

# THE Groton Independent

South Dakota

Growing Families & Opportunities

Vol. 137 No.07 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889



## Kucker honored for assists

Kaylin Kucker was honored Tuesday night for her career of 1,000 assists. She is currently in the top four in South Dakota in all three classes. Groton Area senior players presented her with a banner on her achievement. Pictured are Payton Colestock, Eliza Wanner, Tadyn Glover, Nicole Marzahn and Indigo Rogers - all are seniors. Kaylin Kucker's parents also came on the court - Chris and Amy Kucker. Kucker crossed the 1,000 assist barrier at the Sioux Falls Pentagon. She was honored Tuesday night at the Leola-Frederick volleyball match. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Flu Shot Clinic rescheduled for Nov. 4th by BETH GUSTAFSON

The annual influenza vaccination clinic for students previously scheduled for October 17th during parent/teacher conferences is rescheduled to Monday, November 4 due to a delay in the clinic in receiving the vaccine. At this time, we do not know a specific time schedule for the day but anticipate the clinic to begin mid-morning.

## Groton Area Boys lose to Vermillion in soccer

Groton Area hosted the first round of the soccer playoffs on Tuesday. Groton Area lost, 5-1. Piet Solling scored Groton's lone goal on a penalty kick with 18:12 to go in the first half. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by BK Custom T's & More, C & B Operations, Farmers Union Insurance - JR Johnson, Groton American Legion Post #39, Groton Vet Clinic, Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc., Olde Bank Cafe 'n More, Olson Development, Professional Management Services, Weber Landscaping.

## Band Festival Cancelled

Due to the winter storm warning, the Lake Region Band Festival scheduled for October 11 in Groton has been cancelled for this year.



## Three golf at state

Three Groton Area golfers at state tournament held Oct. 7-8 in Spearfish. Pictured are Tristan Traphagen, placing 68th; Cade Guthmiller, placing 21st; and Hunter Kasube, placing 95th. (Courtesy Photo)

Place	Player	Score	Over Par	Day One	Day Two	Total Strokes
T21	Cade Guthmiller	29		85	88	173
T68	Tristan Traphagen	57		105	96	201
95	Hunter Kasube	94		125	113	238



Pictured are Brett, Anna, Stella, Lydia, Ryder and Ivan.

## Schwan has Yard of the Week

Brett and Anna Schwan at 237 E 2nd Ave., was chosen as the Yard of the Week for the week of September 22. The Yard of the Week is chosen by the members of the Groton Garden Club. Bev Sombke from the Groton Garden Club said, "Thanks to everyone in Groton for keeping their yards looking nice during a challenging year."

Anna Schwan said that she always wanted a boulder in her yard. "It reminds me of the Black Hills," she said. "I think it's neat that they just show up and people build things around them. Justin and Amanda Morehouse were picking rocks and Justin called and said, "Hey, I got a rock for you." I said that sounds good. We'll come and get it with the pickup. He said, "No, I'll bring it in with a tractor." He brought it in with a tractor and there it is!" (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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 10/6 to 10/7 – Peanut Butter Falcon – PG 13  
 10/12 to 10/14 – Closed

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 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter  
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**AUCTIONS**  
 LAND AUCTION November 6th, 10am Lake Preston Fire Hall. 153.4 acres crop ground 2 mi north of Lake Preston, SD www.totallaar.com for info. Andy Harr Auctioneer/Broker. Total Auctions and Real Estate. 605-274-6500

"ABSOLUTE" REAL ESTATE estate auction: 7.5 acres & contents, Big Eagle Trading Post, Oct. 27, Black Hills, north of Hot Springs, SD, Buildings, Hwy 385 frontage, PiroutekAuction.com, 605-798-2525

BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION auction Saturday, October 19, 10:00 AM Start. Interstate Auction Center Brandon, SD 3 miles east of Sioux Falls, Exit 402. 605-331-4550.

**BIDS**  
 TIMBER LAKE IS SELLING its internet service provider system by bid. Contact the Finance Office at 605-865-3790 or emailing cityoftl@tisd.us for details.

**EMPLOYMENT**  
 POTTER COUNTY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for Director of Equalization. Contact Potter County Auditor 605-765-9408 for an application.

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## Northeast Conference Cross Country Meet

The Northeast Conference cross country meet originally scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 10, was moved to to early afternoon on Wednesday due to the impending winter storm moving in. The results are as follows:

### Boys Varsity 5K Race

32 Abeln, Dilon 8 Groton Area 22:06.81  
37 Garstecki, Jackson 8 Groton Area 22:33.90  
40 Paulson, Steven 11 Groton Area 23:39.20  
42 Coats, Kannon 11 Groton Area 25:01.18

### Girls Varsity 5K Race

38 Rosenau, Riley 12 Groton Area 25:49.61  
44 Ehresmann, Sierra 9 Groton Area 27:57.40

### Girls JV 3K Race

15 Senlouangrat, Kiara W7 Groton Area 23:28.89

### Boys JV 3K Race

31 Freeman, Braden M11 Groton Area 19:22.53  
33 Brooks, James M9 Groton Area 19:44.91

## 2019 SD State Fair Measurements of Success

HURON, SD – This year's theme, "There's No Time Like Fair Time," proved to be true. With 85 percent of surveyed fairgoers rating their satisfaction of the fair as excellent or good, the fair shined in many areas. State Fair officials are able to measure this year's success on many different levels using several metrics.

Showcasing youth, achievement, and agriculture are part of the fair's mission statement. Youth were in the spotlight at the fair in a variety of areas. Over 12,000 4-H livestock and static exhibits were entered by 4-H participants. There were more than 5,200 education entries in the Arts & Education Building, entered by students in public, private, and home schools. Approximately 700 kids from 33 public, private, and home schools participated in the SD's Largest Classroom. The Read and Win program, sponsored by Ag Performance, celebrated reading achievements at schools and libraries. Through this program, 5,600 passes were distributed to 47 libraries and schools.

The FFA Ag Adventure Center continued to add educational value to the fair and put a spotlight on agriculture. New interactive exhibits included bee keeping, soil health, and farm safety.

More than 1,600 competitive exhibitors participated in various open class livestock and non-livestock competitions, entering more than 9,400 exhibits. Exhibitors took home more than \$106,000 in premiums, ribbons, and awards.

Fairgoer spending on goods, beverage, specialty concessions, and carnival rides were up nearly 8 percent, totaling more than \$2.6 million. Goldstar Amusements, the State Fair's carnival provider, set a record for carnival gross sales, up 2 percent. Sales tax was up 6.8 percent, exceeding \$224,000. Commercial exhibitors, concessionaires, and vendors showcased at the fair totaled 435. Gate revenue was up 2.7 percent and total attendance was 205,172.

"We had a wonderful fair. It is always encouraging and fulfilling to hear people say how much they enjoyed the fair," said Peggy Besch, State Fair manager. "The most difficult and intangible metric to measure for success is the stuff memories are made of. Spending time with friends and family, celebrating family traditions, spending time outdoors, hands-on interaction with nature, animals, and people, and life-long learning are the most important elements in which all things should be measured. These are priceless!"

