details call Don Hericks 605-769-0877.

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: PUBLIC WORKS. The City of Onida is seeking a public works employee. Full Time, with benefits. Salary is DOQ. City of Onida 605-258-2441.

SEEKING HS ENGLISH teacher, MS/HS Art teacher and MS/HS Instrumental Music teacher for the Mobridge-Pollock School District 62-6 for the 2019-2020 school year. Signing bonus offered. Contact Tim Frederick at 605-845-9204 for more information. Certified Application and Resume can be mailed to: Mobridge-Pollock School District 62-6; Attn: Tim Frederick; 1107 1st Avenue East; Mobridge SD 57601. Open until filled. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT is sought by the City of Wilmot in northeast South Dakota. FT with benefits. For job information and applications call 605-938-4811.

HELP WANTED: McPherson County FT Mechanic/Welder/Equipment Operator to be located out of the Leola shop. Applicant should have basic equipment maintenance ability. Must have Class A CDL. Starting salary is D.O.E.Q. and benefits are provided. Open until filled. Applications should be submitted to: McPherson County Highway Department PO Box 30 Leola, SD 57456. Contact the McPherson County Highway Office at 605-439-3667 or the Auditor's office at 605-439-3314. EOE.

MISCELLANEOUS

SHOP~N~RUMMAGE GREGORY COUNTY August 9-11 sidewalk, bake, rummage sales, and more. gregorydallasd.com #gettogregory Gregory/Dallas Chamber of Commerce

NOTICES

ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS statewide for only \$150.00. Put the South Dakota Statewide Classifieds Network to work for you today! (25 words for \$150. Each additional word \$5.) Call the Independent at 397-6397 for details.

Frederick School July 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2
JULY 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order on July 8, 2019, at 7:04 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Dan Nickelson, Jon Ellwein and Alex Hart. Richard Achen was excused. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kusters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Janel Wagner.

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

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

Action 18-182 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve the agenda as amended: reword Board to Border on 14dd. All aye, carried.

Action 18-183 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve consent agenda which included the following items as presented: minutes of meetings held June 10, 2019, June 24, 2019 and June 26, 2019; June 2019 financial report, agency accounts and investments; June 2019 District bills and June 2019 payroll. All aye, carried.

Ending June 30, 2019	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND	SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND	PENSION FUND	FOODDRIVERS SERVICE FUND	ED FUND	TRUST & AGENCY
Beginning checking Balance	\$306,393.82	\$417,452.73	\$283,526.29	\$7,798.67	(\$1,744.33)	(\$705.87)	\$41,233.65
Revenue:							
Taxes.....	\$114,313.17	\$108,178.61	\$72,287.84				
Local Sources.....	\$526.82						\$1,856.82
Intermediate Sources.....	\$705.74						
Interest	\$71.89						(\$30.45)
Federal & State	\$65,814.91						
Total Revenue	\$181,432.53	\$108,178.61	\$72,287.84	\$0.00	\$2,273.27	\$0.00	\$1,826.37
Disbursements							
Bills.....	\$9,950.05	\$14,477.43	\$640.95		\$288.08	\$158.51	\$4,151.60
Payroll	\$115,500.37		\$9,908.47		\$1,232.89	\$1,363.80	
Total Disbursements	\$125,450.42	\$14,477.43	\$10,549.42		\$1,520.97	\$1,522.31	\$4,151.60
Transfers.....							
Transfer-Gen Fund to Food Service.....	(\$5,658.00)				\$5,658.00		
Transfer-Gen Fund to Drivers Education	(\$2,719.00)					\$2,719.00	
Transfer-Cap Outlay to Gen Fund.....	\$183,108.00	(\$183,108.00)					
Total Net Transfers.....	\$174,731.00	(\$183,108.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,658.00	\$2,719.00	\$0.00
Total checking balance.....	\$537,106.93	\$328,045.91	\$345,264.71	\$7,798.67	\$4,665.97	\$490.82	\$38,908.42
Beginning investment balance ..	\$372,763.67	\$1,493,634.20	\$956,175.05	\$45,189.23			
Interest	\$4,084.97						
Transfer-Pension to Gen Fund	\$28,000.00			(\$28,000.00)			
Total investment balance.....	\$404,848.64	\$1,493,634.20	\$956,175.05	\$17,189.23			
Ending Balance.....	\$941,955.57	\$1,821,680.11	\$1,301,439.76	\$24,987.90	\$4,665.97	\$490.82	

Claims approved: June 2019 Payroll – General Fund salaries 65,579.79; Special Education salaries 6,244.86; Food Service salaries 165.52; Drivers Education 997.05. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 19,938.61; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 837.01; American Funds, retirement 1,115.02; Delta Dental, insurance 1,612.74; Express Collections, garnishment 494.61; Reliastar Life, insurance 261.78; Security Benefits, retirement 417.26; VSP, vision insurance 270.28; Wellmark, health insurance 17,949.00, SD Retirement 11,656.74; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.26.

General Fund: Aberdeen School District 6-1, ATEC 2nd semester 1,828.80; Agtegra, gasoline 2043.32; Auto Value Aberdeen, repairs 508.50; Dakota Electronics, alarm maintenance 60.00; DRN, repairs 480.00; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 324.54; Foreman Sales & Service, repairs 664.34; GDI News, publishing 326.19; Mac's Inc, repairs 23.99; Menards, repairs 85.09; Merchant Services, lunch payment fees 10.59; Mertz Lumber & Supply, supplies 86.04; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electric 2,431.05; Pantorium Cleaners Inc, supplies 75.00; Pearson Education Inc, curriculum training 1,900.00; Pomp's Tire Service Inc, repairs 62.00; Quality Quick Print, postage 15.00; Running Supply Inc, repairs 221.70; Schwan Welding & Boiler Repair, repairs 44.40; Town of Frederick, utilities 196.00; United States Postal Service, postage 6.00. Capital Outlay Fund: Pearson Education Inc, reading curriculum 41,997.02. Special Education Fund: Avera St Lukes, occupational therapy 840.00.

Oath of office was read and signed by Janel Wagner, Business Manager.

President Schlosser called a recess to begin annual organization meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Business Manager Wagner called the annual organization meeting to order.

Oath of office was administered by Janel Wagner, Business Manager, to board members Rich Schlosser, Richard Achen and Alex Hart.

Ms Wagner called for nominations for President.

Action 19-001 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to nominate Rich Schlosser for President. It was moved by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Rich Schlosser as President. All aye, carried.

President Schlosser now presided the meeting.

Action 19-002 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to nominate Dan Nickelson as Vice President. All aye, carried.

Action 19-003 Motion by Ellwein, second by Nickelson to approve two Conflict of Interest Disclosures for Jeff Kusters. All aye, carried.

Action 19-004 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve the following Custodial Duties for the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

a. Set date and time of regular school board meetings as the second Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. in the School library;

b. Designate Business Manager as custodian of all district accounts and to serve as School Board Secretary;

c. Authorize Business Manager to continue existing funds and establish new accounts and to invest/reinvest funds in local institutions which serve the greatest advantage to the District;

d. Designate First National Bank of Frederick as the official depository of school funds;

e. Authorize participation in

and/or Business Manager in the purchase of federal and state property;

v. Designate Superintendent and/or Principal to cancel and/or close school due to inclement weather or other emergencies;

w. Set travel reimbursement rate per state rates for mileage and meals; and lodging at state or best possible rate for staff and students;

x. Designate Superintendent to authorize DOE Child and Adult Nutrition Service application;

y. Appoint board members to the following committees:

i. Negotiations: Rich Schlosser and Jon Ellwein

ii. Athletic Co-op: Alex Hart and Richard Achen

iii. Voting member of the North Central Special Education Cooperative Governing Board for 2019-2020 school year: Dan Nickelson

iv. ASBSD delegate: Rich Schlosser;

z. Designate Division of Criminal Investigation as background check provider;

aa. Adopt Title I School Improvement Plan;

bb. Adopt Handbooks:

i. Technology Handbook

ii. 2019-20 Student Handbook

iii. 2019-20 Leola/Frederick Titans Student Activity Handbook

cc. 2019-20 Leola/Frederick Sports Coop Agreement

dd. 2019-20 North Border Coop Agreement. All aye, carried.

Action 19-005 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to approve agenda with amendment: add Accept Coaching contract as #21; renumber 21 and 22 to 22

and 23. All aye, carried.

Action 19-006 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve consent agenda which included the July 2019 District bills. All aye, carried.

General Fund: ASBSD, 2019-20 annual dues 887.42; ASB Property/Liability Fund, premium 35,440.00; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 176.44; Committee for Children, license 219.00; Curriculum Associates, workbooks 268.46; Double D Body Shop, repairs 73.00; eBoard Solutions Inc, policy software 300.00; Gaggle,Net Inc, safety management program 675.00; Gopher Sport, PE equipment 1,042.51; Goverlan Inc, software support 220.00; Heuer Publishing Inc, oral interop scripts 22.50; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 238.44; Lakeshore Learning Company, classroom supplies 343.25; Lampo Group, curriculum 384.85; Menards, repairs 8.38; Morlock, Marty, coach training 35.00; NCS Pearson Inc, Aimsweb 405.00; Pearson Education Inc, curriculum 172.95; Really Good Stuff, supplies 14.94; Riddell/All American Sports Corp, equipment reconditioning 1,071.18; Running Supply Inc, supplies 17.99; SASD, membership dues 1,224.00; School Specialty, supplies 35.17; SDACTE, conference registration 235.00; SDSTE, membership 30.00; SD Teacher Placement Center, enrollment fee 435.00; SHI International Corp, license 1,951.50; Technology & Innovation in Education, membership 920.00; Workers' Compensation Fund, premium 6,457.00. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, printing contract 630.34; American Time, clock 153.62; Connecting Point Computer Center, Lightspeed 1,344.00; JJ & ZAK, ICU database renewal 999.00; Markerboard People, white boards 198.00; Pro-Vision Inc, bus cameras 1,842.65; Software Unlimited Inc, accounting software 4,800.00; Teacher Innovation Inc, Planbook 243.00. Special Education Fund: Workers' Compensation Fund, pre-

mium 652.00. Food Service Fund: SNA of SD, conference registration 260.00; Workers' Compensation Fund, premium 1,176.00. Driver's Education Fund: Workers' Compensation Fund, premium 21.00.

The following reports were presented:

A. Jeff Kusters - Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director

B. Jessica Ringgenberg - K-8 Principal

Action 19-007 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to approve the 2018-2019 financial statement for the Earl & Marvel Gelling scholarship trust. All aye, carried.

Action 19-008 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve the 2018-2019 financial statement for the Ovid Stevens scholarship trust. All aye, carried.

Action 19-009 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve quote from CommTech. All aye, carried.

Action 19-010 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to accept 2019-2020 contract for Marty Morlock, Assistant Football coach. Salary to be published in July 2019. All aye, carried.

The board would like to congratulate the Girls and Boys Track teams for achieving the Academic Team Award.

Action 19-011 Motion by Ellwein, second by Nickelson to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. All aye, carried.

Rich Schlosser, President
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

Published once at the approximate cost of \$177.84. 17693

dependent (\$118.41), Running's (\$30.00), SD Unemployment Ins. (\$18.51), US Treasury (\$1,037.21), Drew Johnson (\$500.00), Eddie's Northside (\$350.00), Matthew Wilson (\$721.05).

Sewer NWPS (\$45.46) & NRW –loan repayment (\$210.13).

Water WEB (\$1,298.17), Dept. of Revenue (\$15.00), SD DENR (\$60.00) & Water Maintenance District (\$408.16).

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

The following deposits were presented:

City General Brown County Collections (\$1,140.29), State of SD (\$5,825.18), Building Permits (\$20.00) & Interest (\$30.82).

Sewer Resident Payments - (\$1,830.00).

Water Resident Payments - (\$2965.21).

NEW BUSINESS:

There was 1 bid for the Sewer project. After reviewing, the board decided to reopen the bids.

Bonding was approved for the Sewer project.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer
Published once at the approximate cost of \$16.16. 17694

Frederick Town July 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Town of Frederick
July 8, 2019 Minutes

Frederick's Town Board/Special Variance - Pod Meeting was held Monday evening July 8, 2019, in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, board members Troy Millard and Gary Schlosser, Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer Diane Bruns and Mariah Heine, citizens Gary Peterson, Bob Campbell, Mavis Cox, and Theresia Cox, and guest Ted Dickey, Planning Coordinator of Northeast Council of Government. Also attended by phone for a portion of the meeting was Brandon Smid of Helms and Associates.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The June minutes were read and approved. Motion made by G. Schlosser/T. Millard. Motion Carried. The financial statements were accepted with a motion by S. Campbell/T. Millard. Motion Carried. The accounts payable for July was approved to include a previously written check to Helm's and Associates in the amount of \$18,930 with a motion by T. Millard/G. Schlosser. Motion Carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:
A-1 Sewer & Drain, Inc. Televis Sewer lines WWP \$22,728.36; Badger Meter Meter Fees Wtr \$231.40; D. Bruns Wage mileage FO \$1,442.96; D. Bruns Wage CC \$124.67; Dennis Durheim 1 ld gravel Sts \$351.96; DENR Drinking Water Annual Fee Wtr \$100.00; Dependable Sanitation 2nd Qtr pick-up Garbage \$3,863.00; DSG Supplies S. Park \$22.35; FDC July Econ Dev \$1,200.00; G. Schlosser Wage Gen'l \$23.09; GDI Legals Annual Rpt, Mins, Variance Gen'l \$257.08; I. Morlock Wage Gen'l \$245.80; JVT Phones, internets, services Gen'l/FO/Wtr/EBL \$333.95; M. Cox Wage EBL \$573.51; M. Heine Wage FO \$854.24; MDU Elect Sts/Mun Bldg/EBL/BP/Sw/Wtr/Swr \$1,239.30; Menard's Supplies S. Park \$161.64; R. Bakeberg Wage mileage Sts/Wtr/Swr \$669.01; R. Bakeberg Veh Allow Sts/Wtr/Swr \$75.00; Bakeberg Sexton 1/2 Annual Cem \$200.87; R.S. Campbell Wage Gen'l \$46.17 SD Dept of Rev Sales Tax Garb \$72.60; SD Dept of Rev Lab Wtr/Swr \$119.00; T. Millard Wage Gen'l \$23.09; Thorpe Excavating 2017 2 fire hydrants Wtr \$2,500.00; True Value Supplies S. Park \$8.49; US Treasury 2nd Qtr 941 Fed Employer tax Gen'l/FO/EBL/CC/Sts/Wtr/Swr \$2,985.63; USARD water loan AP Wtr Loan Repair \$475.00; USPS Stamps Wtr/Garb/Swr \$165.00; WEB Water Wtr \$3,093.93, and added to A/P Helms & Associates WWP \$18,930.