The 2019 South Dakota State Fair ran from Thursday, August 29, through Monday, September 2.

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Alternate Date: October 13, 2019

## Brown County Comprehensive Plan Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Notice is hereby given that the Brown County Commission will hold a public hearing, to receive public input concerning the County's proposed adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan. The hearing will be held in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, at 8:45a.m. Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Copies of the proposed Comprehensive Plan are available for public review during normal business hours at the Brown County Auditor's Office and available for review through the County website at HYPERLINK "http://www.brown.sd.us" www.brown.sd.us At the Public Hearing, all persons will be given a full, fair, and complete hearing and are encouraged to attend and make their views known.

Those not able to attend are invited and encouraged to send written comments to Brown County Auditor, Cathy McNickle, at 25 Market Street Suite 1, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

Attest: Cathy McNickle, County Auditor (1002.1009)  
Published twice at the approximate cost of \$22.34. 18120

## Brown County Bacon Rezoning Hearing Notice

NOTICE  
Application has been made by Randy Bacon to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on October 15, 2019 at 8:50 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential District (R-3).

Lots 1&2, "BNB Richmond Lake Subdivision" in the NW1/4 of Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (379224 & 379252 South Shore Dr)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 149.

ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (1002.1009)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$23.51. 18121

## Brown County Gray Rezoning Hearing Notice

NOTICE  
Application has been made by Roger Gray to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on October 15, 2019 at 8:50 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential District (R-3).

Lots 16-18 except the west 60' of 18, all in the NW1/4 of Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (379268 & 379290 South Shore Dr.)

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 148.

ATTEST:  
Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor (1002.1009)  
Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$24.10 18122

## Groton Coffee Cup League

10-8-19

Team Standings: Biker Chix 12, James Valley 11, Ten Pins 9, Kens 8  
High Scores: Nancy Radke 183, 183; Joyce Walter 181; Vicki Walter 180

High Series: Nancy Radke 468, Vicki Walter 467, Joyce Water 444

## Conde National League

10-7-19

Team Standings: Mets 13, Cubs 12, Pirates 10½, Tigers 10, Braves 7½, Giants 7

Men's High Games: Russ Bethke 241, Larry Frohling 219, Lance Frohling 192

Men's High Series: Russ Bethke 584, Larry Frohling 542, Lance Frohling 540

Women's High Games: Joyce Walter 171, Michelle Johnson 168, Vickie Kramp 158

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 457, Vickie Kramp 446, Joyce Walter 427



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# The Groton Independent

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# Groton Area posts 3-0 win over Leola-Frederick

The Groton Area Tigers improved to 17-4 with a 3-0 win over Leola-Frederick. The volleyball match was played in Groton. The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Bahr Spray Foam, BaseKamp Lodge, DeHoet Trucking, Groton Auto Works, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises, Professional Management Services.

The first game was tied once and that was at three. The Tigers scored 10 straight points to take an 11-3 lead. Stella Meier had the game winning kill as Groton won, 25-14.

Okay, now in the stats, I have a new one - it's called successful saves. It is when the player has successfully saved the ball on the first touch. During the match, I kept calling them digs, but boy, was I wrong on that. So with that in mind, those having successful saves in the first game were Indigo Rogers Eliza Wanner with eight each, Payton Colestock seven, Nicole Marzahn and Kaylin Kucker with five each, Stella Meier with three and Madeline Flihs had one. Those will kills were Marzahn with five, Wanner four, Meier three and Flihs one. Ace serves went to Kucker with three and Colestock with one.

Groton Area had the early lead, but nearly gave up half of the Leola/Frederick points on missed serves. Groton Area won the second game, 25-11, with five missed serves. Those with successful saves were Kucker and Glover with six each, Marzahn and Wanner with five each, Rogers had three, Meier and Colestock two each and Flihs had one. Wanner had five kills followed by Marzahn with four, Meier and Rogers each had two and Flihs had one. Kucker and Colestock each had one ace serve.

Groton Area won the third game, 25-12. Wanner had nine successful saves followed by Colestock with seven, Marzahn had five, Rogers and Kucker each with three, Meier had two and Glover had one. Rogers led the way with kills in the third game with six while Marzahn, Wanner and Kucker each had one. Marzahn and Colestock each had two ace serves in the third game.

Marzahn finished the match with 11 kills while Kucker had four ace serves, 27 assists and 14 digs. Wanner had eight kills and 17 digs, Rogers had seven kills, Colestock had two ace serves and Meier had one block. Avery Wolff led the Titans with nine assists, six kills and one ace serve. Anna Lapka and Jocelyn Ellwein each had 15 digs.

Groton Area also won the junior varsity match, 25-14 and 25-15.

The Tigers will have some time off before traveling to Agency Village on Tuesday to play Tiospa Zina. That match was originally suppose to be played on Thursday, but a scheduling conflict arose after the schedules were printed and the date had to be changed.

- Paul Kosel

## Groton Area dominates Roncalli in gridiron win

Groton Area had 319 yards of total offense compared to just 22 yards of total offense for Aberdeen Roncalli as the Tigers posted a 26-0 win.

Jonathan Doeden racked up 244 yards rushing for two touchdowns and had nine tackles. Kaden Kurtz had 14 yards rushing with one touchdown. Darrien Shabazz had 20 yards rushing and 41 yards receiving. Also on defense were Austin Jones with seven tackles and one sack, Alex Morris with six tackles and two sacks and Peyton Johnson with six tackles.

The Tigers had nine penalties for 75 yards while Roncalli had eight penalties for 38 yards. Groton Area had more first downs, 16-5. Each team lost a fumble with Morris recovering one for Groton Area. Doeden scored on runs of six and 13 yards, Kurtz had a 21 yard touchdown and Darrien Shabazz had a 19 yard run.

	GROTON AREA		RONCALLI
<b>First Downs</b>	16		5
<b>Rushing</b>	41-244, 2 TD		22-(-4)
Jonathan Doeden	+14, 1 TD	Antony Martinez	2-18
Kaden Kurtz	12-79	Josh Maunu	4-(-13)
Darrien Shabazz	2-20, 1 TD	Jackson Isakson	6-(-19)
		Chris Swallow	1-1
<b>Passing</b>		Maddox May	3-7)
Kaden Kurtz	2-3-41	Jackson Isakson	4-13-26
Jonathan Doeden	0-1-0		
<b>Receivers</b>			
Darrien Shabazz	2-41	Jacob O'Keefe	1-9
		Chris Swallow	2-17
		Maddox May	1-0
<b>Fumbles</b>	Had 1 lost 1		Had 1 lost 1
<b>Penalties</b>	9-75		8-38
<b>Defense</b>			
Austin Jones	7 tackles, 1 sack	Bradyn Robbins	10 tackles
Payton Johnson	6 tackles	Corbin Schwartz	8 tackles
Alex Morris	6 tackles, 2 sacks		
	1 fumble Recovery		
Jonathan Doeden	9 tackles		
	Caused a fumble		

**Record** 4-3 **Next Game** Oct. 18 at Moberge

**Scoring**  
**Second Quarter**  
0:17 Groton - Jonathan Doeden 6 yard run. (PAT Kaden Kurtz to Brodyn DeHoet)  
**Third Quarter**  
7:57 Groton - Jonathan Doeden 13 yard run. (PAT run no good)  
**Fourth Quarter**  
6:29 Groton - Kaden Kurtz 21 yard run. (PAT no good)  
2:15 Groton - Drrien Shabazz 14 yard run. (PAT kick no good)

**Brown County Ord. 145**

**Pigors Rezone**

ORDINANCE #145  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Kurt Pigors is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG), said property described as follows:

Lot 4, Block 1, "Richmond Heights Subdivision" in the E1/2 of Section 32-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38377 Richmond Heights Dr)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: September 11 and 18, 2019

Passed First Reading: September 24, 2019

Passed Second Reading: October 1, 2019

Adopted: October 1, 2019

Published: October 9, 2019

Effective Date: October 29, 2019

Doug Fjeldheim, Chair

Brown County Commission

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.94. 18136

**Brown County Ord. 146**

**Grebner Rezone**

ORDINANCE #146  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by John Grebner is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.08 Residential District (R-1), said property described as follows:

137" South of North 548' of East 318' NE1/4 of SE ¼ of Section 20-T123N-R63W of 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (1424 S Melgaard Rd)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: September 11 and 18, 2019

Passed First Reading: September 24, 2019

Passed Second Reading: October 1, 2019

Adopted: October 1, 2019

Published: October 9, 2019

Effective Date: October 29, 2019

Doug Fjeldheim, Chair

Brown County Commission

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.94. 18137

**Brown County Ord. 147**

**Klootwyk Rezone**

ORDINANCE #147  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, SECOND REVISION BROWN COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED TO REZONE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota, that the Petition to Amend Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances, as amended, to rezone the following described property filed by Jason Klootwyk is hereby granted and Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances is hereby amended to change the zoning on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG), said property described as follows:

Lot 1, "Klootwyk Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 5-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39595 130th St)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Brown County Commission, Brown County, South Dakota that the zoning official for the County of Brown is hereby authorized to change the official zoning map for Brown County to reflect this Ordinance.

Notice of Hearing: September 11 and 18, 2019

Passed First Reading: September 24, 2019

Passed Second Reading: October 1, 2019

Adopted: October 1, 2019

Published: October 9, 2019

Effective Date: October 29, 2019

Doug Fjeldheim, Chair

Brown County Commission

ATTEST: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$18.28. 18138

**Brown County Sept. 24 Meeting Minutes**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 – GEN-OCTOBER 1, 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, and Wiese. Commissioner Kippely was absent. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes of September 24, 2019, and amend the minutes in the HR report from September 3, 2019. Bryan Gordon's start date was reported as 9/9/19 and is corrected to 9/3/19. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL:

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

Commission \$4,906.90; Elections \$0.00; Auditor \$8,584.70; Treasurer \$13,542.95; SA \$21,334.80; SVAWA \$1,193.49; Maintenance \$8,290.49; Assessor \$12,514.14; Register of Deeds \$7,931.16; VSO \$2,364.29; GIS \$2,367.50; IT \$8,099.60; HR \$2,153.85; Sheriff \$37,822.24; Jail \$50,195.31; Coroner \$0.00; Court Security \$6,335.48; JDC \$23,904.62; Welfare \$2,057.70; Museum \$6,752.44; Parks/Fairgrounds \$6,508.69; Fair Board \$4,042.64; 4-H \$672.62; Weed \$5,172.09; Planning & Zoning \$4,463.27; Highway \$52,373.76; Dispatch \$23,672.86; Emergency \$4,079.58; Teen Court \$660.96; JDAI \$1,576.93; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,227.13; Landfill \$13,525.68; Matching Benefits: FICA \$20,197.95; Medicare \$4,723.70; Health Savings Acct \$175.00; Health Insurance \$117,975.4; Dental Insurance \$7,099.72; Life Insurance \$1,074.74; SDRS \$42,105.61. Professional Fees: AMG- Emergency \$185.92; Avera St. Luke's \$173.62; Bytespeed \$98,487.00; Dependable Sanitation \$28,628.96; Matthew Harmel \$100.00; Mark Katterhagen \$6.00; Kuck Law Office \$61.14; Lucy Lewno \$90.00; Darcy Lockwood \$6.00; Elizabeth Loughlin \$500.00; Gary Mikelson \$20.00; Talaferro Law Firm \$760.00; Yankton Co. Sheriff \$50.00.

Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$22.42. Repairs & Maintenance: Clark Engineering \$3,532.26; Ecolab \$117.60; Farm Power Mfg. \$503.20; HF Jacobs & Son Construction \$11,201.54; House of Glass \$5,494.58; Huff Construction \$7,608.00; Ken's Alignment \$374.55; Olson's Pest Technicians \$320.00; Otis Elevator \$1,099.00; Running's \$179.99; Sewer Duck \$400.00; Wooden Mallet \$200.00. Supplies: Carlsen Funeral Home \$1,000.00; GovConnection \$1,117.35; Jebro \$160.00; Jenson Rock & Sand \$17,604.27; Ken's Alignment \$498.49; Lucy Lewno \$3.25; Lien Transportation \$2,998.49; Marco \$8.71; Menards \$425.95; Pantorium Cleaners \$105.00; Pitney Bowes \$126.00; Rixstine Trophy \$300.67; Running's \$141.80. Travel & Conference: Matthew Harmel \$23.50; Ramkota - Pierre \$207.98; Duane Sutton

\$240.64; Mike Wiese \$152.28. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$3,434.98; AT&T \$177.66; CenturyLink \$539.21; NWPS \$1,767.07; Montana Dakota Utilities \$27.57; Kelsi Thilmoney \$25.00. Other: Vapescape \$200.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Acknowledge the retirement of Craig Nelson, Full-Time Court Security for Brown County Sheriff's office effective November 15, 2019, and approve request to fill vacancy. Acknowledge resignation of Gary Vetter, Commission Assistant effective October 18, 2019. Approve the following employee step increases effective October 6, 2019: Terrence Evans @ 26.51, Mariann Malson @ \$17.57, Nathan Smith @ \$26.21, Kristal Koens @ \$20.30, Brandon Mills @ \$18.82, Aaron Gasser @ \$18.41. Approve the following personal miles driven in a county vehicle for personal use to be taxed at .545 cents per mile: Kendell Titze 66 miles @ \$35.97, Dirk Rogers 722 miles @ \$393.49, Mike Scott 210 miles @ \$114.45, Gary Vetter 117 miles @ \$63.77. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

TAX DEED SALE:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to authorize advertising the following described property to be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, on October 21, 2019, at 10am: Lot three (3) of Lauzen's Replat of Lots Twenty-Three (23) and Twenty-Four (24) Block Forty (40), West Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MILLIM BUILDING WARRANTY DEED AND CLOSING:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign Warranty Deed and approve fees for Attorney Vic Fischbach to conduct the closing in the amount of \$400. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to approve the following August 2019 Sheriff Report: Incidents and offenses, prisoner care, JDC, and money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

INMATE HOUSING FEES:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton, to approve the increase in the inmate housing contracts. New fees are \$85 per day for an adult and \$285 per day for a juvenile. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve the following lease: Roncalli for the lease of two bleachers September 23-24, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to assign two claims against individuals to Credit Collection Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORD 145- SECOND READING/ADOPTION

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance #147, 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 4, Block 1, "Richmond Heights Subdivision" in the E1/2 of Section 32-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38377 Richmond Heights Dr). Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippely-absent, Fjeldheim-aye. Ordinance adopted.