Utility manager/maintenance R. Bakeberg gave utility report. There was a discussion about storing Frederick Forward's blow up theater system in the back room of the library that will be further discussed at the library's board meeting later this month.

Mofle Estate Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF DECEASED SETTLOR

Notice is given that on June 15, 2019, D. Gloria Mofle also known as Darlene Gloria Mofle, died.

Sandra Kay Ullrich, whose address is 1318 N. State St., Aberdeen, SD 57401, is the named Personal Representative under the Last Will of D. Gloria Mofle, dated January 6, 2005.

Creditors of the deceased Settlor must file their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or any claim or collection efforts which otherwise could have been asserted or enforced against the trust or assets thereof may be barred.

Claims may be submitted to Sandra Kay Ullrich by mailing a written statement of the claim to her at the address above.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2019.

/s/ Sandra Kay Ulrich
Sandra Kay Ullrich
1318 N. State St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 380-3089
PREPARED BY:
Thompson Law, P.C.
5027 S. Western Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
(605) 362-9100
www.cathompsonlaw.com
(0717.0731)

Published three times at the total approximate cost of \$37.35. 17690

Westport Town July 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting
July 1st, 2019

The Town of Westport met on July 1st, 2019 with Tim Selzler, Shane Storm and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented:

City General NWPS (\$316.72), Groton In-

Other old business included: 1) Approved a Resolution to apply for financial funding from SD Department of Transportation for a Community Access grant to fund fixing the town's roads owned by the county after the wastewater project next summer. Motion made by TM/GS. Motion Carried. 2) A televising report of the wastewater lines was discussed by phone w Smid noting the infiltration on the joints of the lines and that it appears that some blocks will be lined rather than replaced. 3) Mavis and Theresia Cox brought concern of the damage to Mavis's driveway due to the waterline project. Gravel will be spread. 4) The board will get a quote for a janitor closet to replace the old bathroom in the Community Center. 5) The board will pay for half the cost of a new printer for FO Diane Bruns as she prints at home for the city.

New Business Special Meeting: a) Variance for the spec house being built by FDC/Prairie Builders was approved after 2nd Reading with a motion by T. Millard/G. Schlosser. Motion Carried. b) A tax break for new homes in Frederick will be pursued in the future. c) The city's attorney, Dana Frohling, will write up a Pod Ordinance.

New Business Regular Meeting: a) The budget was mentioned and a special meeting will be set up. b) EBL 2nd Qtr report accepted with a motion by S. Campbell/T. Millard. Motion Carried. c) Web Water rate is going to increase again in October, the city will need to increase rates for the Town of Frederick again as well.

The next Frederick Town Board meeting will be held Monday, August 12, 2019, in the Community Center at 7 PM.

Motion to adjourn was made by T. Millard/G. Schlosser at 8:30 PM. Motion Carried.

M. Heine
Assistant Frederick Finance Officer

Published once at the approximate cost of \$45.55. 17695

Brown County SPURS Malt

Beverage Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SPECIAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given according to SDCL 35-2, a Public Hearing on the following Malt Beverage Application is set for 8:50 AM on the 6th day of August 2019, in the Chambers of the Brown County Commissioners, in the Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota, at which time any interested persons wishing to register complaint on their approval may appear: SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, 1006 130th St. Aberdeen, SD 57401 –N 1/2 of Lot 1, Spurs 2nd Addition NW 1/4 of Sec 6-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. Special License effective Sept. 21, 2019.

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$9.80. 17696

Brown County Bid Notice

Cold Asphalt (Cir)

COLD IN-PLACE ASPHALT RECYCLING (CIR)

BROWN COUNTY, SD

Sealed Bids will be received by the Brown County Commission, Brown County Courthouse Annex, 25 Market St., Aberdeen, South Dakota until 8:00 AM local time on the 2nd day of August, 2019 for the above referenced project. Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Bidding Document. Brown County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

At or shortly after the time named above and within the meeting of the County Commission, such Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project includes approximately 56,000 SY of cold in-place asphalt recycling and approximately 4,000 SF of stabilized full depth reclamation on Brown County Hwy. 13 between Brown Co. Hwy. 6 and US Hwy. 281.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Documents. The Successful Bidder will be required to provide Payment and Performance Bonds as described in the Bidding Documents.

Bidding Documents may be

Continues on next page

Continues from previous page

Brown County Bid Notice Cold Asphalt (Cir)

examined at the locations listed: Brown County Highway Dept. 3133 8th Ave. NE Aberdeen, SD 57401 Ph: 605-626-7118 Clark Engineering Corporation 3314 Milwaukee Ave. NE, Suite 2 Aberdeen, SD 57401 Ph:605-225-3494 Clark Engineering Corporation 1410 W. Russell St. Sioux Falls, SD 57104 Ph: 605-331-2505

The Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations: Aberdeen, SD Builders Exchange; Rapid City, SD Builders Exchange; Sioux Falls, SD Builders Exchange; Plains Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD; Dodge Data & Analytics, Hot Springs, AR; Construction Plans Exchange of Bismarck-Mandan, Bismarck, ND; or Construction Plans Exchange of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND.

An electronic copy of the Bidding Documents on a compact disc may be obtained from the Aberdeen office of Clark Engineering Corporation upon payment of \$40.00 to Clark Engineering for shipping and handling or Plans and Specifications may be downloaded from the HYPERLINK "http://www.clark-docs.com" http://www.clark-docs.com web site upon a payment of \$20.00. All payments are non-refundable. Upon request, one copy of the Bidding Documents shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$54.07. 17697

Published July 24 and 31

Brown County July 16 Meeting Minutes

JULY 16, 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, Sutton, Wiese, and Kippley. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:
Moved by Kippley, seconded by Feickert to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes from July 09, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Professional Fees: Avera St. Luke's \$154.62; Compass Counseling & Assessment \$1,800.00; Dolby Artistry \$600.00; Becky Erickson \$40.00; Gellhaus & Gellhaus \$80.00; Haar Law Office \$54.00; Karlen Electric \$3,725.99; LexisNexis \$50.00; Lincoln Co. Treasurer \$27.18; Magic Joe Productions \$600.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems \$1,683.00; Midstates Printing \$500.00; PinPoint Testing \$160.00; Sanford Health \$225.00; SD Dept. of Health \$1,515.00; SD DOT \$53,843.67; Sheriff of Woodbury County \$20.00; Siegel, Barnett & Schutz \$1,463.00; Diann Steinheuser \$40.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$196.65; Jodi Sudweeks \$57.80; West Payment Center \$165.00; Joni Wileman \$350.00; Zylstra Investigations \$812.50. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$3,148.13; Groton Independent \$132.82; Hub City Radio \$5,410.00; Midcontinent Communications \$750.00; NW Blade \$53.75; Rapid City Journal \$67.41.

Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Clean-All \$470.00; Artz Equip. \$14.10; B&B Contracting \$25,901.60; ByteSpeed \$150.00; Cintas \$140.52; Dakota Doors \$565.00; DMI \$9,104.00; Double D Body Shop \$410.79; Eddie's Northside \$25.00; Exec. Mgmt. \$41.16; Farm Power Mfg. \$700.00; Farnam's \$36.68; HF Jacobs & Son \$49,346.56; Hoven Auto Repair \$491.69; Huff Construction \$3,800.00; I-State Truck \$10.00; JM Electric \$2,650.00; Leidholt Electric \$923.48; Lien Transportation

\$52,067.72; Midwest Alarm \$226.20; Pantorium Cleaners \$44.00; Pheasantland Industries \$2,487.86; Pierson-Ford \$88.95; PowerPlan \$13,396.00; TranSource Truck & Equip. \$12,454.92. Supplies: AASLH \$155.00; AgTegra \$41,841.97; Artz Equip. \$90.78; Bakken Build Maint. \$500.00; Butler Machinery \$159.88; Cartney Bearing \$24.78; Cash-Wa \$5,252.17; Century Business Products \$961.56; Crawford Trucks & Equip. \$362.25; Dakota Doors \$2,949.25; DFP \$936.46; Dakota Oil \$3,623.59; Dean Foods \$668.48; DMI \$9,425.40; Dooley Enterprises \$900.00; Earthgrains \$663.90; Fred Pryor Seminars \$398.00; Geffdog \$38.10; GovConnection \$76.11; Heartland Paper \$430.02; Hedahl's \$251.41; I-State Truck \$23.43; Interstate Battery \$487.80; J Gross Equip. \$50.31; Jebro \$67,341.72; Jensen Rock & Sand \$2,882.18; Karlen Electric \$1,033.12; Kessler's \$9.27; LG Everist \$3,975.70; Leidholt Tool Sales \$86.08; Leidholt Electric \$413.76; Lien Transportation \$208,670.18; Menards \$213.77; Midstates Printing \$148.45; North Star Energy \$72.00; NVC \$26.36; Pantorium Cleaners \$21.00; PharmChem \$57.10; PowerPlan \$1,240.23; Pro Ag Supply \$70.44; Productivity Plus \$39.75; Running's \$246.06; SDSU Animal Science \$25.00; Specialty Mfg. \$142.85; Tractor Supply \$289.99; TranSource Truck & Equip. \$1,604.52; True-North Steel \$199,585.22; Van Diest Supply \$836.29; Walth Safety Service \$337.50; Web Water Bottling Co. \$26.00.

Travel & Conference: City of Brookings \$25.00; Mark Milbrandt \$478.00; PoliceOne \$495.00; The Lodge of Deadwood \$1,395.00. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$5,529.66; AT&T Mobility \$39.24; CenturyLink \$2,320.59; City of Hecla \$102.43; Dependable Sanitation \$402.00; Economy Propane \$557.65; Exec. Mgmt. \$72.46; North Star Energy \$150.06; Northern Electric \$2,028.85; NWPS \$1,299.63; NVC \$2,857.58; Verizon Wireless \$160.04; Web Water Development \$76.10.

Other: AAA Pure Water \$320.00; Aberdeen Catholic Schools \$320.00; Country BBQ Pit \$900.00; JRWD \$914.16; SDACO \$1,092.00. Machinery & Equip.: Butler Machinery \$474,217.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Moved by Feickert seconded by Sutton to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Acknowledge resignation of Melony Flinn, full-time dispatcher for Brown County Communications, effective July 8, 2019 and approve request to fill vacancy. Acknowledge resignation of Tonya Peterson, full-time legal secretary for Brown County State's attorney effective July 19, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACTS:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the following fair contracts: Kesslers Grocery (Catering) @ \$2,541.29; Aberdeen Youth Wrestling Club (Cleaning) @ \$5,000.00; Ron Parker Experience (Entertainment) @ \$4,200; Phil Baker and the Red Guitar (Entertainment) @ \$1,200; Brick Roto-Rooter (portable toilets) @ \$12,000; Hub City Radio (Ads) @ \$8,410; SD Snow Queen for Interior Gate Control (Gate C) @ \$1,000; Stan Gonsoir (4H Judge) @ \$150; Aaron & McKenna Cech (4H Judge) @ \$150; 4-H Performing Arts (Entertainment) @ \$200; Linda Thurston (4H Judge) @ \$40; Jessica Schumacher (4H Judge) @ \$40.; Diann Steinheuser (4H Judge) @ \$40; All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

IMPRESS FUND:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to increase cash in the Sheriff Impress Fund from \$1,000 to \$1,500. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

PETTY CASH:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to accept request from Welfare to no longer carry petty cash. Petty cash of \$500 in welfare will be issued to Sheriff Impress Fund. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

BROWN COUNTY RACE TRACK:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to authorize advertising and set hearing date for public hearing to open, read & consider proposals to lease car racing facilities at the Brown County

Fairgrounds. Hearing date set for August 6th, 2019 at 8:45a.m in the Brown County Courthouse Commission Chambers. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF AC-COUNT:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to approve the June 2019 Auditor's Report of Account with the County Treasurer in the total amount of \$15,132,561.38 (total amount of actual cash @ \$4,767.03, Cash items (Bad Checks @ \$232.97, US Bank @ \$47,168.75, Dacotah Bank @ \$7,084,163.55, Petty Cash/Change Funds @ \$2,600, Fund Investments @ \$7,993,629.08). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

SPECIAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSES:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve and authorize the Chair sign applications for Special Malt Beverage Licenses: Aberdeen Hockey Association for a special event (Brown County Fair Beer Garden) to be held at 400 24th Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD (Fairgrounds Clubhouse and Tent)- SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N -R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. Special License effective August 12-18, 2019; Boys & Girls Club for a special event (Brown County Fair Grandstand) to be held at 400 24th Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD (Grandstand)- SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N -R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, SD. Special License effective August 12-18, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

MALT BEVERAGE NOTICE OF HEARING:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to authorize advertising and set hearing date for public hearing on the following Malt Beverage Application: SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, 1006 130th St. Aberdeen - N1/2 of Lot 1, Spurs 2nd Addition NW ¼ of Sec 6-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, SD. Hearing is set for August 6th, 8:50 a.m. Brown County Courthouse, Commission Chambers. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Kippley to approve the following June 2019 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID - HAY CUTTING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS:

Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for hay cutting at the Fairgrounds. Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to award high bid, submitted by Larry (Joe) Akkerman @ \$66 per acre. (one year contract with additional two-year options). The awarded bid was sole bid submitted. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

ORD 138- FIRST READING:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve First Reading of Ordinance #138, an Ordinance to amend Title 4-Zoning, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, to rezone the following described property from its present zoning designation of Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Agricultural District (M-AG): Lot 1 "D Patten Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 28-T126N-R63W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota (39004 117th St). All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

SHRINE PARKING LOT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve map presented by Aberdeen Yelduz Shrine for set up of the event on the leased parking lot, approval is conditional on recommendations by Emergency Management to allow adequate space for emergency response vehicles to get in and out of the garage and parking lot. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

ORD 139- ADOPTION:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adopt Ordinance #139, an Ordinance to amend Title 4.0201- Jurisdiction and Title 5.01- General Provisions into compliance of taking over the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction being repealed by the City of Aberdeen and adopt new zoning map as an emergency measure. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-aye, Fjeldheim-aye. Ordinance adopted.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve and authorize the Chair sign application, submitted by Northern Valley Communications for occupancy

of Brown County Highway #13, in sections 1 and 6, Township 123, Ranges 63 and 64, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

SET BID DATE - COUNTY ROAD 13 COLD IN-PLACE ASPHALT RECYCLING:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to authorize advertising and set hearing date for public hearing to open, read & consider proposals for county road 13 cold in-place asphalt recycling. Hearing date set for August 2nd, 2019 at 8:00a.m in the Brown County Courthouse Commission Chambers. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