ORD 146- SECOND READING/ADOPTION

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance #146, 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 4.08 Residential District (R-1): 137" South of North 548' of East 318' NE1/4 of SE ¼ of Section 20-T123N-R63W of 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

(1424 S Melgaard Rd) Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippely-absent, Fjeldheim-aye. Ordinance adopted.

ORD 147- SECOND READING/ADOPTION

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance #147, 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, "Klootwyk Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 5-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39595 130th St). Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert-aye, Sutton-aye, Wiese-aye, Kippely-absent, Fjeldheim-aye. Ordinance adopted.

MUSEUM PARKING LOT:

Discussion to allow portable toilets in the parking lot for the Gypsy Days Parade. No action needed.

LANDFILL SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to authorize chair sign permit to allow surface water discharge at the Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL LIFESPAN:

Mike Scott, landfill supervisor, and Helms Engineering, gave an update on cell development and the projected lifespan of the landfill.

FAIR UPDATE:

Fair manager Derek Ricci presented an update on the 2019 Brown County Fair revenue and discussed appointing new fair board members. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Sutton seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:02 am. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$87.86. 18134

**Brown County Notice Sale of Property**

NOTICE SALE OF PROPERTY  
Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Chapter 6-13 SDCL, the following described property will be offered for sale by auction in the Community Room, Brown County Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, South Dakota on October 21, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. This property has been approved for public sale by the Brown County Commission. At the conclusion of this sale, Brown County will issue and file a Quit Claim Deed to the property in the name requested by the purchaser. All delinquent taxes, penalties and interest are abated and are not the responsibility of the new owner. Brown County makes no guarantee of absolute fee simple marketable title to the property. It is recommended that the purchaser of a county quit claim deed pursue a quiet title action in order to acquire marketable title to the property (see SDCL Chapter 43-30, title standards 26-01 and 26-02).

Purchase price of the property along with a \$30.00 recording fee shall be paid in full on the day of the sale. Property offered for sale is as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:, MINIMUM BID

ABERDEEN CITY  
Lot three (3) of Lauzen's Replat of Lots Twenty-Three (23) and Twenty-Four (24)

Block Forty (40), West Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota ..... \$ 4,000

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(0909.06916)

Published twice at the approximate total cost of \$30.56. 18135.

**Savo Township Mowing Notice**

Savo Township  
All road ditches in Savo Township must be mowed by October 19, 2019. If not done by October 23, they will be mowed and the expense charged to the landowner at the rate of \$100 per 1/2 mile per side.

Savo Township Clerk  
Judy Bretsch  
(1009.1016)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$9.99. 18139

**The Cost of Health Care**

Health care costs too much. The U.S. spends twice as much as other wealthy nations and yet we have poorer outcomes. Patients in this country visit less frequently and spend less time in hospitals than residents of other wealthy countries. So, why such high costs? It's a complex issue with no simple answer.



By Tom Dean, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives



physicians

Experts have identified three major factors contributing to this situation. The most significant is higher prices, followed by costly administrative complexity and finally, the use of ineffective or overly aggressive medical interventions that provide little benefit to patients.

What about prices? The average U.S. hospital discharge costs over \$29,000 compared to \$18,000 in the Netherlands and \$16,000 in Canada. The average MRI price in Australia is \$350 compared to \$1145 in the U.S. Prices, especially drug prices keep going higher. Lantus insulin introduced nearly 20 years ago at about \$35 per vial now sells for \$260. The U.K. price is \$26. Gleevec, a remarkably effective drug for leukemia, introduced in 2001 at \$26,000 per year, more recently sells for \$120,000. The generic form sells for \$96,000.

Trying to control costs in the U.S., both the government and insurance companies have applied complex regulations resulting in the addition of administrative staff and steadily increasing expenditures. Studies show that 20 to 30 percent of health care expenditures now go to cover admin costs, a much higher rate than other countries.

What to do? As a society we have depended on market forces to control prices. This is ineffective when selling groceries and gasoline but in health care it has failed. The simple explanation is that health care providers do not compete based on price. Even when patients have comparative cost information, they all too often do not select the most cost-effective approach.

Too little incentive exists for providers, especially physicians, to seek out the most efficient approach to care. In fact, existing financial incentives often push physicians and other providers in the opposite direction – the more you do the more you are paid.

Bottom line: As a society we in the U.S. have never figured out where health care fits in the spectrum of economic activity. Is it a commercial product like automobiles and blue jeans where those with more resources can purchase more elaborate products, or is it a basic human service like public education or fire protection to be made available to everyone?

In the words of the late Professor Uwe Reinhardt, one of the giants of health policy analysis, what we have is a philosophical and ethical challenge not an economic one.

Tom Dean, MD of Wessington Springs, South Dakota is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist who has practiced family medicine for more than 38 years. He served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

# Groton Fire & Rescue looking for your help!

Groton Fire and Rescue and Groton Police Department recently completed a Stop the Bleed Class.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trauma is the No. 1 cause of death in the U.S. for people under 46, accounting for nearly 50 percent of those fatalities.

Preparedness and vigilance are now requirements as injuries formerly confined to faraway combat zones now occur randomly and unpredictably on American street corners.

It's only been since the early 1990s that CPR training has been available to the general public, and this simple training has saved countless lives. Many people know what to do when they find someone on the ground without a pulse or when someone puts their hands on their throat, the universal choking sign, they do the Heimlich maneuver or CPR. But when someone is bleeding many panic and don't know how to appropriately stop that bleeding. The help given by an immediate responder can often make the difference between life and death, even before professional rescuers arrive. It only takes 2-5 minutes for someone to bleed out depending on where the wound is. And in our rural area help sometimes cannot arrive that fast.

The 'Stop the Bleed' campaign aims to save even more lives with training to treat traumatic hemorrhage. The goal is to train people of all ages how to respond to bleeding emergencies in traumas from accidents and intentional violence.



**The guy on the right is Dr. Jason Spjut, DO, Trauma & General Surgeon for Sanford. He taught the class Sept. 22 at the Groton Fire Hall. Members of the Groton Rescue, Groton Fire and Groton Police Dept. attended the training.**

(Courtesy Photo)



**They are practicing using the tourniquets. They are packing wounds and are taught to put the tourniquets on themselves as well as others so if anyone is hit or hurt, the individual can help to stop their own bleeding.** (Courtesy Photo)

immediate, frontline aid until first responders are able to take over care of an injured person. Due to many situations, there may be a delay between the time of injury and the time a first responder is on the scene. Without civilian intervention in these circumstances, preventable deaths will occur.

Why do we need this training? Because of work-related injuries, home injuries, motor vehicle crashes, mass shootings, bombing.

After receiving instruction on the ABCs of controlling bleeding – alert 911, find bleeding, compress with pressure or packing, compress with a tourniquet – participants practiced applying tourniquets to each other, as well as to themselves.

All schools are being trained, including Groton Area Schools.

Groton Fire & Rescue are presenting you, our community, an opportunity to help with this mission. Not only do you need to be trained but we need more Stop the Bleed kits available in our schools. Several organizations donated money to the SD Healthcare Coalition to organize a kit distribution throughout the state. Brown County received approximately 100 kits so far, there may be funds available in the future for more. But as you can see that is not enough to help all of our kids. Groton Area High School has 5 kits and Groton Elementary has 5 kits. Groton Fire & Rescue would like to make it a mission for our community to help get at least 2 kits per classroom. Between the Groton High School & Elementary there are approximately 62 classrooms so to put 2 kits in each room we would need 124 kits at \$30 per kit which equals \$3720. If there are any local organizations or memorials that could be donated it would be great to be able to supply our school with these kits. The kits are going to make sure our teachers are prepared in that worst-case emergency. That our school and all the teachers in our schools carry those with them - that level of preparedness is so important,"

If you would like to donate please contact Patti Woods, Groton Fire & Rescue.

Also if you would like to be trained in Stop the Bleed and have a kit in your possession contact Patti Woods. Maybe having one of these kits in your car could save a life.

The only thing more tragic than a death... is a death that could have been prevented.

## Westport Town Water/Sewer Rate Resolution

RESOLUTION #2019-10  
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH  
NEW WATER/ SEWER RATES  
FOR THE

CITY OF WESTPORT, SD.

WHEREAS, the current water rates are not sufficient enough to cover the cost of distributing water and provide for upgrade of the water delivery infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Westport City Council for Westport, South Dakota, that water/sewer rates for all residential and commercial users shall be as follows:

Each consumer shall pay a minimum charge of \$47.00 dol-

lars per month base fee. Water used during such month shall be at the rate of \$5.25 per one thousand (1,000) gallons and the average rate is \$8.50 for over 12,000 gallons used.

Those consumers that have a hook up to the city water, but it is not currently using, will continue to pay and inactive fee of \$38.00 a month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these water rates shall go into effect payable November 1st, 2019

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2019.

Mike Wilson, Board President

Attest:

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$14.04. 18141

## Westport Town Oct. 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting  
October 7th, 2019

The Town of Westport met on October 7th, 2019 with Tim Selzler, Shane Storm, Mike Wilson, Doreen Hertel present. The following expenses were presented:

City General NWPS (\$261.97), Groton Independent (\$16.75), US treasury (\$900.85), SD Unemployment Ins (\$15.93), Eddie's Northside (\$373.00), Brown County Mosquito spraying (\$712.00), Drew Johnson (\$100.00), Runnings (\$31.98), JGE (\$270.72) & Card Memberservices - Graham tire (\$207.50).

Sewer NWPS (\$44.14), NRWA -loan repayment (\$210.13) & Clark Engineering (\$22,000).

Water WEB (\$1,360.08), Dept. of Revenue (\$15.00), DENR Loan (\$3,912.12), & Water Maintenance District (\$408.16).

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

The following deposits were presented:

City General Brown County Collections (\$210.28), State of SD (\$4,077.34), & Interest (\$31.75).

Sewer Resident Payments - (\$2,167.5).

Water Resident Payments - (\$3,590.04).

NEW BUSINESS:

Cost for snow removal was approved from B & B contracting.

Renewal of The SHED liquor license will be submitted in November.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$16.46 18142

## All-Tournament Team at the Redfield Tournament

1. Nicole Marzahn—Groton Area
2. Eliza Wanner—Groton Area
3. Janessa Storley—Webster Area
4. Emily Kranz—Waverly-South Shore
5. Hannah Kuehn—Redfield
6. Hannah Schentzel—Northwestern
7. Madalyn Groft—Northwestern
8. Sydney Schell—Northwestern
9. Ava Nilsson--Warner
10. Jennifer Aman—Warner
11. Danille Seymour—Warner
12. Jessica Niles—Beresford

# Groton's digs thunder through the gym in title match with Northwestern

It was the match everyone was waiting for. Groton Area and Northwestern Area. And the venue was like a state tournament. Northwestern had hard hits that Groton Area players returned as the digs thundered through the gym. It's a match you have to watch in the video archives. Northwestern did win the match, 25-23 and 25-17. The Tigers went 4-1 on the day, beating Warner, Belle Fourche, Potter County and Redfield.

The opening match was against Warner and the Tigers posted a 2-1 win over the Monarchs. The last time the Tigers beat the Monarchs was in 2004.

In the first game, Groton Area took the early lead and never trailed and posted a 25-20 win.

Nicole Marzahn and Eliza Wanner each had four kills and Madeline Flihs had a kill. Payton Colestock had three ace serves.

Warner got the early lead in the second game and led by as many as five points at 10-5. The Tigers came back and tied the game at 13, 14 and 15. The Tigers briefly had the lead, 14-13, but Warner would regain control and would coast to a 25-18 win. Wanner had three kills and an ace serve, Flihs and Stella Meier each had a kill.

Groton Area and Warner battled it out with the game tied three times in the early part of the game. Groton Area would get a five-point lead and upped it to seven, 19-12. The Tigers would take a 24-18 win. Indigo Rogers had three kills while Marzahn had two and Wanner one and Flihs each having one.

In the next match Groton Area took on the Potter County Battlers. The first game was tied four times with the last time at 17. The Battlers would take a five-point lead, 23-18, and go on to win, 25-22. Indigo Rogers had three kills, Eliza Wanner had two kills and Nicole Marzahn, Madeline Flihs and Stella Meier each had a kill. The second game was tied seven times with the last time at 17 once again, but this time the Tigers would capture the lead and take a 23-19 lead and go on for the 25-20 win. Nicole Marzahn had four kills and an ace serve, Eliza Wanner had three kills, Indigo Rogers had two kills and an ace serve and Madeline Flihs had a kill. The third game was tied three times in the early part of the game before Groton Area would outscore Potter County, 4-1, to get the upper hand. Later on, the Tigers would score five straight points to take a 19-12 lead and went on to win, 25-18. Nicole Marzahn had five kills and an ace serve, Indigo Rogers had three kills and Eliza Wanner had two kills.