IT SWITCHES and FIREWALL QUOTES:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to accept quote for Switches from ByteSpeed for Juniper Switches @ \$91,587.00, rejecting quote from Marco Cisco at \$139,248.49. Approve quote for Firewall from ByteSpeed for JuniperSRX @ \$6,900, rejecting quote from Connection- SonicWall NSA @ \$7,489.44. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATION CENTER RE-LOCATION QUOTE:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to accept change in quote approved February 21, 2019. NextGen Communications Inc (ComTech Communications) as referenced by State Bid Contract 15-1400-025 presented amended lower quote of \$20,348. (original quote was \$27,986) for moving the communication center from the courthouse to 124 S. 1st st. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

GIS DATA SERVICE UPDATE QUOTE:

Moved by Kippley, seconded by Sutton to accept quote for GIS Software upgrade from Geo-Comm, Inc @ \$20,626.90. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

BLUE BUILDING REMODEL QUOTE:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to accept quote for remodel of blue building from Huff Construction @ \$31,800, rejecting quotes from Zeller Construction @ \$39,177 and JDH @ \$45,850. Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippley-nay, Fjeldheim-aye. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to go into executive session to discuss personnel, and legal per SDCL 1-25-2(1,4). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Sutton seconded by Kippley to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 11:10a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$129.59. 17698

Brown County Ord. 139

New Zoning Map

ORDINANCE NO. 139 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 AND TITLE 5, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES AS AMENDED

CHAPTERS 4.02 JURISDICTION SUBSECTION 4.0201 JURISDICTION AND 5.01 GENERAL PROVISIONS SUBSECTION 5.0102 JURISDICTION
BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, be amended as to Chapter 4.02 Jurisdiction Subsection 4.0201 Jurisdiction and Chapter 5.01 General Provisions Subsection 5.0102. Also, the adoption of the new zoning map as an emergency measure: Chapter 4.02 - Jurisdiction. Chapter 5.01 - General Provisions

To bring Title 4 and Title 5 into compliance of taking over the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction being repealed by the City of Aberdeen.

Adopted July 16, 2019
Effective Date July 16, 2019
Doug Fjeldheim, Chairman
Brown County Commission
ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$13.71. 17699

Brown County Lease of Car Racing

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEASE OF CAR RACING FACILITIES AT BROWN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners, Brown County, SD will publicly open, read and consider proposals for Lease of the Brown County Car Racing Facilities for the 2020 Racing Season on August 6, 2019 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Proposals to be submitted to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, SD in a sealed envelope marked

"PROPOSAL FOR LEASE OF CAR RACING FACILITIES" - to be opened at the Brown County Commission Meeting on August 6, 2019 at 8:45 A.M. Terms and conditions of lease are on file in the Brown County Auditor's Office and may be obtained at no charge. This is an invitation to make a proposal. This is not a bidding situation. The decision will not be based upon costs only, but upon numerous other factors. Brown County reserves the right to reject all proposals.

ATTEST:
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor
(0724.0731)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$13.71. 17700

Youth Seminars this fall in Groton

Instead of a fall youth rally this year, local churches will be hosting youth seminars. The group organizing the events had applied for a grant and even though it was turned down, they decided to proceed any way because of the importance of the subjects.

The United Methodist Church will be hosting one on September 11 entitled, "Drugs & Alcohol."

The Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church will be hosting one on October 9 entitled, "Sex Trafficking and Dating Abuse."

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be hosting the third one on November 6 entitled, "Suicide and Bullying."

Each of these events will begin at 5:45 p.m. and will be on Wednesday evenings as the youth have church night any way. Parents and youth will be served a light supper and have speakers and pastors sharing at each event.

Editorial on freezing electric service territory

Dear Editor,

The state's rural electric cooperatives introduced a bill during the 2019 Legislative Session proposing to freeze electric service territory, preventing cities who operate their own electric utilities from providing service within their growing boundaries.

The bill sparked much controversy, ultimately being remanded to a summer study where the issue could be thoroughly studied. The first meeting takes place in Pierre July 25.

The Coalition to Preserve Consumer Choice was formed to advocate on behalf of cities that operate an electric utility, such as Groton, during this process.

When a city grows, consumers should not be denied their right to choose to be served by their locally owned utility. Annexations occur because residents and businesses ask to be part of the city in order to take advantage of all city services, including electric. Rural cooperatives should not have a monopoly over all new electric load in the state.

A territory freeze would result in higher costs for consumers and deter new businesses from locating in our state. It would also lead to less transparency as cooperatives are not required to hold open meetings. Municipal utilities are owned and operated by the people they serve and hold open meetings where the public can be heard.

South Dakotans deserve better than one-sided legislation designed to fully benefit private interests while stripping away the rights of the public.

Sincerely,
Russell Olson

Chair, Coalition to Preserve Consumer Choice

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Pharis' Pizza Ranch franchisee wins top national honor

Jeremy Fugleberg, Sioux Falls Argus Leader

A Sioux Falls pizza restaurant franchise has won a top honor from a major trade publication.

Todd and Patty Pharis, Pizza Ranch franchise owners in Sioux Falls, have been named one of 50 Rock Star Franchise Owners in 2019 by Franchise Business Review, out of 27,000 franchises surveyed. Todd is a 1980 Groton High School graduate.

"There are some many fantastic success stories out there; it was painful to narrow our list down to just 50 Rockstar Franchisees," said Michelle Rowan, president of Franchise Business Review, in a news release. "There were hundreds of deserving business owners. In the end, we picked 50 that really stood out. Franchisees that not only excel in their businesses, but provide strong leadership within their franchise organizations and their local communities."

The couple has opened eight Pizza Ranches and now own the Pizza Ranch location at the corner of 41st Street and Kiwanis Avenue in Sioux Falls, along with partners Mark Moeller and their son Michael. The location was recognized last year as the No. 1 franchise in all of Pizza Ranch.

"They're our No. 1 store, and they've been our No. 1 store since they opened up," Pizza Ranch President Adrie Groeneweg told the Sioux Falls Business Journal for an October article which follows:

Sure, Pizza Ranch has pizza. But you can't talk to local franchisees Todd and Patty Pharis for more than a minute without them showing you the many other things driving Pizza Ranch's success.

"I've got to show you my system for deliveries," Todd Pharis said, ushering the Sioux Falls Business Journal into the kitchen and before a screen that shows the location of every one of his delivery vehicles and sends notifications if the driver takes a corner too fast or speeds. Does a customer want to know where their food is? Easy.

"We can go right to this and say, 'They're a half a block away,'" Pharis said.

The Pharis family is reinventing the pizza game through technology, video games and event rooms. They're transforming the idea of a humble pizza restaurant into what their Pizza Ranch is now: an entertainment complex centered around selling good pizza and chicken, with a side of fundraising for good causes.

"It's very tough for our competitors to offer what we offer," Pharis said. "And that is a game room, meeting and party rooms at no charge, fundraiser nights where twice a week we give 10 percent of the sales and 100 percent of the tips to the groups."

Their work earned them recognition from Pizza Ranch as the No. 1 franchisee, serving about 30,000 customers a month from their location at the corner of 41st Street and Kiwanis Avenue in Sioux Falls.

"We get so many people just because we are the full package," Pharis said.