Groton Area took on Redfield in the third match, winning the first game, 25-16. Groton Area jumped out to a 13-1 lead for the win. Nicole Marzahn had seven kills and a block, Wanner had two kills, Kaylin Kucker had three ace serves and Indigo Rogers had two kill. The second game was tied seven time with the last time at 14. It remained a two to three point game the rest of the way as Groton Area won, 25-23. Nicole Marzahn had seven kills and an ace serve, Indigo Rogers had two kills, Stella Meier, Madeline Flihs and Eliza Wanner each had one kill and Payton Colestock had an ace serve.

Groton Area posted a 2-0 win over Belle Fourche. The Tigers took a 6-0 lead in the first game and coasted to a 25-15 win. Elilza Wanner had four kills, Indigo Rogers had three kills and a block, Nicole Marzahn had two kills, Stella Meier and Tady Glover each had a kill and Payton Colestock and Kaylin Kucker each had an ace serve. The second game was tied three times and there were three lead changes before the Tigers rallied for four and five points and went on for the 25-18 win. Nicole Marzahn had four kills, Indigo Rogers had three kills and an ace serve, Eliza Wanner had three kills, Tady Glover had two ace serves including the game winning one, and Payton Colestock and Kaylin Kucker each had an ace serve.

That set up the championship match between Groton Area and Northwestern as both were 4-0 on the day up to this point. Northwestern threatened to put Groton Area away early in the first game with a 6-0 lead, but the Tigers would battle back and then scored seven straight points to take a 15-10 lead. The Wildcats returned the favor and scored seven straight points to take a 17-15 lead. The Tigers tied the game at 18 and took a one point lead at 19-18 and upped it to two points at 21-19. The Wildcats would score three straight to tie the game and reclaim the lead, 22-21. Groton Area tied the game at 22 and 23 before the final two points would be awarded to the Wildcats as they won, 25-23. Nicole Marzahn had three kills, Indigo Rogers had two kills and an ace serve, Stella Meier and Eliza Wanner each had two kills, Madeline Flihs had a block and Payton Colestock had an ace serve.

Groton Area scored first in the second game but Northwestern Area tied the game at one and two and then the Wildcats took a three point lead and upped it to five at 10-5. Groton Area closed to within two at 14-12, but Northwestern Area would score six straight points to take a 20-12 lead and would go on to win, 25-17. Nicole Marzahn had six kills, Eliza Wanner had two kills and Madeline Flihs and Indigo Rogers each had a kill. Sydney Schell led the Wildcats with at least nine kills and an ace serve and Madalyn Groft had at least seven kills and three ace serves.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said of the matches of the day, "I was really proud of the girls in all of the matches. They came out flat against Potter County after getting the win over Warner but we played well enough to win. Our matches were much better against Belle Fourche and Redfield and our energy was good which helped us maintain control in both games. We definitely rose to the occasion against Northwestern, at that time they were probably 24 or 25-0 and our girls played fearless! We were on game 5 of the day and game 7 of the week and we could have pretty easily just said that they're a good team and they're going to win and our girls went in with the intention to win and fought for every point and that really shows the heart of our girls! We saw a lot of good things today and are happy to see the things were working on in practice carrying over into games. We're playing every game one point at a time and trying not to settle with where we are, we haven't reached our peak yet so we're working hard towards that!"

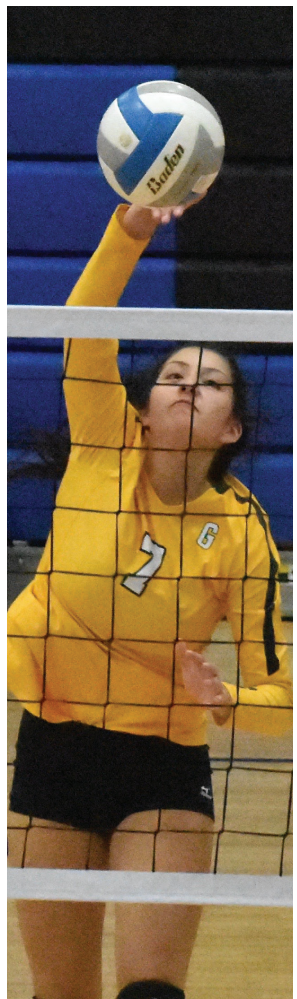
where we are, we haven't reached our peak yet so we're working hard towards that!"



**Tady Glover and Nicole Marzahn team for a dig to return the ball.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Kaylin Kucker sets the ball.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Indigo Rogers goes for the kill in the Belle Fourche game.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Payton Colestock goes for the dig.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Stella Meier goes for the kill.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Madeline Flihs hits the ball past Belle Fourche's Hayley Wilbur.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Eliza Wanner towers over the Belle Fourche defenders to for a kill.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

# Football participation declines in S.D. and U.S. as brain injury research expands

By: Bart Pfankuch

Tackle football remains one of the most popular sports in America, but participation in high school football in South Dakota and across the United States is falling steadily as the risk of brain injuries from the sport becomes clearer.

Participation in 11-player boys football in South Dakota fell by 5.2% over the past three years, and dropped by 16.6% over the past decade, according to data from the National Federation of State High School Associations, which has done annual participation surveys for more than 25 years.

Participation in nine-player football, played in smaller, mostly rural districts, fell by 3.7% across the nation over the past 10 years, according to the survey.

The decreases came as student enrollment in grades nine through 12 in South Dakota — the grades that play high school football — was essentially flat during that 10-year time frame at about 43,000 students.

Nationally, total participation in athletics fell across all sports for the first time in nearly 30 years; participation in boys 11-player high school football — the sport with the highest participation among all sports — fell by 5.2% last year to about 1.1 million players.

Recent studies have shown that from 5% to 10% of youth football players will suffer a concussion — defined as a “mild traumatic brain injury” — at some point during a full season. With about 1 million athletes playing high school football in the U.S. annually, that means between 50,000 and 100,000 teens will suffer a concussion each year, not including those at the youth and junior high levels.

Supporters of football — including players, parents, coaches and association officials — see the sport as one that builds character, focuses on teamwork and is outright fun to play and watch. They also note that fear of injury is only one element of a complex decision that high school athletes make in terms of whether to play football or any sport.

Furthermore, in South Dakota specifically, population trends have shown reduced enrollment in many rural schools and decreased opportunities for play.

“I think it’s more than just looking at the number and saying, ‘Well, over this period of time we’re down all these kids participating and that it’s because we’re concerned about safety,’” said John Krogstrand, assistant director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association, who oversees boys sports for the group. “I think it’s much more than that.”

South Dakota had 3,756 participants in 11-player boys football in 68 schools in 2009 and only 3,133 in 66 schools last year, according to the national survey. For comparison, the state had 3,576 participants in boys basketball last year, and 697 in boys soccer.

Krogstrand noted that his association and all school districts across the state have implemented new safety guidelines, improved equipment and instituted concussion protocols to prevent head injuries and treat them better when they do occur. He also said some of the drop in participation is likely due to a drop-off of high school enrollment in the early 2000s, which led some schools to end their programs.

He noted as well that much of the enrollment growth in the state has been in Sioux Falls and its suburbs, where opportunities to play are limited to one team at each school no matter how big the school gets.

But with mounting evidence of significant long-term impacts of football-related injuries, particularly those to the head and brain, the survey data reveal that parents and young



players themselves are increasingly staying away from the sport.

In South Dakota, the reduction in participation has led some districts, including many in rural areas, to keep the sport alive by entering into co-op agreements in which nearby schools combine players to form a single team. Other schools that have seen enrollment and participation decreases have moved from 11-player to nine-player football, which makes it easier to field a team.

Most parents whose children play football are aware of the risks, yet many say they believe the game has gotten safer as the awareness of concussions and other head injuries has risen.

Dale Uttecht of Sioux Falls traveled to Rapid City on a recent Friday night to watch his son, Joe, play football for Sioux Falls Washington against Rapid City Stevens. As he bought four cups of hot chocolate on a rainy September night, Uttecht said he sometimes holds his breath while watching games played by Joe or his older brother Logan, who plays wide receiver for Augustana University.

“All the players are bigger, faster and stronger, so any injuries are going to be worse,” he said.

Uttecht said the increased recognition of the risks of head injuries in football has led to changes that he believes have made the game safer, including at Washington High, where a certified trainer is present for all practices and games.

“You always have concerns, but I hear about concussions in soccer and basketball, too,” Uttecht said. “It’s really their decision if they want to play to not.”

## Strong link between concussions and football

Numerous research studies have shown a strong correlation between concussions and contact sports, particularly football. A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury in which the head and brain shake violently, often causing confusion, headaches, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, and in severe cases, loss of consciousness. Most people who suffer a concussion recover fully with time, and research is inconclusive whether a single concussion will lead to long-term brain impairment. Evidence shows, however, that the longer a person plays football and the more hits to the head they take, the chance for long-range impairment or illnesses increases.

American football at the youth, high school, collegiate and professional levels has been the most-analyzed sport in relation to concussions.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between 1.6 and 3.8 million concussions occur annually in the U.S. owing to sports and recreational activities, though many more likely go unreported and untreated.

Recent research has shown that football, hockey and rugby are the sports most likely to lead to concussions, and that 9.6% of all injuries in youth football are concussions, 4% of injuries in high school football are concussions and 8% of collegiate football injuries are concussions.

In their literature on concussions and sports, doctors at the Sanford Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Department in Sioux Falls write that, “One of the worst things any athlete can do for their health is to keep playing after a concussion.”

Yet those same physicians report that as many as 40% of youth athletes who suffer a concussion return to play sooner than safety guidelines suggest. They also point to research showing that athletes who suffer one concussion are more likely to have subsequent concussions and can face “potentially catastrophic consequences” if a second concussion occurs.

Children and teens are more susceptible to concussions and take longer to recover than adults, the Sanford doctors said.

Thayne Munce, associate director of the Sanford Sports Science Institute, is an expert on brain injuries related to football and has led research efforts into on-field head injuries, specifically at the middle-school level.

Munce used sensors in the helmets of seventh and eighth grade football players to measure the number and severity of hits to the head during games. Generally, his research showed that players in those grades received fewer head impacts than high school players, mainly due to fewer practices and games being held. But he also found that the severity of head impacts in the lower grades was equal to those suffered at the high school level.

“Their head-impact severity, basically what happens to a head after an impact, is nearly identical to high school level,” Munce said. “Even though they’re smaller athletes and not running as fast, their impact severity is just as high.”

Munce pointed out that significant research does not seem to show that athletes who only play through high school will have long-range brain injuries or neurological implications.

“There isn’t enough strong evidence that suggests playing youth football or through



**Dale Uttecht of Sioux Falls, shown here at a recent high school football game in Rapid City, has two sons who play football. Uttecht said that while he sometimes worries about the potential for injury, he believes the sport is generally safe and leaves the decision of whether his sons play the game up to them.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch





**Research has increasingly shown a link between concussions and other brain injuries to long-term play of tackle football. In part due to concerns over player safety, participation in high school football has fallen in South Dakota, though the game remains immensely popular for many players and fans.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

the high school level has a significant risk of long-term negative brain health consequence," Munce said.

In a larger sense, Munce said research into football-related brain injuries is advancing rapidly, but he noted that in many ways scientists "are flying blind" when it comes to fully understanding the risks associated with the sport and its impact on the brain and long-term brain function.

A growing concern for athletes in contact sports, particularly football, is the finding that chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, has been diagnosed in people who have had repeated jolts or hits to the head, including but not limited to repeated concussions.

CTE has no treatment or cure and can lead to mood disorders, memory loss, behavior problems and dramatic personality changes. In CTE, a destructive protein spreads through the brain, killing brain cells along the way.

Some recent CTE research and individual cases have raised concerns over the potential for brain damage in football players. CTE can only be diagnosed in the brain by autopsy following death.

The results of a 2017 study by researchers at Boston University and reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showed that CTE was found in the brains of 177 of 202 former football players, including 99% of those who played professionally and had been in the game the longest.

Study conclusions were limited, however, because of "selection bias" since the donated brains tended to come from patients who exhibited symptoms of cognition or behavioral problems before death.

New research at BU in 2018 further heightened concerns about repeated brain injuries and the connection to a condition called Lewy body disease, which can increase the risk of dementia, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. The study showed that participants in contact sports including football, hockey and boxing were more likely to develop Lewy body disease, even independently of symptoms of CTE.

CTE risks drew national attention after Aaron Hernandez, a college and professional football star, committed suicide in 2017 while incarcerated on multiple murder convictions at the age of 27. Doctors later said his brain showed the worst case of CTE they had ever seen in someone so young.

The NFL has made concussion identification and prevention a top priority over the past few years, expanding examinations and increasing the list of symptoms that can prevent a player from returning to a game.

Yet Brett Favre, a retired quarterback now in the NFL Hall of Fame, has said he would not encourage his own children to play the game he loves so deeply. (Favre has said that, luckily, he has only daughters.)

The South Dakota High School Activities Association has links to information about both concussions and CTE on its website under a "Health & Safety Issues" heading, including a sample Return to Competition form that outlines protocol for safely returning athletes

with concussions must have physician approval before returning to plays, for example). Other new rules limit the time and amount of contact players can have in practices, he said.

"We're doing everything we can with the information when we get it to minimize risk for student athletes and make it as safe as we can with the knowledge that there's risk that is natural and inherent to the game," he said.

Krogstrand noted that in a 2019 ranking of high school safety policies by the Korey Stringer Institute, South Dakota ranked ninth-best among the 50 states.