"They're our No. 1 store, and they've been our No. 1 store since they opened up," said Pizza Ranch President Adrie Groeneweg. "And he's not just No. 1. I won't give specific numbers, but he's set the bar high, and no one has come close to him."

The switch from corporate to pizza

The Pharises weren't always at the top of the pizza game. Todd Pharis was a vice president of GE Capital in Los Angeles, with plans to move for the company to London. But they were also owners of half the Pizza Ranch location in Brandon. Then they built a new Pizza Ranch in Hartford and bought the location in Lennox.

"Now I had three, and I had to figure out how I was going to be active in three when I'm living over in London for three years," he said. "That's when we decided it would be a good time for us to leave corporate life in 1994 and move back to Sioux Falls."

Since then, growth has been the story. Pizza Ranch, which is based in Orange City, Iowa, was founded in 1981. When Pharis left GE Capital, Pizza Ranch had just under 60 locations. It now has more than 200, and it has expanded both regionally and in restaurant size and into larger markets.

Focus on technology, event space, new ideas

Baking a pizza might seem like a low-tech endeavor. But offering it in a Pizza Ranch is anything but. In addition to the real-time delivery tracking system, there's plenty of other technology to be found behind Pizza Ranch's buffet tables.

Workers can keep a watchful eye on the buffet tables via video cameras to track what needs to be replenished. Parents can watch their children in the Fun Zone on video screens in the dining room. Anyone who hits a buzzer to seek help in the Fun Zone sets off alarm lights in the dining room and kitchen.

Ultimately, serving pizza and chicken is an information game.

"We need to know exactly what's going on in the dining room and the kitchen," Pharis said. "We need to know in the kitchen and the dining room what's going on in the Fun Zone; we need to know in the kitchen where our delivery drivers are."

Pizza Ranch is also working to grow its customer base by staying on top of online ordering, which Groeneweg says makes up 40 percent of Pizza Ranch's business.

Pharis' Pizza Ranch has also made a name for itself as an event space, with multiple dividable rooms that can seat dozens for events, presentations, parties, reunions and more. At one time, there was a basketball court in the back of the store. That's now been converted into additional seating space.



Todd and Patty Pharis pose at the Pizza Ranch on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018 in Sioux Falls, S.D. (Photo: Loren Townsley / Argus Leader,)

"I think we'll have 12 parties on Saturday, at least 12, and it's not unusual for us to do that," Pharis said.

The Fun Zone

Pharis cooked up the Fun Zone arcade and game room concept and fleshed it out over several months before installing it in his own store, in additional space he was fortunate to obtain from his landlord.

The concept is this: Put the latest video and arcade games and a prize booth into a room. But the Fun Zone concept makes Pizza Ranch an entertainment destination for children and adults alike and provides an additional revenue stream.

Pharis is now evangelizing the Fun Zone concept to other franchisees. So far, 12 Pizza Ranches have Fun Zones, and there are 19 in development.

"Todd really put Fun Zone on the map for us," Groeneweg said, "It's actually becoming part of our concept, and I give him full credit for that."

Pharis attends amusement expos to stay on top of the latest developments in games and pricing. And he pays a premium to buy the newest games. He later replaces them with even newer games, selling the older games to local arcades or his main buyer -- the arcade at the Mall of America in Minnesota.

The Fun Zone also provides additional insulation against competition, Pharis said.

"If you're going to take customers away from me, you've got to have good pizza, good chicken and an entertainment area like Fun Zone," he said.

Pizza Ranch regularly works to adopt franchisee ideas, Groeneweg said, as a way of both growing its bottom line and staying ahead of competition. Todd Pharis is a great example of a franchisee leader who both mentors others and comes up with ideas worth replicating, he said.

"When you do business together, even though he's a franchise, he's still in business for himself almost," Groeneweg said. "We learn from each other, and we learn we have to help each other, and that's good for the brand. It's a great relationship."

New ideas, technology match growing footprint concept

The company has grabbed hold of its stores' volume potential, a trend that fits perfectly with the Pharis model of using technology and additional space to create an experience that transcends buffet service.

Pizza Ranch was previously willing to open in towns of any size, but they shifted to a minimum population of 3,000. Now the minimum is 30,000 population. As the Pizza Ranch store concept has grown in size, it has boosted the cost of opening a new location. A new Pizza Ranch, including the land on which it's built, prices out at \$3.4 million, Pharis said.

"So if you're going to spend \$3.4 million on a Pizza Ranch, you have to be in towns with a lot of people, heavy population," he said.

When Pharis and his partners opened the 41st and Kiwanis location, it had an impact not unusual for a new Pizza Ranch, he said.

"Usually when we go into a market, we are the No. 1 place. When we opened up here, Pizza Hut closed the day before we opened. That happens a lot in towns where there is a competitor, they'll actually close before, knowing they're probably not going to survive, if you have a good (Pizza Ranch) operator."

Pharis' son Michael is now a partner in the store, which isn't an unusual move in Pizza Ranch's corporate offices or its franchises, Pharis said, where family members are frequent business partners.

"A lot of us owners, their sons and daughters came in the business, and they'll be the new leaders of Pizza Ranch," he said. "It puts a different pressure on us, because now we're not just looking at the next five to 10 years to make sure we're the No. 1 in our market."

"We have to make sure 30 to 40 years down the road, those younger people are also going to be the No. 1 pizza and chicken restaurants in their community."

South Dakota beekeepers facing industry's "darkest days"

As national honey bee colony losses hit nearly 40 percent, South Dakota beekeepers worry about the future of bees and of their industry.

Nick Lowrey
South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota beekeepers — among the largest players in the U.S. pollination and honey industries — are reeling from a nationwide spike in honeybee colony losses that has the potential to affect 90 different agricultural crops across the country and could raise the price of fruit, vegetables and nuts if the problem gets worse.

In 2018, the state's beekeepers brought in more than \$23 million from the sale of honey from roughly 255,000 hives. South Dakota ranked fourth in the nation in terms of honey production that year. But declining numbers of bees, both domestic and wild, threatens yields on crops ranging from almonds and apples on the West Coast to cotton and cranberries in the East.

For more than a decade, beekeepers in South Dakota and around the country have been fighting against historically high colony loss rates of nearly 30 percent each year. Still, last year's 40 percent colony loss rate was a blow to beekeepers. Despite years of intensive research and countless hours of work to reverse the tide, bees continue to struggle. Tim Hollmann, a beekeeper from Dante, S.D. a few miles south of Wagner near the Yankton Sioux Reservation, said much of the problem comes down to what bees eat. Farmers have plowed up more pastures to plant row crops such as corn and soybeans, and they've gotten better at killing flowering plants like milkweed and sweet clover in and around their fields, leaving less pollen and nectar for bees to consume. The pesticides and fungicides commonly used in modern agriculture also have been shown to make bees more susceptible to disease, if not killing them outright.

Wild bee populations have also suffered. In 2017, the rusty patched bumble bee became the first native bee species in the lower 48 states to be placed on the federal endangered species list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Non-governmental conservation groups have said 346 other species of native bees also are threatened.