## Schools regroup as interest wanes

Quinton Cermak, superintendent of the Highmore-Harrold School District in central South Dakota, has seen the reduction in football participation and the risk of injuries from several first-hand vantage points.

As an administrator, Cermak saw the Highmore-Harrold schools undergo a significant drop-off in players in recent years, and he played a key role in saving the football program by joining his athletes with the football team at Miller High School, about 25 miles away. Cermak is also the parent of a football player and serves as head coach of the Miller/Highmore-Harrold football team that includes his son.

In 2014, Cermak was coach of the nine-man Highmore-Harrold football team and watched as the roster fell to 15 or 16 students. Just before the 2015 season, he said several students said they would not play that fall.

"It was a blend of kind of everything; there really wasn't a one-size-fits-all reason, but there are some kids concerned about playing and being injured," he said.

Suddenly, Cermak had only eight students who wanted to play, not even enough to field a nine-man team.

Cermak approached several area districts for a potential co-op arrangement, and only the Miller schools agreed to partner. Since then, the co-op football roster has grown to about 32 players, he said.

This season, half a dozen players on Cermak's team have suffered significant injuries — one a torn knee ligament, another a broken collarbone, and three concussions.

Cermak recalled an incident a few years ago when a football player had a severe concussion that required significant recovery time, including missing a week from school.

"He spent a week in his basement, with no TV, phone, or computer; he had such an adverse reaction to light that would intensify his headache, so he had to sit in his basement and just heal," Cermak recalls. "He was suffering the effects a month or two later."

But those injuries, and even a concussion suffered by his son while playing junior high football in the past, have not turned Cermak off of football as a way for young people to build character, develop a team attitude and learn to work hard or "grind" in order to find success on the field and in life.

"I call it a grinder mentality, and football and

back to competition after suffering concussion symptoms. The form concludes with the advice, "When in doubt, sit them out."

Krogstrand noted that his association and school districts across the state have been extremely aggressive and hands-on in improving safety for football players and improving protocols to address injuries when they do occur.

Coaches, athletic directors and referees are required to complete an annual online course about concussion prevention, identification and treatment (players

all sports really help facilitate that lifelong skill," he said. "If you're learning how to grind as a student athlete in high school, that will benefit you in life."

Beyond that, football is a fun game to play, coach and watch, said Cermak, who added that he fully supports new techniques and policies to make the game safer and prevent or properly treat concussions or other injuries that result.

Brian Allmendinger, a football coach who had great success in Gregory for several years and who is now an assistant coach in Milbank, said he viewed consolidation of districts into a single team and the drop from 11-man to nine-man as being driven more by enrollment decreases than concerns over player safety.

Allmendinger said the move from 11-man to nine-man in Gregory several years ago made sense and was safer because trying to field an 11-man team with a small roster could force a coach to play students who might otherwise be considered too young or too small to play at the varsity level.

Allmendinger said the heightened national conversation over brain injuries and greater understanding of the risks of concussions has made high school football much safer than in the past.

Tackling techniques have been improved, training for coaches, referees and players has been increased, and helmets and other equipment have been made much safer in recent years, Allmendinger said.

"The focus on that has been really awesome, and honestly it's an impact sport, but it's probably safer than it's ever been because of the attention directed toward the concussion issue," he said.

Allmendinger said he has seen occasions where he didn't see a hard hit on a player but was approached by a referee who suggested the player should be taken out and evaluated.

"If a kid is even suspected of having a concussion, coaches and even officials can pull a kid out," he said.

One youth football league in South Dakota is anticipating strong participation in the future, in part because of a greater focus on safety and improved communication with parents.

Lee Kruse, a director of the Black Hills Youth Football League, said participation in the West River league has risen from 850 players in 2015 to 902 this year. The league features players in pads in tackle-football games in several leagues ranging from first through seventh grades, though it has no connection to the school system.

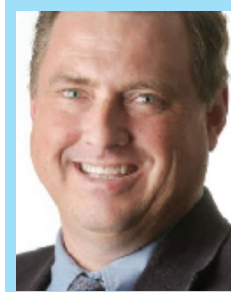
Kruse said the increased information on concussion risks led league organizers to drop team sizes to six players and ban all special-teams plays, including punts and kickoffs, which are more likely to include running collisions. The league also increased training for coaches and referees, who must be certified, and purchased new equipment for players.

Organizers also reduced the focus on scoring and instead promote game play that focuses on knowing the rules and exhibiting sportsmanship.

"We go over the top on safety, and play for the right reasons, because it's about development and not touchdowns at this age," Kruse said. "I just feel like we're doing a lot of things right to create a positive experience."

### ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.





**7th Grade Individual MathCounts Awards**  
**First Row from the left: Annie Dvorak, Northwestern, 1st Place; Kaden Larson, Roncalli, 2nd Place; Gretchen Dinger, Groton, 3rd Place.**  
**Second Row From Left: Reece Comstock, Holgate, 4th Place; Libby Scepaniak, Warner, 5th Place; Athena Johnson, Holgate, 6th Place** (Courtesy Photo)

The Groton Area Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 in the high school gym.

One Hundred Thirteen students from eight Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Gettysburg, Holgate, Northwestern, Roncalli, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen. Groton student, Gretchen Dinger, earned third place in the seventh grade individual division.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, October 30.

## The Life of James Johnson



Services for James "Jim" Johnson, 81 of Groton was held Monday, October 7th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. The Rev. Lloyd Redhage officiated. Burial followed in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Jim passed away October 3, 2019 at his residence.

James Edward Johnson was born on December 22, 1937 in Ferney to Chester and Vernita (Sombke) Johnson. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Jim attended country school and graduated from the 8th grade in Ferney. At the age of 15, he began work on the family farm. He worked alongside his father, taking over operations in the 1950s. He was joined by his brother, Glenn in the late 60s. Together, they raised a variety of crops, had a dairy operation and feeder cattle.

Jim was a lifetime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. He also belonged to the South Dakota Farmer's Union. Jim enjoyed playing cards in the evenings at home, as well as, hands of Blackjack at the casinos. Jim loved spending time touring the countryside, visiting neighbors and checking fields. He was passionate about farming and his livestock, with the motto "If you take care of the cows, they'll take care of you!" He was a proud uncle and was active in the lives of his niece and nephew and their families.

Celebrating his life are his siblings, Kenny Johnson of Yankton, Charlie (Sheila) Johnson of Conde, Sheila (Jim) Anderson of Winifred, Donna Gunderson of Parker, his brother-in-law, Doug Ehrenberg of Groton, sister-in-law, Alvina Johnson of Groton, nephew, Chad (Michelle) Johnson of Groton, niece, Lyncee (Nick) Monson of Groton and many other nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his sister, Arlys Ehrenberg and brothers, Richard "Herbie" Johnson and Glenn Johnson.

Casketbearers were Jim Leidholt, Jeff Harry, Dustin Wiseman, Ethan Lemmon, Rick Koehler and Chris Pigors.

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