In all, bees pollinate about 90 crops in the U.S. and account for up \$19 billion in added value to the country's agriculture industry



Beekeepers often make agreements with local landowners to place hives in hayfields or pastures. These hives were placed in a hayfield that saw a massive bloom of sweet clover, a prime bee food source that results in the mild, light-colored honey that South Dakota is renowned for producing. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota News Watch



Honeybee hives owned by Adee Honey Farms were set out to forage in the grasslands near Bruce, S.D., on a recent day. Adee Honey Farms is one of the largest beekeeping operations in the world and manages between 75,000 and 85,000 hives annually, but bee deaths have hurt the business. Photo: Bart Pfankuch

annually, according to the USDA. Without pollination from bees, many of whom are trucked around the country from their summer home in South Dakota to provide pollination services, experts worry the price of common food items such as strawberries and apples could rise.

Commercial beekeepers say official data undercount the loss of commercial bee colonies. Bret Adee, co-owner of Adee Honey Farms in Bruce, S.D., one of the largest commercial beekeeping operations in the world, said some commercial keepers lost 70 percent or more of their bees last winter.

Adee said his company lost so many bees that the business was forced to shutter its beekeeping operation in Nebraska and lay off employees. Prior to last year, the business kept bees in Nebraska for 60 years, Bret Adee said. "We didn't have enough bees in our boxes," he said.

Honey produced from South Dakota's sweet clover, alfalfa and wildflowers is highly prized for its mild flavor and light color. Unfortunately, per-hive production has fallen about 50 percent over the past 15 to 20 years, said Bret Adee's brother and business partner, Kelvin Adee. Total U.S. honey production has dropped by about half, falling from 250 million pounds to about 150 million pounds annually, he said.

As annual honeybee colony loss rates continue to rise and honey production falls, the federal government has been pulling back its honey bee monitoring efforts. In July 2019, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service announced it would indefinitely suspend its quarterly honeybee colony survival survey and in December 2018, the service suspended its annual cost of pollination survey. Both surveys were cut, according to USDA news releases, due to budget reductions.

News of the colony loss survey being cut was a blow to the industry, Bret Adee said. Many beekeepers worry that the information might be lost for good and with it more targeted research funding. Better research will be needed to help reverse the tide of honeybee colony deaths, Bret Adee said.

"We're kind of in the darkest days of the industry right now," he said.

"If it's anything like last year, the [beekeeping] industry will be in a death spiral."

-- Beekeeper Bret Adee of Bruce, S.D.

Tough time to be a bee

During the winter of 2018-19, the number of honeybee colonies lost in the U.S. came in at just shy of 38 percent, according to data gathered by the non-profit honey bee research group Bee Informed Partnership and the USDA. When stretched to the 12 months between April 2018 and April 2019, colony losses came in at more than 40 percent.

High colony loss rates aren't new to the industry. Since 2006, the U.S. has averaged a nearly 30 percent colony loss rate among its domestic bees, according to the Bee Informed Partnership. The 30 percent loss rate is roughly double the 15 percent colony loss rate noted prior to 2006. The losses have beekeepers worried about the future of their industry.

"Any business that has a 30 percent annual loss rate, that's getting to be unsustainable," said John Stolle, a beekeeper near Sturgis and president of the South Dakota Honey Producers Association.

Stolle's bees spend their summers making honey in the grasslands and hay fields north of the Black Hills. The bees find plenty of pollen and nectar there and can lay in plenty of honey for the winter. That allows them to recover their strength, even after Stolle takes his cut of honey to sell to such end users as Prairie Berry Winery in Hill City. Like many beekeepers, Stolle loads his hives onto flatbed trailers in the fall, covers them in a net and trucks them to wintering grounds in California. They make some honey there too, but mostly the move is to avoid cold weather and to be in place for almond pollination in February, Stolle said.

Adee Honey Farms tries to keep between 75,000 and 85,000 hives going at any given time, said Kelvin Adee, who also serves as president of the American Honey Producers Association said. The company's bees are spread throughout the Great Plains in the summer, often being moved in search of better foraging grounds.

Bret Adee spends his year traveling back and forth between Bruce, S.D., where his father founded Adee Honey Farms in 1959, and Bakersfield, Calif., where the Adees' bees help pollinate the state's roughly \$7.1 billion annual almond crop.

The Adees pegged recent colony losses at closer to 60 or 70 percent. "They died faster than we can breed them," Brett Adee said.

With annual losses of more than 50 percent, Bret Adee said, beekeepers won't be able to keep up. Fall and winter of 2019 will be especially telling, he said.

"If it's anything like last year, the industry will be in a death spiral," Bret Adee said.

Jay Fatland, a life-long beekeeper from



This sign welcomes visitors to the offices of Adee Honey Farms, a beekeeping business started in 1959 in Bruce, S.D., which is now one of the world's largest bee providers to the agricultural industry. Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch



Strawberry plants such as these are one of several crops and backyard garden staples that domestic honey bees are often used to pollinate. Strawberries don't need bees for pollination but if bees do play a role, the plants produce more and bigger berries that are less prone to deformation. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

Kimball who provided honey as a flavoring for "The Original Kimball Popcorn Ball," has wound down his beekeeping efforts over the last few years. Losing so many bees each year just got to be too hard to handle, he said.

"It's just a struggle to keep the bees alive anymore," Fatland said.

He's down to about 200 hives now and is mostly retired from the business that was his sole source of income for more than 30 years.

Despite the challenges over the past 15 years, enterprising beekeepers have been able to keep hive numbers relatively stable, if not growing slightly, according to USDA data. Keepers split colonies and breed new queens to keep their numbers up, a very expensive proposition. Queens can cost \$30 to \$40 each but average about \$18.

For commercial producers, most of whom run thousands of hives, replacing 30 percent of their breeding stock every year isn't economical if they can't breed the queens themselves. Plus, for every split colony, there's a drop in honey production and potentially more labor costs.

The increasing value of pollinator-dependent crops, such as almonds, has helped finance domestic bee breeding and kept many beekeepers in business. Farmers have been paying more than \$350 million annually for pollination services, USDA data show. About 85 percent of the pollinator income came from the almond industry. Hives can command pollinator fees of up to \$200 each per season in almond groves. About half to two-thirds of America's roughly 2.8 million bee colonies are trucked to California for the February almond bloom each winter.

Wild bees, however, are showing marked declines. Until the late 1990s, the rusty patched bumble bee was a fairly common visitor to backyard tomato gardens and wildflowers in South Dakota and 22 other states. Now, the bee has probably been eliminated from South Dakota and can only be found in 13 states plus one Canadian province, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There isn't much historical population data on the more than 4,000 native bee species in North America. One of the few comprehensive reports on the continent's native bee population was published in 2017 by the Center for Biological Diversity. The report found that there was sufficient data to assess the population of about 1,400 bee species. Roughly half those species were declining and 347 of them were determined to be threatened, the report said.

Declining native bee populations also pose a big problem to anyone who buys food. While domestic honey bees are pretty good at pollinating some crops such as almonds and canola, they aren't so great with such things as squash. Squashes tend to bloom early in the morning when domestic honey bees aren't

very active, said Amanda Bachmann, an urban entomologist with the South Dakota State University Extension Service. Instead, native squash bees handle most of the squash pollination duties.

"If you're growing zucchini here, you can go out in the morning and if you see a bee flitting about, it's probably a squash bee," Bachmann said.

Wild bees and a host of other native pollinators, such as monarch butterflies, also are responsible for pollinating everything from wildflowers and some grasses to flowering trees in far greater numbers than domestic bees. All of that pollination work helps provide food for everything from pheasants to cattle and even people.

"These are the things doing the heavy lifting in terms of pollination," Bachmann said of wild pollinators.

Several factors in bee mortality

No one has been able to pinpoint a single cause for the widespread devastation of honeybees or native bees. Instead, a combination of factors is at play in the beehives themselves and in the fields where the bees look for pollen and nectar.



Amanda Bachmann, an urban entomologist for the South Dakota State University Extension service, shows off a collection of pollinators found in the state. Included are more than a dozen types of bees, wasps and several butterflies. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

"The whole environment has changed," Kelvin Adey said.

One of the biggest problems facing bees in South Dakota is a drastic change in how the state's farmers operate. Flowering plants such as milkweed have been virtually eliminated from the fields growing the state's top two crops — corn and soybeans. Corn and soybeans, which have seen their acreage greatly expanded in South Dakota over the past two decades, are two of the worst crops for bees.

Hollmann, the beekeeper from Dante, said the problem with corn and soybeans is two-fold. First, the fields tend to be devoid of any plant life other than corn or soybeans, thanks to the use of glyphosate herbicides such as Roundup. Bees need flowers from which to draw the pollen and nectar they eat and use to make honey. A 2018 study by a group of researchers at the University of Texas also showed that glyphosates may be harming gut bacteria in bees and making the insects more susceptible to disease.

The second problem with corn and soybean fields is pesticides. Bees are bugs, and so are the pests killed by the most popular pesticides, which are called neonicotinoids for their chemical makeup that is similar to nicotine. When bees get hit with stray spray from a farm field, they die. Neonicotinoids are used all over the world and on just about every food crop because compared to other chemical pesticides, they're considered relatively safe for humans.

Pesticides also help boost crop yields and keep food prices down, said Bachmann, who also works as a pesticide educator. Taking an effective tool for controlling pests away from farmers could cause as much harm as good, she said.

Often, farmers who know a beekeeper has bees in the area will warn the keeper about their intention to spray and provide time for the bees to be moved or contained within their hives. But bees can also be exposed to pesticides indirectly. A lot of seeds are sold coated with neonicotinoids, which are then absorbed into the growing plant. A bee can pick up a non-lethal dose by landing on such plants and then can carry the chemicals back to the colony and expose other bees which are weakened.

The increased number of corn and soybean acres also limits locations bees can find food in South Dakota. Since 2008, 42 percent of the land South Dakota farmers had enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program have been taken out of the program and often converted to row crop production. The CRP pays farmers to plant grass and other wildlife habitat and leave it relatively undisturbed for 10 years. Wildlife such as pheasants and deer benefit, but so do bees which find plenty of honey-making materials and a wide variety of nutritious pollen in CRP grasslands.

Hollmann, who keeps some of his bees in Iowa, said the reduction of CRP lands, as well as the loss of weeds along fence rows and in ditches near farm fields in that state, has been devastating. Some of his Iowa locations have had bees producing honey on them for nearly 100 years, but those sites may not produce at all this year due to habitat loss and poor weather, Hollmann said.

Hollmann is a member of the Sioux City-based Sioux Honey Cooperative. He said southeastern South Dakota and northwest Iowa used to be "God's country" for honey production. There was relatively stable weather and plenty of forage available between alfalfa, hay, ditches and fence rows, he said. Now, beekeepers are having to move west to central South Dakota and beyond where the habitat is better and safer but good honey production only comes when the weather cooperates.

"We call it feast or famine territory," Hollmann said.

Fungicides are another man-made threat to bees. The insects evolved to work with certain fungi in their pollen stores, Bret Adey said. The fungi help break down pollen so it's easier to digest and gives the bees better nutrition. Fungicides sprayed on crops to increase yields are then picked up by foraging bees and carried back to hives, where they can kill the helpful fungi.

Despite all the problems caused by chemicals and habitat loss, the USDA has identified a parasite as the biggest threat facing bees. Varroa destructor, better known as the varroa mite, has been ravaging North American bee hives for decades. The mite first was found in the U.S. in 1987. South Dakota, as a top honey producing state, was infested with the mites soon after.

Varroa destructor is native to Asia and acts similar to a tick. The mite attaches to a bee and sucks out the bee's bodily fluids, weakening the host and making it more susceptible to disease and starvation when food runs low. Varroa mites also happen to be insects.

"That's been really difficult, you're trying to kill a bug that lives on a bug," Stolle said.

There isn't a very effective treatment for mite infestations which by themselves are not necessarily fatal to bees, he said. Some beekeepers coat their bees with powdered sugar to try to loosen the varroa mite's hold, but that only goes so far, Stolle said.

Varroa mites also carry diseases such as deformed wing virus that can kill bees and infect whole colonies. Diseases have long been a killer of domestic bees and are easily spread because honey bees are social creatures. Often, honey bees interact with both wild bees and domestic bees from other colonies while out foraging up to three miles from their hive.

Continues on next page

Bees

Continued from Page 7

Several exotic honey bee parasites and diseases have made their way into the United States since the 1980s. Small hive beetles from Africa, wax moths, European foulbrood and Israeli acute paralysis virus are just a few examples of foreign diseases that have been inadvertently imported over the last 30 years.



Female of *Varroa destructor* on dead bee *Apis mellifera*.
Varroa destructor, a mite, is one of the deadliest honey bee parasites. The Varroa mite, shown microscopically attached to a dead bee, acts like a tick by latching onto bees and bee larvae, then sucking out the bee equivalent of blood, weakening the bee and potentially spreading disease. Photo: Courtesy U.S. Department of Agriculture

Despite losses, still hope for bees

Even with all the doom and gloom sur-

rounding the beekeeping industry, domestic honey bees are in no immediate danger of extinction. The people who harvest bees for pollination and sell honey are the ones in trouble.

"We're not at a tipping point yet, but we're getting there," Stolle said. Luckily, most farmers and ranchers seem to be concerned about bees and the landscape they live on, Bret Adee said. There is a strong movement in South Dakota to diversify crops and focus on soil health as a way to boost farm incomes. What's good for soil is generally good

for bees too, he said.

"Every time I meet someone who is doing that, I get excited," he said.

There's some good news for native bees too, Bachmann said. More people are becoming aware of the issues facing pollinators and are interested in helping out where they can. One of the big things people can do is use pesticides only as designed, Bachmann said. Every pesticide, whether it is intended for agricultural use or for the backyard, comes with a label that tells the user how to use it legally and safely while minimizing harm to beneficial bugs such as bees and butterflies.

"A lot of home pesticides tell you not to apply them to flowering plants," Bachmann said.

For Stolle, there's real hope in the interest more people seem to be taking in bees. He said he sometimes is approached by curious people at gas stations while transporting his bees. Not too long ago, most everybody gave him dirty looks and kept their distance, Stolle said. Yet one person told him the story of a relative who had been injured in the blitz of London during World War II and would have lost a leg if not for doctors using honey to help treat an infected wound.

"I think more people are starting to think 'Where does my food come from?'" Stolle said.

Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden club met at the home of Arlis Kluess at 5:30 pm July 15, for their monthly meeting. Ten members answered roll call and recited the pledges. Laurie Mitchell, Arlys Kluess, Pam Rix, and Bev

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.



Sombke were the committee that weeded the park in June. It will be weeded again when the heat and mosquitos subside. The August meeting will be held at the home of Pam Rix, with Linda Anderson assisting. Laurie Mitchell will give the program.



A storm system was approaching Groton from the west Friday morning. While 78 mph wind hit Aberdeen, Groton was spared from the strong wind, but .80 of rain fell in sheets in about 15 minutes. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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